

an east-west direction, with the objective being the high grounds in the vicinity of Atina. The north side of the important roadway was the path of 133rd Regiment. To the 100th fell the job of going through the mountain ranges to Cerasuola, 12 kilometers away, from there following the road to Cardite.

Here was a task which might be measured in Herculean terms. The battalion would have to combat a well-defended enemy atop ridges and along mountain sides made bare by coming winter, and do it short-handed of supplies and rations. With few passable roads and trails, only mules could be used. Colonel Marshall also reported that division G-2 expected the attackers to run up against heavy defenses of the 2nd Battalion of the German 578th Infantry anchored on Hill 920 and the huge hills to the rear. Prior to the attack he told Colonel Gillespie that General Ryder and Corps Commander, General Lucas were well-pleased with the 100th's preceding actions and expressed his own compliments to the men.

At the first trace of daylight of the 29th, three rifle units with attachments of Company D's heavy machine guns, supported by 81mm mortars, crossed the line and started moving along the barren terrain. Advance was cautious and slow. On the left flank the two platoons of Company C, which had been outposted a day before, began attacking up Hill 920 but met hard resistance from entrenched pockets. Close-quartered fighting succeeded in wiping out several machine gun nests but as they drew nearer to the top, a heavy artillery and mortar concentration caused a number of casualties. Here they were forced to hold and dig-in.

In this action, three soldiers won Silver Stars. The drive of the platoons to reach this point near the pinnacle was aided by

PFC Chester C. Hada, who carried a sound-power telephone to within 45 yards of the enemy lines, reporting hostile movements and sounds. Despite grenade fire he maintained his post and crawled closer to transmit a good account of the enemy's actions, the situation and the nature of the terrain at that point.

Responsible for destroying an enemy machine gun nest and wiping out a five-man German patrol which threatened the flank, Corporal Wataru Nouichi and PFC Hideichi Shimabukuro immeasurably contributed to the taking of key positions on Hill 920.

Over in A and B companies' sector, fighting was just as fierce for Hill 801 and 900. German mortar, artillery and nebelwerfers caused heavy losses and aid-men worked feverishly while riflemen hung on. The reverse sides of the summits were taken but were not safe from counterattacks. A hundred yards away on the other banks, the enemy waited in their positions ready to rake the outline of any soldier who dared an appearance. Support from friendly artillery was limited because of the proximity of the two opposing forces.

Company A singled out a member for extreme gallantry in the fight for Hill 801. Although mortally wounded by a mortar shell, Pvt. Kazuo Ihara saved many of his comrade's lives. In the beginning of the attack he led the point of his platoon, neutralizing enemy mines which later paved the way for the safety of others. While nearing the pinnacle he observed several enemy and taking a comrade and a BAR team led them to an advantageous position where they opened up upon the enemy. Using his sniper rifle to great accuracy he killed two of them while his team took care of the rest. A forthcoming barrage of enemy mortars wounded several men in the

platoon and Private Ihara exposing himself to the incoming shells administered aid and helped evacuate six men to a place of safety. In his attempt to bandage another he was killed by a mortar shell. The Silver Star was awarded posthumously to Private Ihara.

Company F was brought up to Hill 1017 in support that night and the battle flared again at dawn of the 30th. Before the assault, Colonel Gillespie radioed to Company C; "You must take Hill 920 before dawn. The artillery forward observer with you can give the supporting fire, either before, during or after attacking. F Company is moving to 905 now. You may call on them for help as long as they have enough men to hold their own hill. The 168th is on your left and if we can outflank 920 then the hill will not be too difficult."

Company C made its offensive on Hill 920, preceded by volleys of friendly mortar and artillery. Phosperous smoke shells hid their movements. With this softening-up, a night attack was made from the southeast corner driving the Germans off the hill. However, action was so intense on both sides that the company suffered 15 percent casualties before taking the mount. Company A inched further up on Hill 801 and sent a platoon around the flank while Company B did the same on Hill 900. Meanwhile F Company moved forward to occupy the forward slopes of Hill 905.

Company B's effort to secure Hill 801 was more urgent in order to free a platoon which had been trapped since two days before. For in the early morning hours of the 28th, Captain Williams S. Pye had gone forward with a 13 man patrol to take the hill for the rest of the company. They succeeded but found themselves cut off by the enemy. For three days and nights the outnumbered platoon

fought off repeated counterattacks and endured mortar fire but held its ground and inflicted many casualties upon the enemy. For heroic achievements, all were awarded Bronze Stars, two posthumously.

Four exceptionally heroic feats of the 29th merited Distinguished Service Cross awards.

During a flank assault on the high grounds of Hill 801, Private Shizuya Hayashi of Company A, rose alone in the midst of fire from grenades and machine guns. Blasting from his automatic rifle, placed at hip length, he charged an enemy gun nest. The position was destroyed, nine enemy were killed, two while attempting to flee. After a platoon advance of 200 yards from this point, an enemy anti-aircraft gun fired upon the platoon, wounding several but Private Hayashi, unhurt, counterfired at the hostile gun, killing nine more and resulting in the capture of four prisoners. The remainder of the force withdrew. For his courage, superb marksmanship and indomitable determination, Private Hayashi won the nation's second highest award.

Corporal Masaru Suehiro, another DSC winner of Company A, was cited for remaining at an exposed 60mm mortar observation position where he directed fire upon the enemy and saved the defense of his entire company. Despite body wounds he never left his post but called for fire which destroyed an enemy machine gun nest and staggered a strong enemy party who were forming for an assault.

Company B's two-man army, consisting of Lt. Allan M. Ohata and Private Mikio Hasemoto, were also awarded Distinguished Service Crosses for almost wiping out a German company. Both men were part of a squad which attacked on the left flank by a force of forty Germans armed with machine guns, machine pistols, rifles and grenades.

They met the challenge and when the fierce fight subsided, 38 enemy dead were counted, one was wounded and one prisoner was taken. Later the two hurled back another attacking force of 14 German, killing 4 and wounding 3 while the others fled. The following day they again held the flank and repulsed the enemy. In this action Private Hasemoto was killed by artillery fire.

Posthumous awards of Silver Stars were given to Lt. Francis J. Ferras and PFC Harup Kawamoto of Company A for extreme gallantry. Lt. Ferras crawled forward under heavy machine gun and grenade fire to cut a path through wire entanglements. Then throwing hand grenades, he led his platoon forward through the path and engaged the enemy. The platoon inspired by their leader quickly took and held the position. PFC Kawamoto, under heavy shelling, bandaged the wounds of a comrade and with assurance that he was cared for, returned to his position to aid in the destruction of an enemy machine gun nest and in the capture of an Anti-aircraft gun crew. Both Lt. Ferras and PFC Kawamoto were killed in subsequent actions.

On 1 December as the first snowfall snarled supplies, the regiment tried pushing forward. Third Battalion on the right scored slight gains while the 100th was stuck on Hills 905 and 920, with two companies facing Hill 832 still firmly held. Yard by yard, these companies worked up the hills to gain half-possession, then stopped. A bare summit declared as "no man's land" made it extremely dangerous to advance any further so the men dug in as near to the top as possible leaving the crest uninhabited. Occasionally the enemy would lob a long distant grenade, likewise, riflemen kept them on edge by rushing up and spraying sub-machine gun fire and quickly retreating.

Counterattacks came often and irregularly but alert outposts sounded warning and each was repelled. The enemy continued a methodical shelling, having possession of excellent observation on a high snowcapped hill to the rear. With an excellent view at one time, they fired about 50 rounds of artillery in twenty minutes time and knocked out 3 Howitzers of the 133rd Cannon Company. In addition shell-fire completely disrupted the supporting chemical 4.2 mortars.

For eight wet and cold days, the 100th stayed in place sending out only occasional patrols. On 5 December, two patrols had been repulsed by enemy fire and a third was sent out, led by Lt. Howard Y. Miyake, Company A, to further reconnoiter Hill 900. Utilizing sparse concealment and neutralizing enemy anti-personnel mines barring their path, Lt. Miyake and his group reached enemy lines and noted positions. Further penetration led to their discovery and the patrol drew fire. Lt. Miyake withdrew his men first and as a result of his stand the patrol returned safely with vital information. He was later rewarded the Silver Star.

During the days atop the hills, Colonel Gillespie was evacuated to the hospital for illness--a loss which the battalion felt. He was succeeded by Major Alex E. McKenzie, former commander of Company E, who held the position for three days until subsequently succeeded by Major William H. Blytt of the 133rd Regiment. Finally on 9 December, the 100th, weakened by casualties, came down from the hills being relieved by elements of the French 2nd Division Marocains.

The battle for Monte Marrone and adjacent hills saw the 100th's casualty list mount. Two officers and 43 enlisted men were killed,

4 officers and 129 enlisted men were wounded, one officer and 6 enlisted men were injured, 6 enlisted men died of their wounds and 2 were missing in action. Trench foot swelled the list of disabilities and the sum total of the 100th's losses was higher than the other two battalions. Even after the official inactivation of Company E on the 1st December and Company F of the 12th the remaining transferees still left the battalion quota low in fighting strength.

Supply was a stumbling block of this battle because of mountains. Forty-five pound boxes of C and K rations and cumbersome five gallon water cans had to be carried two to three miles by arm after the mule trails ended. Constantly under observation in the day, the men led by Captain Grandstaff made the slow journey at night up slippery trails. Often in the heat of battle it was impossible for riflemen to return for rations or for carrying parties to go forward. At times one ration unit had to last for a day and over. Evacuation of the wounded was the hardest task of all. It required several relay stations to get one patient down to the forward aid-station. If emergency cases came up during the day, litter bearers and aid-men had to brave shells with no protection.

The regiment rode back to an area near Alife on the night of the 10th and remained here until 30 December. In the rest area movies and USO shows entertained and American Red Cross girls lifted morale by handing out coffee and doughnuts and doing other little favors. Fresh clothes, warm showers and prepared meals--certainly an infantryman's delight--helped to forget combat for a short while. At this area the 100th's first of thirty battlefield pro-

motions was earned by Master Sergeant Hideo Kajikawa who was commissioned a Warrant Officer (JG).

Snow fell upon the ground at Christmas time, reminding one of the year before at Wisconsin when the 100th little realized what war was like. Also during the period some men were rotated to the rest center set up in Naples. Training and reorganization was constant throughout; new battle lessons instructed the troops about the enemy. Around the end of the month Major Blytt returned to the 133rd and Major Johnson, Executive Officer, took command for three days until relieved by a new commander, Major Casper Clough, Jr. formerly of 1st Infantry Division.

Evening of 30 December the regiment was sent back into the line again, moving to an assembly area in the vicinity of Presenzano, now coming under control of II Corps commanded by Major General Geoffrey Keyes. New Year's Eve, the 100th, while in movement to Presenzano, came under a severe blizzard which whitened the Italian countryside and fouled communications. During the next four days reconnaissance was made to the Corps' both flanks preparatory to entering combat. This waiting period also saw three more enlisted men receive battlefield commissions. They were Staff Sergeant Harry H. Miyamoto, Staff Sergeant Kenkichi K. Teruya and Staff Sergeant Tadayoshi Hamasaki, all of Company D.

On 6 January 1944 the battalion was temporarily assigned to the First Special Service Forces near the Radicosa Hills, and was assigned to take Hills 1109 and 1270, the last of a series of hills which overlooked the flats before Cassino.

An attempt to take Hill 1109 was made on the night of the 7th. Company A, commanded by Major (then Captain) Mitsuyoshi Fukuda and

Company B, commanded by Captain Sakae Takahashi, led the assault while Company C with Lt. Richard K. Mizuta veered left to protect the flank. By mistake both leading companies took the wrong trail in the dark and after three futile hours they were called back to the line of departure. The same units went forward again on the next day, this time heading for Hill 1109 and in a few hours took the hill free of resistance. The battalion remained in place here anticipating an attack upon Hill 1270, first sending out patrols to determine the situation. Meanwhile four more battlefield appointments were made for Staff Sergeants' Francis W. Kudo, Hisao Shimatsu, Howard V. Miyake and Yoshiharu Nishida.

Morning of the 11th found the battalion forward of Hill 1109 in quest of the title to the remaining hills being commanded by Hill 1270; this site overlooked the Liri Valley. Immediately after their movement, the enemy delivered a heavy barrage of mortars and artillery on Company B. One platoon suffered many casualties.

During this barrage, Sergeant Masaharu Takeba, once before cited for gallantry, ran 75 yards across open terrain to rescue a comrade seriously wounded by sniper fire. Although the sniper still existed, he carried the wounded man to cover thereby saving his life. Sergeant Takeba was posthumously awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star for a few days later he was killed by enemy fire while protecting his attacking platoon.

Hindered by snow and mud on steep-graded Hill 1270, the battalion set a slow pace before uprooting the intricate and well-prepared defenses. The enemy had planned on holding this hill, for in some captured bunkers there was found plentiful stores of food and ammunition.

Up in these hills the weather became severely cold and water froze in canteens. With each forward step, the troops separated themselves further from the aid-station. In this sector occupied by First Special Service Forces, II Corps had 160 men acting as litter bearers for it sometimes required 24 hours to evacuate a man.

Descending into lower grounds from Hill 1270, Company A was paralyzed by heavy machine gun and machine pistol fire. Companies B and C tried to swing right to ease the pressure but came under artillery and small arms fire thrown down from the crest of a ridge. They were forced to halt without effecting a rescue and as night came, the 100th was left in a critical state. Added to that Company C lost its commander, Captain Mizuta (trench foot) and the first platoon leader through artillery fire. It was through the successful leadership shown by Lt. (then S/Sgt) Kazuma Hisanaga that the company held up under the fierce shelling. He regrouped the unit and withdrew them to a more advantageous point where fire coordination was effected and a defense line built.

The 100th unable to move ahead, the regiment sent the 1st Battalion attacking along the ridge so that the battalion could attack frontally and break the grip. Supported by .81mm mortars and behind a strong fire demonstration the three companies surged forward. The enemy was so stunned by this thrust and the 1st Battalion's simultaneous attack that he gave way from Hill 1270 on the 13th. Here the 100th dug-in, anticipating counterattacks that never materialized.

Coming from reserve on the 15th, the 100th drew the assignment to take the town of San Michele situated on the bluffs below

Hill 1270 looking towards Cassino. Company A picked the lead spot and sent out an advance combat patrol led by Captain Harry I. Schoenberg. After subduing small pockets of left-behind Germans, the patrol captured San Michele by way of Hill 230. By dusk the whole battalion had moved in on the objective. Completing this mission the 100th was dropped from the First Special Service Forces after a mix-up which returned them to the 133rd, then back to the SSF, and finally back to the 133rd for correct assignment.

For the next six days, plans were awaited for the pending assault on Cassino proper. Meantime, 15 combat-reconnaissance patrols were dispatched from both Cervaro and San Michele towards Cassino, a distance of two miles away. These patrols contact the French forces on the right, the 135th Regiment on the left, and more significantly reconnoitered for a crossing point over the Rapido River. In this period, another battlefield commission was awarded to First Sergeant Tetsu Ebata, Company A.

On 22 January while separated from a daylight patrol within enemy territory, PFC Sueyoshi Yamakawa, Company A and a comrade were attacked by seven armed Germans. Over-powering his comrade, who was in the lead, they emphasized PFC Yamakawa's surrender by throwing grenades his way. Realizing he must return with certain enemy information, he reciprocated by hurling back two grenades which scattered them. In the confusion, he ran to a nearby irrigation ditch, dove into the cold water and swam downstream 300 yards. After safely eluding them he returned to the patrol rendezvous point. For his exemplary courage in returning with the information, he was awarded the Silver Star.

On the following morning a 14 man patrol led by Lt. Hisao

Shimatsu probed enemy outposts and reconnoitered the Rapido River. It was ambushed out on the flats by a strong enemy party and only ten returned. Lt. Shimatsu was taken prisoner while three enlisted men, Sgt. Henry Y. Nakamura, Cpl. Henry M. Shinyama and PFC. Seiichi Hamamoto were declared as missing in action and presumed to be dead.

From patrol reports, battalion S-2 and S-3 pictured the pending crossing of the flats and river before the actual attack on the town of Cassino itself. The river bed in front was dry in places and at other points flooded by a re-routing of the river caused by the Germans' damming of one point. Near the Rapido, troops would have to negotiate several ditches, approximately 3 feet wide and four feet deep. And as they approached the banks there lay a heavy-laden minefield with mines planted every 5 yards apart having circular, picket-type trip wires running in all directions. Beyond the minefield, barbed wire entanglement and an 8 feet wall provided other obstacles. The river itself though dry, was approximately 14 feet below the ground surface and about 75 feet wide. Ladders would have to be used to descend to the river bed and scale the other side. When that was completed, a double apron barbed wire entanglement had to be cut before going on to Highway 6. Furthermore the enemy had guarded the approaches to the highway with machine gun cross fire. Known too was the fact that the area was well "zeroed in" by artillery and mortar.

With this information the attack was plotted. At 2330 hours of 24th, the 133rd Regiment initiated one of the first tries against Cassino by way of the Rapido River. After a one hour and twenty minute barrage by divisional and Corps artillery, Companies A and C attempted the arduous task. Half an hour later the companies reached

a point 400 yards from the bank where the remaining area was well-flooded and had a mudded floor. With elements of the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon and their own volunteers both units managed to cross the open grounds and reached the river banks by 0500 the next morning. Having discovered the breach, the Germans reacted sharply with artillery, but the men had good cover behind the retaining wall and suffered a few casualties. Machine guns opened up and skimmed over the banks but the two forces had made a safe run to the river wall. Here a defensive line was established in an effort to secure a line of departure for an attack west across the river.

Again individual soldiers meant the difference between success and failure, and through the deeds of some the battle progressed favorably. Silver Stars were awarded to Staff Sergeant Calvin E. Shimogaki, Headquarters Company and Staff Sergeant Takeshi J. Miyagawa and Technical Sergeant Gary T. Hisaoka both of Company C for outstanding work in marking and neutralizing mines and cutting away barbed-wire entanglements so that the companies could pass through. For administering first-aid to a wounded man despite his own painful head wounds, PFC Masanori Aoki also reaped a Silver Star.

Early morning of the 25th, Company B, which had secured the initial line of departure, was ordered to the river banks. Carrying two ladders to be used in scaling the river wall and for a crossing of the river, the company started across the flats but the enemy were on the lookout. When B Company was at the half-way point they laid onto by machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. The oncoming men were frustrated. Only 14 men, including Captain Pye and six men of the first platoon, Lt. James Boodry and five men of the second platoon and the company commander, Captain Takahashi, reached the banks. The rest of the company either

withdrew to the rear or were forced to remain on the flats. Some sought shelter in ditches and defilades, and quickly dug-in. Here they stayed in their foxholes for a day and a half, finally pulling back on the night of the 26th.

At the forward battalion CP, Major Clough was directed to get the companies across the river and attack towards the high grounds northeast of the town of Cassino; the objective was to be the castle half-way up the hill to the famous Benedictine Monastery. With only a low fraction of fighting strength and heavy odds to match against, he was hesitant in committing his forces. Such a move on open grounds against heavy fire from prepared positions on commanding ground would virtually be a suicide mission. Thus Major Dewey of the 133rd Regiment took over the 100th to prepare for the attack. Shortly afterward Major Clough was wounded in the hand.

Thorough reconnaissance was vital, so, on the 26th, Major Dewey accompanied by Major Johnson, Major Fukuda, two wiremen and a messenger set out for the river banks. While moving forward, an enemy machine gun opened up on the group, seriously wounding both Major Dewey and Major Johnson. As the party tried to disperse they tripped a mine and the force of the explosion caught Major Johnson. A few hours later he died.

The attack was postponed by Regiment. Relieved by the 135th Infantry on the morning of the 27th, the 100th left the line and travelled back to San Michele. Here another member, Technical Sergeant Dick N. Harano of Headquarters Company, received his field commission.

On the 29th, Major Lovell returned to duty after recovering from his wounds suffered at San Angelo and assumed command of the battalion. He had made repeated attempts to return to the unit before recovery

but until then he was refused by doctors. As soon as the return of Major Lovell became known to the first man, the news spread within a few minutes to the whole battalion. "The Major is back", "The Major is back". There was hardly the need to mention the rest of his name for everyone in the battalion knew exactly who that meant. Major Lovell had been with the Battalion with Colonel Turner and Major Johnson and was highly regarded by all.

The 133rd remained in division reserve until night of the 29th, then moved on to defensive positions near San Pasquale which they secured until 5 February. A battalion of the 36th Infantry Division took over the sector while the 100th shifted to an area on Hill 175, south of Cairo, awaiting the new sign for another attack on Cassino. One day German planes came over and strafed causing one death and several wounded.

A day later the battalion was set for an assault on the castle, as part of the regimental maneuver which would send the 1st and 3rd Battalions driving above the 100th to take the rear of Cassino. On the right flank, the 135th and 168th Regiments would try and take the monastery.

Morning of the 8th the regiment assaulted. At 0645 hours, at which time the other two regiments were supposed to have taken the monastery, the 133rd moved out supported by tanks and under a smoke screen. Despite enemy shelling the 100th advanced with Companies C and A forward and made rapid movement towards the castle. Then came orders for the battalion to hold its pace and consolidate on Hill 165 to protect the 133rd's right flank.

Meanwhile, the 135th and 168th Regiments were stuck shortly after they jumped off and the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 133rd became engaged in a hard battle attempting to push abreast of the 100th. Strong

enemy anti-tank and machine gun fire from bunker positions poured shells into their lines and they could advance no further. This situation left the 100th with both flanks exposed. Adding to the seriousness, Company C, one of the attacking forces became exposed when a sudden change in the wind shifted the smoke screen. On the forward slopes of Hill 193 the enemy had full view of the troops. Immediately severe machine gun and artillery fire killed several men and wounded a large number.

Enemy tanks appeared. One, mounting a 75mm gun, lumbered up within 100 yards of Company C and began a wholesale shelling. Rifle grenadiers responded but failed to stop the tank. "Tank Buster" Private Awakuni was called upon with his bazooka and crossed 50 yards of open terrain to a point only 30 yards from the hostile armor. His first shell hit the tank's tread, partially disabling it. His second one scored a hit also but it was a dud. Having shown his position, he was subjected to fire from enemy riflemen. Despite it he took aim for the third time, fired and the shell pierced the tank with a direct hit. It burst into flames and all the occupants were killed. Private Awakuni then sought protection of a nearby rock and remained there until darkness permitted his return to friendly lines. For ten hours he was pinned down by deadly sniper fire, and while finally returning to his company he was wounded in the arm by machine gun fire. For extraordinary heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Companies A and B fared no better and received a high share of casualties too. Three men gave aid to the wounded who might have died if they had not received treatment. Sergeant Irvingg T. Masumoto, Company A; Technician Fifth Grade Shigeru Inouye and Technician Fourth Grade Isaac F. Akinaka all aid-men, attached to these companies, left

their shelter to go out into the open to aid stricken men. Despite enemy snipers, and heavy small arms fire they saved several lives. All three men won Silver Stars.

On 8 February, Major Lovell after leaving the forward CP was wounded in the right leg and chest. As he lay exposed, Technical Sergeant Gary Hisaoka, who had won a Silver Star a few weeks before, toiled under fire and dragged the Major back to safety. For his second gallant act he was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster but the award was made posthumous for he was later killed at Anzio. When Major Lovell was evacuated, Major Clough took command of the 100th again.

The battalion stayed in place for four days, shifting positions to better advantage against the severe shellings, but firmly held its position. Many enemy snipers were killed off in this sector. Communication lines were often shattered when shell fragments cut them and each company owed a great deal to courageous wiremen who went out under fire to repair the lines. Four Headquarters Company men and one from Company D were commended with Bronze Stars.

During these four days the regiment, after directing eight inch howitzer fire upon Cassino, took a total of only four buildings. On the 11th, flame throwers manned by engineers attempted to burn out enemy bunkers but were unsuccessful. Heavy fire kept them back. Finally on the 12th, the 100th drew away from the untenable area and went into regimental reserve in the rear of the 1st Battalion near Hill 193.

However, Company B was ordered into the town of Cassino to help clear out the near end which would secure the 3rd Battalion's right flank.

The next three days saw a complete change in allied plans. The famous Abbey overlooking the whole Cassino sector was pounded by a total of 300 B-17's, B-25's and P-40's of the 15th Mediterranean Air

Force. Parts of the old and huge structure were reduced to ruins but still when infantrymen tried to take it, the enemy would come out to ward them off. Throughout the whole struggle for Cassino, hundreds of artillery pieces threw thousands of shells at the Abbey and mountain side, shaking the whole valley for miles about, but still the defenses stood up.

After a brief respite and backed by American and British artillery, the 100th, on the 18th, launched another attack on the castle while the 168th Infantry attempted to storm the Monastery. It was the same old story again of previous attacks. The attackers could get so far and then would come under murderous fire from bunkers and artillery. 100th troops could only stay in their foxholes and "sweat out" more shells and brave the wet and cold. Several times a day, from the 18th to the 22nd, patrols were dispatched to see if there was anything that might indicate that the enemy would withdraw. In all other sectors of the Liri "Purple Heart " Valley, allied striking power could not breach the strongpoint at that time.

On the 22 February, the 100th left Cassino turning over their scarred sector to an element of the 6th New Zealand Brigade. Back to San Michele they went and thence to Alife for a rest and reorganization. At the time the battalion quit Cassino, its strength had dropped to a point where the rifle companies had approximately 40 men each, counting those in the kitchen areas. It was only through the courage and determination of the officers and men that they were able to hang on in the face of such overwhelming odds. Only one-third of Cassino was taken and the town was savagely-defended. Every building had been converted into a strongpoint. For that period the weather was unfavorable to

fighting but the battle had to be carried on. Men became fatigued fighting day and night and some fell exhausted.

Casualties for the battle of Cassino and the struggles preceding it amounted to 4 officers and 38 men killed, 12 officers and 122 men wounded, 3 officers and 8 men injured, 6 men died of wounds, 2 were declared missing in action and one officer and one enlisted man was taken prisoner.

Added deeds of heroism swelled the list of honors, some made with the price of death. Some passed unnoticed in the confusion of battle. With the list of dead and wounded, disabilities were increased by trench foot. Men limped down the mountain-sides or were carried down in litters because they could no longer endure the pain. To bear the burden of supplies and help in the evacuation of the wounded and dead, all available persons were gathered from the kitchen areas and the rear to help out.

At Alife, the 100th rested and tried to forget the ugliness of war for awhile by entertainment and USO shows. On one occasion John Garfield, the Hollywood actor, paid a visit to the rest area. On 10 March, the battalion entrucked for San Giorgio near Benevento continuing its rest. Here the first group of reinforcements composed of 10 officers and 151 enlisted men arrived from Camp Shelby, Mississippi where they had trained with the 442nd Infantry Regiment.

Late in January while the 100th was locked in struggle at Cassino, Fifth Army made an amphibious operation at Anzio beachhead below Rome. The Allies had hoped to threaten the communication routes in the rear of the German lines centered about Cassino. VI Coprs commanded the successful beach landing but a heavier concentration of troops was needed after many counterattacks had somewhat weakened American forces.

So among the units ordered to Anzio was the 34th Division.

Minus most of its vehicles, the battalion boarded Navy LST's at Naples Harbor on 24 March, and sailed up the gulf coming to the beachhead two mornings later. Fortunately the convoy entered the harbor without attacks by enemy aircraft nor hammerings by the 270mm "Anzio Express" which daily fired into the town. At that time the situation was not so tense as a month before, when all civilians had to be evacuated by boats returning to Naples.

From the battered port, the 100th rode to the vicinity of Pane where they relieved a battalion of the 3rd Division. During this time, the entire beachhead had set up a perimeter defense; the penetration extended approximately 7 miles deep and 14 miles wide. The Germans had rushed all available divisions from their conquered countries to Anzio and Fifth Army confronted by this evergrowing force dared not endanger its positions by pushing in any further. The battalion was warned to improve their defenses and each man realized how dangerous any part of Anzio was. On the 27th, the enemy's huge railroad gun struck two ammunition dumps along the water-front and for five days the Luftwaffe came over bombing and strafing.

On 1 April, (per General Order Number 21, dated 30 March) the battalion was relieved as part of the 133rd Regiment, giving way to the 2nd Battalion which had arrived from Africa. Actually the 100th had taken leave of the 133rd before coming to Anzio; this was only the official change. However, the battalion still came under the 34th Division.

At 2000 hours, 2 April, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Singles relieved Major Clough as Battalion Commander--the latter stepping into the role of Executive Officer. As of this day, the staff consisted of the fol-

lowing officer: Adjutant, Captain Henry M. Kawano; S-2, Captain Young-- O. Kim; S-3, Major Oscar King; S-4, Captain George E. Grandstaff: Major Alex E. McKenzie was listed as Assistant Executive Officer but a few weeks later took the place of Major Clough who went to the United States on rotation. Company Commanders as of this date were : Company A, Major (then Captain) Mitsuyoshi Fukuda; Company B, Captain Sakae Takahashi; Company C, Captain Rocco G. Marzano and Company D, Captain Robert J. McKelvey.

A second nucleus of reinforcements for the 100th arrived at the beachhead on 4 April, consisting of 10 officers and 200 enlisted men, also coming from the 442nd Regiment. The group was assigned to different companies and then indoctrinated by simulated battle procedures for two days near New Cancelli. Completing this short training, the battalion moved on the evening of the 6th to take over positions of the 1st Battalion of the 133rd. Up to the middle of the month there was no enemy troop activity but artillery fell into the area quite often. "Anzio Express" made its daily run overhead smashing at the supply areas around the waterfront. Several times shells hit the hospitals.

Three more men received battlefield commissions on 15 April. Those receiving commissions were Technical Sergeants Kazuma Hisanaga, Takeichi Miyashiro and Staff Sergeant Masanao Otake, all from ranks of Company C. Several days later, staff Sergeant Richard N. Hamasaki, Company A, was commissioned Lieutenant.

No offensive developments were sprung in the remaining days of April. The beachhead was devoid of large scale counterattacks, however, the enemy showed his uneasiness by methodical shelling. At times, tanks with a limited number of infantry, tried to dent VI Corps line, but the stubbornness of the defenders and a quick call for friendly ar-

tillery decimated the attackers. Air raids were frequent after dark but anti-aircraft protectors destroyed many Luftwaffe and drove the rest away. When hostile planes approached, the sky burst into flames with thousands of vari-colored flak rising up to ford them off. The beachhead became all lighted and even if it was war, the sight was beautiful. Some enemy planes managed to get in and on the 21 April 12 anti-personnel bombs were dropped near Company B's kitchen. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Close watch was kept on the enemy and over 50 patrols flitted back and forth across the lines probing his defenses and disrupting his installations. On 22 April, one patrol from Company A led by Lt. Sadami Katahara and Lt. Howard Miyake returned from a successful raid on a German outpost. Four dead enemy were left behind and one prisoner was taken.

Company A's sector around Cisterna di Littoria was heavily shelled that day. Two squads sheltered in a house were endangered when an enemy shell hit the ammunition dump adjacent to the house. Lt. David Novack, Platoon Leader, anxious for his men, crawled 300 yards to the house. When he reached there, a Phosperous shell spread the ammunition fire and ignited the house itself. An escape route exposed to the least possible danger was found by the officer and immediately he evacuated them to safety. After that he returned, under the danger of exploding shells, to inspect the house for any men who might have been wounded and left behind. For his courageous act he was honored with a Silver Star.

The period of 1-15 May, saw a maintainance of aggressive patrolling in an effort to find a breach in enemy lines and to chart defenses. In the vicinity of Isola Bella, on the 9th and 10th, Lt. James Boodry and

PFC James K. Komatsu, Company B, volunteered for a continued reconnaissance behind enemy lines to get information needed for subsequent raids. While moving up, they were subjected to enemy machine gun fire and mortars as well as friendly fire but continued to a vantage point near an enemy outpost. Here they remained all day, observing and noting enemy installations. On the following night they withdrew and reported to the battalion CP an accurate account of enemy installations in that sector. Both were cited with Silver Stars.

German patrols likewise sought to determine the forces opposing them and special guard was taken to intercept paratroop-motorized units who attempted to infiltrate American lines and bring back prisoners. Air raids were recurrent. On 2nd May, the Luftwaffe appeared and dropped bombs a few hundred yards distance from the battalion rear CP. Again on the 3rd they came over and repeated with several anti-personnel bombs.

On other days of that period German planes dropped thousands of propaganda leaflets on the beachhead forces as part of their psychological warfare program. In line with propaganda a radio program featuring an English-speaking Italian girl, was intended for Allied consumption. Several times night "Sally" broadcasted American music records ^{and} she and her speaking staff would carry on discussions of "What are you fighting for?" Very appreciative of "Sally's" fine collection of old records, many soldiers built razor blade radio sets and tuned in nightly for the music.

On 16 May, Captain Kim, S-2, and PFC Irving M. Akahoshi taking three riflemen volunteered to go on a combat patrol to obtain definite information about the identification of troops and the disposition and estimated strength of the Germans in front of the division's sector. All previous attempts to obtain this information by the capture of a

prisoner had failed. If the patrol succeeded, invaluable knowledge for formulating plans for a possible break-through in the 34th Division's area would be had.

Leaving the forward lines of Company B in the afternoon, the five men selected a route along a drain ditch, waist to shoulder deep and succeeded in infiltrating through enemy lines and outposts. After working their way for an hour they could hear troops talking, singing and digging. At this point, knowing that the enemy at the outposts were extremely cautious at night, Captain Kim and his party decided to rest until dawn. When it was lighted enough to be able to avoid mines, wires and other obstacles, the patrol headed forward cutting through entwined briar brush and by-passed many enemy strongpoints. Later around 0900 after they had covered only a few hundred yards more, Captain Kim ordered a halt moving his men to an advantageous position to observe the enemy defenses.

Remaining here, the patrol gathered valuable information and decided on the next move. They would have to go through a wheat field and hit the suspected strongpoint from the rear. While the three riflemen were posted to cover, Captain Kim and PFC Akahoshi, crawled forward through eight to eighteen inch wheat stalks and after two hours of stop-and-go had advanced only 250 yards. Finally they neared a draw from where there could be heard the chatter of German and the sounds of someone cleaning a gun. Several more yards were gained where they silently parted the wheat stalks. Directly to the front were two Germans, presumably security guards, sitting in their slit trenches.

Quickly Captain Kim and PFC brandished their Tommy guns, completely surprising the two and ordered them to remain silent. The startled guards raised their hands and were quickly disarmed while not far away

other Germans were talking and laughing unaware of the stealth in their midst.

The two prisoners were led back though a different route barely missing other strongpoints. Captain Kim and PFC Akahoshi found the rest of the group waiting and the party headed back for friendly lines. At 1330 hours, the next day, the battalion CP was reached and an outstanding but dangerous mission behind enemy lines was concluded. Upon questioning the prisoners were found to be members of the 7th Company, 955th Regiment, 362nd Infantry Division. They talked freely and so intelligence was able to find out all the necessary information not previously known.

For this brilliant act, Captain Kim and PFC Akahoshi were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses upon the recommendation of Major General Ryder. In addition the Italian Government made a similar presentation.

First Battalion of the 133rd Regiment tried to penetrate the enemy lines near Borgo Podgora on the 18th but suffered heavy casualties. Therefore Companies A and B of the 100th were ordered to relieve them the following day as the regiment feared of a counterattack. Relief was accomplished by the 22nd and the 100th set up a strong defensive position.

A very unusual incident occurred on the afternoon of the 23rd. A message was received at Battalion Aid-Station that "The Germans wanted our troops to pick up eight wounded American soldiers whom they were unable to take care for." It was understood that they would leave the wounded soldiers at a blown-out bridge between the lines, so taking one ambulance and two jeeps, carrying litter squads, Chaplain Yost and the others drove to within 100 yards of the Mussolini Canal, which at that time was "no man's land". The party dismounted and was directed

by a soldier of Company A to follow a ditch and then go out into the canal. When the aid party arrived at that spot, one of the 100th's officers, Captain Shoenberg and several of the enlisted men were talking together with two young German officers. The entire party had no arms. It was a strange meeting for one bank of the Canal held 100th troops while on the opposite bank was the enemy.

One of the Germans spoke English fairly well--the Germans wanted a truce on the following day at noon to bury 112 American soldiers whose bodies lay behind their lines. Chaplain Yost informed him that neither he nor the battalion had the power of making such a truce and the conversation terminated. The following day that area was evacuated by the Germans.

During the morning hours of 24 May, the enemy grip on the Anzio beachhead was broken. The Germans were caught unawares. Preceding the attack, 400 pieces of artillery and close-supporting aircraft pounded the areas beyond front line troops while ground forces opened up with over three hundred .50 calibre machine guns supplementing multiple rifle and automatics. All units started the push simultaneously and the great drive for Rome started. On 11 May the forces at Cassino had begun a huge offensive so the entire Fifth and Eighth Armies were embraced in the big offensive.

In this final drive, the 100th was temporarily relieved from the 133rd and together with the 34th Reconnaissance Troops became directly attached to VI Corps with the mission of protecting the Corps' right flank along the Mussolini Canal. A frontage of 3600 yards had to be protected but as the attack progressed the line extended to 14000 yards.

The action came so suddenly and advanced with such rapidity that some 100th troops were unaware of it. Anti-tank men had been busy on

the night of the 23rd digging positions for their guns and were startled by the happenings. By afternoon of the next day, jeeps and heavy artillery rumbled past the same road, that a day before was unsafe to even walk around, for fear of catching an enemy barrage.

On the 27th the 100th travelled 15 miles northeast of Cisterna to the division assembly area and became attached to the 135th Infantry whose 2nd Battalion had joined the 1st Armored Division. The 34th's drive after the break-through continued to gain ground until 2 June where the enemy put up a last-ditch defense around La Torretto and Lanuvio. Here was the final bastion before the city of Rome.

The advance was delayed by an intricate network of machine gun positions, one overlapping another. To attempt piercing this line the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 135th Regiment were ordered to attack but met fierce resistance. After repeated attempts, they were unable to dent the lines. The 100th was then ordered to the same job. Companies B and C, as the lead units, ran into strong machine gun lanes guarded by numerous minefields. In this sector the enemy had created a bulge in the division's lines and it was necessary to reduce this bulge and neutralize all the machine guns before the final blow could be delivered.

After careful reconnaissance an attack was made in the vicinity of Pianmarano. Both companies spearheaded the strike on the enemy strongpoints and after a 36 hour fight they had first cleared the minefield and then proceeded to knock out one machine gun after another. Close to a dozen were destroyed. The hold was broken, the line was straightened and they drove deeper into enemy territory. No one had anticipated such a powerful drive. As a result the 100th smashed into the salient and was mistaken for enemy troops. They were heavily fired upon by friendly artillery which cost a heavy toll of troops in killed

and wounded, before word could be relayed back to the artillery fire control center. In that battle the 100th suffered 15 killed and 63 wounded and one missing in action.

In the sweat and strain of this struggle, the intensity of action was illustrated by the examples of B and C Company riflemen who won six Distinguished Service Crosses, one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars. Company C's, PFC Robert H. Yasutake, serving as an automatic rifleman for his squad wiped out two machine gun nests, killed six enemy, wounded seven more and by a heroic and determined stand made it possible for his platoon to come abreast of him. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Also of Company C, Lt. Bert M. Tanaka came to the rescue of his pinned-down platoon and led two men to knock out a dug-out containing several enemy. This was performed under heavy artillery and small arms fire and he was honored with a Silver Star.

From Company B, Private Shinyei Nakamine (Posthumous) Lt. (then S/Sgt) Yeiki Kobashigawa, Staff Sergeant Yukio Yokota, PFC Haruto Kuroda, in a period of three hours neutralized eight German machine gun nests, five machine pistolsnests, killed or captured twenty-four enemy and forced the route of many more.

Morning of the 3rd, Colonel Singles was put in command of a task force composed of the 100th Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Battalion, Company C, 191st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company A, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion and Company C, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion. Mission of the task force was to secure the road junctionnortheast of Hill 415 lying south of Genzano.

The forward elements, A and C companies, with Company B in reserve attacked at 2030 hours towards Hill 415. The 125th Field Artillery

was ordered to give direct support to the infantry troops while the 151st Field Artillery was in general support for the Combat team. Following a preparatory barrage, Company A advanced for the hill but was pinned down. Company B enveloped to the right of them while Company C made a circling movement to the left. Tank Destroyers crushingly delivered point-blank fire from their three inch guns on the summit of Hill 415 and shell after shell was emptied on the targets. Here was a brilliant display of marksmanship. Ninety percent of the shells found their true mark wiping out enemy observation posts and gun emplacements. Company C of the Chemical Mortar Battalion used their 4.2 inch mortars to lay down an effective smoke screen on Hill 415 and the road beyond.

After this devastating fire by all guns and an effective smoke screen, the rifle companies in a three-and-a-half hour attack routed the last remaining elements of the German 29th Panzer Group, Company C captured 50 prisoners alone, before the rest fled. Now the last backbone of defense was broken and the approaches to Rome were clear.

Throughout the 4th, the combat team advanced so swiftly that rear and forward communications were not intact. Communication with division was also out. The enemy was pursued by marching on foot for hours. Genzano was swept through as Ariccia and Albano and nearer and nearer came the Fifth Army objective.

On the 5th, road signs on Highway 7 read: Roma, 11 Kilometers. The last stretch was in sight but the inevitable happened; the 100th was ordered to rest. Armored units picked up the chase for the Eternal City and the prize, that they sought after so many months---honor of being the first troops in the city--went unattainable. From Valleranallo the battalion was finally put on trucks and at 2200 hours on the night of the 5th the 100th passed through the outskirts of Rome heading northwards

in pursuit of the enemy. The city's celebration, from being freed from Nazi rule, was centered in the area around St. Peter's Church and on the outskirts as the trucks then rolled by there were only few people to greet the men. But the cheers of the few were loud and long and certainly it could be marked as a famous day. Two years previous the "Maui" had slipped out of the Honolulu Harbor and the 100th Battalion was then starting on the road to Rome.

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