

Feilbach, Richard H.

Bethlehem Soldiers "Baptized" Under Fire In Tough Sector

JAN 15 1945

Baptism of fire is an experience few soldiers ever forget—and the men of the 398th Infantry Regiment of the Century Division have special reason never to forget theirs. For they went into action the first time in one of the toughest sectors of the long Sixth Army Group front in Eastern France.

The enemy held prepared positions in dense forests. Their dugouts were deep, covered with logs, and well camouflaged. Their Tank traps, booby-traps and land mines, many of the latter fitted with tripwires, blocked the narrow routes and paths through the forest.

Still against military obstacles like these, against a fanatic enemy, the 398th proceeded without delay to help take Baccarat, cross the swift, flooded Meurthe River, and to press the Nazis further back toward the Rhine.

Members of this unit include Pfc. Richard H. Feilbach, 1106 Dover Lane; Lieutenant Kenneth S. Jones, 1409 High Street; Pfc. John Dutko, Route three, Bethlehem; Pfc. Joseph Brown, Liberty Street, and Lt. Colonel Harvey Weisel, Jr., North Street, Allentown; and Staff Sergeant Leonard P. Roman, of Freemansburg.

Jan. 15, 1945