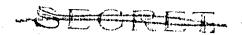
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AUTE: 00 152nd PA ENETIALS: DATE: 27 Sept. 1953

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A history of the actions of 152mi Field Artillery Estislien during the landing of the 56th Infantry Division on the sheres of of Faction. Staly



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27 Hegbouwer 1943

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The 19200 right invitating a started to all had the mission of direct support of the found I dentage a first relation of an empt to Shore Operation. Operation to be Investing or so I be rought are near resture mission of 36th 141st Infantry aciditored on and right at least infantry aciditored on and right; at least Infantry aciditored in substance. The last the mass elected to each degiment for arbitrary support right to tame in all dealths research the issue Ciricers, Forward Observers if onch become (a, 100) were trained in conduct of eval gundamication direct with right. Ships.

the 152mg lies Arciticay was firm after our and of the Gol. John M. Green emparked tera Fi medir, At the re, term strice on fed or deptember, 1945. Londed as follows: Howitzers and Jouitz to contain (0.00 mate) from patteries A, B & C, and Datuery Fraccutives - 186 La. 1972 ... 1220 to, A protery - lat it. Fates 3. Griffrith, a destery - los is. of compass and ress, a satery, all under compass of major objected . Sara, . San is. Throughout board 137 - in Surviser. Gest. John A. Garbers, ant ery January of the measure and party, 1st ab. John F. Shirk, F. C. of "." Justery and detail, last so politer Y. Jedles, i. C. 12. 1 and det di, Captain Merclo se solding, and then one, And to being desired, last. F.A. and Motor Officer of "A" settery on the assert one y vehicles abourd USS Lyons with ist mettalion, 142nd Tufanta, o thin come of mannert, set ery so mader of "a" maturny or party, 2nd it. Storil | work, mit, r.d. of "o" pattery and Cotnil, levit. Charles L. Ac.rn, L. C. e. 2 4 125 il, Ensign a fred D. Autre, avel i imisen Survey party, 2nd rt. doyet d. doming, ded o survey party. Encutive and "o" bettery D-Day venicles abourd U35 Dichmon with at Sattelian 142nd Infantry. Daytain Tork 1. Rodges, Sattery State act of 1971; rep, 180 to Gases A. Stout, F.C. of "J" pattery and debail, 180 1. Jim 1. 1976, 1. C. 70. 3 and detail, Theirn George A. "oodnore, 1981 than a Officer 10. 2 and detail, It. Jol. John R. Green, Buttarion Commander, 1st. 1t. Louis . . Quess, Battelion Asst. 3-2 and FDG. -Survey party, and "O" setvery 3-by vehicles abound ess parmett with 3rd Battalien 142nd Infantry. Headquarters dattery onder commons of Capt. Joseph T. Brown and Service sattery under command of sent. Herbert J. sishop and edical Detachment under command of Cept. Hoyd submuible, Capt. Hehard .. Filegoed, Battalion S-2 aboard Has mernix, Convoy sailed F. o. Mrs W. Kevir on September 5, 1945.

contoured tactical maps, 1:20, to real tree, and those messics of beach areas. Depay was almounced as deptement 5, 1.47, and U-hour set as 1500, Rendezvous point, routes, and gun positions were directed in methalian Order as selected from Laps and Photos. Hen were instructed in duties after mending and were instructed by was practiced several times while cure to follow. Landing craft loading was practiced several times while cure to follow. Landing craft loading gunfire using 2c4 radio direct a first parise.

-Sall same Friday

Debarkation commenced of somewhat and the first waves of 142nd Infantry hit beaches had and Green as UppO September 5, 1945. Battery voumenders, Liaison Cfficors, Forward Observers, havel linison Cflicers, Field Artillery Battalion Commanding Officer, Sathallan Asst. 5-3, and manualism Asst. 5-2 landed in first four assault waves with Infantry datteliers of Leand Infantry regiment. The Haval Liaison Officer #1 30A 204 and was da ared and lost in debarkation when one of t the landing craft fouled on the davit. This same accident caused it. Col. Graham, Commanding Officer, 2nd Satualian 142nd Infantry to change boats and he landed in boat #32 in third wave with Asst. 3-3. The assault waves landed under severe and punishing Machine gun cross fire, Mortar fire and artillory fire. The Germans had the dunes filled with machine our positions such asy mortor positions. When the leading craft began hitting the beaches the dermans sent up flares and by that light began shooting at our tropps and landing craft. At frequent intervals they would send up very lights or flares to locate our troops in the dumes and renew fire; actually potting at our troops with tertars as we soved through the dunes. T/5 William R. Lents was wounded by Lorter fire while making way thru dunes with survey party. Enemy reinforcements arrived in trucks and moved out into position. A single enemy tank moved about Firing and maneuvering. During the hours of darkness before dawn the energy profilery best firing into the beach erea; after day light artillery fire of the chary was placed on observed tergets and areas. Some of our Infantry landed and crossed cultivated fields under a time fire concentration of apperently one battery. Single bargets such as DUNK's and vehicles were fired on by what was decided to se is ... juns. The Forward Chervers and Liaison Officers made their way thru the fire to join their respective Infantry Organications. During a tank attack in Francus about 6025, Captain Hodges was severely wounded and Fvt. Alfano was killed of tank macrine fun fire.

Howitzers and Sections in DUNK's landed on Red Beach under compand of Battery Executives at about 0830 hour. They were due to land at 0500 but were held off shore because of the heavy hostile fire on the beach. Even when the DUWK's were coming in heavy observed artillery fire was raking the beach. Direct hits on 3 howitzer carrying DUWK's were seen but turned out to be from another battalion. Cur howithers all landed together execut two from "A" Battery and one from "C" Battery who separated in the boat assembly area about I mile off shore. The four . "A" Battery howitzers and Exceptive, whree of the "B" Battery howitzers and executive, and two of the "A" Battory howitzers landed together on Red Beach, unloaded from DUWK's and Lt. Curtis and it. Grinfith organized a position as one large battery about 200 yards inland from the beach. They established radio communication with Division "rtillery, 1st, 2nd and 3rd liaison Officers. The German Artillery tried to adjust on this position but was not successful. One howitzer "3" Battery, 4th Section under Sot. Janak, landed and was put into position with "G" Battery, 195rd Field Artillery Satualien and remained in action there until Lt. Curtis learned its location and sent for the section and it rejoined battery at the second position. The two "A" 3 attery houitgers landed under command of It. Plunkett further to the north and west into a position with two guns of the 155rd Field Artiflery Battalion. There the "A" Battory guns received tank warning and prepared for it but the attack did not materialize. The two guns rejoined the battalion about 1400 in the become position.

The Battalion was placed in position at Rendezvous coordinates point 65.3 - 05.4 and consenced firing about 1500. Initially, there were four howitzers from "B" Battery, three from "O" Battery and two from "A" Battery. All organized in one position under Lt. Curtis and Lt. Griffith. Fire Direction Center was not act up in vicinity of gun positions and functioned at once using 1:25,000 meter grid sheets with true coordinates and having previously designated reference points plotted.

- 2 -8-4-0-A-21 To approve a variety of the second of the se

it. The practure with the last set at him 192 a Indealty and landed on area beach under under newv, hospite like, a wind or it and to slow up three times before reaching shore occasses to the rest. They became the week their way with FC section to commission rough south sign sucre section was pinted down by artilliery fire and acchine gun fire. Spr. Gluck was triated are and the section scattered and beacame disorganized. 16. Simple a brief to same were to tagether but was unable to do so so he continued by himself to relieve a standard of rame and not dept. Spence Co. "F" 142nd Infantry, and to other the pherico to the objective of the 2nd on. 142nd Inf. (Night ground at weatern that on to caprent, with seven Tofantrymen. They found two Artillerymen with a ofter dis (used to echanicate within A F.A. Dn.) An Infantry Captain pointed out the Location of an enemy gun bettery that had been putting effective fire on our troops. In. Thapman fired on that battery with good results with the 199rd P. A. Sn. to whom the radio men belon ed. It. Chapman got a 61p radio about 1400 and 7/4 addinas and sys. 1cl. Veal of "3" settery. They rejoined the 2nd Lottalion at their objective and received instructions from its on. Commander, It. Col. Graham. The catallished observation on high ground to the North of the Infantry position she turned the 204 rusic over to Ensign Suthe for conduct of Laval fire.

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The grades of a great state of particles and the translation of the second control of the country of the board and soft. They are not as a second of the country of the board and states and this second of the seco

The Licison Officers. Lt. Terler, T., It: Heren #2, It. Poyle #3, accommended their respective Inforther Ethelions. Lt. Tedler and his party landed clone on Grans Teach union heavy fire from German morters and this. When pressed the beach on the double and set up commications in a ditch normal build a while Lt. Fedler and Sct. Mansell worked forward us a wooded draw to find a place where they could have observation for more I fire. They encountered fire from snipers and run into German Mark IV tanks: But. Mansell was wounded in the less by shramed from the tanks fire. A nearby Infantry ren threw Lt. Medlen's rank to Put. Though and told him to leave. Leter on, Put. Lloyd and Fut let Davidson went back to where It. Hedlen was last seen but no sign of him could be found. But. Mansell was taken back to an Aid Station for treatment of his wounds.

Liaison Officer 72, it. Verra, landed with 2nd sattalion 1h2nd Infantry and - Quote: The vore about 75 vards off shore. The basch was quiet and we thought the invasion was coins to be relatively simple. Then the first wave landed and all hell seemed to break loose as all types of energy fire opened up. Two artillery shells burst near my boat --no casualties. On the barch the marty was split up. ost. Dahlberg was wounded about 03h0 by norter fire. Lt. Hearn and one of his party made their way toward meestum with some Infantry they mot on the bighway but were held up by energy machine cun fire and snipers. They say a battery of Artillery occurs a position near the road which turned out to be the 15lat F. A. Pattalion. Almost inmediately there was a tank attack from the southeast. The battery fired point blank at tanks at range of h00 yards. The first round was a direct hit. About four tanks were knocked out during this attack. Lt. Mearn met Pvt lol Malizia from his detail and learned that "Pu Fattery was at DUT unloading point so they went there to get the part of the radio that Art. Dahlbors had left behind. When they started forward, they heard of a tank attack and went to the high-

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ing to investigate into a heart topic pour. When continued to the girch objective of the continued to the should 1500. When he was a partition of unitarity of the check noigh which the sone partition of the check income of the continue of the nevel Lication Of the nevel Licatio

the fire at the to at the continue of the en, well Medern, with the under and Published. Therefore the fire the cold material for the fire the fire the following fire the cold corresponds to the cold material to fire the first end to him, left him behind while there followed the Lathertre Corrender. There ettected their resition and at 1500 the most in coordinates and requested a fire mission. (Inture of the etter of the end in discipled. There exists an event to a continue to send in fire moved to a new resition under a test the etter of continued to send in fire missions on energy tanks and first the etter of there exists an exceed. Int. Boyle was contacted at 1700 and there exists in position overnight.

The Dathalien district of it 1000 to the ber 9, 1003, under cover of derimess to positions at talling: 1 - 6.06 - 06.70, B 66.20 - 07.10. C 66.65 - 06.60. The Character for the first of the state house at 66.60-06.90. The support puth laborated containing of the thorn positions and but in an oriental line, under 100 intermediation at the consumisations were laid to the betteries, radio observers and to the Infantry. Twolve missions were fixed using 1105 counts of 105 arminition. A request for fire on the torm of Alterilla from 122nd Infantry, was received. This was beyond our range so the request was forwarded to Division Artillery and the mission was fixed by mother bettery. It. That reported by radio that he was unable to counted his conductal because they kept moving. It. Seward was assimpled and most out at Lieison Officer \$1. It. Quast did not return to the battelion until noon Sent loth after trying all the while to find the radio and remainder of Lt. Fedlen's section. It. Chiralts detail, with lat Battelion 122nd Inf., moved up to a hill near Alta Ville chart 1100. To registered batteries on a check point. There was not such activaty that day in 1t. Shirk's sector other than intermittent shelling by 86ts.

It. Severd joined the Livinous Total Troplecing 15. Redler. He and his men contacted 16. Col. Troponto let Bettalion 142nd Infentov. They advanced and set up an Off on his around north of Altevilla about 1430. About an hour set a half 1 ten then were in the midst of a tenk ettack by antroxim fold 26 German Scales. It. Second adjusted Artillery fire on them are the effect and have been good because it drove the tables off.

It. Changes with 2nd R the line 142nd moved up the midge to the crest of 1t. Common and on to 1t. Vecale meeting no resistance except snipers. There established charaction at monumbers as Infantry moved forward to position above facor Dissuide. Upon arrival at this nosition, they found that Gormans had blown the bridge accross Clore River. Rocca D Admide was being shelled and enemy vehicles were observed leaving and taking cover.

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The Chargement will be a supported by the Sign of Charged conditions.

JO. Toward Collins and St. or weather a distribute of bill mean 4-55.

Lie Month and the second of the little of the east with orders to the large from community the little of the east with orders to the large from community the heavy file in 20th major. It is a nountered no opposition until they reached the foot of the ill second or furnished the east with orders an encountered. They about the fater in the strength of the energy. Lt. Forth heavy five the side is a fater in the strength of the energy. Lt. Forth heavy for a fater is a fater the transfer of the energy of the strength of the energy of the strength of the energy out. After our entitless of the lifted the International Third was at about 1700. This finite is a contained for it drove the energy out. After our entitless of a lifted the International without opposition and possive for it a contained. They strength and the face of the fill nearly or bousted. They strength and the face of the fill nearly or bousted. They strength and here for this point was 100 man.

The Pottolion discloses of CRAF borne Good, 10, 10A3 under cover of deriment to confidence of follow: A 91.28 - 10.63, B 90.A0 - 10.55, C 90.55 - 11.05. Corrected as a confidence and base engles were done tornined by the nurver social. High disc rissions were fixed in this mosition using 60% rounds of 10% consistion. Lt. Seward 66- justed the fixe of this broke for one concentration of German tenks. There were sight tenks destructed on fixebled and the balance were driven back and dispersed. Suppose rounded two per in Battory "C" position.

Lt. Soverd and Lt. Shirk with the lat Battelion 142nd noved into Altavilla short 1100 and roved to the hills beyond seeking an O. P. P's. It. Shirk's detail received time fire while seeking an O. P. They tried to get to hill ACA but not could arms fire. Lt. Seward established an O.P. on the formats alone of the hill above Altavilla. Lt. Shirk left Pvt. Proofs and Pvt. Codbey outside of town with his radio while he and spt. add next no to establish an O.P. on the hill. They were accordated by Cormany "1" and ran a line up under heavy enery fire. He called then to the 132nd Fr Pattalion CP twice during the might and had betteries laid on coordinates awaiting further observation. The telephone line was broken between him and the radio and no contact was unde with him after that. It. Shirk and set. When were missing in action during the night of Soptember 11, 1943 and early morning of pepterber 12, 1943.

Lt. Chappen and Lt. Fearn with 2nd nettalion advanced without opposition. Lt. Hearn advanced with part of the 2nd Eattalion around north edge of It. Common. Appropriately they were the first Americans there because a wild reception ensued. They were kissed and cheered by the civilians who hold then there had been 600 to 700 Germans in that vicinity but they had mulled out to the north. Road to Rocca D lamille was reported mined. It. Chappan hold his OP on ton of Mt. Soprano.

The bestellion displaced at 2000 under cover of darlness to

Daniel Mariane

positions as follows: 1, 94.75 - 12.56, 8, 93.28 - 12.53, 0, 93.90-12.85 and FDG was initially set up in a house during the night and at dawn the open amount was moved to a creek in good defilade and a dugout construction begun. This position was first below Altavilla and it was here that last contact was made with Lt. Shirk.

The balance of the night, Sept 11-12, 1943, was spent in commarative quiet after the move to new position just south of Altavilla. Spasmodic communications were had thru the night with 1st mattalion. 1.42nd Infantry whose area was rapidly becoming the center of interest. The 2nd Battalion had met little or no resistance and had moved out of range of our light field vieces and reassuring reports of all quiet came from Lts. Hearn and who ween. The 3rd Bettalion 142nd Infantry had attained their objective and were quietly holding their ground. Jerry seemed to have more interest in the high ground that 1st Battalion held. In the rapidly expending beach head the battalion of Infantry had occupied a large area of high ground and in fact, had bitten off more than they could hold. The morning of the 12th brought loss of contact with both Lt. Shirk and Lt. Seward. Lt. Shirk's telepone line was broken and Lt Seward's line was blown out by the shelling on the town. Since about 0200, Lt. Seward's radio was out because they had to destroy it when they surrounded by German vatrols. This was done under orders of an Infantry Officer in order to prevent capture and use by the enemy. Sounds of machine oun and rifle fire were heard from all parts of the hill. Various reports began to dribble in to the opand the situation became rather cloudy. A. liaison Officer from 151st F.A. Battalion was assigned to us as the 151st was to reenforce our fire. Also present was a liaison officer from the 155th F. A. Battalion for the same purpose. Our positions received enemy artillery fire all day from various calibered guns. At times the shelling got extremely heavy and it seemed the non-sport half the time falling to the ground to avoid stopping shell frequents. The whine of approaching shells got to be familiar and the ability of each one to judge where it was going to hit improved to a surprising degree of accuracy. After a few hours one didn't even bother to duck in a hole or fall flatt after cocking an ear to the sound and deciding it was going over. But always in case of doubt a fellow did a belly flopper into any nearby slit trench. The men by this time, were really trench conscious and hone of them needed encouragement to dig in at each and every pause of enough duration to unsling a pick or shovel.

We learned that a Battalion 143rd Infantry was in reserve on a hill to our south about a mile away. Also our tanks began to mill around us and the tank commander came in to the CP to get the situation. The tanks drew down more fire on us so his presence was not as welcome as one might think. We began sending observation parties up to the Infantry to get observation and fire on the Germans. We sent out Capt. Joseph T. Brown and Lt. Oscar B. Colley in a radio car to the hill about 1300. Their orders were to contact the 1st Battalion 142nd Infantry and establish observation and communications. Now word, was heard from the party after they left the CP. Their car and equipment was later found, well up on the hill and the 610 radio had been taken forward. These two officers were missing in action while in performance of their duty under fire in the presence of an active enemy.

SEPART

of satablishin litian it. I. I. or. it came the rest checked in over wire contanications and whom to the be wire to still 4 where conceivers were supposed to stoped by machine our line. It is the first parts of the objective, he was take ran the line ock of the first point so the dequate it. Quant: I got the contained on by 16 74's. I will not see a section to be a bendened. Were fired on by 16 74's. I will not see a section to be a bendened cause. Found that our trope is a section of the section

Ca the way up he not it. Source and to obtain a contain the boservation about 1570. Infantry radios (30% 250%) from D.Co. to rely occasing their 610 and went up to hill above Altavian around as cell (AN) A24) from a their 610 and went up vanced to hill approximate the second and a cell (AN) A24) from a life capt. Beamett: "Approach of hill approximate the second and if all and a life and one Infantry radio back down to a life place and a life capt and for and one Infantry radio back down to a life place and a life capt a sirections at the base, when our calls friendly proops went to the bapt a contribute. Co top ring unable to observe due to Being unable to committee with 610, at the second party and myself tried to cake it went for our communicate with 610, at the second party and myself tried to cake it went for our communications in town. The syndwhence a rapidly, we found extery "A" the group with 60 radio that was in working order. Thoughed life began. I said to quarters pattery said, "Capt., I'm as a badive this vaniele down the hill if you going all around us. "e came but each down the hill. Artiflery shells were fell-vehicle. Every one except ret. How were his purpose and in the right shells were fell-vehicle. Every one except ret. How were his purpose and the right shells were fell-vehicle. Every one except ret. How were his purpose and the right shells were fell-vehicle.

Capt. Gabbert from "A" but any went but and established a bettery CP. it. communication to Capt. grown. The made is up allo hill where he found Capt. grown's car but not Capt. grown himself.

the hills and town all day with articlery and certains. The 1st bn. 142nd Infantry was forced to withdraw and were somewhat dicorpanized as they came down the hill for a stand along the line of gun positions at the 12nd F. A. Bn. and the 3rd Batter called to haul in other doughbo, with the plugue the hole. Truck convoys very hard on the ner es assimiling of positions and the bocame heavier. Hews of a lirection did not ease the situation. After and the sound of neavy guns in that some and occasional doughbo. After an and the sound of neavy guns in that some and occasional doughbo. After an art y each day at duck was giving the beach leward returned to the Or and It. Bust called as the situation. Oast. Bennett and It.

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rice were conjugated in the service of the service A total le some une lire de la company de la were the jed a some large and a fine and a some and an analysis of the pro-mere the jed a sometime, and a fine and a some and an address with the let setted ion, are alica, forms Taken and the new and a some a some and a some and a some a some a some and a some and a some a some and a some a some and a some a some a some and a some a so J. be maintain commanication with labor out to average says. Miles and it. Michaelle

se travé constituiocety bary and a live to Gabir six observers who were as on disaviate. The estact was a little and little on series of the 15th nanviele was thinned to the service of the service of the lotter canser bivision from the real and service of the service of the brith. The rediction the front line were I is an absolute of the priving because our left flank loth renzer division of the first service of the brite protection. I and some our right and good so twentile and the first service of the first cour right and gave up held in a service of the passes of the first our right and gave up held in a service of the service of the light our right and gave up held in a service of the service of the light of the 152nú FA. dn. and lypti BA. on. so this to the sale vertoles. To also adjusted fire on hill 40% at quest that evening, and house of a sold by the Germana.

At 124., Sept. 13th, 1,43, a fir was a c in 43' a stery jun position while the bettery was firing a mission on onits on accessor 3gt. Stemart Clark was killed by fragments. Prigacier schorel pollow, poll pivision artiflery Commander, agent the night of Sept. 12th and abs. of the Gig, 1804 17th, in the 152nd PA. dny CP. He had with his part of his staff and is used his orders from here. He told us that ours was definitely the hot spot of him he and.

The fighting was new, and on on sind and our infentry second to be making no headway. About cash all babbalbon by an ab with draw. The 155rd FA. En. observers were withdrawn about dok. The arbility received orders to prepare to displace positions. Positions were reconnectured on the bouth side of Defised Monte and at Oluo Sept. 14, 1945, the 192 dept. 20. over and recover of derives to positions as follows: A 89.26-09.5; B 69.76 - 60.05; J 50. . - 5.20. We learned that a defensive line was being formed along that will are entending to the north west to hill h. S. Unirko and so south-east to all a freeze around -lbanche. All the Artillery of the division successfully displayed to be obtained to be and rear. All our infantry bagen a withgread 6. Sat line sheet from 1/2rd Infantry who held last the ground as north uses of altivials. It. most remained with the 3rd 3n., 14ord Infantry and his racio proved to be and call communication this isolated unit had with the division. Indeed that night and began to organize for the was of side that the theorem organize for the was of side that a through previously indicated. The raretroppers turned but to be the obeding in this position for five days ...

Cur observation was or anime or was all prome, parting out several of the Officers on these Orla were: Upo. Tob. v., Dero. Becnett, It. Curtis, It. Wickham, : Lt. Ruflin, Lt. Chephan, Lt. Stout, 16. Dolds, Lt. Hearn, Lt. Coward. Direct tolephone linds to each paricer use said, this contamion in addition to radios that observers had. The patablion was head way bey the night shooting missione for our observers and for pivision are the ry conscientations. It. Quast escaped from Alta-

mit Hall a Little Link

ville on the mich:

feature and receive the first and received allies in our resition and on one occasion of feature from the first and the old resition received another received and in a first and the old resition received another received allies and north coming. It. Seward aported the energy bettern first and another received and vehicles. It are into our received another that sent up a constant him and the first our resitions. We, in turn, sent tanks and vehicles concentrations with Division reciliars of the constant him and the constant of the constant him and the constant him and the constant him and the constant of the constant of

On dept. 16th the 10th, or will it the discipled retains bigh pround around it. Will a construct with the Air Fourier 50th were 1t. heast, it. lichter, 1. when, 12. william absence. Jenny brought everthing down on the construct which every registeries. Jenny brought everthing down on the construction of the growth were good counter-battery of instruction. We have a laber withe 36th F. A. Battalion 155 Mm rifles. He adjusted on two of the count singly that were plainly visible and as best to coll a power desired at the pieces and many of the sun ores. He adjusted on two of the count singly that were plainly visible and as best to coll a power desired a the pieces and many of the sun ores. He adjusted on two of the count singly that were plainly visible and as best to coll a power 1. C. scope continued on his bosition. He lie this nation to a work the clumes of the Air Forme troops. About a concentration to cover the clumes of the Air Forme troops. About a helf an bour later, or a time schedule, we laid in a battalion concentration for three rimutes. We received contifient constitute on the results of this fire. A direct it on a counter position scattered Germans all over the place. Then the informe troops uncessfully occupied the ground often resting year little resistance, the found many German cognities - we have a number and riflemen. All were very well pleased with this spect concentration. He learn's party cot two German mortar shells right in the OP of 1115 Sent 17, 1943. Put Laber was wounded in the less by a fragments.

On the night of the 16th of Bost., shout 2000 the 132nd F. A.
Battalion was placed in support of the Officers force on the Teft of the Division Scator and furnished the following officers with them:
It. Stout, It. Severa, It. Took and two observer parties from the 131st F. A. Pattalion (Vission of 121st was to reenforce the fire of the 132 FI Pn.) The 132nd F. A. Pattalion displaced at 2230 to positions as follows: A 93.65 - 10.22, B 93.6 - 10.13, and C 92.20 - 10.13. We fired no mission at all from this mosition, not even registration. 36th Division Artillery informed us at about 0530 on the norming of the 19th of Sept. that we would not five mithout electing with Division Artillery. All was quiet in all sectors. Our troops econoied the high ground around Altevilla. It. Quest and It. Fears reported energy our positions far to the north near same. These were taken under fire by the 155 My guns using air 0. P. ts.

During the night of best 19, 1943 the 141st Infantry Regiment re-

lieved the (or) and the course of the lieuter of the write the control the lieuter of the unit of the front. He can always the course of the unit range of our estimates.

On the office of the little of tomber Lt. Plunkett relieved It.

magh of his UP. and it. and the relieved It. Tomles of his UP.

All observers removed I' wist and no energin rance. Heveral activities were removed in the his copth and northwest. To firing ensued.

Our thorag regimes in their same residion whirt ining observation until 1550 the day one. 11. 1.03, when the battelion was ordered to a bivouse smen for recture replacements.

Propered under the direction of the Protelion Commander:

FIOVD D. GATTIS

Crot. 132nd F. A. Battelion

Assisted in proper tion by:

Col. Paul L. Do Vico, Re. Barr. 130mi g. . Pri. T/5 Fobn V. Havding, ag. Dry: 130md g. . . En.

Charts and Overlevs:

Wook. Set John B. Cothen, Re. Diarr. 1300d F. J. Dr. T/4 Joseph ... Feclure, Ed Eder. 1300d F. J. Dr.

Fire russion information:

B/Set Donald H. Tope, to Bitter, 137md F. . En.

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

Killed in Action:

PVT. JACK LINDIEY, 35213461, age 23, of Hq Btry., was killed in live of duty in the vicinity of Restum, Italy about 0930 9 Sept. 1943. He was operating a generator for a radio, which was being employed for the purpose of obtaining naval gun fire on the anemy when an enemy shell burst among him, Pvt. S.P.V. Webb and Ensign Woodward. The three of them were killed instantly. Nearest of kin to the deceased is his mother, Mrs. Nellie Lindley of Beardsforks, W. Va.

PVT. SYDNEY P. V. WEBB, 380,7959, age 29, of Hq Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0930 9 Sept. 1943. He was Part of a radio detail, the purpose of which was to obtain raval gun fire on the enemy when an enemy shell burst among him, Pvt. Jack Lindley and Ensign Woodward. The three of them were killed instantly. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Mamie C. Webb of Monticello,

OPL. WILFRED S. CLUNK, 35531830, age 28, of "B" Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0430 9 Sept. 1943. He was part of Btry "B F.O. Party under the command of Lt. Chapman. The group was making its way along the Coastal road in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy when they were forced to scatter because of enemy artillery and machine gun fire. When the group reorganized a short time later Opl Clunk was missing. It was later discovered that Medicos had found him when the group had formally scattered. He had been killed by machine gun fire. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Margaret R. Clunk, Lisbon, Chio.

PVT. BALVATORE ALFANO, 32223416m age , of "O" Btry., was killed in line of duty in the violity of Paestum, Italy about 0550, 9 Sept. 1943. He was a member of a F. O. Party under Captain Hodges, whose mission was to get to Paestum to set up radio for fire missions. Enemy Mark IV tanks fired on him and killed him instantly Nearest of kings his father Mr. Fransico Alfano of 323 Melrose St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

SGT. STEWART CLARK, 20814904, age 21, of "B" Btry., was killed in line of duby in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy about 1241, 15 Sept. 1945. He was chief of section of the 5rd section firing on an enemy counter-battery. Under heavy enemy artillery shell burst pearty and a shell fragment killed him instantly. Nearest of kin is his wife; Mrs. Chacked a T. Clark of Joshna, Texas.

PVT. JOHN R. LLOYD, 33518186, age 24, of H Btry., was killed in line of duty at Altavilla, Italy about 1700, 12 Sept. 1943. Pvt Lloyd was with Capt. Bennett and B. Btry. F.O. party in Altavilla, Italy when the group had to clear out of the town because of heavy artillery fire. To use Capt. Bennett's own story: We found a jeap and radio belonging Btry "A" and I said We cannot leave this vehicle and radio here; Pvt. Lloyd said: Captain, I hi game to drive it down the hill if you go with me!. The party and I jumped in and were on our way when an artidlery shell hit a brick building near our right side not 20 yds from the vehicle blocking the road. All of the party but Lloyd scattered over a wall on the right. Lloyd was last seen in the jeep. Nearest of kin the his wather, Mrs. Enga R. Lloyd of 1145 Harding Drive, Llanerch, Pa.



SECRET

Missing in Action:

CAPT. JOSEPH T. BROWN, 0-023969, age 24, battery commander of Hi Btry. has been missing in action since 1350, 12 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy. He and a fellow officer, 2nd Lt. Oscar B. Colley Jr. were sent to Altavilla to check communications. That was the last time either one had seen. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Edith Brown of East Orange, N. J.

lst IT DALTON Y. MEDLEN, 0-411634, age , attached to Hq Staff has been missing in action since , 9 Sept. 1943. His duty on landing was to go foward and establish liaison for the lst Bn. of 142nd Inf. and establish an 0.P. to conduct naval fire on the ememy. He and Sgt. Mansell went up a wooded draw for the purpose of obtaining better observation when enemy tanks opened fire on them wounding Sgt. Mansell, Pvt. Lloyd, who were nearby was timetwn Lt. Medlen maps by an infantryman and told to get out. Lt Medlen was last seen with an infantry officer as tanks closed in around them. Pvt. Lloyd and others later on investing the place where Lt. Medlen was last seen, but no trace could be found of him. It was thought; however that Lt. Medlen was wounded at the same time as 6th St., Bonham, Texas.

lst LT JOHN F. SHIRK, 0-391478, age , of "A" Btry. has been missing in action in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy since , 12 Sept. 1043. He was in charge of a F.O. Party whose mission was to conduct naval fire for the enemy. On 9 Sept. 1943. He conducted naval fire which knocked out 2 gum batteries of 88 s and crippled or knock out a minimum of 25 tanks on 11 Sept. 1943. He was sent to and Sgt. Wade ran a line to the O.P. under heavy enemy fire. That was the last time he was seen. It was reported, not officially; however, that he was wounded in the hand and later went forward with the infantry. Nearest of kin is his

2nd LT. OSCAR B. COLLEY JR., 0-1175978, age , attached to Hq Btry as motor officer has been missing in action since 1350, 12 Sept., 1943 in the vicinity of Altavilla, Ttaly. He was taken along with Capt. Brown to Altavilla to check communications. That was the last time he or Capt. Brown had been seen.

SIT. LAWSON L WADE, 20815529, age 29, of "A" Btry. has been missing in action since 11 Sept. 1943. He was a member of lst Lt. Shirk's F.O. party whose purpose was to conduct naval fire on the enemy. Lt Shirk & he were ordered to mill on which "O" Co. 1st Bn. was so as to obtain observation to fire on enemy to an O.P. under heavy enemy fire. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Louise Wade of 614 West 4th Ave., Corsicans, Texas.

PVT: PERRY L. ROBINSON, 37200197, age 53 of Hq Btry. has been missing in action since 1300, 9 Sept. 1943. Certain members of Hq Btry. saw him land on beach; however he hasn't been seen since. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Minnie A.



onjured about 0500, 9 Sept. 1045 in the vicinity of Restum. Italy. After landing it as his duty to go to the vicinity of Restum and five and on his way there
energy tables or ened fire and he was scricusly wounded. For Alfano was killed.
Rearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Margaret E. Modges of 28 So. Main St., Paris, Texas

by mortar fire at 0340, 9 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was liaison with 2nd En. of 1/2nd Infantry. Hearest of kin is his mother, Emma Dahlegerge of Rt. /1 Box 112 Melvin, Texas.

T/5 RUSSELL W. TURKER, Fill 355646, age 21, Wireman from "B" Btry. was seriously wounded about 0730, 9 Sept. 1045 approximately 150 yds. off Red Beach in the wicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was part of a party making a landing in a DUKW when a shell landed near his boat. Some of the shell fragments went through the side of the boat. He was hit in the back in two places. The fragements cutting through web equipment and life belt.

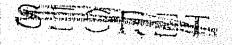
PFC. LUTHER W. BLACKSTOCK, 20814960, age 24, a member of the 4th gun section of Btry. "B" was seriously wounded about 0730, 9 Sept. 1943 approximatesly 150 yds. of Red Beach in the vicinity of Taestum, Italy. He was part of a party making a landing in a DUKW when a shell landed near his boat. Some of the shell fragements went through the side of the boat. One piece of fragement pierced his helmet injuring his head.

FFO. ELROY A. AUGUSTINE, 36803488, age 24, a member of Etry. "B" 4thggun section was seriously wounded about 0750, 9 Sept. 1943 approximately 150 yds. off shore from Red Beach in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was Part of a party making a landing in a DUKN when a shell landed near his boat and some of the fragements went through the side of the boat and struck Augustine in both legs.

T/5 CHARLES A DEPAN, 52155646, attached from 601 T.D. En. was seriously wounded on 9 Sept. 1945. He was a C.M. operator and mas wounded while attempting to reach

PVT. RAY E. NAMILTON, 2031/1925, age 26, of "A" Btry. was seriously we naded at section when an enemy shell landed between the 2nd & 3rd sections. He was

FVT. WILLIAM J. GREGORY, 20814794, age 26, of "A" Etry. was seriously wounded at 0755, 11 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was a member of a gun sention and was manning his cun when an enemy shell landed between the 2nd & 3rd sections and wounded him in the leg.



Lightly Mounded in Action:

T/5 WILLIAM R. LETTZ, 55169107, and 35 of M Stry. was lightly wounded by shell fire at 0445, 9 Sept. 1945 on the beach noar Theatum, Italy. He was a member of a survey detail. The duty was to get the de-water proofing area to reorganize and form a survey factor.

PVT. JAMES L. MCRRIS, 37206702, and 26, of Mq Stry. was lightly wounded at 0700, 9 Sept. 1945. He was a manher of LO 3 under Lt. Boyle, whose object was to keep in contact with O.F. of 3rd En.

937. ERA P. MANSELL, 38060537, age 26 of Mg Stry. was lightly wounded about 0350, 9 Sept. 1943. He was a number of L.O. 1 under Lt. Medlen. He and Lt. Medlen went up a wooded draw so as to get better observation in order to fire and he was hit in the leg by shrapnel.

PVT. EMETT B. LEIEW, 20814614, age 24, of Mg Stry. was lightly wounded in the leg y mortar fire in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy on 15 Sept. 1943. He was a member of Lt Hearn's liaison party, who at that time, was firing on German artillery units. Two directs hits by mortars on a tree nearby caused him to be injured by fragements of the shell.

PVT. CHESTER EMBRY, 55484592, of "5" Stry. was lightly wounded 9 Sept. 1943 about 1400 in the vicinity of Sinico. He was wounded in theright hand by sniper fire.

PVT. DOMALD F. HYMES, 325%174, age 22, of Ma Stry. was lightly wounded in the arm by shell fire on 12 Sept. 1945. He was a member of the wire section laying wire in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy.

STOPET

AUTH: CG 36th Inf Div

INITIALS :

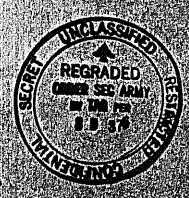
DATE: 5 December 1943.

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

1 - 30 November 1943

152nd FIRID ARTILLERY BATTALLON (105 mm)

history of the action of 132md Field Artillery Battalien euring the month of November 1013, Italian Campaign.



高高温 明初的对对中部的对象的语言。于是

SCLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356

HTADQUARTERS 132nd FIEID ARTILIERY BATTALION A.F.O. #36, U. S. Army

5 December 1943

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS - ITALIAN CAMPAIGN 1-30 NOVE BER 1943

For the period 1-15 November 1943, operations of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion may be summarized briefly. From 1-5 November inclusive the battalion was in the 36th Infantry Division Bivouac Area northwest of Maples and north of Pozzuoli, Italy. Throughout this period normal training was conducted. On 6 November 1943 the battalion moved under cover of darkness to the 36th Infantry movement was by Combat Team, the 142nd Regimental Combat Team, making the movement between the hours 1700 and 2100, 6 November. Attached for combat operations Movement of the battalion was preceeded by the battalion quartering party on 3.

pained in the Division area north of Capua, Italy. Camouflage maintenance and discipling were stressed throughout this period. Training consisted principally of physical conditioning of the men and practice in river crossings. River crossing training area on the Volturno River east of Capua. Cn 13 November in the circuit on were received that units of the 1/2nd Regimental Combat Team would remained area.

The following morning the Battalion Commander, Lieutemant Colonel John N. Green, accommended by First Lieutemant Clare N. Lyke, Commanding Officer Head-agartars Battery, Captain John R. Gabbert, Commanding Officer, "As Battery, Gaptain John R. Gabbert, Commanding Officer, "As Battery, Gaptain John D. Bennettl, Commanding Officer "B" Battery, Captain Harold B. Golding, Gaptain John D. Semettl, Commanding Officer "C" Battery, Captain Harold B. Golding, Battery, Captain Harold B. Golding, Gaptain John J. Commanding, Officer "B" Battery Lizal Inti-Aircraft, left to make a lock First Lieutemant Louis N. Quast, Battalion Survey Officer and Gaptain Robert recommands and in golding and positions, and to make contact with the units of the lock Field Artillery Battalion which we were to relieve. The party returned to the bettalion would relieve the units of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion in two pattalion would relieve the units of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion in two pattalions of the inights of 16th and 17th November. Liaison Officer First Lieutemant Points, First Lieutemant Remiss E. Jones, and party with First Lieutemant Points, Captain Parties, left at 1345 to make contact with the respective groups they were to relieve, and who were to orient them on the ground as to enemy installations locations, etc. prior to arrival of the battalion. The remaining liaison.



forward observer parties were to leave at thirty minute intervals. Timison Forward Observer group 2 composed of First Lieutenant Charles I. Hearn, Timison
Officer #2 and party; First Lieutenant Virginius O. Ruffin and Second Lieutenant
Donald C. Gilpin, "B" Battery Forward Observers with their parties. Group No. 3, First Lieutenant Gaines M. Boyle, Limison Officer #3 with party; First Lieutenant
James H. Stout and Second Lieutenant Bernard F. Reed, "C" Battery Forward Observers
with parties. Plans were made for movement of the batteries.

At 1000 hours 16 November Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, Captain Floyd D. Gattis, Assistant S-3, Headquarters Battery Commanding Officer and party, "C" Battery Commanding Officer and party, "C" Battery Commanding Officer and party, left the battalion Command Post for the advanced position to organize the battery areas for the arrival of "B", "C" and Headquarters Batteries after dark. At 1845 hours the convoy left for the new location in order Battery "B", attached anti-aircraft, Battery "C" and Headquarters Battery. Several days rain had made all roads in the Mignano area next to impassable and mud chains were put on all vehicles before departure. The march was completed without incident but with donaiderable delay en-route caused by by-passes, blown-out bridges, and traffic supplying front line units. Route followed was Highway 6.

The convoy arrived in the new position area around 2240 hours and went into surveyed positions. "B" Battery at Map Coordinates 9918604327; "C". Battery at 990110(132; Command Post and Fire Direction Center at 989038; Maps: Sheet 111 161, Italy, 1/50,000. An attempt to put "B" Battery in an advanced, position failed because it was impossible to take vehicles more than a few yards off of established roads, the mud being so deep. As it was it was necessary to use a tractor to put "B" and "C" Battery howitzers into position and to remove the howitzers of "B" am "C" Batteries 10th Field Artillery Battalien, which were pulled out that night. By 0300 hours 17 November 1943, Batteries "B" and "C" were in position, layed and ready to fire. Each battery was registered shortly after dawn using an observer from the 3rd Division Artillery Air Scotlen. The relief. of the loth Field Artillery Battalion was completed after dark on the night of 17 November with the arrival of Battery "A" and Service Battery. It was again necessary to use tractors to place the "A" Battery howitzers in position and to remove the howitzers of "A" Battery, loth Field Arbilleny Battalion. Battery was placed in surveyed position at Map Coordinates 9904908868 and completed socupation of the pesition, was layed and ready to fire at about 015 18 November. The "A" sattery position was an advanced position with nothing mera than sight defilade from enemy observation from Mt. Camino, Mt. Is Defense and Mt. lings. For this reason it was decided that "A" Battery would not be used during the hours of darkiess on harassing and interdiction fires, and would be used during darkness only on emergency missions. Relief of the 7th Infantry Regiment; 3rd Infantry Division, by the Li2nd Infantry was accomplished during the hours of darkness on 16-17 November. For installations and sectors see at tached situation overlay.

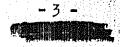
In general, operations from 17-30 November inclusive may be summarized briefly. The situation throughout this period remained fairly static with little activity on sither side other than constant patrolling by our Infantry units, and a bonstant exchange of Artillery fire. The relative inactivity auring these days may be attributed to several factors; first, the seemingly never-seasing rainfall which restricted movement to a minimum and comfort to see thing that could only be remembered by the men in the line; second, the bringing up and installation of supporting artillery units and other troops,

and the planning of future operations; and third, the difficulty in maintaining suitable communications. Wire lines, including those most carefully laid, were constantly going out or being broken by enemy shell fire, by vehiculer movement in the mud (particularly tracked vehicles), and sometimes apparently for no reason One instance was reported of a wire line shorted to the ground by means of a phonograph needle, apparently work of some German sympathizer. Never-ending servicing of all wire was required to keep wire communications functioning properly. The constant rain and the difficulty in keeping moisture away from the radios and batteries, combined with a supply of batteries not up to standard as far as quality was concerned, hampered radio communication to a considerable extent; and made more difficult the job of supplying our liaison officers and forward observers on the mountains with this essential item. During this two week period to the best of my recollection there were not more than two days when it did not rain - and it probably rained during the night on those days. Resupply of ammunition throughout this period also presented a problem greatly enhanced by the continuous rain. Long supply lines with next to impassable roads made each ammunition haul a twelve hour trip. The Battery positions could only be supplied at night and then each round had to be carried by hand some 300-400 yards to the gun position, requiring many hours each night.

Throughout the two week period one Liaison Officer and two Forward Observers were in position with each Infantry Battalion. Initially the First and Second Battalions, 142nd Infantry were in position on the northeastern ridge of Mt. 1a Defensa sloping toward Mignano, the 2nd Battalion on the right. Mission of the 142nd Infantry was purely a defensive mission - to hold the ridge installation. Third Battalion, 142nd Infantry in reserve in position near the foot of the mountain. See situation overlay attached. With British units on our left whose mission during this period was also a defensive nature, it was necessary that all defensive fires, harassing and interdictory fires, and patrol activity by our Infantry units, be coordinated closely. As a result many harassing and interdictory missions, as well as observed missions on targets picked up by our observers, were fired upon in the British sector. In turn Royal Artillery units assisted in fires on targets in our sector. During this period too we had our first introduction to what the British mean by the term "Drum-Fire" with reference to their use of the 25 pounder. The phrase is very descriptive.

Although many times our observers were hampered by fog, mist, rain and generally inclement weather with accompanying poor visibility, many targets were picked up and fired on. And in many instances information picked up by the observers and passed on back through the Battalion Fire Direction Center assisted the Corps Counter-battery Officer in Counter-battery missions. For detailed account of missions fired and amountaion expenditors see the attached summary of firing.

Since the German had only recently occupied the area in which we were now in position, it is only reasonable to suppose that he had fairly accurate locations of most of the probable gun positions we could eccupy. This fact coupled with the perfect observation he had from Mt. Camino, Mt. In Defense and Mt. Iungo, overlooking the entire valley area, made us certain from the beginning that we would receive our share of harassing fire and counter-battery. This proved to be the case, "B" Battery position, "C" Battery position and the Head-



等中部的表现的对象的特殊的 | 19 mm | 19 mm

construction of car and less installations being subjected intermit antly to harassing fire, as the following the size of a bettery concentration be put down. Thy we were never able to understand since it seemed at times that the German had our locations accurately and had completed a good adjustment. It is interesting to note that "A" Bettery, which, because of its most exposed position was never called on to fire at night, was never subjected to German shelling of any kind, although size-able concentrations (50-50 rounds) were put flown several times several hundred yards to the right flank and to the rear of the "A" Bettery position. That more casualties were not suffered during this period is probably due to careful construction of gun pits and shelter pits, restriction of circulation to the minimum necessary, and a lot of luck. Fragmentation of projecticles used during fires identified the following types of artillery used by the German during this period: 170 mm gun, 150 mm howitzer, 105 mm howitzer and gun, either 75 mm or

Chronologically enony harassing fires and counter-battery fires laid down in or near battery areas could be listed. For the purpose of this narrative however it is believed that a state out to the effect that during the four way period 26-29 November no counter-battery or larassing fires were reported, is sufficient. On all other dates fire of varying intensity was received. Our first casualties during this operation were received on 22 November 1043 when a shell burst in "C" Battery area at about 1920 hours and three men walking guard were lightly wounded. On 25 Movember a shell burst in the "G" Battery gun position billing two men, seriously wounding one and lightly wounding one man. On 24 November two members of Battery "A" Forward Observer party vero cilled instantly when a shell made a direct hit on the radio tent in which they were sleeping. 26 November brought two additional casualties when two "C" Lattery wire ren servicing wire lines a mile south of Mignano were lightly wounded in action when a shell burst nearby. Total casualties during the tro wee' period: four killed; one, seriously wounded; seven, lightly wounded. Fore specific debails concerning the casualties suffered are given in the Feport of Cecualties. Buch could be written ocncerning the near misses. There were many of them but unfortunately not enough as evidence by the above paragraph.

On the other side of the fence however many excellent adjustments were completed; on enemy infantry installations - quarters, mortar squeds and machine gun sections. Results can only be surgised in any instances but enemy prisoners of war all testify to the effectiveness of our artillery fire as being something they cannot take any more. A few have given themselves up rather than face additional "automatic artillery". During the period approximately 105 rounds of propagands on unition was fired at different times. Tangible results are not yet known but it is believed that concentrations of HE mixed with smoke and time fire are probably a little more effective. Shortly before tark on 28 Hoverber First Lieuterant Charles H. Hearn, History Officer with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinity, and one of the Arryli feet formion with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinitement of a but align to the 77th sich Artillery Togiment on three different four gun battery installations of any three are protected that night and it is believed that the German plans for the evening were rather effectively disrupted:



incrations is included according to a continuous further characterized by the effective and efficient operation of the introduction size incotion center with its attack of price of the switchboard energy and the sloceless energy of the wire crews. First noticed after the larging near factors through Altaville, their has been a continuation of good work well done. They are good sen - all of them.

Under cover of darkness on the night of 30 Hovember, Batteries "B", "C" and Headquarters displaced to advanced positions in the vicinity of "A" Batterys position. Surveyed positions occupied: "B" Eattery 99090904, "C" Battery at 59810947. Command Post and hire Direction Center 99030935. The move was made in order to render more effective support during future contemplated operations.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Kicharl L. Ellegood.
RICHARD L. ELLEGOO
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

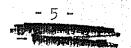
T/5 John V. Hawkins, Mq Etry 132nd F.A. Bn. Cpl Milton J. Bramer, Typist - Mq Etry 132nd F.A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq Etry 152nd F.A. Bn. T/4 Joseph W. McClure, Hq Etry 132nd F.A. Bn.

Fire Mission information:

S/Set Donald R. Hope, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Pn.



Transfers Nathern and Cor and Last installations being subjected intermit antly to harassing the size of a lattery concentration be put down. They we were never able to understand since it send at times that the German had our locations accurately and had completed a good adjustment. It is interesting to note that fire at night, was never subjected to German shelling of any bind, although size-yards to the right flank and to the rear of the "A" Battery position. That more casualties were not suffered during this period is probably due to careful continum necessary, and a lot of luck. Fragmentation of projecticles used during this period: 170 mm gun, 150 rm howitzer, 105 m howitzer and gun, either 75 mm or

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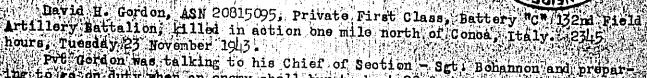
On the other side of the Tence however many excellent adjustments were completed; on enemy infantry installations - quarters, mortar squads and machine gun sections. Results can only be surfised in cary instances but enemy prisoners of war all testify to the effectiveness of our artillery fire as being something they cannot take any more. A few have given themselves up rather than face adpropagands around the artillery. During the period approximately 105 rounds of propagands around the mas fired at different times. Tangible results are not yet are probably a little more effective. Shortly before tark on 20 Hoverber First artry, and one of the army listeen Officer with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinity, and one of the army had a factor with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinity, and one of the army had a factor with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinity, and one of the army had a factor with the 2nd Patialion, 1/2nd infinity and the 1/2nd infinity and bettery installations. The fire was respected that night and it is believed that the German plans for the evening were rather effectively disrupted.



HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIEID AUTILIZERY BATTALION. A.F.O. \$36, U. S. Army

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION



In to go on duty when an enemy shell burst about 20 feet from where he stood one of the framents pierced his chest on the left side. His only words were

Set Bohannon Death was instant.

Proc Gordon was 25 years of age. Born 5 February 1920. He enlisted in the service 23 November 1940. Next of King Clara Preston Gordon (Mother) 400 Throckment on Street, Weatherford, Texas

Otho M. Shank, ASN 33.093252, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillier Battallen, killed in motion one mile north of Gonday 1 rtal 91 2345 hours Tuesday 23 November 1913

Pyt Shank was on guard in the motor park area of Battery "C" when an enemy shell burst nearby. One of the fragments pierced the back of his neck. Death was instant - resulting from the spinal cord being pierced and broken.

Pvb. Shank was 51 years of age. Born 14 March 1912. He was inducted into service 23 May 1912. Text of Min: Mary Shank (Mother) Route #1, Dayton, Va-

pilly F. Horten, Lsw 20811832, Private First Class, Battery 14 132ms Field Artillery Battalien, Hilled in action near Mt. 1a Defense, Italy . 2140 hours Mednesday, 21 November 1913;

Pyts Henten was with Put: Charlie J. Deuvall in a shelter set up for radio end telephone communications when a shell landed directly in their position use was asleep at the time aill was killed instantly. Put Borton was a member of Batteny Mar Ferward Observers party and were on duty serving in that serving when killed

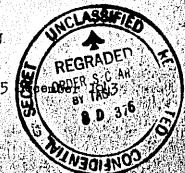
Pot. Merban was 21 years of age; Born / August 1922. He was and astal from the service 21 November 1910. Hert of Kin: Mrs. Imc Mitchell (Mother) 222 North Men Street Paris Meras.

Charlie J. Deuvall, Asu 20829539, Private, Battery MAN 152nd Field Artillery Battalien, killed in action near Mt. In Defense, Italy. 2010 hours Wednesday, 21. November 1013

Pyth, Denvall was with Pyt. Icl Milly F. Borton in a shelter set appear radio and telephone communications when a shell landed directly in their sostium. He was as seep at the time and was killed instantly. Pyt Denval was a member of mattery "A" Forward Coservers party and were on duby serving in batwoapacity when killed.

Pyt. Deuvall was 22 years of age. Born 11 December 1920. He enlisted in the service 13 January 1912, having previously been in service from 17 September 1910 to 17. September 1911: Next of Kin. Mrs Sarah G. Deuvall (Mother) eneral Delivery, Vian, Oklahoma

SBURET



STRICKS IN WOU DID IN ACTION

Henry A. Schoefer, ASH 53200932, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion seriously wounded in action one wils north of Conca, Italy. 2545 hours, Tuesday 25 November 1943.

Private Solaefer was on watch in the motor park area of Battery "C" when an enemy shell burst nearby. Fragments from the shell caused a fractured elbow and

Private Schaefer is 35 years of age. Form 14 March 1908. He was inducted in the service 25 l'ay 1942. Mext of Kin: Carrie Schaefer, 3515 Esther Place, Baltimore, Haryland.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

Grady Smitherman, ASE 34534082, Private First Class, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 1920 hours, Monday 22 November 1943.

Pvt. Smitherman was on guard in Battery "C" area when a shell burst about fifty feet from him. He was treated and returned to duty.

Pvt. Smitherman is 21 years of age. Born 12 January 1921. He was inducted into service 11 July 1942. Wext of "in: Seduthria Smitherman, Route #1, Randolph, Alabama.

William B. Walker, ASM 20815102, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action near lt. La Defensa, Italy. 1500 hours,

Pvt. Walker was in the act of recovering some communication equipment from an area being shelled when a piece of enemy shell fragment cut his back near the

shoulder blades. He was treated and returned to duty.

Pvt. Walker is 30 years of age. Born 24 July 1913. He enlisted in the service 20 November 1940. Ment of Kin: Minnie Valker (Mother) 312 Dallas Avenue, Weatherford, Texas.

Raymond C. Thomas, ASH 32752768, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile south of Mignano, Italy. 1230 hours, Friday 26 November 1943.

Pvt. Thomas was servicing Forward Observation lines along with T/5 Joe Dodson when a shell landed nearby. The wound was caused by fragmentation.

Pvt. Thomas was evacuated to the hospital.

Pvt. Thomas is 20 years of age. Forn 25 larch 1923. He was inducted into service 27 February 1943. Hext of Kin: Florence Thomas (Mother) 1167/North 33rd Street, Camden, New Jersey.

Joe Dodson, ASN 20315055, T/5, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile south of Mignano, Italy. 1230 hours, Friday 26 November 1943.

T/5 Dodson was servicing Forward Observation lines when an enemy shell landed nearby. He was wounded by fragmentation and was treated and returned to duty.

T/5 Dodson was 30 years of age. Born 17 April 1913. He enlisted in the service 7 October 1940. Next of Kin: Hell Dodson (Mother) Route #1, Garner,

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LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION CONT'D

Ira Barnes, ASN 20815017, T/4, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 1920 hours, Monday 22 November 1943.

T/4 Barnes was walking guard in Battery "C" area when an enemy shell burst nearby. Small fragmentation hit him. He was treated and returned to duty.

T/4 Barnes is 34 years of age. Born 7 June 1909. He enlisted in the serwice 2 Ootober 1940. Next of Kin: Susie Barnes (Mother) Peaster, Texas.

John H. Eddleman, ASN 20815056, T/5, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy, Menday 22 November 1943.

T/5 Eddleman was walking guard in Battery "C" area when an enemy shell burst nearby. Small fragmentation hit him. He was treated and returned to dity.

T/5 Eddleman is 36 years of age. Born 16 February 1907. He enlisted in the service 13 July 1940. Next of Kin. Annie Eddleman (Mother) Route #5

John F., Gorenfle, ASN 35,14,185, Medical Detackment, 132nd Field Artillery Sattalien - attached to Sattery "C" 132nd Artillery Sattalien, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 2345 hours, Tuesday 23 November 102 Pvt. Gorenflo was on duty in Battery "C" area during some enemy shelling when a shell surst hearby causing him to receive a slight concussion. He was reated and returned to duty.

Pyt. Gerenfle is 22 years of age. Bern 14 November 1921. he was intuited inte sarvice 15 August 1942. Next of Kine Mrs. Rosa E. Gorenfie, (Mether)

INITIALS:

DATE: 8 January 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

DECEMBER 1943

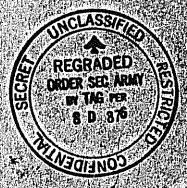
132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (105 mm)

A history of the action of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion during the month of December 1943, Italian Campaign.

> CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: VAUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL CHADING COMMITTIEZA



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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALTONIANO APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 January 1943

SUBJECT: Historical Records and History of Organization

TO: Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, APO # 36, U. S. Army

1. Submitted herewith the report of 132nd Field Artillery Battelion Historical Records and Histories of organization covering action of this battalion during period 1-31 December 1943. This report is submitted in compliance with
letter atted 20 April 1943, Allied Force Headquarters, APO #512,
Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organization
and wrapper indorsement dated 21 September 1943, Headquarters,
36th Infantry Division and Memorandum No. 56, Headquarters,

2. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the past six weeks:

support cannon for the infantry division in this type of terrain. The ability to fire at elevations greater than maximum range is necessary for close-in support in the mountains and to search out reverse slopes.

b. Operations in mountainous terrain requires the closest relationship between artillery and infantry. The forward observer must know where the friendly troops are and their plans in detail and through the liaison officer keep the artillery informed. The infantry in their plans must leave some room on visible terrain for maneuver of artillery fire, as maps are not accurate in detail and complete survey is out of the question. Hence all close in artillery fire should be observed and initial rounds be given approximately 400 yards safety factor either in range or deflection.

c. Communications are difficult and the use of relay stations for radio must be anticipated. More often than not these relay stations are 0.P.'s on commanding terrain and serve a dual purpose as such. Wire requires time but should go into infantry battalions. Will should be used. It takes longer but is worth it.

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- e. Operations must be planned not only to gain Observation but to gain artillery positions. It may prove to be desirable in some stages to use the 4.5 gun battalion in direct support of this objective.
- f. Gun pits should be made secure and kept livable at all time; one does not displace often.
- g. Artillery battalions should have four firing batteries of six guns each. This would decrease the number of battalions required by one-half and materialy decrease the number of vehicles, wire lines; radio channels, staff officers and general overhead in any theatre.
- h. Each battalion should have two bull-dozers of appropriate size as part of their equipment to operate in the mounteins and mud.

The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

JOHN M. GREEN

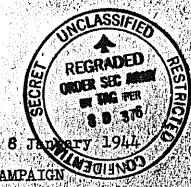
By Washington Chief

Lt. Col., Field Artillery Commanding



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NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS - ITALIAN CAMPAIGN 1 - 31 December 1943

Under cover of darkness on the night of 30 November, Batteries "B", "C", and Headquarters displaced to advanced positions in the vicinity of "A" Battery's position; the battalion area being approximately 2000 meters south of Mignano, Italy. The positions occupied had been prepared for occupation and surveyed prior to the movement. With "A" Battery in position at 99040887, "B" Battery's new position at 99090904 and "C" Battery's position at 98810947, the Battalion position in effect was that of a twelve gun battery, with a battalion frontage of about 700 meters and about 200 meters in depth. The Command post and Fire Direction Center installations were located in two caves at 99080935 on the flank of "B" Battery's position and in rear of the "C" Battery position.

In general throughout the month of December, the same diffibulties were encountered as those discussed in the narrative covering hovember Operations. The almost continues sample like the covering hovember operations. The almost continues sample like the covering hovember of the covering to move the howitzers in or out of any positions were here the because of this factor; all howitzer positions were restricted to areas adjacent to established roads.

The Battalion position area was an exposed area with nothing more than sight defilade from enemy observation from the desire Mt. La Difensa and Mt. Lungo. Necessarily all installation and movement of supplies had to be at night. On the hight of 30 Nevember all of Baker Battery howitzers were placed in position but by daylight on I December only two of the Charie Battery guns had been installed. This was due primarily to the availability of only one built-dezer to assist in the occupation of the new positions. Occupation of the "C" Battery position was completed after darkness on I December. Throughout occupation of the new area from about 1900, 30 November until about 0400, 1 December the Command Post area and the adjacent Mignano Highway were shelled intermittently, approximately 55 rounds landing in the area. These were mostly 105mm, some 150mm and probably three 170mm. There were 8 or 10 duds in the group bably three 170mm. There were 8 or 10 duds in the group it is worthy of mention here that much of the German hare assing or interdictory fire is done with two or three guns of different dalipre, firing from different positions.

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Little firing was done by the Battalion on 1-2 December because of the lack of flash defilade, and in order that all plans for the operation "Raincoat" could be coordinated between the units participating. Our mission throughout the operation was to support the attack of the 142nd Infantry, who at 0620, 3 December, were to seize and hold the Mt. La Difense Ridge 368 and the Mt. Maggiore hill masses. Also, in direct support of the 142nd Infantry (as a groupment under command of the Commanding Officer, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm), Battalion was the 131st Field Artillery Battalion (105mm), with the 155th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm), reinforcing our fires on call. The attack of the 142nd Infantry was coordinated with the attack of the 1st Special Service Force who were to seize and hold Hilb 960 (Mt. La Difensa) initially and the British 56th Division who were to take Monastery Ridge and Mt. Camino Peak on the left, the whole con-stituting the operation "Raincoat". Numerous Corps artillery units were in general support of the operation.

In preparation for the operation many preliminary fires, close direct-support concentrations, and defensive fire; plans to be used when the final objectives were attained, plans to be used when the final objectives were attained, worked out by personnel of the Combat Team. Throughout this operation, as in all operations, two forward observer groups and one Liaison Party functioned with each of server groups and one Liaison Party functioned with each of the Infantry Battalions. In addition two Battalion Opservation the Infantry Battalions. In addition two Battalion Opservation Post's were maintained as well as Command Liaison with Infantry Regimental Commander at all times, either by the antry Regimental Commander at all times, either by the antry Regimental Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John presence of the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John presence of the Infantry Command Post, or his representative in his absence.

The success of the operation, and of the next subsequent operation insofar as this battalion is concerned, can best be attested to by reference to the letter of commendation intitiated by Colonel G. E. Lynch, Commanding the 142nd Regimental Combat Team, and the indorsements thereto. The letter, which compliments the battalion and its commander highly, its reproduced in whole as an annex to this parrative.

Worthy of note and characterizing the months operations was the cooperation attained between elements of the Infantry-Artillery Team and the personnel of the two organizations. Artillery Team and the personnel of the two organizations. Essential for the efficient functioning of any artillery unit Essential for the efficient functioning of any artillery unit is the active, uninterrupted work of its Liaison and Foris the active, uninterrupted work of its Liaison and Forward observer parties. In Mountainous terrain supply of those parties with foot, water, and the essential radio

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batteries, presents a problem of considerable magnitude.
The impetus of supply is from rear to front and it is absolutely essential that supply to Observer and Liaison parties be maintained at all times. As difficult as was the job of supplying their own personnel on the mountain ridges, the cooperation of the Infantry Supply and pack train personnel in seeing that necessary supplies reached our forward parties each night, was exceptional. The high degree of cooperation in the planning of operations has already been mentioned.

In connection with the functioning of forward observerliaison groups, the importance of maintaining all possible
means of communication cannot be stressed too greatly - and
the work of the battalion wire crews in laying and servicing
the wire lines to those groups cannot be praised too highly.
Theirs is a difficult job. During inclement weather as experienced throughout the month it is essential too that personnel of the forward-observer-liaison groups be relieved and
rotated with some regularity. To effect those reliefs and
to familiarize all personnel with the problems and the functioning of the forward observer-liaison groups, Staff and
Battery Officers and personnel of the Headquarters and firing
batteries were used. Efficiency of both groups was high
throughout the month.

By 8th December the operation "Raincoat" had virtually been completed. In passing the comment could be made that the weather seemed to typify the name of the operation. It rained almost every day. During the period all types of targets were engaged. Preparation fires in which all artillery units, both British and American, in the sector, took part, were probably the heaviest in the Italian Campaign. The extent of casualties caused by the fire is of course not known. Because of the caves and the well-organized positions held by the German, the probabilities are that they were not great. Most prisoners of war taken however testified to the demoralizing effect of the heavy concentrations of artillery fire, and many were undoubtedly influenced in their decision to give up rather than fact the intensity of allied artillery fire again. The large majority of fire delivered throughout this period was on direct support observed fire missions. Many rounds however were expended on harassing and interdictory fires, and on Division Artillery or Corps "Serenades" See the attached "Summary of Firing".



HARMING ME WITH

From 8-15 December the situation remained fairly static with only the normal activity - harassing and interdictory fires at night; observed fires on targets of opprotunity during the day. Several times during this period targets were marked for Air Corps bombing missions by the use of smoke. At 0958 on 11 December a target was marked for a group of A-36 bombers by the use of green smoke. The Air Corps informed us that afternoon that the smoke identification fired for them was perfect, and apparently are very enthusiastic about the use of colored smoke for this purpose. With five colors of smoke shell available, its use presents some interesting possibilities. Throughout this period there was considerable air activity, both enemy and our own, with occasional enemy raids strafing and bombing in the vicinity of Mignano. On these occasions it was heartening to see the sections of our attached anti-aircraft artillery unit, Battery "A", 443rd AAA, go into action. They seemed to welcome each enemy pleane and always gave a good account of themselves. They were quite successful too in discouraging the close approach of enemy air, no unfriendly planes coming close enough to the Battallon area to do demage. A number of enemy planes were shot down although we could never tell who got in the good work. Intermittently throughout the period, the Command Post and the battalion area would be subjected to harassing fire by German gunsof verious size. After he lost his observation from Camino-Difensa and Monastery Ridge however no sizeable concentrations were laid down. One incident worthy of note ad being unusual for a field artillery battalion occured on the night of 5th December, when "C" Battery reported thet they were being shelled by enemy mortor fire. Investigation disclosed that the German had retaken Monastery Ridge from the British (temporarily) and the mortor fire was originating from that vicinity.

By 15 December plans had been completed for the attack of the 142nd Infantry to seize and hold Mt. Lungo, the attack to jump off at 1700 hours on that day. Our fires were to be reinforced by the fires of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm). The operation was speedily and successfully concluded the infantry taking some prisoners on Lungo but meeting little opposition. By the afternoon of 16th December the units of the 142nd Infantry well cleared out. By 19th December 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry had been relieved by elements of bridges and an impassable road, the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, the direct support artillery unit of the 15th Regimental Combat Team, who were to relieve this battalion,

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Were unable to move into position. Our Liaison Officers and observers had been instructed to remain in position for 24 hours after relief of the 142nd Infantry had been accomplished, to orient on the ground the observers and officers of the relieving unit. Delay of the 39th Field Artillery, who did not occupy position until the night of 21 December, made it necessary that observers and liaison officers remain at their positions until the afternoon of 22 December.

A few problems encountered that were not discussed in the narrative covering operations during the preceeding month should be mentioned. In mountainous terrain it often becomes necessary to use only high-angle fire because of the mask which must be cleared. Much firing with charges 6 and 7 exerts a terrific strain on the trail of the howitzers. age sustained in this manner required the replacement of two hewitzers during the month. During the period the battalion remained in position in the Mignano area, no time shell was fired, as such because of the high angle required to clear the mask, and the resulting long time of flight. ". If operations are contemplated in mountainous terrain, and time fire is desired. It will be necessary to develope a time fuze with a time of burning greater than the 25 second fuze we now have. For time fire at maximum ranges using high-angle fire a fuze timed to burn as long as 66 senonds will be required. With a mask of varying elevations in different parts of the sector, 1't frequently becomes necessary to change from normal angle to high-angle fire as shifts in deflection to the various parte of the sector are made - further complicating the Job of the Battery Executive or of the life Direction Center. These problems are mentioned only as being of inter-

Preceded by two days of labor of working parties from Sach of the batteries, organizing the new position areas, the battalion moved on 22 December to new positions in the Venafro sector. Surprisingly enough the weather had been good the several days and a few of the men at least, had begun to think that there was something to the proverbial expression displace. The rains came. Movement to the new eres and occupation of the positions was accomplished during a steady lowing day. By the time the weather improved and visibility was good again the battalion was well-dug-in and the area



well-camouflaged. There had been no enemy shelling of the area during occupation, no enemy air activity. Ducks wouldn't even fly in weather like this. The new positions were on a ridge on the southern slopes of Mt. Sammuero about 2000 meters East of S. Pietro. The surveyed positions occupied placed; "A" Battery at map coordinates 99301613, "B" Battery at 99771618, "C" Battery at 99951614, and the Command Post and Fire Direction installations at 002162; the battalion area thus being about 100 meters in width and some 800 meters in depth. As the battery positions were on a pronounced slope each howitzer section was at a different elevation. The area was one of the few areas available for occupation that could be occupied. Again it was necessary to require the assistance of a bull-dozer to occupy the position, as it had been to remove each howitzer from the position vacated. Because of the limited area and the exposed position, all prime movers and vehicles not needed were sent back to the Service Battery area near Venafro, and only the gun crews and the minimum personnel necessary to operate remained in the forward area.

This position was occupied until 28th December. The situation during this period remained fairly static and little firing was done, a few targets of opportunity being engaged and several harassing missions fired. Christmas Day differed from those preceding it by reason of an excellent Turkey Dinner and a cheery "Greeting of the Season" passed from one man to the next! Many men attended church services in Venafro. For many it was the first Christmas spent away from home - and there was much writing of letters. We all hope that it will be the last. Late in the afternoon the battalion commander adjusted fire from an Air OP on two enemy gun batteries - the battalion's Christmas Greeting to the Nazis.

On 27th December it was learned that our position area would be taken over by the 151st F.A. Bn., the artillery units of this Division being relieved by the units of the 34th Infantry Division. On the same date it was also learned that this battalion as part of the 142nd Regimental Combat Team would not be relieved, but would occupy positions in the vicinity of Ceppagna, then occupied by the 376th Field Artillery Battalion. The move was made the following day, by echelon, "A" Battery occupying position at map coordinates 0274517726, "B" Battery at 0239117436 and "O" Battery at 0173017640. The Command Post and Fire Direction Center was installed in a rock enclosure formed by some old ruins on the left flank of the Baker Battery position. We were again in direct support of the 142nd Infantry, detached from the Division and attached to II Corps, as of 1500 hours.

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30 December 1943. Only a few more hours in the year and only a few more paragraphs to this narrative. Mission of the 142nd Infantry was to take over the areas of Hills 1205 and 687q relieving the 504 Airborne Infantry and the First Special Force. This was effected by daybreak on the 29th, our observers and Liaison Officers with their respective battalions.

Our first casualty during the month occured on lst December when a member of the Service Battery ration detail was seriously wounded by a shell fragment as rations were being delivered to the "B" Battery area. Death resulted on the 14th. On the 2nd a member of the "B" Battery Forward Observer group was lightly wounded on Mt. La Difensa. On 5th December a shell burst near the doorway of a house in the "B" Battery - C.P. area. killing three Headquarters Battery men instantly and lightly wounding one. Fragments from a shell bursting nearby lightly wounded a member of the "B" Battery forward observer group on Hill 960 on 6th December while he was sleeping. On this same date lat Lt. Virginius O. Ruffin, "B" Battery Jorward Observor Was Lightly wounded by machine gun fire on Hill 510 during a Durter attack. On 16th December a member of the "A" Batitery forward observor section was seriously wounded when an enemy shell burst near his position near Mt. Glacomo.

On the 7th December 1st Lt. William P. Eliermeyer, 0-445875, with a detail of two "B". Battery men, was sent to mann the observation post of lst Lt. Virginius 0, Ruffin, 0-1177621, evacuated because of wounds, on Hill 510. The three men were last saen about 1600 hours on that date in the vicinity of 510 shortly before a German counter-attack in that area. They have been missing since that time and it must be presumed that they walked into the counter-attack and were captured. Total casualtica.during the month: four enlisted men killed; one officer, two enlisted men, missing in action; one enlisted man wounded; one officer and three enlisted men lightly wounded. More apecific details concerning the casualties suffered

Attached as an annex to the narrative is a section on "Awards and Commendations". Detailed information is given therein concerning the gallantry in action and exceptionally meritorious conduct of members of this organization. On Tues. day 2 December 1943, the following officer and enlisted men Were awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action mear Alta-VIlla after the Salerno landings: First Lieutenant Louis N. Quast, 0-452469; Sergeant Stewart (NMN) Clark, 20814904 (rosthumously); Sergeant Al Gene James, 20814949; and corporal Joe J. Williams, 20815028. On Monday, 13 December 1943, Letters of Commendations were received by the following officer

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and enlisted men for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of their duty in the same area: Captain Herbert C. Bishop, 0-290764; Private Earl C. Wacker, 36351134; and Corporal John M. Lisdero, 36049961. Men - outstanding among outstanding men. They are good soldiers - all of them.

Many others have been praised and commended for work welldone. That all could not be so listed is perhaps regretable.
That others shall be so listed in the future there is no doubt.
That there will be others, many of them, who should be included,
cannot be denied - for there are many heroic action that go unknown or unnoticed during the excitement of battle, and much
easential work well-done that could never be outstanding. It
is these things that constitute war and battle: rain and mud,
cold and discomfort, of digging and of sleepless nights and
tiring days, of being afraid and of being hungry, of repairing
roads and of building bridges, of being lonely - of an endless number of little things; that, principally, is of what war
consists. All Men then who are soldiers, are good soldiers,
because all men experience all of these things.

The month and the year ended in a fitting fashion. The 31st brought with it a day of rain end, towards dusk, high gusty winds achieving gale-like proportions. In Texas the wind might have been termed a rip-snorter. It succeeded in pulling one of the cub planes from its moorings shortly after dark, carrying it some twenty yards and setting it down bottom-side up. The plane was badly damaged.

Throughout the month a total of 21,069 rounds of ammunition were fired - and morale was high.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

RICHARD L. ELLEGOOD.
Captain, Field Artillery

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.
T/Sgt Frank Borelli, Typist - Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS, 142D INFANTRY APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

20 December 1943

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: The Commanding General, 36th Inf Div, APO # 36,

- 1. The work of the 132nd Field Artillery During the engagements of this Regimental Combat Team with the Germans on Mt. Maggiore and Mt. Longo during the period December 3 to December 19, 1943 was of such outstanding calibre that I Division Commander, with the request that those achievements to the be made a matter of record and unit history.
- 2. The Combat Team had swift and complete success in played in attaining these successes cannot be measured; however, it can be said that without the support of that Battailon, the results would not have approached those actually phase; enemy counterattacks were destroyed in the assembly positions were softened by close direct support fires; in every step of the action; from planning to completion, the lattailon were completely one with the lattailon were completely one with the lattailon at true combat team.
- the success attained by this battalion is that the commander himself, on his own initiative, was present with the commander Infantry Regimental Commander from the opening of the action until the close of the battle. He visited Infantry Battalion Commanders and his own OP's at times when the situation strictency of our team—work he has initiated in his unit the practice of having Battery Commanders, Starr Officers, and fantry Companies, and firing battery personnel taking turns appreciation by the men who operate the guns, or the urgent Infantry.

Green, Commanding Officer of the 132nd Field Artillery, for Artillery Team, Officer of the Artillery in this Infantry.

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/s/G.E.LYNCH t/G.E.LYNCH Lt. Coll. 142d Inf Commending

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HQ, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO #36, U. S. Army, 23 December

TO: Commanding Officer, 36th Division Artillery, APO #36, U.S. Army

- 1. The Division Commander has noted, on many occasions, the firm, aggresive, active personal leadership of Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, Commanding Officer, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, and is also aware of the very effective manner in which all of the resources of the 132d Field Artillery Battalion have been devoted to the close support of Infantry units with which it has been associated. The strong personal leadership of Lieutenant Colonel John Ni Green is principally responsible for the fact that the 132d Field Artillery with which it has been associated.
- "Communications personnel, transportation personnel, battery personnel, working in cooperation under most difficult/conditions of terrain, weather and hardship, has earned ments for efficiency in battle.
- Service rendered by the officers and men, of the splendid Artillery Battalion and its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green. Their fine spirit, devotin to duty of the Division as a whole.

/s/ FRED L. WALKER
/t/ FRED L. WALKER
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding CLASS/F/S

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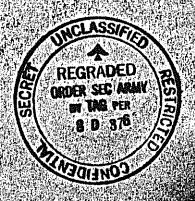
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HEADQUARTERS, 36th Inf. Div. Arty, APO #36, U.S. Army, 25 December 1943

To: C.O. 132nd F.A. Bn., APO #36, U. S. Army

- The Division Artillery Commander has noted with extreme gratification the commendation originated by Lt. Col. G. E. Lynch, 142d Infantry, and 1st Indorsement thereto by the Division Commander.
- 2. I wish to add my commendation and congratulations on the splendid work of your battalion and for your, personal devotion to duty and exemplary leadership.

/s/ WALTER W. HESS JR. /t/ WALTER W. HESS JR. Colonely Field Artillery Commanding





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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY HATTALION APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS FOR MONTH DECEMBER 1943

Stewart (NMN) Clark

STEWART (NMN) CLARK, Sergeant, ASN 20814904, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded, posthumously, a

Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December 1943.
STEWART (NMN) CLARK, 20814904, Sergeant, Battery "B" **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Sergeant Clark, withposition and safety of members of his howitzer section before seeking his own fox hole. His section was engaged in firing an artillery mission, and after completing fire of one round, hesinstructed and checked that each member of his section had sought proper protection, a shell from an enemy weapon landed in the vicinity of his howitzer section killing Sergeant Clark, but causing no serious injury to any other member of his command. This outstanding display of leadership in the interest of the safety of his men was an inspiration to all members of the battery. His gallant action reflects great oredit upon nimselt and the Armed Forces of the United States,

Next of kin: Mrs. Chlocelia T. Clark, wife, P.O. Bor 114, Joshua, Texas

LOUIS N. QUAST

LOUIS N. QUAST, 0-452469; First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, ewarded a Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December

Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Lieutenant Quast led a small detail under enemy mortar and machine gun fire up the rugged terrain toward **** beyond our own lines, successfully observing for and conducting the fire of two artillery batservers had been repulsed by enemy fire. The following morning; with utter disregard for his own safety, he entered the Lieuwhen some abandoned

radio batteries to install in his radio and continue communication. His courage and determination were an inspiration to all who witnessed his outstanding acts and materially assisted in the accomplishment of the mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the

Entered the service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

JOE J. WILLIAMS

JOE J. WILLIAMS, 20815028, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded a Silver Star, Tuesday

JOE J. WILLIAMS, 20815028, Corporal, Battery "C", **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on the night of 12 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. When the Commanding Officer of Company D, ***Infantry, reported an urgent shortage in ammunition, Corporal Williams voluntarily organized a special detail from his artillery ammunition section. With utter disregard for his own safety, he led the section successfully throughout the night and accomplished the vital supply of ammunition despite severe enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces

Entered the service from Weatherford, Texas.

AL GENE JAMES

AL GENE JAMES, 20814949, Technician Grade IV, Battery B. 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star,

Tuesday 2 December 1943.

AL GENE JAMES, 20814949, Technician Grade IV, Battery Battery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Sergeant James, radio operator with an artillery liaison section with the *** Infantry Regiment, with utter disregard for his own safety, continued to operate his radio throughout a heated enemy assault supported by artillery, mortar and machine gunfire. This vital communication, which enabled artillery support to be accurately rendered, was maintained constantly despite the severe fire and the fact that two of the four men of the detail had become separated from the section and were not available to assist in providing cover, improving the in-

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stallation or in transporting the equipment. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Entered the service from Godley, Texas.

AWARDED LETTERS OF COMMENDATION BY COMMANDING GENERAL, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY. PUBLISHED TO COMMAND IN GENERAL ORDERS:

HERBERT C. BISHOP

HERBERT C. BISHOP, Captain, ***Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. On the morning of 14 September 1943, Captain Bishop, Commanding Service Battery and acting as Battalion Ammunition Officer, personally led trucks and men forward into the unprotected area and secured 900 rounds of 105mm ammunition which had been left behind. There was no known covering fords protecting the position. Upon leaving the area the train came under heavy enemy artillery fire. Captain Bishop was the last member of his command to leave. This action of aggressive leadership on the part of Captain Bishop and his determination to conserve the ammunition available in the area was an inspiration to his command and reflects great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Cleaburne, Texas.
Letter dated Wednesday 8 December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

EARL C. WACKER

EARL C. WACKER, 36351134, Private, Headquarters Battery, *** Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduction 9, September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. A small group of infantry officers and men to whom Private enemy motorized and infantry troops and subjected to severe artillery and machine gun fire. Although seperated from the exposed himself to fire in order to assist another man in buted to the resultant effective artillery concentration which overcame the enemy threat and enabled the small group to escape.

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The initiative, resourcefulness, and courage displayed by Private Wacker reflect great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Chicageo, Illinois.

Letter dated Wednesday & December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

JOHN M. LISDERO

JOHN M. LISDERO, 36049961, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, *** Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meriterious service on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy.

A small group of infantry officers and men to whom Corporal Lisdero was attached became isolated and was under attack from enemy motorized and infantry troops. Although separated from the artillery officer under whom he normally worked, Corporal Lisdero exposed Himself to severe enemy artillery and machine gun fire, set up his radio with the assistance of another man, and directed artillery concentration on the enemy so effectively that the threat was overcome. The initiative, courage and rescurcefulness displayed by Corporal Lisdero reflect great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Crete, Illinois.
Letter dated Wednesday 8 December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

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REGRADE ORDER SEC ARMI BY TAG PER B D- 376

HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

REPORT OF CASUALTIES, MONTH OF DECEMBER 1943

KLIED IN ACTION

THOMAS CHARLIE MC CORMICK, ASN 20814842, Sgt., Head-Agin Parters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of doordinates 99.08 - 09.35 -- Sheets 160 II , 161 III, Mignano, Italy.

Sgt. McCormick was with Pvt 1cl Nils R. Helge, Pvt. Arthur (NMN) Johnsen and Pvt 1cl Joseph N. Rich in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, Helge, and Johnson,

McCormick was 24 years of age. Born 5 August 1919. He was inducted into service 23 September 1940.

Next of Kin: Mr. Troy M. McCormick (brother), Paris Hotel, Paris, Texas.

NILS R. HEIGE, ASN 32301688, Pvt lcl, Headquarters Bat-bery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of co-ordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Sheets 160 II, 161 III, Mignano, Italy, Pvt. Helge was with Sgt. Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pyt.

Arthur (NMN) Johnsen and Pvt lel Joseph N. Rich in the door way or a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, WcCormick and Johnsen instantly.

Helge was 27 years of age. Born 25 April 1916. He was inducted into service 12 May 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Ida Helge (mother), RFD # 1, Jamesburg, New Jersey.

ARTHUR (NMN) JOHNSEN, ASN 32332670, Ptt., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Bheets 160 II, 161 III, Mignano, Italy

Pvt. Johnsen was with Sgt. Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pvt lcl. Helge, and Pvt lcl Joseph N. Rich in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, McCormick and

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Johnsen was 26 years of age. Born 17 March 1917. was inducted into service 7 May 1942. Next of Kin: Mrs. Alvida Gardella (sister), 442 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

EDGAR H. MUELLER, ASN, 38026782, Pvt lcl; Service Bat-tery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, died of wounds received in action at 0130 hours, Wednesday 1 December 1943, at co-ordinates 99.2 - 04.3, Sheets 160 II & 161 III, Mignano, Italy.

Pyt: Mueller was on ration detail duty alont with Cpl: Bryant, Cpl. Green and Pvt. Kraft. This detail was bringing rations to Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery, and were approaching the battery when they came under enemy artillery fire. Fragments from the shelling wounder Mueller: Cpl. Bryant summoned Battalion Medical aid. Mueller was evacuated to 94 Evacuation Hospital. It was found that shell fragments had plerced his left butter, left lower theigh and left lower bowell. Mueller died as a result of these injuries at 0330 hours, Saturday 4 December 1943.

Mueller was 27 years of age. Born 18 November 1916. He was inducted into service 3 February 1941.

Next of Kin: Martha Mueller (mother), Star Route, Ledbetter Texas.

MISSING IN ACTION

WILLIAM P. RILERMEYER, ASN, G-445875, 1st Lt. Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1615 hours, Wednesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Lt. Ellermeyer was in charge of an FO party sent up to menn observation post of 1st Lt Virginius O. Ruffin who had been evacuated that morning after receiving wounds in a counter attack the night before. Pvt Roy B. Fagan and Pvt ernest Pilipp made up the party under command of Lt Ellermeyer Lt Ellermeyer was last seen about 1600 hours by 2nd Lt Gilpin. Btry "B", on Hill 510, shortly before a German counter sttack in that area 'Pyts. Fagan and Flipp are missing also.

Lt Ellermeyer was 23 years of age. Born 1 September 1920.

He was commissioned 1st Lt 16 January 1943.

His father, W. F. Ellermeyer, lives at 503 N. 5th Street, Belen, New Mexico.

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ROY E. FAGAN, ASN 20814941, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in adtion since 1615 hours, Wed-

nesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Pyt Fagan and Pyt Ernest F. Flipp were on FO party under command of 1st Lt William P. Ellermeyer on way to take over observation post of Lt Virginius O. Ruffin, who have been evaoutted in the morning after being wounded in a German counter attack the night before. This FO party was last seen by 2nd Lt Gilpin; Btry "B", about 1600 and right before a German counter attack took place on Hill 510.

Pyt Tagsh was 23 years of age. Born 22 November 1920.

He enlisted in the service 21 November 1940.

His wife, Mrs. Bessie Fagan, lives at 202 Williams Avenue.

ERNEST F. FLIPP, ASN 20814019, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1615 hours, Wednesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Pet Flipp and Pet Roy E. Fagan were on TO party under

command of 1st It William P. Ellermeyer were on way to take over observation post of Lt Virginius O. Ruffin, who had been evacuated in the morning after being wounded in a German counter attack the night before. This FO party was last seen by 2nd Lt Gilpin; Btry "B", about 1600 and right before a German counter attack took place on Hill 510.

Pvt. Flipp was 21 years of age. Born 20 July 1922.

He enlisted in service 21 November 1940.

His wife; Mrs. Helen R. Flipp, lives at 1144 Middle Street. Weymouth. Massachusetts.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

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area S.W. of Mt. Giacomo, Italy.

Pvt Godbey and three other men were part of carrying party with TO party under command of Lt. Roberts. Godbey was in an a assembly area when a heavy enemy shell burst nearby. Fragments from the shell hit Godbey in right shoulder. He was evacuated through 111th Clearing Station.

Pvt Godbey 1s 23 years of age. Born 22 January 1920. His mother, Mrs. Jennie Godbey, lives in Ware, Kentucky.

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LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JOSEPH N. RICH, ASN 32340344, Pvt 1c1, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Sheets 160 II, 161 III,

Pvt Rich was with Sgt Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pvt Icl Nils R. Helge and Pvt Arthur (NMN) Johnsen in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed McCormick, Helge and

Johnsen instantly. Rich escaped with just a few scratches. Rich is 30 years of age. Born 24 September 1913. He was inducted into service 20 May 1942.

His mother, Mrs. Isabella Rich, lives at 21 Evergreen

HEREERT E. MOEDE, ASN 36579904, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 0245

hours, Monday 6 December 1943, on Hill 960.

Put Moede was a member of Battery "B" FO party and at the time of being injured was in a pup tent near Captain Bennett's OP on Hill 960. An enemy shell struck a rock above the tent and fragements pierced the shelter in 56 places. One of the shell fragments struck Moede in the right shoulder. He was evacuated to 95th Evacuation Hospital Tuesday 7 December 1943.

Moede 1s 20 years of age. Born 28 October 1923. He was
inducted into service 4 March 1943.

His mother, Mrs. Anna Moede, lives at 1639 Stinner Road Monroe, Michigan.

Zanginius O. RUFFIN, ASN 0-1177621, lat Lt Battery Ba 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 1600 hours, Monday 6 December 1943, on Hill 519.

Lt Ruffin was manning an observation post when he was caught in a German counter attack. He received a wound in the left shoulder from machine gun fire. It Gilpin, also from Battery "B", came to his assistance. Evacuation at the time was imposed ble and he was evacuated at 1000 hours Tuesday

Lt Ruffin 1s 25 years of age. Born 12 March 1918. was commissioned 2nd Lt 11 February 1945 and promoted to 1st Lt.

His fathen, John F. Ruffin, lives in Pottstown. Pa.

JOHN J. JEDRUSIK, JR., ASN 36119531, T/Gr 5, Battery 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, on Mt. La Difeusa, Italy, about 2200 hours, 2 Dedem-

Cpl. Jedrusik was a member of a forward observer party with 2nd Bn., 142nd Infantry. While moving from the assembly area on the slope of Mt. Camino in preparation for the attack scheduled for the following morning, along the trail on the side of the mountain, a shell landed nearby. The trail was wet and slippery and Cpl. Jedrusik fell, the 610 radio which he was carrying on his back, hitting him in the back of the head, causing concussion of the brain. He was hospitalized

Cpl. Jedrusik is 24 years of age. Born 6 May 1919. He was inducted into service 20 June 1941.

His mother, Bertha Jedrusik, lives at 5433 Casper Street, Detroit, Michigan.



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7 February 194

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

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Mr. Weatherman was not very considerate in his welcome of the New Year. With the passing of 1943 and the arrival of your 1941, we were being greeted with an 80 mile wind nined with rain, sleet and snow. Those of us who were not to the near year was far from our thoughts at the time.

With the beginning of a New Year the Cattalion occupied position about 3000 meters South of Venafro with the mission of direct support of Mark Infantry. The battery positions were as follows: "A" nattery Coordinates 0274517726, "B" Direction Center was located in the walled inclosure of an old ruins about 200 in position on the clive grove slope about one rule West of Venafro and on the Was to maintain garrison on Hills 1205 and 607 and the high ground Fast and North East of San Vittore.

After the initial storm that welcomed the New Year the weather has been pleasant. With little rain through out the month all roads have become passable and enabling movement of vehicles and material with ease. By the close of morning fog and haze has obstructed observation and has prevented the effective use of Artillery on enemy targets of opportunity. There have only been a few days during which observed fire could be adjusted on Enemy targets and on those cleared from the valleys.

Division could get into position and attack in the direction of San Vittors and the high ground to the Morth and North West. As direct support, our activit-



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ics during the period were confined to haracain dires, defensive fires and a few observed missions where observables would permit. The 6th Armored Group reinforced our fires furior this evid.

On 3 demany the Bathal are was assisted the mission of direct support of the 2nd Regiment of the 5.8.7. Their regiment was to solve the high ground generally North of San Viltors of alexands and the Eath Division. The ground was to be occupied by alexands of the Eath Division. To furnish direct support of 2nd Regiment, S.S.F. Liaison was established with the Regimental Hondquarters, and Forward Observers were sent out too accompany the assualt units.

On the 4th Jamary this lastalien passed to control of 6th Field Artillery Armored Group. During the period 4th Jamary to 13th Jamary inclusive our mission was direct support of 2nd Regiment S.S.A. when actively committed and reinforce the fires of the 131st and 92rd Field Artiller, nattalion who were in direct support of the 1st and 3rd Regiments of the S.S.F. respectively.

The plan for Support was to caintain closs Lisison and keep Forward Observers close up with assault clown's of the S.S.F. 2nd Regiment. In the plans for the attack no preparation fires were included as none were desired by this Force. The support consisted of closeved missions, close in defensive fires during the night and during periods of reorganization to other with unobserved harassing missions and interdiction fires. To enable the Nattalion to accomplish its nission the Battalion displaced ferrard to positions in the valley approximately placement the fires of the Battalion were taken ever by 150rd Field Artillery Battalion.

At 1800 hours 7 January 19th the 36th Division Artillery took over control of artillery support of S.S.F. from the 6th Armored Group.

At 1500 12 January 1944 the Battalion took over the mission of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, supporting the 133rd Infantry; also continue support of 2nd Regiment, S.S.F. The 131st and 135th Field Artillery Pattalions were assigned to reinforce this Battalion. The mission of the 2nd Regiment of the S.S.F. was accomplished on the 13 January 1944 and they were relieved by the 133rd Infantry.

On 11 January 1914 we received notice that the 36th Division would return to combat and that this Natislian would be relieved of the present assignment as soon as the Mission of the S.S.F. was accomplished.



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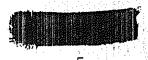


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On the 12 Jamuary 19th a compliantone has take for new positions in the area between Mt. Imago and It. Troughle from which positions we were to be assigned the mission of general suggest of the Sh Swisson and reinforcing the fires of the Blat Field Artillery lathelier the were to be in direct support of the Hilst Infantry. The mission of the 2rd of thech, S.S.P. was accomplished on 13 January and at 1500 this date me more wellowed as the adecion of direct support of this force in order to move to see josibions for which previous recommaissance and preparations had been made. The man lien moved as a unit under cover of darkness to the new positions and word in position and ready to fire by daylight Il January 1914. On Math are light of January the Mattalion was occupied registration, improving positions, aster listment of Generation Posts, harrassing fire, a few observed missions sub coordination of Fires with 131st Field Artillery in support of the attack of the black lufactry on the Southern portion of Mt. Troochio. The mission of the list Infentry was accomplished on the loth of January with little resistance. Luring the period 17th January to 20th January inclusive the Eattalion respect Parrassing missions assigned by Division Artillery and such observed missions as new possible furing the limited periods that observation would permit. Our general terget arce was the Valley West of the Rapido River, extending from Jacoino to the Liri River and during most of the day this area was covered by fog and haze which permitted very little observation. On the night of the 19th January the Nattalion displaced to positions along the Railroad between Mt. Porchia and Mt. Trocchio.

On the 20th January we were assigned the mission of General Support of the 36th Infantry Division and Reinforchar the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Eattalion. The mission of the Livision was to establish a Bridgehead over the Rapido River in Vicinity of St. Angelo. The mission of the 143rd Infantry with the 133rd Field Artillery Fattalion in direct support was to cross the Rapido River to the South of St. Asselo and envelope the town from the South and Southwest. To support this mission with Artillery fire, a heavy 30 minute preparation was planned and heavy concentrations to be fired beginning with "H" hour, lifting from phase line to phase line on a time schedule. The plans of fires for this Battalion were closely coordinated with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and the Division Artillery. The time of the attack was amounted as 1930, 20 January 1944. For the preparation and supporting fires for the period up to 2400 21 January this Enttelion expended approximately 3500 rounds of ammunition on prearranged obserbed missions in support of this attack. Having failed to accomplish their mission the Sivision resumed the attack the night of 21 January 1944. The plan for artillery sugnort was generally the same as that for the initial attack of the preceeding night.

Maving failed to accomplish their mission the Hilst and High Infantry were ordered to organize defensive positions along the high ground East of the River.



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Our mission remained the same, ioneral Support and Reinforcing the lord Wield Artillery Esttalion.

On the 26th January the 1/2m Co Let Tear was ettached to the 5/th Infantry Division and essigned a mission of occur in the high ground that hed been previously taken by the French about 2 Milometers East of Terelle, attack to the South and secure the high ground in vicinity of lit. Castellane. To Accomplish and on the light of Manuary moved to an assaibly area in vicinity of St. Mis and on the night of the 27th January this lettellon displaced to positions in of direct support of the 1/2md Infantry during the night of 27th January and and complete installations to render direct support. Registration of positions 26th January and prearranged fires completed for direct support of 1/2md Infantry to attack the following merning. The initial objective of the 1/2md Infantry was Mill 875 at Coordinates (2.7 - 27.2.

Due to heavy opposition the Regiment was unable to reach its assembly position preparatory to attack until the 29th January. The attack was launched the early morning of January 30th and the initial objective was secured 31st January 1944.

In Support of this operation this Nathalion was assigned the 935th Field Artillery Pathalion and 932m2 Field Artillery Pathalion to reinforce its fires. No preparation fires were ordered by the Imantry and the plan for Support consisted of close in observed missions by Foward Chservers who accompled the assault Companies. Counter Lettery and extensive Marrassing missions were fired on enemy supply routes, probable enemy gun positions, assembly areas and known and installations.

Due to limited fire possibilities in the positions in vicinity of Cevaro new positions were selected in vicinity of St. Michele and one gun per Battery was displaced forward and Registered during afternoon of 30 January 1944. Distated all times made under cover of darkness on night 50 January by Batteries and was completed by daylight 31st January and all Batteries were in position to fire either observed or unobserved missions. Upon reaching its initial objective our Forward Charles with leading alements of the Infantry began immediate adjustment of defensive concentrations on likely avenues of approach of the enemy ization.

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Thus with the end of January we mere very activaly engaged on a mission of direct support and doing our less to give the "doughboys" everything possible in the way of artillery support. Our close control Liaison with Infantry Regimental Commander and cor place of heaping Liaison and Forward Coservers sections with each Infantry authalion at all times has developed a nutual understanding of each others and less and a relationship which is so essential to the success of any operation a volving an Infantry-Artillery Combat Team.

Our Supply problems have been ninor as in almost all locations we have been fortunate in having our for ice sattory and fear Echelon within communicating distance of the lattalian position. Supply dumps have been accessable and the only trouble encountered has been the congestion of traffic during hours of darkness, which has in some cases relayed movement of Armunition and Supplies into the position areas.

Ho replacements were received durin; the worth and at the close of month the Battalion was short approximately 3 officers and 32 Enlisted Hen of effective combat strength. This shorts appears to be very light, but it handicaps the efficency of the Battalion when the operations require continious work for twenty four hours per day to deliver essential artillery support.

There are no comments to be made on Enamy personnel Killed or Captured or Material destroyed or Captured as no personnel or Laterich was captured by the Battalion and evaluation units had disposed of Personnel Killed or Material Destroyed before an opportunity afforded a close observation.

So ends another chapter in the history of the 132nd Field Artiflery Battalion and the close of the north saw this Pattalion engaged in its 77th day of continious combat. During this period not a single day has passed that artiflery fire has not been placed on enemy targets.

Propared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

LIFTOID M. SHOW

Major, Field Artillery

Executive

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Mq. Etry., 152nd F.A. En. T/5 Richard J. Paine, Typist - Eq. Etry., 152nd F.A. En.





KTARDS FOR ROLLS JAMERY 1344

AMMIDED THE SILVER STAR

Per General Order No. 8, Lawknerkers, Seth Intantry Division, dated 24 January 1944.

BERNARD F. REED, 0-178301, Second Lioutemant, Buttery C, ** Field Artillery Rattalion, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1843 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Lieutonant Roed was a corpord arbill my observer with the 3rd Battalion, ** Infantry, occupying a deressive position on Hill 563. While under heavily concentrated oneny mortar and artillery lire, and with little cover, he directed the fire of his own artillery on an approaching unit of enemy infantry. With utter disregard for his own life, while others book cover, he refused to leave his exposed position, realizing that unless the approaching enemy was scopped, the Infantry troops which his usit was supporting would suffer a counter-attack. He continued his fire direction, thoreby assisting in regulsing this imminent counter-attack by inflicting heavy casualties upon this enemy force. His display of outstanding calmness and aggressive vigor inspired the confidence of all who witnessed his actions and resulted in destroying the enemy counter-attack without loss of any of our infastry. His callent action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Brooklyn, New York.

ATHLUED THE PURPLE MEET

MEDICAL DETACIMENT

JOHN F. CORRECTIO

JOHN F. GORENFLO, ASN35414135, Private, Lodical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion amended Purple Reart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 5 January 1944. Home address: 475 East Mark Street, Marlon, Ohio

THEORY STREET

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PAUL R. DAVIDSON, ASH 33282912, Frivate First Class, Menaguarters Eattery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart for injuries sustained during enemy shelling while on Liaison duty 28 December 1943. Awarded Purple Heart 7 January 1944. Home address: 3604 Orchard Street, McKeesport, Pennsyl-





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AMALDS FOR LOURS JANUARY 1944

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YETTMI BIZEL AUCKAL

PROK A. BLANUM.

FRANK A. EMANUEL, ASN 35430029, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, amoded Furple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 4 January 1944. Home address: 1421 Poplar Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

BATTELY "L"

LOUIS H. QUAST

LOUIS N. QUAST, ASM 0-452469, 1st Lieutenant, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Furple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 4 January 1944. Home address: 929 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

STEPHEN J. THOUPSON

STEPHEN J. THOMPSON, ASN 35695518, Frivate, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Furple Heart, 22 January 1944 for injury sustained 18 January 1944. Home address: Hodgenville, Kentucky.

JOE Q. WALKER

JOE Q. WALKER, ASH 20814929, Sergeant, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart, 22 January 1944 for injury sustained 19 January 1944. Home address: 413 E. Woodville Street, Clebourne, Texas.

SELVICE BATTERY

CHARLES A. KRISER, JR

CHARLES A. KAISER JR, ASH 37243071, Private, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Furple Heart, 27 January 1944, for injury sustained 19 January 1944. Home address, Route Ho 3, Palmyra, Missouri.



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DECTROPHY

AWARDS FOR HOLTH OF JANUARY 1944

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SELVICE BARTELY

Mindel J. DE BEL

MARCEL J. DE BEL, ASH 30039705, Corporal, Service Eattery, 132nd Field Artillery Rattalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address: 12 North 11th Street, St Charles, Illinois. See Narrative.

HOUSET A. HALLAM

ROBERT A. HALLAM, ASH 35169086, Frivate First Class, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, avaided Purile Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address: R.R. 73, Owensville, Indiana. See Narrative.

HUDSON D. LABORSON

HUDSON D. LARRISON, ASH 38051858, Private First Class, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, averded Furple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address: Box 197, Orange, Texas. See Narrative.

VIICENT J. GAPPHEY

VINCENT J. GAFFNEY, ASH 32334650, Private, Service Battery 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded Purple Beart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address: 407 North 49th Street, New York, New York. See Narrative.

TROY L. MARSHALL

TROY L. MARSHALL, ASH 38060815, Private, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home Address: 1023 Coffin Street, Denison, Texas. See Marrative.





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A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ACCEY

7 February 1944

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- 1. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the
 - a. All shelter available should be used, houses, barns, caves etc. The men, as many as possible, need the sence of security and the opportunity to jet dry and warm once in awhile afforded by houses. Our experience to date indicates that buildings can be used if the circulation is controlled by day, lights by night and fires giving off snoke be used only at night.
 - b. T/O 6-25 is none to generous in man power for actual operation in battle. Direct support artillery operates 24 hours per day 7 days per week and for week after week and therefore requires at least two men for every job.
 - c. Operations should be planted to secure positions and routes along the axis of advance.
 - d. Due consideration should be given to time and space in planning operations. There should be ample time for reconnaissance, planning, moving into position and building up essential supplies.
 - e. A river crossing is most difficult and should not be attempted until observed artillery fire is delivered in quantity on all hostile installations in the proposed beachead area. After a considerable softening by observed fire the crossing should be supported by intense artillery fire as close to our own troops as communications will permit.
 - f. Direct support artillery can function continuously as such over long periods of time but should have breaks when it functions as general support and can rest the Liaison Officer and Forward Chservers and their details, and repair their equipment.



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Charts and Overlays;

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Lq. Bory. 152ml F. A. Dn. T/1 Josoph W. McClure, No. Bory. 152ml F. A. Dn.

Fire Mission information;

S/Sgt. Donald R. Hope, Nq. Bory. 152nd F.A. In.





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HANDQUARTURE 13200 FILTO AUTILIBRY PATTALION Y 36, U. S. AKY

7 February 1944

AVAILS FOR FORM SATUARY 1944

AMALDED OVER SILVER STAR

Per General Order No. 3, headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 January 1944.

JATES H. STOUT, 0-115/240, First Licutement, ** Field Artillery Eattalion, for callentry in action on the afternoon of 3 December 1913 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Licutement Stout displayed outstanding courage in the face of direct enemy fire on his observation post. While adjusting the battalion on an enemy force assembling in a reaw to his right, an enemy weapon opened fire on the observation post from a point about 1000 gards to his front. He immediately ordered his radio section to take cover and without regard to his own safety continued adjustment of the artillery fire on the enemy assembly area. The effective results of the fire broke up the enemy formation and prevented a possible counter strack against our lonces. The courage displayed by Lieutement Stout and the secrafice of his own safety in the face of direct enemy fire were an inspiration to his command. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Olebourne, Fermas.

VIRGINIUS O. RUFFIN, 0-1177621, First Lieutenant, ** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1913 in the vicinity of **, Italy. The 2nd Battalion, ** Infantry, was ordered to move from positions on the east slope of ** into a nearby assembly area preparatory to a daylight attack the following morning. Lieutenant Ruffin, artillery forward observer, with utter disregard for his personal safety, remained at his observation post directing artillery fire on hostile enemy wear one which were harassing and inflicting casualties on the infantry troops. The result of his accurate adjustment was the neutralization of the enemy fire, permitting the infantry to move with a minimum of casualties. Lieutenant Ruffin and a telephone operator were the last to leave the exposed area. His display of outstanding courage in the face of constant enemy fire inspired all who witnessed his deed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Pottstown, Pennsylvania.



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RESTRICTED

i. Basic load of emmunition is ample for most days but in this almost stable situation a stock gives one a feeling of scourity, ageinst cuemy action or traffic committions.

The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Cattalion.

Lt. Col., Field Artillery

Commanding





HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIEID ARTILLERY BATTALTON A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

FEBRUARY 1944

HARRATIVE

During February our activities consisted of direct support missions almost the entire month. Unlike the preceeding months, however, the situation has been rather static during most of the period and has only required one displacement of positions, an unusual record over a month's period for a months of combat when frequent changes of positions were involved due to fasmoving engagements. The Rapidio River and Cassino with its surrounding heights has proved to be a hard mut to crack, however the situation has permitted some relaxation to the Battalion personnel who have now completed three and one half months of continuous combat.

With the opening of February the Battalion occupied position in the vicinity of St. Michele with mission of direct support of the 142nd Infantry. The Infantry at this time occupied positions on the high ground East of Terelle in vicinity of Hill 875. Their Mission was to continue the attack to the South, make contact and releive the 135th Infantry who at the time occupied Mt. Castellone. To support our Mission, we were assigned the 932nd enforce our fires.

The rugged mountainous terrain over which the attack was to be made oreated a problem in planning supporting fires. As stated in our Jamary report no preparation fires were planned and the supporting fires consisted of prearranged fires on supply lines, possible assembly areas and known or suspected gun positions and installations. These Missions were assigned to the reinforcing units as far as possible and our Battalion was kept





free for Observed Missions from our Forward Observers and Liaison Officers. As in all previous engagements two forward Observers were assigned to each Infantry Battalion, one to accompany each Assault Company of the Battalion. They maintained continuous Observation from advantageous terrain and during the attack toward Mt. Castellone many Observed Missions were fired. This attack was successful and relief of the 135th Infantry was accomplished by the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry the night of 1st - 2nd February.

Immediately upon occupation of Mt. Castellone our Forward Observers registered the Battalion on defensive concentrations on avenues of approach and likely assembly areas to this position. Our firing during the period 2 February to 10 February inclusive consisted of close in supporting fires, harassing missions and observed targets for the 142nd Infantry whose mission was to occupy and hold the high ground from Mt. Castellone to Hill 706. With the advantage of good observation from this high ground many targets of opportunity were fired upon with excellent results.

The Battalion with the 142nd Infantry reverted back to control of the 36th Infantry Division on 8 February and plans were made for a joint attack by the 34th and 36th Divisions on Cassino and the high ground West and North West. This attack was planned for the morning of 11 February and to increase our fire possibilities and to enable the Battalion to support attack on the town of Piedmonte, a new Battalion position was selected about 1500 yards West of St. Michele. Displacement was made during night of 9 - 10 February and registration was completed 10 February in preparation for this attack.

The mission of the 142nd Infantry was to seize Hill 468 and we were assigned the mission of direct support. Artillery support of the Division for this operation required close coordination and planning between the Infantry and Artillery due to the limited objectives and limited sectors. For maneuvering. A 60 minute preparation was planned consisting of Battalion concentrations on known enemy strong points and installations. Accompaning fires consisted of observed missions and repetition of preparatory fires on call by Forward Observers and Liaison Officers with the Assault Battalions.

The H2nd Infantry were successful in seizing Hill 468 although the resistance was very heavy. Limited advances were made by the remainder of the Division and the 34th Division due to heavy casualties and enemy resistance developed by the attack. At approximately 1800, 11 February all units



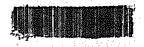


were ordered to organize and hold the ground they then occupied.

On 12 February the 36th Division was assigned the mission of organizing and defending the Ridge extending from Mt. Castellone through Hill 706 to Hill 593. The mission of the Division remained the same for the remainder of the month until relieved. The 142nd Infantry was relieved the night of 27 - 28 February at which time this Battalion was assigned the Mission of General support along with the other units of the 36th Division Artillery and reinforcing the fires of 1st Battalion, 67th Group, C.E.F. Artillery.

Our fires during the period consisted of targets of opportunity, harassing missions and close in defensive fires for our supported Infantry. A coordinated plan of defensive fires was planned by the Division Artillery and we were assigned certain missions to be prepared to fire on call. All effect when called for. During this period we were also assigned Missions to be fired to support an attack of the New Zealand Division on Cassino on a date and time to be announced. These Missions were broken down into Battalion concentrations with prepared data carefully figured and checked by actually firing on a few where observation permitted. In addition to the above missions for support of an attack by the New Zealand Division we were assigned certain sectors in which we were to be prepared to fire defensive fires on call of this Division. These fires consisted of prearranged missions data for which was prepared by the Fire Direction Center to enable quick delivery of fire on call.

It has been suggested that our narrative include a statement as to actual observed effects of Artillery fire on enemy targets. It is hard to observe detailed results of Artillery fire on the enemy as usually Observation is distant from the target and results are the neutralizing effect obtained on each. The German soldier is very highly trained in camauflage and concealment and in situations with which we have been confronted during the past month, it is seldom a target presents itself of a nature that you can adjust Artillery on and actually see detailed effects of the fire. An Observer will often pick up a target revealed by some form of enemy activity but when fire for effect is concentrated on the target the enemy has taken cover or his installations are so well concealed that actual results of the fire cannot be accurately ascertained. A good Alert Observer will occasionaly pick up targets where he can really see the demoralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Observer to the second to the concealed that moralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Observer will occasionaly pick up targets where he can really see the demoralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Observer will occasionaly pick up targets where he can really see the demoralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Observer will occasionaly pick up targets where he can really see the demoralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Observer will occasional pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up targets where he can really see the demoral pick up t



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Mest cut of Villa St. Lucia. The two vehicles on the read or trail leading Mest cut of Villa St. Lucia. The two vehicles were disabled by our fire and shortly after completing the mission he observed a column of enemy Infantry marching toward him on the same read. When the column approached the vicinity of the vehicles the Observer called for fire for effect by the Battalion. The results were obvious with many casualties and the remainder dispersing for cover. This particular concentration proved effective on several other occasions when movement of personnel or vehicles were observed in the same vicinity.

Another example of an Alert Observer getting results with Artillery fire occured in the vicinity of Hill 468 on the night of 11 - 12 February. After securing this terrain feature our Infantry withdrew and organized positions for the night some 300 yards from the limit of their advance. Our Observer with this unit adjusted the Battalion on a likely enemy assembly area for a counter attack near by, during the late afternoon so that accurate Artillery fire could be placed on the area instantly on call. During the night it was reported that enemy activity could be heard in this particular area in what appeared to be enemy moving up and digging in. The Observer called for fire for effect on the prearranged concentration. It was impossible to see the results of the Artillery fire but screams and yells could be heard from the area indicating a heavy casualty and demoralizing effect.

As in the past two and a half months of combat our supplies problems have been minor except for heavy mud and congested traffic during periods of rainy weather. Commendations are due all echelons of supply for their speed and thouroghness with which supplies of all nature have been made available as far as conditions could possibly enable them to do so direct to the battery positions where they were to be used.

The Battalion received 51 enlisted men replacements during the month, all of which were direct from the States. These replacements appear to have been well trained in the basic subjects but lack experience so essential for combat duty. They have been found to be technically qualified for the positions to which assigned and with experience it is believed that they will prove to be efficient combat soldiers. We have placed these men spareingly on duties envolving actual combat and have used them, along with experienced personnel, to enable them to gain experience without endangering their own safety. At the close of the month the Battalion was at full strength in officers and enlisted men of effective combat strength.





There are no comments to be made on enemy personnel killed or captured or material destroyed or captured. Our operations for the month were such that we did not occupy the areas covered by our artillery fire and we were therefor unable to observe the actual damage resulting there from.

With the close of another month of active combat the morale of the troops is excellent considering the long period of active service.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

CLIFFORD M. SNOW
Major, Field Artillery
Executive

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
T/5 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. T/4 Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire Mission information;

8/8gt. Donald R. Hope, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.





HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE FURFLE HEART

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

GEORGE C. ADATR

GEORGE C. ADAIR, ASN 20814820, Pet 1cl, Headquarters Battery, 132hd Field Artillery Bettellon, awarded the Purple Heart 9 February 1944, for wounds received & February 1944. Home address: 104 South East Third Street, Bonham, Texas.

RALPH F. FERGUSON

RALPH F. FERGUSON, ASN 6939192, Pvt, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded the Purple Heart 18 February 1944, for woulds received 17 February 1944. Home address; 121 R.E. Miller Street, Jofferson City, Missouri.

RICHARD J. RIPLEY

RICHARD J. RIPLEY, ASS 42000786, Pvt, Headquarters Battery, 152nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded the Purple Heart 18 February 1944, for wounds received 17 February 1944. Home address: RFD #P, Flainfield, New Jersey.

HATTERY WE

JOHN J. WICKHAM

JOHN J. WICKHAM, ASN 01170601, 1st Lt. Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalies, awarded the Purple Heart, 3 February 1944, for wounds received 50 January 1944. Home address; 169 E. Elm Avenue, Quincy, Mass.



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AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

BATTERY "A"

ROBERT A. LANG

ROBERT A. LANG, ASN 01178282, 2nd Lt, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalian, awarded the Purple Heart, 13 February 1944, for wounds received, 12 February 1944. Home address: 112 Etra Road, Heightstown, New Jersey.

JOE E. GRAY

JOE E. GRAY, ASN 20814827, Corporal, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Furple Heart 15 February 1944, for wounds received 14 February 1944. Home address, 162 Kaufman Street, Paris, Texas.

BATTERY "B"

JOHN T. PARIS

JOHN T. PARIS, ASN 20814966, T/Gr 5, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 3 February 1944, for wounds received 2 February 1944. Home address: 2135 Washington Street, Cleburne, Texas.

EUGRNE H. SEWARD

BUGENE H. SEWARD, ASN 33093234, Pvt, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: 56 West Rock Street, Harrisonburg, Va.

BATTERY "C"

JAMES H. SHIVERS

JAMES H. SHIVERS, ASN 20814445, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded the Purple Heart 3 February 1944, for wounds received 3 February 1944. Home address: 1424 West 5th Avenue, Corsicana, Texas.



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AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE FURPLE HEART

BATTERY "C"

WILLIAM B. WALKER

WILLIAM B. WALKER, ASN 20815102, Fvt, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalien, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: 312 Dallas Avenue, Weatherford, Texas.

KPHRAIM D. EARWOOD

EPHRAIM D. BARWOOD, ASN 37048914, Put 1cl, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: Lohrville, Iowa.

CLARENCE W. HEINTZELMAN

CLARENCE W. HEINTZELMAN, ASN 33828991, Pvt, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 15 February 1944 for wounds received 14 February 1944. Home address: Route #2, Statington, Pennsylvania.





HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIEID ARTILIERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U.S. ARMY

7 March 1944

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the periods
 - a. The high casualty rate in the forward observer and liaison sections was due to a great extent to the fact that during the period close contact with the enemy has been had. During the entire period the observation posts have been within small arms range of the enemy. The incidents of terrain have been such that the observer had to accompany the assault elements to get to a suitable C.P. and in two instances became a casualty by small arms fire. Further, the ground held necessitated the location of observation posts in the out-post line to have the observation necessary for close support.
 - b. The fighting inside the so called winter line has been most bitter.
 - c. The German use of artillery is unpredictable. The Division Artillery has occupied positions for three weeks within four thousand yards of the enemy who has held dominating heights on three sides. Our positions have little sight, and no flash, defilade yet we have received little counter battery fire. However, in preparation for an attack by one battalion the Germans fired a heavy artillery preparation over three thousand yards of front and in depth for a period of three hours, expending an estimated 6000 rounds. We fire at all times night or day. The Germans have also fired every day and night on roads and areas to our front and rear.



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- 2. Combat efficiency can be maintained for three and one half months of continuous action in direct support under rather severe combat conditions. However it is not recommended as the usual thing. Men and officers need some mental relaxation. Time also will be needed to pass on to replacement officers the lessons learned thus far.
 - 3. "B" rations should and can be used by direct support artillery.

4. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

JOHN N. GREEN

it. Col., Field Artillery

Commanding



HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY
MARCH 1944

MARRATIVE

March found the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion still in the line. Now in a mission of General Support reinforcing the fires of 1st Battalion 67th Group, D.I.A., French Forces. The Battalion maintained an O.P. on Mt. Castellone near Hill 706, furnished Liaison officers to French. Lt. Blanchet was at French Division Artillery Headquarters, Lt. Buckley at 1st Battalion Headquarters. Also had Captain Gabbert on liaison job with British New Zealand Corps.

Battery positions remained the same except for "A" Battery whose position was moved on March 5th due to counter battery fire received. The new position was prepared, which in itself took plenty of work. A bridge had to be built across a stream, fields of fire cleared through some trees, and an exceptionally muddy road improved under the able direction of Captain Bennett. The move itself was accomplished one night with aid of a small bullingor from the Engineer Battalion. One gun was not put completely in position because the small bulldozer could not handle the gun up a muddy slope. A larger bulldozer aided the completion of occupation of position the second night. It should be noted that conditions in the general area. There were very many Artillery units in the valley before Cassino so that mostly every likely Artillery position was occupied.

The Battalion O.P. on Mt. Castellone proved too be a very hot spot. The ridge was barren and very little cover and concealment existed. Our O.P. party occupied a cave which was





evidently an old cistern, and successfully lived through heavy Maintaining and operating the O.P. was made a bit more difficult by the fact that French Infantry occupied the ground and the resulting difference of language and tactics. The observers at times found that this O.P. constituted the most forward element of the line in that sector which proved to be rather disturbing on occasion. The Germans frequently gave the ridge a thorough going over with mortars and artillery when movement was observed on the ridge. interesting to note is the fact that when the Germans suspected observed fire was being conducted from the mountain he showered it with fire. Actually when unobserved fires were being delivered on the Germans, they in turn would plaster the mountain.

Another fact that is were unusual in that Another fact that is very unusual is that the mountain was exposed to fire from enemy artillery located back on both right flank and left flank. We found that German self-propelled artillery or tanks would move up on Abbey Hill (Abbey de Montecassino) and fire into the infantry positions. Also on the North toward Bellemonte Castello, and even further East than that town, the Germans had artillery that fired into positions on Castellone. from the flank and rear caused many reports of "friendly" Artillery that successful and damaging observed fires were a adjusted on German mule trains, Infantry and installations by observers there. One afternoon Captain Jones observed and fired on three mule trains and an Infantry column on one mountain trail. fires were fired on this concentration every night thereafter, and no further daylight activity was observed on the trail. Captain Curtis fired on two mule trains on another mountain trail and then observed extensive activity in the town of Piedmonte and brought down a Division Artillery Concentration on town. Visibility was nearly always undependable in these mountains. Weather changed rapidly from clear to fog or rain and snow; then just as unexpectedly clouds and fog would clear away. from the O.P. thru Cairo across the valley to Battalion were almost constantly under heavy fire and were difficult to keep in and

In the battery position areas several things of interest 300 courred. Battery "C" reported mortar shells falling about 300 occurred. Battery "C" reported mortar secovered were identified yards to their left front. Fragments recovered were identified





as Italian 81mm mortar shells with range of 5000 yards. The moconcentrations were heavy, approximately 100 rounds each in two of the concentrations, and the mortar fire was moved about a little. The concentrations were repeated several days. The location of the mortar was never definitely discovered, but were thought to be firing from town of Cassino. The Germans intermittently delivered harassing fire on the road passing the battalion area. Some of the fire came from the North toward Belmonte Castello, some came from direction of Cassino, and so me from Piedmonte area. Weapons firing were thought to be 105mm and High Velocity tank guns of about 75mm or 77mm. On March 5th Battery "A" received a heavy Counter Battery Concentration that killed two men, wounded one seriously and damaged one howitzer by gouging the tube. The fire was observed and adjusted as indicated by rounds of Smoke and over and short ranging rounds of H.E. The conclusion was reached that actually the target was a Cross Roads (that is where a much used road crossed a stream bed that was also used as a road) that became a busy thoroughafare after Battery "A" moved in. Nevertheless the Battalion Commander decided to move the Battery and selected an area some 300 yards to the rear and slightly to right of Battery "B". The move was made as previously described. The new "A" Battery position deserves comment for another reason: range difference between most forward piece and piece furtherest to rear was approximately 300 yards, the vertical difference between highest and lowest piece was 150 yards. The fact that fire was successfully delivered from this position demonstrates the effectiveness of individual correction of each piece by the Battery Executive to deliver a 100 yard sheaf in the target area. A battery position survey locating each piece vertically and horizontally was used to determine individual correction for each piece. Particular note is to be taken of the fact that the Battalion was advised to be prepared to fire in support of the British New Zealanders on the South and the French on the North; making a cotal zone of fire of 2400 mils, and gun pits were built to accomplish this.

On March 6 this battalion detached a single howitzer and section from Battery "A" to act as roving gun. The first position for the gun was between St. Michele and Cervarol

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The gun was moved four days later to a position just outside of St. Michele. While in these positions the roving gun was used for observed harassing missions. Majority of the targets were in valley to South and West of Cassino. Fire was conducted from the Division Artillery O.P. in Cervaro.

The very forward disposition of the artillery can be judged by receiving mortar fire near one battery. Actually the position by receiving mortar fire near one battery. Actually the position by receiving mortar fire near one battery. Actually floor on the area and Battalion C.P. - F.D.C. was about 4000 - 5000 yards from area and Battalion. Our position was near the valley floor on the "downtown" Cassino. Our position was near the battery positions, East forward slopes of the mountains of Cassino. This forward disposition made possible Adjustments from the Battery positions, establishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition made possible Adjusted from these points on various enemy establishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition made your stablishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition made position from these points on various enemy establishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition made possible Adjustments from the salley to the South. Fire was successfully adjusted from these points on various enemy establishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition and the window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition for window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition for window O.P. at F.D.C. disposition of the Battery positions, at F.D.C. disposition for window O.P. at F.D.

On March 12, 1944 the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion began its march out of the Combat area on its 118th day of Continous Combat. The Battalion went into Combat on November 16, 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Advance parties from batteries and Headquarters of 131st Field Artillery Battalion arrived, preparatory to their relieving us on night of March 12-13, 1944. During the day most of the personnel and equipment was made ready; and the rear area of the personnel and equipment was made ready; and march at Service Battery was used as the assembly area. After dark the guns were pulled out by bulldozers, where necessary, and march the guns were pulled out by bulldozers, where necessary, and the assembly area at 2030 March 12, 1944. To the relieving unit units assembly area at 2030 March 12, 1944. To the relieving unit we turned over firing chart, prearranged fire data, K's, and minimum elevations, orienting lines, place marks (they moved into the same gun position), and all wire lines. The 132nd Closed into bivouac area near Maddaloni, Italy about 0400 March 13, 1944.

On March 11, 1944 Lt. Col. Green commanded a composite was Artillery Battalion as part of a 36th Division Review which was held near St. Michele, Italy in honor of the Award winners of the

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36th Division. The Silver Star Medal was presented by Lt. General Mark W. Clarke to the following members of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion:

lst Lt. Clare N. Lyke, ASN 0-24501, Battery "A", Gallantry in Action near St. Michele, Italy. Adjusted artillery fire on enemy artillery from Air 0.P. after being wounded on ground 0.P. Refused Medical Aid until fire mission was completed 5 February 1944.

lst Lt. James H. Stout, ASN 0-1167240, Battery "C", Gallantry in Action near Mignano, Italy. 3 December 1943 ordered others to safety but disregarded his own. Remained on his 0.P. adjusting fire on the enemy while his 0.P. was receiving direct fire from enemy weapons.

Sgt. Wayne Denham, ASN 20815054, Battery "C", Gallantry in Action 23 November 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Disregarding his own safety, left his fox hole and under enemy shell fire rendered aid to the wounded. Carried a wounded comrade to a place of safety.

Tec-5 Ray Barker, ASN 38026787, Headquarter Battery, Gallantry in Action 17 January 1944 near Mt. Porchia, Italy. Repaired a vital telephone line under intense shell fire, climbed a tree near a cross roads to repair the line despite continuous shelling. During entire three hours he was constantly subjected to shell fire.

Tec-5 Knox Paine, ASN 20814547, Medical Detachment, Gallantry in Action 23 November 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Left place of safety and under enemy shell fire rendered aid to three wounded men, helped move one to safety, was knocked unconscious by concussion of shell; continued to other two upon regaining consciousness but found them dead.

This historical narrative was prepared under direction of the Battalion Commander.



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ASSIFIED PER FYFORTH



AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

KNOX PAINE

KNOX PAINE, ASN 20814547, Tec-5, Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943. Tec-5 Paine entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR

LAWRENCE W. MICKEISON

LAWRENCE W. MICKEISON, ASN 36245113, Pvt. 1cl., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Bettalion, awarded the Bronze Star 6 March 1944, for meritorious conduct in line of duty, in combat against the enemy. Entered service from Cadott, Wisconsin.

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

WILLIAM J. MAAG

WILLIAM J. MAAG, ASN 35461659, Tec-5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 6 March 1944 for wounds received in action against the enemy on 29 February 1944. Tec-5 Maag entered service from Cincinnati, Ohio.



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AWARDS FOR MONTH MARCH 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

JAMES H. STOUT

JAMES H. STOUT, ASN 0-1167240, First Lieutenant, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 3 December 1943. Lt. Stout entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

CLARE N. LYKE, ASN 0-24501, First Lieutenant, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 5 February 1944. Lt. Lyke's home is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ENLISTED MEN

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

WAYNE DENHAM

WAYNE DENHAM, ASN 20815054, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943. Sgt. Denham entered service from Weatherford, Texas.

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

RAY BARKER

RAY BARKER, ASN 38026787, Tec-5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 17 January 1944. Tec-5 Barker entered service from Georgetown, Texas.



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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1944

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The maximum time that a light artillery battalion can stay in action and maintain a high state of efficiency was not determined. But it can be assumed to be longer than four months if it is interspersed with periods of general support or reinforcing missions.
- 2. General maintenance of materiel and equipment was satisfactory but certain lessons were learned principally the necessity for up to date records of motor maintenance to be certain none on detached missions are neglected.
- 3. Having once gotten out of hostile artillery range it was concluded that men and officers were more tired than they thought. A state of lethargy seemed to prevail for two or three days.
- 4. Any conclusions arrived at as to the Germans capacity and ability for counter battery purely from the facts of our experience to date are silly and must not be allowed to lull us into a sense of false security.
- 5. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding



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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 June 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

MAY 1944

<u>U A R R A T I V E</u>

The first of May 1944 the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion bivouaced near Avellino, Italy; undergoing extensive training in mountain operations and service of the howitzers.

On the 3rd of May the Battalion was moved to an area near Qualiano, Italy, at which place all of the howitzers were calibrated.

Major Clifford M. Snow had left the first of May as liaison officer for 36th Infantry Division Artillery with the 85th Division Artillery. Areas were assigned in the Minturno sector for the artillery battalions.

On the 3rd of May battolion and battery officers with details made reconnaissance of battery positions. These were selected and work begun on them. This was done at night with the utmost secrecy. Preparations on positions were completed on Saturday 6 May 1944.

On the 5th Captain Richard L. Ellegood, Battalion S-3, received orders for his promotion to the rank of Major. John P. Conley, Robert Lang and Leonard Pohner were promoted from 2nd Lt. to rank of 1st Lt. at this time.

Saturday 6 May Lt. Col. John N. Green was decorated with the Silver Star Award at an impressive ceremony. Major General Fred





L. Walker made the presentation before members of our combat team in the 142nd Infantry Regimental area.

Monday May 8 plans were presented to the Division Artillery for operations in support of the 85th Infantry Division and also for a proposed amphibious operation - presumebly Anzio.

Tuesday 9 May march order instructions were received for movement to the prepared position in the vicinity of Minturno. Movement was made the night 9-10 May; with the battalion in position at 2310.

At this time the friendly front lines were 3400 yards North West of our position. This front was in a static state - having been the same for the past three months - and at this time was exceptionally quiet. The mission of our battalion was in general support of the 85th Division Artillery.

The battalion area was to the rear (South East of the Minturno Hill) and the battalion CP was located in an orange grove; which was heavily laden with ripe fruit - there was no lack of Vitamin "C" on this operation.

An OP was established in the castle in the town of Minturno, at which place the OP personnel had excellent observation in our zone of action and they were very comfortably situated except for occasional enemy artillery fire.

Firing on the 10th was limited to registration with one gun. Only three rounds were fired - proving excellence of the survey.

Secrecy was rigidely enforced with radios silenced and move-

The "Front" area was exceptionally quiet with only occasional exchanges of artillery fire.

An air of expectency prevailed which was noticeable as every-one was set for big things to happen.

Thursday 11 May plans were brought from 36th Division Artillery for preparation fires for the 85th Infantry Division and "H" hour





was announced as 2300.

During the afternoon messages from General H. R. Alexander, Lt. General Mark W. Clark, and Major General Keyes were received congratulating the troops in Italy on their past performances and encouraging them to even greater efforts.

General Clark stated, in part, that although in terms of territory gained progress in Italy was slow; but the campaign in Italy is a major operation since it has drained the enemy's reserve strength.

Heavy artillery preparation was fired and the attack jumped off at 2300.

By 0600 12 May, 2472 rounds had been fired by the battalion on unobserved missions. The attack was reported to be progressing favorably across the whole Southern Front. Throughout the day the battalion continued firing in support of the 85th Division Artillery and by 2400 fired 3396 rounds.

The 85th Division Infantry was advancing in the face of determined enemy resistence. Our artillery fire was said to be devestitating and all battalions were concentrated in a small area.

Enemy artillery fired counter battery on a 240 howitzer battalion to our right but none of the rounds fell in our area although shell fragments were heard striking the building which housed our C.P. and F.D.C.

The next two days we continued our supporting fires - firing 1543 rounds on the 13th and 1447 rounds on the 14th.

By the 15th the action had moved away from us to the North West. The battalion fired only 157 rounds on unobserved missions.

That night, at about 2200 hours enemy planes flew over our general area and dropped many flares - all artillery fire was halted. No bombs were dropped, however, and the action was



-NETHELD-



described as a fake air raid with the object of silencing our artillery during the withdrawl of enemy troops.

At 0440, 16 May, orders were received from 36th Division Artillery to be prepared to move at 0800. At 1030 this move was canceled and our batteries remained in position although out of range. Everyone got a much needed rest - our action was characterized by reading magazines, playing cards and eating oranges.

The following day, at 1300, orders were received to be prepared to move back to the Qualiano bivouac area. This move was made between the hours of 1500 and 1930 and performed by infiltration. That evening warning was given of an impending amphibious move.

During the past nine days of combat only one man of the battalion was injured - this was Sergeant Rogers of Headquarters Battery, while on duty at the battalion O.P. in Minturno. He was given first aid and remained on duty.

This period was one of the few times in which the battalion acted in a general support role. Compared with the customary direct support missions it was found that the general support role was exceptionally easy for all personnel in that the battalion did not have to displace or imploy its LO's and FO's.

The latter half of the month will be called the Anzio operation and this began on the morning after our return from Minturno; with orders to be ready to leave for the embarkment stageing area by 1600.

Extensive plans concerning personnel and materiel had already been made and preparation, movement and loading on the IST's was executed quickly and effeciently.

The convoy left the port of embarkation, Bagnoli, Italy at 1715, 19 May 1944. The sea was quite rough and rain fell periodically during the night. It was still misty and drizzling when our ships docked at Anzio at 0830. The poor weather was

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a godsend for us as it restricted the enemy's observation of our arrival and subsequent motor movement from the port to a bivouac area.

Gun pits had already been prepared and wire lines laid by the personnel of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.

The latter installations were improved during the night of 20 May and occupied under cover of darkness the next evening.

It was very quiet on the 22nd May with little activity on either side. One gun of the battalion was registered during the afternoon.

"H" Hour for a large scale attack on the beachead front was announced for 0600, 23 May.

The mission of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was direct support of the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. 1st Lt. Louis N. Quast, who had rejoined the battalion as S-2 on the 18th May was sent to the 39th Field Artillery Battalion as liaison officer.

A heavy preparation program was fired commencing at 0545 and other unobserved missions were fired during the day - expending 3790 rounds. In addition 341 rounds were expended on observed missions. Supporting fires were continued the next day till 1900 when preparations were made to move. The guns were coupled up and all equipment loaded at 2400 when orders were received to re-occupy the position, to fire that night and the next morning.

The front lines became very fluid and advances quickened necessating displacement of the battalion four times in that many
days. These movements were so frequent that the batteries became expert at fast displacements. Only the necessary operating
personnel were carried along - The remainder being left in a
rear bivouse area.

A bulldozer attached to the battalion from 111th Engineer Battalion aided greatly in these moves by digging the gun pits and other necessary installations. Many times the gun crews





were so exhausted from their continuous service of the piece and displacements that it would have been extremely difficult for them to have had to dig their own gun pits.

Our mission of general support of the 39th Field Artillery Battalion was changed on the 27 May to general support of 27th Field Artillery Battalion. On the 28th our mission was again changed to general support of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and observed missions were fired on call. On the 30 May we began direct support of 142nd Infantry.

Up to this time although the attack had been progressing satisfactorly there was no indication of a break through but strong resistance was encountered all along the front - Except for the right (Southern) flank which had pushed South to join forces with the "Southern Front," thereby eliminating the beachhead, as such.

The month was a very interesting one as far as the battalion was concerned as it contained a variety of action - including the Minturno drive and also participation in the Anzio attack.

This historical narrative was prepared under direction of the Battalion Commander.

AOUIS N. QUAST

lst Lt., Field Artillery S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Paul L. Divico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McCling Harden, 132nd F. A. Bn RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 June 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH MAY 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

JOHN N. GREEN

JOHN N. GREEN, 0333369, Lieutenant Colonel, 132nd Field Artillery
Battalion, awarded the Silver Star on Saturday, 17 May 1944, for
gallantry in action on 6 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy, Troops of the Second Battalion, 142d Infantry, defending Mount*** were subjected to heavy effective artillery fire from the enemy guns in the ***Valley. Because best view of the enemy's emplacements in the valley could be obtained from an observation point in advance of an infantry company on Hill***, Lieutenant Colonel Green on his own initiative went forward through intense mortar, nebelwerfer and artillery fire and observed from that extremely hazardous point. With information obtained at this great personal risk he directed such effective counter-battery fire that the subsequent enemy attack failed. While with the front rire that the subsequent enemy attack raised. While with the front line infantrymen during doubtful phases of the battle, Lieutenant Colonel Green deliberately exposed himself to go among the junior officers nel Green deliberately exposed himself to go among the junior officers and enlisted men, encouraging them and bolstering their bravery by his own inspiring valor, helping them to resist enemy infiltrations and counterattacks. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.





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A.P.C. w 36, U.S. ARMY

3 July 19北

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

JUJE 194

HARRATIVE

The operations for the month of June shall be divided into two main periods - The first being the culmination of the Anzio break-through from 1 June to 3 June. The second being the pursuit of the enemy through Rome and into northern Italy; until the Division was relieved on the 26 June.

The beginning of the month found the battalion in the vicinity of Velletri, Italy, where it had gone into position very close behind the front lines. The mission of the battalion being to support the 1/12nd Infantry in the attack of the hills to the north.

Although Allied Forces on the Beach-head were making a conserted effort at this time - no real break-through was apparent.

It was not until the morning of l4 June - after the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders had gone on reconnaissance - that it appeared that the enemy had with-drawn completely. This was the beginning of the pursuit of the enemy through Rome and on into northern Italy.

Part of the Infantry in our combat team was motorized, and the mission of our battalion was to remain notorized and follow the Infantry until contact with the enemy was established.

Our Regimental Combat Team column reinforced with reconnaissance troops, tanks and tank destroyers proceeded on the road towards Rome, and reached a point on the outskirts of the city at about 1600. At this point enemy rear guard action was encountered and the convoy halted. Our artillery moved into an assembly area; with the primary mission being anti-tank defense.

Early the next morning orders were received to march through Rome; with the objective being to cross the Tiber River and go into a defensive position five miles north-west of the city.





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ITADQUARTERS 1321D FIELD ARTILLERY EATTALION A.P.C. # 36, U.S. ARMY

3 July 1941

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

JUIE 194

NARRATIVE

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Many of the Infantrymon were loaded on artillery vehicles - thus enabling as many troops as rescable to be motorized. He enemy opposition was encountered in the drive through Rome, although traffic was impeded by thousands of citizens who were out in the early hours to welcome us as we came through.

The first determined rear quard action of the enemy was encountered about four miles west of the city. The column was halted, the Infantry deployed and our Battery "A" quickly brought up and put into a position of close support. Registrations were made on points less than two thousand yards away.

The enemy strength was estimated to be about two companies of Infantry - supported by anti-tank guns, mortars and automatic weapons. Fire was placed on the primary defense positions of the enemy and artillery fire placed on these points until the Infantry was observed to be ready to close in on them.

By 1500 all organized enemy resistance had been overcome; about thirty prisoners taken and three anti-tank guns destroyed.

During the remainder of the days of the month our battalion continued in pursuit of the enemy, generally along Highway #1 to the north-west. This pursuit covering a period of twenty one days - between 5 June and 26 June. During this time a total distance of about one hundred and fifty miles was covered by our advancing troops. This necessitated frequent displacements of the battalion, and often two or three positions were occupied in a single

During the early stage of the pursuit resistance encountered was very small and oftentimes the positions occupied were merely assembly areas; from which no firing was done. However, the rear guard resistance increased during the last two weeks and at these times our artillery was more active.

At times the bettalion was in the role of direct support - during which time all of our personnel - including IO's and FO's - were extremely busy. Other times the mission of the battalien was that of reinforcing fires of other artillery units.

The movement was so rapid that in order to keep continuous artillery support of battalion strength for the attacking Infantry the direct support and the reinforcing unit had to coordinate their movements very closely. In order to accomplish this the direct support battalion sent a radio and while the former was displacing forward.





Another characteristic of the fast moving situation was the effect on the battalion occumunications. Due to the rapid and frequent displacement moving wire communications outside of a simple battalion net was virtually impossible; therefore, it was necessary to rely on radio for communications with the Infantry - through LO's and FO's with reinforcing artillery units and with Division Artillery. It might be noted that radio communication in this situation - where they were so necessary - proved satisfactory in all respects.

During the period situations have often occured where targets of opportunity of the retreating enemy were observed. In most cases these could easily be taken under fire due to the close artillery support.

In more than one occasion columns of Infantry and horse drawn artillery were observed along the road and fired on. In one case - near Grosseto - nine 150 mil. howitzers and many dead horses and some live ones were found in an area that was fired on by our Artillery.

The value of a battalion OP was displayed particularly when our battalion was in a reinforcing role. During these times none of our LO's or FO's were in position to adjust our battalion on a base point or check points. Most of the time these necessary registrations were made by Air OP's; however, a quicker and more effecient adjustment was often found to be obtained from a ground OP established prior to the occupation of the position.

Another element of this operation was that many prisoners were taken in our Artillery positions and other areas behind our front lines. Although these enemies rarely gave us any trouble, it was always necessary to maintain good local security. Approximately thirty prisoners were taken by personnel of our unit.

During the month the battalion lost the services of 16 men through various causes. Although these losses were not welcome the effectioncy of the battalion was not substantially reduced in as much as the battalion had been over strengthed and trained personnel were available to take the place of key men that were lost.

The action of the month was unique in that it was very different from any operation that the battalion had been in before. Prior to this time the action had been slow moving and occupation of positions deliberate with enemy artillery fire being our greatest hazzard. However, during the past





month the situation has been fast moving requiring frequent displacement and hasty occupation of positions with little or no preparation. The hazzard of artillery has been virtually non-existant.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

LOUIS N. QUAST
1st Lt., Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 152nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech/Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Etry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Etry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Paul L. Divico, Hq. Etry., 132nd F. A. En.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Eq. Btry., 152nd F. A. En.





HEADQUARTERS 102nd FIELD ARTHLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARRY

3 July 1944

MILISTED KEN

AWARDS FOR HOUTH JUNE 1944

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

RAY DARKER

RAY BARKER, 38026787, Corporal, Headquarters Eattery, 132nd Field Artillery Dattalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for Wounds received in combat 5 June 1944. Entered the service from Georgetown, Texas.

DENJAHIH CALDERAIO

DEMJAMIN CALDERAIO, 33586373, Tec 5, Headquarters Eattery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the service from Philadelphia, Ponnsylvania.

DIVISION COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

ROBERT F. RITTER

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機動體的問題的語名的意思的主義

ROBERT F. RITTER, 13073527, Corporal, Headquarters Eattery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 February 1944 in Italy. Assigned to a liaison section working with the infantry troops, Corporal Ritter accompanied the artillery liaison officer to an observation post and there established radio communications. While he was operating his radio, the enemy blasted the area with an intense concentration of artillery fire. Heedless of the danger to which he was constantly exposed, Corporal Ritter maintained his post and continued operating the radio, thus enabling the artillery to deliver accurate fire in support of the infantry forces. Entered the Service from Ealtimore, Maryland.





HEADQUARTERS 152nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.F.O. # 56, U. S. ARGIY

3 July 1944

OFFICERS

AVANDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

DATTERLY KAT

AWAILD OF PURPLE HEART

ISADORE STEIN

ISADORE STEIN, 01179214, Second Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Dattalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 5 June 1944. Entered the Service from New York, New York.





HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ALTILLERY MATTALION A.F.O. # 56, U. S. APHY

3 July 1944

DILISTED MEN

Alwrds for month june 1944

PATTERY "A"

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

FILAR E. RAIIREZ

PILAR M. RAMINEZ, 38065437, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Eattalion, awarded the Purple Heart 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the Service from Shafter, Texa s.

ROBERT J. MASSAGO

ROBERT J. MASSAGO, 12095953, Priva te, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the Service from Utica, New York.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

BILLY F. MORTON

BILLY F. HORTON, 20814832, Frivate First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Next of Kin: Ers Irno Mitchell (Mother) 222 North 14th Street, Paris, Texas.

CHARLES J. DEUVALL

CHARLES J. DEUVALL, 20829559, Private, Dattery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Dattalion. Next of Kin: Frs. Sarah G. Deuvall (Mother) General Delivery, Vian, Oklahoma.

For gallantry in action on 24 November 1943 the above named men were assigned to the forward observation party of their battery and they worked tirelessly for five days carrying supplies up the precipitous mountain trail to the post. On the afternoon of 24 November they volunteered to remain at the post and operate the radio during the night. When the enemy began shelling around the ridge where the radio was located, they valiantly maintained their post and disdained leaving it for a position of safety. Shells began bursting on the ridge and a direct hit on the observation post killed them.

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HEADQUARTERS 152nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A. . . C. # 36, U. S. ARLIY

3 July 1944

MILISTED MEN

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

DATTERY "B"

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

EARL H. GAGE

EARL H. GAGE, 17086872, Frivate, Eastery "D" 152nd Field Artillery Pattalion, avarded Oak Leaf Cluster, 25 June 1944 for wounds received in combat 13 June 1944. Entered Service from Denver, Colorado.



HEADQUARTERS 152nd FIELD ARTILLERY DATTALION 1.P.O. # 35, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

ELLISTED MEH

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

BATTERY "C"

ATMED OF FRUFLE HEART

GORDON W. MOORE

GORDON W. MOORE, 32835957, Private, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 26 May 1944. Entered the Service from Rochester, New York.

DIVISION COMMENDATION FOR ECCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

PAUL G. ADELSPERGER

PAUL G. ADELSPENGER, 35267912, Corporal, Battery Ct, 132nd Field Artillery Batta lion, for exceptionally maritorious conduct on 1 January 1944 in Italy. Ordered to maintain a new observation post to cover a troop movement with Artillery fire, Corporal Adelsperger directed his section in establishing communications. When a blinding snow storm descended upon the group, he sought places of cover for his men, encouraging them not to despair. Although half-frozen by the extreme cold and the biting wind, he continued to perform his duties, courageously maintaining communications in spite of the extremely hazardous conditions. Entered the Service from Lexington, Kentucky.



RESTRICTED



HEADQUARTERS 132ED FIRED AFTILIBRY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U.S. ATTY

3 July 1944

COMCINSIONS

- 1. The principal conclusion to be drawn in connection with the type of combat engage in during most of this month from the point of view of a direct support battalion are:
- a. The artillery rust be aggressive in displacement in the exploitation of a break in enemy lines and more aggressive if possible in

The use of two bettalions in direct support moving ahead by battalions leap frogging each other is the best way to keep well forward and at the same time be prepared for a counterattack.

- b. The air C.F. is of inestimitable value in the persuit.
- c. Ho men can defend in hasty position against observed artillery fire after time German soldiers were driven from positions by artillery fire plus the threat of advancing infantry.
- d. The Germans rade very poor use of his artillery in covering his withdrawal. Abandoned artillery was all out of proporation to the value he got out of it. In many instances well sighted guns were found that from my observation never fired an effective round against us, from the position they were left in, although ammunition was at hand. In my opinion this can only be explained by saying his artillery soldiers and officers lacked bold-

// JOHN N./ GREEN Lt. Col., Field Artillery Commanding

RESTRICTION

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIEID ARTILIERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U.S. ARMY

8 September 1944

CPERATIONS IN FRANCE

AUGUST 1944

NARRATIVE

Having participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy, the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was experienced in ship to shore invasions. It may be recalled that the battalion began it's invasion training at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, in the fall of 1942. It was also given a second training period in Africa prior to the Italian landing. Therefore, the two weeks intensive training period prior to the present invasion was more or less a review of past experiences. Approximately sixty per cent of the personnel of the battalion were veterans of the Italian Invasion. Our activities therefore were greately benefited by this experience.

With the exception of Liaison and Forward Observer officers and parties who accompanied their respective Infantry units, the mass of the battalion was loaded on an L.S.T. near Naples, Italy, on the 10th of August.

Twenty two DUKWS (Amphibious 2 1/2 ton vehicles) were assigned to the battalion for the purpose of the initial landing. These were used primarily by the firing batteries to carry in howitzers and ammunition. The howitzers were so placed in the DUKWS that they were in firing position and could have been fired while enroute from ship to shore or after landing without unloading. Each battery had three DUKWS with "A" Frames constructed on them for the purpose of unloading the howitzers. The DUKWS were stowed on the tank deck of the IST and debarked at sea by backing out into the water from the ramp. It required thirty two minutes after debarkation began for the entire twenty two DUKWS to get off the IST. The organic transportation and remainder of the personnel came ashore later in the day when the IST came in to the beach.

The landings of the 36th Infantry Division began at 0800 hours on Tuesday 15 August 1944 in the vicinity of St. Raphael, Southern France.



1-1009

The 132nd Field Artillery Battalion landed at "H" plus 153 minutes on the beach established by the 143rd Infantry Regiment and had the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

The initial landings had little to no resistance and everything went according to plan with the battalion landing at it's designated time. On landing the battalion went into an assembly area about one hundred and fifty yards from the beach; at which time the howitzers were unloaded from the DUKMS. The DUKMS then became prime movers and the battalion continued on to a position area about one mile away. The gums were in position and ready to fire within one hour after hitting the beach.

The 142nd Infantry Regiment landed at 1530 hours in the afternoon and at that time our battalion went into direct support of this regiment. With the 142nd Infantry Regiment the battalion had one liaison officer attached to each infantry battalion and one liaison officer with Regimental Headquarters, two forward observer officers with each battalion and two Naval liaison officers for shore fire control. There were also one artillery forward observer with each Infantry Battalion especially trained for conducting naval gun fire.

In as much as the initial resistance was light very little observed fire was conducted on "D" day. The battalion sustained only one casualty (Slightly wounded by artillery fire shortly after landing) All other personnel and equipment landed safely.

On "D" plus one first serious resistance was met by our Infantry and many observed missions were fired. This resistance was quickly overcome and by night fall we had penetrated ten miles inland.

Our Infantry in their advance during the night of the 15th by-passed many small groups of enemy infantry. On "D" plus one our Battery Commanders and Survey Section picked up thirty nine prisoners while on reconnaissance for a forward position area.

The following day and for the next week the campaign became very fluid. The Regimental Combat Teams took the form of task forces which moved quickly to the northeast and northwest to exploit the rout of the enemy and destroy him. This required the battalion to travel many miles each day - at times covering a hundred miles in a single day's march. This took us to the northeast near the Italian boarder at Suillestre and as far west as the vicinity of Montelimar.



1-1009

As an example of the operations during the month we will examine the period of the 24th, 25th and 26th. At noon on the 24th the battalion was at the town of La Roche St. Secret after a seventy mile road march from Rosans. During the afternoon the men had a chance to relax a little. At 2000 hours orders were received to move into vicinity of Cleon d' Andran - a distance of fifty four miles. For this move the battalion, less Battery "B" which had been left at St. Clement, was to haul the let Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment - less one company - in addition to it's normal personnel, equipment and over one thousand rounds of ammunition per battery. To make this haul there were present in the battalion twenty 21 ton trucks and the normal number of smaller vehicles plus eight antiaircraft half tracks. (which were used to haul about fifty infantrymen) The trucks were both overloaded and over-crowded and some accidents occured when personnel fell off of the trucks. The battalion arrived in it's defensive position at 0500 hours .- complete with "B" Battery which rejoined us at that point. A large part of the Division had come to this vicinity, east of the Rhone River - north of Montelimar, in an effort to trap elements of the 19th Army moving up the Rhone Valley to the north. It was here that a pitched battle took place when the enemy attempted to break through. The First Battalion of the 143rd Infantry, Regiment attached to the 142nd Infantry Regiment, received the brunt of this attack which was reported to be of regimental strength. The First Battalion of the 142nd Infantry counter attacked and were subsequently pushed back. However, our forward observers were in position to fire observed missions on tanks, heavy weapons and enemy infantry. Forty observed missions were fired between 1500 and 2000 hours. We are credited with knocking out four Mark VI tanks with indirect fire. Although our units were pushed back the artillery at one time firing at a range of two thousand yards - the enemy was repelled and subsequently withdrew. By the time the worst of the attack had passed our ammunition supply was a critical item and only twenty five rounds per gun were on hand at night fall. This was due to the fact that ammunition dumps were approximately one-hundred miles to the rear. The re-supply was made even more difficult by the fact that six of our ammunition trucks had been taken from the battalion for special duties elsewhere. It was common practice in our motor movements for our organic transportation to haul a battalion of infantry as well as three thousand rounds of ammunition. This made it necessary to overload our vehicles two hundred to three hundred per cent. However, as yet, no major maintenance difficulties have been encountered.

On the 28th the combat team made another flanking movement to the north and west in an effort to cut off the enemy again. This time our action



met with considerable success and by the next morning one infantry battalion was in possession of high ground overlooking the Rhone River in the vicinity of Livron - sur - Drone. Our artillery reinforced by 155th Field Artillery Battalion (Medium) was in position to cover the area to the west including the river itself.

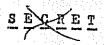
lst Lt. James W. Darden, cur liaison officer with the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, fired both our battalion and a medium battalion battery on many targets of opportunity. These consisted of convoys of vehicles and horse drawn artillery and wagons. It is estimated that at least five hundred vehicles, fifty artillery pieces and countless enemy personnel and equipment were destroyed by this action as the enemy attempted to escape through the bottle - neck. This resulted in complete disorganization of the enemy and many hundred prisoners were taken by our infantry.

The end of the period found the greater part of the German 19th Army destroyed or captured; with the remaining disorganized elements in rout to

Much credit for the success of this operation should go to the drivers and the Service elements of the battalion. Many hundreds of miles were covered in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. This required our drivers and supply personnel to be on the go both day and night.

Even though the situation was fast moving and the front was fluid there was not much danger from snipers or surprise attacks in as much as the French Forces of the Interior and Marquis (Guerella forces) were much in evidence. These people were of great value in supplying important information as well as taking care of straggling enemy.

Operations during the period were made more difficult due to the inadaquate supply of maps. At times activities were in an area covered only by 1:200,000 road maps and the usual map was the 1:100,000 tactical map. Many times the liaison officers and forward observers, as well as battery commanders, were without maps of any kind. The 1:100,000 map was the only type of map available to the FDC during the latter part of the period. In the hasty occupation of positions it was found that the scale map was satisfactory for locating the batteries by inspection (before a position area survey was made) and making the initial round a sensable one. However, it was of doubtful value for "K" Transfers" or unobserved fires.



Our Air OP continued to be of great value in the pursuit for their reconnaissance missions as well as for adjusting artillery fire. In previous operations it was general practise to have all the Division Artillery Air OP's under centralized control. In this operation they departed from this and the Air OP accompanied the battalion. The terrain was such that landing fields near the battalion positions could usually be found from aerial reconnaissance. It was found that by having the plane in close liaison with the battalion our missions for them could be more quickly and effectently carried out.

The Battalion received no replacements during the month.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

IOUIS N. QUAST Captain, Field Artillery S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Etry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Etry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Company of the state of

Tech Sgt. John B. Cotham, Eq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Eq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. Tec 4 Paul L. Divico, Eq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Eq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

SECRET

2-1009

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIEID ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 September 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH AUGUST 1944

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

GAINES M. BOYLE

GAINES M. BOYIE, 0-406662, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Captain Boyle was liaison officer with 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. During an advance by the battalion, the portion of the column Captain Boyle was with was ambushed and out off from the main body of troops. He quickly organized the trapped men for an all round defense. It was imperative that the battalion be contacted and help summoned. Captain Boyle remembered having seen an abandoned infantry radio. He crawled out under direct rifle and machine gum fire to search for the set. When help came and the survivors were rescued, Captain Boyle was found dead by the radio. His pistol was in his hand and an empty cartridge olip lay nearby, mute evidence of the fight he had made to defend himself so that he could call for help to save his men. Next of king Mrs. Lee M. Boyle (Mother), 52 South 26th Street, Paris, Texas.

BERNAID F. REFD

BERNARD F. REED, 0-1178301, Second Identenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalica, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in Italy. Identenant Reed was leading his forward observer detail in an advance toward enemy positions when he and his party were suddenly subjected to grazing machine gun fire and heavy artillery shelling. One of the men was wounded in the leg; and, although all the personnel in the area was pinned to the ground, Lieutement Reed selflessly exposed himself to the hostile fire in an attempt to aid the injured man. Moving calmly and rapidly, he advanced to the position where the soldier lay and started carrying him toward a place of safety. While so engaged he was mortally wounded by the enemy fire. Next of kins Mr. Thomas F. Reed (Brother), 116-23 219th Street, Albany, New York.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

GAINES M. BOYLE

GAINES M. BOYLE, 0-406662, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9

5 E S K E T

to 20 September 1943 and from 15 November 1943 to 25 February 1944. Next of kins Mrs. Lee Boyle, (Mother), Paris, Texas.

WILLIE LEEVER, 37453025, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 1 November 1943 to 5 June 1944. Next of kins Mrs. Mary Leever (Mother), Bayard, Nebraska.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

CHARLES L. HEARN, 0-01,06767, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 29 January 1944. Entered the Service from Italy, Texas.

JOSEPH W. MC CLURE, 20814560, Staff Sergeant (then Technician Fourth Grade), Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Attillery Battalion, 9-20 September 1943. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas.

JCE E. GRAY, 2081/1827, Corporal, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 17 November to 7 December 1943. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

FMIL PETR, 38038630, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery C, 132nd Field Aftillery Battalion, 15 September 1913. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

HENRY F. ROEDIGER, 33318117, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 3 December 1943. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pa.

ROBERT B. SCHNEIDER, 37349541, Private, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 February 1944. Entered the Service from Lamar, Colorado.

REFRETH T. HEDMAN, 38038959, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 17 November 1943 to 8 January 1944. Entered the Service from Tyler, Texas.

JESSIE D. TIMER, 2081,909, Private, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 February 194. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas.

EARL H. GAGE, 17086872, Private, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 3 February 1944. Entered the Service from Denver, Colorado.

COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

JOHN D. BENNETT, 0-380489, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 7 December to 25 February 1944



serving as Liaison Officer for the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment in Italy.

REMUS L. JONES, 0-406028, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 12 to 20 September 1943 and from 15 November 1943 to 11 January 1944 in Italy serving as artillery liaison officer with 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment.

FRANK W. GASTON, 20814774, First Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 8 February 1944 to 12 March 1944 in Italy.

WILLIAM H. WHITICCK, 2081441, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November 1943 to 3 March 1944 in Italy as a radio man.

THOMAS L. DUKES, 34202262, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 16 September 1943 in Italy as a radio repairman.

PAUL L. DI VICO, 32334173, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

MICHAEL F. SACHER, JR, 36218928, Technician Fourth Grade, Hq. Btry., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy performing accurate detailed map work and aerial photo reading to furnish the firing batteries with correct data.

EDWARD OBRYCKI, 33200966, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

JOHN J. TOMASZEWSKI, 36355772, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

JOSEPH M. BROOKS, 20815325, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 19 September 1943 and from 17 November to 12 March 1944 in Italy serving as a radioman.

ARGYL L. DRYDEN, 37014071, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 24 to 30 December 1943 in Italy serving as a wire communications man.

SEORET

ROBERT L. PAINE, 20814569, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 January 1944 in Italy serving as a aidman.

RAIPH F. FERGUSON, 6939192, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November to 19 December 1943 in Italy serving as a wireman with the liaison section attached to the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment.

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Stanley Chapman, Gaptain Richard Galvin, Cpl. Ernest G. Wolfcale, Cpl. Eustachius S. Baranski, Pvt.

(See account of casualties in Report of Casualties)

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER to Purple Heart

Clare N. Lyke, Captain Eldon Frair, Tec 4 Pilan M. Ramirez, Tec 5



HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 September 1944

CONCLUSIONS

The landing was successfully made on a very narrow beach having only one exit. The fact that this was accomplished with few casualties indicated that the German considered this beach to be impractionl. Had the prepared positions been manned the landing could well have been costly.

Too much praise can not be given to the all around worth of our standard transportation. It stands up under 100 to 300 per cent overload, otherwise it would have been impossible to travel the distances we have the past few weeks carrying a battalion of Infantry in addition to our own personnel and equipment plus 150 % basic load of ammunition. (Note we were always short 6 to 12 22 ton trucks of our TE allowance)

Resupply was a constant consern of all unit commanders, esqueially gasoline and ammunition. Ammunition resupply was always critical due to distance to the dump. Many times trucks had to wait 4 to 18 hours at the dump for ammunition to be delivered there.

The German in France is no better than those in Italy in retreat. He does not cover with artillery. Many horse drawn artillery pieces were shot up by this battalion, yet he did not in many cases attempt to place some artillery in firing position to protect or cover the withdrawal of the remainder. This failure is very surprising to wit. In instances where it would appear that the situation was critical he showed no disposition to drop trail and fire on our batteries. He lacked observation, yes, but it was his for the taking in many instances, but fear of the F.F.I. apparently kept him off the commanding ground.

Indirect observed artillery fire continues to be effective against tanks. We knock out a few and drive off the rest.

The campaign in France to date has moved at a speed over distances which must have been considerably greater than any thing ever hoped for as we have been much further from the A.S.F. than any artilleryman likes.

S E C R E T

JOHN N. CHEEN Lt. Col., Field Artillery Commanding

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3 3 ACA ...

HAPS: France, 1/50,000 - Sheets - FREJUS XXXV - 44 and CANNES XXXVII - 44 France, 1/25,000 - Sheets - FREJUS XXLV - 14 7 and 8 SE and CAMES XXXVI 44 S SW

- 1.a. See intelligence, annex No. 2 to FO No. 53 Headquarters 36th Infantry Div
 - b. The 36th Infantry Division (reinf), as part of VI Corps (US) lands at H-hour. on D-day and establishes a beachhead, for details see FO No. 53 Headquarters 36th Infantry Division and operations overlay therewith.
- 2.a. 132nd Field Artillery Battalion lands at H+153 on Green Beach.

1. Initially reinforces fire of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

2. When 142nd Infantry (reinf) is committed 132nd mission is direct support of 142nd Infantry.

3. When physical contact is made Battery "C" 93 A.F. Bn. (which lands on Red Beach with 142rd Infantry) is attached to 132rd Field Artillery

- 3.a. 22 DUWKS are assigned to 132nd to ferry howitzers ammunition and personnel ashore and for use as prime movers etc. until normal transportation is landed.
 - by Each DUKY carries 6 men and officers in addition to a howitzer or 100 rds. ammunition. The DWW are assigned to each Firing Battery for carrying morraginel (36 men and officers) H DUKUS are assigned to Headquarter Battery for parrying pensonnel (24 men und officers)
 - DUKE will move from transport area to line of departure in 3 parallel Right column "A" Btry, and 1 Hq. DUKTES Center column "B" Btry, and 1 Hq. DUKWS Left column "C" Btry, and 2 Hq. DUKWS Order in column "A" frame DUKW; 2 How DUKWS, A Frame, How, A Frame, How. interval between DUEWS - 50 yards -
 - d. Battalion will land in column A, B, C, clear the beach rapidly and unload in first feasable area to the left of beach, occupy positions for firing, pay ing particular attention to A.T. defense and local security
 - 1. Initial positions approximately 1500 yds left of beach.

2. Direction of fire compans 5200.

3. Each firing battery will establish O.P.s and will push observation to the left following closely the left Battalion 143rd Infantry gaining observation

on Red Beach to support landing of 142nd Infantry.

4. As soon as situation permits Battalion will displace by Battery to position approximately 1500 yds. East of boundary 143 - 142. When the 142nd has secured phase line III Battalion will displace to positions vicinity of F-1 When 142nd has secured phase line IV Battalion will displace to positions centered on grid line 49 and as situation pormits will again displace to positions contered on grid line by to support the attack on final objective and the beachhead.

Maison Officers, Forward Coservers and Mayal Fire Control parties will load and with normal Infantry Billedion's.

tallon Executive and community the party will lead and EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NAMA 350.3

22 DUKWS (12 how. 10 ammo.)

Hq., Hq. Btry. 9 Off. and 76 Enlisted Men

4 - 4 ton truck (Bn. C.O., Bn. S-2, Btry. C.O., Survey)

2 - 3/4 ton C & R (608 radio)

6 - 3/4 ton W.C. (3 wire - 2 radio - 1 F.D.C.)

A Btry. 4 Offs, and 84 men

 $1 - \frac{1}{4}$ ton truck (B.C.)

2 - 3/4 ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - 2½ ton truck (P.M.)

B Btru h Offs and 8h more

B Btry L Offs. and Bl men

1 - 1 ton truck (B.C.)

2 - 3/4 ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - 2½ ton truck (P.M.) C Btry 4 Offs, and 81 men

1 - 1 ton truck (B.C.)

2 - 3/4 Ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - 22 ton truck (P.M.)

Service Etry. 1 Off. and 6 men. $2 - \frac{1}{4}$ ton trucks

Attached Medical 1 Off. and 12 men 1 - 3/4 ton ambulance.

- All other vehicles load on cargo vessels (except 1 2½ ton SWB truck, 1 1 t trailer 1 ½ ton trailer which load for D 5 with R.C.T. 1½2nd) Drivers and 1 ammo. handler only accompany vehicles C.O. It. Pahner.
- Fremeinder of personnel 1 and on L.S.T. No. 620

 Hq. 32 men

 Serv. 1 Off. and 10 men.

 C.O. Capt. Bishop.
- g. Ammunition Loads.
 - (1) How. DUKWS 2 rds. HEAT, 3 rds W.P., 16 rds. HE Fuze M48. (HEAT Ammo. A Frame DUWKS (58 HE Fuze M48, 22 rds. HE Fuze M54, 11 rds. WP, 2 rd 5th section, train, and Hq. and Serv. Kitchen trucks, 95 rds. HE Fuze M48, 35 rds. HE Fuze M54, 17 rds. WP, 3 rds. HEAT.
 - (2) Resupply see Annex No. 4 to FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Div. Arty.
- h. 1 Air OP plans to be deck loaded on Div. Arty IST and to be flown from same at H-Hour or on order. Other Air OP plans loaded on B Btry. kitchen truck and load on eargo vessel.
- i. For other administrative details see Annex. No. 4 to FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Inf. Div. and appropriate appendices.
- j. Bn. S-2 and party of 3 E.M. to load with R.C.T. List and land at approximately H+100 to reconnoiter beach and exits to assist in raped clearing of beach by DUKWS.
- k. It. Findley and party to establish and maintain liaison with 171st F.A. Bn.
- 1. 50 cal. machine guns to be loaded on prime movers, set up and sited for AA; AT and AP defense upon reaching En. Area.
- m. At least 2 rocket launchers per battery to go achore on DUKWS.

- a. Wire W 130 Bn. to batteries until vehicles are landed normal thereafter.
- b. Fadio (1) Ln. O. and FO normal. (2) Naval officers and gun spotters have fire ship channel and Div. Arty. channel on 609's and 204 to fire ship when vehicles land. Navy command ship monitors Div. Arty. channel and Bn. A channel comencing at Z-Hour, for emergency missions. Normally fire ship channel is used. Gun spotters also have 609 with Bn. channels A and B for use in conducting artillery fire.
 - (3) Any or all observers can conduct naval fire by communicating with Ln. O's or Bn. FDC.
 - (4) Hq. Btry, takes 3 609 radios ashore on DUKWS and each firing battery takes 2 609, 2 of these 9 radios to have Div. Arty, channel, 1 B channel of 133rd and 1 Div. Arty, Air channel, others normal Bn. channels.
 - (5) See FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Div. Arty. for other details including codes.

OFFICIAL: ELLEGOOD S-3

GREEN Comde

