

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

January 13, 1943

GENERAL ORDERS:

NO. 1:

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ALERT PLAN

References: TM 86, 36 Inf. Div., November 4, 1942; Loading Plan 155th F. A. Battalion; TM 2, 36 Inf Div., January 4, 1943.

1. Objective: This Battalion will be prepared at all times to take the field in an emergency.

2. Alert Signals:

a. The Division Artillery Commander will notify the 155th F. A. Battalion that an alert has been sounded.

b. Batteries will be notified by telephone and messenger.

3. The alert contemplates an eventual return to the same camp area.

4. Action on Signal: When a general alert has been sounded the following immediate action will be taken:

a. Battalion Commander will report to Division Artillery Headquarters for further instructions.

b. Battery Commanders will report to Battalion Headquarters for further instructions.

c. First Sergeants will assemble batteries in battery areas and stand by for alert orders.

d. All absent personnel will be notified by Personnel Officer to rejoin units at once.

5. Equipment and Clothing: Full T/BA Field Equipment and clothing will be taken. All section T/BA.

6. Uniform: Field Service, W/full field, W/gas mask.

7. Rations: One (1) days rations beginning with breakfast the day following the alert will be carried. Mess Sergeants will have boxes for the packing of rations.

8. Rear Detachment and Guard: The following will remain at Camp Edwards, as a rear detachment and guard:

a. One (1) Officer for the Battalion, who will be designated at the time of the alert.

b. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Headquarters Battery familiar with records.

c. One (1) non-commissioned officer from each battery familiar with supply.

d. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Service Battery in charge of Battalion Warehouse.

e. One (1) man for each barracks building, from organization occupying building to form battalion guard.

f. One cook from Headquarters Battery to operate rear detachment mess in Headquarters Battery Mess hall.

g. One 3/4 ton truck will be left by Service Battery.

h. One days ration per individual assigned to Rear Detachment.

9. Property:

a. In general, all property which is not taken will be left in its normal place of use or storage with due regard to its safety.

b. Personal belongings of enlisted men and clothing in excess of T/BA will be placed in barracks bags and tagged with individual's name, rank and serial number. Barracks bags will be stacked on floor near front door of barracks to which men are now assigned.

c. Individual property, personal and government of men sick in hospital, men on furlough, prisoners awaiting trial by General Courts Martial and others who may be expected to rejoin their organizations in the field, will be left in charge of battery supply guard. This equipment will be delivered to the individual upon his return.

d. Buildings will be scrupulously policed, furnaces cleaned, water cut off and pipes and boilers drained, and buildings locked. The senior non-commissioned officer occupying each barracks is responsible that these orders are carried out and will secure and tag keys with building number and deliver them to Officer in charge of rear detachment.

e. Officers equipment and lockers will be stored in Building 1445.

f. Property list for each building will be prepared in six copies for each building. One copy will be posted in the building and the others delivered to the Officer in Charge of rear detachment for delivery to Custodial Officer.

g. Mess Sergeants will be responsible for policing, checking, preparing property lists and turning in keys for mess halls.

10. Records:

a. Strength return will be made by Personnel Officer to the Division Adjutant General, as soon as possible after the alert signal has been given. The report will include the number of Officers, Warrant Officers and enlisted men and number and types of vehicles to depart with battalion.

b. Service Records and allied papers of enlisted personnel left behind, will be indorsed by Personnel Officer to Commanding Officer, Rear Detachment, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, and delivered to Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division. Receipts in triplicate will be taken for these records.

The men left behind are not the same for all types of alerts, nor under all possible modifications, but in order to facilitate prompt turning over, records listed below will be completed correctly for all men who may be left behind. These include all men who are sick in hospital, in confinement, on special duty, on furlough, or selected to remain with Rear Detachment. The records will be completed on mimeograph forms and on the Original VD AGO Form 33, together with Service Records of men in question. These records will then be filed in a separate file. When the status of an individual changes to where he is no longer liable to remain behind, these temporary mimeograph records may be destroyed and the Service Record returned to the usual file.

(1) Service Record Indorsement. This will be addressed to Commanding Officer, Rear Detachment, altered to indicate the soldier's status, and completed to show character and efficiency rating.

(2) Extract from Service Record WD AGO Form 25 will be completed.

(3) True copies of Forms 32 and 33 for men left behind will be prepared and certified by the Supply Officer of each battery. True copies will be filed in the unit files. The original of forms 32 and 33 will be delivered to the Personnel Officer.

11. Priority of Action:

a. Notification of individuals in public places in vicinity of Camp Edwards by Military Police. Individuals living off the post will be notified by their units by telephone or telegraph. Official messages when necessary.

b. Preparation of personal property and equipment. All individuals will prepare their equipment and property and report back to their sections as soon as possible with full field equipment not later than Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

c. Organizational Property will be loaded as soon as trucks report by sections - personnel will report to truck and section chief will report to Battery Commander when section is "Completely Alerted". Vehicles will assume positions in column as shown in current 155th F. A. Battalion Motor Vehicle Movement Assignment Table.

d. Battalion Staff Officers will report to Battalion Headquarters to receive additional instructions at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

e. Batteries will report number of Officers, Warrant Officers, and men leaving with organization and names and serial numbers of individuals remaining behind to Battalion Headquarters.

f. Battalion Adjutant will send guard to 1400-1500 Block Guard House to obtain prisoners to be returned to units.

g. Personnel Officer will prepare telegrams to personnel on leave ordering them to report for duty at once. Obtain strength reports and prepare special roster and returns.

h. Battalion Ammunition Officer will draw from Ammunition Dump ammunition load authorized by Division Ammunition Officer for specific alert. He will call on battery ammunition trains for additional vehicles, if required to have authorized load. Small arms ammunition on hand will be distributed to batteries and carried by units.

i. Battalion Supply Officer will have an inventory made of surplus food above one days ration for the purpose of turning in to Division Quartermaster.

j. Battalion Commander will notify Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery as soon as Battalion is "Completely Alerted".

12. Miscellaneous:

a. Prisoners at work will be returned to Block Guard House. Prisoners and non-sentenced prisoners awaiting trial for minor offenses will be released to units.

b. Medical vehicles will be released to organizations at once.

c. Camp, water and station property will be handled as follows:

(1) Cots, mattresses, pillows, sheets, pillow cases, bed sacks, comforters, chairs, tables, and other property in barracks will be stacked and stored in barracks to which they are charged. Small equipment, such as light bulbs will be boxed. Equipment issued Officers will be stored in day room on first floor of Building 1411 and room will be locked. Headquarters Battery will furnish a non-commissioned officer and each battery will furnish one man to report to Capt. William D. Waldrop at Bldg. 1411 at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes to accomplish this.

(2) Other organizational equipment will be stored in supply rooms and Battalion Headquarters Building - list of materials left in these buildings will be prepared and submitted as in 9, f. above.

d. Motor Vehicle Movement Loading Plans will be kept up to date at all times and reassignment of individuals and equipment effected in compliance with any subsequent changes in T/BA or TO's for this Battalion.

e. Battery Commanders will prepare and keep up to date detailed Alert Plans for their respective batteries. All Officers and "Key" enlisted men will be assigned functions and will be thoroughly familiarized with their duties under the Unit Plan. Check lists will be prepared for each Battery Officer and enlisted man charged with a Particular Alert Duty - Copies of Battery Alert Plan, truck loading schedule, and check lists will be submitted to this Headquarters--

By Order of Lieutenant Colonel McMURRAY:

JAMES E. TAYLOR
Major, F. A.
S-3

OFFICIAL:



BA TTERY "B" 155 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
CAMPTON, MASS.

A LERT SOUNDED

1. Battery CO reports to Bn Hq for information
2. First sergeant forms Battery in Btry area and stands by for orders
3. All absent personnel will rejoin units at once
4. After receiving alert orders :
 - a. Uniform-Field service w. Full field, w/ Gas mask
 - b. Equipment-Full T/BA clothes and equipment will be taken, nothing
 - c. Sectional T/BA equipment
 - d. Rations : One full day's rations beginning with breakfast the following will be carried.
5. First Sgt will be responsible for Rear Det and Guard to be left at Camp Edwards
 - a. 1 non commissioned officer for supply
 - b. 1 man for each Barracks building for Guard
 - c. 1 day's rations per individual assigned to RD
 - d. Names and serial no's of men remaining behind
6. Supply Sgt Schalte will be responsible for property to be left behind
 - a. General property will be left in normal place of use or storage, safety and storage being considered
 - b. Camp, post and Station property to be stored and stacked in bldg to which they are charged. Small articles boxed.
 - c. Lists of materials left in each place. 3 copies of each bldg 1 as posted on bldg and 5 delivered to Officer in charge of RD
 - d. Temporary records of Forms 32 and 33 for men absent or left behind to be made and left with RD
7. Mess Sgt Oates will be responsible for :
 - a. Policing mess hall, check in property, preparing property lists & turning in keys to mess hall.
 - b. Getting equipment and rations loaded into his truck

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8. Chief of Detail Dameron responsible for :

a. All men in Barracks 1505 that they have their personal equipment alerted and ready to be loaded,

b. Storing of personal equipment to be left behind in bldg 1508
Each mans property will be placed in a barracks bag, tagged and carried to 1508

c. Policing of Btrys part of that bldg, stacking of post property,
etc

d. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment

9. Chief of Section S/Sgt Hollub responsible for :

a. All men in bldg 1508 same as 8a above

b. Same as 8b above

c. Same as 8c above

d. That all furnaces are cleaned out, water cut off and boilers drained in 1508

e. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment

10. Motor Sgt Rethrook responsible for :

a. Sections equipment and property being alerted

b. Having drivers to dispatch vehicles promptly after receiving
order

c. Necessary fuel and supplies for motors.

11. All Section chiefs responsible for :

a. Respective sectional personnel and property That the correct T/BA property and equipment is packed, the right uniform worn, etc

b. Personnel ready to clear bldg in a minimum of time, ready to load Sectional equipment

c. Loading Sectional equipment

d. Reporting to Chief of Sections when ready to move

12. A 11 corporals responsible for their respective squads or platoons as authorized above

13. All others, for individual equipment and clothing. General policing of area

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14. After all personal equipment and clothing, etc are properly taken care of all personnel not designated to do something else will report to Section chief for purpose of loading Sect. equipment
15. When a Section has been completely alerted the Section chief will report to Btry Exec or 1st Sgt and the vehicles will take designated place in column
16. Not over 30 minutes should be taken in getting personal clothing and equipment alerted, packed and stored
17. The Battery clerk will be responsible for all records kept at Personnel Office and extracts to be made therefrom and left behind
18. Chief of 5th Section will be charged with all ammunition issued to Btry at alert
19. Btry Supply Officer will inventory all surplus food above 1 days ration for the purpose of turning in to the DAV QM
20. Battery CO will notify Bn CO as soon as Btry is completely alerted
21. All Officers in General Suspension SUPERVISION.

BATTAL "B" 155 FIELD ARTILLERY BN.
CA MP EDWARDS, LA SS.

Jan. 19, 1943.

Subject : Men to be Left Behind on Alert
To : Personnel Section, 155 F.A. Bn.

The following named men are to be left behind in Btry.
"B" Area when the Battalion is alerted :

1. Supply-Cpl. Deaton, B.B., ASN 20816432
2. Guards of Barracks Bldg.

a. Pvt. Boyd, Fred W., ASN 35130405 02091508.

b. ~~Pvt. Keegan, John B., ASN 32238525~~

Robert E. Cramer

Robert E. Cramer
1st Lt. 155 F.A. Bn.
Comdg. Btry. "B"

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HEADQUARTERS, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

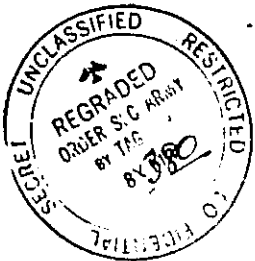
APO 36, U. S. ARMY

OPERATION "AVALANCHE"

9 - 21 SEPTEMBER 1943


ANNEX #13

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



Regina C. Chaf
25 July

17775
Master


SECRET:
AUTH: CG 36 Div Arty
INITIALS:
DATE: 27 September 1943

OPERATION - "AVALANCHE"

THE INVASION OF ITALY

A history of the actions of the 155th Field
Artillery Battalion during the landing of the
36th Infantry Division on the shores of Italy,
and the subsequent establishment of a beach-
head in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy.

OPERATION - "AVALANCHE"

While an endless rain of bombs, falling in almost saturation point intensity was devastating communications and military installations from Sapri to Milan and from Taranto to Rome, the Fifth Army in Africa was dressing down the last rough spots in its highly trained invasion forces. In the forefront of these forces was the T-for-Texas Thirty-Sixth Division. Long in preparation for just such an operation, General Walker's 36th Infantry Division had spent the last few months in Invasion and Battle Training in various sectors of the huge Fifth Army Training areas in North Africa. One Unit of that Division, the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, presently under the command of Major Thomas T. Atkins of Hampton, Virginia, had conducted service practice and maneuvers from Bedeau in Algeria to Port Lyautey in French Morocco, and back to Mostaganema, Algeria. Our history is concerned with the experiences of this unit.

On August 27, the first units of the Division began loading its large numbers of waterproofed vehicles and radios, guns and crates on the vast flo-tilla which was waiting for the time to sail. The masses of plans and loading charts involved in such an undertaking kept staff and battery officers busy right up to the moment of embarkation, and it was not until the evening of 3 September that the entire 155th Field Artillery Battalion was loaded and battened down, ready for the hop to Salerno.

On the morning of 3 September, the men of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, after their overland trip from Port Aux Poules, Algeria to Oran and Mers El-Kebir, were put aboard the following ships:

U.S.S. Andromeda-One Officer and nineteen enlisted men.

U.S.A.T. Funston-Three Officers and ninety-two enlisted men.

U.S.A.T. Stanton-Twenty Officers and one hundred and twenty-seven enlisted men.

U.S.S. Procyon -Ten enlisted men.

U.S.S. Barnett -Two enlisted men.

3 British IST's -Seven Officers and two hundred and eight enlisted men.

The balance of two officers and one hundred and seventeen enlisted men were left at Oran and Algiers to arrive in Italy on D plus 7 and D plus 12. The entire loading plan for the Battalion Staff and Headquarters Battery had to be revised at the last minute because of limited capacities of certain boats, and it was not until the morning of 3 September that the above loading plan was completed.

The Battalion loaded under a limited vehicle and installation plan, allowing only for the absolute minimum of equipment consistent with operations for a short period. The firing batteries were equipped with 2 1/4-T C&R, 4 4-T Prime Movers, 4 2-1/2-T Cargos and 4 155mm Howitzers each. Their communications equipment included 5 miles of W-130 wire, 3 miles of W-110 wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones and 3 SCR-610 Radios each. Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Battery travelled in 2 3/4-T C&R, 3 1/4-T C&R, and 2 3/4-T Weapons Carriers. This transportation carried one Sirdrop BD-71, 20 miles of wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones, the Battalion Radio Section with 4 radios and 5 men, the Battalion Instrument and Survey Section with Transit and 2 men, Fire Direction Center with their Fire Control Tables and 7 men, and 12 officers and 104 enlisted men. Service Battery travelled with 1 4-T Wrecker. This equip-

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ment, representing only a fraction of the normal organizational transportation and equipment, was destined to carry the battalion through the critical landing phase, and the subsequent securing of the Salerno beach-head.

Life on the boats, although crowded somewhat beyond the intimacy stage, was quiet and uneventful. This quiet, however, was made electric by an undercurrent of anticipation, by an increasing sense of the approach of the landing day. The daily routine of police and general quarters, fire alarms and boat stations practice was always alive with the feeling that perhaps this time, the alarm was the real thing. The slightly helpless feeling that always comes to a soldier on a boat, where he is merely a passenger, not knowing where he is going nor by what route, nor when he will arrive - whether the enemy is close by or a thousand miles away - came also to the men of the 155th; but an imbred sense of faith in the Navy saved the sensation from being one of apprehension, and made it instead a vitalizing sense of excitement. The great, horizon-to-horizon convoy was almost as intimate a group of units as an ordinary bivouac area.

The days slipped by, sometimes unknown crags of islands standing off to the port, sometimes the mainland of all too familiar Africa on the starboard. Bizerte, with its ruined port and its thousand ships slipped by late one afternoon. A day later the north coast of Sicily, with Palermo in its protective ring of hills, silently watched the progress of the fateful convoy.

As the day drew nearer, the tension mounted - becoming a thing that could almost be felt between the men. Conversation was studiously casual; the routine went on as if it were an end in itself.

Suddenly, without warning, on the evening of 8 September, the loud speaker announced the surrender of Italy and the capitulation of Badoglio's Government. First there was a moment of silence, then great cheers and whistles broke out. The tension was gone. In its place, some had a feeling of let-down and anti-climax, but a few moments of sober reflection made it perfectly clear that although the Italians had given up, there were still great German forces in Italy, and that the fighting would be, if anything, stiffer than ever.

The celebrating quieted down. Routine took over. The ship was darkened, and the boat team commanders began their final preparation to unload the troops. With silent, deadly efficiency, the last rehearsals were run through - the last inspections were made. Instructions were issued in subdued voices. Orders were carried out by the precision-trained teams, and when, finally the time came for lowering over the sides, everything was in readiness. Out of the oppressive silence of whispers and running feet and creaking winches, the first boat's motor roared to life and a phosphorescent wake glittered as the tiny craft reared away to its rendezvous area. From then on, the night was alive with the sputtering of new motors, with orders shouted in hoarse voices, with the constant moving of troops up the hatchways and down over the landing nets.

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Shortly after 0200 hours, 9 September 1943, the cruisers and destroyers opened fire on the beaches. The night sky which had been so dark was now aflame. German planes came over immediately; the sky was laced with the startling red pattern of anti-aircraft fire. Huge flares, dropped by the enemy planes, seemed to stand in the air and shine with constantly increasing brilliance, lighting up the entire beach and the ships out in the bay. A few minutes later, the first wave of landing craft swept up to the beaches and the long-promised invasion began.

The various batteries of the 155th began unloading from their different ships. Since the original personnel loading plan had been changed subsequent to the loading of the vehicles, the Battalion Staff and Operations Section and "C" Battery Command Group had to be transferred at midnight from the U.S.A.T. Stanton to the U.S.S. Andromeda where their vehicles and equipment were. "A" Battery Command Group were transferred to the Barnett. At the same time our Infantry were advancing on Altavilla from the West. While in liaison with this force, Lt. Kosciak was wounded by shell fragments and evacuated to a rear area. The first group arrived on Red Beach (see map) at 1145, under heavy enemy fire. The assembling of the Battalion was not completed until 2000 hours. The first battery to get assembled after reaching the beach was "B" Battery, commanded by Captain August C. Moser Jr., which went into position in the vicinity of Paestum at 1400 hours. "A" Battery, commanded by Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, was in position at 2000. The Battalion CP's were in position and reporting at 1415 and the Battalion CP was placed in position (85,300-03,400 Rocca Daspadie, 1/50,000) at 1815 hours. This area, occupied on the first day, was near the ancient walled city of Paestum. All communication were immediately installed; fire direction center was put into operation; observers went forward; survey was initiated; and the Battalion, less "C" Battery was ready to deliver its decisive and destructive fire by 0430 hours, 10 September.

On 10 September, shortly after daylight, "A" and "B" Batteries, having registered on a common base point, fired a concentration of 38 rounds on a Cross Roads near Albanella, using map data. The effects of this concentration on enemy vehicles and troops could not be observed. At 0910 hours, "C" Battery commanded by Captain William D. Waldrop, pulled in, immediately dropped trails and entered the firing.

During the morning, Colonel Thomas J. Shryock, Executive Officer, 36th Division Artillery, arrived at the Battalion CP and directed that a Battalion concentration be placed on the mountain city of Albanella. Observers reported that the 83 round concentration was very effective on enemy emplacements. No other concentrations fired on this date.

Early on the morning of 11 September, the Battalion Commander was ordered to prepare for a forward displacement to the area of Matinella, near the junction of the La Cosa and Calore Rivers (90.00 - 13.010, Campagna Sheet, 1/50,000). at 1000 hours, the Forward Observers were in position and observing. "A", "B", and "C" Batteries were in positions selected by a reconnaissance party consisting of the Battalion S-2, Ass't S-2, Ass't S-3, Communications

officer and the Battery Commanders.

In the afternoon of this date, Captain Raymond (nmi) Keller, Battalion Ass't S-3 and M/Sgt Walter C. Tucker, Battalion Sergeant-Major, were on a reconnaissance. Having located the position of a large number of enemy troops, scout cars and enemy tanks, and having radioed the information to the Battalion CP, they were returning. On their return trip, following the same road as previously used, their 1/4 ton Jeep struck a land-mine near a blown-out bridge. Sergeant Tucker was killed instantly and Captain Keller was seriously injured. Captain Keller was taken to an aid station and later transferred to a ship for return to a hospital in North Africa. Sgt Tucker was buried in the American Cemetery, Vauella, Italy on 12 September by Chaplain Goldman S. Drury. The writer and thirteen enlisted men served as guard of honor and pall bearers.

At 1400 hours a Battalion Concentration was fired on a group of enemy tanks crossing the Sele River. The forward observer reported that 5 tanks were disabled and the tank column dispersed. On this concentration, 128 rounds were fired.

On the following morning, 12 September, Tank concentrations near two crossings of the Calore River, both above and below Persano were destroyed and dispersed. Troop concentrations between the Sele and Calore Rivers, and in the neighborhood of Alta Villa were fired on, and successful effect was noted on all firing. Four tanks were reported destroyed and the balance dispersed. During the bombing of the beach on this day, machine gunners of the Battalion Motor Shop, situated in Paestum, brought down one confirmed enemy craft, and one unconfirmed. During the bombing, Lt. Kiaffer was wounded slightly by shell fragments. After having the wound dressed, he immediately returned to duty. At the same time, T/4 Elton E. Roberts of Service Battery received a shell fragment, but ignored it, carrying on with his duties. It was not until seven days later that, under orders from his Battalion Commander, Sgt. Roberts reported to the hospital for x-ray and treatment.

About 1200 hours, this date, the battalion was ordered to cease firing on Altavilla. Our infantry troops had occupied the city and the situation was well in hand. Later in the afternoon, our forward observers in Altavilla called for fire on that town, saying that our infantry was being forced to withdraw, having fallen under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. However, it was deemed to hazardous to fire in the area, since it was still occupied by our own troops. Our infantry was forced to withdraw from Altavilla as best they could without the cover of Artillery fire which they so badly needed. Late in the evening, at 1800 hours, after the withdrawal had been completed, Colonel Shryock visited the Battalion CP, and again personally directed our fire. He requested a heavy concentration on Altavilla, Hill 424 to the northeast, and the town of Silentina. The Battalion fired with such effect that great numbers of German dead were found in the streets by our reoccupying troops the following morning.

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At daybreak, 0635 hours, 13 September, firing began with a great number of concentrations on vehicular and track movements between the Sele and Calore Rivers, troop concentrations north of Hill 424, and increased in intensity throughout the day. This Battalion was in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry in the Altavilla area. Again, however, the Battalion was ordered to cease fire on Altavilla, and when our infantry was again blasted out of the town by mortar, machine-gun and artillery fire, higher headquarters delayed permission to fire over the heads of our troops until it was too late to help their withdrawal.

At about 1300 hours, Pvt Joe Garcia, "C" Battery, captured a German sniper in his battery area.

Early in the afternoon, 1405 hours, units of the 45th Division Artillery to our left rear became increasingly engaged in countering a large enemy tank attack which was attempting a break through southeast of Persano, where the Calore and Sele Rivers join. Our observers reported large tank concentrations in and around Persano, and far up the Calore River. Heavy fire was delivered by our observers, and the battle developed south of Persano. The battalion supported the firing of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion by means of the direct wire communications which had been initiated by that unit and our own Battalion. During the afternoon, a platoon of M-10 Tank Destroyers was attached to the Battalion, and was tied in by Survey; but before they could deliver fire in our support, they were withdrawn for another mission. Meanwhile the tank battle was being fought with tremendous concentration of fire from our Battalion and the 45th Division Artillery. The Battalion fired on 2 enemy tank attack missions for the 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry and one concentration of enemy armored vehicles. Definite effects were unobtainable, but all attacks were repulsed. The progress of the tank battle presenting a threat to our rear, local anti-tank security in the form of bazookas were disposed along the only possible avenues of tank approach. One battery shifted its position to enable it to fire directly to our rear, should the occasion arise. Large numbers of infantry passing through our position in their retreat from Altavilla were fed and given medical treatment, and then forwarded to their assembly areas for reorganization. By 2000 hours, seventy or eighty infantrymen and our own local security constituted the only line between our forces and the enemy. Precarious as our position appeared, it actually had more advantages than disadvantages. Its location in the river junctions to our left, and the fine hill positions to our front and right made it a highly desirable defensive position which could have been held with a minimum of troops inflicting a maximum of loss on any attacking enemy. Although tanks appeared to be at our rear, they could not possibly have directly attacked our position by reason of the natural barriers imposed by the various river lines to the left, and an impassable gulch along our front. Our rear and left was made secure by the fact that the 45th Division Artillery continued to hold their positions, and eventually repelled the tank attack with large losses to the enemy. Due, however, to the disorganized state of the infantry, higher headquarters decided not to risk loss of their medium artillery, and ordered its withdrawal to positions on the Agnelli farm, a mile and a half northeast of Paestum. While preparing for this withdrawal, an enemy fighter plane, hotly

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chased by one of our pursuit planes passed over the Battalion position, dropped it's bomb, and in the straffing that eventually caused the enemy plane's destruction, Pvt 1cl William A. Barnett, "B" Battery, one infantryman and one man from a Tank Destroyer unit on patrol above our positions were instantly killed. T/4 Norman D. Tucker, "B" Battery and several infantrymen were seriously wounded. The smoke from the bomb, drifting over the CP installations, excited one of the men to the point where he thought he smelled gas; the resulting alarm came near to creating a panic in the midst of the preparations for withdrawal.

The order for withdrawal was received by this Battalion after dark, and the necessary reconnaissance to the new positions was begun immediately. The Batteries were alerted to be ready to march at 2200, head of the column to form at the cross roads in Matinella, with Major Atkins leading. They were ordered to form in the order "A", "B", "C", and Hq. Service Battery, being in a less exposed position, was to move later. After the Battalion had moved to it's new position, two trips were made back to the Matinella area to haul the ammunition and equipment which it had been impossible to carry at first.

The Battalion withdrew from it's Matinella position at 22 hours and was in position on the Agnelli farm, (88-07 Roccadaspada, 1/50,000) at 0300 hours 14 September.

On the morning of 14 September, all batteries were in position and observers were in position or reporting to the new area. Fire immediately was delivered on the highway leading into Persano, interdicting enemy tank movements in that area. During the day of the 14th, fire was delivered on areas ranging from Persano to Altavilla, and during the night, prepared fires from map data were placed on cross roads, bridges, etc., in a wide sector north of the Sele and across into the Altavilla area. During the late afternoon a Battalion concentration was fired on enemy tanks for the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. In all cases tanks or troops dispersed or were driven back. Five concentrations were also fired for the 36th Division Artillery.

During the night, certain units of the 82nd Airborne Division moved into Albanella, accompanied by a liaison officer, Lt. Raymond F. Kent, from this Battalion. These units prepared to move under cover of darkness up the valley to the east of Altavilla, take Hill 424, and eventually the town. Hill 424 was taken according to schedule, but heavy resistance was met in the Altavilla and Silentina area. German agents brought Artillery fire down on various parts of the town by means of prearranged signals from church bells within the town itself. Heavy mortar fire from the ravine North of Altavilla made the situation precarious, and more fire was called for. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set aflame.

On 15 September, one battalion concentration was fired on tanks in the vicinity south of Altavilla. Seven concentrations were fired for the 36th Division Artillery. Results of these concentrations were not observed. Late in the night, our troops withdrew from Hill 424 and Altavilla and called for heavy fire on Altavilla, Silentina and the ravine north of Altavilla. Our

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[REDACTED]

Battalion delivered a 90 minute concentration in conjunction with naval units and light battalions on the area, making one of the heaviest artillery concentrations seen thus far in Italy. The fire enabled our troops to re-enter Altavilla the following morning and hold it from further attack.

On 16 September, the forward observer of "C" Battery fired a battalion concentration on enemy gun positions and reported that the battery was neutralized. Seven missions were fired for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy tanks and troops at 1100 hours, with the reported results that the enemy had dispersed and retreated. In the afternoon, 1430 hours, the battalion fired a mission for the 36th Division Artillery on 40 enemy tanks in the area north of Altavilla; reports from this mission state that the area of the tanks was well covered by our fire, but definite results are unknown. Later in the afternoon, 1800 hours, 2 missions were fired by "B" Battery forward observer on enemy batteries, covering the entire area with shell fire. Results unobserved.

The Battalion, remaining in the position at the Agnelli farm on 17 September, fired nine missions for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy troops and positions in the area of Altavilla and along the Calore River. It was while the Battalion was firing on enemy troops for the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion that General Eisenhower and General Clark observed "C" Battery Fire. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set aflame. The rest of the day was spent in sporadic defensive firing, some observed and some from map data.

The Battalion moved to a new position (Roccadespide, 90.825-08.675, 1/50,000) due east of the Agnelli farm and north of Mount Soprano at 1140 hours, 18 September, after having fired seven harassing missions for 36th Division Artillery.

On 19 September, 0330 hours, Battery "A" was placed on detached service and sent on a secret mission by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army. The Battalion did not fire on this date, all the time being taken up in cleaning of equipment.

Battery "C" was alerted and left the area at 1520 hours, 20 September by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army, on a secret mission.

On the morning of 21 September, the Battalion was ordered to move to a Division assembly and training area north east of the junction of the La Cosa and Calore Rivers. The Battalion left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new bivouac area by 1500 hours. Here each man is re-equipped and given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

During the entire period from 9 September to this date, every man of the Battalion has put his best into every duty. The morale of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion is as a result of this action, of a very high order; every



man feels that he and his unit have done a good job, and the organization is in fair fettle to continue the battle whenever and wherever ordered.

Stanley W. Huth
 STANLEY W. HUTH
 W.O. (jg) AUS
 Ass't Adjutant

5 Exhibits.

- Exhibit "A", Casualty List.
- Exhibit "B", Unit Journal.
- Exhibit "C", Report of Firing.
- Exhibit "D", Situation Map & Overlays each Situation.
- Exhibit "E", Firing Chart



LIST OF CASUALTIES DURING THE PERIOD
9 September to 21 September 1943

1. Captain RAYMOND (NUT) KELLER JR., - Ass't S-3 was seriously wounded on the afternoon of 11 September when the 1/4 ton (Jeep) struck a land mine near a blown out bridge on the Calore River. Captain Keller was returning after having located and radioed information concerning the location of large numbers of enemy troops and tanks.
2. M/Sgt WALTER C. TUCKER, - Battalion Sergeant Major, from Fort Worth, Texas, was instantly killed while driving the 1/4 ton (Jeep), returning with Captain Keller from their dangerous mission.
3. 1st Lt. WALTON M. VINES, - Reconnaissance Officer, "A" Battery, was riding in another vehicle directly behind the one driven by M/Sgt Tucker. Lt. Vines was injured by fragments from the explosion to the extent that first aid was necessary.
4. Cpl. STANLEY R. CASTELLI, - "A" Battery, was riding in the back seat of the vehicle carrying Lt. Vines. Cpl. Castelli received several wounds from the explosion.
5. T/5 WILLIAM A. GIESENBERG, - "A" Battery, driver of Lt. Vines' vehicle received injuries from the same explosion.
6. 1st Lt. CHARLES F. KIEFFER, - Service Battery, was slightly injured by shrapnel during an enemy air raid Paestum, Italy, on 12 September.
7. Pvt 1cl WILLIAM A. BARNETT, - "B" Battery, was killed by enemy strafing near Altavilla 13 September. Pvt 1cl Barnett was on patrol duty on a hill above his Battalion position.
8. T/4 NORMAN D. TUCKER, - "B" Battery, was seriously wounded near Altavilla during an enemy air raid.
9. Pvt 1cl JOHN M. DICKSON, - "C" Battery, was wounded about the chest by shrapnel from an 88mm shell, 13 September.
10. 1st Lt ALBERT (NUT) KOSCIUSKIE, - Battalion Liaison Officer, received wounds in the upper part of right leg from shrapnel on 14 September 1943.

Exhibit "A"

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OPERATIONS IN ITALY, NOVEMBER 1943

On the morning of 21 September 1943 the battalion was ordered to move to a Division Assembly and Training Area north east of the junction of the La Clossa and Clore rivers. The battalion, less "A" and "C" Batterys who were attached to the 1st Ranger Force, left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new area at 1510 hours. In this area, the battalion was re-equipped, given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

While in this area, Batterys "A" and "C" rejoined the battalion from their mission with the 1st Ranger Force and their engagement at Chiunzi Pass, Italy, on 6 October 1943.

On 12 October at 0400 hours, the battalion left the area in the vicinity of Persano, Italy, for the new bivouac area two miles north of Pozzuoli, Italy, arriving at 1430 hours. (See map Italy 1:100,000 - Napoli, Sheet 184) The battalion moved from the Pozzuoli area 7 November 1943 at 1630 hours, arriving in an assembly area one mile west of Villa-Volturno, Italy, at 2030 hours. (See Caserta, Sheet 172 II, Italy 1/50,000)

Major Thomas T. Atkins, the Battalion Commander, left on 14 November at 0730 hours with Captain William D. Maldrop, Assistant S-3, and Battery Commanders, making a reconnaissance of the area occupied by the 9th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, whose positions were to be taken over and occupied by this battalion. (See overlay No. 1, attached)

16 November: Batterys "B" and "C", under command of Battery Executives, marched from Villa-Volturno at 1900 hours.

17 November: Batterys "B" and "C" arrived at new positions at 0100 hours (see attached overlay No. 2). Both Batterys registered on base point at 0630 hours; missions fired for 9th Field Artillery Battalion. Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Service Battery, under command of Major Frank J. Hobbs, Battalion Executive, marched from Villa-Volturno area at 1665 hours, closing on new positions at 2000 hours.

18 November: Battery "A" in position and ready to fire at 0400 hours. Personnel Section joined 36th Infantry Division Rear Echelon one (1) mile North of Marzanello, Italy, at 1630 hours.

19 November: Battalion ordered indirect support of 143rd Infantry at 1445 hours. Fired nine (9) missions and harassing fire, a total of three hundred and sixty-eight (368) rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward to new position after dark (see attached overlay No. 3).

Battery "C" registered at 0900. Battalion fired nineteen (19) missions and harassing fires, a total of five hundred and ninety-four (594) rounds. Headquarters Battery area shelled by artillery; Pvt William G. Miller killed.



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- 21 November: Battalion fired eight (8) missions, a total of two hundred and forty (240) rounds. Battery "C" position shelled by enemy artillery. Pvt 1st Robert E. Ford killed and six (6) men injured by shell fragments. Battery "C" moved from this position to former battery position by order of the Division Commander, due to the close proximity of the battery position to the C.P.s of the 141st and 143rd Infantry Regiments.
- 22 November: Fired seven (7) missions and harassing fires, total of four hundred and thirty-seven (437) rounds. Battery "A" position shelled; direct hit made on 4 ton prime mover loaded with ammunition. No personnel injured.
- 23 November: Fired eleven (11) missions, total of three hundred and twenty-nine rounds; one mission fired by Air OP.
- 24 November: Fired sixteen (16) missions, total of two hundred and seventy-eight (278) rounds. Battery "A" position shelled by enemy artillery fire. Kitchen truck destroyed and powder at one gun position burned. No casualties.
- 25 November: Fired eight (8) missions, total of four hundred and twenty-seven (427) rounds. All Batterys and Battalion C.P. shelled by enemy artillery fire throughout the day. No casualties.
- 26 November: Fired six (6) missions and harassing fires, a total of forty-one (41) rounds. Service Battery area shelled and 1st Lt. (Chaplain) Harley R. McDaniel killed and one (1) enlisted man injured.
- 27 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of thirty-seven (37) rounds. S/Sgt James R. Stegall, flying a cub of this battalion, adjusted fire on enemy guns for 1st Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment, also for 2nd Battalion of the same regiment, using our radio and wire communications. Battery "A" area shelled, no casualties.
- 28 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of two hundred and forty-four rounds. Lt. Martin W. Williamson, FO of Battery "C", adjusted fire using III Corps Artillery, results - fires burning one (1) hour later. Lt. William J. Jessup adjusted 131st Field Artillery Battalion on point A-1 from vicinity of Battalion F D C. Lt. Williamson adjusted on enemy artillery for 1st Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment.
- 29 November: Fired thirteen (13) missions and harassing fires, a total of twelve hundred and fifteen (1215) rounds. Lt. Jessup adjusted 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and 68th CAAA on point A-1. Battery "A" and Battalion CP shelled for twenty (20) minutes, necessitating movement of CP by Battalion Executive. One (1)

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enlisted man at CP injured. Direct hit made on wreckage of Battery "A" kitchen truck (truck burned 24 November).

30 November: Eleven (11) missions and harassing fires fired, a total of three hundred and fifty-eight (358) rounds. CP area shelled for twenty (20) minutes, no personnel injured. For situation on this date, see overlay No. 5.

Stanley W. Huth
STANLEY W. HUTH
W.O. (jg) AUS
Ass't Adj

5 Exhibits:

Exhibit "A" Casualty List
Exhibit "B" Officers Roster
Exhibit "C" Unit Journal
Exhibit "D" Report of Firing
Exhibit "E" Maps and Situation overlays

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-3-

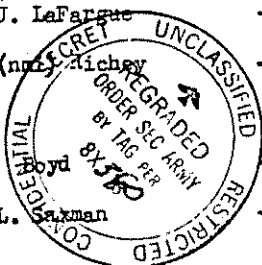
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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN NOVEMBER 1943

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1st Lt Harry P. Frantz | - Battery "C", Executive Officer, was lightly injured as a tow chain broke while winching a gun into position. |
| 2. T/4 Clarence E. Burkholder | - Headquarters Battery, fire direction center, was seriously wounded by an enemy shell burst about two (2) miles south of Mignano, Italy. |
| 3. T/5 Allen G. Nicholes | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by falling rock. |
| 4. Pvt George A. Sargent | - Battery "A", was lightly injured by falling rock. |
| 5. Pvt Daniel A. Senese | - Battery "A", was lightly wounded by shell fragments on 20 November 43. |
| 6. Pvt William G. Miller | - Headquarters Battery, was instantly killed by enemy artillery shell which burst his side as he was being relieved from guard duty, about one mile south of Mignano, Italy on 20 November 1943. |
| 7. Pvt lcl Archie W. St. Clair | - Battery "B", was lightly injured about his head when he fell off a truck while repairing wire communication on 20 November 43. |
| 8. Pvt lcl Robert E. Ford | - Battery "C", was instantly killed as an enemy artillery shell fell upon him as he lay in his foxhole. |
| 9. Pvt lcl Roe E. Holliday | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragments while on duty as telephone operator on 21 November 43. |
| 10. Pvt lcl John M. Dickson | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded as an enemy artillery shell burst in the gun position on 21 November 1943. |
| 11. Pvt Kenneth L. Wright | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by recoil of howitzer on 21 November 43. |
| 12. Pvt Clarence (nmi) Jordheim | - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 21 November 43. |
| 13. T/5 Leonard W. Charlton | - Battery "C", was lightly injured by falling rock on 21 November 43. |
| 14. Pvt Wayne L. Rader | - Battery "A", was lightly wounded in the legs by shell fragments on 21 November 43. |
| 15. 1st Lt Ross (nmi) Khan | - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling while 1/4 ton truck on 21 Nov 43. |
| 16. Pvt Jim R. Ard | - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling while unloading ammunition. |
| 17. Cpl Murphy J. LaFargue | - Battery "B", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 23 November 43. |
| 18. Cpl Weldon (nmi) Michay | - Battery "B", fell down an embankment while leading ammunition truck during the middle of night receiving light injuries on 24 November 43. |
| 19. Pvt Fred W. Boyd | - Battery "B", broke his arm while unloading ammunition on 24 November 43. |
| 20. T/4 Finley L. Sakman | - Headquarters Battery, lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragment in battery area 30 November 43. |

Exhibit "A"

-1-



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- 21. Pvt Edward C. Behrens - Headquarters Battery lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragment while in battery area on 30 November 43.
- 22. Sgt John E. Arrington - Battery "C", received light wounds about his face from shell fragments.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NNO 735017

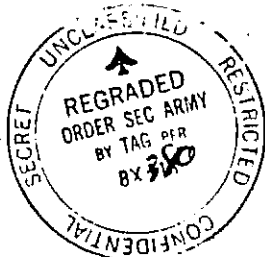
By RB/LSW

NARA, Date 8-6-92

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, DECEMBER 1943

The Battalion remained in action from 17 November 1943 to 30 December 1943. Operations of the Battalion for the month of November 1943 have been covered in a previous report.

- 01 December 1943: Battalion remained in position (See Map ITALY, 160, II and 161, III and attached overlay # 4) Battalion fired 10 missions, a total of 313 rounds. Batterys "A" and "B" and Battalion CP areas shelled by enemy artillery; no personnel injured or materiel damaged.
- 02 December 1943: Fired 15 missions, a total of 596 rounds.
- 03 December 1943: Fired 26 missions, a total of 1133 rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 4)
- 04 December 1943: Fired 22 missions, a total of 246 rounds (See attached overlay # 5) Battery "C" registered on check-point at 1437 hours.
- 05 December 1943: Fired 25 missions, a total of 786 rounds. Enemy aircraft flew low over Headquarters and Headquarters battery areas, strafing; no casualties. Battalion Air OP attacked by enemy aircraft and forced down; no personnel injured but plane damaged; later, attacked again without damage to plane or personnel injuries.
- 06 December 1943: Fired 33 missions, a total of 720 rounds.
- 07 December 1943: Fired 10 missions, a total of 261 rounds. battery "B" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 6)
- 08 December 1943: Fired 45 missions, a total of 1137 rounds. Battery "A" position shelled by artillery; Pvt 1cl Kenneth J. Schultz, 36174196, wounded. Battalion relieved from direct support 141st Infantry and ordered to direct support of 67 Infantry Motorized Regiment. (Italian)
- 09 December 1943: Fired 9 missions, a total of 971 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 7)
- 10 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 405 rounds. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson made precision adjustment of one gun on enemy pillbox for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "C" OP, pillbox destroyed. (For situation, see overlay # 8.)



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- 11 December 1943: Fired 28 missions, a total of 521 rounds. Battalion position strafed by enemy aircraft; no casualties. 1st Lt. Williamson made precision adjustment on an enemy pillbox for the 77th Field Artillery, 1st Battalion from Battery "C" OP, mission accomplished. (For situation, see overlay # 9)
- 12 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 945 rounds. Battalion position shelled by artillery; no casualties. (For situation, see overlay # 10)
- 13 December 1943: Fired 11 missions, a total of 298 rounds. Battery "B" position fired upon by artillery, no casualties.
- 14 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 108 rounds. Enemy aircraft bombed Battalion CP, Headquarters Battery, and battery "A" areas; 2 enlisted men injured. Battalion relieved of direct support of 67th Infantry of Motorized regiment (Italian) and ordered to reinforce fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. (For situation see overlay # 11)
- 15 December 1943: Fired 4 missions, a total of 820 rounds. S/Sgt James R. Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 937th Field Artillery Battalion. Battery neutralized, 3 direct hits. Battalion area shelled by artillery; no casualties or damages to materiel.
- 16 December 1943: Fired 7 missions, a total of 266 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery missions for 985th Field Artillery Battalion.
- 17 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 219 rounds. Observer of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired Battalion on counter battery mission; battery neutralized. (For situation see attached overlay # 12.)
- 18 December 1943: Fired 8 missions, a total of 497 rounds. Observer 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired Battalion on 4 counter battery missions. Fire effective. 1st Lt. Riva S. Fingerhut observed for counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "A" OP, battery neutralized.
- 19 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 260 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion. Fire effective.
- 20 December 1943: Fired 6 missions, a total of 275 rounds. (For situation see attached overlays # 13 and # 14.)
- 21 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 335 rounds. Battalion ordered to displace to new position.

RESTRICTED

-2-

(See overlay # 15) Closed on new position at 1730 hours. Battalion ordered in direct support of the 504th Parachute Regiment.

- 22 December 1943: No firing on this date. Battery "A" ordered to displace forward (See overlay # 15.)
- 23 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 287 rounds.
- 24 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 50 rounds.
- 25 December 1943: Fired 6 missions, a total of 258 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (A's OP) observed counter battery mission for 936th Field Artillery Battalion. Mission Accomplished.
- 26 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 315 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 16.)
- 27 December 1943: No firing on this date.
- 28 December 1943: Fired 17 missions, a total of 476 rounds. Lt Samuel Airov fired counter battery mission for 995th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "B" OP. Battery neutralized.
- 29 December 1943: Fired 18 missions, a total of 795 rounds.
- 30 December 1943: No firing this date. Battalion ordered to displace to new area. (See attached overlay # 17) Battalion closed in new area at 1810.
- 31 December 1943: Personnel Section left Marzanello, Italy area at 1400 hours and arrived at Battalion new area 2 miles Northwest Alife, Italy at 1645.

Conclusion:

- Ammunition** - The quality of the ammunition is very good. As yet powder charges and projectiles are not segregated by lot numbers and weights at dumps.
- Communications** - Telephone and radio equipment proved to be of good quality. Replacements were easily gotten. All faulty communication was due to destruction of wire line enemy shelling or by being run over by heavy vehicles.
- Rations** - Food in the front lines was found to be as good if not better than in rear areas. The supply of cigarettes adequate and it was noted that the popular brands are more prevalent in the front lines than at the rear. The candy rations are appreciated. A liquor ration under the supervision of the Battalion Surgeon should be provided.
- Tables of organization** - Provision should be made for battery computers for each firing battery with at least a rating of Technician grade IV for each computer.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No 36, U. S. ARMY

31 December 1943

OFFICER'S ROSTER
BATTALION STAFF

MC MURRAY, ROY S.	Lt. Col.	0-333367	Unassgd.
ATKINS, THOMAS T.	Lt. Col.	0-246315	Bn. Comdr.
HOBBS, FRANK J.	Major	0-200955	Bn. Exec.
FULGHAM, JACK E.	Capt.	0-283165	S - 3
WALDROP, WILLIAM D.	Capt.	0-348140	Ass't S - 3
DAVIS, FRANK M.	Capt.	0-405152	S - 2
MOSER, AUGUST C. JR.	Capt.	0-295013	Btry C. Prov Pack Btry
GILMER, LAWRENCE D.	Capt.	0-255409	Ln. Off.
JESSUP, WILLIAM J.	1st Lt.	0-415050	Ass't S - 2 (Surv O.)

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

EVANS, GERALD E.	1st Lt.	0-1165012	Btry CO
NEWSOM, CLARENCE C.	1st Lt.	0-1167141	Comm. Off.
CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.	2nd Lt.	0-1177238	Anti-Tank Off.
SAM, BEAMAN W.	2nd Lt.	0-1171224	Mtr. Off.

"A" BATTERY

BUSH, WILLIAM L.	Capt.	0-407530	Btry CO
VINES, WALTON M.	1st Lt.	0-1167256	Exec. Off.
FINGERHUT, KIVA S.	1st Lt.	0-1776015	Reconn. Off.
BENT, CHARLES A.	1st Lt.	0-1175945	Mtr. Off.

"B" BATTERY

HAWK, RICHARD B.	Capt.	0-415562	Btry. CO
NOLEN, DONALD E.	2nd Lt.	0-1172199	Exec. Off.
BELL, LEROY L.	1st Lt.	0-418651	Ass't Exec. Off.
AIROV, SAMUEL (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0-1170618	Mtr. Off.

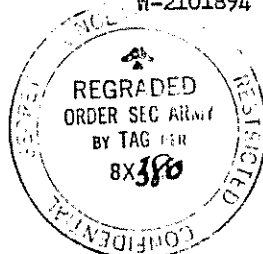
"C" BATTERY

FRANTZ, HARRY O. JR.	1st Lt.	0-404452	Btry. CO
REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.	1st Lt.	0-1167174	Exec. Off.
KIEFFER, CHARLES F.	1st Lt.	0-1171224	Ass't Exec. Off.
KENT, RAYMOND F.	1st Lt.	0-1176094	Reconn. Off.
WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W.	1st Lt.	0-1166867	Mtr. Off.

SERV. BATTERY

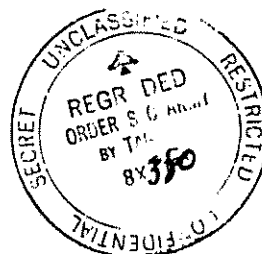
STOBAUGH, WILLARD L.	Capt.	0-357196	Btry. CO
MARTIN, KARL F.	2nd Lt.	0-1180599	Train Comdr.
VINES, RUFUS P.	1st Lt.	0-1167257	Bn. Mtr. Off.
MC CREADY, RICHARD J.	2nd Lt.	0-1170486	Btry. Mtr. Off.

TOOL, CHARLES D.	Capt.	0-475899	Med. Off.
HUTH, STANLEY W.	W.O.(jg)	W-2108253	Pers. Off.
JOHNSON, HAROLD E.	C.W.O.	W-2101894	Ass't S - 4



6 "B"

MOLEN, DONALD E. Asgn to Bn. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to Serv Btry on 1 January 44.
 MARTIN, RONALD F. Asgn to Bn. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to Serv Btry on 1 January 44.
 MC CREADY, RICHARD J. Asgn to Bn on 13 December 43 and Asgn to Serv Btry on 1 January 44.
 ATKINS, THOMAS T. Promoted to Lt. Col. on 21 December 43.
 HARK, RICHARD B. Promoted to Capt. on 28 December 43.
 BELL, LEROY L. from Train Commander to Ass't Exec "B" Btry.
 KEAT, RAYMOND F. from Bn. Motor Officer to Recon. Officer "C" Btry.



DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/WS

NARA, Date 8-8-82

Tables of Equipment - Generally the equipment is adequate and of excellent quality. It is felt that all command cars in the Battalion should be replaced by 1/2 ton jeeps. It is also suggested that all 608 radios except two for battalion headquarters should be replaced by 610 radios. The two for battalion headquarters could be mounted in weapons carriers.

Lights - Some form of lighting equipment should be provided for night operation in the Fire Direction Center and Personnel Section.

Maps - Maps in this sector are accurate (taking in consideration corrections obtained by the engineers) and have proven suitable for firing charts. There has not been a sufficient supply of maps in this organization and at times the supply was almost critical.

Tractor - A caterpillar tractor should be provided in each medium battery to facilitate movement of prime movers and pieces in and out of positions.

Howitzer - The 1918 Schneider Howitzer should be replaced by the M-1 for reasons of the additional range attained thereby.

Training - Training methods and Doctrines as laid down in War Department manuals have proven to be sound.

Stanley W. Huth
STANLEY W. HUTH
W.O.(J.G.) F.A.
Ass't. Adj.

6 Exhibits:

- Exhibit "A" Casualty List
- Exhibit "B" Officers Roster
- Exhibit "C" Unit Journal
- Exhibit "D" Air Section Missions
- Exhibit "E" Report of Firing
- Exhibit "F" Maps and Situation Overlays

RESTRICTED

-4-

5

LIST OF CASUALTIES IN DECEMBER 1943

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin | - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured when recoil knocked cradle traveling log from its proper position and was struck in the leg. |
| 2. Pvt 1cl Roger A. Gonzales | - Instantly killed when an enemy 88mm shell landed within 25 yards of his piece while he was on duty. (Phone guard). Battery "B", cannoneer. |
| 3. Sgt. Fred J. Hubbs. | - Was lightly injured while moving his gun into position in the dark early morning hours falling into trail ditch injuring his spine. Battery "B", Section Chief. |
| 4. Pvt 1cl John J. Maher | - Battery "B", Recorder, was lightly wounded when an enemy shell landed near the exec's post. Wounded in calf of leg which later caused amputation of same. |
| 5. Pvt Gareth L. Huntoon | - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured while acting as guide for an engineer caterpillar clearing road into position of mud. It was dark and he was caught in between the caterpillar and an oncoming truck. |
| 6. T/5 George S. Yates | - Service Battery, had been transferred to his Battalion but due to his duty at an 133rd F.A O.P. had not reported when an enemy artillery shell landed causing his instant death. |
| 7. Cpl Kenneth L. Schultz | - Battery "A", Ammunition Cpl, was delivering message to Btry gun position when he was lightly wounded by enemy shell which landed 50 yards from him causing a wound near his right kidney. |

Encl "A"

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

8 February 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for
January 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General
Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru Channels)

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month
of January 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached
copies of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.

Thomas T. Atkins
THOMAS T. ATKINS
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

1 Incl. - Narrative "January". (Sextuple)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CANCELED
BY AUTHORITY SECRETARY WAR
CLERK *[Signature]* DATE *11 May 46*
BY *[Signature]* INITIALS *[Signature]*

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155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, JANUARY 1944

The battalion remained in a rest area, near Alife, Italy, from 31 December 1943 to 06 January 1944 inclusive, having been relieved by the 185th Field Artillery Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division on 30 December 1943 (see Map #1, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161 II). During this period a 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery was organized in this battalion, using the anti-tank platoon as a basis. Nine men were drawn from each of the light battalions, each of these battalions turning over two weapon carriers and the two 75 mm pack howitzers previously issued to them. During the rest period this battery was trained in the nomenclature of the weapon, standing gun drill, RSOP and other artillery subjects. An effort was made to secure a range to conduct service practice, but as the battalion was ordered back into action, the battery did not have an opportunity to fire before going into combat.

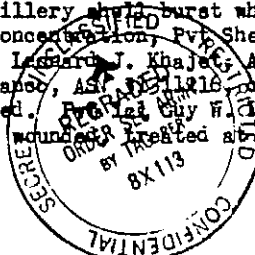
During the early morning hours of 01 January, and continuing throughout most of the day, a severe wind and sleet storm raged over the area, destroying two liaison planes, leveling a number of pyramidal tents and causing slight damages to other organizational property. Beginning late in the day the weather cleared and remained calm throughout the remaining time the battalion spent in this rest area.

On 06 January the Commanding General of Division Artillery directed that the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atkins and a reconnaissance party, report to the 6th Armored Group at Ceppagna for the purpose of making a reconnaissance for battery positions in the San Pietro area. After returning to the battalion area with his party, Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3; Captain Gilmer, Liaison Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer, the Battalion Commander issued orders for movement of the battalion and occupation of positions.

The battalion, less the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery and rear echelon personnel, began movement at 1100 hours on 07 January to positions near San Pietro, closing in this area at 2040 hours this date. (See Map #2, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161, I, II, III and IV and overlay #1). After positions were occupied, there was intermittent harassing fire on the road near the battalion area. During this shelling 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, Executive Officer Battery "A" was wounded by a shell fragment in the left wrist and Sergeant Arthur A. Young, ASN 38051398, Battery "C" of Palestine, Texas was killed by enemy artillery shell burst while helping put gun into position. During the same enemy concentration, Pvt. Shelby R. Powell, ASN 35789767 of West Bend, Kentucky, Pvt. 1st Lt. Edward J. Khajec, ASN 38068804, of El Paso, Texas and Private Louis J. Panabianco, ASN 38051316, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, all of Battery "C", were wounded. Private Guy W. Dewey, ASN 36183910, of Kalamazoo, Michigan of Battery "C" was wounded, treated at aid station and then returned to duty.

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- 08 Jan Batteries "A", "B" and "C" completed registration on the base-point at 1046 hours by the Air OP. Pvt 1cl Louis J. Deatch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment this battalion of San Antonio, Texas, was wounded about his legs from enemy shell fragments when the road near Battery "B" area was fired upon. The Commanding General of Division Artillery ordered the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery attached to the 456 Field Artillery Battalion and the battery moved from the Alife area to a new position near Vanafro, Italy. Seven (7) missions, a total of four hundred and forty-one (441) rounds were fired by the battalion on this day.
- 09 Jan The enemy shelled the road running through the battalion area, during which time Private Douglas (nmi) Clinton, ASN 33320602, Medical Detachment this battalion of Jamison, Pennsylvania, was killed by enemy artillery shell explosion. There were twenty-four (24) missions, a total of one thousand and eighty (1080) rounds, fired by the battalion.
- 10 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. The battalion fired twenty-three (23) missions in all, a total of two hundred and seventy-six rounds.
- 11 Jan Until 1400 hours visibility was zero but cleared and remained good for the remainder of the day. The battalion fired one harassing mission on and in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio and two guns of an enemy battery were neutralized at 1440 hours, fire being directed by the Air OP. The battalion fired two (2) missions, a total of seventy-two (72) rounds.
- 12 Jan Visibility was very limited during the day and only harassing missions were fired, a total of thirty-four missions, four hundred and four (404) rounds.
- 13 Jan As there was very limited visibility from the OP's, the Air OP registered the battalion on the check-point and base-point. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery returned to the battalion control and was ordered to a new position area (see overlay #2). Harassing missions were fired by the battalion in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio and twenty-six missions in all, a total of three hundred and twenty-one (321) rounds were fired this day.
- 14 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. Although the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery had not conducted service practice prior to being brought into combat, it was ready to fire on this day under the control of the Battalion Fire Direction Center. This battery fired three (3) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty rounds, with excellent results; the 155 howitzer batteries fired nineteen (19) missions, a total of one thousand and fifteen (1015) rounds.

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- 15 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on Mount Trocchio. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired four (4) missions, four hundred and seventy-seven (477) rounds and the battalion fired two (2) concentrations, a total of eight hundred and seventeen rounds. On this date the Battalion Executive moved the rear echelon from Alife area to an area near Venafro, leaving Personnel Section near Alife with Division Rear Echelon.
- 16 Jan The Battalion Commander; Lt. Jessup, Survey Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer; made a reconnaissance for new positions in the Mount Trocchio area. Although visibility was unlimited, no observed targets were picked up. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of four hundred and twenty-eight (428) rounds and the 155 howitzer had one (1) concentration, six hundred and forty-five rounds expended.
- 17 Jan The battalion began movement to new position area in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio at 1800 hours and closed on new positions at 2330 hours. (See Overlay #2) Prior to the move the battalion fired harassing concentrations on San Angelo. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and twenty (120) rounds and batteries "A", "B" and "C" fired one (1) mission, a total of one hundred and eighty (180) rounds for the day. Our Air OP observed and fired a counterbattery mission for the 985 Field Artillery Battalion with excellent results.
- 18 Jan The battalion Air OP registered "A", "B" and "C" Batteries on the base-point at 0900 hours and these batteries fired a counterbattery mission for Division Artillery. An enemy battery was neutralized. Lt. Samuel Airov, of Battery "B", from Atlanta, Georgia, was injured on the OP by a personnel mine. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo, Pignataro and San Giorgio. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired five (5) concentrations, a total of four hundred and forty-six rounds and the battalion fired eighteen missions and expended one thousand and eighty-one (1081) rounds.
- 19 Jan Visibility was poor due to haze. Harassing missions were fired on San Giorgio and Pignataro and a serenade was fired on an enemy assembly area and suspected enemy CP. The battalion was ordered to reinforce fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion during preparation for the division attack on the Rapido River. Enemy artillery fire near "B" Battery position resulted in no injuries or damages. Pack Battery fired five (5) missions, a total of four hundred and fifty (450) rounds and the three 155 howitzer batteries fired six (6) concentrations, expending three hundred and forty-two (342) rounds.

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- 20 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the battalion and looked over the battery positions. The weather for the day was cold but visibility very poor. The battalion fired on nebelwerfer and mortar positions for the British, results of which are unknown. Eight (8) missions were fired by the Pack Battery, a total of four hundred and eighty-six (486) rounds; the battalion fired four (4) concentrations, totaling one thousand three hundred and twenty-five (1325) rounds.
- 21 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on the Rapido River. The mission of this battalion was reinforcing the fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion. Smoke missions were fired and visibility from our OP's was limited. Unobserved fires were placed on suspected nebelwerfer positions. The Pack Battery fired six (6) concentrations, totaling six hundred and twelve (612) rounds and the battalion fired twenty (20) missions, a total of five hundred (500) rounds.
- 22 Jan The battalion was relieved of reinforcing fires for the 131 Field Artillery Battalion and ordered in general support of the division. Battalion fired preparation and supporting fires for the 141 Infantry Regiment and a smoke-screening mission for bridging the Rapido River. The battalion was restricted, until further notice, to an allowance of twenty-five (25) rounds per gun per day, except in extreme emergency. Pack Battery fired four (4) concentrations, totaling five hundred (500) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired six (6) missions, a total of two hundred and twenty-four (224) rounds.
- 23 Jan The battalion fired a serenade on the San Angelo area. Visibility for the day was poor. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired counterbattery on a nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. Two (2) concentrations were fired by the Pack Battery, totaling sixty-three (63) rounds and the battalion fired four (4) missions, expending sixty-six (66) rounds.
- 24 Jan The three 155 batteries fired five counterbattery missions during which an enemy ammunition dump was destroyed. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired a concentration on a nebelwerfer position for the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. For the day the pack battery fired seven (7) missions, a total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) rounds, and the battalion fired ten (10) concentrations, totaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) rounds.
- 25 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the installations of the battalion and found them in good order. The Commanding General directed that the Abbey Monte Cassino not be fired upon unless by permission from his headquarters. Objection was raised by the Battalion

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Commander to the Division Artillery Commander concerning limited ammunition and the forestalling of the Battalion Commanders capacity to estimate ammunition expenditures. Also, the Division Ammunition Officer was trying to match projectiles for powder bags, irrespective of charges and that due to the rigidly controlled supply of ammunition it is next to impossible to maintain an adequate supply, without handling during daylight. Enemy anti-aircraft fired on our Air OP without injury to pilot or damage to the plane. Late in the afternoon, the author made a reconnaissance to new Division Rear location in the City of Vairano, Italy. A suitable room was found for the office and all desks moved in. Early the next morning office personnel, under Personnel Sergeant Major Camisa, arrived. During the day the Pack Battery fired eight (8) missions, a total of eight hundred and forty-two (842) rounds and the battalion fired eleven (11) concentrations, totaling one thousand two hundred and fourteen (1214) rounds.

- 26 Jan The Division organized a defensive position along the east bank of the Rapido River with the OPL along the east bank and MTR within its boundaries (see situation overlay). This battalion remained in general support of the division and was authorized fifty (50) rounds per gun per day for both the 155 mm howitzers and 75 mm pack howitzers. Excellent visibility on this day made it possible to fire a number of counterbattery missions and interdiction fire on enemy materiel on highway 6. During the night the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired harassing concentrations. Earlier, the Air OP observed counterbattery missions on four (4) enemy guns for the 456 Field Artillery Battalion. Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and sixty-one (161) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, totaling three hundred and ninety-two (392) rounds.
- 27 Jan The battalion fired on a motor park, setting vehicles afire. Also, the battalion fired two counterbattery missions and fired "A" Battery on enemy vehicles. One truck was destroyed and others damaged. This was all in addition to ordered harassing fires. S/Sgt Stegall, Air OP, observed counterbattery mission for the 194 Field Artillery Battalion. Areas near batteries "B" and "C" were shelled by enemy artillery without any casualties or damages. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired fifteen (15) missions, totaling three hundred and six (306) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired twenty-five (25) concentrations, a total of six hundred and fifty-eight (658) rounds.
- 28 Jan Several targets were interpreted from photographs and coordinates furnished by Division Artillery; all were taken under fire. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired seventeen (17) missions, totaling two hundred and eighty-four (284) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-nine (29) missions, a total of six hundred and five (605) rounds.

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- 29 Jan Due to limited visibility there were only harassing fires on this date. The photo-interpreted targets received from Division Artillery were fired on with zone fire and a reconnaissance flight made this date showed excellent results; two nebelwerfers were knocked out and the remainder made to change positions; a fire started in the bivouac area that lasted all night; in the medium battery, two guns received direct hits and there were two hits in the other two emplacements. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired on enemy mortars with satisfactory results. For the day, the Pack Battery fired twenty-three (23) concentrations, totaling five hundred and forty-two (542) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-eight (28) missions, a total of five hundred and seventy-nine (579) rounds.
- 30 Jan Weather this date was cloudy with very poor visibility. There were scheduled harassing fires only in this period of operations. The battalion ammunition officer was unable to draw ammunition for the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery until they were below basic load of eight hundred (800) rounds. As the requirements for firing this battery this date were six hundred and fifty-six (656) rounds, there was only two hundred and twenty-seven (227) rounds left for emergency fire. This battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling three hundred and twenty-two (322) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, a total of three hundred and fifty-four (354) rounds.
- 31 Jan Poor visibility limited ground observation all day. As directed by the Commanding General of Division Artillery, liaison was established with the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armored Infantry and Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3 was dispatched as Liaison Officer. This battalion remained in general support of the division attack on the Rapido River and the Battalion Commander issued FO #2 (attached). The battalion fired harassing fires during the day and the Pack Howitzer Battery fired on mortars for Division Artillery. The Pack Battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling nine hundred and seventy-four (974) rounds for the day and the battalion fired ten (10) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty-two (282) rounds.

Stanley W. Huth
STANLEY W. HUTH
WOJG, AUS
Unit Historian

10 Incls.

Exhibit A Casualty List	Exhibit H Field Orders No. 1 & 2.
" B Officers Roster	" I Firing Charts January
" C Unit Journal	" J Maps & Situation Overlays
" D Air Section Missions	
" E S - 2 Reports	
" F S - 3 Reports	
" G Firing Reports	

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SECRETCONCLUSIONS BY BATTALION COMMANDERTACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

During the period covered by this report, the principles of field artillery, as laid down by current field manuals, were found to be sound. It is believed that more emphasis should be placed on adjustment of artillery fire by precision methods. It is also believed that more training should be given the junior officers in the organization, occupation and operations of artillery OP's. It is further recommended that officer replacements for medium battalions be given training in the nomenclature, care and maintenance of the weapon which is the basic arm of that unit. It has been the experience of this command that officer replacements have no knowledge of the weapon with which they are to work.

PERSONNEL

The replacement of personnel during the period covered by this report was not satisfactory. The efficiency of the battalion was handicapped by lack of officer and enlisted replacements. Specifically, from the personnel standpoint, there follows several recommendations which it is believed would improve the efficiency of this battalion:

a. FDC - An overstrength should be allowed in the T/O, or an increase provided, in order to allow two shifts to operate in the FDC. At present, FDC personnel are on call twenty-four hours a day. Also, ratings commensurate with the duties should be provided; computers should have at least a rating of Tec. 4.

b. OP DETAILS - In order to man the OP's properly on a twenty-four hour basis, additional personnel should be authorized.

c. S-2 SECTION - An S-2 clerk, to assist the S-2, should be authorized with at least a Tec. 4 rating.

d. AID MEN - Battery aid men, under combat conditions, have far more responsibility and perform a far greater service than is expected of privates. Therefore, in my opinion, at least one of the battery aid men should have a Tec. 4 or Tec. 5 rating.

MATERIEL

All the materiel of this battalion was satisfactory, with the exception of the 155 mm "Schneider" howitzer. It is self-evident that these howitzers

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are wearing out and that a suitable supply of replacement parts is not available. It is apparent that this situation will be improved upon the issue of the 155 M-1 Howitzer, which appears to be imminent. It is believed that the issue of a bulldozer to the battalion would greatly facilitate occupations of position.

SUPPLY

The supply of all classes was adequate and highly satisfactory, with the exception of ammunition. There has been an apparent shortage of powder charges throughout the period covered by this report. First, there was a shortage of white bag powder; lately, we have been unable to secure sufficient green bag powder. This situation seriously restricted the use of this battalion throughout the operation.

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S E C R E T

LIST OF CASUALTIES IN JANUARY 1944

1. Sgt Arthur A. Young, ASN 38051398, Battery "C", was fatally wounded on 7 January 1944 at 2300 hours, when an enemy artillery shell burst nearby where Sgt. Young was putting a gun into position about 300 yards south of San Pietro, Italy. Sgt. Young died a few minutes before arriving at a Hospital. Buried in American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuovo, Italy, in Grave 110, Row 10 and Plot H. Entered service from Palestine, Texas.
2. Pvt 1cl Leonard J. Khajet, ASN 38068804, Battery "C", was lightly wounded when he received shell fragments in his left arm and both legs, from an enemy artillery shell burst nearby at 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 400 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from El Paso, Texas.
3. Pvt Louis J. Panebianco, ASN 31311216, Battery "C", was lightly wounded 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy, when an enemy shell exploded nearby. He was hit by shell fragments in right thigh and both legs. Entered service from Lawrence, Mass.
4. Pvt Shelby R. Powell, ASN 35789767, Battery "C", was lightly wounded in the right hip when he was hit by shell fragments from an enemy artillery shell which exploded nearby at 2300 hours on 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. West Bend, Kentucky home address.
5. 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, O-1167257, Battery "A", was lightly wounded in left wrist by fragment from exploding enemy artillery shell about 2200 hours 7 January 1944, in battery position south west of San Pietro. Entered service from Pinson, Alabama.
6. Cpl James C. Smith, ASN 20816418, Battery "B", was lightly wounded in left leg about 4 inches above ankle. Occured when enemy shell exploded in Battery area about 2350 hour on 7 January 1944 about 500 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
7. Pvt Douglas (NMI) Clinton, ASN, 33320602, Medical Detachment, this Battalion was killed in action. Death was caused by enemy shell blast which caved an embankment in on him. Pvt Clinton had been working constantly with the wounded and went to this shelter only after assisting in evacuating wounded, when the blast caused the shelter to cave in. This happened at 2330 hours 9 January 1944 south west of San Pietro, Italy. Pvt Douglas (NMI) Clinton was buried at the American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuova, Grave 6, Plot J on 10 January 1944. Entered service from Jamison, Penna.
8. 2nd Lt. Samuel (NMI) Airov, O-1170618, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on 18 January 1944. Lt. Airov was wounded when he stepped on a personnel mine in going to the observation post early in the morning. His loss was great, due to his capabilities and efficiency as a Battery officer. Entered the service from Atlanta, Georgia.
9. Pvt 1cl Louis J. Deatch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment was wounded on 8 January 1944. Pvt 1cl Deatch was with Battery "B" as Battery aidman, when the area was subjected to enemy artillery shell fire, one shell exploding nearby wounding Pvt 1cl Deatch about the legs. He entered the service from San Antonio, Texas.
10. Pvt 1cl Guy W. Dewey, ASN 36189910, Battery "C", was lightly wounded in left wrist by shrapnel about 1500 9 January 1944 when shell exploded in Battery area south west of San Pietro, Italy. Entered service from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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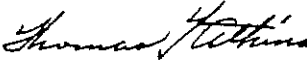

HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

10 March 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for
February 1944.

TO : Commanding General
36th Infantry Division
APO No. 36, U. S. Army

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month of
February 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies
of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.


THOMAS T. ATKINS
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "February." (Sextuple)


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155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, MARCH 1944

- 01 Feb - Battalion continued operations in the vicinity of Mt. Trocchio as shown on Overlay No. 8, Map - Italy 1/50,000, sheets 160, I, II. Observation Posts unable to observe because of haze and smoke. The 141st Infantry reported the location of an enemy installation and fire was directed with excellent results. The Infantry observer also adjusted fire on enemy dugouts, destroying two. This battalion received targets from photo-interpretations and fired on them with unobserved fire, results undetermined. Other missions fired by this battalion were on suspected enemy batteries, and harassing fires. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 568 of HE; Pac Battery - 99 HE.
- 02 Feb - Visibility, good. The Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery visited "C" Battery position. Our Observation Posts were active - firing on enemy tanks, vehicles, nebelwerfer positions and personnel. The Air OP checked the base point registered by each battery. 141st Infantry Observation Post located a nebelwerfer position and adjusted fire on it. No further firing was observed from this target. Our Battalion Liaison Section at 6th Armoured Observation Post adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, area neutralized. Scheduled Division Artillery harassing fires were undertaken by this Battalion. The Battalion Command Post observed a second enemy adjustment on the Bailey Bridge Northeast of the Command Post. No damage was observed. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 494 HE; 8 Smoke; Pac Battery 310 HE; 1 Smoke.
- 03 Feb - Captain William D. Waldrop relieved as Liaison Officer with 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armoured Infantry. Eleven (11) PW 109's fired on by our Anti-Aircraft Unit. The enemy adjusted fire on several targets in the vicinity of the Battalion area; during the course of this adjustment, rounds fell in the Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Battery and "A" Battery areas. By VOGG Division Artillery, Battalion in direct support of 91 Reconnaissance Squad with 131st Field Artillery Battalion and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing our fires. Lt. Lockland reported to this Battalion as Liaison Officer from the 91 Reconnaissance Squad. Our Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy tank, nebelwerfer positions and personnel, with good results. 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, this Battalion dispatched as Liaison Officer with 59th Field Artillery Battalion. The Air OP silenced an enemy gun battery and was unable to complete adjustment on another battery because of lack of fuel. A number of photo interpretation targets from 36th Division Artillery, fired on by this Battalion; results unknown. Scheduled harassing fires were fired during hours of darkness. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 363 HE, 12 Smoke; Pac Battery 539 HE, 1 Smoke.

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04 Feb - Major Frank J. Hobbs, Battalion Executive, dispatched as Liaison Officer to British 23rd Field Regiment. Our Observation Posts adjusted fire on enemy guns, vehicles and nebelwerfer positions, several enemy batteries; no further activity noted from these positions. Schedule harassing fires fired during the afternoon. Several enemy gun positions were fired upon with unobserved fire, results unknown. VOGG 36th Division Artillery, restricted Battalion to twenty (20) rounds per gun per day on 155mm's until 11 February. During the day and night, harassing fires. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 463 HE, 7 Smoke; Pac Battery - 201 HE, no Smoke.

05 Feb - Visibility excellent. 141st Infantry Observer adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. There was considerable movement in the Battalion area due to heavy traffic of adjacent units moving in. During the course of the afternoon approximately forty (40) rounds fell in the battalion area, causing injuries and one (1) death in Pac Battery; Pvt Dominik J. Cerreto, 20248062, on SD duty from 131st Field Artillery died of wounds; Pvs Antonio (nm) Del Vecchio, 31246985, Tony (nm) Canino, 37329451, both of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, on SD with Pac Battery, were wounded; Pvt 1cl Troupe F. Griffin, 34242911, SD with Pac Battery from 131st Field Artillery Battalion wounded; Pvt 1cl Rudolph F. Hansut, 36174179 and Pvt Eugene J. O'Brien, 32761373, of Headquarters Battery this Battalion were wounded and Corporal George G. Lehman, 12132991 of Battery "C" was wounded by the heavy enemy concentration on the Battalion. One 75mm Howitzer of Pac Battery was damaged beyond repair and twenty-five (25) rounds of ammunition rendered unserviceable due to burning camouflage net. Six (6) ME 109's drew our AA fire. Harassing missions fired during darkness. 141st Infantry Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Nebelwerfer position, neutralizing same. 91 Reconnaissance Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Observation Post in a house, four (4) hits were observed. Our 91 Reconnaissance Liaison Officer reports location of enemy installations, but due to the limited supply of ammunition these targets could not be fired upon with unobserved fire. Our observation Posts adjusted fire on two (2) Nebelwerfer positions, one enemy tank, machine gun emplacement and enemy Command Post with good results. Harassing fires fired during hours of daylight and darkness. Due to shortage of ammunition, Pac Battery fired all harassing fires for this battalion. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 193 HE, 13 Smoke; Pac Battery - 326 HE, 2 Smoke. Air OP located three (3) enemy gun positions and Nebelwerfer positions. Fire was adjusted on them. No further firing was observed from these positions. "C" Battery Observation Post located enemy gun battery beyond our maximum range and adjusted fire on them with the 995th Field Artillery. Series of explosions were seen in this area.

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06 Feb - Visibility excellent. Twenty (20) M109's drew AA fire. Captain William D. Waldrop relieved as Liaison Officer with 91 Reconnaissance Squad and returned to this battalion. Captain Jack E. Fulgham, S - 3, relieved from duty with this battalion and assigned to 36th Division Artillery as S - 3. 23rd Field Regiment relieved by 57th Field Regiment and Major Hobbs continued as Liaison Officer to the 57th. Our Observation Posts fired on enemy vehicles, personnel, and Nebelwerfer positions with satisfactory results. During the entire afternoon the battalion area was shelled; while the shelling was going on, certain factors underlying the use of terrain became more apparent as the shelling progressed. First, areas in sight defilade were shelled, apparently by erratic rounds only, apparently observation in areas seemingly defiladed from enemy observation being obtained thru a draw, which to the casual observer would have appeared an impossible situation if his reconnaissance was made during hazy weather. However during cold weather, preceded by thunder showers, atmosphere obscurity was minimized and a comparatively safe valley rendered susceptible to hostile penetration. Secondly, works of man, particularly stone, should not be utilized as parking areas for vehicles or even temporary halting areas for foot troops; more precisely, three (3) individuals enjoying sight defilade and flat trajectory weapons defilade from the enemy, yet in the immediate vicinity of a stone house, were killed by one (1) round which struck the house some fifteen (15) or twenty (20) feet above the ground. This projectile in its interrupted flight had rendered useless an otherwise excellent position utilized presumably by men on foot to escape the consequences of enemy shell fire. Had the stone house been someplace else it is likely that the shell on ground impact would not have been of any serious consequence. Thirdly, houses built of stone in this country, as far as we have been able to determine, consist essentially of two (2) parts: a first floor, of what might be termed limestone mortar work and a second story, if any, of pumice stone mortar work. This pumice is more easily destroyed than the limestone by fire for destruction; consequently, it is observed that important installations might profitably utilize the ground floor of stone buildings. "B" Battery Observation Post picked up a gun, firing, during the course of the Battalion shelling, and adjusted fire and it is believed that this gun was silenced. About 90% of the battalion communications was knocked-out by the shelling and radio communications was successfully used in carrying on the mission of the battalion. There were no harassing firing on this date. Ammunition expended: A, B, and C - 223 HE, 14 Smoke; Pac Battery - 338 HE, 20 Smoke.

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07 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility, hazy to good. Major Frank J. Hobbs relieved of duties as Battalion Executive and assigned to 6750th Hq. Company City Administration (Prov. Hq 5th Army), departing at 1315 (Having returned from duty with 57th Field Regiment (British at 0900). Visit from 36th Infantry Division, Inspector General, Lieutenant Colonel Reese at 1225 to 1350. VOCC 36th Division Artillery 1800 Battalion in direct support TFA, to maintain Liaison with 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry. 1st Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent relieved of Liaison assignment with 59th Field Artillery Battalion, returning to battalion at 1830. Five heavy enemy artillery bursts in battalion area about 1710; no damage or casualties; projectile fragments later delivered to G - 2, estimated to be 210 Nebelwerfer. No harassing fire missions; counterbattery missions adjusted by ground and air Observation Posts, with reported effective area neutralized, destruction of one (1) Nebelwerfer, an ammunition dump explosion and start of a fire in enemy gun position. Ammunition expenditure (6 missions on 5 targets) A,B, and C - 234 HE, 15 Smoke; Pac Battery - 54 HE, and 2 Smoke.

08 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility hazy to good. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins attends CCB conference at 1400 hours. 1st Lieutenant Kent, 1st Lieutenant Charles A. Bent and 2nd Lieutenant Beaman W. Sam departed at 1700 for 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry as liaison and forward observer assignment. No enemy counterbattery received. Three (3) day harassing missions (45 rds) and three (3) night harassing (126 rds) assigned by 36th Division Artillery, were fired by Pac Battery. Besides check point registration of all batteries, A, B, and C were adjusted on targets (total of 4) by air and ground observers; reported effects: area neutralized and fires started. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 125 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 183 HE and 13 Smoke.

09 Feb - Weather rainy to damp to fair and cold; visibility fair. Reconnaissance Officer, Survey Officer and Commanding Officer, with details, on position reconnaissance 1000 hours. VOCC 36th Division Artillery at 1330 hours - battalion to move to new area at dark. Command Post closed and HC's moved forward, with parties, at 1500 hours. Head of battalion motor column on road at 1715. Battalion in new area at 2230, Command Post opened at 2300, coordination 877228. No enemy counterbattery received. No harassing missions. One time registration, four (4) observed fire missions (all before 1500 hours), two (2) air adjusted, two (2) ground; reported effective, nebelwerfer areas well covered, three (3) hits on house fired upon. Ammunition expenditures: A,B, and C - 83 HE, 69 Smoke; Pac Battery - 14 HE, 1 Smoke.

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10 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold to rainy; visibility fair to very poor. VOGG 36th Division Artillery at 0830 hours Battalion now in general support of the 36th Infantry Division. Battery Observations Posts established base point and check point registration from the positions occupied last night. No enemy counterbattery received. No targets of opportunity. Pac Battery fired one hundred and sixty (160) rounds on night harassing missions. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 661 HE, 2 Smoke.

11 Feb - Weather intermittently rainy; visibility variable, chiefly poor. Received written confirmation (Artillery Annex to FO 47) of previous oral advice from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery of battalion mission. One (1) round of enemy smoke in Battalion area at 1643 hours -- ineffective. Base Point registration checked by ground Observation Posts. Preparatory, accompanying, and defensive (counter-attack-repelling) fires accomplished by all batteries, per FO 47, 36th Division Artillery Annex as called for. The following replacements were received and assigned to the various Batteries as indicated:

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Pvt Richard C. Abbazia, 32917983
Pvt Layman (nmi) Burns, Jr., 35682212
Pvt Thomas P. Butler, 32977698
Pvt Bruno (nmi) Elkan, 32896978
Pvt Floyd J. Hudson, 38471530
Pvt Alfred J. DeMart, 32931486
Pvt Earl E. Eichelberger, 33723930
Cpl Herbert J. Marks, 31293040

Pvt Elmer A. Arose, 32917632
Pvt Jesse G. Brewer, 34636969
Pvt Michael M. DeCesare, 33685478
Pvt Charles L. Fowlkes, 34593924
Pvt Lloyd G. Hudson, 38471545
Pvt Lawrence E. Lett, 34731928
Pvt Augustin R. Resendes, 18048081
Pvt Ernest W. Wright, 33642929

BATTERY "A"

Pvt John A. Hyman, 12140737
Pvt Richard A. Crosby, 32977960
Pvt Charles J. Ballard, 35770538

Pvt Leonard (nmi) Brotzky, 42001250
Pvt Robert (nmi) Withers, 33504591
Pvt William H. Bowman, 35871109

BATTERY "B"

Pvt Charles R. Allen, 33762849
Pvt Nicholas (nmi) Cosentino, 42002121

Pvt Louis F. Consalvo, 32977960

BATTERY "C"

Pvt George O. Charberlain, 31237573
Pvt 1cl Charles H. Tobey, 35270707
Pvt John (nmi) Ostash, 33778527
Pvt Richard E. Niehle, 37565723

Pvt Howard T. Martin, 32730545
Pvt 1cl Richard L. Conaway, 35385480
Pvt Raymond J. Varni, 39047796

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Three (3) night harassing missions participated in by all batteries (100 rounds before 2400; 80 rounds Pac Battery, 20 rounds A, B, and C). Fire adjusted by ground observation on Nebelwerfers: One (1) target hit, with resulting sheet of flame. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C - 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 661 HE, 2 Smoke.

12 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold; visibility poor. Previous night harassing missions (3) continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 40 rounds; Pac Battery - 140 rounds). Base point registration checked by air and ground observation. Defensive fires by Pac Battery (100 rounds) in repulsion of enemy counterattack. Observed missions (8) on enemy battery and sundry Nebelwerfers, using both air and ground Observations Posts, with effective area neutralization. No enemy counterbattery received. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 40 rounds; Pac Battery - 80 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the periods: A, B, and C - 221 HE, 52 Smoke; Pac Battery - 326 HE, 38 Smoke.

13 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good, except for slight haze. Check of Base Point registration. Previous night's harassing missions (6) continued to 0700 (A, B, and C - 80 rounds; Pac Battery - 156 rounds). Observed missions, adjusted from air and ground, on Nebelwerfers and guns, with report area neutralized and one (1) fire. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 16 rounds; Pac Battery - 71 rounds). Lieutenant Kent went to 36th Division Artillery at 1100 hours for maintenance of command liaison with British units, per VCCG 36th Division Artillery received at 0945. No enemy counterbattery received. Total ammunition expenditure for periods: A, B, and C - 193 HE, 21 Smoke; Pac Battery - 231 HE, 3 Smoke.

14 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued until 0700 (A, B, and C - 100 rounds; Pac Battery - 140 rounds). Fire suspended 0800 to 1430 between 220-238, respecting truce for removal of dead. One observed mission on enemy motor column, interdicting highway at road junction and hitting one (1) truck (Pac - 31 rounds). Arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier (1330), 339th Field Artillery Battalion, Commanding Officer and S - 2, for overnight visit. Six (6) rounds of enemy counterbattery in general vicinity of Battalion Command Post, four (4) rounds near, but over "A" Battery gun positions, in late afternoon. During the evening, just after sundown, Pvt Ollie J. Bailey, 38065436, Battery "A", was in a room washing his mess kit, when a shot was heard. Upon hearing the shot, Pvt Toy E. Compton rushed into the room and after getting his eyes accustomed to the darkness, found Pvt Bailey in a falling position; took him by the arm and led him outside where first aid could be given. A fallen rifle, knocked down by a nearby explosion accidentally went off, from which Pvt Bailey died later this date.

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Night harassing missions: A, B, and C (3) - 36 rounds; Pac Battery (4) - 48 rounds. Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 136 HE; Pac Battery - 209 HE, 10 Smoke.

15 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 36 rounds; Pac Battery - 48 rounds). Departure of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier at 1000 hours. Aerial bombing of Abbey di Montecassino Witnessed from Command Post at 0900 and periodically thereafter during the day. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, Battalion Commander, left for conference at 36th Division Artillery at 1300. Observed missions (5) on enemy guns and infantry and in interdiction of road junction and registration on bridge at check point (A, B, and C - 73 rounds; Pac Battery - 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 213 HE, 4 Smoke; Pac Battery - 181 HE, 15 Smoke.

16 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 108 rounds; Pac Battery, 96 rounds). Corporal Ernest W. Dohm, Message Center Clerk of Headquarters Battery, was killed at Headquarters 36th Division Artillery at 00015 hours as a result of enemy shells falling in and around Cervaro. 935th Field Artillery Battalion successfully adjusted from "B" Battery Observation Post on distant enemy installation. Occasional aerial bombing of Abbey di Montecassino observed from Command Post. BP registration checked from air OP. Observed missions (4) on enemy guns, road junction and bridge (A, B, and C - 70 rounds; Pac Battery - 10 rounds); reported neutralization, with fire started. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 248 HE, 11 Smoke; Pac Battery - 180 HE, 5 Smoke.

17 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjusted five (5) missions on enemy probable Command Post, motor park, road junction, bridge and tanks, with reported neutralization effect plus a sizeable fire at the motor park (A, B, and C - 186 rounds; Pac Battery - 60 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 273 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 198 HE, 6 Smoke.

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- 18 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division and Commanding General 36th Division Artillery visited the Command Post and the Battalion Area. Observed eight (8) missions adjusted by air OP and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and our Observation Posts on Nebelwerfers, enemy guns, a self-propelled, vehicles and probably camouflaged installation, with report effective neutralization, including target hit on the self-propelled, (A, B, and C - 138 rounds; Pac Battery - 40 rounds). Seven night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 89 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 319 HE, 11 Smoke; Pac Battery - 196 HE, 5 Smoke.
- 19 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous nights seven (7) harassing missions continued to 2330 (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 88 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division Artillery and the Commanding General, Division Artillery, 88th Division, visit battalion and inspect battery positions. Lt. Kent relieved by Division Artillery of Liaison with the British, and returned to the battalion at 1815. The 935th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted on enemy truck park by "B" Battery Observation Post. Observed mission adjusted by ground Observation Post on Nebelwerfer, another by air Observation on enemy guns, both with reported neutralizing effect (A, B, and C - 41 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the period: A, B, and C - 230 HE, 3 Smoke; Pac Battery - 208 HE.
- 20 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good to hazy. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 180 rounds). Base and check point registration and calibration (A, B, and C - seventeen (17) rounds; Pac Battery - 38 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment of observed missions two (2) on bridge work party, with reported neutralizing effect, plus one (1) fire (Pac Battery - 13 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 36 rounds; Pac Battery - 60 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day's period: A, B, and C - 101 HE; Pac Battery - 278 HE, 13 Smoke.
- 21 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery - 90 rounds). Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery visited Battalion 1030 to 1200 hours and inspected battery positions. Air and ground observation posts adjusted missions on Nebelwerfers and enemy installations, with reported neutralization of area (A, B, and C

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-158 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 258 rounds HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery -162 HE.

22 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous nights six (6) missions continued to 0600 hours (A, B, and C - 72 rounds; Pac Battery - 108 rounds). Sector unusually quiet. One observed mission, adjusted by ground observation, on Nebelwerfer; target area well covered. Seven night missions (A, B, and C - 96 rounds; Pac Battery - 36 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 184 HE; Pac Battery - 144 HE.

23 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 54 rounds). Six (6) day harassing missions (A, B, and C - 294 rounds; Pac Battery - 168 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery 144 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the period: A, B, and C - 491 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 366 HE.

24 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility fair. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (A, B, and C - 54 rounds; Pac Battery - 144 rounds). Battalion Commander left at 0935 for conference at 36th Division Artillery and returned at 1205. At 1230 Battalion Field Order No. 4 was issued, regarding reinforcement of the 4th Battalion, 67th Field Artillery (French). Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive Officer reported to the 67th Field Artillery as Liaison Officer at 1245. Ten (10) rounds enemy counterbattery in vicinity of "C" Battery area at 1710, knocking out one (1) truck. (A, B, and C fired 29 rounds and Pac Battery fired 11 rounds). Ground Observation Posts adjustment on Nebelwerfer ("B" Battery fired 25 rounds). Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds and Pac Battery fired 48 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C fired 153 rounds HE and 3 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 202 rounds HE and 1 Smoke.

25 Feb - Weather cloudy, occasional rain, visibility poor to fair. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery 48 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment on Nebelwerfer resulting in a large explosion (Battery "A" fired 15 rounds). 194th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted by "B" Battery Observation Post on enemy guns, starting two (2) fires. Three (3) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 65 rounds; Pac Battery 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 127 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 144 HE.

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- 26 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night's three (3) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 35 rounds; Pac Battery - 144 rounds). Relief of 36th Infantry Division elements in progress but incomplete. One observed mission on enemy battery, Batteries A, B, and C fired 69 rounds, neutralizing area, including an explosion. Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 50 rounds; Pac Battery - 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 153 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery - 264 HE.
- 27 Feb - Weather rainy to clear; visibility poor to good. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0700 (A, B, and C - 70 rounds; Pac Battery 168 rounds). March order for evacuation to rest camp received from 36th Division Artillery at 1815. Base Point registrations checked by air OP adjustment. Fire delivered on enemy mortars as called for and observed by French (67th Field Artillery) Observation Post, (A, B, and C fired 72 rounds). One night observed mission on Nebelwerfer, Battery "C" fired twenty (20) rounds with reported neutralizing results. Seven (7) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 100 rounds; Pac Battery - 180 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 273 HE, 5 Smoke; Pac Battery 349 HE and 9 Smoke.
- 28 Feb - Weather cloudy; visibility fair. Previous night's seven harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C fired 99 rounds and Pac Battery fired 180 rounds). Further relief of 36th Infantry Division elements cancelled; 36th Division Artillery March Order rescinded. Observed two (2) missions on enemy installations, observation post and SP (Battery "B" and "C" fired 127 rounds). Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 90 rounds; Pac Battery - 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 314 HE and 2 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 330 rounds HE.
- 29 Feb - Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good. Previous night's six harassing missions continued to 0700 hours (A, B, and C fired 126 rounds; Pac Battery fired 210 rounds). Lt. Colonel Lawson, Battalion Commander of the 443rd AAA, visited Command Post at 1045, advised relief of 443rd by the 630th AAA tonight. Eight day harassing missions (Battery "B" and "C" fired 48 rounds. Nine missions were observed; 3 from French, 1 from 36th Division Artillery Air OP, 1 from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 from Battery Observation Posts, 2 from Battery Command Posts on enemy installations, Observation Posts, enemy battery, Nebelwerfer, and SP's, adjusted with reported neutralizing effect. Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 45 rounds; Pac Battery - 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C - 445 HE, 19 Smoke; Pac Battery - 360 HE.

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The Battalion History and all inclosures are typed by the Personnel Section of this Battalion, namely: Tech Sergeant John J. Camisa, Personnel Sergeant Major, Chicago, Illinois; Corporal Herbert C. Poau, Headquarters Battery Clerk of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Corporal Herman J. Braun, Battery "A" Clerk, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Corporal James L. Pridemore, Battery "B" Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; Corporal William Schracring, Battery "C" Clerk, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Corporal Bert A. Spencer, Service Battery Clerk of Morgantown, W. Virginia; Corporal Durward McDonald, Headquarters Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; and Tech Grace S. Henry W. Pfriender of New York. Each month the Battalion History is typed by the above men in addition to their regular duties, which are plentiful while in combat.

Stanley W. Huth
 STANLEY W. HUTH
 WOJG, A.U.S.
 Unit Historian

11 Incls.

- Exhibits A - Casualty List
- " B - Officers Roster
- " C - Unit Journal
- " D - Air Section Missions
- " E - S - 2 Reports
- " F - S - 3 Reports
- " G - Firing Reports
- " H - Field Order # 4
- " I - Situation Overlay for February
- " J - Maps
- " K - Firing Charts for February

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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

BATTALION CONTINUED IN COMBAT

The Battalion continued in combat from 17 November 1943 with the exception of eight days in January 1944, which were spent in rest area near Alife, Italy. From the positions occupied just southeast of Mt. Trocchio at the month's beginning, displacement forward was made on the 9 February to the area some 3500 yards northeast of the town of Cassino, where the Battalion at the month's end was still to be found.

REPLACEMENTS

On the 11 February 1944 the Battalion received thirty-two enlisted replacements, which were needed to replace those sick in hospital and wounded. These replacements were duly assigned to the several Batteries immediately.

OFFICER TRANSFERS

During the month of February Major Frank J. Hobbs, Captain Willard L. Stobaugh were transferred to Provisional City Government of Rome, Captain Jack E. Fulgham transferred to 36th Division Artillery and 2nd Lt. Donald E. Nolan transferred to 138th Truck Quartermaster Company.

AMMUNITION

For virtually the entire period under review the Battalion's operations were subject to restricted daily ammunition allotments: 20 rounds per piece. The effect was but partially ameliorate by the availability to the Battalion of the Provisional Mountain Battery (Pack 75mm howitzer) which was particular value in execution of assigned harrassing missions.

MORALE

Despite an increasing proportion of fair days, the seasonal inclemency of the weather, added to the extended stay in the line and increased duties of remaining key personnel, commenced to exact gradual toll in individual physical well-being and the functional efficiency of equipment. The effect was sufficiently manifested, it was felt, to preclude appraisal of Battalion combat efficiency as high as "Excellent" after 11 February; accordingly, it has since been consistently reported as only "Satisfactory".

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OBSERVATION POSTS

Battery Observation Post details are subject to peculiar strain under existing conditions. The employment of alternating teams in the battery, each team under the direction of an officer and neither to remain more than several successive days on Observation Post duty, has been deemed expedient. This practice operates to withdraw the Battery Motor Officer - assistant Executive temporarily from his normal assignment. Any officer incapacitation immediately transfers responsibilities to already well-burdened non-commissioned personnel.

ASSISTANCE OF OTHER UNITS

The assistance of Engineer units in road and area maintenance and improvement and of the Division Military Police in traffic control has been observed to be timely, prompt and excellent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No change is offered in previous monthly recommendations. In point of tactical doctrine official texts continue to afford sound and reliable guidance. Without deviation therefrom, and in keeping therewith, current combat experience suggests both the wisdom of maintenance of a normal officer over-strength, to meet many unforeseen and varying conditions, and a more frequent relief of units in the line to the extent that operational requirements permit, no less for the periodic repair and maintenance of vital organizational equipment than for the restoration of personnel dulled by fatigue.

CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a Consolidated List of Casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of February 1944:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action -		1
Wounded in Action -		2
Died of Wounds -		
Missing in Action -		
Missing -		
Injured in Action -		
Wounded and Remained on Duty -		
Total -		<u>5</u>
Accidental Death -		8
		1

None of the enlisted men reported on Battle Casualty Reports returned to duty during February.

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Provisional Mountain Battery ("Pac")

During the latter part of December, 1943, decision was made by the Division Artillery, duly confirmed by the Division Commanding General, to experiment with organization and tactical employment of a "Provisional Mountain Battery" (PMB) of 75mm. packhowitzers. Organization was perfected by the process of adding to the 40-man Anti-Tank Platoon of the 155th F. A. Bn. Headquarters Battery (including S/Sgt James N. McGinnis as acting first sergeant) 9 men from each of the three light artillery battalions of the Division; supplementing with a few selected specialists from other batteries of the 155th; assigning as officer personnel Captain August C. Moser, Jr. (Battery Commander) and 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley of 155th F.A. Bn. and 2nd Lt. Stanley Chapman of the 132nd F. A. Bn.; allotting the organic vehicular transportation of the Anti-Tank Platoon aforesaid, as well as two 3/4 ton weapons carriers from each of the three light battalions; supplying nine 75mm. pack howitzers and making available an unlimited supply of ammunition; and integrating the whole, as a distinct organization, into the framework of the 155th F. A. Bn. Under Capt. Moser's command PMB moved "into the line" with its parent unit on 7 January 1944 and prepared for action.

Action was not long delayed, nor did it ever slacken appreciably during the two months that ensued. From three successive positions, operating as an 8-gun battery, "Pac"--as it came to be referred to conveniently and affectionately--fired well in excess 300 missions of every sort, for a recorded total of 15,939 rounds. First under Capt. Moser and thereafter under 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, who succeeded Capt. Moser upon his January 20th transfer from the Division, "Pac" shortly became and continued a hard hitting and ever reliable member of the Battalion team, particularly adapted to the terrain requirements of the operative front.

The March 1st reorganization of the Battalion under the newly applicable T/O called an end to the successful experiment and terminated the brief but useful existence of "Pac". It moved on March 1st from its position in the line to a rear area; on March 4th it was formally disbanded, component personnel returning to former battery affiliations. The solid achievements of the organization and the marked esprit de corps it had attained bespeak volumes to the credit of the men, officer and enlisted, who molded, inspired, and fought it.

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Digest of composite oral account of Capt. Richard B. Hawk, 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, 1st Sgt James G. Williams and S/Sgt Remson R. Cover.

It was 1250 when the first round came in. We Baker CP made a party line with the Exec Post, Bn CP and we were sensing where they came in. They finally getting a bracket around No. 2 and 3 guns, then shifted to just over of No. 1. We kept on reporting and finally wire was out to Bn CP, but 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell had phone connections to all guns and radioed Bn for Medicos. Pvt 1cl George C. Smith and Pvt Herbert R. Mahle were hurt. 1st Sgt James G. Williams ordered stretcher from CP. Capt. Richard B. Hawk got to the Exec Post and asked about extent of damages. Bell and Pvt 1cl Cleburne H. Schmidt (Med) were at Exec Post taking care of wounded. Telephone message to 1st Lt. Bell said man on #1 gun was losing blood. Capt. Hawk and Sgt Williams went to No. 1 gun where all fire was being directed (fire for effect). Bulk of men had gone under culvert between No. 1 and 2 guns (about 6 feet wide, 8 feet tall and 1 yd longer than a CP tent.) Sgt Williams worked on Sgt Milton A. Herbort Pvt Julius Shocko (Med) worked on Pvt 1cl Homer H. Reynolds...hurt by two shells. Capt Hawk worked on Jack P. Feichtner. Pvt. Sgt Herbort was against bank of creek at entrance to culvert. Pvt Shocko bandaged Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong. Pvt Shocko pulled out morphine syrette and said that man had not been given morphine (Pvt Jack P. Feichtner). Said Pvt Stanley V. Kasprazak had been shot in the stomach, gave him shot of morphin. Capt. Hawk got his shirt off, had to unbutton his clothes and Pvt 1cl Lester M. Banse (Med) came down culvert with stretcher. Then Medical Capt. Charles O. Tool came in and Capt. Hawk said to him, "Here's a case hard to handle." "You take it". Sgt Herbort told Capt Hawk two men in dugout were badly hurt (found Pvt Walter J. Wagner with left leg barely hanging on to body)...also hit in upper cheek. Cpl Melvin B. Haley was there with him. Capt Hawk looked at Pvt Wagner and noticed Cpl James E. Bills - badly hurt, put hand on Cpl Bills and realized that he was dead...in a crouching position. Asked Capt. Tool to come up, and Capt. Tool pronounced Cpl Bills dead. Sgt Williams went to Pvt Feichtner and turned him over to aid man. Capt. Tool started to work on Pvt Wagner. Sgt Williams and Pvt John Genna took Pvt Feichtner out of culvert and placed him in deep ditch which was parallel to road...(being pinned down by heavy and continuous fire). Tec 5 James W. McNeill (Med) and Pvt John Genna came in with stretchers and asked for additional blankets. Sgt Williams showed them a tent and they were obtained from there. Capt Hawk came back and everybody was being taken care of. Four Medicos and Sgt Williams were in end of culvert. At that time shell hit directly under Pvt 1cl Reynolds (who was having his back bandaged by Pvt 1cl Banse); blew Capt. Hawk, Pvt 1cl Schmidt, Pvt 1cl Banse and Sgt Remson R. Cover (Med) into culvert and Sgt Williams stunned and thrown against wall of culvert. When Capt. Hawk came to he called the roll and everyone answered except Pvt 1cl Reynolds. His body was torn apart - had been tossed across culvert and ambulance which was on top of culvert; his legs were in a tree. This was about 1315. Pvt 1cl Banse had been hurt and there were more holes in Sgt Herbort(left hip).


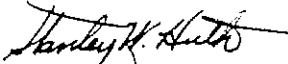
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Shell fire continued. Another round hit over the wall and Pvt Charles R. Allen in the leg; he crawled to edge of creek assisted by Sgt Williams. Sgt Williams turned him over to Sgt Cover. Lt. Bell came, under fire and had taken Sgt Herbert towards Exec Post - carrying him; had to detour as powder in No. 2 reserve ammunition pit was on fire. Pvt Allen and Pvt lcl Banse sent down creek to cut across because firing was covering road. Capt. Hawk found Pvt Kasprzak, turned him over to Sgt. Cover. Capt. Hawk started to look for Capt. Tool. Somebody hollowed, "Medico is hurt". Capt. Hawk believed Capt. Tool would take care of whoever it was and did not start immediately to investigate. Then somebody said Capt. Tool was hurt (while working on Pvt Wagner). Sgt Cover was bandaging Pvt Kasprzak's leg and Pvt lcl Schmidt was helping. Gave him morphine. Pvt Shocco walked with Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong to Exec Post at the same time Lt. Bell was carrying Sgt Herbert. Cpl Bernard L. Fiecke and Pvt lcl Leland E. Grove were using sandbags and bidons to put out fire and Capt. Hawk told them to get out of the field. Pvt Shocco was then returning from Exec Post. Sgt. Williams sent Pvt Kasprzak, and Pvt lcl Schmidt down the creek; saw they were not going to make it because of shelling so had Pvt lcl Schmidt force Pvt Kasprzak on Sgt Williams back. Shell Fire concussion knocked them down twice; on the third try succeeded in putting Pvt Kasprzak in No. 3 Gun dugout. Sgt. Williams went back to culvert and Pvt lcl Schmidt continued working on Kasprzak. At the same time this was all happening Capt. Hawk had gone to Capt. Tool and said, "Dr, are you hurt?". He said, "yes" "want to look at my back." Capt. Hawk asked could he help him. Capt. Tool asked if all the boys were being taken care of. Capt. Hawk told him, "Yes"... cut his pants off and saw hole in center of his back. Told him how and where he was hurt and asked him to try to move his legs and Capt. Tool said, "Don't worry I already have...they are all right." Bandaged Capt. Tool and gave him morphine and all this time he was working on Pvt Wagner. Pvt Wagner asked to have his tourniquet tightened but Capt. Hawk knew it was already too tight so just pretended to tighten it. Capt. Hawk went back and sent all the men into the culvert, then remembered Pvt Feichtner and went into ditch to keep him company (offered him cigarette, talked to him and assured him he was going to be taken care of all right and would soon be on the way to the hospital.) Pvt Wagner and Capt. Tool were inside dugout. Capt. Hawk went with Sgt Cover to ambulance about 1345, turned ambulance around but a shell knocked him across the front seat...at the second shell having turned ambulance around he rushed to seek cover by the wall that had been blown in. Sgt Cover took cover too... in creek with Pvt Feichtner. Sgt Cover waited for stopping of fire and then went up and got the ambulance. Pvt Genna, Pvt Shocco and Pvt Walter H. LaFlamme (Med) Pvt Haley and Pvt Genna picked up Pvt Feichtner and put him in ambulance. Pvt Haley and Pvt LaFlamme tried moving Pvt Wagner, could not make it on account of lost footing. Sgt Cover, Capt. Hawk and Pvt Shocco lifted Pvt Wagner and put him in ambulance. All went to litter for Capt. Tool and put him in ambulance as No. 4. Put Pvt Armstrong on weapons carrier and Pvt lcl Smith, Pvt Haley and Pvt lcl Lawrence P. Spittler on weapons carrier as walking wounded. Ambulance and weapons carrier out about 1410. Pvt lcl William A. Nomack drove ambulance and Pvt lcl James L. McNeill (Med) drove weapons carrier. Sgt Williams tried to get another ambulance for remaining wounded. Lt. Bell radioed for ambulance and doctor; was criticised by radio operator for using radio for such message, then went down to No. 4 gun. At this time Pvt Kasprzak was at No. 3, Pvt Allen at No. 4 and Pvt lcl Banse had walked to aid station.

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Capt. Hawk and Sgt Cover took weapons carrier and went back for bodies. Pvt Haley and Pvt. Genna went with Sgt Cover to wrap bodies in blankets. Sgt Cover took weapons carrier to Baker CP. Capt. Hawk went back to creek and everybody was gone. Found out that Lt. Bell had previously gone back and ordered all out of gun positions and to take cover in creek 200 yds away. Sgt Floyd M. Haynes was in charge. Firing stopped temporarily. Capt. Hawk came up road and met Sgt. Williams and altho' told that he had checked to see if all had been cleared Capt. Hawk went back again to check gun position. Shelling started again. Sgt. Williams went back to Exec Post and Pvt 1cl Thomas B. Kaminsky came back with litter. Put Pvt Kasprzak on litter (Pvt 1cl Schmidt was taking care of him). Capt. Hawk, Sgt Cover and Pvt 1cl Schmidt went back to CP and Pvt Kasprzak was sent to hospital in a jeep. Dr. Phelan and men from 131st aid station had meanwhile arrived and were waiting at CP but there was nothing they could do. Sgt Cover and Capt. Hawk went back to No. 4 gun to check again; found nothing. Pvt Allen had walked from creek to CP with Pvt Fiecke and Pvt Elwood L. Godwin; Pvt Thomas J. Tomaso (Med) was marking tags. No transportation was available to evacuate until ambulance returned.

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STANLEY W. HUTH
W.O. (Jg) F. A.
UNIT HISTORIAN.

11 Incls:

- Exhibits A - Casualty List.
- " B - Consolidated Casualties.
- " C - Officers Roster.
- " D - Unit Journal.
- " E - Air Section Missions
- " F - S - 2 Reports.
- " G - S - 3 Reports.
- " H - Daily Firing Reports.
- " I - Situation overlay's # 18, 19, 20 and 21 for March 1944.
- " J - Maps.
- " K - Firing Charts.


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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

In supplement of previous months' conclusions, from which the intervening combat experience of the Battalion has not indicated material change, the following observations and suggestions are submitted.

Metro messages received by the Battalion have been of extremely varying reliability. Inquiry has disclosed that the metro station is often located at a considerable distance to the rear of the howitzer positions, which more often than not are well in advance of the Division light battalions. In terrain of the sort confronting us, characterized by irregularly criss-crossed mountain ranges separated by deep valleys, divergent air currents and widely fluctuating atmospheric conditions between two points a few miles apart are the rule. It is felt that proximity of the place of taking meteorological readings to that of their known intended use would contribute appreciably to operating efficiency.

Receipt of recently exposed and developed air photos of the current target area, despite a relatively stabilized situation, has been infrequent at best. Regular automatic supply of these in adequate quantity would be more than helpful in the accomplishment of assigned missions.

The Battalion was "in the line" from 16 November to 18 March, with the exception of 8 days (30 Dec.- 7 Jan.), a goodly part of which week was consumed by moving out and then moving back. During the last few weeks not only was action relatively quiet on our front for intermittent days, punctuated by occasional enemy harassing mortar fire, but daily ammunition expenditure was severely restricted regardless. The conditions mentioned - protracted sojourn opposite the enemy, in a constant state of readiness, coupled with diminishing activity and curtailed ammunition allotment - provoke an "attrition" of morale and combat efficiency that, for future purposes, should be taken into critical account.

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN MARCH 1944

1. Pvt 1cl Karol S. Polasek, 36174174, Battery "A", was seriously wounded on 4 March 44 by enemy shell fragments which hit him in the back. Entered the service from Owosso, Michigan.
2. Pvt Joseph J. McGough, 33580823, Battery "A", seriously wounded by shell fragments in left knee, back and head on 4 March 44. Entered Service from Philadelphia, Pa.
3. Pvt Julius (HEI) Hankin, 32918969, Battery "A", lightly wounded in right arm by enemy shell burst on 4 Mar 44. Entered the service from Trenton, N. J.
4. Pvt David (HEI) Simon, 32333638, Battery "A", slight cheek wound by enemy shellfire on 4 March 44. Entered service from Bronx, N. Y.
5. Pvt 1cl John W. Deeds, 33126817, Battery "A", slight neck wound by enemy shrapnel on 4 March 44. Entered service from Palmyra, Va.
6. Pvt James E. Lenahan, 32724698, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on 6 March 44 by enemy shell fragments near Cassino, Italy. Entered service from Rockland, N. Y.
7. Cpl James E. Bills, 20816497, Battery "B", was instantly killed when enemy shells landed near his gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
8. Pvt 1cl Homer H. Reynolds, 38039007, was killed on 18 March 44 when three enemy shells landed in area. Entered service from Abeline, Texas.
9. Pvt Charles R. Allen, 33762849, Battery "B", was lightly wounded in left leg by enemy shell fragment on 18 March 44. Entered service from Johnstown, Pa.
10. Pvt Stanley V. Kasprzak, 32730961, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments in the stomach on 18 March 44. Entered service from Buffalo, N. Y.
11. Pvt Walter J. Wagner, 36174338, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fire which resulted in the loss of his left leg on 18 March 44. Entered service from Detroit, Michigan.
12. Sgt Milton A. Herbolt, 38025542, Battery "B", seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in neck, shoulders, left side and back on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fredericksburg, Tex.

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24. Pvt Oscar M. Armstrong, 35213541, Battery "B", was seriously wounded on head, neck, and chest 18 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. Entered service from New Cumberland, W. Va.

25. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin, 34170325, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on right knee 18 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. He was not hospitalized. Entered service from Wade, North Carolina.

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13. Pvt Jack P. Feichtner, 15317262, Battery "B", seriously wounded on 18 March 44 when enemy shell fragment struck him in stomach. Entered service from Cincinnati, Ohio.
 14. Pvt 1cl George C. Smith, 36173721, Battery "B", lightly wounded in legs by shell fragments on 18 March 44. Entered service from Rochester, Michigan.
 15. Pvt 1cl Lawrence R. Spittler, 36174183, Battery "B", lightly wounded in arm during enemy shelling of gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Owosso, Michigan.
 16. Pvt Herbert R. Mahle, 33583271, Battery "B", slight scalp wound received during enemy shelling on 18 March 44. Entered service from Philadelphia, Pa.
 17. Captain Richard B. Hawk, O-415562, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 during enemy shelling. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Dallas, Texas.
 18. 1st Sgt James G. Williams, 20816403, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 in head and left side by shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.
 19. Pvt 1cl Bernard L. Fiecke, 37285121, Battery "B", lightly wounded 18 March 44 and remained on duty. Entered service from Winstead, Minn.
 20. Pvt Harry J. Nelsen, 32746114, Battery "B", lightly wounded 18 March 44 by enemy shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Altamont, N. Y.
 21. Captain Charles D. Tool, O-475899, Battery "B", Medical Corps, seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in pelvis and on back. Officer was giving aid to wounded men when hit. Entered service from Edmund, Okla.
 22. Pvt 1cl John V. Banse, 20816022, Medical Detachment, lightly wounded in left upper arm and in the right leg. Entered service from San Antonio, Texas.
 23. Pvt 1cl Lawrence W. Kellerman, Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragments 18 March 44 on right hand. He was not hospitalized. Entered Service from Sheldon, North Dakota.

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CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a consolidated list of casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of March 1944.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action-----	0	2
Wounded in Action Hospitalized-----	1	14
Died of Wounds-----	0	0
Missing in Action-----	0	0
Injured in Action-----	0	0
Wounded and remained on Duty-----	1	7
TOTAL-----	2	23

Of the Enlisted Personnel reported on Battle Casualty Reports 12 have returned to duty with this Battalion.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

31 March 1944

BATTALION STAFF

ATKINS, THOMAS T.	Lt. Col.	0-246315	Bn Cmr.
GILMER, LAWRENCE D.	Capt.	0-225409	Bn Exec.
WALDROP, WILLIAM D.	Capt.	0-348140	S-3
EVANS, GERALD W.	Capt.	0-1165012	Ass't S-3
JESSUP, WILLIAM J.	Capt.	0-415050	S-2
VINES, RUFUS P. JR.	1st Lt.	0-1167256	Bn Sur. Off.
KENT, RAYMOND F.	1st Lt.	0-1176092	Ass't S-3

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W.	1st Lt.	0-1166867	Btry CO
CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.	1st Lt.	0-1177328	Ass't Comd
STEWART, JACK R.	1st Lt.	0-403496	Mtr Off.
JUDSON, PAUL F.	2nd Lt.	0-1181319	Mtr Off. (TD)
KROGG, VERNON C.	1st Lt.	0-469918	Air Off.
SVOBODA, ARTIE F.	2nd Lt.	0-1180360	Air Off.

"A" BATTERY

BUSH, WILLIAM L.	Capt.	0-407530	Btry CO
BENT, CHARLES A.	1st Lt.	0-1175945	Exec.
SAN, BEAMAN W.	1st Lt.	0-1172638	R. O.
MARTIN, KARL F.	2nd Lt.	0-1180599	Mtr Off.

"B" BATTERY

HAWK, RICHARD B.	Capt.	0-415562	Btry CO
BELL, LEROY L.	1st Lt.	0-418651	Exec.
FINGERHUT, KIVA S.	1st Lt.	0-1176013	R. O.
MOOREHEAD, RICHARD J.	2nd Lt.	0-1170486	Mtr. Off.

"C" BATTERY

FRANZ, HARRY P.	Capt.	0-404452	Btry CO
NEWSOM, CLARENCE O.	1st Lt.	0-1167141	Exec.
REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.	1st Lt.	0-1167174	R. O.
BURPO, FRANK M.	2nd Lt.	0-1703017	Mtr. Off.

SERVICE BATTERY

VINES, WALTON M.	1st Lt.	0-1167257	Btry CO, S-4
DAVIS, FRANK H.	Capt.	0-405152	Bn Mtr Off.
MOORE, MERLE G.	2nd Lt.	0-1177102	Train Comdr.
COCK, HARLAN (NMI) JR.	2nd Lt.	0-1167785	Mtr. Off. (TD)
DOLLINGER, JOSEPH (NMI)	Capt.	0-1689338	Med. Off.
HUTH, STANLEY W.	WOJG	W-2108253	Pers. Off.
JOHNSON, HAROLD E.	CWO	W-2101894	Ass't S-4

[REDACTED]

ASSIGNMENTS, LOSSES AND CHANGES OF DUTY OF BATTALION OFFICERS

1. Captain Frank M. Davis, Battalion Liaison Officer to Staff unassigned 4 March 1944.
2. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, Motor Officer, Battery "C" to Battalion Liaison Officer 4 March 1944.
3. 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley from Battalion Anti Tank Officer to Assistant Communication Officer 4 March 1944.
4. 1st Lt. Gerald W. Evans, promoted to Captain and reassigned as Assistant S - 3 from Headquarters Battery Commander.
5. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson reassigned from Battalion Liaison Officer to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery, 18 March 1944.
6. 2nd Lt. Karl F. Martin, reassigned from Train Commander to Motor Officer, Battery "A", 18 March 1944.
7. 2nd Lt. Lerle G. Moore, reassigned from Motor Officer Headquarters Battery to Train Commander, 18 March 1944.
8. 1st Lt. Clarence C. Newson, reassigned from Assistant S-2 to Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.
9. 1st Lt. Robert E. Reynolds, reassigned to Reconnaissance Officer Battery "C" from Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.
10. Captain Frank M. Davis, from Staff unassigned to Battalion Motor Officer, 21 March 1944.
11. 1st Lt. Rufus P. Vines, Jr., from Battalion Motor Officer to Battalion Survey Officer.
12. 2nd Lt. Frank W. Burpo received Battle Field Appointment from 1st Sergeant on 19 March and assigned as Motor Officer, Battery "C" on 21 March 1944.
13. 1st Lt. Vernon C. Krogg, returned to duty with Air Section after being absent sick for three months.
14. 1st Lt. Charles F. Kieffer, left for America on Rotation.
15. Captain Charles D. Tool, Battalion Medical Officer transferred to Detachment of Patients, 36th General Hospital, due to wounds received in action on 18 March 1944.

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16. Captain Joseph Dollinger, assigned to Battalion vice Captain Tool transferred.
 17. 2nd Lts. Harlan Cook and Paul F. Judson assigned to Battalion on Temporary Duty and assigned as Motor Officers of Service Battery and Headquarters Battery respectively.
 18. 1st Lt. Gerald W. Evans and 1st Lt. William J. Jessup promoted to captain and 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley promoted to 1st Lt., effective 22 February 1944.
 19. 1st Lt. Harry P. Frantz promoted to Captain and 2nd Lt. Beaman W. Sam promoted to 1st Lt., effective 21 March 1944.

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155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, MAY 1944

In the interim between withdrawal of the Battalion from the line in the Cassino sector on 18 March and its preparation to re-enter combat in May, bivouacs were successively occupied near Capitone and later near Forino; complete reorganization under the 3 July 1943 T/C & E 6-335 was effected; a training program and various recreational activities were simultaneously carried on; and one 3-day field exercise, with service practice, was held.

During the period 1 to 6 May 1944, inclusive, advance detachments from the Battalion left the Forino area to prepare camouflaged gun positions and other necessary installations, under cover of darkness, in the area extending parallel to the beach 2 to 4 kilometers southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. Extensive digging and liberal use of sandbags and heavy timbers were entailed.

Meanwhile, the Battalion TQM, Captain Gerald W. Evans, was shaping up plans for possible undisclosed water movement.

On 6 May the Battalion moved from the Forino environs to the new, previously reconnoitred bivouac area in the vicinity of Qualiano and established a formalized base camp. Leaving this occupied by about 200 men as a "rear rear" echelon, with complete installations and parked simulated howitzers, the bulk of the Battalion moved forward the night of 8 - 9 May into the prepared positions southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. With some 300 personnel the prepared positions were occupied; and additional 100 or so, including service elements, were set up in a "forward rear" approximately 3 miles east of Mondragone, wither were dispatch all vehicles, except messenger "jeeps" and 2-3/4 ton C & R's. Daily trips between "forward", "forward rear", and "rear rear" were inaugurated, and all the other vehicular traffic in and out of the position area was restricted to hours of darkness, during which complete blackout was imposed.

09 May Weather clear and hot; visibility clear. Enemy observation impaired by use of smoke between Battalion position and the Garigliano River. Battalion was assigned mission of general support of the 85th Infantry Division. Two ground Observation Posts set, wire circuits completed, and batteries reported ready to fire in early morning hours. No ammunition expenditure yet.

10 May No change in weather or visibility. Advantageous smoke mask continues. Visit in forenoon from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery. Brief ineffective counterbattery received in early afternoon, probably 170mm gun. Registration of 1 howitzer from "G" Battery on Base Point and Check Point #1 by a 910th Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (23ras). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 23 rounds HE.

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- 11 May No change in weather or visibility. Same protective smoke in use. Forenoon visit from Executive and Surgeon, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, with printed messages from General Alexander and General Clark. Battalion TQM called for to report to 36th Infantry Division Rear on the morrow. Repetition of enemy afternoon harassment. Operation "Lucky" launched throughout theatre at 2300 hours, Battalion firing in support, in its allotted zone on 8 previously assigned target areas before midnight. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 394 rounds HE.
- 12 May Five previously assigned missions were carried out during early morning hours (264 rounds). Continued good weather and clear visibility. Check Point #1 registration checked (36 rounds). Observed mission on enemy dugouts, adjusted by Battery "C" Observation Post; destruction reported (39 rounds). Repetition of 2 of previous night's 13 unobserved missions fired (176 rounds). Reconnaissance of new position area by Battery Commanders and S-2 in preparation for expected forward displacement. Various defensive and counter-attack repelling fires before midnight (475 rounds). Three night harassing fires initiated at 2300 hours (72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1062 rounds HE.
- 13 May Previous night's 3 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (360 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Area targets during day (467 rounds), plus neutralization of one machine gun emplacement (29 rounds). Night displacement forward to positions just north of Kinturno. Total ammunition expenditure this date - 856 rounds HE.
- 14 May Weather somewhat cooler to hot. Visibility, otherwise clear, intermittently impaired by ground fog and smoke. Base Point and Check Point registrations (71 rounds). Fires in support of local attacks, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (296 rounds). Afternoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery. Nine night harassing missions (83 rounds - fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 447 rounds HE and 3 smoke.
- 15 May Previous night's 9 harassing missions continued to 0530 hours (306 rounds). Weather hot, visibility good. Check of registrations (94 rounds). Brief morning TOT (30 rounds). Afternoon fires in support of attacks (437 rounds); uniformly favorable results reported. Brief mission on enemy trucks (5 rounds). Scattered enemy counterbattery in late evening of 14th May till past midnight; several duds, including one almost intact 170 mm gun projectile, subsequently examined by Ordnance Lieutenant Wade, to whom it was reported. Eight night harassing missions (186 rounds fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1053 rounds HE and 5 rounds smoke.

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- 16 May Previous night's 8 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (267 rounds). Weather warm, visibility clear. Alert from 36th Division Artillery for march order (0445 hours) followed at 0930 hours by message from same source scheduling 1230 hours as the tentative hour of departure. This advice countermanded at 1045 hours, and the Battalion remained in position, ready to fire, pending further orders. Unobserved fires in evening or reported enemy tanks and infantry assembly areas, per 36th Division Artillery request (384 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 651 rounds HE.
- 17 May No weather nor visibility change. Rolling barrages from 0450 to 0650 hours (461 rounds). Four morning harassing missions (67 rounds). Infiltration march from positions to "rear rear" in Qualiano vicinity, per 36th Division Artillery order, 2030 to 0130 hours of 18th May. Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 528 rounds HE.
- 18 May Advance party, consisting of Major Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive, Captain William L. Bush, Commanding Battery "A", Captain Richard B. Hawk, Commanding Battery "B" and Captain Harry P. Frantz Jr, Commanding Battery "C", reported to the "Texas" Staging area near Pozzuoli at 1600 hours 18 May and travelled by LST overnight to Nettuno with other 36th Division Artillery representatives to prepare for arrival of the 36th Division Artillery Battalions. Battalion "Beachhead Contingent" arrived "Texas" Staging Area about 1800 hours 18th May, bivouacked nearby, loaded aboard LST and departed about 1615 hours 19th May, and unloaded at Anzio about 0700 hours on 20th May, proceeding thence several miles inland to a thicketed assembly area. Battalion Executive, Battalion Survey Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Ammunition Sergeant, and three firing Battery Commanders reconnoitred prepared gun positions and possible Battalion installations, with able assistance from the 185th Field Artillery Battalion. Communications wire net installed. Battalion Executive set up permanently in selected Command Post. Bulk of Battalion bivouacked 20th to 22nd May in assembly area, to be used hereafter as rear echelon installation. Improvement of howitzers night of 21st - 22nd, with registration of 1 piece per Battery about 1300 hours on 22nd May (10 rounds). Fire Direction Center having meanwhile started business on the 22nd. Forward elements moved into position night of 22nd - 23rd in vicinity north of Conca, Battalion "Beachhead Contingent", forward plus rear comprises 331 men and 24 officers. Mission: Support of 1st Special Service Force. Liaison established with 463rd Field Artillery Battalion by Lieutenant Bell. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 11 rounds HE.

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- 23 May H - hour 0630. Preparatory fires begun 0545. Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good except as impaired by smoke. Check of registration (21 rounds). Nine supporting fires, including preparation (748 rounds). Six morning counterbattery missions, with reported neutralizing effect (319 rounds); three in afternoon (248 rounds). Five missions on enemy tanks, with reported destruction of 5 and damage to a sixth (196 rounds). Counter-attack repelled (428 rounds). Five defensive fire missions (158 rounds). One night mission on enemy guns (24 rounds). Total expenditure of ammunition for period - 2102 rounds HE and 40 rounds smoke.
- 24 May Four early morning harassing missions (28 rounds) followed by 685 rounds of supporting fire in reinforcement of 151st Field Artillery Battalion fires. Enemy batteries and tanks taken under fire in series of forenoon missions (288 rounds), Air Observation Post reporting neutralization. Battalion Commander, S-2 and Communications Officer on morning reconnaissance of possible forward position areas. Early cloudiness clears up as visibility continues hazy. Afternoon missions on enemy tanks and guns (72 rounds) adjusted by Air Observation Post. Night unobserved fire (273 rounds) delivered on enemy bridges. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1337 rounds HE and 9 rounds smoke.
- 25 May Early morning unobserved missions on SP's (310 rounds). Weather warm and clear, visibility good. Forward reconnaissance by S-2 and Communications Officer. "CSMO" at 1315 hours. Movement of B attalion to new positions some 8.5 miles northeast. Registration of one howitzer in late afternoon (7 rounds). Rear echelon simultaneously displaced forward to occupy location just vacated by Battalion Command Post. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 314 rounds HE and 3 rounds smoke.
- 26 May Reconnaissance of new positions, some 5 miles to northwest, undertaken by Major William D. Waldrop, Battalion S-3, Captain William J. Jessup, Battalion S-2, and Battery Commander at 0400 hours. Forward displacement of Battalion occupy same begun at 0545. Lieutenant Bell recalled from liaison with 463rd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 68th Field Artillery Battalion, in accordance with new Battalion mission of general support and fire-reinforcement of same. Simultaneous forward displacement of rear echelon to occupy newly vacated Battalion position area. Registration of all Batteries at 0840 - 0940 hours (37 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Twenty supporting fire missions accomplished in forenoon (931 rounds). Continuous afternoon observed missions on enemy roadnet, vehicles, tanks, and artillery (433 rounds), with reported neutralization, destruction of 1 tank, and commencement of several large fires.
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Ammunition train engaged in steady, unrelieved shuttle, cannoners on 24 hour duty. All available personnel (e.g., cooks, mechanics, etc.) used to supplement train and howitzer sections. Steps taken to prod Division into getting up our 200 - odd personnel from the rear near San Prisco. Lieutenant Bell recalled from liaison assignment, Battalion reverting to Division control. Five early night harassing missions (204 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1547 rounds HE and 58 rounds smoke.

- 27 May Six later night harassing missions (1132 rounds). Continued good weather and visibility. Couple of morning observed missions (44 rounds). Registration Check from Air Observation Post (28 rounds). Observed missions on enemy vehicles, armor, and artillery (129 rounds); neutralization plus 2 direct hits on tanks reported. Four early night harassing missions (502 rounds). Unobserved night fire in repulsion of enemy counter-attack (240 rounds). Enemy aerial harassment of this general vicinity twice during night. Ammunition expenditure for day - 2127 rounds HE and 21 rounds smoke.
- 28 May Weather and visibility still all to the good. Four morning harassing missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery (80 rounds). Registration checks from Air Observation Post (21 rounds). Observed mission on ammunition dump and enemy trucks (52 rounds); reported destruction of 2 trucks. Afternoon harassing fire (72 rounds). Eight unobserved missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery, on reported enemy tank positions (383 rounds). Enemy Observation Post destroyed (24 rounds); adjustment from Air Observation Post. Four observed missions on enemy tanks and guns (207 rounds), with reported neutralizing effect. Five night harassing missions (114 rounds) and 2 Binges (120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1061 rounds HE and 12 rounds smoke. Forward reconnaissance by S-2 and Battery Commanders. Personnel from rear (San Prisco) having started filtering up with empty vehicles past two days and 1st Lieutenant Newsum, first person from this Battalion to make a trip overland from the Beachhead over the newly captured Highway 7, having returned to San Prisco to expedite the movement. Whole sale arrivals by LSTs this morning bring total personnel on hand to 27 Officers and 525 enlisted men, plus most of equipment and all vehicles except five.
- 29 May Enemy counterattacks dealt with for couple hours from shortly after midnight (1043 rounds). Three early morning supporting fire missions (320 rounds). Perfect weather and visibility conditions.

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Time adjustment from Air Observation Post (30 rounds). Tanks, Machine Guns, and Artillery taken under fire in forenoon (93 rounds); neutralization, including 1 direct on gun. One bridge destroyed (16 rounds). Neutralization of enemy guns in 4 Air adjusted missions (126 rounds). Several target hits in two observed mission on strong point and machine gun positions (63 rounds). Trucks effectively harassed (16 rounds). Demonstration, preparation fires, and a Bingo (416 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 2103 rounds HE and 23 rounds smoke. "A" Battery displaced forward by infiltration during afternoon, "B" Battery likewise in evening after dark. Personnel Section, having received orders from the Division Rear Commandant, moved overland in British Lorries from San Prisco, along Highway 7, to the area about 2 miles north west of Nettuno.

30 May Early morning preparation fires (180 rounds). Later demonstration (80 rounds). Observed missions on enemy trucks and infantry (91 rounds). Check point registration of Battery "A" and "B" in new positions, Air Observation Post adjusting (66 rounds). Same perfect weather and visibility conditions prevailing. Three mile forward displacement of "C" Battery and Battalion installations by infiltration completed during afternoon, Battalion rear meanwhile occupying location just vacated by Command Post. Mission of direct support of 36th Combat Engineers assigned; liaison established by Lieutenant Bell. Possible new positions, further forward, reconnoitred by Battalion Command and S-2. Afternoon demonstration fires (250 rounds). Successive Base Point and Check Point registrations (134 rounds). Observed adjustment on an enemy installation (43 rounds). Afternoon and night Binges (70 rounds). Six night harassing missions (96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 915 rounds HE and 95 rounds of smoke. Technician grade 5 Romeo J. Harzi, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left upper arm by mysterious small arm slug in early morning. Private Edward A. Tinnies, Headquarters Battery, attached to Battalion from Personnel Center No. 9, sprained or broke foot while wire laying. Both men evacuated to hospital.

31 May Private James P. Doyle, Battery "A", seriously injured about midnight May 30-31 then excessively recoiling howitzer cleared trail trench and pinned him beneath wheel. Early morning enemy aerial harassment of vicinity. No weather nor visibility change. Forenoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery and Commanding General VI Corps Artillery. Fire started in enemy battery position - observed adjustment (69 rounds). Registration checks from Air Observation Post (52 rounds).

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Seven harassing missions (1416 rounds). Observed missions from noon to midnight on enemy vehicles, armor, heavy weapons, and artillery, with reported effect of area neutralization, 1 explosion among trucks and 4 direct hits on machine gun emplacement (207 rounds). Afternoon Bingo (99 rounds). Repulsion of early night counter-attack (109 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1935 rounds HE and 17 rounds smoke.

The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	0	0
DCW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
LRA	0	1	1
SMA	0	1	1
MIA	0	0	0
POW	0	0	0

No replacements have been received during the month.

"SILVER STAR CITATIONS RECEIVED
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN."

1. NAME
1st Lt. Phillip A. Chockley, Headquarters Battery, home, Shelbyville, Tenn.
DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
20 December 1944, Migano, Italy.
CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
Saved lives of his men during a terrific enemy artillery bombardment, carrying to shelter those wounded and administering first aid under shell fire.
2. NAME
1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, Battery "B", home, San Antonio, Texas.
First Sergeant James G. Williams, Battery "B", home, Fort Worth, Texas.
Staff Sergeant Remson R. Cover, Medical Detachment, home, San Antonio, Texas.
Corporal Melvin B. Haley, Battery "B", Fort Worth, Texas.
Private First Class John L. McNeill Jr., Medical Detachment, home San Antonio, Texas.
Private First Class Cleburne H. Schmidt, Medical Detachment, home San Houston, Texas.

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Private First Class John V. Banse, Medical Detachment, home San Antonio, Texas.
Private Julius (NMI) Shocco, Medical Detachment, home, Eckerman, Michigan.
Private John (NMI) Genna, Battery "B", home, Jamaica, New York.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

18 March 1944, near Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above Officer and Enlisted Men were cited as follows:
Battery position having been located by the enemy; a terrific concentration of enemy artillery was received in this area, wounding a number of men. While the position was being shelled the above cited worked continuously evacuating the wounded, even though wounded themselves.

3. NAME

Sergeant Arthur A. Young, Battery "C", home, Palestine, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

7 January 1944, San Pietro, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Saved the lives of his section during an intense enemy artillery shelling, taking them to cover over an open field and administering first aid. Sergeant having been wounded, disregarded his wounds and continued with his evacuation until another burst fatally wounded him.

"BRONZE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atkins, Battalion Commander, home, Hampton, Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

For gallantry in action near Altavilla, Italy in placing the Battalion in position and conducting the firing on enemy counterattack, which was repulsed at this critical time.

2. NAME

1st Lt. Clarence C. Newson, Battalion Train Commander, home, Coffe Springs, Alabama.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Under shell fire, returned to the position previously occupied by Battalion from which he retrieved valuable, essential radio equipment and other property.

~~TOP SECRET~~ 32

3. NAME

Staff Sergeant Gilbert F. Schaeffer, Battery "C", home, Cleburne, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

27 September 1943, Maiori Beach, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

After the amphibious landing at Maiori Beach all Battery Officers present became casualties. Staff Sergeant Schaeffer assumed command and directed the Battery firing, under enemy artillery fire.

4. NAME

Sergeant Russel T. Flahie, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.

Corporal Palmer D. Taylor, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

26 - 28 September 1943, Chiunzi Pass, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above men, under intense enemy shell fire, kept essential wire communications between the 3rd Ranger Battalion and this Battalion, working many hours without rest or relief.

5. NAME

Corporal Edward (RML) Keeton, Battery "B", home, Houston, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

11 - 14 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Operated radio on Observation Post, under intense enemy shell fire and without relief or rest for period of 24 hours or more. His loyalty to duty by keeping the only communications intact assisted in repulsing an enemy tank attack.

6. NAME

Private First Class Grant L. Sauer, Service Batter, home, Pittsburgh, Penna.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

13 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Under enemy artillery shelling and enemy strafing, Private First Class Sauer left his place of safety to evacuate some of his wounded comrades and administer first aid.

7. NAME

Private First Class Welton R. Brasuell, Service Batter, home, New Braunfels, Texas.

Private First Class James W. Hawkins, Service Battery, home, Miami, Fla

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

11 September 1943, Pastum, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The above two men were working in the Battalion Shop, when German planes began strafing the area. Immediately manning the 50 caliber machine gun mounted on 4-ton wrecker, one firing and one feeding the machine gun, as one of the German planes came overhead a burst from the machine gun sent it down in flames.

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Stanley W. Ruth
 STANLEY W. RUTH
 W.O. (J.G.) F.A.
 Unit Historian

17 Incls.

- Exhibits:
- A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.
 - B - List of Casualties
 - C - Officers Roster
 - D - Officer Duty Changes
 - E - Field Order #1
 - F - Field Order #2
 - G - Unit Journal
 - H - Missions Flow by Air Section
 - I - S-1 Reports
 - J - S-2 Reports
 - K - S-3 Reports
 - L - Summary of Firing
 - M - Daily Report of Firing
 - N - Situation overlays #1,2,3,4,5
 - O - Operation overlays #1 and 2
 - P - Maps: Fontecorvo, Gaeta, Sessa Aurunca, Cassino
 - Q - Firing Charts (6)

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, *NNW 235017*

By *RB/VS*

NARA, Date *8-8-92*

CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

Experience continues to demonstrate the basic soundness of tactical doctrines expounded by the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, when applied with intelligence and discrimination to the eternally varying conditions of combat.

On more than one occasion recently, this Battalion has been assigned to a direct support mission and called on to provide two complete liaison teams and two or more officer forward observers, in addition to maintaining regular ground CP's. Under the now applicable T/O, it is well to remember, the Battalion is authorized, and has, only four (4) officers per battery (including the battery commander), no forward observers as such, one (1) liaison officer, and no liaison section, transportation, nor equipment.

The need for radio personnel additional to the limited number authorized by the T/O has been acutely felt.

The superiority of the "jeep" 1/4 ton over the 3/4 ton C & R vehicle for all combat purposes is increasingly apparent. Use of the 610-radio with the "jeep" as transport represents the most satisfactory available combination of ready communication and fast mobility.

Better provision for night lighting in the Battalion Fire Direction Center would diminish its difficulties and enhance its efficiency. Temporary accessibility to a generator of our accompanying anti-aircraft platoon of the 534th FA Bn (AA) has proved of substantial aid. The platoon in question has, in other respects as well, collaborated with the Battalion to perfection.

The appropriateness of some rating for the firing battery recorder, as well as higher rating for the firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers than presently authorized (corporal and Tec 5 respectively), deserves consideration. Expert and specialized ability is required in each connection, particularly under the 24-hour, night-blackout, frequently fast-moving conditions that characterize combat. If a man measures up to the responsibility, he is definitely of higher than fifth grade caliber; he is either held in an undeservedly lower grade than his capacity warrants or he is promoted to a different assignment, and the necessity of patient development of new talent for the vacated assignment, so essential to a medium artillery battalion, crops up anew.

Wanton and unnecessary damage to wire lines by cavorting armored elements in the vicinity of battery positions continues to multiply the man-hours required for maintenance of vital communications.

Hoped for and expected supply of target area air photos has failed to materialize in any appreciable quantity during current operations.

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It is gratifying to remark that zealous protective measures on the malaria front are yielding dividends: not a single case has yet developed in the Battalion this season.

The first effects of rotation replacement vary widely. To date only one officer and three men have arrived, another officer and five more men are awaited. The officer and one man received, Sergeant John W. Webb, ASN 6389377, fulfill requirements to satisfaction; another man, Corporal Silas M. Buchanan, ASN 39903290, had had no artillery training whatsoever but, by dint of patient and determined effort, is expected to "make the grade" in time as a gunner corporal; the third man, a private, gives evidence of neither artillery training, hopeful prospects, nor desirability.

In the light of the foregoing, it is RECOMMENDED THAT

- (1) The Battalion, when appropriate, be authorized and provided adequate liaison and observation personnel for direct support missions, in excess of T/C.
- (2) Additional radio operators be authorized and provided.
- (3) The 1/4 ton "Jeep" be substituted throughout for the 3/4 ton C & R car.
- (4) A portable generator be made available to the Fire Direction Center.
- (5) Firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers be accorded the rating of sergeant and Tec 4 respectively, and a rating of at least fifth grade be created for the firing battery recorder.
- (6) Rudimentary and repeated communications instruction be given all tank and tank destroyer drivers, with the provision that they are to repair immediately any wire lines that they cut, tactical conditions permitting.
- (7) Arrangements be perfected for prompt and continuous supply of target area map photos during combat operations.
- (8) The rotation system be amended to authorize that position vacancies created by rotation be filled by promotion within the Battalion, when possible, and upon approval of higher headquarters.

Thomas T. Atkins
 THOMAS T. ATKINS
 Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.
 Commanding

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN MAY 1944

1. Tec Gr 5 Romeo J. Marzi, ASN 32326319, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left arm by bullet. Entered service from New York City, New York.
2. Pvt James P. Doyle, ASN 32784403, Battery "A", seriously injured when Howitzer wheel ran over his chest. Trail broke when gun was fired and soldier was pinned underneath wheel. Entered service from Bronx, New York.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. 10. 36, U. S. Army

31 May 1944.

BATTALION STAFF

ATKINS, THOMAS T.	Lt. Col.	0-246315	Bn Cmdr.
GILMER, LAWRENCE D.	Major	0-255409	Bn Exec.
WALDROP, WILLIAM D.	Major	0-348140	S - 3
EVANS, GERALD W.	Capt.	0-1165012	Ass't S - 3
JESSUP, WILLIAM J.	Capt.	0-415050	S - 2
KENT, RAYMOND F.	1st Lt.	0-1176092	Bn Sur Off
BELL, LEROY L.	1st Lt.	0-418651	Bn Ln Off
DOLLINGER, JOSEPH (NMI)	Capt.	0-1689333	Med Off
HUTH, STANLEY W.	WOJG	W-2108253	Pers Off

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

WILLIAMSON, MARTIN W.	Capt.	0-1166867	Btry C O
CHOCKLEY, PHILLIP A.	1st Lt.	0-1177328	Ass't Com O
STEWART, JACK R.	1st Lt.	0-403496	Mtr Off
SVOBODA, ARTIE F.	2nd Lt.	0-1180360	Air Off

"A" BATTERY

BUSH, WILLIAM L.	Capt.	0-407530	Btry C O
BENT, CHARLES A.	1st Lt.	0-1175945	Exec
SAM, BEAMAN W.	1st Lt.	0-1172638	R. O.
MARTIN, KARL P.	2nd Lt.	0-1180599	Mtr. Off

"B" BATTERY

HATK, RICHARD B.	Capt.	0-415562	Btry C O
BURPO, FRANK W.	2nd Lt.	0-1703017	Exec
FINGERHUT, KIVA S.	1st Lt.	0-1176013	R. O.
McCREADY, RICHARD J.	2nd Lt.	0-1170486	Mtr Off.

"C" BATTERY

FRANTZ, HARRY P. JR.	Capt.	0-404452	Btry C O
REYNOLDS, ROBERT E.	1st Lt.	0-1167174	Exec.
JUDSON, PAUL F.	2nd Lt.	0-1181319	Mtr Off (TD)
COOK, HARLAN (NMI)	2nd Lt.	0-1167785	R. O. (TD)

SERVICE BATTERY

VINES, WALTON M.	Capt.	0-1167257	Btry C O, S-4
NEWSON, CLARENCE C.	1st Lt.	0-1167141	Bn Mtr Off
MOORE, MERLE G.	2nd Lt.	0-1177102	Train Comdg.
BAILEY, HAROLD W.	1st Lt.	0-1168943	Mtr Off.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. No. 36, U. S. Army

30 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Losses and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers
from 31 March thru 31 May 1944.

1. Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive promoted to Major 23 March 1944.
2. Captain William D. Kalarop, Battalion S-3, promoted to Major 23 March 1944.
3. 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, reassigned from Executive officer Btry "B" to Battalion Liaison officer 11 April 1944.
4. 2nd Lt. Frank M. Burpo, reassigned from Motor officer Btry "C" to Executive officer, Btry "B", 11 April 1944.
5. 2nd Lt. Paul F. Julson, from Motor officer, Headquarters Battery to Motor officer Btry "C", on 11 April 1944.
6. 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, reassigned from Ass't S-3 to Battalion Survey Officer effective 11 April 1944.
7. 1st Lt. Vernon C. Krogg, Air Pilot transferred to 178th Field Artillery Group on 15 April 1944.
8. 1st Lt. Walton M. Vines, promoted to Captain on 17 April 1944.
9. 1st Lt. Clarence C. Newson, reassigned from Executive officer Btry "C" to Battalion Motor Officer 24 April 1944.
10. 1st Lt. Robert E. Reynolds, Recon, officer to Btry Executive Btry "C" on 24 April 1944.
11. 2nd Lt. Harlan (HLL) Cook Jr., reassigned from Motor officer Service Btry to Recon officer Btry "C" on 24 April 1944.
12. 1st Lt. Harold W. Bailey, assigned to the Battalion on 24 April 1944. Rotation replacement for 1st Lt. Charles F. Keiffer.
13. Capt. Frank M. Davis, from Battalion Motor officer to absent sick and transferred to 45th General Hospital on 1 May 1944.

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14. CWO Harold E. Johnson, transferred to the 45th General Hospital on 8 May 1944.
15. 1st Lt. Rufus P. Vines, left Battalion on 8 April 1944 on rotation for the United States.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 735017

By RB/VSW

NARA, Date 8-8-92

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, JUNE 1944

01 June The Battalion continues in 36th Infantry Division general support, (See previous calendar month's history) with the advantage of typically warm summer weather and clear observation. Night harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (110 rds). Enemy planes harass area about 1900, dropping antipersonnel bombs, disrupting wire communications, and inflicting foot wounds on two Headquarters Battery men. 2nd Lieutenant Paul P. Jansen sustains slight shoulder wound later in the day from mortar fragment.

Morning Bingo (60 rds). Intermittent harassing fires during the day (230 rds). Observed missions on trucks, tanks, artillery, mortars, automatic weapons, and strong points (640 rds), with reported effect of neutralization, destruction of one mortar, and repeated hits on emplacements. Night bingo (50 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1069 HE and 21 Smoke.

02 June Night harassing fires (350 rds). Morning bingo and TCT (227 rds). Continued favorable weather and observation. Prolonged dry spell, however, provokes heavy clouds of dust over roads.

Battalion is assigned by 36th Division Artillery the mission of direct support of 157th Infantry (45th Division). This is shortly amended to provide for reinforcement of fires of 131st Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of 157th Infantry, and 1st Lieutenant Bell and Officer observers proceed thither. Initial new position area reconnaissance is superseded by 36th Division Artillery instruction to reconnoitre in specific map "goose egg"; so ordered, the Battalion Commander, S-2, Survey Officer, Communications Officer, and Battery Commanders and parties go forward and engage in skirmish a German Detachment which proves reluctant to vacate the area for the purpose. Our forces retire in good order, after capturing several prisoners, losing one wire vehicle, and incurring no casualties. Thereafter a forward displacement of the Battalion and occupation of the originally reconnoitred positions, a short distance north of Velletri, is accomplished.

Thirty-Sixth Division Artillery imposes limit of 100 rounds per gun per day till further notice.

Late evening registration of one battery by Air Observation Post (11 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 606 HE and 182 Smoke.

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03 June Completion of registration of Battalion (64 rus).

Towards noon 36th Division Artillery changes current Battalion Mission to direct support of 157th Infantry, but in less than an hour countermands such instruction.

Series of neutralizing observed fires delivered on enemy troops and weapons (423 rus). Air Observation Post check of registration (34 rus). One unobserved harassment mission on enemy personnel (193 rus).

04 June Rear elements of Battalion, including the Personnel Section, meanwhile moved forward to occupy position vacated by Battalion on evening of 2 June. Further morning forward reconnaissance is undertaken at 36th Division Artillery direction and the Battalion shortly follows, to rendezvous after several miles in area just north of Rocca di Papa. Battalion meanwhile reassigned mission of general support of the 36th Infantry Division right column; Lieutenant Bell is therefore relieved of liaison with 141st Infantry and rejoins the Battalion. Move forward is resumed and Battalion occupies position for a couple of hours in area to the west of Grottoferata, whence displacement ensues to new position about 5 miles southeast of Rome. By 2100 hours, Battalion rear and Personnel Section, moving by successive bounds, have closed in the same general area. No ammunition expenditure this date.

05 June Early morning Close Station March Order, directed by 36th Division Artillery, puts the Battalion on road towards Rome at 0330 hours, rear elements remaining in bivouac. March proceeds at creeping pace through Rome, after loading one Battalion of 143rd Infantry aboard trucks, crosses river, and continues to position area several miles to west, in vicinity of which Infantry are detrucked. Batteries prepare to register, but fire withheld at instance of supported troops pending further call.

Hot, dry weather, with dusty road conditions, continues. No ammunition expenditure this date.

06 June News of the Invasion of France received by radio. Battalion makes afternoon forward displacement to rendezvous area several miles northwest of Rome, rear elements, including Personnel Section, simultaneously occupying positions just vacated. Northerly route resumed after evening meal, and batteries go into position in vicinity of Quarto della Cascina. Radio Order at 2130 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, again closes station and puts Battalion on the road to northwest, in coordination with 133rd Field Artillery, Battalion and 976th Field Artillery Battalion. Congested traffic condition on narrow, rocky, circuitous route cause Battalion to creep all night behind infantry and widely diverse other elements, to rendezvous and seize a little rest beside highway shortly after dawn. No ammunition expenditure this date.

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07 June March to north preceded by brief reconnaissance by Battalion Commander, and S-2, is resumed at 0930 hours, Batteries disperse in "readiness" about 1030 hours near Stazione della Crocicche on Highway 1. Battalion rear elements rejoin Batteries in this area during the day. Lieutenant Bell established liaison with 36th Division Artillery. S-3, on 36th Division Artillery order and in consummation of announced relief of 143rd Infantry, arranges details to transport two 143rd Infantry battalions to bivouac; Battalion trucks depart for the purpose in late evening and early night. No ammunition expenditure this date.

08 June No change in weather.

Forward displacement of all Battalion elements to area west of Tolfa, short of Allumiere, closing in early afternoon. Rendezvous terminated by 36th Division Artillery directed reconnaissance for positions forward, followed by night blackout march of Battalion (less Service echelon) to vicinity south of Farquima. Mission assigned: Support of 361st Infantry Combat Team (includes 916th Field Artillery Battalion 91st Division). Occupation of positions and preparations to fire completed about midnight. No ammunition expenditure this date.

Paragraph withdrawn----Restricted

After 23 July '45

Early morning binges, unobserved (134 rds).

Lieutenant Bell established liaison with 36th Division Artillery per order Commanding General.

Forward displacement of Battalion in early afternoon to a barracks area southwest of Farquima, followed shortly to that point by service echelon and Personnel Section. Quick occupation of position by Batteries.

Oral advice of Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, that Battalion will remain overnight as presently situated is countermanded in favor of further forward displacement. Accordingly, night move initiated over field just off highway to south of Lontalto. Total ammunition expenditure this date: 132 Hb and 2 Smoke.

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10 June Forward displacement is resumed in late morning and continued to point off Highway 1, several miles northwest of Montalto and about 3 miles south of Capalbio. Positions are occupied and missions undertaken in late afternoon, Lieutenant Bell advising from 36th Division Artillery of current assigned mission: fires to west, north and north-northeast in defense of 36th Infantry Division lines. Unobserved fires on enemy guns (136 rds). Registration from Air Observation Post (33 rds). Explosions and fires started and personnel casualties inflicted on enemy by well adjusted "B" Battery Observation Post missions (67 rds), Captain Richard B. Hawk and 1st Lieutenant Kiva S. Fingerhut conducting

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 230 HE and 6 Smoke.

Alert at 2300 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, move as far west as tactical situation permits.

11 June Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders and their parties go forward on reconnaissance at 0500. Battalion is prepared to roll out at 0600 hours when radio message from Battalion Commander halts march and returns howitzers to positions and resumption of fire. Support of otherwise unsupported 141st Infantry undertaken on initiative of Battalion Commander after conference with 141st Infantry Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Bell established necessary liaison and is soon wounded severely in left upper arm by shell fragment and evacuated to hospital.

2nd Lieutenant Cook established liaison with 142nd Infantry.

Sixteen unobserved missions on enemy personnel and in repulsion of counterattacks are accomplished at instance of 141st Infantry (625 rds)

Area Neutralization and 1 direct hit in air-adjusted mission on a gun position (137 rds) "B" Observation Post adjusts series of fires on enemy troops, inflicting heavy casualties (286 rds) Air Observation Post adjusts late afternoon fires on additional gun positions, with reported neutralizing effect (231 rds).

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1274 HE and 5 Smoke.

12 June Four night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (144 rds). Air Observation Post Check of registration (15 rds).

No weather nor visibility changes.

Current mission assigned: reinforcement of fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of 142nd Infantry.

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Preceded by position area reconnaissance, Battalion displaces forward in late afternoon to some 3 miles northwest of Capalbio. Base point registration is conducted by Air Observation Post (45 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 195 HE and 9 Smoke.

13 June No further fire from present position. Battalion again makes afternoon forward displacement, preceded by reconnaissance, this time to cross Highway 74 and occupy positions along Albegna River, several miles southwest of Magliano.

Upon 36th Division Artillery instructions, Battalion prepares to extend move behind 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, but continues in position when advised of 132nd's remaining as located to support infantry in encounter with unexpected opposition. Lieutenant Newsom established liaison with 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Base point registration from Air Observation Post (41 rds). Evening Bingo (20 rds). Fire in repulsion of counter-attack, adjusted by 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (27 rds). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 62 HE and 6 Smoke.

14 June Enemy battery and SP guns are reported neutralized by midnight fires, adjusted from 132nd Field Artillery Observation Post (52 rds). Night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (363 rds).

Enemy planes bomb and strafe Battalion area about 0330; no casualties.

Pursuant to 36th Division Artillery Order, "A" Battery is detached from the Battalion and attached to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, proceeding thither about 0430 hours. 1st Lieutenant Newsom is recalled from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron to maintain liaison.

2nd Lieutenant Cook returns from 142nd Infantry.

Preparatory fires are delivered at call of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion in early afternoon (41 rds).

Observed missions are adjusted by Air Observation Post on enemy artillery, troops, vehicles, and marching columns, with report of devastating results (105 rds). Afternoon Bingo, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (46 rds).

15 June No let-up in summer heat, dryness and dust.

Captain Walton L. Vines, Battalion S-4 advised of displacement forward of Battalion service elements and Personnel Section along the line of Highway #1.

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10 morning fires. En displaces beyond Magliano to rendezvous area south of Montiano, then resumes march in afternoon to rendezvous approximately one mile north of Montiano. Preceded by reconnaissance, En continues forward in early evening to occupy positions some 5 miles southeast of Grosseto. Air CP adjusted registration on base point (44 rds) is completed at twilight. CG, Div Arty, directs reconnaissance of, and displacement to, new positions 2000 yds closer to Grosseto. Same is forthwith accomplished by blackout. Total ammo expenditure this date: 41 ME, 3 smoke.

16 June Weather warm, visibility clear.

Morning registration is accomplished through Air CP (62 rds). Missions is adjusted on tanks by Air CP, effecting explosion and neutralization (42 rds). Enemy guns are taken under fire through ground CP's; results: area neutralization and three large explosions (96) rds. Early afternoon Bingo, as called for by Div Arty (90 rds). (Observed missions are carried out on enemy personnel and suspected installations (35 rds), effectively covering target areas.

Current mission assigned by Div Arty; support of 143 CG. Twilight forward displacement, preceded by usual reconnaissance, to occupation of positions in flats of Ombrone River, about 2000 yds SE of Grosseto. Battalion service elements are now situated 5 miles to rear toward Montiano, except Personnel Section, 6 miles further back, in Montiano. Total ammo expenditure this date: 273 ME, 14 smoke.

17 June Weather cooler, cloudy to clear. Afternoon threat of rain fails to materialize.

Morning registration from Air CP (48 rds). Missions on enemy vehicles and artillery adjusted by Air CP, with reported neutralization effect (49 rds). Hit in afternoon on horse-drawn artillery and on tanks, scoring 1 direct hit on latter (152 rds).

"A" Btry returns to En control 1800, but En Officer (Lt. Benson) and an officer observer (Lt. San) are to remain with 117 Acn Sqdn until further orders. Reconnaissance of forward position areas is accomplished in evening; move, however, is postponed on Div Arty order till the morrow. Total ammo expenditure this date: 237 ME, 12 smoke.

18 June Main 0430-0600 plays havoc with everyone's comfort. Weather gradually improves, sun shines from noon on, with high atmospheric clarity. Harassing fires from midnight to 0500 (150 rds). Preparation fires preceding early morning attack (110 rds). Afternoon harassing fires (39 rds). Destruction of 1 enemy gun in ground-CP-adjusted mission (27 rds).

Morning visit from CG, Div Arty. Div Arty assigns current mission to En of 36th Div general support. Forward displacement in mid-afternoon to positions NE of Grosseto. Prompt registration (46 rds) is followed by 2 Bingoes (180 rds), successful observed mission on enemy troops (26 rds), and night harassing fires (90 rds). Total ammo expenditure this date: 662 ME, 16 smoke.

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- 19 June Intermittently rainy weather. Early morning harassing fires and three binges are delivered per Div Arty assignment (262 rds). Battalion mission of 36th Division general support continues, per oral confirmation of Div Arty CG at afternoon Battalion Commanders' conference. Noon bingo, as called for by Div Arty (60 rds). Battalion service elements have consolidated in vicinity of Grosseto. Midnight position area reconnaissance, directed by Div Arty, is undertaken by Bn Exec and S-2. Total ammo expenditure this date: 322 HE.
- 20 June reconnaissance is discontinued at 0130 on telephoned instructions from Div Arty, received at 133 FA Bn CP. to continue occupation of present position. Bn Exec assumed command upon departure of Bn CG. Morning resumption of reconnaissance is followed by Battalion displacement to and occupation of positions about 3000 yds SE of Montepescali. Registration on LP is promptly effected through air CP (47 rds). Perfect summer weather and clarity prevails. Total ammo expenditure this date: 40 HE, 7 smoke.
- 21 June Following in Bn CG's early morning conference with CG, Div Arty, and reconnaissance of road net, and in the wake of position area reconnaissance by S-2, Survey Officer, and Battery Commanders (occasioning skirmish with a remaining pocket of Tedeschi), Battalion infiltrates, upon completion of two essential bridges, to a "readiness rendezvous" off Hwy 1, immediately south of Giuncarico. Reconnaissance is resumed and further forward displacement is accomplished at dusk. Positions are occupied about 1000 yds northeast of Ravi and 2000 yds SE of Gavarrano. LP registration is effected through Air CP (13 rds). Battalion service echelon displaces forward to location on Hwy 1, west of Montepescali. Threat of snows fails to develop. Total ammo expenditure this date: 11 HE, 2 smoke.
- 22 June Continued good weather and visibility. Battalion mission (36th Div general support) continues per oral confirmation of CG, Div Arty, at morning conference with Bn CG's. Per Div Arty authorization, Lts Martin and Benson return from 117 Ken Soun. Capt. Evans is dispatched as Bn TQM, pursuant to Division order, to join and remain with Div G-4. Four observed missions are adjusted by Air OP in morning on

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and tanks, trucks, vehicles, and personnel, with reported aircraft neutralization (11/ rus). Success of registration (16 rus). Afternoon witnesses further series of observed fires (120 rus) on enemy material, principally armor; in addition to area neutralization, direct hits are scored on tanks and two are positively crippled. 36rus interdiction fire are delivered in evening.

Div Arty directs at 1800 that in general support mission be supplemented by reinforcement of fires of 460th FA Bn (supporting 517th Far Reg). Lt. Newcom forthwith establishes necessary liaison. Total ammo expenditure this date: 365 HE, 40 smoke.

23 June Continued fair weather and clear visibility. Morning observed mission ("C" CP) on enemy personnel (15 rus), covering indicated area. At Div Arty order, displacement is made to Bn reconnoitred positions about 5000 yds NW of Gavorrano in late afternoon. Registration is completed through Air CP (38 rus). Two observed missions are accomplished on enemy vehicles (47 rus). One Bingo (120 rus). Lt. Newcom rejoins 460th FA Bn CP to continue liaison in this mission remains unchanged. Bn service echelon has displaced forward to this immediate neighborhood. Total ammo expenditure this date: 209 HE, 11 smoke.

24 June No weather nor visibility change. Five enemy tanks are disabled in 3 morning missions adjusted by Air CP's (150 rus). Pursuant to WCGG at 1330 conference, Bn reconnoitred and displaces to position area in vicinity of 38-80, in high ground several thousand yards north of Follonica and keeps howitzers coupled. Authority is obtained to register, but planes, temporarily tied up on other missions, finally find themselves out of gas and call it a day. At 2200 order is received from Div Arty to hit the road at dawn and proceed to a "position of readiness" in immediate rear of 131st FA Bn, wherever it then may be. Total ammo expenditure this date: 147 HE, 3 smoke.

25 June Continued good weather and visibility conditions. Reconnaissance is inaugurated at 0500 and Bn accomplishes displacement within next hour and quarter to position 3000 yds due north, remaining temporarily coupled. Despite communication to Div Arty of results of further reconnaissance, which logically precludes further movement pending advance of infantry front lines, Div Arty compels displacement far forward to a densely thicketed area, difficult of access, from which fire cannot be effectively delivered (335-895).

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No batteries are placed with the artillery for a hour. Decision is made to replace an in positions of its own selection nearby (vicinity 565-875), which are at least adequate. Same is accomplished, registration is completed (22 ras), preparatory fires delivered (51 ras), and one enemy battery neutralized (300 ras). An service echelon has moved up to point in vicinity of Dn's morning rendezvous. Total ammo expenditure this date: 350 HE, 23 smoke.

26 June Closing station at 0630, pursuant to relief of 36th Division, Dn begins march at 0730 to bivouac area about 5 miles west of Rome, halts 12 hours in rendezvous on southerly outskirts of Grosseto, and closes in a destination 0200 on morning of 27th. Capt. Newson is injured in highway accident en route.

The following types of casualties occurred during this period:

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>CASUALTIES</u>	<u>REPLACEMENTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	1	1
LCA	0	0	0
LIA	1	1	2
SIA	0	1	1
DIA	0	0	0
LHA	0	2	2
SHA	0	0	0
MIA	0	0	0
ACH	0	0	0

Two enlisted men received as replacements during this period. These men replaced personnel rotated during this period.

"DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS CITATIONS
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN."

1. NAME
Captain Richard E. Hawk, Battery "B", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Dallas, Texas.
DATE & PLACE OF ACTION CITED
18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Saved lives of his men during terrific enemy bombardment, directing and helping to carry wounded to shelter and administering first aid under shell fire.

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2. NAME

Captain Charles W. Tool, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Treated wounded men under shell fire, continuing to render first aid to men even after being seriously wounded by shell fragment, thereby saving the lives of eleven men.

"HONORABLE STAR MEDAL CITATIONS RECEIVED
DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Pvt 1cl (then Pvt) Rudolf F. Gubula, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Weirton, W. Va.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

4 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Carried wounded men to shelter during heavy bombardment. Then exposed to enemy shell fire Pvt Gubula guided an ambulance to the wounded soldiers and helped load them for evacuation.

2. NAME

T/Sgt Herbert W. Patrick, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

8 December 1943, Mignano, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

T/Sgt Patrick skillfully organized two crews and laid communication lines through a heavily mined open field which was under intense shell fire and then advanced over unfamiliar terrain to a command post to complete the important and necessary communications.

"COMMENDATIONS FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS
CONDUCT RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN"

1. NAME

Pvt 1cl Harland G. Taylor, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Maywood, West Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

7 December 43, Mignano, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Established an observation post on a prominent ridge and directed fire accurately on enemy positions.

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2. NAME

Pvt 1st Clarence M. Schmidt, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

10 December 43, Mignano, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS OR COMBAT SERVICE

Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.

3. NAME

Pvt Walter G. La Flame, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Superior, Wisconsin.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED

10 December 43, Mignano, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS OR COMBAT SERVICE

Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.

THOMAS F. ATKINS
Lieutenant Colonel, P.A.
Commanding.

15 Encls.

- Exhibits:
- A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.
 - B - List of Casualties.
 - C - Officers Roster.
 - D - Officer Duty Changes.
 - E - Unit Journal.
 - F - Lessons Flown by Air Section.
 - G - S - 1 Reports.
 - H - S - 2 Reports.
 - I - S - 3 Reports.
 - J - Summary of Firing.
 - K - Daily Report of Firing.
 - L - Cp ration Overlays 1 thru 3.
 - M - Situation Overlays 1 thru 9.
 - N - Maps.
 - O - Firing Charts.

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CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

I. Results of the past month operations detract in no way from previously expressed conclusions and recommendations. They prove moreover the compelling need of a range in Divisional Medium Artillery greater than that of the light battalions. During the rapid pursuit tactic that characterized the latter phase of the June campaign, this Battalion time and again could have fired on many targets, otherwise denied it, if it had had the additional range afforded by the 155 Howitzer ML. Experience under recent conditions has demonstrated anew the soundness of the artillery doctrine that the Medium covers the forward displacement of the direct support battalions.

II. The rapidity of pace during the June operations severely tested the reliability and flexibility of communication procedure. It measured up to satisfaction, vindicating again the teachings of the Field Artillery School when applied with judicious and selective adaptation to the ever varying, seldom foreseen contingencies of actual combat. The excellent functioning of this suggests the propriety of presentation of the following scheme of organization and operation which has been developed.

1. Unexpected situations, e.g., landing on an hostile shore, conversion of the defensive to an offensive, rapid pursuit of the enemy, required that the Headquarters Battery Communications platoon be organized in the most flexible manner. Such flexibility naturally will include rapid mobility and centralized control of small groups capable of working independently.

2. Through experience gained in the field under the above mentioned situations, the Headquarters Battery Communications platoon had developed an organization capable of meeting the demands arising from the most adverse situations. This organization is a "revised" form of the current T/O (6-36).

3. The following general SOP and description in comparison with T/O 6-36 is submitted for consideration:

COMMUNICATIONS PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

The communications platoon headquarters is usually organized as an overhead with which no one could plan a specific function but now is so organized as to furnish not only a centralized control for the communications platoon of Headquarters Battery, but also for all communications within the Battalion. The communications platoon headquarters makes inspections, and services and supplies the Battalion communications installations, as well as preparing extracts from the S.O.I. and making codes and telephone directories.

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133rd Field Artillery Battalion
Operations in France, August 1944

L-1009

3 JULY 1944: The battalion executed a night march from a bivouac area about nine miles northwest of Rome, Italy, to another bivouac area about five miles northeast of Paestum, Italy. It is interesting to note that this bivouac was in one of the position areas occupied by this battalion during the establishment of the Salerno beach head.

PERIOD 4 to 21 JULY 1944: The battalion engaged in training with emphasis placed upon waterborne operations and familiarization with the battalion's new weapon, the 155mm howitzer, M-1. The old 155mm Howitzer M-1917, were replaced with the new M-1's early in this period.

On 12 July, Major William D. Waldrop, the battalion S-3, was transferred to the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and Major James T. Clarke, Executive Officer, of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion was transferred to this battalion. The Battalion Commander assigned Major Clarke as Battalion Executive and Major Laurence D. Gilmer, as Battalion S-3.

22 JULY 1944: The battalion marched to a "staging area" about five miles north of Quindici, Italy. Closed into new area shortly after midnight.

PERIOD 23 JULY TO 6 AUGUST 1944: The battalion engaged in light training, including some calibration firing of the M-1 howitzers using Sayer ammunition, and in intensive preparation for Operation "Anvil".

On 30 July Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, at his own request, was relieved of command of this battalion.

On 1 August Major Clifford L. Snow was transferred to this battalion from the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. He assumed command by authority of WOCG 36th Division Artillery.

PERIOD 7 TO 10 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion embarked for Operation "Anvil". First waterproofed vehicles with their drivers and assistant drivers were loaded. On the 10th the personnel embarked. The main body of the battalion, under Major Snow, embarked on L.S.T. ASV 602. A smaller group, consisting of three officers and seventy four enlisted men, under Major Clarke, embarked upon L.S.T. ASV 603. A forward reconnaissance group consisting of Captain Richmond, and two lieutenants, embarked on L.S.T. ASV 610. Their mission was to reconnoiter the beach in, find a suitable position area, meet the Battalion Commander when he came ashore and guide the battalion to the selected landing area.

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
 BY *[Signature]* CHIEF OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 15 March 46

The rear echelon, under command of Captain Harry P. Frantz, consisting of two other officers, 1st Lieutenants Robert E. Reynolds and Jack R. Stewart, Warrant Officer (JG) Stanley W. Huth and eighty-six enlisted men remained in Italy. It was scheduled to follow the battalion on D plus 5 convoy.

The embarkation was completed and the L.S.T's proceeded to their rendezvous at 1700 hours on 11 August 1944.

11 AUGUST 1944: No incident. The convoy remained in the rendezvous area.

12 AUGUST 1944: The convoy sailed at 1500. Destination: the southern coast of France. Mission: the establishment of a beach-head in the vicinity of Saint Raphael and Frejus, France.

13 AUGUST 1944: The voyage continued under ideal conditions: a calm sea, light breeze and clear warm weather. Maps and secret orders (FO 53, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division) were distributed to the officers, who studied them preparatory to briefing the troops. These orders gave this battalion the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 143rd Infantry.

14 AUGUST 1944: Weather continued ideal. The convoy passed thru the Straights of Corsica at about daylight and turned northward along the west coast of Corsica. At 1700 hours the convoy turned westward again towards its destination, the Gulf of Frejus. During the day the troops were briefed. It was announced that 15 August was D-Day and that 0800 was H-Hour.

15 AUGUST 1944: At daylight a terrific bombardment of the beach-head area and the beaches by the Navy and the Air Corps prepared the beaches for the H-Hour landing. By mid-morning unofficial reports from returning landing craft informed the waiting troops that the assault was proceeding well, resistance was weak, and casualties were unexpectedly light. LST 602 beached on "Green Beach" on the south shores of Cap de Dramont at 1645; followed by LST 603 at 1930. Just as LST 602 beached a number of light calibre, high velocity shells landed on Green Beach. Three of them struck LST 602. Light shrapnel wounds were suffered by Major Snow, the Battalion Commander, 1st Lt. Phillip A. Chockley, Assistant Communications Officer, Private Earl W. Pace of Battery "C"; and Private Cyril W. Sims Jr., Medical Detachment. The Officers were given first aid and returned to duty. The enlisted men were hospitalized. LST 602 was unloaded by 1830 and LST 603 by 2000. As the vehicles unloaded they were guided to the de-water-proofing area. As Major Snow landed he was met by Captain Hawk, and they went on a hasty reconnaissance of the route and the selected position.

firing. The SP has not since been seen.

18 AUGUST 1944: At 1440 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, Battery Commander of Battery "B", reported that Battery "B" had been bothered the previous evening by snipers firing into the battery from an isolated pocket just in rear of this position. The para-troopers who had been engaging them had been moved. A request for help was made of the 142nd Infantry. The Infantry Regiment sent a reinforced platoon to mop-up, but upon arrival found that the enemy had evacuated. Two trucks were sent to join a tactical force for an indefinite period. They reported to Captain Kattax at the 36th Infantry Division Class I Quartermaster dump in Draguignan. No firing this date. This Battalion's mission has remained unchanged since landing: ie, reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which, in turn, is in direct support of the 143rd Infantry.

19 AUGUST 1944: At 0230 Major Luther E. Orrick, 36th Division Artillery, called this battalion to furnish three more 2½ ton trucks for the same force which had received the two trucks on the 18th. They were dispatched and reported to Class I camp in Draguignan at 0600. Orders were received from 36th Division Artillery headquarters at 2250 for this battalion to be prepared to move by 0400 20 August. Battery Commanders were alerted. No firing this date.

20 AUGUST 1944: Colonel Adams, Commanding 143rd Regimental Combat Team, called at 0115 and made arrangements for the 155th Field Artillery Battalion to carry a battalion of his Infantry (less one company) on our vehicles during the march this date. The battalion marched at 0615 in the order "A", "B", "C", and headquarters batteries. A representative, Captain Walton M. Vines, from Service Battery accompanied the battalion. The Infantry entrucked on our vehicles about three miles northwest of Draguignan. The column marched northward on highway No. 555 to Castellane, turned north on highway No. 85, passed thru Barrême and on to Digne, southwest of Malijar. There it was found that demolitions prevented crossing the Durance River and it was necessary to proceed southward along highway No. 100 to La Brilleme before a crossing could be effected. We turned northeast again on highway No. 86, passed thru Peyruis, to highway No. 85 just south of Vellone, passed thru Vellone and finally went into position, about a thousand yards south of Peipin. There was no contact with the enemy; so the batteries were laid to fire as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 4000, Battery "B" on compass 200, and Battery "C" on compass 6000. No firing from this position. The battalion marched about 120 road miles this day to a point nearly 50 miles deeper in France.

SECRET

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21 AUGUST 1944: Initially it was contemplated that no movement would be made this date; but at 1300 a message was received summoning the Battalion Commander to Division Artillery headquarters. At 1410 the Battalion Commander radioed for a conference of Battery Commanders and be prepared to leave at 1435 to go on a reconnaissance. Orders were given at 1435 hours for the battalion to be prepared to move toward Gap by 1545. The battalion moved at 1745. The column was met by Captain Hawk just south of Sisteron and was led to its new position area, just south of Gap. For dispositions see Map: France 1/100,000, Sheet 15 - O, Briancon-Gap. The battalion closed into its new area at 2045, going into position as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 800, Battery "B" on 6400 and Battery "C" on 5200. No firing from this position.

22 AUGUST 1944: No contact with the enemy. Information received indicated that the 143rd Infantry was operating to the east and north east of Gap and the 142nd Infantry was operating eastward of Gap. At 1330 a message from 36th Division Artillery, alerted the battalion for a possible move to the west or northwest to be made later in the afternoon or on the night of 22-23 August. Captain August C. Loser was sent to 36th Division Artillery to obtain further information and to reconnoiter roads as far as Dio. Captain Loser called by telephone at 2220 stating that the battalion would move, the battalion would carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry on our vehicles and that he was bringing a copy of the order. At 2300 hours Captain Stallings, G-3 Section, 36th Infantry Division telephoned that the order had been changed slightly - that we would proceed to Lyons instead of Crest and that our route would be via Gap, Veynes, Serres, Rosans and Lyons and that low-beam headlights would be used as far as Rosans. The Battery Commanders, including the Commanding Officer, Battery "B", 443rd AAA and Battalion Surgeon, were advised to have their units prepared to march at 0030 on the morning of 23rd August and that the units commanders would report to the Battalion Executive when ready to march and to receive final orders at 0015 23 August. An acute map shortage prevented a distribution of maps covering the march route, so overlays were prepared. Captain William J. Jessup, with quartering party, was sent ahead to find positions and to expedite detrucking of the Infantry and occupation of positions. Captain Hawk went forward to locate the entrucking point.

23 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion Commander returned to the CP at 0015 and issued the march order, ie: that the move would be administrative, to the vicinity of Lyons via Veynes, Serres, Rosans, Lyons; our vehicles would carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry to be entrucked at 0100; order of march "A", "B", "C", Headquarters Battery and Service Battery; lights to Rosans, blackout thereafter. This battalion to be in direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. The battalion left position for the entrucking area at 0030 and arrived at the area at 0150.

The Infantry were a threat. During the night of 23-24 August, 1944, upon arrival at Lyons at 0100, the Infantry promptly detached on the road east of Lyons. The intention was set by Captain Jessup who reported that he had located suitable positions and that the enemy troops were just west of Lyons. Battery "A" was ordered to occupy position while batteries "B" and "C" remained on the road until their position could be inspected. Battery "A" moved from the road to its position at 0605 and was ready to fire at 1800, by which time the Battalion Commander had ordered the two remaining batteries into position. "B" and "C" batteries closed into their areas at 1015. 1st Lt. Kiva S. Fingerhut was sent to establish observation on the town of Valress at 1230 hours. A platoon of Infantry was sent with him, to protect his observation post. 2nd Lt. Richard J. McCready requested and was granted permission to accompany the party. Their route had been previously reconnoitered. However, the enemy had, since the reconnaissance, established a road block on their route. As they approached the road block the enemy opened fire. Lt. Fingerhut was fatally wounded. Lt. McCready was seriously wounded - lost his left arm. Private Desmond D. Lavery was slightly wounded. Pfc S. E. Nichols, and the other three members of the party - named above - were all captured. All members of this party were from Battery "B". Summary of firing: 127 rds of HE, 6 rds of smoke. Fired five missions on tanks, vehicles and personnel. No destruction or casualties reported.

24 AUGUST 1944: The battalion remained in position during daylight. A few missions were fired (see summary of firing). During the morning an unidentified radio operator called on our frequency, using Lt. Fingerhut's call sign for the previous day, and asking for instructions. Major Lawrence D. Gilmer ordered him to return to the battalion, whereupon he went off the air and was not heard from again. It is considered possible that this call was from an enemy operator using Lt. Fingerhut's radio in an effort to obtain information. Captain Loser called from the 142nd Infantry Command Post at 1715 advising that the battalion would likely move during the night. An hour later, the Battalion Commander called from the 142nd Infantry Command Post, ordering a conference at the Battalion Command Post at 1830. At this meeting the battery commanders were informed that the battalion would move to the vicinity of Cleone and that they would carry a battalion of Infantrymen in addition to their own men. The battalion began moving at 1915 (headed east) stopped on the Lyons-Rosans road with the tail of the column in Lyons, to pick up the Infantrymen; one company, Company "C", had not yet arrived from the road blocks which it had been manning. The balance of the first battalion, located on and the column marched until the tail cleared the road junction just east of les Pilles, at which point the column had turned north towards Bordeaux and halted.

25 October 1944: Operations conducted from headquarters 36th Infantry Division was received, dated 24 August 1944, concerning this battalion. The direct support of the 1st Infantry to direct support of the 36th Infantry Division. No supporting incidents occurred this date. Summary of action: 3 rounds of 2.2 inch of 3.6 inch caliber in firing 10 missions. The loss of 10 rounds destroyed two enemy vehicles, a tank, 10 personnel, 10, and the 10th started.

07 AUGUST 1944: At 0600 the Battalion Commander returned to the CP from a liaison visit to Division Artillery Headquarters. He had received orders to move the Battery to the vicinity of Orest to reinforce the fires of the 120th Field Artillery Battalion, who were supporting the 157th Infantry in its effort to capture Livno - Del - Drome and vicinity. The Battalion Commander ordered Battery "C" on this mission, and sent Captain Davis with them as liaison officer to maintain contact with the 157th Infantry and the 120th Field Artillery.

7.

to "March track" and "March track". He returned at 1135 and immediately
 ordered "March track" to "March track". See map: France 1/100,000,
 Sheet 13 - 0, Frivas.

At 1135, the commanding general, 36th Division Artillery
 ordered the Battalion Commander to place a liaison officer with the
 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion in the vicinity of Crest for the pur-
 pose of firing "March track" in support of the 636th Tank Destroyer
 Battalion if needed. Lt. Martin was sent on this mission.

At 1145, the commanding general, 36th Division Artillery
 ordered us to "March track" to the vicinity of Crest to be in
 support of the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Later, "March track" was given
 this mission and Captain Jackson was sent to Headquarters 636th Tank
 Destroyer Battalion as liaison officer. Lt. Martin was sent to the
 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion as a forward observer.

At about 1200, the Battalion Commander took Captain
 Evans and Captain Jackson on reconnaissance for a position for Battery
 "A". Battery "A" was ordered to prepare to move promptly upon the
 return of the Battalion Commander.

At 1200, Captain Evans returned to the battalion area
 and ordered Battery "A" to "March track". They occupied a position at
 coordinates 099-719 map France, 1/100,000 Sheet 13 - 0, Frivas.

Summary of firing: 107 rps of 155 and 6 rps of Smoke
 fired on 9 missions: 10, 2 registrations and 7 missions on mis-
 cellaneous enemy targets.

28 October 1944: At 0030 the Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery,
 called Major Jackson and informed him that the 142nd Infantry
 would relieve the 137th Infantry in the vicinity of Crest during daylight
 hours this date. The 142nd Infantry would attack to the west to cut highway 7.
 This battalion to move to the vicinity of Crest - Batteries "A" and "B"
 were already there - the enemy's Battalion of the 142nd Infantry on our
 vehicles were to have been. Battery "A", which was supporting
 the 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion was ordered to us. This battalion
 to continue to fire direct and indirect fire on the 142nd Infantry Battalion
 until the 142nd Infantry had been destroyed; at which time to move to
 go in to direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

At 0600, on 28 October 1944 and by 1000 the battalion
 was ordered to "March track" in the vicinity of Crest. The march was
 made by the 142nd Infantry and the 142nd Infantry, which had been
 given the mission of "March track", saw the Army.

By 1100 hours the Battalion cleared the area and moved out and arrived at the new position by 1200 hours. The Battalion occupied its new position.

At 1200 hours the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion took over direct support of the 142nd Infantry and this Battalion's mission reverted to reinforcement of the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Summary of Firing: 205 rds of HE and 10 rds of Smoke. 12 missions fired - 2 direct hits on tanks, 5 hits on enemy vehicles, and one direct hit.

29 AUGUST 1944: A little after midnight, 28-29 August, the Battalion Commander, Lt. Colonel F. West, Commanding Officer Battery "B", left on a reconnaissance for a new position for his Battery in the vicinity of Allex (1000). He called that fire could be put across Highway 7 and the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion occupied its position at 1100 hours. The Battalion's position was 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 0 Privas. At about 0900 a firestorm in the vicinity of our position forced its abandonment for the balance of the night. The Battalion's position was re-established the next morning. The Battalion Executive visited the 132nd Division Artillery Command Post at 0900 and received orders for the Battalion to continue on its mission of reinforcement of the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion; and that Batteries "A" and "C" of the Battalion could move westward so as to be able to fire to the Rhone River for the purpose of delivering fire upon enemy columns retreating northward along the Rhone Valley. Battery "A" moved out to its new position in the vicinity of Allex at 1600. The Battalion's position was 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 0 Privas, Battery "C" to its new position at 1915 followed immediately by headquarters Battery. The Battalion also moved its new area and the new Command Post was opened at 2000. At 1930 Captain Jessup and Lt. Martin returned to the battalion from their duties with the 688th Tank Destroyer Battalion as liaison officer and forward observer, respectively. After the Battalion Commander's return at 2045 from the 142nd Infantry, information was given that our mission was unchanged and that it was contemplated that 142nd Infantry would attack northward along Highway 7 tomorrow. Summary of firing: 213 rds of HE and 7 rds of Smoke fired on 16 missions. Their results: 27 vehicles destroyed.

30 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion remained in the position occupied on the 29th and fired in support of the 142nd Infantry. No noteworthy incident occurred. Summary of firing: 452 rds of HE and 2 rds of Smoke fired on 16 missions. Their results: 9 horse-drawn vehicles destroyed, 4 motor vehicles destroyed and numerous personnel casualties.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Value</u>
1st	0	0	0
2nd	1	0	1
3rd	0	1	1
4th	0	0	0
5th	0	0	0
6th	2	4	6
7th	1	0	1
8th	0	1	1
9th	0	0	0

“**تَبَارَكَ**”

1. base Staff Sergeant Robert M. Doss, Headquarters Battery, 165th Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry, Fort Worth, Texas.

Depositor's Place of Action: Other

From 1 September 1943 to 16 March 1944, Italy.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek

Staff for the 1943-1944 season. During the period 9 September 1943 to 15 March 1944, subject acted as a fire communications of his battalion under direct control of his company. His voluntary signing of communications was not limited to any specific, particular type of message, but included all types of messages.

DATE: 11:00 OF 11:00 AM

مجلس القضاء الاعلى

تاریخ: ۱۳۰۰

U.S. District Court of Southern District of New York

General Notes to Applicant:

3. 37C

State and place of action. Cited

Conspicuous Broadcasts

4. size

Date and place of action. Disc.

Wm. H. RICHES, Director, CES

Col. Martin's actions in setting up an artillery CP in the face of heavy enemy fire and in saving another artillery piece and personnel from the line during the enemy installation of a missile battery.

11.

5. ~~NAME~~

Suppl. Lt. William J. Sullivan, 1st, 15th Field Artillery
Battalion, 1st Airborne Division.

Date and Place of Action: 21st

7 December 1945, 1st Airborne, Italy.

Circumstances:

Cpl. Sullivan's position in 1st Airborne Artillery CP in the
face of enemy fire. He was the first to be killed. He was
killed while he was firing on enemy installations
and in repelling enemy attacks.

6. ~~NAME~~

Pvt 1st Desmond D. Leary, Battery "B", 15th Field Artillery
Battalion, 1st Airborne Division.

Date and Place of Action: 21st

23 November 1945, 1st Airborne, Italy.

Circumstances:

Pvt 1st Leary, with complete disregard for personal safety,
undertook the task of carrying live from his battery
S.F. to the top of the hill. Despite
heavy enemy small arms fire, he accomplished the mission.

7. ~~NAME~~

Cpl. William J. Sullivan, 1st, 15th Field Artillery
Battalion, 1st Airborne Division.

Date and Place of Action: 21st

23 November 1945, 1st Airborne, Italy.

Circumstances:

Cpl. Sullivan, with complete disregard for personal safety,
undertook the task of carrying live from his battery
S.F. to the top of the hill. Despite
heavy enemy small arms fire, he accomplished the mission.

8. ~~NAME~~

Pvt 1st William J. Sullivan, 1st, 15th Field Artillery
Battalion, 1st Airborne Division.

Date and Place of Action: 21st

23 November 1945, 1st Airborne, Italy.

Circumstances:

Pvt 1st Sullivan, with complete disregard for personal safety,
undertook the task of carrying live from his battery
S.F. to the top of the hill. Despite
heavy enemy small arms fire, he accomplished the mission.

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10. Name
 Pvt. 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. 1st Artillery
 [Name], [Address], [City]
Date and Place of Birth
 [Date], [Place], [State]
Service Record
 10. [Name] was assigned as a [position] for a
 [unit], [location]. He was [action] [location]. All
 of his [action] [location] [action] [location]
 artillery [action].

10. Name
 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. "B", 1st Field Artillery
 [Name], [Address], [City]
Date and Place of Birth
 [Date], [Place], [State]
Service Record
 1st Lt. [Name], [action] [location] for battery
 [action], [location]. [action] [location], he
 succeeded in [action] [location], effecting the capture
 of [location].

11. Name
 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. "B", 1st Field Artillery
 [Name], [Address], [City]
Date and Place of Birth
 [Date], [Place], [State]
Service Record
 1st Lt. [Name], [action] [location] for battery
 [action], [location]. [action] [location], he
 succeeded in [action] [location], effecting the capture
 of [location].

12. Name
 Pvt. 1st Lt. [Name], 1st Lt. [unit], 1st Field
 Artillery, [Address], [City].
Date and Place of Birth
 [Date], [Place], [State]
Service Record
 Pvt. [Name], [action] [location] [action] [location]
 [action] [location], [action] [location] left the safety of his
 [action] [location] [action] [location] of the area to go to the
 aid of the [action], [action] [location] first aid.

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"JAMES EARL RAY FOR INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES"

1. Name

Sgt Carl B. Bosters, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy

Circumstances

Sgt Bosters, during a patrol attack against bitterly
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers
in time to save their lives.

2. Name

Sgt. Louis J. Jones, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy.

Circumstances

Sgt. Jones, during a patrol attack against bitterly
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers
in time to save their lives.

3. Name

Fvt 1st Douglas B. Peters, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery
Battalion, Dallas, Texas.

Date and Place of Action

6 December 1945, Foggia, Italy.

Circumstances

Fvt 1st Peters, during a patrol attack against bitterly
defended enemy positions along mountainous terrain,
while on duty at the Battalion command post, heard that the
litter team had become physically exhausted and unable to
handle three severe cases still remaining on the mountain.
He volunteered to go with a team and get the wounded men.
Moving over precipitous trails under enemy artillery and
mortar fire he succeeded in evacuating the injured soldiers
in time to save their lives.

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14.

~~SECRET~~

4. name
 Sgt. [Name], [Rank], [Unit], [Location], [Date]

Date and place of action:
 [Date], [Location]

General description of action:
 [Detailed description of the action, including the role of the individual, the nature of the enemy, and the outcome of the engagement.]

5. name
 Sgt. [Name], [Rank], [Unit], [Location], [Date]

Date and place of action:
 [Date], [Location]

General description of action:
 [Detailed description of the action, including the role of the individual, the nature of the enemy, and the outcome of the engagement.]

6. name
 Sgt. [Name], [Rank], [Unit], [Location], [Date]

Date and place of action:
 [Date], [Location]

General description of action:
 [Detailed description of the action, including the role of the individual, the nature of the enemy, and the outcome of the engagement.]

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15.

~~SECRET~~CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER *L-1009*

The operations of this battalion from the time of landing on the beach of southern France, from 15 to 31 August, inclusive, is to a great extent parallel to the rapid movements and changes of situation as encountered during the push north of Rome, in Italy, during the period May - June, 1944. The rapid changes in situations and long marches with light resistance has prevented the actual employment of medium artillery on missions for which it was primarily designed.

Our transportation facilities have been made available for the transportation of the infantry on long movements, along with our own personnel, equipment and ammunition. On these types of operations it has been found that this can be done without undue hardship to personnel or damage to artillery equipment. Fortunately, the situation has not demanded any hurried occupation of positions and in most cases we were preceded by direct support 105 mm artillery who took over any immediate emergency or request for artillery fire.

The plan of moving the battalion as a unit for an amphibious operation was found to be very satisfactory as it enabled close control upon arrival on the beach and provided an opportunity for briefing all personnel prior to debarkation.

To maintain close contact with the assault regiments of the division, and to organize and direct observation, a plan of liaison has been adopted which provides for a liaison officer maintaining close contact with each direct support battalion and assault regiment for the purpose of keeping in close touch with the situation in the sector of each and direct the battalion observers in each sector to the best observation available and keep them directly informed of the situation and position of our friendly troops. This liaison also provides a direct means of communication through which the direct support artillery or the infantry regiment could call for medium artillery fire when and where needed. These officers have acted in a dual capacity of a liaison officer and observer when the occasion demanded. A minimum of two additional observers has been employed in each regimental sector where the situation demanded. This plan of liaison and control of observation has proven very desirable as it has provided direct contact for reinforcing missions and has enabled the battalion commander to keep in direct touch with the situation along the division front at all times and has expedited plans and movements for executing assigned missions.

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HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

9 October 1944.
CMS/hcp

L-1010

SUBJECT: Narrative History and Conclusions by the Battalion Commander
of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for September 1944.

TO : Commanding General,
36th Infantry Division,
APO No. 36, U. S. Army.

1. Submitted herewith History, Conclusions by the Battalion Commander and supporting records of the Battalion for the month of September 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies of Journal, Situation Overlays, Maps and Firing Charts.

2. The combat operations for this battalion for the period 1 September - 30 September 1944 was similar to the previous operations during the month of August, 1944. During the first half of the period the action was fast-moving, requiring long moves in most instances and hasty occupations of positions. The tactical plan of assigning a medium battalion as reinforcing the light artillery of a combat team has proven very satisfactory and has enabled displacement of the light and medium battalions as a unit with one battalion in position at all times to cover the displacement of the other.

On two or three occasions one battery of the medium battalion was displaced to the vicinity of the light battalion and tied in with their survey and FDC for control to deepen the fires of the 105mm battalion. This situation was essential due to the wide front covered by the combat team and exposed flanks for which artillery fire was needed and required the disposing of artillery in depth. This proved very satisfactory due to the fast movement and rapid advance of the infantry troops.

HC smoke shell has proven a satisfactory screening agent, but due to the lack of the proper fuze adaptable to this projectile we have encountered a high percentage of duds. It has not been satisfactory for identification of initial rounds which facilitate rapid adjustment on observed targets. It is recommended that WP smoke shell be made available for this purpose.

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In the more static situation which has developed during the last part of this period it has been found that close liaison between the general support artillery and the assault infantry regiments has proven very satisfactory and has provided a quicker and more direct means of delivery of medium artillery support when and where needed.

Clifford M. Snow
CLIFFORD M. SNOW
Major, F. A.
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "September" (Sextuple)

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