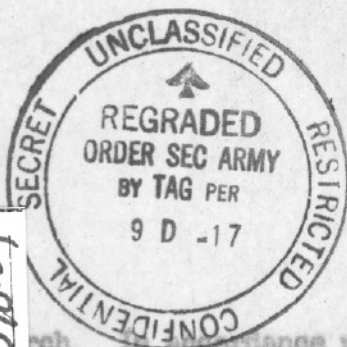


442D INFANTRY REGIMENT
NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

1 - 31 March 1945

MAP RSP: Eastern France 1/50000
Sheet XXXVII-42 Menton; Italy
1/50000 Sheet 102A-1, Gospel;
Italy 1/50000 Sheet 102-IV Breil



MARITIME ALPS SECTOR - FRANCE

In accordance with Order of the Day No. 1, Alpine Army Detachment, 1 Mar 45, and General Orders No. 4, Hq 44th AAA Brigade, 1 Mar 45, the 44th AAA Brigade, with all assigned and attached units (including the 442d Regimental Combat Team) became a component part of the Alpine Front Command, Army of the Alps.

The month began with the regiment maintaining its defensive positions along the French Italian Border, with the three battalions on the line. The 100th Battalion was on the right, extending from Menton on the Mediterranean coast to the town of Castillon. The 2d Battalion, with CP location in Gospel, defended the center of the regimental sector, and the 3d Battalion extended on the left from Mt Grosso Northeast of Gospel to Turini. 3d Battalion CP was established at Piera Cava.

The regimental front covered a distance of 24 kilometres, over extremely mountainous terrain. Supplies were brought to the forward positions by mule train. Contact was maintained with the 22/XV Ire Groupe de Bataillons, Groupement Alpin Sud (First French Army), the unit on the left flank.

Artillery support was provided by the 522d F. A. Bn (442d ROT), in direct support of the 100th Battalion; the 602d F. A. Bn (75mm Pack How) supporting the 2d Battalion; and the 601st F. A. Bn (75mm Pack How), in direct support of the 3d Battalion. The 937th F. A. Bn (155mm How) and the 68th AAA Gun Bn were also attached and fired missions in general support.

Reconnaissance patrols from Cos A and B patrolled to Hill 914 (796917) and Hill 467 (807886) respectively, and returned without incident. No enemy activity was observed.

Three German artillerymen (deserters) were picked up on Mt Grosso and turned over to 44th AAA Brigade MP's. The prisoners were from the 13th Btry, 451st Abteilung (Sep Bn), 34th Infantry Division. Considerable information was extracted regarding enemy artillery dispositions in the sector, and the effectiveness of our counterbattery missions.

A presentation ceremony was held by the 100th Battalion, at the Hotel Imperial, Menton. Lt Colonel MILLER, Regimental Commander, presented the following awards:

Distinguished Service Cross
Pvt Masato Nakao, Co A

Legion of Merit
Chaplain Israel Yost, Hq 442d Inf

Silver Star
Capt George H. Grandstaff, Sv Co
2d Lt Kazuma Hisanaga, Co C
Pfc Takahashi Kusunoki, Co A
Pfc Koichi Sekimura, Co C

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Authority 785 017
By [Signature] Date 5-10-04

Authority 795 017
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Bronze Star

Pfc George Akiyama, Co A
 Pfc Yasuyuki Surokawa, Co B
 Cpl Toshio R. Mizusawa, Co B
 Pfc Henry Y. Nakasone, Co A

All troops were paid for the month of February. Weather was cold and cloudy with poor visibility.

2 Mar A patrol from Co G left 1035, went to the town of Bossare (800960), heard small arms fire between San Michele (809977) and Airole (825967). The patrol returned at 1530.

Regular daily contact and security patrols operated without incident. Motorized patrol from Hq Co 2d Bn contacted 3d Bn in Moulinet. A motorized and roving foot patrol from Co H patrolled Gospel and vicinity every two hours during hours of darkness (1800-0600), reporting no incident.

Our 81mm mortars and supporting artillery fired harassing missions on trails and road junctions. Batteries from naval vessels off shore fired 80 rounds on an enemy gun position and 60 rounds on an enemy-used railroad tunnel. Cannon Co test fired French 75mm guns in the 2d Bn area.

Two Italian prisoners (deserters) were taken on Colla Bensa at 1500 and turned over to Brigade Headquarters. The prisoners were from 8th Btry, 3d Bn, 2d Artillery Regt, Littorio Division.

A PX ration of beer was distributed among the companies.

3 Mar Reconnaissance patrols reported no enemy activity.

A total of 61 rounds of light and medium caliber artillery fell in the Combat Team area; no casualties or damage resulted.

At 1415 a 20-man enemy patrol was observed at grid coordinate 820909, heading for the town of San Antonio (823907). Our 81mm mortars fired 78 rounds, dispersing the patrol.

The 1269th Engineer Bn, attached to the 442d Inf, operated a beach patrol in the 100th Bn sector, and maintained contact with Co B.

1st and 2d squad, Antitank platoon, Hq Co 100th Bn, took position near Castellar and fired 50 rounds each into enemy positions in Ventimiglia.

One man in Co 3 was killed while deactivating a booby-trap.

In accordance with Special Orders No. 51, Hq 442d RCT, 3 Mar 45, following changes in staff assignment took place:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relieved from asgmt as</u>	<u>Assigned</u>
Lt Col JAMES M. HANLEY	CO, 2d Bn	Regtl Ex O
Maj ROBERT A. GOPEL	Regtl S-3	CO, 2d Bn
Maj IVAN F. KOVAC	Regtl S-2	Regtl S-3
Capt EDWARD J. NILGES	Hq 442d RCT	Hq 3d Bn
Capt ORVILLE C. SHIREY	S-3, 3d Bn	Regtl S-2
1st Lt JAMES O. BUSHYEAGER	Hq Co 3d Bn	Hq 442d RCT

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4 Mar A reconnaissance patrol from Co F went to Col de Brouis (768030) to check for enemy activity. None was noted.

Cannon Co fired 44 rounds with the French 75mm in the 2d Bn sector, firing at an enemy OP, fort, and the towns of Piena and Libri. A total of 54 rounds of medium and light caliber incoming artillery was recorded.

1st platoon Antitank Co remained attached to the 100th Bn. 2d platoon maintained road guards at Luceram, L'Escarene and Col de Braus. 3d platoon kept a road block at La Turbie, and the 4th platoon maintained outposts for the 2d Battalion near Sospel.

New type field trousers were received and distributed to all troops.

A quota of five officers and 14 enlisted men departed for the Paris Rest Center.

The regiment continued to send quotas to the Officer's Rest Center, Hotel Carlton, Cannes; and to the Enlisted Rest Center, Hotel Continental, Nice. Five officers and seventy enlisted men rotated at the rest centers.

5 Mar During the night of the 4th, a German prisoner (deserter) was taken by the beach patrol of Co C, 1269th Engineer Bn, in the 100th Bn sector, near Menton. The prisoner was from a penal company, Strafvollstreckungs Zug Der 34.

A patrol from Co B consisting of 1 officer and 4 men went to Hill 419 (802809), searched houses in the vicinity without making enemy contact.

At 1400, 3d squad of Antitank platoon, Hq Co 100th Bn fired 50 rounds of 57mm into Ventimiglia, from the vicinity of Castellar.

The Combat Team Battle School, conducted by Major Colyer at Luceram, concluded its program.

6 Mar The tactical situation remained unchanged. At 1000 an Italian linecrosser, with 18,000 lire in his possession, and suspected to be an enemy agent, was apprehended on Colla Bensa.

Cannon Co 2d platoon fired 30 rounds at an enemy mulepoint and personnel, and 74 rounds with the French 75mm at enemy personnel and gun positions on Mount Mangiabo, Mt Columbin and Airole Tunnel. Excellent results were reported.

Preparations for movement were begun. All emergency rations, equipment and winter clothing were brought down from the platoon positions. Interviews with all limited assignment personnel were conducted by a personnel officer of the Sixth Army Group.

7 Mar A reconnaissance patrol from Co F went from Mt Grosso towards the hotel on Col de Brouis. When the patrol departed from Mt Grosso they observed two radio antennae among the enemy pillboxes on Col de Brouis. The patrol directed mortar fire and destroyed one. Patrol proceeded to vic 760028 and heard enemy voices at 761037.

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The 522d F. A. Bn fired seven observed missions in support of the 100th Bn on an enemy patrol and mule train; the 601st F. A. Bn fired seven observed missions (154 rounds) on enemy mortars, personnel and cable house. The 602d F. A. Bn fired on an enemy OP. All supporting artillery units fired harassing missions.

Three M from a K Co patrol were wounded by mines near La Bollene Vesubie while being led through a friendly mine field by a French guide from the French unit on the left.

A quota of 10 officers and 70 men left Service Co area on leave to the Paris Rest Center.

8-9-10
Mar

The regiment maintained its defensive positions with no change in dispositions. Daily reconnaissance and security patrols continued. The enemy threw harassing fire into Moulinet and Turini, but no damage or casualties resulted.

On the 8th, the 100th Bn held a presentation ceremony at Menton. Brigadier General RALPH C. TOBIN, Commanding General, 44th AAA Brigade, presented the following awards:

Silver Star

Pfc Minoru Kurieda, Co D

Bronze Star

Pfc Masato Kutaka, Co A (Oak Leaf Cluster)

Pfc Walter Matsumoto, Co A

Pfc Masaru Abe, Co A

Pfc Matsumi Masaki, Co A

Pfc Mitsuo Furumoto, Co A

Pfc Kiyoshi Kami, Co A

Pfc Terry T. Kohaya, Co A

Pfc Takashi Kusunoki, Co A

Bronze Star (Cont)

Tec 4 Tokio Kiyahara, Co A

Cpl Shiro Yamaguchi, Co A

Tec 5 Shuji Akiyama, Co A

Tec 5 Tokuo Azeka, Co A

S Sgt Harry Nishimura, Co B

S Sgt Akiyoshi Kuriyama, Hq Co
100th Bn

34th Inf Division Citation

Pvt Haruo Takei, Co A

A similar ceremony was held on March 10th, in the town square of L'Escarene. Following officers and men were decorated by Lieutenant Colonel V. R. MILLER, Regimental Commander:

Distinguished Service Cross

T Sgt Tsuneo Takemoto, Co E

Legion of Merit

1st Lt Gaylord H. Gilmore, Hq Co

Silver Star

Capt Edwin R. Shorey, Cn Co

2d Lt Masami S. Yoshinari, Cn Co

T Sgt Toshio Suyematsu, Cn Co

Pfc Akira Okamoto, Cn Co

Pfc Satoru Shikasho, Hq Co 3d Bn

Pfc James Y. Sugano, Hq Co 3d Bn

Pfc Gordon I. Oshikata, Co K

Pvt Masao Komoda, Co G

Pvt Ernest Tsuji, Hq Co 3d Bn

~~SECRET~~Bronze Star

Capt Joseph W. Stevenson, Hq Co
 T Sgt Keji K. Yoshimoto, Hq Co
 Sgt Tanyoshi Shintani, Cn Co
 Tec A Sunao Morisato, Hq Co
 Cpl Fred H. Kinoshita, Cn Co
 Pfc Tadashi Morimoto, Hq Co
 Pfc Arthur A. Susumi, Cn Co
 Pfc Martin L. Ito, Cn Co
 Pfc Mitsuo Tsugawa, Co F
 Pvt James K. Taniguchi, Hq Co
 Pvt Nadaso Yoshinaga, Cn Co

34th Inf Div Citation

Pfc John S. Kakehashi, Co F
 Pfc Raymond Y. Honda, Co G
 Pvt Masaru W. Hayashi, Co G
 Pfc Masayoshi Nakamura, Co G

The 206th Army Ground Forces Band (442d BCT) provided music on both of the above occasions.

Several large brush fires sprang up in the Combat Team area on 9 March, near the regimental CP at L'Estacarene and near Luceram. Investigation failed to disclose anything of a suspicious nature and the fires burned out on the following day.

11 Mar Preparations continued for the relief of the 442d Infantry. The advance party of the relieving French unit, 2d Brigade, 1st DMI (Motorized Infantry Division) arrived for orientation. Duffle bags were moved to the assembly area near Antibes.

Sunday services were conducted by the Combat Team chaplains.

12 Mar Reconnaissance patrols made no enemy contact. 81mm mortars and supporting artillery fired harassing missions. The battalions assisted the officers of the relieving unit in a reconnaissance of the defensive positions.

Six officers and 303 enlisted men, limited assignment and unfit for further combat duty, were transferred to Hq COMAD, in accordance with Special Orders No. 43, Hq 44th AAA Brigade, 13 Mar 45.

A quota of 15 IMI, all of whom had been wounded or decorated on at least two separate occasions, left the Combat Team for return to Hawaii on recuperation furlough.

Eighteen Infantry and two Medical officers left on TD to Paris to meet and escort a group of recently-arrived Japanese American reinforcements to the Combat Team.

13 Mar Relief of the 442d Infantry began. Units of the 2d Brigade, 1st DMI moved up and occupied the prepared positions in the 3d and 2d Bn sectors. 3d Bn began movement from Piera Cava to Antibes by motor convoy, a distance of approximately 40 miles.

14 Mar 3d Bn relief was completed 1500 and the battalion closed in at Antibes 1730. The 2d Bn was likewise relieved and moved by rail and truck to Antibes, last elements closing at 2230.

15 Mar The 100th Bn was relieved by the French at 1900 15 Mar 45 and command of the sector passed to the French. The battalion began movement from Menton at 0300 16 Mar and final elements closed in at Antibes 0730 16 Mar 45.

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One officer and four EM from each company were left with the relieving unit for 24 hours to familiarize them with the terrain and situation. All overlays, maps and related documents were turned over to the incoming unit, and they were familiarized with all known mined and trip-wired areas before the relief was completed.

- 16 Mar The regiment spent the day in bivouac at Antibes, in preparation for overseas movement. A show-down inspection of clothing and equipment was held; an inspection of ordnance equipment was conducted by the 3d Ordnance Co; typhus shots were administered.
- 17 Mar Movement from Antibes to Marseilles began. 3d Battalion moved by organic motors and rail, closing in at DBS Staging Area CP 2, near Marseilles, at 1930.

The 2d Battalion, at Antibes, held a presentation ceremony. Brigadier General RALPH C. TOBIN, Commanding General, 44th AAA Brigade, presented the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon to Co F, and the following individual awards:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

- S Sgt George S. Iida, Co G
- S Sgt Yoshimi R. Fujiwara, Co G

SILVER STAR

- Capt Bert W. Nishimura, Hq 2d Bn
- 2d Lt Frank Okusako, Co H
- Pfc Hajime Miyamoto, Med Det
- Pfc Jeph Ito, Med Det
- Pvt Saburo Higa, Hq Co 2d Bn
- Pfc Hideo Takahashi, Co E
- Tec 4 Teiichi Kuwayama, Med Det
- S Sgt James S. Koizumi, Co H
- S Sgt George K. Sato, Co H
- Sgt Mitsusuke Fujimoto, Med Det
- Tec 5 Wilfred M. Taira, Med Det
- Pfc Robert T. Muraoka, Hq Co 2d Bn
- S Sgt Yoshimi R. Fujiwara, Co G
- S Sgt Shirysei Matayoshi, Co G (Oak Leaf Cluster)

BRONZE STAR

- S Sgt Tadase Hedahi, Co H
- Capt William Aull, Hq 2d Bn
- Pfc Takeshi Ueki, Hq Co 2d Bn
- S Sgt David M. Ito, Co G
- T Sgt Shigeru Oyama, Co H
- 1st Lt Joseph C. Ryan, Co H
- Tec 5 Jerry G. Ogawa, Med Det
- S Sgt George S. Harada, Co H
- Pfc Frank Y. Asari, Co H
- Pfc Tetsuo Kurozawa, Co H
- Pvt Sueto Kanehiro, Co H
- 2d Lt Teruo Ihara, Co E
- Pfc Kiyoshi S. Ebata, Co E
- Pfc Harold K. Fukunaga, Co G
- Pfc Nobuo Kerenaga, Co G
- Pfc Robert T. Kishi, Co G
- Pfc Thomas T. Nakahara, Med Det
- Pvt George C. Takahashi, Co G
- S Sgt Takeshi Aoyagi, Co E
- T Sgt Mitsuo D. Tsuruda, Co E

- 18 Mar 2d Bn, Hq Co, AT Co, Cannon Co and Medics left Antibes by organic transportation and boxcar, arriving at Staging Area CP 2 at 1930. 100th Bn followed on the 19th, last elements closing in at 2135 19 March 1945.

The regiment bivouacked in tents at the Staging Area. All vehicles, T/E equipment and crew-served weapons were turned in. An IG show-down inspection of clothing and equipment was conducted, as well as an inspection of records.

Upon arrival at Marseilles, the 442d Infantry was relieved of attachment to 44th AAA Brigade and assignment to Sixth Army Group, and was assigned to Delta Base Section, per secret letter 370, Hq 44th Brigade, 15 Mar 45.

442d Inf, having been relieved from assignment to Sixth Army Group and assigned to DBS effective 19 Mar 45, effective same date was relieved from assignment to Seventh Army and attachment to 44th AAA Brigade, per par 2, secret letter, AG 370.5/UA C-0, Hq Sixth Army Group, 18 Mar 45, Subj: Unit Asgmt Order 51.

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20 Mar Preparations for overseas movement continued. Francs were collected and exchanged for Italian lire at the rate of one franc for two lire. A physical inspection was held.

21 Mar The advance party, 3d Battalion and Antitank Co left Staging Area by truck for Port of Embarkation at Marseilles at 0900. The troops boarded Navy LST's, remaining overnight in the harbor, and at 0630 22 March sailed in convoy for Livorno, Italy.

The 2d Battalion, Hq Co and Medics followed to the POB on the 22d; and the 100th Bn, Service Co, and Cannon Co on the 23d. These units departed Marseilles via LST convoy at 1700 23 March 45.

24 Mar 3d Battalion and Antitank Co arrived at Livorno (Leghorn), Italy, at 1130, after two days at sea. Troops disembarked and proceeded by truck to PBS Staging Area #3, near Pisa, closing in at 1600.

The 100th Bn, 2d Bn, Hq Co, Sv Co, Cn Co and Medics spent the day at sea. In order to avoid German naval activity off the Northern Italian coast, the convoy took a circuitous route, passing between the islands of Corsica and Sardinia. Weather was fair and the voyage was without incident. These units reached Livorno 1100 25 March, and closed in at PBS Staging Area at 1600.

Effective upon arrival at Livorno, 442d Infantry was relieved of assignment to Deltabase, in accordance with secret letter AG 370 (DBSGC) Hq, DBS, 19 Mar 45, Subj: Movement Order (DBS #133).

Effective upon arrival in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, 442d Infantry assigned to Fifth Army and concurrently attached to IV Corps, in accordance with par 4, secret letter AG 322.1-Y, Hq Fifth Army, 25 March 1945.

26-27 Mar Troops billeted in 8-man semi-permanent hutzments at PBS Staging Area #3, near Pisa. New vehicles, weapons and equipment were issued and prepared for use. Identifying insignia were removed from clothing and helmets. On the 27th, Major General E. M. ALMOND, Commanding General, 92d Infantry Division, visited the regiment and greeted all officers.

28 Mar The regiment moved by truck in four serials from Staging Area near Pisa to bivouac area at San Martino, near Lucca. The move was made under cover of darkness, commencing 1900. Last elements of the regiment closed in at 2400, 28 March.

29-30-31 Mar Bivouac at San Martino. Training resumed. One officer per company and one E1 per platoon from each rifle and heavy weapons company attended the 92d Division Mine School at Viarregio. New weapons were zeroed in, and a schedule of range firing undertaken. 2d Battalion conducted a night problem on the 31st, battalion in night attack. Weather continued fair. Morale excellent.

In accordance with radio message, from Commanding General, IV Corps, dated 262325A, the 442d Inf, having been attached to IV Corps by Fifth Army letter AG 322.1-Y, dated 25 Mar 45 effective upon arrival MTO, is further attached to the 92d Infantry Division, effective 251800A.

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Authority 795 017
By [Signature] NAFA Date 5-10-04

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HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
APO #464, U. S. ARMY

~~SECRET~~
: Auth: CO, 442 RCT :
: Init: :
: Date: 8 Apr 45 :
: :

314.7

8 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Monthly Historical Report.

TO: Commanding General, 92d Infantry Division, APO 92, U. S. Army.
(Attention: Information and Education Officer)

1. In compliance with AR 345-105, 16 November 1929, with Changes 4, 10 August 1944, transmitted herewith historical report of 442d Infantry for the month of 1 - 31 March 1945.

2. Above history consists of:

- a. Report as per Par 13, AR 345-105, with Exhibits A and B (Incl. 1).
- b. Narrative of Events (Incl. 2).
- c. Unit Journal (Incl. 3).
- d. Unit Journal File - Maps, Overlays, Orders, etc (Incl. 4).

For the Commanding Officer:

HARRY B. FARR,
Capt, 442d Inf,
Adjutant.

4 Incls - As listed

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