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NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

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April 1945

13 Jul 46

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Date

The mon~~itions~~igan with the regiment bivouacked at San Martino, near Lucca, preparing to resume combat in Italy. The companies were conducting an intensive training schedule, consisting of range firing, conditioning marches, mine indoctrination and and unit tactical problems. Cannon Co zeroed its new 105mm howitzers on a range near Viarreggio.

A command inspection by the General and Special Staff of the 92d Infantry Division was begun.

Easter Sunday was observed in services conducted by the Combat Team chaplains. Weather was warm and clear.

The mailing address of the regiment was changed from APO 758 (Seventh Army) to APO 464 (Fifth Army).

2. Daily training and the command inspection progressed. The 232d Eng (C) Co operated a shower unit for all personnel.

In accordance with 92d Inf Div directive, a Provisional Company was constituted to control reinforcements, RTU's and personnel above T/O strength. Initial cadre was 4 officers and 10 EM.

3. The command inspection was concluded. At 1500 General MARK W. CLARK, Commanding General, 15th Army Group, visited the 442d Infantry and addressed members of the 100th Battalion.

In accordance with radio msg dated 030700B April 45, from the CG, IV Corps, the 442d Inf was detached from IV Corps, remaining attached to 92d Inf Div for operations.

Beginning at 1945 3 April 45, the 3d Bn and 100th Bn moved up under cover of darkness to assembly areas on the front lines. Personnel entrucked at San Martino and rode to Pietrasanta, a distance of 17 miles. From there the 3d Bn marched 8 miles over mountainous, uphill terrain to the town of Azzano (980995) closing in at 0400. The 100th Bn assembled in similar manner near Vallecchia (972953). The Regimental CP opened at Vallecchia 2140 3 April 45. All moves were carried out with utmost secrecy.

4. Final preparations were made for the attack. H-Hour was set at 0500 5 Apr 45. The regimental zone of advance extended along the East side of Highway 1 and approached the city of Massa from the Southeast. The terrain was extremely mountainous and commanded the flat coastal land West of Highway 1 as well as Massa itself.

The key points in the sector were a series of peaks, Mt Cerreta, Mt Fragolita, Mt Carchio and Mt Belvedere, ranging in height

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from 2700 to 3300 feet and extending generally in a South to North line in the order named. These peaks had been fortified by the Germans during the preceding static period and were known to be strongly defended. They had resisted previous attacks by other elements.

The plan of attack called for the 100th Bn to assault frontally from the South, while the 3d Battalion, making an undetected approach march, enveloped Mt Fragolita from the East and North, sent one company South along the ridge of Mt Cerreta to join with the 100th Battalion attacking North; another 3d Battalion company to continue the attack on Mt Carchio.

The regiment was supported by the fire of the 599th FA Bn and the 329th FA Bn; 1st Platoon, B Co, 895th Tank Destroyer Bn; B Co, 84th Chemical Bn (4.2 mortars), and Assault Guns of the 758th Tank Battalion.

At 2100 the 100th Battalion left its assembly area and moved up in darkness to jump off position on Mt Cauala, North of Vallecchia. The 3d Bn likewise moved out, with partisan guides, and hiked four miles over the mountains from Azzano to the LD near Mt Fragolita.

Cannon Co moved into firing positions near Vallecchia at 2030. Beginning at 2000, the 2d Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved by truck from San Martino to approximately 4 kilometres South of Pietrasanta, where the troops dismounted and marched to an assembly area near Vallecchia.

5. At 0455 our artillery opened the attack with a 10 minute barrage on the enemy positions. The 100th Battalion jumped off at 0502, with Co C and Co A leading. Resistance developed immediately and casualties were sustained from enemy artillery and ground fire. The battalion's first objective, the "Georgia" peak at 966969 was reached and cleared at 0530. 200 yds beyond this point the battalion encountered a series of log bunkers and machine gun emplacements, from which the enemy directed interlocking fire and pinned down the leading company. Enemy mortars and SP guns opened up from the left flank in the sector of the 370th Infantry. The close nature of the fighting around the pillboxes limited the use of our artillery, and in order to continue the advance it was necessary to destroy the bunkers one at a time by the use of bazookas and grenades. The enemy resisted stubbornly and fighting was severe throughout the entire day. By nightfall 12 bunkers had been destroyed. Co C sustained 31 casualties, include killed in action. Co A lost 3 men KIA and 23 WIA. At 2345 the Germans counterattacked in platoon strength, but were stopped by accurate mortar and artillery fire.

Meanwhile, 3 kilometres to the North, the 3d Battalion had attacked on the ridge between Mt Fragolita and Mt Carchio, with Cos I and L leading and Co K in reserve. The attack achieved the element of surprise and initial resistance was scattered.

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At 0730 the battalion secured the ridge, Co L took eight prisoners and started South towards Mt Fragolita. By 1230 I Co was on Mt Carchio and L Co had taken Fragolita, cut the route supplying the Germans on Mt Cerreta and was pushing down the ridge of Mt Cerreta to meet the 100th Battalion. Enemy resistance increased as the attack progressed, and artillery and mortar barrages caused numerous casualties. Co K, moving forward from Azzano in support, unde went a barrage of 120mm mortars which killed 3 and wounded 23 men. Co M, hand carrying its weapons and ammunitions up the 700 slope of the ridge, was similarly caught in a mortar barrage, which inflicted 20 casualties. All available personnel in the battalion were used to evacuate the wounded, including the Antitank platoon, 57 men from Antitank Co, and 88 from the Provisional Company. The evacuations were made difficult by the mountainous terrain, and in many cases were carried out under shellfire.

In order to supply the forward companies, carrying apties were organized, consisting of personnel from Antitank Co, Provisional Co, and Italian partisans. All rations, water and ammunition had to be carried by pack board, from the valley to the forward elements. The trip required eight hours.

Air support from the 57th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air command, was notable thruout the day, bombing and strafing the enemy rear, as well as a suspected reserve battalion in Massa.

In addition to the positions occupied, the results of the day's operations showed 30 enemy killed, 12 log Bunkers and 17 machine guns destroyed, and 13 prisoners taken, including one officer. The prisoners were from the 3d and 4th Cos, 281st Regt, 148th Division.

6. Orders issued on the night of the 5th called for the 100th Battalion to continue the attack and drive North along the ridge to make a juncture with the 3d Battalion. The 3d Battalion was to occupy the ridge of Mt Fragolita and work elements at 060600 to clear Mt Cerreta and meet the 100th Bn; at the same time blocking the trail leading from the town of Montignoso to the East and all trails leading into the battalion zone, to guard against counter-attack. The 2d Battalio was ordered to move by foot under cover of darkness to relieve elements of the 3d Battalion on Mt Carchio, and to attack and occupy strategic Mt Belvedere.

At 0100 6 Apr, the 2d platoon of Co B led by Lt Drebin, with an attached MG squad, left its position in battalion reserve moved to the left of Co C, and attacked the pillboxes on Rocky Ridge (958973), between Mt Cauala and Mt Cerreta. The platoon worked its way up the hill using hand grenades and rifle grenades. Two pillboxes were knocked out. At 0930 13 prisoners were taken.

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Resistance was heavy, and the 3d platoon was called up to reinforce assaulting platoon. While moving up, the 3d platoon passed through a minefield that had previously been used by our litterbearers. One man stepped off the trail and activated a Schu mine. The mine was connected to a series of others and in the explosions that followed two men were killed and 8 wounded. After the ridge was taken, the rest of B company moved up and dug in. In the heavy fighting, the 2d and 3d platoon took a total of 49 prisoners and captured (12 German rifles,) 3 heavy machine guns, 4 cases of "potato masher" grenades, 3 AT grenade launchers, 2000 rounds of machine gun ammunition. Casualties were high, the company losing 8 men killed and 19 wounded.

At 0850 an air mission was called on the three Ohio peaks (964975-963977-962978) in front of Co C. Major Jack Conley, 100th Bn commander, directed the fire of the four fighter-bombers, who scored direct hits on the objective with bombs, rockets and machine gun strafing. Following the air attack Co C renewed the advance. At 1205 Co C took Ohio 1 and Ohio 2 and sent patrols to Ohio 3. At 1320 Ohio 3 was cleared. 3 ration and ammunition dumps with supplies for one company for one week were taken intact; in addition 15 machine guns, 2 submachine guns, 1 British and 1 Italian type, a grenade launcher, schu mines and demolitions, American water cans, packboards and a "300" radio complete.

Co L attacked at daybreak towards Mt Cerreta, to make a juncture with the 100th Bn. Artillery and mortar fire fell in intense barrages, killing two and wounding 11 men in the company. Capt Edward Nilges, 3d Bn S-3 was killed by machine gun fire while leading an a reconnaissance party ahead of the company. Co L pushed forward against the resistance, took Mt Cerreta and at 1900 made contact with the 100th Battalion. The company took 30 prisoners in the fighting.

Co I and Co K maintained defensive positions on Mt Fragolita and Mt Carchio, subject to artillery fire. An air mission was called on Mt Altissimo in an effort to silence German batteries firing from there and a protective smoke screen. was maintained along the flank of the battalion.

The 2d Bn left its position in reserve at 2130 5 April and following the path of the 3d Bn climbed up the Fragolita-Carchio ridge. The battalion reached Mt Carchio at noon and consolidated the ground. At 1400 Co F jumped off in the attack on Mt Belvedere, the height overlooking the city of Massa. After a firefight on the Southern slope, the company reached the objective at 1700. Pockets of enemy remained to be cleared.

Enemy artillery was active thruout the day, shelling the forward companies as well as supply trails and rear areas. The regimental CP at Vallecchia was shelled by heavy caliber coastal guns on Punta Bianca.

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Lieutenant General LUCIAN K. TRUSCOTT, JR, Commanding General, Fifth Army, visited the Regimental CP during the day.

A total of 106 Germans were captured during the day, from the 2d, 3d, 4th and 7th Cos, 281st Regiment. Among the prisoners was the company commander of the 2d Co.

On the 7th the regiment cleared and consolidated the ground won on the preceding two days. 3d Battalion attacked West at 0500 from M Fragolita to reduce enemy pockets on the ridge leading to Cle Piano and thus assist the 370th Infantry in its attack to the Northwest. The enemy resisted strongly from machinegun nests and strongpoints, but the battalion overcame the resistance and advanced steadily down ridge. The town of Montignoso was bombed by air support, and a reconnaissance made by the battalion commander, guided by partisans, indicated that the way to the town had been opened.

The 2d Battalion meanwhile pressed its attack against troops of the Kesselring M.G. Bn on Mt Belvedere. Co F killed 20 Germans, destroyed 6 enemy machine gun emplacements, took 26 prisoners with maps and documents. The clearing of the peak was completed after hard fighting by the morning of the 8th. A company of enemy was observed forming in a draw at 940006 at 1250 hours. Division Artillery was called and the enemy threat effectively hit.

Co C relieved Co L as it moved off Mt Cerreta, and the 100th Battalion occupied key points along the Cerreta ridge, which they organized for defense. A combat patrol consisting of the 1st platoon of Co B entered the town of Strettoia and made contact with elements of the friendly unit on the left flank.

The enemy continued to shell the regimental area with heavy coastal guns, and kept the supply routes under fire. Rations, ammo and water were brought up by carrying parties during the night. Rain and foggy weather increased the difficulties of the fighting. 250 reinforcements arrived and were attached to the Provisional Co.

A total of 46 Germans were captured. Our casualties for the day were 11 killed, 61 wounded.

17 Officers and 213 EM former and present members of the Med Dets, 100th Inf Bn Sep and 442d Inf, were awarded the Medical Badge per GO 25, Hq 442d RCT, 7 April 45.

8. The attack continued on the 8th. Co L 2d platoon was sent forward to secure the West slope of the Fragolita-Cle Piano ridge and accomplished its mission at 1200. Co K advanced along the ridge toward Montignoso and Co L and Co I followed the road into town from the East. 16 prisoners were taken in the advance. The hamlet of Vietina was occupied during the afternoon and the battalion entered Montignoso at 1530. The town was found in complete ruins.



At 1200 Go G pushed West from Mt Belvedere toward Cle Tecchione (Hill 381) with the 2d platoon on the right, 3d platoon on the left and the 1st in reserve. The company was under constant artillery and mortar fire and heavy resistance was encountered from an estimated 200 Germans on the ridge. A three hour fire-fight ensued at 936014. Eight Germans were killed and six taken prisoner. 3 light machine guns and 4 mortars were captured. The company secure positions on Tecchione by nightfall and dug in in defensive positions. From 2000 until 0200 9 April the positions were under constant mortar and small arms fire; at midnight the Germans counterattacked in the 1st platoon area, but were thrown back. The company lost 4 KIA, 12 WIA.

Co E and F moved off Mt Belvedere at 1800 to begin the attack on Altagnana and Pariana, two towns along the Frigido River one kilometer to the North. A reconnaissance patrol from F Co entered Pariana and withdrew after drawing heavy fire.

Co E on the battalion right fought its way into Altagnana, and had one platoon on its objective by 2400 hours.

During the day the 100th Battalion garrisoned the high peaks on the right flank and prepared defensive positions against a possible counterattack from Mt Altissimo. B Co took position on Mt Fragolita and Mt Cerreta; A Co on Mt Carchio and C on Mt Belvedere. 1st platoon of B Co again went on patrol to Strettoia, returned with two prisoners.

The coastal guns on Punta Bianca were subjected to an air mission by medium bombers but continued to harass the regimental sector. Enemy mortars on Mt Altissimo which had been firing on the supply route, were brought under fire by 155mm rifles during the day.

At 1100 hours the control of the coastal sector on the regimental left flank passed from the 370th Infantry to the 473d Infantry.

The regimental CP moved from Vallecchia to Montignoso at 1900.

During the night, while moving up to new firing positions near Montignoso, a truck and howitzer of Cannon Co overturned on Highway 1. One man was killed and 5 injured in the accident.

✓ 201 additional Japanese American reinforcements arrived and were attached to the Provisional Co.

9. A bitter battle developed for Pariana. 150 Germans of the Desselring Machine Gun Battalion were assembled in the town, supported by automatic weapons and mortars, a tank, an SP gun and a reconnaissance car. Planes were not available for an air mission. After artillery preparation and a morning-long battle, the 2d platoon of F Co, supported by H Co machine guns, succeeded in penetrating the defense line at 1300 and at 1400 occupied the fringe of the town.

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Eight German mortars were captured intact with 75 cases of ammunition and were turned against the enemy. In close fighting 65 Germans were killed, 8 machine guns and 4 additional mortars captured. By 1600 Co F had control of the town, although final resistance was not subdued till nightfall. The company took 62 prisoners including three officers. The company also recovered a 300 radio and one German radio set. Co E meanwhile secured the town of Altagnana and pushed patrols to the Frigido River. Contact was maintained with Co F, and a machine gun squad was sent to Canevera to hold a roadblock on the road leading into Massa.

Meanwhile in the left of the regimental sector, the 3d Battalion was pushing towards the Frigido River. A hot breakfast was brought up to Montignoso during the night--the first hot food since the attack started on 5 April--and at 0830 the battalion set out to cross the Belvedere-Tecchione ridge. Cos K and I were the leading companies, with L in reserve. Machine gun and rifle fire opened up from Hill 381 in the adjoining sector pinning down the leading elements. The flanking fire threatened to halt the battalion's advance, and Co K engaged the enemy. A three hour firing mission by Co M mortars drove the enemy into the open, where they were subjected to artillery fire. 7 machine guns, 4 mortars and approximately 50 prisoners were taken on the hill. The battalion relieved G Co on the Belvedere-Tecchione ridge and descended to the Frigido River line at 2000, with L and I Cos abreast and K Co, following its heavy battle, in battalion reserve, at Quadrelli. The battalion OP was established before dusk at C Manfredi. It was evident that the enemy, having suffered heavy losses, was withdrawing, and patrols were sent out immediately to cross the river and maintain contact. During the day the Germans were reported arming mines in Massa and several demolitions were observed. The position of the regiment cut off Massa from the North.

G Co was relieved by the 3d Bn at 1700 and reverted to 2d Bn reserve. A new supply route opened up along Highway 1 reduced the 12 hr trip to 2 hrs. The wounded were evacuated over the new route and supplies brought up.

The 100th Bn remained in position on Mt Belvedere, Mt Carchio and Mt Fragolita, protecting the right flank of the regiment under harassing artillery and mortar fire. The Battalion CP moved to Montignoso at 1045. Relief of the battalion by the 370th Infantry began.

10. The heavy losses inflicted upon the enemy in the preceding days forced the Germans to begin a withdrawal to their Green Line, a series of defensive positions above Carrara. The 442d Infantry by-passed the city of Massa, crossed the Frigido River and advanced 3500 yards ahead of flanking units to seize high ground South of Carrara. The 473d Infantry occupied Massa without opposition.



Combat patrols of the 3d Battalion, with partisan guides, waded the Frigido at dawn entered the towns of Lavecchio, Barghina, Mirteto and Bergiola Maggiore. In each town the troops were warmly welcomed by the liberated civilians. The 3d platoon of Co L reached Bergiola Foscalina, the battalion objective, at 1030 and the rest of Co L marched to the objective over the difficult mountain terrain, meeting scattered small arms fire. As the company moved into Bergiola Foscalina the enemy barraged the town. The 3d Battalion CP moved up to Massa which was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar shelling. Wiremen worked thruout the night to maintain the frequently-cut communication lines.

Meanwhile Co E left Altagnana at 0815, crossed the river and advanced on the regimental right flank. Mt Brugiana, a 2900 foot peak dominating the city of Carrara, was occupied at 1330, with partisan support. Co F was resupplied with ammunition and left Pariana at 0900. At 1600 the company reached Mt Brugiana and dug in for the night.

Co G, in 2d Bn reserve, moved from Mt Belvedere to Pariana. Reports were received from partisans of an enemy force composed of German and Italian Fascist troops moving against the right flank from Mt Altissimo. To observe such movement, the 2d platoon of G Co was ordered to proceed to high ground above Casette (933058). The plt left Pariana at 1700.

Similarly, to protect the extended right flank, Co B moved from Mt Belvedere to Antona and Co C assembled in Altagnana. Co A remained on Mt Carchio and sent a patrol to Campaccio (958018) which found hastily abandoned enemy dugouts.

Antitank Co established a block on the road leading into Massa from the NE at the junction at 935054.

Lt General LUCIAN K. TRUSCOTT visited the regimental CP at 1100.

11. The regiment continued its rapid advance on the 11th. The city of Carrara, large marble quarrying center(50,000 pop), was occupied without resistance and the surrounding towns of Sorgnano, Gragnana and Torano taken. Strong partisan support continued to aid the advance.

Following a report that the Germans had evacuated Carrara, a platoon of Co L moved from Bergiola Foscolina at 0900 and entered the city at 1100. The troops received an ovation from the inhabitants, being the first Allied forces to enter.

2d platoon of Co K pushed to Gragnana, North of Carrara, and the 3d platoon to Sorgnano. The 1st platoon occupied Codena (8900064) and the remainder of the company went into Torano. All platoons set up defenses on three sides.

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Co I in battalion reserve left Castagnola at 0545, marched across the mountainous terrain to Mt Brugiana. While descending to Bergiola Foscalina the company came under an SP barrage, without suffering casualties. The company established a strongpoint at Bergiola Foscalina, protecting the left rear of the regiment.

The 2d Battalion moved off Mt Brugiana at 1000 and attacked against light resistance. Co E entered Codena and Co F reached Bedizzano on the outskirts of Carrara. Defenses were organized and Co E sent a contact patrol to Carrara. Co G remained in reserve on Mt Brugiana.

The 100th Battalion (less Co A) assembled at Canevera and loading its weapons on mules, started working North to Colonnata. At 1600, after an 8-hour march along the mountain trail the battalion reached the ridge overlooking the objective. The weapons were set up and Cos C and B descended into town, which was taken without resistance. 22 Germans, including 8 who had been wounded, were taken prisoner.

The 232d Engr (C) Co (442d RCT) in clearing roads to the forward companies, had 4 bulldozers destroyed by mines. In addition to the usual types the Germans had laid rows of 3 - 12" shells 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  ft beneath the ground, rigged with detonators and had resurfaced the road.

A total of 70 prisoners, including 2 officers, was taken during the day.

The 4.2 chemical mortar and tank destroyer units were detached and left the regiment.

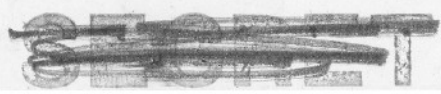
- 12. The regiment consolidated its positions around Carrara and outposted the high ground.

At 1100 a German counterattack in half-platoon strength was launched against the 2d platoon of Co K in Gragnana. The counter-attack was stopped with the help of Co M mortars. Two Germans were killed and two taken prisoner. The 1st and 4th platoons of K Co moved over to Gragnana to reinforce the 2d platoon.

One squad of Co K, with a mortar observer and partisans, went forward to Castelpoggia, 4 kilometres above Carrara. Mortar fire was placed on a platoon of enemy infantry coming towards Castelpoggia from 852106 at 1500. Another detachment of I Co outposted Hill 574 (la Bandita).

Co L completed its movement into Carrara and at 1315 the 3d Bn CP group marched from Massa to Carrara. After the road had been opened for vehicles the remainder of the battalion Hq Co moved up, closing at 1930. The Germans began shelling the town with heavy caliber guns.

Co F underwent an artillery shelling in Bedizzano. Co G, less 2d platoon, moved forward from Carrara, etc.



2d platoon, moved forward from Mt Brugiana, entered Bedizzano at 1315 and moved on to Miseglia. 2d platoon remained as rear security on Mt Brugiana and made contact with Co I at Bergiola Foscalina.

Antitank Co held roadblocks on the right flank, at Forno and Gronda. An enemy raiding party moving against the rear right flank was intercepted by partisans at Resceto and a fight ensued. A special force of 100th Bn, 2d Bn and regimental CP personnel was alerted to move on order to reinforce Antitank Co, but the enemy withdrew before reaching our blocks. Six Italian prisoners were taken by the partisans. They were identified as from the 1st Bn, 2d Bersaglieri Regiment, an Italian Fascist unit at Vaglia di Sopra, with a reported strength of 400 men and 4 75mm guns. Partisans likewise turned over to the regiment 250 prisoners whom they had taken in previous fighting.

The 100th Bn remained at Colonnata. During the 11th and forenoon of the 12th, the Massa-Carrara road was interdicted by the enemy from the adjoining sector, and was impassable because of craters and mines. Carrying parties were unable to reach the battalion because of the precipitous terrain. A serious supply problem developed. An effort was made to drop "K" rations from planes. Air-ground panels were improvised from blankets laid on white rock and communication was maintained thru the artillery liaison officer. However, the supplies were dropped on the cliffs out of reach, and only one box of rations was obtained. Later in the day the Massa-Carrara road was secured and the 232d Engineers opened it up for vehicles at 1730. At night jeep carrying rations left Carrara and reached Colonnata, negotiating the three miles on the ties of the railroad track.

After the road to Carrara had been opened, hot food was brought up to the forward companies, as well as an exchange of socks.

The Regimental CP move from Montignoso to Pariana at 1030.

A quota of six officers left on TD to the Officer's Rest Center, Hotel Excelsior, Rome.

- 13. News of President Roosevelt's death was received during the early hours. His passing caused particular sorrow among members of the 442d RCT, in view of the fact that it was at the President's personal direction that the Combat Team was formed.

The 2d Bn jumped off at 0730 with the objective Mt Pizzacuto, 5 miles North of Carrara. The battalion marched in a column of companies over the road leading North out of Carrara. G Co was at the point, and E Co sent strong combat patrols along the right flank as the march progressed. Tanks of the Assault Platoon, Hq Co, 758th Bn, supported the infantry.



The German withdrawal of the preceding three days stopped abruptly. At the beginning of the day the enemy front line was at Fort Bastione (Hill 706), Mt Grugola and Mt Pizzaculo. It was evident that this line was strongly held and that the Germans were sending reinforcements, as prisoners were captured from the 1st Co, 4th High Mountain Battalion and the 1st Bn, 361st Panzer Grenadier Regiment. The enemy held observation on the Castelpoggio area from Fort Bastione, and was also operating an OP on Hill 580 (857096).

Co B left Gragnana at 2000 hrs 13 April and marched up to Castelpoggio to reinforce the 2d Bn. The 1st and 3d platoons took position North of the town, with the 2d platoon in reserve. The Germans infiltrated during the night, which resulted in close fighting.

At 0530 the Germans counterattacked Castelpoggio in force, surrounding the 2d Bn Command Post. The attack was launched by the 1st Bn, 361st PG Regt. The 1st Co assaulted frontally down the road, the 2d Co from the North flank and the 3d Co from the South. Each company was supported by six machine guns. A bitter fight developed for the town. Co B met the counterattack, with the 3d platoon bearing the brunt of the main assault, and fought until 0830, supported by Co H mortars. The attack was repulsed; 16 Germans were killed and 8 wounded. Among the killed was the company commander of the 2d Co, 361st PG Regt. The enemy withdrew towards Fort Bastione. Our losses were 5 men killed by machine gun fire and grenades; 5 wounded.

Co G (less 2d platoon which was still on Mt Brugiana) jumped off on Mt Pizzaculo at 0800. The 3d platoon attacked down the road on the left while the 1st platoon attacked up the right side. Co H heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars supported the attack. Heavy enemy artillery and ground resistance was encountered. The 3d platoon killed 7 Germans, captured 7 prisoners, 2 20mm guns, 1 machine gun, 1 bazooka. The 1st platoon forced the surrender of 23 Germans. The objective was taken by 1000 and the company continued the attack down the West slope during the afternoon. By 1900 12 Germans had been killed and 54 captured; 14 of whom were wounded. Co F followed Co G, and went into position on Mt Pizzaculo. Co G deployed to assault the German stronghold, Fort Bastione, on Hill 706. Co E remained on la Pizza, Gabellacia and Mt Ucelleria.

At 0530 a carrying party of six new reinforcements from the Provisional Co left Castelpoggio to carry water to Co G. The men were laden with water cans and were without arms. As they made their way up the trail towards the company they were ambushed and taken prisoner by a German combat patrol. The six men were brought to Fort Bastione where they were questioned but refused to give any information other than name, rank and serial number. The Germans stripped them of all valuables and sent them under a three man guard to Castelnuovo. While passing through the town of Vallecchia and at a prearranged schedule they turned on the guards, killed them and took their arms. The six men made their way back through the German lines, by-passing

the town of Casano, where they saw a German battery firing on Carrara, and with a partisan and a small boy as guide, reached the 100th Bn aid station at Gragnana. One man was slightly wounded by powder flash burns on the face. Valuable information was obtained on the enemy strength and dispositions in the sector, as well as pinpoint locations on the ammo dump at Fort Bastione and enemy batteries.

The 2d platoon of Co I, on Hill 574 (la Bandita) and the platoon of K Co in Castelpoggio, acting in concert, engaged a German OP on Hill 580 which had been directing fire on Castelpoggio and Gragnana. After a firefight the enemy party was dispersed and K Co platoon occupied the hill. Co I platoon had eight men wounded in the engagement.

The 3d Battalion rested in reserve and had hot showers and clothing exchange in Carrara. The Germans continued their heavy shelling of the city, and three men from the battalion were wounded. Cannon Co likewise had three casualties and German counterbattery fire forced the company to change their gun positions.

Antitank Co relieved C Co block at Colonnata with 1 platoon and set up another road block at Piastra (896085). The Antitank blocks at Grondo and Forno were relieved by L Co, 473d Infantry. C Co marched from Colonnata to Gragnana and joined the rest of the 100th Bn.

A quota of 18 EM was authorized to visit the Enlisted Rest Center at Rome, and left on the 14th.

- 15 — During the night of 14th-15th, enemy SP fire continued to harass our troops in Carrara, Gragnana and Castelpoggio. Co A moved up from Gragnana to Castelpoggio to further reinforce the 2d Battalion.

The objective for the day was Fort Bastione. A carefully planned artillery and air preparation was made, with Co G, less than 1000 yards from the target, ready to close in immediately after the bombardment. Four P-47's came over at 1005, bombed the target with two 500 lb bombs each and fired rockets. All bombs and rockets were on the target. Co G jumped off from their positions on Mt Pizzaculo and headed for Fort Bastione. Enemy SP guns from the Casano valley harassed the attacking elements, killing two men. The 2d and 3d platoons led the attack and secured the objective at 1300. Three prisoners were taken, including one officer. After the fort was taken the 1st platoon continued on Northwest, attacking Mt Grugola. At the same time Co F moved forward and assaulted the same peak. Co A took over Co F's position on Mt Pizzaculo as security for the regiment's right flank. Mt Grugola was taken after a firefight at 1530.

Heavy fighting broke out on the la Bandita ridge during the day. Two platoons of Co I and one platoon of Co K had occupied the ridge on



G Co moved steadily, passed Gragnana and Castelpoggio. The Co E patrols went to Mt Uccelleria, la Pizza (3000 ft) and Gabellacia. At 1400 the Germans began shelling, and as the company neared the objective, the enemy barrages increased. From Hill 706 (837107) the Germans had observation on the Gragnana valley and they barraged the road with time bursts. The advance was pinned down at 1700. At the same time enemy SP guns atop Mt Pizzacuto opened direct fire from above. Enemy infantry was observed on the objective and artillery support was called for. None was available at the time as our advance had outdistanced artillery range and the pieces were being moved up. The battalion dug in for the night under fire and prepared to resume the assault.

The 100th Battalion (less C CO) left Colonnata, passed thru Carrara and followed the 2d Battalion up the road at 2500 yards. The battalion assembled at Gragnana and was subjected to a heavy barrage as they moved in. The town was under constant shellfire thruout the day. One man from Co B was killed.

Co C remained at Colonnata as security for the right flank, and sent a patrol to Mt Maggiore. No enemy activity was observed. 2d platoon, Co G, remained on Mt Brugiana.

3d Bn assembled in Carrara in Regimental Reserve.

2d platoon, Co I, occupied La Bandita ridge and directed mortar fire upon an enemy OP on Hill 580.

The Regimental CP moved into Carrara at 0930, followed by Regimental Medics and Service Co. The city was heavily shelled by 152mm coastal guns on Punta Bianca. 2 jeeps, a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  ton truck and an ambulance belonging to the Med Det were hit and destroyed near the regimental CP. Six Italian civilians were hit at the same time and treated by the Medics. Co I CP in town was hit four times by large caliber shells. The heavy shelling caused frequent breaks in the communication lines. In all, 1300 rds of fire of all types was registered in the Regt'l Sector during the day.

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15th

The 3rd Battalion left Carrara at 0400 and moved up the road to relieve the 2nd Battalion. Co L and Co K led, with Co I in reserve.

During the morning, Co F mopped up resistance remaining on Mt Grugola, killing seven Germans, wounding 10 and capturing 4; after which Co L passed through and continued the attack. Stubborn opposition limited the gains to several hundred yards. At nightfall Co L was fighting on Hill 694, Northwest of Mt Grugola. Three prisoners from 1st Co, 4th High Mt Bn were taken. Upon relief, Co F moved back to Castelpoggio. Co I followed Co L, and came under an intense SP barrage as it moved past Fort Bastione. At 1800, when Co L moved off Mt Grugola, Co I took up defensive positions there.

Co K meanwhile passed through Co A on Mt Pizaculo and marched to its objective, Mt Tamaggiora, and sent platoons to Pulica and la Selva. Twelve Germans from the 4th Co, 4th High Mt Bn were taken. Patrols from K Co went to the town of Cecina, following a partisan report of Germans there, but found no enemy.

Hard fighting continued for Hill 576 (la Bandita). Co C advanced down the spur, silencing machine gun nest one by one, in an effort to assist the attack of 473 on Ortonovo. The Company overcame resistance at 1300 and turned Northwest towards Hill 317. Co B moved from Castelpoggio to Fort Bastione, and then attacked Southwest down the ridge to Hill 451. (833092).

The enemy continued to shell the Regimental CP area in Carrara with heavy coastal guns on Punta Bianca.

17th

Co L, the point company, advanced 200 yards along the road to Fosdinovo; intense SP fire pinned the company down and prevented further advance. The company withdrew 100 yards to clear the enemy impact area and dug in. Air Op was called upon and a TOT barrage by Division Artillery was placed on the suspected gun locations in the adjoining sector near Castelnuovo. However, renewed attempts to advance met continued SP and artillery fire.

Co K on the 3rd Battalion right flank sent combat-reconnaissance patrols to Tendola, Posterla and Marciaso. A patrol from the platoon at Pulica observed enemy troops in Tendola and directed

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the previous day after hard fighting, and had made contact. At 1240 one platoon of Co I and the platoon of Co K were relieved by the 232d Engineers (442d RCT), who were committed as infantry to hold defensive positions on the ridge. Later Co C was sent from Gragnana to la Bandita ridge, to move down the forward slope and make a demonstration against Ortonovo. However, strong resistance developed and at 1450 the Germans counterattacked. The fighting lasted until dark. The Germans were identified as the 2d Bn, 286th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, with additional elements of the 13th Fortress Flotilla, a unit of converted sailors and marines. Co M fired 400 rounds of 81mm in helping to repulse the attack. C Co had 10 men wounded in the fighting. The enemy battalion withdrew from the ridge at the end of day, leaving a covering force. The withdrawal was observed by our OP, and brought under artillery fire.

Carrara was again heavily shelled by coastal and SP guns. The 3d Battalion, in the town, was alerted. A presentation ceremony of combat decorations was held for men leaving on TD to the U. S. at 1600 in Carrara. At 1930 a heavy caliber shell made a direct hit on the 3d Bn CP, wounding 8 men, among whom were five awaiting return to the U. S.

At 2230 the Fifth Army opened a general offensive to secure the Po River Valley.

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A platoon from Co K at Pulica went North along the ridge line to la Ripa 700 yards North of Pulica. 100 yards beyond this point that platoon was pinned down by machine gun fire from Hill 330. The platoon also received mortar fire from the vicinity of Mo di Sopro. The platoon had no cover, and withdrew to houses in la Ripa where mortar fire was received from Tendola. Upon order, the platoon withdrew. At the same time a platoon from Co L moved against Tendola, attacking on the trail Northwest of Pulica. They reached as far as the cemetery on the road to Tendola without being observed, at this point the Germans opened up with mortar fire and automatic and machine pistol fire from Mo di Sopro and machine gun fire from Hill 330. While under fire in the cemetery the platoon leader observed the terrain and saw a large white house at 8414 which he believed was the enemy OP and which was directing mortars against both platoons. From the strength of the enemy resistance and partisan reports, it was estimated that 50 Germans were in Tendola.

Co F supported by 1st platoon of Co H left Castelpoggio at 0300 and occupied positions near Vallecchia at 0530. One squad from the 2nd platoon was sent to contact a patrol from the 473rd Infantry on the boundary line. At 1600 the company was ordered to attack west to Hill 200 and bring fire on the road leading into Fosdinovo from the South. After reaching this point the company was ordered to push on to Hill 246 (Belvedere) cutting the road below Fosdinovo.

Co G left Castelpoggio at -500 and reached Fort Bastione. At 1800 the company pushed down the western slope of the Bastione and sent the 3rd platoon to occupy Grignago, while the 2nd platoon went to the hamlet of Casala. Four prisoners were taken. Two men from G Co were killed by a Schu mine tripped by an Italian guide.

Co B, attached to the 2nd Battalion, took over F Co's position at Vallecchia as F Co moved forward in the attack.

Antitank Co put a platoon on Mt Pizzaculo and relieved the E Co garrison at la Pizza, Gabellaccia and Uccelliera, guarding the right rear flank of the regiment. E Co was attached to the 100th Battalion as a reserve force.

Co I left Hill 708 at 2100 18 April and on the following morning moved to Cobiata and dug in below C Co.

A report was received that the coastal guns on Punta Bianca, which had been shelling Carrara, had received a direct hit on their Op and that the Germans had destroyed the guns and abandoned the positions. Evidences of a German withdrawal were noted in other sectors, but resistance in the Combat Team sector continued unabated at day's end.

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A 10-men patrol from B Co was sent to reconnoiter Gignago. On the way, at the town of Casala, the patrol was attached and encircled by a strong German force. A platoon of Co C was sent to reinforce the patrol, and a stiff firefight resulted. Our patrol suffered 6 casualties, including 2 KIA. One German corporal was taken prisoner.

Another patrol from Co B went to Vallecchia and observed the town. The patrol laid wire, and was able to direct mortar fire on an enemy force at 828096. Company B cleared up pockets on the left boundary to assist the attack of the 473rd Infantry, and made contact with that unit at Hill 451 (834093).

2nd Battalion remained in regimental reserve. Hot meals were brought up. The 232nd Engr Co was relieved of its defensive mission on la Bandita ridge and reverted to engineer status. Service Co in Carrara moved from the administration building formerly occupied to the railroad station on the edge of town. The Germans continued their shelling of Carrara with heavy caliber guns.

#### 19th

Information from prisoners of war indicated that Fosdinovo was being held by 200 Germans, supported by 10 105mm. field pieces. After heavy enemy fire on the 18th had prevented further advance directly against the town, an effort was made to envelop Fosdinovo from the North by taking Hill 605 and Mt Nebbione.

Co L was to move against Mt Nebbione and Co A had the mission of clearing Hill 605. Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion was to attack Southwest clearing the area on the left of the regimental sector and keeping contact with the 473rd Infantry.

Co L moved to Pulica on the evening of the 18th, and at 0500 19 April jumped off against Mt Nebbione. However, the Germans were strongly entrenched at this point and a heavy volume of fire was directed against the attacking Co. The Co was pinned down at 0830, and advance towards the objective was limited. Co A was likewise held up after advancing against heavy resistance, from Foce il Cuccu, to within 400 yards of Hill 605. Cos A and L dug in with all around security.

An air mission was requested against Fosdinovo. None was available. The weather was hazy and visibility too limited for air action. 155 mm's registered on the castle at Fosdinovo, the nub of the resistance, and Co L directed artillery against Mt Nebbione.

A wider envelopment was planned and an attempt was made to break through the enemy line at Tendola and get behind the forces defending Nebbione, Foce il Cuccu and Fosdinovo. Here as well the Germans reacted fiercely and the attacking platoons made no progress.

mortar and artillery fire upon them. The patrol going to Posterla, led by partisan guides was fired upon by an enemy force in the town. A firefight followed; our patrol returned and a heavy artillery concentration was laid down. The town of Marciasso was reported clear.

Co B patrols, operating to Hill 451 and the town of Cassano, cleared the area South of Fort Bastione. 2nd Battalion and 232nd Engr remained in position and maintained physical contact with patrols.

At nightfall the prisoner count of enemy taken since the start of the attack on 5 April, not including prisoners turned over to the regiment by partisans, was reported by the interrogation officer as 459.

75 Japanese American reinforcements joined the regiment and were attached to the Provisional Co pending assignment.

### 18th

Heavy resistance continued on the 18th. Our combat patrols probed the enemy defenses and made contact with the enemy at all points.

A patrol from Co I went toward the enemy stronghold of Fosdinovo. Reaching to within 500 yards of the town, the patrol came under SP mortar, machine gun and automatic weapons fire. The patrol withdrew and 2000 rounds of artillery were placed on the enemy positions and on the castle in town, which was known to be a German CP.

2nd Platoon of Co L, on patrol went to Hill 605 (825137), got behind a machine gun nest and captured seven prisoners. The patrol continued on to Pulica, where they made contact with Co K. Co L continued to receive artillery and SP fire from the front and adjoining sector on the left.

Co K patrol left for Tendola at 0830. They approached the town from the East and were within 50 yards when they were fired upon by a machine gun emplaced in a building. The patrol returned fire and two enemy were believed killed. Another machine gun on their right opened up, putting the patrol in a cross fire which pinned them down for an hour and a half. The patrol had laid wire in its approach and called for mortar support. Under cover of the mortars the patrol withdrew. The patrol leader reported 30 Germans in the town. Two other patrols from K Co went to the towns of Posterla and Cecina, and drew fire from both towns.

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20. Operational instructions issued by Division on the night of the 19th reported that the Germans were making a general withdrawal in the Serchio Valley sector. The 442d Combat Team was ordered to press fwd, seize the city of Aulla, and cut Highway 63 and Highway 6320 to the East.

In order to carry out the above mission, a regrouping of our battalions was necessary. The 100th and 2d Battalions were ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Marciaso 865140, and to attack North, the 2d Bn to veer to the left and take Aulla and the 100th to cut the highways. Meanwhile the 3d Battalion was to continue attacks on the strong enemy forces at Fosdinovo-Mt. Nebbione, in order to contain these forces and protect the left flank of the regiment's advance.

Company F reached Hill 246 (802113) astride the road to Fosdinovo at midnight of the 19-20th. The company was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, and in order to secure its objective the company engaged the enemy in a firefight in which it suffered 4 casualties. 5 Germans were killed, 2 wounded and 3 taken prisoner. After taking the hill the company was ordered to disengage and return to Marciaso.

E Co was returned to control of the 2d Battalion, and the battalion moved to the LD at Marciaso in a column of companies, with E, G and F as the order of march.

Co A was relieved by Co I on Hill 605 (824136) at 0900 and the 100th Battalion assembled at Marciaso. At 1400 the battalion crossed the LD and attacked with A and C Cos leading and B Co in reserve. A Co with 1 platoon of MGs from Co D attached (and guided by a British Commando who had been operating behind the lines and partisans) reached Cecina at 1930. 1 platoon outposted all the entrances to the town and a patrol was sent to observe the town. Returned reporting Germans digging in. Co C attacked the town of Posterla and engaged in a stiff firefight.

The 3d Battalion sent combat patrols to probe further into the enemy defenses around Fosdinovo. A patrol from Co I went to the town and observed Germans on the Southwest slope of Hill 605. The patrol remained in observation and withdrew after adjusting mortar fire. A patrol from Co L left at 1000 to Foce I Cuccu and encountered 2 machineguns and mortar fire. Two men were wounded. The patrol adjusted mortar and artillery fire.

The 3d platoon of Co K went North on the ridge of Hill 330, cleared out the enemy OP in the white house at 8415, encountered intense mortar and machine gun fire from further North on the ridge, which killed one man and wounded 3. The platoon held ground and with help from the 2d platoon on Mt. Tamaggiara adjusted fire on the enemy to the North of the ridge. Enemy casualties were estimated at 20, with 3 known killed and 4 litter cases observed being evacuated.



AT Co moved into defensive positions on Mt. Gruggla, Mt. Pizzaculo and Ft. Bastione.

Lt. Colonel V. R. Miller, O15847, Infantry, Regimental Commander, received a combat promotion to the rank of Colonel, per Special Orders 107, Hq Fifth Army, 17 Apr 45, with date of rank from date of order. The new insignia of grade were conferred upon Colonel Miller by Major General E. M. Almond, Commanding General, 92d Inf Division, at the Regimental CP at Carrara.

In accordance with SO 105, Hq 5th Army, 15 Apr 45, former Chief Warrant Officer, T. M. Kobayashi, Asst Adjutant, received a combat appointment as 2d Lieutenant, with date of rank from 19 Apr 45.

The regimental CP moved from Carrara to Castelpoggio at 1000.

A 24-hour rest center for enlisted men of the Combat Team was put into operation in Carrara.

During the evening of the 20th, the 1st platoon of Co B was sent on a contact patrol to Co C. Halfway on its route, the patrol made a contact with the enemy barricaded in a house. The platoon surrounded the house and began the firefight, throwing hand grenades and shooting rifle grenades. The Germans fired back and inflicted two casualties on our men. However, our superior firepower forced the enemy to surrender, after eight Germans had been wounded and one killed. 17 prisoners were taken, together with machine guns, machine pistols and grenades. The platoon returned before making contact, inasmuch as ammunition was low. Later, another squad from the same company set out to make contact with Co C, and returned at midnight with mission accomplished.

21. Although the Germans were reported withdrawing in other sectors, it did not result in a withdrawal of the forces opposing the Combat Team. On the contrary new identifications were obtained which indicated that the enemy had reinforced his positions in the sector. Prisoner interrogation corroborated this intelligence.

The 100th Battalion continued the attack with Co A on the right and Co C on the left. Co A moved over rough terrain against Hill 599 beyond Cecina. After supporting artillery lifted, Co A attacked and met mortar and machine gun fire. The 2nd platoon was on the point with a section of light machine guns from Co D attached. The 3d platoon followed and 1st platoon was in reserve. The hill was taken at 1630.

Co C assaulted Hill 451, commanding Posterla, and met stubborn resistance. The hill was taken and at 1530 the company occupied the church on the outskirts of the town. One hour later Posterla was cleared and the company set up defense against an expected counterattack. 3 prisoners were taken. The company had 8 casualties

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Lt. Yonemura, forward observer for Cannon Co., was killed while directing artillery fire.

B Co, in reserve, hand-carried ammunition and rations for Cos A and C.

Co E attacked at 0800. Progress was slowed during the morning by a haze which limited visibility. The company reached Hill 479 and continued the attack against Cle Musatello. Co H machine guns, supporting the attack, expended 8000 rounds. The hill was held by the 3d Battalion, 361st Panzer Grenadier Regt. Their resistance was reported fanatical. Co E took the hill, killing 25 Germans and capturing 8. At 1645, the 11th and 12th Cos of the enemy regiment counterattacked preceded by a mortar barrage of 400 rds. They were beaten off with heavy losses. Co G moved into Mt. Tomaggiore, behind Co E.

Meanwhile on the left of the regimental sector, the 3d Battalion continued its five day fight at Fosdinovo, Mt. Nebbione and Tendola. The 3d platoon of Co K set out to secure the ridge North of Pulica to Tendola. The enemy opened up with 155mm, mortar, machine gun and sniper fire. With the help of excellent support from Co M mortars the enemy was driven off the ridge and the ground cleared to the 16 grid line. The platoon dug in a defensive position. Seven Germans were taken prisoner. The town of Pulica was shelled by artillery and mortars.

A reconnaissance patrol of one squad from Co I went to Fosdinovo at 0800. The patrol met machine gun fire at the crossroads leading into town, and after a short firefight, evacuated the wounded to a safe spot. Litterbearers had to come through enemy observation and were caught in a mortar barrage. Our losses were 1 killed, 6 wounded in addition to 3 partisan casualties.

22. During the night of the 21st -22d, Company I sustained heavy casualties from a direct mortar hit on the company CP, located in a mine shaft near Foce I Cuccu. Five men were killed, including the company commander, Lt. Wheatley, and seven were injured. The company reverted to 3d Bn reserve and assembled near Pulica.

Enemy patrols probed at Co A positions on Hill 599 during the night and a defense ring of mortar fire was laid down. At daylight the company attacked in the direction of Hill 578, meeting small arms fire and mortar fire from Viano, and heavy artillery fire from enemy batteries at Gragnola. Following a firefight in which 12 enemy were killed, Co A secured a foothold on Hill 578; however the enemy was dug-in in fortified bunkers on the reverse slope of the hill and the attacking company drew back to allow our artillery to barrage the hill and the escape route between Hill 578 and Viano. The hill was secured late in the day.

Co B, in battalion reserve, sent its 2d platoon out to Hill 561, East of Marciaso, for flank security and to secure observation of enemy activity towards the Northeast.

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Co E on Cle Musatello received heavy artillery and SP fire. The 2d platoon went on patrol to Hill 270 East of San Terenzo to test the defenses of the town. The platoon met heavy resistance from three sides, which caused seven casualties, and they withdrew with difficulty.

The 3d Battalion continued its effort against Tendola. During the morning patrols from Co K again endeavored to find an approach route between Mt. Nebbione and Tendola. At 1400 two platoons of Co K moved North from Pulica along the ridge, to swing around in back of the town. The two platoons attacked the town from the North and one platoon assaulted from the south. Co L lent support to the attack from the South. Bitter fighting ensued. Artillery, tank destroyer and white phosphorous fire were put into the town. 5 prisoners were taken in the South end of the town in house to house fighting, and two prisoners in the North section. The fighting continued at nightfall.

An organized band of partisans, bearing credentials from the Office of Strategic Services, gave considerable assistance to the 3d Bn, and turned over 60 German prisoners to the regiment.

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