

patrol. Taking advantage of the fact that the Frenchman driving the cart was going his way he rode with him across the Pretot-San Jores road. There he left the cart and penetrated beyond Ste. Suzanne locating a German CP, and followed the German OPL from the rear he located several small arms and artillery emplacements. On his way back he was shot in the leg, but made it over the last mile to report this information.

On 3 July the First Army launched its attack to clear the Cotentin Peninsula. The 82nd Division was in front of the attack but our regiment was initially in Division reserve and followed in bounds behind the 325. The 2nd Battalion was detached and given a sector in the line with an objective at La Fauverie, The 2nd Battalion crossed the line of departure at 0800 after a heavy artillery preparation, and advanced rapidly West. The enemy presented a slight delaying action and the Battalion reached its objective with 10 casualties at the end of the afternoon. Next day they resumed their advance and reached Blanchelands, suffering from casualties enroute from mortar and artillery fire. They rested at Blanchelands, but they received the order to turn South and seize the portion of la Poterie ridge just east of hill 95. At 2200 4 July they set off for this attack. During the night they succeeded in getting "F" Company on the South slope of the ridge and the rest of the Battalion slightly behind them on the North slope on the woods. The Germans didn't trouble this movement and as far as they could tell the ridge was not occupied. The next morning at daylight, they found themselves within a German bivouac to the immense surprise of the Germans. Both sides seized their arms without delay and fell on each other in a confused and confusing fight. "F" Company was a little too far ahead of the rest of the Battalion to have immediate support and they suffered heavily. The rest of the Battalion coming up to support "F" Company found Germans in every tree and bush. Control was very difficult since both sides lay across each other's lines of communications. "F" Co.

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fell back slightly, and when the Battalion came up they went into Bn. reserve. "D" and "E" companies drove forward to sweep the woods. This hard fight lasted all day and our losses were considerable; but at the end of the day we were masters of the ridge. Colonel Timmes organized a defensive position and held it. Nevertheless, for the rest of their stay there the Germans threw mortar and artillery fire at them actively. On the 7th day of July they reverted to regiment.

While this was going on Colonel Raff led the rest of the regiment West by bounds behind the 325. The 325 carried the burden of the fight successfully on the 3rd of July. We had no contact with the enemy except that we were constantly harrassed by artillery in bivouac and on the march. On the 4th day of July the 325 reached the Germans MLR at the east end of la Poterie Ridge. They attacked it, but by the end of the afternoon it was clear that they couldn't take it, so the task was given to us. The Colonel designated the 3rd Battalion, now commanded by Colonel Maloney. Colonel Maloney reconnoitered the hill from the 325th's position and using their front as a line of departure he crossed to attack at 2015 after a 15-minute artillery preparation. The hill was wooded and Colonel Maloney progressed steadily keeping flank protection out to the edges of the woods until 2245. But then the woods broadened out so that he couldn't watch their edges and he was forced to advance with his flanks blinded. At 2255 he struck the German position. They succeeded in interrupting his communications and in the dark obscurity of the woods control became increasingly difficult. The Germans took advantage of their knowledge of the position to inflict severe casualties; and Col. Maloney's position was too indefinite to allow him to profit from the sacrifices he was making. So he determined to get out of the woods and re-establish control. He sent "G" Company, Capt. Schwartzwalder commanding, down to the south base of the hill with instructions to march around and meet the rest of the Bn in the saddle behind and to the West. With the rest of the Bn. he