

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NM 7350P7By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

19 June 1944.

HISTORY NARRATIVE, MAY 1944

May 1st to May 11th, 1944: During this phase, the 350th Infantry successfully continued its mission of holding designated front line positions located in the vicinity of LORENZO, ITALY. Construction of secondary defensive positions which had been started 28 April 1944, was continued; also new defensive positions were being constructed, and old defensive positions strengthened. 350th Infantry patrols, with few casualties, inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy. It was noted that enemy artillery increased slightly on our front line positions, with continued enemy artillery directed at our rear installations and supply routes west of the GARIGLIANO River. Propaganda shells were used to a small extent by the enemy on our front line troops.

Regimental patrol activities were continuous and expedited in a normal manner during the period. Contact was gained with enemy on several occasions but there were no severe clashes. Our patrols captured 6 enemy prisoners, 2 enemy deserters surrendered during this period. From these Prisoners of War, names, CP locations, strength of opposing enemy units, with their location, type of defenses, supply depots, and supply routes, were obtained. It was learned that enemy units were understrength, and morale of enemy troops was poor. The enemy had constructed defensive positions to the rear of their front lines. These rear defensive positions were to be used in the event of a successful American offensive.

Enemy laid harassing and sporadic artillery and mortar fire every day, principally during daylight hours. The heaviest enemy artillery and mortar fire was encountered during the day of May 10th, causing no casualties and little material damage.

On 3 May, 1944, the Commanding Officer was ordered to lay plans for an attack. Through conferences with the 351st Infantry, the unit on the left flank of the 350th Infantry line, and the French on our right flank, coordination for the forthcoming attack was established. On 6 May, 1944, Colonel CHARLES P. LYNCH was hospitalized for a leg injury, and Colonel J. C. FRY assumed command of the 350th Infantry.

Final preparations for the attack were made. 2300 hours, 11 May 1944, was designated as "H" hour and "D" day.

May 11 to May 16, 1944: - CIANELLI TO SPIGNO

The regiment jumped off with two battalions abreast in a carefully planned night attack against the most formidable obstacle on the entire Army Front at 2300 11 May 1944. It was well understood by officers and men of all ranks that without the capture of CIANELLI the advance of the Corps was impossible. All objectives were captured on schedule to the everlasting credit of the officers and men who stepped off in darkness under and against an unprecedented barrage.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions were scheduled to attack abreast, the former having the task of capturing the crest of CIANELLI, the 2nd Bn to continue North

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History Narrative, May 1944. (cont'd)

with the mission of securing and organizing Hill 316. The 3rd battalion to hold Hill 100 and be prepared to capture CERACOLI. Part of the 3rd battalion was held high on the mountains as Regimental reserve.

As the fighting progressed "A" company suffered severe casualties from enemy fire and became disorganized. "K" Company was attached to 1st Battalion and committed through "A" Company to fill the gap between the 1st and 2nd Battalions. By daylight, 12 May, "K" and "B" Companies were in possession of MT. CIANELLI and the 2nd Battalion was in possession of hill 316. A strong counter attack against the latter hill was thrown back just before dawn. "C" Company ran into heavy machine gun and mortar fire in its reserve position on the East side of MT. CIANELLI and was unable to advance until the French attacked on the right. "K" Company attacked VENTOSA, the battalion objective, and found it unoccupied. This prepared the way for the French to enter the town of DAMIANO.

At dawn 12 May a supporting tank company attacked and overran the hill CERACOLI which was promptly mopped up and occupied by Company "I". The night of 12 May and morning of the 13th of May the Regiment continued to hold its positions against light enemy opposition waiting for units on left and right to take their objectives.

The afternoon of 13 May, Company "L" was attached to the 1st Battalion. Two companies from the 1st Battalion were held in positions in regimental reserve. "B" and "L" companies attacked MT. ROTONDO against light opposition with heavy artillery and tank support. The objective was taken at 1745 hours.

During the night of May 14th the 350th Infantry was ordered to capture M CERRI at 0430. Prior to their arrival on the objective patrols of the 88th Recon found that it was evacuated. The 1st Battalion then was ordered to move to MT. BRACCHI. The 1st Battalion attacked NW taking SAN PIETRO on the North slope of MT. BRACCHI. The battalion then moved to the East to assembly positions in the AUSENTE valley, and prepared to attack SPIGNO at daylight. "K" Company was sent to CERRI as a garrison. The 2nd Battalion was assembled in the vicinity of CERRICOLI and then moved to join the Regimental Commander to the north up the AUSENTE valley and bivouaced for the night in the vicinity of MT CERRI.

At 0400, 15 May, the Regiment less 3rd Battalion moved on SPIGNO. The 1st Battalion and Company "E" riding on tanks. The town had been evacuated prior to the arrival of the 1st Battalion. The Regiment then withdrew to the low ground east of SPIGNO. The Regiment then moved to a bivouac area near SANTA MARIA with the 3rd Battalion relieving the 351st Infantry on positions occupied in SANTA MARIA and MT. BRACCHI

16 May 1944 the regiment remained in the bivouac area near SANTA MARIA, resupplying and resting.

17 May 1944: SPIGNO TO ITRI - 17 May the Regiment was ordered to move by trail and road to MARINOLA and thence across the mountains to join the task force under General KENDALL. The 3rd Battalion moved out by truck to MARINOLA and then marched up in the mountains and bivouaced. The 1st Battalion followed the 3rd Battalion on foot and marched all night.

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 By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

History Narrative, May 1944. (cont'd)

The 2nd Battalion was placed in Corps reserve.

18 May the Regiment moved through the mountains toward ITRI. Plans were for an attack across the valley at daylight the following day but only the last remnants of the Germans were encountered. A few casualties, including Major MATTHEWS, S-2, were incurred during this operation.

19 May 1st Battalion attacked to cut highway north of ITRI, meeting no resistance.

20 May 1944: ITRI TO FONDI - This operation consisted of a rapid march in pursuit of the enemy. No action or casualties were incurred. 3rd Battalion garrisoned the town of FONDI.

21 May to 26 May FONDI TO ROCCASECCA; - On the night of 20 May the Regiment was directed to move across country to occupy M. CALVO. At 0500 the regiment moved out with Battalions abreast, the 2nd on the left and the 1st in the center. The 1st Battalion encountered no resistance and by dark was on its objective. The 1st Battalion now in the lead. The 2nd Battalion ran into stiff resistance as they tried to enter the mountains. The Germans were defending the valley South of SAN BOGGIO from the hills on both sides. 110 German prisoners were taken and many killed before this resistance was overcome. 8 Americans were killed among whom was Captain VICK, 338th FA Battalion. The 2nd Battalion was then placed in division reserve near FONDI, leaving one company to hold the hill until the 85th Division could take it over.

22 May, the regiment continued the advance going into positions near MOUNT ALTO at 1800. Mortar fire from by passed resistance began to fall on rear installations the vicinity of SAN MAGNO during the morning, and the 2nd Battalion, which had been released from division reserve was committed to wipe out this resistance. Units on right and left of the regiment were far behind. Battery "A", 601st FA Bn. (pack) started forward to join in direct support of the Regiment. On May 23rd the 1st Bn. occupied the village of ROCCASECCA DEI VOSCLI without opposition. A German Officer and one man encountered were wounded and captured. The 3rd Bn garrisoned the high ground overlooking ROCCASECCA.

On May 24-26 the 1st and 3rd Bns consolidated their positions and began shelling enemy roads in the vicinity. The use of enemy Red Cross flags and carrier details indicated that several enemy were wounded and killed in this action. Counter battery fire on the part of the enemy caused some casualties in the 1st Bn.

Infantry companies were moved to the floor of the valley and drove the enemy beyond the AMASENO river.

During the period May 22-25 the 2nd Bn was engaged in protecting communication and supply lines of the Regiment which extended some 20,000 yds. Enemy activity continued throughout this period, one attack consisting of some 200 Germans. A few casualties were sustained by the 2nd Bn but over 40 German dead were left in the mountains and 50 odd prisoners sent to the rear. On the night of May 25th the 3rd Bn attacked the high ground west of PRIVERNO and secured their objective prior to dawn. Only light opposition was encountered, the gravest loss being Capt. HOTCHKISS and Lt. RENFRO both being seriously injured.

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

History Narrative, May 1944. (cont'd)

May 26 to 28 - On the night of May 25-26 the Regiment moved across the valley north of ROCCASECCA, crossed the AMASENO river and continued to advance to the high ground north of ROCCAGORCA. The 3rd Bn displaced from its position west of PRIVERNO and followed the Regiment. Only light harassing fire and enemy artillery fire was encountered. Light casualties were sustained and by the night of May 28th the mountains north of ROCCAGORCA were in our hands. 17 PW's were captured and a few uncounted enemy dead were left in their positions.

May 29th consisted of a rest period with light patrols covering to the front. New shoes which were badly needed were distributed.

May 30-31 - The Regiment withdrew from the mountains north of ROCCAGORCA on the night of May 30th and entrucked prior to dawn for movement toward ROME. An assembly area was designated in the vicinity of VELLETRI and the Regiment closed in that position at 1400 May 31st.

During this extensive operation exact records on casualties were difficult to assemble. Some few casualties occurred between June 1 and 6, that number not being segregated at this time. Total records since May 11th show: Killed in Action - 92; Died of wounds - 14; Wounded and Evacuated - 398; Wounded not Evacuated - 225; Missing in Action - 40.

*These figures do not
concede with list of casualties at back of report*

JCF

J. C. Fry
J. C. FRY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding.

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. Army

30 June 1944.

HISTORY NARRATIVE, JUNE 1944

June 1-3 - On June 1st the Regiment was located approximately eight miles north of ANZIO. Operations 1 to 3 June were conducted on piecemeal basis with battalions moving mostly via trucks and organic vehicles. The 1st Bn was entrucked and moved near CISTERNA. The next move took place 2nd June when the unit moved into an area North of CORI, in the vicinity of the small village of LARINOLA, in which very little time was spent. On 3 June the 1st Battalion marched about 15 miles and spent the night south of the village of CESARANO and north of M. CERASO where the balance of the regiment was concentrated.

June 4 - A task force was formed of 1st Battalion, one battery of 336 F.A., one company 313th Engineers, one battery of six 105 MM self-propelled guns and one company of Medium tanks. It was designated as a mobile pursuit force under Division control. At 0700 orders were received to move on ROME and secure two bridges PONTE DUCA d' AORTA and PONTE MILVIO which were used to cross the TIBER on Highway 2 and to seize high ground on the outskirts of the city to the east of Highway 2.

The 3rd and 2nd Battalions followed the task force at 0845 and were subjected to enemy artillery fire on the road and were held up by the enemy on the outskirts of town. The above force entered ROME on VIA PALESTRINA at 1930 and was immediately behind the first tanks that entered. All this movement on the 4th of June took place along Highway 6 leading into ROME.

June 5-6-7 - The regiment was in ROME proper exploiting and marching along its assigned streets. All three battalions crossed the bridges on Highway 2 at approximately 0500 in this order: 3rd, 1st, 2nd. At 0630 the 1st and 3rd Battalions continued to pursue the enemy. In about one hour heavy machine gun fire was encountered. Capt. BORGQUIST, 1st Bn S-3, was wounded. The 1st Battalion wiped out the resistance with tank and artillery fire and advanced approximately 6 miles capturing about fifteen (15) prisoners. The battalion took defensive positions and the 3rd and 2nd Battalions continued the push.

Since leaving ROME the sector assigned this regiment was that the left flank would rest on Highway 2 and advance along an irregular frontage. The 1st Battalion attacked north passing through the 2nd Battalion about noon 6 June capturing FORMELLO and continuing the advance to the north. Only long range artillery and mortar fire was encountered during the day.

The regiment moved nearly 20 miles since leaving ROME early 5 June. On the night of 6 June battalions entrenched south of CAMPAGNANO DI ROMA. On the 7th June the 2nd Battalion pushed through CAPAGNANO DI ROMA to an objective about 5 miles north of the town. The 1st Battalion was in reserve. No resistance was encountered during this movement. At dark on 7 June the 351st Infantry passed through the regiment relieving it during the night, whereupon the regiment remained in bivouac in Division reserve. Map shows routes of all movements.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
48
29
Cherry

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HISTORY NARRATIVE (cont'd)

June 8-13 - The regiment remained in bivouac in Division reserve until 12 June north of CAMPAGNANO DI ROMA and some of the elements were 4 miles from NEPI, ITALY at the same bivouac. This was a period of much needed rest by all men and Officers.

On 8th June the Replacement Company marched about 15 miles from south of VERGARA to a point about two miles north of FORMELLO. The Replacement Company was kept as near to Service Company as possible at all times. On 10th June it was disbanded and all the men in it were attached to various companies. On 12 June Battalions were moved by trucks approximately 50 miles to the ALBANO area. The entire regiment made this move in two days.

On June 13th right after dark, the last elements of the regiment, consisting of the Service Company and the Replacement Company cadre, moved into the ALBANO area from vicinity North of FORMELLO. On June 14th the Personnel Section moved into the Regimental Headquarters area. This was the first time that the entire regiment was together in one locality since it left the vicinity of PIEDMONTE on March 1st. Attached map shows the areas occupied by the various organizations.

June 14-18 - Generally, this period was devoted to rest for men and Officers, resupplying, and reorganization. Passes to ROME were issued, and nightly shows were arranged by the Orientation Officer. During the rest period men were given the usual exchange of clothing at a shower unit. The beach at the lake afforded excellent opportunity for swimming which was used by many. Day passes were issued to visit ROME to an allotted number of both men and Officers. Many others were sent to the Rest Center in ROME on a pass for a duration of several days. Several Officers were sent to Excelsior Hotel in ROME and others to SORRENTO on three day passes.

During this period all supply personnel were busy attempting to fill all shortages of equipment and supplies. Gas Masks were reissued. The 1st Battalion was the alert battalion for the Division and guarded the beach during the period of June 16-18.

June 19-21 - These three days were devoted to training. A definite schedule was followed daily from 0700 to 1500. A definite number of men were sent from each battalion to the range. The following weapons were fired: M-1, carbines, BAR, rifle grenades, and Bazookas. It was a thousand inch firing range. A hand grenade court was established and used. A warning movement order was received on the night of June 18th and on Tuesday the regiment issued a warning order to all organizations pending the anticipated movement for the night of June 21st.

June 21-22 - Regimental Transportation Officer and Lt. Watson were assigned the mission to contact the unit that occupied the area that this regiment was ordered to move into. Training was carried on as usual on June 21st and after 1500 all organizations prepared for the movement and everything was in readiness before dark. A quartering party left at 1330 to the new area to take care of their duties. The first march unit moved on schedule and all organizations closed into the area in the early morning hours after daylight.

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HISTORY NARRATIVE (cont'd)

The balance of the day was devoted to organization of unit areas, establishing camp, and rest.

June 23-24 - On the morning of June 23rd training started at 0700 according to schedule. Daily passes to ROME were resumed. On Saturday morning June 24th, inspections were conducted by battalion and regimental Staff Officers. Several organizations presented awards to their men.

The 2nd Battalion was the alert Battalion during the period June 23-27.

June 25 - 650 men went on passes to ROME and others had the opportunity to go to the beach. Church services were carried out as per schedule.

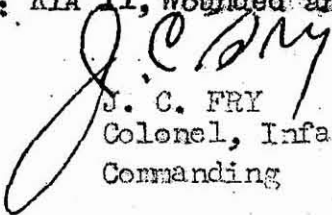
The Commanding General called a meeting at 1330 in the Division area of all Officers present.

June 26-27 - These two days were devoted to a regimental problem, the gist of which is found in Hqs 350th Infantry F.O. #1, dated 24 June 1944. During these two days a number of Gas Officers and Gas NCOs attended a Division Gas school in the vicinity of the Ordnance Company bivouac. A range was selected and was prepared for use. One salvage enemy tank was allotted for the use as a target on the range for Bazookas and Anti-Tank grenade firing. The rifle range has forty targets which are used for M1 and Carbine firing.

June 28-30 - Firing on the ranges was started at 0800 on June 28th. Also thirty communication personnel from the regiment and from the battalions plus all communication officers attended a demonstration by the Cub planes in picking up and delivering messages. Panels were used to locate the pick-up post on the ground. Upon returning to the regimental area some training was done in coordination with the Cub planes.

In mid-afternoon the entire regiment marched to the Division area to witness a presentation of awards to members of the Division. Other periods of the day were devoted to the regular schedule. On June 29th the schedule was followed without interference. The S-3 and three Regimental Liaison Officers and three alternates attended a Liaison Officers' conference at the Division.

On the night of 29-30th June the 1st Battalion conducted a night maneuver. On June 30th the erection of three bunkers was started by the Engineers to be used as an assault target sometime next week. The A&P platoons constructed wire entanglements. There was no other special training taking place besides following the routine schedule. Ranges were utilized to the fullest extent for the three days. M1s, Carbines, Bazookas, and Anti-Tank rifle grenades were fired. Records for period 1 June to 30 June show: KIA 11, Wounded and Evacuated 48, Wounded Not Evacuated 103.


J. C. FRY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

Authority NMD 7350P7

By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

7 August 1944.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE JULY 1944

JULY 1-7 - During this period the Regiment was in bivouac near TARQUINIA, Province of ROMA, undergoing strenuous training, in compliance with directives from higher Headquarters, to prepare for returning into action against the enemy. Company B, 760 Tank Battalion moved into the Regimental bivouac area to participate in problems involving coordinated infantry-tank-artillery maneuvers.

On Saturday, 1 July 44, at 1000, an impressive ceremony and parade was held to present medals and awards and honor those Officers and men who received them. The afternoon was devoted to recreational activities to include swimming in the TYRRHENIAN SEA.

Sunday, 2 July 44, was spent in rest and religious services were held for men of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faith.

Wednesday, 5 July 44 brought a directive from 88th Division Headquarters for the Regiment to prepare for movement forward to relieve the 1st Armored Division. The Regimental, Battalion and Special Unit Commanders made a reconnaissance of this new area which was between the 349th Infantry Regiment on the right and elements of the 34th Infantry Division on the left. The Replacement Company was reconstituted in the afternoon by attaching all personnel in excess of T/O strength. The Regiment moved under cover of darkness from TARQUINIA to the new area north of POMARANCE (a distance of approximately 75 miles) and completed the occupation of the sector during the next morning.

The troops rested for the greater part of the day, on 6 July 44, while Battalion Commanders made a reconnaissance to prepare for the relief of the 1st Armored Division. Sporadic, long range enemy artillery fire throughout the day and night caused no damage.

On Friday, 7 July 44, the Regimental and Battalion Commanders made a reconnaissance of the forward areas in preparation for impending action. Orders were received and initial objectives assigned. The 1st Bn was assigned the left sector and the 3rd Bn was to attack on the right while the 2nd Bn remained in Regimental reserve. Each Bn was supported by one company of Tanks from the 760th Tank Bn and one company of TD's from the 701st Tank Destroyers.

JULY 8 - The attack moved off as scheduled at 0230 and reached the 1st phase line in one hour. Despite the stiff enemy resistance the initial objectives were reached before dark which was well within the time allowed. The 2nd Battalion moved up to take over the 3rd Bn zone, during the night, and the troops rested on the initial objective and prepared to continue the attack the next morning.

JULY 9 - The push was resumed at 0400 with the 1st and 2nd Bns abreast and the 3rd Bn in reserve. Enemy resistance was much stiffer with heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Progress was slower than the previous day but the Regiment showed a dogged perseverance and pushed steadily forward. After much hard fighting the ERA river was crossed and an advance made to a line about 2000 yards north of the river. It was necessary for the 2nd Bn to attack the right flank of the Regiment as the advance was being held up by enemy fire from automatic weapons. To do this the Bn occupied a position overlooking the bridge over the ERA river between

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CANCELLED
BY THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
12 Aug 46
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

NOTES ON MOVEMENT

IP: 145073

ROUTE TO IP: Hwy 1B to 168030, then Hwy 1 to IP.

" FROM IP: Hwy 1 - turn right just before FOELANICA - and proceed to POMARANCA

GROUP	ORGAN.	NO. OF VEH.	LEAVE DIV. AREA	CROSS IP	
1	3rd Bn	35 - Org	1655	1720	
2	1st Bn	35 - Org	1735	1800	
3	2nd Bn	35 - Org	1815	1840	
4	Carmon Co	19 - Org	1855	1920	
5	AT Co	20 - Org	1950	2015	
6	350th Kitch.	19 - Org	2150	2210	Ass. Ser. Co. 2130
7	338 FA			2250	
8	338 FA			2330	
9	338 FA			0010	
10	Hqs Co		0055	0120	Hqs. Pers. Med.
11	Co B, Eng		0135	0200	
12	Co B, Med		0210	0240	
13	3rd Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0255	0320	
14	1st Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0350	0415	
15	2nd Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0430	0455	
16	Ser. Co	20 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0510	0535	Ser. Co. & replacements

1. Light line - blackout as directed by MP's.
2. Speed lead vehicle each group - 20 MPH.
3. Distance between vehicles - 50 yds.
4. Guides meet units via. POMARANCA.
5. Convoy # 5A - N-819

HISTORY (Cont'd)

CIPRIANO and VILLAMAGNA. The hard fighting during the day caused a heavy expenditure of ammunition so it was necessary to make a temporary halt for re-supply.

JULY 10 - The attack was continued at 0900 after a peaceful night with little artillery fire. The drive was gradual but steady notwithstanding the fierce artillery and mortar fire with which the enemy strove to cover all routes of approach and the determined automatic weapons and small arms fire that caused many casualties.

JULY 11 - The attack was continued with the 1st and 3rd Bns leading and the 2nd Bn closely behind the 1st and protecting the left flank. Little progress was made since orders were to reorganize and strengthen positions.

JULY 12 - After a night's rest the attack was launched at 0900 with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns in line from left to right. Savage resistance backed by heavy artillery and mortar fire marked the opening of this days offensive but after the first hour the Regiment was advancing slowly but steadily. At 1900 the enemy counterattacked with approximately two platoons in the sector occupied by F Company. Excellent artillery support and strong defensive fires broke up this attack and inflicted severe casualties upon the enemy. The Regiment reached its objective and all units reorganized and prepared to carry on the attack after midnight. Roads in the Regimental zone had been heavily mined. Capt. OTT was killed and 1st Lt. D'BENEDETTO severely injured (died later) when their vehicle struck a Teller mine while they were moving the 2nd Bn CP forward.

JULY 13 - At 0400 the advance was resumed against weaker enemy resistance. Designated objectives were quickly taken and missions rapidly completed. All personnel scheduled to return to the United States on Rotation or temporary duty were recalled from their companies and assembled near the Personnel section to await further orders. Service Company had moved to the banks of the ERA river. There were 241 replacements sent forward and assigned to companies within the Regiment.

JULY 14 - The attack was resumed before daylight and continued throughout the day. Opposition was sporadic and an advance of over 2 miles was completed. The Regimental CP received a direct hit from enemy artillery but no damage was done to personnel or equipment.

JULY 15 - An artillery barrage started this days attack at 0500 and the advance progressed steadily against strong opposition. The 1st and 2nd Bns were the forward elements while the 3rd Bn followed and protected the right flank. The Regimental CP was struck by enemy artillery killing 3 enlisted men and slightly wounding Lt. Col. COCHRAN, Regimental Executive Officer, who continued with his duties. Seven Officer replacements joined the regiment during the day and were sent forward to join the units to which assigned. After dark the 2nd Bn was relieved by the 3rd Bn, placing the 2nd Bn in reserve.

JULY 16 - The attack started at 0300 with the 1st and 3rd Bns as the attack echelon with the 1st Bn on the left. Close support was provided by B Company of the 760th Tank Battalion. Objectives were rapidly taken against strong enemy resistance although enemy artillery fire was less effective than in previous attacks. Upon

HISTORY (Cont'd)

reaching their objectives the troops dug in to hold their ground and await the coming up of flank units. Small reconnaissance patrols were sent forward to maintain close contact with the enemy. Numerous changes were effected within the Officer personnel of the Regiment. Three Officer and 149 enlisted replacements joined the Regiment and were assigned to units.

JULY 17 - The attack was continued at daylight with all elements taking their objectives. The villas of TONDA and TIGNAMIRA were taken by E Company. Enemy air attacks were made on E Company with no casualties or damage resulting. The Division Reconnaissance troop was holding ground just west of CASTELFAIFI but unable to advance because of enemy mines. Lt. Col. COLEMAN was relieved from command of the 3rd Bn which was taken over by Lt. Col. COCHRAN, Regimental Exec.

JULY 18 - The advance continued at 0400 against heavy small arms and mortar fire. The 3rd Bn struck a mine field and suffered a number of casualties. The 2nd Bn was attached to the RAMEY Force which was operating on the right flank while the 1st Bn, 349th Infantry was on the left. Extremely thick minefields were encountered and "Schm" mines were employed extensively by the enemy. The enemy was striving to delay the advance by extensive use of demolitions to destroy bridges and render the narrow paths impassable. The Engineers and Anti Tank Company did excellent work in removing mines and making trails possible.

JULY 19-21 - During these days the Regiment remained in the same area, improving their positions and getting a much needed rest. The 1st Bn was now in the vicinity of BALCONEVISI and the 3rd Bn was near PORTICHINO while the 2nd Bn was still attached to the Ramey force. Strong reconnaissance patrols were sent out, security established and preparations made for continued advance. The Regimental CP was now in LEGOLI.

JULY 22 - At 2000 on this day the 1st and 3rd Bns moved forward about 2000 yards, on new objectives, without incident. The Regimental CP was moved to BARBIALIA and Lt. Col. COCHRAN resumed his duties as Regimental Executive Officer. Major CRESKOVICH, Regimental S-4, was designated 1st Bn Executive Officer and Capt. HOUCK was appointed S-4.

JULY 23 - The positions of the 1st and 3rd Bns were consolidated while the 2nd Bn remained with the RAMEY Force. Orders were to hold the present ground and not advance unless directed by higher Headquarters. Patrols were sent out from the forward Bns to maintain close observation upon enemy dispositions.

JULY 24-31 - The positions remained the same except the 2nd Bn, being relieved from the RAMEY Force by the 6th Bengal Lancers, was returned to Regimental control. July 24 active operations for this phase ended while the Regiment remained in position and prepared to move to a bivouac area in the vicinity of SAN VIVALDO and CALIFORNIA. This move was accomplished on the nights of July 29-30 and July 30-31.

From the start of the drive on 8 July 44 the 350th Infantry fought more than fifteen miles across rugged, hilly terrain in which the enemy frequently held dominant observation features. The Regiment encountered heavy artillery and mortar fire, thick mine fields and strongly held delaying positions but proved again its capacity to overcome these obstacles and complete its mission on schedule.

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

HISTORY (Cont'd)

Communication facilities were unexcelled. One hundred miles of wire was laid and maintained so that all units had telephone communication whenever needed. Radio was also available to units within the Regiment and to higher echelons.

PERSONNEL SUMMARY

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed in action during this operation	6	140	146
Wounded in Action	32	540	572
Injured	1	111	112
Sick	21	444	465

Replacements Received:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
July 10		150
July 12	1	120
July 13		98
July 15	7	114
July 21		27
July 23		41
July 25	16	82
July 30	17	150
	<u>41</u>	<u>782</u>

Prisoners (approximately) 265.
 Enemy dead (approximately) 110.

J. C. Fry
 J. C. FRY
 COLONEL, Infantry
 Commanding

NOTES ON MOVEMENT

IP: 145073

ROUTE TO IP: Hwy 1B to 168030, then Hwy 1 to IP.

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3	2nd Bn	35 - Org	1815	1840	
4	Cannon Co	19 - Org	1855	1920	
5	AT Co	20 - Org	1950	2015	
6	350th Kitch.	19 - Org	2150	2210	Ass. Ser. Co. 2130
7	338 FA			2250	
8	338 FA			2330	
9	338 FA			0010	
10	Hqs Co		0055	0120	Hqs. Pers. Med.
11	Co B, Eng		0135	0200	
12	Co B, Med		0210	0240	
13	3rd Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0255	0320	
14	1st Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0350	0415	
15	2nd Bn	35 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0430	0455	
16	Ser. Co	20 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0510	0535	Ser. Co. & replacements

1. Light line - blackout as directed by MP's.
2. Speed lead vehicle each group - 20 MPH.
3. Distance between vehicles - 50 yds.
4. Guides meet units via. POMARANCA.
5. Convoy # 5A -N-819

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C O N F I D E N T I A LAuthority NM 7350P7
By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00HEADQUARTERS 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 88

2 July 1944.

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

NO.

51

COMPOSITION OF BATTALION MOUNTAIN COMBAT TEAMS

1. The standard organization of Battalion Mountain Combat Teams within the division will normally be as follows:

- 1 battalion of Infantry.
- 1 battery of Pack Artillery with mule detachment from Pack Artillery Service Battery.
- 1 company chemical mortars with pack mules.
- Personnel from AT and Cn Cos as required by the situation to protect routes of supply, escort supply trains and assist in carrying supplies.
- Medical personnel including litter bearers from regimental Collecting Company in number required by the situation.
- Porters and pack mules--size of detachments to be determined by number available and the situation.

2. No engineers will be attached to the battalion combat teams. The Engineer Battalion will support the mountain operations by opening trails, constructing bridges, etc., and detachments can be made available for special missions as required by the combat teams.

3. The heavy weapons companies will carry light machine-guns as a substitute for the heavies and two 81-mm mortars instead of six. Rifle companies will carry only two 60-mm mortars each--the extra mortar crews to be used to carry additional ammunition.

4. The battalion headquarters anti-tank platoon will be employed in its primary role just as long as possible. By so doing, it can assist the advance with direct fire on pillboxes and bunkers. When it is no longer feasible to move the AT guns, the personnel of the anti-tank platoon will be used to mark the trails followed by the battalion and to furnish guards for radio relay posts.

SLOAN,
C.G.

OFFICIAL:

/s/ Davidson
/t/ DAVIDSON
G-3.A TRUE COPY:HERMAN R. YEZAK
1st Lt., Inf.

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Authority NMD 7350P7By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMYHISTORICAL NARRATIVE, AUGUST 1944August 1st to August 20th:

During this period the 350th Infantry Regiment was bivouaced approximately two and one half miles northeast of the village of Villamagna, Italy, undergoing strenuous training to mold new replacements into the Regimental structure and to prepare for further active operations against the enemy. Division directives prescribed training in River crossing with a view of being ready to cross the formidable Arno River. Every available minute was utilized to good advantage to teach each individual his particular role in the coming attack.

The regiment was handicapped in its training as there were no streams, rivers, or lakes in the proximity of our bivouac area. However, excellent results were accomplished with the terrain at hand. At this time the morale of the troops was excellent and they were looking forward to training once again. Arrangements were immediately started to secure showers and clean clothing for the troops. The terrain could be described as gently-rolling with small villages always capping the ridges and peaks; the ridge lines were well in contrast to the numerous sharp gullies and small valleys; most of the ground was barren, spotted here and there by vegetation consisting of olive groves, vineyards, and small patches of trees which usually followed the intermittent stream beds.

On Tuesday, 1 August, a school was given for all officers and non-commissioned officers by each separate battalion to indoctrinate the principle of a river crossing into the key leaders of the Regiment, so that in turn, they would be able to instruct the men in the training that followed.

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To assist in the instruction were the officers and men Engineers and an attached unit of the 19th Engineers, II Corps troops. Also on hand were Artillery and Cannon Company, Tank, and T.D. Liaison officers who were valuable for their part of the instruction.

Training was started at 0700 and continued until 1530 with two hours instruction in the evening from 1830 to 2030 hours. In regards to the training, the following points were emphasized: Display of Equipment, Reconnaissance, Site Selection, Bridges used in Crossings, German defense of a River line, and Operations of Special Units in crossing rivers.

On Wednesday, 2 August, 1944, training started at 0700 hours. All instruction was handled by officers and key non-commissioned officers who attended the school held for them the day before. Colonel J. C. FRY, the Regimental Commander, visited each battalion and to the assembled officers, summarized the tactical situation and events known up to that time concerning the river crossing. Four hours were spent on the following three points: Principle of River Crossing, Display of River Crossing Means and the M-2 Assault Boat; after this preliminary work, formations were rehearsed for four hours. Training ceased at 1600 hours.

August 3rd, 4th, and 5th:

During these three days, the river crossing training was continued with emphasis placed on individuals and assault waves actually crossing the river by use of hand lines over fiords, foot bridges, and assault boats. The Regimental communications platoon made plans and prepared to have a wire team cross the river with each battalion and meet at a previously designated place, from where the battalions could carry their wire forward. Means of waterproofing and carrying radios and equipment were worked out in addition to the other technical training.

On the night of 4 August, each battalion conducted the crossing of a river at night. Since no streams were to be found in our area, suitable terrain was selected so as to provide a steep valley to simulate the actual river site. Stress was placed on the selection of assembly areas, routes selected to the river site, formations, noise, and the ability of small unit commanders to select their objectives in darkness. The following morning of 5th August was devoted to care and cleaning of weapons, with a critique held in the afternoon on the previous week's training. All battalion problems were held in each battalion's respective areas.

On Sunday morning, 6 August 1944, a colorful ceremony was given for the presentation of awards won on the field of battle. The Regiment was formed at 0850 in an open field at 498418 (Ref: map: 1/50,000, Palaia, Italy - Sheet 112-1). Brigadier General KURTZ was present to represent the Division Commander. Beginning at 0900, Colonel J. C. FRY gave a twenty-five minute resume of world events up to the present. Colonel FRY then introduced General KURTZ, who expressed his pleasure to present the Legion of Merit and Silver Star medals won in combat. With two ranks facing the speaker's stand, General KURTZ presented the Legion of Merit to Olegardas Kiendania, 1st Sgt. of Company "A" and nineteen Silver Stars to the following men: Lt. Col. WALTER E. BARE, Jr., Lt. Col. CORBETT WILLIAMSON, T/Sgt. Hurshel Kidd, Sgt. Francis C. Consalves, Cpl. George Duffy, T/5 Herbert C. Salisbury, Pfc. Edward J. Gallant, Pfc. King Lee, Pfc. Clyde Manly, Pfc. George F. Purvis, Pvt. Joseph Annicchiarico, and Pvt. Owen Sanderlin.

The following named men also received Silver Stars but were hospitalized: T/Sgt. Sam Mayo, T/Sgt. Richard J. Neely, and Pfc. Ralph P. Gorbin,

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S/Sgt. Everett Sowden also received the Silver Star, but rotation. The following named men received Silver Stars posthumously: E/Sgt. Harry E. Ricketts, S/Sgt. Raymond W. Grass, and Pfc. Ferdinand Rodrigue. All in all, the 88th Division awarded fifty-three Silver Stars with the 350th Infantry receiving nineteen of them.

After this was finished, Colonel FRY presented the Soldier's Medal and forty-three Bronze Stars. This Regiment received forty-three Bronze Stars out of the Division total of eighty-three. Men receiving the Bronze Stars are listed on a roster that supports this narrative.

Following the presentation of awards, Religious Services were held in their respective areas. An extremely large attendance was had at all services.

August 7th to August 15th:

Battalion Commanders were allotted the first three days of this period to conduct their own problems to enable them to point out the weaknesses of their units, and in turn, to permit the smaller group leaders to become acquainted with the new replacements. All battalions conducted the remainder of their training in their respective areas. On 8 August, an instruction bulletin was distributed to all battalion commanders concerning pack animal transport and detailed information was given and explained. Our regiment has a pack mule company consisting of four sections of sixty mules each section divided into four squads of fifteen mules. During mountain operations these sections will operate with battalion S-4's and will carry supplies from the truck or jeep head to the battalion mule head. On 9 August, Colonel J. C. FRY sent a memorandum to all battalion and company commanders, with the final distribution to be given to each platoon leader.

This memorandum stressed the quality and type of instruction in the teaching of combat principles to platoons and squads. It was pointed out that instructors cannot be too energetic or enthusiastic. Among other things the

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following five points were clearly emphasized: Courage a
fire and movement, terrain, small problems and formations.

Reconnaissance of forward areas overlooking the Arno River began on August 7th and continued through the eleventh. Colonel J. C. FRY, his staff officers and Battalion commanders took part and were able to see their allotted areas; a bivouac area was assigned and a definite sector was shown for the expected crossing site. At this particular time, a New Zealand Division was occupying the sector and our reconnaissance group maintained close contact with them: our men accompanied several New Zealand patrols to actually see their sector, the routes leading to the river and to inspect the river site itself. It was found that the river reached a depth of only two and one half feet and in many places, could easily be crossed without hindrance. As photographs previously showed, the north bank was quite steep and high, throughout its entire length. The Regimental Communications Officer and his wiremen succeeded in laying wire and making some preparations for the coming attack.

During this period the Special Service Officer presented moving pictures each night to the combat team and was successful in obtaining two delightful stage shows--one, being the famed "Stars and Gripes" presentation by the Fifth Army Special Service. On the 10th of August the entire Regiment was swamped with a driving rain and little training was carried on. Training was resumed the following day with small unit problems but only until 1500 when the work ceased in order to conduct a night exercise at 2300. All battalions participated in the cross country movement (see overlay) covering a distance of three miles; the first phase consisted of a relatively short advance by all platoons in order that as many people as possible be trained in maintaining direction and contact with adjacent units at night. When the first objective was reached, companies continued to advance in company column and upon arrival at their objective, troops prepared defensive positions to await an attack.

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The following morning was devoted to a critique of the lesson and in care and cleaning of weapons: also a check was made to insure that all men were ready for combat. The same days training memorandum was distributed by division explaining that the regiment would have time for additional training in this area and included points to be stressed in the following week. To round out the day, all men were given showers according to a planned schedule. The following morning, Sunday 13 August, religious services were held for the entire regiment with the rest of the day allotted to relaxation.

August 15th to August 20th:

An exciting and interesting comparative contest was held 15 August 1944, to determine by comparative scores, the outstanding companies in the firing of the rifle, machine gun and pistol. Each battalion staged their contest on the same range; all heavy weapons companies furnished each rifle company one section of heavy machine guns to lend additional support to the firing. To add interest to the contest, each man volunteered to contribute fifty cents to a fund, so that the winning organization would be entitled to a sizeable prize; this prize amounted to \$936.00. After the tabulation of the final results, it was found that Company "B", commanded by Captain FLOYD A. HANCOCK, had taken the prize with a total score of one thousand and six; following closely, in second place, was Company "L" with their total score showing one thousand and five--one point short of the winner. Those companies receiving a score of nine hundred or better follow in order of results: Company "K" - nine hundred and fifty-six; Company "E" - nine hundred and forty-six; Company "K" - nine hundred and thirty-nine and Company "C" with a score of nine hundred and five. As a reward for finishing in second place, Company "L" was given one day free time and transported to the beach for swimming. In the percentage of hits each battalion received out of a possible forty-six

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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

hundred and eighty, the third battalion took first honor
eight-tenths percent; the first battalion was in second place with seventeen
and two-tenths percent and the second battalion followed with seventeen and
two-tenths percent.

On fifteen August, the regiment was engaged in a day and night problem
that began at seven hundred hours, continued through the night and finished
at fifteen hundred hours the following day. The battalions left their areas
in the approach march and entered their forward assembly areas at eleven
thirty hours (see overlay) prepared to attack southwest and obtain the high
ground to their front. Jumping off into the attack at fourteen hundred hours,
the regiment secured its' objective and immediately went into defensive pos-
itions for the night. To the rear, the supplies were being transported by
mule and food was brought to the troops at dusk. The following morning, the
regiment attacked over the same ground, except this time, the direction of
attack was northeast. After arriving at their objectives, the battalions had
lunch, which had been issued the night previous, and then returned to their
bivouac areas by fifteen hundred hours. Immediately following the march, a
foot inspection was held to determine the condition of the men's feet; the
remainder of the day was spent in care and cleaning of equipment. That even-
ing a delightful party was held by the third battalion officers in Castelalfi,
Italy, with Colonel MCBRIDE, the division chief of staff, the honored guest.

On seventeen August, the regiment was formed in the Special Service
theater to hear an interesting lecture, by an officer from the Counter-Intel-
ligence Corps, on the importance of security measures in combating the enemy
espionage system. In the afternoon, the battalions resumed their training with
the direct support of tanks, which were attached for this training. At the
same time, regimental special units engaged in a competitive marksmanship
contest to determine their ability to fire individual weapons. That evening,

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the officers of the second battalion joined together for a party and enjoyed a pleasant evening at Castelfalfi. The regimental commander, Colonel J. C. FRY, was present for the occasion: the party ended with everyone enjoying the evening.

Through 18 and 19 August, the first and second battalions completed their combined tank-infantry training by running platoon and squad problems, as the third battalion continued training in the use of all weapons. Most of the 19th of August was devoted to showers and care and cleaning of equipment. For the third successive night, another battalion, the first, enjoyed their initial party in the area, holding it at Castelfalfi. Sandwiches and cocktails were available along with music for dancing while group singing was heard throughout the entire evening. Three commanders were present and participated in the fun; General KENDALL, General KURTZ and Colonel J. C. FRY.

A day of rest was had by the regiment on twenty August with religious services held throughout the day. At nine thirty hours a quartering party consisting of the regimental S-3, the battalion commanders and a non-commissioned officer from each unit, left for the vicinity of Leghorn to select new bivouac areas. A march order was made (see supporting papers) concerning the movement of Combat Team #2 and the regiment prepared to leave early the next morning. Captain MOREY assumed his new duties as regimental S-1. Throughout the day, seven hundred and twenty-five men of the regiment were taken to the beach for swimming and sun bathing.

The following morning, the combat team started moving with the first group leaving at two thirty hours. The road followed was sixty miles long and quite dusty, but the convoy arrived on time, in orderly fashion and with no accidents; the last group closed into the new bivouac area at twelve-thirty hours. While in this area, the regiment operated as a combat team in Fifth

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Army Reserve with attached units with us; this comprised Combat Team # 2, During our stay in this area, one battalion, motorized, was held in readiness for employment on two hours notice; the "alert" period for battalions was a twenty-four hour tour--from 0501 to 0600; personnel checks were made at Beveille, 1300, 1700, and 2130. While in this area, all troops received four hours training and four hours of swimming and supervised athletics daily. The regimental transportation officers furnished trucks to carry all swimming parties to the beach, as jeeps were restricted for this purpose. All personnel returned from the beach by 2130 each afternoon.

Drill days started at 0730 with training for 29 August, optional.

Immediately after arriving in this area, work began on a club for officers and also an enlisted men's club; two fine villas were secured on the beach at Ardenza, a small suburb just south of Leghorn. Drinks were served, Italian orchestras were hired and arrangements made to serve sandwiches. After an amazingly short time, these clubs were operating and afforded a place of entertainment and rest that was enjoyed by all. To reach the clubs from the bivouac area it was necessary to drive south on highway No. 1 to Via Americus Vespucci (032416) then southwest to the beach vicinity (036410) (see map).

August 22nd to August 31st:

A training schedule was distributed on 22 August covering the hours and subjects to be taken up by the battalions for the following seven days. Emphasis was placed on training of the individual soldier and finally developed into squad and platoon problems being presented before a selected group of officers who acted as judges; squad and platoon problems were started on 28 August and continued until the last squad and platoon had finished the course. To facilitate the final scoring, score sheets were used in an effective manner.

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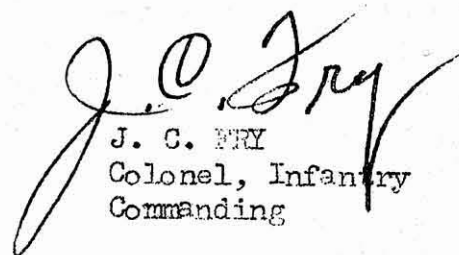
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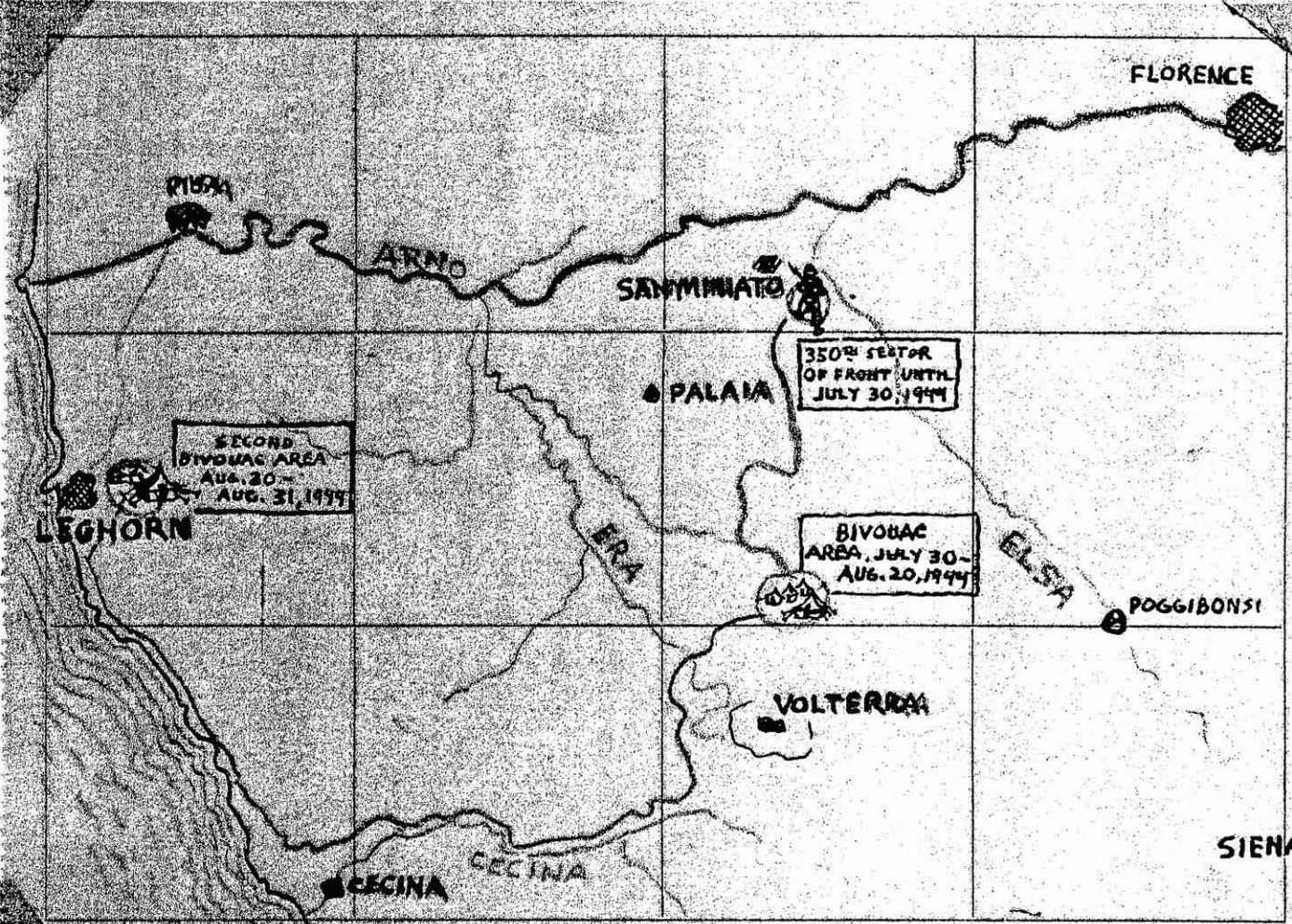
on 28 August, a training schedule was distributed for the
31 August consisting of company marches and battalion night problems.

Through these last eight days organized athletics developed morale to its highest state, as schedules were played and a great competitive spirit was noted. Each battalion appointed its own athletic's officer who directed the extensive playing; along with athletics, swimming was enjoyed by all as opportunities were afforded to go to the beach.

The close of the month finds the health and morale of the troops at a very high level. All personnel of this regiment are again looking forward to closing with the enemy and hastening the termination of the war in Europe.


J. C. FRY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00



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A CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH OF OUR MOVEMENT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1944

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Authority NMD 7350P7By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, SEPTEMBER 1944September 1st to September 7th:

The regiment, at this time, was still bivouaced in the area approximately two and one-half miles east of Livorno, Italy, (see map) and was pursuing a program of small unit training, including company and battalion problems with special emphasis on conduct of combat in mountainous terrain. On 1 September, platoon problems were continued throughout the day. In the late afternoon a Minstrel Show was presented to the enlisted men at their club on the beach at Ardenza and was an outstanding success. During the afternoon of 2 September, Colonel J. C. FRY, the regimental commander, held a meeting of all battalion, company and special unit commanders to instruct them in a plan of streamlining their battalions for the anticipated mountain operations. It was emphasized that all excess equipment and personnel were to be left behind and a detailed plan was made for the employment of the heavy weapons companies. In addition, each special unit commander was consulted and all problems were discussed concerning tactical deployment of their units and their supply in the mountains. Brigadier General KURTZ visited Colonel FRY at 1830 hours. As the regiment was held in Corps Reserve at this time, one battalion was always maintained on a twenty-four hour alert to be able to move for any emergency in two hours, followed by the remainder of the regiment in eight hours. Services were held on Sunday, 3 September, with all battalions represented by an exceptionally large attendance and the remainder of the day was devoted to relaxation, including swimming and sun bathing at the beach.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

CANCELLED- 1
OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

Battalion problems were started on 4 September, consisting of the Battalion entering the assembly area advancing to the line of departure and then driving the enemy from the high ground in the vicinity of Volle Bende-datta (see overlay). The first battalion ran through the problem from 0700 hours to 1200 hours with the second battalion doing likewise from 1300 hours to 1800 hours. Lt. Col COCHRAN, the Regimental Executive Officer, was in charge of the problem with Major COLLIER, Regimental S-2, in charge of the enemy detail which was furnished by the Anti-Tank Company. Colonel J. C. FRY inspected the problems throughout the day and was well pleased with the performance of the battalions. The following morning, 5 September, the third battalion conducted their exercise. Colonel FRY received Brigadier General PAUL KENDALL, Commanding General of the Division, at the 338th Field Artillery airstrip and both commanders observed the third battalion in its field problem. In the afternoon, Colonel J. C. FRY presented awards to the first battalion at 1330 hours, the second battalion at 1400 hours, and the third battalion at 1500 hours with the following officers and men receiving Silver Stars: Captain STERLING A. BORQUEST, 1st Bn. Hq; 1st Lt. LEONARD S. HEBEL, Company "L"; S/Sgt William J. Wagner (posthumously), Company "G"; T/Sgt John R. Bakalian, Company "G", (in hospital in U.S.A.). The following officers and men were presented Bronze Stars by the Regimental Commander: Major MIKE J. ORESKOVICH, 2nd Bn. Hq; 1st Lt. WALTER W. SCOTT, Company "B"; 1st Lt. LOREN F. BRYSON, 2nd Bn. Hq.; 1st Lt. LAWRENCE H. DYKERS, Company "G"; Captain DALE H. GRIFFIN, Company "K" (hospital); S/Sgt John Cogan, Company "E"; Pfc Charles E. Martz, Company "E"; Pfc Leon J. Tremblay, Company "E"; S/Sgt Samuel Visconti, Company "F"; Pfc Edward T. Owens, Company "L"; Sgt Joseph E. Boise, Company "L"; Pvt Sammy L. Taylor, Company "M"; S/Sgt Walter W. Schoeneman, Medical Detachment; T/5 Norman F. Hoefling, Medi-

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cal Detachment, T/5 Chester Kerscke, Medical Detachment; Pvt Carl Kennedy (hospital), Medical Detachment; Pvt John F. Walker, Medical Detachment; and Pvt Francis X. Maher. Preceding the presentations, Captain J. V. MOREY, Regimental S-1, read the citations concerning each man which was followed by a short address by Colonel FRY praising the men who actually received the awards and at the same time lauding the remainder of the men who have participated in the past operations and performed their duties in an outstanding manner. After the ceremonies, the battalions were marched from the field by their respective battalion commanders and continued their training for the remainder of the day.

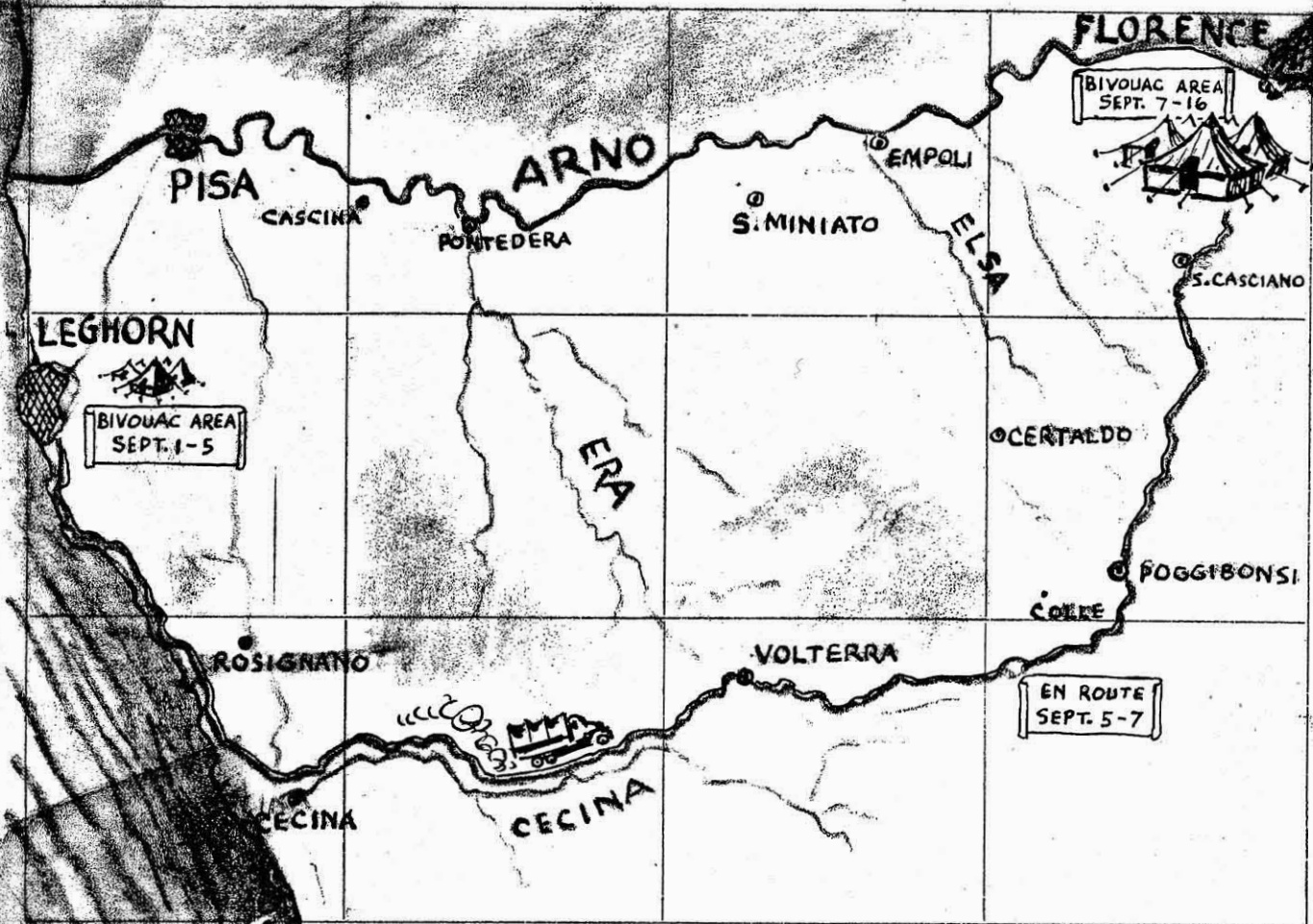
Later the same evening, Colonel FRY received a verbal order to move the Regiment just west of Galluzzo, Italy, to rejoin the Division, which was bivouacing approximately three miles southwest of Florence, Italy. Immediately plans were made to move and the following morning, 6 September, the third battalion started their move at 0900 hours, followed by the second battalion. Regimental Headquarters left Leghorn at 1150 and arrived in the new area in a driving rain at 2030 hours. Special Units and the first battalion did not leave until the following day. On 7 September, the new area was not considered suitable and the Regiment moved into another area (see overlays and supporting papers) at 0700 hours. The weather was extremely bad, consisting of a driving rain and a strong wind. All in all, in the exchange of areas from Leghorn to the vicinity of Florence, the Regiment covered a distance of ninety-eight miles. Brigadier General PAUL W. KENDALL, the Commanding General, visited Colonel FRY at 1630 hours to inspect our area and to accept the Regiment once more under division control. Soon thereafter, the remainder of the Regiment, Special Units, and the first battalion closed into the area; Anti-Tank

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arriving at 1600; Cannon Company at 1630 hours; and finally the first battalion moving in to close the Regiment at 1700 hours.

September 8th to September 16th:

Following the hard rains of the previous day, 8 September enabled the entire Regiment to dry all blankets and equipment, clean weapons, and to improve the bivouac site itself. During this process General KENDALL and General RAMEY, new assistant divisional commander, visited the Regimental area, and conducted an inspection throughout the battalion areas and were well pleased with general orderliness and efficiency of the site, even under the difficult terrain. In the afternoon, starting at 1530 hours, Colonel J. C. FRY held a meeting of all battalion commanders, their executive officers, and their S-3's, and discussed plans concerning the future operations of the Regiment. In conjunction with this, Colonel FRY issued a memorandum to battalion and company commanders which stressed their responsibility in keeping their commands suitably organized, equipped, alerted and in keeping the men enthusiastic toward closing with the enemy. Physical training and a full field inspection occupied all of Saturday, 9 September. All of the morning was dedicated to preparing and getting arranged for the inspection which took place during the hour before lunch and was supervised by Colonel J. C. FRY, assisted by the Regimental Staff. In addition to regular training being carried out in the afternoon, Regimental Headquarters Company held a short but interesting presentation of awards. Colonel J. C. FRY presented the Silver Star to Captain M. Q. DAVIS and the Bronze Star to Staff Sergeant James V. Gaut as the company looked on. These awards were presented at this time as the men to be presented were absent at the time of the previous presentation. Sunday, 10 September saw the Regiment engaged in religious activities on the Sabbath, which

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resulted in an increased attendance over the previous Sunday and was in keeping with the constant rise of attendance over the last six months period.

The Regiment continued its small unit training on 11 September with the usual vigor and enthusiasm as everyone realized that the coming operations would test their ability, resourcefulness, stamina and courage to the fullest extent. As the area was still frightfully muddy and all equipment, personal and organizational, continued to be mired down, all possible efforts were made to correct these conditions and the results were soon seen in the general orderliness and cleanliness of the bivouac site. Because of the road network it was not possible to use two-way traffic as all trails were extremely narrow and immediately a plan was executed to use all roads to the maximum extent regarding one-way traffic. To insure the efficient movement of transportation, a force of special Regimental police were constituted from the I and R Platoon; these people were stationed at all congested and hazardous points and materially assisted in the operations of all in and outgoing traffic. (For the location of each unit in the entire Regiment, see overlay in the map section). Word was received during the morning of 11 September that Lt. General MARK W. CLARK, Commanding General of the 5th Army, was in the vicinity, and the entire Regiment was alert and anxious to be inspected by the Army Commander. General KENDALL, the Division Commander, visited Colonel FREY at ten hundred hours. Reconnaissance of forward areas began on the morning of 12 September as a party from the Regiment reported to the 91st Division C.P. for orders and instructions. Those in the reconnaissance group were Lt. Col. COCHRAN, the Regimental Executive Officer,

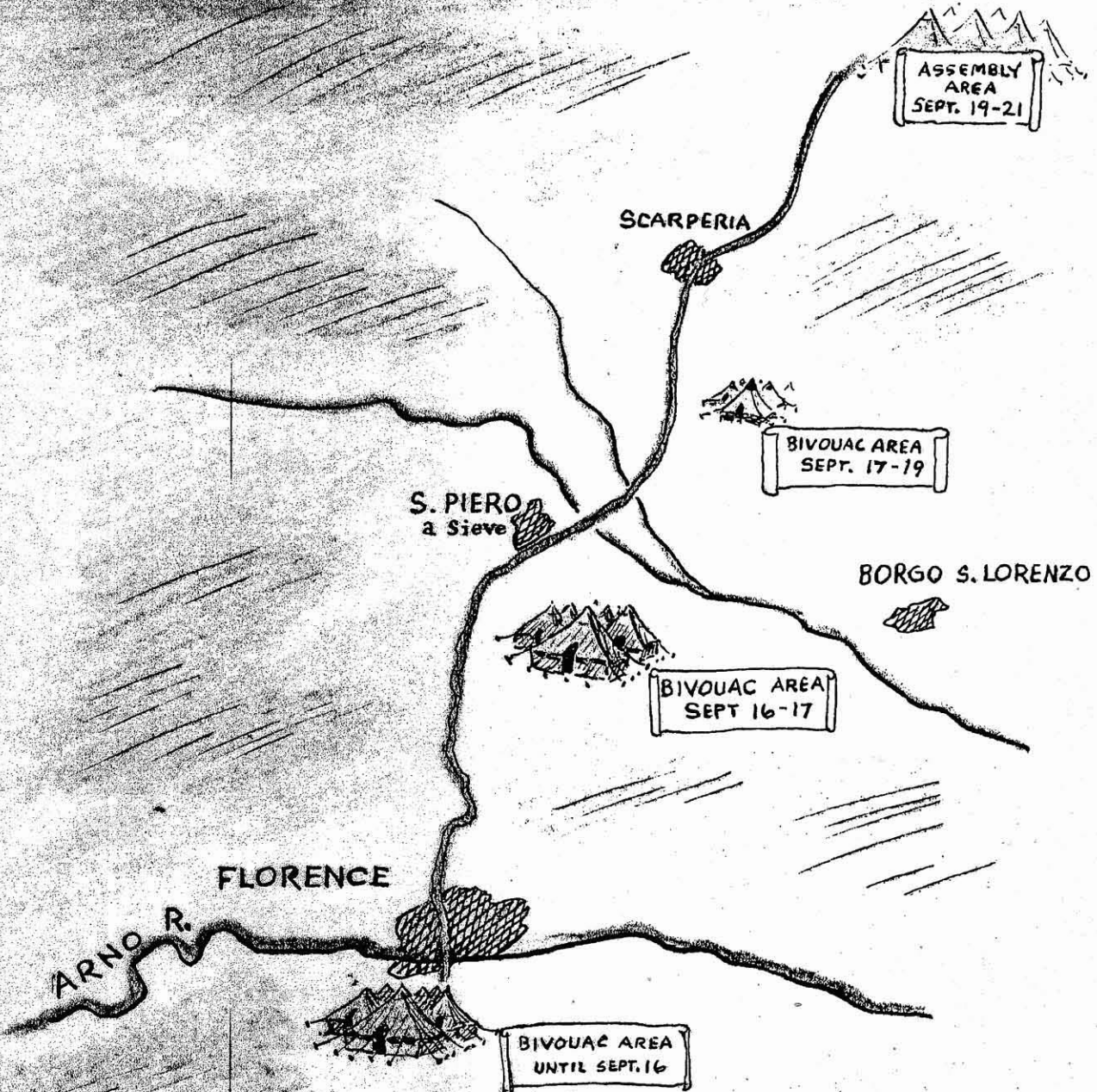
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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

POPE, the I and R Platoon Leader. During the morning the Regiment was engaged in cross country marches with the emphasis on platoon training in the afternoon. The Assistant Division Commander, General RAMEY, visited the Regiment in the morning. As training progressed, emphasis was placed on the preparation of each individual unit for the combat operations in the future and every effort was made to insure that the maximum efficiency of every individual could be counted upon.

The highlight of the day, 13 September, was marked by a forty-five minute talk given by Colonel FRY to Company "A" which was followed by a similar talk given to Company "C"; the purpose of these discussions is to let the men become better acquainted with their Regimental Commander and to know his qualifications and experiences. Training for the day consisted of close order drill, extended order drill, bayonet training, cover and concealment, target designation, and fire distribution. Lt. Col. WALKER, G-2, visited the Regiment at noon. Reconnaissance of the forward areas continued on 14 September as Colonel J. C. FRY, Major COLLIER, Major WITTER, Captain RITTS, Captain KING, and Lt. BRYSON left the area at 0830 to move to the 91st Division C.P. so that information of the area could be obtained and plans could be formulated. Because the Regiment was bivouaced in the proximity of FLORENCE, a certain percent of each company was permitted to go on pass and purchase souvenirs, and also to see the city itself. In the following day, 15 September, all units stressed individual training with cover and concealment, physical training, extended order drill, and then conducted squad problems. General KENDALL, the Commanding General, visited the C.P. at 1100 hours. At 2100 the 1st Bn engaged in a battalion problem

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which was held for the purpose of giving the platoons additional training in map work and compass reading with the battalion returning at 0300 the following morning. This day, 16 September, saw the Regiment moving again. After the units carried out the normal day's training, with the 1st Bn having supervised rest after their night problem, Colonel FRY, after a trip to the Division C.P., issued a verbal order to move the Regiment to the vicinity of .SAN PIERO A. SIEVE, Italy. It was anticipated that another move closer to the lines would be necessary as the Division was expecting to commit the Regiment under the control of the 85th Division. Arrangements were immediately made and a march order, by Major COLLIER, (see supporting papers) was printed and distributed.

Service Company was the first unit to move, crossing the I.P. (766647 - See 1/25,000, Impruneta map) at twenty-ten hours arriving at the new bivouac site, a distance of twenty-one miles, at twenty-three hundred hours. The convoy was permitted to travel with lights until it reached the light line, which was a considerable distance north of FLORENCE. This greatly facilitated the movement of the combat team; it was completed with the 338th F.A. closing in the area at 0345 hours the following morning.

September 17th-20th:

This day, Sunday 17 September, was again devoted to completing the bivouac site and getting things in order. However, the Sabbath Services were not interfered with and the men were free to attend, with an outstanding number doing so. Throughout the day, a great deal of activity took place around the Regimental Command Post with General KENDALL, Division Commander, and General RAMEY present a great part of the day. Later that day, at fifteen hundred hours, Colonel FRY received a directive from Division (see supporting papers) which read in part as follows:

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"350 CT will reconnoiter immediately an assembly area in rear of 337 or 339 Inf in 85 Div zone as far N of Sieve R as practicable and RCT will move under cover of darkness night of 17-18 Sept to area selected.

Assembly areas will be cleared with CG 85 Div and this Hq. Be prepared to pass through elements of 337 and 339 Inf and launch atk prior to daylight 19 Sept". Immediately a quartering party was dispatched and a new area was selected two and one half miles northwest of BORGIO SAN LORENZO, Italy with the Regimental Command Post established in the village of ROMANELLI. Due to the lack of time, a verbal order was issued by Major MELCHER, the Regimental S-3, moving the Regiment to the new site with Cannon Co crossing the I.P. (844884) (S. Piero A. Sieve map) at 1945.

The 3rd Battalion foot elements left at 2015 with the last unit, Company "B" Medics, leaving the area at 2215. All foot elements marched to their areas covering eight and one-half miles. With the possibility that the Regiment was to be committed soon, it became necessary on 18 September to reconnoiter the road net behind the 337 and 339 Infantry and also to their flanks in order to facilitate the efficient movement of the Regiment wherever it was required to go. To accomplish this mission, four separate parties were dispatched: Lt. POPE, I and R Platoon Leader, represented the Infantry Regiment, and a reconnaissance party each of Engineers, Medics, and Artillery. In conjunction with this, representatives were sent to the two leading battalions of the 337 Inf. and 339 Inf. so the Regiment would have guides and full knowledge of the terrain as it moved into the line. General NAMEY visited the C.P. at 0900 followed by General KENDALL at 1350. The last unit of the Regiment to move into the new site was Anti Tank Company and closed the Regiment officially at 1400. The 19th of September found the Regiment still awaiting movement

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Special Unit Commanders to issue instructions for the movement of the Regiment, which he had just received. General RAMEY joined the discussion at 1345. It was decided that the Regiment was to move to an assembly area just north of ALTUZZO Ridge (910980, Firenzuola map 1/100,000) and to prepare to cross the line of departure at 0500 on 21 September. Immediately, Captain MORLEY, Regimental S-1, led the quartering party to the vicinity of BARCO, Italy (917999, same map) to prepare bivouac sites. The Regiment started its move at 1800 crossing the I.P. at 893923 (Borgo S. Lorenzo map) with the battalions moving in order of three, two, and one. Each battalion was allotted two jeeps and two trailers to accompany the troops to insure meals for the following day. Work was started by Service Company in building a new supply dump in the vicinity of the new area. All organic transportation was ordered to move the following day. The Command Group of the Regiment moved to the forward C.P. (907987, Firenzuola map) in order to push the coming operations. The mule trains were ordered forward to the new area; all liaison officers were accepted from the attached units and all preparations were made for the coming jump-off. Field Order No. 9 was received which stated that the Regiment would pass through the 337 Inf (at 946041, Palazzuolo map) and attack the following morning at 0500.

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COMBAT OPERATIONS

September 21st to September 30th

September 21st:

Precisely at 0500 the Regiment jumped off in the attack towards the north-east (see map 4) passing through the 337 Infantry of the 85th Division which held the high ground in the vicinity of 9404 (all of the references will be to map 4 in rear of map section). Up to this time, the 85th Division had been encountering stiff enemy resistance on every small knoll and it was expected that the Regiment would see fierce resistance, as the enemy apparently did not fall back as had earlier been anticipated.

The terrain in this part of Italy cannot be over-exaggerated. Actually, the fighting in this sector was narrowed down to who occupied and controlled the network of roads. In this case, the only roads accessible were entirely inadequate to insure the efficient and timely supply to modern fighting teams. This increased the difficulty of supply, due to the lack of roads, and in addition to the torturous terrain, made the fighting in these mountains extremely miserable and fatiguing. As the Regiment progressed in the attack, it was bounded on its right by the 66th Infantry Brigade of the 1st British Infantry Division, part of the British XIII Corps, and had the 349th Infantry as its supporting team on its left. As the advance continued, all of the surrounding terrain received sporadic but harassing artillery fire with FIRENZUOLA, the important road junction town in the valley three miles to the west, on the receiving end of concentrated and all too numerous artillery barrages. Colonel J. C. Fry, the Regimental Commander, had moved forward with his attacking battalions, establishing the rear command post in the small town of MOSCHETA (see map) to insure the efficient movement of supplies to the combat team. Colonel Cochran, the Regimental Executive Officer, whose experience in mountain

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The 12th Mule Pack Group was attached to the Regiment and was placed under the command of Lt. Remish, who was designated as mule officer. At this time, the weather remained about the same - a light mist falling which succeeded in keeping the ground slippery and muddy after the previous hard rains. This added to the difficulty of supplies as it delayed the mule trains in their trek through the mountains.

At 1415, Colonel Cochran received a message that the Regiment had reached the general vicinity of the 07 Northing and had occupied M. DEL FABBIO (998069) with very little resistance encountered. The supply problem at this time was increasing by leaps and bounds. The main supply route, the FLORENCE-FIRENZUOLA Highway (No. 6524), being the only main road for this sector, was crammed with every kind of transportation available. The only additional supply route was a small one-way trail, widened by bulldozers, which joined the main highway in the vicinity of the village of CASANOVA and followed a high ridge, at that time under direct observation, down into the small town of MOSCHETA, where the mule trains and supply dumps were located. With all of these difficulties, the supply trains were dispatched on time and rations were on the way. A report from G-3 advised the Regiment that the British on the right had reached the high ground in the vicinity of the 02 Northing, which exposed the right flank for a distance of five thousand yards and made the Regiment's position extremely vulnerable from the front and to either flank.

As the day came to a close, the Regiment had pushed relentlessly forward until it had reached the 09 Northing. The Regiment was in position in a column of battalions with the 3rd Battalion at the most northerly point, occupying the large feature of M. BRUNO (988088); the 2nd Battalion holding M. DELLA CISTINA, one thousand yards to the southwest with the 1st Battalion protecting the supply lines by holding M. DEL FABBIO (985070) and Hill 932 (981061).

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entire 1st Battalion Command Post had been captured the previous night with the single exception of the Battalion S-2. Those captured were the 1st Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Walter E. Bare, Jr; the Executive Officer, Captain James Ritts; the S-3, Captain Borquist; Captain Murphy, the Artillery Liaison Officer; Lt. Ashcraft, Cannon Liaison Officer, Captain Romano; commanding "A" Company, and his Executive Officer, Lt. McCabe; and an unknown number of non-commissioned officers and men. The C.P. was established in a house at 980060 and was attacked by a group of enemy after dark. A fight ensued for thirty minutes with the enemy and our soldiers fighting from room to room. The Command Post, with its ammunition exhausted and being greatly outnumbered, surrendered and was marched to the enemy lines. For a complete report, see the complete description of the struggle in the I.P.W. Section given by an enemy prisoner of war who was present at the fighting. With the complete staff of the 1st Battalion captured, Major Mike Oreskovitch, then Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion, was called to the Regimental Command Post and placed in command of the battalion, with Captain Jones as his Executive Officer, who up to that time was Assistant Regimental S-2 and S-3. This day again saw the Regiment advancing to the northeast, pushing on and on. The British on the right were still five thousand yards to the rear and the Regiment on the left was also trailing three thousand yards. The 350th Infantry continued to be the spearhead of the entire 5th Army in its drive to the PO Valley. The mule trains were having a difficult time reaching the fast-moving battalions but the supplies were always received, not always on time as the torturous terrain slowed down movement to a great extent. As the Regiment advanced, it received considerable medium and heavy artillery fire from 90 degrees. At the same time, considerable enemy activity was observed in the town of PALLAZUOLA (in the British sector on right) and all possible counter battery artillery fire was thrown at known enemy positions. Still the enemy continued to throw artillery in this sector and it was believed that the

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enemy intended to strongly contest the ground. A few casualties were sustained by artillery fire but litter bearers were dispatched and the wounded cared for. Closing the activity for the day, the Regiment held the following positions: the 3rd Battalion had pushed one company to IL CASTELLO, Hill 792 (999108), which was the most northerly advance (to the 11 Northing) while the remainder of the battalion held the high ground 1500 yards to the rear, Hill 918 (997094); the 2nd Battalion moved to and occupied M. DELLA CISTINA (994083) and Hill 948, one thousand yards to its rear; the 1st Battalion occupied M. DEL FABBERO (985070) and Hill 932, one thousand yards behind M. FABBERO, and was protecting the supply routes for the Regiment.

September 23rd:

Word was received that the FIRENZUOLA-IMOLA road was clear to the 09 Northing and plans were made to move all the supply dumps, mule parks and Bear C.P. to the vicinity of SAN PELLEGRINO, Italy (940068) in order to facilitate the supply of the Regiment as it moved forward. General KENDALL informed Colonel Fry that he was to receive a detachment of dismounted tankers to occupy and protect the supply lines of the Regiment so that the entire combat team could be used in its attack to the northeast. Considerable enemy activity was seen on the PALAZZUOLA road (in the British sector) and planes were called to strafe the target. Forward observers with the leading elements observed a large group of enemy personnel and transports in the town of CASTEL DEL RIO and fighter bombers attacked this town at 1245 and caused a considerable amount of damage and casualties. Due to the fact that the Regiment's flanks were entirely exposed and its supply lines were so vulnerable, it was necessary to place one entire battalion on the high ground that had been taken in order to secure the mule trains and to insure the successful supply of the Regiment. The 1st Battalion was selected for this task and placed its units on the commanding ground

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battalions continued their attack. Enemy artillery was still extremely active throughout the Regimental sector. On the Regiment's left, the 349 Infantry was relieved by the 351 Infantry at 1800 with the line of departure at 965090 and attacked with two battalions abreast. At this time, part of the 3rd Battalion occupied M. DELLA CROCE, which was six thousand yards in advance of the unit on the left. Along with this, the XIII Corps on the right had not made any appreciable gains and were still bogged down on the O2 Northing, which resulted in the 350th Infantry still pushing forward without flank protection, and striving to reach and occupy M. CARNAVALE and M. BATTAGLIA, 5th Army objectives.

By last light, elements of the 3rd Battalion had knifed forward to seize and hold formidable M. DELLA CROCE, a rugged 712 foot mountain, which resulted in the farthest advanced unit in the entire 5th Army; the remaining units of the 3rd Battalion occupied M. IL CASTELLO (024113), and occupied M. MACCHIA DEI CAUI (021107), M. FAGGIOLA (015096) and Hill 1011 (009092). The 1st Battalion, had remained in its positions protecting the supply lines from O6 Northing to 10 Northing.

September 24th:

This day was marked by fierce enemy resistance, consisting of medium and heavy artillery, mortars, small arms, and strong counterattacks. The advance up to this point had been made chiefly against sporadic medium and heavy artillery fire but it was soon learned that the enemy was to resist with fanatical courage. The 3rd Battalion moved from its position on M. DELLA CROCE and attacked toward the strategic M. ACUTO, twelve hundred yards away. Immediately following its jumpoff, this battalion was fiercely counterattacked but repulsed the assault. Again moving forward, it received its second furious counterattack and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Simultaneously, the 2nd Battalion was counterattacked at IL CASTELLACCIO but was successful in beating back the attack, and proceeded to move slowly forward against stiff resistance. At 0750, Colonel

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J. C. Fry moved his Command Post forward to M. DELLA GROCE so that he could personally observe the situation at first hand and direct his units to the best advantage. Hard fighting continued throughout the morning and the casualty rate began to increase by the hour. All Aid stations were placed in the immediate rear of each unit so as to facilitate the caring for the wounded and their immediate evacuation. At 1110 a message was received from the Commanding General: "You must exert every effort to advance". A Division directive received at this time, stated: "350th continues atk to NE to capture blue line in zone. Protects Division right flank and maintains contact with British elements on right. Pushes patrols well fwd on FIRENZUOLA-IMOLA Rd in zone and protects Engr. parties opening the road. Holds one battalion in reserve to be committed only with Division approval. One plt. Co A, 805 TD Bn attached 350th Inf.". At noon the Regimental sector was still receiving heavy artillery fire and the supporting artillery continued to "burn the barrels" out of the guns to fire as much counter-battery as possible. The 2nd Battalion was engaged in a fierce fight, at 1325, and suffered many casualties; this particular spot was engaged by violent fighting all through the day. At 1525 a Regimental attack order was dispatched to all battalions and read as follows: "Regiment attacks at 2000 to capture 153 (65A - 3rd Bn obj) and 155 (39A - 2nd Bn obj). Intermediate obj. pt. 55A and Hill 683. 2nd Bn. will report when M. ALTO (Hill 650), intermediate obj. and final objective are occupied. 3rd Bn likewise. Rations should be carried to permit continuation of attack tomorrow. 1st Bn will keep liaison with 2nd Bn and will occupy Hills 36A, 11A and high ground 1000 yds N of 11A when vacated by 2nd Bn. 1st Bn will patrol and outpost Hills 86 and 57, and if deemed advisable Hill 108". In mid-afternoon, the forward battalions continued to meet stiff enemy resistance but succeeded in holding the ground already won -- both attacking battalions consistently requested litter bearers as casualties continued to mount. A hard rain made climbing very difficult in the mountains;

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rations were not arriving on time and the men were being
continuous hard fighting - still the 350th Regiment continued to attack the enemy.
As darkness fell, the 3rd Battalion held its ground and moved toward its objective, M. ACUTO; the 2nd Battalion firmly held IL CASTELLACCIO and continued to move on toward Hill 681; the 1st Battalion began its move to M. MACCHIA DEI CAUI, in order to be in striking distance if called upon. This day was a trying day.

September 25th:

As this day began, it saw the two leading battalions still moving forward against continued fierce enemy resistance. In the advance of each unit from hill to hill, they always were faced by groups of enemy dug in at each strategic point, who would fight hard and then withdraw to the next defensible feature and the process would start all over again. This factor, plus the exceedingly steep and mountainous terrain, resulted in the Regiment being slowed down considerably. In conjunction with this the enemy shelled the entire area with artillery and mortars from the vicinity of the village of VASSOLA CASERNO, a small town in the XIII Corps sector on the right. At 0830, the 3rd Battalion approached and assaulted the dominant M. ACUTO (023137) and captured this height, only to be strongly counterattacked on two occasions which resulted in the enemy being thrown back from the hill leaving approximately fifty dead with an estimated one hundred and fifty fleeing to the next hill. Also the enemy was seen crammed on the road at CASTEL DEL RIO with transportation and an urgent call was sent to get planes to strafe this spot immediately. The 2nd Battalion was moving forward slowly and captured Hill 680 (024117) but was encountering fanatical resistance. After hard fighting the 2nd Battalion captured M. AITO (028123) approximately one thousand yards to the east of the 3rd Battalion and it looked as if the Regiment was moving again. The left flank was being strengthened by the 351 Infantry advancing along the CASTEL DEL RIO road in contrast

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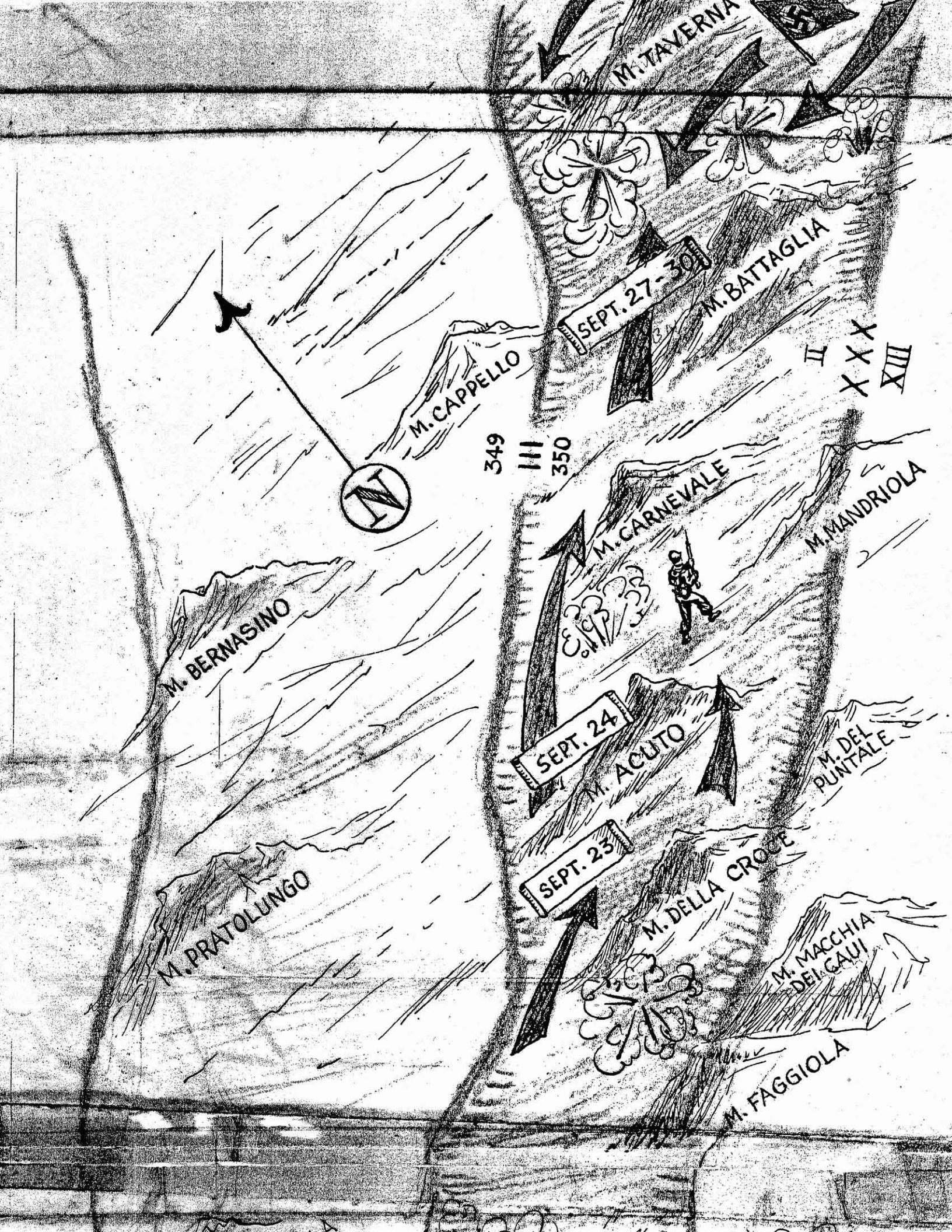
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with the right flank which continued to be extremely vulnerable as the XIII Corps had only reached the 05 Barthing which exposed the right flank for a distance of seven or eight thousand yards. General LEROY, the Assistant Division Commander, came to the Regimental C.P. to personally observe the situation. A message: "The Corps Commander states it is vital to 5th Army to secure M. CARNAVALE (0416) and M. BATEGLIA (067173). CG directs you take them as soon as possible". Another message from the Division Commander: "Imperative CARNAVALE (0416) be captured as soon as possible". Due to the heavy fighting, it was difficult to get rations and supplies to the hard-fighting battalions and resulted in some forward units having only one "K" ration meal a day to carry them through the fighting. Evacuation of the wounded also was a serious problem as anything that approached the forward line units would receive an intense shelling of artillery and mortar fire.

September 26th:

At 0300, the Regiment occupied the following positions: 3rd Battalion, past M. ACUTO, was just south of the village of VALLE COSTONE, meeting machine gun and artillery fire; 1st Battalion was approximately 500 yards west of M. DEL MURTALE; 2nd Battalion was occupying the high ground at 020127. As the artillery fire became more intense, General LEROY requested all available air OP's over the sector immediately to observe enemy gun positions so that the counter battery fire could be more effective. Colonel Fry at this time continued to stay on M. ACUTO to personally observe the action. This fighting was particularly difficult as the terrain was entirely barren and open which gave the enemy perfect observation on all movements. All casualties were now being evacuated back along the mule trails to the ambulance collecting points, and then on by the Regimental Mear CP at VITTE (903108) to the main road and on to the hospitals. The 1st Battalion captured M. DEL MURTALE, at 1350, and received tremendous mortar concentrations that came from outside the Regiment's



M. BERNASINO

M. PRATOLUNGO

M. CAPPELLO

349 IIII 350

SEPT. 24

SEPT. 25

SEPT. 27-30

M. ACUTO

M. CARNEVALE

M. DELLA CROCE

M. FAGGIOLA

M. MACCHIA DEI GAUI

M. DEL PUNTALE

M. MANDRIOLA

M. BATTAGLIA

M. TAVERNA

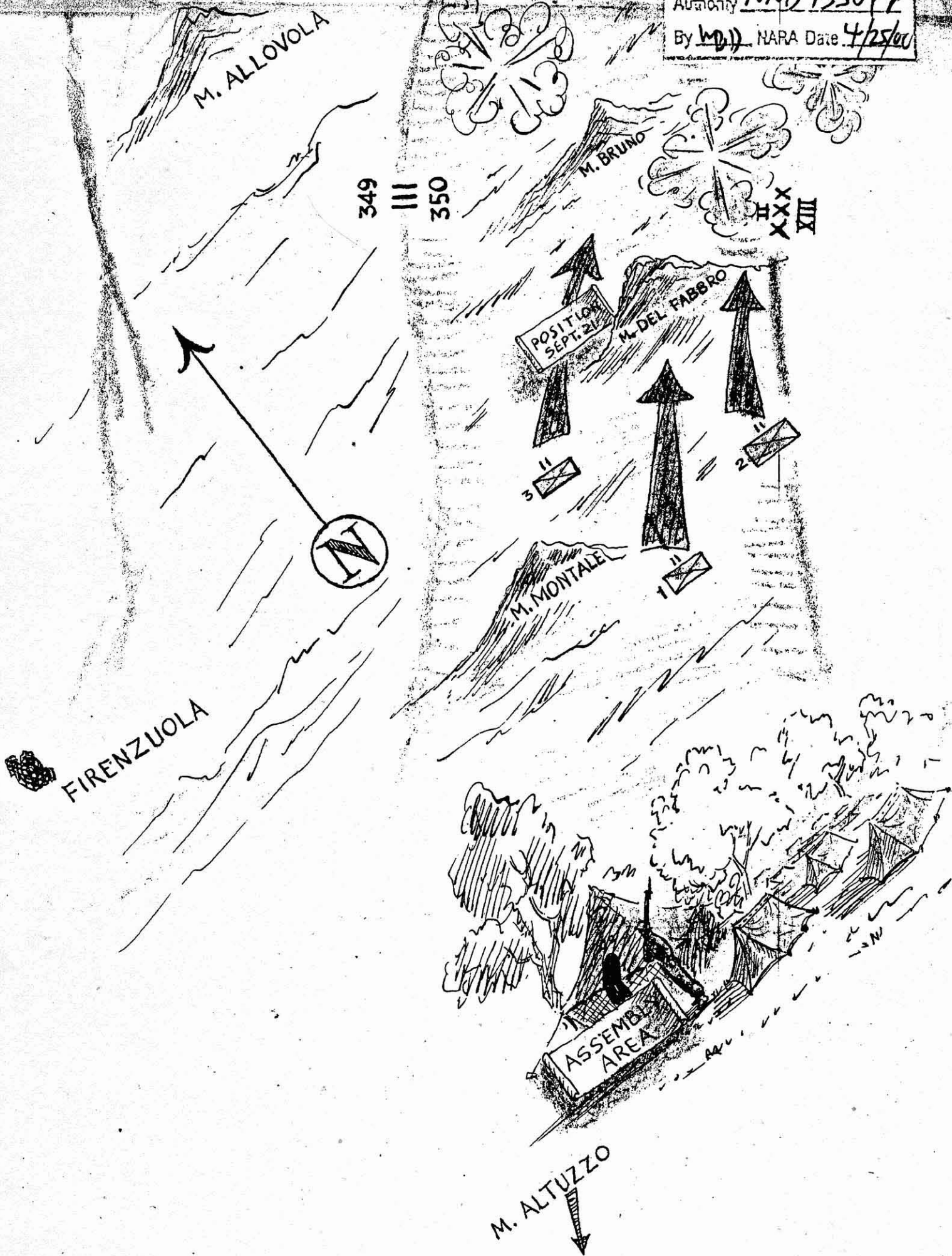
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zone, on the right; at this time, the 3rd Battalion was still fighting south of VALLAMAGGIORE and encountering a determined enemy. General RABEY sent a message to Division to notify the friends on the right to give them artillery on the CASOLA VALSENIO-PALUZZUOLA road in the vicinity of 12, 13, and 14 Northings as enemy fire was coming from that vicinity. As the 3rd Battalion continued to attack Hill 736, the 2nd Battalion moved forward by the 3rd Battalion's right flank and succeeded in capturing Hill 669 (031149) just south of VALLAMAGGIORE; 1st Battalion positions remained somewhat the same.

September 27th:

As the day opened, the Regiment was again attacking with the 1st Battalion just north of M. DEL PUNTALE (041123) and moving on; the 2nd Battalion was on Hill 669 (032148) moving through the village of VALLAMAGGIORE and heading for M. CARNAVALE, one of the Corps objectives; the 3rd Battalion was in the vicinity of Hill 681 (032142) also moving forward in the attack.

The 2nd Battalion, pushing relentlessly forward, drove the enemy from M. CARNAVALE (040158), a Corps objective; the enemy, at that time, was in the process of digging positions, but retreated from the hill and could be seen still running in the distance. Enemy small arms fire slackened but the enemy continued to shell the area heavily with mortar and artillery fire inflicting more casualties on the Regiment. On the left, the 351 Infantry was successful in getting one battalion in the town of CASTEL DEL RIO (008165) which improved the situation on the Regiment's left flank, while on the right flank the British had pushed forward to the 08 Northing but the flank still remained open for seven or eight thousand yards. Air OP's were badly needed as the enemy continued to throw artillery at an exceptional rate. With M. CARNAVALE occupied, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to push on and attack the last Corps objective - M. FAT-

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...and 1st Corps 85,000...

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14th Armored Infantry Battalion on to M. IL CASTELLACCIO, M. FAGGIOLA and M. MACCHIA DEI CAUI, with patrols working to M. DEL PUNTALE (041125) and to halt any attempts by the enemy to infiltrate into the positions. As the Battalion attempted to move to R.P. 72A. (057143) Company "C" was counterattacked along the trail but was assisted by "B" Company and the attack was repulsed only a few casualties. At 1535, Colonel J. C. Fry, received word that his Battalion was on M. BATTAGLIA and they were ordered to hold and consolidate positions. At 2123 a message from the Commanding General to Colonel Fry read "Speedy 6 (Corps II Commander, Maj. General GEOFREY KEYS) sends his congratulations - add mine too". As the 2nd Battalion was consolidating its position the enemy threw two counterattacks but were repulsed with heavy losses. A mine was settled over M. BATTAGLIA, the enemy continued to shell the positions. The positions as held by the Regiment at the end of the day were as follows: 2nd Battalion occupied M. BATTAGLIA (067172); 3rd Battalion held M. CARNAVALE three thousand yards to the southwest of BATTAGLIA, and also the high ground in the vicinity of VALAMAGGIORE (032150); the 1st Battalion held the village of TRERIO (041133) and extended northeast to the vicinity of (057142).

September 28th:

As the supply of the Regiment was again becoming more difficult as it advanced, the mule park and supply dumps were moved to the vicinity of VALSAIA (003134) where rations and other needs could be hauled by 2½ ton trucks, then jeeped to MONDUCCIO (015139) where the mule trains would then carry them to the Regiment; the Rear C.P. was also moved to MONDUCCIO which placed all rear installations in close contact with the Regiment itself. At 1435, 2nd Battalion Headquarters was reported having trouble with the enemy and the forward command of the 3rd Battalion was sent forward to assist them. As the Regiment consolidated its positions to repel any counterattacks, Colonel Fry, the Regimental Commander, was with "I" Company and the "D" units so that he could better

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observe the desperate situation. The 350th Infantry Regiment at this time, occupied the deepest penetration of the enemy lines and held two of the Corps objectives. The sector received heavy enemy harassing fire with the 2nd Battalion getting shelled repeatedly. Just after 1530, the enemy launched a large scale coordinated counterattack against the 2nd Battalion's positions on M. BATTAGLIA attacking from the right, left and left rear with an estimated regiment and a half of personnel, supported by intense concentrations of artillery fire. After fierce hand to hand combat the enemy was thrown from the hill with both sides suffering heavy losses. By 1700 the small arms firing had stopped but the enemy continued to throw artillery. During the attack, the supporting artillery fired with all its effect and continued to fire heavy defensive fires through the night. As the day came to a close, the 1st Battalion held M. CARNAVALE and extended along the ridge to the northeast and made contact with the 3rd Battalion who had two companies forward of LA CARROVAVACCIA (058165) with one company occupying the hill.

September 29th:

After the previous gruelling day with its fierce counterattacks, the Regiment continued to consolidate its positions, remove its dead and wounded and prepare for anything the enemy might attempt to do. As was expected, another counter-attack was thrown at the 2nd Battalion's positions and all of the 350th's supporting artillery fired everything in the books. The weather added to the misery and prevented many of the automatic weapons from firing due to the mud. The situation remained critical but M. BATTAGLIA was ordered to be held at all costs. The enemy continued his severe shelling of the Regimental sector and many extra litter bearers were pressed into service to carry the wounded to the Aid stations. The importance of M. BATTAGLIA was again shown, as another counterattack was launched but was driven back again with heavy losses again occurring on both sides.

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The 351 Infantry moved northeast to the vicinity of 16 and 19 Northings which gave the 350 Infantry protection on its left flank. The British still held ground in the vicinity of the 09 Northing. Replacements continued to move to all three battalions and a great deal of ammunition and rations was pecked by mule to the beleagued units. At 2050 the 6th Armored Infantry Task Force was moving its last troops on to the ridge between VALLIAMAGGIORE and IL CANOVACCIO; with the 14th Armored Task Force, under Major Cheek, protecting its right flank, and the 6th Armored Task Force protecting its supply lines, the Regiment then had its entire force to hold M. BATTAGLIA and the neighboring high ground. Word was received that the Regiment was to hold its positions for another day and a half, until the British passed through the sector.

September 30th:

During the night, mortars and artillery fire fell throughout the area coming from the large waddi in grid square 06-13. At daybreak, the enemy counterattacked, supported by flame throwers and succeeded in driving the troops from the castle (which is on top of the hill) but only for a short time as the enemy was driven right back out again. Fighting was so close that artillery could not be used - close hand to hand fighting. Urgent calls were placed for hand grenades and a request for two flame throwers with crews was sent to the rear. Replacements continued to pour in; more grenades were sent up; blankets and dry socks and more ammunition. Artillery and mortar fire continued to fall and it appeared that there would be no let up in the fighting. A welcome message from the Assistant Division Commander, General RAMEY, to Colonel Fry stated: "Current plans contemplate the relief of your Regiment tomorrow night in present positions by a British unit now on our right. An awaiting arrival of British representatives to discuss arrangements. Have represented that relief must be made at night. On relief, your unit will move to M. ACUTO area in reserve and for rest".

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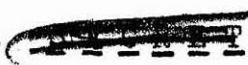
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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

J. C. Fry
J. C. FRY
COLONEL, Infantry
Commanding

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By BT NARA Date 4-24-00



HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

HISTORY NARRATIVE FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

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October 1st:-

This day was to be the fifth consecutive day on MT. BATTAGLIA for the 350th Infantry and it was becoming more and more evident that, of all the many costly mountains in Italy, none would surpass its terrible toll of life and limb. As the grayish blanket-like fog continued to hover around this bleak mountain completely hiding the shattered castle which dominated it, the enemy again threw a ferocious counter-attack at the weary but still determined defenders. Immediately at dawn, the enemy grouped and assaulted this strategic and domitable terrain feature with the support of flame throwers, but only after it had been saturated with a tremendous artillery preparation. It was difficult to fire the automatic weapons as the mud and rain affected their effectiveness, but the assault was repulsed with rifle fire and grenades, with the supporting artillery taking a heavy toll of enemy lives. At 0700, word was received that the enemy had apparently decided to discontinue the assault but continued to fire their mortars and artillery. Between thirty and forty enemy prisoners were taken and were marched to the rear to be interrogated and sent to the prison stockade. A call was made for litter bearers and fifty-nine men were sent to haul back the wounded at 0945. A large supply of grenades and 60 mm mortar ammunition was sent to the forward battalions to replenish their supply. Security patrols were sent out 1000 yards to the Northwest to MT. CAPPELLO but made no contact with the enemy. At 0950, one group of our planes bombed and strafed enemy transport columns and personnel in the town of CASOLA VALSENIO (grid square 10-17, CASOLA VALSENIO map, 1/25000) with excellent results and a great deal of damage inflicted. Officers from the Welch Guards of the 1st Grenadier Brigade arrived at 1230 and were taken forward on a recon-

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naissance of positions by the S-3 of the 1st Battalion, Lt. Lynch. Mule trains and litter bearers worked the rest of the day getting ammunition and rations to the troops and caring for the evacuation of the wounded. One of the enemy big guns was located by artillery observers late in the afternoon and Corps artillery and planes from the tactical air force shelled and bombed its position, which resulted in the silencing of the gun. At the close of the day, the Regiment continued to hold MT. BATTAGLIA and the surrounding high ground, the 14th Armored Infantry Battalion was occupying MT. FAGGIOLA protecting the right flank with the 6th Armored Infantry holding and securing the high ground to the rear of MT. BATTAGLIA to insure the uninterrupted supply of ammunition and rations.

October 2nd:-

After the previous day's counterattack, it seemed that this day would be a little more quiet. However, this did not turn out to be the case as the enemy continued to throw his usual heavy mortar and artillery concentrations at the forward held positions, then would lift his fires and search all trails and routes of approach to these positions, would return to the forward positions and the process would start all over again. This made movement exceedingly difficult and limited the amount of ammunition and rations that could be hauled to the men. British representatives were accompanied by the 2nd Battalion S-3 and shown positions they were to occupy. This day was to be the first day of relief for the Regiment as part of the 1st British Grenadier Brigade, composed of the Welsh Grenadier and Coldstream Guards, moved into an area preparatory to taking over positions after dark. Just after lunch, another heavy shelling took place as the enemy continued to fire fierce concentrations throughout the Regimental sector. After dark, the British moved their troops forward and relieved Companies C, D, I, K,

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G and 1st Battalion Headquarters, completing the relief at 2040 hours. The enemy continued to harass the area throughout the night with light artillery fire.

October 3rd:-

Colonel Fry, who remained in the castle on MT. BATTAGLIA, requested that all available air OP's be in the air at daylight to spot any enemy concentrations at first light. However, the enemy did not choose to counterattack and work began to care for and evacuate many casualties from the day before. Blankets, codine, blood plasma and many litter bearers were dispatched to the forward aid station as a great amount of casualties had to be cared for. At 2030, it happened again -- MT. BATTAGLIA was counter-attacked and an urgent call was placed for hand grenades and 60 mm mortar ammunition. After hard fighting, the assault was repulsed and a message was soon received that everything was under control. The close of the day saw the Regiment still holding MT. BATTAGLIA.

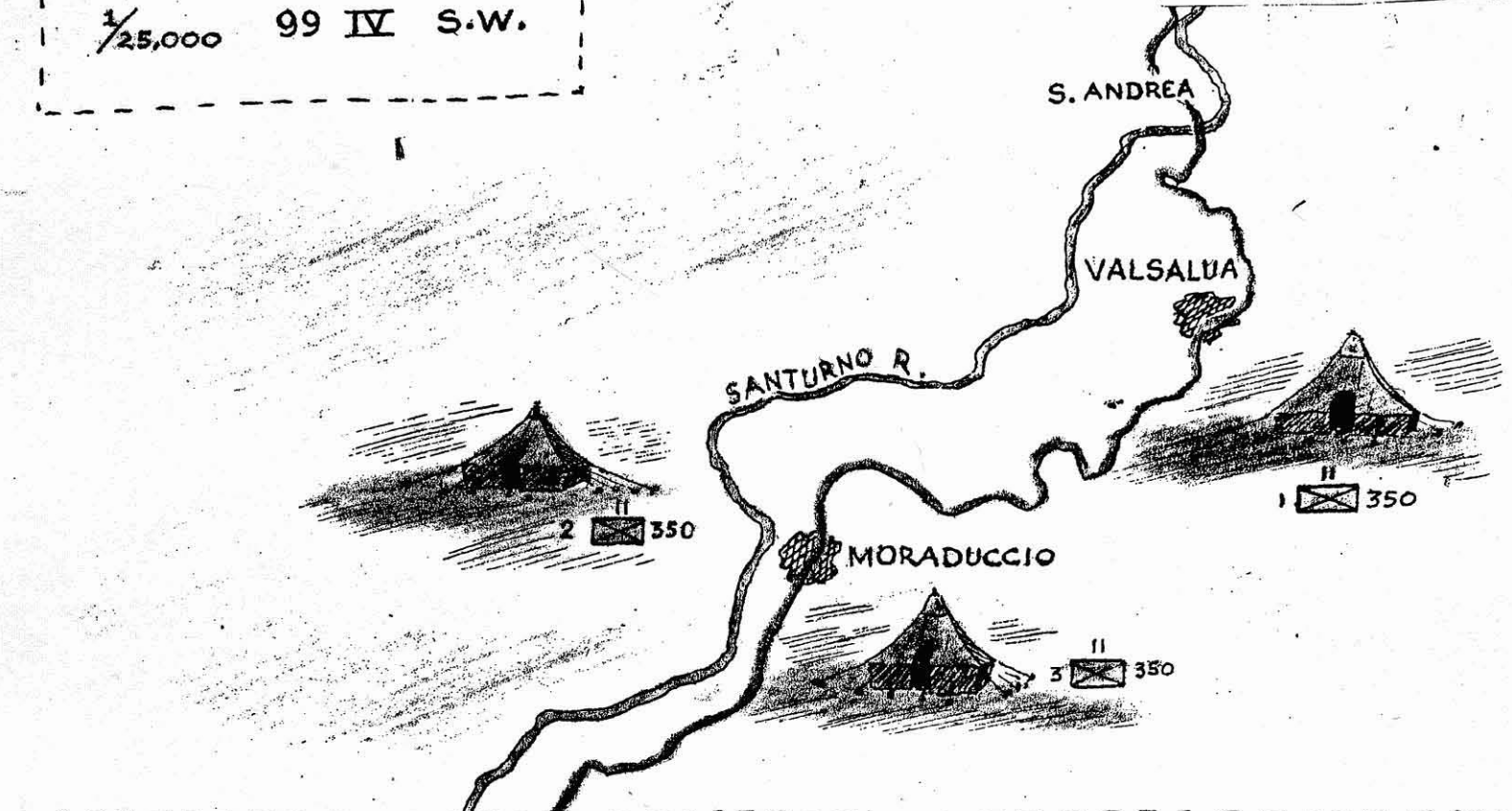
October 4th:-

The relief of the Regiment continued throughout the early hours of the morning with Companies E,F, parts of M and H completing the relief at 0245. First light saw only a portion of the Regiment still holding BATTAGLIA. Movement throughout the day was held to a standstill as the slightest bit of activity would arouse the enemy batteries. With only a small part of the Regiment on line, the remainder were moving to the vicinity of the village of VALSALVA (003134, CASTEL DEL RIO map, 1/25000) to bivouac for a short time to be reorganized, re-clothed, and to be given hot meals. With the constant rains, this bivouac became a sea of mud.

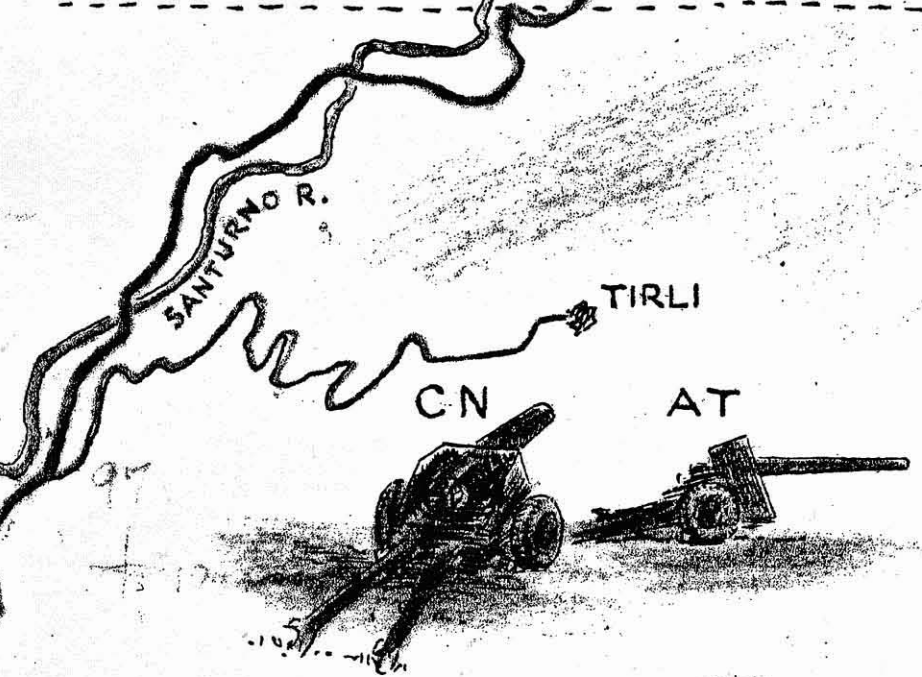
October 5th:-

Today, saw the Regimental Commander, his staff and Regimental Headquarters Company finally leave the Regimental sector and close in the new bivouac area. This day was spent attempting to organize the bivouac site. Movement in the bivouac area itself

CASTEL DEL RIO MAP
1/25,000 99 IV S.W.



PALAZZUOLO MAP
1/25,000 99 III N.W.



BIVOUAC AREA
OCT. 3-8

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 By BT NARA Date 4-29-00

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was especially difficult as the mud hampered all operations. A hard rain continued throughout the day.

October 6th:-

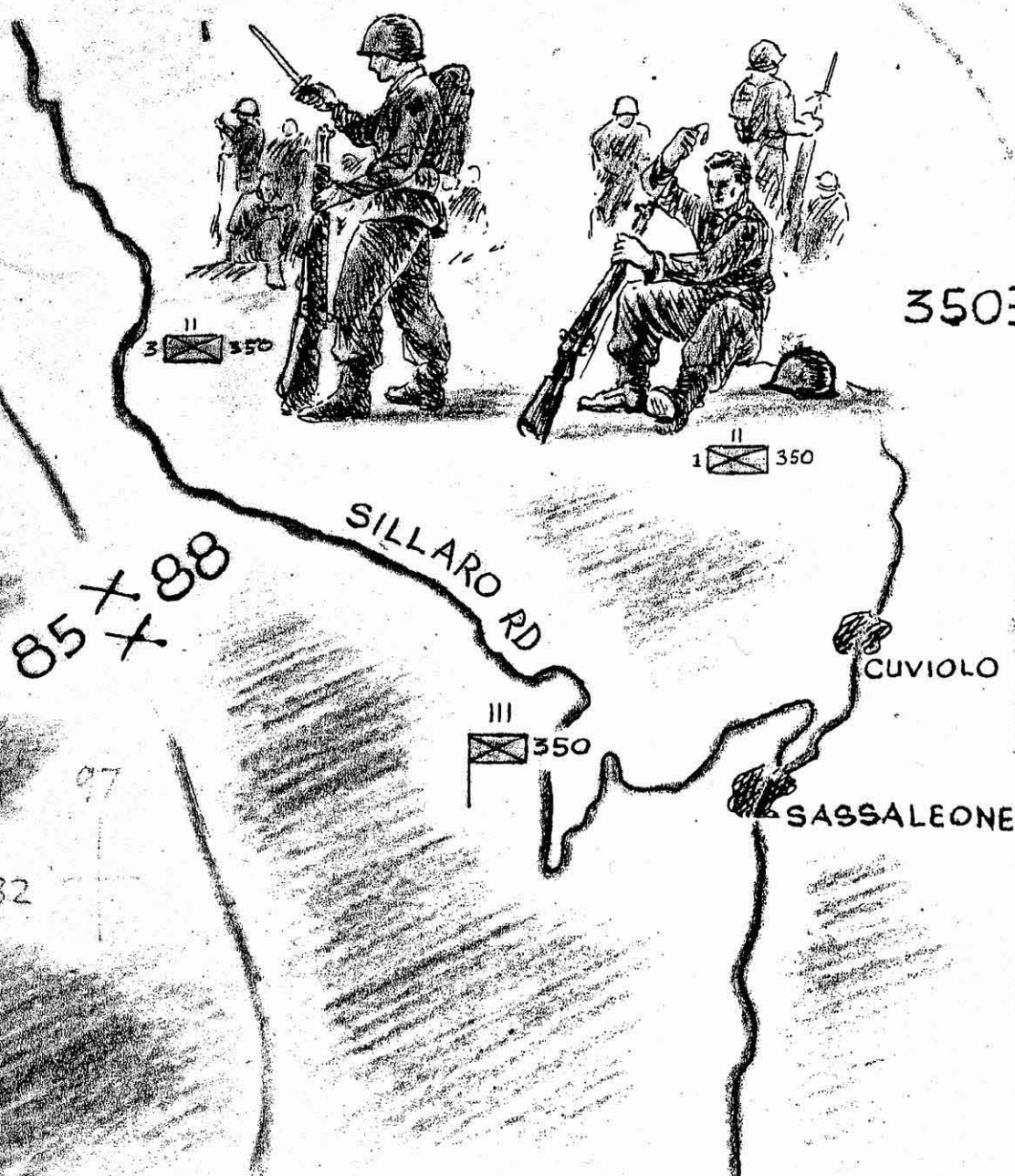
With only one day off the lines, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to relieve the 2nd Battalion of the 349th Infantry on Hill 548 (CASTEL DEL RIO map, 996202) in the vicinity of the small village of PEZZOIA. Lt. Col. Williamson established his command post in this village. This was a holding position as the 349th Infantry pushed off in the attack, and at the time of the relief, was approximately fifteen hundred yards north of this position. The weather continued to be extremely bad, with hard rains throughout the day. No definite orders had been received concerning the Regiment but it was generally believed that the combat team would soon re-enter the lines, following the 2nd Battalion.

October 7th and 8th:-

All through the day, on 7 October, a hard rain continued to drench the entire area. organization was accomplished as much as possible under the circumstances. The entire personnel of the Regiment had great difficulty drying out their clothes, blankets, shoes and other belongings. On 8 October, orders were received to move the Regiment to an assembly area in the vicinity of SASSOLEONE (922222, FONTANALICE map, 1/25000), a small village close behind the front line units of the 349th Infantry, prepared to continue the attack to the north.

October 9th and 10th:-

A directive from 88th Infantry Division Headquarters announced a coordinated attack by II Corps with four divisions abreast from right to left: 88th, 85th, 91st and 34th, to seize and hold "green line" (see division overlay October 9th in supporting papers). The main division effort to be made on the left by the 350th Infantry as follows: "1. 350 Inf passes thru 349 Inf, atks in zone 100600A Oct and captures ob-



350 ≡ 351

ASSEMBLY AREA ON OCTOBER 9
JUST PRIOR TO ATTACK

2ND BN OCCUPYING
HILL 548 (997202)

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jectives (overlay) ID: line held by fwd elements 349 Inf. 2. Assists advance of 85 Div.
 2. Maintains contact with 85 Div. 4. Protects division left. 5. Prepares to continue
 advance to NE". This Regiment jumped off at 0500, passing through the 349th Infantry
 with 3rd Battalion on the left and the 1st Battalion on the right; 2nd Battalion re-
 mained in position and was held in reserve. With the Regiment pushing in the attack,
 the enemy was situated as follows: 289 Regt. in left part of sector with 7th Company
 in reserve; 290th Regt. in right part of sector; 334th Division occupies sector in
 front of 351st sector (on our right). At 0730, SP fire on Red Battalion caused some
 casualties; fire reportedly came from 30 degrees at an estimated range of 3000 yards
 from 998253. Following this, the 1st Battalion continued to receive heavy artillery
 fire and some mortar concentrations causing casualties, but continued its advance un-
 til it met heavy small arms and automatic fire just five hundred yards south of MONTE
 DELLA TOMBE, which was its objective. Almost simultaneously, Major Witter commanding
 the 3rd Battalion, observed strong enemy troop movements in draws, 2000 yards to his
 left and Corps artillery proceeded to saturate these targets accordingly. Both of
 the leading battalions continued their determined drives toward their objectives, with
 the 1st Battalion reporting at 2050 that it was just short of MT. DELLA TOMBE and was
 still receiving small arms fire with some speradic artillery. In connection with this,
 the 3rd Battalion, at 2200, was just one hundred yards short of Hill 339 (969264). As
 a summary for the day's action, saw the leading battalions, the 1st and 3rd, reaching
 their objectives (near the 26 Northing) after meeting some heavy small arms fire and
 harassing artillery fires. Of this action, the 1st Battalion received the most of the
 enemy fire. The 2nd Battalion still remained in a reserve position.

October 11th:-

After occupying the assigned objectives, the night previously, the leading battalions

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prepared temporary defensive positions with the intent to remain in those positions throughout the day. However, the 1st Battalion was pushed off M. DELIA TOMBE by a strong enemy force but immediately made plans to again attack and capture this strategic height. In general support of the 350th Infantry, the artillery was working hard in pounding known enemy mortar positions at 967273, 969274, 975279 and 979284 and keeping the enemy movement at a minimum by accurate harassing fires. The AT company of the Regiment, in conjunction with tanks of Company B, 760 Tank Battalion, fired heavily at a white house (970245) known to hold the enemy. As a result of this accurate firing, thirty enemy prisoners were taken after readily surrendering. These men were from the 14th Company of the 117 Grenadier Regiment. After consolidating positions throughout the day, both leading battalions made plans to move off into the attack the following morning early, to continue the advance to the Northeast. A call from the Division G-3 informed the Regiment that the Air Force was to make a major effort the following day with twelve hundred planes attacking all available targets in the Po Valley. This had great things for the morale of the fighting doughboys.

October 12th:-

This day saw the Division making the main effort in the 351st sector, with this Regiment consolidating its positions. The 3rd Battalion in consolidating its position, moved troops down the ridge to its east to occupy Hill 434, thus securing the entire thousand yard ridge, which gave adequate protection to the front, and commanded the highway running past its left flank and moving sharply to the Northeast into enemy territory. At the same time, Major Witter moved a platoon forward to occupy Hill 333, directly four hundred yards to his front, to serve as the battalion outpost. Almost simultaneously, the 337th Infantry had the bulk of its forces near the 26.5 Northing

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with one company as far north as 27.7 Northing, which definitely secured the left flank of the Regiment. A big loss was suffered by the Regiment when an SP gun firing from the right flank, mortally wounded the 1st Battalion Commander, Major Mike Oreskovitch. Captain Jones, his executive officer, immediately assumed command. The 1st Battalion, in securing its positions, moved slowly and cautiously down the long ridge to its front, but was reluctant to over-extend, due to the heavy mortar fire it was receiving from the large wadi 1000 yards to the northeast. Casualties throughout the day were relatively light, considering the enemy continued to pound the entire area with mortars and artillery. Supporting artillery fired at SP gun locations, mortar positions as well as counter-battery fire. Prisoners were taken from the 117 and 289 Regiments which proved that the enemy intended to fight stubbornly for the ground to the front.

The Regiment was honored by a special visit by the Commanding General of the Division, Brig. Gen. PAUL W. KENDALL, who, in a short but effective ceremony, pinned the award of Legion of Merit (Order of the Brigade) on Colonel J. C. Fry for "exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services". At the same time, Technical Sergeant Saunders, Medical Detachment, also was awarded the Legion of Merit by General KENDALL.

October 13th:-

Prisoners taken the night previously identified the 289 and 290 Infantry Regiments but according to reports, units were not to full strength. Reports from the 351st Infantry on the right revealed its position roughly near the 24.8 Northing, which improved this Regiment's position and indicated that soon it would take its turn in making the main Division effort. In order to obtain close fire support in the anticipated push, Cannon Company moved to the vicinity of BELL ISOLA (973247) only 2000 yards be-

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hind the lines, which, from this position, could fire effectively in fire support to the 31 Northing. At 1345 a directive was received from division (phoned by G-3) that read as follows: "Resume attack at midnight tonight - capture Hill 326 at 999271 and Hill 369 at 986290". Colonel J. C. Fry planned a coordinated attack that was to be carried out as follows: "at 2400 the Regiment was to jump into the attack with B Company moving through the troops on M. DELLA TOMBE (001259) to occupy Hill 326 (999271), with the remainder of the battalion to secure M. DELLA TOMBE. Leaving its assembly area at 983234, the 2nd Battalion was to move along and parallel to the main road (SILIARO road) crossing the road and stream vicinity of 965267 at 2400 toward 967278 and then to Hill 373 (9728); leaving one company at this hill, the battalion was to proceed across the river bed and occupy Hill 363, which would cut the main highway and at the same time make the small village of S. CLEMENTE untenable; to gain defense in depth, one platoon was ordered to occupy the small cluster of houses along the road (975278) to secure the routes of supply to the forward elements; the 4.2 mortars were support this battalion. The 3rd Battalion was to further consolidate its positions, and was to be the holding force in this attack". Throughout the day, enemy SP guns were used to some extent, along with average artillery harassing fires. Prisoners captured, were from the same units already known, so apparently the enemy had made no radical changes in his dispositions.

October 14th:-

The attack proceeded on schedule as the 2nd Battalion reported its position at 0100, as three hundred yards past AT Company and moving continuously. At the same time, the 3rd Battalion in consolidating its positions received terrific SP fire throughout

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its sector. Along with this, the Regimental CP received a concentrated shelling of heavy caliber artillery from due north and Corps fired immediate counter-battery. Another report at 0400 placed White's advance elements at Hill 365 (9627) and in a sharp fight, but was able to push on and occupy Hill 373 (9728) along with C. CALANCO (on the main road). This was accomplished by 0800. In this shrewd tactical move, the 2nd Battalion was able to skirt the enemy's left and collected a prisoner bag of one hundred and four men. This attack was an outstanding process. Consolidation of gains was the main interest for the remainder of the day. The only remaining activity was a patrol from 3rd Battalion position moving to newly captured houses 1200 yards due north to contact part of 2nd Battalion. No enemy were encountered.

October 15th:-

At 0020, the 1st Battalion was relieved by a battalion from 351st Infantry and moved to an assembly area 3000 yards to the rear (983234) to be ready to move again on order. Continuing its advance, the 2nd Battalion moved due east and southeast with E Company capturing the town, MO DEL SILLARO (979284). Company E, with F Company, now advanced on Hill 369. At 1040, the intentions were as follows: one battalion of 349th Infantry was to be attached and moved into assembly area in the large wadi, 1000 yards short of CALANCO (975278); with one company in CALANCO and one platoon in MO DEL SILLARO, the 1st Battalion of 350th Infantry was to march from its assembly area at 984234 to an assembly area 5000 yards due north to support the 2nd Battalion on call; the 2nd Battalion to continue its attack to Hill 396 (985312) with the 3rd Battalion still constituting the holding force. At 1145, five hundred Jerries were observed at a large building (MO DELL AGILIA) from Hill 363, and through information obtained from a prisoner of war, they were to organize a strong point at this location.



However, they withdrew after seeing the positions this Regiment held in strength. As the 2nd Battalion pushed from Hill 363 down the long ridge running due north to Hill 396, it was viciously counterattacked by a strong enemy force after their artillery had shrewdly smoked the entire ridge. The 1st Battalion while moving to its assembly area, rushed its A and B companies to bolster the advance position. Before they reached the position, the counterattack had been repulsed after forty minutes of hard fighting. At the close of the day, E and F Companies held Hill 396 (985301), G Company on Hill 393, with A and B Companies of the 1st Battalion occupying the ridge between these two hills.

October 16th:-

The elements of the 339th Infantry were generally along the 30 Northing on the left of this Regiment, which continued to secure the left flank. However, units on the right exposed this Regiment's flank to an extent of four or five thousand yards, which made the situation extremely vulnerable. The entire II Corps jumped off during the early hours of this day in a coordinated attack to reach the "green phase line" (see overlay, 151600A Oct) in an effort to push to the Po Valley. However, the 88th Division was to attack at 2000 with this Regiment continuing its missions assigned in directive 151600A Oct, namely, to seize Hill 454 and MT. CUCCOLI. Artillery fire continued to fall throughout the day, with usual SP and mortar fires. Among other things, the Air Force flew missions on the formidable M. GRANDE, last enemy bulwark of defense before the Po. It was also made known that searchlights would illuminate the Corps sector to facilitate night work and to mark direction of the front for night movement. After constituting the holding force of the Regiment, the 3rd Battalion moved into the positions formerly occupied by 3rd Battalion, 349th Infantry and was



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to be ready on call. One company of 351st Infantry constituted this relief. After consolidating its positions and reorganizing during the day, the Regiment again jumped off in the attack at 2200 led by the 1st Battalion to seize Hill 454 (987314) and MT. CUCEOLI (Hill 482 at 983319).

October 17th:-

A report from 349th Infantry on the right, revealed enemy resistance in the small village of SAN CLEMENTE, just seven hundred yards to the right of Hill 363, occupied by elements of the 2nd Battalion of this Regiment. With the 349th Infantry in position and advancing parallel to the 350th Infantry direction of attack, this again secured the right flank of this Regiment. A message received from Lt. Col. Deshon of the 1st Battalion, at 0255, stated that his unit was "a little past the church" (985301) but had been held up by the supporting artillery falling in front of his troops; apparently, disorganization had taken place and re-grouping in the darkness was difficult. The 2nd Battalion continued to consolidate its positions and secured the ridge against any possible enemy threats while the 3rd Battalion, after leaving its positions in the wadi at 975270, began its move toward an assembly area at CASETTO (978298), 3000 yards to the north, prepared to move immediately into the attack from that area. Sporadic artillery continued to fall throughout the day with concentrated fires on 1st Battalion in its attempt to attack due north from this ridge to Hill 454. Following another Division directive to resume the attack at 180100A, Lt. Col. Deshon requested permission from the Regimental Commander, Colonel Fry, to start his attack at 2000, instead of waiting five hours; with permission, the 1st Battalion again opened its drive to advance down the ridge. By this time, the 3rd Battalion had reached its assembly area and prepared to launch an attack due

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north, astride a secondary road (see map) that followed a long draw for 2000 yards, leading to the high range of hills that joined M. GRANDE, 2500 yards to the northeast. At this time, II Corps directed the 3rd Battalion, 339th Infantry (on the Regiment's left) to drive northeast from its advantageous position towards M. CUCOLI, in an effort to take M. GRANDE as soon as possible. Another battalion was to follow this unit with the intentions of passing through it, when needed. A report from the 1st Battalion at 2315 stated this battalion was moving forward with everything under control. As the day drew to a close, the 3rd Battalion was moving forward in its attempt to occupy DEL FABBIO (976307).

October 18th:-

The 3rd Battalion continued its advance after its leading element, Company K, was held up by strong point at 975308 on Hill 356. After this delay, it continued on and received heavy concentrations of mortar fire but by 0600 had moved on to Hill 385 (975311), which placed it just 500 yards short of the road junction on Hill 454 (975316). After a slight fight for CA DI SESSO (985304), the 1st Battalion captured twelve prisoners and occupied this point. Some mopping up was needed before moving on. A Corps G-3 report stated enemy opposite this Regiment's sector was equipped with tanks and armored SP artillery and that anti tank defenses would be stressed. All TD and Tank units were pushed well forward in close support firing positions. Elements of 339th Infantry on left were generally parallel with units of this Regiment, with units of 349th Infantry on right, meeting strong enemy resistance. The enemy was to make a determined effort to hold this dominating ridge controlled by M. GRANDE. SP and mortar fires fell in all parts of the sector with special SP targets consisting

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of the bridge at 965268 and the ridge occupied by the 2nd Battalion - the 3rd Battalion received its full share of mortar fires. Prisoners taken identified the 131, 134 and 361 Regiments all of the 90th Division. A patrol from the 88th Recon. Trp. reached the road block at 003286 and drew heavy artillery fire from the northeast, along with long range small arms fire. At 1516, a message was received that the 38th British Brigade was to move in on the Division right on the 19th as flank protection. The day ended with a heavy enemy shelling of the Regimental Command Post.

October 19th:-

The intentions for this day were to continue the 3rd Battalion in its attack to capture the road junction on Hill 454. The 2nd Battalion, previously in reserve, to move through the 1st Battalion and proceed down the ridge toward FARNETO. The 2nd Battalion jumped off at 0315 and by 0530 had managed to push 500 yards to Hill 454 (987309); by this time the 3rd Battalion had reached a point just 200 yards short of its objective. Brig. Gen. PAUL W. KENDALL, Commanding General 88th Division, visited the Regimental CP and discussed the tactical situation. At 1248, word was received that 1st Battalion and possibly AT Company would be relieved by units from the 351st Infantry. However, a later fall stated that the relief was to be postponed. The 2nd Battalion suffered a counterattack against F Company but it was repulsed, with great assistance from the supporting artillery. At 2130, the 3rd Battalion received a message from 339th Infantry that it had occupied Hill 454 and that another unit was to pass through it, to a point 800 yards down the road. The 3rd Battalion was to precede that unit, placing one company on the south ridge of M. CUCCOLI and one company between M. CUCCOLI and the village of FARNETO. Lt. Col. Williamson was to leave the ridge, start cross country, hit the road just east of FARNETO, and then to continue

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on to M. GRANDE. At 2305, 3rd Battalion had not moved, as it had not made physical contact with 339th Infantry. Just thirty minutes prior to midnight, the 2nd Battalion ran into stubborn enemy resistance, was to attempt to make way around ridge.

October 20th:-

At 1430, I Company of the 3rd Battalion, had occupied M. CUCCOLI and dug in. A message from the Commanding General at 1440 was as follows: "We must get something on FARNETO before dark; have unit move towards GRANDE to contact 349th Infantry; get tanks and TD's on M. GRANDE". Units of the 337th Infantry were to relieve 3rd Battalion and plans were coordinated and decided upon; this relief was to start as soon as darkness permitted. Due to the important positions held by this Regiment, II Corps was quite concerned about ~~one~~ holding them. As reports revealed that enemy had strong tank forces supported by armored SP artillery, a big effort was made to move all AT weapons, TD's and tanks into immediate firing positions to be able to thwart any enemy move. The 2nd Battalion of this Regiment occupied FARNETO (as ordered by Legion) at 1845, thus strengthening the Regimental sector. In regard to ammunition, Captain Ray M. Simpson (ammunitions officer), made a special effort to move extra supplies to the front in order to have a substantial reserve, if needed. At 1845, enemy tanks were heard on the highway between FARNETO and M. GRANDE, but apparently were withdrawing. The 337th Infantry completed the relief of the 3rd Battalion at 2200, with everything working smoothly. Soon after, a patrol of this Regiment ran into an enemy half-track towing an AT gun, knocked out the vehicle and killed, wounded or captured its personnel. A Division directive concerning the Regiment was as follows: "350 Inf (a) atks and seizes FARNETO (986319) (accomplished by 2nd Battalion) and establishes contact with 349 Inf on M. GRANDE. (b) 3 Bn will be relieved night of 20-21 Oct. by 337 Inf (85 Div) and upon relief moves to pos. vic 985315 prepared for em-

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ployment on short notice. (c) 1 Bn atchd 349 Inf, moves without delay to positions in 0029 and 0030 grid squares".

October 21st:-

Throughout the early morning Air Force planes continued to attack targets north of GRANDE, after having been marked by artillery smoke shells. A report from 5th Army, stated that this sector should be prepared to halt an enemy counterattack of 1200 men. Division Liaison Officer, Lt. Van Remmen, notified this Headquarters that plenty of wire was available for defense and that 40,000 rounds of artillery were saved by the taking of M. GRANDE, two days earlier than had been anticipated. According to prisoner reports, it was learned that the enemy was using VEDRIANO as a trucking point; that MONTECALI ^{DERARO} was an assembly area; that machine guns were dug in on either side of road at 997329. The big event of this day was the visit to the Regimental Command Post by Lt. Gen. MARK W. CLARK, Commanding General of the 5th Army, who was accompanied by General KENDALL, Commanding General of the Division. General ARK commended the men for the fine work that they had done and the objectives they had reached under the most trying and difficult circumstances. To highlight this visit, General CLARK personally pinned on Colonel Fry's chest the brilliant award of the Distinguished Service Cross "for extraordinary heroism in action". Following this presentation, General CLARK commissioned seven enlisted men to 2nd Lieutenants. The following were commissioned: T/Sgts, Elmore Zibbel, Jr., Arthur B. Dodge, Harold B. Humphrey, James V. Woolver, Steven M. Kasmyna, Charles W. Shea; S/Sgt Thomas H. Carmody and Sgt. Charles F. Heady. At 1635, a call from Division, G-3, returned the 1st Battalion to this Regiment, after it had been attached to 349th Infantry in positions in 0029 and 0030 grid squares. Another change in orders, was to move our 3rd



S E C R E T

Battalion to relieve a battalion of 349th Infantry; the 2nd Battalion moving to the 3rd Battalion's positions (on ridge 2000 yards to west) with Company A, 337th Infantry taking over the positions previously held by the 2nd Battalion of this Regiment. At the end of the day, the situation was as follows: the 3rd Battalion moved to 997313 to be attached to 349th Infantry; the 2nd Battalion relieved at FARNETO, occupied long ridge in (9829) grid square; 1st Battalion remained in same positions and reverted to this Regiment's control and protects Division right flank.

October 22nd:-

This was a day marked by little activity throughout the Regimental sector with light harassing fires in a few locations throughout the area. Time was spent consolidating positions which was highlighted by the 2nd Battalion moving to its new location without incident. At 1350, a patrol from the Red (1st) Battalion reached the point at 008294 but was not able to find enemy occupying OP there - it returned safely. Major Gen. GEOFFREY KEYES, commanding General of II Corps, accompanied by the Commanding General of the Division, visited the Regimental Command Post and pinned the bars on the seven new Lieutenants who were made officers just one day previously by the Army Commander. The day was marked by increased patrol activity by all units, with the intent of keeping the enemy in contact, gaining knowledge of his positions and preparing to push off in the near future. Elements of the 11th British Brigade on the right of this Regiment moved as far north as the 27 Northing, strengthening this flank to a great extent, and enabling more troops to be committed to a defense in depth or in mobile reserve.

October 23rd:-

Again, this was a day of light activity all through the sector with patrols the main center of attraction. A call from Division G-3 at 1100 informed Colonel Fry to

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have the 3rd Battalion reconnoiter positions during the day and be prepared to replace a battalion of the 351st Infantry, which was to be used in the attack. Combat patrols were to be sent out by 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion and the Reconnaissance Troop consisting of one officer and ten enlisted men, as far as the 02 Easting to eliminate small groups of enemy known to be in that sector as activity of approximately twenty enemy had been observed in vicinity of 018292 and 020292, a small trail through a cluster of houses near the main SILLARO road. In connection with this, an attempt was to be made to extend the road block to the east, as eventually, this road would soon be included in this Regiment's sector. Patrols were generally working southeast to the vicinity of the main road (SILLARO) mainly to investigate houses in that vicinity. The day ended with little activity noted.

October 24th:-

The lull in the fighting yesterday continued throughout this day as positions continued to be consolidated. However, the Division Commander desired strong patrol activity to continue to probe enemy positions. 88th Reconnaissance patrols located enemy mortars in the draws along the main road at 017287 - this same patrol received machine gun fire from a position at 015285, located in the flats of the SILLARO river. British tanks pushed to 016268 in the vicinity of RINIANO, situated in a large draw just 2000 yards short of the main SILLARO road. Reports of enemy units placed the Lehr Brigade between 97 and 00 Easting; 25th Regiment of the 42 Division west of the 00 Easting; with elements of the 85 Division at 003338. In the afternoon, the 351st Infantry suffered a two-battalion counterattack at VEDRIANO (0233) and was authorized to use the 3rd Battalion of this Regiment, and accordingly, the battalion moved at

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2030 towards M. GRANDE. This was another quiet day.

October 25th to 27th:-

This period saw this Regiment engaged in extensive patrolling and consolidating its positions. Mortar and artillery fires received in the sector were only harassing fires, placed on obvious targets, such as trail junctions, prominent terrain features and areas where activity had been noted. On 25 October, at 2000, G Company was relieved from its mission at the road block on the main road, being replaced by a unit from the Reconnaissance troop. The following morning at 0945, 26 October, it was probable that the 1st and 2nd Battalions would be relieved - one going to MONTE GRANDE and one relieving a unit of 351st Infantry at MONTECALDERARO, as it was to be moved to VEDRIANO. The 1st Battalion continued its patrol activity toward the east, probing for enemy positions as far as 01.4 Easting. Due to the hard rains, the 2nd Battalion could not be relieved as water filled all gullies and ravines with raging torrents. At 0845, on 27 October, word was received that the 2nd Battalion would replace the 3rd Battalion on MONTEGRANDE with the 3rd Battalion sending one company to CA DI SASSO (9830). By this time, Division had established a MIR with its left flank based on MONTECALDERARO (9933) extending southeast for a distance of 2500 yards to its right flank position at FRASSINETO (0131), which faced all the gradually sloping ground running northeast into the Po Valley. Backing up this line was RRL with its left flank anchored on M. GRANDE (9932) extending fifteen hundred yards to the southeast to the right flank position of M. CERERE (0031). This established this reserve line roughly four to five hundred yards behind the MIR. This three day period was marked by a heavy, steady rain that almost fell continuously, hindering all operations and movements.

S E C R E TOctober 28 - 29:-

Again, this was a period of little activity as routine patrol work was carried on with readjustment of positions within the regiment. On 28 October, the First Battalion relieved one battalion of the 351st Infantry on Mt. Grande and the relief was completed successfully, without incident. Light mortar and artillery fire continued to fall through the regimental sector, but caused little damage to personnel or installations. Patrol activity was light both for this regiment and the enemy troops before this sector as the inclement weather continued to hamper all operations. Early morning of 29 October 1944 saw the Third Battalion completing its movement into the Ca di Sassa area, but increased enemy fire was noted which perhaps meant a change in enemy intentions. At 1015, the boundary between this regiment and the 85th Division on the left was changed as follows: 991321 to road and trail junction at 993326 to Point at 9935-3330 to vicinity 997335. Late that night, 2135, a patrol from the First Battalion, moving to contact enemy tanks to its front, ran into enemy apparently digging in around tanks and was engaged in a sharp fight. Grenades were thrown and a fierce skirmish took place; however, the patrol withdrew with important information. Shortly thereafter, "screaming meemies" fell on Mt. Grande, in the draw to the northeast of this strategic height, and covered the trail joining Mt. Criccoli with Mt. Grande.

October 30 - 31:-

After engaging seven or eight days of relatively light activity, the sector began to swarm with enemy during this period. Two prisoners of war from the 4th Co., 117 Regt., 98 Div. explained to the Second Battalion that only three of their companies held Vedriane and that they had seen one battalion of their paratroopers (the day before) just eight hundred yards northeast of Mt. Grande in the large draw, which later, proved to be valuable information. At 2115 the enemy suddenly and

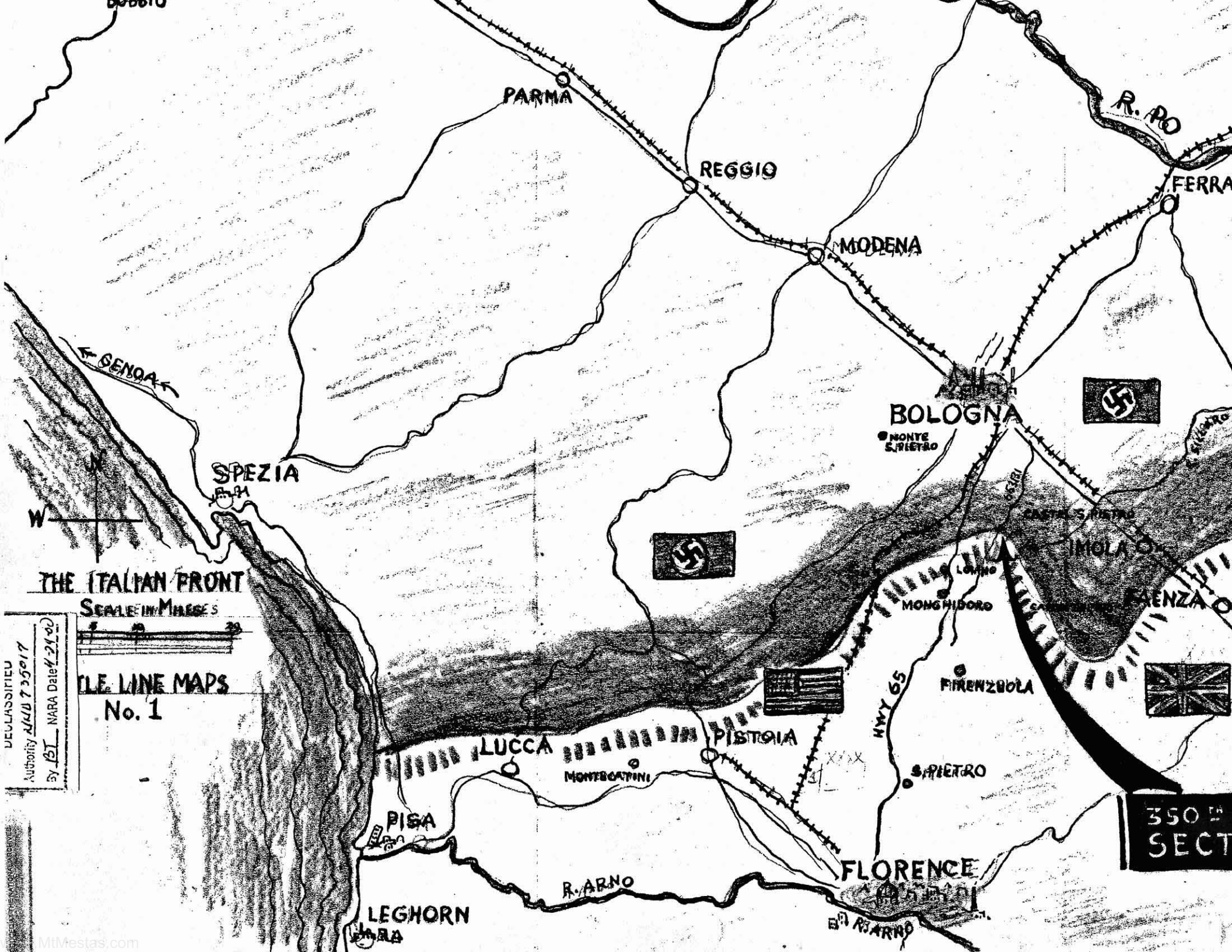
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October 30 - 31: (Cont.)

fiercely counter-attacked Vezzeli from the east (believed to be the paratroops that were known to be there); the First Battalion requested reinforcements and was sent two platoons of the Second Battalion and Company "I" from the Third Battalion but repulsed this attack. Apparently regrouping, the enemy came back again at 2225 and at the end of one hour were again driven off with heavy losses. The enemy continued his aggressiveness by once more attempting to take this height at 0103 on 31 October, by viciously attacking Company "C", however, the stubborn troops of this company refused to yield ground. Throughout these attacks, the supporting artillery continued its magnificent work by laying down devastating defensive barrages which greatly assisted in repulsing these attacks. However, at 0310 the Germans regrouped and assaulted again but were thrown back and at 0330, the message was received that all was well. Throughout the remainder of the day, the supporting artillery continued to lay down heavy harassing fires and except for a small counter-attack at 1900 which was easily repulsed, the day drew to a close. This was a trying day, but due to the tenacity and courage of the troops, the regiment was once more proving its proud reputation as the "Battle Mountain" Regiment.

J. C. Fry
 J. C. FRY,
 Colonel, Infantry,
 Commanding.



PARMA

REGGIO

MODENA

R. PO

FERRARA

BOLOGNA

MONTE S. PIETRO

SPEZIA



CASALE S. PIETRO

IMOLA

RAVENNA

MONTECCHIO

FIRENZE



LUCCA

PISTOIA

HWY 65

S. PIETRO

MONTECATINI

PISA

R. ARNO

FLORENCE

3500
SECT

LEGHORN

THE ITALIAN FRONT

SCALE IN MILES

ATTLE LINE MAPS

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By BT NARA Date 4-24-00

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HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

Date - 12 Dec 1944

HISTORY NARRATIVE FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1944

November 1st:-

After suffering heavy counterattacks against its First Battalion the previous day, the Regiment saw the opening of the month of November with little enemy activity noted throughout the sector. At this time, the Regiment was preparing to be relieved by the Second Infantry Brigade of the 1st British Infantry Division which was to relieve a battalion each night, beginning 2 November 1944 until the relief was complete. The Second Battalion was to be relieved by the First Loyals, the Third by the Sixth Gordons and the First Battalion by the Second North Staffs; however, the inclement weather and the terrible conditions of the roads were to make the relief by the British Brigade extremely difficult. At 0100 Lt. Col. Cochran, the Regimental Executive Officer, who at this time was at the Second Battalion observation post, reported enemy movement at CASSETA (006329), a house located on the side of the large draw that formed an approach to M. GRANDE from the east. Major Collier, Regimental S-2, immediately ordered thirty rounds of artillery fired over a thirty minute period to harass any enemy grouping in that locality. By 0130 the Third Battalion completed the relief of the First Battalion without incident. Elements of the British advance party for each battalion arrived at 1800 and made a reconnaissance of positions prior to the relief by the 1st British Division.

November 2nd - 4th:-

The Regiment enjoyed one of its quietest days on 2 November with little or no activity. However, on 3 November at 0001, the enemy broke the silence with considerable

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mortar fire in the Third Battalion sector but caused no casualties. At this time, the engineers were laying anti-personnel mines in front of the Third Battalion sector but were successful and completed their task at 0340. At 0400, a combat patrol of the Regiment, in moving to CASA IL VEZZOLO (a house at 002335), found enemy dug in around an abandoned U.S. tank and were fired on by a machine gun from underneath the tank, and another one from the house beyond. Another patrol in an attempt to reach CASETTA (005329), a house one thousand yards east of M. GRANDE, ran into an enemy ambush patrol just three hundred yards short of the objective and after a short fire fight withdrew. By 1830 the First Loyals relieved the Second Battalion which withdrew to a reserve position in the valley near the Regiment in preparation for a motor march to MONTECATINI, Italy.

November 4th - 9th:-

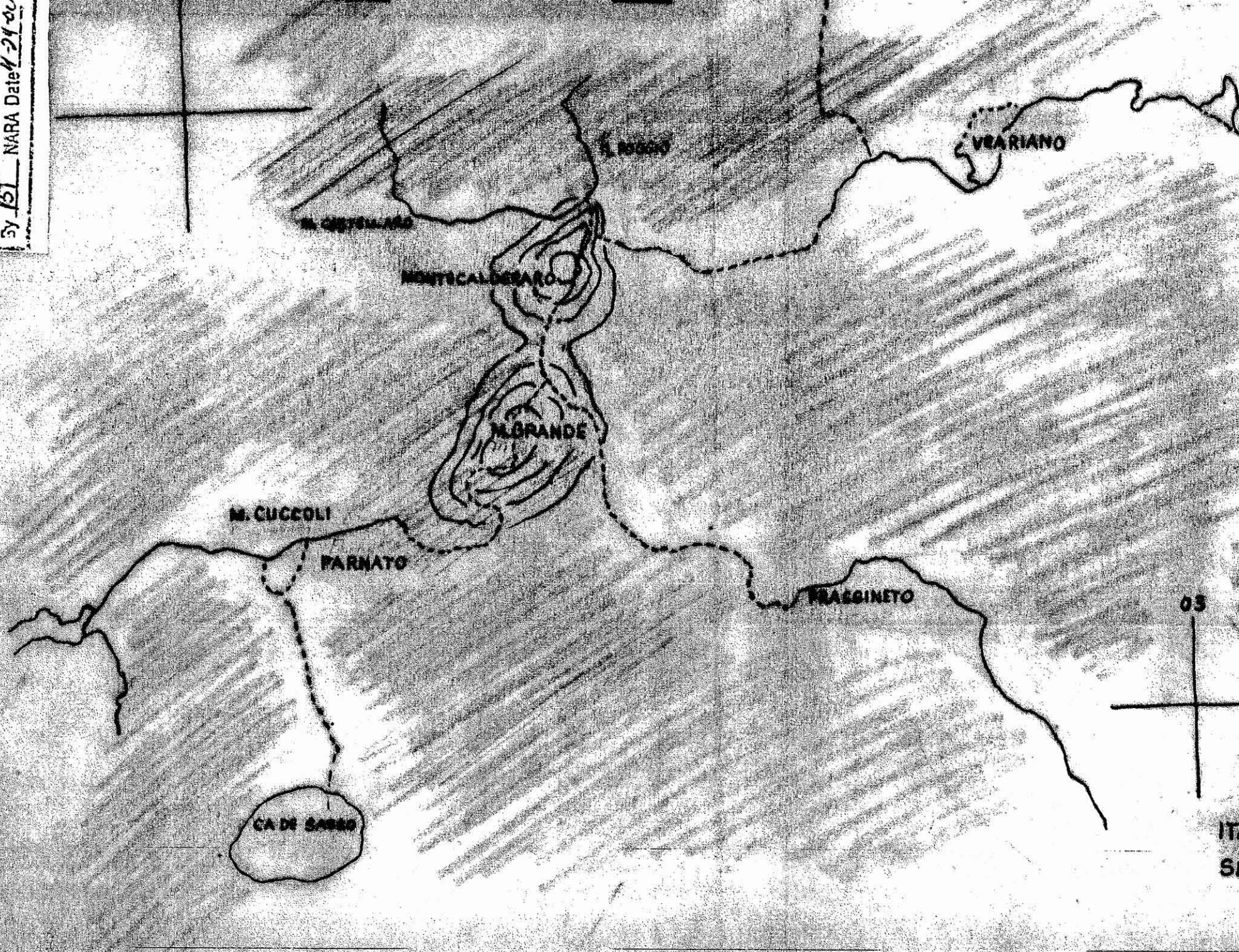
This period saw the Regiment still holding a defensive position in the M. GRANDE AREA (see map). It was now known that the Regiment was to move by motor to MONTECATINI, Italy (a distance of ninety miles) where all troops would be located in the resort hotels of that city. Everyone was anxiously awaiting this rest after six weeks of steady combat. Finally, the Second Battalion closed in at MONTECATINI, Italy on 6 November followed by the Third Battalion the following day and eventually the First Battalion closed in the new Regimental area at 0430 on 8 November. After arriving in the new area, each unit was given the first four days for rest and relaxation. Passes were given to FLORENCE, and showers and clean clothes were readily available. All theaters in town were running continuously, highlighted by the magnificent performance of Miss Katherine Cornell and Brian Aherne in "Barrets of Wimpole Street". At the last performance of the show, the cast was presented with a huge bouquet of flowers from the 350th Infantry in

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appreciation of their outstanding work. Moreover, after the performance all members of the cast were received at the Regimental Command Post for a short but delightful evening dinner given by a small group of officers representing all units of the Regiment.

November 10th - 12th:-

After each unit had completed its four days of rest and relaxation, training began on 10 November from 0830 to 1200 and from 1300 to 1500 daily with the following training emphasized: I Replacements and inexperienced personnel - (A) continuation of special training under selected instructors to insure that they were basically qualified to enter combat (B) Examinations to determine state of training (C) training with the companies, platoons, and squads to which assigned to develop "team spirit" II Officers and NCO's (A) leadership training (B) instruction of new officers and NCO's in their duties and responsibilities III All Personnel (A) physical conditioning (B) sanitation and hygiene (C) courtesy and discipline (D) other basic training. - On 12 November, the first religious services in the rest area were held and an outstanding attendance was had at all services. The rest of the day was given to rest and relaxation, as many men walked throughout the city to observe the sights.

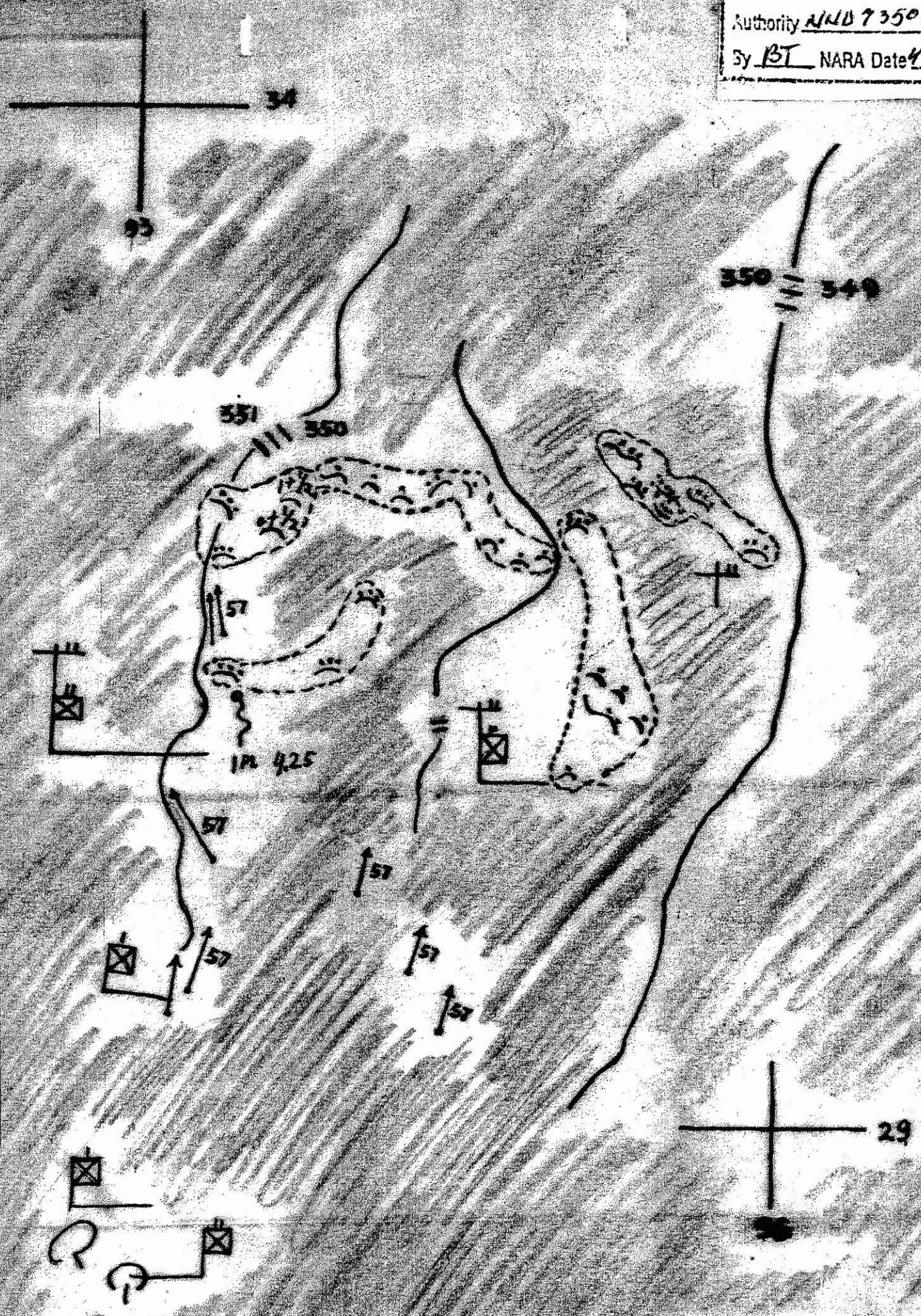
November 13th - 15th:-

Regular training was resumed on 13 November with the First Battalion being presented with one Silver Star, one Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star, and fifteen Bronze Stars by Colonel J. C. Fry, the Regimental Commander. The following day, Colonel Fry pinned eleven Silver Stars, one Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star, and forty-three Bronze Stars on the tunics of men of the Second Battalion and continued with the Third Battalion the next day with one Legion of Merit, five Silver Stars, three clusters to the Bronze Star and thirty Bronze Stars which made this Regiment the most decorated in the Division.

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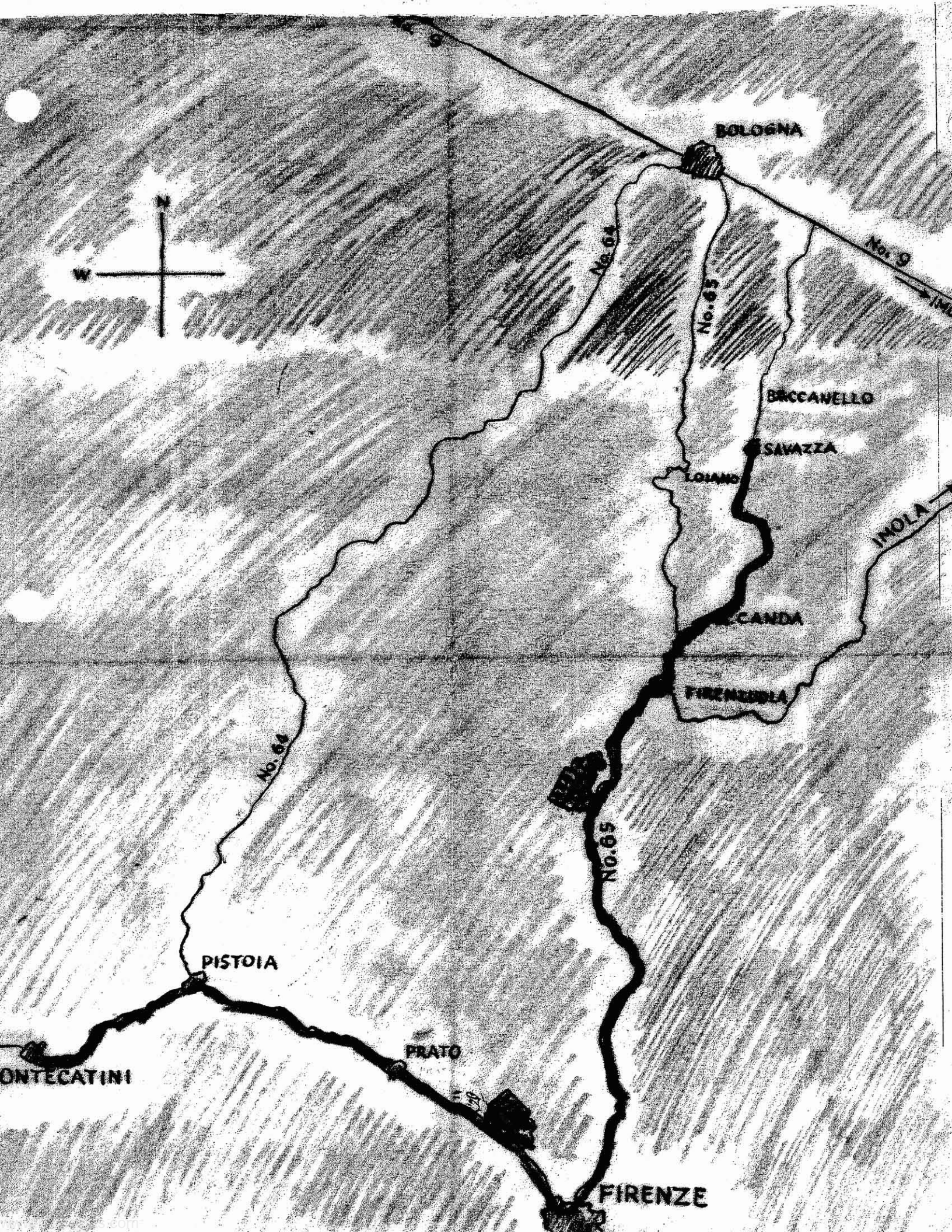
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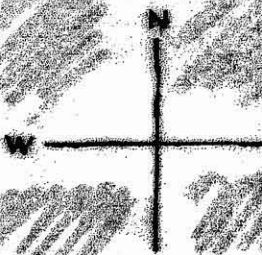
A delightful buffet-supper dance was held at Regimental Headquarters for all Officers in the Regiment and the Division band provided the music on the night of 15 November; the distinguished guests for the evening were the Division Commander, Gen. PAUL KENDALL, and the Chief of Staff, Col. MCBRIDE.

November 16th - 30th:-

Again on the sixteenth of November, the Special Units received one Legion of Merit, four Silver Stars, one Bronze Star Oak Leaf Cluster and seventeen Bronze Stars. During this period all units were engaged in firing all weapons that ammunition could be obtained for, conducted squad and platoon problems and developed the team spirit within each unit. After approximately two delightful weeks of rest and rehabilitation in the resort hotels of MONTECATINI, Italy, the Regiment received a directive from Division stating that the 350th Infantry would relieve the 338th Infantry of the 85th Division by the night of 21-22 November and would assume command of the present 85th Division sector on 22 November. This sector was on the left of that previously held by the Regiment. In compliance with the directive, an advance reconnaissance party left MONTECATINI, Italy at 0830 on 16 November and proceeded to reconnoiter the 338th positions; they returned late in the day. On 17 November, a march order was distributed with the Third Battalion moving at 0700 on 18 November in conjunction with Anti Tank and Cannon Companies, followed by the First and Second Battalions, Regimental Headquarters and Service Company the next day. The Regiment moved on Highway 6627 to FLORENCE, to Highway 65, turning right on 6529 and taking a trail marked by Military Police over to Highway 6531 and on to the Regimental sector (see overlay). The Regimental zone of action was bounded on the left by Highway 6531 and generally followed the 96 Easting for the right boundary. The front lines were along the 32 Northing



BOLOGNA



No. 9

No. 64

No. 65

BRCCANELLO

SAVAZZA

LOIANO

SCANDALO

FIRENZE

INOLA

No. 65

No. 64

PISTOIA

PRATO

MONTecatini

FIRENZE

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see map) with this Regiment occupying the strategic M. FANG, the important high ground in this sector. Due to the inclement weather and the static situation, it was possible to keep one battalion out of the front lines in a reserve and rest position near BELLA, a small village situated on the main road and twenty-five hundred yards behind the front lines. The reserve battalion stayed in this rest position for six days and would then move into the lines for twelve days. This Regiment remained in the same static situation for the remainder of the month with little activity besides routine patrol missions, with both sides throwing the usual amount of harassing artillery fires. The morale in the Regiment during this period was excellent with ample rest periods for all units.

J. C. Fry
J. C. FRY
COLONEL, Infantry
Commanding

S E C R E T

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Authority NND 735017By BT NARA Date 4-24-00S E C R E THEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

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Date [unclear]

HISTORY NARRATIVE FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944

This Regiment held a sector in the Fifth Army lines extending to the 32.3 Northing, bounded on the left by Highway 6531 and reaching as far eastward as the 96 Easting. This sector was strategically dominated by the five hundred and fifty seven meter height, MT. FANO. From these positions, in these snow-covered mountains, the troops were eleven miles from the key to the Po Valley, ----- BOLOGNA. It would be from these positions that an Allied attack would smash to cut the VIA EMILIA Highway, encircle BOLOGNA and proceed to dash north toward the Alps. It would be from these positions that the last Allied drive would explode, culminating in the complete defeat of the Nazi Armies in Italy.

Somewhat, this was not the opportune time. Many things affected the picture. For one, heavy snow had completely blanketed the entire area, limiting even patrol activity. A surprise enemy push on the Western front alerted our thoughts and actions in this theater --- and re-grouping of enemy troops seemed to slow our plans. This sector remained static with somewhat aggressive patrol activity linked with heavier than usual artillery harassing fires --- occasionally interrupted by violent Time on Target barrages.

Two battalions held the three thousand yard front (see map) with a reserve battalion twenty-five hundred yards to the rear in a rest area (which received heavy fire on numerous occasions) and technically in reserve.

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Each battalion moved to this rest area for a six-day stay after serving twelve days of line duty. Accordingly, the reserve battalion had the opportunity to rest and train which relieved the tension and strain of front line duty.

While the Regimental Team occupied these static positions, it was particularly aggressive with well-planned and superbly-led patrols which probed the enemy positions, sometimes to fight and take prisoners, sometimes to obtain a complete knowledge of the terrain to the front in event of a future attack, and sometimes to seek new enemy positions. As an example of this effective patrolling, on 2 December, a patrol of one officer and ten men from "A" Company's positions on MT. FANO, moved four hundred yards to the house at 955325 and observed; all being quiet, they moved over very flat and exposed ground toward CASA COLOMBARA (95753265) and noticed movement outside a house. Noises indicated that someone was rolling water or gas cans and slipping along the mud on the trail. Continuing towards the houses at 955327, which are eight hundred yards from MT. FANO, the patrol observed a flash of light which suggested someone leaving a lighted room through a blackout position or curtain. Terrain at this point also was very flat and exposed. The patrol returned to houses located on the commanding ground at 954326. On the return, the patrol was mortared but suffered no casualties. From this point, the patrol returned to its lines having covered seventeen hundred yards of terrain to the front, obtaining valuable information.

On 8 December, the Second Battalion, being the reserve battalion,

S E C R E T

moved from the rest area in FIUMETTO, Italy, to relieve the First Battalion which took over the positions previously occupied by the Second. This relief was effected without incident ----- two days later, Major Holland assumed command of the First Battalion.

Throughout the remainder of the month this Regiment continued to hold this sector and continued to rotate its battalions from front line positions to the reserve position.

Because of the static situation, the casualties for this month were very low. From the supply viewpoint, the troops were adequately fitted with warm winter clothing and were fed hot meals throughout the period.

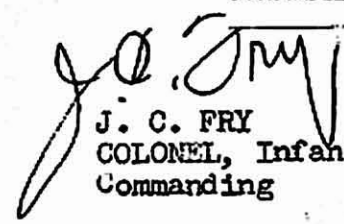
This Regiment observed Xmas Day in truly "White Christmas" fashion as snow blanketed the entire front. An outstanding Xmas dinner was had by all personnel on the twenty-fifth. Christmas Greetings were received from the Regimental Commander and distributed to all units of this command.

As the month of December came to a close, this Regiment had sent a quartering party to a reserve position approximately ten thousand yards in the rear of the frontline positions centered around the Regimental Command Post which was located at BOSCHI (see map).

Due to the small amount of activity throughout the Regiment's sector during the month of December, there is very little to describe from the Regimental standpoint. However, the battalions were continually busy with each battalion having somewhat of a different picture, and for this reason, this month's history is centered on the day by day analysis of the battalion histories which follow immediately.

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J. C. FRY
COLONEL, Infantry
Commanding

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By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE - JANUARY 1945

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The Regimental positions remained static during the month of January and operations were characterized chiefly by aggressive patrols which are described in greater detail in the Battalion Histories that follow.

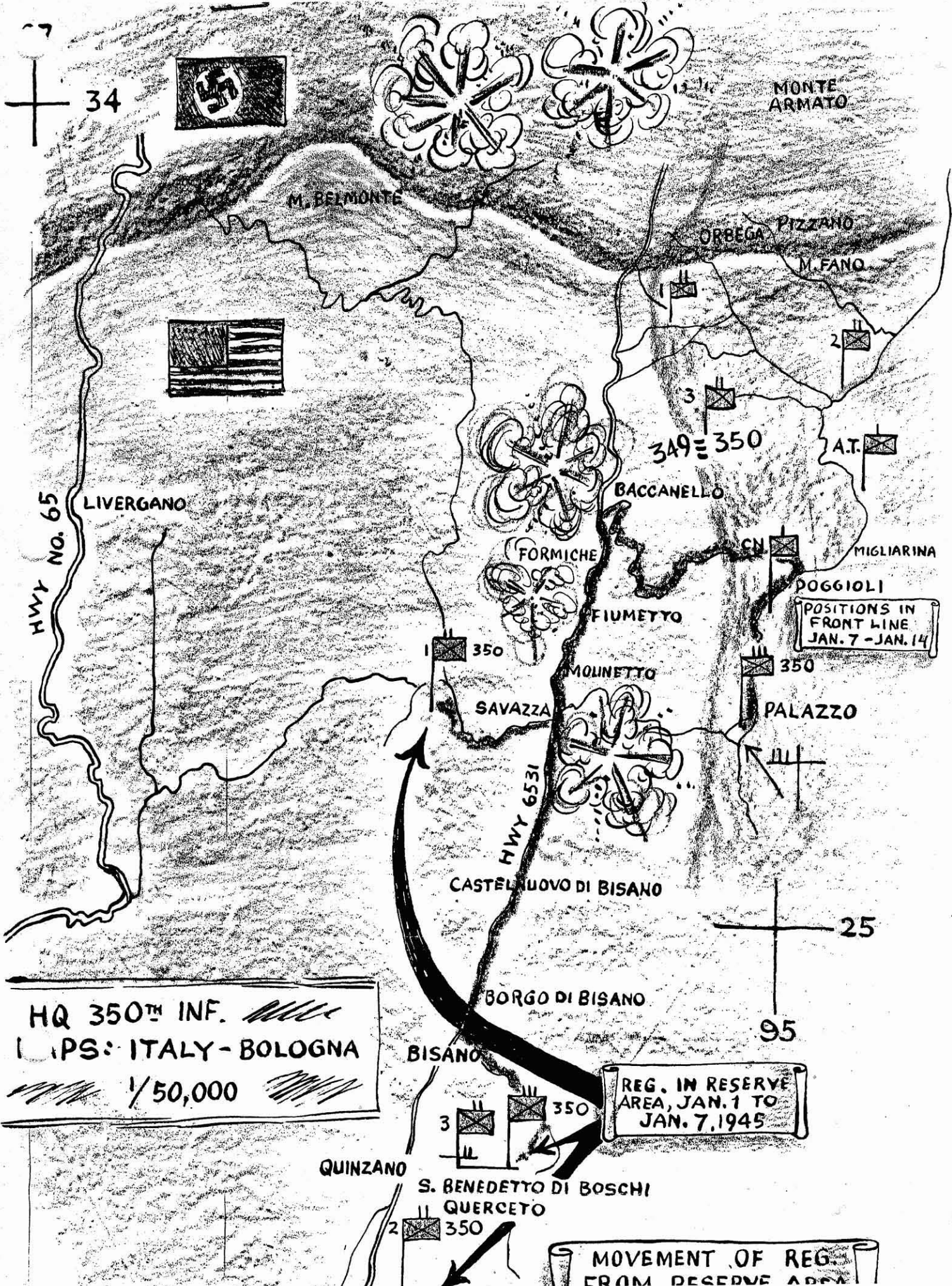
The beginning of January found the regiment in reserve positions where they had been since 28 December 1944. The First Battalion (Major Holland) was in reserve of the 349th Regiment and bivouaced in the town of Fiumetto (9300-2835). The Second Battalion (Major Yongue) was at C. Rocca from which position it was relieved by the 2nd Battalion of the 349th on 2 January. A road march of 7½ miles brought it to the new area of S. Benedetto. The Third Battalion (Lt. Col. Witter) was bivouaced in the vicinity of Boschi. The Regimental CP was near Boschi (921224).

On 2 January, the 1st Battalion moved to new positions in the vicinity of Mt. Delle Formiche and in reserve of the 351st Regiment, where they remained until 7 January. Battalion CP located at 915286. The Second Battalion remained in their reserve area of S. Benedetto until 7 January. While in this area, time was given over to rehabilitation and replacement of clothing and equipment as well as improvement of defenses in secondary M.R. On 2 January, Brig. Gen. PAUL W. KENDALL awarded the Silver Star Medal to 1st Lt. Charles E. Lesnick, T/4 Joseph E. Silva (Med Det) and S/Sgt Fernand M. La Croix. The Third Battalion remained in their area until 7 January. New Equipment was issued to all personnel and secondary defensive positions were dug and perfected.

The temperature during this time varied from extreme to moderate highlighted by a very heavy snowfall which made travel on the roads very difficult. Roads were icy and dangerous and continued snow required the constant attention of the Engineers.

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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
W. H. Carleton Col. FA. 22 Feb 46
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

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735017
By W. H. Carleton NARS, Date 7/18/24



HQ 350TH INF. *[scribble]*
 OPS: ITALY-BOLOGNA
 1/50,000 *[scribble]*

REG. IN RESERVE
 AREA, JAN. 1 TO
 JAN. 7, 1945

POSITIONS IN
 FRONT LINE
 JAN. 7 - JAN. 14

MOVEMENT OF REG.
 FROM RESERVE AREA

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During their stay in these areas, the Battalions were visited by the Division Commander, Brig. Gen. PAUL W. KENDALL and Asst Div. Commander, Brig. Gen. HARRY B. SHEPMAN. The Regimental Commander, Col. J. C. Fry made regular visits to battalion and company CPs, taking this opportunity to address the officers and enlisted men.

On 7 January, the regiment moved from their reserve positions to a new sector near Mt. Fano, relieving the 365th Regiment of the 92nd Division.

The First Battalion marched from their reserve area at Mt. Dalle Formiche cross country approximately 8 miles to the vicinity of Castel Vecchia (969313) to relieve the 3rd battalion of the 365th Regiment. The Second Battalion moved by truck on 8 January to Fiumetto, then marching to their new positions near C. Vaglie, to complete the relief of the 3rd battalion of the 349th regiment. Our Third Battalion marched from their reserve positions approximately 7 miles through a heavy snowstorm to complete the relief of the 2nd battalion of the 365th regiment of the 92nd Division in the vicinity of G. Aie. Our regimental CP was established at Palazzo (945-283).

While thus disposed, the 1st battalion was the front line battalion; the 2nd battalion occupied the Mt. Fano sector and the 3rd battalion, in the rear of the 1st battalion, occupied the reserve position. These positions were manned until 14 January when the regiment was relieved by the 168th regiment of the 34th Division. Heavy snowstorms hampered patrol activity. Roads were icy and dangerous. The regiment's stay in these positions near Mt. Fano brought no exceptional activity. Regular but moderate artillery and mortar barrages fell in the general area of these positions, but the care taken in selection and improvement of positions proved of great value since only 6 wounded were reported for this month.

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On 10 January elements of the 168th Infantry Regiment of the 34th Division arrived to prepare for our relief. Our quartering party left on 11 January for Montecatini, Italy, to arrange for billeting of troops. In preparation of our resuming front line positions after the rest period, Major Butsch, Captain Fingerhut and members of the three battalions left on a reconnaissance of probable defense line in the sector to our immediate left.

By 14 January, the last elements of the regiment left the front line positions and relief of the 350th regiment was completed by the 168th regiment of the 34th Division.

The regiment moved by truck to Montecatini, Italy and was billeted in buildings. The first four days were to be allotted as free time for the enlisted men. Rest and recreation was the keynote, after which a light training program was instituted. The morale of the troops at this time was excellent.

This rest period was further utilized to re-equip all personnel. Motor vehicles and other equipment were brought to peak of efficiency by completion of necessary repairs.

All companies were encouraged to hold dances for their members, with their guests drawn from the civilian population of Montecatini. With the assistance of the Special Service Officer, music was made available as well as a variety of refreshments.

On separate nights, Battalions sponsored dances for officers of the regiment. These dances were held at the Regimental CP which was at the Hotel Belloni.

In keeping with the rest and recreation program being stressed by higher headquarters, larger quotas were announced for officers and enlisted men's passes to Rome, Florence and the Montecatini Rest Centers. These

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passes were to continue while the regiment was in front line positions. The Division enlarged it's facilities for enlisted men at the Montecatini Rest Center. Stream lined steam-heated trains left Montecatini for the Rome Rest Center.

On 17 January, Lt. Gen. MARK W. CLARK, in the presence of LT. Gen. LUCIAN G. THUSCOTT, Maj.Gen. GEEFFREY M. KEYES, Brig. Gen. PAUL W. KENDALL, Col. J. C. Fry, Co.1 Champney and other officials of Fifth Army, II Corps and 88th Division, presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Second Lieutenant Charles W. Shea, Jr. The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Major Erwin B. Jones and Tech/Sgt Manuel V. Mendoza. The Distinguished Unit Citation ribbon was attached to the Guidons of the companies of the Second Battalion for their admirable work on Mt. Battaglia, Italy. (News release story of ceremony and photographs under publicity and awards sections.)

On 18 January, at separate battalion ceremonies, Col. J. C. Fry addressed officers and enlisted men and presented awards of Bronze and Silver Stars to members of the battalions. (Awards lists under awards section).

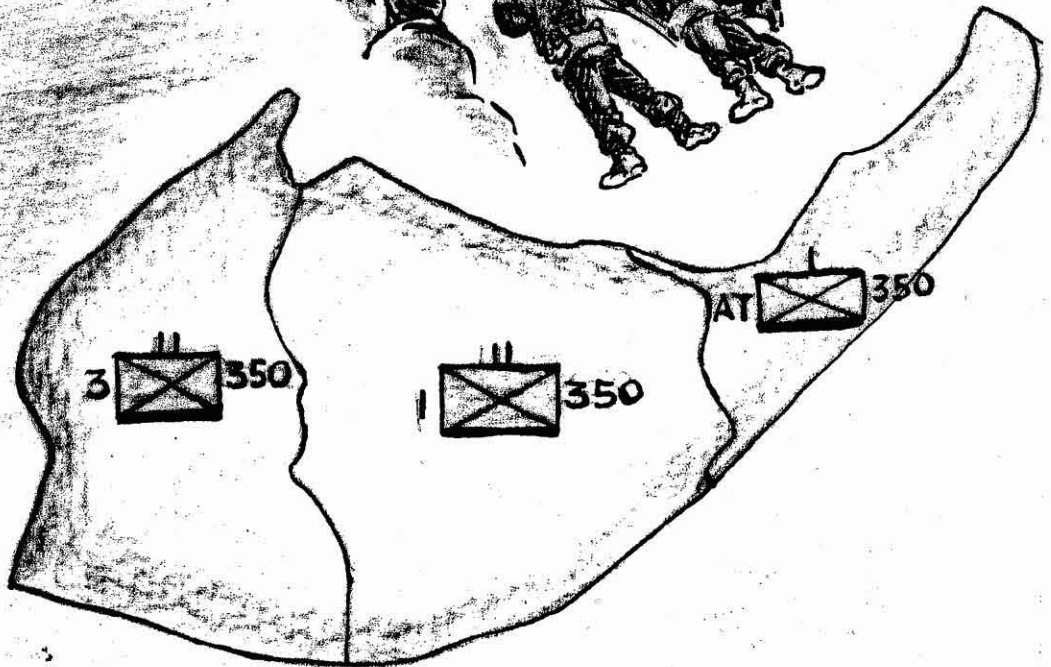
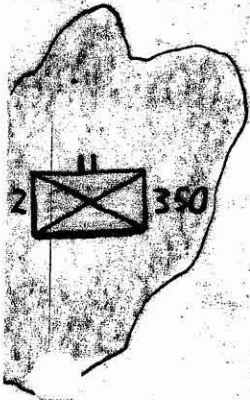
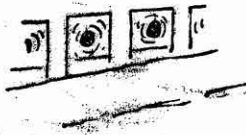
On 19 January the regiment held a practice alert in anticipation of the organization being called into action in the event of sudden enemy operations. Col. J. C. Fry inspected all troops, stress being placed on proper and complete equipment.

On 23 January, the regiment received 310 replacements. Although the men were assigned to the companies, they were not taken to forward positions. Instead, a rigid training program was instituted and continued in a rear training area. A cadre of officers and enlisted men were assigned the duty of training these replacements to assure their correct duty assignment.

History. January 1945

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OVERLAY: TRAINING AREAS

HQ 350th INF.

16 JAN. 1945

MAP: ITALY 1/25,000

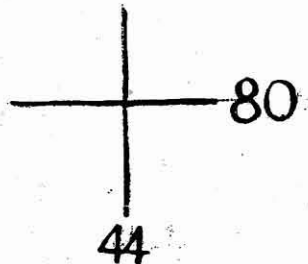
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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

In preparation for the move to forward positions, advance parties went forward from battalions and special units. On 23 January the regiment left Montecatini to take up positions, on the left flank of the Fifth Army front, relieving the 363rd regiment of the 91st Division.

This relief was completed on 24 January, our First Battalion relieving the 2nd battalion of the 363rd regiment and taking up regimental reserve positions on the left of our sector. First battalion CP was set up at 818-231. "A" Company was attached to the Third Battalion. Our Second Battalion took up forward positions on the left of the 350th sector, relieving the 1st battalion of the 363rd Infantry. Second battalion CP was located at 828-263. Our Third Battalion relieved the 3rd battalion of the 363rd Infantry, taking up positions on the right of the 350th sector. Third battalion CP was set up at La Valle (850-278). Regimental CP was located at Anconella (8653-2650).

The movement from Montecatini was hampered by the heavy snowfall. The roads were icy and dangerous. Little movement was possible by the 2nd and 3rd battalions since direct observation was enjoyed by enemy forces on Monterumici. Active patrolling was immediately taken up with continual probing of enemy lines to gather information on possible strong points and other data for use in future operations. Heavy snow hampered our operations and rain and fog impeded observation.

Our left flank was tied with the British Sixth South African Division while the 351st Infantry regiment was on our right.

Preparations were underway for a company strength raid on enemy positions with the prime intention of capturing prisoners. Considerable information has already been obtained as a result of our nightly patrols. Casualties have been very light, a result of the careful planning and attention to seemingly minor details.

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Authority NM 7350P2
By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

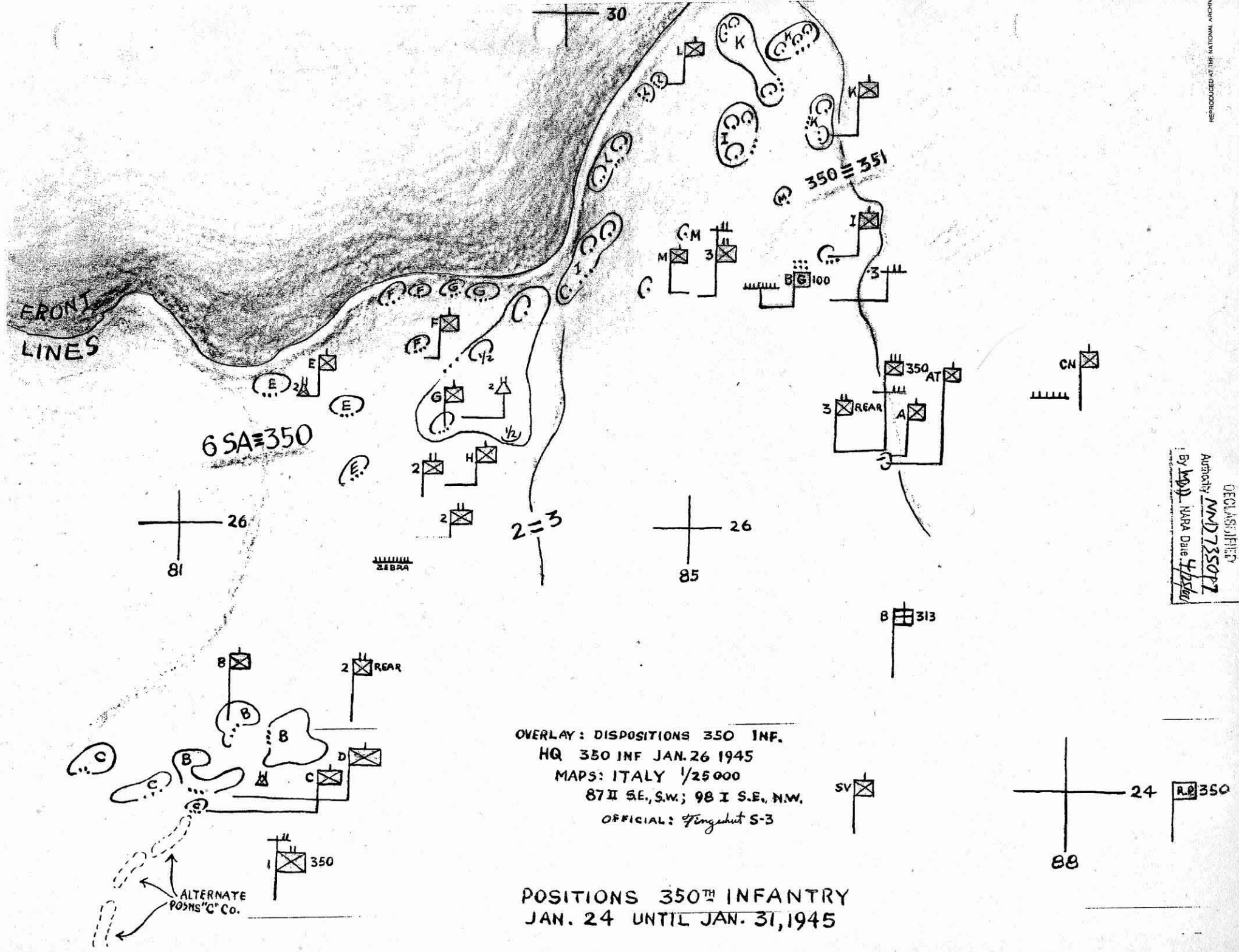
Our Regimental CP was visited by Lt. Gen. LUCIAN G. TRUSCOTT, Maj. Gen. GOETFREY M. KEYES and Brig. Gen. PAUL KENDALL. Col. Fry continued to visit forward company and battalion CPs, perfecting defenses and insuring proper disposition of troops.

The month ended with the 1st battalion preparing to take up positions on our extreme left flank, relieving units of the British Sixth South African Division. Our front at this time, extends more than 6000 yards from approximately 855305 running irregularly south and west to approximately 815270. Maps attached hereto show extent of our line and disposition of troops.

The new program of Information and Education was begun on 23 January. 1st Lt. Kunzelman was appointed L & E officer as a result of the extensive Army I & E program.

January was outstanding in that the regiment suffered only 6 casualties a result of shell fragments. Disease and injury accounted for the largest number of evacuations. The attached detailed Medical report gives a clear and concise picture of the Medical history of the regiment for this period. One notable innovation is the use of litters mounted on skis for the evacuation of casualties in snow covered terrain.

J. C. Fry
J. C. FRY
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding



6 SA ≅ 350

350 ≅ 351

26
81

26
85

2=3

B 313

24
88
R. 350

OVERLAY: DISPOSITIONS 350 INF.
HQ 350 INF JAN. 26 1945
MAPS: ITALY 1/25000
87 II SE, S.W.; 98 I S.E., N.W.
OFFICIAL: Fingehut S-3

POSITIONS 350TH INFANTRY
JAN. 24 UNTIL JAN. 31, 1945

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 735071
By: WJD NARA Date: 4/15/01

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NM 735097

By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO 88, U. S. ARMY

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE - FEBRUARY 1945

Action in the regiment's sector during the month of February was characterized by increased aggressive patrolling and exchanges of artillery and mortar fire. A more detailed account of the many patrol actions during this month are contained in the battalion histories and the S-2,3 Journals which follow.

Generally, all positions from the 1st of February to the 7th of February were the same as those occupied at the end of January (see overlay). Our 1st Battalion occupying the reserve defensive positions was set up with their CP at 818231. The 2nd Battalion, holding positions on the left flank had its CP at 828263. The 3rd Battalion, on the right flank of the regimental sector with its CP at LA VALLE (850263) was able to rotate a reserve company bivouaced near the regimental CP at ANCONELLA (86532650).

These areas were subjected to rather heavy shellfire but the care in selection and improvement of positions again proved its great value since only 24 casualties were suffered during the month. Of these, 14 were a result of the bold raid of "A" Company on 1 February.

For this daring raid, "A" Company was attached to the 2nd Battalion. The objective was C. FURCOLI and the mission was primarily to capture prisoners for interrogation. It was important that we obtain information of enemy intentions. Major General Paul W. Kendall, the Division Commander, and the regimental commander, Col. J. C. Fry realizing the great importance of this raid followed the progress closely from the 2nd Battalion CP. All movements had been worked out to the smallest detail, numerous practice runs having been made

-1-

S E C R E T

REF ID: A66333
DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD 735017

By W.D.I. NARA Date 4/25/00

S E C R E T

in the days preceding the raid. However, before the company could contact any enemy forces, they were met by especially heavy artillery and mortar fire. It was here that the bulk of the casualties were suffered. Twelve enlisted men were wounded and 2 killed. As the company moved forward, enemy small arms fire pinned them down. It was in the ensuing fire fight and the especially heroic action on the part of most of the members of the company that resulted in the capture of five enemy prisoners and neutralizing enemy gun positions. As proof of the boldness of the raid and the exceptional performance of many of the men, 27 Bronze Stars for heroic achievement in action and 8 Silver Stars for gallantry in action were awarded to the most outstanding men in the company. At a special ceremony at the Battalion CP, the next day, Major General Paul W. Kendall, personally presented the medals to the 2 Officers and 33 enlisted men who were decorated. As further proof of the importance and daring of the raid, the Corps Commander, Major General Geoffrey M. Keyes, sent his personal congratulations to Major General Kendall and Col. J. C. Fry and commended all the men and officers who participated in the action. Five enemy soldiers were captured but the enemy wounded and killed were unknown. "A" Company suffered 2 killed, 1 MIA and 12 wounded.

On the 2nd Of February the 1st Battalion moved into the line relieving the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards of the 24th Scots Brigade and taking up positions of the extreme left flank of the 5th Army front. The battalion CP was established near MONZUNO. Our sector, as a result of this move, was moved to the east more than two thousand yards and extended from the 86 westing south and east to the 79 easting. (see overlay).

Another outstanding patrol action occurred on the 5th of February

-2-

S E C R E T

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By WBI NARA Date 4/25/00

S E C R E T

and although no prisoners were captured much information was obtained on the strength and location of enemy positions. Company "B", on this day, sent out an ambush patrol of 1 officer and 39 enlisted men. Their objective was C. VALIA (81352815). Arriving there and finding it clear, the patrol moved on to 81502815 and contacted enemy in strength. They drew considerable enemy fire, both small arms and mortars. However, after a fierce fire fight and some outstanding action, the patrol returned to their positions without suffering a single casualty. The information the patrol gathered on the enemy positions enabled the regimental mortar sections to place effective fire on them and clear them of enemy forces.

On the 6th and 7th of February, the regiment was moved into Division reserve. The 1st Battalion moved back into bivouac near TRASSASO (823220). The 2nd moved to BIBULONA, while the 3rd Battalion moved into buildings in ANCONELLA (865265). The regimental CP was set up at 87052195. While in Division reserve, all battalions were engaged in a supervised training program in both basic and specialized subjects, rifle companies laying particular stress on patrolling and platoon and company attack. In addition, this period was used to construct and improve secondary defensive positions. While thus disposed, all companies were afforded increased opportunity to send both officers and enlisted men on passes to Florence, Montecatini and Rome. Showers were made available to all men. The weather continued mild. Snows were melting and road conditions were very favorable.

On the 13th of February the regiment was honored by a visit of the Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall accompanied by Lt. Gen. Truscott, Lt. Gen. McNarney, Lt. Gen. Clark and Maj. Gen. Kendall. When the distinguished

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S E C R E T

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By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

S E C R E T

party arrived at the 2nd Battalion, General Marshall presented the Distinguished Service Cross to 2nd Lieutenant Steven M. Kosmyna of Company "E". The presentation was made at a battalion formation.

Although the regiment was in Division reserve, the area occupied by the 1st and 2nd battalions and Regimental CP was subjected to considerable long range artillery fire. A few casualties were suffered in the 2nd battalion in the vicinity of BIBUIANO.

As a feature of the Information and Education program, a "Barber Shop Quartet" contest was begun and all battalions and Special Units were encouraged to enter the contest. The contest created considerable competition and after eliminations in the battalions and Special Units, the finals were held in LOIANO on 14 February. The winner of these finals, an exceedingly fine quartet from the 2nd Battalion, competed in the Division eliminations in Montecatini on 20 February. Coached and led by Lt. William G. Bell, this quartet performed admirably and was a unanimous choice of the judges. Winning the Division finals, the group competed in the Army finals. In spite of fine singing on their part, the judges selected the group from another division, our quartet coming in third. Encouraged by the success of this competition, it was decided to form a regimental glee club when the organization was moved into more favorable positions.

On the 15th of February, advance reconnaissance parties went forward, preparatory to the regiment's taking over frontline positions. On the 18th of February, the 1st Battalion assuming the right of the regimental sector relieved the 2nd Battalion of the 351st Regiment and set up its CP at LIVERGNANO (874297). On the 20th of February, the 2nd Battalion, in relieving the 1st Battalion of the 351st Regiment, took up positions on the left of the regiment's sector.

-4-

S E C R E T

REF ID: A66009

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Authority NND 735017

By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

S E C R E T

The 3rd Battalion was kept in regimental reserve with its CP at Anconella (see overlay). The Regimental CP was moved to IA GUARDA (865276). Our left flank while thus disposed, was tied with the 349th Infantry and with the 361st Infantry of the 91st Division on our right.

Activity for the remainder of the month was taken up with ambush and reconnaissance patrols. No outstanding actions resulted, but the enemy remained very sensitive to our probing of their lines. On the other hand, enemy activity was unusually light and limited to scattered patrol activity and light harassing fire.

On 23 February, the 3rd Battalion moved out of reserve to relieve the 2nd Battalion of the 349th Infantry. In assuming these positions the regiment's defense line was extended almost 2000 yards. The line extended irregularly south and east from 8932 to approximately 8428.

On 22 February, the regiment was notified that the Congressional Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Captain Robert E. Roeder, former company commander of "G" Company for his outstanding contribution to the heroic defense of Mt. Battaglia, Italy. This was the second Medal of Honor awarded to a member of this regiment, Lt. Charles Shea having been awarded the Medal of Honor in January. Actual presentation of the Medal would be made in the United States to Captain Roeder's mother, his next of kin.

The weather during the month was generally favorable for active defense. A few days of rain and fog did little to hamper operations. The snow melted rapidly with the advent of mild spring sunshine and patrol movements were greatly facilitated.

-5-

S E C R E T

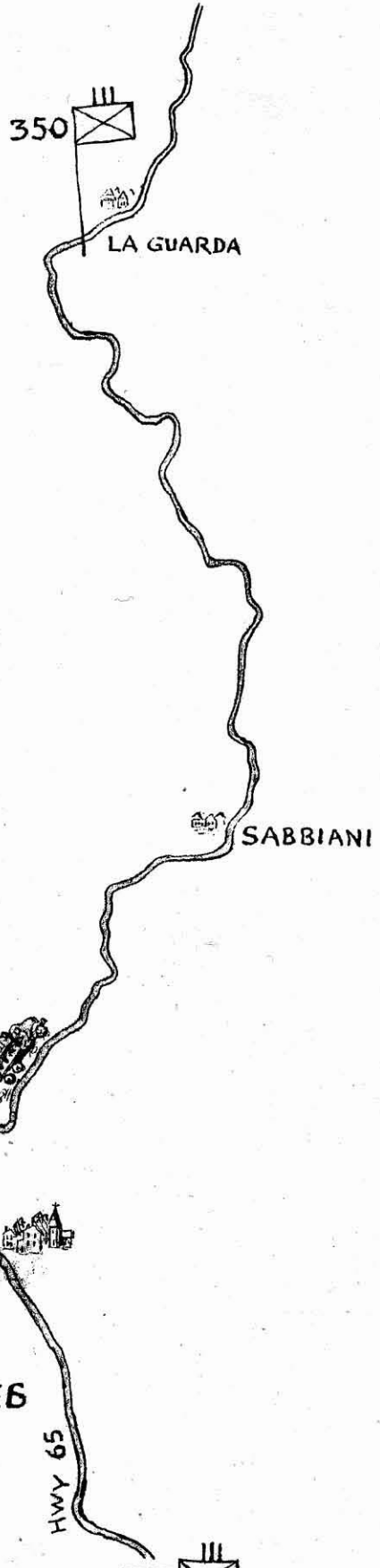
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Authority NMD 735017

By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

85
28



HQ 350th INF.

19 FEB. 1945

OVERLAY: MOVEMENT TO FRONT LINES

MAPS: ITALY 1/25 000
Sheets 98 I N.E.
98 I N.W.

OFFICIAL: FINGERHUT

8'
23

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Authority NMD 735017

By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO #88, U. S. ARMY

SECRET
88th Div War
130 Jan 45

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE - MARCH 1945

The month of March marked a full year of combat for the regiment for it was the 3rd of March in 1944 that the regiment took up their first position near Minturno to begin their combat career. In that year, the regiment has participated in most of the glorious successes achieved by the division. The 350th has come a long way -- from a unit of green, unseasoned troops, we have developed into a battle wise and confident unit. We have achieved our measure of glory and feel proud that the organization is rated as one of the finest combat regiments in the Fifth Army.

Castelforte, Fondi, Formia, Itri, Roccasecca, Roccagorga, Priverno, Rome, Volterra, Mt. Battaglia, Mt. Grande are all names that will be indelibly inscribed in the minds and hearts of all the men who fought in Italy. The greatest glory rests on those bold and courageous men who died and inspired others to continue in their places; and on those who were wounded and are no longer with us. It is to these that we owe a never ending debt of gratitude.

Much of the outstanding success of the regiment during this year was due to the able and inspiring leadership of its commander, Colonel J. C. Fry.

A mixture of emotions was experienced by all when it was made known that Colonel Fry had been chosen as Assistant Division Commander.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (F)
735017
By MDJ NARS, Date 7/15/74

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Authority NMD 735017

By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

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We were sorry to lose such an intelligent and understanding leader who possessed such genuine and sincere human qualities. We rejoiced to know that his encouraging leadership and military ability were so well recognized by his selection for this important post.

One year of combat containing a lifetime of anguish and relief, despair and victory, fear and hope. These are, perhaps, what General Clark meant to remind us of in his letter to General Kendall on 5 March 1945. *

As a fitting reward on completion of this year of combat the regiment was placed in Corps Reserve on 4 March for a well earned rest and specialized training in preparation for the coming offensive.

The beginning of March found the regiment in position astride highway #65. The First Battalion (Lt. Col. Holland) occupied the right of the regimental sector near Livergnano and south of enemy held Pianaro (CP at 874297). ** The Second Battalion (Lt. Col. Yongue) with their CP at 872285 were in center position while the Third Battalion (Lt. Col. Witter) were dug in on the left flank with their CP at 850278. The 349th Infantry was on the regiment's left while the 361st Infantry of the 91st Division occupied our right flank.

Activity for the short time the regiment occupied these positions in this month was confined to reconnaissance and combat patrols. Several

* See letter General Clark dated 5 March 1945 in miscellaneous section.

** See overlay in rear of narrative.

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REFRODUCED FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE

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Authority NMD 7350PZ
By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

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spirited encounters developed and important information obtained on enemy positions and strength. Artillery fire during this period was negligible, the 10 casualties sustained were a result of our aggressive patrol actions. Enemy mortar and small arms fire during patrol movements was heavy and reasonably accurate. Of these casualties, 2 died of wounds in the hospital, 2 others received serious wounds and the remainder sustained relatively light wounds.

On 4 March, exactly one year from the day the regiment entered combat, advance quartering parties left for the rear area to arrange for billeting of the regiment. By 6 March the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division completed the relief of the regiment and the 350th moved by truck to the rear area near Prato, Italy. The first battalion was bivouaced near C. Marino, the second battalion at Capanaccia and the third battalion at Ginoriana. The regimental CP was set up at Villa Ginori.

Thus disposed,* the regiment engaged in an intense training schedule which included battle training and river crossing, administrative inspections and clothing and vehicle inspections. In a meeting of all the officers and non commissioned officers of the first three grades, Colonel Fry stressed the importance of this training and the great need for developing and maintaining the highest possible degree of discipline in all the men.

In conjunction with this training a keen competitive spirit

* See reference maps.

REF ID: A66088
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Authority NMD 7350P7

By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/60

was maintained by a program of prize contests including rifle firing, machine gun firing, mortar tests, close order drill contests and sports competitions. The first week was given over to rigid training -- passes and leaves to Florence, Rome and Montecatini were cancelled to enable all men to engage in this extensive training program.

On 11 March regimental memorial services were held in a heavily wooded area near the regimental command post. In preparation for these services, a regimental glee club was formed with members drawn from all companies. A highly commendable performance was given and the glee club was accepted as a permanent unit. The memorial services* were conducted by the regiment's chaplains, Captain Pressly, Captain Newman, and Lieutenant Marleau, at the conclusion of which the regimental commander, Colonel J. C. Fry, addressed the regiment. His words, although impromptu, drew vivid recollection of our past year in battle. The loss of many of our very dear friends was recalled in a simple but inspiring address and the troops were reminded of their duty to their God and country.

At the end of the memorial program, separate services were held for the various faiths. The Catholics joined in a special high mass conducted by Lieutenant Marleau. Protestant services were held by Captain Pressly. Captain Goldfarb, Jewish Chaplain, conducted the Jewish services.

The second week in corps reserve saw greater stress placed on recreation. The special service officer secured USO shows and late movies.

* See program in miscellaneous section.

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Authority NND 735017

By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

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Sports were encouraged -- Boxing contests were held -- Volley ball teams were formed and a spirited competition developed.

For the non commissioned officers of the first three grades, a club was established in San Donato where dances and parties were held. Passes were again instituted. Enlisted men's four day passes to Rome and Montecatini rest camps were given. 748 men were sent to the Montecatini rest center, and 300 day leave passes to Florence were authorized every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. 80 enlisted men each evening attended show and movies at the Apollo Theater in Florence for a seven day period.

Dance parties for officers were held each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday night at the regimental CP, the special service orchestra furnishing the music.

During the third week training was continued * and competitions begun between companies. Range firing of all weapons and competition in dismounted drill were begun. General point competition for discipline and conduct of personnel, sanitation and appearance of installations was won by "D" Company. Squad, platoon and battalion problems were in full swing.

On the 25th of March Colonel Fry bid his staff farewell to take up his new duties as Assistant Division Commander. His leaving was keenly felt by all, including the private in the ranks. Lieutenant Colonel Avery M. Cochran, the Regimental Executive Officer, assumed command of the regiment. The excellent work he has done in the past leaves us with the

* See Dance program - miscellaneous section.

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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

assurance that the regiment will be ably led and continue to operate at its accustomed high standard of efficiency.

The firing contests were completed and "F" Company emerged victorious in the rifle and BAR competition and the 61mm mortar tests, with Company "B" a close second. Light machine gun competition was won by "I" Company, while the dismounted drill contest was won by a rifle platoon from "K" Company.

The last few days of March were taken up with practicing for the division review which was held on Saturday, 31 March. This was to be the last day the regiment was allowed to wear their division insignia, preparatory to moving to a new area for additional and specialized training. The division review, said to be the first to be held in the Italian theater, was honored by the presence of the Army Group Commander, General Mark W. Clark; General Truscott, commanding the Fifth Army, General Keyes, commander of II Corps; General Cannon, commander of the 12th Air Force; our division commander, General Kendall; Colonel Fry, our assistant division commander; and other dignitaries.

General Clark after the presentation of the Colors and before inspecting the troops gave a short address praising the 88th Division for their "excellent work in the Italian campaign.*** From the Garigliano to Rome, thru Volterra and the successful push thru the Gothic line, the 88th has covered themselves with glory in every operation."

This last day of March was spend in final preparations for the move to the new training area. Division insignia were removed from all clothing and all regimental designation removed from vehicles and equipment.

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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00



The regiment is scheduled to take part in a short but highly specialized training, the nature of which is still undisclosed.

We start our second year of combat confident that our duties in this battleground will soon be completed.

A. M. Cochran

A. M. COCHRAN,
Lt. Col., Infantry,
Commanding.

12 Incls:

- # 1 - Battalion Histories
- 2 - S-1 Journal
- 3 - S-2, S-3 Journal
- 4 - S-4, Report
- 5 - Personnel Report
- 6 - Medical Report
- 7 - Officer Promotions
- 8 - Awards
- 9 - Publicity
- 10 - I & E Section
- 11 - Miscellaneous
- 12 - Reference Maps.



7
3

LIVERGNANO
No 65

Ancanella

LOIANO

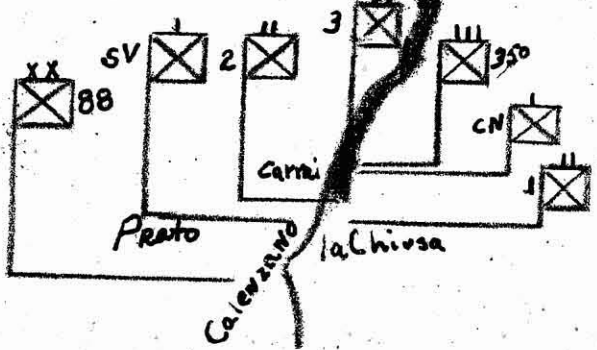
Firenzola



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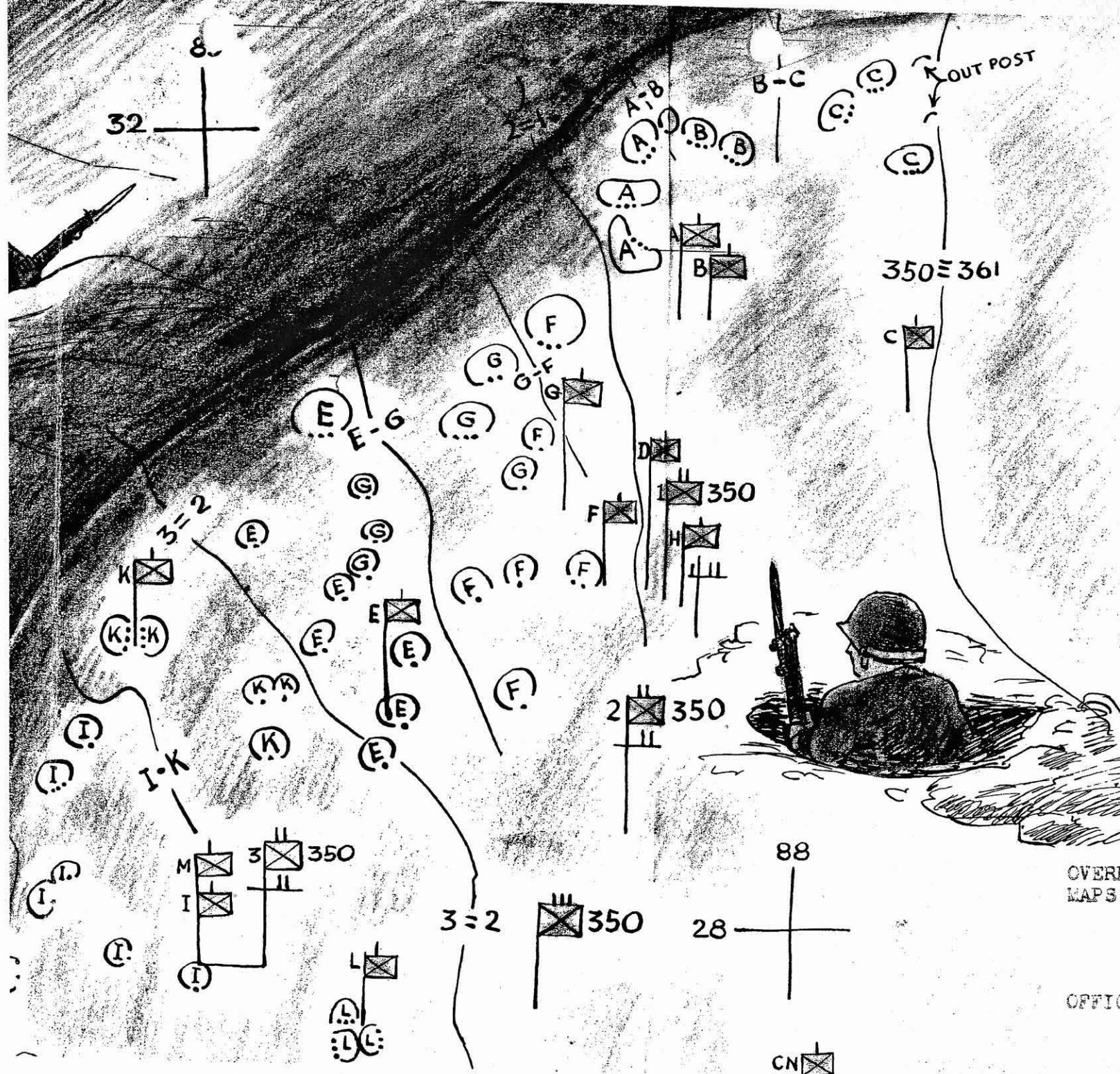
AT



HEADQUARTERS 350⁺
7 MARCH 1945
OVERLAY: ROUTE TO NE
NIGHT ~ 5-6 MARCH
MAP: ROAD MAP
SCALE: 1/200,000
SHEET: 11
Official:

TO FLORENCE

SECRET



POSITIONS
 350TH INFANTRY
 1 MARCH
 TO 5 MARCH, 1945

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFA
 APO 887 U. S. ARMY

OVERLAY: Troop Dispositions
 MAPS: ITALY, 1/25,000
 Sheets 87 II SE & SW
 98 I NE & NW

OFFICIAL:

FINGERHUT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD 735017By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00**S E C R E T**HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO #88, U. S. ARMY

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

By W.D.J. NARS, Date 7/15/94HISTORICAL NARRATIVE - APRIL 1945CC 889 of 1st
L: W.D.J.
R: 27 May 1945

Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945, found the Regiment preparing to move to a new training area to take part in specialized training for the spring offensive. With all insignia removed and all markings eliminated from all vehicles to hide our identity, the Regimental convoy rode almost seventy miles from the area near Prato to a staging area near Pisa, Italy. Here, in what was originally the royal hunting grounds, a beautiful pine wooded area, the combat team was bivouaced to undergo the vigorous and highly specialized five day training program.* Preliminary boat drills and river crossing exercises were conducted; lectures by engineers and actual crossings by "Ducks", "Weazels", assault boats, and storm boats. This site on the Arno River and a short distance from the Western coast was ideally suited for such training. Artillery pieces and anti-tank guns were moved across the river as part of the exercises. Crossing problems were held in battalion strength in preparation for the Regimental river crossing problem in which the whole combat team was to take part. Attached to the Regimental combat team were: Company "B", 313th Medical Battalion; Company "B", 313th Engineer Battalion; and the 338th Field Artillery Battalion. On 5 April, the combat team engaged in a river crossing problem. All attached units were involved and a commendable performance elicited the approval of Colonel J. C. FRY, the assistant Division Commander. By the 6th of April, the Regiment had completed its intensive training and were scheduled and prepared to move to their new area where final preparations for the spring offensive were made. This seemed like the most opportune time to strike a decisive blow at the German armies in Italy. With the tremendous advances of our armies in Germany, it seemed the appropriate time for concerted action on this, the Italian front. A combined movement on all sides of the enemy presaged an early victory, but not without much heavy battling. Evidences that the enemy were feverishly strengthening

* See Training Schedules.

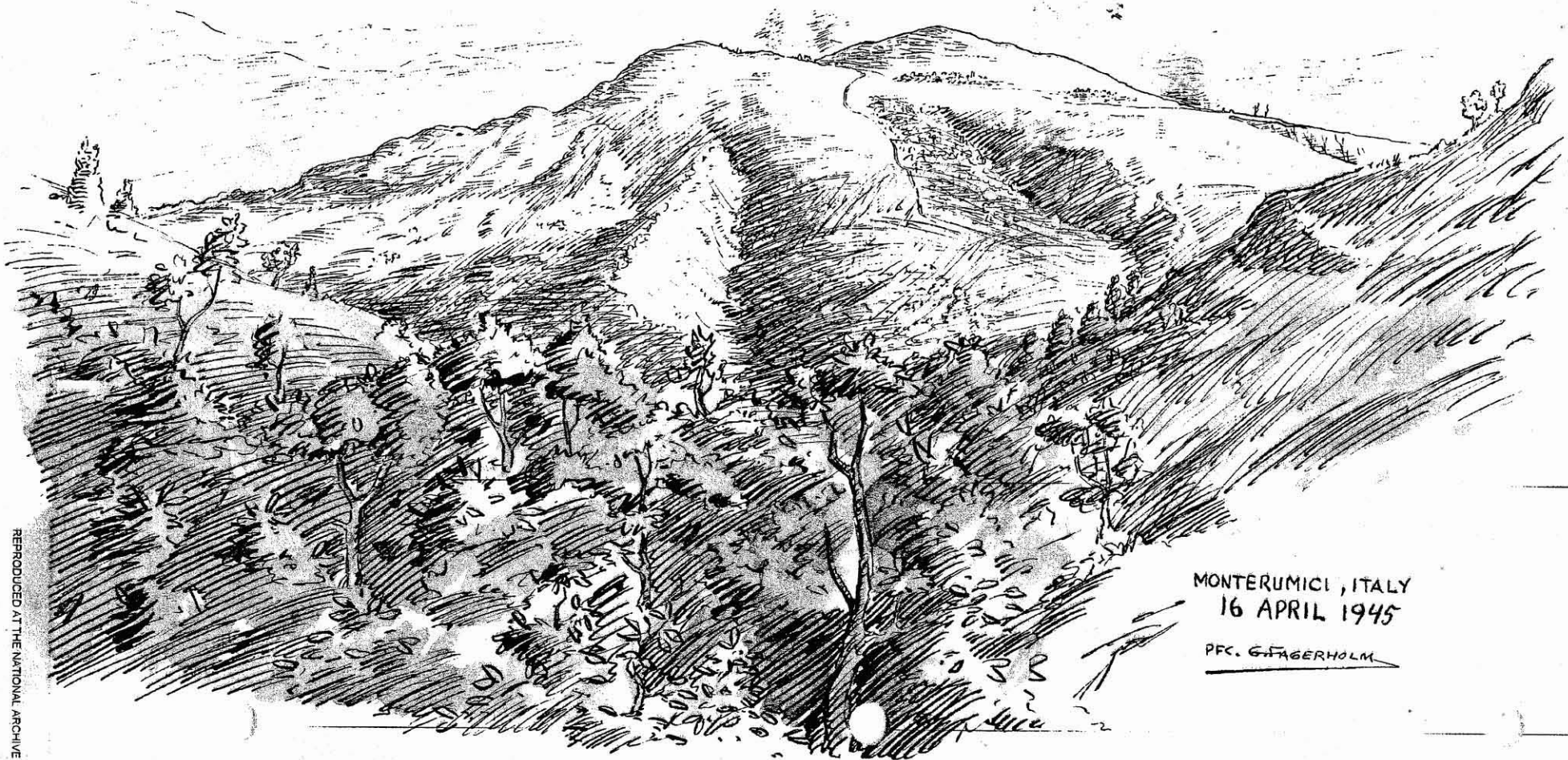
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S E C R E T

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Authority NND 735017

By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00



MONTERUMICI, ITALY
16 APRIL 1945

PFC. G. FAGERHOLM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD 7350P7

By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

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their defenses and notices by the allied forces to the Italian people that they would soon be liberated, foretold of an early offensive. In preparation for what appeared to be an immense operation, all plans concentrated on breaking through the enemy's defenses and force our way into the rich Po valley and across the Po River, with speed the prime factor. On their Western borders, the Germans were battling the combined forces of French, American, and British armies while on the East the powerful Russians were relentlessly pursuing their quarry. The progress of our forces points towards an early end of hostilities. Here in Italy, in the light of spectacular advances of the Allied forces in Germany, much speculation is apparent as to what effect the surrender of enemy troops in Germany will have on the Germans in Italy. Our offensive may encounter no serious opposition, a situation which would be most welcome to the tired and battle weary Italian population. A rapid advance would save much needless destruction. It is known that here in Italy, prepared plans for dynamiting bridges, railroads, etc., would be put into effect immediately upon the start of our offensive. On 5 April our advance quartering party left for our new bivouac area, and on 6 April, the Regiment minus all unit designations, started moving to training areas near Pietramala, Italy. The Regimental G.P. was set up in an antique villa on highway 65 and our troops were disposed* in anticipation of an immediate move to front line positions. Preparations for the offensive were under^{way} and in meetings of Battalion and Company Commanders as well as all First Sergeants of the Regiment, plans and situations were discussed and arrangements made to coordinate all elements and attached units. Since the plans anticipated use of armored vehicles for immediate use in the valley of the Po, detailed and thorough plans were formulated on supporting units - 338th Field Artillery; Company "B", 313th Engineers; 752nd Tanks; and 805 Tank Destroyers. Feverish but efficient activity marked the developing of mortar plans - artillery

* See Attached Overlay

- 2 -

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By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00

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concentrations - objectives - phase lines - and sectors of fire. This was surely to be an all out offensive. The troops were given final instructions and practice problems. Weapons and equipment were carefully checked and all excesses being turned in. Ammunition stores were built up and flame thrower demonstrations were held. A Regimental replacement pool was set up near Pietramala and intensive training became a regular part of their schedule. As projected, each rifle company had three 8 man squads plus heavy weapons personnel. We had learned much about replacements in our various battles in the past and these lessons stood us in good stead. Thusly occupied, the troops enjoyed a limited rest and recreation until 10 April. On 10 April, an advance party left for the forward positions to arrange for the Regimental move and the final preparations for the gigantic offensive. On 11 April, still blacked-out for secrecy reasons, movement forward began. Regimental Headquarters and the Rear Regimental Command Post were installed at Anconella. Regimental forward and First Battalion C.P. was set up at La Valle (850278). The First Battalion (Lt. Col. Holland) took up front line positions* and relieved the Second Battalion, 362nd Infantry Regiment of the 91st Division. According to plan, the First Battalion was to maintain these positions until the jump-off. The Second Battalion (Lt. Col. Yongue) moved into a rear assembly area near Anconella where Company "E" was attached to the First Battalion - "H" Company moved into positions forward where all fire data for maximum support of the attack was compiled and checked. The Third Battalion (Lt. Col. Witter) moved to their assembly area on 12 April and there awaited "H" hour and "D" day. Service Company set up South of Monghidoro and utilized these last few days prior to the attack to perfect their vital supply routes and transportation. Cannon Company took up positions near Anconella and although no firing was permitted in order not to disclose our arrival or location of our units, artillery, mortar, and air observation posts were established at La Valle and Scascoli. Our

* See Attached Overlay

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NMD 735077By W.D. NARA Date 4/25/00~~SECRET~~

painstaking labor on patrols of previous months was soon to be rewarded. Careful studies had been made of all enemy strongholds and intentions - probable points of resistance were carefully surveyed.* Our attack, originally scheduled for the 13th was postponed until the 14th. Advantage was taken of this respite and additional preparations were made. The Regimental C.P. moved to La Valle where the Regimental Commander, Colonel Cochran, could more easily control all movement. Reconnaissance missions confirmed positions and strength of enemy installations, and on the 14th of April, our artillery support began registering in. Major General Kendall and Colonel J. C. Fry made frequent visits to the rear Command Post these last few days and assured themselves that the important mission of the Regiment would move smoothly and successfully. Reports received at this time point to sensational successes of the 8th Army on our right and part of the 5th Army making spectacular gains. Opposition is described as exceedingly heavy in the 8th Army sector, although extensive preparations and shelling preceded the attack. The Fifth Army's 92nd Division was experiencing only spotty opposition and rapidly advancing towards Spezia. We are sure now that our attack on Bologna is the spearhead of the Fifth Army and, as such, we expect the heaviest opposition from our determined enemy. Although scheduled for the 14th, our jump-off was postponed 24 hours and the troops enjoyed the extra day. During these days enemy artillery and mortar activity was down to a minimum, although both forward and rear positions were under constant observation. "H" hour was finally released as well as "D" day; on 15 April at 2030 hours the Regiment will move out in the attack after an artillery, mortar, and machine gun preparation of half hour. In the closely coordinated plan, the Regiment had as supporting units, the reliable 338th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "B" of the 313th Engineers, Company "C" (less one platoon) of the 752 Tank Battalion, one platoon of Company "C" of the 804 Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one reinforced

* See Venetian Defense line S-2, S-3 Section, also CT2 report on enemy Situation (S-2,3 Section - Annex to F.O. #17)

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Authority NMD 735017

By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

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platoon of 4.2 mortars of Company "A" of the 10th Chemical Battalion. Careful screening and checking of information from all sources reveals that we are facing the 157 Mountain Division, comprised by the 296th and 297th Mountain Regiments, with the 65th Infantry Division to their right and the 94th on their left. Our immediate opponent, at last reports, was the 3rd Battalion of 297th Mountain Regiment. Our enemy were well dug in on favorable and dominating ground and continue from our position almost to Bologna. The crack 90th Panzer Grenadier Division is reported to be North of Bologna in mobile reserve. The key to the Po valley defenses, Monterumici was well nigh impregnable. Mines almost completely covered all usable approaches and although the towns of De Sopra and De Sotto were pounded to a rubble, it was known the enemy would defend this vital keystone with fanatical fury. It seemed that here was another Mt. Battaglia with the exception that the enemy were literally looking down our throats. With two battalions abreast, the 350th was to capture the Gibraltar of the Po, Monterumici - a formidable height interlocked with caves and elaborate dug-outs and cleverly concealed gun positions. This terrain seemed like the roughest we have yet seen in Italy. Tortuous trails were the only means of advance and all our armor would not serve us until we hit the ideal terrain of the Po valley. Difficulties of supply would again present themselves and fighting would again be fatiguing and miserable. Many terrain features were not suitable for military operations, and movement was confined to stubbornly defended areas studded with weapons of all types. On our left the 349th was to seize Furcoli and on our right the 91st Division was delegated the mission of conquering Mt. Adone. with the first battalion in regimental reserve*, occupying then frontline positions, and then moving out along the trail to LaTombe as a diversion, the third battalion, from its rear assembly area near Anconella was to move to LaValle^{and} was charged with clearing

* See F.O. #1, Hq 350th Inf.

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Monterumici, attacking along the trail from LaPiano to LaTorre, with one company moving towards Fazzan²ello then Hill 416, Le Mandrie (835298) and Casarola (831298).

The Second Battalion, after attacking one company to the First Battalion until H hour plus 30 was to move from their assembly area near Anconella and then attack up to Fazzano Ridge. After securing this feature, the second was to continue up the ridge to seize San Lucia (832302) and Cassa di Mazza (843302) and then forward to Quercia (838315) and finally Val del Fossa (838315). With speed the major consideration the First Battalion was set to assist the Third in the event that Monterumici did not fall early in the operation. The first battalion was then to move to Casa di Mazza and then to attack northwest through Mt. dei Froti and attacking Mt. Mario. The 91st Division was to attack and capture Mt. Adone and it seemed that this high but unpractical feature would prove an obstacle in the capture of Monterumici. After these two hills were taken the regiment was to continue north and capture Villa C Stettano (835374). Plans were set to assist the 91st Division in the event that Mt. Adone should prove too difficult to capture. With artillery and other support weapons all prepared to give maximum power to the drive, the second and third battalions on 15 April moved to positions of the 362nd Infantry and awaited hour of attack scheduled for 2300. Mt. Adone was scheduled to be taken by the 91st in their attack at 0300 on 16 April. With Mt. Adone still in enemy hands, therefore Monterumici presented more than a formidable problem. On our left was the Sixth South Africans whose mission was to protect our left flank and capture Mt. Sole. The whole operation of the II Corps was tied with the attack of the IV Corps on the left and the Eighth Army on the right in an all out assault on Bologna. Planes were active all day the 15th bombing front line positions of the enemy. Wave after wave of bombers and dive bombers made their appearance today. Reports to this headquarters state that the Sixth South African succeeded in capturing Mt. Sole but received a vicious counter attack and were forced off the hill. After another drive the Sixth South African regained the hill and moved forward and encountered pill boxes

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on the reverse slope and extremely heavy resistance. At promptly 2230 the offensive began and the fury of our artillery, mortars, tanks and tank destroyers, machine guns and AAA guns was directed on Monterumici. It seemed hardly possible that anything could live under such a terrific concentration and after preparatory fires were lifted the troops moved forward at 2300. K and L Company leading assault for the 3rd battalion with I company in reserve. At 2200 K arrived at LaPiano and L was moving to the right. F Company leading the assault of the 2nd Battalion with G company following. Our attack was developing according to plan and our men had successfully crossed the Saverona River without any untoward incident. Movement was satisfactory until the troops attempted to move up the slopes of Monterumici, where they were met by intense and extremely accurate mortar and machine gun fire from deeply entrenched enemy positions. Counter mortar fire was called for and although the enemy fire was reduced it was not silenced completely. It seemed almost impossible to advance in the face of this intense enemy fire against a ridge that the enemy were pledged to hold or die. Casualties were sustained when men ran to the shelter of nearby foxholes they found them booby trapped. K Company moved through and to the left of Monterumici and successfully drove towards LaTorre and DeSota. By 0100 hours (16 April) in spite of the heavy casualties from Schu mines, and the booby trapped foxholes, it was occupying positions about 400 yards from LaTorre but were unable to move because of machine gun fire directed at them from Casa di Mazza. L Company which had struck to the right of Monterumici and was able to advance against very light resistance until just short of the road between west of Fazzano and S. Lucia. F Company had by passed Fazzanello on the move to Fazzano but were pinned down by machine gun fire from Casa di Mazza. With only three companies committed, (F, L and K) the regiment suffered twenty-six (26) casualties in the first few hours of fighting. Heavy fire is being received from strong points located in ideal and advantageous positions. By 0100 F Company had moved close to S. Lucia but were also halted by the machine gun

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fire from Casa di Mazza. The company split and attempted to approach the position from the left and right. Flanking movements were unsuccessful and, at 0500, after a heavy fire fight in the vicinity of Casa di Mazza (844306) F Company withdrew and set up defensive positions at Fazzano. The company commander (Captain Charbonnet) was wounded and executive officer (Lt. Hunter) was injured. Two men were killed and three men wounded. E Company who had occupied defensive positions near LaTorre and Laglia were prepared to launch an attack on F Company flank. ^{(Reports from the 21st state that} One company had reached Hill 282 (821282) while another company was within 100 yards of F^{ar}coli against stiff enemy resistance, and were contemplating moving their tanks.) Artillery and mortars were called for in order to protect the troops who were completely exposed. G Company, following F, was subjected to heavy machine gun and mortar fire and when ordered to pass through F suffered 1 KIA and 3 WIA and were forced to dig in near Fazzano, there to await daylight and continue the attack. Mt. Adone to the left was still in enemy hands and a serious threat to our advance. K Company attempted to move on LaTorre but was met by mortars and machine guns from the vicinity of S. Cecilia. Captain Stroup (K Company C. O.) attempted to outflank the enemy by leading one platoon to the left of LaTorre while another platoon attacked DeSotto. His third platoon was prepared to assault S. Cecilia as soon as LaTorre was taken. This attempt failed when they were halted by machine guns in dugouts in a house. The platoon had reached to within 10 yards of the house when machine guns blasted away at them. In order to disperse and get out of line of fire they were forced into a mine field and when six men became casualties the platoon was forced to withdraw. Tank fire was requested (0230 hours) on LaTorre and the battalion was moved back while our tanks went into action. Again an attempt was made to seize LaTorre this time from the right but machine gun and mortar fire from LaTorre and S. Cecilia drove K Company back again. One platoon of L Company, after a short fire fight

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succeeded in seizing their first objective, the enemy outpost of Fazonello. Another platoon moved in the attack toward RP 100 Le Mandrie but was halted by machine gun and small arms before they had reached half way. They continued to fight however and succeeded in making their way to within twenty feet of the ridge but were forced to withdraw after suffering one enlisted man killed and one officer and one enlisted man wounded. After digging in to hold the ground taken another platoon was subjected to heavy mortar fire -- the platoon was forced, then, to withdraw to Fazonello, after suffering four casualties one of which was the platoon leader, Lt. George Wheeler. The 361 Infantry of the 91st Division moved out at 0300 with their objective Mt. Adone. Fierce enemy resistance was encountered and at 0600 (16 April) they were bogged down in Brento. Thus were the positions at dawn the 16th of April. These truly were well nigh impregnable positions. The enemy were concealed in caves and cleverly camouflaged dugouts and had the advantage of looking down on our exposed troops. The 361 Infantry of the 91st Division was having difficulty in capturing Mt. Adone. This left the regiment subject to fire from that sector and until neutralized would seriously hinder our advance. Fighter bombers were called for to work over Mt. Adone. In anticipation of their arrival at 0715 hours, we smoked Mt. Adone. Pressure on our troops who were now about 1000 yards short of this impregnable fortress, would be eased since much of the heavy shell fire was coming from that sector. At 0800 word was received that the 363rd regiment of the 91st Division was being counterattacked. The enemy it now seems were not going to surrender but will put up a determined defense. After the scars from the wounds of the previous night had been treated and the wounded removed, the second and third battalions were regrouped for still another attempt to wrest Monterumici from our fanatical enemy. At 1000 hours, therefore, supported by heavy machine gun and mortar fire the attack was continued. Company K using

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three rifle platoons moved slowly towards Di Sotto and La Torre. No resistance was encountered and the two villages were reached without mishap. Houses were cleared and a security squad remained while the remainder of the company continued on past Di Sotto to the high ground directly above it. By 1100 hours, most of the company had moved through La Torre and Di Sotto and were on their way to Di Sopra and the cemetery*. When the three platoons had passed Di Sotto, the enemy who had only been holding their fire, let loose with all their weapons. Machine guns, machine pistols, rifles, and hand grenades were fired from hidden positions and the three platoons were helpless. There was no cover and with fire coming from beneath them (Di Sotto), to their left (Di Sopra), and from the ridge directly above them. No escape was open to them and the men were trapped. The enemy then began dropping in mortars and although heavy casualties were sustained, the brave men engaged the enemy in a terrific fire fight that lasted for five hours. The enemy succeeded in capturing three of our radios and when flying shrapnel hit the telephone, the company was without communication. Men attempted to move for cover to get out of the line of enemy fire, but they were caught in mine fields strewn all over the area. "I" Company was called to support Company "K" and when tank fire was ordered on Di Sopra, "I" Company was alerted to move in that direction. It now is apparent that the enemy tricked us into believing that Di Sotto was unoccupied for at 1400 they had come out of their hiding and had occupied the village. It was from this direction that the enemy directed their heaviest fire. "L" Company meanwhile attempted to flank the enemy from the left, and at 0800 hours, one platoon managed to reach within a few feet of the ridge, just short of RP 100 (La Mandrie). The enemy opened fire and a heavy fire fight developed. Two enemy dug-outs were knocked out on the South of the ridge. The third platoon was pinned down and suffering casualties and the second platoon was sent to their aid, to attempt to gain the crest, only to be driven off by sniper and machine gun fire.

* See oblique airphoto of Monterumici

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Covering machine gun fire was called for and both platoons withdrew. Casualties were heavy on both sides. At 2230 hours, the second and third platoons again attacked and a few men managed to infiltrate to hill 100 but were forced to move back by heavy mortar and machine gun fire. The Second Battalion could not advance in their sector and were forced to return to Fazziano. Stiff enemy resistance encountered by "F" Company forced a withdrawal and sixteen casualties were suffered. "G" Company attempted to advance towards the ridge line North of Fazziano but were halted by a fifty foot cliff around which movement was impossible since machine gun and mortars were zeroed in on all approaches. Casualties in "G" Company were severe - some fourteen being wounded, including Lt. Duane Cordiner. At 1800 hours, "K" Company's position was desperate and the whole company was completely disorganized. "I" Company was called to aid Company "K" and the First Battalion was committed to help the Third. Accordingly at 1800 hours, under cover of smoke shells, the remaining men in the company withdrew and were pulled back as far as the river bed. The actual extent of casualties was not definitely known but twenty men were killed, forty wounded, and nine were missing. The Company Commander and two officers were wounded. At 2200 hours, "I" Company moved up toward Di Sopra while "C" Company moved out from La Valle to attack the high ground at Di Sopra and the cemetery to its right. Moving out after dark, "C" Company started up towards Di Sopra in the face of heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the cemetery. The company then advanced on the high ground and secured positions in the village of Di Sopra. "B" Company moved to the vicinity of La Tombe as Battalion reserve while "A" Company was to approach Di Sotto from La Piana. The first Battalion was to move through "I" Company and press the attack. The enemy resistance had slowed our advance and forced a change in the plan of our attack. In retrospect it can be seen that the German defense was well planned employing the use of the many caves and dug-outs that have honeycombed the hillside. An observer reported that when "K" Company had received no fire from Di Sotto, it

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was assumed to be unoccupied and passed it right by. Only a few men took the trouble to look in any of the caves and holes and even when they did, it was only a hasty glance. But, when they attempted to move up the hill towards the cemetery and the ridge line, the enemy then came out of their caves and holes which were dug in beneath the debris of the blasted and rubble strewn village and let loose with heavy automatic fire. Mortar fire was directed from the ridge line running North and thus the heavy casualties. No matter where the men moved, they could find no cover - they were exposed from the flanks and rear. In this position the two platoons were cut off and with no possible escape. Later it was found that "K" Company had suffered heavily but not as much as originally suspected, two platoons had been surrounded by the enemy, a third platoon which had been cut off was later found to be in a cave occupied by the enemy. The "K" Company Commander, Capt. STROUP was wounded. Capt. MACDONALD, Commanding Company "I" was also wounded but refused to be evacuated. Lt. HUMPHREY, Company "I" was killed in moving towards Di Sopra. The end of this day marked some of the bitterest and closest fighting ever experienced by this Regiment. The 91st Division still hadn't taken Mt. Adone and our positions became increasingly dangerous. The 361st Regiment of the 91st Division had moved to a line ranging from 8531 North and East to 8732. The 349th had reached a point on line with C. Bacchino and C. Furcoli, moving on their objective toward Di Sopra (835287) and Di Poggiale (825288). The Sixth South Africans have finally wrested Mt. Sole from the enemy and were ready to drive forward once more. Our "L" Company was in position West of Fazzanello while "F" Company was between St. Lucia and C. di Mazza, both companies facing almost due West.

17 April 1945: Thus began the third day to capture this key to the Po Valley. Such fanatical resistance and well prepared positions all confirm the importance of this hill feature in the defenses to Bologna. Replacements were speedily rushed to the companies and all efforts were exerted to carrying the battle to the enemy. Considerable fire has been received from Mt. Adone and vicinity and our positions are

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difficult since the 361st Regiment's objective, Mt. Adone, is still in enemy hands. The 349th Regiment moved forward beyond Furcoli and the line in their sector forms an arc from 803273-807277-830287. Great difficulty is experienced in inability to evacuate casualties in time. Many wounded could not be moved until darkness since the whole Regimental sector was under direct enemy observation. "C" Company passed through "I" Company at dawn in the assault on the cemetery to the North of Di Sopra. In the fierce battle which followed, "C" Company finally succeeded in getting one platoon on the objective and consolidated, but the bitterly contested battle cost the company ten killed and thirty-one wounded, among whom was the brave Company Commander, Capt. CHARLES P. LYNCH, JR. Forty-five prisoners were captured and severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy (Many enemy wounded were evacuated through our medical aid stations). At 0800 hours company positions were reported as: A-848291; B-836287; C-836289; E-855295; F-844303; G-843302; I-838293; K-843292; L-841301.

After digging in to insure our holding this vital high ground, the positions were subjected to mortar and machine gun fire all day. Lt. CHARLES DORNACKER assumed command of "C" Company and prepared to continue in battalion reserve. "B" Company followed in a continuation of the attack after "A" Company had cleaned out Di Sotto. "A" Company then attacked along the ridge and "B" Company on the trail to the right past La Torre. ~~Secilia~~ Secilia was captured by "B" Company without any casualties being suffered and it continued to Le Mandrie. Opposition was very severe and the company was ambushed. Over forty casualties sustained when the enemy allowed two platoons to pass through them before they opened fire with five machine guns. Since it was unable to take another platoon in for reinforcement, the company was ordered to La Torre for reorganization. "A" Company meanwhile met little opposition and continued to consolidate gains further up the ridge. By 1030 the Regiment had succeeded in capturing Monterumici but a heavy toll was exacted in the long battle. At 0300 hours, "L" Company moved out to take hill feature #100, but fierce

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machine gun fire forced them to withdraw three more times. They attempted to capture their objective but were forced to pull back because of the murderous machine gun and mortar fire. Casualties were quite high. The third platoon could not move and had to wait for cover of darkness to withdraw. At 2000 hours the company moved through La Piana into Di Sopra (837288), the third battalion going into reserve. The second battalion in the mean time, had been ordered to seize C. di Mazza. While "F" Company held their positions, "E" and "G" companies passed through them to move North; "E" Company moving out at 1030 hours in the attack on C. di Mazza, made very slow progress due to the very difficult terrain. When it became obvious that the objective could not be reached before daylight, it was decided to return to position at Laglia and launch an attack under cover of darkness. No suitable cover was available and a daylight attack was sheer suicide, since Mt. Adone had not yet been taken. Two casualties were suffered as a result of this action. Then, at 2130 hours, with "G" Company launching an attack simultaneously on S. Lucia, "E" Company launched its attack once more on C. di Mazza, proceeding Northwest from Fazzano. The company moved toward the ridge line but was halted by machine guns set on ledges directly above them, and which were inaccessible. The enemy were able to drop hand grenades on the company and several men attempted to work themselves up to the ledges by grasping vines and then pulling themselves over the top. Sixteen men were hurt in this action, but the company had reached to within 300 yards of their objective. In order to traverse this distance, it was necessary to move across a heavily mine area. Darkness made further movement impossible, especially through the mine field, so positions were dug and daylight awaited. "G" Company, meanwhile, had advanced over 400 yards in the vicinity of Mt. Adone (843302) with light casualties. The whole line now moved determinedly forward and resistance was decreasing. Jerry was resorting to his old tricks; many of our men were fired upon by soldiers coming forward under protection of the white flag. At the rate of our advance, it appeared that the 350th Regiment might be in a far more advantageous position to capture Mt. Adone. The 361st Regiment effort on our

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right seems to have bogged down. At 1300 hours, a report stated that the 361st was suffering heavy casualties and unable to move on Brento which had to be taken in the attack on Mt. Adone. Although Adone is being subjected to heavy fire, strong and heavily fortified pill boxes are holding up the 361st advance. In preparation for a swift advance, aid stations were preparing to move forward. It was noticed that enemy artillery was becoming increasingly active. Our own artillery was employing VT fuze on rear slopes of ridges to cut off supplies or reinforcements from being brought up to these fanatical enemy troops.

18 April 1945: The 349th was meeting with determined resistance but have succeeded in moving to Le Braine. Total prisoners captured for activity of 15th, 16th, and 17th more than 100. As the fourth day of this offensive started, "A" Company advanced swiftly down the ridge to the Northwest. The remainder of the battalion followed and continued in the direction of Sasso Bolognese. "A" Company in the valley on the left along the 8258 Westing, and "B" and "C" in the hills on the right. "B" Company and the 1st Battalion C.P. moved through the valley road about 2000 yards South of "A" Company and "C" Company went forward to clean up the ridge South of Mt. Mario. The Second Battalion at 0035 hours, was being heavily mortared and could not move - casualties were increasing even though we were firing all our counter-mortars. At 1000 hours, the 361st Regiment was reported on Mt. Adone. With this, the highest peak in the sector captured, the right flank of the Second Battalion was secure and it was able to continue its move forward. At 0800 hours, "E" Company had moved out in the attack on C. di Mazza and at 1000 hours, they were reported in C. di Mazza and S. Lucia. The enemy had withdrawn and the battalion was ordered to attack in platoon column and follow the trail that led around the Western edge of Mt. Adone. The company moved to Vale di Fasse and when it was found unoccupied, it pressed forward to Quarcia. Twenty prisoners were captured and one platoon was given the mission of mopping up several small pockets

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that had been by-passed. Six more prisoners were captured and an 88mm gun was captured at (836314). Continuing to clear the area between Quercia and the river, eight more prisoners were captured. By 1400 hours, enemy resistance was broken and the regiment moved forward in a column of companies; one company of the first battalion, reported at RP 72 (Tassinano) was to move to RP 7 (Lama), along the highway to RP 36 and then to RP 65. The remainder of the battalion was selected to move from RP 59 (Quercia) to RP 44 (Tegginola) along the trail. The second battalion at this point was at RP 77 (Campione) and was to proceed to Aldoni (RP 15) and then to Badola (RP 20) and then to RP 88. The forward regimental C.P. was moved to Di Sotto and afterwards to Vale di Fasse (RP 26). By 1600 hours, the second battalion had reached the 34th Northing, and were moving along the 835 Easting to La Pranazza. "E" Company moved forward to seize Hill 474 (RP 52 at 841341). The route followed a West to Southwest direction to (838355) and attacked cross-country to Tre de Barto (83953380). After capturing this feature, the battalion ("E" Company) established contact with the 91st Division on the right at (842337). No casualties in this action and no P.W.'s. Second Battalion C.P. was set up at Badola and in a fire fight at Pranazza, fifty-five casualties were sustained. "A" Company, in their march forward, captured 166 prisoners and occupied seven RP's. While proceeding towards RP 42 (8136) the company was fired on by snipers. In leading one section of the company in the search of these snipers, First Sergeant Plank was killed. Then, with the assistance of three tanks, the houses were cleared and final preparations were made to attack RP 54 (8137). Although a

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bridge was blown out by the enemy the troops proceeded on foot and captured the objective and twenty-four prisoners. Three KIA and three WIA were sustained. "B" Company moved to RP 65 on Highway 6428 and captured thirty prisoners. At 1730 the Regimental C.P. was at Badola. Prisoners captured to date: 261. The third battalion still in regimental reserve. Movement now is rapid and the enemy are retreating rapidly. There was no movement during the night and companies dug in and held their gains. Much close quarter fighting was the order of this day's advance. Prisoners were increasing and some of those interrogated claimed that they would have held out longer but for the fact that our artillery prevented supplies and ammo from reaching them. This battle to breach the Bologna defenses has produced some of the fiercest fighting of this war. The fanatical "hold or die" spirit of the enemy resulted in innumerable casualties and our troops continued to drive relentlessly onward.

19 April 1945: At 0530 "E" and "G" companies were being counterattacked by the enemy on Hill 491. BAR fire beat off the enemy and with daylight eight enemy dead were counted. One P.W. was captured. At 0700 battalion positions were reported as follows: second battalion at RP 88 (La Pianazza) and 52; third battalion (still in reserve) at RP 20 (Badola) and would follow white; first battalion was attempting to seize RP 76 (Le Recca). While "A" Company moved in direction of Sasse Bolognese, "B" Company, in battalion reserve, moved from Della Leone to Mol Albano to make contact with "A" Company. At 0500 the regiment passed to 91st Division control, while the remainder of the division moved west to the vicinity of Vergato. The second battalion, with "F" and "G" companies leading, continued forward to seize Mt Mario and the high ground at Villa Quete and went into regimental reserve. "F" Company met stiff enemy resistance but after suffering only one casualty finished this day by digging in at C. Nuova. Fifteen prisoners were captured. "G" Company was

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ordered to clear Hill 62 south of Sasso Bolognese, and in a quick battle captured thirty-three prisoners after suffering four casualties. "E" Company pursued the enemy and attacked toward C. Vota and Hill 419, but not before it had cleared all the enemy pockets in the way and capturing eight or more prisoners. The company went into battalion reserve when, after capturing Mt Mario, "G" and "F" companies moved through it. For the four days of fighting thus far, the second battalion had advanced more than 10,000 yards, and captured 450 prisoners. The first battalion, which had already reached the vicinity of Sasso Bolognese, improved their defenses and availed themselves of much needed rest. We were informed that upon securing Black Phase Line, which was the 375 northing, the 362nd Regiment of the 91st Division would pass through us and the regiment would go into division reserve. At this time it is interesting to note that our efforts to mask the identity of the division may have had some effect on the enemy. Our G-2 report (30 April 1945) quotes a German P.W.: "German G-2 picture at the beginning of the offensive was not clear; the presence of the 88th Division particularly not being known."

20 April 1945: This day was spent in much needed rest and rehabilitation. Bivouaced in vicinity of Sasso Bolognese. Replacements were brought up and supplies were replenished. The last four days of battle had greatly worn our men. After the battle for Monterandici the regiment moved swiftly forward. Forced marches, at times, being necessary to keep up with the hastily retreating enemy. At 1000 the regiment was alerted to move to the west at which time it would go back under division control. Total casualties to date, although incomplete, are more than 220 wounded and almost 50 killed. Non-battle casualties and injuries further reduced our strength by 102. There were more than forty men carried "missing in action" - some had been captured - while others, it was known, were killed, but not picked up by our G.R.O.

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21 April 1945: At 0800 the regiment was ordered to move to Gesso (792470) where the regimental C.P. was established at 1600. Tanks and TD's were moved to 8045. Our left boundary is the division's left. The regiment marched out of the last of the hills overlooking Bologna and the green stretches of the Po Valley unrolled before us. The second battalion moved to Malcantone, a distance of twelve miles. The first battalion moved to Gesso after marching more than fourteen miles, and after a short rest continued for five more miles and bivouaced on Highway 9. Kitchens had been moved up and the troops enjoyed the luxury of a hot meal. The third battalion left the hills behind them and at 1800, after a march of 12 miles, arrived at Gesso, receiving instruction to be ready to move. At 2000 the battalion again moved out, and after marching approximately eight miles, arrived at Anzola Dall' Emilia. The regimental C.P. moved to 778543 and remained in division reserve.

22 April 1945: The regiment continued moving north with the enemy in full retreat. Heading north toward the Po River, the regiment was ordered to secure the line of the Panaro River. Accordingly the battalions moved up and regimental C.P. was established in Crevalcore (741742). The first battalion, after their arrival, were ordered to move forward in the attack to the north after relieving the 351st Regiment. The second battalion, after a road march of fourteen miles, moved to the vicinity of Villa Nuova. Enemy planes bombed the battalion while on the march, and twenty-one casualties were suffered. The third battalion, in moving north, marched approximately six miles to Scuola and after a short rest, continued for fifteen more miles to San Bernardino near Crevalcore. The 350th will take over from the 351st at 0500, 23 April.

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23 April 1945: At 0130 our regimental C.P. was set up at 737815, and after relieving the 351st in the vicinity of Campo Santo, the regiment moved forward encountering only scattered enemy resistance. The first Battalion was on the right of the regimental sector, while the third battalion secured the left flank. The second battalion followed the third with an interval of about 1,000 yards. The first battalion, in the early morning hours, moved forward with a platoon of tanks attached to "C" Company. Slight resistance was encountered and the battalion moved swiftly ahead. "A" Company captured ninety prisoners and an enemy motor pool with 100 vehicles. "B" Company reached Phase Line Betty by 1900, and with one platoon walking and two riding on tanks, Objective 32 was overrun and 200 prisoners captured. "C" Company was split up; part moving as a task force led by tanks; the other going on mopping up operations. Many prisoners were captured but no casualties were suffered. The third battalion marched to Villa Poma and moved out in attack, led by tanks. Some stiff enemy resistance was encountered and several casualties sustained. Captain Ashton, S-3 of the third battalion was killed. Planes strafed our troops and in their hasty retreat, the enemy were setting fire to arms and houses. After moving approximately sixteen miles the battalion arrived at Quattrocasse; 300 prisoners were captured, the C.P. was moved to San Felice (742873) and the regiment drove speedily towards the Po River. The second battalion, moving on the heels of the swiftly moving troops, met scattered resistance of bypassed enemy pockets. Few casualties were suffered but more than 1500 prisoners were captured. After passing through the third battalion the second battalion was motorized with tanks and tank destroyers. As the troops moved forward, soldiers picked up bicycles, horses and enemy vehicles. The roads were strewn with abandoned enemy transportation because of shortage of gasoline. A motly group our soldiers were as they approached

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the Po River, some on tanks, some riding beautiful chestnut horses, others driving luxurious passenger cars or trucks. Fifteen miles south of the Po the Regimental Commander requisitioned from the Italian civilians what bicycles were left for use of the 2nd Battalion and to speed the hurried pursuit of the now disorganized enemy. Due to lack of gasoline, the enemy were using horses, mules, oxen, etc., taken from the civilians to draw their guns, tanks and even vehicles. In the town of San Felice the enemy were so surprised by our advancing troops that a whole trainload of supplies containing food, cigarettes and cheese were left at the railroad station. As a last resort, the Germans had even tried filling with dirt, the space between the railroad ties so that animals could pull the train. This work was partly complete and then only for a short distance when we arrived in this town. The population was jubilant and overwhelmed by our arrival. Men women and children lined the streets of the town throwing flowers, offering wine, and wishing us God speed. When the soldiers were able to linger in a town for a short time, the enthusiasm of the population was unbounded. Partisans had shown up, sometimes in great numbers, and as they roamed the fields armed with a varied assortment of weapons, their spirit and willingness was instantly apparent. They were doing good work in rounding up bypassed enemy and guarding prisoners.

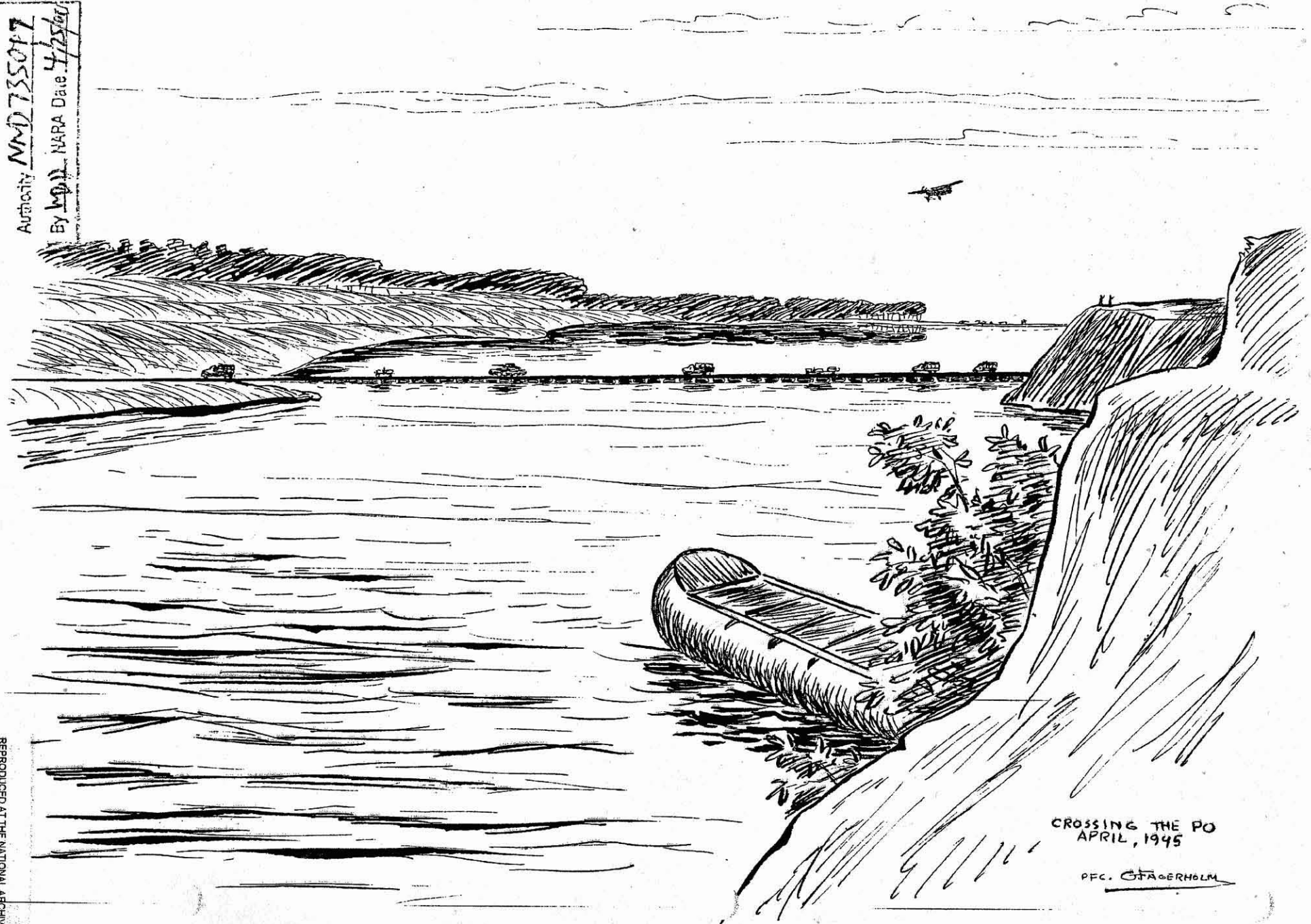
24 April

So speedy was our advance and so numerous the prisoners that it was impossible to keep accurate count. Many times after the capture of large groups of enemy, they were turned over to the battalions or regiment following in order to save placing guards on them. A not uncommon sight was to see a solitary American soldier mounted on a beautiful horse either leading or following a double column of two or three hundred enemy prisoners. Our forward units advanced so rapidly

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CROSSING THE PO
APRIL, 1945

PFC. STAGERHOLM

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By MDJ NARA Date 4/25/00

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that rear groups following them were subjected to sniper and small arms fire. Even after two or three days, enemy soldiers still roamed the fields, some in small bands awaiting capture either by partisans or our rear echelon troops. The regiment had moved to the Po River and was ordered by Division to make a crossing and secure a bridgehead. Major Cussans and a task force of 30 men made the first crossing of the river at 1200 hours, using a varied assortment of assault boats and civilian rowboats. Our CP was set up at Gorgadelli and the 1st and 3rd battalions moved up to the Po, 1st on the right with its battalion CP at Pieve di Coriano. Less and less of our soldiers were walking. All means of transportation were utilized from dog carts to German half-tracks. The 2nd Battalion moved to C. Fieniti where it waited to cross the Po River. The 3rd Battalion reached Is Teste and awaited orders to cross the Po. By 1400 the task force had completed their crossing. The danger of air attack increased and all units were ordered to mount .50 caliber machine guns for anti-aircraft. Major Cussans reported a short but stiff fire fight and initial enemy resistance on the north bank of the Po was overcome. At 1945 the 2nd Battalion moved out and by using "Ducks" and "Alligators" crossed the river meeting no enemy resistance. At the same time, the 3rd Battalion made their crossing also on "Ducks" and "Alligators" and proceeded north about 7 miles to Serrabarbe. No enemy opposition was encountered. The 1st Battalion crossed the Po late in the evening, "C" Company moving to A. Pieve di Coriano. "A" Company moved to Erlina while "B" Company marched to Libiola. Prisoners were being brought in by hundreds.

25 April

Regimental CP was established at 704127 and the troops were in position to continue their pursuit of the fast-fleeing enemy. The 1st Battalion moved out

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through very low and swampy fields crisscrossed with irrigation ditches and canals and finally arrived in the vicinity of San Ferraro. The 2nd Battalion with orders to proceed to RP 85 and 30, moved out at 0700 and by footmarch, jeeps, bicycles and captured enemy vehicles moved thirty miles to the outskirts of Verona. Resistance was light and scattered and 135 prisoners were captured. The 3rd Battalion left Serrrabbe and marched along Highway 12 for 37 miles stopping at the outskirts of Verona in vicinity of Ca. di David. No casualties were sustained and the troops were trying to obtain a little rest from the weary marching of the past few days. At 1400 the CP moved to Nogara (693253). At 2030, bicycles were obtained for part of the 2nd Battalion to make our advance more rapid. "A" Company moved to Ralden where the partisans turned over 116 prisoners. "E" Company mounting tanks and TD's preceded the 2nd Battalion by about 5 miles and met scattered resistance. One hundred prisoners were taken among them a German Colonel and a Captain.

26 April

The Regimental CP was set up at 636397 and the battalions again continued their relentless drive forward. At 0800 "I" Company of the 3rd Battalion, reported being strafed by our own planes. Some casualties were suffered. The 1st Battalion moved north on Highway 12 to Verona and after remaining a while in Raldon, it moved across the Adige river to San Martino. This crossing was a tedious one and the only means of crossing was by an old Italian scow. The 2nd Battalion, after crossing the Adige, proceeded east almost 14000 yards to Musella. The 3rd Battalion met very little opposition and crossed the river on the same Italian scow. It reached San Martino and engaged in a fire fight with the enemy but captured the objective which was the highway north of San Martino. Their

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Their casualties were 1 KIA and 1 WIA. Numerous prisoners were captured during this action. Partisans were very active in this area. The Regimental CP was moved to Musella 729530.

27 April

Opposition remained scattered and light while the regiment moved fast on Highway 11 to Vicenza. The 1st Battalion met moderate fire from machine guns, mortars and some artillery. At 1345 the 1st Battalion reported it had passed the Rabbit phase line and at 1500 the Regimental CP moved to VillaNova (864495). The 2nd Battalion meanwhile moved east almost 22 miles to 84054985, encountering only scattered enemy resistance. The 3rd Battalion followed the 1st and marched 10 miles along highway 11 to Perarota. A heavy rain impeded movement and visibility. At 2130 the 1st Battalion was held up and a short fire fight with the enemy followed. Tanks came to assist and in a short while the troops were moving again. The battalion was organized into a task force under command of Col. J. C. Fry using the 752 Tank Battalion and the 805 Tank Destroyers. This force moved all night on the road to Vincenza firing at all targets of opportunity. Many Germans were forced to surrender after being flushed out by our intense fire. Machine guns and snipers fired at the roving force and the enemy added bazookas too. At 2300 the task force was 12 kilometers from its objective and proceeding well according to schedule. Advance was resumed at 0530. We were moving so fast that enemy units were able to surprise our long and unprotected columns. These units moved cautiously and would lie in wait at covered positions and allow us to pass through. Then a sudden fierce attack would cut a column in two.

28 April

The Regimental was now at Olmo 045625. At 0300 reports were received that the task force was delayed but would accomplish its mission by daylight.

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The 3rd Battalion was assigned the mission of clearing the town. Snipers were mainly inevidence. The partisans had control of most of the town and there was much bell ringing and cheering as the troops moved through. The battalion set up positions north of the town and at 1900 hours moved out as a task force along Highway 53. The 2nd Battalion, motorized as well, had also joined in the move on Vicenza. The 1st Battalion engaged in clearing the scattered resistance in the town and was able to give the soldiers some rest from their tiring ordeal of this offensive. By 1600 we had occupied Vicenza and the Regimental CP was set up at 0864. At dusk the 3rd and part of the 1st Battalions moved out on Highway 53 east to San Pietro in Gu. Snipers and machine guns were encountered en route and the 3rd Battalion received SP fire but continued to the Brenta river. The whole battalion was surprised by a fierce attack from the right (29 April). The 1st Battalion after arriving in S. Pietro in Gu set up defenses. The 2nd Battalion striking towards S. Pietro and Nautorto was split when an enemy column attacked the forward elements at Nautorto. After a fierce fight of over an hour the enemy were routed and 125 prisoners taken. Lt. Powers of "E" Company was wounded. While attempting to make contact with the separated forward units, the rear of the column was attacked by a company of German paratroopers. After deploying and setting up hasty positions, a two hour fight followed and the fanatical German attack was beaten off with 80 Germans estimated killed or wounded and captured. Machine gun and anti-tank gun fire from hasty positions contributed greatly to the beating off of this enemy attack but only after Lt. Brand of "F" Company was wounded and Lt. Drogowski, Fumich and Erickson and six enlisted men were taken prisoners. At 1730 the regiment was alerted to move and capture a river crossing site near the town of Citadela

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2774. Partisans were of great assistance in reporting whereabouts of German soldiers and positions. Two hundred Germans were reported south of Sierra 1368 and an SP gun north of Sierra at 1730.

29 April

Our CP was at S. Pietro vicinity of 185719. Instructions were received that we were not to cross the Brente River. Our mission was to secure a bridge on both sides if intact and to await orders from Division before making any crossing. A German pocket was reported at 1872 (S. Pietro). The 2nd Battalion now back at S. Pietro set up outposts around the town. Early in the morning, a force of Germans with a tank and some captured American vehicles swept through the town. Capt. Scott of "A" Company was killed in this encounter and casualties sustained in the Antk Tank platoon of 1st Battalion. The 3rd Battalion became engaged in a fierce fight with enemy riflemen and bazooka men. By 0930 our troops had gained control of the situation and with the use of heavy weapons were able to knock out the last of the enemy defenses. Here the battalion remained and the 91st Division passed through them to take up the attack. Rest seemed to be most desired after the events of these last few days. It was reported that groups of enemy who had infiltrated through our artillery positions were engaged with small arms by personnel of "A", "B", and "C" Batteries of the 338 Field Artillery. Fifty caliber machine guns were then brought to bear on the Germans and 8 were left dead, 6 wounded and 38 captured. At 1800 hours the 350th was relieved by the 362 regiment of the 91st Division. Our direction was then changed to almost due north and our mission was to protect the 88th Division left boundary from Vicenza to Bassano. This day finds us with a view of the Alps and more mountains. Although our direction up until the

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crossing of the Adige River was almost due north, the change to the east towards Venice was a welcome note. Now with another impending change of direction we would find ourselves again in the precipitous Dolomite peaks of the Alps. In moving to S. Pietro in Gu, our spearhead and those of the 5th Army sliced through the enemy held ground. German units became disorganized and were broken up into roving bands that attacked separate groups of both American soldiers and Italian civilians. Villages were robbed, houses were ransacked and horrors perpetrated. The day of their delivery had come yet they continued to inflict untold tortures on the civilian population. Partisans were not easy on the German troops. It was well known that 100 Germans would surrender to 5 American soldiers but would fight fanatically against overwhelming partisan odds. And so it seems, as this month was drawing to a close, that we would have considerable to do in clearing out these isolated pockets of Germans. Many had even changed to civilian clothing.

30 April

In our new status the regiment moved to Marostica. The 1st Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion of the 351st Infantry. The 2nd Battalion moved to Dueville where outposts and road blocks were established. More prisoners were captured. In this operation, the 2nd Battalion accounted for 4500 enemy killed, wounded and captured. Casualties sustained by the 2nd Battalion were 10 KIA, 15 MIA, 122 WIA and 55 non-battle casualties. The 3rd Battalion was set up near Sandrigo in defensive positions. Road blocks were established and patrols sent out to contact the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Our orders were to keep one battalion in alert status in vicinity of Marostica for prompt movement to Bassano or as guard for PW enclosures.

This month was indeed an eventful one. We had broken out of the mountains

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south of Bologna and fought furiously into the famed Po Valley. In the amazing time of 15 days we had crossed the entire breadth of the rich Po Valley completely and decisively routing the German divisions opposing us. A credit to the will and determination of the brave American Soldier. We now stood at the foothills of the mighty snow-covered Alps on a land that had never seen a foreign soldier move the complete length of the Italian Peninsula. The hour of the enemy surrender was near at hand. It was not possible, with the great losses of manpower and equipment, that they could put up any further defense. When the important battles of history are compiled, the battle of Italy, especially the Po Valley offensive, will surely rate mention with the most important.

A. M. Cochran

A. M. COCHRAN
COLONEL, Infantry
Commanding

11 Incls:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| #1 - S-1 Journal | #7 - Awards & decorations |
| 2 - S-2,3 Journal | 8 - Publicity |
| 3 - S-4 Journal | 9 - I & E Section |
| 4 - Personnel report | 10 - Misc |
| 5 - Medical report | 11 - Reference maps |
| 6 - Officers promotions | |

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

By W. J. Mays NARS, Date 7/15/74

HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY
APO #88, U. S. Army

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By Authority of

CC 882nd Air

Serials 400413

Date 13 June 46

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE * MAY 1945

The speed of advance of the many spearhead columns was so rapid that numerous pockets of enemy were left isolated -- some in small groups others of larger sizes -- most heavily armed but seemingly leaderless and roaming the countryside pillaging and looting towns and villages. Whenever resistance by Italian partisans was met, they fought until they could hold out no longer. Many of these by passed groups were brought in by the Italian partisans but the majority had to be routed out by large well planned and organized patrols. It was on this mission, the clearing of numerous small but dangerous pockets of resistance, that the 350th was assigned on 1 May. This took them from their route, which up to this time was almost due east and on the road to Venezia and Treviso, to a northerly direction. From the Cp at Sandrigo the regiment moved to Marostica and, while in Division Reserve, took up what is best described as security positions. Here, North and West of the town of Marostica, the mission of the combat team and attached units was to protect the exposed flank of the II Corps and to clear the area of enemy. The 1st Battalion with its Cp in the town of Marostica had companies in positions outside the town; the 2nd Battalion with their Cp at Dueville covered their sector (see map) with patrols and set up positions; the 3rd Battalion was at Sandrigo (See Operations Map). Thus disposed, all battalions sent out patrols in attempts to clear the area of all enemy. The assistance of partisans was invaluable, both in helping rout out the enemy and supplying important information on their location and armaments.

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Many of the small towns in this vicinity were liberated. Organized and well-coordinated actions enabled them to trap countless German soldiers and Fascists. In some cases popular tribunals were held and sentences executed on the spot. German prisoners were turned over to the Americans after the partisans had dealt with those who had violated the rules of war. Many Germans were found hiding in farmhouses dressed as civilians and all the means they could command were utilized to attempt to escape from the partisans and deliver themselves into American hands. A peculiar situation developed in this lightning offensive. Rear units were in dangerous situations because of these Germans roaming the countryside. Although nothing untoward occurred, it was necessary to place extra guards at Service Company and kitchen areas that were almost twenty and thirty miles behind the front lines. Now with the combat team almost stationary and grouped within operating distance of each other greater security was felt. By this time it seemed that the enemy, in view of the high prisoner count, not to mention the uncounted killed and wounded, were soundly beaten and all that remained for the units still resisting was complete surrender. Rumors to this effect were heard and passed — as a matter of fact in Verona on 29 April, the civilian population actually celebrated the end of the Italian war. Church bells were heard ringing continuously all day and cannon and other arms were fired in celebration of the end of this most difficult campaign. All this celebration was premature, however, when it was found out that the enemy were still resisting fiercely and, although not so well organized, inflicting casualties on our troops. In the village of San Bonifacio, the civilians reported the end of the war (in Italy) and bells in Verona and surrounding villages were being rung continually. Later events proved that the people were not celebrating prematurely since it was on 29 April, a Sunday, that German emissaries had arrived

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at the Royal Palace in Caserta to sign the terms of the surrender of the German forces in Austria under their control. A few days later that the American Troops were officially notified of the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of the German troops in Italy. The prospect of again fighting in the mountains of Italy loomed before us as this month opened. The conquering of the famed and almost impregnable Italian Alps seemed to be the task selected for this regiment as the month of May opened, and the regiment was cradled in the foothills of the Alps and the forbidding heights loomed ominously. Although it seemed that their cause was lost and further resistance useless, the enemy continued to fight on, frantically at times, half-heartedly at others. With their leaders gone (Hitler was reported killed April 30 and Mussolini was reported tried and executed on April 29), it was reasonable to expect complete capitulation. Surrender was hopefully expected hourly, but still the enemy hung on doggedly. What impelled them to resist so fanatically is a matter for future speculation -- one thing is certain, on capture, they surely appeared beaten and spiritless (all except the so called SS troops, who are proud and belligerent upon capture). Their uniforms were of varied and motley makeup. Many of their outfits even made from shelter halves, some without shoes -- many ill fed -- and others were bitter about being deserted by their officers. All in all, the month of April was successful beyond all expectations. Our vaunted spring offensive had broken all the German resistance and spirit in this theatre and whatever defenses they had hastily contrived to construct. From the capture of the key of the Bologna defenses, the almost unconquerable Monterumici, the spectacular and relentless advance through to the Po and across the Adige to the so called Venetian defenses on the north side of the Adige River. On the threshold of another month of war, hope for a speedy victory was expressed in this,

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the bloodiest and toughest of all campaigns of the European Theatre.

2 May. The regiment was planning to move out of Marostica with the object Innsbruck, Austria. One battalion was to remain behind to screen the area from Morostica south to Vicenza. Three Officers and thirty-three enlisted men who had been prisoners of war for several days were released by the Germans. Unable to take these men with them, the Germans released them unharmed. At 0530 the Regiment left Morastica with its possible objective to tie with the 7th Army which is driving south into Austria. Our route is along Highway 10 towards Trento. The regiment was still in division reserve. At 1945 hours the convoy stopped at San Marino and were informed by the jubilant civilian population that the end of the war in Italy had been officially announced by radio. Still unbelieving we all hastened to our radios and at 2000 hours we had heard the joyful news ourselves. The convoy started again and moved to Arsie. The first battalion was bivouaced at Mellame (See Map), the second at Primalano, while the third occupied buildings in the town of Arsie.

2, 3, 4 May. The regiment thus disposed was awaiting further orders in view of the announcement of cessation of hostilities. No official announcement had reached us and the regiment remained in division reserve. Screening duties were the first order and the regiment was given the task of clearing the enemy still remaining in the hills and disarming the harmful elements of partisans, etc. The division was on the left flank of II Corps. Our right boundary was tied with the 85th Division while the IV Corps was on our left. At a meeting of battalion commanders on 3 May, Colonel Cochran outlined the instructions for the regiment in its new situation. The combat team would be prepared to move on order to continue their task of clearing defined areas of the enemy. The division order in this regard was to "prepare

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to execute instructions in directive #45 except that artillery is demotorized."

The fighting, however, had not been finished since there seemed to be considerable resistance encountered by the 349th regiment, although no large scale encounters, in the vicinity of the 35 northing and 32 easting. At 0800 the 349th was reported at Fiera di Primera, and continued to move forward in an attempt to contact the 7th Army units moving south from Austria. Plans were under way to move the entire combat team to an area near Bolzano, there to take up the screening of German prisoners of war. The 349th is still at San Martino (305435), while the 351 is at (019208). The 350th regiment is still in Division reserve and therefore in a position to reorganize and re-equip their personnel. A light training schedule was instituted to keep the men in trim and personnel were able to take showers. Legion reported about 3000 enemy soldiers at Pardozzo (1580) who had intentions of resisting. The 85th Division, at this time was reported at 7590. At 2200 hours on 4 May, the third battalion was alerted to be ready to move out on half hour's notice. At Levico, approximately 40 miles from Arsie, reports were received that small groups of German soldiers detached from their units were roaming through the mountains looting and threatening the population. The third battalion, therefore, was to be called on for the move to Levico to protect the area from looters and these small roving groups. Credence was lent to the persistent rumors that the regiment might move into the mountains in pursuit of the enemy, when blankets were issued to the regiment. Shoe pacs were requisitioned and issue of winter clothing was contemplated, all of which points to our movement in the near future to the North and to colder climate or even higher altitude.

On 5 May advance quartering parties left Arsie to make reconnaissance of their respective areas in preparation for moving of the combat team. Much publicity had been given to the War Department's plan for the discharge and redeployment of men from this theatre. The regiment received a quota of 6 officers and 52 enlisted

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men to be transferred and returned to the United States. It is not known if these men and officers will be discharged or whether they will receive a furlough at home and then redesignated for another theatre. Much speculation is being displayed by all officers and men as to the point values for the scores which will decide a man's discharge or transfer to another theatre. Amidst all this it was reported that the First Paratroop Division had surrendered. This was the unit that had refused to accept the surrender terms which were signed on 29 April. At 1700 hours General Kendall visited the Command Post and asked Colonel Cochran to assemble his staff outside. Then after a brief introduction, revealed the reason for his visit. The informal ceremony ended almost as quickly as it had begun when General Kendall pinned the insignia of full colonel on Colonel Cochran's collar. Thus was rewarded the fine work of Colonel Cochran in leading the 350th Infantry Regiment in the breath-taking drive through the Po Valley and ending in the final and complete collapse of the enemy. Further preparations are under way for movement of the combat team to police and clear the areas to the north. At this point it seems that our sector will extend from the 30 Northing to the 85 Northing. Other indications seemed to point to our leaving for Austria to be occupational forces, but this could not be definitely confirmed. Our instructions were finally received and our sector had been decided. Our left boundary, which was effective on Corp order, started at Marc 7278 to A 965125 to a point on the Adige River (909530) then along the river to (945460) thence to the highway 38 to Meranto and a point on the Austrian border (750755). Along Highway 12 from Ora to Bolzano (see overlay) - the 10th Mountain has the mission of clearing out Merano. Our right boundary is tied with the 85th Division (see overlay) and runs approximately along the 44th Easting to the Austrian border. Our Northern boundary is the 83rd Northing. Our instruction on the handling of Prisoners of War were clear in the fact that none but unconditional surrender is to be accepted. In the case of surrender of large units, G-1 was to be advised and contacted for instruction. Our task seemed to corral all these

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separated from their units and assemble them before evacuation. Further instructions were contained in our administrative order #1 (attached) of 5 May, outlining treatment and handling of all prisoners of war. Our main effort will be directed towards assembly and disarmament of all enemy elements within our zone. In accordance with Directive #12 of Fifth Army, arms are to be retained by German prisoners and officers as outlined. Small groups were not to be disarmed until protection from the partisan groups could be assured. The mechanics of assembling was to be done in such manner as to facilitate supply and disarming. No further evacuation of enemy troops to rear areas was to be undertaken until further notice. The security of the enemy elements was to aim at the control of major units rather than individuals. At a meeting at the Command Post at 1600 hours, final orders were given on the movement. The first battalion was to move to a point near Bolzano, the second to the vicinity of Cavalese and the third to Predazzo. Other units of the combat team had zones to clear and control (see overlay). The order of march was set for the third battalion to move out at 0230 hours; the second at 1200 hours and the First at 1400 hours. Our route would take us through Trento along Highway 12 and then east to Highway 48. Upon arrival, a peculiar situation revealed itself. German soldiers roaming the towns armed, much to the surprise of the civilian population which was obviously pro-German, even openly fraternizing with American soldiers. The situation was corrected within a few days, however; and a Special Police force was formed to patrol the immediate areas and a roving patrol to curb partisan activity which was still very marked. Disarming of the partisans was another of our duties, and in order to protect both the civilian population and the prisoners, it was found necessary to impose a curfew in the towns under our jurisdiction. American soldiers were ordered to carry their weapons and to be always on the alert. All indications point to our staying in this sector for two or three weeks, since it is calculated that there are from 60 to 100 thousand German troops in this sector. Our area was rather large and it was necessary for platoons of rifle companies to be separated in towns from 6 to 10 miles apart. Communication became rather difficult and, on one occasion,

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a whole company was snowbound. Our zone was divided into three sectors, each area having its separate special force and roving patrol. Battalions maintained regular patrols through the hills and each day found small groups of enemy surrendering.

The remainder of the month was taken up therefore with assembling and evacuating all German personnel, both male and female, as well as Italian Fascist and German Gestapo agents. It was interesting to note that when we took over our duties, there was a marked frigidity on the part of the civilian population. The reason, possibly, might be traced to the long occupation of the German troops. Since this was a rear area, only rear echelon troops were bivouaced in the towns and camps spread through the mountainside. These troops, according to the civilians, were comparatively kind. It was only when (perhaps in accordance with orders) countless combat troops, especially the SS troops and other belligerent groups assembled in these mountains that atrocities and reprisals were evident and common. The people were told to expect gangsters and murderers and the like and when we turned out to be kind, too kind in fact, they were amazed. They were astounded at the sight of two American soldiers and two German soldiers walking side by side doing guard duty. It was not until we had assembled German units in large enough groups for evacuation that we were able to remedy this incongruous situation. On a few occasions, American soldiers were guilty of outright fraternization with German soldiers who were technically their prisoners.

May 11th — Today marked the anniversary of the gigantic offensive on Rome. It seems fitting that the regiment, on this day, should be engaged in rounding up the remnants of a defeated German army, perhaps even some of the very same troops that we fought against in our drive on the Holy City. Activities of the combat team in the handling and processing of the many prisoners are set forth in greater detail in the battalion histories which follow immediately.

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On 12 May, the first group of prisoners were ready for evacuation to rear areas. This was part of the Speer regiment. The procedure was to allow the Germans to take all their equipment and vehicles to a designated point where they will be taken over by other command groups.

On the 13th of May, approximately 3000 SS troops were evacuated in addition to many officers and enlisted men of German Marines. The towns were slowly but surely being cleared of enemy personnel and considerable relief is obvious on the part of many of the population - - this group included those who were definitely anti-German.

On the 14th, a change was made in positions of the companies of the second battalion. "G" Company moved to Gargazzone, "H" Company to Terlano, "E" Company to Cavalese and Headquarters to S. Maurizio. Here the battalion continued in its task of processing the surrendering German personnel. On this day the regimental boundaries were changed and our zone now is almost twice as large, and, even though it is being patrolled by the whole combat team, in addition to the 752 Tank Destroyers and the 804 Tank battalion, it is almost an impossibility to completely and thoroughly clear and police the area. Light training schedules were instituted and Division informed us of Day Leave pass quotas to Venice and leave passes to Gessi. Officers left for Stressa on beautiful Lake Maggiore on five day leave passes.

Up to May 18th, the combat team had tabulated 57,774 German prisoners. However, only 7528 of these had been evacuated. All efforts were being exerted to get the German prisoners out of sight. Non-fraternization with any of the remaining elements was being stressed. Astounding amounts of German weapons and vehicles were turned in. More than 1700 trucks in serviceable condition, 800 passenger cars and more than 330 motorcycles, in addition to many unserviceable vehicles.

The Germans seem to have been well stocked for a long stay in these mountains. Warehouses overflowing with all manner of clothing, equipment and rations were scattered all over the area. There was considerable equipment and machinery that had been requisitioned from the Italian civilians in this vicinity and we were

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attempting to return it to the rightful owners.

On the 20th of May more than 20,000 prisoners were evacuated and many more were expected to go shortly. We solved the problem of assembling the prisoners for evacuation to the rear. All that was now required was the place and order to move them. We had, yet, more than 25,000 Germans of all groups, in addition to almost unbelievable amounts of equipment, arms, ammunition, gasoline and rations. Animals and forage and feed are pouring in. Each day new warehouses and dumps are being found. These are well disguised and hidden in the recesses of the mountains or in the many woods that cover their slopes.

On May 19th, in an attempt to complete the roundup of all the enemy in our area, a sound power truck was used to announce to the civilian population that severe penalties would be imposed upon them if they were found guilty of harboring German or Fascist soldiers or agents or even of withholding any information as to their whereabouts. Results were immediately forthcoming. As a matter of fact there were many Germans and Fascists who surrendered themselves, voluntarily, to our Provost Marshall who had taken over the policing and rounding up of any and all suspected agents.

In the rounding up of all this German personnel, it was apparent that many high ranking personages would be caught in the net. The battalion histories outline in greater detail their activities in this regard. On 22 May, however, an Italian SS Major was killed but one of our enlisted men was hurt, during the attempt to capture this chief of the Italian SS. Major Koreta, who was responsible for much of the torture imposed on the helpless population, was surprised in bed with a girl, and tried to shoot himself as one of our CIC men and the enlisted man burst into his room. After shooting the girl with him three times, Koreta fired on the enlisted man, who was hit in the stomach, but maintained enough presence of mind to empty

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By W.D.J. NARA Date 4/25/00

a whole clip from his tommy gun killing the Major instantly. His two daughters were taken into custody.

An American paratroop Major who was dropped in this area to organize and aid the partisans is still in Siusi and running around causing trouble. It seems he swoops into the town, in typical American cowboy fashion, picks up some civilians and takes them into the hills. A few days later he was persuaded to forego his irritating habits.

The area occupied by our first battalion, it now is apparent was an assembly point for Gestapo and other pro-nazi and pro-fascist elements who were in fear of being captured and punished for their misdeeds.

The wife and daughter of the notorious Himmler were captured, at this time. The caretaker, who, they were sure, would have valuable information on the whereabouts of his master, managed to escape.

By the 24th of May, more than 40,000 German prisoners had been evacuated, but more than 20,000 remained. On 23 of May more than 12,000 were moved. The process of assembling them and evacuating them is a laborious one. However, most of the areas are cleared of enemy soldiers except for special troops, such as Engineers, Railroad battalion and hospitals and their personnel.

A large ammunition supply dump was discovered near Termino. Actually the dump was made up of twenty five (25) small dumps all cleverly concealed and camouflaged. Our S-4 had already reported more than 77 truckloads of small arms ammunitions and more than 450 truck loads of heavy ammunition, plus 90 truckloads of 88 and 90 MM ammunition. Almost 1700 animals had been corraled.

The Provost Marshall of our zone reports that the civilian population are demanding the "scalps" of Fascists and known sympathizers. They complain that something should be done about those who were responsible for some of the tortures and horrors committed before the Americans arrived.

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Our broadcast for German personnel to give themselves up seems to be developing results. Although they are coming in to surrender two or three at a time, it is known they will be severely punished unless they give themselves up now.

Sabotage seems to have reared its head in this operation. On several occasions, our communications wires have been found cut, and it seems to have been accomplished with a rock or blunt instrument. On 25 May, however, the regiment was credited with capturing an Italian in an attempt to cut one of our wire lines. No excuse was offered, but it seems apparent that he was attempting to obstruct our operations. He was placed under arrest and turned over to the proper authorities.

On 25th of May, also, the third battalion turned in approximately \$348,000.00 in Francs, Marks, Lires in addition to checks totalling more than a million lires. The money was turned immediately over to Finance. There is no doubt that the enemy were well prepared for almost every eventuality. The large sums of money and bulging warehouse with all manner of goods and equipment, the countless number of weapons and tremendous supplies of ammunition and rations seem to confirm reports that the enemy had intentions of holding out in the mountains. There is no doubt that they could surely have lived and fought in the Dolomite Alps for a considerable length of time.

Two radio stations were uncovered. One, in the third battalion area, seems to have been used in conjunction with Radar. Another in the 338th Area was being operated by Italian partisans.

We now had about 12,000 prisoners left. There is little disturbance and the Germans seem to have plenty of vehicles available. Our S-4 located a few more warehouses, but was unable to take any inventory of their contents. Thirty truckloads of T.N.T. were found, and quickly removed. Up to this writing, our S-4 turned in more than 12,000 rifles, 400 machine pistols, more than 1600 machine guns. They still have remaining several truckloads of small arms ammunition and more than 86

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truckloads of heavy artillery ammunition. Of the serviceable vehicles, there were 234 pleasure cars, 209 trucks, 96 trailers, 3 armored cars, 60 motorcycles. More than 976,000 litres of fuel was located and considerable moved to central dumps. Of the unserviceable vehicles, this regiment had a total of 240 pleasure cars, 238 trucks, 44 trailers, 88 armored cars, 33 motorcycles.

By 26 May, the Provost Marshall reported all calm; an expected demonstration of the partisans was cancelled to avoid any untoward disturbance.

By the 27th of May, the rifle competition was completed and first prize went to the second battalion; the first battalion was second while the third battalion and special units came in third and fourth respectively. The scores were: 487, 475, 436, 424.

Our mobile public address system was still being used to rout out the Germans from their hiding places in the hills. It is felt that there are plenty of the enemy still at large, roaming around. Only today, 100 of them surrendered themselves fearing later and more severe punishment had they lingered. The first battalion took over the area originally patrolled by the 88th Rcn Troops. Our figures revealed that there still remained to be evacuated more than 11,000 German prisoners.

With the cessation of hostilities and the announcement by the War Department of the scoring to be used in calculating deployment changes, considerable work remained to figure critical scores. Much progress was made in these last few days in calculating the scores of both officers and enlisted men. Division requested names of enlisted men with scores of 100 or over to go home. The ten highest scores would go home. It seems that the re-deployment program might work after, although slowly.

These last few days in May found the regiment preparing to move to a new area. It seems definite that Italian Paratroops will relieve. This move is not welcomed by the civilian population, who are outspoken in their preference of the Americans



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to the Italians. It seems to bear out their almost continual distrust for each other. Perhaps this may be one of the reasons for such a complicated political problem here in Italy.

Arrangements were made with AMG to give the horses we have corraled to the Italians to help farm their land. Most of these farmers have suffered at the hands of the Germans when they requisitioned almost all their animals. Preparations were made to assemble the regiment in an area prior to their moving to a new area. The widely separated companies will require days to re-assemble. It is interesting to note that the area patrolled and screened during this month covered more than 3,000 square miles. Even though our work was thorough, it is known that many more SS troops are still in the hills; some dressed as civilians; others very belligerent and willing to continue fighting. They refused to surrender, since they were of the opinion that all German prisoners were being sent to Russia to work.

As the month ended, orders were received to discontinue collecting or segregating guns or ammunition. We still have 107 trucks, 196 passenger vehicles. However, we are continuing evacuating of enemy personnel.

It is interesting to note here, that the severity and ferocity of the battle for Monterumici is only now being told. This, in the form of recommendations for awards which are flowing into this headquarters. A detailed picture of all the phases of this vicious battle which our history of April could not depict comes out in vivid picture in the many awards for the brave actions for this important mountain feature. The fierce fighting for this dominating feature is reflected in the casualties sustained. The largest part of all the casualties for the whole Po Valley Campaign were suffered in this three day struggle.

By the end of the month, the regiment had evacuated 42,370 German prisoners. These were mostly from combat units, since the Special units were not touched.

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Engineers and Railway Battalion, Ordnance units were allowed to remain. Our fine work in the processing and evacuation of enemy personnel was the subject of high praise from Division. The 350th had more Germans in its sector than both of the 349th and 351st combined. Ours was the toughest since we had the SS troops and the most fanatical Nazi types.

It was now definite that the Italians would relieve us and we expected relief to be completed by the 2nd of June. Up to the 31st of May, the regiment turned in 17,893 Rifles, 7,200 machine pistols, 3200 Pistols, 1700 Machine Guns, and many mortars. There is still much equipment and vehicles left for future evacuation. Of animals, there remain 1,617. The estimated strength of the German personnel still in the area is 9,874. The medical situation is good. The 1st of June found the regimental C.P. still in Cavalese looking forward to moving out within a few days. The population, in the short time we had been there, had shown a distinct and increasing like for the Americans bivouaced there. They have definitely changed their impression about the American soldier and the American people that was instilled in them by the German propoganda system.

We look forward to a speedy deployment and an early return to our homes in the United States and then, perhaps, off again to another war against the Japanese.

Avery M. Cochran

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