

HEADQUARTERS 442D COMBAT TEAM  
APO #464  
UNITED STATES ARMY

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OPERATIONAL REPORT

5 April 1945 to 2 May 1945

Maps: GSGS Italy 1/25,000  
Italy Road Map 1/200,000

**CLASSIFICATION**  
**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
*St. Ervits, Capt AGO*  
**DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE** 7 July 46

Introduction:

On 3 April 1945, the 442d Infantry was detached from IV Corps and remained attached to 92d Infantry Division for operations. The order received by division was to attack North, in its zone, from the coast East to the Serchio Valley, with the objective of capturing Mount Belvedere (9401), Mount Brugiana (9105), clearing the coastal area south of the Frigido River and continuing the advance to La Spezia. The 442d Infantry (232d Engineer (Combat) Company attached) was assigned the sector east of Highway Number 1, consisting of a long hog-back mountainous ridge, hereafter called "Folgorito Ridge," which reaches an elevation of 4,850 feet and runs North and South from Vallechia to Genoa. It dominates the flat coastal plain west of Highway Number 1 and approaches the key cities of Massa and Carrara from the southeast.

The regiment was supported by the 599th Field Artillery Battalion, the 329th Field Artillery Battalion, first platoon, B Company, 895th Tank Destroyer Battalion, B Company, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion (4.2 mortars), and the Assault Guns of the 758th Tank Battalion.

Preparations for the attack included the issuance of light machine guns in lieu of the heavy guns in the weapons companies. Only two or three 81mm mortars were carried per weapons company and all battalion reserve and support elements carried extra mortar ammunition. These decisions were dictated by the terrain and anticipated supply difficulties.

The regimental plan of attack called for the 100th Battalion to assault frontally from the south, while the Third Battalion, making an undetected approach march, was to envelope Mount Frogolito from the east and north. Both the importance and danger of this move by the Third Battalion were fully appreciated at regimental and division headquarters. It was recognized that secrecy and surprise were vital to the operation. If discovered the battalion would be caught in single file on the slopes of a bare, almost

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perpendicular, coverless, ridge with no striking force against an emplaced enemy and with other enemy forces able to observe the battalion from its right rear in daylight. Artillery support was impractical. On the other hand, if the battalion, or even a sizeable part of it, were able to gain the ridge undetected the tactical advantage would be worth the heart-breaking labor necessary to reach the objective.

The least likely and most difficult avenue of approach was deliberately chosen. Our forces held a salient into the enemy lines on a ridge extending South from Mount Altissimo and parallel to, and to the East of, Folgorito Ridge on the slopes of which is located the village of Azzano (978991). The battalion would be able to move into the salient, down into the valley and up the slope of Folgorito Ridge by moving West. Excellent execution and luck both played their part in delivering success in a "battle of miracles."

In the event the flanking movement were unsuccessful it was planned to infiltrate the Third Battalion back to Azzano into regimental reserve and utilize the Second Battalion, either in a flanking movement around the left flank of the ridge, or to pass through or reinforce the 100th Battalion, as the situation dictated.

The distances and mountainous terrain involved compelled the movement of the Third Battalion into a forward assembly area well prior to the time of the attack at Azzano. This location had the advantage of being on the flank of the enemy position and permitted the entire battalion to make a visual reconnaissance of the route to the objective. The demands of secrecy dictated the movement of the battalion and all its supplies under cover of darkness the second night before the attack and the absolute restriction of any movement within the village during the day. The village was in full view of the enemy on dominating terrain in three directions. The manner of execution is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that the enemy did not discover the presence of this large force, a point made clear by prisoners.

One company of the Third Battalion was to move along the ridge of Mount Cerreta and join with the 100th Battalion, another to attack Mount Carchio. The Second Battalion was placed in regimental reserve. H-hour was 0500 hours, 5 April 1945.

Under cover of darkness on the third the 100th Battalion moved up to an assembly area in the vicinity of Vallechia. The Third Battalion moved by truck to Pietrasanta, and then marched eight miles over mountainous uphill terrain to its assembly area. Twenty-five casualties were sustained in the Third Battalion when men fell off the steep trail. The regimental command post was established in Vallechia at 2140 hours, 3 April 1945.

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5 April 1945

100th Battalion:

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At 0455 hours a ten-minute artillery concentration was directed at enemy positions on "Georgia" (966970), "Ohio 1" (963975), "Ohio 2" (963977), and "Ohio 3" (963979). At 0500 hours A Company crossed the line of departure (967968). B Company, plus the machine gun platoons of D Company, served as a base of fire. C Company was in battalion reserve in rear of B Company. A Company soon captured the crest of "Georgia" after passing through a heavily mined area but was unable to advance against the reverse-slope positions of "Georgia." C Company was committed on the left flank. Both companies, however, were pinned down by artillery, mortar, and automatic weapons fire from the northern slopes of "Georgia." The forward companies dug in at 2345 hours and patrols were sent out. A German counterattack of platoon strength was repulsed at 0045 hours.

Battalion casualties: Fourteen killed and fifty-six wounded.

Enemy losses: Fourteen killed, two captured. Several bunkers and machine gun nests destroyed and neutralized.

Third Battalion:

Companies I and L departed from Azzano at 042300. Company K remained in Azzano as reserve. The leading companies reached the line of departure (ridge-line between Mount Folgorito and Mount Carchio) at 050500. The climb to the line of departure consisted of scaling in single file and on hands and knees a 3,000 foot peak without the benefit of a trail during most of the journey. The difficulties of the trail are graphically illustrated by the fact that it was necessary to establish twelve litter relay points between the top and the bottom of the ridge to effectuate evacuation. At 0600 hours Company L swung south to attack Mount Folgorito and Company I contacted the enemy on Mount Carchio to the north. The progress of these two companies was held up by snipers and machine gun fire. These were reduced and nightfall found Company L 300 yards from the base of Mount Folgorito and Company I at the base of Mount Carchio. Both companies dug defensive positions for the night. The surprise of the enemy was complete. An enemy machine gun was found on the crest of the ridge unmanned with sixteen sleeping Germans in a nearby dug-out. That the heavy preparatory barrage did not alert the enemy can only be attributed to the fact that he had been lulled into a sense of security by the daily heavy barrages laid on his positions during the winter stalemate by the 92d Division. In addition, his communication was poor and what there was was soon knocked out by the barrage. Company K was ordered to move up from Azzano at 1000 hours and sustained one killed and twenty wounded in a mortar barrage directed from Mount Altissimo. All supplies and

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ammunition were hand-carried to the forward companies in a round trip of fifteen hours and on a steep trail subjected to harassing mortar fire.

Enemy losses: Undetermined number killed; fifteen captured; one 75mm pack howitzer captured; two 75mm pack howitzers destroyed; four machine guns plus other automatic weapons, rifles grenades and ammunition captured.

Second Battalion:

In reserve in the vicinity of Vallechia. The attack having gone according to plan and the position secured the battalion at 2130 hours moved out to follow the route of the Third Battalion around the flank towards Mount Carchio to protect the north flank of the regiment on the ridge. It utilized the same route previously used by the Third Battalion.

Antitank Company:

Two platoons were attached to the Third Battalion and one platoon to the 100th Battalion as carrying parties.

Cannon Company:

Emplaced in the vicinity of Ripa the company fired 650 rounds in direct support of the day's operations.

Recapitulation: At least thirty enemy killed; twelve log bunkers and one machine gun destroyed; thirteen prisoners taken, including one officer. Prisoners were from the 281st Regiment, 148th Division.

6 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to hold the positions taken 5 April; to make a limited attack to the north; to clean out the pocket of enemy remaining between the 100th and the Third Battalions. In compliance with these instructions the 100th Battalion was ordered to push North, the Third Battalion to move South to Mount Cerreta, and the Second Battalion, expected atop the ridge in the early morning after an all-night climb, to capture Mount Belvedere (948015).

100th Battalion:

At 0530 hours, Company B began a wide flanking move around the left of Company C. A Company and C Company assisted B Company by fire. The going was difficult against a well-emplaced and determined enemy and air support was requested. At 0930 hours four Thunderbolts supported the attack with bombs, strafing, and rockets. Ideal air-

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ground liaison was accomplished in this attack. The battalion commander, at a ground observation post, had the enemy positions in full view. He had direct wire communication with the regimental command post which, in turn, had wire communication with the "Rover Joe" ground radio which had direct radio contact with attacking planes. The pilots were instructed as to the location of the targets relative to their flight during the actual dive. The results were most gratifying and illustrative of what can be done under ideal conditions. An artillery barrage followed and Companies C and B attacked closely and captured their objectives ("Ohio 1," "2," and "3"), suffering no casualties and finding a stunned and dazed enemy. Company B then attacked and captured "Rocky Ridge" (962973), a nose extending to the West. Company A remained in battalion reserve. Contact was made between the two battalions on Mount Cerreta at 1500 hours and the main enemy position was broken. At 2000 hours the enemy was detected massing in the vicinity of Strettoia (949969) for an attack to the southeast. This concentration was successfully dispersed by artillery fire.

Battalion casualties: Sixteen killed and forty-six wounded.

Enemy losses: Twenty killed; ninety-two prisoners taken; three ammunition and ration dumps captured; fifteen machine guns, one light mortar, a large number of rifles, 2,000 grenades, bazooka shells, schu mines, and other equipment captured.

#### Third Battalion:

The battalion order called for Company L to continue South to contact the 100th Battalion along a ridge easily defended, disadvantageous to the attacker and defended by bunkers and dugouts its entire length. Company L made contact after a day-long and intense firefight. Company K, following Company L, set up a defensive position midway between Mount Folgorito and Mount Cerreta. Company I moved into position to the north of Company K and the battalion dug in for the night. That night an Italian carrying party of 100 civilians deserted and threw away the battalion's rations, ammunition and other supplies which they carried necessitating the constitution of a new carrying party and twelve hours delay in delivery.

Battalion casualties: Three killed and nineteen wounded.

Enemy losses: An uncounted number killed, eleven prisoners, one 50 caliber machine gun, eight rifles, hand grenades, and an ammunition dump captured.

#### Second Battalion:

The battalion contacted the Third Battalion on the eastern slopes of Mount Carchio at 1100 hours after an eleven-hour climb

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up the side of the steep ridge. Company F was ordered to make a limited attack and capture Mount Belvedere, the fall of which would endanger the key enemy center of Massa and force him to take drastic action to avert a serious defeat. Mount Belvedere was the dominant terrain feature to the North. Company F passed through Company I at a point approximately 800 yards south of Mount Carchio. Two small knolls between Mount Carchio and Mount Belvedere were held by the enemy and were attacked and neutralized by one platoon after a stiff firefight. The time thus consumed made it impractical to continue the attack on Belvedere and the company dug in. The bulk of the company was on the Eastern slopes of Mount Carchio. Company E mopped up the Northern slopes of Mount Carchio and dug in at 953014. Company G was in battalion reserve on the south slope of Mount Carchio at 953000.

Shelling of the supply line necessitated the maintenance of a smoke screen in the valley to the East of Folgorito Ridge. The enemy had direct daylight observation of the route from Mount Altissimo. A smoke generator was used at the South end of the valley and smoke pots at the North, or enemy, end. Constant attempts by the enemy to knock out the smoke pots and generator were unsuccessful.

Enemy losses: Two killed, four captured, machine gun positions and several snipers neutralized.

Cannon Company:

543 rounds fired in support of the regiment.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Thirteen killed and fifty-three wounded. Enemy casualties: 106 Germans captured, including one company commander.

7 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to consolidate the positions taken on the 5th and 6th and be prepared to continue the attack on order.

100th Battalion:

Company C consolidated its positions on Mount Cerreta. Company A took up defensive positions on the "Ohio" hills. B Company remained on "Rocky Ridge" and reverted to battalion reserve. Company B sent a patrol to Strettoia, which is in the valley to the West of Folgorito Ridge, and occupied the town without opposition. The 370th Infantry Regiment was contacted two hours later when they entered the town.

No casualties were suffered during the day.

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Enemy losses: Six prisoners.

Third Battalion:

Company K plus one platoon of Company I was ordered to make a limited attack on enemy positions on Cle Piano. This is a spur running West from Mount Folgorito. The platoon of Company I reached its objective but was unable to hold the ground. The platoon withdrew and directed artillery fire on the enemy force. Company K could not support the platoon because contact was lost due to the thick mist, and because it was in contact with other enemy elements in the vicinity of Strinato after making a wide flanking movement to the South where it captured four 80mm mortars. The battalion was running short of rations due to the jettisoning of the supplies by the Italian carrying party on the previous night. Half rations were issued at 1400 hours.

Enemy losses: Four killed, thirty-two prisoners, three machine guns, four 80mm mortars and a large ammunition supply dump captured.

Battalion losses: One killed in action, three wounded.

Second Battalion:

Company F continued the attack on Mount Belvedere at 0700 hours with Company E in support on the west slopes of Mount Carchio and Company G in battalion reserve. Mount Belvedere is a large, high, flat-topped mountain, 2,770 feet high with four knolls set as the corners of a rough square. Company F took the first knoll (948015) and advanced on the second knoll (Hill 890). The company met heavy machine gun and sniper fire. The knoll was finally captured at 1800 hours. The town of Montignoso was bombed with good results through "Rover Joe," again using ground observation communication to the attacking pilots. A threatened counterattack was broken up by this bombardment.

Battalion casualties: Two killed and eleven wounded.

Enemy casualties: Forty-nine captured, an unknown number killed and wounded.

Cannon Company:

Fired 304 rounds in support of the operations.

Antitank Company:

Two platoons were relieved from attachment to the Third Battalion and were attached to the Second Battalion as litter bearers.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Eleven killed and sixty-one wounded.





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Company F was ordered to attack and capture Pariana (928025) on the same slope and to the West of Altagnana. Upon approaching the town they met two enemy reconnaissance cars and one tank which stopped their advance. Due to a "party line" communication between company commanders, machine gun, mortar, and small arms fire was brought to bear on the enemy vehicles by Company E to the East and a group of Italian Partisans forcing them to withdraw. Upon entering Pariana a heavy concentration of enemy artillery was laid on the town forcing Company F to withdraw to the outskirts and set up defensive positions for the night. The next morning the enemy vehicles were again in the town, but were driven off by antitank grenades and bazooka fire of Company F.

Battalion casualties: Three killed and eleven wounded.

Enemy losses: Forty-two killed, thirty-six captured, nine machine guns captured, and four 50mm mortars captured.

Cannon Company:

260 rounds were fired in support of the regiment. One man was killed when a truck overturned.

Antitank Company:

Attachments were relieved and reverted to company control at Pietrasanta.

Other actions: Enemy mortars on Mount Altissimo (985029) were brought under fire by 155mm rifles. These mortars had been subjecting the Second and Third Battalion supply lines to very intense fire since 5 April 1945.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Three killed and eleven wounded.

Enemy casualties: Forty-two killed and thirty-eight captured.

9 April 1945

The division ordered the regiment to capture Mount Brugiana (914052), protect the division right flank, establish blocks at 961053 and 941063 and send contact patrols to the front. In execution of this directive regiment ordered the 100th Battalion to occupy the high ground from Mount Cerreta to Mount Belvedere with one company, the rest of the battalion to be assembled as regimental reserve. The Second and Third Battalions were to continue the attack to the South bank of the Frigido River, seize the Frigido River line, and be prepared to move on Hill 547 (901044). The Antitank Company was ordered to establish the blocks.

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100th Battalion:

The battalion remained in its defensive positions. Company B was relieved by Company G, 370th Infantry, at 921007 and moved to positions between Mount Carchio and Mount Belvedere.

Second Battalion:

The battalion resumed the attack at 0700 hours. Pariana was seized by F Company, eliminating the remaining elements of the Kesselring Machine Gun Battalion. Leading elements moved to the Frigido River and dug in. Companies E and F sent patrols across the Frigido River that night while G Company reverted to battalion reserve when relieved by elements of the Third Battalion at 1700 hours.

Enemy losses: Company F killed seventy-seven and captured seventy-five (including three officers). One house filled with ammunition, four 50mm mortars, numerous maps, documents, sixteen machine guns, and twelve 50mm mortars were captured or destroyed. Two half-track vehicles which were in Pariana were damaged but escaped.

Battalion casualties: Two killed and four wounded.

Third Battalion:

The battalion moved out in a column of companies with K Company in the lead followed by I and L Companies. Strong resistance was encountered on Gle Tecchione by K Company. I Company continued the attack to the Frigido River. They reached a point two miles South of the river by nightfall.

Enemy losses: K Company killed sixty and captured twenty men and four machine guns. I Company captured ten machine guns, six machine pistols, a truck-load of ammunition, and an ammunition dump.

Battalion casualties: Four wounded.

Cannon Company:

1,245 rounds were fired in support of the regiment.

Other operations: Highway Number 1 was opened as a supply route to the forward battalions thus easing a very tense supply and evacuation problem. It was evident that the heavy losses sustained by the enemy were forcing him to withdraw to the so-called "Green Line." The regimental command post moved to Montignoso (935994).

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two killed and ten wounded.

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Enemy casualties: 131 killed and ninety-five wounded;  
thirty-six captured.

10 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to continue the attack. The 100th Battalion was placed in regimental reserve in the vicinity of Mount Belvedere, one company to garrison Mount Carchio. The Second and Third Battalions were ordered to continue their attacks to the North.

100th Battalion:

Remained in a defensive position until 1600 hours. At 1830 hours the battalion, minus A Company, moved to Altagnana and Antona (944-038). A Company garrisoned Mount Belvedere and Mount Carchio. Scattered enemy forces came into the battalion lines to surrender during the day.

Battalion losses: None.

Enemy captured: Unknown.

Second Battalion:

An attack was launched on Mount Brugiana which was taken without opposition at 1250 hours by Companies E and F.

Battalion casualties: Seven wounded in action.

Third Battalion:

The battalion moved on its objectives--Bergiola Foscantina (898-050) and the western part of Mount Brugiana which were seized without opposition at 1000 hours.

Battalion casualties: Two killed and two wounded.

Cannon Company:

Fired 200 rounds from positions in the vicinity of Montignoso.

Antitank Company:

Established road blocks along the regimental right flank at Forno (942066) and Gronda (962054). The roads were swept by the mine platoon.

Summary: The anticipated stand of the enemy on the north bank of the Frigido did not materialize and little opposition was encountered within the sector.

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Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two killed and nine wounded.

Enemy casualties: Unknown.

11 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to continue the advance. The 100th Battalion was ordered to attack Colonnata (923072), the Second Battalion to garrison Mount Brugiana, and the Third Battalion to occupy Mount Brugiana and Hill 547 (900046) and support the attack of the 100th and Second Battalions.

100th Battalion:

Company A (minus one platoon on Mount Garchio) rejoined the 100th Battalion. The battalion captured Colonnata without opposition, capturing twenty-two prisoners. A combat patrol was sent to Cosette (917052). Two casualties resulted from enemy artillery fire.

Second Battalion:

Company G was ordered to garrison Mount Brugiana. Company E and Company F captured Bedizzano (899061) and Belgia (905067) at 1100 hours. No opposition was encountered.

Battalion losses: None.

Third Battalion:

Company L moved into Carrara, and the town was secured with the aid of the Partisans. Company K sent elements to Terano (822079), Sorgnano (872076), and Gragnana (868088). Company I moved to Bergiola Foscalini (898049) to protect the battalion's rear. No opposition was encountered.

Antitank Company:

Continued to protect the regimental right flank.

232d Engineer Company:

The engineers had four bulldozers destroyed by mines while clearing roads within the sector.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two wounded:

Enemy casualties: Unknown number killed, twenty-two captured.

12 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to consolidate its newly-won positions.

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100th Battalion:

Positions were consolidated and contact was maintained with the Antitank Company at Forno (942066). Elements on Mount Carchio were relieved by troops of the 92d Division.

Second Battalion:

Company E moved to Codena (890062). One platoon remained on Belgia. Company F in Bedizzano received some artillery fire. Company G moved to Miseglia (894066). One platoon remained on Mount Brugiana.

Third Battalion:

The battalion consolidated its positions. A small enemy counter-attack at Gragnana was broken up. Two Germans were killed and two were taken prisoner. An outpost was established at Castelpoggio. The supply route from Massa to Carrara was subjected to heavy artillery fire.

Antitank Company:

Units protect the regimental right flank received some mortar fire.

Recapitulation: The regimental command post moved from Montignoso to Pariana. Unsuccessful efforts were made to drop supplies to elements of the 100th Battalion by air. This was necessitated by the heavily mined roads in the area. Partisans turned 256 German prisoners over to the regiment.

Regimental casualties: None.  
Enemy casualties: Two killed, two captured.

13 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to continue the advance to Mount Pizzacuto. The 100th Battalion was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Gragnana, the Second Battalion to attack Mount Pizzacuto and garrison Gabellaccia (881112), la Pizza (868115), and Uccelliera (896102), and the Third Battalion to assemble in Carrara as regimental reserve.

100th Battalion:

The 100th Battalion, minus Company C, which remained at Colonnata, moved to vicinity of Gragnana. Heavy enemy artillery fire killed two and wounded twelve.

At 1300 hours Company C was ordered to clear the ridge-line running west of Gragnana to the towns of Ortonova and Castelnuovo to

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support the forward movement of 473d Infantry Regiment on the left. Hills 574 and 580 on the ridge were thought clear but found to be strongly occupied by a by-passed enemy force. Two platoons of Company C attacked Hill 580 and one platoon tried to take Hill 574 but both forces met stiff enemy resistance and made little progress. Darkness settled in and further plans of attack were postponed until the following day.

Company B was ordered to Castelpoggio at 2000 hours to protect Second Battalion's northern flank.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Two killed and seven wounded.  
Enemy losses: Unknown.

Second Battalion:

Company E garrisoned Gubellacia, la Pizza, and Uccelliera. Company G and Company F moved to the East to attack Mount Pizzacuto from the flank. They were unable to reach the objective prior to dark. After dark Company B was moved to Castelpoggio to protect the battalion's north flank and reinforce the battalion command group occupying the town.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Three wounded.  
Regimental command post moved to Carrara. 1,300 rounds of artillery fell in regimental sector during the day.

Regimental casualties: Two killed, eleven wounded.  
Enemy casualties: Unknown.

14 April 1945

The continuation of the attack was ordered. Company B was attached to the Second Battalion and the battalion ordered to resume the attack, the 100th and Third Battalions to stay in position.

100th Battalion:

Company C jumped off to renew the attack on Hills 574 and 580 and behind coordinated fire support had seized the hills and the ridge-line by 1200 hours. After relief Company C later that day was ordered into battalion reserve in the town of Castelpoggio. In the assault on these two hills the company suffered six killed and two wounded.

Company B reverted to control of the 100th Battalion at 1830 hours. Company A moved one platoon to the high ground West of Gragnana to protect the left flank of the battalion.

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Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Twelve killed and two wounded.

Enemy casualties: Thirty-five killed, eight wounded and one prisoner.

Second Battalion:

The forward command group of the battalion plus one section of 81mm mortar, was located at Castelpoggio with B Company attached.

Company B had arrived at Castelpoggio under cover of darkness. Company B was in position with one platoon facing North, one platoon facing West and one platoon in support. The Germans, completely unaware of Company B's presence, and thinking that only the command group was in the town, attacked in battalion strength at 0530 hours under cover of a heavy fog. Coming down the valley from the North and cutting around a cemetery the enemy advanced to within thirty yards before the outposts detected them. The first burst of fire killed the enemy company commander and scattered the forces. Ten enemy infiltrated into the town but they were driven off and a few killed. After a half-hours' firefight which saw a heavy exchange of ammunition the attackers were forced to withdraw and fled up the hills to the East and to the North where they were caught under fire by our forces in the town, Companies G and F on the ridge to the East and by Company H's 81mm mortars. The enemy was in complete route and many were captured when they ran into the lines of Companies F and G. They had a short respite from the heavy fire when they attempted to use red cross flags to escape. The use was discovered and the heavy fire continued. The enemy suffered at least thirty-five killed, 150 captured and an unknown number of wounded. The force suffered six killed and six wounded during this operation.

Company G continued the attack on Mount Pizzacuto and gained the objective by 0900 hours. Twelve Germans were killed and fifty-four captured. Two 20mm guns and one machine gun were captured.

Third Battalion:

Company I was ordered to occupy La Bandita(857081) and the ridge was taken after a stiff firefight. Company I suffered one man killed and eight wounded. An undetermined number of the enemy were killed.

Antitank Company:

Road blocks at Grondo and Forno were relieved by elements of the 473d Infantry. Six Fascist prisoners were taken by the Anti-tank Company prior to its relief. One platoon relieved Company C at Colannata.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Seven killed and fourteen wounded.

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Recapitulation: Enemy losses: Twenty-three prisoners were taken during the day and at least thirty-five enemy were killed.

15 April 1945.

The regiment resumed the attack. The 100th Battalion was ordered to relieve elements of the Second Battalion on Mount Pizzacuto, the Second to attack Hill 706 (838107) and Third to reconnoiter and prepare for a night attack to the West.

100th Battalion:

Company A relieved Companies H and F on Mount Pizzacuto. Company C attacked Hill 574 (857091). The objective was attained after a fight and an attack launched against Hill 576. The company was pinned down by self-propelled and small arms fire and dug in short of the objective. Company B remained at Castelpoggio. Two prisoners were taken by Company C.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Nine wounded.

Second Battalion:

Fort Bastione (838107) which had offered stiff resistance the day before, was subjected to an aerial attack and taken by Company G attacking from Mount Pizzacuto. All but a few of the enemy had withdrawn from the fort.

Fort Bastione is situated on the highest peak in its vicinity. This peak is 706 meters high and commands all the terrain to the South and West, as well as, the village of Castelpoggio.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Two killed and thirteen wounded.

Third Battalion:

The battalion command post at Carrara was shelled, one was killed and eleven wounded.

232d Engineer Company:

The company relieved Company I on La Bandita situated on the ridge overlooking Castelpoggio. A strong counterattack by a pocket of by-passed Germans was driven off. It was apparent that the enemy intended to make a determined stand on the ridge and attempt to control the supply route through Castelpoggio and to the battalions which had advanced several thousand yards to the North.

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Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Three killed and thirty-three wounded.

16 April 1945

The regiment was ordered to assist the 473d Infantry in capturing Ortonovo (8407).

100th Battalion:

Company C captured Hill 576, Company B relieved Company G at Fort Bastione. Company A remained on Mount Pizzacuto as regimental reserve. Company C sent out a patrol to clean the area north and northwest of Ortonovo, in the meantime word was received that Company L, 473d Infantry had entered the town of Ortonovo. Company C moved to Castelpoggio as battalion reserve.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: One killed and twelve wounded.

Enemy casualties: One prisoner captured, fifteen machine-guns captured and destroyed.

Second Battalion:

Company F mopped up Mount Grugola. Seven Germans were killed, ten wounded and four captured. The battalion moved back to Castelpoggio as regimental reserve.

Third Battalion:

Company L moved up under the cover of darkness and relieved Company F on Hill 708. The company was unable to occupy the road junction of la Foci because of intense artillery fire. Company K occupied la Selva (849132), Pulica (838142), and Mount Tomaggiara (867147). In a firefight thirteen enemy were captured. Company I occupied Mount Grugola (832123) without opposition.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Three killed and twenty wounded and eighteen captured. Stiffening opposition was met on all fronts as the enemy attempted to protect the approaches to La Spezia.

17 April 1945

100th Battalion:

At 0700 hours one platoon of Company B was sent to secure Hill 619 (856099), southwest of Fort Bastione, and to clear the

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adjacent high ground at 854093, but were forced to withdraw due to heavy artillery fire. The remainder of the battalion held the high ground on Mount Pizzacuto and patrolled aggressively. No casualties were sustained this date.

Second Battalion:

Remained in position and maintained contact by patrols.

Third Battalion:

Company L attacked northwest towards Foci il Cuccu but was unable to advance because of intense artillery and mortar fire. Company K pushed patrols towards Posterla (862160) but was unable to reach the objective because of artillery fire. Company K sent one patrol to Marciaso (864141). Company I remained on Mount Grugola.

Recapitulation: Battalion casualties: Two killed and two wounded by mortar fire.

Cannon Company:

The company displaced guns forward to support the most advance elements of the regiment.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two killed and two wounded.

Enemy casualties: Unknown.

18 April 1945

100th Battalion:

Company C relieved Company A. The patrol sent to Gignago by Company B had reached Casale (824111) and was cut off. A combat patrol from Company C was sent out to assist the patrol. An intense firefight ensued, but the patrols made contact. The two patrols fought their way back to Fort Bastione. Company A moved to an assembly area at 833138. Total casualties for the day were ten wounded and two killed. One German was captured.

Second Battalion:

Second Battalion was in regimental reserve at Castelpoggio.

Third Battalion:

Company L sent a patrol to Mount Nebbione. The patrol was forced to withdraw. Company K sent patrols to Marciaso, and one

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towards Posterla. This patrol was pinned down by fire. Another patrol reached the outskirts of Tendola before being forced to withdraw.

Recapitulation: Enemy losses: Two machine guns destroyed and seven prisoners captured.

Antitank Company:

Relieved Company E on Mount Pizzacuto.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Four killed and fifteen wounded.

Enemy casualties: Eight prisoners captured and an undetermined number of enemy killed.

19 April 1945

The 100th Battalion was ordered to attack Fosdinovo, the Third Battalion, Foci il Cuccu and the Second Battalion to assist the 473d Infantry on the left. Company B as attached to the Second Battalion and Company E to the 100th Battalion.

100th Battalion:

Company E and Company A attacked towards Giucano (801142) at 0500 hours. Company C was in reserve. The attacking companies met stiff resistance and were unable to advance. The battalion suffered three casualties.

Second Battalion:

Company F followed by Company B attacked Hill 217 (814104). The objective was taken at 1500 hours. Company G in Fort Bastione sent a patrol to Gignago and captured four prisoners.

Third Battalion:

Company L attacked Foci il Cuccu but as forced to withdraw under heavy artillery fire. Company K sent a patrol from la Selva to Tendola which was forced to withdraw after encountering heavy artillery fire. A patrol of Company K was sent north of Pulica, to maintain contact.

Antitank Company:

Garrisoned Mount Pizzacuto.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two killed and twenty wounded.

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Recapitulation: Enemy casualties: Unknown number killed and nine captured.

20 April 1945

Orders were received to seize Aulla (7822), cut Highway No. 63 at 879211, Highway No. 6320 at 893193 and contact the 370th Infantry. The 100th Battalion was ordered to seize Cle Musatello (846162), and Mount Fogliadota (845169), then swing right at Villa and cut Highway No. 63 and Highway No. 6320. The Second Battalion to follow the 100th Battalion to Villa and then swing West to Aulla, the Third Battalion to be in reserve.

100th Battalion:

Company B rejoined the 100th Battalion at 1600 hours and became regimental reserve. Company A attacked Hill 599 (878153) and Company C attacked Posterla. A Company was unable to advance past Cecina while Company C was pinned down at 860177. A patrol of Company B killed one German, wounded eight, and captured seventeen in a house. Total casualties for the day were eleven.

Second Battalion:

The Second Battalion moved to the vicinity of Marciasso and prepared to follow the 100th Battalion to Villa. Company F and Company G had been in constant movement for forty-eight hours. Hill 479 was taken by Company E despite fanatical resistance. Twenty-five Germans were killed and eight captured and a heavy counterattack that night was repulsed. Company G moved on to Mount Tomaggiora.

Third Battalion:

The Third Battalion was still running into stubborn resistance and unable to make much progress. Company K sent a strong patrol north along the ridge from Pulica. This patrol knocked out an enemy observation post with the assistance of another patrol from Mount Tomaggiora. Patrols were also sent to Fosdinovo, Tendola, and la Foce. All received intense small arms and mortar fire.

Cannon Company:

239 rounds fired in direct support of the regiment.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Two killed and sixteen wounded.

Enemy casualties: Twenty Germans were captured and thirteen killed. Three machine guns, three pistols, and twelve rifles were captured.

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21 April 1945

100th Battalion:

As the attack continued A Company placed an outpost on the high ground above Cecina. C Company reached Posterla and assumed a defensive position to ward off an expected counterattack. A Company reached its objective, Hill 500 (878153), and dug in. Contact patrols were sent out by all companies. 1,160 rounds of mortar shells were expended during the day.

Second Battalion:

Battalion in regimental reserve in Marciaso (865104).

Third Battalion:

I Company moved a force into Fosdinovo which was forced to withdraw after suffering two men killed and six wounded. A patrol of L Company was unable to reach Foce il Cuccu. Part of the Third Battalion sector was taken over by the 473d Infantry, and the Third Battalion regrouped preparatory to a coordinated attack on stubbornly defended Mount Nebbione and Fosdinovo. A direct artillery hit on the I Company command post killed five and wounded six.

Cannon Company:

977 rounds fired in direct support of the regiment. One forward observer was killed.

Recapitulation: Our casualties for the day were eight killed and twelve wounded. Twenty-five Germans were killed and eight captured.

22 April 1945

The pressure against an enemy determined to protect La Spezia continued.

100th Battalion:

Company C sent out strong patrols from Posterla. Company A captured Hill 578 after an intense artillery barrage. Twelve enemy were killed and the remainder of the force of 200 withdrew. Company A dug in and one platoon of Company B was sent out to protect Company A's right flank.

Second Battalion:

Company E sent one platoon to the vicinity of San Terenzo. They were forced to withdraw when they met superior numbers of the

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enemy. Seven casualties were suffered by Company E. Company G and Company F were in defensive positions along the ridge to the South of Company E.

Third Battalion:

Company K attacked and captured Tendola (834158) after an intense firefight attacking from the North and South. Five prisoners were taken. Company L passed through Company K and attacked Mount Nebbione from the Northeast. Company I remained in Pulica reorganizing.

Cannon Company:

516 rounds were fired in support of the regiment. The guns were moved forward to the vicinity of Marciaso.

Recapitulation: Sixty prisoners turned over to the regiment by the Partisans. Enemy losses were twelve known killed, sixty-five prisoners (including prisoners of Partisans). Our losses were four killed and eleven wounded.

23 April 1945

The Second Battalion was ordered to continue the attack. The Third Battalion was ordered to occupy Mount Nebbione and Tendola.

100th Battalion:

Company A moved into Viano without opposition. Company C continued to probe enemy positions with patrols and moved to Hill 498 (882157) to make contact with Company A. The battalion was relieved at 1330 hours by the Antitank Company and withdrew to vicinity of Carrara in regimental reserve.

Second Battalion:

Companies E and G were ordered to capture San Terenzo (845172) and the high ground to the North. G Company moved around the East flank to the high ground and secured Hill 237 (844174) with little opposition. Company E sent one platoon to secure the high ground East of San Terenzo which was done after killing three and capturing twenty prisoners. The second platoon was to cut the highway West of town as rapidly as possible so as to deny the enemy that means of escape. This they accomplished only to be pinned down by enemy fire from the high ground to the Northwest. It then became necessary to commit the third platoon to clean out the enemy pocket in the town and relieve the pressure on the second platoon. This was accomplished after a five-hour firefight. 115 enemy were captured and an undeter-

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mined number killed. Company G was then ordered to attack and take la Piastra (850171), Northeast of San Terenzo. This objective was taken by 1400 hours. 125 prisoners were taken by the battalion and forty-eight Germans killed. Six artillery radios, thirty bicycles, twenty-five horses, four machine guns, one mortar, two automatic rifles, nine rifles, a "300" radio, and two motorcycles were taken by the battalion.

Battalion casualties: Four killed and eleven wounded.

Third Battalion:

Company L captured Mount Nebbione at 1130 hours. Company I successfully attacked Mount Carbolo (809157). Ten prisoners were taken in the two operations. A patrol cleared the road from Tendola to Foce il Guccu.

Task Force Fukuda:

A special task force was formed to exploit the now apparent breakthrough. Composed of Companies B and F, and a tank detachment, this force was given the mission of moving to Hill 652 (Cle Dei Gerra), Hill 603 (787159), and pushing on to Mount Grosso (Hill 663), south of Aulla. The task force jumped off at 1400 hours with Company B in the lead.

Cannon Company:

Eighty-two rounds were fired in support of operations.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: Six killed and thirteen wounded.

Enemy casualties: Forty-eight killed and 135 captured.

24 April 1945

100th Battalion:

At rest in the vicinity of Carrara.

Second Battalion:

E Company and G Company moved on Aulla by way of Villa and Ceserano meeting no enemy resistance. E Company was at Mount Piano di Bibola (796209) and G Company (790213) by 1500 hours.

Upon coming within striking distance of Aulla the battalion found another unit deployed within its zone of advance and pinned down by heavy fire from the town. Before the matter could be untangled night

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had fallen and preparations were made to launch an attack early the following morning. The other unit disengaged and withdrew during the night, as did the enemy.

Third Battalion:

This battalion reverted to divisional reserve. I Company occupied Mount Carbolo and Ponzanello (807165) while K Company occupied Tendola and L Company occupied Mount Nebbione and Ponzanello.

Task Force Fukuda:

The force reached Mount Grosso by 1200 hours and then moved Northeast to Vecchietto and Bibola. No opposition had as yet been encountered.

Cannon Company:

253 rounds fired in support of operations.

Recapitulation: Regimental command post moved to Tendola.

Regimental Casualties: None.

Enemy casualties: Unknown.

25 April 1945

100th Battalion:

The battalion moved to the vicinity of Sarzana at 2300 hours, entrucked and reached Borglietto (585240) at 0300 hours the next morning.

Second Battalion:

The attack on Aulla was coordinated with Fukuda Task Force. No enemy resistance encountered and town was cleared by 0900 hours. G Company moved on to Hill 301 (764224). The battalion was relieved by the Third Battalion, 370th Infantry, and pulled back to the vicinity of Sarzana.

Third Battalion:

The battalion remained in divisional reserve in the same location as that of 24 April.

Fukuda Task Force:

Coordinated attack on Aulla with Second Battalion and after completion of this mission units returned to the control of their parent organizations.

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Cannon Company:

One platoon was attached to 100th Battalion as a part of this pursuit force.

Recapitulation: Regimental casualties: None.  
Enemy casualties: Unknown.

26 April 1945

The direction of the regiment's attack now shiften back to the coast and a pursuit of the enemy along the coast to Genoa was ordered.

100th Battalion:

The battalion moved by motor towards Sestri Levante (P3331). Plans were changed enroute and the battalion moved to Carasco. No contact was made with the enemy.

Second Battalion:

The battalion was in rest at Sarzana alerted to move to Genoa.

Third Battalion:

The battalion rested during the day. In the afternoon and evening the battalion moved to Sestri Levante.

Recapitulation: Rapid advances were made to the Northwest against the fleeing enemy. Motorized patrols were actively probing for enemy pockets of resistance. The problem of motorizing the regiment was acute because of the shortage of transportation and gasoline.

27 April 1945

The mission given the regiment was to outflank Genoa from the North. The 100th Battalion was ordered to seize Busalla (O-9967) and close the pass at Isoladei Cantone (P-0175). The Third Battalion was ordered to take the West portion of Genoa and seize the high ground to the Northwest.

100th Battalion:

At 0115 hours the battalion left Carasco (P-3040). It was necessary to detruck at Boasi because of a blownout bridge. The battalion remained there during the night. The battalion had one platoon of Antitank Company, one battery of the 599th Field Artillery Battalion, one platoon of Cannon Company and one platoon of 92d Reconnaissance Troops attached.

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