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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY

Before dawn on the morning of the 13th of October, 1943, the American 34th Division waded across the rain-swollen VOLTURNO River in the face of withering fire from German riflemen and machine gunners dug in along the northern bank. Although water-soaked and chilled to the bone, our troops fought their way through enemy machine-gun pits and fox holes to establish a firm beachhead. This crossing of the VOLTURNO opened the second phase of the Allied campaign in Italy. Five weeks earlier, the 34th Division had landed on the hostile beaches of the Gulf of SALERNO. Now it was attacking a well defended river line.

MOVING TO THE VOLTURNO

We are concerned with the action of the 135th Infantry Regiment of the 34th Division during this phase, but first, for a brief review--After the 133rd Infantry had taken BENEVENTO on the 3rd of October, the 135th Regiment had been ordered to assemble along with the rest of the Division in the vicinity of MONTESARCHIO, 18 miles to the East of CASSERTA. Although the march to this new area involved no fighting with the enemy, combating the weather and the rough mountainous roads was a battle in itself.

Beginning with a terrific thunderstorm which struck the area on the evening of the 28th of September, rains followed day after day. The curse of rain and mud dogged the footsteps of our troops all the way to the VOLTURNO. When the 30th Infantry was relieved it proved quite a problem on the 8th of October. Any shifting of troops until after dark was impossible, as German Artillery fired on anything that stirred in the valley. Blown bridges, and muddy roads further complicated the task of getting men and equipment into the area. There were a lot of signal equipment and transportation, with the exception of a few jeeps, that were bogged down in the thick mire. The tasks of clearing out the enemy, patrolling the river banks for crossing points, and trying to keep dry and warm in the rainy weather were impossible. All these climatic conditions plus the fact that the 10 Corps needed additional time also, to get set, postponed the river crossing from the night of the 9th-10th to 12th-13th October, giving the Regiment additional

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time to complete the assembling of its troops, reconnoiter the river line, and work out the details of its plan of attack.

Along the VOLTURNO the enemy had entrenched himself in the first good defensive positions north of NAPLES, making the river the first large scale obstacle. At SALERNO, they had fought for each foot of sand and counterattacked repeatedly, but after our beachhead was secure, they had carried out an orderly withdrawal.

On the North side of the VOLTURNO, KESSELRING'S troops were awaiting the impending battle. During the days while the 135th Infantry Regiment and the other units of the 5th Army were moving up to the river and completing preparations for the attack, the enemy had been hard at work laying mines, digging gun pits, and organizing a system of machine-gun emplacements to cover the river banks with interlocking bands of fire. Many artillery was zeroed in on the most likely sites for the construction of bridges; and mobile units, held back from the river line were prepared to move to any threatened sector. Then finally, before our men could reach the enemy defenses, they must, first, battle their way across the swift waters of the VOLTURNO and up the steep muddy bank on the far side. Their only advantage lay in their numerical superiority. Their hope of quick success lay in surprise. The enemy did not know at what time or at what point the blow would come.

In the 34th Division sector, which was nearly 15 kilometers wide, the stream was swift and in some places deep enough to cover a man's head, with steep banks overgrown with shrubbery to the water's edge. Immediately upon taking over the sector, very active patrolling was begun, in order to discover the best places to cross, the easiest bridge sites and, especially, the location of enemy defenses. Patrols of a few men crossed the stream repeatedly to feel out the German positions; careful study was made of aerial photographs, and intelligence officers, by noting direction of German tracer fire, were able to draw a quite complete and accurate picture of the German fire plan. While this was going on, supplies of bridging equipment, artillery ammunition, and fuel were brought up on convoy after convoy. Surprise, if we could achieve it would be decisive!

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Therefore all traffic near the river had to be squeezed into the hours of darkness and so large were the movements that only superb traffic control prevented jams, that might well have given away our whole plan. The direction and density of the traffic was so well worked-out, and so faultlessly coordinated, that this operation is even today constantly cited as a model of good practice. On the evening of the 12th of October, like a tightly coiled spring, the Regiment was ready to snap into action.

However, before the "jump-off" let us see how the spring had become so tightly coiled in respect to this Regiment, the 135th Infantry.

By the 10th of October, the Regiment had completed the relief of the 30th Infantry troops in its sector of the front, and, as said before, was working out the details of its plan of attack. Ahead lay a jumbled mass of low hills resembling a clenched fist thrust out toward the high mountains to the southeast. At the foot of this hill mass, the VOLTURNO River flows in an irregular half circle like a moat protecting a medieval fortress. All advantages of observation lay with the enemy. He would have to be driven headback from the forward line of hills, before it would be possible for the 135th Infantry to put in bridges or even to make use of the roads leading to the bridge sites. With the 168th Infantry on the left making the main effort toward CALAZZO, the 135th Infantry was to attack on the right. In the 3 days of reconnoitering, foot troops of the 135th Infantry on the right flank of the Division found points to ford the river. In most places the steep muddy banks and the sandy bottoms made use of vehicles impractical, though at one spot near an old dam, it appeared that waterproofed vehicles could cross. Col. Robert S. Ward, Commanding Officer of the Regiment, ordered the first battalion and "B" Company to lead the assault to their objective, the high ground behind the village of S. VILLE. When this objective was taken, the second Battalion was to pass through and continue the advance. To assist the men in keeping together in the darkness, all troops were directed to wear a strip of white tape down the center of their packs.

On the evening of the 12th of October as darkness settled over the VOLTURNO, a full moon rose, lighting up the sharp peak of MOUNT TIFATA and spreading an eerie glow over

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the open fields of the valley. For once, there was to be no rain. The enemy had no reason to suspect that a major battle was impending. Our customary night patrols worked their way down to the river, drawing an occasional burst of machine gun fire from the enemy bank or causing a nervous German outpost to shoot off a colored signal flare. This had been going on for days, and signified nothing out of the ordinary to the enemy troops in their fox-holes and gun emplacements. Back in our rear bivouac areas, it was a different story. Here was all the bustle and ordered confusion which accompany the movement of troops. Tank drivers attached to the Regiment, warmed up their motors, engineers nearby loaded rubber pontoons into trucks, our artillery men studied their fire plans, and long lines of 135th Infantry^{men} marched out of their forward assembly areas. The preparatory phase of the VOLTURNO crossing was over; 135th Infantry Regiment was ready to strike.

Covering forces of the Regiment destroyed enemy patrols which had crossed to the south bank of the VOLTURNO river, and shortly before zero hour on the morning of the 13th of October, the 1st Battalion and Company "B", 135th Infantry, moved to their designated jumping-off points on the right flank of the 34th Division front (see map attached for reference).

FIRST CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO

At 0145 hours the 135th Field Artillery Battalion added the roar of its guns to the thunder of the artillery firing all along the VOLTURNO-CALORE River line on suspected enemy gun positions, mine fields, and targets of opportunity, and at 0200 hours, just as thousands of other grim-faced men were doing, at so many other points along the VOLTURNO, Infantrymen of the 135th slipped and slid down the steep river banks and waded out into the cold, swift water. The enemy made no serious effort to oppose the crossing; once past the river, the troops moved forward rapidly. At 0220 hours Company "A" crossed just below the junction of the VOLTURNO and CALORE rivers, was already advancing over the plowed fields lying at the foot of the hills, and Company "B" crossing at the other end of the regimental front, was sending back prisoners at 0250 hours.

ACTS OF EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM (Cont'd)

The first German was personally captured by first Lt. ^{NG} W. Kimble, Commanding Officer of Company "A", who personally directed the security of the bridge-head so that the balance of the company might cross.

There was intense machine-gun fire but Lt. Kimble's personal direction and inspiration of each platoon, spurred the mission to success. His leadership making possible the crossing of the Battalion brought the award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Another act of extraordinary heroism was performed by 2nd Lt. Vernon C. Harris of the same company who lost his life. Lt. Harris was the platoon leader of the leading element and although the barrage of friendly artillery fire had not lifted he ^{NG} plunged across the river at the head of his men, in the face of enemy artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire and gained the other side. Lt. Harris was mortally wounded by shrapnel and while suffering great pain he directed his platoon in organizing the ground and shot flares in the air to mark his position. When Lt. Kimble came to him, the dying Lieutenant pointed out several enemy machine-gun positions. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Another act Lieutenant, William D. Sporbart, of Company "A", lead his platoon in placing a guide rope across the swift flowing, treacherous river, enabling the balance of the Battalion to cross. After reaching the far side Lt. Sporbart ran into a mine and was thrown into the river. Rescued and given first aid, he set out to join his Platoon, but enroute, he entered a minefield, to aid a wounded man. In doing so, he was seriously injured by a concussion mine. The Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to Lt. Sporbart.

It would be impossible at this time to cite all acts of heroism and the innumerable acts of bravery displayed by men of the 135th Infantry during this rugged phase of their gallant record, however, it can be noted that the bravery shown while crossing the VOLTURNO, is typical of the American fighting soldier that has gained him World-wide respect.

Meanwhile, at approximately 0250 hours, Company "A" was in possession of its object-

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PHASE III 135th INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

ive, Hill 131, just to the west of the little town of HILL 2. The 1st Battalion had also reached its' first objective with Company "A" at 0527 hours on the first phase line called for in the regimental's plan of attack, Company "B" followed at 0600 hours and Company "C" at 0712 hours. The balance of the first Battalion crossed the river, and after neutralizing enemy positions, that had been by-passed north of B. UILLA, the Battalion was reorganized and prepared to go to the next objective. Still encountering not too much opposition, the first Battalion pushed on toward the second phase line. Shortly after dawn, the engineers had a ferry in operation, making it possible to get light vehicles across the river.

In the early morning hours, it appeared that the enemy would not attempt to make a determined stand. Then as the morning wore on, enemy mines and fire began to slow down the advance of the 135th Infantry. The first Battalion reported at 0930 hours that a tank in AO 10 I was firing on the ferry, and a few minutes later tanks in the same vicinity were firing on the Battalion Command Post. At 1320 hours a counterattack was reported forming up in front of this Battalion. The Division Artillery fired concentrations into the suspected area, however, and the attack did not materialize. Hindered by enemy minefields and continually under fire, the first Battalion made little progress during the afternoon. The second Battalion moving up after dark, had to fight its way thru a pocket of Germans which had been by-passed during the morning advance. The day closed with the 135th Infantry still short of the second phase line.

In regards at this time to Cannon Company, 1st Lieutenant Paul . Blomson, became sick on the 12th and was evacuated to the hospital leaving 2nd Lt. Dean C. Fellows assigned command of the Company.

Continuing that attack early the next morning, the first Battalion occupied Hill 283, its objective, at 0400 hours. Shortly after daybreak, 4 tank destroyers from the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion managed to ford the river. Placed in hull-down positions on Hill 283, the tank destroyers were used to support the advance of the Infantry. There were several threatened counter-attacks on the position of the assault battalions,

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but one of serious proportions developed. By the end of the morning the area south of the second phase line had been cleared, and the Regiment had patrols operating in all directions.

Supplies and evacuation was a problem; assault boats were used to take food and ammunition to the North bank of the VOLTURNO and to bring back wounded. A few vehicles were able to ford the river and Engineers rushed to demine roads and build by-passes on the North bank. At 1000 hours, the bridge was opened in the vicinity of DUBENFA and 5 hours later, the 3rd Battalion of the 135th Infantry was ordered to move to the North side of the river. All during this phase the Engineers worked with fervor, repairing, building and supporting the assault troops. At 2300 hours, the road from the first bridge site from the vicinity of DUBENFA was opened and additional vehicles began to cross the river.

REAR GUARD ACTION UP THE VOLTURNO VALLEY

Patrols from "C" Company made contact with elements of the 168th Infantry. Other patrols reached Highway 87 to the north and crossed the upper reach of the VOLTURNO to make contact with the elements of the 15th Division on the right flank. All indications pointed to a general enemy withdrawal. The major struggle on the Regimental front, as on the Divisional front, proved to be a fight for supplies. It was essential that before the troops could go further, the Engineers bridge the river so that supplies and supporting weapons could be brought up.

The second Battalion moved up to the low ridge south of MUVIANO and sent patrols into the outskirts of the village without contact of the enemy on the night of the 14th of October but on the 15th, combat patrols on the north side met with stiff resistance. In a typical delaying action, the enemy attempted to halt the advance of Rifle platoons by posting 2 light machine guns on either side of a trail, such as are so common in Southern Italy, and stationing men farther in the rear to lob grenades at our troops. According to many rifle platoon Leaders, Platoon Sergeants, and key non-coms., the 3

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Germans had a perfect ambush with this set-up.

Shortly after midnight, General Ryder, 34th Division commander still unable to get sufficient supplies and artillery across the VOLTURNO, postponed plans for the attack on RUVIANO. Meanwhile, General Clark, 5th Army Commander had received information that the enemy was withdrawing before VI Corps, and ordered all divisions to continue on their missions without delay. General Ryder, then, directed the 135th Infantry to resume its advance. On the morning of the 10th of October, General Jaffey, 34th Infantry Division Executive Officer, came to the Regimental outpost above RUVIANO and plans were made for the clearing of the town and taking the high ground Northwest of RUVIANO. By 1400 hours that afternoon, the second Battalion had taken and had combat patrols on the North side of town which encountered stiff resistance.

Throughout the day, our troops met stiff resistance in the rolling grain fields, vineyards, and olive groves north of the village. Low flying enemy planes swept over our positions and dropped their bomb load North of ABBROGLI. By 1700 hours two Companies of the second Battalion had moved up the ridges toward the objective, the town "Vigna" near the CIVOLI area, after serious engagements with enemy patrols and snipers on the outskirts of town. One patrol was led into a machine gun trap by an Italian in civilian clothes. The 3rd Battalion moved up behind the 2nd with the mission of protecting the right flank from the vicinity of SIOLA. The 1st Battalion went into an assembly area north of the town and received considerable artillery shelling all during the night. In the meantime, the Anti-tank mine platoon and the Engineers had worked up along the road in the West side of the VOLTURNO to the East of RUVIANO and jeep trails were broken forward from here, past the blown bridge by-passes, to get ammunition and water in under cover of darkness. That night the Regimental wire was carried forward and the new forward post set up before dawn on level land, West approximately a mile, from RUVIANO. The 2nd Battalion obtained complete tactical surprise in this operation by maneuvering the Battalion into a striking position behind its patrols before the Germans were aware

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of its presence. During the night of the 15th, the enemy withdrew, and the Regiment swept on up the valley for the next 2 days.

By morning of the 17th of October the 3rd Battalion had contacted patrols of the 168th Infantry on the left in the vicinity of ALVIGNANO. The second Battalion on Hill 276 (North Northwest 3 miles from RUVIANO) immediately started patrolling to determine the likely spots for the second crossing of the VOLTURNO.

The 1st Battalion moved thru and occupied the second Battalion's positions during the day and had been heavily engaged by enemy fire from the crossroads East of SAN FERDINANDO, which was East of ORAJONI about 2 miles. Two German companies were estimated to be in position there and the first Battalion requests for artillery fire finally neutralized the position. The Battalions were directed to clear the enemy from the river line between area of Hill 127 up the river 5 miles to the SAN FERDINANDO sector on the morning of the 18th. The 2nd Battalion took over the reserve position of the 1st Battalion, meanwhile,

when the morning of the 18th arrived, the Battalions had reached a line, Hill 204 East of ALVIGNANO to the VOLTURNO. The tired Infantrymen were more than half-way to their first objective. Some 2 miles ahead of them, at the base of the hill-mass on their left, was ORAJONI; to their right across the valley was the forbidding MATESE Mountains.

The enemy during this phase consisted of the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division, a unit which included in its ranks, many seasoned troops from the Russian front. In those days the Germans had ample equipment of excellent quality including a number of Mark IV tanks; however, such had been the pressure that our troops had put upon them, that prisoners confessed that their ranks were seriously depleted and their troops short of food and sleep due to the remorseless hammering of our artillery which continued by day and night. ALVIGNANO was occupied without resistance and the village of ORAJONI taken by assault, the 18th of October by our teammate, the 168th Infantry.

2nd CROSSING OF THE VOLTURNO

On the evening of the 18th of October, one Battalion of the 133rd Infantry moved

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OPERATIONS OF THE 15TH REGIMENT I NOV (Cont'd)

into our sector and pushed across the river taking a position near the blown bridge. It was first considered that we were to secure a bridgehead with one Battalion, backing it up with another Battalion, but this was cancelled when enemy tanks and armored vehicles were seen passing, possibly for a counter-attack in D-ADMI.

Due to the thorough efforts of continued patrolling a good crossing was located with a hard bottom where vehicles could cross, and on the morning of the 19th of October, the 3rd and 1st Battalions secured a bridgehead with the 1st Battalion going into position on the left of the road running to ALIFE, and the third on the right followed by the second Battalion.

The morning was foggy and rainy and it did not clear up until later in the morning by which time the 1st Battalion had by-passed many of the enemy unobserved. Several of the prisoners from the enemy artillery units were taken by this time. Heavy fire from 7.62 shells and "nebelwerfers" were encountered, and this caused a slight disorganization in the Battalion. Back at the Fiord, almost all the Regimental vehicles were bogged down because of the rising water (due to the continual rains). It was at this time that Col. Jensen, Regimental Executive Officer, personally waded into the creek and co-ordinated the efforts of the Engineers and the Battalion (1st) P & A teams to repair the fiord. The surrounding terrain was low and swampy, cut with deep, swift canals perpendicular to the route of advance. The second Battalion was lead by "I" Company at 0230 hours and met no opposition as they dipped down the low banks and waded across the icy water to the plain on the other side. The Regimental Command Post was set up a mile north on a straight road leading to ALIFE. The attached Company of the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion was confined to the road, and by daylight had by-passed several blown bridges and arrived at a crossroad 1 kilometer south-east of ALIFE. The terrain offered the biggest obstacle to the advance of the foot-troops.

During the day, patrols from the most advance elements of the second Battalion, went into the old walled town of ALIFE and found it full of mines and booby-traps. The bridge across the swift mountain stream was demolished. The streets were filled

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with rubble, for the town had been hit with good results by B-25's of the Tactical Bomber Air Force on the night of the 12th and 13th of October. The 135th Infantry was across the river and it advanced toward ALIFE. The Infantry was delayed during the morning as it crossed the valley for it, too, was cut by deep and swift canals. Demolition of bridges slowed the progress of the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion which moved along the poplar-lined road to support the attack. The 3rd Battalion hampered only by sporadic artillery fire and occasional minefields, entered bomb-blasted ALIFE before daylight on the 20th of October. When the fog lifted unexpectedly during the middle of the morning, the 1st Battalion was caught in the open flats southwest of town. The enemy in the hills above, immediately poured rifle and machine gun fire on the men and kept them pinned down until dark and the battalion received considerable artillery fire, and also encountered for the first time fire from the German rocket gun, the MISSILE LAUNCHER, on the flat land south of the town. The 2nd Battalion established road blocks near ALIFE on the 20th of October it remained in reserve north of that town until the 28th of October. Patrols were sent out to contact the 7th Infantry, 3rd Division on the left flank. The 2nd Battalion, also, was exposed to artillery fire when the fog lifted, apparently drawn by the Tank Destroyers guns in the vicinity of the Cross Road about 1 1/2 miles south-east of ALIFE. The mission of the 3rd Battalion was to go around the right of ALIFE, and protect the right flank of the Regiment. The 1st Battalion was to skirt the left south edge of town. The 2nd Battalion took up positions to protect the right flank of the Regiment.

Progress was made at a slow but steady pace and at noon, the 21st of October, 14 enemy tanks were reported to have slipped in on our left flank on the north side of the river. The 125th Field Artillery, attached to the Regimental 135th Combat Team for support, did some excellent snooting and the Gun Observation Pilot reported five tanks out of action with direct hits on two. During the night, the Germans were able to work in the area and salvage them. Heavy shelling came in all day over the entire area. On the 22nd of October, the 133rd Infantry moved forward on our left flank to positions

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northwest of ALIFE, and the second Battalion patrolled the river to protect the left flank of the 133rd, and maintain contact with the 3rd Division across the river.

During the afternoon of the 25th of October, the 135th Infantry moved up to SANT' ANGELO D'ALIFE to pass thru the 133rd Infantry and take up the chase toward AILANO and MOUNT CAVUTO. A reconnaissance was made of the area west of S. ANGELO, and a plan was developed for the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry on the left, to pass through the second Battalion of the 133rd Infantry with the mission to secure the road running southwest of AILANO, by driving up the valley over very broken terrain, and flank AILANO to the south. The 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry on the right was to pass through the first Battalion of the 133rd Infantry keeping to the mountains to the northwest of RAVISCANIA and secure the objective, Hill 559 by climbing the steep slopes of the hills, flank AILANO to the north, and cut the road from AILANO to VALLE AGRICOLA. The 1st Battalion 135th Infantry was brought up in the rear of the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Infantry and prepared to pass through or around and secure the 3rd Battalion objective. There had been no opportunity for a physical ground reconnaissance forward of the 133rd Infantry positions.

The 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry moved up during the night of the 25th-26th of October and advanced before dawn over the hills above RAVISCANINA. At 0530 hours, Divisional artillery began firing successive concentrations that progressed at the rate of 100 yards every 6 minutes. 105th Field Artillery Battalion alone expended 828 rounds in the next 2 hours. Meanwhile, men supplied by the 100th Battalion to guide the 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry to the line of departure became lost in the darkness and fog of the early-morning. At 0530 hours the Battalion was several 100 yards to the rear of the line. When the second battalion finally jumped off at 0605 hours it left from positions several hundred yards too far north.

Meanwhile the third Battalion climbed slowly over the wooded mountain-sides above RAVISCANINA and AILANO. Enemy opposition was slight, and the battalion crossed the road between AILANO, and VALLE AGRICOLA during the afternoon and occupied Hill 559. As soon as the fog lifted, the second battalion was pinned down by rifle and machine gun

FIGURE VII 125TH INFANTRY COMPANY HISTORY (Cont'd)

fire from Hill 235, rising less than 25 meters above the broken valley. Hill 235, two knobs joined by a shallow saddle, several acres in size, and covered with brush and small overgrowth, provided the Germans with defilade for tanks and concealment for Infantrymen, commanding the area from the foothills to the river. The ALIFAN-AMFISLA highway is about 1000 yards to the west (left of the hill); a narrow ravine some 12 feet deep runs along the base of the hill to the right (east) toward the west the terrain is broken and tough.

Unsuccessful efforts were made during the morning to maneuver men over the open ground around both flanks of the second Battalion that was pinned down. One Company was able to work its way around the north end of Hill 235 leaving the balance of the Battalion pinned down the entire day from enemy fire coming from the wooded hills in front. By 1830 hours of the same day, the third Battalion was in line south of Hill 599. The second Battalion endeavored to maneuver one platoon around the left flank again but it was repulsed and badly shot up. During this engagement, Company "A" of the second Chemical Warfare Battalion was attached to the second Battalion and was effectively employed in shelling Hill 235 with high explosive shells, but the Infantry could make no headway against enemy fire from the well-hidden positions.

At 1500 hours, the 3rd Battalion occupied Hill 559, and pushed on toward Hill 432 North of it. Just as darkness was falling, the 125th Field Artillery did some effective shooting on the road running southwest of ALLANO and large fires started in what appeared to be enemy ammunition trains.

The 1st Battalion passed through the 3rd Battalion at this time.

Meanwhile, General Ryder attached Co. "B", 191st Tank Battalion to the 2nd Battalion for a continuation of the attack the following morning, the 27th of October.

The 2nd Battalion preceded by tanks, was to resume the attack at 0330 hours, but the tanks were held up by the difficult terrain and the attack was delayed. An observer saw troops moving west over the hill and immediately reported that it had been taken. The Battalion, soon, discovered that these were Germans who had been south and south-

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east of the Hill the day before. The tanks arrived and tried to move to the right to attack the north nose of Hill 235, but one hit a mine, one turned over and one was knocked out by artillery. Failure of radio communication complicated the liaison between the Tank Battalion and the Regiment. That day the 2nd Battalion was again kept from advancing, by artillery and intense small arms fire from Hill 235. The Battalion was set for another attack at 1500 hours when 3 enemy tanks were observed from the Regimental Observation Post on the left flank of the 2nd Battalion. Shortly thereafter 9 other tanks appeared coming from the south east into the positions of the 2nd Battalion. "C" Company, 1st Battalion crossed the road and started up the Hill on the other side. After they had crossed, enemy tanks came down the road from the right flank. The tanks fired into the rear of "C" Company causing several casualties. Our Artillery and Tanks engaged them, scoring three direct hits and stopping the movement and the advance of the German Tanks.

The enemy tanks got within 100 yards of the leading elements of the first Battalion which made very close shooting for the artillery. However, they were able to withstand the shelling until night-fall when they were able to reorganize. During the day, the 1st Battalion attempted to work through and around the north flank of the third Battalion to cut the North-south road in the vicinity of PRATELLA. Strongly held machine gun positions in the rugged terrain prevented this, and at dark, the 1st Battalion consolidated their positions on Hill 599 and the third Battalion on the high ground northeast of ALLANO. Early that night, at least 15 tracked vehicles thought to be tanks came down the road between the first and third Battalions. Four traps had been set with Bazooka guns and when the vehicles passed, all four guns failed to fire. The anti-tank mine platoon set out with mines on foot over the mountains from Hill 528 and arrived in the third Battalion area at daylight. It was impossible to get mines in place until after daylight.

By nightfall of the 27th of October, elements of the 8th Panzer Grenadier Regiment on Hill 235, had shown the strength and stubbornness of their resistance! The plan for

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the 28th, was that the 168th Infantry would come in behind the second Battalion jump off at 0900 hours with one Battalion and drive to the Southwest across Hill 235. The second Battalion was to assist by the fire of all of its weapons. After Hill 235 had fallen, another Battalion of the 168th Infantry was to drive for the road net and ridge, south 500 meters from AILANO. The 3rd Battalion 135th Infantry, was to come down out of the hills and clean out the town of AILANO, assist by fire the advance of the north Battalion of the 168th Infantry, reassemble north of the town and drive for the high ground east of PRATELLA. The 1st Battalion was to hold in position on Hill 559 and protect the right flank of the Regiment. When the fire of the second Battalion was masked by the 168th Infantry. It was to assemble west of RAVISCANINA and be in position on Hill 605 by daylight which was North-west 1 1/2 miles from AILANO. The attack of the 168th Infantry was to be preceded by a 30 minute, artillery preparation which was to include the town of AILANO.

At first light, the 2nd Battalion advised, that patrols during the night had encountered no enemy and that small "feeler" groups had moved around rather freely since dawn and had drawn no fire. It was their opinion that the Germans had evacuated the position during the night and this was substantiated by reports from Prisoners of War. At the scheduled time, however, the artillery preparation came down and at 1000 hours the request went downward to cease all firing.

The 168th Infantry proceeded to its objective without opposition finding shell fragments from American Artillery literally covering the ground of Hill 235. Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion pulled back into the assigned area. The 3rd Battalion had the objective limited to hill 235 and had 2 reinforced Companies on the Hill by 1845 hours. They encountered intermittent artillery and mortar fire but no small arms. The 1st Battalion had 2 casualties during the night, probably from our own artillery protective fire. During the morning, our Air Corps bombed PRATELLA and the road leading out of the Southwest. During the night of the 28th of October, elements of the 504th Parachute Regiment passed through our positions on the AILANO-VALLE road. During the

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night, the engineers opened a jeep trail from Hill 311 to Hill 310. 7 Jeeps to get through to supply the battalions. After 0200 hours, on the 29th, the main road was opened for heavier vehicles.

This same day, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to protect the right flank and block the road from Hill 311 to Hill 310. The 1st Battalion was to move to the stake nose of Hill 321 and support by fire if necessary the advance of the 3rd Battalion on Hill 320. The 3rd Battalion was to drive east from Hill 315, clear the town of Hill 310 and drive north east to secure the nose of Hill 320. Patrols from the 1st Battalion found Hill 310 unoccupied by the enemy. The 3rd Battalion moved through Hill 310 and on to the objective. They ran into scattered machine-gun nests at dark, which they neutralized with mortars and pistols.

Over the preceding two days, Battalions in the hills had encountered many booby-traps and mines from which both the 1st and 3rd Battalions sustained casualties. Shortly after noon on the 29th, the Regimental Adjutant, Captain Mary J. Trawick, sustained injuries from a booby trap 1000 yards northeast of Hill 310 which proved fatal on the 30th of October.

On the morning of the 30th, the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Infantry moved forward to relieve the 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry. The relief, however, was not effected until late in the day because of enemy artillery fire. The night of the 30th and 31st of October, the 2nd Battalion moved two companies to the high ground east of Hill 311 and the road was secure from small arms fire for the passage of the 138th Infantry through us on the right of the main supply road and the 133rd Infantry on the left. The 1st Battalion guided the 138th Infantry through the mine area, and on the 31st, the Battalions were pulled back into an assembly area, the 1st Battalion on the south slope of Hill 315, the 2nd Battalion on the south slope of Hill 311, and the 3rd Battalion approximately 200 meters west (across the small river from the town of Hill 310), near the damaged road leading southwest somewhat irregularly to Hill 310.

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PHASE III 1952 I PARTIAL RESILIENT ELEMENT (Cont'd)

During the entire operation, most of the supply was by hand carry, at night, varying from 1000 yards to 4 miles, and most of it through mountainous terrain difficult to negotiate on foot in daylight. With the exception of the shuttle by organic transportation from ALFVILLA to MONTE BELLA COURTE, most of the advance, including the two river crossings, were accomplished on foot at night over newly made roads and demolished bridges, through mined and booby-trapped areas. Many times, it was impossible to feed only one meal in 24 hours and that at night; round trips for water and food consumed as long as 11 hours.

During this period many key individuals were evacuated, including Lt. Col. Swanson, assistant Regimental Commander; Major Carlson, 3-3; Major Shinn, Executive officer 1st Battalion; Lieutenant Bloomer, Company Officer, Cannon Company; and Lt. Houser, 3-2, 2nd Battalion. Captain Blair, 3-3, 3rd Battalion was evacuated after the first river crossing with malaria and jaundice and died within 24 hours. Disease, as well as the enemy, had been taking a toll from the Regiment and during this phase of the VOLTURNO crossing 392 officers and men were evacuated because of illness. There were many cases of malaria and jaundice.

On 4 different occasions we had no means of identifying Italian agents passing through our lines, and they were accordingly held up in the exercise of their missions. In passing through the lines, we were, however, able to get valuable information during the period from prisoners of war, some of whom gave accurate sketches of enemy positions; and information from escaped British personnel who had been captured at COLAUCH proved valuable. Sabotage of our wire lines was frequent, but there was no definite proof that our lines had been tapped.

The planning for the first VOLTURNO river crossing was the first time, the Battalion commanders felt they had had adequate time for reconnaissance and planning for an operation. Reconnaissance, combat, contact patrols from each Battalion gave very creditable performances during this phase. Maps of the area were very difficult to read and the mountainous country made the reading of the best maps difficult.

Cont'd.

13th-31st October 1944 (Cont'd)

Thick, rainy weather, with fog till mid-morning, further complicated the operation. Men fought during the day and marched a good percentage of the nights. Raincoats for those who were fortunate enough to keep them, provided the only protection from the cold and wet nights. The officers and men of the Battalion were without their bedding rolls from the night of the 12th-13th of October to the 31st.

The Regiment remained in the area northeast of MILANO for two days while the advance of the 133rd and 168th progressed through GARLATE. The men received pay for the past two months and having blankets issued, got some much needed rest. For the first time since October the 12th, the Regiment was out of light artillery range. Enemy activity was limited to a few reconnaissance planes and the bombing of artillery positions in the rear areas near PRATELLA, where our artillery had at least 25 pieces firing from 7 different locations.

Between the VOLPURGO ^{AN} and the PAROLA line, the enemy had planned his actions to gain the greatest amount of time with the least expenditure of force. Outnumbered by the Allies and facing superior air and fire power, the Germans had to depend on their skill in using the advantages of terrain. The nature of the operation, a planned withdrawal, enabled them to make a careful study of the areas which they expected the Regiment to occupy. In defiladed or densely wooded ground, their effective shelling showed that they had precise registrations on likely approaches, gun positions, and troop locations, and could fire on these targets without direct observation. Wherever the Regiment might move or bivouac, the enemy placed mines and booby-traps, across roads and railways, blocking the way around demolitions, in streams and river banks, and in towns and villages. Anti-personnel mines lay concealed along hedges and walls, and booby-traps were set in haystacks, ravines and olive groves, and on hillsides and terraces.

To counteract the limitation in strength caused by commitments to other fronts and by previous losses, the enemy had primarily used small, mobile Infantry units for these rearguard actions, reinforcing them with heavy weapons. Self-propelled guns, which could be hidden against walls or among trees and quickly moved back after covering the Infantry's

THE 135TH INFANTRY (CONT'D)

withdrawal, were effective and economical reasons. The "kraits" held on to the heights above the villages, from which they could command allied positions, and cover their own escape. If they were driven from these heights, they counter-attacked only if there was a chance of losing further delay; otherwise they withdrew to selected positions, waiting always until darkness hid their movements from allied air patrols.

Against these tactics, the 135th Regiment as well as the whole 7th Army had, in the main part of fighting, secured its bridgehead along the curving lower VOLTURNO and continued to advance despite the bad weather. We had not engaged the main enemy forces, but the fact that the 135th Infantry's advance elements had overrun several gun positions indicating that the Germans were withdrawing faster than they had intended.

In the MONTICELLO area, the VOLTURNO provided the enemy with excellent observation for artillery fire control. Whenever they withdrew the Germans exploited the precipitous hills, deep canyons, and high tablelands to make their delaying action effective. From these positions, their artillery were able to harass the advance of any troops.

The brush-covered hills, north and north east of MONTICELLO, rise from 400 and 600 meters above sea level, drop off into the narrow valley of the MONTICELLO river, and then rise to 1036 meters at MOUNT HILL. The great rocky barriers of MOUNT MONTICELLO (1,183 meters, and MOUNT MONTICELLO (1,052 meters) tower above the olive groves around MONTICELLO.

The VOLTURNO river itself, though flooded during this season, was not to be a difficult obstacle in front of the mountains. Near the headwaters, it flows in numerous streams, varying in depth from 10 to 20 inches, through clumps of willows and over a gravel bed reaching a width of 300 feet.

The valley on both sides is cut by many other streams and by sunken roads and is covered with fields, vineyards, orchards, and olive groves. At MONTICELLO-VINICOLA the intensively cultivated valley is less than two miles across. It widens at MONTICELLO and narrows down to less than two miles northeast of MONTICELLO.

THE 135TH INFANTRY (CONT'D)

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

On the 3rd of November the Regiment was on the move again, marching for nine miles to the vicinity of PORTOPICCA as the first step toward the third crossing of the VOLTURNO river. The next day bombs fell in the vicinity of the third Battalion area. The anti-tank Company cleared a number of S-mines from their area and it was noted that the location of enemy mines seemed to be marked by felling a small tree in the direction of the fields. The 3rd Battalion was ordered to relieve the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry in the vicinity of RAVI DELLA CAPPELLA, and the relief was completed at 1845 hours. The following day, the 5th of November, the 3rd Battalion was ordered to patrol the east bank of the VOLTURNO to the north to determine enemy positions and installations and to clear out any pockets of resistance. One gun position was located and a 10-man patrol of Germans was observed moving northeast toward MACHIA. The area in the rear of the Regimental Command Post was again bombed causing some casualties in the supporting artillery. During daylight of the 5th of November the 1st Battalion began the Regiment's third crossing of the VOLTURNO under intermittent artillery fire, just south of ROCCARAVINDOLA. That night the 2nd Battalion closed into an assembly area south of S. MARIS OLIVETO and received some enemy small arms and mortar fire. The following morning the 3rd Battalion crossed the river and reached the flat ground just east of ROCCARAVINDOLA at 0315 hours, the 6th of October.

On the previous day first Lt. Paul F. Lawson and a squad of the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon searched the body of a German Battalion Commander, killed the night before, his driver, motorcycle and side car, and obtained an overlay showing the current German defensive positions in the sector. The information influenced the entire subsequent Corps' plan.

The Cannon company succeeded in getting one platoon across the river but small arms, mortar and artillery fire prevented their going into position immediately. The anti-tank mine platoon removed 60 "5" mines surrounding the building which had been taken over by the Regimental Command Post after crossing the river. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions suffered a number of casualties from personnel mines.

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PHASE VII 135th INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

Enemy aircraft was active over the area on the 6th of November, but did not bomb or strafe our troops. Artillery fire was intense and the 2nd Battalion was subjected to small arms fire in the vicinity of S. MARIA OLIVETO, which had not been cleared. The Germans seemed to have done an excellent job of mining the entire area. All likely bivouac areas and covered avenues of approach were heavily mined and the canalized approach to the enemy were effectively interdicted by artillery and mortar fire.

MONTAQUILBA ROAD AT LANTANO

The 1st Battalion went forward to relieve the 1st Battalion, 163th Infantry on the 6th of November in the vicinity of Hill 558 and was subjected to observation and fire from a hill with a familiar number, 609, on the left flank. The 3rd Battalion sent patrols north along the MONTAQUILBA road to the vicinity of Hill 351 and observed Germans occupying Hill 351 at the north of RAVINOLA BENT. While establishing communications across the river at LANTANO, Albert B. Peterson was killed by artillery fire at the ford.

On the 7th of November, the 1st Battalion cleared Hill 558 and sent combat patrols to Hill 520. Most of these patrols found nothing of the enemy. Later, it was discovered that the enemy was on the reverse slope and hence were not observed. When the 1st Battalion moved up, heavy machine gun and mortar fire was encountered and a bitter fight ensued during which the 1st Battalion took about twenty prisoners.

From the Regimental Command Post, Captain Maurice T. Stacy, B-2, directed fire that blew out two mortar positions on Hill 518. The plan for the 2nd Battalion to follow, in support of the first, was changed and on the 8th of November, a task force under the command of General Caffey, Assistant Divisional Commander, was organized. It consisted of the 135th, the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 191st Tank Battalion. The mission was to secure MONTAQUILBA. The original plan for again crossing the RAVINOLA and attacking MONTAQUILBA from the east was abandoned and plans were made for an attack along the RAVINOLA - MONTAQUILBA highway. Mine fields in the valley through this area were reported and patrols had determined that unimproved roads and trails leading

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PHASE VII 158th INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

off from the main highway were heavily mined. On the night of the 7th-8th of November, the 3rd Battalion moved under cover of darkness to the vicinity of Hill 351 and the 2nd Battalion moved into the vacated 3rd Battalion area, prepared to follow the 3rd at a thousand yard distance, containing Hill 231 on the left flank with one Platoon by mortar and machine gun fire. At daylight the 3rd Battalion attack was preceded by an artillery barrage reinforced by the fire of Tank Destroyer and tank Battalions, and by 1600 hours, the 3rd Battalion had the high ground west of the town. After daylight broke, the position of the Tank Destroyer and tank Battalion were observed and they received intense artillery concentrations, but the damage to material and casualties was slight. The shorts fell in the 2nd Battalion area. The 2nd Battalion was held up by personnel mines, and by 1500 hours they had passed through the west side of MONTA JULIA and had taken positions to the northwest of the town. The objective of the 3rd Battalion had been Hill 490, but this prominence however actually controlled no terrain and the 3rd took up positions on Hill 364. The men repulsed a minor counterattack and held on for the night. During this operation the enemy appeared to be withdrawing west and north through FILLIANO, after the defensive positions west of MONTA JULIA had been taken. That evening, the 2nd Battalion aid station had a shell burst on a tree limb directly above and three were killed, 12 wounded.

On the 9th of November, the 160th again took over the area in the vicinity of Hill 358 and Hill 609, and the 1st Battalion moved into position at the mouth of RAVINOLA which to relieve two platoons of the 2nd Battalion. The 3rd Battalion was subjected to mortar, machine gun and artillery fire and the Regimental Command Post was fired upon by the enemy intermittently, about four rounds every 15 minutes. That night, a strong enemy patrol broke through Company 'L's' security, killed the platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Clinton E. Bailey, and killed or captured 12 men. The Anti-tank Company received a direct hit on one gun, but only one of the crew was hit. On the 10th of November MONTA JULIA and the road south of it received three enemy Battalion concentrations and intermittent

 1357 1st Battalion (Cont'd)

shelling throughout the night. The day and the next two were spent in patrolling north across the M. 110 and west toward M. 111 and M. 112. Routes through the mined areas were located by driving sheep and goats ahead and the report of large mine fields north of M. 110 was confirmed. It had been reported by civilians, that the Germans had spent two months mining this area. The 1st Battalion moved into position on Hill 106, and the 3rd Battalion organized on Hill 710 and took up a defensive position, outposting the road from M. 110 to M. 111. This position was precarious, because Hill 117 to the north and the western nose of Hill 103, to the south, dominated the position and the Battalion was unable to make contact with the 50th Paratroop Regiment that was supposed to be on Hill 107. The Regiment was ordered to go into a defensive position and, partly, the Battalions were echeloned in depth from the outpost to Hill 111.

That same day, the Cannon Company fired 936 rounds on known and suspected targets on Hill 110. The balance of the period to the 28th of November was devoted to patrolling, and after each four days the front line Battalion was pulled back to M. 111 and the other Battalions moved up to the next forward position. At four different times patrols made contact and on two occasions prisoners were taken in the town of M. 111. Two of our patrols were challenged by German patrols in excellent English.

The position during the period, was strengthened by our own vehicles and 3 mines placed by the mine platoon of the Anti-tank Company. The Regimental outpost on Hill 1036 did some excellent fire direction and made accurate reports of enemy installations when the weather permitted observation. On the 28th of November a 30 man patrol from the 1st Battalion made contact with the Germans on Hill 700, just west of M. 111, and returns after losing one man in a fire fight. That day, the 1st platoons of the 1st and 2nd Battalions were moved to positions from which they could support the attack of the 168th on Hill 1100. Later, the 2nd Battalion weapons, plus the 2nd platoons of the 1st and the 3rd Battalions and Cannon Company, were to blanket the crest of Hill 760 and deny the enemy use of the draw west of Hill 760. For these supporting fires

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

1100 rounds of 81mm mortar ammunition had to be carried by hand and by mules 6000 yards over a difficult, steep, rocky mountain trail. The rate of fire, beginning at 0600, the 29th of November, was to be one round of 81mm mortar every 6 minutes and for the Cannon Company one round every four minutes, continuing until the fires were masked by the 168th or lifted on order. During the operations 1400 rounds of mortar ammunition and 1500 rounds of 75mm ammunition were fired. Still resistance, in front of the 133rd and 168th limited the advance and the 3rd Battalion was alerted for movement via FOZILLI-FILIBIANO or the DIVINOLA gulch in support of the 168th. The 2nd Battalion was attached to the 168th for emergency employment.

During this period, (except for the time, the 1st Battalion occupied Hill 558, the assault on MONTAGLIA by the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, and the occupation of the forward positions), the majority of the men had their bed rolls and hot meals. This was the first time in either the TUNISIAN or ITALIAN campaigns that the Regiment had the assistance of mule pack trains. The trails through the mountains, often mined, were extremely hazardous and difficult. The recruited mule skinnere from the Battalion did good work with this new type of transportation in spite of the fact that mule shoe nails and pack equipment were extremely difficult to obtain. The mule skinnere on several occasions led and controlled the animals thru the heavy shell fire and prevented the loss of valuable cargoes of food and ammunition. At one time the peak of the mule strength was 74 and at that time 45 of them were "non-combatents" because of the lack of mule shoe nails. Communication lines were extended, and of necessity followed the mule trails closely. (over the hills, the sharp mule hooves and sliding men and animals on the slippery trails, often cut our own lines.)

It was impossible to secure socks until the end of the month and considerable foot trouble resulted. The Battalions coming out of the MIGNELLA BELVONE area evacuated 40 men in 24 hours for various degrees and stages of trench foot.

During this month increasing use was made of the Cannon Company which fired a total of 2361 rounds.

THE 135th INFANTRY REGIMENT REPORT (Cont'd)

Two officers and 17 enlisted men, the first to be selected under the rotation plan calling for $\frac{1}{3}$ of one per cent per month of the Regiment, left for home on the 21st of November.

By the 1st of December, the 135th was in Division Reserve near MONTE PIA, and the 133rd was preparing to attack MOUNTAIN on the right and the 168th Hill 1100, otherwise known as Mt. MANTAL. The 2nd Battalion, 135th reinforced with additional mortars from the Regiment, supported the Division attack from positions on the high ground to the east of the extending north and south line between BELVONS and MANTAL.

At 0800 hours, the 1st of December, the attack opened following a 30-minute artillery preparation, but intense fire from the enemy, including heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, plus a large number of personnel mines, prevented the two Regiments from attaining their objectives. The enemy counter-attacked fiercely and prisoners confirmed the presence of the enemy 577 Infantry Regiment, 305th Division in the 168th sector.

On the 3rd of December, 1943, General Taylor ordered that "E" Company, 135th Infantry, move from its support position in the vicinity of BELVONS to Hill 760 (030302) to relieve one company of the 168th Infantry. At this time the 2nd Battalion, less "E" Company, was relieved on its position by the 3rd Battalion and returned to the vicinity of MONTEQUILA. The 135th Infantry was alerted to take over the 168th sector on Hill 1100 on the 3rd of December, the relief to take place on the night of the 4th-5th of December, 1943. This was necessitated by the heavy counter-attacks experienced by the 168th on that day. On the 4th of December, 1943, Col. Ward, Capt. Stacy, and Lt. Hauser left for the Command Post of the 168th Infantry in the vicinity of MANTAL (03468) to make preliminary plans, recon out blishes, and be prepared to take over the Command Post of the 168th Infantry. At 1630 hours, the 4th of December, the Command Post of the 135th at MONTEQUILA was officially closed out and at 1800 hours was operating from MANTAL. Capt. Harry T. Brown, Commanding Officer of Company "I", was evacuated wounded and in his place stepped Lt. Reid B. Huff as the "old man of Company "I" ".

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

During the night of the 4th-5th of December, the 135th relieved the 168th on Hill 1100 in the following manner: 3rd Battalion, 135th moved forward from their positions in the vicinity of BELVONE-MENNELLA to Hill 1100 and occupied the north sector, and at this time relieved "B" Company which in turn moved to the vicinity of the town of PORTAIO preparatory to rejoining its own Battalion; the 1st Battalion, 135th, marched from MONTAQUILA over the "135th Infantry Trail" on Hill 1036, crossed over the BELVONE MENNELLA Road and took up its position on the southern sector of Hill 1100; the 2nd Battalion, less "E" Company, moved from the vicinity of MONTAQUILA, via NAVIGOLA gulch to the vicinity of COLLEGGHIA where it was placed in Regimental reserve. The relief of the 168th was completed at 0500 hours, the 5th of December, and the 135th took up defensive positions on Hill 1100. The Regimental Out Post was established on the 6th of December in the vicinity of Hill 1036. Cannon Company was in position to support the Regiment at MONTAQUILA. Attached to the 135th Infantry was "D" Company of the 2nd Chemical Battalion, which, prior to the relief, had been attached to the 168th.

The 135th Infantry Cannon Company performed an excellent job with its harassing and interdiction fire. This finally provoked the enemy to the point where he retaliated with heavy concentrations of counter-battery fire in an attempt to neutralize the Cannon Company. The bulk of this fire fell in the vicinity of the Regimental Command Post.

While the 135th Infantry was occupying its defensive position on Hill 1100, the 15th Division on its left was meeting with only mediocre success in their offensive against a determined enemy who persistently counter-attacked in the same fashion as was previously experienced by the 168th on Hill 1100.

Captain Robert A. Schraw, Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, was evacuated sick and the next day the 1st Lt. Bible H. Provost, C-3, 1st Battalion and Donald V. Dodge, commanding officer, Company "D", were wounded and evacuated. The sick rate experienced by the 135th Infantry while in this defensive deployment on Hill 1100 was abnormally high with a preponderance of trench foot existing. Casualties were exceptionally high from

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PHASE VII 135th INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

enemy mortar and artillery fire. Lt. Richer, who had performed many creditable deeds as artillery forward observer with the 135th Infantry, was killed by an enemy mortar shell. The enemy did not escape unscathed as he received much counter-battery and harassing fires in return, he was known to have suffered heavy casualties.

On the 8th of December the 2nd Battalion was alerted to relieve the 1st Battalion on Hill 1100 hours and the Anti-tank Company was given the mission of relieving the 2nd Battalion of the responsibility of patrolling the main road at ELBERTO (060280). After the relief was completed the 1st Battalion occupied the Regimental reserve position at COLLEMBAGHIA.

On the 6th of December the following French Staff officers from the 2nd Moroccan Division reported to the Command Post of the 135th Infantry preparatory to relieving the 34th Division: Colonel Joppe, Commandant Fong, and Colonel Jones. On the night of the relief of the 135th Infantry by the French, Colonel Ward was visited by Colonel Maudier and Droyer at his Command Post. Colonel Ward's Regiment relieved Colonel Maudier and Droyer's Regiment in February, 1943, at TIGHON, TUNISIA. Arrangements were made for all ammunition on position, mules, and equipment exclusive to "T.Ba" organizational equipment, to be turned over to the French. The first phase of the relief of the 135th by elements of the 2nd Moroccan Division was completed on the night of the 9th-10th of December, 1943, at 0305 hours, the 10th of December, 1943, the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 135th being relieved first. At this time the command of the sector passed to the French. The 2nd Battalion of the 135th relieved this night made a road march through FULIHWANO and POSSIHI to an assembly area in the vicinity of S. MARIA OLIVETO. The 3rd Battalion arrived in the assembly area at 0615 hours and was the last of the 2 Battalions to arrive. Captain John F. Lyons, Commanding Officer Company "A" became sick and had to be evacuated.

The following night, the 10th-11th of December, the 2nd Battalion was relieved on position by elements of the 2nd Moroccan Division. The relief started at 2000 hours and was completed at 2110 hours. The 2nd Battalion closed into its assembly area at S. MARIA OLIVETO at 0230 hours, the 1st of December, 1943. Col. Ward remained with the

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORIC (Cont'd)

French for 24 hours after the relief had been consummated and was visited by Colonel Maudier and Droyer Commanding officer of the 2nd Regiment that relieved the 135th Infantry.

Cpl. Ben W. Norton 135th PA Battalion holder of the Silver Star, forward observer with leading infantry elements, describes a small part of MONTESQUILA.

QUOTE:

"Miserable is no way to describe the winter of 1943! When it didn't rain or snow there was always a cold wind blowing. You'd get wet and stay that way for a week at a time. In November and December, 1943, we were still sort of unprepared I guess, for mountain fighting. We didn't even have the right kind of clothing, for it. We didn't even have combat boots, and a guy was lucky if he had a field jacket to wear. I was with our VO's all during that time and we were generally with one of the attacking rifle Companies. I think the rifle Companies lost as many men from trench foot and pneumonia as they did from enemy action. But don't think that we weren't seeing action. Although they never got much publicity the battles we had at PANFARO and MONTESQUILA were plenty rough. Jerry had a lot of artillery those days, and he did not spare us any of it. He picked up our boys several times and we really caught hell. Despite the bad weather and everything else, we kept pushing the Germans back every day, even though they were always counter-attacking. I was asked what I remember most clearly about this period. Well, I remember lots of things pretty clearly, but the thing I like most to forget was a cold can of vegetable hash, I ate on the 10th straight day of eating "C's."

1st Sergeant Zealand from this Regiment tells here of VOLTURNO.

QUOTE:

"I was asked recently if I remembered enough about the crossing of the VOLTURNO to get up here and say a few things about it. Do I remember it? Well, I don't think I could forget it if I tried. We jumped off to cross the VOLTURNO on the night of the 13th of October. We were initially in reserve following behind Company "A". Well you

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 3RD BATTALION, 13TH INFANTRY DIVISION (Cont'd)

know how these reserve deals are. The Company caught a lot of hell from enemy mortars, and we had to push through them and get across. Some officer from Company "B" had swam across the river and tied a guide rope to the far bank. Even with this guide rope a lot of men were swept off their feet, and washed away by the swift current. And there was nothing that you could do to help them. It was a weird night and so pitch black everywhere. Everybody was slipping, and falling in the mud, and getting lost. But before we had more than a squad of men across the river, the sky was lit up like a carnival. There were flares going up all over the place, and tracer's criss-crossing everywhere. When "A" Company got stopped, they were in a minefield, and but just the same we were told to push through and head towards high ground which the Battalion had for its objective. Well, we didn't like the idea of pushing through a minefield, but we couldn't stay where we were there was too much mortar and machine gun fire for that, and we didn't feel like going back across the river, either. It was too damned cold! So we pushed, and we were able to take the objective. It was a good thing enemy didn't counter-attack right away though, because, there weren't a lot of us left when we did get on the objective. What a night that was, and imagine people asking me if I still remembered the "BOLT" "BOLT"!

Information was compiled and checked from the following sources:

1. Operational History of the 3rd Battalion.
2. Maps of Southern Italy.
3. Historical pamphlet of the 34th Infantry Division.
4. "B" Journal and Narrative of the 34th Division, 14 Sept. '43 - 30 Apr. '45.
5. Volturno-Military Intelligence Division 13 for 10 Oct. 1943.
6. Regimental History for periods from 19th October '43 to 12 December '43.
7. Partial History of the 13th Infantry Regiment compiled by Capt. J. H. ... of the 34th Division.
8. "The Colonel's Report" for 13th Infantry Regiment.

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

9. Making no more of the "veterans".
10. 5th Army History, Volume II.
11. Sketches from 5th Army History.

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CHAPTER VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE CASUALTIES DURING THIS PERIOD:

B. LOSERS IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

1. Killed in Action

13 October 1943

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| *2nd Lt. | Harris, Vernon C. | 0-1294661 | Co. "B" |
| *1st Sgt | Duck, Justave N. | 33110999 | Co. "B" |
| Sgt | Bjordahl, Melvin S. | 37025923 | Co. "F" |
| Cpl | Blevins, Homer J. | 33090576 | Co. "C" |
| Pfc | Hall, Robert W. | 35631183 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Turner, James | 34175309 | Co. "C" |
| Pfc | Adams, George A. | 33100626 | " |
| Pfc | Masny, Andrew | 36306810 | Co. "A" |
| Pfc | Bise, George J. | 33526667 | " |
| Pvt | Petrovich, John | 36545734 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| Pvt | Hents, John J. | 33361540 | Co. "A" |

15 October 1943

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| Sgt | Garr, Lawrence A. | 20708718 | Co. "B" |
| Cpl | Cryszakowski, Stanley J. | 37025986 | Co. "B" |
| *Pfc | Nobora, James J. | 6902628 | Co. "B" |
| *Pfc | Jodwin, Ralph D. | 38321978 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Kalec, Joseph | 35603514 | Co. "B" |

20 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Rosenow, William L. | 36735892 | Co. "B" |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|

25 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Biro, Joseph V. | 39089166 | Co. "A" |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|

26 October 1943

| | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| S/Sgt | Mergeson, Joseph | 20708715 | Co. "B" |
| Sgt | Barry, James S. | 11051620 | Co. "B" |
| Sgt | Meyerhoff, Kenneth S. | 6911226 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Revelle, James | 32720969 | Co. "B" |

27 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1st Lt. | Bowden, Nichollas | 0-413708 | Co. "B" |
| 2nd Lt. | Lieurance, Howard | 0-1302833 | Co. "B" |
| 2nd Lt. | Crump, Albert, Jr. | 0-1294627 | Co. "B" |
| Sgt | Przeboski, Joseph | 32182708 | Co. "B" |
| Sgt | Sandt, Harold G. | 35171248 | Co. "B" |
| Cpl | Spain, Walter T. | 34376878 | " |
| Cpl | Harrison, George A. | 20708694 | " |
| Pfc | Kapolka, Walter J. | 32370005 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Wright, Russell | 35130732 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Hann, Gus H. | 33246129 | " |

PHASE VII 158TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)B. LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN1. Killed in Action

27 October 1943, Cont'd.

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Wadd, Edgar C. | 37027305 | Co. "H" |
| Pfc | Fontorio, Manuel C. | 33100665 | Co. "C" |
| Pvt | Hedlund, Stewart R. | 36622702 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Kanosal, Herman C. | 36281605 | Co. "D" |
| *Pvt | Chadolewski, Leonard S. | 32354148 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Lehocky, Frank J. | 36161800 | Co. "L" |
| Pvt | Loss, Alan R. | 10600067 | Co. "C" |

28 October 1943

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| *Pfc | Martin, Irving D. | 33119828 | Co. "I" |
| Pvt | Marozak, Stanley J. | 35521018 | Co. "L" |

29 October 1943

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| o3/sgt | Carrigan, Myron A. | 20707697 | Co. "B" |
|--------|--------------------|----------|---------|

30 October 1943

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| *Capt | Travick, Emory J. | O-492091 | Hq. Hq. |
|-------|-------------------|----------|---------|

*Died of wounds after being evacuated to hospital.

2. Wounded in Action

13 October 1943

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Pvt | Patterson, George W. | 34571255 | Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. |
| Pfc | Walter, Joseph F. | 35587914 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Hubschman, Frederick W. | 32572553 | " |
| Cpl | Mikkelsen, Robert W. | 37025801 | " |
| Cpl | Cress, Peter J. | 37025505 | " |
| Pvt | Lamanac, Clarence L. | 34571273 | " |
| Pfc | Smith, Paul A. | 32286379 | Co. "G" |
| Pfc | Benjamin, Iron O. | 20708276 | " |
| Cpl | Ulvi, Arno (M.I.) | 37026278 | " |
| Pvt | McCarty, Chester P. | 35668262 | " |
| Pvt | Mickey, William L. | 37026256 | " |
| Sgt | Knutson, Aldon J. | 20708286 | " |
| Pfc | Haley, William L. | 37396807 | " |
| Pvt | Richard, Neal | 34101390 | " |
| Pvt | Ray, Albert E. | 10600019 | Co. "C" |
| Sgt | Pickernell, Robert R. | 20706087 | " |
| o3/sgt | Mignella, James B. | 32100652 | " |
| Pfc | Chapman, Perry | 6941739 | " |
| Pfc | Skinner, Clarence | 34101083 | " |
| Sgt | Greenwood, Julian L. | 10600113 | " |
| Pfc | McKenna, Edward T. | 32181207 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Duarte, Gregorio J. | 18201888 | " |
| Pvt | Jarola, Conrado J. | 38169901 | " |

PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

B. LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

2. Wounded in Action

13 October 1943, Cont'd.

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1st Lt. | Ketzel, Robert D. | 39406611 | Co. "A" |
| 2nd Lt. | McCall, Weston R. | 0-1291496 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Lyons, John T. | 0-407368 | " |
| 2nd Lt. | Spornbert, William D. | 0-1292414 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Peeney, Thomas D. | 31172435 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Banicki, George | 36806304 | " |
| Pfc | Capesh, Albert R. | 36307203 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Smrich, William D. | 33067783 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Favas, Anthony S. | 31083590 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Anderson, Walter C. | 38333739 | " |
| Pfc | Anderson, Paul B. | 35443771 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Jenny, Cyle M. | 38332711 | " |
| Pfc | Schlick, Bernard, Jr. | 35214481 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Brosso, James A. | 32182766 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Stecker, Lee E. | 20707550 | " |
| Pfc | Rixler, George H. | 36307240 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Bores, Venson R. | 32488982 | " |
| Pfc | Offill, Mitchell D. | 35306121 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Venanzi, Bettimo J. | 32181863 | " |
| Pfc | Tapal, Jacob V. | 35309847 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Almore, Pilot | 34398047 | " |
| Pfc | Seely, Alberto M. | 36162723 | " |
| Pfc | Retrich, Jack | 36305797 | " |
| Pfc | Beecham, Thurchle | 34149658 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Bosson, Charles E. | 33067938 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| Pfc | Malone, Paul S. | 33067840 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Hard, Robert E. | 35626626 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Lindsay, Monroe H. | 38321245 | " |

14 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Thorson, George | 37025792 | Co. "A" |
| 1st Lt. | Dates, Karl H. | 20704892 | " |

15 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Capt | Widkiff, Imble S. | 0-452096 | Co. "B" |
| 2nd Lt. | Burley, Michael J. | 0-1299700 | Co. "B" |
| 2nd Lt. | Klaritter, Arnold J. | 0-2055401 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Van Matre, Howard C. | 35637027 | " |

16 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Hills, Edward F. | 32630311 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Fedeschi, Angelo H. | 3215695 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Walter, Harold H. | 5336403 | Co. "B" |
| 1st Lt. | Goehren, Harold H. | 18305522 | Co. "B" |
| 1st Lt. | Wangerin, Lawrence E. | 37024518 | Co. "B" |

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

B. LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

2. Wounded in action, Cont'd.

18 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Mohahan, Alan C. | 14182034 | Co. "L" |
|-----|------------------|----------|---------|

19 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Ray, Gordon A. | 10600138 | Co. "C" |
| Pfc | Hilbert, Charles E., Jr. | 32734319 | " |
| Pfc | Olson, Frederick A. | 20707325 | AT Co. |
| Pfc | Berggren, Clifford J. | 37028528 | AT Co. |

20 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Pvt | Robertson, Howard L. | 35715724 | Co. "L" |
| Pvt | Murrell, Leonard B. | 36160832 | " |
| Cpl | Carroll, Cornelius H. | 37045244 | Co. "H" |
| 2nd Lt. | Bawden, Richard | 0-1303834 | " |
| 2nd Lt. | Cragg, Walter | 0-1301441 | Co. "A" |
| Cpl | Devo, Rick | 20700095 | " |
| Pvt | Dezman, Willis S. | 33494304 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Openshaw, Frank | 0-407912 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |

21 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Cpl | Oliphant, Donald P. | 20708917 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Ois, William C. | 33574443 | Med Det |
| Pfc | Brown, Harold R. | 15102855 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Clark, Clyde O. | 33533105 | " |
| Pvt | Eiss, Hubert B. | 37026269 | Co. "E" |
| Pfc | Brubaker, Earl S. | 33494482 | " |

25 October 1943

| | | | |
|-------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Berning, Gerald V. | 32595691 | Co. "H" |
| S/Sgt | Dungey, Lynn S. | 20708467 | " |
| Pfc | Fruscht, Edward L. | 33394805 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Funks, Shelby L. | 35670922 | " |
| Pfc | Sigler, Roy E. | 35588082 | " |

26 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Sgt | Allross, William L. | 37045333 | Co. "F" |
| Cpl | McCall, Glen C. | 35637076 | " |
| Pfc | Zebb, Alvin L. | 37349914 | " |
| Sgt | Hunt, Marvin H. | 20708310 | Co. "E" |
| Pvt | Clarke, John E. | 31289276 | " |
| Pfc | Amarel, Joseph S. | 31243091 | " |
| Cpl | Borsari, Svo | 31071610 | Co. "J" |
| Pfc | Sullings, Louis | 34397858 | " |
| Pvt | Polley, Irvin H. | 36434472 | " |
| Pvt | Remires, Adolfo | 37236456 | " |
| Pfc | Juncan, Henry C. | 6938238 | Co. "F" |

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REGIMENTAL LIST OF INFANTRY BATTALMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

1. 109th INFLANTRY BATTALION

2. Wounded in Action, Cont'd.

27 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 2nd Lt. | O'Keefe, Maurice P. | O-1301869 | Co. "G" |
| Pfc | Ruzalski, Stanley B. | 32622047 | " |
| Pvt | Hinton, Ervin | 38332627 | " |
| Pvt | Huck, Julius D. | 38321968 | " |
| Pvt | Jalas, Johnnie A. | 39285587 | " |
| Pfc | Kow, J. C. | 39686721 | Co. "H" |
| Cpl | Hanson, John H. | 37027336 | " |
| Pvt | Arquiga, Jess A. | 39910177 | " |
| Pvt | Egan, Virgil H. | 35697949 | " |
| S/Sgt | Middison, Clair J. | 20708899 | " |
| Pfc | Lyons, Melvin B. | 33391859 | Med Det |
| Pfc | Reese, Henry W. | 38214628 | Co. "E" |
| Pvt | Marshmann, Richard R. | 35547474 | " |
| Pvt | Sentieri, Emil | 36292250 | " |
| Pvt | Draglcity, Nicholas | 36578002 | " |
| Sgt | Malevich, Charles J. | 37026600 | " |
| Pvt | Turay, Stanley J. | 36713561 | Co. "C" |
| Pfc | Oweney, Francis E. | 33484747 | " |
| Sgt | Lofthus, Lyle E. | 20709127 | Co. "I" |
| Pvt | Rubinstein, Nathan | 33455125 | " |
| Pvt | Dattore, Battista J. | 31083701 | Co. "A" |
| 2nd Lt. | Lucas, James A. | O-1291142 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Lucas, Lester B. | 35685061 | " |
| Pvt | Storns, Jean V. | 35715435 | " |
| Pvt | Stephan, Earl J. | 36605311 | Co. "G" |
| Cpl | Morgan, George W. | 35130873 | " |
| Pfc | Gaiser, Richard J. | 36031498 | " |
| Pfc | Taylor, Bufford L. | 33215553 | " |
| Pvt | Braun, Lawrence G. | 37605079 | " |
| Pvt | Crook, Leland J. | 36643341 | " |
| Pfc | Beckett, Douglas J. | 10600056 | " |
| Pfc | Lee, Robert E. | 33383754 | " |
| S/Sgt | Modlerman, Lawrence L. | 20708749 | " |
| Pvt | Loantore, James V. | 32572629 | " |
| Pvt | Moreno, Angelo M. | 32181718 | " |
| Pfc | Reichert, William B. | 37025081 | " |

28 October 1943

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Harris, Falmage B. | 34034701 | Co. "B" |
| Pfc | Smith, Vincent A. | 32110251 | " |
| S/Sgt | Bitzer, Delbert L. | 20707696 | " |
| Pfc | Frary, Almer C. | 33318614 | " |
| Pvt | Butler, Ronald | 33540430 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Walters, Robert C. | 36587704 | " |
| Pvt | Brandfield, Richard | 33589812 | Co. "J" |
| Pvt | Colay, Fence D. | 34580456 | " |
| Pvt | Jones, Clyde D. | 38332662 | Co. "G" |
| Cpl | Hempel, William S. | 32181348 | Co. "J" |

PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

B. LOSSES IN ITALIAN Campaign, Continued

2. Wounded in action, cont'd.

28 October 1943, cont'd.

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| l/c | Wesse, Arthur F. | 36713431 | Co. "J" |
| l/vt | Labovny, Michael F. | 36587068 | " |
| l/cpt | Rudman, John B. | 37027008 | " |
| l/c | Dicks, Phillip G. | 34408533 | " |
| l/c | Giese, Henry A. | 37028902 | Co. "L" |
| l/c | Thompson, Raymond | 35130915 | " |
| l/c | Mann, Wilburn B. | 34396556 | Head Det |
| l/c | Lance, George F. | 34259625 | Co. "B" |

30 October 1943

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 2nd Lt. | Leadley, Robert H. | 01813050 | Cannon Co. |
| l/c | Lee, Harold F. | 34172313 | Cannon Co. |
| l/vt | Ryan, Joseph C. | 37028394 | Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. |

3. Missing in action

13 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|
| l/c | Hale, Claude F. | 34365356 | Co. "A" |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|

16 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|
| l/c | Joeman, Paul B. | 35171194 | Co. "J" |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|

25 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|
| l/c | Condon, Edward A. | 31121408 | Co. "B" |
|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|

27 October 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| l/s | Scott, Thomas H., Jr. | 1090472 | Cannon Co. |
|-----|-----------------------|---------|------------|

SUMMARY

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------|
| Killed in action: | 5 officers | 38 SA |
| Wounded in action: | 12 officers | 140 SA |
| Missing in action: | | 4 SA |

A. LOSSES IN ITALIAN Campaign, (From 1 December 1943 to 31 December 1943).

1. Killed in Action

3 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---------|
| l/c | Johnson, Clifford F. | 36160320 | Co. "A" |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---------|

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

A. LOSS IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN. (From 1 December 1943 to 31 December 1943). Cont'd.

1. Killed in Action

3 December 1943, Cont'd

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Bosiger, Charles A. | 33533929 | Co. "A" |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|

4 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Airner, Otto B. | 37238438 | Co. "F" |
| Pvt | Walters, Robert C. | 36587704 | Co. "H" |

5 December 1943

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|----------|---------------|
| Pfc | Hale, Donald C. | 10600117 | Hq Co 1st Bn. |
| Cpl | Heinits, Godfrey | 37025770 | " |
| Cpl | Lewis, Leroy | 35130765 | " |
| Spl | Semones, Roy E. | 33090520 | " |
| Pfc | Kandras, Stephen F. | 33111524 | " |
| S/sgt | Jorgese, Waldemar K. | 20709187 | Co. "I" |
| Pvt | Monette, Edward J. | 31287322 | Co. "D" |
| Pfc | Schaffer, Dale | 3-632191 | Co. "A" |
| Pvt | Waters, John C. | 34760857 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Weiss, Donald S. | 32787643 | " |

6 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Carpenter, Hoyt B. | 34606994 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Chance, Ralph | 34760698 | Co. "C" |

7 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Shearwood, Robert J. | 33119562 | Co. "D" |
| Pfc | Johnson, Donald E. | 37078854 | Hq. Co. |
| Pfc | Wojewodski, Edward S. | 31331225 | Co. "A" |
| Pvt | Cohenour, Leonard C. | 36480825 | " |

8 December 1943

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Pvt | Toopp, Howard L. | 32679305 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| Pvt | Morell, Ralph J. | 35065698 | Hq. Co. |
| 1st Lt. | Ferry, Warren S. | 0-1287757 | Co. "B" |

9 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Williamson, Lawrence W. | 33501833 | Co. "F" |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|---------|

2. Wounded in Action

2 December 1943

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| 1st Lt. | Omholt, Almer V. | 0-1294351 | AT Co. |
| Pvt | Jore, Oscar (NMI) | 15047662 | " |

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

LOSSES IN ACTION, Continued.

2. Wounded in Action, Cont'd.

3 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Herr, Donald H. | 33491917 | Co. "K" |
| Pvt | Starr, Lawrence J. | 36454078 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Whittington, Willie E. | 34706581 | Co. "M" |
| Pfc | Skinner, Hurley R. | 38138589 | " |
| Pfc | Jones, Arthur L. | 36160816 | " |
| Pvt | Fators, William O., Jr. | 34609322 | " |
| Pvt | Briesenden, Edward L. | 34607484 | " |
| Pvt | Basiljevac, George | 33439353 | " |
| Pvt | Walker, Milton G. | 36742038 | " |

4 December 1943

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Notz, Oscar H. | 36710424 | Co. "K" |
| Pvt | Herber, William H., Jr. | 32369308 | " |
| Pfc | Frona, Emil O. | 37027328 | " |
| Sgt | Hansen, Ernest O. | 37026258 | Co. "G" |
| Pvt | Gala, Joseph E., Jr. | 35551632 | Co. "H" |
| Capt | McSwain, Harry I. | O-410271 | Co. "I" |
| Cpl | Thompson, Lyle W. | 20709303 | Co. "K" |
| Pvt | Whisenant, Elmer | 38452609 | Co. "M" |

5 December 1943

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 2nd Lt. | Hamil, Jack H. | O-1303719 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| 1st Lt. | Anderson, Bils H. | O-1294104 | " |
| Pfc | Clark, Alfred L. | 35000291 | " |
| Pvt | Getterholm, Paul G. | 31284557 | " |
| Pfc | Debartolo, Michael A. | 31308121 | " |
| Sgt | Delbian, John S. | 36162918 | Co. "A" |
| Cpl | Haddock, Donald S. | 36229377 | " |
| Pvt | Gaines, Harry L. | 38333006 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Carlo, Russell L. | 39693834 | " |
| Pvt | Pivanco, Sebastian F. | 32882164 | " |
| Pvt | Welch, Eugene | 39697236 | " |
| Sgt | Carlo, Alfred A. | 3-101126 | Co. "C" |
| Pvt | Bianchi, Edmund J. | 31308107 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Potakis, Harry J. | O-1291098 | Co. "D" |
| Pfc | Rumpf, Lawrence W. | 20708122 | " |
| Pfc | Williams, Emil E. | 10600148 | " |
| Cpl | Woerdshoff, Albert H. | 37026272 | Co. "E" |
| Pfc | Little, Raymond L. | 33357023 | " |
| Pfc | Beavers, Charles W. | 3-720684 | " |
| Pfc | Martin, Carl | 33616817 | " |
| Pfc | Kattke, Harold J. | 37323989 | " |
| Pvt | Siewczynski, Leo L. | 36569841 | " |
| Pfc | Gynn, Raymond J. | 32172029 | " |
| Pfc | Maloy, Jesse P. | 34286256 | Co. "I" |
| Pvt | Kinner, Harry T. | 32613587 | " |
| Pvt | Nicosia, Salvatore | 32629891 | " |
| Sgt | Teien, Marshall N. | 20709791 | Co. "M" |

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D R A F T

PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

LOSSES IN ACTION, Continued.

2. Wounded in action, Cont'd.

6 December 1943

Pfc Whitaker, Henry I. 3443957 Co. "I"

7 December 1943

| | | | |
|---------|------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1st Lt. | Prevost, Hibbs M. | 0-381928 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| Pvt | Masionowski, John S. | 3230885 | Co. "A" |
| Pfc | Kitchen, Johnnie B. | 3664794 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Mandy, John S., Jr. | 34644372 | Co. "D" |
| Pvt | Kowalski, Ferdinand B. | 36618951 | Co. "K" |

8 December 1943

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Pvt | Gorgiat, Romanic M. | 16083986 | Hq. Co. |
| Pvt | Sirstens, Max A., Jr. | 39711121 | Med Det |
| Pvt | Sharp, Clallmont L. | 37552706 | Hq. Co. 1st Bn. |
| Pvt | Fitzayk, Joseph | 36540736 | " |
| Pvt | Lamberson, Casley J., Jr. | 35544742 | " |
| Pvt | Burris, Gilbert E. | 35725698 | " |
| Pvt | Gilley, Jordan H. | 39290888 | " |
| Pvt | Tyan, Albert E., Jr. | 32182142 | " |
| Pvt | Schreier, Bernard W. | 36713298 | Co. "B" |
| 2nd Lt. | Kritchard, John M. | 0-456203 | " |
| 1st Sgt | Grieve, Virgil J. | 20707725 | " |
| Pvt | Hunter, Dan F. | 34152046 | " |
| Pvt | Jrunt, Vincent A. | 10600111 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Podano, Malch J. | 32798689 | " |
| Pvt | Schmalenberger, Kenneth E. | 32910475 | " |
| Pvt | Snade, John A. | 33073034 | Co. "J" |
| Pvt | Brown, Edward L. | 36302501 | " |
| Cpl | Dodge, Donald J. | 0-1291987 | " |
| 1st Lt. | Thompson, Frederick S. | 33436420 | Co. "J" |
| Pvt | Vogel, Edward J. | 32303774 | " |
| Pvt | Quiner, Richard J. | 36034498 | " |
| Pvt | Nelson, Robert H. | 37027159 | " |
| Pvt | Beckman, Thomas F. | 32190468 | " |
| Pvt | Haugen, Alfred | 37027543 | Co. "K" |
| Pvt | Larson, Howard E. | 36160646 | " |
| Pvt | Thacker, George | 35670639 | Co. "K" |
| Pvt | Haring, Roger C. | 36422978 | " |

9 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Kidder, Russell | 37026201 | Med Det |
| Pvt | Prescott, William L. | 10600225 | Co. "D" |
| Pvt | Hiddis, Frank L. | 32756025 | " |
| Pvt | Barno, George | 32914402 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Wickford, Lauren J. | 37045312 | Co. "B" |
| Pvt | Allen, Clinton H. | 20141379 | " |
| Pvt | Bello, Joseph | 31243749 | " |
| Pvt | Hiles, J. C. | 34399923 | " |

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PHASE VII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

LOSSES IN ACTION, Continued.

2. Wounded in Action, Cont'd.

9 December 1943, Cont'd.

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Scarpa, William H. | 31331267 | Co. "G" |
| Pvt | Boser, Floyd A. | 32854526 | " |
| Pfc | Lanz, Howard E. | 34580323 | " |
| Pfc | McLivier, Roland L. | 32216355 | " |
| Cpl | Roman, Earl | 35129804 | Co. "H" |
| Pfc | Foster, Heuben V. | 37037051 | " |

10 December 1943

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Sgt | Virt, Raphael J. | 37037458 | Co. "H" |
| Pvt | Udland, Arthur F. | 37026052 | Hq. Co. 2nd Bn. |
| Pfc | Helm, Otto A. | 37025816 | " |
| T/sgt | Kump, Paul H. | 29706924 | " |
| Pfc | Wills, Charley R. | 37025154 | " |
| Pfc | Holt, Conrad H. | 37396524 | " |
| Pfc | Malman, Donald A. | 33101980 | " |

3. Missing in Action

9 December 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Pfc | Rennora, Felix M. | 36622256 | Co. "G" |
|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|

B. LOSSES IN ACTION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1943 BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS.

1. Wounded in Action

8 November 1943

| | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Dane, Leo S. | 35790211 | Co. "G" |
|-----|--------------|----------|---------|

21 November 1943

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Pvt | Frink, Jesse L. | 36622146 | Co. "D" |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|

S U M M A R Y

| | <u>Officers</u> | <u>Warrant Officers</u> | <u>Enlisted men</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Killed in action: | 1 | 0 | 23 |
| Wounded in Action: | 8 | 0 | 94 |
| Missing in action: | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals: | 9 | 0 | 118 |