

## JOURNAL

## S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 1 Dec 44

To : 2400 - 1 Dec 44

Place: St. Maurice and Schweiller, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
0100		1		AF Code 251 and Map Coordinates. Code 116 has been compromised, discontinue use. Use AF Code 1078 and Map Coordinates. Code 630, effective 0400 1 Dec 44.	
0200		2		Battalion M.A.C. reported that 3rd Division men can be evacuated and will be done as soon as possible.	
0300		3		Received AF Codes and Map Coordinates.	
0700		4		Received distribution.	
0800		5		Dispatched distribution and AF code to Companies via messenger.	
0020		6		36th Division forwarded supply train into Thainville. Two ambulances lost trying to evacuate wounded. Supply train consisted of 19 1/4 tons, 1 Reconnaissance Car and 6 tanks.	
1100		7		Message via runners: M/R's and strength reports are to be at Battalion by 1600 effective this date.	
1200		8		Battalion C. P. closed from St. Maurice (703 - 696)	
1215		9		Battalion C. P. opened - Thainville (714-691)	
1230		10		F Company crossed LD at 1230.	
1312		11		E Company point passed road block. (722-668)	
1330		12		Received pass word and counter sign from Regimental S-2.	
1430		13		E Company encountered sniper fire in move up to Schweiller.	
1500		14		Road Block cleared.	
1605		15		Wire communications broken with forward element.	
1730		16		Forward Battalion C. P. established in Schweiller.	
1735		17		Defensive outpost established on NE, E and SE.	
1735	to 0500	18		Company patrols worked through area between Schweiller and Selestat.	
2030		19		Communication via wire established with 36th Division.	



S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: Dec 3 1944  
 To : Dec 4 1944  
 Place: Selestat, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
		1		Troops entered Selestat on the early morn- ing of 3 Dec 1944. Companies were receiv- ing heavy resistance. There was a lot of sniper firing, but companies moved forward.	
1200		2		At 1200 the rear CP closed out and moved forward to new CP at Selestat. A bridge was destroyed and a foot bridge was made for the foot troops. Jeeps forded the stream. We had a captured sedan. The driver wasn't able to sit within the car and driver with out getting wet, so he got on top of the vehicle and steered. It looked funny to see a man driving the car while lying on top of the car.	
1500		3		The CP was established at 1500.	
1600				Casualties were heavy.	
1700		4		Captured several prisoners.	

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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 To : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place: SELESTAT, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
				<p>It's Sunday in Selestat.</p> <p>A momentous one for the city's people. They are free again - for the third time in less than a century.</p> <p>The Americans have come.</p> <p>Units of the 409th Regiment of the 103rd Division advance slowly through the streets. It is the Regiment's first big combat action, but it has been planned with veteran finesse. The three battalions of the Regiment are attacking the city on three sides. The Kraut is retreating, for he does not want to be cut off. But he is retreating slowly and stubbornly. Selestat is the final obstacle between the 103rd and the Rhine. For four years it has been a German supply and evacuation depot. The Kraut hates to give it up. Too, there are five hospitals here, and civilians tell us that he wanted to evacuate his wounded. But the Americans came too fast.</p> <p>So the Kraut is fighting, and fighting hard. He has tanks, 88's, mortar, and machine guns, and he knows how to utilize them for defensive purposes.</p> <p>Selestat, according to the civilians, is a city of 15,000. It is situated like a pancake in a frying pan, rising up out of flat ground - a defending machine-gunner's or mortarman's dream. Around the town, as an outer defensive ring, the Kraut has deeply dug-in machine-gun emplacements. It took a lot of pounding to get him out. Within the town, as he retreats he leaves six-foot thick roadblocks, mined. There are snipers, too.</p> <p>So our infantry advances slowly and cautiously through the streets. The doughfeet hug the buildings and search houses warily, dodging hidden machine pistols and mortars and trying to keep out of sight of the Kraut OP's. Engineers carefully sweep the streets, often under direct enemy fire, locating the treacherous mines. In their wake come the American tanks, to blast the roadblocks and bring fire on Kraut Panzers and machine-gun nests. It is a slow, rough process, this taking of Selestat, and there are casualties. For the Kraut has had lots of experience in retreating lately.</p>	

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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To : \_\_\_\_\_

Place: SELESTAT, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
				(continued)	
				<p>Leaning churchbells mingle with the nerve-shattering sounds of war. A tiny, golden-haired girl stands beside the sprawled body of a dead Jerry and smiles at the doughboys. An old woman waves a tattered Tri-color which she has hidden for four years. She is crying. Most of the people are glad to see us. Though they speak German, they have no love for the Kraut. He took their milk, their meat, their wine, their sons and daughters. In return, he gave them "ersatz" food to eat, even ersatz clothes to wear, manufactured from wood, coal, and glass.</p> <p>One girl tells us that her brother was taken by German soldiers five days ago and ordered to fight the Americans coming into the city. A nineteen-year-old kid relates how he hid in a winefield for four days to escape the same fate. A middle-aged woman with tears in her eyes tells of her husband, forced to fight in the German army. Another tells us how the Germans had made plans to take civilians from the city to Germany to work in factories. The Kraut labor situation is just one of Hitler's headaches. But the Americans have come to fast.</p> <p>Yes, it's Sunday in Selestat. There is war here, but there is happiness, too. The city is free again.</p>	



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S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 5 Dec 44

To : 2400 - 8 Dec 44

Place: DIEFENTHAL, FRANCE  
TRUCHTERSHEIM, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
0700		1		<p>The battalion was waiting orders to be received from the front lines. As the Command group left the forward OP artillery hit the roof of the building.</p> <p>Forty-five or more prisoners had been captured and were returned to Regiment. The IR Section had to march these prisoners to Regiment because of no transportation. As they were about to cross the stream and plane flew over one of the prisoners mad an attempt to dash for cover. One of the MPs fired and hit the PW as he tried to get under cover.</p> <p>Foot troops moved out at 0700 for the new assembly area, Diefenthal, France.</p> <p>Motors were held up because of a bridge had been blown up. Another bridge was located. As vehicles were to cross the IP, word came that a tank had fallen through the bridge. Due to this the motor column was held up until 1900 that afternoon. We had to travel about 5 miles black out and then we could use lights. It was a long about way getting to Diefenthal because of road bridge. The vehicles arrived 0300 the following morning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Truchtersheim 6 Dec 44</p> <p>The following morning, 0830, the Battalion moved out on a Motor march for Truchtersheim which was forty some miles away. Motor march arrived at 1400 that afternoon. The rest of the afternoon was spent in reorganization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Truchtersheim 7 Dec 44</p> <p>The Battalion remained in Truchtersheim. Company E was ordered to guard the Division Command Post. Companies took their kitchen with them.</p> <p>The Battalion spent to-day reorganizing. Men received clean clothes and some equipment. A bath unit was set up and everyone should have had a shower. Companies received some replacements.</p>	







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S-1 Journal

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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 13 Dec 44  
 To : 2400 - 13 Dec 44  
 Place: Kutzennausen, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
0400		1		Battalion Commander received the attack Order 0400, for 13 December 1944.	
0600		2		Company Commanders and attached commanders were called for at 0600 to receive the order. Enemy armored attack is imminent. 103rd Division continues attack NW, 14th Armored Division attacks in direction Haguenal - Surbourg - Soultz. One battalion, 410 Infantry to protect right flank of 409th Inf. 409 Infantry (attached company "B", 756 TD Battalion, 2 platoons Company "E", 614 TD Battalion) attacks at 0830, 13 December 44. Seizes Soultz and road NW from Soultz in Zone. 2nd Battalion (attached 2nd platoon Company "B" 756 Tank Battalion) attacks 0850, 13 Dec 44 seizes Soultz and objectives indicated. Be prepared to attack to the North, 14th Armored Division may pass through 2nd Battalion enroute to Soultz. They may take Soultz but 2nd Battalion is not to wait for this action to take place and is to push on to objectives. Pay particular attention to S and W flanks. The bridge is blown out at Kutzehausen. AP platoon and Engineers are fixing a bridge. Contacted Co. I 410 on the right. Received 4 Tanks. Battalion Commander left C. P. Co "G" advanced 1000 yards and received no opposition. Received Time Fire from NW. "G" Company has entered Soultz, received little rifle fire. AT trucks have gone beyond bridges by making a detour around bridges and using railroad bed. I. R. platoon has located another road block. Location of the block has not been learned here. Received following papers from message center: compilation of Administrative Circulars Bulletin #1, 103d Division. Supply and Equipment Instruction number 1 - Purchase of Officers Clothing. Signal Operations Instructions Critical Pc	
0900		3			
0930		4			
0940	0940	5			
0941		6			
1000		7			
1015		8			
1015		9			
1030		10			
1045		11			

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S-1 Journal  
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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 13 Dec 44

To : 2400 - 13 Dec 44

Place: Kutzennaussen, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
1045		11		(cont'd) 12 December 1944.	
1100		12		I & R platoon reported that they received 8 rounds of 88s within 15 minutes.	
1103		13		Received by radio that "G" Co. advanced through the town.	
1103		14		Received by radio that "G" Co. had cleared the woods NE of the town that they had patrolled.	
1112		15		Received "G" Co. was pinned down by machine gun fire.	
1131		16		Received and sent to the Co., Radio Call signs.	
1135		17		Received Bridge is passable for Regimental vehicles.	
1135		18		Reported snipers fire from the NE end of the town.	
1135		19		Reported that no tanks are capable of crossing the bridge.	
1137		20		Received that 1st Battalion is not on the A Line.	
1202		21		Received that tanks are capable of going in the town of Soultz.	
1220		22		Received two prisoners.	
	1245	23		Left the old CP from the town of Kutzennaussen.	
1315		24		Arrived at the new CP in the town of Soultz.	
1400		25		Line out between the rear CP and the Regt.	
1415		26		From the forward OP we could see Jerries running from the woods and some houses about 2000 yards away from the OP. Finally we cleared them out by tank and Machine Gun fire.	
1500		27		Reported a Jerrie was seen about 20 yards away from the OP.	
1645		28		Major from 14th Armored arrived at the CP.	
1650		29		Received 16 prisoners.	
1710		30		Two German prisoners questioned.	
				1 Sgt. claims that he had 2 years of training. He said that there are 60 Germans in Retchwiller in a Hotel. Claims that they have some mortars in the back of the town. There were two Lts. in his company.	

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S-1 Journal  
(cont'd)

Organization: Headquarters, 2d Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 13 Dec 44

To : 2400 - 13 Dec 44

Place: Kutzenhausen, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
1749		31		The 2nd German Sgt. questioned, claims that he has been in the Army for 3 years. He said that there were quite a number of men killed and wounded in his company and that most of the troops are not worth a thing. He also claims no troops in Retchwiller. He said that he was in command of his company because the officer in charge was killed about a day ago. Claims that one of the prisoners was wounded with a broken leg.	
2200		32		Small concrete pill boxes - thickness of one metre - primarily built for defence to the north but make good shelter for Infantry. Pillboxes - thickness 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 meters. Pillboxes with cannon probably having 45 degree traverse in the turrets. Troop shelter possibly having embrasures for MGs and automatic rifles facing to the south for their defense. It is not known whether these emplacements are occupied. If they are and if the artillery is in prime operating condition, the entire area can be covered by artillery fire. In the case of Metz, it was found that the guns were all in first class condition, but that no ammunition was available in the forts. Therefore, only machine guns, automatic rifles, and field artillery outside of the fortifications could be used.	

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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 14 Dec 44  
 To : 2400 14 Dec 44  
 Place: Soultz, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
	0730	1		Battalion C O left C P to establish a forward O P.	
0730		2		The Attack was continued.	
0750		3		Received that "F" Company contacted "E" Company.	
0800		4		No resistance.	
0835		5		Received that Co "F" progressed well in the town and met no resistance.	
0842		6		Received by radio that "F" Co has cleared the town.	
0915		7		RSO is moving in this town - Soultz.	
0925		8		Received that "A" Co is in Rechwiller.	
0927		9		"F" Co is on the "E" Line.	
1055		10		CP moved out to establish a new CP.	
1100		11		Arrived at the new CP in the town of Keffenoch.	
	1120	12		Moved to establish another new CP at the town of Bremmelback.	
1203		13		Arrived at the new CP in the town of Bremmelback.	
1304		14		Received that "F" Co is meeting no resistance and they are waiting for further orders.	
1515		15		Battalion Commanders left CP	
1315		16		Received Afcore and distributed them to Battalion Officers and Company Officers.	
1555		17		Received that the front line is short of the "E" Line.	
1600		18		Received message - button up on the "E" Line for tonight. Watch your right flank. Use bazookas until we can get your armor across to you.	
	1745	18		Message sent out - Do not let 756 Tanks across bridge. 46th Tank Platoon is replacing 756th Tanks to Kitzenhausen. You now have one platoon of Co "A" 46 Tank Battalion.	
1730		20		Received rations and they were distributed.	
1910		21		Battalion CO entered the CP.	

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G-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 2000 14 Dec 44  
To : 2400 14 Dec 44  
Place: Soultz, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
				continued	
	2000	22		<p>Message received - attached is overlay showing new boundary in order to seize the towns of Oberhoffen and Steinsetz. As soon as these towns are taken move back to your zone of action prior to reaching the "F" phase line. Lean to your left boundary and miss the town of Wissembourg completely. Do not move your CP tonight. Keep in your own zone Cleebourge is not in your zone, your CP cannot go into it.</p>	

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## S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 15 Dec 44

To : 2400 - 15 Dec 44

Place: Bremmelback, France

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
0100		1		At 0800, "G" Co. plus 5 tanks in support will attack and seize town, of Steinseltz along route indicated on the Overlay. D and F Co. plus attachments will remain in their present position. D Co. will be prepared to support the attack of "G" Co. Upon seizure of Steinseltz, E, F, and G Co. will be prepared to move into position as shown in overlay to secure the "F" line in Order. The tanks will meet "G" Co. Commander at trail junction (126-443) at 0700. The 1st Battalion is now between D and E Line. The 14th Armored Force is now in Riedseltz. Battalion OP will remain in present position. The Artillery F. O. will fire on any target which presents itself in our zone from an OP which affords him excellent observation.	
	0700	2		Battalion Commander left OP for the Forward OP.	
0815		3		Received gasoline and ammunition.	
0825		4		"G" Company moved out into the road junction.	
0901		5		"G" Company just met the tanks and they are moving out. No resistance as yet.	
0905		6		A runner was sent out to stop the church bell from ringing for it was said that the church bell was a signal for the Jerries to zero in.	
0922		7		"G" Company reported that the tanks entered the town.	
0932		8		Received "G" Co. is meeting no resistance and they almost cleared the town.	
0941		9		Battalion Commander just issued an order for E and F Co. to move up to the Fox Line.	
0944		10		Battalion Commander reported stopped "E" Company to go at the Fox Line.	
0956		11		Tanks and "G" Co. moved through the town. No opposition reported as yet.	
1013		12		Received three German prisoners.	
1014		13		"F" Co. entered the town and "E" Co. is right behind them. They have not met any opposition as yet.	
	1020	14		Enemy 6 ordered to move "F" Co. in the F Line.	
1028		15		Received "F" Co. is moving in the "F" force line.	
1045		16		Received "F" Co. is meeting some opposition	









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Organization: Headquarters, 2d Bn., 409th Infantry

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
 To : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place: Rechtenbach, France.

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
				<p>For the first time in the European Theater of Operations, the good old American mule has tossed aside his bag of oats, grabbed a ration box, and is off for the frontlines. This bray-throated, cone-eared father of US transportation is back in the saddle again serving his country, this time in the roughest terrain of Western Europe.</p> <p>He and twenty nine of his buddies made their welcome appearance one day last week in front of the Battalion CP, in a little German town called Rechtenbach. Four companies of the battalion had been pushing their way slowly through the hills overlooking the town. They had hit the Siegfried Line and the going was rough. There were Krauts who seemed inclined to fight instead of run and the concrete and steel forts weren't fashioned from paper as the Maginot defenses were. In addition to the Kraut, the attacking doughfoot had one other major problem, that one of supply and evacuation. The country was rugged, too rugged for vehicles. The enemy had built no roads. Either engineers would have to build a cutaway through the dense weeds - not very practical, or "we could use mules," someone suggested.</p> <p>The next day a detail of thirty mules and fourteen men from the 513th Quartermaster Pack Company arrived.</p> <p>Negro Sergeant Cooper Hagans of New Orleans explained how this stubbornness of all living creatures plays his part in a war. Hagans, who fought with mules as well as Kraut in Italy for several months, maintains that his boys make fair to middling soldiers, and do their job weell, once they have gotten over their initial fear of shells, quite similar to humans. One well trained</p>	

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S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To : \_\_\_\_\_

Place: Rechtenbach, France.

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
				(continued)	
				"skinner" is generally placed in charge of five mules. It is his job to water, feed, and pack his charges. Each mule squad is led by a battle broken buddy who has lost his fear of 88's and mortars. His actions are supposed to inspire confidence in the others and make them think twice before breaking ranks and hightailing it.	
				Hagens' men, all Negroes, are well-trained for their jobs. Many have had more than two years' training in handling, feeding, and packing mules.	
				Here at Rechtenbach, these four-legged doughfeet really proved their worth. They hauled rations and ammunition and casualties through rough country and rougher artillery. In one instance two mules, loaded with mortar shells, were apparently misdirected, for they were spotted sauntering casually toward the German lines two hundreds away, blissfully unmindful of a mortar barrage. A dusky GI skinner raced up to them, and roared angrily, "Mules, yo has been givin' m' trouble all de day. Waow, git back in ranks 'fore an really stah't chewin'!"	
				Have you ever seen a mule gallop?	

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S-1 Journal :

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 - 19 Dec 44  
To : 2400 - 19 Dec. 44  
Place: RECHYENLACH, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
	0830	1		Organized a group of drivers and clerks for a carrying party. These men carried hand grenades and ammunition to front line Companies.	
1030		2		Received 30 mules to be used for hauling equipment, ammunition and etc.	
	1200	3		Received 4 prisoners. Large pill box was destroyed by "G" Co. and 16 prisoners were captured. The prisoners were not well fed or clothed.	
1400		4		Three officers and a platoon entered a pill box. A Jerry happened to be in pill box and locked them in. Enemy has a machine gun nest outside of pill box. One platoon is trying to get on otherside and wipe out machine gun.	
1430				Received 15 Prisoners.	
2200		5		Received 20 replacements.	
2200		6		Received overlay of Plan "A".	















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S-1 Journal

Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 26 Dec. 44.  
 To : 2400 26 Dec. 44.  
 Place: GUNVILLER, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
	0730	1		Companies left to dig defensive positions.	
	0900	2		Bn. C.O. left the C.P. for Reconnaissance.	
1000		3		Regemental Comm. entered the C.P.	
	1030	4		Regt. C.O. left the C.P.	
1130		5		Bn. C.O. entered the CP	
	1415	6		Bn. C.O. left the C.P. for Reconnaissance.	
1420		7		Received 7 Replacements 2 Officers for F Co. 2 EM for F Co. 2 EM for G Co. 1 EM for E Co.	
1600		8		Bn. C.O. entered the C.P.	
1610		9		All Company C.O. meeting.	
1630		10		Arty. Officer submitted Arty. fire plan.	
1800		11		All Companies returned from digging defensive positions.	
1815		12		Counter attack plan Completed.	





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Organization: Headquarters, 2nd Bn., 409th Infantry

From: 0100 29 Dec. 44.  
 To : 2400 29 Dec. 44.  
 Place: GHIENVILLER, FRANCE

Time		Serial No.	Time Dated	Incidents, messages, orders, etc	Action Taken
In	Out				
0730		1		Bn. C. O. left The C.P. with Company Commanders and staff to make Reconnaissance of th CC Line.	
1030		2		Received Overlay from 409th Inf.	
1100		3		Received Arty. fire plan for CC Line.	
1205		4		Bn. G.O. entered the C.P.	
	1315	5		Bn. G.O. left the C.P.	
1345		6		Regt S:S.O. Officer visited the C.P.	
1430		7		Bn. G.O. entered the C.P.	
1515		8		Bn. Class A agent finance Officers arived with pay roll.	
1900		9		All Company Commanders and special staff meeting	
2000		10		Overlays sent to Companys showing DD and XX Line.	
2010		11		Received Gas Masks and Sleeping Bags for each man in the Company.	
2400		12		Received Message to be on the Alert from 0500.	

