

133rd Infantry Regiment • WWII Narrative History



A Work in Progress



The detailed narrative history of the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, is now being placed online. It is presently in a rough ".txt" text form, but will be brought in a polished format when all parts are together.

The history reports prior to September 23rd, 1943, when the Regiment landed at Salerno, are quite different in form and will be brought online after we have been able to present those portions covering the Italian campaign. It must also be kept in mind that the 2nd Battalion was attached to Allied Force Headquarters, first in England and then in North Africa, from 17 September 1942 until 16 March 1944. In their stead the 100th Infantry Battalion (Nisei) (Separate) served with the Regiment from 9 September 1943 to 23 May 1944.

The early (Sep 1943 - Aug 1944) and late (May 1945 - Oct 1945) segments are all brief - 1 to 6 pages in their original form. Those in between are *much* more lengthy, typically 20 pages or more.

North Africa, 1st Battalion, Part One

North Africa, 1st Battalion, Part Two

North Africa, 3rd Battalion

North Africa, Anti-Tank Company

September - October 1943

November 1943

December 1943

January 1944

February 1944

March 1944

April 1944

May 1944

June 1944

July 1944

August 1944

September 1944

October 1944

November 1944

December 1944

January 1945

February 1945

March 1945

April 1945

May 1945

June 1945

July 1945

August 1945

September 1945

October 1945

The documents as presented here are - within the limits of my vision, alertness, and spell checker - a fair rendering of the original; but they are not a "true copy". Any annotations or significant corrections which I have made appear in 'square brackets'.

There are clearly noticeable differences in style from segment to segment. These are due principally to the assignment of different clerks, historians, and adjutants to this task. I'm even now working toward providing some commonality of format without twisting the content.

The original reports from which this collection has been made were obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), College Park MD.

- Patrick Skelly, for 34infdiv.org

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 22 September 1943 to 31 October 1943, inclusive.

ARRIVAL AT SALERNO

At 0800 hours 22 September 1943, the convoy carrying the 133rd Infantry Combat Team, less the 151st F.A., arrived in the Bay of Salerno, Italy near the mouth of the Sele River. Troops and equipment were Combat Loaded on four ships; 1st Battalion aboard the "Charles Carroll", the 100th Inf. Bn. (Sep) aboard the "Frederick Funston", the 3rd Bn aboard the "O'Hara". Considerable equipment and transportation on the "Andromeda". Special unit personnel were divided and carried on all four ships. The bay was free of enemy action, there being a heavy barrage of friendly aircraft. At 1000 hours the first assault boats were lowered to the water and troops were taken ashore in waves, all ships being unloaded simultaneously. In a short time the sandy beach was filled with troops carrying their equipment. Immediately heavy equipment including trucks, peeps, 57mm AT and 75mm pack howitzers were taken ashore. The sandy beach swarmed with activity and within 24 hours all equipment had been unloaded.

The troops marched from the shore to an assembly area a short

distance inland from whence they marched about 5 miles across country to a regimental bivouac area. Immediately two companies of the 100th Inf Bn (Sep), "E" and "F" were placed under Army control for use as a guard detail. While in this area the combat team was dissolved and all special units returned to their parent organizations. Units of the Regiment took advantage of the clear warm weather and ample supply of water for bathing and cleaning of personal equipment.

FORMATION OF TASK GROUP

The Regiment remained in this area until September 25th, when Colonel Fountain received orders that the combat [team] was reformed under the command of Brig. General Caffey, and was to move to the vicinity of Montecervino-Rovella approximately 25 miles. Move was made by shuttle and the Regiment had hardly closed in when orders were received to move to the vicinity of Oliveta Citra in the 45th Division area. Brig. General Caffey returned to Division and Colonel Fountain was placed in command of the combat team. At 1426 hours 26th September, all unit commanders were assembled at the Regimental C.P. and given the orders for the move by Lt. Colonel Marshall, S-5, as Colonel Fountain was at Division Hq. Units were cautioned that the move was to be approximately 60 to 80 miles over narrow mountainous roads. At 1715 hours the commanders were re-assembled at the Regimental C.P. for new orders, as there had been a change of plans. We were to take over an area in the 45th Division Sector and the Commanding General, 34th Division was to be Task Force Commander. Our objective was to establish

contact with the enemy, secure the route leading N.West in our sector, and pursue the enemy. Movement was to be by motor and in tactical formation with the 3rd Bn as the advance guard for the combat team. Attached to the 3rd Bn was Company "C" 151st F.A., 1st Platoon Company "A" 109th Engineers, one platoon AT Company. The combat team was to be joined by the 17th F.A., one platoon from 105 AA, and a Tank Destroyer Recon unit from the 776 TD. Trucks began arriving for the move at 1800 hours.

OPERATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE

Last elements of the combat team left the bivouac area at 0200 hours, 27th Sept 43. Travel was slow on account of blown bridges and narrow mountainous roads. Units arrived, and the Regimental C.P. was established 10 Kms East of Montemarano at 2130 hours 27 Sept 43. An outpost line was established, patrols and reconnaissance parties were sent out to locate a by-pass over the Galere River. The 3rd Bn was ordered to secure a bridgehead at N-877355 on Highway No. 7 to Montemarano, to a depth of 1000 yards, on the morning of Sept 28th, which they did. About noon the Regiment resumed the advance in the same formation, and by night the 3rd Bn outposted a line in the vicinity of Castelvetero, Northwest of Montemarano. This day's advance was characterized by the outstanding work of the mine sweepers in removing mines the enemy had laid all along the way. Italian citizens were helpful in locating enemy mines and in many cases they had already marked them. One 3rd Bn Hq jeep struck a mine injuring one officer and

two enlisted men. Weary troops found little comfort that night as a terrific rainstorm poured down most of the night.

The 100th Bn man-handled its vehicles out of the mud to take up the advance guard for the combat team on the morning of Sept 29th. About noon the advance of the battalion was slowed up by artillery fire, some of which was flat trajectory 75mm and evidently coming from self-propelled guns. The enemy made a lucky hit on a culvert into which members of the Regimental Recon. patrol had taken cover, killing one Artillery Liaison Officer, one Sgt and wounding two men. This was our first contact with the enemy.

OUR FIRST SKIRMISH WITH THE ENEMY

That night the 100th Bn seized its objective which was the high ground West of Chiusano and established a road block at RJ[RoadJunction]-N755592 in order to block enemy elements withdrawing in front of the 7th Infantry which was moving into Salsa (N7558). The following morning they had a brief skirmish with enemy machine gunners in which the 100th Bn received its first battle casualty, Sgt Takota, who was recommended for a D.S.C., posthumous, for his gallantry in leading his squad in a flanking movement in an effort to wipe out an enemy machine gun nest. A single German tank attacked the battalion about 0800 hours but quickly withdrew under fire of our Bazookas, it is believed a hit was scored. Later in the morning the 1st Bn moved out in advance guard formation with the mission of establishing a road block on the Avellino-Benevento highway in the vicinity of Pratela. The movement was slow at first as they encountered what appeared to be our first

organized resistance. The enemy force was estimated at 2 or 3 platoons.

Late in the afternoon both Companies "B" and "C" had a brisk fire fight with the enemy, receiving both machine gun and mortar fire. The battalion moved forward during the afternoon of the next day. One prisoner was taken.

Late in the afternoon of Sept 30th, the 3rd Bn moved out with the mission of seizing Montemilette. The battalion made a remarkable advance across country over rugged terrain that night carrying all their heavy weapons, and seized their objective at 0200 hours early the next morning. Later in the day the battalion moved in the vicinity of La Serra. The 100th Bn moved up and occupied the positions held by the 3rd Bn at Montemilette.

THE CAPTURE OF BENEVENTO

During the afternoon of Oct 2nd, the entire Regiment started moving by battalions to positions in the general vicinity of S. Giorgio. While the move was in progress orders were changed and the Regiment was given the mission of capturing Benevento and seizing a bridgehead North of the Calere River. The 3rd Bn was given the mission of seizing Benevento and securing a bridgehead across the Calere River, the 100th Bn was to follow in close support taking up positions South of Benevento to protect the left flank of the Regiment, the 1st Bn was to follow and take up positions Southeast of Benevento with the mission of protecting the right flank of the Regiment. The 3rd Bn made a spectacular advance, and morning found the bridgehead firmly secured and Benevento in our

hands. The 1st and 100th Bns likewise reached their objectives. It had been a difficult move, much of it across country thru a drizzling rain and heavy artillery fire. Heavy weapons had to be carried a considerable distance. Company "K" suffered heavy casualties from medium artillery fire during this movement in the outskirts of Benevento. The 1st Platoon of Company "I" was cited for its outstanding work as advance guard for the 3rd Bn in the capture of Benevento. Major Lloyd H Rockwell received a battlefield promotion to the grade of Lt. Colonel in recognition of his outstanding performance as battalion commander of the 3rd battalion. His leadership and aggressiveness contributed greatly to the success of his battalion in seizing the important railway center of Benevento.

About mid-afternoon of the 3rd of Oct the enemy attacked the 3rd Bn outpost line North of Benevento with some armored vehicles. The attack was promptly beaten off, one 1.5 ton truck, undamaged, was captured and at least six Germans definitely killed and one prisoner taken. The enemy made no further attacks and the following afternoon the 45th Division passed through us. On the morning of Oct 5th the Regiment assembled in the general vicinity of S. Martino Sannetra NW of S. Giorgio.

CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO

On the morning of Oct 7th the Regiment commenced moving by motor to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Montesarchio a distance of approximately 25 miles. The move was made in shuttles and due to the

terrible conditions of roads and the nine by-passes, caused by heavy rains throughout the period, the last elements did not close into the new area until the afternoon of Oct 9th. The Regiment remained in this bivouac area until the afternoon of Oct 12th when it made a short march to a new bivouac area West of Montesarchio, assembling as Division Reserve, during the crossing of the Volturno near Limatola. On Oct 15th the Regiment marched to an area West of Agata a distance of approximately 10.5 miles. Company "E" 100th Bn which had been released from duty with 5th Army, returned to the 100th Bn while we were in this area. Oct 17th the Regiment marched to the vicinity of Caizzo, Company "F" rejoined the 100th Bn while we were there. Early in the afternoon the 1st Bn marched by motor to a detrucking point North of Caizzo to relieve the 3rd Bn of the 135th Inf whose objective was hill N305920. The remainder of the Regiment moved by marching that evening to an assembly area a short distance South of the position occupied by the 1st Bn. The Regiment was greeted by intermittent enemy artillery fire upon arrival in the assembly area, some casualties being suffered.

2ND CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO

Early in the afternoon of Oct 18th the Regiment moved out in column of battalions with the mission of seizing a bridgehead across the Volturno River in the vicinity of N270985. The 1st Bn was given the mission of securing the bridgehead, the 100th Bn was to protect the rear of the 1st Bn and take up positions this side of the river, while the 3rd Bn was in reserve prepared to assist either. The 1st Bn crossed the

river considerably South of the Bridge and made a daring end run in an attempt to secure the bridge before the enemy could destroy it. The bridgehead was secured with little resistance. Enemy artillery fire was heavy during the crossing but not effective. The following day the 1st Bn sent patrols into Alife and the 3rd Bn sent patrols into Dragoni both reported towns cleared of enemy troops. The latter patrol captured one prisoner. That evening the 3rd Bn and 100th Bn crossed the river and took up positions South of Alife in the general position of the 1st Bn bridgehead.

THE BATTLE FOR S. ANGELO

On the night of Oct 20th the Regiment moved out in a column of battalions toward S. Leonardo at which point the 100th Bn was to swing to the NW and seize the RJ 1000 yards East of S. Angelo (N229052); the 1st Bn to swing west and seize the RJ at N226041; the 3rd Bn to take up positions NW of S. Leonardo in Regimental reserve; the Cannon Company to be prepared to support the assault battalions. Patrols that afternoon had encountered considerable enemy machinegun fire and a fight was expected. Colonel Fountain directed that if the Battalions were stopped by enemy fire they should flank to the right and gain high ground by dawn. The movement that night was very slow across country, about midnight enemy machine-gun fire was encountered forcing deployment of the 100th Bn. Colonel Fountain directed the 1st Bn to move to the right of the 100th Bn and advance along lower road, the 3rd Bn to advance to the right of the 1st Bn and attack on upper road on its right and seize

S. Angelo, the 100th Bn to assemble in reserve. By morning the 3rd Bn had established positions on the road to S. Angelo and was prepared to resume the attack, the 1st Bn was stopped short of lower road by heavy enemy resistance, it advanced slowly during the morning towards its objective, the 100th Bn in the meantime assembled in Regimental reserve. Early that afternoon an enemy tank attack was repulsed, casualties were heavy, however. At 1225 hours Lt. Colonel Carley L. Marshall was placed in command of the Regiment and that afternoon he reorganized the Regiment in preparation for a new attack on the objective. The following morning the Regiment attacked with the 100th Bn and the 3rd Bn is the assault, the 3rd Bn on the right. The battalions reached their objectives without resistance at approximately 0800 hours.

At 0530 hours Oct 23rd the Regiment continued the attack in same formation seizing the high ground NW of S. Angelo d'Alife. Enemy resistance was stubborn but the attack progressed steadily, and night found the 3rd Bn in possession of the high ground NW of their objective; the 100th Bn within a short distance of their objective, having withstood a tank attack and accounting for one tank with a Bazooka. The 3rd Bn having advantageous position on the high ground was ordered to hold its position, and the following morning the 1st Bn attacked and seized S. Angelo and the high ground immediately to the West. The Regiment remained generally in these positions sending out patrols and establishing outposts until passed thru by the 135th Inf on the morning of Oct 26th. For three days the Regiment remained in place, protecting

the Division left flank and maintaining contact with the 3rd Division on the left.

ATTACK TO THE VOLTURNO

On October 29th the Regiment marched to a new assembly area SE of Pratello. Here the Regiment received orders to relieve the battalion of the 135th Inf which was in position NE of Pratello. This was done by the 1st Bn and held until the Regiment attacked on Oct 31st with the mission of seizing the high ground in the vicinity of Ciorlana. The attack was made in a column of battalions with the 1st Bn leading; the 3rd Bn echeloned to the right rear with the mission of protecting the flank of the Regiment; the 100th Bn in reserve. By evening the Regiment had captured Ciorlana and the high ground NW and W thereof. It was a difficult job well done. The attack involved taking one hill after another. The 1st Bn reported they had given the enemy a good beating. Food and ammunition had to be carried by hand pending the arrival of newly acquired mules.

GENERAL

In all the operations, although not mentioned in the foregoing history, it must be remembered that the Special Units; Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, Headquarters Company, Service company, and Medical Detachment, contributed largely to the success of our battalions in taking all objectives.

DISTANCES MOVED

During this period the Regiment has moved from Salerno Bay a

distance of 267 miles, of which 122 miles was by foot. A considerable distance was traveled cross country over very rugged terrain.

SUMMARY OF DISTANCES MOVED

Salerno Bay to Bivouac Area - 5 Miles.
Salerno Bivouac Area to Montecervino-Rovella - 27 Miles.
(Truck)
Montecervino-Rovella to N9156 - 106 Miles. (Truck)
N9156 to Montemarano - 13 Miles.
Montemarano to Chiusano - 11 Miles.
Chiusano to Montemilette - 8 Miles.
Montefalcione to Pratola - 6.5 Miles.
Chiusano to Montemilette - 7 Miles.
Pratola & Montemilette to Benevento - 16 Miles.
Benevento to Montesarchio - 12 Miles. (Truck)
Montesarchio to Airola - 6.5 Miles.
Airola to Agata di Goti - 4 Miles.
Agata di Goti to Limatolo - 5 Miles.
Limatolo to Caiazzo - 4 Miles.
Caiazzo to Alvignano - 6 Miles.
Alvignano to Alife - 9 Miles.
Alife to S. Angelo d'Alife - 7 Miles.
S. Angelo d'Alife to Pratella - 7 Miles.
Pratella to Ciorlano - 7 Miles.

CARLEY L. MARSHALL.
Lt. Col. Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 November 1943 to 30 November 1943, inclusive.

CIORLANO

After the capture of Ciorlano on Oct 31st the Regiment

continued
its advance, and by noon of Nov 1st the 1st Bn had seized
the remaining
heights to their front overlooking the Volturno River, the
3rd Bn on the
right although held up by enemy tanks in the valley,
continued its
advance into the flat approaches to the Volturno, the 100th
Bn remained
in reserve in the vicinity of Ciorlano. Patrols were sent
across the
Volturno and preparations made for the crossing.

THE THIRD CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO

On Nov 3rd at an assembly of CO's and Staff at the
Regimental C.P.
the Regimental Commander explained in detail the attack to
take place
that night: The 3rd Bn to cross the river first with the
town on S.
Maria Oliveto as its objective, the 1st Bn to follow the
3rd and echelon
to the left after crossing and seize Hill 550 to the left
of the 3rd
Bn's objective, the 100th to follow and take the low ground
to the left
and rear of the 1st Bn and protect the left flank and left
rear of the
Division. An artillery concentration was planned from 2330
to 2400
hours. Time for the Division attack was 2400 hours. At
2319 hours all
Battalions were in position ready for the jump off. The
Regiment moved
out according to plan and at 0130 hours all three
battalions were across
the river. At 0845 hours 4 Nov all battalions reported
being on their
objectives. The 1st Bn reached their objective with only
one casualty,
the Bn Commander. Enemy resistance was strong consisting
of
machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire. Mines and booby-
traps were so
thickly strung it was impossible to get vehicles across the
river until
the area had been cleared. Evacuation was possible at

night only and then with difficulty due to litter bearers having to pass over open flat terrain which was under enemy observation and harassing artillery fire. Casualties were heavy, approximately 116, 26 prisoners were taken including one company commander and numerous enemy [were] killed.

At daybreak Nov 5th the Regiment suffered a counterattack and the 1st Bn was pushed back from part of its position. However, the regiment counterattacked with close artillery support, the 1st Bn regaining the high ground it had lost. Patrols of the 100th Bn contacted the 45th Division on the left. The 3rd Bn was cleaning out S. Maria Oliveto. At daybreak Nov 6th another counterattack was repulsed, 20 prisoners were taken, our casualties were 32. On Nov 7th the Regiment consolidated positions, strong patrols were sent out to contact the enemy after dark. Mines and booby-traps continued to be the main threat and caused casualties. Two counterattacks of artillery and infantry with machine-pistols were repulsed, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The 1st Bn acting Commander and Bn Adjutant were casualties, 24 prisoners were taken. Nov 8th patrolling continued, at 0900 hours a fairly large number of enemy were sighted in front of our forward patrols. Our patrols withdrew and artillery was placed on the enemy with good results. Troops were kept on the alert due to counterattacks, 5 prisoners were taken. Overcoats and heavy underwear were issued to assault troops. Areas were cleared of mines and booby-traps, although rainy weather delayed this work. On Nov 9th our patrols contacted the

enemy killing several and capturing a machine-gun. The 1st Bn prepared to take over the line, relieving the other two battalions. The first contingent of 100 enlisted men were sent to a rest camp at Naples. On Nov 10th the 3rd and 100th Bns moved to assembly areas as the 1st Bn had taken over the line where they remained until Nov 12th when they moved to an assembly area having been pinched out by the 135th and 179th Inf. Regiments. [The 179th was a unit of the 45th Division.]

All units remained in this general vicinity until Nov 24th in VI Corps reserve from the 15th until 22nd Nov when it reverted to Division control. During this period three counterattack plans were formulated and liaison was maintained direct with VI Corps. While in this area the Regiment was subjected to intermittent artillery fire. The Regimental C.P. was moved a short distance on Nov 21 due to artillery fire. Rain was almost constant during the period from the 14th to 21st. Training consisted of patrolling and firing of weapons. New men were trained particularly in patrolling.

BATTLE OF MT. MARRONE

On Nov 24th plans were made to take over from 504th Parachute Battalion in the vicinity of Colli. [correction: 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.] Reconnaissance was made and the movement started that date. Relief was completed on Nov 25th. The 135th on the left, the 5th Division 8th Army British on the right and north. The 100th and 3rd Bns in the line and the 1st Bn in reserve. The Cannon Company initially occupied positions in the

vicinity on Montequila, moving to Scapoli after roads and bridges were repaired. On Nov 26th the 100th Bn contacted the enemy and engaged them with mortars. On Nov 27th a combat patrol of the 3rd Bn contacted the enemy near a house which they surrounded killing 5 of them. The 100th Bn received considerable artillery and mortar fire from Hill 1017 to Hill 905 suffering 12 casualties. Hill 801 was occupied by the 100th Bn and Hill 900 was outposted. At a conference Lt. Col. Marshall informed the 100th and 3rd Bns that Div and Corp Commanders were pleased with recent operations. An attack was planned for the morning of Nov 29th, the Regiment was to jump off at 0600 hours, 3rd and 100th Bns in the assault, 3rd Bn on the right, 1st Bn in reserve moving behind the 3rd Bn. Objectives were 100th Bn to vicinity of Cerasuola and then to Cardito, 3rd Bn to Cardito and hold awaiting Division orders, Cannon Company in support. All units jumped off at 0600 hours and shortly thereafter both assault Bns contacted the enemy. Contact with adjacent units was by liaison. Casualties were heavy. The 100th Bn was stopped by force at 1200 hours on Hill 832 (028324) by well entrenched enemy groups. The 3rd Bn advanced through heavy artillery and mortar fire and some small arms fire to general line (025330-025337) where they were stopped at 1500 hours. Co "F" 100th Bn moved to Hill 1017 during the night of Nov 29-30. The Regiment held in place night of Nov 29-30 and resumed the attack at 0600 hours Nov 30th. They were to move under a rolling artillery barrage. The attack continued as scheduled Nov 30th, 3rd and 100th Bns in the assault, 1st Bn in reserve. The 3rd Bn

assisted by a rolling barrage of one hour and ten minutes advanced and by 0900 hours had taken their objective. They completed reorganization of positions on high ground at that point (017336), the 100th Bn retook Hill 920 at 1930 hours and occupied Hill 905. They were unable to advance any further due to strong enemy resistance from Hill 832 (019324). Plans called to resume the attack the following morning at 0800 hours Dec 1st. Objectives, 100 Bn Hill 832, 3rd Bn high ground 800 west and generally parallel to present positions, 1st Bn to patrol. 1st Bn patrol reported strong enemy force in vicinity of (023363) which withdrew to the south. Fighting during the period was intense. The 100th Bn reported about 15% casualties, 1 prisoner was taken, he stated the strength of his company to be 70 men and also gave location of minefields.

CASUALTIES DURING THE PERIOD:

100th Inf Bn: 68 KIA, 211 WIA, 0 MIA
1st and 3rd Bns: 43 KIA, 162 WIA, 7 MIA
133rd Inf Regt: 111 KIA, 373 WIA, 7 MIA

PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED:

100th Inf Bn: 22
1st and 3rd Bn: 60
133rd Inf Regt: 82

GENERAL

In the operations during the period rain was almost constant, making travel difficult and use of vehicles at a minimum. Pack mules were employed to get ammunition and supplies to the front line units. Men of the assault units suffered under the adverse weather conditions throughout the entire period. Occasionally water froze in the canteens

at night.

Enemy aircraft were particularly active at the beginning of the period. the 100th Bn suffered 12 casualties on Nov 1st as a result of an enemy air attack.

CARLEY L. MARSHALL.
Lt. Col. Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 December 1943 to 31 December 1943, inclusive.

BATTLE OF MT. MARRONE

On 1 December 1943, the Regiment continued the attack with the 3rd Battalion in the assault with the mission of seizing Hill 1180. The attack progressed slowly against heavy enemy resistance in the form of mortar and small arms fire. Ground gained was outposted that night and the attack on 1140 was resumed the following day. Enemy resistance continued to be heavy and the objective was taken that night at approximately 0100, 3 December 1943. During this period, 1-3 December, the 2nd (100th Inf Bn Sep) remained in position on Hills 905 and 920 with two companies facing Hill 832 which was firmly occupied by the enemy. The 100th Battalion was continually in close contact with the

enemy, at some points only 100 yards separated the opposing forces. On 1 December, the enemy counter-attacked Hill 920 but were repulsed. During this period the 1st Battalion remained in position protecting the right flank of the Regiment. Company "A" had been attached to the 3rd Battalion, 2 December. The Regiment, with orders to hold, remained in position, conducted intensive patrolling, and made plans for the relief of the Regiment by the 4eme Regiment de Tirailleurs Marocains, 2eme Division Marocains [4th Moroccan Rifle Regiment, 2nd Moroccan Division], commencing on the night of 8-9 December. Throughout the period 3-10 December, considerable enemy harassing fire fell in the Regimental sector, with the Regimental CP in Scapoli, Hill 920, and Cannon Company receiving the heaviest concentrations. On 7 December the Cannon Company received a 215 round concentration of 155 mm in 45 minutes. The Regiment was continually in close contact with the enemy in the 100th Infantry Battalion sector throughout the period. In the remainder of the Regimental sector, contact with enemy was maintained by patrolling. On two occasions defensive barrages were called down in the face of apparent enemy attacks which never developed. The weather during the period was rainy and cold, the men's canteens froze at night. Supplies had to be hauled great distances over rough terrain by mule trains and carrying parties. The 1st and 3rd Battalions were relieved by the French [Moroccans] on the night of 8-9 December and the remainder of the Regiment on the night of 9-10 December. Control of the Regimental sector passed to the French at 0140 hours, 9 December 1943, at which

time relief of the 1st and 3rd Battalions had been completed. The entire relief was accomplished without a hitch. It was quite apparent that the measures taken to prevent the enemy from discovering that a relief was taking place, were completely successful. The Regiment assembled in the vicinity of Fornelli, Italy, and moved during the night of 10-11 December to a rest area in the vicinity of Alife, Italy.

REST AREA, ALIFE, ITALY

The Regiment remained in the rest area, vicinity Alife, Italy, during the period 11-30 December. At the beginning of the period a considerable portion of the time was spent bathing, cleaning equipment and assimilating replacements. After this was accomplished a training program emphasizing physical hardening, scouting and patrolling and the training of specialists was carried out. Throughout the period troops were sent to the Rest Center in Naples and a continuous program of entertainment was provided for the troops in the area. Movies were shown every night as well as some stage shows. Decorations were awarded and several officers and men received Battle Field promotions.

PRESENZANO, ITALY

On the evening of 30 December, the Regiment commenced its move to an assembly area in the vicinity of Presenzano, Italy, where it was to be in II Corps reserve. That night the Regiment, less the 100th Infantry Battalion, completed the move, with the 100th Infantry Battalion closing in, the night of 31 December. A severe blizzard

struck in the night of 31 December 1943. Plans were made for reconnaissance to both flanks of the Corps in anticipation of entering into combat.

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CARLEY L. MARSHALL
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding

OFFICIAL:
s/Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON
Captain, Infantry
Commanding [sic]

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 January 1944 to 31 January 1944, inclusive.

PRESENZANO, ITALY

During the period January 1-5 incl., the Regiment remained as II Corps Reserve in an assembly area in the vicinity of Presenzano, Italy. Plans were drawn for the employment of the 133RCT as II Corps Reserve and extensive reconnaissance was made to both flanks of the Corps Sector. Training was continued with special emphasis on scouting and maintenance of a high standard of physical fitness.

On the night of January 5th the First Battalion was detached from the Regiment and moved by marching to an assembly area in the vicinity of Mt. Lungo under II Corps control as reserve for Task Force "A". On January 6th the Regiment (-1st Bn, Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company and Service Company) moved by motor to the vicinity of Ceppagna and from there by marching to assembly areas in the vicinity of Radicosa (979202) under control of Task Force "B".

ATTACK FOR APPROACHS TO CASSINO
(Hills #1270 (944234), Hill 1109 (937221), Mt Capraro (923222), Hill 780 (916230), Hill (926236))

During the period January 7-15 incl., the Regiment attacked and seized the following Hills, Hill 1270 (944234), Hill 1109 (937221), Mt Capraro (923222), Hill 780 (916230), Hill (926236). (The First Battalion was reattached to the Regiment January 8th.) Objectives were taken in the face of stubborn enemy resistance, very

mountainous terrain and adverse weather conditions. The taking of each hill was a battle in itself, the enemy was well dug in and in each case held commanding ground. At times it was necessary to drive the enemy from his positions at the point of a bayonet. The weather was extremely cold and the trails over the mountains were treacherous being covered with snow and ice. There were no vehicular roads, supplies had to be packed by mules and hand for distances up to ten miles. The tremendous problem of evacuation of casualties is described in inclosure hereto (see Incl. #1). Communications were installed and maintained by crews working long hours packing supplies and equipment, by mule and hand.

On January 13th the Regiment (-2nd Battalion (100th Inf Bn) which remained under control of First Special Service Force) reverted to control of 34th Division and continued the attack to the Southwest against determined enemy resistance and reached its objective Northwest of Cervaro in the vicinity of (901202-906212-911215). The Regiment remained in place, established all around defense, patrolling vigorously to the front and flanks, during the period January 15-21 incl. The 100th Bn returned to Regimental control on January 17th. During the night of January 20-21 the Regiment put on a demonstration, with one rifle company each, from the First and Third Battalions, and the heavy weapons companies of the First and Third Battalions participating. The demonstration consisted of fire from the Heavy Weapons Companies and the Rifle companies moving ahead in attack formation. The demonstration was made against enemy positions along the Rapido River in the

general
vicinity of Cassino and designed for the purpose of
attracting the
enemy's attention to our sector while an attack was being
made by the
[36th] Division on our left.

ATTACK ON THE GUSTAV LINE (Cassino)

On the night of January 21-22, the Regiment occupied
positions north
of its former positions in anticipation of attacking the
Cassino Heights
across the Rapido River. Aggressive patrolling and
reconnaissance was
continued in preparation for the attack. Company "M" put
on another
demonstration during the night of January 22-23 and
delivered harassing
mortar fire throughout the day. Final plans were completed
for the
attack on the Cassino Heights.

At 2200 hours January 24th the Regiment jumped off on
its attack on
the heights north of Cassino. The Regiment attacked with
three
Battalions abreast, First Battalion on the right, 100th
Battalion on the
left. The Regiment advanced slowly against enemy wire
entanglements,
mine fields and strongly fortified positions, by evening of
January 25th
all three Battalions had elements across the Rapido River
and were
preparing to continue the attack. On January 26th the
Regiment
continued the attack meeting stiff resistance in the form
of
Machine-gun, Mortar, Small-arms fire, mines and wire
entanglements.
Casualties were heavy and progress slow, that night
defensive positions
were taken up of the West side of the River. The 100th
Battalion held
in place until relieved by elements of the 135th Infantry
at
approximately 2400 hours. The First and Third Battalions

outposted the
river line and held Line of Departure for the 168th
Infantry until 0630
hours January 27th at which time the 168th Infantry
attacked through our
lines. The Regiment immediately moved to an assembly area
in Division
Reserve. The Regiment remained in Division reserve until
the night of
January 29th when it relieved the 135th Infantry taking up
their
defensive positions. The Regiment remained in position,
conducted
intensive patrolling and made plans for attacking the
barracks (858231)
with one reinforced rifle company and one Company of Tanks.

1 Incl. Statement Regtl. Surgeon.

CARLEY L. MARSHALL.
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

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MEDICAL DETACHMENT 133RD INFANTRY
U.S.A.P.O. 34

12 February 1944

EVACUATION IN MOUNTAIN FIGHTING

Between 7 January 1944 and 15 January 1944 inclusive,
this unit was
engaged in combat over a most difficult mountainous terrain
extending
outward from La Noci to Radicosa to Mt. Majo to Mt. Peccia
and finally
to Mt. Pischiataro. The entire distance of about eight (8)
to ten (10)
miles was completely devoid of a vehicular road. The only

route of supply and evacuation was a footpath or trail which in many places was difficult even for mountain mules. For a considerable portion of the distance, the trail ran above the timber line in the region of ice and snow.

Evacuation of wounded was accomplished by six (6) man litter teams at regularly established relay posts. Each relay post was placed such that each team would have about a one-hour haul from its post to the next post. In all, there were twelve (12) such relay posts between the Battalion Aid Stations on Mt. Pischiatara to the nearest available ambulance at La Noci. It therefore required seventy two (72) men to evacuate one (1) litter patient from the Battalion Aid Station to the ambulance, this took twelve (12) to fifteen (15) hours. Between the Battalion Aid Stations and the ambulance, along this route of evacuation, there were three (3) Aid Stations, each one supervised by a Medical Officer and each one provided with facilities to give first-aid treatment, plasma, and hot drinks. These Aid Stations provided a resting spot for the walking wounded as they made their way back along the route of evacuation.

On the busiest day, each litter squad carried (8) litter cases from their own post to the next one, and then of course, each litter team had to make its way back to its own litter post. Each team, therefore, made eight (8) complete round trips that day. Considering the character of the terrain and the fact that each round trip took approximately two (2) hours, it is not exaggerating to say that the litter teams

worked that
day. Much credit is due them for their perseverance and
determination
in the face of extremely difficult physical hardships.
There were six
(6) such teams at each litter post. It is pointed out that
throughout
this period of operation, these men were bivouaced either
on the top of
or on the slopes on a mountain and that they lived in pup
tents in the
midst of snow and ice. Supplies were brought to them daily
by mule
train.

On the 16th of January, the town of Cervaro was
cleared of the enemy
so that the roads leading to it became available for
evacuation by
vehicle.

1 Incl: Commendation Ltr., II Corps, U.S.Army.

s/ Morris J. Leslie
MORRIS J. LESLIE
Major MC, 133rd Inf.
Regimental Surgeon

=====

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
APO 302 U.S. ARMY

In the Field, 22 January 1944
303.13 (G-1)

Subject: Commendation

To: Division and Separate Unit Commanders

1. I desire to commend all men of this command who
acted as
litter-bearers during the recent operations of II Corps,
for the
splendid manner in which they performed their duties.

2. Working in extremely difficult, mountainous

terrain, in
weather which often made the precipitous trails most
hazardous, under
constant exposure to enemy artillery and small-arms fire,
the often
averaged from 12 to 18 hours carrying a single patient.

3. Their dogged perseverance in their task, in the
face of
formidable obstacles, bespeaks their courage and devotion
to duty, and I
have no doubt that the efforts of these men resulted in the
saving of
many lives and in reducing appreciably the extent of our
casualties
during these operations.

4. It is my wish that the contents of this message
be brought to
the attention of all personnel concerned.

s/Geoffrey Keyes
GEOFFREY KEYES,
Major General, USA,
Commanding

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Hq 34th Inf Div, APO-34, U.S.Army, 24 January 1944

1st Indorsement

To: Unit Commanders

1. Your attention is invited to basic communication.
2. Your Division Commander desires to express his
appreciation of
the splendid manner in which litter-bearers of the 34th
Infantry
Division performed their hazardous duties.

By command of Major General RYDER:

s/ Dee M. White
DEE M. WHITE

Lt. Col., AGD.,
Adjutant General.

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 February 1944 to 29 February 1944, inclusive.

ATTACK ON CASSINO

On the night of February 1st the attack on the barracks north of Cassino (858231) was made by Company "I", reinforced, and one company of tanks. The remainder of the 3rd Battalion was alerted to move to the rear of the assaulting company and the 1st Battalion ready to move to attack the north edge of Cassino. The barracks were taken at 2300 hours, 54 prisoners were taken.

The following morning the 3rd Battalion resumed the attack. At 1500 hours the advance elements of the 3rd Battalion and tanks were held up by Anti-Tank fire from self-propelled guns in Cassino. Late that afternoon the 3rd Battalion continued the attack, our tanks met resistance from Anti-Tank guns in town shortly after entering and were cut off. Our Infantry met MG resistance form high ground to their West.

At 2230 hours Company "C" 1st Battalion moved to join the 3rd Battalion in the attack. The 3rd Battalion was held up north of town by MG and Mortar fire from the town and high ground to the west. At 0600 hours February 3rd Company "C" entered the Northeast part of Cassino but were forced to withdraw 1000 yards east of the town by enemy tanks.

At 1530 hours the 1st and 3rd Battalions preceded by

tanks resumed the attack following and artillery preparation. The 3rd Battalion entered the Northwest edge while the 1st Battalion entered the Northeastern edge of Cassino, both battalions digging in their positions. Immediately after dark the 2nd (100th) Battalion moved to occupy positions formerly held by the 1st Battalion. At 0800 hours February 4th six enemy tanks forced the 1st Battalion to withdraw to the streambed in the vicinity of (886314). The 3rd Battalion consolidated their positions in the Northwest edge of town in the face of determined enemy infantry and tank action. At 1300 hours Company "A" 1st Battalion began to move to the right flank of the 3rd Battalion to occupy Hill 175 and relieve Company "L". The remainder of the 1st Battalion following at 1500 hours closed in their assembly area at 1730 hours at (854227). Company "A" relieved Company "L" at 1845 hours, Company "L" rejoining the 3rd Battalion in the Northwest edge of Cassino. During the night of February 4-5 the Battalions remained in place, the 1st Battalion made reconnaissance of draws in their sector between 0630 and 0830 hours. At 0830 hours February 5th the 1st Battalion began to advance toward Hill 193 clearing out draws as they advanced slowly on the North slope of the Hill. At 2030 hours February 5th the 1st Battalion received a heavy counter-attack on Hill 193 being forced to withdraw to Hill 175. Early on the morning of February 6th the 2nd (100th) Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Battalion 143rd Infantry and moved to the vicinity of (849241) as Division Reserve. At 0645 hours the 3rd Battalion repulsed an enemy counter-attack on its left flank. During the day the 1st

Battalion held positions on Hill 173. At 0930 hours the Regimental Command Post was bombed by enemy aircraft, the Regimental S-3 becoming a casualty. The 3rd Battalion progressed slowly in town clearing enemy from another block of houses. On the night of February 6-7 plans were made to continue the attack. Aggressive patrolling was carried out to locate enemy MG and self-propelled gun positions. Small advances were made. During the night of February 7-8 the 2nd (100th) Battalion reverted to Regimental control and moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Hill 175. On the morning of February 8th the Regiment attacked at 0645 hours supported by tanks and smoke with all three Battalions in the assault, the 2nd (100th) Battalion on the right, 1st Battalion in the center. The 2nd (100th) Battalion advanced rapidly and was ordered to hold up its advance and consolidate positions in the vicinity of Hill 165 to protect the right flank of the Regiment. The 1st Battalion advanced to the North West slope of Hill 193, the 3rd Battalion supported by tanks made slight gains into the Northern edge of Cassino, its advance was halted by heavy Anti-Tank and MG fire. At 1315 hours Company "L" resumed the advance behind tanks advancing to positions along the Northernmost East-West road through Cassino. During the attack several buildings containing strong points were demolished by eight inch guns. The 2nd (100th) Battalion knocked out one enemy tank and damaged one enemy self-propelled gun by bazooka fire. During the night the Battalions consolidated positions and held their respective sectors. February 9th the 1st Battalion strengthened its positions, the 2nd

(100th) Battalion held and continued to wipe out enemy resistance in their sector, the 3rd Battalion made slight gains against determined enemy resistance and destroyed two enemy half-track vehicles. Eight inch howitzers fired precision fire on observed enemy targets in Cassino. Five buildings were taken during the day. February 10th the Regiment held in place and continued to strengthen positions, at 1200 hours the 3rd Battalion resumed the attack in Cassino meeting determined resistance from buildings in town, one building was taken. Heavy enemy artillery fire fell during the period. Slight gains were made in Cassino. Close in defensive fires were prepared for the sector. On the night of February 10th the Regiment remained in place. The 3rd Battalion continued the attack against heavy resistance February 11th, making slight gains. The 1st Battalion moved from (853215) to the left flank of the 3rd Battalion in Cassino to attack the jail at approximately 0430 hours February 12th. The jail was taken at approximately 0700 hours by Company "C" 1st Battalion. The 3rd Battalion continued the attack to the right of the 1st Battalion in the West half of town clearing houses North of 214 grid lines, two buildings were taken during the period. The 2nd (100th) Battalion remained in place and plans were made for the 2nd (100th) Battalion to assist in clearing the city of the enemy. During the night of February 12th, 57mm Anti-Tank guns were placed in position to fire at known enemy positions, 300 rounds were fired during the day at enemy positions on Hill 193 west of the Castle. The 1st and 3rd Battalions maintained pressure on the enemy while the 2nd (100th)

Battalion
remained in Regimental Reserve. On the night of February
13th the 2nd
(100th) Battalion moved into Cassino attached to the 3rd
Battalion.
During the day 300 rounds of 57mm were fired. On February
15th the
Regiment held assigned sectors, Cannon Company firing 1672
rounds,
Anti-Tank 325 rounds, Company "A" 2nd Cml [Chemical Mortar]
Battalion
325 rounds, the Monastery was bombed by our airforce.
During the period
February 18th to 21st, the Regiment remained in position,
strong
pressure was maintained against the enemy. patrols drew
small arms and
MG fire. Harassing enemy artillery and mortar fire was
received during
the entire period.

During the entire period February 1-22nd the enemy
held commanding
ground and was well dug in, in well prepared reinforced
positions and
had advantage of observation from the Abbey and the high
ground behind
Cassino. Enemy mine fields were well prepared and covered
by excellent
field of fire, MG nests in steel and concrete bunkers had
to be stormed.
Progress was measured by yards and by buildings. Each
building had been
converted into an enemy strong-point. Fighting was intense
throughout
the period. One third of Cassino was captured and held by
the Regiment
when relieved February 21-22. Casualties were heavy. All
three
Battalions were below 50% of authorized strength when
relieved. The
enemy took severe losses, including 138 Prisoners captured
by our troops
during the period.

Plans were completed for the relief of the Regiment by
the 6th NZ
Brigade, relief being accomplished on the night of February

21-22. The Regiment moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of S. Michele from where it moved on the night of February 22nd to a training area in the vicinity of Alife closing in the new area at 0020 hours February 23rd. The Regiment remained in this area at the close of the period. Training to obtain a high standard of physical fitness and combat efficiency was stressed.

CARLEY L. MARSHALL.
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

Narrative History 1-31 March 1944

133rd Infantry Regiment

PIEDOMONTE D'ALIFE AREA

At the beginning of the period the regiment completed its reorganization under T.O. & E. 7-11, July 1943. The Regimental training program was commenced on March 2, 1944. A high standard of training and physical fitness was maintained by the training and recreational program.

S. GIORGIO AREA

On March 10, 1944 the Regiment moved by motor to a training area in the vicinity of S. Giorgio. The new camp was established and the

training program resumed. The 2nd Bn., 133rd Inf. rejoined the Regiment on 16 March 1944, after an absence of approximately 18 months. The 100th Bn (Sep) was relieved of assignment to the 133rd Infantry effective upon arrival of the 2nd Bn, 133rd Inf., however, it was attached to the regiment for all purposes and remained so up to and including March 31, 1944. The training program was continued by all units, every available moment being used, as the time was short, and the new replacements did not arrive until March 16, 1944.

ANZIO BEACHHEAD

During the morning of 23 March the Regiment (less the 2nd Bn and 100th Bn (Sep)) moved by motor from the training area in the vicinity of S. Giorgio to Staging Area No. 1 in the vicinity of Naples. That night was spent in the staging area. At approximately 1145 hours the following morning (24 March) the Regiment (less the 2nd Bn and 100th Bn (Sep)) moved by foot to the dock where they loaded on boats (L.S.T.s and L.C.I.s) preparatory to movement to Anzio by water. (The 2nd Bn and 100th Bn (Sep) arrived in the staging area 24 March.) At approximately 1745 hours 24 March the boat left the harbor and proceeded to Anzio unloading at approximately 1130 hours 25 March. Movement by motor from Anzio to an assembly area in the vicinity of 893217 (Map G. SGS 4229, Italy 1/50000, Sheets I II III & IV) was completed during the afternoon of March 25th. Similarly the 2nd Bn, 133rd Inf and the 100th Inf Bn (Sep) arrived in the same general assembly area the afternoon of March 26th.

During the night 26-27 March the regiment (Plus 100th Bn (Sep) minus 3rd Bn, 133rd) commenced relief of the 30th Inf; 1st Bn, A-T Co, and Cannon Company relieved units of the 30th Inf during the night. The following night 27-28 March the regiment (plus the 100th Bn (Sep) minus the 3rd Bn) completed relief of the 30th Inf. (General vicinity 955227) and passed to 34th Division Reserve. The 3rd Bn, 133rd Inf was attached to the 168th Inf, and relieved the 3rd Bn, 15th Inf., during the same night (March 27-28). During the remaining period (March 31 '44) the Regiment (plus the 100th Bn (Sep) minus the 3rd Bn) remained in assembly areas as 34th Division Reserve. Reconnaissance and development of counter-attack plans were continued throughout the period. The 3rd Bn, 133rd Inf remained attached to the 168th Inf throughout the period.

[signature not recognized]

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division

From 1 April 1944 to 30 April 1944, inclusive.

ANZIO BEACHHEAD

The Regiment remained in its reserve positions in the vicinity of Tre Cancelli. An intensive training program was conducted with night problems, scouting and patrolling, pillbox destruction and combat efficiency and physical hardening of the individual were emphasized. Colonel H. W. Schildroth assumed command of the Regiment on April 8th. Plans were drawn to relieve the 168th Infantry taking over their

positions in the vicinity of Borgo Montello. The relief was completed on the night of April 14th, 3rd Battalion on the left, 2nd Battalion in the middle, 1st Battalion on the right with the 100th Inf Bn (Sep) in support.

Immediately upon relief of the 168th Infantry intensive patrolling was conducted. Defensive positions and gun emplacements were improved and well dug in. Platoon and company raids were planned and carried out. Information of enemy activity, mortar and machine gun positions was secured. Counter-battery plans were drawn and used. Company patrols were sent out nightly probing enemy positions.

The 1st Battalion put on a company raid on the night of April 23rd which netted 4 prisoners, 2 killed and 1 enemy wounded. On the night of the 24th the 3rd Battalion 168th Infantry passed through our 3rd Battalion seized and occupied Boye woods, 2 prisoners were taken. The following night our 3rd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion 168th Infantry taking over their positions. During the night of April 26th a small enemy counter-attack on the 3rd Battalion positions was repulsed.

On the night of April 27th the 1st and 2nd Battalions sent out platoon raiding parties. Numerous enemy machine gun positions were located. Enemy patrols were encountered, the 2nd Battalion party was fired on by enemy mortars and suffered 2 wounded and 3 men missing. On the night of April 28th the 100th Battalion company raid, supported by Company "I", used as a feinting force, met strong enemy resistance from small arms fire and hand grenades. Enemy mortar and

machine gun
positions were located and taken under fire by our mortar
and artillery
fire.

During the period all units of the Regiment constantly
improved
their positions, digging in emplacements which were
strengthened by
timbers, sandbags and other available materials. Raids and
vigorous
patrolling were constant during hours of darkness.
Observation and
Listening Posts were established and manned continuously.
Many enemy
minefields, wire entanglements and booby traps were
located. Enemy
Pillboxes and dugouts were well constructed and concealed.
Houses,
buildings and knocked-out tanks were converted into strong
points and
observation posts by the enemy. The enemy held high ground
to the front
affording them excellent observation, making daylight
movement
impossible without drawing enemy mortar and artillery fire.

Enemy artillery was very active throughout the period,
especially
during hours of darkness. The entire beachhead area was
within
artillery range. Our raiding parties, observers and
listening posts
located many targets of opportunity which were fired upon
by our Cannon
Company and supporting artillery with excellent results.

At the beginning of the period enemy air activity was
almost a
nightly occurrence, dropping to almost nil at the end of
the period.
Supporting anti-aircraft batteries were very effective
against enemy
aircraft. The enemy fired and dropped numerous propaganda
leaflets upon
our area which our troops considered amateurish. They had
no deterring
effect upon our troops.

Officers and enlisted men attended Division schools. A limited number of Officers and men were given the opportunity to attend rest camps during the period. Rotation personnel were selected and sent to the rear echelon awaiting transportation to the United States.

This period reveals success as it is felt that the enemy suffered more casualties and prisoners by our actions than we have lost to them. Morale of our troops throughout the period was comparatively high.

W. H. SCHILDROTH.
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Donald L Nabity
DONALD L. NABITY.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

Headquarters 133rd Infantry
United States Army
APO 34

Narrative History
1 May 1944 to 31 May 1944, inc.

ANZIO BEACHHEAD

During the period 1 May to 23 May 1944 incl, the Regiment with 100th Infantry Battalion (Sep) attached remained in its defensive positions generally along the Mussolini Canal. Enemy activity consisted of fire from self-propelled guns, harassing artillery fire, small arms and mortar fire. Enemy airraids were confined to hours of

darkness and were more of a nuisance nature and did very little damage to our troops and installations. The enemy used houses, knocked out tanks well camouflaged as hay stacks for OPs and machine gun nests. They were well dug in with ditches and trenches connecting strong points. They laid many mines and placed booby traps with trip wire along all likely avenues of approach to their positions.

Our positions were constantly improved, we laid many mines and installed wire in front of our units. Listening posts were manned constantly. A large raiding party (the Red Raiders) consisting of one officer and forty men all volunteers of the First Battalion was formed for special missions in enemy territory. Much valuable information was obtained by patrols and raiding parties. Patrol clashes were frequent resulting in many fire fights, with hand grenades being used by our troops with good results.

On the morning of May 9th a patrol of one officer and three men from "G" Company went into enemy territory during daylight. It was a daring raid, they returned with 9 German and 3 Italian PWs. The enemy suffered one killed, our patrol had no casualties. Four Italian deserters were captured by "G" Company, 2 on May 10th and 2 on May 12th. During the period the enemy constantly improved their positions during hours of darkness.

The First Battalion launched an attack on enemy strong points in the vicinity of (049266) and (253263) across the Mussolini Canal on May 20th. 46 PWs were taken. A strong enemy counter-attack

was repulsed
with "B" Company being forced to withdraw to their original
positions.
Company "A" held their objective. After a heavy fire fight
the enemy
was repulsed with losses leaving "A" Company in control of
the junction
of the Cisterna River and Canal. Companies "B" & "C" 100th
Infantry
Battalion relieved Companies "B" & "C" First Battalion and
a platoon of
Company "I" relieved a platoon of Company "A" 100th
Battalion on May
21st.

ATTACK ON THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD LINE

On May 22nd the First Battalion moved to an assembly
area in the
vicinity of (017271) preparing to relieve the First Special
Service
Force. On May 23rd the Second and Third Battalions moved
to take over a
sector held by the Special Service Force, the move being
completed early
May 24th.

At 1715 hours May 24th following a thirty minute
Artillery
Preparation the First Battalion supported by tanks, T/Ds,
Recon Troops
and Engineers launch an attack to cut Highway # 7. Enemy
resistance was
strong where the railroad crossed the Canal. The objective
was reached
at 2100 hours where they held until passed through by the
Third
Battalion on the early morning of May 25th. At 0530 hours
May 25th the
Regiment reverted to VI Corps control and was passed
through by the
Special Service Force. The Second Battalion followed the
Special
Service Force mopping up and consolidating positions along
the Canal
from (083314-101330-087334), 11 PWs were taken.

May 26th the Regiment moved to an assembly area

(985345) prepared to attack at dawn. The attack was started at 1100 hours Second and Third Battalions abreast with First Battalion 100 yards to rear in the center of the line. The Third Battalion had a little difficulty with mines. On May 27th the attack continued and the Regiment was held up at Hill 173 by tanks, Mortar and Artillery fire. Two enemy counter-attacks of Tanks and Infantry were repulsed. One consisted of 2 tanks and 40 men against the Third Battalion, the other of 6 tanks and 200 men against the Second Battalion. The First Battalion moved into the line between the Second and Third Battalions at 2200 hours where the Regiment held for the night. Early on the morning of the 28th the attack was continued with all Battalions abreast. The attack was coordinated with the 168th Infantry. Progress was slow against heavy enemy resistance from the front and flanks. At 2115 hours the Second Battalion seized Hill 187 (925404). The Regiment was held up by opposition from Villa-Crocetta, the Second Battalion by-passed Villa-Crocetta and proceeded rapidly to the railroad bank. The Third Battalion advanced a short distance under very stiff resistance. The Regiment withdrew at 1150 hours on the 29th to consolidate and prepare to resume the attack at 1900 hours with all Battalions abreast. The Second Battalion gained positions 400 yards short of the railroad after very heavy fighting when it was ordered back to protect the exposed flank and stabilize the line. The Regiment held their positions supporting the 135th Infantry attack at 0630 hours May 30th firing all weapons. The Battalions reorganized and consolidated their position and supported the attack of the 135th

Infantry making a demonstrative attack in their sector by firing all weapons. Strong patrols were sent out to the front while the Regiment prepared to continue the attack.

Throughout the period the enemy had advantage of dominating terrain. Our troops made steady advances against infantry supported by tanks, armored vehicles and heavy fire from artillery, mortar and self-propelled guns. Enemy mines and booby traps were a constant threat but caused little delay and very few casualties.

During the period our supporting artillery inflicted many casualties on the enemy. The Cannon Company fired approximately 275 missions, expending approximately 11,000 rounds of ammunition of all types. Our troops captured 189 prisoners. The performance of the Second Battalion was all that could be desired of a units' first action in offensive combat. At the end of the period the Regiment was heavily engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Lanuvio to the south (933403-907400).

W. H. SCHILDROTH.
Colonel, Infantry.
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Donald L Nability
DONALD L. NABILITY.
Captain, Infantry.
Adjutant.

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 June 1944 to 30 June 1944, inclusive.

BATTLE FOR ROME

On 1 June 1944 the Regiment continued its attack toward Lanuvio. The enemy had a well established defense line with well established dugouts and camouflaged gun emplacements. The Third Battalion was the point in the assault which progressed slowly against heavy machine gun, mortar, self-propelled artillery, and small arms fire. Vigorous patrolling was attempted but in most cases the patrol was pinned down by enemy fire. Our assault was determined to break the German line and break out of the stagnant Anzio beachhead.

The Third Battalion, with three companies abreast on the line, continued the assault, bringing strong pressure upon the enemy located on Hill 193, south-west of the town of Lanuvio. The Germans attempted a counterattack which was repulsed with heavy enemy losses of men and equipment. Our Third Battalion also suffered heavy casualties. Replacements were received during the night to bolster the strength of the Regiment. The Third Battalion was relieved by the First Battalion and hastily reorganized. German resistance began to show signs of weakening as many prisoners were captured and heavy casualties inflicted.

The First Battalion, at 0930 hours, 2 June 1944, resumed the attack and moved out without an artillery preparation. Heavy German resistance continued and considerable self-propelled artillery fire was encountered, but the First Battalion continued the advance taking Hill 203 and pushing on to take Hill 193. At all times vigorous

patrolling
was accomplished. The Second Battalion had also begun to
push and make
favorable progress along the railroad bed running into
Lanuvio. Tanks
and tank destroyers were employed in support of our troops
and
contributed to the progress of the Regiment. At 1958
hours, the
Regimental Commander prepared plans for a night assault
which was to
employ the First and Second Battalions supported by tank
destroyers,
which were to be also used as personnel carriers in the
event of an
enemy retreat. The battalions were to attack straight
north with two
companies per battalion abreast. The attack commenced at
0200 hours, 3
June 1944, with prepared mortar harassing fire. Strong
German
resistance was encountered. The advance was slow and heavy
casualties
were sustained by our tired troops, however, our troops
continued to
push forward. A motorized patrol was sent into Lanuvio and
the Second
Battalion advanced into the town. The other battalions
swept around to
the left of Lanuvio and continued to push toward Genzano.
German
resistance thereafter quickly crumbled in this sector.
Genzano, Arricia
and Albano were taken without resistance on 4 June 1944.

The Regiment rested for the balance of the night and
in the
morning of 5 June marched over 15 miles to an assembly
point a few miles
south of Rome. The Regiment received orders to move to the
vicinity of
Caserta della Cavella, 12 miles west of Rome, and proceeded
to the new
assembly area on 6 June. Transportation was limited and
delayed by
blown bridges necessitating shuttling of the troops.

BATTLE FOR CIVITAVECCHIA

On 7 June 1944, the Regiment moved to the vicinity of Civitavecchia, Italy and the First Battalion immediately went into action. The enemy was retreating rapidly, blowing bridges, burning fields and houses in their wake. The progress was fast with little or no opposition. Rome's main port, Civitavecchia, was captured with little or no opposition and we continued to pursue the retreating enemy to the North.

BATTLE FOR TARQUINIA

German resistance in the hills South of Tarquinia was determined to stop our advance. Our troops made contact with a new German unit which had an established defense line. This defense line was destroyed and the Germans disorganized by our forceful attack which killed many of them and resulted in the capture of over a hundred prisoners.

Our troops continued the attack and would have captured Tarquinia, but the Regiment was ordered to halt and relieved the night of 8-9 June.

The Regiment assembled for a short rest period near Civitavecchia. On 10 June we moved to another rest area near Tarquinia.

REST AND TRAINING AREA, TARQUINIA

The Regiment remained in the rest area, vicinity of Tarquinia during the period 10-25 June. At the beginning of the period a considerable portion of the time was spent bathing, cleaning and replacing equipment. A training program emphasizing small unit tactics, scouting and patrolling, both day and night, offensive combat problems and firing of all weapons was carried out. Throughout the

period,
troops were sent to the Rest Center in Rome, and 12 hour
passes were
issued to the troops to visit Rome. Movies were shown
nightly and
decorations presented.

BATTLE FOR CECINA

On 26 June 44, the Regiment was back into combat and
attacking in
the vicinity of Piombino. Resistance encountered was
light, but
numerous mines and booby traps were encountered. The
terrain began to
be rough, so the troops marched on foot over the mountains,
making good
progress. Upon reaching Servereto [Suvereto], strong
resistance was met
and casualties were inflicted on our troops. Approximately
one hundred
Italian partisans joined the Second Battalion, and gave
valuable
assistance guiding the troops and assisting in the capture
of German
prisoners.

Campiglia was captured on 27 June with little
resistance. The
First Battalion encountered stiff opposition, but the
balance of the
Regiment continued the advance through the wooded
mountains. The town
of Vincenzo [San Vincenzo] was captured before midnight
after a stiff
fight. The fight continued past the town. The First
Battalion was the
point, the Second Battalion on the right flank and the
Third Battalion
on the left flank. Stiff flanking attacks delayed our
advance somewhat,
but progress continued over rough terrain. Casualties were
light.
Prisoners were captured and several enemy vehicles were
knocked out by
the Cannon Company.

The Regimental Commander laid plans to cut the road to

Castagneto
and to trap the enemy troops in that area. The town of
Castagneto was
captured and the Second Battalion took numerous prisoners,
enemy
vehicles and equipment as the Germans evacuated the town.
The
Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division was most
pleased with
the progress of the Regiment.

The town of Campiglia was the next objective. At 0315
hours, 28
June, the First Battalion began the attack and made
favorable progress.
Prisoners were streaming in. About two hundred in all were
captured
plus enemy vehicles and equipment, As usual, the enemy was
blowing up
bridges and retreating rapidly. Italian partisans again
offered great
assistance as guides, pointing out mined areas and trails
to our troops.

The Regiment entered Staz di Castagneto on 29 June
with little
resistance. The Third Battalion continued on to cross the
river, the
Second Battalion captured Bibbona, and then the entire
Regiment moved
rapidly to bypass Cecina. At Cecina the enemy offered
strong and
determined resistance, making good use of self-propelled
guns,
pill-boxes, and dug-in emplacements. The Third Battalion
attacked at
2230 hours, 30 June, but was flanked by the enemy. After a
hard fight,
the Third Battalion was relieved to reorganize. The attack
continued
during the night, meeting stiff opposition. Enemy mines
delayed the
advance. A considerably[sic] number of Germans were killed
and our
troops also suffered casualties.

W. H. SCHILDROTH,

Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

OFFICIAL:
s/Donald L. Nability
DONALD L. NABILITY,
Captain, Infantry,
Adjutant.

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 July 1944 to 31 July 1944, inclusive.

CECINA

On 1 July the Regiment continued the attack toward the town of Cecina. It was planned to go around the town and endeavor to cut off the enemy. The attack was scheduled for 0400 hours with the 1st and 2nd Battalion on the attack and the 3rd Battalion in reserve.

Resistance was at times fanatical with intense small arms, machine gun and artillery fire. As the advance continued, plans for the occupation of Cecina were changed. The objective was attacked from the south and the east with tanks and infantry. Captured P.W.'s stated the town would be held at all costs. Vicious fighting continued from house to house and enemy snipers were very active, inflicting many casualties.

Cecina was cleared of the enemy by the 2nd Battalion. Many casualties were inflicted on our troops but the enemy received a severe defeat. One hundred enemy dead were picked up and buried by our troops and much enemy equipment was destroyed or captured.

The enemy endeavored to counterattack with tanks and infantry but

was broken up by our artillery and mortar fire. All roads were heavily mined or booby trapped to endeavor to delay the advance of our troops.

ADVANCE TO THE ARNO RIVER

The advance continued north of Cecina with spasmodic engagements of rear guard action. The town of Cecina Marina was captured on 2 July and the enemy pulled out of the area between the towns of Cecina and Collemizzano [Collemezano]. The troops were worn out from the strenuous battles and the distance traveled, so the Regiment was slowly squeezed out of action by the 135th Infantry and was then placed in Division Reserve. The Regiment was scheduled for a short rest so moved to an assembly area of 3 July. From the 4th to the 6th of July the troops rested and cleaned equipment.

During this short rest area, the 3rd Bn, Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies were inspected by the Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson and Generals Clark and Ryder, in an impressive review. The troops and the Regimental Commander were highly praised by the Secretary of War.

In the early morning hour of 7 July the Regiment moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Casone Nuovo, Italy, and prepared to relieve the 168th Infantry Regiment. On the 8th of July the relief of the 168th Regiment was completed in the vicinity of Riparbella. The terrain was very rough and the progress was slow but steady with little or no opposition except some small arms and mortar fire.

The 3rd Battalion ran into a fire fight but emerged victorious,

capturing 20 P.W.'s, destroying one truck and killing 20 of the enemy.

Casualties were also suffered by our Battalion. Colonel William H.

Schildroth, Regimental Commander was presented the Distinguished Service

Cross by the Fifth Army Commander, Lt. General Clark. Lt. Col. Frank A.

Reagan was also to be presented the D.S.C. but due to the tactical situation it was impossible to do so.

A stiffening of enemy resistance along the entire Regimental front, was noted on 9 July, with the enemy strongly resisting our advance from well selected strongpoints in houses and ideally suited terrain. However the troops did advance slowly toward the town of Castellina. Supply and the evacuation of the wounded were most difficult. Mule trains were employed due to the extremely rough terrain. However, the Regiment was the spearhead of the Division Front and continued to advance.

Mt. Vasino was occupied at 2130 hours by the 1st Battalion. After the hill was captured a decline of resistance was noted.

At 0500 hours, 10 July 1944, the Regiment advanced in a well coordinated attack. Because of the difficult terrain, progress was slow and little or no opposition was met except sniper and self propelled artillery fire. The town of Castellina was occupied by our troops. Mt. Maggiore, one of the highest mountains in this sector, was the next important objective. From resistance encountered and from P.W.'s reports, it was evident the enemy was withdrawing, but still the troops continued to receive small arms, mortar and artillery fire of a rear

guard nature.

The spearhead of a coordinated Fifth Army attack was the 133rd Infantry Regiment on 11 July. However resistance stiffened and numerous fire fights were encountered. The 1st Battalion, on the southern slopes of Hill 529, repulsed a raiding party and numerous enemy were reported to be on Hill 529. One raiding party succeeded in infiltrating through our lines and engaged our troops from the rear. Resistance from the hill continued throughout the period with the enemy employing reverse slope tactics and laying mortar fire on our forward positions. The 3rd Battalion engaged the enemy in a fire fight on their flank but the 2nd Battalion advanced encountering no resistance until 1130 hours. At that time a fire fight was encountered and considerable enemy were reported killed. Again the terrain was so rough and thickly covered with underbrush that the troops could hardly move at any rate of speed. At times almost perpendicular cliffs had to be scaled by the troops.

At 2220 hours, 12 July, an enemy raiding party attacked the 1st Battalion from their positions on Hill 529. Close contact fighting ensued with the enemy employing hand grenades but the attack was repulsed and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. A considerable number of casualties were also inflicted on our troops. Mt. Maggiore was captured by the 1st Battalion and it was noted that the enemy was again withdrawing. Our advance was slow due to the number of bridges and roads destroyed by the enemy. The Division Commander express his satisfaction with the Regiment's progress.

An enemy raiding party of more than 80 men attacked the 2nd Battalion at 2025 hours. The enemy employed artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. Four (4) P.W.'s were taken and between 35 and 40 enemy killed by our defensive fire. The 3rd Battalion attacked Mt. Alto and made steady progress and with the aid of the 1st Battalion captured the hill. Evacuation of the wounded was most difficult due to the terrain which necessitated long litter trains.

15 July found the Regiment again out in front of the whole Fifth Army front. Many mines and booby traps were encountered, delaying the rapid advance. No resistance was met during the night but the 1st and 3rd Battalions did receive some mortar fire from the vicinity of the town of Lorenzana. The enemy was displaying increased resistance on the front and both flanks of the 1st Bn. At 1715 hours all units were in contact with the enemy. The 1st Bn engaged in a fire fight and surrounded on all sides, but was relieved by the 3rd Bn after casualties had been inflicted.

Enemy artillery was very active for the period of 16 July and considerable machine gun and small arms fire also delayed the advance somewhat. But the towns of Tripale, Borgo, Cristina, Piozza and Mardemi were captured by our troops.

Resistance in this sector was particularly stiff on the right and left of the sector with the enemy defending from strong points with heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar and self propelled artillery fire.

Extensive use of mines and demolitions continued to hinder

our advance.

Scattered small arms fire and resistance in pockets was encountered on 17 July. The troops were advancing rapidly to occupy high ground dominating the area. Frequent small counterattacks were engaged in by the enemy while the balance of their troops were withdrawing. The town of Casini was captured by our troops. Combat patrols were sent out to the City of Lavaioro.

A portion of the town of Lavanio was occupied by our troops on 19 July. Little resistance was encountered but extensive mortar and artillery fire was employed by the enemy. At dusk the Regiment was relieved and moved to a rest area in the vicinity of Lorenzana. The 2nd Bn., Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies remained on the line until 20 July when they were relieved and moved to the rest area.

Vigorous combat patrolling in the vicinity of Colle Salvetti was the only opposition met on 21 July. The enemy was seen to be digging in north of Arno Canal.

As in the past, the enemy was continuously using a delaying action, blowing bridges and making frequent small counterattacks. The 2nd Battalion repulsed a counterattack on 22 July of some 100 in strength.

On 23 and 24 July the Regiment advanced rapidly to the Arno River taking a few P.W.'s but suffered several casualties from sniper fire and mines. The towns of S. Jacopo and Yambra were occupied by our troops and it was evident that the enemy was well dug in on the other side of

the Arno River. The 1st Battalion and relieved and moved to a rest and training area in the vicinity of Rosignano. One Company, Company "F", of the 2nd Battalion was sent to Leghorn to guard the city. The remainder of the Regiment resumed the advance against heavily mined and booby trapped areas. The town of Oratono was captured by the 3rd Battalion. The Regiment, less the 1st Battalion then resumed a defensive position on 27 July.

The 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalion and Special Units moved to the rest and training area in the vicinity of Rosignano.

The balance of the period was spent in cleaning equipment and recreation including moving picture shows each night, swimming, ball games, and other recreational facilities for the enlisted men and officers. An enlisted men's club was established with reading rooms, writing equipment, etc. A Division Rest Camp was established to handle a large group of men. The 1st Battalion was attending this Rest Camp at the end of the period.

W. H. SCHILDROTH
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

OFFICIAL:
s/Donald L. Nability
DONALD L. NABILITY
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry
Division

From 1 August 1944 to 31 August 1944, inclusive.

Rest and Training Area, Rosignano, Italy

During the period 1 August 1944 to 20 August 1944 inclusive the Regiment rested and participated in various training programs,

The entire Regiment was located on Highway #1, three miles north of the town of Rosignano, Italy, next to the shores of the Ligurian Sea.

Every opportunity was given to the entire command to relax and rest and with ample facilities for swimming and outdoor sports, including baseball, diamond ball and volley ball. Company and Regimental Teams were organized and much interest was created between the competing teams. A very nice Enlisted Men's Club was established, with game rooms, reading material, and a snack bar. The officers' club was located in the town of Castiglioncello, Italy, with ample space for dances and other forms of entertainment, including a snack bar. Moving picture shows were held every night in the Regimental Show Area and also various live shows were obtained for the entertainment of the troops.

Commencing on 7 August, a training program consisting of road marches, range practice of all arms, small unit training, mine training and 24 hour Battalion problems and training with tanks was inaugurated. Also from the 14th to 20th of August a training program of mountain tactics and mountain supply problems was held. This training consisted of training with pack boards for individuals, various types of rope knots to be used and care and packing of mules. The schools were

conducted by a British Major and five enlisted men and a Captain from the Special Service Force Mountain Team of the U.S. Army.

On the 19th of August this Regiment was greatly honored by being inspected by the Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill, the Commanding General of the Fifth Army, Lt General Mark Clark and an array of high ranking officers and various newspaper men. The Prime Minister and the General expressed their appreciation of the fine display and the fighting qualities of the Regiment.

Also during this period, this Regiment was released by the War Department, for full publication of news and stories of the Regiment, in all the major papers of the United States. Reporters from Headquarters Fifth Army spent several days interviewing the troops for the news stories.

Training Area, Vicinity of Castelfiorentino, Italy

On 21 August 1944, the Regiment moved by motor convoy from the Rosignano Area to the vicinity of Castelfiorentino, Italy. The trip was of a four hour duration over very dusty roads in extremely hot weather. The entire Regiment closed in at the new area at 2400 hours.

Until the close of the period, the Regiment was in constant training on small unit problems with squad and platoon in the attack and in defense, training in coordinated attack with tanks and Infantry. Also eight-mile conditioning marches twice a week and schools in map reading and specialist training.

During the period, one hundred and twenty enlisted

men, five guest officers and one duty officer was sent to the Enlisted Men's Rest Camp at Camp Mussolini at Rome each week. Nine officers were sent to the fifth Army Officers Rest hotel at Rome every five days.

The Regiment was inspected by a Division Inspection Team. The inspection covered vehicle maintenance, kitchen and kitchen equipment. The Regiment was very highly commended on the vehicle maintenance and the Second Battalion kitchens were found to be the best in the Division.

W. H. SCHILDROTH
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History, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division

From 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944, inclusive.

Training Area, Vicinity of Castelfiorentino, Italy

From 1 September 1944 to 4 September 1944, the Regiment was in training in small unit problems and specialist training, mountain training, map reading and conditioning marches, also tank and Infantry co-ordination practice problems. Much emphasis was placed on small unit problems and tank and Infantry co-ordination for the future operations to come. The Second Battalion of this Regiment was inspected by Lt.

General Mark Clark, on 4 September, while the battalion was participating in training with tanks and the mule pack trains. The General indicated keen interest in the proceedings and expressed his satisfaction of the type of training the Regiment was receiving for the future operations.

On 5 September, the Regiment prepared to move in the evening. The first march unit leaving the area at 2100 hours and the last march unit at 2340 hours with the IP at Castelfiorentino. (See overlay No. 1) (Map Italy, 1/100,000, sheets 106, 112, 113)

Training Area, Vicinity of Florence, Italy

At 0245 hours, 6 September 1944, the entire Regiment closed in at the new training area in the vicinity of Florence after a motor march of some fifteen miles over very dusty roads in complete blackout driving. The Regiment then prepared equipment and supplies for the near future combat operations. A quartering party from each Battalion and each of the companies of the Special Units was sent out north of Florence to search for a new assembly area. From this party, three men were Battle casualties when an "S" mine was set off, killing one enlisted man and wounding the Regimental S-3, Major Warren C. Chapman, and the Headquarters Commandant, 1st Lt. Edward B. Edwards. Many mines were found on the roads and houses blown over the road also trees felled over the road and mined and booby trapped.

During the next day the weather was most disagreeable with heavy rains and so the proposed move to the new location north of Florence was called off for the time being. All during this period of

time however,
the Regiment continued to prepare for future operations,
cleaning
equipment, hauling supplies, and collecting mules for the
operations
through the mountains. Five enlisted men from Headquarters
Company, 3rd
Battalion were killed when their jeep hit a mine in the
road. The
Regiment received forty one rotation replacements and two
officers
during the period. On this date, 8 September, the
Regiment, less the
Service Company and the Regimental S-1 Section, moved to
the vicinity of
Cercina (809777), a movement of ten miles over very rough
and dusty
roads. The Regiment passed to IP at 2100 hours and closed
in at the new
area at 0400 hours, 9 September 1944.

Battle for the Gothic Line.

[Time flow is not sequential, hence confusing, in the
period 9-11
September 1944.]

Celebrating Salerno Day, 9 September 1944, the
Regiment was given
an informal presentation of decorations and awards by Major
General
Charles L. Bolte, Commanding General of the 34th Infantry
Division.
Twenty decorations and awards were presented by the
General, consisting
of the following: 1 Silver Star, 12 Bronze Stars, 6
Division Citations,
and 1 Italian Bronze Medal for Valor, which was presented
to the
Regimental Commander, Colonel William H. Schildroth, for
valor in the
liberation of Rome. The Regiment then moved to the
vicinity of Legri,
less the Service Company, Service train and the Regimental
S-1 Section,
a distance of twenty three and one half miles over rough
and very dusty
mountain roads and prepared to attack. (See overlay No. 3,

Map, Italy,
1/50,000) One platoon of the First Battalion was motorized
and moved in
advance of the Regiment and occupied the first objective of
the
Regiment, Hill 520, without opposition. The Third
Battalion then moved
up and relieved this platoon of the First Battalion. The
First
Battalion moved to an assembly area and the Second
Battalion moved to
the right flank of the Regimental Area of Legri. Thirty
two enlisted
men and three officers, to be sent to the United States on
temporary
duty for a thirty day leave were sent to the 34th Division
Rear on 10
September 1944. On this date the Service Company and
Regimental S-1
Section moved up to the location of the Regimental Command
Post at
Legri, from the vicinity of Florence. The entire Regiment
was then in a
forward assembly area (See overlay No. 4, Map of Italy,
1/25,000)
preparing to attack at 0530 hours the morning of 11
September. (See
overlay No. 5, Map of Italy, 1/50,000) The attack started
on time with
Battalions abreast, the First Battalion on the left, Second
Battalion on
the right and Third Battalion in reserve following the
First Battalion.
The First Battalion reached objective Number Eight without
opposition
and continued on to objective Number Ten. The Second
Battalion
encountered enemy machine gun fire at 1630 hours but
continued to
advance. The First Battalion encountered thirty enemy in
the vicinity
of 705922, had a fire fight with the enemy withdrawing to
the north. The
First Battalion occupied the objective Number Ten at 2000
hours and
proceeded northwest to the Corps boundary. Eight enlisted
men of the
First Battalion were wounded in the fire fight previously

mentioned.

The Second Battalion forward elements were on their objective Number Ten at 738930 and in contact with the enemy at 2400 hours. The Third Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of 750913 and closed in at 2400 hours 9 September 1944. (Map of Italy 106, I and II)

The evacuation of the wounded was most difficult. The mountain trail that was used in following the troops with an ambulance became unusable. It took fifteen hours to evacuate a load of casualties over this trail and through river beds and narrow trails over the rugged terrain. Partisans assisted the Medical personnel to guide the ambulances over these little known trails during the night.

With the First and Second Battalions abreast and the Third Battalion in Reserve, the Regiment continued the attack with the two leading Battalions approaching the objective Number Ten. At 1800 hours, the First Battalion reported, through the Cannon Company, that they were drawing sniper fire and long range machine gun fire. The Second Battalion was on their objective (738924) at 1815 hours but drawing machine gun fire from 739937. At this time the First Battalion had not reported in for six hours as all communications were out but as resistance was light all along the line, they were believed to be near their objective. The Second Battalion was ordered to gain their objective before dark, outpost it, and patrol to the north.

Heavy air support was indicated and this Headquarters was notified on 11 September that there would be five hundred fighters

and three hundred bombers over the sector in the next three days, bombing in our advance in the Futa Pass region. Four casualties were reported to have been inflicted on the First Battalion from enemy mortar fire. At 0730 hours, the Third Battalion was moving to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Quaranta. A reconnaissance party from Regimental Headquarters left at 0840 hours to select a new Command Post location further forward because communications were very difficult in spite of the fact that several relay stations were in use.

In the morning, Corps G-2 called and reported that reliable civilian reports indicated that the enemy was withdrawing generally towards the north to Bologna, leaving only about one hundred and fifty men to guard the passes in a rear guard action. These reports were later confirmed by prisoners captured from the 356th German Division. At 1120 hours, the First Battalion was ordered to move to a new assembly area (See overlay No. 5) the Second Battalion was ordered to continue to outpost their objective.

While the First Battalion was on the move. this Headquarters received a change in plans from the Division G-3. Objective Number Ten was to have been our final objective with the Regiment then being pinched out and the 135th Infantry Regiment taking over this territory. But due to the change in plans, this Regiment was to obtain objective Number Eleven tonight, using vehicles if possible.

On the morning of 12 September, this Regiment was to jump off through the 168th Infantry Regiment, heading for objective

Number

Fourteen (See overlay No. 6). The proposed plan was to march in a column of Battalions.

The two lead Battalions, the First and the Second, still in the attack, were now very much nearer objective Number Eleven than any elements of the 168th Infantry Regiment who were supposed to take the objective and it was believed that this Regiment would reach the objective before the 168th Infantry Regiment, making it necessary to pass through them in the morning if the plans were not changed in the meantime.

All during the period the 133rd Infantry Regiment had been the furthest forward unit of the II Corps, which was making the main Fifth Army effort, in fact, this had been the situation since the push started. At 1545 hours, the Regimental forward Command Post closed out and moved to Pimonte, closing in at 1756 hours. (See overlay No. 6)

The Third Battalion reported they had picked up an American aviator that had been shot down about two months ago and had been hiding in the hills, aided by friendly civilians since that time. He also reported that he had information on enemy defenses and positions in this sector and it is suspected that this information would greatly aid the Regiment in the advance.

At 1800 hours, a Reconnaissance party from Regimental Headquarters left to search for a more forward Command Post location, returning later in the evening with a proposed Command Post location at Montecuccali.

The Commanding Officer of the Third Battalion was called by the Regimental Commander at 1800 hours, explaining the situation and also stating that the 168th Infantry Regiment had bogged down and that the Second Battalion of this Regiment was going to take the 168th's objective Number Eleven and that the Third Battalion was to follow the Second Battalion. An hour later, the 168th Infantry Regiment was called asking them to check on their mortar firing as our Second Battalion had men on their objective Number eleven and had been receiving mortar fire which they thought was from friendly sources. During the evening, the Cannon Company moved up by sections in order to provide continuous support with their guns. The Chemical mortars, of which a platoon of each was with the Second and Third Battalions, also moved up. The Second Battalion, at 1940 hours, reported that their troops were past the 96 grid line and that they had again received friendly artillery fire but had it stopped. At this time it was reported that the Regiment on our right had a Battalion in the rear of our Second Battalion. Division G-3 was then notified and he then reported that he ordered the 168th Infantry Regiment to get out of our way and our troops, meeting light resistance, continued to advance over extremely rough terrain towards their objective.

At 2040 hours, 11 September 1944, Division G-3 notified this Regiment that it was again the furthestmost forward unit of the Fifth Army. Just before midnight the First Battalion was ordered to make plans for moving up by motor on 12 September, as they had

been left in their assembly area for a rest. Cannon Company had one platoon in position at 754934 and the other platoon was on the move forward just prior to midnight. Shortly after midnight, the Second Battalion again discovered patrols from the 168th Infantry Regiment operating in their rear and the division G-3 was again notified of the same.

[12 September 1944]

The troops jumped off in the attack from objective Number Eleven at 0530 hours, 12 September 1944, advancing on objective Number Fourteen (See overlay No. 6, Map of Italy, 1/25,000, Sheets 98 III, SE, NE). The enemy had been shelling our proposed Regimental Command Post but at 0530 hours the shelling ceased and wire was laid in. Another report of enemy shelling was received at 0800 hours with the enemy shelling the road to Montecuccoli. This shelling caused two killed and four wounded in Company "K" as they were on the road at this time. At 0900 hours the forward Command Post party left Pimonte and closed in on the new Command Post at Montecuccoli at 1000 hours. The S-1 section and Headquarters Company Rear party moved from the vicinity of Legri to the vicinity of Pimonte and closed in at 1600 hours. The troops were moving steadily forward in a column of Battalions with the Second Battalion leading and the Third Battalion following.

At 1015 hours, the Second Battalion ran into a minefield covered by machine gun fire (See overlay No. 6) and suffered four casualties but immediately began to deploy and work around the minefield but were held up as they could not immediately discover the extent of the

minefield
and the enemy resistance was stiffening. The Third
Battalion which was
following the Second Battalion, was ordered to send a
strong combat
patrol around the left flank, feel out the situation and
then, if
possible, follow up with the rest of the Third Battalion
and outflank
the enemy holding up the advance of the Second Battalion.
The Second
Battalion was to go around to the right of the minefield
and again go
north. The first of the two Battalions, the Second and the
Third, to
reach the general line of advance (Point "X" on overlay No.
6) was to
lead the advance from that point on.

An Italian civilian, who claimed he had been forced to
help the
enemy lay the minefield, volunteered to guide the Second
Battalion
around the minefield. In the meantime, extra mine teams and
sweepers
were sent out to the two Battalions, as well as bangalores
and prima
wire, in case it was found feasible to blow up the
minefield.

Still another minefield was discovered in the vicinity
of Mongona
(See overlay No. 6).

At 1125 hours, the Division Commanding General called
at the
Regimental Command Post and remarked that he was most
pleased with the
progress of the Regiment.

The Third Battalion, at this time, had patrols as far
as the 98
grid line and it was believed that they could get around
the left flank.

Due to the extremely rugged terrain, the Anti-Tank Company
had been in
an assembly area through much of the advance, moving up as
the situation

warranted. Two platoons of this company were sent forward with picks and shovels to work on the roads due to the shortage of engineers.

At 1330 hours, the Second Battalion was working to the right of the minefield and were advancing but had received enemy small arms fire.

The First Battalion was ordered to walk to 740948 as the use of trucks was not feasible due to the poor condition of the roads. At 1430 hours, four TOTs [Time on Target, pre-planned artillery fire] were fired, ten minutes apart, on known enemy positions in advance of our troops. An enemy Command Post was reported, by a civilian, to be at 754995 and another TOT was requested.

Resistance was increasing and both Battalions were engaged in frequent fire fights and were receiving small arms, mortar, machine gun and self propelled artillery fire, but the advance continued.

Although the Regimental Commander thought our reserve Battalion (1st Bn.) was not needed forward, despite the fact that we were meeting determined resistance all day since mid-morning, in response to a suggestion from the Division Commander, the First Battalion was ordered to move by foot to an assembly area at 750962 (See overlay No. 7) (Map of Italy, 1/50,000 Sheet 98 II & III) starting in the morning at 0530 hours. At the same time, the attached tank platoon (Co. A, 757th TD Bn.) was ordered to stay in place for the night and in the morning to reconnoiter the routes forward.

In response to a civilian report mentioned earlier in the evening,

the Assistant S-2 led a small patrol to investigate a house in which it was believed the fifteen or twenty enemy were located (737962). Upon arrival at the house, the patrol and the enemy became engaged in a fire fight and upon our patrol sending for reinforcements, the enemy disengaged and retired back down into the valley. At 1930 hours, the Regimental Commander went forward to the Battalions to secure first hand information of the situation.

At this time the Cannon Company reported their new Command Post to be located at 753957 (See overlay No. 7). The Second and Third Battalions were still moving forward but very slowly at this time. Rugged terrain, extremely poor trails and numerous minefields hampered their advance, in addition to the fact that the Second Battalion was still engaged in a fire fight and the Third Battalion was receiving machine gun and mortar fire on their left flank in addition to some artillery fire estimated to be 105mm. One prisoner from the 1st Company, 334th Fusilier Battalion was captured at 2000 hours by Company "G", the forward element of the Second Battalion. Both advance Battalion were moving slowly all evening and at 2130 hours they both held up in place for the night, it being impossible to advance over the extremely rough terrain and dangerous trails after nightfall. Vigorous patrolling to both flanks and to the front was carried out by both Battalions during the night. Plans were made to continue the advance at day break. At 2245 hours, Cannon Company closed in their new area and were set up and ready to fire.

[13 September 1944]

On 13 September, at 0550 hours, the First Battalion was on the move, by foot, to the forward area. After a preliminary reconnaissance and after vigorous patrolling throughout the night, the Second and Third Battalions were underway, moving forward in a column of companies, with the Third Battalion on the left flank with Company "I" in the point. At 0730 hours, a TOT was placed on known enemy strongpoints in this sector at 735019, by all Division and Corps artillery. The Battalions then moved slowly forward, hampered by the fact that all passable trails were mined and covered with machine gun fire.

At 0900 hours the Third Battalion Commanding Officer asked for more mine teams as their leading company, Company "I", had run into another minefield at 757976. The Third Battalion was ordered to pull the lead company back and to allow Company "K" to swing around to the right flank of the minefield. The First Battalion, which was moving up at this time, was ordered to reconnoiter the route forward that was used by the Second Battalion the day previous, as it was planned to put the First Battalion in the line in case the Third Battalion could not extricate itself from the minefield in time to be effective. This plan, however, proved to be unnecessary because a couple of civilians were located to lead the Third Battalion around the minefield and show the Battalion the most advantageous route forward.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion had cleared a path through the minefield encountered the previous day, marked it, and then proceeded to

move their forward Command Post forward. At 1020 hours, the Division Commanding General arrived at the Regimental Command Post and commented most favorably on the progress of the Regiment.

A report was received at 1100 hours that about twenty enemy had returned to the house previously mentioned (737962). The Assistant S-2 again took a patrol, composed of enlisted men from the Regimental Headquarters Company I & R (Intelligence and Reconnaissance) platoon and from the Third Battalion to investigate the house. Upon approaching the house the patrol was fired upon and engaged in a fire fight with the occupants. The enemy thereupon screened their exit by driving several Italian women out of the house into the line of fire. The enemy then retreating, followed by fire from our patrol, ran into troops from Company "I", who, engaging them in a fire fight, killed several and took four prisoners from the following enemy organizations: two from the 5th Company, 754th Infantry Regiment and two from the 4th Company of the same Regiment.

At the same hour, two enemy deserters from the 4th Company, 754th Infantry Regiment, 334th Division were picked up by the Third Battalion.

A TOT was placed on enemy strongpoints at 1130 hours at 746010 and ten minutes later at 747018. At 1240 hours, the First Battalion was closing behind the Second Battalion and preparing to pass through them in the night. The Third Battalion was receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire at 1300 from 927982. The mission of clearing and weakening this strongpoint was given to the attached artillery and 4.2 chemical

mortar platoon.

During the period, 1320 hours to 1330 hours, seven rounds of estimated 88mm enemy artillery fire fell in the vicinity of the Regimental Command Post, three of which were duds. On about 1350 hours, a enemy pocket was located at 757991 and was fired upon by our 4.2 mortars and 81mm mortars. Enemy was seen to break and run from a house at one point and to enter another house which was also taken under fire. Companies "E" and "K" were sent in that direction.

At about 1600 hours, a patrol from Company "K" was ambushed by the enemy with the result that four were killed, six wounded and five missing in action. A house at this location was reported by the patrol, to be set up as a strongpoint, well protected by mines, wire and booby traps and with fields of fire cut through the trees by machine gun fire. Company "G", who later located this same pocket of resistance, aided the ambushed patrol to retire.

At 1700 hours, the point of the First Battalion was just behind the Second Battalion and were to close up and follow the Second Battalion who was going to push forward as much as possible before dark.

At 0600 hours the next morning, the First Battalion was to pass through the Second Battalion. All attached personnel, including the 4.2 mortars and mine sweepers of the Second Battalion were to go with the First Battalion. In the morning the First Battalion was to lead off, followed by the Second Battalion who in turn is to be followed by the Third Battalion. Artillery concentrations for known enemy strongpoints were

planned for just before nightfall. Exact positions and types of positions, number of enemy in them and names of enemy units were given by the captured prisoners during the day.

The advance was slow and difficult due to the lack of trails up the sides of the mountains. All trails were poor, mined and covered by machine gun fire from well prepared enemy strongpoints. As the Regiment approached the heart of the Gothic Line, enemy resistance continued to grow more stubborn and determined but in spite of these adverse conditions, our battle wise troops advanced slowly but steadily.

During the early evening hours, the Second Battalion was ordered to maintain pressure on the enemy all night by probing and pushing as much as possible. The Third Battalion was to keep moving until dark and to start the advance again at dawn. The First Battalion was to keep up close behind the Second Battalion, follow them and to move through or around them at dawn.

Evacuation of the wounded was most difficult due to the rugged terrain. approximately fifty litter bearers were obtained from the Anti-Tank Company and thirty from the 109th [Medical] Collecting Company, which were established in a litter relay chain for the evacuation of the casualties. This litter chain was used for the litter haul of approximately six miles from the point of casualty to the waiting ambulances. The Second Battalion Aid Station, one of the most advanced stations, was located in a gully approximately two hundred yards back of the village of Fresciano. The town being in

ruins because
the enemy had blown down every building in the town. This
aid station
had to carry on its work in absolute darkness and extreme
care had to be
exercised because the surrounding area were heavily mined.

Our troops received enemy fire all during the evening
of the 13th
of September and during the evening several enemy mortar
positions and
enemy artillery positions were taken under fire by our
supporting
artillery with good results. Huge explosions were observed
at a known
enemy artillery position (738038) after our artillery had
placed a
concentration on it.

[14 September 1944]

Soon after daylight on the 14th of September, the
First Battalion
started through the Second Battalion, both Battalions
receiving enemy
artillery fire and machine gun fire. Particularly heavy
fire came from
Hill 769 (743997) and the Second Battalion was ordered to
swing over and
take the hill. If the attack on Hill 769 was successful,
it was planned
for the Second Battalion to continue to attack to the north
to the left
of the First Battalion. At about 0830 hours, the platoon
of chemical
mortars attached to the Third Battalion was detached and
sent over to
the 135th Infantry Regiment on our right and the remaining
platoon was
ordered to work up and around to the right in supporting
range.

At 0930 hours, the Second Battalion reported that they
had a
patrol working up Hill 769, the First Battalion reported
that they were
receiving heavy artillery fire, estimated to be 105mm and
also heavy

machine gun fire from their right flank. Heavy mined areas and wire were also encountered at 749995. At 1000 hours, the remaining platoon of chemical mortars were detached and sent to the aid of the Regiment on our right.

As the First Battalion approached S. Margherita (757995) they found increasingly heavy mortar fire in addition to sniper and machine gun fire. Heavy artillery also fell upon our troops and several casualties were inflicted. Meanwhile, elements of Company "G" had worked up Hill 769 after raking the strongpoint at the crest with artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. About 150 yards from the crest they encountered a mined area and from that point engaged in a sharp fight with the enemy troops holding the hill. After an exchange of fire a white flag went up on the hill, seven prisoners were captured and our patrols pushed on over the crest of the hill to continue the advance. At 1430 hours, the attached tanks and tank destroyers, one platoon of each, were ordered to move forward with the intention of getting them up to Laiano [Vaiano?] (762983) and attaching them to the First Battalion in order that they might be used to support direct fire whenever possible, although because of the nature of the terrain, they would be unable to maneuver. The Division Commanding General, Major General Charles L. Bolte, made frequent visits to the forward Regimental Command Post, and each time expressed his satisfaction of the progress made by the Regiment over the rugged terrain encountered.

Company "C" was sent to take Hill 791 (747005) because our troops

had been receiving heavy fire from that point. Upon leaving Hill 769, they immediately became engaged in another exchange of fire with the enemy and started to fight their way up to Hill 791. Company "A" was ordered to work around Terenzana to aid Company "C", by attacking the hill from the east. Meanwhile, Company "E" received a counter-attack, coming from the west and southwest, with an estimated one to two hundred enemy in the attack. The enemy attacked with hand grenades and small arms fire, shouting and firing indiscriminately. Our troops fell back a few yards and then mowed them down as they came on in waves, running and falling over their own dead. The enemy was successfully beaten off, losing heavily, but a few of them managed to remain in holes and our troops had to pry them out at close range. Artillery fire was immediately brought to bear on the enemy, however, some of the artillery fell close to our troops, inflicting casualties.

Our troops had fought hard all day and had engaged in bitter exchanges of fire. Our advance was still impeded by heavily mined areas, wire, and fortified strongpoints.

During the evening, the First and Second Battalions continued to move slowly forward, meeting heavy and almost fanatical opposition and numerous enemy were in front of them. Company "B" moved up above S. Margherita to protect our right flank from infiltration as there was considerable distance between us and 135th Infantry Regiment on our right.

Defensive and harassing fire were planned for the night and at

2045 hours, the Second Battalion reported they were still engaged in a fire fight and that they were working up the crest of Hill 769 where they ran into protective wire and heavily mined areas. Twenty to twenty five casualties were inflicted upon the Battalion, most of them fatal. Numerous enemy were within hand grenade distance beyond the protective wire but the enemy were well dug in and difficult to remove. Toward midnight, however, the front was fairly quiet.

Eight prisoners were captured during the day by the First Battalion from units as follows: two from the 7th Company, 754th Infantry Regiment, 334th Infantry Division and six from the 8th Company of the same Regiment and Division. (See overlay No. 8 for positions of troops)

Evacuation of the wounded was becoming more difficult as the front advanced in the mountains. One hundred and sixty five litter bearers were now being used over a litter relay chain of seven and one half miles. Lines of evacuation were constantly being reconnoitered but most of the small roads or paths were under direct enemy observation and therefore received heavy artillery shelling.

The supply problem in the mountains was also a major problem. As with the evacuation of casualties, the supply routes were also under observation of the enemy and also received much artillery fire. At this time, one hundred and seventy two mules and two hundred and forty Italian mule skimmers were being used. Both Italian and American mules were being used to haul the "K" rations, ammunition and water and

various other supplies up to the front line troops. Four to five mules were lost per night due to falling off the steep cliffs and narrow trails in the dark.

[15 September 1944]

At 0600 hours, the morning of the 15th of September, the First and Second Battalions again started to move with the Third Battalion moving up close behind the First Battalion; both forward Battalions immediately received small arms and heavy machine-gun fire. The tanks and tank destroyers moved to Collina (773963) at 0930 hours but the road west from Laiano could not be used because it was heavily mined. Throughout the morning the Second Battalion continued to meet very heavy opposition from close quarters, the First Battalion continued the attempt to move but progress was very slow and costly. All trails were mined and booby trapped and the enemy had used demolitions in many places.

Shortly after 1200 hours, the Commanding General of the II Corps, Major General Geoffrey Keyes, and the Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division, Major General Charles Bolte, called at the forward Regimental Command Post and stated they were most pleased with the progress of the Regiment, especially over the rough terrain and against such stiff opposition.

Artillery had been used continuously all day and in the afternoon our supporting artillery fire increased in intensity. Our supporting artillery and also Division artillery were used in concentrations requested from the Chemical mortars attached to the

Regiment on our right. Fifteen minute concentrations were placed by the Chemical mortars every hour starting at 1615 hours and until 2015 hours on the following points: 746003, 747006, and 748008. Our Cannon Company also fired ten rounds per minute for 15 minutes on the same targets.

A coordinated attack, preceded by an intense artillery concentration and a rolling barrage was planned for the First and Second Battalions and at 1705 hours they jumped off in the attack. Companies "E" and "G" attacked to the north and northwest, Company "B" proceeding toward Terenzana (754005) [900m ESE of Hill 810] which they occupied an hour later while Company "C" became engaged in a heavy fire fight at 744997.

At 1800 hours our positions were as indicated on overlay Number 9.

Our troops had met stiff opposition throughout the day and had suffered seventy five casualties but still heavier casualties were inflicted on the enemy and we had advanced in the famed Gothic Line.

During the early evening hours, telephone conversations were held between the Regimental Commander and the three Battalion Commanders and plans for the coming morning attack were made. It was planned to send the Third Battalion around to our extreme right flank and for them to attack to the north. Company "K" was to proceed to Terenzana immediately so as to be prepared and in position for the early morning attack as the point of the Battalion. Companies "A" and "B" were to continue the attack on Hill 791 [350m SSE of Hill 810] during the evening and if not successful by nightfall, were to continue on in the morning. Late in the evening Company "C" was still engaged in a heavy fire fight and

could not move forward. Company "G" was just short of the crest of Hill 672 at 2150 hours and patrols were sent forward of that position. Company "E" was about two hundred yards behind Company "G" and an enemy machine gun was firing on them from a position about one hundred and fifty yards west and between the two companies but troops from these companies silenced the gun in short order.

At midnight Company "K" had cleared S. Margherita and were heading for Terenzana. The Second Battalion was still in a fierce fire fight and Companies "C" and "B" were moving slowly up the hill. Only four prisoners were captured, all by the Second Battalion, from the 7th Company, 754th Regiment of the 334th Infantry Division. Our casualties were heavy, about ninety wounded and killed, but at the same time we had inflicted severe casualties upon the enemy.

The evacuation of the wounded was still a major problem and more litter bearers were obtained from all available sources in the Regiment, especially the Service Company and the Anti-Tank Company. A new route of evacuation was opened by using the main highway running into S. Margherita, regardless of the fact that the highway was under direct artillery observation. The litter bearers were worn out from almost continuous twenty four hour duty and the litter bearer problem was becoming acute.

[16 September 1944]

At daylight, on the morning of the 16th of September, a combat patrol from Company "F" was to go to wipe out an enemy

strongpoint at
741991 and elements of Company "G" were to go to Hill 662.
At 2330
hours a small enemy counter-attack was launched, estimated
to be about
twenty five men in strength, which was beaten off by
Company "E" by
using hand grenades. At daylight the Third Battalion
jumped off in the
attack with Company "K" in the point but almost immediately
ran into
enemy machine gun fire which slowed them down. The First
Battalion also
moved off but ran into very heavy resistance from their
objectives.

At 0725 hours, a small forward Regimental Command Post
group left
Montecucolli to establish a new forward Command Post at
Corsica
(762971). The First Battalion was in a fierce fire fight
at 0830 hours
and enemy positions in front of them were as heavily
fortified as in
Cassino. Positions were protected by wire, mined areas,
and every
approach was covered by machine gun fire. Bunkers were
well
constructed, buttressed with heavy timbers covered with
about three or
four feet of rocks and earth.

Because the Regiment did not have a Battalion in
reserve, it was
hoped that the Second Battalion could clean up the
opposition in front
of them but this could not be accomplished however, as the
opposition
was very strong and the fighting was still going on
fiercely at 1000
hours. During this opposition encounter, the Second
Battalion S-3,
Captain Hugh S. Jacobs, was wounded and evacuated.

However, the First Battalion had been able to get two
tank
destroyers in a forward position and they were supporting
by direct

fire. At 1030 hours the First Battalion encountered another heavily mined area between them and their objective and reconnaissance was instituted with the objective of finding a way of getting through or around the area.

Terenzano had erroneously been reported as captured after a combat patrol from the Third Battalion had entered the town in the early morning hours and after engaging the enemy had been forced to withdraw. But at 1400 hours, The Third Battalion jumped off in a coordinated attack, preceded by an artillery preparation, to take Hill 582 upon which the town of Terenzano is located.

The Second Battalion, which had been engaged in bitter fighting and had not moved, prepared an exceptionally heavy artillery preparation and moved off in a co-ordinated attack at 1715 hours. At 1800 hours the Second Battalion was moving slowly against opposition which had increased considerably during the last twenty four hours.

Enemy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire had increased in intensity on our front but the Third Battalion had made favorable advances in face of slightly lessened resistance on their front. All during the day our troops had been engaged continuously with a very stubborn enemy, who at times, fought with near-fanatic ferocity. Their positions were well placed, well protected by wire, mines and machine gun cross fire and were impossible to take without heavy casualties to our troops.

At 1830 hours, Company "A" received a counter-attack [which] was

repulsed by bringing down intense artillery, mortar and heavy machine gun fire upon the attacking enemy. Almost at the same time, Company "B", on the other flank, was hit by a counter-attack which also was repulsed, inflicting casualties upon the enemy. Later in the evening, Company "F" was counter-attacked, Company "G" was counter-attacked and Company "E" was counter-attacked, all within an hour and a half. As our supporting Battalion of Artillery, the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, was on the move forward at this time, artillery fire was brought to bear by the 125th Field Artillery Battalion, through the Division Artillery, and was very effective. All counter-attacks were repulsed and no ground was lost but casualties were inflicted on our tired, hard fighting troops.

At 1950 hours, Major General Bolte, the Division Commanding General, in a telephone conversation with the Regimental Commander, ordered him to hold the Third Battalion in place until the other units of the Regiment had a chance to clean out the left flank, as by this time the Third Battalion was considerably ahead and it was thought that their flank might be endangered. Company "A" had been temporarily stopped at 2000 hours, because of fierce opposition, Company "B" was progressing very slowly under heavy fire but Company "C" was meeting less resistance and their progress was more favorable. At midnight the Regimental Commander gave orders to the Battalion Commanders for the planned offensive of the next day. The First Battalion was to attack to the north and occupy Hill 810, the Second Battalion was to take Hills

662 and 622 and clean out the enemy, the Third Battalion to occupy Hill 505, all Battalions to move at daylight or as soon thereafter as possible. All Battalions were to operate very strong and active patrols throughout the night maintaining pressure upon the enemy. At the same hour the 151st Field Artillery Battalion closed in their new area and were in position to give supporting artillery fire.

For the preceding twenty four hours, this command has been in continuous close contact with the enemy, engaging in very fierce fighting and repulsing numerous and frequent enemy counter-attacks. During the day our attached tanks and tank destroyers had knocked out seven enemy bunkers and our troops had again inflicted severe casualties upon the enemy. But due to the enemy's extremely well placed, well fortified and well protected strongpoints, our own tired, dirty and depleted troops also had suffered with approximately seventy five casualties for the day. (See overlay No. 10 for positions of troops at 2400 hours, 16 September 1944)

[17 September 1944

On the morning of 17 September 1944, all three Battalions again started to advance. The enemy immediately launched a strong counter-attack, an estimated two companies against Company "E". A fierce battle ensued at close quarters with many hand grenades being used by the enemy in addition to rifle grenades, machine gun, mortar and self propelled artillery fire. The counter-attack was repulsed, both sides losing heavily, but our troops remained in close contact and the

fighting continued.

The fire power of the Regiment was strengthened by a platoon of the 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion and the 168th Infantry Regiment's Cannon Company being attached to the Third Battalion. But to some extent the fire power of the Regiment was reduced because the allotment of 81mm mortar ammunition had been reduced to five hundred rounds per day. The Regiment had previously been firing approximately 1200 rounds of 81mm mortar ammunition per day so the curtailment of this ammunition did make a decided difference.

Throughout the day the enemy artillery and mortars had been very active, in fact, in spots the enemy laid in more artillery fire than this Regiment had ever experienced in all their contact with the enemy. At about 1200 hours, two concentrations of mortar and artillery fire, of fifty or sixty rounds, landed within a ten minute period on Hill 628. At 1300 hours, Hill 810 was captured by the First Battalion and prisoners were captured. The Third Battalion, following the 135th Infantry Regiment's flank, attacked Hill 602 from the east. At this time the Battalions were requested to use the Cannon Companies more frequently because our attached artillery had been and was firing continuously, in fact they were so busy they could not handle all the fire missions requested of them.

In an effort to get the road running north from S. Margherita open for our armor, additional Engineers were requested from Division but it was impossible to secure them.

At 1301 hours, another concentration of enemy mortar fire fell in our sector at 747971, two hundred rounds in five minutes, while heavy harassing fires fell continuously, making it most difficult to maintain communications. Again at 1515 hours, the Second Battalion was engaged in a fierce fire fight and the Third Battalion was progressing slowly. The First Battalion, fighting on Hill 810, had captured the hill but the enemy immediately counter-attacked, driving the First Battalion off the crest of the hill. Severe casualties were inflicted on both sides. The First Battalion immediately reorganized and attacked again. At 1615 hours, Hill 810 was in our possession after a fierce fight, by Companies "A" and "B" and more prisoners were captured. During this engagement the First Battalion Commanding Officer, Major Woodrow M. Dumont, was seriously wounded and the Battalion Executive Officer, Major Merton E. Church, assumed command. (See overlay No. 11 for check points)

A co-ordinated Division Attack was planned for the morning of the 18th of September with the 135th Infantry Regiment and our Third Battalion jumping off at 0530 hours. Preceded by an artillery preparation, the Third Battalion was to take Hill 606 and continue to attack northwest, the First Battalion to remain in place until the Second Battalion could disengage. After a protest to the Division Commander by the Regimental Commander, in which it was stated that our Second Battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy and in all probability would remain so for several days to come, it was decided to hold the first Battalion in place until 1100 hours on the

morning of the
18th of September. This plan, of course, would depend on
the progress of
the 135th Infantry Regiment (See overlay for proposed plan
of attack)

Our troops were still engaged in heavy fighting as
darkness fell
with very little progress having been made.

Just before dark, Colonel William S. Schildroth, the
Regimental
Commander, went forward to confer with the Battalion
Commanders on plans
for the coming day. On his return trip, at about 2115
hours, his jeep
stalled about four or five hundred yards from the
Regimental Forward
Command Post. The Colonel and his radio operator started
to walk the
balance of the way to the Command Post, leaving the driver
with the
vehicle. In the darkness, they took the wrong fork of the
trail,
strayed into a minefield and both the colonel and the radio
operator
were killed as the result of setting off a Schu-mine with a
prepared
detonation charge under it. The terrific explosion was
heard in the
Command Post but the bodies were not found until daylight
due to the
difficulty of getting through the minefield. Mine teams
were delayed in
arriving at the location and as a result it was not sure it
was the
Colonel and his radio operator until dawn, when the bodies
were found.
Until then, there had been a faint possibility that the two
had merely
become lost in the hill surrounding the Command Post.
Division
Headquarters was immediately notified and the Regimental
Executive
Officer, Lt. Colonel Sarratt T. Hames, was ordered to take
command of
the Regiment. This he did, arriving at the Forward Command
Post about

midnight.

Prisoners captured during the day totalled fourteen of which thirteen were captured by the First Battalion. Twelve of the prisoners being from the 2nd Company, 334th Fusilier Battalion and one from the 1st Company, 334th Replacement Battalion and the other, captured by Headquarters Company, from the 4th Company, 754th Regiment, 334th Infantry Division.

So with another day of continuous hard fighting to crack the Gothic Line, no appreciable gains were made.

[18 September 1944]

Preceded by a heavy artillery preparation, the Third Battalion jumped off into the attack at 0530 hours, 18 September 1944. At the same hour, the Second Battalion spotted enemy troops and it appeared as though they were forming for a counter-attack. Artillery was brought to bear on the enemy and an attack was foiled although an exchange of fire continued. The Third Battalion continued moving forward and at 0750 hours Company "I" was on Hill 606, Company "L" was held up by a minefield at 759017. At 0825 hours, the 135th Infantry Regiment on our right, reported that their troops on Hill 751 were receiving fire from the eastern slopes of Hill 606 so it was then evident that the Third Battalion did not have complete control of the hill.

Due to casualties, the First Battalion had lost three Company Commanders as the Battalion was heavily engaged with the enemy. The First Battalion was not yet in complete command of Hill 810 at 0900

hours as had been previously reported, but they were receiving artillery fire with no small arms fire. Fighting continued throughout the morning with no appreciable progress being made. During the early part of the afternoon, plans were instituted for a night attack to be made by Companies "C" and "K", who were attached to the Second Battalion for that purpose. (See plan of attack No. 2) Tanks, tank destroyers and chemical mortars were attached to the Second Battalion to support the attack, as well as extra mine teams.

At 1530 hours, Colonel Gustav J. Braun, Division Chief of Staff reported to the Regimental Command Post to take command of the Regiment.

Continuous contact was maintained with the enemy throughout the afternoon and at times sharp fire fights [were] breaking out.

At 1745 hours the Forward Command Post moved to Margherita (757995), closing in the new location at 1910 hours. (See overlay No. 12) At 1840 hours, Company "B" repulsed an enemy counter-attack on their left flank. At 1900 hours, Company "K" discovered the enemy in strength in front of them and the enemy attempting to infiltrate between them and Company "B". Fighting at close quarters ensued with many hand grenades being used on both sides. Both companies sent out strong combat patrols to flush the enemy from the draws between and in front of them, however Company "K" still had enemy in strength in front of them. Due to this situation, Company "K" could not disengage and start the attack west without leaving a force to hold the position and protect the

companies' withdrawal. This was taken into account by the Regimental Commander and it was decided to postpone the time of the attack until the situation could be cleared. (See overlay No. 12) At 2250 hours, it was decided to leave one platoon of riflemen as protection for the machine guns and that the planned attack would go on as scheduled. This would leave approximately 80 men for the attack with Company "K". The companies reported that they could prepare their companies and be at the line of departure at 0300 hours, so at 2345 hours the Regimental Commander reported to the Division Commander that the attack would jump off at 0300 hours with the artillery preparation starting at 0100 hours.

At midnight the front was comparatively quiet with only sporadic firing being engaged. The positions of our troops were as indicated on overlay No. 12. Four prisoners were captured during the day, all from the 1st Company, 334th Reserve Battalion. Three were captured by Company "I", one by Company "B".

Casualties for the day were fairly heavy, but the litter routes were changed to converge in the town of S. Margherita in which the patients were treated before being evacuated by the clearing stations. The treatment of the patients was difficult because of the enemy laying in concentrations of artillery and mortar.

One hundred infantry replacements were received during the early evening hours and were turned over to the Kitchen trains to be escorted to their respective companies.

[19 September 1944]

In the early morning hours of 19 September the 151st Field Artillery Battalion notified this Headquarters that they received permission to fire again as did the British 5.5s, supporting artillery for this command. Both units had previously been ordered to cease firing because friendly fire was falling in the area of our troops. These units had not been at fault however, so they were granted permissions to resume firing. In the meantime the two attacking companies, Companies "C" and "K" were preparing for the coming attack. Company "K" was reported to be about forty five minutes late so Company "C" was ordered to hold up so as to enable the two companies to jump off together. At 0430 hours, Company "K" reported they were at the line of departure and Company "C" crossed the line at the same time.

Spasmodic firing continued throughout the night and at 0515 hours the first objective was reached by the two attacking companies with light opposition encountered but they did draw some mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. A short time later Company "C" had been shelled off objective Number 1 (See overlay No. 12, 18 September) and reorganized preparatory to going back up to the objective. However Company "K" held on to their objective and at 0600 hours reported that they had captured sixteen prisoners on Hill 662. At 0730 hours, Company "K" was again prepared for the attack and pushed on to the north followed by Companies "E" and "G". At 0750 hours, twenty four prisoners were brought in and by 1000 hours our troops had Hill 769 and were

directing fire on Hill 791. All during the afternoon prisoners were brought back from the forward positions and it appeared that due to the number of prisoners captured that the enemy resistance was beginning to break.

During the afternoon plans were made for a night attack on Ridge 810. It was felt that if we could take this hill it would save us many casualties as the enemy had the commanding ground with excellent observation. This attack was to be made by the First Battalion supported by fire from the Third Battalion and the main effort being made by the troops of Companies "A" and "B" which had been combined into one company due to the high casualties. H-hour was to be at 0400 hours the following morning.

Company "K", which had been attached to the Second Battalion for the attack of the previous night, was returned to the Third Battalion control in the afternoon. During the afternoon it was decided to organize flame-thrower teams, as it was felt that these weapons could be utilized with good results on enemy bunkers and pill boxes which were most difficult to liquidate by other means. Each team was to consist of five men; the operator, assistant operator, one non-commissioned officer and two Chemical engineers, all men to carry grenades and the non-commissioned officer to be armed with a sub-machine gun. In the meantime, plans were reached for the night attack, strong combat patrols were sent out to reconnoiter the objectives and if the patrols reported "no contact" upon their return, the objectives would be occupied during

the night, thus making an attack in force unnecessary. On or about 2330 hours, all patrols had returned, reporting no physical contact with the enemy on Hills 701, 748, and 810 but on Hills 701 and 810 they had heard sounds of voices, digging and vehicular movement. As a result it was decided that an attack was necessary, and so plans were completed for the attack to go as planned at 0400 hours.

During the day we had gained some ground, our objectives being prominent terrain features to the west from which the enemy had excellent observation and had been causing us considerable trouble. Our captured prisoner total had mounted, the total for the day being seventy five which included seven wounded which had been evacuated. Company "K" captured a total of forty nine, Company "F" fifteen, Company "E" three, and Headquarters Company Third Battalion one from the following enemy units as listed:

- 15 - Hq. Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 1 - 1st Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 3 - 2nd Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 1 - 3rd Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 1 - 4th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 22 - 5th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 2 - 6th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 9 - 7th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 2 - 8th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 3 - 13th Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
- 4 - 1st Company, Anti-Tank Bn., 334 Inf. Div.
- 4 - 5th Battery, 334th Artillery Regt., [334 Inf. Div.]
- 1 - 3rd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334 Inf. Div.]

The evacuation of the wounded was now not quite as difficult as previously because the relay litter route was considerably shortened.

However the litter bearers were practically exhausted because they were working day and night evacuating the patients over this most difficult terrain. A litter squad was relieved occasionally but this could not be accomplished as often as necessary due to the shortage of squads and the length of the litter haul.

One hundred Infantry replacements were received and processed. Seventy were forwarded to the First Battalion to be sent forward at once, and thirty to the Second Battalion kitchen train. Nine replacement officers were also received and assigned. (See overlay No. 13 for position of troops)

[20 September 1944]

All during the night and early morning hours of 20 September, the front was comparatively quiet with intermittent fire falling throughout the Regimental sector. During the early morning hours a light rain started to fall, continuing until after day light. The units making the 0400 attack were delayed somewhat and did not cross the line of departure until approximately 0420 hours.

An hour and a half later, Company "A" was on Hill 748 [200m SE of Hill 810] and the balance of the Battalion was shoving off for Hill 810. At 0630 hours, the First Battalion requested increased artillery fire on Hill 810. The units moved forward slowly over the rough terrain against light enemy resistance, Company "B" taking prisoners on the advance on Hill 810. While the First Battalion was advancing, the Second and Third Battalions held in place with the Third Battalion supporting the First Battalion by fire and with both Battalions patrolling

vigorously
and extensively. At 0945 hours, the First Battalion called
for heavy
artillery fire on 740008 [il Gallo, Hill 622] as their Out
Post reported enemy troops forming
at that point for a possible counter-attack. At 1010 hours
an enemy Out
Post on Hill 810 was spotted and artillery was brought to
bear, a fire
started immediately from a direct hit on the object.

An Italian civilian, picked up by our troops, gave
locations of
five enemy Out Posts and three enemy strongpoints so TOTs
were placed by
our artillery on each location. Enemy resistance continued
throughout
the morning and at 1115 hours, Company "A" was engaged in a
fire fight
with an estimated two platoons of the enemy from Hill 807,
while machine
guns from the same location kept a steady fire on Company
"B". Due to
the determined resistance from this Hill, it was decided
that a part of
the combined "A and "B" companies should attack the Hill
while the
balance of the unit continued to advance on Hill 810.
Heavy mortar
barrages were placed on both hills because at this time our
troops were
too close to use artillery. At 1405 hours, Company "B" was
pinned down
to some extent by self propelled artillery fire from the
vicinity of
732119. At the same time our attached tanks and tank
destroyers had
knocked out several enemy strongpoints by direct fire on
the eastern
slopes of Hill 810. They continued firing throughout the
afternoon,
doing excellent work despite drawing heavy artillery fire
from enemy
guns attempting to knock them out.

Operational Instructions No. 89 from Headquarters 34th
Infantry
Division were received and were as follows: 34th Division

continues
attack at 0600 hours tomorrow morning; 168th Infantry
Regiment goes
through the left flank of 135th Infantry Regiment and
attacks northwest;
135th Infantry Regiment continues to attack north; 133rd
Infantry
Regiment continues to attack north.

The platoon of the 84th Chemical Mortars attached to
this Regiment
was detached as was the Cannon company of the 168th
Infantry Regiment.
Plans were immediately prepared for the attack in the
morning with the
Third Battalion to attack north along the Regimental right
boundary with
the First Battalion on the left flank, the Second Battalion
was to clean
out pockets of enemy resistance to the west. (See
Operational
Instruction No. 22)

If the attack succeeded, this Regiment would be
squeezed out of
action in two or three days and then revert to Division
Reserve.

Throughout the day the Second Battalion had been
probing with
strong combat patrols and at 1830 one patrol returned from
Hill 642
after engaging in a fire fight with the enemy. The patrol
captured four
prisoners and disengaged because they were greatly
outnumbered. During
the evening, the Regimental Commander relieved the First
Battalion
Commander of his command and the Regimental Executive
Officer, Lt.
Colonel Sarratt T. Hames was given the command for the
proposed attack
of the next day. By midnight all plans had been completed,
reconnaissance made and all preparations completed for the
jump-off at
0600 hours in the morning.

The positions of our troops had not changed

appreciably during the last twenty-four hours but we had engaged the enemy throughout the period with stiff fire fights and active patrolling. A total of fourteen prisoners were captured throughout the day by the following companies: five by Company "B", one by Company "E", four by Company "G", and four by Company "A". The prisoners were from enemy units as indicated:

3 - 2nd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334 Inf. Div.]
(Evac)
1 - 1st Replacement Company, 334 Inf. Div.
2 - 2nd Company, 754th Regt., 334 Inf. Div.
4 - 1st Company, 334th Reserve Bn., [334 Inf. Div.]
4 - 4th Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334 Inf. Div.]

The S-1 Section and Regimental Headquarters Rear Detachment moved to a new Command Post site in the town of Barberino and closed in at 1600 hours.

[21 September 1944]

Again the night was comparatively quiet until 0455 hours on the morning of 21 September 1944, at which time Company "A"'s forward elements on Hill 810 were receiving a counter-attack from an undetermined number of enemy and were forced to withdraw to Hill 791. Casualties were inflicted on both sides, Company "A" suffering two men killed and one wounded. At 0620 hours the Third Battalion jumped off in the attack, H-hour being 0600 hours. The First Battalion was also late in crossing the line of departure and at 0630 hours Company "A" jumped off but Company "B" was pinned down by fire and unable to

move. Company "A" immediately ran into determined resistance and the Battalion attack bogged down and the attempted advance was halted. The troops then re-organized and at 0830 hours, after a ten minute artillery preparation, the two attacking companies resumed the advance but again the battalion was pinned down by fire coming from their left rear, generally in the vicinity of 736002. The Second Battalion was then ordered to send out strong combat patrols to clean out that pocket of enemy so as to enable the First Battalion to advance. Meanwhile the Third Battalion was advancing fairly well, meeting some resistance, mostly machine gun fire and by 1000 hours their forward element, Company "I", was above the 02 grid line and had knocked out several machine gun nests. At the same time the Second Battalion had six strong patrols out to the west and were working over the pocket of resistance holding back the First Battalion. They had captured three prisoners and had neutralized the enemy fire in that sector. The First Battalion then resumed the advance but were still receiving extensive heavy fire.

In the early part of the afternoon, Company "A" ran into extensive mine fields and wire on the eastern slopes of Hill 807. Casualties were suffered and the advance again held up temporarily.

At about 1500 hours, Major General Bolte, the 34th Division Commander arrived at the Forward Command Post and conferred with the Regimental Commander and then left for the First Battalion Command Post to secure a better view of the situation.

During the afternoon it was decided to put Company "C" in the line in order to lend greater strength to the advance of the First Battalion and so a platoon from Company "F" occupied the positions of Company "C" on Hill 791.

The attached tanks and tank destroyers performed exceptionally well, knocking out bunkers and strongpoints with direct fire and raising havoc with the enemy infantry. According to reports from captured prisoners, the tanks and tank destroyers kept them pinned down continuously throughout the day. They stated that they could not move, even to eat without having one of our direct fire weapons dropping a shell in among them and further added that when our tank destroyers did cease firing and they could lift their heads, our Infantry was upon them with hand grenades. An Officer prisoner stated that they had very heavy casualties today, and when taken prisoner, he had many severely wounded who had to be left behind, but our Medics took care of them and picked them up.

At 1635 hours, the Third Battalion knocked out two enemy machine gun nests and two Anti-Aircraft guns located at check point Number 2 (See overlay No. 14, Map of Italy, 1/25,000, sheets 98 III, NE, SE) but had not taken prisoners, all enemy personnel had been killed on their positions by our hand grenades. Meanwhile our First Battalion had been moving steadily forward but had been forced to follow mine sweepers through the mined areas. At 1840 hours, both Hills 807 and 810 were secure in our hands and Company "C" had captured over fifty prisoners.

During the day and early evening, the Third Battalion was advancing without much opposition and was abreast of their objective (See overlay No. 14) but to the east of it. However, they would continue to advance after dark, cutting across to occupy the objectives and continue to the northwest with Company "I" and endeavor to cut off the road running south from Montepiano (See overlay No. 14) and set up a road block.

Enemy strongpoints encountered were bypassed and left for the First Battalion, coming up from the south, to clean out. Prisoners were being brought in all day and a total of seventy five were captured during the day of which three were officers. Company "A" captured sixty nine, Second Battalion five, and Company "E" one from the following units as indicated:

- 1 - 1st Company, 755th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 1 - 1st Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 3 - 4th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 1 - 8th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 21 - 1st Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf. Div.]
- 15 - 2nd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf. Div.]
- 29 - 4th Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf. Div.]
- 4 - Hq, Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf. Div.]

Evacuation were light for the day with a total of twenty four, [considering] the action encountered and the type of terrain fighting over. Three officers consisting of one Captain and two First Lieutenants were transferred to the Regiment as replacements.

[22 September 1944]

The Third Battalion, in the early morning hours of 22 September, continued their advance along the lines as planned. They met no resistance except for scattered small arms and intermittent self propelled artillery fire along the trails in their line of advance and at 0400 hours they were at Prati (749025). The Second Battalion area had been quiet throughout the night and at daylight they sent out strong combat patrols to the west. The First Battalion was on the move as scheduled and advanced along Ridge 791. At 0900 hours a patrol from the Second Battalion returned from Hill 528 and reported no contact with the enemy as all positions on the hill were vacated. Another patrol, returning from Hill 642, had engaged the enemy and captured seven prisoners. At 1200 hours, a report from the Air Out Post stated that three enemy tanks were spotted at 743026 and slightly to the northwest of that point, had observed enemy infantry, accompanied by three vehicles. Both targets were taken under fire by our artillery. Still another patrol returned, from Hill 662 (742001). They had made no contact with the enemy but had discovered an unarmed [unmanned(?)] machine gun position, many Schu-mines ready to be placed, and great piles of barbed wire. Shortly after 1200 hours, contact was made by our troops with elements of the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron who had been moving up the Fourth Corps boundary on our left flank. At 1300 hours, two enemy tanks were reported observed at 746015. Our supporting artillery was immediately brought to bear and also our attached tank

destroyers moved up to engage them.

A message from the 168th Infantry Regiment on our right flank, transmitted through Division G-3, was received at 1400 hours and reported approximately thirty five enemy on Hill 845 (753030) and the division G-3 deemed it advisable to change the boundary between the two Regiments so as to enable a company from our Third Battalion to go up and clean out the hill because by this time the 168th Infantry Regiment was considerably north of that point. (See overlay No. 15 for boundary changes) Company "L" was sent on this mission, because at this time Company "I" was on the eastern part of our objective with Company "L" slightly to the northwest of them.

During the afternoon, the Second Battalion was ordered to disengage one company to be used as a Regimental reserve and assemble near Corte (753998). Up to this time all three Battalions had been constantly on the line engaging the enemy. At 1530 hours, Company "I" captured Hill 918 on the eastern half of the objective and also captured several prisoners.

During the day resistance had lightened all along the line and so it was decided to abandon the plan for the road block south of Montepiano as had been planned for the Third Battalion. New plans called for the Third Battalion to send strong patrols up the east side of the road running northwest to the town of Montepiano, and, if the resistance proved to be not too strong, to enter and occupy the town. the First Battalion was to execute the same plan on the west side of the

road, while a motorized patrol from the Regimental I & R platoon was to enter the town via the road. As part of the proposed plan, the Second Battalion was to outpost the town of Rimondeto and generally along the 995 northing line and to prepare to withdraw the balance of the Battalion to be used as the Regimental reserve.

During the evening, the front was again comparatively quiet except in the sector of Company "C" who were engaged in a fire fight on Hill 817. Resistance was considerably lighter throughout the day and our troops gained considerable territory considering the nature of the terrain. Large stores of enemy equipment were captured as well as a total of thirty two prisoners. Sixteen prisoners were captured by Company "B", seven by Company "A", seven by Company "E" and two by Company "I", from the enemy units as follows:

Div.]	4 - 1st Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]	10 - 2nd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]	1 - 3rd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]	2 - 4th Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
	4 - 1st Company, 334th Medics, [334th Inf. Div.]
	4 - 2nd Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
	5 - 6th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
	2 - 7th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.

Casualties were light with only two men wounded during the day and of course the evacuation of the wounded was simple compared to what it had been for the past several days. (See overlay No. 15 for position of troops)

[23 September 1944]

The sector was very quiet throughout the night and at daylight of the morning of 23 September the First Battalion was moving up on their objective while the Second Battalion was moving back into the assembly area (See overlay No. 16) leaving an outpost on Hill 769 as a contact with the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron on our left flank. The Second Battalion patrols were to Vernio (725994) and had returned after finding the town empty. The Third Battalion patrols were progressing up the right side of the road northwest into Montepiano. At 0900 hours the First Battalion had completely occupied their half of objective "A" (See overlay No. 16) and elements were moving to 727029 to establish a road block.

At 0930 hours, this Headquarters was notified by Division G-3 that the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron was being pulled out of the line and was being replaced as soon as possible with the 34th Reconnaissance Squadron. At the same time this Regiment was ordered to secure Vernio so a platoon of Company "F" was sent out on the mission and was ordered to patrol as far as Quirico (722000). Company "B" was to move forward along the road leading northwest to La Crocuta and Canturato, with Company "A" moving to the north and with Company "C" to follow to follow to the rear of Company "B", along the road northwest to Montepiano. The Regimental Commander, Colonel Gustav J. Braun, attached himself to the first platoon of Company "B", which at that time was moving northwest along the road to Canturato and ordered them to push north. Upon reaching Canturato and after capturing twelve prisoners and

five mules,
they continued north along the road toward the town of
Rusubbiani,
encountering several machine guns firing in their general
direction.
Colonel Braun immediately radioed to the rear requesting
mortar fire to
be placed on the machine gun positions. The mortar fire
silenced these
machine guns immediately and the platoon continued the
advance. At 1300
hours, upon reaching the intersection of the road running
north and
south at Montepiano, two patrols were formed. One patrol
had the
mission of patrolling north from Montepiano and the other
to the south
along the road with the mission to reconnoiter the roads
forward and
secure as many bridges as possible. Second Lieutenant
Meyer Kasten, the
Platoon Leader, took command of the patrol going north to
which the
Regimental Commander attached himself. At 1500 hours, the
First
Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel Sarratt T. Hames, and the
Forward
Command Post of the First Battalion, moved on to the near
vicinity of
Montepiano and the Battalion Commander proceeded into the
town of
Montepiano to contact the Regimental Commander and radio
the location of
the First Battalion to Regimental Headquarters. The
balance of Company
"B", Company "D", Company "C" and then Company "A", moved
into the
vicinity of the town, followed by Company "I" while the
First Battalion
had strong combat patrols out to the north as far as the
058 grid line.
All bridges and culverts that were found intact were placed
under guard.
A total of twenty prisoners were captured and ten enemy
were killed by
our artillery, mortar and grenade fire.

Throughout the day our troops had met no organized

resistance,
action being confined to patrol action and isolated pockets
of
resistance. Reports indicated that the enemy was heading
north at
various points and so our tired troops increased their
activity,
cleaning out small pockets of enemy and taking small groups
of prisoners
from time to time throughout the day. As soon as all
resistance in this
sector had been eliminated and in accordance with
Divisional Operational
Instructions Number Ninety, this Regiment was to go in
Division Reserve.

Early in the evening, Division G-3 issued the
following orders to
the Regimental S-3, Captain Earl T. Ralf: Our platoon of
attached tanks
were to start north from Montepiano and go as far north up
the main road
as possible, preceded by the Regimental I & R platoon and
supported by a
platoon of Infantry, with the mission of protecting such
bridges and
culverts as had been left intact by the enemy. This task
force was to
continue up the road as far as possible until the 34th
Reconnaissance
Squadron, which had relieved the 91st Reconnaissance
Squadron, overtook
them and at which time the Regiment would be relieved and
pass into
Division reserve. The plan was worked out and a platoon of
Infantry,
fully equipped with automatic weapons, was detached from
the First
Battalion to support the tanks. At 2100 hours, the
Assistant S-2,
Captain Edwin A. Meany Jr., in command of this task force,
left the
forward Regimental Command Post for Montepiano to carry out
this
mission. But before our task force was able to start
advancing up the
road, elements of the 34th Reconnaissance Squadron appeared
at

Montepiano, headed north, and took over the mission of our command, that of relieving the security on the bridges and culverts north of Montepiano, officially relieving this Regiment. The Regiment then passed into Division reserve.

During the day we had no large scale organized enemy resistance, all opposition coming from isolated pockets of enemy which had been cut off by our troops and these pockets our troops methodically cleaned up. Small amounts of prisoners were captured from time to time, also large stores of enemy arms, ammunition and equipment were captured. Sixty six prisoners were captured with Company "B" taking twenty two, Company "K" fourteen, Company "C" thirteen, Headquarters Company Third Battalion ten, Company "I" four, Headquarters Company First Battalion two and Company "F" one, from the following enemy units:

- 5 - 2nd Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 6 - 4th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 8 - 6th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 9 - 7th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 2 - 8th Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 5 - 1st Battalion Headquarters, 755th Regt.,
334th Inf. Div.
- 4 - 1st Company, 755th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 1 - 4th Company, 755th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 2 - 1st Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]
- 5 - 3rd Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]
- 3 - 4th Company, 334th Fusilier Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]
- 15 - 1st Company, 334th Reserve Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]
- 1 - 2nd Company, 334th Engineer Bn., [334th Inf.
Div.]

[24 September 1944]

With the Regiment in Division reserve as of 0400 hours, 24 September 1944, the Regiment carried on patrolling throughout the night and a motorized patrol from the Second Battalion patrolled the road from Quirico to Montepiano, the road was found passable for peeps all the way. The attached platoons from the 757th Tank Battalion and the platoon from the 807th Tank Destroyers were detached for the time being.

During the day the Battalions assembled in place but due to heavy enemy shelling of Montepiano, the First Battalion was forced to move further south than was planned (See overlay No. 17 for assembly area). Three prisoners were captured during the day by Company "K" from the following enemy units:

- 1 - 1st Company, 755th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.
- 2 - Headquarters Company, 754th Regt., 334th Inf. Div.

Fifty six Infantry replacements were received during the day and distributed to the units. The Regimental S-1 Section and Headquarters Company Rear Detachment moved from the location of Barberino to S. Margherita.

During the morning hours of 24 September, a report was received that the 6th South African Division was moving up on our left flank and so a patrol from the First Battalion was sent out to make contact with them, which they did at 1100 hours at 705025.

All during the day, elements of our troops engaged in salvage work, covering the territory of our recent fighting and recovered much of our arms, ammunition and equipment that had been lost or

left behind.

Also large stores of enemy equipment were found and salvaged. During the evening, the road block which had been maintained at Montepiano by the First Battalion, was withdrawn. The Regiment, being in Division reserve, spent the time in cleaning and replacing equipment and resting after the recent operations.

During the recent operations, this Regiment had attacked one of the most heavily defended sectors of the Gothic Line. We started operations with a very good knowledge of enemy defenses, gained from excellent aerial photos and air Out Posts and also, as we approached the outposts of the Gothic Line, knowledge was added from time to time on captured prisoner reports. We made our first physical contact with the enemy on 12 September 1944, taking our first prisoners of this operation on that date. The assault on the Gothic Line was accompanied by very fierce fighting, our path being continuously blocked by extensive minefields covered by enemy machine gun fire. Although the weather as a whole was favorable, the nature of the terrain, it being very mountainous and almost totally without roads, was universally in favor of the enemy, giving him perfect defensive ground. We assaulted the main Gothic Line for a period of nine days, cracking through one of the most heavily defended sectors, as the accompanying overprint of enemy defenses will indicate. During the complete operations to date, this Regiment captured three hundred and fifty three since the landings at Salerno, Italy on 22 September 1943. Although the enemy was well entrenched, had pill-boxes and extremely well defended and

constructed
bunkers, protected by wire and lanes of fire, this Regiment
at the end
of nine days of fierce combat, had broken the Gothic Line
at this point
and all that remained being mopping up operations as many
pockets of
enemy had been cut off and surrounded as a result of our
columns
outflanking them. Casualties for this period were the
highest the
Regiment had experienced in such a short time of combat
with ninety one
killed in action and four hundred and thirty two wounded in
action.

[26-30 September 1944]

In a very impressive ceremony at 1100 hours, 26
September 1944,
Major General Charles L. Bolte, the 34th Infantry Division
Commanding
General, presented seven Silver Stars for gallantry in
action, eleven
Bronze Stars for Heroic achievement in action and six 34th
Infantry
Division Citations for outstanding performance of Duty, to
enlisted men
and officers of this command. Four companies from the
Second Battalion
constituted the guard of Honor and the division Military
Band offered
the military marches.

Thirty new Infantry replacements were received during
the day and
distributed to the rifle companies. Major Edward M. Fabert
was assigned
to the Regiment and assigned to command the First
Battalion, Lt. Colonel
Sarratt T. Hames having been relieved of his command and
re-assigned as
Regimental Executive Officer.

Various forms of entertainment were presented for our
resting
troops including picture shows and Band Concerts by the
Division

Military Band. On the afternoon of 27 September, this Headquarters was ordered to send out reconnaissance parties to select a new assembly area on the right of the Division Sector in the vicinity of Montecarelli. The reconnaissance party left at 1530 hours and returned at 1830 hours, having selected the areas for the future movement.

The weather was now turning cold and with steady rain, making it very uncomfortable for the troops but some items of winter clothing were issued. (See overlay No. 18 for assembly area)

The entire Regiment moved from the Vicinity of S. Margherita to the Vicinity of Montecarelli (806997) on the afternoon of 28 September 1944. The Regiment leaving the old area at 1505 hours and closing in at 1600 hours, a movement of fifteen miles over rough muddy roads. The weather was most disagreeable with cold rain falling and a very high wind. The troops, being hauled in open trucks, were wet to the bone upon arrival at the new location and about froze during the long cold hours of the night.

During the day of 29 September, as a consequence of telephone conversations with the Division G-3, our Battalions and separate units were each notified to be on the alert for a possible move the next day to a new assembly area at Madonna dei Fornelli, preparatory to entering the line on the 1st of October. At midnight the troops were notified that the move was definite, that the time of crossing the I.P. would be 1140 hours the next morning, order of march to be Cannon Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, Second Battalion

and First Battalion. The Anti-Tank Company was to be used as litter bearers in future operations with the exception of the mine teams, one of which was attached to each Battalion.

Seventy five Infantry Replacements were received during the day and distributed to the companies.

At approximately 0830 hours, 30 September, quartering parties left the Regimental Command Post to select assembly areas in the vicinity of Madonna dei Fornelli and at 1200 hours the Regimental Command Post closed with the exception of the S-1 Section, Service Company, Anti-Tank Company and the Rear Detachment of the Regimental Headquarters Company. The Regimental Forward Command Post closed in the new Command Post at Madonna dei Fornelli (812160) at 1430 hours. (See overlay No. 19) The troops moved up by trucks to a detrucking point about five miles south of Madonna dei Fornelli, marching the remaining distance. The Cannon Company closed in at 1700 hours, and the balance of the Regiment at 1930 hours. The 34th Division Liaison Officer reported in to the Regimental Command Post at 2030 hours with Division Field Order No. 47, instructing this Regiment to enter the line on the right flank of the 168th Infantry Regiment and to attack north at 0600 hours the morning of the 1st of October. During the evening, plans for attack were prepared by the Regimental Staff. Plans for the attack are as indicated on Field Order No. 20, this Headquarters, as are the positions of our troops at the close of the period.

A steady rain has been falling all day and the temperature was

steadily falling. The roads were in a very poor condition making it almost impossible to drive heavy trucks and equipment over the narrow, winding mountain trails of the Gothic Line region.

With the close of the period, this Regiment was still in the attack, slowly progressing against stubborn, determined resistance in the rugged terrain of the Apennine Mountains of Italy.

For the Regimental Commander:
SARRATT T. HAMES
Lt Col., Infantry
Executive Officer

OFFICIAL:
s/Donald L. Nability
DONALD L. NABILITY
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 October 1944 to 31 October 1944, inclusive.

The month of September, 1944, had been a memorable one for the 133rd Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division, a time of historic accomplishment against a fiercely defiant adversary. In nine days of furious fighting during the month in which it observed the first anniversary of the landings at Salerno, the Regiment cracked through one of the most strongly defended sectors of the Germans' vaunted Gothic Line across the Apennine Mountains of Italy.

As October began the Regiment, emerging from Divisional reserve, continued its drive toward Bologna, gateway to the Po Valley. Weather,

terrain, and the enemy were destined to constitute a threefold menace to our forces the greater part of the period.

[30 September - 2 October 1944]

At 2030 hours 30 September the Divisional liaison officer had arrived at the Regiment's forward command post with Divisional Field Order No. 47, instructing us to enter the line on the right of the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division and attack northward at 0600 hours the following morning. (Refer to September history for pertinent field orders.) Attached to the 133rd Infantry for the coming action were: Company A, 757th Tank Battalion; one platoon of Company C, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company A, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion; and Company A, 109th Engineer Combat Battalion.

According to plan, our Second Battalion attacked at 0600 Hours 1 October from the vicinity of Madonna dei Fornelli (812160 - Map Italy 1:50,000 Sheet 98-1 Loiano), passing through the Second Battalion of the 168th Infantry. The formation employed was a two company front, with Company F on the right, Company G on the left. Company G remained in reserve and the other two battalions stayed in place. The plan was for one battalion to advance at a time, the lead battalion being replaced by the Third as soon as the former tired, or if it was stopped by the enemy.

The companies met generally light opposition in the morning hours. Reaching Hill 617, immediately north of Madonna dei Fornelli, Company F encounter considerable small-arm fire and suffered two casualties.

Company G had to work through extensive minefields.

Meanwhile, Major General Charles L. Bolte, commander of the 34th Division, visited the Regimental command post and conferred with the commanding officer of the Regiment, Colonel Gustav J. Braun. General Bolte imparted the gratifying news that the 133rd Regiment at that time was the leading element of the entire Fifth Army.

Out on the battlefield our troops continued a fighting advance, harassed by heavy mortar and some artillery fire. By noon they were clearing enemy out of houses at 814175, south of Cedrecchia, and taking several prisoners.

At approximately 1800 hours Company F approached Cedrecchia (814178), snaring a few prisoners on the outskirts. The town, well defended by barbed wire entanglements, and machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, was then raked by a platoon of Company C, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The Germans replied with intense fire, and Company F suffered casualties. Unable to take the village without more support, the unit withdrew slightly, reorganized, and prepared to attack at 2300 hours. This assault was to be preceded by an artillery barrage augmented by fire from the tank destroyers and Company A of the 757th Tank Battalion.

During the day's fighting the Regiment had taken 22 prisoners of war. Company G captured 18 from 2nd Company, 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division. Company F caught four, one each from the 1st, 2nd, and 11th Companies of the 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop

Division, and 2nd Company, 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion.

At 2300 hours, Company F again attacked Cedrecchia, with First Lieutenant Orva E. Morris in command. Captain Richard E. Waterman, the company commander, had been killed earlier in the day. Second Lieutenant Dean P. Hamilton, a platoon leader in the same unit, was wounded.

Wielding bangalore torpedoes, our troops blew asunder the protective wire around the town, and shortly after midnight were fighting the enemy in the houses. Vicious machine-gun, machine-pistol and other small-arms fire met them at every turn. By 0200 hours 2 October our soldiers were forced to relinquish their hold on the town.

Undaunted, we planned still another effort to take the strong-point, and in preparation the town was again raked by the tank destroyers. At 0300 hours, with Company E added, the battalion attacked. But it was not until 1445 hours, nearly 14 raging hours later, that Company F safely held Cedrecchia.

Throughout the intervening time the German resistance was determined and intense, featured by heavy small-arms fire of all types. Rain falling during the night obscured otherwise easily detected mines, and seriously hampered our troops. The rain, attended by mud and murky darkness, also interfered greatly with the movement of the tanks. These were used to enter Cedrecchia and to clean out machine-gun nests impeding our advance. Intermittent rainfall made daytime visibility poor and progress was very slow.

In the meantime, in order to increase our fire power on Hill 956 (Objective A) the Division had, at 0900 hours, attached the 135th Infantry Cannon Company of the 34th Division to us. A coordinated attack with two battalions abreast was decided upon (refer to Operational Instructions No. 23, this headquarters, and accompanying overlay). The Third Battalion was alerted. All heavy mortars in the Regiment were placed under a central fire direction center in order to take the best advantage of our fire power. For the same reason, the First Battalion's heavy machine-gun section was attached to the Second Battalion. Harassing artillery fires, to be lifted on call, were prepared by the 151st Field Artillery Battalion. The fires were to consist of 600 rounds of light, 300 heavy caliber an hour.

Enemy resistance mounted steadily through the morning and afternoon, and our Second Battalion suffered many casualties, chiefly from hostile artillery fire. Our troops were operating on rocky terrain which multiplied the deadliness of fragmentation.

On account of the Second Battalion's losses and resultant low strength, at 1545 hours Major Edward M. Fabert, in command of the First Battalion, was ordered to reconnoiter forward and be ready to enter the line within 24 hours. At the same time the Third Battalion, alerted previously, moved off through the leading elements of Company F, with two companies, L and K, in a column of companies. Company I remained in its assembly area, ready to jump off on order.

The attack proceeded along the lines planned. However, because of

heavy shelling by the Germans, particularly self-propelled gun fire, our troops advanced but slowly. The widespread shelling continually tore communication wires. Little ground was gained the remainder of this rainy, foggy day and night.

Prisoners taken during the evening said that the enemy intended to attack from Hill 956 that night with 150 men, hour unknown. All our units were warned and our mortars combed the draws along the hill, but by midnight nothing untoward had developed. (Refer to Overlay No. 1 for disposition of our troops at this time.)

Twenty-three Axis soldiers were taken prisoner during the day, Company F capturing fourteen; E, four; G, four; and D, one. Enemy units involved were: 1st Company, 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion, eight prisoners; 2nd Company, 11; 2nd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division, one; 4th Company, one; and 11th Company, two.

[3 October 1944]

By daylight of 3 October the weather had cleared. The air observer, whom inclement weather had grounded the previous day, rose skyward as dawn spread over our sector.

With supporting tanks following them, troops of the First and Third Battalions began moving forward at 0600 hours. At the same time, the Second Battalion, with two days hard fighting behind them, moved to a rear assembly area to rest, dry out and reorganize.

Reports from the forward attacking elements indicated that the Germans had withdrawn somewhat during the night. We were moving ahead

steadily, with no opposition other than scattered artillery and mortar fire. An hour after the jump-off the First Battalion reported they had gained Hill 956 without contest. At 0800 hours they still had not contacted the enemy. Hostile artillery activity continued meager, our air observation post perhaps acting as a deterrent.

Once it became clear that the Germans were pulling back, our heavy mortar sections reverted to the battalions from central control.

The two attacking battalions, ever abreast, kept pursuing the enemy toward Mount Venere (Hill 963, 809228). Harassing artillery fire grew in intensity, though neither of our units effected physical contact with the Germans.

By nightfall our troops had progressed well enough to enable our attached Company A of the 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion to move up to La Villa (815189). Our field artillery battalion, the 151st, made preparations to move ahead, and a reconnaissance party went forward to find a new location for the Regimental command post, to be established once Monte Venere was secured. It was the desire of higher headquarters that the hill be taken that night.

In response to that wish both the First and Third Battalions were ordered to keep moving all night, the Second to reconnoiter forward and to be prepared to move to a new assembly area near 812206. Thus, the latter unit would be in readiness to join her sister battalions should Monte Venere still be in enemy hands by morning. (See Overlay No. 2 for troop positions at midnight.)

Fourteen prisoners were apprehended during the day. Company B captured nine; Company A, one; and Company L, four. The captives were from the following units: eight from 1st Company, one from 4th Company of the 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division; and one each from the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 11th, and 15th Companies of the 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division.

[4 October 1944]

Meeting light resistance, Companies K and L advanced along the 34th Division's right boundary through the darkness of early morn, 4 October. Company B was being held up by a counter-attack, estimated to be one platoon strong. As a result, the gap between the First and Third Battalions had widened. It was therefore deemed advisable to employ Company I, which was in reserve, to fill the unprotected sector. As that unit assumed the lead in the battalion's left flank, Company K took the right flank and Company L blocked to the right and mopped up the rear.

At 0400 hours Major Fabert reported that his First Battalion was resuming the advance. Company C passed through Companies A and B to take the lead. Resistance was encountered almost immediately and mounted during the morning.

At approximately 0830 hours Major Fabert was wounded, whereupon Captain Richard F. Wilkinson, First Battalion executive officer, took command. (Captain Wilkinson was reassigned as executive officer when Major Linus T. Williams was placed in command of the

battalion on 13
October.) First Lieutenant Wayne T. Patrick of Company C
was slightly
wounded as he went to Major Fabert's aid.

Meanwhile, the Second Battalion started moving to a
more forward
assembly area, near 808202. It had been alerted to go back
into the
line on order, as it seemed likely that Mount Venere would
soon be
taken. A plan for continuing the attack, using a Second
Battalion
company riding on a company of medium tanks, was
formulated. (For
complete plan refer to Operational Instructions No. 24,
this
headquarters, with overlay.)

By 1630 hours Mount Venere was ours, occupied by
infantry and
armor. Company F, selected to make the breakthrough to
Monzuno
(823247), rapidly climbed on tanks and headed for that
German-held town.
The First and Third Battalions followed plans outlined in
the
operational instructions mentioned above.

With Mount Venere in our hands, Colonel Braun moved
his Regimental
command post ahead. At 1900 hours he set up his
headquarters at Le
Croci (811202).

The outskirts on Monzuno were reached by Company F at
2000 hours,
the rest of the battalion in its wake. At the same hour
Company I
experienced a strong counter-attack from its left flank,
the enemy
assaulting from Hill 927. After a sharp fire fight in
which we suffered
casualties, including the wounding of Second Lieutenant
Clarence Spike,
our soldiers drove off the Germans.

By 2220 hours Company F had fought its way into

Monzuno. It entered the village with but one tank. The rain-soaked, muddy ground mired some and others were immobilized by enemy self-propelled and bazooka fire. Company E followed close behind, riding light tanks. Second Lieutenant Joseph C. Lassiter of that company was slightly wounded.

Shortly after midnight further plans for continuing the attack to the north were given to the troops in the form of Operational Instructions No. 25. Overlay No. 3 shows gains made by the Regiment during the day and troop positions at midnight.

In the last 24 hours we had taken 63 prisoners. Company C captured 49; K, three; I, four; F, two; Headquarters 2nd Battalion, five. Enemy units concerned were:

- 2 - 1st Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 21 - 2nd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 15 - 3rd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 9th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 4 - 12th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - 13th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 9 - 14th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - 1st Bn Hq Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - Punishment Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - Evacuated by Medical Detachment

[5 October 1944]

By the wet dawn of 5 October our Second Battalion was prepared to move again, having cleared Monzuno of all enemy during the night and set

road blocks around the town. After a half hour's artillery preparation the battalion jumped off at 0600 hours.

At the same hour the 135th Infantry's Second Battalion passed our command post, heading for Mount Venere in accordance with Divisional instructions to protect our rear by securing the hill and patrolling to the west and northwest. Attached to us now, in response to a request, was another platoon from the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Noon found our First and Third Battalions forging ahead steadily. Artillery and mortar fire featured the resistance, only scattered small arms [fire] being encountered. First Lieutenant John F. McLaughlin of Company H was killed this day. The Third Battalion was engaged this day in cleaning out pockets of enemy by-passed by the Second.

Increasingly bad weather became a serious problem now. Continual rain turned narrow, muddy trails into hazardous stretches of muck and slippery rock. All available men were set to work in an attempt to keep routes open. Mules had to replace vehicles for carrying supplies to the troops and for laying wire. Evacuation of the wounded, too, was impossible by vehicle. Part of our Service Company, cooks from the various kitchen trains, and all personnel of the Anti-Tank Company except the mine platoon were pressed into service as litter-bearers.

However, the inclement weather had little effect on the progress of our persevering soldiers. During the afternoon they advanced far enough to remove the need for security of Monte Venere by the 133rd's

Second Battalion. The 168th, on our left, had also advanced slightly beyond the hill. A plan was therefore formulated for the employment of the 135th's unit on our right. (For plan see directive from this headquarters, dated 5 October.)

Later in the evening the Third Battalion of the 135th Infantry took over the positions of its Second Battalion. Thus, both units were now in a position to carry out plans which called for the 135th to pass through on our right the following morning.

General Bolte visited our command post during the day and expressed to Colonel Braun his satisfaction with the 133rd Infantry's going of the past two days. These advances had been achieved against a fiercely resisting foe, over extremely unfavorable terrain, and in spite of hampering weather and poor communications.

Several officers from the 92nd Infantry Division arrived during the day for the purpose of observing our combat procedure over a five-day period. During their stay they visited various units of the Regiment and were given every cooperation in their mission.

At midnight 5 October the positions of our troops were as shown on Overlay No. 4. Twenty-four prisoners were taken during the day. Company B captured four; C, five; E, three; F, 15; G, two; K, three; L, three; Headquarters Third Battalion, 12; Company G 135th Infantry, four. The number of prisoners by units follows. [None of the totals in this day's captures match, and are simply given as found in the original.]

- 2 - Hq Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 1st Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division

3 - 2nd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
 3 - 10th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 6 - 11th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 1 - 13th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 1 - 14th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 3 - 15th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 8 - Punishment Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop
 Division
 1 - 1st Company, 11th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
 2 - 2nd Company, 11th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
 9 - 4th Company, 11th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
 3 - Hq Company, 142nd Recon Battalion, 42nd Infantry
 Division
 1 - 1st Company, 142nd Recon Battalion, 42nd Infantry
 Division
 1 - 3rd Company, 142nd Recon Battalion, 42nd Infantry
 Division
 5 - 4th Company, 142nd Recon Battalion, 42nd Infantry
 Division
 1 - 2nd Company, 4th Engineer Battalion

[6 October 1944]

At daybreak 6 October all our troops were meeting ever
 stiffening
 resistance: they did not advance appreciably through the
 night.

Supply and evacuation difficulties had grown in
 severity since
 midnight and became even more critical as the day wore on.
 Rain fell
 almost continuously. Our one attached Company A of the
 109th Engineer
 Combat Battalion was hard pressed to maintain trails
 treacherous even
 under normal conditions. No more engineers were available
 for our use,
 as bad roads were general in this region.

So serious was the situation in our sector, however,
 that at 1430
 hours Division's G-3 formed a provisional engineering

company composed
of all men from the entire division who could be spared
from their usual
duties. This group was to work on the road from Madonna
dei Fornelli
(812160) to La Croci (811202), our attached engineers
taking care of
road maintenance the rest of the way from La Croci to
Monzuno (823247).

Soldiers of the 133rd Infantry fought alone this day
in the entire
rugged sector, for at a suggestion from Division elements
of the 135th
Infantry had not been committed, as previously planned.
Nevertheless,
at the end of this day we had won ground in the face of
strong
opposition on a wide front. The First and Second
Battalions, in
particular, weathered heavy artillery, mortar, self-
propelled and
machine-gun fire besides small arms. The latter unit
experienced a
number of casualties. Among those wounded in the day's
action were
First Lieutenants Turney E. Sharrar, Company K; Stanley J.
Vengen,
Headquarters First Battalion; and Alfred W. Kirchner,
Company E. Second
Lieutenant Harry C. Young, Company B, was killed.

Positions of our forward elements at 2400 hours were
as shown on
Overlay No. 5. A total of 12 prisoners were taken.
Company F got seven
from 2nd Company, 11th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division;
Company G, two
from 2nd Company, ZBV, 7th Battalion[, 4th Paratroop
Division]; and
Company B, one from 1st Company, 10th Regiment, 4th
Paratroop Division.

[7 October 1944]

At 0110 hours 7 October Company B reported that it had
cut the
road at 802269, but had been forced to withdraw because of

friendly
artillery fire falling short. This was lifted and our
troops
immediately returned to the point, establishing a road
block. The
Second Battalion continued to move up the road in the
eastern part of
our sector toward Hill 520. The Third Battalion, Company I
leading,
advanced toward Hill 401 (815275).

Reaching Ca dei Marsarini (825265) at 0630 hours,
Company I
received very heavy small-arms fire from its left, in
addition to heavy
artillery and mortar fire which fell not alone on the Third
Battalion,
but over the entire sector. Hill 520, a German strong-
point, was being
fired upon by our 151st Field Artillery Battalion. The
Second Battalion
was approaching the eminence from the south.

Since dawn the atmosphere had cleared, and enemy
artillery was
very active, the Second Battalion especially undergoing
concentrated
shelling throughout the day. Our men advanced doggedly in
the face of
this fire, and by 1830 hours were able to report that the
strong-point
was safely ours and that they were going ahead.

In the early evening plans were completed for the
relief during
the night of our Second Battalion by the Second Battalion
of the 135th
Infantry. The latter organization was to pass through our
right and
attack northward in the morning. Our own troops were to
persist in
their advance until 2000 hours, than stop and hold and be
relieved in
place. The First and Third Battalions were to continue to
keep pushing.

At 2130 hours The Third Battalion encountered stiff
resistance at

817272. Companies I and L were still locked in a fierce rifle battle an hour later and had captured 19 prisoners.

Overlay No. 6 indicates the position of our troops at midnight.

Twenty-six Axis soldiers were apprehended during the period. Company I took 18; L, one; G, three; E, two; H, one; Headquarters First Battalion, one. Following is the number of prisoners according to outfit.

- 6 - 1st Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 2nd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 3 - 3rd Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 4 - 10th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - 14th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 15th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 2nd Company, Signal Battalion, 4th Paratroop Division
- 1 - 3rd Company, Signal Battalion, 4th Paratroop Division
- 5 - 1st Company, ZBV, 7th Battalion, 4th Paratroop Division
- 2 - 4th Company, ZBV, 7th Battalion, 4th Paratroop Division

[8 October 1944]

A few minutes after midnight, as 8 October began, the Germans launched a small counter-attack against Company I. The raid was kept under control and Companies I and L continued to move slowly forward, meeting determined resistance from enemy shooting from houses along the road. These our men cleared out as they moved ahead. Shortly after 0300 hours the Germans essayed another onslaught, but within an hour Company I repulsed them and once again won control of the situation.

Meanwhile, at 0120 hours, we were notified that our

Second

Battalion had been completely relieved by the 135th Infantry's Second Battalion, and was starting back to its assembly area near 829251.

Firm resistance from the Prato-Bologna road, where the enemy was dug in, was reported by the Third Battalion. Company I, which had been absorbing the brunt of the Germans' fire in this sector became involved in fire fight after fire fight. The troops progressed slowly.

In the late afternoon a platoon of tanks from Company B, 757th Tank Battalion, was sent to our First Battalion. We could have used still more armor, however, as one company of tanks had been detached from us. Our other tanks remained mired in gluey mud, or could not maneuver into forward positions because of impassible trails.

A plan was drawn up in the evening calling for Companies A and C to advance northward up the Prato-Bologna road [now, and perhaps even then, Highway 325], Company C leading. Previously Company B, at a suggestion from the Divisional commander, had started toward the bridge at 795268 with the mission of securing it, seizing ground across the stream for 200 or 300 yards, and holding it until arrival of troops of the 6th South African Division on our left.

At 2140 hours Company B sent word that it was at the bridge and expected to win the high ground to the north within two hours. These new troop dispositions of the First Battalion left its rear unprotected from the left. To remedy this lack Company F, in reserve with its

battalion, emerged and took over positions vacated by the First Battalion.

As midnight loomed, men of the Third Battalion were contesting every inch of ground with a stubborn, frequently fanatical foe. By day's end Company A held two prisoners from 3rd Company, 11th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division, while Company C had captured seven from 15th Company, 10th Regiment, same division.

[9 October 1944]

Over night the situation changed radically in respect to the Third Battalion's opposition. It consisted only of light mortar and assault-gun fire and desultory small-arms resistance as our troops moved forward into 9 October. (see Overlay No. 7 for troop positions at midnight.)

Company C resumed the advance shortly after 2400 hours, followed by Company A. The former met fairly determined resistance, composed of enemy artillery, mortar, self-propelled, machine gun and small arms. By 0630 hours Company I had secured Hill 401. Company L neutralized houses at 815267 and was working around them to the left. The sole opposing fire at this time came from mortars and assault guns.

Communications to the forward elements of the First Battalion were out, but it was learned that they were making progress slowly toward their objective, Vado (814289), situated on the Prato-Bologna highway. At 0900 hours the Third Battalion was receiving a great deal of long-range small-arms fire from that direction.

A plan was now formulated to use both the First and Second Battalions in the advance on Vado. Company C, with one platoon riding on tanks, followed by Company A, was to advance up the highway. Company L was to take over the positions of these units, while Company K would work around to the right through the 135th Infantry's sector, and then head for Vado from the southeast.

That plan was executed insofar as the First Battalion was concerned when it jumped off at 1600 hours. The attack formation: one platoon of infantry, one platoon of tanks carrying infantry, then the balance of the foot troops with tanks, bringing up the rear. In order to avoid the confusion that would ensue should Company K soldiers become mingled with the 135th men, or become engaged by the Germans while in that sector, it was decided to hold back Company K until after 2300 hours, when our sister regiment was scheduled to move out.

Just before midnight Company B troops reported that they had engaged in a fire fight at the bridge (795268) they were endeavoring to secure, and that the Germans facing them were digging in.

Over the 24-hour period Company L took two prisoners, one from 9th Company, 10th Regiment, 4th Paratroop Division, and one from 12th Company. Company F snared one from 15th Company, same regiment and division.

[10 October 1944]

After midnight, on 10 October, our troops continued moving unopposed up the Prato-Bologna highway until the enemy were engaged in

houses along the highway at the 281 northing. Shell craters in the road has compelled the tanks to stay behind.

When the 135th Infantry on our right pushed off at midnight, it almost immediately met heavy resistance from Hill 446. As a result, our Company K could not go through the 135th Infantry's positions as planned without possibly being fired on in the darkness by that regiment's troops. Company K therefore remained in place, intending to move as soon as the 135th gained sufficient ground.

By dawn, however, the 135th Infantry had registered no advance; instead, it was locked in a fire fight with the Germans. Thereupon our Company K was ordered to start forward, keeping to the left of the 135th. By 0745 hours Company K had made reconnaissance forward preparatory to advancing northward. Company C was on the highway at the 281 northing, clearing houses in that area.

In a telephone conversation at this hour, Division's G-3 informed our S-3, Captain Earl W. Ralf, that the regiment would be relieved under cover of darkness during the coming night. That information was relayed to the battalions. They were instructed to leave one staff officer, one officer per company, and one non-commissioned officer per platoon in the line with the new forces for 12 hours after the change had been effected. All our men were to be relieved in place and all our ammunition dumps would be taken over by the incoming troops. The units about to relieve us were the 6th and 14th Armored Infantry Regiments, part of Combat Command "A" [of the 1st Armored Division].

At 1045 hours G-3 again called, stating it was very important that the Regiment take Hill 375 (820282) as soon as possible. Company I was chosen for this mission, for Company K men were unable to advance forward on account of the nature of the terrain, several deep ravines barring their path. After reconnaissance, Company I found a suitable route to the hill and moved ahead.

Company C, meanwhile, was fighting in Ca Valle (813281). Our soldiers were taking prisoners, but had to scour each building before they could advance beyond the village.

At 1830 hours Company I reached the southern slopes of Hill 375. But, like the troops of Company K previously, Company I was now confronted by canyons and abrupt escarpments. It could pursue the enemy no farther along this line. Neither was the terrain favorable for the relief of our men by the armored infantry regiments in the night. It was therefore decided to pull the company back to the 278 northing. There it would be more accessible to the relieving troops.

All preparations were made during the evening for the approaching retirement from the line. By midnight the First and Third Battalions were ready to turn over their sectors to the armored infantry organizations. The Second Battalion, in Regimental reserve, had already started assembling.

Four Axis soldiers were taken prisoner this day: three by Company C, one by Headquarters, Third Battalion.

[11-16 October 1944]

Relief of the Third Battalion was completed by 0135 hours 11 October, of the First by 0415 hours. Our troops moved to assembly areas as shown on Overlay No. 8. At 1400 hours Colonel Braun established his Regimental command post in the hillside hamlet of Vergiano (829200).

On 12 October, the Regiment's second day of Divisional reserve, a three-day mule pack and knot-tying school was begun for mess and supply personnel. The Regimental intelligence and reconnaissance platoon reconnoitered the rest area's road net, reporting all places needing repair.

Although there was no formal training schedule for the four-day reserve period, our soldiers spent their time wisely. They took hot showers at the 34th Division Bathing Unit and Clothing exchange, donned fresh underclothes and uniforms, secured badly needed haircuts, cleaned their equipment, caught up on their correspondence to loved ones at home, ate hot food regularly, refreshed their minds by reading, enjoyed motion pictures and band concerts, and embraced every opportunity to rest and relax in anticipation of their imminent return to combat. On 13 October 35 enlisted men and one duty officer motored to the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence for a five-day stay, while four officers went to the Florence Rest Hotel for the same period. On 14 October the troops were paid.

That same day operational instructions were received from higher headquarters for the Regiment to move to an assembly area east of Highway 65. The Second Battalion arrived in its area at

2300 hours.

Following reconnaissance, a forward party led by Colonel Braun established a Regimental command post at 884258 at 1430 hours 15 October. The First Battalion reached its area at 0245 hours 16 October, the Third at 0430 hours (Refer to Overlay No. 9 for location of assembly areas. Map references: Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 98-1 NE Monterenzio and Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 87-II SE Pianoro.)

After daylight we received orders from Division to move the Regiment forward again to suitable areas and to prepare to attack with one battalion by the morning of 17 October. A night jump-off was suggested.

Company B, 757th Tank Battalion, and one platoon of Company C, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to us for the coming operation. The 151st Field Artillery Battalion again was in direct support of the Regiment.

At 1400 hours Colonel Braun established his Regimental command post at a more forward location, Rantigola (907285). Meanwhile, the Second Battalion began moving to its forward assembly area, near Rantigola, at 1630 hours. During the morning Major Timothy F. Horan, commanding officer of the Second Battalion, and Captain William M. Joost, Regimental S-2, went up in the air observation plane to study the terrain.

The plan of attack was as follows: the Regiment was to attack in a column of battalions initially, Second Battalion spearheading. The First Battalion was to follow closely and be ready to enter

the line on
the right of the Second as soon as Mount Belmonte
(Divisional Objective
2) was taken. The Third Battalion, in Regimental reserve
at La Casona
(905277), was to be prepared to pass through either
battalion on order
of the Regimental commander. Our sector in this operation
lay between
the 91st Infantry Division on the left and the 85th
Infantry Division to
the right. (For detailed information read Operational
Instructions No.
26, this headquarters, with overlay.)

Close air support was extended our troops during the
afternoon,
enemy territory to our immediate front, and Monte Belmonte
being bombed
and strafed again and again by our fighter bombers. The
planes dropped
incendiary and flame-throwing bombs as well as heavy
explosive.

H-hour for the Regimental attack was set for 2000
hours. The
Second Battalion crossed the line of departure, at the 30
northing, on
time. The troops passed through elements of the 363rd
Infantry [91st
Infantry Division] on our left, then cut back northeastward
into our own
sector and headed for Mount Belmonte. The battle formation
initially:
two companies abreast, F on the left, G on the right, E
following.

Although the troops made no physical contact with the
enemy,
hardly had they stepped out for Mount Belmonte when an
intense mortar
and artillery concentration fell on Company F. Captain
James N.
Dickson, the commanding officer, was severely wounded,
dying the same
day upon admittance to the evacuation hospital. While the
company,
which had experienced several other casualties from the

barrage, was
being reorganized, Company E passed through it. First
Lieutenant Ralph
Lager was placed in command of Company F.

At approximately 2200 hours the First Battalion was
ordered to
close up right behind the Second, preparatory to cutting to
the right
and continuing the attack northward, on the right and even
with the
Second.

By midnight our soldiers had not yet come to grips
with the
Germans. Because of the region's wilderness and highly
uneven
topography the troops experienced difficulty in orienting
themselves in
the darkness. During this and subsequent nights numerous
II Corps
searchlights played against the clouds. The diffused
illumination they
afforded, similar to moon light, aided to some degree the
advance of
troops in the Corps sector and helped vehicle drivers
negotiate the
tortuous roads. (Refer to Overlay No. 10 for troop
positions at
midnight.)

[17 October 1944]

The Second Battalioneers, Monte Belmonte bound, pushed
through the
night against withering enemy machine-gun and rifle fire.
By the dawn
of 17 October they were near the crest of Hill 401
(904328), the high
southern portion of the Mount Belmonte ridge. (Map Italy
1:25,000 Sheet
87-II SE Pianoro.) They were, too, at the beginning of a
day of bitter
fighting and grievous losses.

With only a precarious grip on their objective, our
soldiers
endured murderous salvos from enemy tanks supporting German

infantry on
the crest of the hill. The German foot soldiers fought
fanatically at
close range, assaulting from the front, the right, and the
right rear.

Wheel-anchoring mud had prevented our anti-tank guns
from being
brought up to aid our men. Neither could our attached
tanks and tank
destroyers maneuver forward. The 168th Infantry was
apprised of our
situation in the hope that its tank destroyers might be
able to fire
into our sector on the havoc-creating German armor. The
First Battalion
had now pulled up close behind the Second, and was
preparing to advance
in its own sector. The battalion commander, Major
Williams, was ordered
to secure the bridges immediately, set up road blocks, and
then continue
northward.

The plight of the Second Battalion soldiers rapidly
became
desperate. When, shortly before noon, they reported their
suspicion
that the Germans were about to launch a counter-attack in
force
supported by Mark VI tanks and half-tracks, our artillery
was brought
down on the enemy positions. Disastrously for our men, an
enveloping
fog hid the Germans from observation. Under its cover they
pushed so
close to our lines that our artillerymen did not chance
firing close. to
the lines lest the shells prove fatal to our own
infantrymen.

Out of the mist surged the enemy raiders, surprising
and
surrounding advance elements of Company G. The Germans
captured four
officers, well over a score of enlisted men, and inflicted
considerable
casualties. The officers were First Lieutenants James H.

Furey and
Thomas D. Harmon and Second Lieutenants Sidney L. Farr and
Rea W. Orr.
At the time of the attack Captain Allen W. Sudhowt,
commanding Company
E, and 20 soldiers were cut off from their unit by the
enemy. During
the rest of the day our artillery had the effect of pinning
down our own
troops as well as those of the enemy. After nightfall,
their positions
highly insecure, Captain Sudhowt and most of his men
managed to
infiltrate back to the main body of the Second Battalion.
Listed as
"missing in action", however, were Second Lieutenant John
Martin and
First Sergeant Charles A. Beekman.

At the time of the counter-attack Company G was at
902328. It was
the Regimental commander's opinion that it would be
impossible for the
Germans to attack with tanks in any direction but the north
or
northwest, trailwise, for the hill was unsuitable for the
use of tanks
except on trails. Mines were therefore laid to protect our
sector
against armor approaching from those directions. As anti-
tank guns
could not be pulled into position by motor, oxen and block-
and-tackle
were used in an attempt to get them into firing position.

Late in the afternoon Company B, gaining point 907318
after a
fighting advance, received intense mortar and artillery
fire. First
Lieutenant George B. Slater, commanding officer, was killed
and a litter
squad lost. Second Lieutenant James E Von Eper immediately
took
temporary command of the unit. Captain Harold J. Turner
was later
placed in full command.

During the evening a platoon of Company A, 109th

Engineer Combat Battalion, was attached to the Regiment to work on the almost non-existent roads. As in our breakthrough of the Gothic line, not only were we pitted against a powerful adversary, but once again were we confronted with serious problems of supply and evacuation on account of weather and terrain conditions. Steep, precipitous trails turned into treacherous stretches of mud, greatly hindering men and vehicles. Mules had to be resorted to again for hauling supplies. Kitchen staffs and personnel from the Anti-tank and Service Companies were recruited as litter bearers.

At midnight 17 October positions of our troops were as depicted on Overlay No. 11. The Third Battalion was enroute forward between Bigallo (898293) and the front lines. It was to go into action to the right of the Second Battalion, the First entering Regimental reserve.

Three prisoners were bagged over the 24-hour period. Company G caught two from 1st Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division. Anti-tank Company took one from 8th Company, 67th Regiment, 94th Infantry Division.

Appendix "B" to G-2 Intelligence Summary No. 275 of the 34th Division, this date, revealed that during the period 8 September 1944 - 14 October 1944 the 133rd Infantry took 575 prisoners of war.

Thirty-five enlisted personnel and one duty officer were given passes this day for a five-day vacation from combat at the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence.

[18 October 1944]

The Second Battalion, attempting to move forward again at 0400 hours 18 October, at once drew heavy fire, especially from self-propelled weapons to its right and right rear. By that hour the Third Battalion was directly behind the Second and about to cross eastward to come even with that unit. The First Battalion had occupied the high ground north of Zena River. There it remained in reserve, at the same time securing bridges and road blocks in the area.

Dense fog made visibility exceedingly poor the greater part of the day. The attacking battalions encountered formidable resistance, featured by 170 mm guns, mortars, self-propelled and machine guns and small arms. They could gain no ground against the relentless opposition. German Mark VI tanks were observed at various points. Enemy strongpoints were reported at 906316 (Castel di Zena), 901321, and several other points.

At noon hostile infantry movement was detected at Hill 368 (908328) and armored vehicles were heard moving at the same spot. To preclude the possibility of another counter-attack, intense mortar and artillery fire were concentrated on that coordinate. The barrage apparently was effective, for nothing further developed.

It became evident at 1500 hours that our operations this day had bogged down. Our forward elements were unable to orient themselves in the wild country, reporting their positions as further ahead than they actually were. It was consequently decided to hold the troops in place,

resupply, reorganize, and launch an attack at 2200 hours on Mount Belmonte.

A coordinated plan had been drawn up, employing the Second and Third Battalions against Hills 401 (904328) and 368 (906328), respectively, when the Regimental commander received orders from the Divisional commander at 1600 hours to make a night attack and seize, occupy and hold Castel di Zena. This hilltop stronghold was in [the] possession of a large number of enemy fortified by armor. Heavy fire against our troops was continuous from this strongpoint. Second Lieutenant Sidney Goldstein, a Company A platoon leader, was wounded in the day's fighting.

The First Battalion, advancing on a two-company front, was to be sent on the mission. As the Regiment would then lack a reserve unit, the battalion was to go back into reserve as soon as the castle was taken.

The First jumped off on time, at 2020 hours, with Company A on the right, Company B on the left. At 2330 hours, the Second Battalion having completed resupplying its companies, both it and the Third moved out. At 2400 hours, latest reports placed the troops in positions shown on Overlay No. 12.

The prisoner of war report for the day credited Companies F and G with one captive each. The enemy were from the 1st and 6th Companies, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[19 October 1944]

Radio messages from the battalions between midnight and daybreak of 19 October indicated that they were progressing slightly in the face of powerful, sustained resistance. An extremely active enemy was using a very heavy caliber artillery with devastating effect, in addition to mortar, machine gun and small arms. Our gain in most instances was from 200 to 300 yards.

At 0800 hours the First Battalion reported a great volume of hostile fire from the vicinity of its objective, Zena Castle. This resistance, never slackening in fury through the day, succeeded in blocking the repeated attempts of our troops to advance. The volume of mortar and artillery fire from the fortress equaled that which we directed on it. Engulfing mud and the cut-up terrain were added serious obstacles to our progress.

Work on the roads leading to the front lines was speeded up in an effort to make them passable for anti-tank guns and armor. By mid-morning the guns were only as far up as Bigallo (898293 - May Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 98-I NE Monterenzio). As it became clear that the roads would not be ready by nightfall for the armor to move up, plans were laid to use them in conjunction with our Cannon Company, furnishing indirect fire during the night.

At 1800 hours a terrific enemy artillery and mortar barrage fell on Companies K and L, killing First Lieutenant Emmanuel Nathan, commanding Company K, and wounding First Lieutenant Richard D. Johnson of Company L. German tanks then rushed up to within 100 yards of our

troops and fired directly into their positions. The companies suffered heavy casualties and scattered, but were soon reorganized. Company I, meanwhile, commanded by Captain Harvey J. Brodsky, wiped out two machine guns and took two prisoners on the road to Casa Trieste. Without armored support, however, the unit could not hold the ground won, and by morning had returned to its starting point at 894315.

German resistance this day and the preceding night was greater than at any other time in recent operations. We sent barrage after barrage of artillery over the lines, but the enemy returned round for round.

In the afternoon one platoon of Company A, 804th Chemical Mortar Battalion, had been attached to the Regiment, with orders to go into position near Zenarella (907300). By early evening a platoon of guns from our Anti-Tank Company had been worked up as far as Querceta (894306).

As soon as their men were supplied, at 2330 hours, the Second and Third Battalions attacked in unison. Immediately they engaged the enemy in sharp exchanges of machine-gun and small-arms fire. Second Lieutenant Meyer Kasten, a Company B platoon leader, was listed as missing in action this day. Our positions at midnight are shown on Overlay No. 13. Companies E and L each caught two Axis soldiers in the day's operations. Two of the prisoners belonged to 3rd Company, two to 4th Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[20 October 1944]

Violent, heightened opposition was encountered by our troops throughout the 24 hours of 20 October. All our attempts to win Zena Castle failed. The battle-scarred soldiers engaged the Germans continually in furious fire fights, often at hand-grenade range. Bitterly our men fought against numerous, cunningly placed machine guns. German tanks were exceptionally active, as were their assault guns. The 133rd Infantry was combatting possibly the greatest German artillery and mortar strength yet massed against any portion of the Fifth Army front in the Italian campaign.

By nightfall trails were still not in condition for use by our armor, so activity of our Second and Third Battalions was confined to reconnaissance and combat patrolling in the hours of darkness. During the night the First Battalioneers again endeavored to seize Castel di Zena from the south. They reached a point 400 yards from the fortress before they were beaten back by the entrenched German defenders.

For positions of our troops at midnight refer to Overlay No. 14. In the last 24 hours only two prisoners were captured, both by Company I. Their unit was the 4th Company, 129th Reconnaissance Battalion, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[21 October 1944]

Early on the morning of 21 October a plan was formulated to attack Zena Castle following the firing of white phosphorus by our Cannon Company, the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, and our attached platoon of Company A, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion. The assault

began at 1015
hours, Company C leading, B in its wake.

Company C was very near its objective when friendly aircraft, flying a mission with their target 3000 yards to the front of the castle, dropped bombs in and around the fortress. The bombs inflicted casualties on some of our men. Information given to us later revealed that the target of the planes was to have been marked with white and violet smoke. Presumably several fliers had mistaken the smoke from our white phosphorus for the smoke marking our target.

As a result of this mishap Company C became slightly disorganized. Company B was sent in immediately to take the castle. It accomplished this important mission with dispatch, seizing the objective at 1215 hours. The Second Battalion, in the meantime, occupied houses at Casa Trieste, Casa Ghisia, and San Giorgio, taking several prisoners.

In the afternoon an attack for the following morning, with important Mount Belmonte again the objective, was planned. (For details see Operational Instructions No. 27, this headquarters, with overlay.) As all three battalions were committed, Companies B and C were withdrawn from Castel di Zena and placed in reserve. Company A took their place. Every effort was exerted to get armor to the front for the coming attack. Partial success had been achieved by late evening, six tanks being in position to support the infantry, three tank destroyers ready to furnish anti-tank protection.

At midnight positions of our troops were as shown on Overlay No.

15. Among those wounded during the day was Second Lieutenant James J. Hallal of Company K.

To the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence went 36 enlisted men this day for a five-day respite from action.

Over the 24-hour period 14 Axis soldiers were apprehended, 11 by Company E, two by B, one by A. Prisoners and their units were: one, 15th Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division; two, 4th Company, 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division. [The other Axis unit(s) were not identified in the history.]

[22 October 1944]

At 0600 hours 22 October, after our troops had maintained patrol pressure on the enemy through the night, the Third Battalion resumed its Drive toward Mount Belmonte. The attack made some progress in the face of stubborn resistance, our soldiers advancing slowly against varied artillery and small-arms fire.

Company L, in the lead, was held up for some time by anti-personnel minefields at 905325, as were the escorting tanks by anti-tank fields in the same vicinity. To aid the advance of our soldiers, our attached chemical mortarmen heavily smoke-screened the area running generally northeast from Casa Comino (902326) to the crest of Hill 401, high point of the Belmonte feature. Among those wounded in the day's fighting were First Lieutenant Charles R. Pettijohn, commanding Company K, and Second Lieutenants Raymond C. Semerly of Company G and Lyle E. Dallman of the Medical Detachment. First Lieutenant Wilmer C. Cooling became commanding officer of

Company K.

Higher headquarters instructed us during the evening to be prepared to relieve one battalion of the 363rd Infantry [91st Infantry Division], the unit on our left flank, the night of 23-24 October. On the night of 24-25 October we would relieve another battalion of the same regiment.

Plans to take over their sector were initiated at once, calling for the replacement of the two battalions by two companies of this Regiment.

The road network in the Regiment's sector is shown on Overlay No.

16. Positions of our troops at midnight were as shown on Overlay No.

17. Throughout the night to dawn they forged ahead steadily albeit slowly against sustained fire of every kind and hindering minefields.

One prisoner was taken, Company K getting him from 1st Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[23 October 1944]

Daybreak of 23 October found Company L clearing mines, Company I protecting the left flank, Company K spearheading the attack. An initial artillery preparation blanketed the enemy's main line of resistance and then our troops followed a creeping barrage toward Mount Belmonte. Heavy hostile fire of all types fell on the companies as they doggedly advanced. Company L reported coming on a new type mine, described as being four inches wide, five inches thick, 36 inches long, and marked "R-43".

At this time our armor support consisted of about one tank per company and only two tank destroyers. Enormous labor had to be expended on route maintenance in order to get armor to the front over the weakening, muddy trails and through overflowing creeks and streams.

On account of the very great importance of the Belmonte feature to the Fifth Army scheme of maneuver, every effort was to be made this day to win the objective. Staggered frequently by the Germans' powerful blows, the Third Battalioneers nevertheless pushed relentlessly forward with ever increasing momentum.

At 0815 hours Company I called for a 10-minute pre-assault artillery concentration on its objective, houses at 897328, on the western slope of Mount Belmonte. Forty-five minutes later the company reported, "Objective taken". Company K swept up the crest of Belmonte's peak, Hill 401. Immediately Company E was ordered to move forward to help secure this vital objective bindingly. Company K continued to clear the hill of enemy, rounding up 39 prisoners in the process. All the companies consolidated their gains, and at 1645 hours it was officially reported to Division that Mount Belmonte was in our hands and secure. Among the day's casualties were First Lieutenant Wilbur G. Brown of Company K and Second Lieutenant Ray J. Fritz of Company I, both wounded.

As Mount Belmonte was so important to Fifth Army's tactical plans, Colonel Braun employed every measure to assure its retention by his 133rd Infantry troops in the event of a German counter-

attack in the night. Anti-tank protection was arranged and mines were laid on possible avenues of approach for hostile armor (see Overlay No. 18, Map Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 87-II SE Pianoro). Artillery defensive fires were projected, with seven battalions of artillery placed at our disposal.

In the evening the Third Battalion dug in on the reverse slope of Hill 401 extending southward to Casa Comino. The men had fought valiantly all day long and welcomed the opportunity to stop for the night. In a telephone call Colonel Braun commended Lieutenant-Colonel Frank H. Reagan, Third Battalion commander, on the "good job" he and his troops had done that day.

The Second Battalion closed up behind the Third preparatory to passing through its left in the morning. At daybreak the attack was to continue northward with two battalions abreast.

By 2245 hours elements of the First Battalion had completed the relief of the 363rd Infantry's First Battalion. Our Company A was relieved at Zena Castle by elements of the 168th Infantry. At midnight positions of our soldiers were as outlined on Overlay No. 19.

Company K's 39 prisoners, the total for the day, came from the following enemy units: 12 from 2nd Company; five, 3rd Company; five, 4th Company; seven, 9th Company; two, 15th Company; two, Headquarters, First Battalion; all of the 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division. Six were evacuated by our Medical Detachment.

Four officers motored to the Florence Rest Hotel this

day for a
brief "vacation".

[24 October 1944]

No counter-attack transpired during the night and our troops resumed their advance shortly after dawn on 24 October. Throughout the day and well into the night they fought against mounting resistance, over the roughest kind of terrain and though hampering minefields. Despite these obstacles our soldiers gained some ground and Company L took 14 prisoners. First Lieutenant Cletus H. Willkom was among those wounded in the day's action.

The Regiment's immediate goal now was the capture of the entire Mount Belmont hill mass, after which all indications pointed to a change from offensive to holding tactics.

Visibility became poorer as the day wore on. Roads were in deplorable shape, muddy and slick. As always under such circumstances, matters of supply, evacuation and communication were difficult of solution. Removal of the wounded from the field of battle was becoming a particularly grave problem. The Anti-tank Company men who had been litter-bearing were now needed to man their guns, and all surplus Service Company and kitchen train personnel were already engaged in that merciful task.

In the afternoon of this day the Regimental command post shuttled to a new location, opening headquarters at Casola (894295 - Map Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 98-I NE Monterenzio) at 1500 hours. Company A completed its scheduled relief of the Third Battalion of the 363rd

Infantry just
before midnight.

Overlay No. 20 shows the position of our troops at the close of the 24-hour period. A unit breakdown of Company L's prisoners places three in 1st Company, two in 3rd, one in 4th, two in 6th, and six in 15th Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[25 October 1944]

German artillery activity demonstrated a definite rise at the advent of daybreak 25 October, at which time the Third Battalion resumed its advance. Company G had gained some 400 yards during the night. Strong enemy opposition slowed the troops, as did the wet, soft earth. Hostile small-arms fire varied in intensity this rainy, misty day, but artillery, mortar, and self-propelled gun fire was uniformly heavy throughout the sector. At 1000 hours Company I was within 100 yards of its objective, part of the Belmonte mass at 908334, when a concerted shelling by German tanks forced our men back some 200 yards. The rest of the day they repeatedly attempted to push ahead, supported by fire from Company L.

Our troops reported the appearance of a new type of nebelwerfer (multi-barreled mortar), or possibly a new type rocket shell. The German missile was described as akin to the nebelwerfer in that the shell had a great concussionary effect, but not a large fragment dispersal. In flight, the shell produced more of a coughing than a screaming sound, in that respect being unlike the nebelwerfer, or

"screaming meemie".

Captain Richard T. Kilpatrick, commander of Company L, was wounded in the day's operations. First Lieutenant Leo D. Dyer was placed in charge of the company.

Company G captured the five enemy taken during this period. Two were from 3rd Company, 129th Reconnaissance Battalion, one from 1st Company, 71st Regiment, both of 29th Panzer Grenadier Division, and one was evacuated. See Overlay No. 21 for troop dispositions at 2400 hours.

Five members of the 92nd Infantry Division, two officers and three enlisted men, arrived this day to observe the 133rd Regiment's combat methods. Thirty-six of our enlisted men, accompanied by an officer, traveled to Florence for a short stay at the Fifth Army Rest Center there.

[26 October 1944]

Extensive close-in security patrolling was carried out through the night in a steady rain which was to continue uninterruptedly day and night for the remainder of the month. At 0430 hours 26 October Company I took up the attack again, occupying the knoll at 908333 and sending a combat patrol toward the church northeast of Gorgognano (910334 - Map Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 87-II SE Pianoro), as did Company L. Both patrols were forced to withdraw in the face of heavy fire of all types, but not before bagging several prisoners. Second Lieutenant Vance B. Ingram, Company I platoon leader was wounded.

The rain turned into a steady downpour. Torrents of

water washed
over roads and trails, making all routes practically
impassable.
Administrative units of the Regiment as well as front-line
outfits were
victims of the wretched weather. Illustrative was the
experience of the
Regimental S-1 section. In a matter of minutes their
tents, situated on
low, soggy ground at Fornace (902277 - Map Italy 1:25,000
Sheet 98-I NE
Monterenzio), were flooded to a depth of a foot.
Regimental Adjutant
Captain Donald L. Nability and his personnel hauled by hand
all their
personal and sectional equipment, including canvas, to
higher ground 200
yards away. Vehicles in the area either were mired or
awaiting repairs,
predicaments which prevailed generally in our sector.

At 1930 hours it was reported that a Company G
outpost, attacked
by a superior force of enemy, had been forced to withdraw
from buildings
at 898332, northwest of Mount Belmonte. Our outpost drew
back in good
order, with no casualties, bringing three captives with
them. Artillery
was brought down immediately on the houses. It was planned
to harass
this point all night and send a force out at dawn to retake
the
buildings.

Troop dispositions at the end of the period are
outlined on
Overlay No. 22. Seventeen enemy soldiers were captured
during the day,
Company G getting eight; L, five; I, four. Two prisoners
belonged to
4th Company, five to 7th Company and five to 11th Company,
71st
Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division. Three were from
6th Company,
two from 15th Company, 15th Regiment, same division.

[27 October 1944]

The front was relatively quiet during the hours of darkness, except for enemy harassing artillery fire and scattered machine-gun fire across the entire sector. Rain drizzled steadily through a dense fog. A thick mist at dawn of 27 October continued to render visibility zero. Our troops maintained pressure on an alert enemy throughout the day. The Third Battalion met resistance in the form of concentrated machine-gun and self-propelled fire from the vicinity of the Gorgognano church. Enemy mortar and artillery fire, the battalion reported, was heavier than ever this day. The Germans' volume of fire was, in fact, greater than our own supporting fire.

Company G attempted to recapture the houses at 898332 which its outpost had had to relinquish the night before. Our soldiers engaged in a violent fire fight with Germans in a building at that point, finally being compelled to pull back slightly.

After our men withdrew, leaving an outpost near the house, a German tank appeared and opened fire on the structure. Apparently its crew believed that the building was now held by us. Some enemy ran out in great disorder. Our artillery at once bore down on the house and tank with effect. However, an estimated 40 Germans remained in the house. Our men received heavy fire from that point and from the northeast every time they tried to advance. Company C received considerable mortar and assault-gun fire at 892395 and First Lieutenant Harry W. Raypole was wounded.

Positions of our troops were the same at the end of

the day as they were the previous midnight, no ground having been gained.

In the last four days of October the Regiment remained in a largely defensive position, keeping contact with the hostile forces, and constraining them by means of alert reconnaissance and aggressive combat patrolling. The front was comparatively quiet during this period, although the Regiment's rear areas, especially across Highway 65, were shelled constantly by the enemy.

Rain and mud continued to constitute twin threats to movement and communication. As previously, rations often had to be hand-carried up and over slithery trails too treacherous even for mules.

[28-30 October 1944]

Between dusk and midnight of 28 October the Third Battalion was relieved, going into Regimental reserve around Sassi (894290) and Bigallo. The First and Second Battalions and elements of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop displaced to the right to take over the Third's sector (see Operational Instructions No. 28, this headquarters). For troop locations at midnight refer to Overlay No. 23.

A prisoner taken on the twenty-eighth identified a hitherto unknown enemy unit on this front, the 65th Infantry Division, although the Regiment had fought against it on other fronts. Prisoner of war count for the day was seven. Company L got four from 8th Company, 15th Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division; Company I one each from 4th and 10th Companies of the same regiment and division; and Company K one

from 5th Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division.

On the afternoon of the 29th of October the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, which had been screening from the left, was attached to the Regiment for the protection of our left flank.

Company A took the day's total of three prisoners. Two were from the 1st Company, 142nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division; one from 6th Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division. At midnight the positions of our troops were the same as the night before.

Thirty-five enlisted men from the Third Battalion went to the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence for five days' relaxation.

Late in the evening of 30 October two Company F patrols, engaged by the enemy, withdrew intact with one prisoner from 10th Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division. Other patrols contacted hostile forces in the night, but did not engage them in combat. During the evening two platoons of Company A were relieved in place by elements of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. (See Overlay No. 24.) Positions of all other units remained the same.

This day Lieutenant-Colonel Reagan, Third Battalion commander, was evacuated on account of illness. Lieutenant-Colonel Sarratt T. Hames, Regimental executive officer, assumed command of the battalion.

[31 October 1944]

During the pre-dawn hours of 31 October there was a degree of

enemy infantry activity on the extreme left flank in front of elements of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Artillery was directed on the draw running from northeast[?] to southwest to their front and small-arms fire was exchanged. The enemy movement was broken up and nothing further developed. We continued heavy harassing fire, however.

Plans were instituted in the morning for another attack on the church near Gorgognano (see Operational Instructions No. 29, this headquarters). Company L, in Regimental reserve with its battalion, was to be employed for the operation. The troops were to cross the line of departure at 0430 hours, 1 November, having established an observation post in the castle at Zena.

The second Battalion was to support the attack with mortar fire. Communication was arranged between our attached tank unit and those of the 168th Infantry on our right, so that they might also support the attack by direct fire on the church-strongpoint. Company E was to be prepared to take over the church area and hold it with one platoon after it had been won.

At midnight, all positions were unchanged, except that of Company L, sent forward from its rear assembly area.

As the month ended the weather was as inimical as ever to our operations. Rain was falling torrentially and roads were in an altogether wretched condition.

[Summary]

During the month of October four enlisted men received

combat promotions to second lieutenant. They were Staff Sergeants Joseph E. Dennis, Warren B. Finger and Richard C. Reitler, and Sergeant Everett G. Horne.

Nine officers of the Regiment received appointments from second lieutenant to first lieutenant. They were Wilmer C. Cooling, William Fruehling, James A. Gray, Arthur S. Meli, Thomas C. Moss, Charles W. Seebeck, Oliver P. Watson, Cletus H. Willkom, and James E. Roskelly.

First Lieutenants Cleo W. Buxton and Richard T. Kilpatrick received captaincy appointments.

On 31 October, at an informal ceremony, Major-General Charles L. Bolte, commanding general of the 34th Division, presented one Silver Star, 16 Bronze Stars, and a Division Citation to members of the Regiment.

Twenty-three enlisted men and three officers left the Regiment for temporary duty in the United States this month, while 26 enlisted personnel and two officers went to the United States on rotation.

So the 133rd Infantry Regiment [ended] the month of October, 1944. For 31 days of almost continuous rainfall our troops fought successfully a bold and well armed enemy, amidst hindering mud and tiring mountains.

Not only was the 133rd Infantry pitted against the elements, the terrain and the battlewise German foot soldiers, but our troops also had to contend with possibly the most formidable artillery and mortar

strength yet arrayed against any portion of the Fifth Army front in the Italian campaign. The Germans did not merely match our shells round for round: often they exceeded our shelling in volume.

Our sector was practically devoid of even fair routes in good weather. The abnormally poor weather in October made existing roads and trails impassable most of the period. The [report of] vehicles wrecked or mired mounted daily. Mule trains did yeoman service, but even they could not cope with steep, slippery stretches, so rations and ammunition frequently had to be arduously hand-carried. The highly unfavorable weather and terrain also posed grave problems in respect to the evacuation of the wounded and to wire communications.

The engineers who labored mightily in keeping all possible routes and bridges open despite earth-weakening rainfall and overflowing creeks and streams; the indefatigable "medics" and litter-bearers who braved enemy fire and the worst of weather time and again on their errands of mercy; the wiremen whom enemy shelling could not prevent from repairing vital lines; the mechanics who kept our vehicles operating as well as they did; the drivers and supply personnel who, under the most adverse conditions, furnished our front-line soldiers with food and clothing and ammunition - all the men behind the fighting men played an important, indispensable role in the advances of the month.

But the very greatest measure of credit for our victories goes perforce to the men who fought it out and sweat it out "up front". Through miring mud and driving rain they battled forward slowly but

relentlessly against a fierce, often fanatical adversary.
The ground we
won, we won dearly - our casualties were high - but we
pushed the enemy
back irrevocably and so did our part in bringing a
victorious peace
nearer for those who live on.

What our brave soldiers endured to achieve their
successes can
perhaps be best appreciated in the light of the following
cold but
graphic figures:

During the month the Regiment suffered 709 casualties,
the
greatest in our history. Of those, 126 were killed in
action, 157
missing, and 426 wounded. Five officers lost their lives,
six were
listed as missing in action, and 20 were wounded.

On 1 October the Regiment had an effective strength of
165
officers, five warrant officers, and 3234 enlisted men. On
31 October
we had an effective strength of 149 officers, six warrant
officers, and
2675 enlisted men. During the month we received seven
officers, one
warrant officer, and 177 enlisted men as replacements.
Thus our
strength experienced a drop of 574 men.

As of 31 October 1944 the 133rd Infantry had been
overseas two
years, nine months, and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Donald L. Nabity
DONALD L. NABITY
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944, inclusive.

As November, 1944, began on the American Fifth Army front in Italy, troops of the 133rd Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division were continuing the alert reconnaissance and vigorous patrolling that had characterized their operations since the latter days of October. At that time the Regiment had gone into a defensive position after a period of violent fighting during which it achieved significant victories - notably the capture of strategic Monte Belmonte - against a trinity of hostility: an aggressive enemy who inflicted on us the greatest number of casualties in our history, rainy weather which hampered our observation, and muddy terrain which slowed our movement.

Now we were boldly probing the Germans' defenses, determinedly consolidating our gains, and constantly renewing our strength in preparation for future offensive operations.

[1 November 1944]

At 0430 hours 1 November Company L crossed its line of departure, attacking toward the church at Gorgognano (913333 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro). Refer to October history for attack plans, in Operational Instructions No. 29. The church, in which a strong force of heavily armed Germans was entrenched, was situated on Hill 367, about 1,000 yards northeast of Monte Belmonte (904328 - same map reference as above). Fire from this strongpoint had been directed on our troops continuously. Wholly unsuccessful had been our repeated attempts to

capture the stronghold, which was well defended by machine-guns and surrounding minefields and barbed-wire entanglements.

Harassed by enemy mortar and artillery, Company L forged ahead steadily until the leading elements were but 50 yards from their objective. Then, suddenly, a terrific concentration of enemy artillery and mortar shells fell on them, augmented by heavy machine-gun and small-arms fire. This multi-barreled barrage effectively broke up our formation, the company withdrawing in confusion to the vicinity of Hill 368 (908328), east of Monte Belmonte. Another attack was planned for later in the morning, but was abandoned when it was decided that the unit was still too disorganized from the shelling to continue the assault. A platoon of Company E was attached temporarily to Company L in order to strengthen the latter group.

During the course of the day some 40 Axis soldiers surrendered to elements of the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division. The prisoners came from the church-strongpoint which had been Company L's objective. They said that there were more men at the church who wished to give up, and would, if a means of safely contacting our troops could be effected. Thereupon, at 1730 hours, a Company L combat patrol left its area to attempt contact. A German speaker accompanied the patrol. However, as the patrol approached the enemy's outpost line near the trail junction at 911333, 200 yards south of the church hill, our men received very heavy mortar and machine-gun fire, and were forced to return.

Shortly after midnight the scheduled relief of the

Second

Battalion by the Third was completed, units being in position as shown of Overlay No. 1.

This day First Lieutenants Fain E. Fairbanks and James M. Fletcher departed for five days' attachment to the 15th Air Force as observers.

One 15th Air Force officer arrived at the Regiment to observe infantry combat procedures over the same period.

[2 November 1944]

The front was quiet through the hours of darkness, only patrol activity, both friendly and hostile, being engaged in. It rained heavily throughout a chilly 2 November. The Regiment remained on the defensive, the First Battalion, in conjunction with the attached 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, protecting the Division's left flank. Work on defensive positions continued. Rations were being brought up to our men in the lines by oxen over the mud-covered trails. Mule trains hauled ammunition to the guns.

Reconnaissance parties from Company A of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion arrived in our sector during the day, preparatory to relieving our attached platoon of Company A, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion. The change was scheduled for the coming night. Two Axis soldiers were taken by patrols of the Reconnaissance Troop. The prisoners' unit was 2nd Company, 146th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division.

Late in the evening Annex "A" to Operational Instructions No. 29 was issued by the Regiment concerning defensive measures to be instituted by the reserve battalion. At midnight,

positions of our
troops remained unchanged.

Paid this day were members of the Second Battalion,
and Regimental
Headquarters, Cannon and Service Companies. Forty-six
enlisted men and
one duty officer from the Second Battalion traveled to the
Fifth Army
Rest Camp in Florence for a five-day stay. Four officers
of the same
battalion went to the Hotel Excelsior in Florence.

[3 November 1944]

The period of 3 November opened quietly, a few
shelling reports
coming from our observation posts and the battalions.
Three patrols had
been planned for the night, but the Third Battalion
dispatched an
additional one from Company I, whose assignment was to make
contact
between two widely separated platoons of that unit. This
patrol,
consisting of three enlisted men, surprised an enemy
outpost and
captured the two Germans manning it. While our soldiers
were returning
with their quarry, a mortar shell landed and exploded in
their midst,
wounding two of our men but leaving the prisoners unharmed.
Almost
simultaneously, the other member of the patrol stepped on
an
anti-personnel mine and suffered a serious wound. Again
the Germans
remained untouched, and seized the opportunity to escape.
The three
Company I men were evacuated through our medical channels.

The other patrols, instructed to reconnoiter enemy
positions and
to determine the condition of roads and trails for possible
use by
armor, in two cases reported running into machine-gun fire
before
reaching their goal, in the third encountering similar fire

beyond the
patrol objective.

During the night harassing fire was directed into
enemy territory
by our .50 caliber machine-guns.

Dawn of 3 November was accompanied by rain and ground
fog. It had
not rained in the hours of darkness, consequently some of
the roads,
although in poor shape, were passable to peeps.

At 0855 hours the First Battalion reported a self-
propelled gun
firing into its sector, and requested tank destroyer fire
to knock it
out. However, as there were no tank destroyers in position
to fire on
the gun's suspected location, our Anti-Tank Company,
supporting the
First Battalion, was alerted to be on the watch for it.

The Third Battalion was planning another attack on the
Gorgognano
church, jump-off time was set at 2230 hours. The plan,
approved by
Colonel Gustav J. Brain, Regimental commanding officer, was
as follows:
Company I to attack the knob 400 yards northwest of the
church, two
 platoons of Company K to assault and seize the church and
cemetery to
the rear. Company L was to take over Company K's positions
so as to
leave the latter unit intact. In order to facilitate and
supplement
communications, the following flare signals were to be
employed:
defensive fires for Company K, one amber cluster; on
objective, one
green cluster; raise artillery fire; one white cluster or
parachute.

Captain William M. Joost, Regimental S-2, prepared
patrol plans
for the night, the units involved being the 34th Cavalry
Reconnaissance

Troop and our Company C. The patrols were to reconnoiter for enemy the trails and draws to the northwest, and to ascertain their suitability as possible routes of advance.

At 1550 hours Divisional G-3 telephoned, advising us to be prepared for a new main line of resistance to include the church at Gorgognano. This new sector was to be developed with mines and barbed wire, and we were to be ready to build 12-man shelters. Complete execution of these plans depended on the success of the Third Battalion's coming attack.

Just at dusk our supporting element of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion observed considerable enemy around the church, so they shot direct fire at them. Artillery was also placed on the area. At 2155 hours Company A of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion belatedly reported that its platoon was in position to fire, but that its ammunition was limited on account of difficulty in bringing it up. Captain Earl W. Ralf, Regimental S-3, ordered that every effort be exerted to get the shells to the mortars.

At 2240 hours the patrol of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop returned with the information that trails were narrow and muddy, and that artillery was bursting over the town of Barchetta (888328), 1,200 yards west of Monte Belmonte. The patrol encountered no enemy.

The Third Battalion reported that at 2200 hours its attacking troops had left their company areas between Hills 368 and Casa Trieste (896325), south of Monte Belmonte. The next report, at

2335 hours,
revealed that although our men were absorbing persistent
machine-gun and
mortar fire, they were moving forward steadily. The period
closed with
our troops assailing a stubbornly resisting foe who
nevertheless was not
stemming our advance. Positions of our units were
unchanged, except for
the attacking elements. (See Overlay No. 2 for enemy
dispositions as of
3 November. Map reference: 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE
Pianoro. Pertinent
to the overlay is memorandum dated 3 November, Subject,
"The Enemy
Situation".)

Three enlisted men were sent to a NATOUSA [North
African Theater
of Operations, United States Army] signal school this day.

[4 November 1944]

On 4 November, in the hours closely following
midnight, there was
a great deal of enemy flare activity. In the Third
Battalion's sector,
immediately after a German white flare arose, an intense
artillery
barrage from hostile guns landed at the rate of
approximately three
rounds every minute for ten minutes. An enemy searchlight,
used as a
blinker, also was observed.

A report from Third Battalion headquarters at 0220
hours placed
Company K near its objective, but the troops were locked in
a fierce
struggle marked by close-in fighting with hand grenades.
At 0430 hours
Company I was on its objective at 908335, about 500 yards
northwest of
the church. Our men had taken four prisoners after a sharp
fire fight,
were well organized, and were prepared to hold the ground
won.

Company K, after having engaged the Germans almost continuously for five furious hours, at one time pushing close enough to the church to fire rifle grenades into it, had been compelled to withdraw by blast after blast from assault guns and mortars. With two prisoners of war in tow, our valiant but battle-spent soldiers returned to their initial positions. They told of having seen many Germans around the church, victims apparently of our shelling.

At daylight visibility was limited but, although our troops had disengaged, hostile machine-gun fire continued to be heavy, as did harassing artillery and mortar.

The First Battalion, which had not participated in the attack toward the church, had patrolled aggressively through the night and harassed the enemy with mortars and .50 caliber machine guns.

During the day work was carried on in improving established positions and constructing new ones. Overhead shelters were built, reinforced with sandbags and timber. Firm gun emplacements were erected. Gaps in the line were to be closed up with protective wire and mines. Plans were instituted also for the relief in place of the First Battalion by the reserve battalion, the Second. The relief was to take effect the night of 5-6 November.

In the afternoon we received an operational memorandum from higher headquarters concerning the relief of the entire Regiment on 11 November. We were scheduled to enter a rest and training area for approximately nine days. (Refer to Operational Memorandum

No. 1, this
headquarters, dated 7 November.)

Early in the evening an enemy plane strafed in our rear areas. At midnight the weather was clear, as it had been for the past 48 hours, and as it was to be for the remainder of our operations in this region for the month. Roads in the sector had already improved appreciably.

Positions of our troops at 2400 hours were as shown on Overlay No.

3. Seven Axis soldiers were apprehended during the day, four by Company I, two by Company K, and one by Company C. One prisoner belonged to 1st Company, two to 5th, three to 10th and one to 11th Company, all of 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

[5 November 1944]

Other than the usual shelling reports, from midnight to dawn of 5 January the front-line units had little to report in the way of hostile activity. A eight-man Company C patrol, whose mission had been to knock out a machine-gun nest located at 898335, about 1,000 yards northwest of Monte Belmonte, returned at 0525 hours. The men had been stopped and prevented from accomplishing their assignment by heavy mortar and artillery fire. Repeatedly they had attempted to plunge ahead, but as repeatedly were forced back.

A 10-man Company K patrol had had the mission of contacting Company I, then to proceed to the house at Casa Sevizzano (904336), 1,000 yards northwest of Gorgognano, and capture or kill any enemy in the building. This patrol, too, was unsuccessful: machine-gun

resistance from the point was vicious and persistent even after our men returned intense fire.

During most of this clear, sunny day there was little enemy activity. The Germans continued their customary daylight artillery program. Its scale was somewhat reduced, perhaps because our air observer was on the job searching for enemy gun positions.

At dusk our adversaries stepped up their artillery shelling. The road running from Casa Trieste to the Gorgognano church received a heavy concentration, as did the area in the neighborhood of the Regimental command post at Casola (895295 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio). One shell scored a direct hit on the First Battalion rear command post at Ca di Bortignano (882299 - same map reference as above). One man was slightly wounded, most of the personnel having left the building 20 minutes before, bound for the Regimental reserve area near Sassi (894290 - same map reference as above).

At 2345 hours a patrol from the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop reported in. Its mission, beginning at 1930 hours, had been to reconnoiter northeastward to Hill 361, 1,700 yards southwest of Monte Belmonte, and then 400 yards further to point 887327, near Barchetta. The soldiers ran into machine-gun and mortar fire, but persisted in their observation for more than an hour, and heard vehicular movement near Zula (884333), 2,000 yards west of Monte Belmonte.

The First Battalion, relieved in place by the Second Battalion after dark, moved into pyramidal tents at Sassi. The area was mud-ridden and the weather was cold, but the tents were

equipped with
stoves, three hot meals a day were served, and the soldiers
enjoyed
motion pictures in the afternoons. During the four-day
reserve period
the men received beer and other canteen rations and
Thanksgiving cards,
took hot showers at a nearby bath unit and clothing
exchange, and
cleaned their equipment. Positions of all our troops at
2400 hours are
outlined on Overlay No. 4.

At a simple field ceremony near Sassi this day, Major-
General
Charles L. Bolte, commanding general of the 34th Division,
presented six
Silver Stars and six Bronze Stars to members of the
Regiment.

[6 November 1944]

Considerable enemy activity was reported from midnight
on into 6
November. The 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop observed
movement to
its front, and our artillery and mortars fired into the
draws ahead. At
0230 hours the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance
Platoon, whose
observation post was situated on Monte Belmonte, reported
hearing
vehicular traffic north of the Gorgognano church. The
Third Battalion
patrolled alertly through the night, employing
reconnaissance and
contact patrols from all three rifle companies. The
Reconnaissance
Troop's positions were probed constantly; time and again
the group was
compelled to call for artillery concentrations to
supplement its own
mortar fire.

Dawn ushered in a day that was to be clear and bright.
The drying
effect of the sun steadily improved the roads.
Arrangements with the

109th Engineer Combat Battalion were completed during the day for the laying of anti-personnel mines along our front. Corrugated sheeting was made available for the construction of shelters for front-line positions.

At 1804 hours the tempo of enemy activity increased on the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop's front. Three German tanks demolished the building at Casa Torriani (883323), about 2,000 yards southwest of Monte Belmonte, in which some of the unit's personnel were housed. Eight men were wounded, one listed as missing, and one was buried in rubble. As these casualties greatly reduced the strength of the troop's outpost platoon, a squad from our Company F was sent immediately to its assistance.

The previous day the Regimental commander had ordered all civilians evacuated from the Regimental forward area (see memorandum dated 5 November, subject, "Evacuation of Civilians from Battle Area"). This day and the following two days some 350 men, women and children were collected at the command post and sent by trucks to Loiano (865236 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NW Loiano) for further disposition.

Plans were prepared during the day for the Third Battalion to attack the Gorgognano church again, after midnight.

Fifty enlisted men and two duty officers departed for five days' relaxation at the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence. Two First Battalion officers, Captain Richard F. Wilkinson and First Lieutenant Allen B. Russell, flew to Rome for a five-day stay at the

Hotel

Excelsior. The airplane in which they traveled had been placed at their disposal by Lieutenant-General Mark W. Clark, Fifth Army commander.

[7 November 1944]

At 0120 hours 7 November Company K, attacking toward the Gorgognano church according to plan, was receiving machine-gun and mortar fire from that enemy strongpoint. At 0427 [?0327?] hours our soldiers ran into a minefield at the foot of the church hill. Withering machine-gun fire was directed at them from across the field. Heavy mortar fire, most of it coming from 911348, 1,700 yards north of the church, precluded any progress to the right or left. By 0415 [?0515?] hours, although our Cannon Company had aimed heavy concentrations on that point, it became evident that our attack had failed. The thickly-sown mine-field, the murderous machine guns and the deadly mortars all operated against any further advance by our men. Neither were their positions - by 0530 hours a portion of our forces had gained the west slope facing the church - tenable, for they could not dig in on the rocky hillside. Our artillerymen could not fire on the Germans entrenched in the church because our own infantrymen were too close to it. By dawn Company K had returned to its starting point.

Second Battalion units patrolled widely during the night, to the front and both flanks. At 0616 hours the Regimental observation post spotted an enemy gun flash at 924337, about 1,200 yards northwest of Gorgognano, and called for our air observer to watch that point.

Artillery and mortar duels featured the activity of the remainder of the day. Early in the evening Anti-Tank Company forces reported more than a little activity around Zula, Maltempo (896337), and Barchetta.

At 1800 hours Regimental Operational Instructions No. 30, concerning counter-attack measures, was issued.

Troops of the First Battalion, in reserve, were paid this day. Four officers motored to the Hotel Excelsior in Florence for a five day vacation from combat.

[8 November 1944]

The period of 8 November was one of unusual stillness. Anti-personnel mines were installed in front of Company I by our engineers. Continuing to improve its defenses, the Third Battalion constructed dugouts and gun emplacements with timber, sandbags, and galvanized sheeting.

The Regimental commander placed Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph D. Zobel in command of the Third Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sarratt T. Hames, acting commanding officer, returned to his post of Regimental executive officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Frank A. Reagan, former Third Battalion commander, had been evacuated on 30 October on account of illness.

At about 1615 hours a German self-propelled gun fired at one of our tanks below Gorgognano which had previously been knocked out. At 1730 hours the enemy laid down an artillery-impelled smoke-screen in front of the 91st Infantry Division sector, to our left, and at 1812

hours one was spread before our own positions. The reason for these screens did not develop.

[9 November 1944]

The Germans continued to be noticeably dormant in our sector after midnight, on 9 November. Our patrols were active throughout the night, drawing some machine-gun fire but not contacting the enemy directly. There was a degree of mortar and artillery harassing fire.

The Second Battalion took prisoner one soldier who deserted his unit, 5th Company, 71st Regiment, 29th Panzer Grenadier Division.

Operational Instructions No. 105 arrived from Divisional G-3, changing our boundary. Effective 1700 hours this day, the Regiment would be relieved of the Gorgognano church area, it being given to the 168th Infantry, on our right flank.

Arrangements were made with the 135th Infantry, which was to replace us on the nights of 10-11 and 11-12 November, to trade all weapons and ammunition except personal weapons and basic loads. Issued during the day, relevant to the relief, were Operational Instructions No. 31, with overlay (also indicating boundary change) and march table, and Training Memorandum No. 13, the latter outlining the training program to be followed by our troops in the Fifth Army "rest city" of Montecatini Terme, near Florence.

By the end of this day all civilians had been evacuated from our sector, their absence contributing to the convenience of military operations.

The normal amount of harassing self-propelled, mortar and artillery shells fell among our troops during the night, with little effect. Extensive patrolling was engaged in by companies of the Second and Third Battalions. As on the previous night, they drew ineffective machine-gun and mortar fire.

[10 November 1944]

The morning of 10 November brought a warm sun which melted the light snow that had fallen overnight. Our air observer took advantage of the excellent visibility, cruising the sky and scanning the terrain for enemy gun positions.

Final arrangements for our relief by the 135th Infantry were completed this day. Each of our battalions was instructed to leave behind one officer per battalion and one non-commissioned officer per company for 24 hours to help orient the replacing unit. Elements of the 109th Engineer, 757th Tank, and 804th Tank Destroyer Battalions were notified that they would be detached from us coincident with the relief, and attached to the 135th Infantry. The 109th Medical Battalion was to accompany us to the rest and training area. Our Company F completed relief of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop at 1735 hours.

Enemy planes hummed over our command post at 1740 hours. They strafed rear areas, but no resultant damage was reported.

The front was quiet this night. Scattered machine-gun and self-propelled fire landed around the road block at Casa Trieste

maintained by Company E, plus the normal volume of artillery harassing fires.

[11 November 1944]

A listening post set up by Company G remained at point 897330, just west of Monte Belmonte, during darkness. Returning at dawn of 11 November, the soldiers reported no signs of remarkable enemy activity. Daylight missions were flown by American fighter-bombers over our immediate front. They bombed and strafed targets northwest of Monte Belmonte. First Lieutenant Paul W. McGinnis of Anti-Tank Company was wounded in the day's actions.

By 2300 hours 11 November the Regiment had been entirely relieved, without incident, by the 135th Infantry, the command of the sector passing to the latter organization at that time.

[11-19 November 1944]

So, on this Armistice Day, most auspiciously, the 133rd Infantry entered a period of rest and training with which to afford our battle-weary troops relaxation and instruction in agreeable portions. No training of any kind was to be carried on during the first four days in Montecatini Terme. For the training program followed from 16 November to the end of the period, refer to Training Memorandum No. 13, issued 9 November; Annex "A" to that memorandum, issued 14 November; and Overlay No. 5 showing mines, firing ranges, and training areas, also dated 14 November.

Montecatini Terme, some 25 miles west of Florence on Highway 66,

is a resort city famed in peacetime Italy for its hot mineral waters. Now utilized by the American Fifth Army as a rest and training center for its combat troops, the city was formerly used for the same purpose by the enemy, and to house their wounded. Its stately bathing establishments, attractive parks and gardens, wide, tree-lined avenues and many hotels and shops, intact if somewhat shabby in appearance from lack of care in recent years, provided a novel, restful setting for the leisure-time activities of our combat troops.

The 200 hotels and pensions in the resort served as billets for our infantrymen, and they reveled in the uncommon experience of sleeping, often on soft beds and cots, in rooms with running water and electric lights. Indoor toilets were also a welcome change from straddle trenches. The weather during the nine-day "vacation" was, with the exception of one moderately rainy day, clear and pleasantly cool.

A variety of diversions and services were placed at the disposal of our soldiers. They embraced eagerly every activity.

Dances, arranged by First Lieutenant Wilbur R. Irwin, special services officer, were enjoyed nightly by one unit or another. These affairs were replete with personable Italian girls residing in Montecatini Terme and neighboring towns, music played by the 34th Division Band or by local orchestras, and liquid refreshments. The dances offered both enlisted men and officers delightful moments of feminine companionship and rousing good fellowship. The pleasure derived from motion pictures and stage presentations, shown

every
afternoon and evening in four theaters, also had a salutary
effect on
the morale of our troopers.

Many soldiers spent some of their leisure hours
strolling or
riding in carriages through the charming parks and broad
avenues of the
city, and gazed upon the beautiful mountains of
Valdinievole to the
north. Stores which dotted the resort were well patronized
by American
soldiers shopping for Christmas gifts to send to relatives
and friends
in the United States. Those who made purchases had their
presents
wrapped at the American Red Cross Club. Housed in a
spacious building,
the club provided various facilities and pastimes, among
them a
tailoring shop, reading, writing and game rooms, a snack
bar, and movies
and stage shows.

Religious services were held daily for the spiritual
well being of
our soldiers. On 19 November Captains Bernard E. Burns,
Fred J. Edgar
and Wilbur J. Kerr, Regimental chaplains, and a Jewish
chaplain from
Fifth Army conducted rites in memory of members of the
Regiment who have
died in their country's service. Christmas cards, for
mailing to the
States, were distributed to the troops on 17 November.

Happily, in view of the pride our men habitually take
in their
appearance, bathing and clothing exchange opportunities
were plentiful.
In addition to showers, hot sulphur baths were available in
great
number. The soldiers took particularly full advantage of
the latter,
enjoying the novelty of soaking and cleansing their bodies
in huge tubs
of hot mineral water. Clothing exchanges were operated in

conjunction
both with showers and baths. Every barber shop in the city
always had a
waiting line.

A local photographic studio was reserved for personnel
of the
133rd Infantry. Many soldiers posed for their portrait and
mailed
copies of it home to their loved ones. Sports equipment
was available
for use by all units. Dental and eye clinics were prepared
to serve any
man requiring treatment. A shoe repair section was open to
all units.

On 12 November fourteen officers went to the Excelsior
Hotel in
Rome for a five-day stay, four officers traveling to the
Hotel Excelsior
in Florence for the same period. On 14 November troops of
the Second
Battalion were paid. Four officers motored to the Excelsior
Hotel in
Florence on 17 November. Duck-down, slide-fastening
mountain sleeping
bags were issued to the troops this day.

Highlight of the Regiment's sojourn in Montecatini
Terme was the
visit on 16 November by Lieutenant-General Mark W. Clark,
Fifth Army
commander. At a formal decoration and promotion ceremony
at which he
honored many members of his command, General Clark
presented awards to
the following soldiers of the 133rd Infantry:
- Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross to
Colonel Braun;
- Distinguished Service Crosses to Staff Sergeant William
H. Eastland
and Private Edwin J. Lemke; and
- Silver Stars to Captain Cleo W. Buxton, First Lieutenant
James E.
Henderson, Sergeant Chester S. Gutkowski and Private First
Class
Clarence E. Dickison.

General Clark also presented a combat promotion as first lieutenant to Second Lieutenant Edgar A. Lyon and a combat appointment as second lieutenant to Staff Sergeant Robert C. Osborne.

Two days later, on 18 November, Major-General Charles L. Bolte, 34th Division commander, presented 27 Bronze Stars to men of the Regiment.

This same day Lieutenant-Colonel Frank A. Reagan became commanding officer of the Regiment, Colonel Gustav A. Braun having been appointed assistant commander of the 34th Division the day before. Previously, on 12 November Captain Louis F. Kaleita, First Battalion S-1, was named Regimental S-1. He replaced Captain Donald L. Nabity, who was leaving on rotation to the United States.

A pre-Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings, was served to the troops on 19 November.

A number of war correspondents and photographers spent several days in Montecatini Terme, gathering material for stories about individuals and units in our organization, Among the public relations figures present were Master Sergeant Joe McCarthy, editor-in-chief, and Sergeants Jack Scott, staff correspondent, and Steven Derry, staff photographer, of "Yank" magazine; Messrs. William King and Henry W. Bagley of the Associated Press; Sergeant Robert Fleisher, "Stars and Stripes" staff writer; Messrs. Alan Fisher and Frank Norall of the Coordinated Inter-American Affairs Commission; Mr. Joseph Hallawell of the British Broadcasting Corporation; and several correspondents from

the Fifth Army Public Relations Section; and photographers from the Army Pictorial Service.

[20 November 1944]

Its soldiers greatly refreshed in mind and body, their morale high, the Regiment began departing from Montecatini Terme the morning of 20 November, bound for relief of the 361st Regiment of the 91st Division. (Refer to Operational Instructions No. 32, this headquarters, with overlay and march table. Map references for new sector: 1:25,000 87 II SE Pianoro, 87 II SW Sasso Bolognese, 98 I NE Monterenzio, and 98 I NW Loiano.) Lieutenant Colonel Reagan established his Regimental command post at La Guarda, 100 yards left of Highway 65 (867277 - Map 98 I NW). The Third Battalion went into Regimental reserve in the same village, from which all civilians had been evacuated.

[21 November 1944]

Between 0900 and 1100 hours on 21 November Company B, whose First Battalion had entered the line under cover of darkness the night before, came under extremely heavy artillery fire, suffering five dead and 10 wounded. Among the soldiers killed were Private Harold Latty, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism on the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead last May, when he and Corporal Norris P. Nelson, also cited, held off an estimated battalion of Germans with but two machine guns.

[22 November 1944]

At 0600 hours 22 November the Regimental commander assumed full

control of the sector, relief of the 361st Infantry being absolute by that hour. Positions of our troops are shown on Overlay No. 6. Two Company A men were wounded at 0545 hours above di Sopra (876311 - Map 87 II SE Pianoro). A three-man enemy patrol crept up from the right and threw hand grenades at them.

During the day observation posts were established and our front line units further organized and strengthened their positions in preparation for the accomplishment of the Regiment's mission, that of carrying on an active defense of the sector.

Training Memorandum No. 14 was issued, outlining the training to be conducted during the current period of active defense. All units were instructed to submit by 24 November overlays, sketches and explanatory notes relative to troop disposition and materiel.

This day Staff Sergeant Edward G. Ness of Company L and Sergeant John P. Monahan of Company K appeared on the Fifth Army Radio Hour. Both soldiers had been recommended for an award for outstanding achievement in combat. Four officers motored to the Excelsior Hotel in Florence for five days' recreation.

Work on shelters and gun emplacements was continued through the night by our two battalions on the line, the First and the Second, and a trip minefield was laid in front of Company A's positions.

[23 November 1944]

Except for continual artillery duels, the front was relatively quiet in the daylight hours of 23 November. At 1830 hours

a five-man
Company C reconnaissance patrol set off to check a building
at 877326 on
Highway 65. The group advanced to within 50 yards of the
house and then
drew machine-gun fire from three points. On returning the
men were
shelled by mortars, but experience no casualties.

At 2000 hours an 18-man Company C patrol, reinforced
by a light
machine-gun squad and led by Second Lieutenant Reginald P.
Ballantyne
left our lines on a foray into enemy territory. The
groups' mission was
to proceed along Highway 65 to Canovetta (877323) and take
prisoners if
possible. The soldiers reached Canovetta without incident,
but on
arriving were at once engaged in a fire fight by a force
estimated at 25
Germans. Our patrol inflicted several casualties on the
hostile
soldiers before retiring. No prisoners were take. One of
our men was
wounded slightly. For detailed account of this raid see
Patrol Report
No. 2, dated 24 November. (Map References for all patrols:
1:25,000 87
II SE Pianoro and 87 II SW Sasso Bolognese.)

On this Thanksgiving Day troops of the Third
Battalion, in
reserve, enjoyed a turkey dinner.

[24 November 1944]

The usual amount of harassing artillery fire was
received during
the night, but no other activity was reported until just
before dawn of
24 November. At 0545 hours a nine-man patrol penetrated
Company C's
positions at Giurduzza (871315). The raiders were
dispersed by
small-arms and mortar fire, one of the Axis soldiers
deserting to our
side. His unit was 7th Company, 12th Regiment, 4th

Paratroop Division.

The Regimental sector was fairly quiet from then until the middle of the morning, when Company B engaged the Germans to its front near La Fabbrica (875317). Our forces routed the enemy with small-arms fire, aided by Company D's mortars. The remainder of the day was calm, except for the customary artillery exchanges.

After dark, a field of 30 trip flares were laid in front of Company C's area to protect the line from infiltration and hostile patrols.

The latter part of the evening brought an increase in enemy activity. Two machine guns opened up on Company A positions, and Company C became a target of German tanks. The machine guns, pinpointed by our observation posts at 877326 and 879327, were taken under fire by our attached platoon of Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion. The mortarmen silenced the guns.

The Second Battalion's sector, on the left of the First's, was dormant throughout the period, but contact by patrols was maintained.

From this day on our soldiers were instructed to husband their ammunition and to police up carefully any found in the sector, as a shortage of all types was developing.

There appeared in the "Stars and Stripes" of this day a feature story about Private Edwin J. Lemke of Company E, who a week before had been presented with the Distinguished Service Cross by General Clark for his heroism near Castagnetta last June, when he rescued a squad of his

unit by killing five heavily armed Germans.

[25 November 1944]

At 0130 hours on 25 November the 151st Artillery Battalion fired an intense concentration on the reported position of the enemy tank which had been firing into Company C periodically for the past two hours. Our shelling silenced the gun in short order. Outside of artillery duels and normal patrolling, there was no other activity in the night.

The Third Battalion, still in reserve at La Guarda, continued its training program. Emphasized was the necessity of every infantryman being able to use every infantry weapon. Small-unit tactics also were stressed. A .50 caliber machine-gun group, formed to enlarge the number of soldiers capable of handling this piece, carried on a separate training schedule. In their leisure hours the troops attended movies, shown in a large tent.

At noon a very heavy fog filled the air, visibility dropping to the zero point, In the afternoon and evening hostile artillery grew in intensity, but after midnight the amount of harassing fire of all types was normal in volume. First Battalion listening posts reported hearing machine guns firing from the vicinity of 876322, below Canovetta.

[26 November 1944]

During a cloudy, misty 26 November our front-line troops worked on their defenses, continuing to improve and construct shelters, emplacements and similar installations. Our reserve

battalion, the
Third, carried on its training activities.

This day 34 enlisted men, accompanied by a duty officer, departed for five days' pleasure at the Fifth Army Rest Center in Florence, Bill Mauldin, cartoonist and creator of the "Stars and Stripes" feature "Up Front", began a three-day stay with First Battalion units, gathering material for his famous cartoon series.

[27 November 1944]

A rainy night passed without incident. At daylight of 27 November a dense fog clung to the valleys.

During the day, in response to the request of higher headquarters that the Regiment engage in more active and numerous patrols than heretofore, instructions were given the battalions for the proper conduct of their patrol program. (Refer to Regimental Operational Instructions No. 33.) Also issued were plans for the employment of the reserve battalion of the Regiment as a counter-attacking force. (See Overlay No. 7.)

This day four officers went to the Hotel Excelsior in Florence for a brief rest from combat.

[28 November 1944]

At 0100 hours, on 28 November, First Battalion positions received a terrific shelling. Over the next half-hour the Germans raked our line from 872315 to 878316 with more than 200 rounds of mixed caliber artillery, self-propelled and mortar shells. In order to forestall or slow up an enemy attack should this barrage prove to be a

pre-assault concentration, our troops employed light and heavy mortars to comb all draws, ravines and likely hostile groupings to their front.

Then, almost in their own barrage, the Germans launched a strong infantry assault against the left flank platoon of Company B. Defensive fires were quickly brought down on the raiders, but they persisted in their attack for a furious hour before our infantrymen, led by Second Lieutenant Albert C. Mostrom, succeeded in throwing them back. The Germans wielded many rifle grenades and potato mashers.

At about 0430 hours a 10-man raiding party hit Company A's right flank platoon. The Germans, firing machine pistols and rifles and hurling grenades, were successfully beaten off by our soldiers under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Joseph Trevino, acting platoon leader. Our losses in these two engagements were few.

Several times this day hostile aircraft flew overhead; at 1720 hours an enemy plane strafed in the neighborhood of 863281, some 200 yards north of La Guarda.

During the evening relief of the Second Battalion by the Third was begun, and completed by 2100 hours.

A marked increase in the intensity of enemy artillery over that of the preceding day had been noted in the last 24 hours.

[29 November 1944]

Around 0500 hours on 29 November a great concentration of enemy artillery, mortar, and nebelwerfer (multi-barreled mortar) shells, estimated at 500 rounds, crashed in the town of Livergnano

(Map 1:25,000
98 I NE Monterenzio), 2,200 yards northeast of La Guarda.
The greater
part of the night, however, was quiet in our sector.

Continuing rain during the day turned trails into
morasses of mud.
There was a lull in activity, normal harassing fires
breaking the
stillness from time to time. At midnight most units
reported light
artillery fire, the sector being calm generally.

This day Lieutenant-Colonel Walden S. Lewis assumed
command of the
Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel Reagan became executive
officer.

Second Lieutenant Warren B. Finger departed for a
week's
attachment to the 15th Air Force as an observer.

[30 November 1944]

After a night marked by increased patrol activity by
our troops
(see Patrol Report No. 8, dated 30 November), but
uneventful otherwise,
a Regimental party left of the morning of 30 November to
reconnoiter for
an assembly area. We had been informed by Division that the
Regiment
would be partially relieved by the 362nd Regiment of the
91st Division
beginning the night of 1-2 December. we were to take over
part of the
sector to our right. Reconnaissance parties from the 362nd
Infantry, in
turn, arrived in our sector to reconnoiter areas for which
they would be
responsible after the relief. Only normal artillery
action, friendly
and enemy, was reported as the month ended.

This day soldiers of the Second Battalion and the
special units
were paid for the month. Thirty-three enlisted men and one
officer

traveled to the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Florence for five days' relaxation.

[Summary]

In the month of November a record number of enlisted men were appointed to second lieutenant. They were Staff Sergeants Wendell L. Blythe, Marvin B. Gephart, James O. Lovelace, Robert C. Osborne, Gordon O. Palm, and Russell E. Saunders; and Sergeants John H. Anderson and Robert C. Burdick.

Three officers of the Regiment, Second Lieutenants James J. Hallal, James E. Van Eper, and Edgar A. Lyon, received combat promotions to first lieutenant.

Forty-one enlisted men and three officers departed in November for temporary duty in the United States. Twenty-five enlisted men and five officers left for the United States on rotation.

The month of November, in sum, was a period during which the 133rd Infantry conducted successfully an active defense of its sector on the Italian front. In anticipation of a Fifth Army offensive in the near future, we steadfastly improved our positions, resolutely repelled enemy attacks, and engaged in profitable reconnaissance and forceful patrolling.

The nature of the month's operations, largely defensive in character, kept our casualties low. We suffered 75 casualties. Of these 13 were killed in action, eight missing, and 54 wounded.

On 1 November the Regiment had an effective strength

of 149
officers, six warrant officers, and 2675 enlisted men. On
30 November
our effective strength was 136 officers, two warrant
officers, and 2741
enlisted men. During the month we received four officers
and 170
enlisted men as replacements. Thus, our strength
experienced an
increase of 49 men.

As of 30 November 1944 the 133rd Infantry had been
overseas two
years, 10 months, and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Louis F. Kaleita
LOUIS F. KALEITA
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, inclusive.

In the month of November 1944, the 133rd Infantry
Regiment of the
34th Infantry Division had conducted successfully an active
defense of
its sector on the American Fifth Army front in Italy. As
December
began, we were steadily continuing this defense, At the
same time, our
troops trained, strengthened their positions, husbanded
their
ammunition, and regrouped in an overall plan for future
offensive
operations.

[1 December 1944]

During 1 December, after a quiet night of normal
artillery and
patrol action, preparations were begun for replacements of

elements of
our Regiment by elements of the 362nd Regiment of the 91st
Infantry
Division. This relief, scheduled for the coming night, was
part of an
extensive regrouping plan conceived by higher headquarters
preparatory
to a concerted push along the entire front (Refer to
Operational
Instructions No. 34). Briefly the scheme was as follows:

Our Third Battalion, less Company K, was to be
relieved in place
by the First Battalion of the 362nd Infantry. Company K
was to remain
in position. The relieved units of our Third Battalion
were to replace
our First Battalion, less Company C, thus widening the
Third Battalion's
front.

The Third Battalion was to retain control of this
sector until
0600 hours 3 December, at which time command of our
original sector
would pass to the 91st Division. Simultaneously, the two
left-flank
companies of the battalion were to be attached to that
organization.
The elements of the battalion which were situated east of
Highway 65
were to be attached to one of our sister regiments, the
168th, the unit
on our right.

Our Second Battalion, currently our reserve battalion,
was to be
attached to the 168th Infantry also, the attachment being
effective at
0600 hours 2 December. Our Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies
were to be
relieved by the corresponding companies of the 362nd
Infantry the night
of 2-3 December. Anti-Tank Company would join our First
Battalion and
Regimental Headquarters Company, with the Regimental
command post, in an
area just south of Loiano (865235 - Map 1:25,000 98 I NW).

Our Company
C, to be relieved by a company of the 362nd's Third
Battalion the
following night, was to join the rest of its battalion in
the assembly
area at Loiano.

Completion of this plan, consequently, would leave our
Second and
Third Battalion on the line, under other control, while the
remainder of
the Regiment entered Divisional reserve.

In the anticipated offensive, the mission of our two
active
battalions would be to hold the present front line until
the two
attacking Regiments of the 34th Division, the 135th and the
168th, had
secured their first phase line. At any time thereafter the
133rd
Infantry was to be prepared to pass through or around the
135th and
attack northward. (Front line on 1 December: from Gruppi
(864306 - Map
1:25,000 98 I NW) to Lucca (868312 - Map 1:25,000 87 II SW)
to
Giuarduzza (872315 - Map 1:25,000 87 II SE) to 100 yards
below Casa
Canovetta (876322 - same map) then across Highway 65 to
escarpment at
880321 (same map), 200 yards southeast of Casa Canovetta.)

During the day reconnaissance was made by elements of
the 362nd
Infantry in preparation for the night's regrouping. The
relief, started
early in the evening, was completed without incident by
2330 hours.
Some units reported receiving a degree of long-range
machine-gun
harassing fire. At 2400 hours the weather was cool and
clear, following
a day of chilling rain.

[2 December 1944]

Throughout the early morning hours of 2 December the

front
remained generally quiet, although our patrols were active
(see Patrol
Report No. 10. Map references for all patrols during the
month:
1:25,000 87 II SE and 87 II SW).

Cannon Company was relieved during the day and
attached to the
168th Infantry. At about 1700 hours our Second Battalion,
now under
control of the 168th, began the move to the latter's sector
to undertake
the relief of elements of that Regiment. The relief was
completed
without incident by 2200 hours. Our First Battalion spent
the day
cleaning up, and making habitable its mud-ridden area near
Loiano.

This cool, cloudy day five officers departed for a
brief stay at
the Hotel Excelsior in Florence.

[3 December 1944]

Our patrols were active again in the hours of darkness
(refer to
Patrol Report No. 11). By 0100 hours of 3 December all
elements of the
First Battalion had been relieved, as had been Anti-Tank
Company. At
0600 hours the commanding officer of the 168th Infantry
assumed command
of the sector. An hour later the Regimental command post
closed out at
La Guarda (867277 - Map 1:25,000 98 I NW) and moved four
miles back
along Highway 65 to Loiano.

During the day the commanders of Anti-Tank Company and
First
Battalion units were instructed to arrange training
schedules for the
next six days. The programs, calling for a minimum of
three hours'
training daily, were to stress the importance of all
personnel being

able to use all infantry weapons.

This day Lieutenant-Colonel Walter J. Skelly was placed in command of the First Battalion. Major Linus T. Williams, erstwhile commander, became executive officer of the unit, relieving Captain Richard F. Wilkinson, who was named assistant Regimental S-3. Second Lieutenant James R. Roskelly and 17 enlisted men left for a two-week course at the Mine Warfare and Demolition School in Caserta.

[4 December 1944]

On 4 December a demonstration of the 4.5 caliber rocket gun was given at Santa Agata, south of Firenzuola, for members of the Anti-Tank Company. Future plans called for the possible employment of anti-tank men in the use of this new weapon. A school for flame throwers in the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion area was attended by two Company L soldiers. This team was to demonstrate with the flame thrower against a pre-designated target to the company front at H-hour of the coming offensive. The First Battalion and Anti-Tank Company commenced their scheduled week's training period. Company D gunners began manning their .50 caliber machine guns as an anti-aircraft measure.

Just before dark several rounds of long-range artillery fell within a few hundred yards of the First Battalion's area near Loiano.

This day Major Walter D. Hewitt replaced Major Jacob R. Magnani as executive officer of the Second Battalion. Major Magnani was leaving for the United States on rotation. Captain Fred R. Edgar, Regimental chaplain, traveled to the Fifth Area rear command post in

Florence to attend a one-day instructional conference for chaplains. He was to attend similar sessions on 11 and 18 December. To the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Florence went 42 enlisted men and a duty officer, all from the First Battalion. This day, also, troops of that unit were paid.

[5 December 1944]

During the night the 135th Infantry entered the line on the left of the 168th Infantry. At 0600 hours 5 December our Second Battalion and those troops of the Third Battalion east of Highway 65 - Company L and elements of Company K - became attached to the 135th Infantry. For operational and administrative convenience the 135th attached the Third Battalion members to the [133rd] Second Battalion.

American Red Cross workers visited First Battalion companies during the day, serving coffee and doughnuts. Our soldiers played the Victrola and read the magazines which the Red Cross girls brought with them.

This day Major James R. McClymont, Captain Clayton K. Horton, and 66 enlisted men returned from temporary duty in the United States. Major McClymont resumed his [post as Regimental S-2, relieving Captain William M. Joost, who became Second Battalion S-2 on 8 December. Captain Horton resumed his duties as commanding officer of Regimental Headquarters Company, relieving First Lieutenant Edward B. Edwards, who was named executive officer.

[6 December 1944]

On 6 December another demonstration of the 4.5 caliber rocket gun was held for personnel of Anti-Tank Company, and school was again conducted for the flame thrower team from Company L.

Our Company E, on the line with the 135th Infantry, picked up two Axis deserters from 2nd Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division, and captured three enemy belonging to 1st Company, 1059th Regiment, 362nd Infantry Division.

[7 December 1944]

Dawn of Pearl Harbor Day, 7 December, came in on a high wind which for the next 48 hours required constant tightening of the pyramidal tent ropes in the First Battalion and Anti-Tank Company areas. Despite the gale, our units continued their training activities.

Four officers motored this day to the Hotel Excelsior in Florence for several days pleasure.

[8 December 1944]

Chilling rain joined the whipping wind on 8 December. Training schedules were now interrupted by the terrific storm. The soldiers had to spend most of the day re-pitching tents which had blown down, and in digging ditches to drain water from the mud-engulfed region.

Advance information was received from Division that Companies I and K possibly would be moved in the near future, and we were instructed to reconnoiter for an area for these units. One officer and 22 enlisted men from Anti-Tank Company departed for II Corps Headquarters to attend a 4.5 rocket gun school.

Forty-one enlisted men traveled to Florence for five days' rest.

[9 December 1944]

The First Battalion, less Company D, was attached to the 168th Infantry at 0600 hours 9 December preparatory to relieving the right sector of the 168th on the night of 10-11 December. During the day orders were received from higher headquarters for Anti-Tank Company to furnish one three-quarter-ton truck and driver, one supply sergeant, and one telephone operator to act as part of a headquarters for the II Corps rocket school.

Our Company K was relieved by Company B of the 362nd Infantry, and Company I was relieved by Company K of the same organization, relief being complete by 2000 and 2100 hours, respectively. Our Companies I, less one platoon, and K closed in their reserve area at 872230, some 1,100 yards southeast of Loiano, at 2300 hours.

[10 December 1944]

Early in the evening of 10 December, Regimental Headquarters Company mess was interrupted by light shelling of the area. There were no casualties. Shortly afterward, at dusk, enemy planes flew over the Regimental sector. Met by concentrated anti-aircraft fire, they neither bombed nor strafed in our area.

At 2130 hours Company A relieved Company L and one platoon of Company I. Following the change, Company A platoons were situated at 874322, 876322, 877321, and 878319, immediately below Casa Canovetta.

Companies C and B relieved, respectively, Companies I and B of the 168th Infantry at 2320 hours.

It was a day of rain and fog, and the night was cold.

This day Mr. James H. Smith became attached to the Regiment as field director for the American Red Cross, relieving Mr. Frederick O'Hair, who in turn transferred to Fifth Army Headquarters. Second Lieutenant Milton R. Ford of the 15th Air Force arrived to observe infantry action in our sector.

[11 December 1944]

As of 11 December, units of the Regiment other than those remaining under our control were deployed as follows: First Battalion, less Company A, attached to 168th Infantry; Second Battalion, Cannon Company, and Companies A and M, all attached to 135th Infantry.

During this day our troops under Regimental control continued their training activities. Many soldiers availed themselves of the facilities of the nearby 34th Division Bath Unit and Clothing Exchange.

German artillery and mortar harassing fires were light against our forward elements; rear units received the usual amount of medium-caliber shelling.

Overlay No. 1, showing roads and friendly and enemy minefields in the sector, was issued this day.

Five commissioned officers, one warrant officer, and one non-commissioned officer returned from temporary duty in the United

States. Major Jack T. Rush was assigned to our organization as Regimental surgeon, replacing Captain Alex Brown, who left for the United States for assignment as hospital cadre.

[12 December 1944]

Throughout a misty 12 December our units encamped around Loiano carried on their training schedule. Companies I and K fired small arms on an improvised range.

Second Battalion soldiers, on the line, apprehended three suspected enemy agents, and turned them over to the 135th Infantry.

Late in the morning of this day 42 enlisted men and a duty officer departed for a few days' relaxation in Florence. Four officers traveled to the Hotel Excelsior there.

[13 December 1944]

At 0930 and 1030 hours on 13 December an orientation film, "Britain, Our Ally", was exhibited in the Third Battalion area. At 1415 hours Lieutenant-Colonel Walden S. Lewis, Regimental commanding officer, spoke to commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Third Battalion. Companies K and L fired M-1s, Browning automatic rifles, and carbines on the range.

The volume of German harassing artillery shells was moderate at the end of the day, in contrast to the fire during the afternoon. At midnight a light, wet snow was falling.

Troops of the Third Battalion were paid this day.

[14 December 1944]

On 14 December Company I fired automatic rifles and Company K shot automatic rifles and carbines on the range. Company I fired light machine guns on a 1,000 inch range. These units also test-fired bazookas.

The Germans continued to carry out their daily harassing program. An increase in their artillery fire was noted toward the latter part of this cool, dampish day.

Major Edward M. Fabert, who had been wounded and evacuated in October, returned from the hospital and was reassigned as executive officer of the Third Battalion. Major Merton E. Church, acting executive officer, was assigned to the Regimental Headquarters staff.

Issued this day for the Regimental commander by the Regimental S-2 was a memorandum revealing that from 26 September 1943 [the landing at Salerno] to 6 December 1944 the 133rd Infantry captured 1,734 German and Italian prisoners of war. (Memorandum, presenting statistics in detail is [not] attached herewith.)

[15 December 1944]

On 15 December Companies K and L received further instruction in the effective use of the light machine gun. Company I fired rifle grenades and rockets on the range.

One platoon of Company E, attached to the 135th Infantry with the Second Battalion, engaged in battle with a 10-man enemy patrol which launched a raid against our group's position at Poggio di sopra (897327

- Map 1:25,000 87 II SE), west of Monte Belmonte. A brief fire fight resulted in the capture of one German and in several casualties among the hostile forces. Subsequent interrogation of the prisoner, whose unit was 6th Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division, revealed that the raiding party's mission had been to investigate the house at the coordinates given above. Later in the day another Axis soldier was taken by Company F. His unit was 7th Company, 146th Regiment, 65th Infantry Division.

First Battalion observers, with the 168th Infantry, spotted enemy at various points during the day, among the places being the church and cemetery at Gorgognano (913334 - Map 1:25,00 87 II SE), 1000 yards northeast of Monte Belmonte. Eight Axis soldiers were cutting trees near the road by the church, long an enemy stronghold, and seemed to be repairing the road there. Company D harassed by long-range fire the church, cemetery, and the town of Poggiolo, 800 yards west of Gorgognano.

Hostile harassing artillery increased in the rear areas as the day progressed. A light mist pervaded the air as the day ended.

[16 December 1944]

Through a cool, hazy 16 December the Germans confined their artillery efforts principally to the harassing of forward elements, with some emphasis on medium-caliber harassing of rear areas adjacent to Highway 65.

As on previous days, our units under Regimental

Control around
Loiano engaged in training activities. Company I men
concentrated on
the light machine gun and the 60 millimeter mortar.
Company H troops
fired light machine guns on the 1,000 inch range, and
Company L soldiers
fired M-1 rifles.

Division informed us during the morning that our Third
Battalion,
less Company M, would be attached to the 135th Regiment as
of 0600 hours
the following day for the purpose of relieving our Second
Battalion,
less Company H. Upon completion of the relief, Company H
would be
attached to the Third Battalion. The remainder of the
Second would move
to Montecatini Terme, Fifth Army rest city 25 miles west of
Florence.
Arrangements were made between the commanding officers of
the 133rd and
135th Infantry for this relief to take effect the night of
17 December.

This day 42 enlisted men traveled by trucks to the
Fifth Army Rest
Camp in Florence for five days' pleasure.

[17 December 1944]

Late in the afternoon of 17 December the Third
Battalion began its
scheduled replacement of the Second Battalion in the manner
prescribed
by Division the day before.

Enemy artillery harassment of our rear areas steadily
diminished
in volume this day. Artillery and mortar harassing fires
against our
elements on the line continued relatively light.

[18 December 1944]

By 0115 hours of 18 December relief of the Second
Battalion by the

Third was absolute, the latter unit assuming responsibility for the sector at that time. Thereupon, the Second Battalion (less Company H, which stayed on the line), entrucked for Montecatini Terme.

Hostile artillery activity again was negligible. Light harassing of our forward positions was the extent of German action.

First Lieutenant Herbert J. Tregre, Second Lieutenant Paul E. Heinemann and 17 enlisted men departed this day for a two-week course at the Mine Warfare and Demolition School in Caserta.

[19 December 1944]

Anti-Tank Company soldiers continued training on 19 December. Very light artillery and mortar fire dominated the scheme of German harassing efforts. Harassment of our forward areas was conservative. At the close of the period the weather was moderately cold, with dense fog.

[20 December 1944]

On 20 December the commanding officers of the 133rd and 135th Infantry visited our First Battalion's forward command post at 909310, near Sassolungo (Mat 1:25,000 87 II SE), 1,800 yards south of Monte Belmonte.

A Company C patrol, consisting on one officer and eight enlisted men, left at 2100 hours, its mission to knock out an enemy machine gun at 919330, about 1,500 yards east of Monte Belmonte. The soldiers proceeded to a point north of houses at 917323, some 1,400 yards southeast of Monte Belmonte, when they were fired upon by light and

heavy mortars. They nevertheless continued up the valley and encountered intense machine-gun fire from point 919331, about 1,300 yards east of Monte Belmonte. Unable to proceed farther, the group returned.

Friendly aircraft flew patrols over our front lines during the night.

This day 42 enlisted men and one duty officer traveled to Florence for a five-day stay at the Fifth Army Rest Camp.

[21 December 1944]

On 21 December Operational Instructions No. 35 were issued, concerning relief of the Third Battalion by the Second, which was resting at Montecatini Terme. The front was quiet, patrolling and artillery exchanges again dominating the activity.

[22 December 1944]

During the morning of 22 December, Division cancelled the proposed relief of the Third Battalion by the Second, which was to have taken place on the night of 23-24 December. The Third Battalion was ordered to stay in place; the Second to stay in Montecatini Terme until the morning of 25 December, when it was to displace forward. Later in the day the time of departure was set ahead to the morning of 26 December.

In response to a call from Divisional G-3, our request for signals to be listed on the proposed color scheme of signals during the coming operation were sent to Division. The requests were as follows: 1. Objective taken. 2. Mark forward positions. 3. Counter-

attack. 4.
Enemy armor attack. 5. Smoke signal for marking targets
for air
support.

YANK Magazine of this date contained a four page
feature article,
with photographs and drawings, about our First Battalion.
Written by
Master Sergeant Joe McCarthy, YANK staff correspondent, and
entitled
"Iron-Man Battalion", the story recounted some of the
achievements of
the unit and its members, pointing out that "The 1st
Battalion of the
133rd Infantry was the first U. S. line outfit to land in
Europe and
it's still battling the Germans."

[The text of that article is online at
<http://www.milhist.net/deep/ironman.shtml>]

Five officers motored to the Hotel Excelsior in
Florence for a few
days' respite from combat duty.

[23 December 1944]

On the morning of 23 December the Company L two-man
flame-thrower
team left our command post for the command post of the
135th Infantry.
This team was to be used in conjunction with the jump-off
of that
Regiment.

Both our Battalions on the line, the First and the
Third, reported
that they had experienced marked enemy patrol activity to
their front
through the night. Each unit had suffered two casualties
from hostile
artillery and mortar harassing fire. The Third Battalion
received small
amounts of large-caliber artillery estimated to be 170
millimeter, and
some rocket-gun fire.

Overlay No. 2, serving as annex to Overlay No. 1 dated
11
December, was issued indicating additional enemy
minefields.

This day a mimeographed Christmas message from the
Regimental
commander was distributed to every member of his command.

Fifty enlisted men, two lieutenants, and one major
arrived this
day as infantry replacements.

[24 December 1944]

Shortly after midnight, on 24 December, the Third
Battalion
reported that throughout the preceding 24 hours it had
absorbed the
usual volume of harassing mortar and artillery fire. Some
enemy patrol
activity in the large draw north of Casa Torriani (884323),
2,000 yards
west of Monte Belmonte, was noted during the hours of
darkness, but no
large-scale activities of any kind developed. In the early
evening
hostile movement was heard in the vicinity of Zula
(884333), 1,900 yards
above Casa Torriani. Nothing untoward occurred as a
consequence,
however. Only normal harassing and interdiction fires were
reported
from the First Battalion sector. Our customary security
and
reconnaissance patrols were active in both battalion
sectors.

This day 42 men traveled in trucks to Florence for a
few days'
pleasure at the Fifth Army Rest Center there.

[25 December 1944, Christmas Day]

Our soldiers awoke on Christmas Day to find a soft
blanket of snow
over the mud through which they had slogged for the last
three months

and more. The atmosphere was clear and crisp.

This day, in response to a request from Division, a report was submitted concerning the number of days that this Regiment had faced the enemy in Italy. The report revealed that to date the 133rd Infantry had been on the line in the Italian campaign a total of 252 days. This total represents actual combat days, exclusive of any kind of reserve status.

At 1930 hours Company A was relieved by a company of the 135th Regiment and departed for Montecatini Terme. At the same hour, a Second Battalion quartering party arrived at the Regimental command post, seeking an assembly area to be occupied by that unit upon its return from the rest city.

At about 2000 hours German airplanes were active above the sector.

A few sticks of bombs were dropped and several areas were strafed, but no casualties or damage were reported.

Imbued with the spirit of Christmas, on this holy day many of our soldiers attended religious services, and presented gifts of food, candy, cigarettes and soap, selected from packages from home, to needy civilians. Mess personnel served delicious turkey dinners, with all the traditional trimmings, to every soldier not actually on the line.

[26 December 1944]

Company A arrived in Montecatini Terme at 0300 hours 26 December.

At 0700 hours the Second Battalion left that city preparatory to relieving our First Battalion, under control of the 168th

Infantry.

At 1305 hours telephonic orders were received from Division that the First Battalion was to assemble near Loiano, Company A to rejoin it on the morning of 27 December. Corrected Operational Instructions No. 35 were issued concerning the Divisional reserve status of the Regiment. Trucks were ordered to Montecatini, there to be ready to move Company A at a moment's notice. At 1700 hours orders were received from Division that Companies D, M, and Cannon were to remain attached to the 135th Infantry. The Third Battalion was to be removed from control of the 135th the night of 27 December.

Our Second Battalion's relief of our First was completed by 2200 hours. At 2230 hours our Company A was replaced by Company K of the 135th Infantry.

Around midnight a German patrol infiltrated to the left of Company I's positions at di Sopra (866311 - Map 1:25,000 87 II SE), 2,500 yards southwest of Monte Belmonte. The Germans suffered two dead and one captured after hitting our minefield there and being met with our rifle and machine-gun fire.

[27 December 1944]

At 0100 hours 27 December the Regimental commander led a small command post group forward to Casola (894295 - Map 1:25,000 98 I NE), about 3,500 yards south of Monte Belmonte. Arriving at 0300 hours, the party established a forward command post in preparation for relieving the 135th Infantry and taking over control of that Regiment's sector

(refer to Operational Instructions No. 36). Full command of the sector was assumed by the commanding officer of the 133rd Infantry at 1730 hours.

The following units were attached to the Regiment upon our taking charge of the sector: one platoon of Company B, and Company C less one platoon, 757th Tank Battalion; one platoon of Company C, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; and one platoon of Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion.

Our Companies K, E, H and Anti-Tank relieved, respectively, Companies A, B, H and Anti-Tank of the 135th Infantry between 2015 and 2100 hours. At 2400 hours our Company F was moving forward, Company G, currently our reserve company, moved slightly to the rear. Our First Battalion moved in on an assembly area near Sadurano (886292 - Map 1:25,000 98 I NE), 900 yards southwest of Casola. Refer to Overlay No. 3 for troop dispositions at 2400 hours.

This day four officers traveled to Florence, one to Rome for a brief "vacation".

[28 December 1944]

Company F closed in on its forward position at 0345 hours 28 December; all units were now in their new areas and our relief of the 135th Infantry was complete.

On account of the present disposition of our active units, Major Timothy F. Horan, head of the Second Battalion, assumed command of Companies E, G, K and M, while Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph D. Zobol of

the Third Battalion took charge of Companies F, L, I and H.

The assistant Regimental S-3, following Divisional Instructions, made a reconnaissance of a proposed assembly area for the Regiment in and around the village of Piancaldoli (948170 - Map 1:50,000 98 I), five miles east of Highway 65 and seven miles southeast of Loiano.

During the period no apparent change was detected in the enemy's intentions in our sector, nor in the scheme of his harassing program, which again was on a restricted scale. German medium-caliber artillery harassed rear areas again.

For the night's patrol activities see Patrol Report No. 2, dated 29 December. Issued late in the evening were Overlay Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 showing, respectively, positions of our 81 millimeter mortars with concentrations, artillery and Cannon Company defensive fires in our sector, fire plan of heavy and light machine guns, and fire plan of our 57 millimeter anti-tank guns.

Forty-two enlisted men, accompanied by a duty officer, departed this day for five days' pleasure in Florence.

[29 December 1944]

At 0935 hours 29 December, Division informed us that the relief of the Regiment would begin this night, our organization to move to the Piancaldoli area. Company A of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion and Company A of the 109th Medical Battalion were to be attached to the Regiment.

Issued this day were Overlay Nos. 8, 9 and 10 showing,

respectively, our troops positions as of 0300 hours, positions of our 60 millimeter mortars with concentrations, and locations of our ammunition dumps.

At 1930 hours Divisional Operational Instructions No. 122 were issued, pertaining to the relief (see Regimental Operational Instructions No. 37). By 2030 hours 30 December elements of the 88th and 91st Infantry Divisions had assumed full control of the sector. For positions of our troops at 0315 hours 30 December see Overlay No. 11.

[30 December 1944]

Shortly before dawn of 30 December soldiers of our Third Battalion reported that what they believed to have been a German patrol had accidentally set off one of its own mines at 891327, about 1,000 yards west of Monte Belmonte. Several days previously a prisoner captured by another unit of the Division said that the Germans had lost sketches to a number of their minefields. As a result, they had suffered several casualties. The incident reported by the Third Battalion tended to bear out the captive's story.

This day and night our various companies were in the process of moving to assembly areas in the vicinity of Piancaldoli. The Regimental command post at Casola closed out at 2100 hours and opened in Piancaldoli at 2330 hours. A snowstorm whitened the earth again during the morning and afternoon. By nightfall roads were slick and packed hard, making vehicle movement a matter of some risk.

During this period, as in the recent past, enemy

activity
consisted primarily of medium-caliber artillery harassing
fires in our
rear areas. Harassing of forward positions was light.

For location of our troops at 2400 hours refer to
overlay No. 12.

[31 December 1944, New Year's Eve]

By 0200 hours of 31 December all units of the Regiment
except
Company I, Cannon and Service Companies, and a section of
heavy machine
guns from Company H had closed in the new area. Cannon
Company arrived
at 1100 hours.

At noon the Regimental command post was visited by
Major-General
Charles L. Bolte, Divisional commander, and Colonel Gustav
J. Braun,
assistant Divisional commander, who discussed with the
Regimental
commander a proposed defensive set-up. The 34th Division
proposed to
occupy a secondary defense line in the new region, the
Regimental sector
being outlined on Overlay No. 13.

In the afternoon the Regimental commander and the
Regimental S-2
reconnoitered the site of the planned defensive line,
preparatory to
beginning work on positions, emplacements, trenches,
observation posts,
and other installations.

During the early evening the commanding officers of
all our units
and the commander of Company A of the 109th Engineer Combat
Regiment
conferred with the Regimental commander on the forthcoming
defensive
alignment. Missions were assigned to each unit (see
Overlay No. 13).

At 2300 hours Company I and the section of Company H's

heavy machine guns joined the Regiment. Service Company, the only unit not having closed in the area as yet, was to arrive within the next two days. Dispositions of all units and the position Service Company was to occupy are depicted on Overlay No. 14.

As the troubled year of 1944 ended, the weather was clear and bracing. Our soldiers celebrated New Year's Eve with modest parties, in which they sang songs, partook of delicacies they had received from home in recent weeks, and drank liquid refreshments made available to them by the Regiment at a modest charge. No enemy action of any kind disturbed our troops as they eagerly interred the old year and hopefully greeted the new.

[Summary]

In the month of December a record number of non-commissioned officers won combat appointments to second lieutenant. A round dozen were elevated: Ronald C. Davis, Sylvester Decker, Arnold Luzom, Howard M. Dickinson, Jack H. Remund, Donald H. Dearborn, Roy M. Ramsdal, Harvey D. White, Lawrence E. Hartzell, John Decker, Walter L. Ranard, and Louis F. Provino.

First Lieutenant Henry O. Wylegala received a combat promotion to captain, and Second Lieutenant Ralph H. Little became a first lieutenant.

Thirty-nine enlisted men and four officers departed in December for temporary duty in the United States. Twenty-four enlisted men and four officers left the Regiment for the United States on

rotation.

As in November the defensive nature of our operations in December kept our casualty figure low. We suffered 70 casualties, five fewer than in the previous month. Eleven men were killed in action, three listed as missing, and 56 wounded or injured.

On 1 December the Regiment had an effective strength of 136 officers, two warrant officers, and 2,741 enlisted men. On 31 December our effective strength was 142 officers, three warrant officers, and 2,549 enlisted men as replacements[sic]. Thus, our strength experienced a drop of 185 members.

In the year 1944 the 133rd Infantry fought 171 miles up the Italian boot, from the Radicosa Mountains below Cassino to less than 11 miles south of Bologna. After Cassino we embarked for Anzio, where we resumed our offensive. Our fighting miles since the start of the Italian campaign in September, 1943, number 251 as of 31 December. Memorable in peril and hardship among the places we had battled for and wrested from a stubborn adversary were Benevento, Alife, San Maria di Oliveto, Lanuvio, Cecina, Montepiano, Monte Venere, Monzuno, and strategic Monte Belmonte. The Regiment played a vital role in the struggle for Cassino, in the liberation of Rome, and in the successful breaching of the Gothic Line across the Apennines.

In 1944 the 133rd Infantry experienced a total of 4,038 casualties: 694 dead, 352 missing, 2,992 wounded or injured. For the Italian campaign available figures show a total of 4,539: 805 dead, 358

missing, 3,376 wounded or injured. (Some of those missing in action may later have been listed as dead or captured, or returned from stragglings.) Our greatest number of casualties, 709, occurred in October 1944, in the fighting around Monte Venere and Monte Belmonte, where the weather and terrain were highly unfavorable and the enemy resisted with concentrated ferocity.

Since the start of the Italian campaign soldiers of the 133rd Infantry have been awarded four Congressional Medals of Honor, 22 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Legion of Merit, 158 Silver Stars, one Soldier's Medal, 263 Bronze Stars, and more than 20 Division Citations. On 1 December 1944 it was announced that our organization had been designated a Combat Infantry Regiment, and as such was entitled thenceforth to fly the Combat Infantry Streamer on its colors and guidons.

As of 31 December 1944 the 133rd Infantry had been overseas two years, eleven months, and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Louis F. Kaleita
LOUIS F. KALEITA
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945, inclusive.

During the greater portion of December 1944, part of the 133rd

Infantry was employed defensively under control of the two other regiments of the 34th Infantry Division, the 135th and the 168th. Another group engaged in extensive training activities under Regimental jurisdiction, receiving instruction in the most effective use of all infantry weapons. Still other soldiers, attending schools elsewhere, learned how to operate the new 4.5 rocket gun, studied mine warfare and demolition tactics, and brushed up on communication procedures.

On 30 December the Regimental command post had moved from Casola (894295 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio) southeast to Piancaldoli (848170 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I SE Passo della Radicosa). Along with the entire Division, the 133rd was to occupy a secondary defense line in the new region, preparing defensive positions and developing a new main line of resistance.

[1 January 1945]

The first day of the new year dawned clear and white. Deep snow covered the hills and valleys. There was no troop activity during the day, which was designated as a period of cleaning and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment.

This day Lieutenant-Colonel Walden S. Lewis, Regimental commander, and members of his staff reconnoitered the proposed site for our new main line of resistance. Upon their return to the command post they studied and discussed counter-attack plans prepared by Division. These plans were designed to combat a breakthrough by the enemy of the primary line of resistance, the Regiment to be ready to counter-

attack in any one of four sectors where hostile penetration appeared possible.

Seventeen enlisted men returned to the Regiment from temporary duty (furlough) in the United States. Forty enlisted men, accompanied by a duty officer, traveled to the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Florence for several days' recreation. Five officers began a five-day stay at the Anglo-American Hotel in Florence.

On this and other days, here and there in our area, resourceful soldiers made "ice cream". Although the manner of manufacture was unorthodox, the result was altogether palatable. Taking an empty gallon can, GI gourmets poured into it a half canteen cup of evaporated milk and a third of a cup of sugar which they had policed up. To these, as flavoring, they added a half canteen cup of cocoa, or two large spoonfuls of fruit powder. The rest of the can was then filled with pure white snow, all the ingredients being stirred continuously. In a matter of minutes six generous portions of tasty "snow cream" were ready for six eager appetites.

[2 January 1945]

On 2 January work was begun on the defensive positions in the sector assigned to us by Division. (For each battalion's tactical area refer to Regimental Training Memorandum No. 1, with Overlay No. 1.) Operations involved the development of the main line of resistance, digging in positions and preparing sites for minefields and wire obstacles.

The First, Second and Third Battalions were assigned to work, respectively, on Tactical Areas 11, 7 and 9. Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies spent the day preparing gun positions to cover these areas. Company A of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion, attached to us, labored on the roads in the area. At noon sandwiches and hot coffee were served to the soldiers, who found digging in the hard, snow-blanketed earth cold work.

This day all troops were paid for the month of December. They also received their periodic post exchange rations of candy and other items, at nominal charges. In the evening a motion picture, "Rhapsody in Blue", was shown in Piancaldoli.

[3 January 1945]

On 3 January the First Battalion surveyed Tactical Area 8, the Second reconnoitered Area 10, and the Third Battalion inspected Area 12 (see Training Memorandum No. 1 and Overlay No. 1). Our report to Division at 1730 hours revealed that in the left sector Area 7 was 85 per cent completed, Area 9 was 60 percent done, and work in Area 11 was 80 per cent finished. Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies had completed 50 per cent of their work on installations in the left sector. The Engineers continued laboring on roads in the region and formed a dump holding mines, barbed wire and similar materiel.

This day a Regimental shower and clothing exchange unit was established, with First Lieutenant Gilbert D. Wenger in charge.

On this and the following day, 24-hour permits to visit Florence

were issued to enlisted men, 100 soldiers leaving each morning. Two-day passes were granted officers, an average of 12 a day going to Florence from 3 to 7 January, inclusive.

[4 January 1945]

During 4 January the boundaries of the defensive line were changed slightly. Corrected overlays were sent to all units. (For revisions, refer to overlay No. 2, to accompany Training Memorandum No. 1.)

Work continued on positions in Areas 7, 9 and 11. Our report to Division at 1730 hours disclosed that on account of the change in boundaries, operations for the period had been slowed up. Area 7 was almost completed; Area 9 was entirely laid out, but digging was not finished. A number of positions had had to be altered in Area 11 because of boundary revisions, yet some progress had been achieved.

Issued this day was an announcement concerning counter-battery demonstrations to be held at Filigare (869157 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I SE Passo della Radicosa) on 7, 8, 9 and 10 January, to be attended by limited groups of soldiers from each unit of the Regiment except Service Company.

Captain William M. Joost, former Second Battalion S-2, left to attend the MTOUSA Leadership and Battle School. Second Lieutenant John Decker had become S-2 of the battalion on 31 December.

Captains William D. Paske and John G. Goettsch arrived during the afternoon from temporary duty (furlough) in the United States. Captain

Paske resumed his duties as Regimental communications officer, relieving First Lieutenant Frederick S. Short, who became communications officer for the First Battalion. Captain Goettsch, resuming his post as commander of Anti-Tank Company, relieved First Lieutenant Jed G. Harris, who became executive officer.

[5 January 1945]

On 5 January defensive positions in the left sector were developed, and reconnaissance again was made of sites in the right sector. In the latter area preliminary excavation was started on automatic-weapon emplacements.

During the day counter-attack plans were published (see Overlay Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6). The Regiment was to be ready to counter-attack in any direction in the II Corps sector. In order that they might be fully prepared to execute any of the four plans, unit commanders were instructed to effect complete reconnaissance of their tactical areas.

All schemes were based on the assumption of an enemy penetration of our present front line.

- In Counter-Attack Plan No. 1, it was assumed that the enemy had penetrated our lines in the vicinity of Monzuno (823247 Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NW Loiano), and our mission was to repel them and recapture ground near 830280 (same map).
- Plan No. 2 postulated a German assault against Casoni (874260 Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio); we were expected to repulse it and regain territory around 860360 (Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NW Loiano).
- The assumed hostile breakthrough in Plan No, 3 was to

Santa Maria di
Zena (915288 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), we
were to throw
back the foe and recapture ground in the neighborhood of
910325 (same
map).

- The supposition in Plan No 4 was that our adversaries had
attacked
through to coordinates 944266 (Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE
Monterenzio), our job being to retake ground lost near
950320 (Map
1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro).

Toward the close of this day the weather turned colder
and a wet snow began to fall.

[6 January 1945]

Labor on the defensive positions continued on 6
January in all the
tactical areas. Reconnaissance was instituted by the
battalions in
connection with the four counter-attack plans. Snow and
rain fell
alternately throughout the day and night.

Eight enlisted men departed during the morning to
attend the
MTOUSA Radio School. The bi-weekly beer ration of six cans
was
distributed to each soldier of the Regiment, at a charge of
eight cents
a can.

At an impressive field ceremony in the afternoon,
Major-General
Charles L. Bolte, Divisional commander, presented seven
Silver Stars, 14
Bronze Stars, and one Oak Leaf Cluster for the Bronze Star
to members of
the 133rd Infantry who had distinguished themselves in th
service of
their country.

One hundred enlisted men and two officers left for a
four-day stay
at the 34h Division Rest Camp at Montecatini Terme, Fifth
Army rest city

for combat troops, situated 25 miles west of Florence. Four officers traveled to the Anglo-American Hotel in Florence for a brief holiday.

[7 January 1945]

On Sunday, 2 January, a day of relaxation for our soldiers, church services were held in various areas of the Regiment. At a Company D formation in the afternoon, Purple Heart awards and Good Conduct Ribbons were presented to a number of the unit's members.

The Regimental S-3 staff prepared Overlay Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 showing the proposed defensive positions in the Tactical Areas 7 to 12, inclusive. These overlays indicated, in the order numbered above, troop dispositions, minefields and tactical wire, fire plan for automatic weapons and anti-tank guns, and concentrations of cannon, mortar, and artillery.

In the vicinity of the Regimental command post, a model two-man foxhole was built by several members of Regimental Headquarters Company to show troops the kind of foxhole most advisable for maximum protection and usefulness. Under normal terrain conditions the position, consisting of two pits with connecting passages to a slit trench, could be dug in two hours by two men. The project was in charge of Technician Fourth Grade Charles W. Williamson, Jr. Under "S-3 Reports" will be found a sketch of the model installation drawn by Private First Class Francis Clark.

On this cold, clear day, and on other days during their leisure hours, various soldiers enjoyed skiing on skis borrowed

from civilians
in and around Piancaldoli.

[8 January 1945]

High snow drifts interfered with work on the defensive positions on 8 January. Some units were unable even to reach their areas on account of icy roads and trails.

This day advance word was received from Division that our Regiment was tentatively alerted to begin movement of one battalion on the night of 11 January. We were to relieve elements of the 88th Infantry Division.

Through Major Timothy F. Horan, commanding officer of the Second Battalion, a report was received that one man and a vehicle of the 88th Division, reconnoitering in our sector, was blown up by a mine after running into an extensive minefield near grid square 9122 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio. Note: the following day First Lieutenant Joseph A. Szewdo, Regimental mine officer, checked that area and found it free of mines.

Written instructions were sent to all units this day concerning the issuance of passes to Italian civilians employed by various sections of the Regiment. Major James R. McClymont, Regimental S-2, would in the immediate future arrange interviews between the 34th Counter-Intelligence Corps and the civilians. The latter were to be investigated by the Corps and, if found to be trustworthy, granted passes permitting them to remain in the Divisional area.

[9 January 1945]

Throughout 9 January the battalions and Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies labored on the defensive positions in the right sector.

At 0950 hours Captain Earl W. Ralf, Regimental S-3, telephoned from the Divisional command post, where he was attending a meeting, and reported that he had received orders for one battalion and Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies to go forward the night of 11-12 January, to begin relief of the 350th Infantry of the 88th Division. Our First Battalion was chosen to make the initial move, the Second and Third Battalions to move up during daylight of 12 January and the night of 12-13 January.

At 1115 hours Division notified us that Company A of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion, and the 109th Medical Battalion were being detached from the Regiment, but would remain in support. Word was also received that 40 of our soldiers, currently attached to the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop along with 20 .50-caliber machine guns, were to revert to our control on 10 January.

At 1300 hours a reconnoitering party, consisting of the Regimental S-3 and representatives of the First Battalion, Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies and the Regimental transportation section, left to inspect the sector we were scheduled to take over.

Divisional Operational Instructions No. 2 were conveyed verbally to the Regiment at 2115 by an officer of the Divisional G-3 staff. They involved the marking of positions in the six tactical areas, directing that they be marked in the following manner:

A pole approximately six feet in length, with a red can or similarly painted object nailed atop it, was to be erected at each position. A linen tag was to be tied to the pole five feet from the ground. The markers were to indicate positions in the area corresponding with the area number. In the case of crew-served weapon pits, information was to include type of weapon, relative position (i.e., No. 1 gun), and azimuth setting. The data regarding the marking of positions was to be sent at once to all our units, with orders for them to stress the instructions in the following day's work.

This day 66 enlisted men, accompanied by a duty officer, went to Florence for a few days' relaxation at the Fifth Army Rest Camp.

[10 January 1945]

On 10 January our troops engaged in marking the defensive positions, according to instructions of the previous day.

Plans were formulated in the morning for our relief of the 350th Infantry. The route to be followed by our units on 11 January was Highways 6529, 65 and 6531, north to coordinates 926262 (Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio).

At 1340 hours, however, verbal orders were received from Division drastically affecting the scheduled relief. The Regiment was now to replace the 349th Infantry of the 88th Division, instead of the 350th. The 349th was situated just west of the 350th Infantry.

Our reserve battalion, the Third, was to move up in daylight of 11 January, as were Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies. The First

and Second
Battalions were to go forward the night of 12 January.
Upon receiving
these orders we immediately began reconnoitering the new
sector.

During the day the Anti-Tank Company platoon which had
been
attending the 4.5 rocket-gun school at II Corps
Headquarters rejoined
the Regiment. The platoon now comprised a group of
soldiers thoroughly
trained in this new instrument of war and well able to
wield it against
the enemy. The 40 men with the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance
Troop also
returned to our organization.

This day Sergeant Glen C. Reimers and Private First
Class Clinton
C. Dodson of Company E went to the 34th Division Counter-
Intelligence
Corps Headquarters, to act as witnesses in the trial of a
suspected
enemy agent. The two infantrymen had assisted in the
apprehension of
the accused last December. Discovered to have had previous
connections
with the Fascist movement in the town of Imola, southeast
of Bologna,
the Italian admitted in the course of the proceedings that
he had been
sent through our lines by the Germans for the purpose of
espionage. He
was convicted and sentenced to death.

At 2300 hours Regimental Operational Instructions No.
1,
containing instructions for replacing the 349th Infantry,
was issued
along with a motor-march table and an overlay (No. 11) of
dispositions
and routes. Attached to us for the operation pending were
one platoon
of Company C, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and one
platoon of
Battery D, 432nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons
Battalion.

The 337th Field Artillery Battalion would be in direct support of the Regiment.

[11 January 1945]

On 11 January the marking of positions in the secondary defense zone was completed. A reconnaissance party from the 88th Division visited our sector and was taken on a tour of all the prepared defensive positions.

A special agent from the 34th Division Counter-Intelligence Corps arrived at the Regimental command post to interview the Italian civilians employed by units of the Regiment. All passing investigation were to be issued permits authorizing them to stay within the Divisional sector. Of the 14 persons interviewed, all were given passes with the exception of one man. It was learned that he had deserted from a mule train attached to the Division. He was expected to be court-martialed by the Italian Army.

By 1640 hours Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies and the Third Battalion had closed in their new areas, relieving the corresponding units of the 349th Infantry at, respectively, coordinates 931296, 935286 and 927285, between Fiumetto and Baccanello (Map - 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio). Upon completion of this relief our three forward units passed to control of the 349th Infantry.

At 1440 hours our 40 soldiers who had been attached to the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop with .50-caliber machine guns, took over the .50-caliber gun positions of the 349th Infantry. In charge of the

group was First Lieutenant Roy D. Phillips of Anti-Tank Company.

This clear, bracing day three officers traveled to Florence for several days relaxation at the Anglo-American Hotel

A "Stars and Stripes" news dispatch from Washington, D.C., announced that on 10 January President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded seven Congressional Medals of Honor to five soldiers and two Navy men. Two of the soldiers, Private First Class Leo J. Powers and First Lieutenant Beryl R. Newman, had won the laurels while in combat with the 133rd Infantry in Italy.

[12 January 1945]

Shortly after noon on 12 January the Regimental command post set up at Savassa (927273 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio) approximately seven miles north of Piancaldoli and three-and-a-half miles southeast of Monte Belmonte (904328 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), which our troops had captured after a bitter struggle last October.

Upon his arrival in the new area, the Regimental S-1 sent to all our own and attached units a letter calling for the submission by 1800 hours 15 January of overlays, sketches and explanatory notes indicating the location of troops and installations, and supply and evacuation routes.

The First and Second Battalions detrucked at 924262 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio), 1,100 yards below Savazza, and moved forward from there by foot, relieving the 349th Infantry elements

at 930230 (Map
1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), 6,000 yards north of the
de-trucking
point by 1215 hours. At that time command of the sector
and our units
passed to our control. At the close of the period
components of the
133rd Infantry had arrived in the new sector with the
exception of
Service Company, which was scheduled to move the following
day.

This day six enlisted men departed to take a course in
communication at the MTOUSA Wire School.

Captain Hershel L. Harrell and Sergeant George B. Reed
of the 15th
Air Force, based at Foggia, Italy, arrived at our command
post to
observe an Infantry regiment in combat over a week's
period.

[13 January 1945]

In the dark early morning hours of 13 January all was
quiet along
the front. Heavy, wet snow fell over the sector,
continuing throughout
the day to re-blanket the already snow-covered countryside.

Two Company H soldiers were wounded slightly around
0300 hours
when they wandered into a friendly minefield in front of
Company G's
position at 945324 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro),
4,000 yards
east of Monte Belmonte.

During the day our troops improved and strengthened
their defenses
by making some readjustments to the positions formerly
occupied by the
organization they relieved. Upon the arrival of Service
Company in its
new area near 925266 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE
Monterenzio), 800 yards
below Savassa, all units of the Regiment had closed in the
sector.

Our line-company commanders reconnoitered proposed Switch Line positions. The Switch Line was to be used in the event the enemy should change the direction of his attack. Overlay No. 12, delineating all known friendly and enemy minefields in the sector, was issued, as well as a list of our observation posts.

Activity remained negligible throughout the day. In many places the snow was hip deep, hampering the operation of patrols, both the Germans' and our own. High drifts made positions extremely difficult to locate. Some hostile machine-gun fire was noted along the front, chiefly in the Second Battalion sector. Enemy artillery fire was light.

Although our observation posts were operating 24 hours a day, this day poor visibility rendered their reports of little value.

Patrols made forays in the dark hours. Throughout the month, it may be mentioned here, our soldiers found the Germans alert to and wary of our probings. The extreme sensitivity of enemy outposts prevented our obtaining any prisoners at any time (Refer to "S-2 Reports" for all patrol plans and results for the month..)

To Florence this day went 40 enlisted men and a duty officer for a five-day stay at the Fifth Army Rest Center.

[14 January 1945]

After midnight on 14 January tanks of Company C, 752nd Tank Battalion, in support of the Regiment, shot 15 rounds of harassing fire at targets located at 954368, 961366, and 955360 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), about 4,500 yards northeast of Monte

Belmonte. Our Cannon Company fired 60 harassing rounds during the period.

Further plans and reconnaissance were made for the development of Switch Line A. Visibility approached the zero point as the winter's worst blizzard to date thickly screened the air. The "Stars and Stripes" reported that six to eight inches of snow fell in less than 12 hours.

[15 January 1945]

A pea-soup fog hugged the terrain through the night, but following the dawn of 15 January the sun dissipated the mist, and visibility improved greatly. On the other hand, melting and shifting snow threatened to cave in foxholes, dugouts and gun emplacements. Front-liners in many instances had to reinforce their positions with sandbags, shell casings and wood.

Our supporting tanks had loosed some three score rounds of harassing fire against the foe in the hours of darkness. During the day Regimental Operational Instructions No. 2, with Overlay No. 13, appeared, dealing with the construction and maintenance of Switch Line A. Overlay Nos. 14, 15, and 16 were published, outlining, respectively, the disposition of troops; location of tanks, tank destroyers and anti-tank guns; and fire plan of machine guns in our sector.

Our forward elements absorbed a degree of hostile artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire, the latter increasing toward evening. Rear areas were only lightly harassed, our cannoneers disturbing the

Germans similarly. A cold, dense fog descended over the land at nightfall. The usual security, contact and reconnaissance groups patrolled during the late hours.

Three years ago this day, on 15 January 1942, our First Battalion and some special units formed the nucleus of the initial convoy to sail from the United States for foreign soil after Pearl Harbor. The third overseas anniversary, noted in a front-page story in "Stars and Stripes" on 16 January, was not celebrated by our battle-scarred infantrymen. (On 17 January, however, Army Pictorial Service photographers did take still and motion pictures of 133rd Infantry soldiers wearing six overseas stripes. A photograph of Lieutenant-Colonel Frank A. Reagan, executive officer of the Regiment, helping Corporal Edwin R. Barnard sew six overseas bars on his sleeve appeared in the "Stars and Strips" of 24 January.)

[16 January 1945]

Only a normal amount of German artillery and mortar harassing fire landed in our territory after midnight, on 16 January. There were occasional exchanges of long-range machine-gun fire.

At 0500 hours the Regimental observation post at Casa di Galeazzo (945312 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), 4,700 yards southeast of Monte Belmonte, reported enemy troops moving around Casa Cerrara (933332 - same map), about 2,000 yards northwest of the observation post. Our 81-millimeter mortarmen immediately brought fire down in that vicinity.

Overlay Nos. 17 and 18 were issued showing,

respectively, friendly
and enemy minefields in the sector, superseding Overlay No.
12.
Published also were counter-attack plans for our battalion
in reserve,
with Overlay No. 19.

The daylight hours were quiet, as had been the
preceding night.
German mortar fire rose somewhat in volume after dusk, but
the evening
as a whole was calm too. At midnight, a fine snow was
sifting earthward
and the atmosphere was cold.

This day three officers motored to Florence for a
brief stay at
the Anglo-American Hotel.

The night of 16-17 January was fairly quiet, the
customary mortar
and artillery duels breaking the winter stillness. There
was
considerable enemy flare activity. Our .50-caliber machine
gunners shot
2,000 rounds of long-range harassing fire in the hours of
darkness.

[17 January 1945]

At about 0115 hours 17 January shifting snow caused a
dugout to
cave in, burying six Company D men. After an hour-and-a-
half's digging,
their comrades rescued four soldiers caught in the
collapse; the other
two soldiers were dead from suffocation.

At 0410 hours Company F reported self-propelled fire
falling at Ca
di Razzone (937324 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro),
about 3,200
yards east of Monte Belmonte. Shells landed intermittently
until 0630
hours. During the same period Company D experienced a
slight increase
in the number of enemy artillery shells exploding in its
sector around

Casa di Marchetti (929317 - map as above), 600 yards south of Ca di Razzo.

Hostile action in the sunny daylight hours was uniformly dormant over the sector.

At 1800 hours Company B received some German 50-millimeter mortar fire and at the same time heard vehicular movement in its front. Company B was situated at 928326, near Casa Collina (map as above), 300 yards above Ca di Razzo. At 2300 hours the company had to contend with a degree of long-range machine-gun fire, but otherwise the evening was tranquil.

Toward midnight Private First Class George F. Keane of Company B returned to his outfit after having been missing since the night of 13-14 January. Suffering from trench foot, he stated that he had been captured by the Germans when he got lost and wandered over into their lines. He escaped while his captors were asleep. The information he imparted as to the enemy's dispositions and installations was expected to be of future use to us.

Issued this day was Regimental Operational Instructions No. 3. It dealt with the vital necessity of maintaining continuous contact with our adversaries in order to prevent infiltrations and to obtain identifications and other information.

This day Major Warren C. Chapman, who had been wounded the past September, returned from the hospital and was assigned as executive officer of the Third Battalion. He relieved Major Edward M. Fabert, who

became the First Battalion's executive officer. Major Fabert, in turn, replaced Major Linus T. Williams. The latter was assigned to the Regimental Headquarters staff.

Forty enlisted men traveled in trucks to Florence for several days respite from combat.

In rear areas, on this and other days in their leisure hours, divers soldiers enjoyed skiing over snow-packed hills.

[18 January 1945]

German fire was moderate in the hours following midnight, on 18 January. Early in the morning our Company D fired an intense counter-mortar barrage at an observed enemy mortar flash. Company F's 60-millimeter mortars knocked out a hostile machine gun. The enemy piece was spotted at 937327 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), 3,000 yards east of Monte Belmonte. Our mortarmen neutralized it with the first four rounds they fired.

Toboggans were issued to the active battalions for evacuation purposes and for the hauling of supplies over the snow-covered terrain to forward platoons and outposts. A number of snowshoes were also made available.

At 2215 hours Companies A and B, around Casa Collina, underwent a heavy mortar barrage, estimated to be 81-millimeter shells.

This day four enlisted men were sent to the 734th Ordnance Company to attend a course in the operation of the Carrier, Cargo, M29 (Weasel), a small tractor-type vehicle. Four of these vehicles, to be employed

when snow and ice became too forbidding for jeeps, were being acquired by the Regiment.

[19 January 1945]

Only the usual harassing fires featured German activity during the 24 hours of 19 January. Rain and snow this warm day caused streams to overflow. A stream running through the Second Battalion's sector rose above three feet, washing out foot bridges and preventing fording it. The Engineers furnished rubber boats, and the Battalion's Ammunition and Pioneer section used them as pontoons for foot bridges. One served Company H's command post, another made it possible for ration details to reach the first and third platoons of Company F.

At 2130 hours Second Lieutenant Charles F. Dosch of Company C and 28 enlisted men raided the house at Vivalvo (935327), near where Company F mortarmen had knocked out a machine gun the night before. The group found the house unoccupied, encountering no enemy or enemy fire at any time, and at 2300 hours returned to its base without incident. (See Raid Plan No. 1, under "S-3 Reports".)

This day Captain Delbert Cox, First Lieutenant Melvin E. Purinton and six enlisted men left for temporary duty with the Fifth Army Training Center in Montecatini Terme. They were to act as instructors for a new Infantry Regiment, the 473rd, composed of former anti-aircraft artillery soldiers. Two enlisted men departed for the MTOUSA Signal School for instruction in message center procedure.

[20 December 1945]

Throughout the day and night of 20 January German artillery and mortar harassing fire were of normal intensity, accompanied by sporadic machine-gun fire. At 1900 hours Company C infantrymen, in positions around 926315 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), 2,500 yards southeast of Monte Belmonte, weathered a heavy mortar barrage. Counter-mortar fire was directed at the enemy guns, which were spotted by our forward Regimental observation post. A sharp exchange of machine-gun fire occurred in the First Battalion sector, hostile bullets causing one casualty among our forces. The Germans released many flares in the early part of the night.

During the evening a platoon of Company F relieved the extreme right platoon of Company A, the boundary between our two front-line battalions consequently being shifted to the left.

In the Regimental reserve area at Fiumetto (930284 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio) a motion picture, "Strike Up The Band", was shown in two large connected storage tents. Movies were being exhibited every afternoon and evening to soldiers in that area.

First Lieutenant Harry C. Hodgkins and eight enlisted men, all of whom were adept at skiing, left this day for temporary duty with the II Corps Ski School, to brush up on the sport for military purposes.

[21 January 1945]

A slight rise in mortar and artillery action featured the enemy's efforts in the post-midnight hours, on 21 January. Shortly after dawn, however, this fire became of little account, and the

remainder of the day and evening was fairly still.

At 1000 hours Overlay No. 20 was published, revealing a change in the 16 January counter-attack plans for the reserve battalions. At 1400 appeared Operational Instructions No. 4, announcing that the First Battalion was to be relieved by the Third on the night of 22-23 January.

Company B suffered two casualties when the Germans directed a brief but heavy mortar barrage against its positions just after nightfall.

A Second Battalion raiding party, consisting of Second Lieutenant Arnold A. Luzom and 26 enlisted men, left Company F's command post at 2145, 45 minutes later than previously scheduled (see Raid Plan No. 2). The group's objective was the house at Ca Merla (939328 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), approximately 500 yards above Company F's positions near Ca di Razzone. The building had been the goal of several patrols which were stopped by vicious mortar and machine-gun fire from that vicinity. Upon stealthy arrival at the house, our soldiers discovered it to be unoccupied. They returned to our lines without meeting any enemy. At about 2130 hours hostile aircraft were heard bombing and strafing north of the Regimental command post. The First Battalion later reported that the plane's apparent target had been the very house which our raiding party had found free of Germans. According to a Second Battalion report, the Luftwaffe also bombed and strafed Casella (943339 - map as above), 1,100 yards north of Ca Merla.

This day three officers traveled to Florence for a brief "vacation" at the Anglo-American.

[22 January 1945]

The entire 24 hours of 22 January was relatively calm. During the morning we received word from the Divisional G-3 that the 35th Quartermaster War Dog Platoon would be attached to the Regiment beginning 23 January. The group was composed of one officer, 20 enlisted men, and 24 dogs. Of the latter, 17 were to be utilized in scouting and patrolling missions, seven as messengers. The dogs were German Shepherd cross-breeds and Dalmations.

The Third Battalion began replacing the First at 1730 Hours, and the relief was completed without incident by 2145 hours. The First Battalion arrived in the Regimental reserve area at 2325 hours.

This night a Company G sergeant was killed when the vehicle he was driving hurtled over a steep bank. Enemy planes were heard flying over the sector around 2255 hours.

[23 January 1945]

On 23 January, as on the preceding day, the front was quite inactive. There were the usual artillery, mortar and long-range machine-gun exchanges, and patrol sorties. The weather was clear and cold.

First Lieutenant John W. A. Shibley, Jr., arrived with his 35th Quartermaster War Dog Platoon. They were to begin their work with the

Regiment the night of 25-26 January. A war dog and his handler were to accompany a Company G contact patrol.

One hundred enlisted men, with two duty officers, went to the 34th Division Rest Camp in Montecatini Terme for five days' pleasure.

[24 January 1945]

The dark hours of 23-24 January were characterized by the usual scattered mortar and machine-gun fire over the whole sector, as well as light artillery harassing efforts. The daylight hours of 24 January, too, were fairly quiet.

At 2100 hours a 15-man enemy patrol approached Company L's positions at Casa Collina and engaged our outpost line with hand grenades. The hostile forces quickly retreated when blasted by our machine guns and mortars.

This day, for the first time since last September, passes to Rome were given enlisted men of the Regiment. Train service had been established between Montecatini Terme and the Eternal City, trucks transporting the soldiers from our Service Company area to Montecatini Terme. Forty-eight men, accompanied by a duty officer, left early in the morning to spend, exclusive of traveling time, four days and four nights in Rome. The one-way trip was scheduled to take 28 hours, broken up by stops for showers, clothing exchange, and meals.

This day, also, our infantrymen received a rare treat: two bottles of Coca-Cola per man, at five cents a bottle.

[25 January 1945]

The period of 25 January, like the day before, was generally quiet. Company L suffered two casualties at 0200 hours, when about 15 rounds of light mortar landed in its area. Between midnight and dawn our .50-caliber machine gunners fired more than 7,000 rounds of harassing bullets at the Germans. It snowed part of the dark morning hours.

During the forenoon a firing demonstration of the 4.5 rocket launcher was held for personnel of the Anti-Tank Company, Major Lewis A. Fletcher, assistant Regimental S-3, and battalion representatives also attending. Distributed in the morning was Overlay No. 21, showing defensive fire plan "Razor" of the 337th Field Artillery Battalion. In the afternoon our current reserve battalion, the [First], fired rifle grenades and bazookas on a range near Fiumetto. Recently arrived replacements were thus enabled to familiarize themselves with the use of this weapon.

Two Third Battalion men were wounded in the evening when they wandered into a hitherto undetected stick minefield while on the way to establish an outpost. The field was situated just northeast of Casa Collina.

At 0105 hours the Company G contact patrol returned from its mission. Its members reported that the war dog accompanying them alerted the patrol well in advance of each sentry encountered. This was the first time a war dog had been used by any unit of the 34th Division.

[26 January 1945]

Driving, bone-chilling rain made 26 January a trying day for our soldiers. Swiftly rising streams tore out foot bridges and flooded roads and fields. The turbulent waters, which rose one foot an hour, made the evacuation of the wounded a hazardous operation, and posed serious supply problems. The washed-out route between Savazza and Fiumetto prevented vehicles from reaching the front. Rowboats and rubber boats, plus spanning ropes for litter baskets, were resorted to. Certain Service Company sections and the battalion kitchen trains, situated in the river basin south of Savazza, had to move to higher ground. A Company E reconnaissance patrol was cancelled on account of flooded lowlands.

In the forenoon Second Lieutenant James J. Hallal, taking advantage of the poor visibility, led two eight-man Company I squads and a war dog and his handler in a raid on enemy bunkers just above Casa Collina. The dog was the first to detect the Germans, halting in his tracks 50 yards from an enemy ambush. Consequently, our raiders were already in position to fire from cover when the foe spied them and began to hurl grenades and shoot machine pistols at the Americans. Swiftly and fearlessly combatting this fire, Sergeant Thomas L. Rusch stood up to the Germans, killing one and wounding two others. Sergeant Rusch was our sole casualty, being injured slightly in the arm. (See Raid Plan No. 3 under "S-3 Reports"; for results in detail refer to Patrol Report No. 14 under "S-2 Reports".)

The Regimental S-2 and the assistant Regimental S-3 visited the battalions to acquaint key personnel with the CPX (command post exercise) to be conducted at 34th Division Headquarters the following day. The CPX was to test the soundness of the Corps counter-attack plan and familiarize leaders with the terrain over which they might operate. Details of coordination were to be worked out with the units involved.

Enemy mortar and artillery fire was largely of a harassing nature through the day, no large concentrations falling in our sector. Between 0400 and 0600 hours our Third Battalion 60-millimeter mortars and our platoon equipped with .50-caliber machine guns gave supporting fire to a raiding party from the 168th Infantry on our right. The mortars fired 100 rounds, the machine guns about 1,500.

In the evening Second Lieutenant Harvey D. White, Third Battalion transportation officer commissioned in December, lost his life when his boat capsized as he attempted to cross a raging, swollen stream near Company H's command post. Captain Robert L. Leonard, Third Battalion S-1, who was with Lieutenant White, was able to reach the river bank safely. All torrents coursed through the sector at spring tide until about 1930 hours, when the rains ceased, melting snows had frozen hard, and the waters began to recede.

Fires were started in German-held territory by the 337th Field Artillery Battalion and the Company C platoon of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion. The 4.2 chemical mortars hit an ammunition dump at 933333 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), above Casa

Cerrara, about
600 yards north of Casa Collina.

This day Major Merton E. Church of the Regimental staff became S-4 of the Regiment, relieving Captain William Dubinsky, who was appointed assistant Regimental S-4.

Majors Beverly V. Pearson and Robert E. Scanlon, and First Lieutenant Robert D. McClure, all of the 15th Air Force, arrived in our sector to observe Infantry combat methods for five days.

Three of our officers motored to Florence for a brief holiday at the Anglo-American Hotel.

[27 January 1945]

A few rounds of nebelwerfer (multi-barreled mortar shells and the familiar harassing artillery, mortar, and long-range machine-gun fire featured German action of 27 January. Shortly after midnight the Regimental observation post near Casa di Galeazzo reported that several fires in enemy territory, started the previous evening by our artillery and chemical mortars, were still burning.

At approximately 0100 hours the Third Battalion reported that the chemical mortars had scored 12 direct hits with heavy explosive shells and 10 with white phosphorus on Casa Cerrara. The fire was directed by Company K observers near Casa Collina, 500 yards below the target. German soldiers were seen running in confusion from the house in the midst of our shelling, and further rounds were dropped in the neighborhood.

Visibility in the early hours of daylight was very

good. Our observers noted a great deal of hostile activity, some targets being taken under fire by our supporting artillery and the 4.2 chemical mortars. In the afternoon six rounds of German propaganda leaflets landed in Company H's sector at 930310, near Casa dei Marchetti. (Sample of Allied news leaflets, shot toward the enemy by the 337th Field Artillery Battalion, are [not] attached to this history.

The scheduled CPX was held at Division in the afternoon.

Friendly aircraft flew overhead during the evening. Contact, reconnaissance and security patrols were dispatched in darkness.

This day Lieutenant-Colonel Walden S. Lewis, Regimental commander, received congratulations upon his appointment to a full colonelcy.

[28 January 1945]

In the predawn hours of 28 January, the Regiment's .50-caliber machine gun platoon loosed 4,900 rounds of harassing fire against our adversaries. German fire of all types was normal in volume throughout the period.

At 0400 hours a company reconnaissance patrol of one officer, nine men, and a war dog and his handler returned from its mission. The leader, First Lieutenant George F. Howard, reported that when he and his group reached point 939327, near Ca Merla, they received several rounds on 50-millimeter mortar fire, and later had to seek cover from grazing machine-gun fire coming from the front and right front.

Two sergeants
and the dog handler were wounded and the war dog killed.
The latter's
death was believed to be the first such casualty on the
American Fifth
Army front. (For details of patrol, see Patrol Report No.
15.) On
patrols the dogs wore white saddle jackets made out of
mattress covers.
This camouflage served the canines as well as the white
parkas served
the human soldiers.

This day Privates Ronald J. Keppen, Company C, and
Omar P. Twitty,
Company A, were selected to be part of the honor guard of
Lieutenant-General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., Fifth Army
commander.

One hundred enlisted men and two duty officers went to
the 34th
Division Rest Camp at Montecatini Terme.

[29 January 1945]

At 0100 hours 29 January Company K observers spotted a
column of
10 Germans walking southward toward Casa Cerrara,
Notified, the Company
C platoon of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion went into
action at
once. The 20 rounds the mortarmen fired effectively
dispersed the
enemy. Their casualties were not learned.

Soon after daybreak, the Regimental S-3 left for a
general
reconnaissance in the area of Barberino di Mugello (788941
- Map
1:50,000 Sheet 98 II Firenzuola), 15 miles north of
Florence. It was
expected that the Regiment would in the near future move to
that area
upon being relieved in our present sector.

The day and evening were quiet. Unidentified aircraft
were in our
vicinity at 1045, 1720, 1805 and 2100 hours, but no hostile

action by
them was reported.

A raid scheduled by Company E was postponed until the following night. It was decided that the bright moon shining this night would hamper the movements of the raiding party.

[30 January 1945]

At 0900 hours 30 January, friendly aircraft bomber and strafed in the area of Baccanello (933296 - Map 1:25,000 98 I NE Monterenzio), a village in our sector about one-and-a-quarter miles above the command post at Savassa. The planes had mistaken Baccanello for Mercatale, their intended target. The latter hamlet, German-held, was situated at 954367 (Map - 1:25,000 87 II SE Pianoro), some four miles north of Baccanello. Fortunately, no damage to our troops or damage to our installations resulted. Later in the day, at 1230 hours, our aircraft returned, this time bombing and strafing Mercatale. Our observation posts had noted much hostile activity during the morning, including movement in Mercatale.

In a telephone conversation this day, the Regimental G-3 informed our Regimental S-2 that the 133rd Infantry would attack of 5 February with the 168th, the regiment on our right. On 2 February a barrage was to be laid down on selected targets in an effort to uncover more enemy positions before the attack took place. Extra ammunition was to be allotted for the operation, and the 752nd Tank Battalion would fire in support.

During the evening hours the First Battalion relieved

the Second.

The relief was completed by 2150 hours, the Second Battalion going into Regimental reserve.

Patrols were very active in the night, a number of firefights resulting (see Patrol Report No. 18).

Enemy artillery action was light throughout the period. Toward midnight fires in German-held territory were reported by our observation posts, One of these fires was thought to be the burning of an ammunition dump.

This day, and on 31 January, 40 enlisted men were to begin a nine-day course in first-echelon vehicle maintenance and operation at the Regiment's motor pool.

[31 January 1945]

On 31 January preparation were begun for the Regiment, in one-battalion force, to attack on 5 February. It was planned to clothe every member of the attacking unit, the Second Battalion, either in a white parka or in a coat made out of a mattress cover, so that the soldiers might better blend with the snowy landscape.

The Regimental S-2 published a list of current observation posts.

The entire 24 hours was fairly quiet. At night, we maintained contact with the Germans and exerted pressure on them by aggressive and vigorous patrol action (refer to Patrol Report No. 19). Scattered mortar and machine-gun fires lightly harassed the Regimental front as midnight approached. As the month ended, the weather was cool and

clear. Searchlights operated by II Corps were directing beams of artificial moonlight over the sector, as they had often in recent months, to aid our vehicle drivers. The moon itself was hazy, but visibility was good.

Nineteen enlisted men and three officers returned this day from temporary duty furloughs in the United States. Five officers motored to Florence for several days' pleasure.

[Summary]

Three enlisted men of the Regiment, Chester E. Freel, Francis F. Haggerty, and Gyle E. Herron, won combat appointments to second lieutenant in January.

Five second lieutenants received combat promotions to first lieutenant. They were Carl M. Lund, Norman J. Hooghkirk, Arthur Bartik, William H. Shearer and Addis Pride.

Forty nine enlisted men and five officers left the Regiment in January for rotation furloughs in the United States. Thirteen enlisted men and one officer departed for the United States on temporary duty furloughs.

Our casualties in January were the lowest in our history, a consequence of our operations in the month. Five soldiers lost their lives and 10 were wounded. One was captured, but escaped.

On 1 January the Regiment had an effective strength of 142 officers, three warrant officers, and 2,529 enlisted men. On 31 January our effective strength was 161 officers, four warrant officers and 3,245

enlisted men. During the month we received a total of 425 replacements.

Thus our strength experienced an increase of 716 members.

As of 31 January 1945, the 133rd Infantry has been overseas three years and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Louis F. Kaleita
LOUIS F. KALEITA
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945, inclusive.

From 31 December 1944 to 12 January 1945 the 133rd Infantry of the 34th Division occupied and developed a secondary defensive line north of Piancaldoli (948170 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I SE Passo della Radicosa). On the latter date the Regimental command post moved forward to Savazza (927273 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio). We were to engage in an active defense of a sector some 2,500 yards west of Monte Belmonte, above Ca di Razzone (937324 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro).

As February began we were continuing this operation, patrolling constantly and vigorously. The Germans determinedly resisted our probings, their mortarmen and machine gunners being ever alert to our movements. Now we were preparing to launch a limited-objective attack, in one-battalion strength, on 5 February.

[1 February 1945]

The front on 1 February was quiet, only the normal

artillery and mortar action disturbing the stillness of a dreary, warm day.

The period was notable chiefly in two respects. At 1300 hours Company K troops picked up an enemy deserter at 935326, south of the ridge 500 yards above Ca di Razzone. The soldier, a Pole, was the first prisoner taken by us since late December. According to his story, at noon he was sent to relieve an outpost guard on Hill 358, near Casa Collina (929327 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro). At that time the position had been under our fire. The Pole waited until the fire ceased, relieved the other man, and walked to the place where he surrendered. The prisoner's unit was 2nd Company, 578th Regiment, 305th Division.

At 1330 hours occurred the other noteworthy event of the day. Major-General Charles L. Bolte, commander of the 34th Division, visited the Regimental command post and pinned the silver "eagles" of a full colonel on the Regimental commander, Walden S. Lewis. Colonel Lewis had been promoted from lieutenant-colonel on 27 January.

Second Battalion officers, their unit having been chosen to make the attack on 5 February, spent most of this and the two succeeding days on reconnaissance of assembly areas and possible routes of approach for the assault. Issued were Overlay Nos. 1 and 2 showing, respectively, tank and tank destroyer support of the 168th Infantry, and fires planned for 2 February.

During the evening the First Battalion, whose positions were west

of Ca di Razzone, sustained three casualties from enemy mortars. A Company L raiding group found no Germans in suspected hostile positions on the forward slope of Hill 357 (928326 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), about 1,000 yards west of Ca di Razzone. The company intended to outpost that vicinity nightly.

Toward midnight our .50-caliber machine gun platoon and our 60- and 81-millimeter mortarmen fired on Casella to provide a diversion for a raiding party from the Division's 135th Infantry, the unit on our left. Casella was situated at 943339 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro), 1,600 yards to the right front of Ca di Razzone.

[2 February 1945]

Only the customary German harassing activities, featuring artillery and mortars, were reported for the night of 1-2 February. Our patrols were active (refer to "S-2 Reports" for all patrol plans and results during the month). Early in the morning of 2 February, however, two small but intense mortar concentrations, of approximately 25 rounds each, fell on Company L's newly established outpost on the forward slope of Hill 357. The intensity of the shellings forced the outpost's members to withdraw.

At 0235 hours our attached platoon from the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion fired its 4.2 mortars on an enemy position at the request of Company A. The mortars started a large fire at 943334, 1,200 yards northeast of Ca di Razzone. Observed by our men, the flames seemed to be rising from a small-arms and artillery ammunition dump.

Shortly before noon the barrage scheduled to be laid down on selected targets in the afternoon, was postponed until the next day on account of poor visibility.

About 1400 hours a Third Battalion observation post at 933328, 500 yards north of Ca di Razzo, spotted an enemy soldier peering through field glasses near a house 200 yards to the observation post's right front. A member of the post shot the German and saw the wounded man taken away on a sled by comrades.

At 2030 hours a hostile eight-man patrol attempted to enter our lines in Company K's sector, but were quickly dispersed by our machine-gun and mortar fire. The evening was tranquil otherwise. A fine rain began to fall in the late hours.

This day 100 enlisted men, accompanied by two duty officers, rode in trucks to Montecatini Terme, Fifth Army rest city for combat troops 25 miles west of Florence. There, residing at the 34th Division Rest Camp, they were to enjoy several days' respite from battle.

Troops of the Second Battalion and special units were paid for the month of February.

[3 February 1945]

On 3 February, shortly after midnight, a German soldier deserted to men of Company I at 924325, about 1,200 yards west of Ca di Razzo. He had been supposed to relieve a medical aid man, but kept on going and surrendered to us. The prisoner, whose unit was 2nd Company, 576th Regiment, 305th Division, claimed to be an anti-Nazi and said he had

long been awaiting an opportunity to desert.

A mine-sweeping crew from the First Battalion's Pioneer and Ammunition Platoon swept Route 6531 from Company B's positions to the forward boundary of the battalion's sector.

The artillery demonstration planned for this afternoon was again postponed, this time indefinitely. Visibility was nil, practically, the entire day and night. Throughout the period enemy artillery, mortar, and long-range- machine-gun fires were light in volume.

This day 48 enlisted men and two duty officers departed for the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Rome. They were to travel in trucks to Montecatini Terme, thence by train to Rome, where they would spend four days and four nights in pursuit of pleasure.

The night of 3-4 February brought a slight increase in the number of enemy shells exploding in our sector. A definite rise was noted in the Third Battalion area, especially around Company I's positions. There, small mortar concentrations of from eight to 20 rounds fell at intervals through the night, in addition to the usual harassing fires.

Company L night raiders got to within grenade-throwing distance of enemy bunkers at 928328, 1,000 yards northwest of Ca di Razzone, on Hill 357. They fired bazookas and rifle grenades and hurled hand grenades, but were unable to knock out the bunkers.

[4 February 1945]

At noon on 4 February Regimental Operational Instructions No. 5 was published, concerning the 5 February attack by the

Second Battalion.

The unit was to seize and hold Objective A (See Overlay No. 3), running roughly from coordinates 920323 northeast to 935340, then southeast to 947333 (Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro). Also issued in connection with the attack were Overlay Nos. 4, 5 and 6. They outlined, respectively, the fire plan of the Second Battalion, the proposed plan of dispositions on the objective line, and defensive fires and check points. (For details, including supporting elements, refer to overlays and Operational Instructions No. 5, mentioned above.)

The Second Battalion completed its plans for the push. Troops laid communication wire from the companies' command posts to the assembly area. Ration and ammunition dumps were set up as near the line of departure as possible. A forward command post group moved up to Casa Ronco Coresa, 500 yards below Casa Collina, the line of departure.

This warm, hazy day the snow which had long covered the hills and trails was fast melting, and it was very slushy underfoot. At night Company L raiders again tried to take the bunkers on the slope of Hill 357, but were stopped by a minefield and heavy mortar and machine-gun fire.

[5 February 1945]

Following is an account, with certain emendations and additions, of the "Collina Operation", the 5 February limited-objective attack by the Second Battalion. The original report was prepared by Captain Cleo W. Buxton, S-3 of the battalion. (References: Operation Instructions

No. 5 and Overlay Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6. For all coordinates mentioned refer to Map 1:25,000 Sheet 87 II SE Pianoro.)

The Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry, was given the objective of taking Casa Cerrara (932332), Hill 363 (936335), and Casa Rio Buio (934339). H hour was set at 1500 hours 5 February. The troops were to jump off from a line of departure at Casa Collina (929327). The general plan of attack was to have Company F lead off, with Company G echeloned slightly to the right rear. Both companies would have to go over the little spine of ground to the front of Casa Collina, at 930328. Company F's plan was to start at Casa Collina and follow the path around to Casa Cerrara closely behind the supporting barrage. The first platoon was to run up the path and take the high ground at 929329. There it would lay down a base of fire on Casa Cerrara, while the second platoon continued up the path and flanked the town from the left rear. Company G troops were going to stay to the right of the path until they reached 933329. Then they were to pursue the trail to the two houses at 936332, to the right of Casa Cerrara. Company E was to follow through after the other two companies' objectives were taken, going over Hill 363 to Casa Rio Buio and organizing that ground.

The battalion moved into the assembly area at Casa Ronco Coresa (928323) at 0100 hours 5 February. The company commanders made a reconnaissance from Casa Collina. At 1445 hours, under cover of a

heavy ground mist, Company F left the assembly area for the line of departure. Arriving at Casa Collina at 1457 hours, the troops paused while Company G drew up on their right.

Promptly at 1500 hours there thundered in ahead of them our supporting barrage of machine guns, 60- and 81-millimeter mortars, 4.2 chemical mortars, tanks, tank destroyers, cannon, and light and medium artillery. Smoke was laid on Monte Scanno (942350) and to the right and left of the objective line, to supplement the natural ground fog.

The roaring demonstration covered the front completely. First Lieutenant James A Gray, commanding Company F, closed his forward platoon up to the barrage. Then, as the concentration lifted, on the double the men rushed up the path leading to Casa Cerrara. Hardly had the forward elements advanced 200 yards past the line of departure when a terrific German mortar barrage tore down the path, hitting the ninth man of the first platoon and blasting on through the length of the whole company. Except for the first eight men, most soldiers in the first platoon were either killed or wounded. The two scouts and the squad leader ran into a minefield and set off a mine which injured all three.

Second Lieutenant Paul E. Heinemann, leader of the platoon and seventh man in the attack, immediately took command of the remaining men. Turning left, he led them at a right angle to the trail for about 20 yards, paralleled it for another 50 yards, and

then turned back to the trail, avoiding any mines.
The group hurried along the path under fire and gained the higher ground at 930328, midway between Casa Collina and Casa Cerrara.

Suddenly four machine guns opened up on our soldiers from their left rear, in the vicinity of 927326 (Hill 357). At the same time another machine gun began firing at Lieutenant Heinemann from his left. Shooting from some 15 yards down the slope of the rise (929329) the German gunner was too well camouflaged for the officer to see him. Successfully dodging the bullets, the lieutenant espied two enemy soldiers coming out of a dugout about 25 yards to his left front. Almost at the instant they emerged, the Germans threw white phosphorus grenades in our groups' direction, burning two men. Lieutenant Heinemann shot the two Germans, probably fatally.

Feeling that he now had control of the high ground, the officer turned around to find only six of his men with him. The rest had been felled by machine-gun and mortar fire. He thereupon sent one man back to fetch the machine guns, while with the other five infantrymen he deployed around the small hill to defend it. The soldier he sent for the guns never reached them. Lieutenant Heinemann and his men were surrounded and pinned down by withering German fire.

In the meantime, in the midst of a crashing, unrelenting enemy mortar barrage, Lieutenant Gray was trying desperately to

reorganize Company F. Seemingly, the hostile 120- and 81-millimeter mortars had area targets. The 50-millimeter mortars fired in an uncanny manner, the shells "walking" right down the path toward the rear of the company. The German fire even covered the bends in the trail, and the shells exploded always right on the path. Combat-wise Company F men later said it was the most concentrated barrage they had ever witnessed, and the most accurate.

Lieutenant Gray, succeeding in reorganizing his company, led three more forward pushes - at 1555, 1615 and 1735 hours - but his men were each time scattered by the Germans' vicious and phenomenally expert machine-gun resistance. The fire came from the following locations: two machine guns at 931331, at least two on Hill 363, and a number of guns at 931328 and 934329. Self-propelled-gun fire was also directed at our troops. A three-gun battery situated north of Gorgognano (913333) was heard firing, and hitting Casa Collina. Others fired from 930336 and Monte Scanno.

After the three abortive attempts to forge through the deadly German fire, Lieutenant Gray organized a patrol to rescue Lieutenant Heinemann and the remnants of his platoon. The patrol, leaving at 1815 hours, had advanced 150 yards when mortar shells and machine-gun bullets threshed through the group, causing seven casualties out of the patrol's strength of 12. The five survivors were compelled to turn back.

During all this time Lieutenant Heinemann had to hug the ground to avoid being struck by the murderous machine-gun bullets directed at him and his men from all directions. One of his men was killed, another was shot in both arms, two were seriously seared by the phosphorus grenades. Then the Germans threw in 50-millimeter mortars, severely wounding the lieutenant in the leg and injuring another man by concussion. At the time, the officer was 200 yards from Casa Cerrara, which he could see. He believed that the fire came from behind the village.

The enemy hurled grenades and continued firing at our hard-pressed men until dusk. Then the enlisted men able to do so helped Lieutenant Heinemann back to our lines.

Company G, to the right rear at H hour, jumped off from the line of departure at 1505 hours and caught the full impact of the area mortar fire. About a platoon managed to gain the ravine at 931327. The previously mentioned machine guns raked the draw and caused some casualties. The mud, knee-deep in places, absorbed a great deal of the mortar fire and kept down Company G's casualties. The company asked for a concentration of smoke at 931328 and 934329 to cover it from the machine-gun fire so that it could reorganize its scattered forces. The 4.2 chemical mortars immediately laid down a smoke screen which gave the company an opportunity to effect this regrouping. Instead of attacking, however, the company withdrew under orders. It had thrice unsuccessfully tried to emerge from the ravine, each

time

encountering defensive machine guns raking the banks of the draw.

As they did on Company F, mortar and self-propelled fire also fell almost uninterruptedly on Company G's troops.

At 1630 hours it was reported that approximately a platoon of

Company E, at 930329, 250 yards southeast of Casa Cerrara, had

been cut off from the rest of the company. They were pinned down

by grazing machine-gun bullets and mortar shells coming from their

left rear. The platoon had unwittingly by-passed enemy troops

entrenched on the northwestern slope of Hill 357. Captain Allan

W. Sudholt, Company E's commander, was slightly wounded earlier in the attack.

Eleven minutes after our barrage started, German 105-millimeter

and self-propelled-gun shells began bursting in our assembly area

and in the neighborhood of our 81-millimeter mortars. A

considerable number of casualties resulted. This fire, landing at

the rate of four rounds a minute, for 30 minutes, settled down to

about 40 rounds of harassing fire an hour until 0200 hours the

next morning. Meanwhile, at 1900 hours, the decision was made for

the battalion to dig in for the night and hold whatever ground

might have been gained. The men marooned out front were to be

brought back to safety if at all possible.

Of interest is the 34th Division G-2 report covering the day of

the attack. In part, it read:

"The limited-objective attack initiated by us early in

the period

met heavy resistance generally across the entire front and

particularly in the center sub-sector, where the enemy stubbornly

defended the approaches to Hill 363 with intense machine-gun and

heavy mortar fire. Anti-personnel mines were encountered in the

routes of approach north of Collina, which limited the scheme of

maneuver to an appreciable degree. The enemy response to our

offensive effort was prompt and thoroughly effective, featuring

intense mortar and mutually-supporting machine-gun fires,

concurrently with a moderate medium-caliber shelling in some depth

at the hands of the enemy artillery."

"... Enemy machine guns delivered very effective fire against all

elements of the attack. ..."

Sergeant James P. Shannon of the Regimental S-3 Section made the following compilation of the amount of ammunition fired in support of

[our] own attack:

- 81-millimeter, 4,500 rounds;
- 60-millimeter, 2,400 rounds;
- .50-caliber, 45,000 rounds;
- .30 caliber, 21,000 rounds;
- by Cannon Company, 700 rounds;
- 4.2 chemical mortars, 985 rounds.

In this operation the Regiment sustained 58 casualties (see Battle

Casualty List [not provided here]): seven killed, 11 missing in action,

and 40 wounded. Company F suffered by far the greatest share. From a

short-range point of view we gained little by the attack. No ground was

won. However, considering the "big picture" of the war, our effort

doubtlessly had a measurable effect of the enemy. (See

"Dugout Digest"
for 14 February, published by the Regimental Information-
Education
section.)

In every action against the enemy there are
individuals who
distinguish themselves by outstanding performance of duty.
The "Collina
Operation" was no exception in that respect. Following are
two
instances of heroic achievement by soldiers in the 5
February
engagement. The first citation is based on an eye-witness
account by
Second Lieutenant Donald H. Dearborn, [Third Battalion]
Company K
platoon leader:

At approximately 1530 hours heavy enemy shelling
knocked out
communication between one of Company K's outposts and
the first
platoon's command post, in the vicinity of Ca di
Razzone. It was
imperative that contact be maintained, as the outpost
was within
200 yards of the enemy and had been the center of
numerous fire
fights. It was also the focal point of German
infiltration
activities. As soon as it was apparent that
communication with
the platoon command post had been severed Private
Henry A.
Markiewicz, acting on his own initiative, immediately
went out
into the midst of the enemy barrage. He checked the
wire for 100
yards until he found the break. Showing no concern
for his
safety, the soldier repaired the break and then
returned to the
outpost. As a result of Private Markiewicz's heroic
action wire
communication, which at the time was of the utmost
importance, was
kept intact.

The other outstanding incident reported concerns the leader of the First Battalion's ammunition and pioneer platoon and ten of his men:

First Lieutenant Charles W. Seebeck; Sergeants Samuel E. Carpenter and Robert P. Nesbitt; Privates First Class Michael Pappi, Owen Cahoon, John W. Hardy, Dennis L. Lynn and Gordon L. Martin; and Privates Clayton J. Ashbaugh, Curtis C. Chambers and Charleston Creech.

At about 1900 hours the 11 men went down the Idice River to a point 150 yards beyond an outpost at Ca di Razzone and there, within 400 yards of the enemy's position at Ca Merla, built a foot bridge over the swollen river. The river at this point was more than 70 feet wide and nearly five feet deep at its center. Both sides of the stream had been heavily mined by our forces and by the enemy. Lieutenant Seebeck and Sergeants Nesbitt and Carpenter began the job by setting up and securing an "H" frame in the middle of the stream, while Private First Class Kelly [a 12th man?] and Privates Creech and Chambers cut down six trees and trimmed them into 35-foot lengths. Meanwhile Privates First Class Cahoon, Hardy, Martin, Lynn and Pappi and Private Ashbaugh policed up boards and timbers from the mined and booby-trapped houses in Ca di Razzone. Despite the harassing enemy artillery and mortar fire and the difficulty in obtaining materials, these men completed the bridge in four-and-one-half hours, and furnished a safe crossing over this hazardous water barrier.

On this 5 February five enlisted men took preliminary examinations at the Divisional rear command post for warrant-officer

appointments.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruno S. Marchi, who had returned from temporary duty furlough in the United States the day before, became commanding officer of the Third Battalion. He relieved Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph D. Zobel, who was assigned to Regimental Headquarters. Four officers went to Florence and one to Rome for several days relaxation.

[6 February 1945]

During the morning of 6 February Division notified us that it would be inadvisable for the Regiment to attempt to attack again; our operation was over and the Second Battalion was to return to its former Regimental reserve area. Some of the troops still forward would be able, it was thought, to infiltrate back during the daylight hours, while the remainder would be forced to wait for darkness. Shortly after noon, the soldiers began to drift back, but approximately one full company was compelled to wait until nightfall before returning.

At 1500 hours another demonstration by the Regiment was requested by Division, to provide a diversion for the 168th Infantry on our right.

That organization was scheduled to attempt another limited attack at that hour. The demonstration was executed as planned, 15 minutes of firing being done by our small-arms, 60-millimeter mortars, Cannon Company, .50-caliber machine guns, and our supporting tanks, tank destroyers and our [125th] artillery battalion. Our battalions were to fire on targets of opportunity during and after the demonstration with 4.2 and 81-millimeter mortars.

At 2100 hours our Second Battalion reported itself completely closed in its old area. At midnight the front was comparatively quiet. The weather was cool, visibility poor.

[7 February 1945]

In the dark morning hours of 7 February our .50 caliber machine-gun platoon fired more than 5,000 rounds of harassing fire into enemy territory, and our Cannon Company also worried the foe. A great deal of German flare activity was noted coincidentally with our patrol forays, but hostile artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire remained generally light over the entire 24-hour period. In the evening the enemy again reacted to our patrolling efforts with intense flare action.

On this cool, foggy day 100 enlisted men, accompanied by two duty officers, traveled to Montecatini Terme for five days' pleasure.

[8 February 1945]

On 8 February appeared Regimental Operational Instructions No. 6, accompanied by a march table. The orders dealt with the relief of our Regiment by the 363rd Infantry of the 91st Division beginning the night of 12-13 February. Our three battalions were to enjoy a seven-day rest in Montecatini Terme, after which the troops would move to a training area in the vicinity of le Croci di Calenzano (765876 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 106 I NW S. Piero a Sieve), 14 miles north of Florence. The other regimental units were to go directly to le Croci di Calenzano. (For details, refer to instructions and Overlay No. 7 showing bivouac and

training areas.

The evening hours brought an increase in enemy mortar and artillery fire, the shells falling almost exclusively in our forward areas. At 2100 hours a four-man Company L reconnaissance patrol left its command post. Moving along the western slope of Hill 357 toward Casa Cerrara, the group drew vicious machine-gun fire from three German positions. Forced to withdraw, our men nevertheless set up a listening post at 929328, just above Casa Collina.

[9 February 1945]

The entire 24 hours of 9 February were fairly calm. Routine patrolling was engaged in and normal harassing and interdiction artillery fired throughout the period.

In the morning a quartering party composed of Major Lewis A. Fletcher, assistant Regimental S-3, all battalion S-3's, and a representative from each company departed to select bivouac and training areas in the vicinity of le Croci di Calenzano. (Refer to Operational Instructions Nos. 6 and 7.) Training Memorandum No. 2 was issued, concerning the intensive training in offensive operations to be engaged in by our soldiers from 20 February to 1 March, inclusive.

This day six enlisted men went to the MTOUSA Leadership and Battle School for a six-week course. These picked soldiers, who if they passed the course would become second lieutenants, were Staff Sergeants John J. Hayes, Everett F. Ware and Jefferson Terrill; Sergeants Walter J. Lang and Everett W. Rasche, and Corporal Kenyon W. Rasmussen.

Corporal Edwin R. Barnard and Technician Fifth Grade William H. Keyser III, both of Regimental Headquarters Company, returned from the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Rome with the interesting news that on 5 February they had been among the passengers on the first air tour of Italian battlefields. Arranged for combat troops by Fifth Army Special Service, the four-and-one-half hour trip in a C-47 covered the peninsula from the port of Piombino in the north to Salerno in the south. The shell holes of Anzio and the ghostly rubble of Cassino were plainly visible to the soldier's eyes, and vied in their memory with the more pleasing sights of Mount Vesuvius, Naples, and Pompeii.

[10 February 1945]

On 10 February, a dormant day along the whole front, our .50-caliber machine-gun platoon, in charge of First Lieutenant John J. Carroll of Anti-Tank Company, fired its 100,000th round in this sector. Our usual patrols entered "no-man's land" during the night.

Five officers traveled in peeps to Florence, to spend five days at the Anglo-American Hotel.

[11 February 1945]

There was little activity, either friendly or enemy, on Sunday 11 February. During the day one enemy deserted to Company C troops. His unit was 6th Company, 576th Regiment, 305th Division. The Germans engaged in their customary harassing action, employing artillery, mortars and machine guns. At night our patrols made sorties into hostile territory, without incident.

Catholic and Protestant services were held this day in various areas of the Regiment.

[12 February]

During the morning of 12 February our 4.5 rocket-gun platoon fired the ammunition on hand, marking the first time the guns were fired by us in action. On account of poor visibility, an accurate report on their effect could not be obtained.

In the evening the battalions of the 363rd Infantry began relieving in place our Second and Third Battalions.

This day Major Timothy F. Horan was relieved as commanding officer of the Second Battalion, becoming executive officer of the same unit the following day. He relieved Major Walter J. D. Hewitt. On 13 February Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph D. Zobel was placed in command of the Second Battalion.

[13 February 1945]

Upon the completion of their relief by the incoming elements, at 2350 hours 12 February and 0115 hours 13 February, respectively, the Second and Third Battalions began motor movement to the Montecatini Terme rest area. The Second Battalion arrived in Montecatini Terme at 0630 hours 13 February, the Third closing in two hours later. Our Cannon Company, relieved at 1205 hours, arrived in its new area in the vicinity of le Croci di Calenzano at 1600 hours. Regimental Headquarters, Regimental Headquarters Company and the Medical Detachment also moved to the latter area, closing in at 1630 hours. Anti-Tank

Company, relieved at 2330 hours, immediately began moving to le Croci di Calenzano too.

The Regimental commander, Captain Earl W. Ralf, S-3, and Major James R. McClymont, S-2, remained at the Regimental command post in Savazza. They were to depart after the relief of the entire Regiment had been completed.

In the morning of this clear day General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, visited the 34th Infantry Division rear command post at Cavallina, 15 miles north of Florence, and there presented Distinguished Service Crosses to three members of the 133rd Infantry. The honored soldiers were First Lieutenant Sidney Goldstein, Corporal Norris P. Nelson, and Private First Class Joe F. Tinsley.

Lieutenant Goldstein was decorated for leading a handful of soldiers against a numerically superior force of Germans defending a strategic Gothic Line position and capturing three German officers and 61 enlisted men [on 21 September 1944].

Corporal Nelson was cited for extraordinary heroism on the Anzio beachhead. He and a fellow soldier manned two machine guns and repulsed an estimated battalion of attacking Germans. Nelson and his comrade remained at their guns, although the enemy directed murderous artillery and mortar barrages on their positions. The two infantrymen cut down wave after wave of advancing Germans and succeeded in breaking up the attack.

Private First Class Tinsley bravely crawled under

heavy enemy
machine-gun fire to kill two Germans on a machine gun and
then, turning
the enemy weapon on two more gun positions, killed two
additional
Germans and forced others to abandon their positions. His
heroic action
greatly helped his company occupy a hostile key point.

General Marshall, homeward bound from the historic
Crimean [Yalta]
Conference of the "Big Three" [Roosevelt, Churchill,
Stalin], had paused
in Italy for a three-day inspection of the Fifth Army
front. He was
accompanied at the presentation by Lieutenant-General
Joseph T.
McNarney, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean
Theater;
Lieutenant-General Mark W. Clark, 15th Army Group
commander;
Lieutenant-General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., commander of
the Fifth Army,
and other military leaders.

[14 February 1945]

At 0001 hours 14 February the Regimental command post
opened at le
Croci di Calenzano. At 0200 hours the commanding officer
of the 363rd
Infantry assumed control of our former sector. Anti-Tank
Company closed
in its new area at 0500 hours. The Regimental commander
and his S-2 and
S-3 arrived at le Croci di Calenzano at 0900 hours. Our
First Battalion
was relieved at 0445 hours and arrived at Montecatini Terme
at 1145
hours.

The day, by troops both in le Croci di Calenzano and
Montecatini
Terme, was devoted to showdown inspections to accomplish
requisition of
all shortages, turn-in of all surpluses, and submission of
all equipment
requiring repair or replacement.

This day the First and Third Battalions were paid. Crews from the 133rd Infantry's personnel strength section began making physical head checks of all members on the Regiment. Forty-eight enlisted men and two duty officers went to the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Rome.

From 14 February to 20 February the battalions' troops at Montecatini Terme engaged in various recreational activities. For seven restful days our soldiers attended American Red Cross-sponsored dances, enjoyed motion picture, band and USO shows, took showers and sulphur baths, and availed themselves of many other pleasurable facilities, including the attractions offered by the large Red Cross club in the city. During the same period the other units of the Regiment pursued a program of rest and recreation in the le Croci di Calenzano area. Movies were shown every evening, as well as several band and USO shows. Daily from 15 to 18 February, inclusive, 100 enlisted men were granted one-day passes to Florence.

[15 February 1945]

At 1130 hours 15 February Divisional Operation Instructions No. 15 was received. It instructed the 133rd Infantry to be prepared for possible movement on 24 hours notice to restore the present front lines by counter-attack. We immediately published Regimental Operational Instructions No. 8, on the same subject, and sent it to all units.

This cool, hazy day transportation was made available to soldiers of Jewish faith desiring to attend religious services at the Divisional

rear command post. Four officers went to Florence for a "brief vacation" at the Anglo-American Hotel.

[16 February 1945]

At 1650 hours 16 February we received Divisional Operational Instructions No. 16. It contained instructions for the movement of our Second and Third Battalions on 19 February from Montecatini Terme to the vicinity of le Croci di Calenzano, and movement of the First Battalion on 20 February.

This day personnel of the Regiment received rations of Sicilian whiskey, for which they paid \$3.10 a bottle.

[17 February 1945]

On 17 February the assistant Regimental S-3 and First Lieutenant Paul C. Brown, Regimental munitions officer, reconnoitered for the purpose of finding suitable locations for firing ranges. Plans and preparations were made for a training schedule to start when our three battalions had closed in the neighborhood of le Croci di Calenzano. Regimental Operational Instructions No. 9 was issued governing the battalions' move to the training area on 19 and 20 February.

[18 February 1945]

During the morning of 18 February work was begun on a Regimental range at 786877, 2,000 yards west of le Croci di Calenzano. The range was to be suitable for firing at distances from 200 to 400 yards. Quarters parties from all three battalions arrived at the Regimental command post early in the afternoon and made reconnaissance

of their
proposed areas.

This day a letter was received from the Divisional commander commending the Regimental commander and his administrative personnel on being given a MTOUSA rating of "Superior" in respect to the service records of the Regiment.

[19 February 1945]

On 19 February the Second Battalion moved to the vicinity of 760870, 800 yards south of le Croci di Calenzano, closing in the new area at 1415 hours. Shortly after their arrival in the new area.

Lieutenant-Colonel Zobel and his staff gathered at a meeting on the second floor of the command post. Suddenly the floor collapsed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Zobel sustained three broken ribs and was evacuated, and several other officers were injured slightly. Major Horan became acting battalion commander effective 20 February.

At 2000 hours the Third Battalion arrived at S. Pietro in Casagli (750871 - Map 1;25,000 Sheet 106 IV NE), 1,500 yards southeast of le Croci di Calenzano.

[20 February 1945]

On 20 February, as on the previous day, work continued on the Regimental range. Our Second Battalion and special units began their training program early in the morning. The Third Battalion commenced its training activities in the afternoon. (See Training Memorandum No. 2, dated 9 February, and Annex No. 1 to that memorandum, dated 21 February.) Troops engaged in physical hardening exercises,

road marches
and small-unit training.

Our First Battalion arrived in its training area in the vicinity of Secciano (737858 - Map 1;25,000 Sheet 106 IV NE), 2,900 yards southeast of le Croci di Calenzano, at 1745 hours.

At 1800 hours the Regimental commander held a meeting of battalion commanding and executive officers, all S-3's and special unit commanding officers. Discussed were plans for a presentation ceremony the next day and the training program. Colonel Lewis instructed the officers to emphasize training in such fields as enemy mine detection, patrolling, observation post procedure and range work. Military courtesy and proper uniform wear were also to be stressed.

This day six enlisted men went to the 34th Division Wire School. Forty-eight enlisted men, accompanied by a duty officer, departed for a few days' pleasure at the Fifth Army Rest Center in Rome. Five officers went to Florence, five to Rome for brief holidays.

[21 February 1945]

On 21 February First Lieutenant Rex H. Garrett, Regimental photo-intelligence officer, concluded his two-day photo-intelligence school for enlisted men of the Regiment. Classes for officers were to be held on 22-27 February, inclusive. (Refer to memorandum, subject "Photo-Intelligence School", dated 14 February, and mimeographed schedule

At 1600 hours a formal presentation ceremony, including a band and color guard and participated in by a large portion of the

Regiment, was held in a field to the rear of the Regimental command post. Major-General Bolte presented Combat Infantry Company streamers to each company of the Regiment and two Legion of Merit medals, 16 Silver Stars, 31 Bronze Stars and four Oak Leaf Clusters for the Bronze Star to members of the 133rd Infantry who had distinguished themselves in time of war.

During the day units followed their training schedules. In the evening hours Company K held a night problem in patrolling.

This day two Portuguese-speaking enlisted men of the Regiment were assigned on temporary duty with the 107th Anti-Aircraft Group, Brazilian Expeditionary Force, as machine-gun instructors. Day passes to Florence were again issued to our enlisted men, after such permits had been suspended during the battalions' move to le Croci di Calenzano. One hundred passes were to be available, daily if possible, for the remainder of the month.

[22 February 1945]

On 22 February 34th Division Counter-Intelligence Corps members gave lectures on their work to First Battalion troops. At 1445 Hours Major Raymond Sobel and Captain Vernon A. Weinstein, 34th Division psychiatrists, arrived at the Regimental command post to interview 100 men of the Regiment in an effort to learn why the 133rd Infantry had such a low AWOL rate as compared with other regiments of the Division. (Pertinent to this matter is letter, subject "Absence Without Leave", by the Regimental commander, dated 18 February.) From 1530 to 1730 hours

Major Horan spoke to the officers of the Regiment on "The Attack of 5 February".

Between 1900 and 2300 hours Company L engaged in a problem in night patrolling. Throughout the day all units had diligently pursued their training schedules.

This day First Lieutenants Harry W. Raypole and Louis E. Lawrence and Corporal Alvin Wagner departed for attendance until on or about 8 March at the Photo-Intelligence School of Allied Force Headquarters.

To Montecatini Terme for five days of relaxation traveled 100 enlisted men, with two duty officers.

[23 February 1945]

Our troops continued their rigid training programs on 23 February.

Companies E, F and G fired bazookas on the range. During the morning Company I held a "platoon in attack" problem; Company K conducted one in the afternoon. From 1530 to 1630 hours Major Sobel, Division psychiatrist, lectured to officers on "Psychology and Morale". Company I soldiers worked out a night problem between 1900 and 2300 hours.

[24 February 1945]

Training activities on 24 February included the following:

- An Information-Education film, "Prelude to War", was shown to soldiers of First Battalion; Headquarters Company, Third Battalion; and Regimental Headquarters Company.
- Companies E, F and I fired on the range, employing rifles, bazookas, mortars, machine guns and hand grenades.

- In the late afternoon Chief Warrant Officer Hustvedt, of the inspector-general's office of the 34th Division, spoke on "Council Books" at the officers' school held in le Croci di Calenzano.

On this and the following day Identification Card Team No. 2, Fifth Army Headquarters, photographed, finger-printed and issued identity cards to all officers of the Regiment and all members of the Medical Detachment. Announcement was made of a counter-mortar and shell rep[ort] school to be conducted on 27 February.

Coca-Cola, two bottles per man, and post exchange rations of candy and peanuts were distributed to all personnel. The day before each man had received six bottles of American beer.

[25 February 1945]

All units adhered strictly to their scheduled training programs on Sunday, 25 February. Church services were held between and after training hours.

A three-day flame-thrower school was started under the direction of First Lieutenant Edward B. Edwards, Regimental gas officer. In the afternoon representatives of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion held a pioneer and ammunition school in Anti-Tank Company's area. The school was attended by one officer and two non-commissioned officers from each battalion's pioneer and ammunition platoon, and two non-commissioned officers from Anti-Tank Company. During the period Companies A, B, G, H, I, K, L, and Anti-Tank Company engaged in practical work on the range with various weapons.

This day four officers traveled to Florence for a five-day stay at the Anglo-American Hotel.

[26 February 1945]

On 26 and 27 February all units carried on their intensive training activities.

On 26 February Major Warren C. Chapman, executive officer of the Third Battalion, was named commanding officer of the First Battalion. Major Edward M. Fabert, First Battalion commanding officer, became executive officer of the same unit. Major Linus T. Williams of Third Battalion Headquarters was appointed executive officer of that battalion.

Forty-six soldiers of Jewish faith were given day passes and transportation to Florence to attend Purim services at the Teatro della Pergola. This was the last day one-day passes to Florence were issued to personnel of the Regiment.

[27 February 1945]

On 27 February six enlisted men, potential combat officers, departed for attendance at the MTOUSA leadership and Battle School beginning 5 March. The soldiers were Staff Sergeants Alexander McCammon and Charles R. Lease, and Sergeants Michael M. Fiveash, Eugene C. Egg, Ralph A. Casperson and Harold M. Thompson.

One hundred enlisted men and two duty officers went to Montecatini [Terme] for several days' enjoyment.

[28 February 1945]

On 28 February appeared Regimental Operational Instructions No. 10, pertaining to our contemplated return to the front. The 133rd Infantry was to relieve the 349th Infantry and one battalion of the 351st Infantry, both of the 88th Division. We were to continue an active defense of the sector. (For details, see operational instructions mentioned, with overlay.)

During the day details for a new set-up in the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon were completed. The plans call for the present platoon to be augmented by approximately 30 men, who were to be employed as a Regimental raiding group. The men were selected volunteers from our various front-line companies.

Scouting and patrolling problems occupied the attention of Companies A, F, G and M after dark.

This day all members of the Regiment were paid for the month of February. To the Fifth Army Rest Center in Rome went 48 enlisted men and a duty officer.

During our stay in the le Croci di Calenzano area our Medical Detachment, headed by Captain John S. Houlihan, Regimental surgeon, treated 604 dental patients, handled 116 eye refractions, gave "shots" to members of the Regiment, and made daily inspections of the kitchens and other areas in all units. (See "Monthly Sanitary Report" for further information.)

Of interest is the fact that while bivouaced in this sector the Regiment's transportation facilities were drastically

reduced, for two
reason: to length the life of our vehicles and to provide
an opportunity
for necessary repairs. Metal tags were issued to vehicles
authorized to
be on the roads.

[Summary]

Technical Sergeant Edward C. Crangle and Staff
Sergeants Robert D.
Sherwin and Albert M. Charmack receive second lieutenancy
combat
appointments in February.

Second Lieutenants Francis W. Dowdell, Sidney
Goldstein and
Reginald M Ballantyne, Jr., received combat promotions to
first
lieutenant.

Thirty-six enlisted men and five officers departed
from the
regiment in February on rotation furloughs in the United
States.
Thirty-six enlisted men and three officers left for the
United States on
temporary duty furloughs.

On 1 February the Regiment had an effective strength
of 161
officers, four warrant officers and 3,245 enlisted men.
During the
month we received 23 rotation replacements. Thus our
strength
experienced a decrease of 166 members.

As of 28 February 1945 the 133rd Infantry has been
overseas three
years, one month and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Louis F. Kaleita
LOUIS F. KALEITA
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945, inclusive.

As the month of March, burgeoning with Spring-like warmth, began in Italy, soldiers of the 133rd Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division were engaging in extensive training in offensive operations. The scene of these activities, which had started on 20 February, was an area in the vicinity of le Croci di Calenzano (Q765876 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 106 I NW S. Piero a Sieve), 14 miles north of Florence.

Objectives of the training schedule were: a) assimilation of replacements; b) development of firing techniques and employment of all weapons; c) close coordination of all elements in platoon, company and general attacks; and d) specialized training based on individual shortcomings and weaknesses. Schools on various subjects were also held during the period. (For details of entire program, refer to training memorandum in February history..)

On 28 February Regimental Operational Instructions No. 10 had been published, concerning our relief of elements of the 88th Infantry Division beginning the night of 3-4 March. We were to continue an active defense of a sector above Monzuno (L824245 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I NW Loiano), some 12 air-line miles south of Bologna. (See February history for operational instructions mentioned.)

Of mordant interest is the fact that the Regiment was now about to return to a sector in which we fought and whose lines we

established
last October. We took Monzuno on 4 October 1944. The
front line had
not changed appreciably in the intervening five months,
during which we
had established another point of farthest advance in the
Monte Belmonte
sector, capturing the strategic height on 23 October.

[1 March 1945]

On 1 and 2 March our troops carried on their training
activities,
such as range firing, scouting and problems in patrolling,
and lessons
in military courtesy and discipline.

Announced on the morning of 1 March were Divisional
plans,
heretofore tentative, for our First Battalion to become
attached on 3
March to the 10th Mountain Division, in the IV Corps
sector. (For
details of the move, see Changes and Additions to
Operational
Instructions No. 10 and accompanying march table, dated 2
March.)

During the day reconnaissance patrols from the 349th
Infantry, the
regiment about to be relieved by us, arrived in our
training sector.
That 88th Division organization was to occupy the le Croci
di Calenzano
area upon our departure. Our Third Battalion, in turn,
sent an advance
party forward to make preparations for the relief, as our
Second
Battalion had done the day before.

On the evening of this day a USO troupe gave a show
for our
soldiers in the "theater" tent beside Anti-Tank Company's
area.

[2 March 1945]

On 2 March 100 enlisted men, accompanied by two duty

officers,
departed for five days' relaxation in Montecatini Terme,
Fifth Army rest
city for combat troops 25 miles west of Florence. Four
officers went to
Florence for a brief vacation at the Anglo-American Hotel.

[3 March 1945]

At 0100 hours 3 March the 1st Battalion arrived at
Vidiciatico
(L505137 - Map 1:25,000 Sheet 97 I SE), 21 miles southwest
of Monzuno.
Thereupon the unit passed into Army reserve, its mission
being to
reinforce the 10th Mountain Division in the event of a
counter-attack in
that sector.

The Second Battalion and Anti-Tank and Cannon
Companies moved to
their forward areas in the vicinity of Monzuno as indicated
on the
aforementioned march table. The Second Battalion arrived
at 2320 hours,
Anti-Tank and Cannon at 2400 hours.

This day First Lieutenant Gilbert D. Wenger departed
for Naples to
attend a two-week course in Allied Military Governments
work.

[4 March 1945]

At 0930 hours 4 March the Regimental command post left
le Croci di
Calenzano, arriving at the new command post location in
Monzuno at noon.

The command post opened officially at 1500 hours. By 2245
hours our
Third Battalion had relieved the 349th Infantry's Third
Battalion,
company for company. At that hour our Regiment assumed
control of the
entire sector.

Attached to us as we commenced operations were Company
C and one

platoon of Company D, 757th Tank Battalion; Company C, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; one platoon of Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion; one platoon of Company B, 432nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion; Company A, 109th Engineer Combat Battalion; and the 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry, acting as our reserve in the absence of our First Battalion. The 346th Field Artillery Battalion of the 91st Infantry Division was in direct support of the Regiment, the 151st Field Artillery Battalion of the 34th Division was in general support.

This day a memorandum on patrolling, outlining minimum requirements during the current period of active defense, was issued by Captain Earl W. Ralf, Regimental S-3, by order of Colonel Walden S. Lewis, Regimental commander.

At 1645 hours an enemy light mortar scored a direct hit on a Company F dugout, wounding three men who had to be evacuated. The shell was the sole round landing in the area that day. Company F's command post was situated at L829273, to the left of Highway 6532, some 2,800 yards north of Monzuno.

[5 March 1945]

Shortly before 0500 hours 5 March a small group of enemy approached Company F's second platoon, dug in at L829279, 500 yards above the company's command post. Our soldiers immediately hurled grenades at the Germans, dispersing them. Only one hostile soldier had gotten close enough to be espied by our men.

As Highway 6532, to the right and left of which both the Second

and Third Battalions were deployed, was under enemy observation, road blocks were set up at the north end of Monzuno. Thus all vehicles were barred from using the upper, or front route to the battalion command posts in the daytime. The Third Battalion's command post was just to the right of the highway, at L828253, about 800 yards northeast of the Regimental command post. The Second Battalion's headquarters, L829263, was 1,000 yards north of the Third's, also on the right side of the road. The entire Third Battalion sector which, roughly, extended from Highway 6532 west to Highway 64 and the Setta River, was in hostile view.

At 1230 hours a German phosphorous shell hit a Company E dugout, burning two men. Their positions were to the right of the road, immediately below the 28 northing.

Early in the afternoon the S-3 of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion notified us that his unit would take over, beginning this coming night, the mission of our directly supporting artillery, the 346th. The latter organization was to go into general support of the Regiment. This day a list of observation posts in our sector was published.

At 1401 hours Anti-Tank Company reported it had fired its rocket guns, with good results observed. The action, planned earlier in the day, was coordinated with the artillery. To blind enemy observers, the artillerymen fired 40 rounds of smoke shells when the rockets went off. Although there was no immediate reaction from the enemy, about two hours

later the rocket-gun platoon received 15 to 20 rounds of mortar in its area. Anti-Tank Company's command post was located at L825247, some 300 yards northeast of the Regimental command post in Monzuno. The rockets were set up from 1,000 to 1,500 yards north of the company's headquarters.

Several times during the afternoon our observation posts spotted enemy soldiers entering a tunnel at L825304, approximately 2,500 yards north of the Second Battalion's forward positions. Observed again at 1600 hours, the Germans were fired upon by our Cannon Company.

In the evening Overlay Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were published showing, respectively, dispositions of our Regiment and attached units, fire plan of the Regiment, and defensive fires in the sector.

At 1830 hours Second Lieutenant Chester E. Freel, S-4 of the Third Battalion, was severely wounded when an enemy shell landed near the town square of Monzuno. Hospitalized, the officer died on 7 March.

The sector was quiet until 2100 hours, when machine-gun fire and numerous flares were reported. The Third Battalion observation post at L800264 heard an enemy machine gun firing southward from Vado (L813288), which was situated along Highway 64 and the Setta River, approximately 1,500 yards southeast of the aforementioned tunnel.

A Company K reconnaissance patrol, returning at 2345 hours, reported having received machine-gun fire from Ca' Valla (L811281), 700 yards below Vado. (For all patrol and raid plans and report during the

month refer to "Patrols and Raids".)

This day four enlisted men, granted 10-day furloughs to visit relatives, departed. Two of the soldiers went to southern Italy, one to Sicily, one to Greece.

[6 March 1945]

The dark early morning hours of 6 March were characterized by frequent enemy flares, as well as by harassing fire from mortars and artillery. At 0135 hours Company I reported some hostile activity, and aerial bursts over its sector along the 27 northing. Company F troops along the 28 northing near Highway 6532 heard digging noises 700 yards to their left front.

The 151st Field Artillery Battalion fired a concentration into German territory at 0530 hours, but our observers reported no reaction.

At 0630 hours Staff Sergeant Ambrose W. Hennes and Corporal George E. Berg, both of Company H, were directing the mortar fire of their platoon from an observation post on Hill 502 (L821274), to the left of Highway 6532 above Company F's command post. The two soldiers observed enemy troops in the vicinity of C. Furcoli, 1,000 yards north of the lookout, and directed mortar fire on them. The pair also directed effective fire on a German vantage point which they spotted on Hill 403, near C. di Bocchino, 800 yards west of C. Furcoli.

However, the Germans had apparently in turn detected our observation post, for they began firing round after round of artillery and mortar toward the position. One shell scored a direct

hit,
partially destroying the sandbagged dugout but not injuring
our
observers. Despite constant peril, Hennes and Berg
remained at their
post and continued to direct fire throughout the day. The
two soldiers
were instrumental in the destruction of several enemy guns.
They
finally left their shattered position at nightfall, when
they could no
longer observe the enemy.

Issued during the morning were Counter-attack Plans A
and B, with
Overlay Nos. 4 and 5, to be executed in the event of a
successful German
counter-thrust.

At 1501 hours an enemy plane strafed Highway 64 to the
left rear
of the Third Battalion, west of Monzuno. No damage or
casualties
resulted. In the evening the Germans began their usual
harassing
program, our observation posts reporting shellings until
the close of
the period.

This day two Portuguese-speaking enlisted men left on
temporary
duty with the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in the IV Corps
sector.
Four officers departed for five days' relaxation in
Florence.

[7 March 1945]

The period of 7 March opened with reports of enemy
activity on the
left of the Third Battalion, in the 135th Infantry sector.
Then, at
0135 hours, Captain John. R. Karlson, commanding Cannon
Company,
reported that his men had been doing a great deal of
shooting for
Company K, along with the 4.2 chemical mortarmen. This was
the first

indication that there was any disturbance in our sector.

At 0200 hours Company K soldiers had heard what they believed to be a German tank moving in Ca' Valla, some 1,200 yards northwest of Company K's command post. Our men had artillery fire placed on it. Shortly afterward they began receiving self-propelled fire at Ca' di Serra, 300 yard below Ca' Valla, apparently from the same tank.

A few minutes later a force of about 50 enemy attacked our positions along the road from Ca' Valla. Mines were heard exploding in the dry bed of the Setta River. In the ensuing fire fight we inflicted several casualties, and ourselves suffered one killed, three wounded and three missing before routing the Germans.

At 0045 hours, Company K, still absorbing self-propelled fire, requested more friendly supporting fire to their front. Our cannoners and mortarmen came to their instant assistance. Fifteen minutes afterward Company I reported two enemy machine guns firing at Ca' di Serra. German artillery knocked out the telephone wire to Company K's forward platoon, entrenched in Ca' di Serra. At 0130 hours Company K reported a machine gun shooting from the tunnel on the other side of the river and road, pinning down the third platoon. Fire requested from the 135th Infantry silenced the piece.

By 0200 hours the sector was quiet once more, but at 0225 hours a call was received from Company K asking for help for its forward platoon, which was surrounded on three sides. Intense fire was brought to bear on the enemy at once and a Company L platoon was

sent to aid the hard-pressed soldiers. By 0335 hours the situation was under control and the sector was quiet again.

In support of their raid the Germans fired 250 to 300 rounds of light and medium mortar which landed in front of Ca' di Serra, 50 rounds of 105-millimeter exploding in Ca' di Serra and along the highway southward, and 50 rounds of self-propelled fire bursting in the village, south of it, and in the river bed.

Three Company K soldiers won commendations for their heroism during the counter-attack, Privates Roy H. Leath and Felix Necklace voluntarily repaired a vital communication line under intense mortar and self-propelled fire and grazing machine-gun fire. When one of the outposts was encircled by Germans and all communication lines were knocked out, Private First Class Ralph H. Neel, Jr., immediately volunteered to contact the platoon command post and bring up reinforcements. This he did, although he had to traverse terrain which was known to be heavily mined. The reinforcements he brought saved the outpost members from being captured and prevented important ground from being lost.

There was little enemy activity in the forenoon of this day. At 1000 hours Cannon Company fired 30 rounds at L814289, near Vado, after the Third Battalion's observation post had spotted hostile movement there. Subsequently our attached platoon of the 432nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery fired on enemy seen at L832284, near C. Furcoli.

Later in the morning the 4.2 chemical mortars began

smoking enemy
lookouts at 833287,832287 and 821287, above and to the left
of C.
Furcoli, for the purpose of blinding the German observers
while our
rockets fired. The rockets were launched at 1300 hours,
with good
results noted. We scored hits in the vicinity of the
railroad station
(Stazione Monzuno-Vado) at L817296, about 700 yards north
of Vado. The
Germans countered with a few rounds of 120-millimeter
mortar.

All our units were notified in the afternoon that a
training
program would be carried out while we remained in the
present defensive
position. Emphasis was to be placed on the care and
cleaning of
equipment, knowledge of weapons, map and aerial-photo
reading, field
sanitation, military courtesy and discipline, and other
subjects which
could be taught to small groups not requiring large
training areas.

Before dark an enemy self-propelled gun was reported
firing from
the neighborhood of Vado, along with some mortar and
artillery.

Plans were made for Anti-Tank Company's mine platoon
to lay
anti-personnel and anti-tank mines and trip flares in front
of Company
K's forward platoon, at Ca' di Serra. Issued also was a
list and
overlay (Overlay No. 6) of friendly minefields in our
sector.

In the hours of darkness the Germans released many
flares and
engaged in their nightly harassing program.

About 2100 hours the enemy fired a heavy barrage of
mortar shells
at Company H's first platoon positions on Hill 502

(L829274) and 520
(L833267). The shelling cut the communication line in
several places
between Hill 502 and the Company H command post at Ca' di
Giuletta, 400
yards south of Hill 520. Private First Class Vern G.
Buchanan, acting
squad leader, and Private First Class Robert J. Garriott,
first gunner,
volunteered to repair the damage. Although the terrain
afforded almost
no cover from the continual German fire, the two soldiers
entered the
impact area and checked the wire. Shells burst around them
as they
worked, and Buchanan received a slight shell fragment wound
in his hand,
but both he and Garriott persisted in fixing the line.
They labored for
three hours, until communication was again restored, and
then returned
to perform their normal duties.

(see Overlay No. 7 for positions of our troops at 2400
hours.)

This day nine replacements were received from the
MTOUSA
Disciplinary Training Center, in line with the theater's
rehabilitation
program. Four of the men, who had had no infantry
instruction, were
attached temporarily to the recently formed Regimental
raiding platoon,
which was in training at the Regimental reserve area near
Trasasso,
2,800 yards south of Monzuno.

Six officers went to Rome for several days pleasure at
the Hotel
Excelsior.

[8 March 1945]

At 0110 hours 8 March Company F reported four enemy
rifle grenades
exploding in its sector. The area in front of the company
was shelled

by light artillery at 0415 hours. At 0515 hours Company K men shot at a light in Ca' Valla. The light went out at once.

In the afternoon Company I reported a self-propelled gun firing from L804304, a hillside point about 1,700 yards northwest of Vado. Our attached company of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion shot at it, fire being directed from the observation airplane. Hits were observed all over the hill, results undetermined.

Issued this day was a memorandum concerning ground pyrotechnic signals.

With darkness came a few enemy harassing shells and flares.

[9 March 1945]

Except for light enemy shelling and some long-range machine-gun fire, the post-midnight hours of 9 March were quiet.

In the forenoon Company E soldiers observed enemy personnel around a cave at L833286, above C. Furcoli. Whenever we shelled the area the Germans hurried into the cave and covered the entrance with a large sheet of steel. When the shelling ceased they took down the "door" and emerged again.

At the Regimental command post in the morning, officers were shown new 75- and 57-millimeter rifles and a new 4.2[-inch] chemical mortar. The use and operation of the weapons was explained in a lecture and film. In the afternoon selected members of the Regiment were notified to attend a demonstration of a new mine-clearing device on 10 March.

Beginning at 1400 hours, our rocket gunners fired 90 rounds into enemy territory.

Arrangements were completed during the day for the transportation and quartering of our First Battalion, which was to return to our control on 11 March from reserve status with the 10th Mountain Division.

Published was an addition to the friendly minefield legend issued on 7 March.

This day 100 enlisted men, accompanied by two duty officers, left for five days' recreation at the 34th Division Rest Camp in Montecatini Terme. The First Battalion's quota of men went direct from Vidiciatico.

The Articles of War were read to Service Company personnel, as they had been to members of our other units in recent days. Service Company was encamped at Monghidoro (L859180 - Mp 1:25,000 Sheet 98 I SW Monghidoro), about six miles southeast of Monzuno.

During the night of 9-10 March the .50-caliber machine gun platoon, in charge of First Lieutenant John J. Carroll of Anti-Tank Company, loosed 6,624 rounds into the German lines.

[10 March 1945]

Returning from a patrol after midnight, on 10 March, two Company G soldiers were wounded when they stepped on mines south of Hill 333, about 800 yards southeast of C. Furcoli. (See "Patrols and Raids".)

At 0215 hours forward elements of Company K reported hostile movement in Ca' Valla. All was quiet after we brought fire down on the settlement. At daybreak Company I observers saw 20 to 25

soldiers
around a cave at L822283, some 1,000 yards to our left
front. In the
late afternoon our supporting tanks, firing from southwest
of Monzuno,
sped 60 rounds toward that cave and another at L834287,
above C. Furcoli
on the slope of Monterumici. The tanks scored good hits.
Cannon
Company fired on and silenced a German mortar shooting from
beside a
building at L809290, west of Vado.

At 0700 hours an Italian civilian, walking from the
direction of
Ca' Valla, approached Company K's lines. Halted at the
forward
platoon's command post at Ca' di Serra, he responded
readily to
questions and pointed out enemy positions on an aerial
photograph map.
Asked why he came to us, he said he was fleeing from the
Germans, who
had pressed him into labor service. It was noticed,
however, that his
smooth hands did not look like those of a laborer.
Interrogated further
at the Regimental command post, he gave much information
about the
enemy. But, grilled later by the Counter-Intelligence
Corps at 34th
Division headquarters, he admitted to being a paid short-
range agent for
Germany, sent across our lines to observe insignia worn by
troops in
this area and general living conditions and political
feelings of
civilians. Nevertheless, his answers remained the same
under all
questionings, and some of his information was thought to be
reliable.

At 1615 hours Anti-Tank Company's rocket gunners fired
89 rounds
at Hill 427 (L825286), above Ca' di Bocchino, west of C.
Furcoli. The
results were excellent, the reverse slope of the hill being
well

covered. Four erratic rounds fell short, but caused no damage. Between 1900 and 2000 hours enemy soldiers were seen picking up propaganda leaflets which our artillery had fired over their positions in Vado and in Cova, south of Vado. Cannon fire was directed on Ca' Valla when activity was noted there at 2300 hours.

During the day, II Corps Engineers began camouflaging Highway 6532 leading from Monzuno to the Second and Third Battalion command posts. Nets were strung along the left-hand side of the road, and overhead on curves, to screen traffic from enemy observation. However, it was subsequently decided not to use the road in the daytime after all, on account of the dust raised by vehicles.

This day First Lieutenant Ray R. Murdock and four enlisted men departed for Aversa, near Naples, to attend a five-day course of instruction in administration of prisoners of war after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. Two enlisted men left for two weeks' instruction at the MTOUSA Mine Warfare School. One soldier went to the 34th Division Signal School.

Each company of the Regiment was ordered this day to designate voting officers for state elections. First Lieutenant Rex H. Garrett was designated Regimental voting officer. A Regimental shower and clothing exchange unit began operating near Trasasso. Two enlisted men went to Naples, one to Bari, on 10-day furloughs given them to visit relatives.

[11 March 1945]

At 0045 hours 11 March Second Lieutenant Russell E. Saunders and a 26-man Company G combat patrol occupied a house at L830282, about 200 yards below C. Furcoli. Near this building another patrol, on the night of 8-9 March, had encountered an enemy ambush. This time, however, as Lieutenant Saunders and his men approached the house, three Germans ran from it without firing a shot, and disappeared. We left one squad to hold the position, our furthestmost point of northerly occupation so far in this sector. During the hours of darkness a platoon was detailed to hold the building.

The pre-dawn hours were comparatively quiet. Activity in Ca' Valla was again reported, and there was the usual machine-gun and flare action.

By 0735 hours all First Battalion units had closed in the reserve area at Trasasso. Again under our jurisdiction, the battalion relieved the Second Battalion, 351st Infantry, as our reserve unit. Our battalion would be subject, on Divisional order, to attachment to the 135th Infantry, to be employed as a counter-attacking force under the latter's control.

(During their eight-day sojourn in Vidiciatico, where they acted as a reserve element for the 10th Mountain Division, the First Battalion's troops trained in small-unit problems, at the same time remaining on the alert for a possible call to action. Vidiciatico lay across a large valley from Monte Belvedere, key terrain feature recently taken by the 10th Mountain Division. Our soldiers thoroughly

reconnoitered all roads and trails in the sector, in order that a complete knowledge of all routes would be available in the event of a move. Security patrols were sent out into the hills on the flanks. Interdictory long-range artillery fire fell in the reserve area on occasion. Early on the afternoon of 7 March a German shell burst among a group of Company D men training on their machine guns. Ten men were wounded, six of them being evacuated.)

In the forenoon considerable enemy movement was observed across our lines, such as German soldiers sun-bathing and strolling about. Cannon Company and our attached platoon of the Chemical Mortar Battalion (100th) discouraged them from continuing their leisurely pursuits.

During the afternoon, which was dormant tactically, the Regiment received six war dogs and 12 handlers, a squad from the 33rd Quartermaster War Dog Platoon. Four dogs and their handlers were sent to the First Battalion to attend a mine school. The others went to Company K's forward platoon at Ca' di Serra, to be used as messengers between there and the company's command post. This was the second time in the Italian Campaign that dogs were attached to the Regiment. A full platoon, serving with us in the Savazza area last January, performed to our complete satisfaction. (See January 1945 history.)

Division informed us that on the following day we would receive 18 knee mortars, six for each battalion.

This day being Sunday, religious services were conducted in various areas of the Regiment. First Battalion soldiers

took baths and
exchanged clothing at the Regimental showers. Members of
the Regiment
each received a ration of six cans of American beer, at a
nominal
charge.

[12 March 1945]

The morning of 12 March dawned bright and clear. This
was to be
another day of sunny, almost warm weather, such as we had
experienced
every day since we arrived in this sector. Outside of some
enemy
machine-gun fire and flare action, the sector had been
quiet during the
night, and continued to be so throughout the day.

Before noon details were worked out with our
supporting tank and
tank destroyer units to dig in positions enabling them to
fire on
targets of opportunity.

The First Battalion, in reserve at Trasasso, began a
training
program. Four hours a day were devoted to such subjects as
squad
problems and gun drill; mine, wire and radio classes were
to be
conducted. Bazookas were fired on a range in the area at
night.

In the afternoon Anti-Tank Company's rocket-gun
platoon, in charge
of First Lieutenant Ray D. Phillips, fired 135 rounds at
the town of
Vado. Fifty rounds were equipped with the new radio-active
VT fuses.
Results on the target were excellent. In Vado, aerial
bursts occurred
10 to 15 feet above the ground. However, 40 per cent of
the VT-fitted
shells burst at random over our own sector.

(War Department Training Circular No. 76, dated 29
December 1944,
describes the new fuse. To quote, in part: "The VT

fuses belong
to a new class of artillery fuses which function
automatically
under the influence of the target, thereby causing the
burst to
occur in the most effective position with respect to
the target.
These fuses will detonate a shell when the shell
approaches within
a certain distance of aircraft, earth or water. These
fuses are
in effect automatic time fuses.") Our soldiers in the
area over
which the rockets would pass were cautioned to stay
under cover
during the firing, to avoid the effects of possible
premature
explosions.

In the course of the day Cannon Company fired a total
of 64 rounds
at the request of battalion observation posts.

At 2300 hours Company L's second platoon relieved,
according to
schedule, the second platoon of Company K. Only the
customary enemy
harassing and flare activity disturbed the still of the
night before
midnight. Ca' Valla was shelled by us when Third Battalion
troops
reported enemy activity there around 2400 hours.

This day 48 enlisted men, accompanied by a duty
officer, went to
the Fifth Army Rest Camp in Rome. They were to go in
trucks to
Montecatini Terme, thence by train to Rome, spending four
days and four
nights in the Eternal City. Four officers departed for
Florence, for
several days' relaxation at the Hotel Anglo-American.

[13 March 1945]

The period of 13 March opened with even less hostile
machine-gun
and flare action than on previous nights.

During the morning, which was clear and cool, plans were completed and all details arranged for the relief of the Second Battalion by the First on the night of 14 March. Operational Instructions No. 11 was published, concerning this relief. Officers sent by Division surveyed our sector as a preliminary to smoothing some of the roads, thereby permitting freer movement of vehicles.

At noon the air was warmer. Later in the day the 757th Tank Battalion decided to attempt to move a light tank up near Company K's forward platoon, so that infantrymen could be supported by direct fire if necessary.

Company H's 81-millimeter mortarmen, their fire directed by Company F observers, hit squarely an enemy dugout at L820281, about 300 yards southwest of C. di. Bocchino. The heavy weapons unit also fired on L826285, just north of the hamlet, with good results.

The afternoon was generally calm, our observation posts reporting few incoming shells, and those mostly mortar.

In mid-afternoon of this day, in an impressive field ceremony near Trasasso, Major-General Charles L. Bolte, 34th Division commander, presented four Silver Stars, 22 Bronze Stars, and 11 Division citations to members of the 133rd Infantry who had distinguished themselves in the Italian campaign.

At the Regimental command post in the evening, the first in a series of informal camera classes was conducted by Private First Class George Molnar, Regimental field correspondent, for

interested members of
the Regiment. Other subjects taught at the command post
during the
remainder of our stay in this sector were Italian, by First
Lieutenant
Bruno G. Loehner; Business Law, by Sergeant Samuel H.
Bloom; and
English, by Private First Class Joseph Hoffman, Regimental
historian.

Six officers left for Rome, to spend five days at the
Hotel
Excelsior. Two bottles of Coca-Cola were issued to each
member of the
Regiment, at five cents a bottle.

[14 March 1945]

At 0130 hours 14 March Lieutenant Edward C. Crangle
and 24 men
from the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon
returned
from a combat patrol. It was their first raiding mission
since the
formation of raiding squads within the platoon late in
February.

The preceding evening the soldiers has assembled at
Company K's
forward platoon position at Ca' di Serra and were
inspirationally
briefed in their mission by Brigadier-General Gustav J.
Braun, assistant
Divisional commander. At 1930 hours Lieutenant Crangle and
his two
squads started out, going up the road to L812281, at Ca'
Valla. Near
that point, Privates Carmelo Contreras and William
Williamson discovered
a box mine and a Schu mine. They marked the former with
white paper and
cut the trip wire running from the latter. The patrol then
searched the
houses in Ca' Valla and found them unoccupied (Previously,
ever since
assuming control of this sector, our troops had received
frequent fire
from Ca' Valla, and enemy movement had been observed

there.) The patrol next set up an ambush at the entrance to the houses from the road. They remained there until 0100 hours, but no Germans came into view or were heard. Then Sergeant Kersey Stover and Private Richard Hite blew up one of the buildings with a 20-pound TNT charge. This house had, it was suspected, been used as an observation post by the enemy. (See "Patrols and Raids".)

This day was to be another 24-hours of negligible hostile activity. At 1100 hours Anti-Tank Company fired two armor-piercing and four heavy-explosive rounds of 57-millimeter at an enemy-occupied cave near C. di Bocchino. The shells caved in part of the bank and partially closed the entrance. Rockets, some equipped with VT fuses, were fired at Vado at 1500 hours.

This day Sergeant Samuel H. Bloom, of the Regimental awards and decorations section, lectured to officers and men of the First Battalion on the requirements for award recommendations.

The relief of the Second Battalion by the First was completed without incident at 2210 hours. Company A relieved Company G, Company C took over Company F's positions, B relieved E, and D replaced H. The scheduled replacement of Company K troops by Company L men was final by 2355 hours, Company K entering battalion reserve.

At intervals during this day Company M, which had received one of the newly issued Special Service radios at its command post, telephoned the latest news to its platoon members up front.

To the 34th Division Rest Camp in Montecatini Terme

traveled 100
enlisted men and two duty officers. Post Exchange rations
of candy
bars, cookies, and nuts were distributed to all members of
the Regiment.

[15 March 1945]

By 0110 hours 15 March the Second Battalion had closed
in the
reserve area at Trasasso.

Between 0130 and 0300 hours patrols returned from
their night's
missions. For the first time in this sector, a war dog and
his handler
accompanied one of our reconnaissance patrols. Another
group, composed
of five Company I men and an officer, found houses and
bunkers at Ca'
Valla still unoccupied. The soldiers also noted a 50-foot
steel bridge,
undamaged, spanning Rio Blogna at the north edge of the
village. (See
"Patrols and Raids".)

During the day orders were received from the
commanding general of
the Division instructing each regiment to send out one
combat patrol
every night, its mission to contact the enemy.

At 1230 hours Anti-Tank Company's 57-millimeter guns
placed direct
fire on targets between C. di Bocchino and C. Furcoli.

At 1415 hours our attached tank unit loosed several
rounds against
caves near the base of Monterumici, the height above C.
Furcoli. Our
4.5[-inch] rocket gunners, at 1500 hours, fired on enemy
positions in
the vicinity of Vado. A percentage of the shells fitted
with VT fuses
burst prematurely.

Issued in the afternoon were Addition No. 2 to the
friendly

minefield legend published on 7 March and a list of the enemy minefields in the sector.

This day Major Lewis A. Fletcher, assistant Regimental S-3, became S-3. He relieved Captain Earl W. Ralf, who was soon to leave the Regiment on rotation to the United States. The next day Captain Cleo W. Buxton, Second Battalion S-3, was named assistant Regimental S-3.

Second Battalion troops, in their reserve area, took showers and exchanged clothing at the nearby Regimental clothing exchange and shower unit. The Regimental seven-piece "jam" band, recently organized by First Lieutenant Wilbur R. Irwin, Special Service officer, played in the area.

Captain Fred R. Edgar, Regimental chaplain, departed by airplane for Palestine. He had been granted a five-day leave, exclusive of travel time, to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

[16 March 1945]

At 0200 hours 16 March a Company A reconnaissance patrol, originally consisting of First Lieutenant Oliver P. Watson, Second Lieutenant Gyle E. Herron, and seven enlisted men, returned from its mission without Lieutenant Watson. When Lieutenant Herron challenged three German soldiers talking on the road west of the junction at C. Furcoli, two of the enemy ran south, one west of the road. Our patrol fired on them and in turn received intense fire from machine guns to the left of the junction. Lieutenant Herron ordered his men to withdraw, but Lieutenant Watson did not hear the order. When he

could not locate his comrades, he stayed under cover until nightfall, returning to the First Battalion command post at 2045 hours. (See "Patrols and Raids".)

From dawn to midnight there was no hostile activity worthy of note. During the morning our 57-millimeter guns shot direct fire on houses between C. di Bocchino and C. Furcoli, targets at which they had been firing for the past few days. The gunners scored several direct hits.

At 1945 hours a Company I patrol composed of Second Lieutenant Francis F. Haggerty and 18 men returned to the Third Battalion command post after a 24-hour absence. An account of their experience follows:

Starting out from Ca' di Serra at 1930 hours 15 March, the patrol went up Highway 64 to Ca' Valla and found the houses there unoccupied. Eight Italians were in a cave at L814281, close to the road at Ca' Valla. Part of the patrol stayed there while a reconnaissance group went northward along the road to L815283, just above Ca' Valla. During this time two machine guns were firing harassing fire from the direction of Vado. While our patrol was at L815283, a group of enemy approached along the road from the north. The reconnaissance party dropped back to the remainder of the patrol in the cave. From there they saw about 40 enemy soldiers enter houses at Ca' Valla. On account of the limited field of vision from the cave, our men could not observe all the buildings the enemy entered. At 1730 hours

the patrol

moved to L813289, after Lieutenant Haggerty had found high ground

at that point. From there our soldiers saw four Germans enter the

cave the patrol had just left and talk to the civilians. Up to

this point the group had had telephone contact with its command

post, but suddenly the line went dead. However, nothing further

of an untoward nature occurred, and under cover of darkness our

men returned to their headquarters. (See "Patrols and Raids".)

Issued this day was a list of observation post locations in our sector, superseding one published on 5 March,

The Second Battalion, in reserve at Trasasso, began a training schedule, to be followed every morning. Afternoons were to be devoted to athletics.

In the afternoon, Major-General Geoffrey Keyes, II Corps commander, accompanied by the Divisional commander, inspected several areas in the Regimental sector, as he was to do on several succeeding days. He was well pleased with what he saw on his tour. In anticipation of such a visit, all units had policed their areas and quarters.

Jewish services were held at the Second Battalion command post at 1800 hours.

Received this day by the Regimental commander was a letter of commendation from the Divisional commander concerning the 133rd Infantry's outstandingly low venereal disease and intestinal disease

rate in the month of February, 1945.

[17 March 1945]

On 17 March we made plans to support by fire an attack scheduled for the night of 17-18 March by the 168th Infantry, our right neighbor (see Operational Instructions No. 12). If the 168th's operation proved successful, our First Battalion plus attachments would attack to the north, in the general direction of Monterumici. (See blown-up sketch of objective zone, and Plan Monterumici, under "Operational Instructions".)

In the late afternoon our 57-millimeter mortarmen fired at targets on Hill 427. All the shots were direct hits - some on houses, one bursting in an enemy trench. Target of the 4.5 rocket gunners was Cova.

Most of the shells, however, landed in Vado. Some premature bursts occurred over Company I positions. Guns of the 757th Tank Battalion fired on a known enemy machine-gun nest at L808288, northwest of Ca' Valla. They scored one direct hit and four probables.

At 1612 hours Divisional G-3 notified our S-3 that the demonstration in attack had been postponed 24 hours.

[18 March 1945]

German artillery and mortar action was light throughout the night of 17-18 March, but stepped-up machine-gun fire was reported over the entire sector. Most of it came from the Monterumici and Vado areas. The fire was sporadic and accompanied by intense flare activity. By dawn of 18 March, however, the front was calm again, the daylight hours remaining so.

In the morning and afternoon of this day, Sunday, Catholic and Protestant services were held in the Regimental Headquarters and Second Battalion areas.

At 1300 hours Operational Instructions No. 13 appeared. The orders concerned a proposed attack by the First Battalion on the areas between C. di Bocchino and C. Furcoli at 0600 hours 20 March, assuming that an offensive scheduled by the 168th Infantry toward Monterumici during the coming night was successful.

(For full details, refer to operational instructions mentioned.)

Issued with them were Overlay Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

showing, respectively, assembly areas, lines of departure and routes of approach; light and heavy machine-gun fire plan;

preparatory fire targets (1A); preparatory fire targets (1B);

cannon, artillery and mortar fires; and proposed defensive fires.)

In preparation for the attack the tanks zeroed in on targets on Hills 403 and 427. Anti-tank Company shot more than 70 rounds of 57-millimeter direct fire at targets above C. Furcoli and C. di Bocchino.

In the evening the enemy kept the front lighted by shooting flares into the air continually over the entire sector.

As the period closed at midnight, it was reported that a Company I patrol, led by Second Lieutenant Sylvester M. Decker, had been surrounded by the enemy at Ca' Valla and was engaged in a fierce fire fight. At the same time, a Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance

patrol, headed by First Lieutenant William A. Taylor, had approached Ca' Valla.

[19 March 1945]

From midnight on, throughout 19 March, news filtered through on the experiences of our patrols around Ca' Valla. As pieced together from reports, some of them conflicting, the following record of events emerges:

The I and R (Intelligence and Reconnaissance) Platoon combat patrol, starting out at 2100 hours 18 March, found the houses at Ca' Valla unoccupied. While one group established a base of fire around several of the buildings, a squad moved eastward along Highway 64 to L812281. Suddenly two white flares arose ahead of our men, followed immediately by small-arms fire and grenades from a draw to the right of the road and machine-gun fire from both sides of the highway. The leading squad members moved back about 100 yards to the bend in the road, where they augmented the first squad in providing a base of fire.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Decker and his Company I men had reached L815279 in the Rio Blogna draw, on the far side of the road from Ca' Valla. Almost at the moment of their arrival at that point, however, Germans dug in along both banks fired on our soldiers from the rear and each side. Our men had telephone communication with their company command post, having maintained contact by stringing wire for a sound-power telephone as they

advanced. When the Germans ambushed the group, the soldier laying wire was talking to Captain John T. Gorman, his commanding officer. The last words coming over the line before it went dead were, "We are about to be taken prisoner!" Three men succeeded in making a getaway, returning to our lines just before 0200 hours. One of the men was wounded, though able to walk. The soldiers said that they believed two members of the patrol had been killed, the remainder taken prisoner.

Lieutenant Taylor, meanwhile, had been relieved by the Regimental commander, who placed Second Lieutenant Edward C. Crangle in charge of the I and R patrol. This group was now operating in conjunction with a Company I platoon led by Second Lieutenant Francis F. Haggerty and dispatched to aid the I and R patrol and Lieutenant Decker's party. Both units were under the control of First Lieutenant William H. Shearson, Company K. The two groups outposted the Rio Blogna draw and one squad set up an ambush at L813289 to snare any enemy still in the draw who might try to leave in that direction. Another squad took up a position at L822277, at the western end of the pass. Lieutenant Haggerty and an outpost group dug in on the ridge overlooking the pass.

The I and R patrol now advanced up the highway again toward Ca' Valla. This time the Germans brought intense mortar and light artillery fire down on the road, forcing the infantrymen to seek cover in the houses just beyond the draw at L814282,

along with
members of Company K's ambush group. Our artillery
was directed
against the estimated positions of the German guns,
and mortar
fire was aimed toward enemy infantry along the
highway.

At 0545 hours the 168th Infantry notified us that its
attack on
Monterumici had bogged down. Thus, our own assault plans
(see
Operational Instructions No. 13), whose execution had
depended on the
168th's success, were postponed.

Shortly after dawn, enemy light artillery increased
greatly, The
Third Battalion sector in general and Ca' Valla in
particular absorbing
several heavy barrages. One barrage of 35 to 40 rounds
exploded in Ca'
Valla in a five-minute period. The Divisional air
observation post took
to the skies, causing the German fire to slacken almost at
once.

At 0800 hours the situation in respect to our men in
and around
Ca' Valla was as follows:

Twenty-eight men from the I and R Platoon and 25
Company K
soldiers were still in the houses beyond the Rio
Blogna draw.
Lieutenant Haggerty's outpost was still in position
along the top
of the draw. However it now seemed probable that
there were no
longer any enemy in the pass. After gathering as much
information
as possible, this headquarters reported at 1130 hours
to Division
that our casualties so far were one man wounded, 16
missing, three
returned. Later four more soldiers showed up, making
12 missing,
including Lieutenant Decker.

During the morning the 168th Infantry had asked us to determine how much direct fire we could place on the ridge line running from L833293 northeast to L835297. It was found that of our weapons one tank, four tank destroyers and three .50-caliber machine guns could put direct, observable fire in that area. The 168th Infantry was so informed, and we were requested to fire at 1800 hours in groups in the sequence given so that its observers might note the results. However, shortly afterward the 168th called again, stating that the area on which they wished us to fire was L834294 northeast to L837299, instead of the area indicated previously. We checked, and found that some of the guns would be unable to hit the new line; nevertheless, they were directed to fire as close to the ridge as possible.

In the afternoon our 57-millimeter guns fired at targets on hills 403 and 427, obtaining 35 direct hits out of 43 rounds.

Under protection of defensive fires, all our men in the houses at Ca' Valla withdrew to our lines early in the evening. One platoon of Company I remained at the entrance to the Rio Blogna draw, returning late in the night. It has espied no enemy.

This day was issued a change in the friendly minefield legend published on 7 March.

Thorough the National Jewish Welfare Board, Jewish soldiers in the Regiment were each issued three pounds of matzos in connection with the coming holiday of Passover.

To Montecatini Terme went 100 enlisted men and two

duty officers,
to spend five days at the 34th Division Rest Camp.

The night hours of 19-20 March were fairly quiet; the Germans released many flares in an effort to expose any patrol movement on our part.

[20 March 1945]

Shortly before 0600 hours on 20 March the 168th Infantry requested direct fire support for an attack it was about to launch against the ridge line mentioned previously. Our tank destroyers, tanks and .50-caliber machine guns fired on the objective, but by 0800 the 168th's attack had failed. Its troops returned to their original positions.

Just before dawn Company I observers spotted enemy movement on Hill 403. Cannon Company fired on the area with good results. Also in the early morning, observers saw an enemy gun flash in a cave opening above C. Furcoli. This target was taken under fire by our tank destroyers and 57-millimeter anti-tank guns. The former, firing 25 rounds, obtained five direct hits on the mouth of the cave. The anti-tank guns placed one shell squarely in the cave entrance.

At 1400 hours the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of the Regiment, was relieved by the 329th Field Artillery Battalion of the 85th Infantry Division. The guns were replaced, one by one, until the entire unit had been relieved. At 1600 hours the 4.5 rocket guns unloaded 50 rounds on the Vado railroad station.

This day an anti-malaria control officer was appointed in each company. Captain Louis F. Kaleita, Regimental S-1, was named Regimental control officer.

Good Conduct Medals arrived and were distributed to the Second Battalion and special units. Other units were to receive their allotments when another shipment came in. Up to this date only the ribbon portion of the awards had been available.

[21 March 1945]

The day of 21 March was, appropriately, replete with the lively signs of Spring. The sun shone warmly from a blue sky. Soft white clouds drifted by. Trees were budding, and the hills and fields were turning from brown to green. Only tactically was our sector dormant. There were the customary artillery exchanges, and during the day our tank destroyers fired on the caves northeast of C. Furcoli, as they had done the day before.

In the afternoon a firing demonstration of the new recoilless weapons, previously exhibited in this area was held at L830001, South of Firenzuola. Selected members of the Regiment attended.

This day 26 non-commissioned officers of the Regiment were transferred as instructors to the MTOUSA Replacement Training Center.

[22 March 1945]

From midnight on into 22 March, and continuing for an hour, enemy mortar and artillery fire were markedly active, with the First Battalion receiving the greatest share of the German fire. Several

small concentrations of mortar fell around Company C's observation post on Hill 446 and on a First Battalion vantage point on Hill 502.. As a result of the enemy's effort, we spotted one of his mortar positions behind Hill 427. The gun was neutralized by our chemical mortars and a two-battery artillery volley. Companies A and B absorbed a considerable amount of German artillery in their area during the hour.

After daylight the Third Battalion observation post espied hostile movement on Hill 389 (L827297), at Lizzano, about 1,400 yards above C. Furcoli. Our Cannon Company and the 329th Field Artillery Battalion took the target under fire. In the afternoon Company C again received a few small barrages of enemy mortar. Harassing shells fell over the whole sector.

Issued at 1600 hours was Operational Instructions No. 15, concerning the type of active defense to be continued by the Regiment in this sector. Also published was another change in the list of friendly minefields issued on 7 March.

In the evening our artillery placed fire on a house at L816284, on Highway 64 northeast of Ca' Valla. Enemy activity had been observed there earlier. We scored several direct hits. Toward midnight, confronted by a superior force of enemy, our combat patrol in the neighborhood of C. Furcoli withdrew 600 yards southeastward to an outpost on Hill 333. (See "Patrols and Raids".) The C. Furcoli area was then immediately pounded by our artillery.

This day eight Service Company drivers were dispatched

to Florence
to bring back eight new one-quarter ton trucks (jeeps).
The vehicles
were checked by our mechanics and painted with
organizational markings.
Seven of the cars were issued out at once, one each to
Service Company;
Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, and Companies C, D,
H, I, and M.

Mr. William Steis became attached to the Regiment as
assistant
field director for the American Red Cross. He relieved Mr.
James H.
Smith.

Four officers traveled to Florence for several days
relaxation at
the Anglo-American Hotel.

[23 March 1945]

Other than our patrols, during the early morning hours
of 23
March, there was little action, either friendly or enemy.
At 0300
hours, Company C's outpost reported hearing hostile
activity in and
around C. Furcoli. We at once dropped 60-millimeter
barrages on the
village.

Just before daybreak the 4.5 rocket guns fired. They
covered the
rear slope of Hill 403 northwest to the Monzuno-Vado
railway station.

The daylight hours were quiet. Poor visibility
prevented our
observation posts from being fully effective.
Nevertheless, at 1600
hours Germans were detected around a cave at L834287, north
of C.
Furcoli. The 804th Tank Destroyers fired on the position,
obtaining a
number of direct hits. At 1800 hours the rocket gunners
again loosed a
barrage, their target this time being Vado. Hill 375,

southeast of C.
di Bocchino, was the objective of our 4.2 chemical mortars
at 2100
hours.

During the evening an advance Second Battalion party
arrived at
the Third Battalion's positions. The Second's troops were
to relieve
the Third's on the following night.

This day 48 men and a duty officer left for the Fifth
Army Rest
Camp in Rome. A beer ration of six cans was distributed to
all
soldiers.

[24 March 1945]

At 0130 hours 24 March a 24-man Company K combat
patrol, headed by
First Lieutenant William H. Shearer, returned from its
mission.
Reaching Ca' Valla, the group heard noises in houses east
of Ca' Valla
and decided to investigate. Leaving one squad behind as
cover,
Lieutenant Shearer and the other squad moved forward.
Suddenly a flare
went up and enemy machine-gun fire came from the vicinity
of L813282, to
the left of the road. Our men fired three bazooka shells
at the
position, but could not silence the gun. Then the patrol
spotted 10 or
12 German soldiers around the houses at the north edge of
Ca' Valla.
Our troops opened fire on them with rifle grenades and
heard one enemy
cry out in anguish. Just then another machine gunner
started firing on
the patrol from the right side of the road. Lieutenant
Shearer and his
men pushed ahead again. Two more flares arose. All at
once, to their
rear our soldiers heard noises that sounded like men
running over
cobblestones. Believing that a second group of Germans

were trying to
come in behind him, the patrol leader withdrew all his men.
As soon as
the patrol had cleared Ca' Valla, we placed some 100 rounds
of 105-, 81-
and 60-millimeter mortar and 4.2 chemical mortar on the
village, and
continued to harass the area all through the night. (See
"Patrols and
Raids".)

At 0730 hours our 4.5 rockets fired on targets on Hill
389. This
day and the night were unusually quiet.

By 2220 hours the Second Battalion had relieved
without incident
the Third Battalion's troops. Company E relieved Company
I, F replaced
K, G took over L's positions, and Company H relieved
Company M. The
Third Battalion closed in the reserve area at 2350 hours.

In the morning of this day 100 enlisted men,
accompanied by two
duty officers, went to Montecatini Terme for five days'
respite from
combat.

[25 March 1945]

Palm Sunday, 25 March, was another tranquil day in the
sector.
Appropriate religious services were held in the Third
Battalion and
Cannon and Regimental Headquarters Company areas.

Second Battalion observers located a new machine-gun
position at
L814285, north of Ca' Valla. It was taken under fire by
the
artillerymen, one direct hit being noted. Our supporting
platoon of the
432nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion fired some 30
rounds on a cave
at L832285, above C. Furcoli. Many direct hits were scored
on the cave
entrance.

At approximately 1900 hours the Germans shelled the area just south of Monzuno, a total of 20 rounds falling in 10 minutes. Our observation posts spied gun flashes from four guns, believed to be tanks or self-propelled artillery, firing from L828298, near Lizzano. The positions were at once blasted by our artillery. About two hours later our lookouts observed a large fire burning in the target area.

As the period closed at midnight the entire Regimental front was calm.

This day began the first of five two-day mine warfare refresher courses under the supervision of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion. Selected members of the Regiment, enlisted men and officers, were to attend the classes. Second Lieutenant Tony Magnani departed to attend a 10-day course on motor maintenance problems at a Fifth Army Ordnance school.

[26 March 1945]

In the dark early morning hours of 26 March permanent listening posts were set up by our troops, one at the road junction north of Hill 446, near C. Furcoli, the other at a house at L813282, at Ca' Valla. Both listening posts had wire communication with the rear. The five-man post at C. Furcoli was within 50 to 100 yards of the nearest known enemy positions.

During the day a plan for a demonstration by fire was prepared and published in the form of Operational Instructions No. 16. Accompanying

the orders were Overlay Nos. 14 and 15, showing our fire plans for the demonstration.

In addition to our usual harassing efforts, the principal targets fired on by our soldiers during the day were: le Braine (L832289), 500 yards north of C. Furcoli, by the 432nd AAA Battalion; machine-gun positions at L815285 and L812298, one above Ca' Valla, the other above the Monzuno-Vado station, by our mortars and artillery; and Hill 389 by Anti-Tank Company's 4.5 rocket gunners. The sky was overcast most of this day; light rain fell in the afternoon, the first precipitation we had experienced since our arrival in this sector. Visibility was consequently poor.

The enemy harassed us lightly during the day. At 1410 hours a small concentration of German mortar fire landed at L825262, to the right of Highway 6532. The shells were apparently intended for our .50-caliber machine guns in that vicinity. However, no damage or casualties resulted.

On this day Divisional G-3 notified our Regimental S-3 to dispatch a reconnaissance party the next morning to reconnoiter for an assembly area in the present 91st Infantry Division sector, to our Division's right. The proposed relief of the Regiment was to take place of 2-3 April.

In the afternoon a revised list of observation posts in our sector was distributed to all units.

At midnight a 27-man I and R combat patrol reported in after

having suffered three casualties in a fire fight around C. di Bocchino. Second Lieutenant Edward C. Crangle, patrol leader, suffered a fractured jaw and a scalp wound from machine-gun fire and two enlisted men were wounded, one seriously. In addition to intense machine-gun fire, an estimated 250 rounds of mortar fire were directed against the patrol. (For full details, see "Patrols and Raids".)

This day 48 enlisted men and two officers, all of the Jewish faith, departed for Florence. They had been granted four-day passes to observe the Jewish holiday of Passover in that city.

[27 March 1945]

The post-midnight hours of 27 March were fairly quiet. The weather was cool, and a light rain fell. Shortly after dawn the rain ceased, but a high wind took its place. It was windy and cold the rest of the day and night.

In the morning Divisional G-2 discussed over the telephone with Major James R. McClymont, Regimental S-2, the evacuation of all civilians above the 25 northing, to commence the following day.

During the afternoon our supporting platoon of the 432nd AAA Battalion harassed in the vicinity of L835290, between le Braine and di Sotto, 600 yards above C. Furcoli. German self-propelled fire landed at L851241, on the Monzuno-Loiano road, during the day. This area apparently was under intense hostile observation, for shells burst there only when vehicles passed by.

In general, the front was comparatively quiet

throughout the daylight hours. Our observers were hampered by poor visibility; a light rain began to fall again early in the evening. Issued late in the day was a change in Operational Instructions No. 16, concerning the duration of the coming fire demonstration and the ammunition allocation for it.

Soon after dark the rate of enemy artillery and mortar fire suddenly increased very noticeably. The artillery consisted mainly of light- and medium-caliber shells, with some heavy-caliber. This fire continued at a high rate throughout the evening. So uncommonly heavy and extensive was it that at 2100 hours the Divisional commander ordered our battalions on the line to be particularly alert for the remainder of the night. It was thought that the Germans' unusual artillery activity might prove to be the preparation fire for an attack. Nothing further developed, however, and by 2400 hours the front was still again.

This day seven officers departed for Rome, four to Florence for several days' pleasure. Canteen rations of candy, nuts, and cookies were distributed to all personnel.

[28 March 1945]

Up until 1300 hours the period of 28 March was dormant over the whole front. In the afternoon enemy shelling rose markedly, but at 1700 hours it had reverted to its normal volume. Observers spotted a German self-propelled gun located at L815305, near Villa d'Ignano, 1,500 yards north of Loiano. Our tank destroyers fired on it, but smoke and ground haze prevented observation of results. It was believed

that this gun had been the one firing on vehicles traveling the Monzuno-Loiano road. That road is now being smoked by generators.

This day all civilians, except for a few menfolk left to attend livestock, were evacuated from that part of the sector above the 25 northing.

By this date all winter clothing in the Regiment had been turned in to the Quartermaster's.

[29 March 1945]

From 0030 to 0035 hours 29 March the Regiment and attached and supporting units demonstrated by fire (see Operational Instructions No. 16 and change thereto). No enemy reaction, other than widespread flare activity, was observed. During the remainder of this 24-hour period nothing occurred worthy of especial note: the sector was very quiet.

Issued this day was Operational Instruction No. 17, concerning our relief of the 361st Infantry of the 91st Division, beginning the night of 1-2 April. We were to continue an active defense of, and prepare for offensive operations, in the sector embracing Monte Belmonte, the key height which we had captured last October. Accompanying the instructions was Overlay No. 16, indicating the disposition of troops in the present 361st Infantry sector.

Six newly commissioned officers, the Regiment's initial group of graduates from the six-week MTOUSA Leadership and Battle School course, returned and were assigned to companies. The second lieutenants, all

former non-commissioned officers, were John J. Hayes, Everett F. Ware, Jefferson Terrill, Walter J. Lang, Everett W. Rasche and Kenyon W. Rasmussen.

To Montecatini Terme went 100 enlisted men and two duty officers, for a five-day stay at the 34th Division Rest Camp.

[30 March 1945]

At 0140 hours 30 March Second Lieutenant Everett G. Horne, Jr., and a 29-man Company F combat patrol checked in. The group had approached to within 50 yards of a house at L816282, on Highway 64, when a white flare rose from the building, followed by machine-gun fire. Then our soldiers saw three enemy coming down the road from the north. Our patrol fired on the Germans, and believed they killed them. Lieutenant Horne and his men thereupon tried to work up to the machine gun, but the moon was too bright. The machine gun prevented them from reaching the bodies of the Germans. (See "Patrols and Raids".)

During the hours of darkness a dummy tank of wood and canvas, constructed by the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion, was placed in position at L815247, 600 yards west of Monzuno. Care was taken that the enemy would be able to observe the silhouette at daylight. Before daybreak a tank from our attached company of the 757th Tank Battalion roared its motor and purposely backfired several time to attract the Germans' attention. Then the real tank left the area.

With the advent of dawn, the enemy located the dummy tank and immediately opened fire on it. Our observers quickly

spotted a number of gun flashes. The air observation post at once adjusted fire on these targets, in the 8135 grid square. One enemy gun, which had directed many rounds at the dummy tank, was effectively silenced by our supporting artillery.

Later in the morning Second Battalion troops observed hostile movement around a house at L815285, on Highway 64 north of Ca' Valla. In a TOT [Time On Target fire], our artillery and mortars demolished it. Coincident with the TOT, several heavy explosions were heard in the nearby dry bed of the Setta River.

Distributed to all units was a march table to accompany Operational Instructions No. 17.

The afternoon hours were fairly quiet. In the early evening Company G troops, in position along Highway 64, received some self-propelled fire from the vicinity of Vado. This target, and a machine-gun nest behind a house at L816282, to the right front of Ca' Valla, were taken under fire. One of our patrols had been fired upon from that point the night before. The Second Battalion's 81-millimeter mortarmen scored 12 direct hits on the house, and the machine gun was heard no more.

Good Friday services were held in various areas of the Regiment this day.

[31 March 1945]

From midnight to the evening hours 31 March was a day, mainly, of routine action.

Our artillery took under fire enemy mortar positions at L809289, left of Vado, from which a considerable amount of mortar fire had been coming. Most of the shells had burst in Company F's sector, southeast of Highway 64. A German self-propelled gun location north of Vado was another artillery target. Our attached tank destroyers fired on observed targets throughout the day. In the early evening they silenced a machine-gun nest at L821282, below C. di Bocchino. After our fire ceased, one of our listening posts heard wounded enemy soldiers screaming.

During the evening, advance parties from the 135th Infantry of the 34th Division, the regiment taking over the sector upon our departure, partially relieved our Second Battalion mortar crews.

At night, the Germans reacted violently to our patrolling activities. They employed mortars and artillery to frustrate a Company A combat patrol and engaged a Company F reconnaissance party in a fire fight. In the first encounter four of our men were wounded, in the latter we inflicted at least 10 casualties. (See "Patrols and Raids" for details.)

As the month ended, the weather was cool and clear.

This day troops of the Third Battalion and special units were paid. First Lieutenant Leo D. Dyer departed to attend a two-week course at the Intelligence Officer Training Center, AFHQ.

[Summary]

Four second lieutenants received combat promotions to

first lieutenant in March. They were Albert G. Mostrom, Seymour Green, Bernard O. Schofield and James W. Boyer.

During the month 34 enlisted men and four officers departed from the Regiment on rotation to the United States. Twenty enlisted men and two officers left for the United States on furlough.

So the 133rd Infantry [ended] the month of March, 1945. Although we made no immediately tangible gains in the sector, and sustained some casualties, our frequent raids, constant patrolling and scheduled fire demonstrations succeeded in keeping the enemy off balance. We inflicted casualties on him and destroyed an appreciable amount of his materiel. However, we captured no prisoners nor obtained any identifications. Engaging in little patrolling themselves, the Germans expertly employed machine guns and mortars in their efforts to halt our forays.

In connection with our activities in the Monzuno sector, it should be recorded that a relief map of the region, prepared by the Regimental S-2 and S-3 sections, proved to be most helpful in orienting patrol groups. Chiefly responsible for its construction were Technicians Fifth Grade William H. Keyser III and Claus Hollesen and Private First Class Harry C. Davidson.

Into the making of the map, which required 163 man-hours of work, went 125 yards of tar paper, [27 square feet] of half-inch plywood, a quart of paper cement, and numerous nails and staples. Paints of various colors were used to depict roads, trails, streams, railroads and

grid lines. Buildings were indicated by bits of match sticks. Vari-colored plotting pins represented friendly and enemy weapons and minefields.

On 1 March the Regiment had an effective strength of 161 officers, three warrant officers and 3,080 enlisted men. On 31 March our effective strength was 167 officers, three warrant officers, and 3,145 enlisted men. During the month we received 62 replacements. Thus, our effective strength experienced an increase of 71 members.

As of 31 March 1945 the 133rd Infantry has been overseas three years, two months and 16 days.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Louis F. Kaleita
LOUIS F. KALEITA
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY
DIVISION

From 1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945, inclusive.

During the greater part of March, 1945, the 133rd Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division commanded a sector above Monzuno (L824245), some 12 air miles south of Bologna. We had established the front lines of this sector in October, 1944, seizing the town of Monzuno on the fourth of that month; subsequently we operated in other sectors.

As April began we were still maintaining an active, successful defense of the same region. However, we had been alerted

for movement
eastward, beginning the night of 1-2 April, to a sector
featuring Monte
Belmonte (L904328), the important height the Regiment had
captured on 23
October 1944. There, while vigorously defending our
positions, we were
to prepare for imminent offensive operations northward.

April 1945 was to be a month lastingly memorable in
the history of
the 133rd Infantry - and of the world.

[1 April 1945]

Throughout the dark, pre-dawn hours of 1 April the
Germans were
very sensitive to our patrol activity, as they had been
constantly in
March. Upon the slightest movement to their front the
enemy brought
down artillery and mortar and machine-gun fire on our
troops. The front
line ran, roughly, along the 28 northing, about two miles
above Monzuno.

Ca' Valla (L811281) and C. Furcoli (L832285), both
above the 28
northing, received most of the stepped-up enemy mortar
fire. Heavy
artillery and scattered machine-gun fire burst over the
entire front.
The forenoon hours were fairly quiet. Shortly before 1200
hours a small
concentration of German self-propelled gun fire fell in
Company G's area
along Highway 64, northwest of Monzuno.

From 1830 to 1900 hours the regiment held a
demonstration by fire.

Taking part were our Cannon Company, the supporting 329th
Field
Artillery Battalion [85th Infantry Division] and the
attached 804th Tank
Destroyer and 757th Tank Battalions. Enemy reaction to the
shoot was
slight, most of the German return fire, about 65 rounds,
falling in the

First Battalion sector along Highway 6532 north of Monzuno.

Operational Instructions No. 17 (see March History) provided for our relief by elements of the 135th Infantry of the 34th Division and the 349th Infantry of the 88th Infantry Division. The reliefs, commencing the night of 1 April, were completed without incident of the night of 3 April (refer to march table accompanying Operational Instructions No. 17).

On this halcyon Easter Sunday, a day of blue skies and sun-swept fields, soldiers of the 133rd Infantry attended Easter services at Trasasso, the Regimental reserve area below Monzuno. In a natural amphitheater beside a hill, Captain Wilbur J. Kerr, chaplain, conducted services which included Easter music by the Regimental band, hymns by a 12-man choir, and organ selections. Catholic soldiers celebrated a special high mass said by Captain Bernard E. Burns, chaplain, in the village church of Trasasso. Chaplain Burns was assisted by two Italian priests and the parish choir.

This day appeared Operational Instructions No. 18, instructing all units of the Regiment to set the time ahead one hour at 0200 hours 2 April.

Six officers departed for a five-day stay at the Hotel Excelsior in Rome.

[2 April 1945]

The entire period of 2 April was quiet. During the day the Regimental rear command post group, Regimental Headquarters Company, the

Regimental Medical Detachment, and the Regimental S-1 section arrived at L904287, two-and-one-half miles south of Monte Belmonte.

Published was Annex "A" to the list of friendly and enemy mines between the 88 and 94 eastings issued on 31 March. The latter list, [not] included in this history, is accompanied by Overlay Nos. 1 and 2 indicating, respectively, the location of the friendly and the enemy mines.

Second Battalion troops were paid for the month of March. Three enlisted men, not citizens of the United States, went to the Fifth Army rear command post in Florence to be naturalized.

[3 April 1945]

At approximately 0700 hours 3 April the First Battalion closed in its reserve area around Zenarella (L907300), 2,800 yards southeast of Monte Belmonte, At 1015 hours Colonel Walden S. Lewis, Regimental commander, established his forward command post at C. Torre dell' Eredi (L911308), 2,000 yards southeast of Monte Belmonte. Our Third Battalion, with the addition of Company A, and Company D's Mortar Platoon, completed its relief of the 361st Infantry elements by 2255 hours. At that time command of the entire sector passed to our control.

The Third Battalion units were situated, generally, between the 31 and 32 northings and close to Monte Belmonte. (See Overlay No. 3 for all troop dispositions and boundaries.) Each battalion was equipped with one 57-millimeter gun from Anti-Tank Company.

First Battalion troops were paid this clear, windy day.

[4 April 1945]

There was little activity on 4 April. The First Battalion began a training program in its reserve area.

Between 1400 and 1500 hours about a dozen 105-millimeter enemy shells fell in the First Battalion sector along the Zena River. Most of the fire, evidently meant to harass the river road, landed around the battalion command post and the medical aid station. A member of the Medical Detachment was slightly wounded.

During the hours of darkness on 4-5 April enemy mortars and light- and medium-caliber artillery were rather active. Heavy harassing fire was received over the entire front, in addition to several small concentrations.

[At this point in time, the "North Apennines Campaign" was officially ended and the "Po Valley Campaign" begun.]

[5 April 1945]

At 0245 hours 5 April a Company L ambush patrol checked in. The members, one officer and ten enlisted men, had established an ambush at L897330, at the foot of the western slope of the Monte Belmonte hill mass. When our soldiers heard grenade and automatic-rifle fire some distance away, they went to investigate. On the way one man got off the path and stepped on an "S" mine at L896327, about 300 yards south of the ambush position. One man was killed and two wounded. (See "S-2 Reports".)

At 0530 hours, before dawn, a Company A outpost at

L908332, to the right front of Monte Belmonte, spotted a group of Germans approaching the position. Immediately our men fired on the dim forms with automatic weapons, and hurled grenades at them. The Germans hastily withdrew, speeded in their flight by Company A's mortars. At 0605 hours, when it was lighter, the Germans again approached the outpost. Now it was clear the enemy, five in number, were bent on surrendering. Taken into custody, they said they had attempted to desert at 0530 hours, but our fire forced them to seek cover. Originally their number was seven, two having been lost or killed. The prisoners' unit was 3rd Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Division. Very little tactical information was gained from them.

During the day enemy activity was slight. The rate of hostile shelling increased somewhat in the evening, accompanied by fairly heavy machine-gun fire across the Regimental sector. Our artillery replied with counter-battery action, silencing much of the German fire.

Issued this day was a traffic schedule for the road running northward from Sassolungo (L905310), 1,800 yards below Monte Belmonte and 500 yards west of the Regimental command post at C. Torre dell'Eredi. Also published was a list of observation posts in our sector.

Each member of the Regiment received the bi-weekly ration of six cans of American beer.

On the night of 5-6 April our patrols were active in their attempts to gain information from enemy positions. (See

"S-2 Reports".)

The Germans harassed our front lightly with artillery and mortar fire.

Just before dawn their machine gunners sprayed lead ineffectively along the entire sector.

[6 April 1945]

The daylight hours of 6 April were quiet. At 1130 and 1830 hours Anti-Tank Company's 4.5 rocket gunners fired on targets on Hill 376 (L922342), 1,600 yards northeast of Monte Belmonte. In the evening a small concentration of 81-millimeter mortar fire was dropped on an enemy machine gun position at L919331, left of the Zena River along the front line above the Second Battalion's sector.

At 2000 hours Operational Instructions No. 19 and Overlay No. 4 were distributed to all units relative to our passing command of the sector and attachments to the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division prior to 0700 hours 7 April. (For details, refer to operational instructions mentioned.)

Late in the evening two enemy approached a Company I position at L891315, immediately below the company command post in the left sector. Hurling grenades, our troops swiftly drove off the marauders. At midnight the front was very quiet, the weather warm and clear.

This day, following instructions contained in a 5 April directive from Colonel John D. Forsythe, Divisional chief of staff, a Regimental replacement pool company was formed in anticipation of the coming offensive. First Lieutenant Wilmer C. Cooling was placed in command of

the unit and cadre was drawn from all three battalions. When losses were incurred in the Regiment replacements could be withdrawn from Company R (for "Replacement") upon approval of Division. In turn, replacements would be withdrawn from the replacement depot, so that they would be available when needed. Personnel could be rotated between Company R and the rifle companies to provide training and battle indoctrination for the new men. Soon after Company R was organized, welcoming talks were given to the new men by Colonel Lewis; Captain Fred R. Edgar, Regimental chaplain; and First Lieutenant Martin J. Slominski, Information-Education officer.

One officer went to Rome for a brief stay at the Hotel Excelsior.

[7 April 1945]

Throughout 7 April enemy activity was negligible. Their harassing fires included two rounds of nebelwerfer (multi-barreled mortar), the first such shells directed against us in months. Our patrols were active in hours of darkness.

Published was Operational Instructions No. 20, giving the schedules of fire in the deceptive fire program to be carried out from 7 to 14 April by the Regiment. Ten- to twenty-minute preparations were to be held at various times during the period by our own and supporting and attached weapons.

By 2200 hours, in conformance with Operational Instructions No. 19, the 168th Infantry had taken command of the sector and our battalions were on the line. At the same hour our forward

command post
group left C. Torre dell' Eredi. It arrived at the new
full command
post at Sadurano (L886292), 3,000 yards southwest of C.
Torre dell'
Eredi, at 2230 hours. Elements of the 168th Infantry were
to relieve
those units of our First Battalion currently in action with
the Third
Battalion. Upon its relief, the First Battalion was to
assemble in the
Sadurano area. The other two battalions and our Cannon and
Anti-Tank
Companies were to remain attached to the 168th Infantry.

A chilly wind accompanied our patrols on their night's
forays (see
"S-2 Reports").

This day members of the Regimental maintenance section
began
cutting the exhaust pipes on our two-and-one-half ton cargo
trucks so
that the pipes would point sideward instead of downward,
thus lessening
the amount of dust stirred up by the vehicles. Short
extensions were
being welded on the pipes to prevent mud from clogging the
exhaust exit.

Technician Fifth Grade Malcolm S. Metcalf of Service
Company completed
a chart showing the vital parts of a one-quarter ton truck
(jeep), with
a description of first echelon maintenance procedure.
Captain Charles
G. Morgan, Regimental motor officer, intended to use the
chart in
connection with a drivers' school on preventative
maintenance he was to
conduct.

[8 April 1945]

On 8 April our Cannon Company, in position at
Fornacetta, 1,400
yards southeast of Sadurano, fired 796 rounds, 390 of them
in the day's
deceptive fire demonstration. Among the targets this day

were L900355,
near C. Casulino, 2,500 yards north on Monte Belmonte; C.
Spungiola,
1,200 yards above Monte Belmonte; L912332, near Gorgognano,
about 1,000
yards northeast of the mountain, and Barchetta, 1,700 yards
west of
Belmonte.

[9 April 1945]

By 0020 hours 9 April elements of the 1st Battalion,
168th
Infantry, had relieved that portion of our First Battalion
which had
been in reserve. By 0415 hours the entire battalion had
been replaced
and had closed in its assembly area in the vicinity of
Sadurano.

At 0500 hours two enemy deserters were taken prisoner
by Company G
troops at L913327, near La Maddalena, 1,000 yards east of
Monte
Belmonte.

[10 April 1945]

On 10 April appeared Field Order No. 1. It announced
that the
34th Division was shortly to resume the offensive
northward, toward
Bologna and the Po Valley, after a winter of active
defensive tactics.
The primary object of the 133rd Infantry in the attack was
C. Casulino,
our advance to wait upon the operations of the 168th
Infantry on our
right and the 363rd Infantry of the 91st Division on our
left. D-Day
and H-Hour were yet to be announced. (For full details of
proposed
operations, refer to Field Order No. 1.) Issued in
conjunction with the
order was an intelligence annex describing enemy
dispositions and
organization, and an administrative annex dealing with
matters of

supply, evacuation, traffic, etc. Accompanying overlays were No. 5, showing assembly areas for the attack; No. 6, marking phase lines and boundaries; No. 7, indicating supply and evacuation routes; and No. 8, noting bridges possibly prepared by the enemy for demolition.

In recent days, in anticipation of a call to offensive action, units of the Regiment had been disposing of all winter and excess clothing and equipment. Impedimenta was being reduced to a minimum.

At various times during the day various staff and field officers of the Regiment inspected, from the observation airplanes of the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, the terrain which would be encountered by our troops in the impending offensive: Colonel Lewis; Major Lewis A. Fletcher, S-3; Major James R. McClymont, S-2; Captain Cleo W. Buxton, assistant S-3; Major Warren C. Chapman, commanding officer of the First Battalion; and Major Timothy F. Horan, Second Battalion commander.

This day the first of a proposed series of one-day anti-malaria schools was held at the Divisional forward command post and attended by two enlisted men from each company and one Regimental officer. Post Exchange rations of candy and nuts and two bottles of Coca-Cola per man were issued to all members of the Regiment.

[11 April 1945]

Personnel of Company R continued to train intensively on 11 April.

The training schedule called for field instruction in the actual firing of all types of weapons. (First Battalion troops were also

trained during this pre-offensive period.) An athletic program was engaged in by the new combat troops, volley-ball and soft-ball being played every day. Orientation lectures were given to the men by Sergeant Arthur B. Erickson of the Regimental Information-Education section. Movies, shown in a large tent every night, were enjoyed also by First Battalion and Regimental Headquarters Company soldiers. The Wisecrackers, Regimental seven-piece band, performed often in all three areas. Dental inspections were held and showers taken daily. A radio with loud-speaker provided news and music at various times during the day. Church services were conducted every day.

This day ten enlisted men were transferred to the 15th Army Group, eight as military policemen, two as orderlies. Three officers went to Florence for several days' relaxation.

Issued to each member of the Regiment was a folder presenting a condensed history of the 133rd Infantry.

[12 April 1945]

Patrols were active again on the night of 11-12 April. Two Company G groups reconnoitered the Gorgognano church area, which was 500 yards in front of the forward platoon's position. One returned when it encountered intensive mortar fire from that vicinity. The other patrol, reaching a point just north of Gorgognano, later reported in minus one man, who had been killed by German machine-pistol fire. On this and other nights reconnaissance patrols checked trails and located and marked enemy minefields in preparation for the offensive.

Published at 1500 hours was Operational Instructions No. 21, disclosing that H-Hour for the execution of Field Order No. 1 was 0300 hours 15 April. The instructions were accompanied by Overlay No. 9, a correction to Overlay No. 5, showing assembly areas for the attack.

At 1800 hours appeared Operational Instructions No. 22, outlining the roles to be played by our units and [attached units] in the operation.

Issued also was an addition to the 31 March lists of friendly and known enemy minefields between the 88 and 94 eastings.

Our First Battalion placed into position its 81-millimeter mortars in the vicinity of Hill 442, and zeroed them in. (The First Battalion was attached to the 363rd Infantry.) Toward the close of the period considerable enemy machine-gun fire was reported by our Second and Third Battalions in the line with the 168th Infantry. This had been a cold day, with a light rainfall in the late afternoon.

[13 April 1945]

On 13 April the news of the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the previous afternoon was the chief topic of sorrowful discussion by our soldiers.

At 1430 hours Operational Instructions No. 23 announced that H-Hour was changed to 0300 hours 16 April, a 24-hour delay.

This day General Mark W. Clark, commander of the 15th Army Group, presented awards to three members of the 133rd Infantry at the

Divisional forward command post. The honored soldiers were Major Edward M. Fabert, First Battalion executive officer, who received the Distinguished Service Cross, and Staff Sergeant Fernando J. Tomassoni and Sergeant Joseph C. Gratz, both of whom received Silver Stars. General Clark also visited our First Battalion area.

[14 April 1945]

In the dark hours of 13-14 April and again on the night of 14 April the Germans lighted up the front with flares in an effort to expose any patrol or raid action on our part. Nevertheless, two Company E combat patrols occupied some high ground 200 yards in front of Company F's positions and dug in. The men were situated in the L9132 grid square along the Zena River. The intervening daylight hours were devoid of enemy activity. Our Cannon Company fired 264 rounds at the request of Second and Third Battalion observation posts. Among the targets were L897335, northwest of Monte Belmonte; L923338, to the right front of Gorgognano; and L901335, above Monte Belmonte.

At 1830 hours Outline Plans "One" and "Two" were issued, relative to our part in the coming offensive. Plan "One" was based on the assumption that the 168th Infantry, which was to jump off first, reached the black phase line in its zone rapidly; Plan "Two" assumed that the advance would be slow. Objectives were indicated on Overlay Nos. 10, 11 and 12.

[15 April 1945]

The day of April 15 was a day of preparation for the concerted

attack to be launched at 0300 hours 16 April by the 168th Infantry on our right and the 363rd Infantry on our left. The entire artillery and other weapons of both divisions were to fire preparation fires for one hour before the jump-off. The time of this Regiment's entrance into the infantry assault would depend on the progress of the two attacking units.

The day Mr. Frederick ("Pat") O'Hair, formerly assistant field director for the American Red Cross in the Regiment, returned after several months' service at Fifth Army headquarters.

[16 April 1945]

D-Day and H-Hour occurred on schedule, at 0300 hours 16 April, preceded by an hour-long intensive shelling of German positions. As indicated previously, the 133rd Infantry's troop participation in the offensive was yet to come, but we engaged in the initial phase with our mortars, cannons and anti-tank guns and the field pieces of our attached and supporting units. Troops of the Second and Third Battalions and Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies also furnished covering fire for the attacking 168th Infantry soldiers as they passed through us. Throughout the day and night, too, the Air Corps flew many bombing and strafing missions over the enemy lines.

The leading elements of our attacking neighbors became engaged in fire-fights in each sector shortly after the jump-off and were able to make only slow progress by maneuver during the remainder of the period. The German artillery did not throw down their defensive fires and their

artillery fires were relatively light on forward elements.

At 0700 hours the Regimental commander established a forward command post at Casola (L895295), 900 yards northeast of Sadurano (See Operational Instructions No. 24.)

This day the 34th Division completed its 500th day of combat. In observance of this remarkable record, veteran members of the Division appeared on a special anniversary radio program broadcast by the Fifth Army Mobile American Expeditionary Force Station. Representing the 133rd Infantry was Private First Class Donald Jones of Regimental Headquarters Company.

Preparatory to the launching of the large-scale Fifth and Eighth Army offensives in Italy special orders of the day had been issued by Field Marshal H. R. Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theater; General Clark; Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., Fifth Army commander; and Major General Geoffrey Keyes, II Corps commander. These orders were distributed to all units on this day.

[17 April 1945]

On 17 April our attacking neighbors penetrated more deeply into the German's defensive positions, but the enemy still presented formidable resistance to the assault with all their weapons. The attackers' heavy pressure and the tremendous volume of shelling forced the enemy from the Sevizzano Ridge, above Monte Belmonte; the Gorgognano church and cemetery; and Poggiolo, east of Gorgognano.

This day Major Horan, Second Battalion commander, was promoted to be a lieutenant colonel.

[18 April 1045]

The period of 18 April opened with the Germans showering Hill 387, west of Highway 65 below Zula, with some 100 rounds of artillery and dropping approximately 30 rounds of 81-millimeter mortar just south of Zula. Toward 0400 hours the hostile fire reverted to the usual harassing efforts, but at 1545 hours the enemy directed 23 rounds of 105-millimeter shells at troops and tanks in the vicinity of L891340, 500 yards south of Monte Arnigo, southwest of Monte Belmonte.

At 0730 hours our First Battalion established a command post at L884318, 1,500 yards below Zula.

Issued at 1730 hours was Operational Instructions No. 25, concerning the Regiment's relief of elements of the 363rd Infantry in the sector east of Highway 65 this night and tomorrow before dawn. (See Overlay Nos. 13, 14, and 15 showing, respectively, primary objective and boundaries, the Regiment's zone of action, and check points.

In support of the Regiment in the coming operation were our own and the 135th Infantry's Cannon Companies; Company C, 752nd Tank Battalion; one platoon of Battery B, 105th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, and a liaison from the XXII Tactical Air [Command], 12th Air Force. This liaison, popularly known as "Rover Joe", was to act as contact between the ground troops and the fighter

bombers. Close air support was scheduled for our attack. Attached to us for the operation were Company A of the 109th Engineer Combat Battalion and one platoon of Company C, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion.

At 2127 hours the First Battalion changed its command post location to L887324, about 500 yards farther north.

[19 April 1945]

We took command of our new sector at 0300 hours 19 April. No definite time had been set for our H-Hour: as soon as our First Battalion troops had relieved the 363rd Infantry's Third Battalion [we] continued the attack northward toward Monte Arnigo. The Second Battalion followed in the First's wake, jumping off at 0510 hours and heading northwest across Highway 65. At 0635 hours Company A reported "objective taken", plus two prisoners. Their unit was 14th Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Division.

The progress of our troops was slow but steady, impeded at times by small-arms and self-propelled fire. The Second Battalion suffered three men killed and five wounded. The Air Force gave our men excellent support, "Rover Joe" closely directing effective fire on observed targets for the fighter bombers. At 1955 hours our forward elements were reported at L892351, 500 yards north of Monte Arnigo.

Operational Instructions No. 26 appeared at 2000 hours, outlining plans for pressing the attack. Accompanying the orders were Overlay Nos. 16 and 17 showing, respectively, dispositions of our troops at 2000 hours, and objectives and boundaries. Our First and Second

Battalions

were to resume the attack toward the objectives at 2200 hours. The period closed with no late news from our forward elements.

[20 April 1945]

Early on 20 April the Second Battalion crossed Highway 65 without meeting any resistance. Northwest of Pianoro an enemy strongpoint was encountered. Not until 1700 hours, when tanks were brought up to blast the bunkers and houses the Germans held, was the point cleared. Company F soldiers, commanded by Captain James A. Gray, took 17 prisoners and killed many more. Three of our men met death from sniper fire.

Hill 357, long an enemy strongpoint and the Regiment's primary objective, was ours before dawn, Company A winning it after a brief fire-fight. Prisoners taken on the hill said that the Hermann Line, above Monte Arnigo, was not finished and would not prove to be as serious an obstacle to our push as had been expected. The prisoners also disclosed that the Germans had orders to pull out of the sector between 2400 and 0130 hours.

Company C infantrymen, in a sustained 4,000 yard drive northward, seized Monte Ca' dell' Albero, some 3,000 yards to the right front of Pianoro. The feat brought a congratulatory message from higher headquarters to Colonel Lewis and the Regiment. The company suffered a considerable number of casualties in the operation. Among those killed was the commanding officer, First Lieutenant Wayne D. Patrick, who led the leading squad in the final assault.

During the forenoon a new Regimental command post was selected, but before it was established the house in which it was to be located blew up. We had learned through prisoner-of-war interrogation that many buildings in the area were mined. At 1000 hours the command post opened at Barchetta (L892332), 400 yards southeast of Zula. Our troops were progressing rapidly now. Aside from a little mortar and machine-gun fire, slight resistance was met. At the new command post the staff was kept busy recording and plotting the coordinates of our fast-moving forward elements. To keep abreast of developments, the command post was again moved, this time to L883363, along Highway 65 about 1,500 yards north of Pianoro.

At 2400 hours our soldiers were reported to be on Highway 65 at L892394, 4,500 yards north of Pianoro. (See Overlay No. 18, showing disposition of troops as of 0130 hours 21 April.) A total of 106 prisoners had been captured this day.

[21 April 1945]

Shortly after midnight, on 21 April, word came from Corps headquarters that the Germans had retreated to the 55 northing, above Bologna. This good news was conveyed immediately to all our troops.

The Third Battalion, which by 0230 hours had reached a point on Highway 65 less than six miles south of Bologna, was in position to make the initial entry into the city. At 0500 hours Company K started toward Bologna with tanks of the 752nd Tank Battalion. A blown out bridge at L906437 across the Savena River forced the tanks to stop,

but the
infantrymen pushed on. However, the armor paused only long
enough to
locate a route across the stream. As soon as it was found
Lieutenant
Colonel Bruno G. Marchi, battalion commander, and First
Lieutenant
August F. Carioto, Jr., battalion S-3, mounted the tanks.
They overtook
Company K troops on the outskirts of Bologna in early
daylight. Soon
afterward the second platoon of the company was in Bologna,
becoming the
first American unit to enter the city. The remainder of
Company K and
the Third Battalion followed directly. Contact was made
with Polish
troops of the Eighth Army moving into the city on Highway
9. By 1100
hours the entire Regiment was established in the city and
had begun
garrisoning it. The First and Second Battalions had
arrived by routes
from south of Bologna, first having mopped up scattered
enemy resistance
by-passed by assaulting troops. At 1510 hours Operational
Instructions
No. 27 was published, announcing that the 133rd Infantry
would be in
charge of the area in the vicinity of Bologna (see Overlay
No. 19), and
ordering the patrolling of streets and the establishment of
road blocks.

Except for dispersed sniping our entry was unopposed.
Forty-three
prisoners were taken in the course of the advance into
town. Citizens
crowded the streets and hailed our arrival and their
liberation with
cheers and flowers and gifts of wine.

Lieutenant Colonel Marchi, after being congratulated
by
Brigadier-General Harry Sherman, assistant Divisional
commander, on the
taking of Bologna, was named provost-marshal of the city.
Road blocks

were set up on the edge of town, to the east. The battalion established headquarters at the southern end, near the Regimental command post.

[22 April 1945]

At 1630 hours 22 April Operational Instructions No. 28 appeared.

We were to prepare to move northward on Divisional order. The battalions moved to assembly areas in the southwestern end of town. Late in the night German airplanes strafed and bombed the Second Battalion area and other parts of Bologna. One Company F man was killed by strafing.

[Expository Material]

For the record, it should be mentioned that the Regiment's part in the taking of Bologna is featured in articles and photographs in the 22 and 23 April issues of the "Stars and Stripes", the May 11 edition of "Yank" magazine, and the 12 May "Red Bulletin", 34th Division newspaper.

Early on the morning of 23 April our troops rode out of Bologna, to begin the relentless, history-making pursuit of the collapsing German forces. The route of our annihilating drive was, roughly, northwestward along Highway 9 for some 100 miles, thence northward across the Po River and northwestward past Milan. In their rapid advance our tired but exultant soldiers were halted only briefly from time to time by pockets of fanatic but hopeless resistance. These they wiped out speedily, sustaining relatively few casualties. Large and varied units of German soldiers, disorganized, discouraged and incapable of stemming our

ruthless attack, surrendered to us without a fight and with all their vehicles, equipment and other impedimenta.

Perhaps the best way, for reference purposes, to present the feverish course of events for the remainder of the month is to make each battalion's daily operational report part of this narrative. The unit journal, operational instructions, overlays and maps, etc., [not] included in this history, should be referred to also.

23 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:

0900 hours - Have received orders and are moving out. Ride along Highway 9 to within seven kilometers on Modena (L565665), then detruck to begin foot move. Reach point about four kilometers from Modena, just across the Panaro River, and deploy across country. Mission, to wipe out any pockets of German resistance as well as to cut off and destroy any enemy, isolated in the mountains to the south, who might try to infiltrate through our lines.

1300 hours - Company A on left, Company B on right, moving across country and reporting no opposition.

1350 hours - Companies have passed two pre-designated check points and report no contact with the enemy.

1600 hours - Five hundred enemy troops with tank support reported four kilometers from Modena. A large ammunition dump south of the town has been over-run and the ammunition is still intact and piled in neat stacks.

1700 hours - Mission of cutting Highway 12 south of Modena has been accomplished and battalion has pulled into vicinity of Saliceta (L550644). Troops are to set up road blocks and motorized

patrols for the night. Only one-half of the proposed road blocks are erected on account of meeting a strong enemy delaying force across a blown bridge at Rubiera (L450678), along Highway 9 about 10 kilometers past Modena. Kitchens are to move in and, if feasible, serve a hot breakfast in the morning.

SECOND BATTALION:

1145 hours - Battalion moves out in trucks northwestward on Highway 9. Detruck near Modena and go into the attack, moving westward on foot south of Highway 9. The only enemy activity is six rounds of self-propelled gun fire. The attack continues through the night.

THIRD BATTALION: Troops alerted to move at 0700 hours. Reconnaissance patrols dispatched. Battalion motors at 1300 hours to point four miles south of Modena, closing in at 1400 hours. Companies I and K move out to vicinity of L508669, west of Modena, establishing road blocks. Battalion given the city of Reggio nell' Emilia (L335730), 10 miles beyond Modena on Highway 9, as its objective. Troops move on foot, crossing Secchia River and proceeding westward, by-passing enemy strongpoint at Rubiera. Second Battalion is to by-pass this point from the south. Third Battalion route is north of Rubiera. First Battalion is to set up series of road blocks to the south of Second and Third Battalion operations. Third Battalion moves out, Company I leading, at 1900 hours. Plans changed en route; battalion clears out Rubiera before continuing.

REGIMENT: Command post moves to L614632, below Modena. This command post is the last of seven established for brief

periods this day
to keep up with our fast-moving troops.
Operational Instructions No. 29 issued, announcing the
formation of the
133rd Regimental Combat Team, with Overlay No. 20.

24 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:

0500 hours - Breakfast of steak and eggs served and troops
are to move
out.
0700 hours - Orders received to continue advance west along
Highway 9.
Enemy in Rubiera have pulled out.
0815 hours - Battalion command post established in Rubiera,
with
companies out as a screen around the town. Prisoners of
war and
Partisans are streaming into the town from all directions.
Eight German
soldiers taken in Rubiera and at least 50 others, some in
civilian
clothing, brought in by the partisans.
1000 hours - Battalion receives orders to move west of
Reggio nell'
Emilia.
1330 hours - Troops six kilometers southwest of the town.
Battalion
command post at Masone (L393697); companies occupying road
blocks.
1730 hours - A barrage of enemy light-caliber artillery
fire falls in
Company B's area, killing one man and wounding seven, four
of whom were
hurt only slightly. The shelling occurred at the road
block at L320700.
1900 hours - Company A in assembly area at Tarabuso.
Company C still
maintaining three road blocks, Company B two.

SECOND BATTALION: Enemy tanks slow our troops'
progress during the
early morning hours. The hostile armor does not fire, but
moves on the
roads ahead of our men. By daylight the tanks have pulled
out. Company
E assists the Third Battalion in the taking of Reggio nell'

Emilia.

Companies F and G reach their objectives just south of the town and set up road blocks. This day, despite intermittent opposition, Second Battalion troops advanced by foot more than 27 miles.

THIRD BATTALION: By dawn Companies I and L are on the southeastern outskirts of Reggio nell' Emilia, astride Highway 9 (Via Emilia). Enemy contacted at this point and fire-fight develops. Germans holding city with company or more of Infantry supported by artillery, self-propelled guns, mortars and machine guns. Friendly supporting artillery pulls in at approximately 1100 hours. (Company K, out of contact with battalion since jump-off last night, checks in during early afternoon, giving its position as in the vicinity of the airfield at Reggio nell' Emilia. Thus Company K is on the right flank of the Battalion.) Coordinated attack planned with Company I on the left of the highway, Company L moving up railroad tracks on right of road. Company K moving in from its position on the right. Battalion pushes into town in late afternoon with enemy retreating before it. About 20 prisoners taken and casualties inflicted on the Germans. The northern and western edges of Reggio nell' Emilia reached after dark, with only a few snipers remaining in the town. Battalion reorganizes, establishes road blocks and secures town. During the night there are Partisan and Fascist clashes throughout the area.

REGIMENT: Command post moves up from L614632 to Cittanova (L497666), three miles west of Modena on Highway 9, at 0100 hours. About noon the command post moved again, to L374710, where

the staff began planning the rout of the Wehrmacht. The Regiment's mission so far in this push has been to protect the left flank of the Division. To this end, road blocks were established at L330691, L318692, L298694 and L 295690, with others planned at L 248695 and L224695. One of the prizes in this day's haul of captured equipment was a German 105-millimeter howitzer which the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon seized intact at L358675, 12 miles west of Modena, below Via Emilia. Operational Instructions No. 30 issued, instructing all personnel to carry arms at all times, and to neglect no opportunity to capture disorganized detachments of enemy. Prisoner-of-war total for the day: 113.

25 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION: Expecting orders to continue westward through Reggio nell' Emilia and along Highway 9. 1400 hours - Company B ordered to watch for troops from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, who are expected to make contact with us soon from the hills to the south. 1700 hours - Battalion moves out and bivouacs for the night near Cella (L257754), southwest of Reggio nell' Emilia.

SECOND BATTALION: Company F, supported by tanks, moves westward to Bibbiano (L209705) to establish road blocks. Company G goes to Cavriago for the same reason. Company E stays at Catinni, just south of Reggio nell' Emilia, and also sets up road blocks.

THIRD BATTALION: Company L assigned the mission of proceeding up Highway 9 with tanks until contact with the enemy was

effected. The troops march all morning, reaching a point more than 13 miles northwest of Reggio nell' Emilia. Thirty-five prisoners are taken during the advance up the highway. After contacting the 168th Infantry, the battalion assembles two miles southwest of Reggio nell' Emilia in the afternoon.

REGIMENT: The road blocks at L295690, L298694 and L248695 were discontinued when elements of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force entered our positions. Company R, the Regimental replacement company, occupied Reggio nell' Emilia as an "S" Force and came under control of the 15th Army Group for the period of duty. The command post moved to L284729, two miles west of Reggio nell' Emilia, south of Highway 9. Operational Instructions No. 31 appears with Overlay No. 21, outlining the immediate missions of the battalions. Verbal orders were given to every unit permitting all personnel possible to be carried on one vehicle, a measure design to facilitate our advance. The prisoner-of-war total for the day: 119.

26 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:
0900 hours - Orders received to move to an assembly area west of Parma (L100855), 12 miles beyond Reggio nell' Emilia on Highway 9. The battalion departs in organic transportation and Cannon Company trucks. There is still some [weapons] fire in Parma, and the men must duck as machine-gun bullets crack over their heads as the vehicles pass through the town.
1300 hours - The Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon notifies Company A that there are an estimated 100 enemy in

Paroletta,
northwest of Parma, below Busseto (K882065). Company A,
with two tanks,
goes around the town to the left. Company C and two other
tanks move
into the town and begin clearing the buildings.
Considerable
machine-gun and sniper fire is encountered., and some tank
and mortar
fire.
1700 hours - Company C has occupied about one-half the town
with one
platoon of Company B.
1900 hours - Prisoners report that Germans have eight heavy
machine guns
in Paroletta. Company D has set up mortars about 800 yards
south of the
town. Cannon Company is firing in support.
2000 hours - Thirty-three prisoners taken. Enemy still
resisting with
small arms and machine guns.
2200 hours - Paroletta has been taken and the battalion
command post is
established at the southern edge of town. Major Chapman,
battalion
commander, orders advance toward the Po River continued at
midnight.
2400 hours - Battalion moving northward in column. Rifle
troops
marching, clearing and searching buildings as they advance.
Company C suffers one man killed and three wounded this
day, while one
Company D man was killed and one wounded.

SECOND BATTALION: Troops move by truck at 1130 hours
to assembly
area near Fidenza, 10 miles up Highway 9 from Parma.
Arriving at 1300
hours, Company E is dispatched to clear enemy snipers from
several
houses in the area. Companies F and G move northwest,
their objective
Monticelli. At S. Pietro in Cerro (K813115) civilians told
Lieutenant
Colonel Horan, battalion commander, that some 1,000 German
soldiers had
passed through there in the past three hours.

THIRD BATTALION: Troops alerted at dawn. Entruck at 1000 hours, moving on Highway 9 through Reggio nell' Emilia, Parma and S. Pancrazio, arriving at assembly area southeast of Fidenza at noon. Regiment to attack in column of battalions - Third, First and Second, respectively. Platoon of tanks attached to Third Battalion. Battalion, motorized, with one platoon of Company I on lead tanks, moves out at 1400 hours. Passes through the outskirts of Fidenza, crossing the Stirone River and moving northward on the road to Busseto. At 1630 hours battalion contacts strong enemy force on outskirts of city. Troops detruck, deploy and engage enemy. Progress held up by intense small-arms fire and self-propelled guns. Battalion attacks with Company I on right, Company L on left and Company K in support. By dusk Company L takes and secures the railroad station. Company I keeps abreast, thus giving battalion a foothold in town. Several hours after dark battalion clears town, taking approximately 70 prisoners, and killing and wounding many more.

REGIMENT: Operational Instructions No. 32 appeared, with Overlay No. 22, outlining plans for the Regiment to assemble west of the Taro River on order. Command post assembled at P981901, off Highway 9 seven miles below Fidenza. The Regiment has been moving into assembly areas so rapidly in recent days that it has been necessary to arm and enlarge quartering parties to take care of any enemy that might still be in the proposed location. In the late afternoon the command post moved again, to K876045, 10 kilometers north of Fidenza, below Busseto. This day the

Air [Force] demonstrated with close support and started fires in many enemy-held buildings. Prisoner-of-war haul for the day: 180.

27 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:

0330 hours - Troops moving northward toward the Po River are held up by the Molina Canal between Fidenza and Busseto. Rifle troops cross on foot, but vehicles must take long way around to find a vehicular bridge,
0700 hours - Column reforms just south of Busseto.
1200 hours - Battalion established in Zibello (P953105), 5 kilometers northeast of Busseto. Company B reconnoitering to the Po River.
Companies A and B engaged in fire-fight with enemy near river.
2000 hours - Battalion assembles in Busseto. Company B reconnaissance group met heavy self-propelled fire.
2400 hours - All elements assembled and bivouaced in Busseto.

SECOND BATTALION: (The following report is based on an account by Second Lieutenant Ronald C. Davis, Company H.)

After midnight patrols were sent to clear the houses in S. Pietro in Cerro; one German was captured. He said that the enemy forces were moving a short distance in front of the battalion. He also declared that another German regiment would be through the town before daylight. During this time a farmer came to the command post and informed the battalion commander that there were 50 enemy in his house who wished to surrender. Captain Gray of Company F and a group of enlisted men went to the house and took in custody a German lieutenant and his 49 men, together with

their baggage,
 wagons and draft horses.

At the battalion rear command post near Cortemaggiore (K797088),

 meanwhile, contact was being made with the enemy forces reported

 by the prisoner taken earlier. Members of the battalion

 Headquarters Company at the rear command post watched a column of

 Germans, with many wagons and artillery pieces, march past the

 door of the building they occupied, almost on the heels of our

 troops now only a few minutes [3 km.] ahead in S. Pietro in Cerro.

 First Lieutenant Ralph Lager, transportation officer, and his

 driver were surprised and surrounded in the darkness by the enemy

 column. Lieutenant Lager was wounded in the leg, later losing his

 limb, and the driver was killed by machine-pistol fire. The

 officer, despite his painful wound lay quietly until the Germans

 gave up their search for him. Second Lieutenant John Decker,

 battalion S-2, succeeded in telephoning a partial account of

 events to Lieutenant Colonel Horan before the Germans found and

 cut the communication wire. Captain Edward H Meany, Jr.,

 battalion S-1, then led a group of Headquarters Company men in

 harassing the tail of the enemy column, scattering the rear

 elements and causing many observed casualties in the half-light of

 approaching dawn.

At the battalion forward headquarters in S. Pietro in Cerro,

 Lieutenant Colonel Horan quickly deployed his troops to meet the

 oncoming hostile forces. Company E, commanded by

Captain Allan W.

Sudholt, took up positions in the outermost buildings to the south

in S. Pietro in Cerro. Companies F and G spread out in other

buildings of the town. Two 57-millimeter anti-tank guns were

emplaced by members of the Anti-Tank Company platoon, one pointing

south directly at the approaching enemy, and the other aimed

eastward along another possible route of hostile approach. Heavy

machine guns manned by Company H men were placed in supporting

positions on the open road.

Company E soldiers were instructed not to begin firing until the

enemy's advance units had passed our outposts, as it was hoped

that the sight of our troops in defensive position in the heart of

the town might convince the enemy that surrender would be the best

course to follow. A German soldier, however, turned into the

courtyard of a Company E building and there saw one of our light

machine guns, manned by weapons platoon men. He raised his

machine-pistol to fire, but was killed instantly by our soldiers.

The sound of the shooting was the signal for our 57-millimeter

road block and our machine guns to go into action.

The dawn was

lighted up by the yellow flash of the 57-millimeter piece firing

southward into the enemy troops, and by the machine guns firing

eastward and southward. Pandemonium reigned on the roads: the

Germans fled to the fields, where they took cover in the ditches

and in farm buildings, and to the houses on the southern edges of

the town. But, although numerically fewer, the

Company E

infantrymen withstood the onrushing Germans with every weapon at

their disposal. The enemy line took shape: a great semi-circle,

with the greater part of the enemy in buildings to the south of

the village, while other groups moved northeast and northwest in

flanking movements. The intensity of their fire increased;

artillery pieces of varied caliber began firing into the town. A

series of rushes by 10 to 20 Germans were repelled.

Enemy

hollow-charge weapons battered the building from which our men

fired. Falling stone and brick injured some of the men, but

everybody stayed at his post and the Germans were held off.

In the center of S. Pietro in Cerro, there was bedlam in the

neighborhood of the battalion command post. The leading troops of

the German column, which had almost reached the command post

before our firing started, were scattered in heaps of dead and

wounded, the latter screaming in agony. The few who escaped the

withering blasts begged our soldiers to lift fire.

This was done,

and a dozen prisoners stumbled into the courtyard of the command

post with their hands up.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Colonel Horan had informed Regimental

Headquarters of the block he had thrown across the path of the

German column. A call for reinforcements was made, together with

an urgent request for tanks. In response, the Regimental

commander dispatched "Company S", consisting of 121 men hastily

recruited from the supply, kitchen, and clerical personnel of the Regiment. To relieve the besieged battalion they, along with five light tanks, went through Cortemaggiore, where they took seven prisoners. Commanded by Captain William Dubinsky, assistant Regimental S-4, the relieving group engaged the rear of the enemy line and took in custody 350 prisoners out of the total of about 750 who were surrounded by the Second Battalion in S. Pietro in Cerro.

Learning of the serious situation confronting the Second Battalion, the Third Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Marchi, swung quickly from its path near Villanova sull' Arda, [east] of S. Pietro in Cerro, and raced toward the town to aid its sister unit.

In the central buildings of S. Pietro in Cerro two 81-millimeter mortars were placed in firing position in front of the command post. Observers in the upper windows, aided by radioed corrections from Captain Sudholt, directed nearly 300 rounds of mortar fire at attacking bands of Germans attempting to over-run our outer positions. Incoming German artillery shells menaced all the troops. Platoons from Companies F and G fanned out to meet the enemy units flanking our central position. Our men in the outer buildings of the town were meanwhile taking the initiative. Noting the casualties caused by our mortar fire on the enemy, Captain Sudholt directed his Company E men to move out. Employing

rifle grenades against the doors and automatic weapons on the personnel, they swept the Germans out of building after building.

At this point, a 151st Field Artillery Battalion observer with the [2nd] battalion commander finally made contact with his battery fire-control headquarters. By careful adjustment, he brought his battery to bear on soldiers south of the town, in some cases hitting buildings less than 100 yards from the men of Company E.

Under this punishment - artillery falling on them from the rear

(our guns were still in position in country to the south, over which the Second Battalion had passed earlier) - the German

attack began to weaken. Our troops pressed their advantage:

groups of five and ten prisoners were taken with increasing frequency. The flying column of the Third Battalion and armor

rolled into town [from the east] and the situation was relieved,

the appearance of "Company S" [from the south] completely broke

the German will to fight. Prisoners taken numbered 738, including

11 officers. Much equipment was captured. Our casualties were

two killed, 17 wounded.

THIRD BATTALION: Troops move from Busseto on foot in approach march, making contact with enemy at Villanova sull' Arda (P851117), five kilometers to the left front of Busseto. After a sharp fire-fight, approximately 110 Germans surrender to Company K. In mopping-up activities, another 12 are taken. Battalion receives order to move westward immediately to aid Second Battalion, which is

engaged with a large force of enemy in S. Pietro in Cerro (see Second Battalion report above). This mission completed successfully, the Third Battalioneers receive instructions to continue the attack northward to cut Highway 10 leading into Cremona (P875237). Objective is road [centered] in the bulge of the Po River near Castelvetro Piacentino, three miles southwest of Cremona below the Po. Troops attack in mid-afternoon, but after advancing a few hundred yards are pinned down by heavy self-propelled, machine-gun and small-arms fire. In the late afternoon the battalion returns to S. Pietro in Cerro and reorganizes. At dusk troops move out in approach march making no contact with the enemy, who had withdrawn. Battalion moves on captured vehicles, horses, wagons, bicycles, and our attached tanks and by foot. By midnight the troops had seized their objectives, cutting Highway 10. Road blocks were set up at once.

REGIMENT: At 1110 hours the command post group moved from K870003 into Busseto. In the evening the command post was shifted to S. Pietro in Cerro. This day Lieutenant Colonel Frank A. Reagan, Regimental executive officer, became Third Battalion commander. He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Marchi, who assumed Lieutenant Colonel Reagan's former post.

28 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:
0900 hours - Battalion moving southward on Highway 9 in the vicinity of Fidenza. We are to be in mobile reserve, ready to move in any direction

on short notice. Company B contacts elements of Brazilian Expeditionary Force at Fidenza.

1800 hours - Companies have motorized patrols out, but no meeting with any enemy is reported.

SECOND BATTALION: Troops move from Monticelli to Fontane (K978906), below Fidenza on Highway 9. Local security put out, no enemy reported.

THIRD BATTALION: Troops motor to assembly area southeast of Fiorenzuola d'Arda (K775015), 12 kilometers beyond Fidenza on Highway 9, arriving at 1200 hours.

REGIMENT: The command post is shifted to Fiorenzuola d'Arda shortly after midnight. At 1515 hours Operational Instructions No. 33 appear, with Overlay No. 23, in reference to maintaining motor patrols on Highway 9 from the Taro River to Piacenza. At 2230 hours Operational Instructions No. 34 is published, announcing that the Regiment would assemble at Bozzolo (grid square 2418) [50 km ENE of present command post, across Po River].

29 April [1945]

REGIMENT [part 1]: Operational Instructions No. 35 issued at 0500 hours, announcing Regiment's move to Bergamo. [Fidenza to Bergamo is about 90 km, 60 miles, NNW straight-line.]

FIRST BATTALION: Moves out by motor at 0630 hours. Rides about 175 miles, traveling [southeastward] to Modena, northward to Mantova and [northwestward] through Brescia, [west] to a point about a mile south of Bergamo (K635875). There the battalion sets up at Azzano

(K634836).

SECOND BATTALION: Troops arrive in assembly area south of Bergamo at 1600 hours. The battalion evacuates 1800 Germans and a few Fascists, including the leader of all Fascist troops in northern Italy. These enemy had surrendered to the Partisans.

THIRD BATTALION: Motor move to assembly area south of Bergamo.
Route: Fidenza, Parma, Modena, Carpi, across Po River above S. Benedetto, then to Mantova, through Brescia, thence westward on Autostrada to assembly area. System of road blocks, strong-points and patrols established in the region to gather in any Germans at large.

REGIMENT [part 2]: Germans and Fascists in Bergamo had surrendered to Partisans two days earlier, and we evacuated the haul of 1,175.

30 April [1945]

FIRST BATTALION:
0030 hours - Road blocks established and motorized patrols begin operating.
0700 hours - Patrols and road blocks report all quiet.
1550 hours - Battalion awaiting orders to move westward toward Milan.

SECOND BATTALION: Battalion moves to Bergamo and troops set up road blocks on outskirts of the city, relieving the Partisans of their guard duties. A large German hospital, with approximately 1,200 patients, was taken over.

THIRD BATTALION: Battalion is responsible for "cleaning up" area two miles east of Bergamo. Orders changed: battalion moves back to

previous assembly area and is alerted to move.

REGIMENT: This is the first time since the push started 12 days ago that the command post group spent two successive nights in the same place, at Grassobbio, near Bergamo. We were scheduled to move, but the prisoner-of-war haul, 1,885, was so great that there were no trucks left to transport the Regiment. Operational Instructions No. 36 published, along with Overlay No. 24, announcing a coming move by the Regiment to the vicinity of Busto Garolfo (K010745).

[Summary]

So [reports] the 133rd Infantry in the momentous month of April, 1945. Victory was ours. The German forces in Italy were to surrender officially and unconditionally on 2 May; on 8 May the once proud and powerful Wehrmacht capitulated finally and completely in all Europe - a defeat spawned in Africa in the Spring of 1943, when the 133rd Infantry helped crush the German and Italian Armies in Tunisia.

The valiant, war-scarred soldiers of the 133rd Infantry - veterans of bitter, bloody battles on two continents - erupted out of their Winter positions in the Apennines early on the morning of 19 April, to storm more than 420 miles across the fertile Po Valley to within sight of the snow-capped Swiss Alps; scattering, engulfing, destroying thousands of enemy from nine German and three Italian Fascist divisions.

In a lightning drive, causing confusion and chaos among our adversaries, we captured 4,584 men and officers, inflicted innumerable casualties, and seized huge quantities of equipment. City

after city,
village after village, whole countrysides were cleansed of
an evil foe.
Fearlessly and speedily our doughty troops executed the
Regiment's
mission of "mopping up" northern Italy. They were aided
immeasurably by
the Partisans, the Italian patriot forces, who exposed and
rounded up
many enemy groups and individuals.

Our casualties for the month were, happily, relatively
few.
Thirty-three men were killed in action, one was listed as
missing, and
132 were wounded, for a total casualty list of 166.
According to
Regimental records, our casualties for the entire Italian
campaign, as
of 30 April, were as follows: wounded and injured in
action, 3,631;
deceased, 1,001; prisoners of war, 191; missing in action,
81; total,
4,904.

April, 1945, was indeed a period of eminently
satisfying
achievement by all the soldiers of the 133rd Infantry.
Their victory
was the long-deserved reward for the perils and hardships,
the sweat and
blood of Tunisia, of Salerno, Benevento, Alife, the
Volturno, Cassino,
Anzio, Cecina, the Gothic Line. Our fallen comrades did
not give their
lives in vain.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Donald V. Allgeier
DONALD V. ALLGEIER
1st Lt., Infantry
Adjutant

HISTORY 133RD INFANTRY 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 May 1945 to 31 May 1945, inclusive.

May dawned bright and clear and found the men of the 133rd Infantry relentlessly pursuing the disorganized and fleeing enemy forces.

[1 May 1945]

May Day found the Regiment well in the heart of the Po Valley, in the vicinity of Busto Garolfo (010747, Map Italy, 1/50,000, Sheet 44 I, Busto Arsizio).

The advent of May brought with it rumors to the effect that the thoroughly beaten enemy in Italy had capitulated, more particularly the German 75th Corps and the German 34th Infantry Division.

[2 May 1945]

It was not until 2 May 1945 that confirmation of this news was received in the mountain village of Arborio (J6271, Map Italy Road, 1/200,000, Sheet 4) and was no longer a rumor but fact and one which was received quietly by the men of the 133rd Infantry.

[Retrospective]

This day the German armies surrendered in Italy. It marked the period of a long, long trail which stretches far back into Africa, some 2500 miles and 30 months ago. During that time there have been mountains, deserts, rolling flat land, scorching heat, bitter cold, snow, ice, and sleet to plague the men in the unit as well as long, drawn out fanatical enemy resistance.

Several thousands of our buddies who once wore the patch of the "Red Bull" are sleeping their eternal sleep in cemeteries

stretching from
Oran to the Swiss and French borders. These men are not
present to give
thanks with us that the long trail in Italy has drawn to
its end.
However, their deeds and contributions to the cause of our
arm will
never be forgotten by those of us who came through to this
point.

In addition, there are those who were so unfortunate
enough as to
fall by the wayside seriously wounded and are now sitting
on the
sidelines. Though not present with us today, those of our
buddies who
have spent hellish months as prisoners of the enemy have
more than
earned their share of thanks that the people of the
liberated nations
bestowed upon the victorious Allied Forces.

To these we offer our whole-hearted thanks for their
heroic
performances and the sacrifices they made in the cause of
Democracy and
freedom for mankind. Kef-el-Amar, Sbeitla, Hajeb-el-Aioun,
Fondouk,
Hill 609, Eddekhila, Tunis, Bizerte, Raf Raf, Amphibious
training at
Arzew, Battle Inoculation (after a six-month campaign) near
Slissen, the
soft, cool sands and cork-oak near Ain-el-Turck,
waterproofing vehicles
and loading for a combat amphibious landing, if necessary,
in the Gulf
of Salerno.

As we sailed past the cliffs and casino at Canastel
and left the
Oran Harbor behind, we knew that the African chapter of our
Odyssey had
ended. Then came Salerno, landing on the beaches in
assault boats, two
or three days in a mosquito infested bivouac and then back
to the, by
now, old business of chasing Krauts. Few of us at that
time realized

how long, grueling, and bloody the chase was to be. Up through the rough, rugged, sometimes almost precipitous terrain of Italy's boot to our first real contact with the enemy near Benevento, on out across the Calore River and up to the notorious Volturno which has become both a legend and a nightmare to the men of the Regiment.

Across the Volturno a second time and out on to the famous "Pool Table" near San Angelo d'Alife, where the Regiment suffered heavy casualties from a combination of a fierce enemy counter-attack and from shells from our own artillery and tank destroyers falling short and landing among the troops. Superb leadership on the part of the officers of the battalions quickly restored the situation and the mission was accomplished. San Angelo d'Alife, the hills before the now widely cussed Volturno River, across the river for a third time and up into the cold mountains again and head on into the enemy's Gustav Line defenses.

Cassino, a three weeks that are still a nightmare to those of us who remember them. Then an all too short rest and another boat trip. As we sailed out of Naples harbor, aboard an LCI [Landing Crafty Infantry], bound for the Anzio Beachhead, we knew that another phase had passed and that soon we would be pushing again. Anzio - flat-land, perfect enemy observation, no one daring to move during daylight hours; Lanuvio, the Alban Hills, and then Rome, the eternal city. Just a glimpse of the most storied places in the world and off on a wild foot race after the broken and retreating elements of the enemy armies.

Civitavecchia, Tarquinia, San Vincenzo, Cecina,

mountains again and then the Arno River and the famous leaning tower of Pisa across the river. Back again north of Florence and into the hall of the well-prepared Gothic Line defenses. On and on and finally grinding to a halt on Mount Belmonte, the farthest point of penetration by any Fifth Army unit in the fall offensive about 10 miles south of the promised land of the Po Valley. Here came a long winter of active defense and as spring came on, the tension in the air bespoke all too well of the coming attack.

After the jump-off, came Bologna, Modena, Reggio, Parma, and patrols to the river. Then came storied Mantova, the gateway to the Brenner Pass and swiftly on westward to Brescia, Bergamo, Milano, Gallarate (J946872, Map Italy, 1/50,000, Sheet 44 I), and on to our present location Avigliana (H820330, Map Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 55), just west of Turin. Today marks the end of a slashing, hard driving campaign which lasted only sixteen days and destroyed the will to resist of two powerful enemy armies. Today, the men wearing the "Red Bull" can look back proudly on a longer period of time of actual contact with the enemy than any other division.

[3-7 May 1945]

With the war in Italy at an end, there was still the task of rounding up stragglers and preventing their infiltration north to Germany, Austria, France, or Switzerland. With this end in view, road-blocks were established and screening operations were performed in our sector. The nights of the 3rd and 4th May 1945 the

133rd Infantry
concentrated in the vicinity of Gallarate. There was no
report of enemy
contact or resistance and the Partisans turned over any PWs
encountered
to our units.

Our routine motor patrols continued to thoroughly
cover the area on
4 May 1945. On 5 May 1945 a fifteen-man patrol from each
rifle company
of the Second Battalion was sent to check the airport east
of Olleggio
(J822815, Map Italy, 1/50,000, Sheet 44 IV) for possible
groups of
enemy, mines, and equipment. No enemy were encountered and
all mines
and equipment found had been burned or otherwise destroyed.
A total of
976 prisoners were taken today and 131 the previous day,
many of which
had been turned over to us by Partisan units operating in
our sector.
The PWs continued to trickle into our cages and on 6 May
1945, 231 were
admitted and on the following day, 7 May 1945, a mere 24
were
apprehended.

[8 May 1945]

V-E Day, 8 May 1945, the day for which the world had
waited so long
has arrived. Nazi Germany had surrendered unconditionally
and a long
bitter struggle had come to a climax. However, men are
looking at this
historic day in a much [more] sober and serious fashion
than might be
expected. They all realize that there is still a bitter
war to be waged
on the other side of the world; they realize that until
this score which
now plagues the Pacific is wiped from the face of the Earth
there can be
no "peace in our time". Today one war is passing into the
eternal
twilight of history, but over the horizon the baleful glare

of the
"Rising Sun" still casts a menacing shadow across the hope
of peace and
tranquility among freedom-loving men. Whether or not the
men wearing
the "Red Bull" will clash with the sons of the "Rising Sun"
is a matter
which only history will reveal to us. However, if such
should be the
case, it is not being overly proud to reach the conclusion
that any
enemy we may encounter in the Pacific will fear and respect
us as much
as those who have barred our path in the past.

[9-11 May 1945]

The 9-10-11 May 1945 passed without any unusual
incident other than
145 prisoners were apprehended on the 9th, 2 on the 10th,
and 1 on the
11th.

[12 May 1945]

On 12 May 1945 Training Memorandum No. 3 was issued
inaugurating a
training schedule for all battalions and special companies
and will
operate on a six-day week basis. The morning is to be
devoted to such
subjects as military courtesy, dismounted drill, hygiene,
police of the
area, calisthenics, and inspections; while the afternoon
hours will be
devoted to organized athletics and recreation. It is hoped
that an
intramural program will be started which will stimulate
interest and
activity on the part of the many ball teams of the 133rd
Infantry.

With the Regiment located in and around the town of
Gallarate, deep
in the foothills of the Alps, conducted tours of the lake
region have
been instituted and have met with great success. Returning
GIs are

amazed at how little the war has touched Switzerland and the northern part of the Po Valley.

[13 May 1945]

Today, 13 May 1945, orders were received from higher headquarters that we were to be ready to move at a moment's notice, and once again the Regiment was alerted. Operational Instructions No. 41 was issued giving further instructions on the forthcoming relief of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

[14-15 May 1945]

By 1130 hours 14 May 1945, the Third Battalion had completed the relief of the 34th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and the first units of the Regiment were on the move by the next day.

The Regimental C.P. moved into Avigliana (H820330, Map Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 55 Susa), and the Special Companies: Anti-Tank Co, in San Bernardino; Cannon Co, in Grignetto; and Service Co, in Avigliana. The Second Battalion continued 25 miles along Highway 25 and moved into the town of Susa (H540400, Map Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 55 Susa), where two of the Companies, E and F, set up road blocks on the Franco-Italian border on Highway 25 and Highway 24. Company G of the Second Battalion was bivouaced in the town of Oulx (H4031, Map Italy, 1/100,000, Sheet 55 Susa).

[16 May 1945]

The First and Third Battalions moved today, 16 May 1945, and billeted in an Italian barracks compound near the town of Rivoli, about

ten miles west of Turin on Highway 25. Daily contact patrols have been organized and contact is being made with the 168th Infantry on the left and with the 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron on the right and with our Second Battalion established in Susa.

Athletic, recreational, and special services have been set up and complete athletic schedules are beginning to take shape. Day-passes to the city of Turin have been authorized for 10% of the command, and full advantage is being taken of this opportunity to see one of the largest and finest cities in Italy.

[17 May 1945]

Today, 17 May 1945, marked the end of a long series of consecutive days of PW-taking. Since 19 April 1945 we have not failed to take a prisoner every day and the total taken for the entire Italian campaign was 8,583.

[18 May 1945]

On 18 May 1945 a parade was held in the First and Third Battalion area and the Division Commander, Major General Charles Bolte, presented 36 awards to deserving members of the Regiment.

[19-29 May 1945]

19-30 May 1945 was a period the likes of which this Regiment has not seen in some time. It was exceptionally quiet, with the patrols doing the routine patrolling and, in general, continuing their mission in this sector.

Rest camps have been set up at Venice, Alassio, and Stresa in Italy,

and at Nice and Cannes in France and are still in operation as are the day-passes. Swimming at Lago Grande, near the town of Avigliana, goes on every afternoon with the maximum number of troops enjoying the sun and the water. Already men having over 85 points have started to move out for the States, and men with less than the critical score have been trained to replace the key men who will go home under this new point system.

[30 May 1945]

Company I of the Third Battalion traveled to Anzio as the representatives of the 133rd Infantry for the Memorial Services on May 30. The trip to the well-remembered battleground brought back many memories to the veterans who had survived the 43 days and nights of intensive air raids, the Anzio Express, night patrols, constant booming of the big guns (both theirs and ours), water-filled foxholes, excellent enemy observation, sleepless nights, treacherous minefields, and finally the long-awaited breakout on the morning of 23 May 1944. No more appropriate place could be found to pay tribute to our fallen comrades who gave the "last full measure of devotion" to the ideals and freedoms for which we all fought, than this now famous battlefield whose sufferings and terrors can only be fully appreciated by those of us who were there.

Impressive Memorial Day Services were held on 30 May 1945 in the area near the First and Third Battalions. A review was held by the First and Third Battalions, Special Companies, and part of the Second

Battalion. The troops were presented to Lt. Col. Reagan, the acting Regimental Commander, by Lt. Col. Horan, Second Battalion Commander. Chaplain Kerr gave the Invocation. Lt. Col. Reagan said a few words that the Regimental Commander wished passed on to the Regiment. Chaplain Edgar gave the main address. His main theme was "These Dead Shall Not Have Died In Vain". He reviewed the history of the United States, and how we had other wars, and men had given their lives for what they thought was right. He urged that we who are living dedicate ourselves to making a world such as these men gave their lives for: that their sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and relatives might have a better place in which to live. Chaplain Kerr ended the ceremony with the Benediction which was followed by Taps played by members of the 34th Infantry Division Band and a sharp volley from a rifle squad. Lt. Col. Reagan gave the order, "Pass In Review", and one of the smartest looking Regiments of this war marched in review.

[Summary]

The month of May passed without any exceptional incidents and at the close of the period found the morale and spirit of the men at a new high.

For the Regimental Commander:

s/Donald V. Allgeier
DONALD V. ALLGEIER
1st Lt., Infantry
Adjutant

Regimental History 133rd INFANTRY

1 June 1945 to 30 June 1945

Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
7105 NW 70th Ave, Camp Dodge
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824
(excludes cover page)

5 Pages

Scan Completed 7-16-08
(Date)

By: BRIAN BAKALYAR

HISTORY

133RD INFANTRY

34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

From 1 June 1945 to 30 June 1945

The 133rd Infantry ushered in the month of June in a manner comparable to the closing period of the previous month--more or less an uneventful lapse of time. The road blocks on Highway #24 and Highway #25 on the Franco-Italian border were still being manned by the Second Battalion, and the routine patrols were maintained in coherence with our mission in that sector. Contact with the 168th Infantry on the left and the 81st Cavalry Recon Sqdn on the right was continued. The First and Third Battalion, who were garrisoned at Camp Rivoli, engaged in the training and athletic program which had been provided for them.

On 1 June 1945 OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS #46 was distributed, instructing as to the relief of the Battalions, which was to take place on 4 June 1945. The days intervening 1 June and 4 June 1945, held no unusual occurrences in store.

4 June 1945 was the day for the relief of the Battalions, according to OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS #46, issued on 1 June 1945. It provided that the Second Battalion, which was functioning in the Susa area, would be relieved in place by the Third Battalion. The Third Battalion accepted the mission in which the Second Battalion had been employed; and the First and Second Battalion carried on the contact with the 81st Cavalry Recon Sqdn and the 168th Infantry respectively. The troops in Camp Rivoli supported the motorized patrols and the training program as ordered. The relief was completed on 4 June 1945.

The motorized patrols apprehended numerous suspicious vagrants who claimed that they had fought with the Partisans. These persons were taken into custody, and allowed to state their cases, using what credentials they had to prove their right.

A road block was established at Rivoli (H903292, Map Italy, 1/100,000, sheet 56, Torino), for the purpose of guiding French vehicles on their route to Orbanasso, not allowing them to proceed into Torino. One officer and four enlisted men were placed in charge of this point. 5 June 1945 brought no change of events.

OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM #1, issued on 6 June 1945, initiated Division staff conferences to be held with staff officers of lower

echelons, with the goal of correcting deficiencies observed in recent operations. Also, the conferences outlined instructions for schooling of replacements and specialists in preparation for possible loss of key personnel during the period of readjustment and redeployment. Personnel required to attend these conferences included S-3's, Communications Officers, S-4's, Chemical Officers, Communications Supply & Administration, Chemical Warfare, and Motor Maintenance comprised the list of subjects to be covered. The conferences were arranged over a four-day period.

Circumstances finally afforded a little action, which relieved the monotony prevalent during the preceding week or more. With the issue of Division OPERATIONAL MEMORANDUM #2, dated 8 June 1945, came the instructions that the Partisans were to surrender their arms by 7 June 1945; so it was our role to see that this order was enforced. Patrols were increased to aid this effort. All Partisans who were armed were to be disarmed, and turned over to the AMG in Turin where they would be handled.

The 9-10 June 1945 found our routine patrols slightly increased in order for the sector to be thoroughly swept in the check for any armed Partisans. Aside from the catch of a few PW's and Fascists, the patrols reported negatively. It was reported that our prize of troops captured at San Pietro totalled 459.

Swimming classes were inaugurated at Lago Grande on 11 June 1945, with the hope that all battalions would have an opportunity to send men to them. The following day, 12 June 1945, a schedule of these classes was posted under TRAINING MEMORANDUM #5, which offered instruction, from 11 June through 16 June 1945, for Companies "A", "B", and "E", including three three-hour periods for non-swimmers. Lt. Dwain Narigan, Regimental Athletic Officer, conducted the classes.

The lull from 13 June through 17 June 1945 was partially due to the decrease in patrol activities. The daily patrols were substituted by one roving patrol each week, as a result of their previous accomplishments. 17 PW's and 15 Fascists were taken to the PW cage on 14 June 1945. The one patrol each week was sufficient to handle the stragglers.

The large scale exchange of men between the 85th and 34th Division, in respect to the indications provided by Adjusted Service Rating scores, got under way on 18 June 1945. In return for our regiment's loss of 542 officers and enlisted men whose scores were more than the critical number of 85, an approximately equal number of lower point men were soon to stream in from the 85th. Outwardly, this readjustment appeared to be a comparatively easy task. However, it was a difficult undertaking to select qualified men to replace the specialists and key personnel who were transferred from this regiment. Of course a great many new men were

already eligible for these jobs due to their former work, but this number was not sufficient to cover the need. Therefore, the most capable inexperienced men were selected and trained to fill the necessary positions. By the end of the month the regiment had successfully recovered from its redeployment period and was again functioning smoothly.

Six men of the regiment, who were scheduled to leave this division, were decorated by Major General Bolte at a regimental ceremony arranged prior to their departure. One Silver Star, one Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star, and four Bronze Star Medals were awarded. General Bolte took this opportunity to express his farewell to the men who were to leave. After the ceremony refreshments of coffee and doughnuts were served to the entire regiment by the American Red Cross.

19 and 20 June 1945. Our routine patrols were still in effect throughout our sector. On 20 June a patrol to Pinerolo contacted AMG #2, and witnessed the Partisans' arms turning-in ceremony. The patrols maintained a high standard of efficiency. They viewed the situation in many towns by questioning numerous civilians. Apparently everything was running smoothly, as the civilians gave no indication of any disturbance.

Everyone interested in the trend of Italian industry was given an opportunity to see what goes on inside the FIAT plant at Turin. This plant, being typical of Italy's advancement in manufacture and production, offered a comprehensive picture of her achievements. Three days each week eighty men took advantage of the two-hour tours, which were conducted by English-speaking guides. The many enlightening points brought out proved the trips to be most worthwhile.

For the next few days the Susa area was the scene of the developments. The Third Battalion made a prize find of two German ammunition dumps in the region where its patrols were active on 21 June 1945. When these dumps were disposed of a total of 600 200-lb bombs and 18 truckloads of assorted ammunition was counted.

23 June 1945 presented a mysterious incident. On this day an explosion occurred in the square at Susa, killing 2 French Soldiers, 1 Italian, and wounding many others. Investigations brought to light few facts. The building in which the explosion took place housed French soldiers, it was learned. It was assumed that a time-bomb or mine was dropped down the chimney, but no clues as to who was responsible could be found. The French planned to patrol and police the town until they left Italy. Due to the fact that Susa was under the jurisdiction of the French, the situation was left entirely to their discretion.

The relief of the Third Battalion which was to take place on 24 June 1945, was postponed until 2 July, in order for the Battalion to be at hand for the Allied Parade the last of June.

The events of the following three days centered around the French departure from Italy, and the preparations for our relief in this sector by the 6th South African Division.

In order for the efficiency of our unit to maintain its recognized high standards, the second period of instruction for officers was to begin, in accordance with TRAINING MEMORANDUM #6, dated 28 June 1945. Although the classes, which included basic subjects, Supply, Administration, and writing small unit problems, were not to be held until the first part of July, extensive planning was already well under way.

20 Officers arrived from the 85th Division on 29 June 1945, filling the officer vacancies in the regiment. Except for occasional changes in personnel, the redeployment problems had come to a welcomed finish for the 133rd Infantry.

This month was climaxed with the Allied Parade at Susa on 30 June 1945. The French 27th Infantry Alpine Division was then formally relieved by the 34th Division, represented by the Second Battalion of the 159th Alpine Regiment and the Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry. When the American soldiers arrived, the French, who were already assembled, came to a snappy attention and presented arms. The French flag was waving from atop one flag pole. Another pole, just opposite, was empty, as the veterans of the 34th took their places. When both units were formed, the two Commanding Generals, with their staffs, marched onto the parade ground as fanfares were played by both the American and French bands. As the Stars and Stripes were hoisted, all troops came to attention and presented arms as the 34th Division Band played the "National Anthem". After the troops had been inspected, the French flag was lowered to the strains of the "Marseillaise". The French color guard then withdrew from the field, and the troops passed in review.

PX, cigarette, and beer rations came twice this month, leaving us a good supply both times. Red Bullhead Pins and innumerable gift items were on sale at the Special Service Store.

The rest camps at Lake Como, Venice, Allassio, and Strassa received an increased number of officers and enlisted men from the 133rd Infantry this month. Allassio, which has proved itself to be the favorite spot for gaiety and relaxation, was the destination of 154 enlisted men who received rest camp passes. Due to the expanded recreational and entertainment facilities this rest area is capable of handling the most number of men. 7 Men leave for Lake Como and Venice every 5 days. The officers' quota to Strassa has been enlarged

to include 7 officers every five days. Beside the rest camp leaves, day leave passes to Turin are issued at the rate of 64 per day for enlisted men, and three-day passes are given to 15 officers every three days. While in Turin, there are numerous possibilities for entertainment. An Enlisted Men's Club for men of the division has been opened in a choice location on the Po River, and offers music, dancing, boating, a bar, and a writing room. Also, dances are regularly held at Club Lido. A more recent addition to the comfort of the men is the new Red Cross Club that was opened at the close of the month. The traditional Red Cross hospitality may be enjoyed from 1000 until 2200 hours.

Softball is apparently the most popular inter-company sport, judging from the enthusiasm it arouses. By no means in the background are the swimming meets which have been held in Turin. Lake Grande is the refuge for everyone who likes to swim, and transportation is made available for those who desire to heed the call of this beautiful mountain lake.

The individual companies have found great success in the dances which they have held. Turin seems to be the favorite spot, with music by the regimental band, "The Wisecrackers", to make the evening complete.

Beside the scheduled quota of rest leaves in Italy, this month provided for passes outside of the country. One officer and three enlisted men had the fortune to spend a week in Cairo, Egypt, and one officer and two enlisted men left later in the month on a plane trip which would make Paris and London its destinations. These advantages were only for-runners of the many such facilities to materialize in the near future.

June---a month of great internal change for the 133rd Infantry. Veterans left the unit; new men came to take their places. Impatient weeks, not knowing what the future hold in store.

For the Regimental Commander:

Laird B. Peterson
LAIRD B. PETERSON,
1st Lt., Infantry,
Adjutant.