

500 yards east of town. There ensued a short, hard fight during which "C" Company lost 21 men and drove the Germans out in twenty minutes. Major Pearson, who had brought "B" Company across the river after "C" Company, now sent "B" around "C"'s flank, took the town and moved south of it. By 0800 the Major was in position on his objectives and proceeded to hold them against the German mortar and small arms fire. Meanwhile the Germans attacked "A" Company, commanded by Lt. Carr, with mortars and tanks. Lt. Carr had a hard time of it; the only help he could get was from the artillery. But Lt. Hayden climbed a tree and directed the artillery so well on the tanks that he knocked out one and held off the others until Lt. Carr's position was saved. On the 20th the 508 passed through our lines leaving the 1st Battalion on the front line to take German rifle and mortar fire until 3 July. The First Bn. lost 35 men in this operation. The enemy were the elements of the 265 Division (894 and 895 Regiments).

On the 25th of June the Regiment was relieved on the Baupre Peninsula by the 90th Division, and 2100 the 2nd and 3rd Bns, being shelled on the march moved behind the First Battalion while the Regimental OP was being moved from Francuetot to Vindefontaine. There the regiment stayed until 3 July 1944, the 1st Bn catching mortar and small arms fire constantly while the other two battalions were shelled intermittently. This shell fire was more of a nuisance than a danger, but one night a shot killed Lt. Wagner and wounded Major Davis. The loss of these two excellent officers was a blow to the 3rd Battalion. The German CPL became easier to cross either because they had thinned it out or because we had learned how to penetrate it, or both; And every night we had patrols in enemy territory. They left from any place on the division front, and got deeper and deeper into enemy territory so that eventually we learned a lot about the line Forêt de Mont Oastre - la Poterie ridge, hill 131. It was during this time that Sgt Coleman of "E" Company was sent alone to reconnoiter behind the enemy lines from our lines at Hetet-Coigny. He crept around the first enemy machine gun, hid in a cart full of hay to escape a German