

## ***WERE YOU THERE?***

Zinswiller, France  
15 March 1945

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 411 was lined up on a small hill preparing to attack when our Bn Commander received word that several men from an adjacent unit, (409 or 410; I do not remember which), on our left flank were out front and their company had lost contact with them.

As junior officer of 411 Co G I was selected to take a squad from my 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, cross the stream before entering the edge of Zinswiller, turn left and go north up the hill to find the missing men from the Company on our left flank.

Half way up the hill north of the city we were challenged by a rifle shot over our heads and a yell "are you G's. We had amazingly gone straight to the missing men. As well as I can remember there were about 6 missing and only 3 were here in a bunker with several German prisoners. The remaining men had gone back to establish contact with their Company. Our company radio operator (I believe his name was Bing) was also with us. His is the only name I remember.

The Bn Commander by radio contact ordered us to continue the search for the remaining men. To back track we were guided by one or two of their men along with myself, the radio operator and about half the patrol squad of 411 Co G 1<sup>st</sup> Plt.

We followed a logging trail to a ravine leading down the hill and shortly found the other missing men and picked up some more German P.Ws. We went back up to the logging trail and lo and behold about 50 yards away there were what looked like a Company of Germans taking a break. The radio operator stayed with me behind a pile of logs while the others continued on to the first discovered lost group. We did have a detailed map of the area.

We radioed our respective positions to the Bn Commander who had an artillery observer with him. We then returned to the original contact point and our artillery apparently found its mark. Several additional, some wounded, prisoners came down the hill before our main unit established contact with us.

During the time we were on the hill I vividly remember observing two of our men, apparently forward scouts, running on a road thru the city while German artillery was firing at them. They would hit the ground and it would explode behind them, They would advance and the same thing would happen again. This happened several times.

***I am seeking to establish contact with anyone who was involved in this patrol.***

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