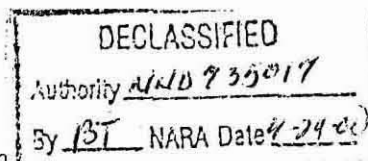


HEADQUARTERS 1ST BN., 350TH INFANTRY

BN. HISTORY

- 1 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Bn. still occupying defensive front line positions, near Mt. Fano, in the Appenines with the Bn. CP remaining at 951307, Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 87 II SE, Pianoro. The En. Cmdr. and Exec. Officer went on an inspection of all companies from 0945 hours till 1515 hours with the Bn. S-2 at the rifle companies from 0945 till 1615 hours planning proposed patrols. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire in Bn. area from 1800 to 2000 hours. Reconnaissance patrol on right side of Mt. Fano active from 1900 till 0330 hours the following morning investigating the possibility of mines on trail near 955325. Absence of mines reported, which was expected as herd of cattle was noted grazing peacefully over the area. At 1930 hours a second patrol on the left side of Mt. Fano reconnoitered area of Casa Chilli. Returning at 2230 hours report was received that a mule train of three mules was observed leaving Casa Chilli to Orbeга stopping at Orbeга outpost 50 yards from house.
- 2 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Bn. occupying positions of previous day. The Bn. Cmdr. made an inspection tour of the companies from 1345 hours till 1700 hours. Patrols active. One patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 3 Pvts. of Co. "C" assigned mission to reconnoiter route to Collina (958317) north to 959329. Patrol arrived at draw at 960327 and returned, reporting route impractical as necessitating wading through water waist deep, encountering 10 foot waterfalls, with both sides of draw too steep and brushy to proceed along bank. A second patrol, Co. "A", consisting of 1 Officer and 10 M. M., active on mission to reconnoiter to Ca Colombara (95753265) thence to houses at 956329, returning by way of houses at 955327 if necessary, and to ascertain strength of enemy and to effect the capture of a prisoner if possible. Patrol returned at 0215 hours the following morning. Patrol reported having entered house at 955325 and observed. All being quiet, patrol moved on to Ca Colombara, ground being very flat and very exposed, and noticed movement outside of house. Noises indicated rolling of water or gas cans and persons slopping through mud on the trail. Continuing toward houses at 955327 patrol observed flash of light indicating person leaving lighted room through drawn black-out curtain. Terrain also flat and exposed. Finding draws not as deep as expected patrol returned to houses set up on commanding ground at 954326. Houses were not entered but revealed nothing of a suspicious nature. Self-propelled gun heard firing, believed to be on Mt. Armato, but flash not observed. On return to unit patrol was mortared on trail with no casualties. Patrol gained working knowledge of terrain and reported importance of taking houses at 954326 because of their commanding position.



- 3 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. No change in disposition. Artillery very light. Combat patrol of 1 Officer and 12 P. M. left "B" Co. at 1800 hours to clear house and take prisoners at Pizzano 95053255. Patrol managed to infiltrate enemy lines to position behind houses assigned them. Detection of patrol resulted in heavy mortar fire through which patrol continued to advance to within 50 yards of house. Observing five of enemy near house and two enemy machine guns on high ground in position to deliver effective grazing fire on group patrol leader decided continuing mission to take prisoner would necessitate an assault and prove too costly a venture. Patrol withdrew returning by different route, and arrived at Bn. at 2100 hours. This day completed one year of overseas service for the Bn.
- 4 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Status of Bn. unchanged. Action limited to patrol activity. Patrol of 1 Officer and 12 P. M. from "A" Co. went on mission - object ambush supply train. Anticipating enemy patrol hitting it's rear, at trail junction leading to enemy occupied dwellings, B. A. R. team was posted to cover their return. Events proved planning well taken. Enemy getting behind patrol resulted in a fire fight with B. A. R. team being very effective. Enemy discharged flares causing patrol to seek concealment in nearby wooded area. Patrol, less 2 E.M. (missing) and B. A. R. team made way back to Bn. and had mortar fire directed on site of firefight forcing B. A. R. team to seek shelter in an abandoned enemy dugout. During the night both missing men returned from the patrol without having anything to report on the B. A. R. team's whereabouts. One of the enemy walked into Company "A" CP shortly after the firefight immediately being made a prisoner. The B. A. R. team, deciding not to chance being fired upon by their own troops, waited till daylight and returned without danger of being taken for hostile troops. Result of firefight unknown outside of prohibiting completion of ambush mission but, from questioning prisoner, it was believed one of enemy was killed during the skirmish.
- 5 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Bn. disposition same as previous day. Enemy artillery negligible. Ten man ambush patrol on mission down draw west of Casa Pra to 960323 from 1700 to 0030 hours to block route of expected enemy patrol. Patrol returned without having made contact with enemy. Enemy counterattack broken up by "B" Co. mortars at 2200 hours.
- 6 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Bn. status unchanged. Enemy shelling very light. Patrol of 1 N. C. O. and 9 Pvts. on mission to reconnoiter terrain to 956327, searching all houses and take a prisoner if possible. Patrol unsuccessful. Coughing and fumbling made patrol ineffective causing it's return at 2140 hours with report of having heard vehicle to left front (northwest) and enemy firing from right, from direction of Parrochia. Enemy artillery and mortar fire experienced from 2230 to 2330 hours.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 935017By BT NARA Date 4-24-00

- 7 Dec. 1944. Casa Vagae, Italy. Bn. still holding defensive Appenines. The Bn. Cmdr. went on an inspection tour of the companies from 1030 till 1240 hours. During his absence the Regimental Cmdr. visited the Bn. CP from 1100 till 1140 hours. General Sherman, the Assistant Division Commander, visited the Bn. CP from 1110 hours till 1340 hours. At 1505 hours the 2nd Bn. Cmdr. stopped at the Bn. CP and left with Lt. Col. Deshon to check on positions. "C" Co. reconnaissance patrol of 1 N. C. O. and 3 Pvts. on mission to 955331, leaving at 1800 hours. Encountering large group of enemy, patrol endeavoured to withdraw and circle the enemy but was discovered and fired upon from Ca Colombara and was forced to withdraw, returning at 0135 hours intact. Enemy artillery and mortar fire heavy during night.
- 8 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. occupying entrenched positions on front lines in the Appenines scheduled to be relieved by the 2nd Bn. and go into Regimental reserve. Relief effected of "A", "B", and "C" companies at 2230, 2300, and 2140 hours respectively with Heavy Weapons being relieved at 2000 hours. Heavy Weapons and Bn. Hq. companies made night march to assembly area and bivouaced in Fiumetto during night with rifle companies arriving the following morning.
- 9 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. CP set up at 93002835, Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio. Rifle companies arrived and went into bivouac at approximately 0500 hours, the Bn. being in Regimental reserve engaged in supervised rest and in care and cleaning of equipment. In the forenoon the Asst. Division Cmdr., Gen. Sherman, visited the Bn. CP staying from 0820 to 0915 hours, with Col. Fry visiting the CP from 1425 till 1510 hours in the afternoon. After repeated enemy shelling one round made direct hit on the Bn. CP causing one casualty.
- 10 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. in regimental reserve observed the Sabbath with religious services. Day was utilized in continued care and cleaning of equipment, taking of showers, and training in preparations for range firing and squad and platoon problems. During the day Major Holland assumed command of the Bn. per VOCCO. Heavy enemy artillery fire fell in Bn. area at approximately 1835 hours.
- 11 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. No change in Bn. situation. During the morning both Major Holland and Major Jones went on reconnaissance. At 1000 hours Col. Fry visited the CP for 5 minutes. At 1345 hours the Bn. Cmdr. left the CP to meet Col. Fry at "C" Co. to make a medal presentation to an enlisted man, both returning to the CP at 1410 hours and Col. Fry staying until 1455 hours. Bn. continued light training schedule and taking of showers.
- 12 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. still in Regtl. reserve bivouaced at Fiumetto, Italy, engaged in light training and in small arms range firing. Companies curtailed training to the extent of permitting digging in caused by constant enemy artillery barrages in Bn. sector. At 1425 Col. Fry visited the Bn. CP till 1510 hours. Enemy artillery comparatively quiet during day.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AKB 735017By BT NARA Date 4-29-00

- 13 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. No change in disposition followed a light training schedule, taking showers, and digging in. After a day of comparative quiet the enemy unleashed a heavy artillery barrage at noon in the Bn. sector scoring hit and casualties on "B" Co. Bn. enlarged on digging-in program as precaution against further damage. Col. Fry visited the Bn. CP at 1430 hours for 5 minutes
- 14 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. status unchanged. Light enemy artillery fire received at 0800 hours without damage being inflicted. At 0920 hours Gen. Kendall visited the Bn. CP for 5 minutes. Companies continued taking showers, digging in, and training in Co. areas. At 1700 hours the Bn. Cmdr. led an advance group to the front lines in preparation of scheduled Bn. move the following day to relieve the 3rd Bn.
- 15 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. still in regimental reserve at Fiumetto, Italy. Enemy artillery comparatively quiet during day with companies making preparation to move forward and take over positions of 3rd Bn. on front lines. At 1600 hours the Regtl. Cmdr. made a brief visit to the Bn. CP. At 1800 hours the Bn. moved out and effected relief of the 3rd Bn. on the following schedule setting up CP's as follows:
- | <u>Left area</u> | | <u>Relief Complete</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1800 | Bn. Hq. & Hq. Co.-Casa Rocca 93353078 | 1845 |
| 1845 | Co. "C"- Vic. Casa de Gusi 94453185 | 2145 |
| 1910 | Co. "B"- Casa dei Marchetti 93353165 | 2145 |
| 2000 | Co. "D"- Casa dei Sanadini 93053100 | 2300 |
| 2030 | Co. "A"- Casa Spettra 93383120 | 2140 |
- Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 87 II SE, Pianoro
- 16 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. No change in Bn. situation. Lt. Col. Cochran at Bn. CP for short visit at 0930 hours. At 0935 hours Major Holland, accompanied by Lt. Bendixen and Lt. Mazingo, left for "A" and "C" companies respectively, returning to the Bn. CP at 1515 hours. Two enemy aid men taken prisoner by "C" Co. at 1410 hours but, as POW's were held by forward platoon, enemy could not be sent to rear till darkness had fallen. At 1845 hours, Major Holland again left CP on a visit to "B" Co. returning at 2330 hours that night. Reconnaissance patrol of 1 Off. and 7 E.M. from "A" Co. left on mission at 1930 hours by route of Ca di Razzone, forded stream at bridge, skirted hill to gully, down creek to house at 937324 and returned same way. Reaching objective at 2100 hours patrol observed till 2245 hours noticing 25 rounds of mortar fall on 937324 and enemy MG firing in vicinity NW of house. Patrol returned at 2315 hours reporting no enemy activity in houses along route.
- 17 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. holding same positions of previous day. Major Holland left CP at 0940 hours to meet Col. Fry at "A" Co. for tour of companies, the Bn. Cmdr. returning at

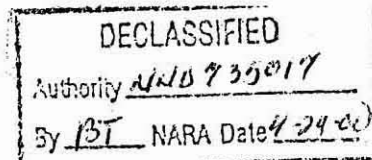
DECLASSIFIED

Authority NAID 935017By BT NARA Date 9-29-00

17 Dec. 1944. Cont. 1200 hours. At 1445 hours the Bn. C. left CP for Co. "C", the S-2 returning at 1700 hours. Bn. Cmdr. staying overnight at "C" Co. CP. Patrol of 1 Off. and 7 E. M. left on patrol from "B" Co. at 1800 hours on mission to establish listening post and to check houses along route. Patrol proceeded to 951328, after examining houses at 937323 with no untoward developments, and established listening post from 2000 to 2100 hours. Patrol moved and set up listening post at 951329 from 2100 to 2200 hours and observed signs of enemy activity. One enemy observed leaving house and proceeding toward road in addition to noticing light in house on three distinct occasions, presumably from being caused by a black-out curtain being drawn. Further observation revealed an occupied enemy machine gun position at 93553275 which fired approximately four belts while outpost was established. Despite numerous wires in vicinity investigation revealed no indication of booby traps. Patrol, having accomplished mission, returned at 2315 hours.

18 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. still occupying front line defensive positions in the Appenines. At 1140 hours Major Holland returned to Bn. CP after having stayed overnight at "C" Co. Reconnaissance patrol of 1 Off. and 3 Pvts. from "C" Co. left at 1700 hours with mission to reconnoiter trail from Nose House (944323) to boot in road (941329) and to establish a listening post for one hour near Ca Merla (939328) for observation of enemy activity. Patrol observed 120 mortar firing from 942328 which position was later under fire from our artillery. Being silhouetted by enemy flare near top of draw, leading from nose house to road, enemy machine gun opened fire from 941329 in building near boot in road. Despite gun having an excellent field of fire up draw to Nose House no casualties resulted. Patrol found fair trail down draw to road arriving at building at 94013280. Trail reported to be narrow, suited for single file only, but covered by high banks on either side about half way to crest of ridge. During move enemy machine pistols directed on patrol - one from vicinity of 940327 and one from house, near boot of road, at 941329. Enemy mortar fired one round from vicinity of 939331 with unknown results. Patrol proceeded to point near Casa Merla, at 94053270, and established listening post for 1 1/2 hours, detecting no movement or sign of enemy activity, returning, upon completion of mission, by same route without incident.

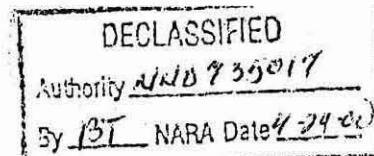
19 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. disposition unchanged. At 1025 hours Major Holland and Major Jones left the Bn. CP for check on companies with Major Jones returning at 1350 hours and Major Holland returning at 1425 hours. The Division Commander, Gen. Kendall, paid a visit to the Bn. CP from 1355 till 1445 hours and discussed pertinent matters with the Bn. officers. Patrols again active with "A" Co. sending 1 Off. and 5 N. C. O.'s on a reconnaissance patrol from 1730 hours till 0200 hours the fol-



19 Dec. 1944. Cont. lowing morning. While proceeding on to the boot, patrol heard noises of people moving in vicinity. Observing further, patrol located enemy machine gun at point reportedly "zeroed in" by our mortars. Upon observation, however, it was observed our mortars were falling approximately 200 yards short. Having reconnoitered a route out patrol proceeded to return reporting enemy concentrated a mortar barrage on territory patrol had just left. No further incident reported. While patrol activity was in progress Major Holland and Lt. Boatner left Bn. at 1955 hours on visit to "B" Co. returning at 2140 hours.

20 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. disposition unchanged. Major Holland left Bn. at 0955 hours and returned at 1110 hours after making a spot inspection of "B" Co. At 1800 hours Major Holland again left for "B" Co., it affording him a better opportunity to follow progress of the combat patrol planned for that night. "A" Co. combat patrol of 1 Officer and 30 E. M. left company at 1815 hours with mission to clear house at coordinates 943327. From 2015 hours till 2245 hours Bn. alerted to possible enemy paratroop activity - suspected hostile action not materializing. Patrol stopping at "B" Co's. north outpost was informed of sounds heard in field to left of road indicated enemy machine gun being set up. Patrol proceeded but drew no fire, learning later that suspected machine gun had been withdrawn. Continuing on road till river had been waded, patrol headed for high ground in the vicinity of 944325 and proceeded to objective at 943327 receiving no enemy fire but observing a 50 cal. machine gun firing from vicinity of 935328. Reaching coordinates 94153275, enemy observed on skyline smoking cigarette with another enemy soldier approximately 50 yards to patrol's right flank. Considerable amount of movement and noise to patrol's front and both flanks was heard but no one opened fire. Withdrawing to 94203265 at approximately 0215 hours from which point the patrol leader called for mortar fire on objective and vicinity. Retaliation by enemy in general area of patrol indicated knowledge of presence of patrol. Patrol returned to Bn. being harassed by artillery fire and flares. On return, patrol reported an enemy machine gun, thought to be a 34 according to cyclic rate of fire, in vicinity of 945329. No casualties were inflicted on patrol which returned from mission at 0330 hours.

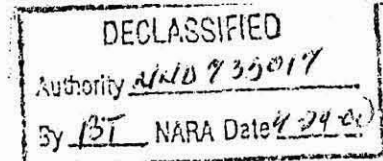
21 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. occupied positions of previous day. Artillery exchanges irregular with activity limited to patrol functions. Having spent the greater part of night at "B" Co. checking on patrol, Bn. Cmdr. returned to the Bn. CP at approximately 0515 hours. At 1505 hours the Bn. Cmdr. and Bn. S-3 left the CP with Major Holland returning at 1700 hours and Lt. Boatner staying overnight at "C" Company. At 1730 hours a reconnaissance and ambush patrol of 1 Officer and 7 Pvts. from "B" Co. on mission to 941329 to make note of all enemy activity in area and to ambush any enemy patrol contacted. Patrol returned at 2335 hours without making contact but locating, by sound, a heavy machine gun, light machine gun, and mortar in vicinity of draw 937327 and light in house at 942329, together with light flashes in houses in Ca Merla 939327. While



21 Dec. 1944. Cont. patrol was on mission, companies "A" exchange of respective company positions between the hours of 1800 and 2100 hours at which time "A" Co. took up front line positions and "B" Co. went into Bn. reserve.

22 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Bn. situation unchanged. At 0840 hours the Bn. Cmdr. took Lt. Bair, a newly assigned officer, to Co. "C" with Major Holland making an inspection of the companies and returning to the Bn. CP at 1450 hours. Shortly after the noon hour, Lt. Boatner returned to Bn., having passed the night at Co. "C" CP. At 1445 hours the Bn. was alerted to activity of four enemy planes over sector, enemy aircraft leaving area for other parts of the front. Major Holland and the Bn. S-2 left Bn. at 1800 hours for "A" Co. to better follow progress of the patrol scheduled for that evening. A combat patrol from "A" Co. left on mission at midnight for Pizzano (937324) where, on arrival, much activity was heard. Spreading out and proceeding to clear the north end of the town, patrol shot into three buildings from which indistinguishable sounds emanated and flushed out three of enemy who made good their attempted escape from capture. Patrol proceeded to Ca Merla but, being unable to regain contact with the enemy, they returned to Bn.

23 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. No change in status of Battalion. "A" Co. patrol returned from its mission at 0415 hours with Major Holland returning to the Bn. CP at 0530 hours. At 0950 hours Col. Fry visited the CP till 1040 hours accompanied by Capt. Fingerhut and Capt. Simpson. The Bn. Cmdr. and Bn. S-3 left the CP for "B" and "A" returning at 1610 hours. Enemy artillery and mortar fire normal. At 1800 hours one officer and 7 E. M. on mission to Ca Merla returning at 2310 hours, mission being accomplished without untoward incident. At 1830 hours a patrol of 1 Officer and 10 E. M. left to reconnoiter route from 934312 along road to 940329 and to investigate house at 940329, 9395-3295, 94003285, and 939324 and to fight if necessary. Patrol proceeded to footbridge at 934317, crossed stream knee deep, found way up bank 100 yards from bridge, moved to 93403195 and continued down road to destroyed bridge at 938324. While following road enemy mortar fire fell in vicinity without damage. Reaching a point above Ca Merla they observed both Casa Merla and objective till 2100 hours. No sign of enemy observed whereupon patrol checked on Ca Merla finding no occupants but black-out curtain indicating its recent use. Continuing mission, patrol discovered two trip wires near house at 940329 and odor of horses or mules quite apparent. Tracks also indicated presence of enemy having inspected building 94003195 patrol passed objective to 94003305 noticing two strand telephone wire going into building 940329. Observed from vantage point till 2405 hours. No activity being in evidence, patrol returned to Co. CP. Part of patrol returned to inspect building at 939324 but found building vacant although indications pointed to it having been recently occupied.



- 24 Dec. 1944. Casa Rocca, Italy. Status of Bn. unchanged. and 10 E. M. from "C" Co. returned at 0230 hours. from 0850 hours to 1145 hours Major Jones made trip to companies with Major Holland visiting companies from 1305 till 1710 hours and taking Lt. Jones to his new assignment with "A" Company. At 1900 hours a combat patrol of 1 Officer and 9 E. M. went on mission to patrol assigned area, taking prisoner if possible and raiding any enemy installation found. Patrol encountered considerable difficulty finding satisfactory route due to cliff formations and snow. On their third attempt patrol reached Casa Merla and investigated buildings on both sides of road and reported hearing voices of approximately four Germans in building on left side of road and a squad in larger building on right of road. While planning an attack two enemy emerged from the larger building and ran toward a machine gun at the north end of nearby stone wall but were wounded by the security guard before they could reach their gun. Accompanied by one E. M. the officer advanced to the machine gun to ascertain the presence of other enemy. Discovering two Germans at gun hand grenades were thrown killing one German, the other being wounded by pistol fire while trying to effect his escape. Being subjected to small arms fire and grenades from house patrol withdrew. Despite wounds being inflicted on officer and his private patrol returned intact at 0200 hours on Christmas Day reporting developments and the fact that no new wires were found and old wires found on previous patrol were still intact.
- 25 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. occupied same position of previous day with Bn. CP set up at Casa Rocca preparing to be relieved by the 2nd Bn. of this regiment. At 0200 hours patrol of "C" Co. returned to Co. CP upon completion of mission. Col. Fry, the Regtl. Cmdr., visited the CP from 0815 till 0825 hours and Gen. Kendall made visit from 1140 till 1148 hours. At 1900 hours companies in process of getting relieved and march to reserve area at Fiumetto. Companies reported being closed in at Fiumetto area at 2255 hours and bivouaced for night.
- 26 Dec. 1944. Montecatini, Italy. Companies left Fiumetto reserve area at 0515 hours and marched two miles to rear entrucking for rest area at 0745 hours. Bn. motored 85 miles and arrived in rest area at Montecatini, Italy, (407824, Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 105 I NW, Martiana) at 1315 hours and set up in buildings in town for rest and light training.
- 27 Dec. 1944. Montecatini, Italy. No change in Bn. situation. The Asst. Div. Cmdr., Gen. Sherman, made an inspection of the CP building from 0920 to 0930 hours. Bn. followed shower schedule and enjoyed well deserved relaxation after their tour of front line duty.
- 28 Dec. 1944. Montecatini, Italy. Bn. situation unchanged. Troops continued taking showers following light training period in the morning.
- 29 Dec. 1944. Montecatini, Italy. Bn. still bivouaced in rest area in town of Montecatini, Italy. Following a light drill schedule companies engaged in a Bn. review in the morning with troops being free in the afternoon for well merited rest.
- 30 Dec. 1944. Montecatini, Italy. Bn. bivouaced in rest area in town received notification of movement orders effective on the morrow - quartering party leaving at 1300 hours for new area. Receipt of movement

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AJNB 735017By BT NARA Date 4-24-80

30 Dec. 1944. Cont. orders necessitated change of schedule - church services being conducted in lieu of Sabbath services.

31 Dec. 1944. Fiumetto, Italy. Bn. made move from rest area in Montecatini, Italy, by truck motoring 85 miles from 1100 hours till 1700 hours and marched two miles from detrucking area to Fiumetto (93002835, Sheet 98 I NE Monterenzio) arriving at 1745 hours and going into reserve for the 349th Regiment.

Researching World War II

WW2 Books, Reports
Maps, Historical Narratives
Government Publications

PDFs Remastered
and Word Searchable



All Discs Are Available As
Family Heirloom Edition
Personalized Laser Etched CDs/DVDs

Email: hella@mtrnestas.com