

PHASE XIII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY

DEFENSE OF LINE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS AND PREPARATION AND TRAINING UP TO TIME OF THE OFFENSIVE.

The reoccurrence of rain as the month of November opened, succeeded in disrupting communications throughout the II Corps sector. Even Highway 65, the 3th Army's main artery was severed for several hours inundated by flood waters from the surrounding hill masses. However, with assistance from the 34th Division Headquarters Company personnel, crews from the supporting Tank Battalion, the 109th Engineer Battalion and all men who were not actually indispensable were combating nature. Tons of rocks were laid on the muddy roads and much of the rock had sunk in the soft mud before the road was finally open to supply and evacuation and other high priority traffic, which moved at only a slightly reduced rate. At 1500 hours on this rainy day with visibility poor due to a heavy fog mass, the First Battalion moved with the First Battalion Command Post changing operations from MOLINELLI to VALLE. Companies "A" and "B" moved from ANCONELLA to POGGIOLO, Companies "C" and "D" moved from ANCONELLA to CRISTOFORO. Payday was experienced and the First Battalion was attached to the 363rd Infantry in 91st Division reserve.

At 0030 hours, the Second of November, the 135th Infantry less the First Battalion was relieved in place by the 363rd Infantry and, reverting to 34th Division control, moved directly to MONTECATINI for a period of rest, rehabilitation, and training. The Second Battalion, before moving, was at LA VALLE with "E" Company at VARSOLE and LATOMBA, "F" Company at SOASCOLE and "G" Company in Battalion reserve at LA VALLE. It was relieved by the Third Battalion, 363rd Infantry, 91st Division. The Second Battalion, 363rd Infantry relieved our Third Battalion, whose Command Post moved from VILLA LA CROCE to MONTECATINI, entrucking in the vicinity of SABBONI.

The final relief, except for one platoon and one squad of Company "L" were effected at midnight. These elements were cut off and had to remain in position due to the rapid rise of the SAVENA River. They were, then, attached to the 363rd Infantry. The entire relief was hampered by fog and heavy rains.

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

The Second and Third Battalions were billeted in various hotels in MONTECATINI and spent the first day organizing the billets, and cleaning themselves and their equipment. There was much surprise and comment made over the areas because billets in buildings were unusual (this afforded the troops the first bivouac area where all elements were in buildings). The 5th Army showers were visited by everyone and new and clean clothing were issued to everyone on the Third of the month. Three motion picture shows, many dances and various entertainments were at the disposal of the troops. No restrictions, other than wearing the correct uniform and extending courtesy, were imposed on the troops.

"L" Company's forementioned platoon and squad arrived on the 4th. They had succeeded in crossing the SEVENA River with one casualty. The excellent work of Lt. Kramer in getting his elements across was highly commendable, and Lt. Coleman assisted in securing the transportation and movement of the men.

The First Battalion meanwhile, finally reverting back to 34th Division control on the 2nd, moved on the 3rd, entrucking as did the other elements of the Regiment at SABBIONI. The First Battalion Command Post moved from LOIANO, south to MONTECATINI TERME, 28 Kilometers South-west of PISTOIA. 22 Vehicles moved Headquarters, "A", and "B" Companies from SABBIONI, thru FLORENCE and on southwest to MONTECATINI. "C" and "D" Companies moved in the same manner on 21 vehicles an hour later at 0900 hours arriving at MONTECATINI on the same route approximately an hour after the First shuttle. The Third shuttle of 20 vehicles which left a few hours after First and Second shuttles, carried the kitchen and remainder of the First Battalion. The weather was cloudy with rainstorms. The 35 trucks borrowed from 757th Tank Battalion, 133rd Infantry, 34th Quartermaster, 151st Field Artillery, 175th Field Artillery, 185th Field Artillery returned to the parent organization immediately after the First Battalion was unloaded. The First Battalion Command Post was set up at CORSO ROMA #39.

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

On the 5th of November, the troops attended to church, continuing to rest, and enjoyed fair weather. On the following day physical inspections were had and reorganization of the Companies were completed on the 6th and 7th of November. MONTECATINI, famed SPA, was virtually untouched by the war and the troops enjoyed the comfort of the Hotels and Pensiones. A large Red Cross center was established and in addition to the three movie theaters fowementioned, a legitimate theater was added where a cast headed by Katherine Cornell and Brian Aherne presented "The Barretts of W^hipole Street". This was all a welcome contrast to the hardships of the mountains. The troops of the Second and Third Battalions were also paid during this period. The First Battálion had been paid several days earlier in the vicinity of POGGILOLO. Equipment in the Regiment was checked and cleaned.

A training program was assimilated by the Regiment during this period of 6 hours daily, consisting of road marches, calisthenics, inspections, the continued checking of equipment and schooling on the weapons. The 8th and 9th of November rained slightly.

The Commanding General of the Division presented 2nd Lt. Frederick B. St. John of the Third Battalion Aid Station with a Silver Star and Legion of Merit and T/5 Louis L. Schafer aid man, with a Silver Star (later awarded a cluster of the Silver Star). The ceremony was held at 1300 hours on the 8th and a brief address to the Regiment was made by Major General Charles Bolte. The Commanding General of the 5th Army, Lt. General Mark Clark, also visited the area.

A traffic jam on Highway 65 in the afternoon of 9th November involved incoming and outgoing troops and tied up the road for an hour. Trucks were lined up bumper to bumper for several miles in full view of the enemy to the northwest. The 34th Division Military Police were ordered out in force and cleared the road in time to prevent a possibly large number of casualties. The German Air Force appeared in strength (3 planes), just after the MP's had accomplished their task, to strafe and bomb the highway.

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

On the 10th, the troops of the 135th Infantry Regiment straightened out their equipment and prepared to move back on the line. The weather during the 10th and 11th was cold but fair.

By the 11th, the Regiment had moved back on the line and the Command Post closed in at CASOLA at 1000 hours. On the previous day, Lt. Col. Charles P. Greyer assumed command of the Regiment in the absence of Col. Manhart who was hospitalized. The Third Battalion moved to BARBAROLA and relieved the Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry, in the MT. BELMONTE positions and the Second Battalion 135th Infantry relieved the Second Battalion, 133rd in positions immediately west of MT. BELMONTE. The First Battalion assembled in the vicinity of SASSI as Regimental Reserve. The Regiment, with Company "B", 757th Tank Battalion, Company "B", 109th Medical Detachment, one platoon, Company "C", 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one platoon, Company "A", 100th Chemical Battalion, attached, passed to the control of the 91st Infantry Division. On our right flank were elements of the third Battalion 351st Infantry 88th Division and on the left flank were two platoons of "K" Company and two platoons of "I" Company, 361st Infantry, 91st Division.

The Battalions on the line were ordered by Lt. Col. Greyer to schedule two aggressive patrols nightly--2 early evening patrols and 2 late at night. They were to conduct initially a reconnaissance with the mission of locating enemy installations as accurately as possible. Orders, also, were issued for extensive counter-mortar fire and all ^{units} receiving heavy mortar fire from the enemy were instructed to report immediately on German positions in order that they might be included as targets in the counter-mortar firing plan.

The MT. BELMONTE area, with its deep gorges, steep cliffs and muddy trails made the work of patrols difficult and the task of bringing forward, supplies was a hard one. Mules also were employed.

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

Harassing fire was organized from the Second Battalion with 2 Light machine guns from "F" and "G" Companies, 2-.50 caliber machine guns with "G" Company, 4 Heavy machine guns on Hill 510 firing on the town of ZULA.

Enemy aircraft strafed in the vicinity of LIVERGNANO to the left rear of the Third Battalions positions during the hours of the evening of the 11th of November. Our aircraft bombed and strafed the area forward of the Third Battalions positions during the day with fair results, the day being quite clear. The Third Battalion's supporting tanks received artillery fire and were forced to change locations in the sector. The Regimental Command Post received a little tank fire from the vicinity of PIANORO.

At 0600 hours, 12 November, the 135th Infantry, the Division Artillery and command in the sector passed to the 91st Infantry Division. On this day there was comparative inactivity. The enemy fired on the Second Battalion's sector with rockets but these were ineffective, enemy mortars and machine guns at long range were also fired with no effect. A Tiger tank fired into the Third Battalion sector without results. During the day, enemy artillery was moderate. The weather was fair, but cold. The enemy's attitudes towards the Third Battalion's positions were becoming more active. The increase of artillery fire in that sector and the use of Self Propelled guns, machine guns, and mortars as harassing elements against the Third Battalion's forward elements was notably increased. 30 rounds of medium calibre artillery was received at approximately 1700 hours. The impact area was to the rear of the Battalion Command Post. Company "M" received approximately 50 rounds at 1745 hours of medium calibre ^{artillery} and some counter-mortar fire. At 2200 hours Company "L" sent out a security patrol to probe enemy positions to the front. No contact nor information was received.

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

A chief Petty Officer from the Merchant Marine, John Breznai, arrived at the Third Battalion Command Post (rear position) to locate his brother, Frank D. BREZNAI, a Pfc., with "L" Company. Enroute to the Battalion rear, however, Frank was wounded by a shell fragment in the leg and evacuated to the 56th Evacuation Hospital where he later was visited by his brother.

At 1730 hours, a reconnaissance patrol from "G" Company went to the vicinity of BARCHETTA, observed enemy machine gun fire coming from a house left of the town, heard noises in the vicinity and returned with their information without any casualties. A patrol from "E" Company went to a house in the vicinity of the peak of MT. BELMONTE, found their objective, the house, empty, but did not enter the house and returned also without any casualties. During the close of this period, long range shelling was being received spasmodically over the entire area.

A defense plan, known as Plan "Ham" was formulated to meet the possibility of an enemy counter-attack overrunning the positions in the eastern sector of the Regimental Zone. It was to be executed by the reserve Battalion. A similar plan known as Plan "Eggs" was devised to cover the western sector and also was to be executed by the reserve Battalion.

An enemy patrol of unknown strength, believed to have come from BARCHETTA, contacted a Second Battalion machine gun position in a cave southwest of MT. BELMONTE approximately a mile and killed one man wounding another. A Second enemy patrol, consisting of 9 men, tried to infiltrate through "F" Company's forward position in about the same area but were driven off by rifle fire and hand grenades. On the same night, November 13th, a Third Patrol attempted to ambush 2 wise men in the Company "I's" sector, but the men escaped without injury.

One of our patrols from the Second Battalion found a house occupied by the enemy near TORPE LUDARI and observed a machine gun 200 yards west of the house.

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

At 2230 hours, the building occupied by the elements of Company "I" received 3 direct hits from heavy enemy artillery fire which caused 4 casualties. The house collapsed burying several men from Company "I" and "M" Company. Elements from these Companies worked all night trying to remove them but weather conditions made it impractical. Outstanding work, however, was done by the men in removing some of the men, but it was impossible to remove all of them. Two from "I" Company and 2 from "M" Company were buried for quite a period before they could be safely removed.

A Third Battalion wire patrol contacted an enemy reconnaissance patrol and drew machine gun fire. There were no casualties.

An enemy patrol was also noted over the ridge between M. BELMONTE and "church Hill" (Gorgognano Hill alias Hill 367). After firing several grenades at Company "I's" Second Platoon they withdrew.

The following day, the 14th of November, the weather continued the same. It was still cold and windy with occasional rains. The weather plus the marked increase in enemy artillery and mortar fire added to the discomfort of the troops. The Germans continued to use some rocket fire when the weather was clear, the enemy sent his aircraft over at dusk and during the darkness in the area of Highway 65 they bombed and strafed various targets of opportunity. He was met by heavy anti-aircraft fire.

A school was set up at Service Company for the purpose of training crews on .50 caliber machine guns. These weapons were to be used for harassing and over-head fire.

Our patrols sent out on the night of the 14th failed to draw fire at BARCHETTA although they fired in the direction of suspected enemy movements. Some machine gun fire was received by a patrol in the vicinity of a trail northwest of MT. BELMONTE.

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

Throughout the day, however, the slopes of MT. BELMONTE were shelled by artillery and mortars. Harassing fire and counter battery artillery fire fell on all rear elements. The tank in the vicinity of PIANORO was back in firing position and the impact area was to the left of the Third Battalion. The P and A Platoon and the Engineers worked throughout the night trying to extricate the men in a house in the forward area. The weather conditions ruined an almost successful job. When the men were almost removed, the high wind caused a wall to fall burying more personnel. Most of the men however were removed. The Company Aid Man, Private Albert Driver, was extremely courageous by trying to relieve the men from pain by crawling in and giving them morphine. Pvt. Driver was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star, and was later promoted to a T/5 and was assigned to the Aid Station at 34th Division Headquarters in March of 1945.

The patrol from "K" Company left the area of ZENA at 2245 hours and proceeded to the Second Platoon of Company "I" that was up the trail toward the ridge between MT. BELMONTE and MT. GORGONANO. They then went up the main road and were fired upon by enemy machine guns. The "K" Company patrol withdrew and went north of the ridge separating the two hills and about 400 yards short of the house. Two amber flares were sent up by the enemy and shortly after, 2 machine guns fired from the ridge south of the house. The patrol returned at 0230 hours.

The patrol from Company "L" left at 2200 hours and went up the trail towards the Company "I" Command Post. The patrol then moved toward an open field and established a listening post for 20 or 30 minutes. The patrol returned at about 0300 hours on the 15th of November and reported enemy movement in the vicinity of PIANO DELLA SPINO and also in a large house on the north of a draw north west of MT. BELMONTE. Up this draw about 200 yards, enemy activity was heard.

"A" Company moved up on the 14th of this month to relieve elements of the Third Battalion and was attached to them.

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

The 15th of November was quite foggy and was limited in visibility; later developing into a misty windy rain. Throughout the daylight hours, artillery fire was at a minimum. Machine gun and Self-Fropelled fire was practically nil increasing at dusk to general harassing fire. At 2100 hours, Lt. Humphreys of the Third Battalion with 11 enlisted men formed a combat patrol and went up near the slope of MT. BELMONTE to the Second Platoon of Company "I", then down the trail to the left and tried to reach the house north of MT. BELMONTE near a draw. The patrol was forced to withdraw when two machine guns from the left of the house and mortar fire from the left rear of the house covered and stopped their advance. The patrol returned at 0330 hours on the 16th of November suffering no casualties.

During the night of the 15th, a patrol also left from "E" Company and raided a house on a ridge to the left of MT. BELMONTE. The patrol left "F" Company's forward positions at 2100 hours reported that an enemy strong point was then located in the house, and the strength of the enemy element was believed by the patrol leader to be 20 men. The patrol captured no prisoners. A third raiding party was pinned down by artillery, mortar and machine gun fire near the peak of MT. BELMONTE. The enemy was extremely sensitive and reacted quickly to the patrols. Additional enemy positions, including a Company Command Post and machine gun nests, were located on the 16th through information supplied by Italian civilians. The weather on this day continued rather misty with heavy rains following in the early morning. The enemy was more sensitive than usual. During the afternoon, the weather had cleared, and harassing fire by the enemy increase, especially with mortars. Early in the morning Company "I's" first platoon was forced to abandon their positions and pull back 200 yards on the trail area just south of the MT. BELMONTE'S PEAK. The Third Battalion Out Post reported enemy activity a mile east of PIANORO, not far south of RIOSTO. However, nothing developed.

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

At 2100 hours, a ration party, consisting of 22 men, were ambushed by an enemy patrol enroute to Company "I" area in the vicinity of the top of GORGOGNANO Hill. The enemy patrol, estimated at 20 men, fired machine pistols and rifles. The ration party became scattered and disorganized. 13 men returned to the Company Command Post, one man was killed, four were wounded, 8 others were missing. 3 dead Germans were found in the ambush area. This action necessitated sending out patrols nightly with the ration party to the forward positions of the Company to act as security. This action also held up a Reconnaissance patrol from "E" Company while at "F" Company's position waiting to move out. Originally this patrol was headed for the vicinity of PIANA BELLA SPINO.

A combat patrol from "L" Company, consisting of Lt. Galambos and eleven men, left a house near the crossroads south of MT. BELMONTE about 2130 hours. They advanced over the left slope of MT. BELMONTE up to 200 yards of their objective which was the north bank of a draw north of MT. BELMONTE. The patrol mission was abandoned due to rough terrain and poor visibility. The patrol returned at 0330 hours on the 17th of November.

Early in the afternoon of the 16th, meanwhile, Company "M" fired mortars at an area target in the vicinity of the church on top of GORGOGNANO Hill. The impact area was observed and in addition to the mortar burst there were numerous other explosions. The same targets were later fired and flares were seen. No mine field had been reported, but from the evidence, it was concluded, that the impact area was a mine field. It was not long after, before the well-observed church on top of the hill was a mass of rubble. A sight of devastation familiar to many an Infantrymen who had dug in for many weeks seeing nothing but the enemy to the front, and the two formidable hill tops, MT. BELMONTE (Hill 407) and GORGOGNANO Hill (Hill 367).

Another mine field was exploded by a mule near the small village of ZENA. An Italian mule guide and the mule were killed.

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

On the 17th, a clear day, reconnaissance parties from the First Battalion, 135th Infantry visited the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry with its Company Command Post's and planned a complete relief. Activity was on the increase over the preceding day with the forward elements of the enemy. During the day Germans were observed about a dugout and a machine gun position on the northern side of a gully near a house (north of GORGOGNANO Hill about 800 yards). An enemy tank, also, was observed a couple of hundred yards north of this house. Neither positions could be taken under immediate fire due to poor communications.

Six of the eight missing men from "I" Company returned, 2 were seriously wounded. Concern over the position of the Third Platoon of "I" Company had aroused serious comment. The position was vital, but due to the location it couldn't receive support from other elements. It was practically surrounded.

Our artillery observed missions during the day-light hours and the Cannon Company fired harassing fire through-out the night.

Beginning at 1800 hours, Company "C" began the relief of "I" Company, Company "A", relieved "L" Company, Company "B", relieved Company "K", and "D" Company, relieved "M" Company. This relief was completed at 2315 hours. The Third Battalion assembled in the vicinity of SASSI closing at 0030 hours on the 18th. On the same evening of the 17th, a four man enemy reconnaissance patrol was surrounded by a platoon of "F" Company in the vicinity of an area near the foot of the trail leading southwest from MT. BELMONTE. All four were captured. They wore white arm bands and had white paper around their gun barrels; although they were loaded-down with ammunition and hand grenades, at first they claimed they came in to surrender, but later admitted they were a reconnaissance patrol. They gave information on German gun positions and mines and said they were from the 6th Company, 147th Infantry Regiment, 65th Division. They consisted (the four Pw's) of one NCO, two Pvts, and one Medic. The NCO (German) helped direct artillery fire and identified positions that were questionable to G-2

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

The First Battalion Command Post was now at SASSO LUNGO. One casualty was reported by "O" Company as a result of light harassing mortar fire.

Clear weather continued on the 18th with moderate enemy artillery fire and increased mortar fire. Two reconnaissance patrols, one from "A" and one from "B" Companies, went out to reconnoiter the area immediately in front of the Companies. The patrols reported no unusual incidents. The following night, ambush patrols went out from "E", "F", and "G" Companies. One patrol to the west of MT. BELMONTE near a couple of buildings, originally from "E" Company, came in due to heavy harassing fire falling close the other two patrols remained out until daylight reporting no contact. Movement orders, arrived with the darkness, notifying the Second Battalion that they would be relieved 4 nights later, (evening of 23-24 November) by First Battalion, 168th Infantry; the Second Battalion was to move by foot to the vicinity of BARBAROLA, and there entruck for BARBARINO so as to arrive there prior to daylight 24th November.

On the 20th, Company "O", holding a forward position lost possession of a house. On the same night, a 20 man patrol of the Second Battalion went within 200 yards of BARCHETTA and fired into the town using a maximum amount of automatic fire. The enemy immediately used defensive fires including a machine gun firing on the ridge just west of the MT. BELMONTE peak and the patrol was forced to withdraw.

The Third Platoon of Company "O" was raided by an enemy patrol. One of their houses was set afire and burned down. No casualties were reported in spite of the increased Self Propelled and mortar fire. 400 rounds of artillery were fired by Division artillery besides 5th Army and 4.2 mortars. "B" Company moved 2 squads to Company "O's" Third Platoon as reinforcements. Otherwise there was no change. The weather was fair during the day, but cloudy and windy after dark.

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

During the day of the 21st, all was relatively quiet with moderate artillery and mortar fire on both sides. The weather was fair. One patrol from "F" Company went to C. TRESTA, one from "E" Company to BARACHETTA to harass the enemy and then go into ambush positions along the route of withdrawal. Immediately after the patrol reached the vicinity of town, our mortar opened up to give the patrol protection. Immediately after our fire was completed, Jerry mortars and artillery fire dropped on the road covering the town. They, then, put covering machine gun fire on the entire position. The ambush patrol remained near the town until 0400 hours at which time returned to "E" Company's Command Post with no contact.

All this while, for the past 4 days, (17th, 18th, 19th, 20th of November) the Third Battalion had remained in a tent area in the vicinity of SASSI where the reader left them. The men in this Battalion spent their time at the showers and in cleaning their equipment. A TOT by the enemy fell on a hill east of the Battalion area--Approximately 150 rounds of light and medium artillery fell at about 1630 hours, on the 20th of November. At 2100 hours, 15 rounds of medium artillery fell south of the Third Battalion area. Plans were made for movement to a Regimental Rest area in the vicinity of the town of BARBERINO, ITALY.

The 135th Infantry and the Division Artillery reverted to Division control and command at 0600 hours on the 22nd and at 1700 hours the Third Battalion was relieved by the Third Battalion of the 168th Infantry and entrucked at BARBAROLA at 1930 hours. The movement was in three serials. The First serial of "I", "K", and "L" Companies left at 1930 hours. Company "M" and Headquarters Company moved a half hour later and the organic transportation at 2030 hours. The movement was made without casualties and the rear area was quiet. Aircraft was reported due south, but the convoy moved without mishap. The Third Battalion closed into the rest area at BARBERINO at midnight of the 22nd. The Battalion bivouaced in the north edge of town, in houses and pyramidal tents. The 135th Regiment was now in

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

Division Reserve. The Executive Officer of the Third Battalion, Major Conrad, went to the hospital.

On the 22nd, also, plans were made for a coordinated tank and infantry attack on a church in the vicinity of MT. BELMONTE where the strength of the enemy was estimated at 40 to 50 men, but this plan was placed aside later pending larger developments. On the same day, the Command Post of Company "C" received a direct hit and eleven men were buried. All were killed.

A 20 man combat patrol went out from "B" Company to get 1 Prisoner of War. A reconnaissance patrol was attached to check for mines. The groups ran into a fire fight in the vicinity of a building just north of the ridge separating MT. BELMONTE and GORGOGNANO Hill. They received machine gun, mortar, and rifle grenade fire, and were driven back before their mission was accomplished. 4 Casualties resulted. Another patrol from "B" Company laid in ambush in front of "A" Company from 20 to 30 to 0100. No enemy was encountered. One more casualty was reported from "B" Company.

An ambush patrol and a raiding party went to PIANO DELLA SPINO, from the Second Battalion with the objective to take prisoners. The patrol never reached their objective due to heavy machinegun fire covering the only route of approach.

The following day of the 23 was relatively quiet. The First Battalion sent two reconnaissance patrols from "B" Company and they returned safely. The weather that had been nice and fair was turning cloudy and cool. The Second Battalion was relieved without any casualties by the First Battalion, 168th Infantry. Due to "G" Company's hazardous positions the relief was not completed until about 0100 hours. "G" Company did not reach BARBAROLA until 0400 hours, arriving approximately 4 hours later at BARBARINO.

With the weather generally cool but fair, the First Battalion, 135th Infantry was finally relieved on the night of the 24th. The Companies moved out individually after being relieved by the Second Battalion, 168th Infantry. The First Battalion

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

was completely in BARBERINO by 0430 hours arriving in the following manner: "D" Company, Headquarters Company, "B" Company, Company "A", and "C" Company with the organic units of the Battalion.

As forementioned, the relief of the 135th Infantry by the 168TH Infantry was completed during the nights of November 22-23, 23-24, 24-25 and the Regiment moved back to BARBERINO in Division Reserve. Our Cannon Company remained in position, supporting the 168th Infantry, but half the men were sent to the rear and the other half were to be exchanged later. One day passes to FLORENCE was initiated on the 25th by the Regiment and on the following day, Sunday, the men attended church services in the morning while later in the day, received hot showers and a complete change of clothing. It was still raining as it had on the previous day. Yes, this was "Sunny Italy." When the 27th arrived, it was, indeed, a blue Monday. The rain was coming down endlessly. However, in the afternoon, the downpour let up and a parade was held with "A" Company and "C" Company participating. Major General Bolte presented many men with awards. The other Battalions had men decorated also. Lt. Col. Castille Commander of Second Battalion and 1st Lt. Norman E. Brown Second Battalion S-2, (later promoted to a Captain) were both awarded the Silver Star on this day. After the presentation of awards and the parade, the classic Thanksgiving Dinner, complete with turkey and trimmings was had at the Companies in the Regiment. On the 28th, Major R. S. Allen joined the Third Battalion as Executive Officer, Lt. Humphreys and Lt. Mikelson were transferred to the Second Battalion from the Third Battalion. Lts. Todd and Hunter left the Third Battalion for the First Battalion. Lt. Galambos transferred to Cannon Company from the Third Battalion, also. The last two days of the month was spent in training and conditioning the troops. The training schedule consisted of a 2 hour route march each morning and 2 hours of care and cleaning of equipment. The weather, for the most part, was fair, with rain and temperatures dropping a bit on the last day of the month.

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

Xmas 1944 - the Third one overseas!

The 135th Infantry Regiment was still in the BARBERINO rest area on the 1st of the month. The training program was very much the same consisting of conditioning marches and physical training. A rigid program to improve military courtesy, was enforced at this time also. The weather was cool being a relief from the recent rain spell endured by the many units. The Second Battalion had been alerted several times to move forward to the vicinity of SASSO, Italy. The Battalion Commanding Officer, Major Kurland, the S-2 of the Battalion 1st Lt. John B. Naughton, and the Company Commanders (see end of this phase of the narrative for names) made numerous reconnaissances to the forward area. A Regimental Ceremony on the 2nd at 1030 hours assembled the Battalions on a field in BARBERINO and the Divisional Commander Major General Bolte, presented awards to various men of the Regiment and made a short talk on the past work of the Regiment. The General then presented to the Regiment the Combat Infantry Award, and in an impressive ceremony he attached the streamer to each Company guidon. In the afternoon, a warning order for a movement was received and plans for future operations were discussed. Captain Nelson, First Battalion S-3 went to the hospital.

December 3rd, the weather turned from fair to rainy. The First Battalion was placed on a 12 hour alert to move forward, but was to stay in place until further notice. Church services were held and attended by many men in the Battalions.

With a target date for the attack set initially at the 8th of December, the whole 5th Army flared into a flurry of activity. In compliance with orders issued the First of the month, the 34th Division began its regrouping. To hold the present line in its present strength, and then to provide a complete regiment out of the line for the main effort on the left as well as two Battalions for the secondary effort on the right served to make the operation a most complicated affair.

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

Careful planning coupled with the close cooperation of all elements of the Division allowed the shifting of troops to be completed without mishap.

So - on this rainy day, the 3rd of December, the Third Battalion entrucked at 1500 hours, "I", "K", "L", "M", and Headquarters Company moved via vehicles to BARBEROLA, then in a foot movement to an assembly area in the vicinity of SADURANO. The column closed at approximately 1900 hours. The assembly area is a mud hole with about a foot of slush and water!! Pyramidal tents and stoves were secured to provide cover and warmth on the 4th. The weather is somewhat improved on the 4th being cool and rain falling less frequently. "L" Company was alerted to move into the lines as a reserve Company, for the First Battalion, 133rd Infantry. Reconnaissances were made in the morning and at 2000 hours, Company "K" had relieved "A" Company of the 135th Infantry. Company "K" was attached to the 133rd Infantry and the Command Post was approximately 1/2 mile Southeast from the small village of QUEROETO near a small road that lead out of town. The remainder of the Third Battalion spent the day on cleaning and care of equipment in the vicinity of SADURANO which was situated off to the east of Highway 65, about 2 miles from LIVERGNANO.

On the 4th with preparations on the way for moving back on the lines, and D-day 4 days hence, the 135th Infantry opened the Command Post at CASOLA under control of Col. Manhart who had returned from the hospital. The Regiment assumed command of the Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry, and the Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry less "L" Company and 2 platoons of "M" Company. The mission was to defend the area west of MT. BELMONTE to Highway 65. The Third Battalion, 135th Infantry was moved into the SASSI area as Regimental Reserve.

The weather on the 5th was clear and cold, however, that did not keep the mud from getting thicker and thicker. During the afternoon Company "K" received a small amount of enemy fire. However, there were no casualties from this fire. At about 2000 hours, the Third Battalion, received the news that the men who went home in

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

the United States on furlough in July 1944, had returned. There were 63 enlisted men in this group.

Patrols were out on the night of the 5th to observe the results of our artillery fire but they were hampered by the darkness and a thick early morning fog. One morning patrol went out in the fog as far as a rise in terrain (South-west of MT. BELMONTE about 2 miles and 200 yards off the right of Highway 65), and drew no fire. Previous patrols had drawn fire at night from a gorge in this vicinity, and it was believed probably that it was occupied only at night.

The First Battalion in BARBERINO had experienced a heavy rain in the morning of the 5th but when the afternoon cleared up, the morale of the troops rose. "A" Company was alerted to move and on the following day, moved up to become attached to the Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry in reserve position. There was no change for the rest of the First Battalion. The heavy rains fell through the day.

Also on the 6th two enemy deserters were brought in by "E" Company. They claimed they were from the Second Company, 147th Regiment, 65th Division, and said they were always alerted at night in expectation of an attack by our forces. The enemy soldiers, who said the general feeling among their troops were that they wouldn't be able to hold their line, asserted that their food was poor and in small amounts and added that they had been suffering from quite a number of cases of trench foot.

A training schedule was under way in the Third Battalion, on the 6th. From 0900 to 1130 hours, there was an inspection of all personnel, ordnance, dog tags, clothing, and equipment. From 1300 to 1500 hours, the subject was the use of the compass, practiced work in taking azimuths to various points, marching on azimuth, and back azimuths. Both periods took place in company areas. From 1800 to 2100 hours, general orientation and practical work on night movements, stressing contact and quietness during movements as the subject. This training took place at the

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

Third Battalion training area (from Highway 65 at about a mile south of LIVERGNANO on east SADURANO, a small village on the east bank of a tributary of the SEVENA River.) One Platoon of "K" Company plus a squad returned to the vicinity of SADURANO to put up tents for the Company which was supposed to be relieved on the night of the 6th. Company "K" 135th Infantry was relieved by "A" Company of the 135th Infantry at 1800 hours. The only difficulty encountered by "K" Company in the relief was the mud and the darkness of the night.

On the 7th, the training schedule in the Third Battalion continued. From 0900 to 1130 hours, there was an inspection and check of shortages of individual clothing. From 1300 to 1500 hours, the subject was map reading, use of thrust-points and grid coordinates, resection method of locating a position on a map. From 1800 to 2100 hours, the subject was night patrols, ~~kindg~~, formation, action on being fired upon, and practical work. This was done in the same forementioned training area. At about 1030 hours, Col. Braun, Ass't Division Commander was at the Third Battalion Command Post, discussing the necessity of flame throwers by this unit in future operations. ~~Mengoing~~ home on furlough, or rotation, left the Third Battalion Command Post for for Division rear on this day. The "A" and "P" Platoons of the Regiment. Plans are still very much in the formative stage for future operations of the Regiment. The Third Battalion picked up an old civilian in the vicinity of the Command Post who had no permit. The day was cloudy with short periods of sunshine.

In the First Battalion, Lt. Col. Thompson and Lt. Davis (ass't S-3) reconnoitered an area for a Battalion night problem. "D" Company was alerted to move the following morning. Muddy roads and pitch black darkness hampered all night movements.

A herd of 25 sheep was sent up by Division for use in connection with known or suspected enemy mine fields. At the same time Division informed the Regiment that the C. I. C. (counter intelligence corps) had picked up an enemy agent during the night and had learned that 16 enemy agents had been sent out to infiltrate into our

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

lines in the past few days. Six of them were said to be women. All the Regimental units were notified of this development.

14 patrols from the 133rd Regiment were sent out on security, ambush and reconnaissance missions and they reported on the 8th that the enemy was extremely alert to the slightest sound. They encountered mortar and machine gun fire. On the same day, the Regimental Out Post fired nine rounds of heavy and 3 rounds of light artillery on a large house in the village of SOHIVANOIA, northwest of PIANORO, where 10 Germans were sighted at work. There were 4 direct hits on the house and the area was covered effectively.

A night problem was held at 0300 hours on the 8th, in the First Battalions area with all Companies participating except "A" and "D" Companies, who were assumed in the problem to be present. "D" Company moved out and forward to be under Regimental Control. Church services were held. There were strong winds in the morning and heavy rains in the afternoon when the wind had let up.

Company "H" also moved up under Regimental control to the vicinity of C. TRESTA where they dug in all the weapons and prepared for the attack that was expected to come any day.

With the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry, more rain was endured. The roads and foot paths were almost impassable. At 0730 hours, the old civilian who had been picked up near the Command Post the night before was sent to the rear for screening. 18 sheep was given to the Third Battalion to use in future operations as mine detonating devices. At 1100 hours, 3 officers from the 757th Tank Battalion were at the 3rd Battalion Command Post to get oriented for the future operations. The 3rd Battalion S-3 Captain William B. Cole and a reconnaissance party left early in the morning with Captain Vensel, "I" Company, ^{CO.} to look over the area along Highway 65 where future operations were planned. They went to the Command Post and DI SOPRA (a small village on Highway 65 about 2 miles north of LIVERGNANO) being used by

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

elements of the 133rd Infantry. The training schedule was as follows: 0900-1130 hours, familiarization firing of all weapons except mortars; 1300-1500 hours, rifle platoon in approach march and attack, use of scouts, formation used, and practical work; 1800 to 2100 hours, rifle company in the night attack and practical work.

The weather on the ninth of December was rainy and bleak. The mud was making locomotion more and more difficult. The Company Commanders went to the Regiment to discuss plans for the future operations. The Battalion Commanders attended a meeting of Battalions Commanders in LOIANO, Italy at 1100 hours with the Battalion Commander of the 91st Division. The Third Battalion Medics of the 135th Regiment went out in the morning to look for a possible location of an Aid Station for coming events. Everyone was preparing for the D day. Lt. Hegy from the 125th Field Artillery was in the Third Battalion Command Post to discuss plans for the location of his Forward Observers. All Company Commanders made their reconnaissances in the afternoon for future operations. During the evening routes of approach were discussed for the coming operations.

The First Battalion 135th Infantry was placed on a 4 hour alert but there was no other change otherwise in the First Battalion. Lt. Hunter was assigned to the First Battalion as S-3. The rain had finally ceased and in the afternoon the sky was fairly clear.

Two men were killed from Company "H" by enemy artillery fire while digging in their positions. Patrols reported no enemy activity with one exception where the Germans threw white phosphorous grenades. There were no casualties.

Information was received on the 9th December, from II Army Corps that the announcement of D-day would be deferred until 2 consecutive days of good flying weather could be predicted. An aerial blitz in front of the main effort was deemed necessary to the success of the attack, but the period, generally unsettled with consistent rain and high winds, barred such action.

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

On the 10th one patrol reported an enemy outpost near BARCHETTA but the other patrols made no contact. They were unable to climb the wet, slippery cliffs.

Catholic and Protestant Church services were held on this clear, bright, cold day, the 1st Decent day experienced in a week by the Regiment. Aircraft had been operating all day in front of our lines. The "A" and "P" platoon made an enclosure for the sheep that the Third Battalion received a few days before. At about 1000 hours, Captain Cory, ¹Liaison Officer of the 125th Field Artillery was in the Third Battalion 135th Infantry Command Post to discuss Communication problems for the 125th Field Artillery. In the afternoon, Lt. Kearney from the Regimental Cannon Company was oriented on the situation.

That night of the 10th a combat patrol from Company "A" was sent out with the mission of establishing an outpost in a house at CANCVETTA if it were found unoccupied, but by the morning of the 12th it was learned that the mission had been unsuccessful. Although the house apparently was unoccupied, the enemy had it well covered with machine gun and mortar fire. Our patrol had planned to place mines in the area but the ration train carrying the mines to the forward position was shelled and four men were wounded. Consequently, the mines did not arrive in time to be taken into the enemy territory by the patrol.

Throughout the day the sector was quiet except for occasional harassing fire from enemy machine guns and mortars. It snowed slightly in the morning and rained in the afternoon. However, on the clear and cool day of the 11th, the Air Corps was busy in the Third Battalions sector bombing enemy positions during the morning. At about 1100 hours, the Third Battalion received 2 men from the Air Corps one officer and one enlisted man who were with them for one week. At 1130 hours, Lt. Coleman, Captain Cole, and Mays Allen went out to look over possible locations of an Out post in the coming operation.

On this 11th day of December, the Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry with the

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

same Regiments' Cannon Company and Companies "A" and the remainder platoons of Company "M" were all attached to the 135th Infantry Regiment. General Bolte had ordered Company "A", 133rd Infantry attached to the 135th Infantry for the purpose of relieving Company "L" and part of Company "I" of 133rd Infantry.

The 12th was a foggy and bleak day. 35 replacements arrived in the Third Battalion 135th Infantry about 1700 hours which was in no way an adequate amount to put the companies up to strength.

Patrols out the night of 12-13 reported little activity in the vicinity and the same was also true all along the Regimental front during that day. Artillery fire was used with good results against the enemy near the CAVINZANA River west of MT. BELMONTE. Personnel had been observed in that vicinity. All units were alerted and requested to relay any information on a missing air Observation Post. It was a rainy, cold day with visibility zero.

The weather on the 13th was hazy and cool. The Air Corps was busy during the early hours of the morning. In the afternoon, it rained again. A contingent from each Company in the Third Battalion returned to BARBARINO as witnesses on Court Martials. In the evening 2 radio men a wire crew started up to the proposed location of the Command Post in the next operation (MONTEUCCOLO, northeast 3 miles approximately of LIVERGNANO). The men were supposed to establish communications. The mules carrying the wire went off the trail, and the wire was lost. They did get radio contact however. Some of the patrols had to be cancelled on the night of the 13th and 14th of December, because of the inclement weather and those who go out had nothing to report.

On the 14th, clear and cool, the Air Corps was again busy during the morning. The Third Battalion 135th Infantry had radio communication with the proposed Command Post. At 1000 hours, Lt. Coleman and Pfc Gibson went on a reconnaissance for the location of an Observation Post for the coming operation. The 135th Regimental Command Post sustained an enemy barrage of 12 rounds of light artillery fire. Three of the

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

rounds hit the building and one man was out by flying glass.

The patrols were out in force on this night. There was little to report, however, except for one instance, where 3 or 4 enemy machine guns were firing from the vicinity of ^{OSTA} NUOVA. In the morning the Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry and "E" Company of the same Regiment each sent in a prisoner. The 2 men were taken as a result of fire fight with enemy patrols and both General Bolte and Col. Manhart sent commendations to the men who had aggressively attacked the German patrols. One prisoner was from the 146th Grenadier Regiment; the other from the 147th Regiment, 65th Division. This confirmed the presence of this enemy unit in the Regimental front.

The First Battalion held training on this day of the 15th with a road march in the morning and a combat patrol problem conducted in the afternoon. The weather was fair but cold.

Company "H" 135th Infantry, less 15 men left in position to guard their guns, returned to BARBERINO. Throughout the time Company "H" was in position, all the ammunition and rations were taken to the company by mule train.

Allied aircraft was over again during the morning of the 15th of December. In the evening the officers who were home on leave returned to the Battalion. There were five of them, 1st Lt. Ralph D. Stratmoen, 1st Lt. Robert O. Foster, 2nd Lt. Russell H. Reim, 1st Lt. Donald R. Johnson, and Captain Keith O. Van Krevelen.

On the morning of the 16th, at about 0930 hours, the Third Battalion 135th Infantry was alerted to return to BARBERINO. At 1030 hours, the same Battalion received replacements again. Company "I" received 10, "K" Company eight, and Company "L" eight. At 1930 hours, the Third Battalion 135th Infantry led by Captain Cole, walked across-country to BARBAROLA. The hike was quite difficult because of the deep mud. Three or four of the men in the Battalion passed out enroute. The order of the men in the march was "I", "K", "L", "M" and Headquarters, Medics and "H" Company. The Third Battalion entrucked at BARBAROLA, at 2200 hours. The weather was still

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

clear and cold for the movement. The Battalion closed in at BARBERINO at 0200 hours of the 17th.

On the night of the 16th, the First Battalion of the 135th Infantry Regiment relieved the Third Battalion 135th Infantry without incident in the Regimental reserve position in the vicinity of SASSI. Patrols out that night again saw machine gun fire originating near OSTA NUOVA and sighted 2 tanks in that area.

On Sunday, 17th December, church services were held in the church in BARBERINO (Catholic). Protestant services were held in the theater in town. The kitchens arrived in the area at about 1500 hours. At 1930 hours, the supply trucks arrived. Headquarters Company had showers on this day at the 112th Ordnance Showers.

On this same day, the enemy launched a number of rocket shells and there was a terrific explosion at an area south of M. ARNIGO (or southeast a mile from PIANORO). Both the Regimental Cannon Company and supporting artillery placed fire on a suspected launching area near the OSTA NUOVA area and Highway 65. The effect of our firing was not known. Our Observation Post reported that 18 to 20 rockets were fired by the enemy but the impact area could not be determined.

The First Battalion Command Post, 135th Infantry, was located at SADURANO (in the vicinity of LIVERGNANO) with "B" and "C" Companies placed on a four hour alert. Captain Griffin was assigned command of "B" Company. It was a cloudy and hazy day.

The Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment (less Company "M" that was already attached as of the 11th of December) was attached to the 135th Infantry Regiment at 0600 hours the 17th of December. This action brought the strength of the 135th Infantry to 5 Battalions. Now we had the Second and Third Battalions of 133rd Infantry with the same Regiments Cannon Company in addition to our own units. The First Battalion, 133rd Infantry was attached to the 16th Infantry.

That night, the Third Battalion of the 133rd Infantry relieved the Second Battalion and shortly before midnight, an enemy patrol of 10 men approached the position

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

of the forward platoon at a locality between OSTA NUOVA and POGGIOLI at the right of Highway 65, and fired machine pistols and rifle grenades. They were driven off by small arms and mortar fire and at 0600 hours the following morning (18th) a six man enemy patrol came in even closer but was repelled with small arms fire and hand grenades. As daybreak came, a German Medical Aid man and 2 litter squads, displaying white flag, came forward and were seen to remove a few wounded. Our patrols were out, too, and although the wet, slippery terrain features were a difficult obstacle, 2 enemy persons believed to be deserters, were picked up. They identified their unit as the First Company, First Battalion, 147th Regiment and estimated their strength at approximately 75 men.

"B" Company moved up on the 18th from SADURANO and relieved "A" Company in place and became attached to the Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry. Their new location was in the vicinity of a couple of houses located southwest of QUERKETO a short distance. "A" Company moved out at 1810 hours and joined the First Battalion in the vicinity of SADURANO. Occasional light rain and cloudy weather prevailed throughout the day.

Notification came from II Corps that Beanfighters and "A" 20's would be over at night and all units in the Regiment was notified.

On the Third Battalion's second day back in BARBERINO, the entire day was spent cleaning up and getting organized. The entire Company "I" took showers on this day with "K" Company taking showers on the 19th which was a sunny and bright day. Col. Braun, Assistant Divisional Commander, visited the Third Battalion Command Post and stayed for lunch. A 3 day training schedule commenced on this day. During this and the following days the following subjects were taken up: Patrols; types, how operated, 3 hours; approach march, night marching, daylight approach march, 3 hours; map reading, 1 hour; discussion of past history and future history of the regiment, 3 hours; and small unit training. The Third Battalion had a movie in town at 2000 hours on the evening of the 19th and 20th.

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

On the night of the 19th and 20th, a patrol of 10 enlisted men and one officer from "L" Company of the 133rd Infantry made their way to a house within 200 yards of PIANO DELLA SPINO. The officer and a sergeant went forward on a reconnaissance but becoming confused, they returned to the patrol from another direction. The patrol, believing them to be enemy, fired and wounded the officer. The sergeant, then, took the patrol back and returned with a litter squad for the removal of the officer, but on his return he stepped on a mine and wounded himself and three other men. Misfortune came to another patrol composed of 15 men from Company "I" of the 133rd Infantry. After ambushing an enemy listening post near a house by a crossroads west approximately 1000 yards of BELMONTE they returned to their own lines but failed to give the password quickly. Friendly machine guns opened fire and 2 men were killed and one wounded.

The same night, a patrol from Company "A" of the 133rd Infantry reached CANOVETTA, occupied the house and found no enemy present. There was no contact with the enemy. 20 positions were prepared north of the house for occupation later. Enemy patrols were active too, and a 5 man outpost of "A" Company, 133rd Infantry dispersed an enemy patrol after a fire fight at POGGIOLI.

The weather continued clear and bright on the 20th. The training schedule continued to progress in the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry in the vicinity of BARBERINO. "L" Company took its turn at the shower unit on this day. The Battalion was placed on a 4 hour alert but it was called off almost immediately.

The 135th Infantry Regimental Command Post was notified by the 34th Division that enemy paratroopers were dropped between Division and Regiment, but nothing developed from this report. The Regiment also was notified that Beanfighters were to be up again during the night.

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

Two deserters, both of them POLISH, said that their Company, the First of the 147th Regiment, was in the sector from where the CAVANZANA River crosses Highway 65 to ZULA. The Second and third Company was on their left flank and the 146th Regiment on their right. All trains and kitchens of the enemy Division were located in BDLOGNA, they said, and food was carried in carts by horse and mule along Highway 65 where they were met by carrying parties. The two Poles said that an attack from us was expected and that the nightly alert on the part of the enemy was continued with the men sleeping during the day. An insight into the officer situation in the German army was given when the two explained that officer candidates were sent to the lines for 6 weeks and were then sent back to school in Germany for 3 months, after which they were given their commissions.

A patrol from "A" Company, 133rd Infantry went out on the night of the 20th and 21st to occupy the arranged positions by CANOVETTA but encountered difficulty when one man stepped on a mine bringing down enemy rifle and rifle grenade fire from position in the vicinity of CANOVETTA. One man was killed, two were wounded, and one was missing. The positions could not be occupied.

On the 21st, foggy and very cold with light intermittent rain and snow, the First Battalion, 135th Infantry was placed on a 4 hour alert. 2 Platoons of Company "O" picked up salvage material along the trail from SASSI to CASOLA while on this alert.

With the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry on this day the training program continued. Headquarters Company erected a basket in their area and the men got quite a bit of recreation playing Basketball. Company "M" had their showers on this day. In the evening, the Battalions whiskey and beer ration came in. On the following day, the 22nd, a new three day training schedule was commenced. The training consisted of inspection for one hour of all Ordnance, functioning of all Ordnance for 2 hours and a 3 hour conditioning march. An alert for the Battalion to move out the following day at 0030 hours. In the evening this order was postponed 24 hours.

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

Major General Bolte made one of his impromptu visits to the front line positions going by the First Battalion, 135th Infantry positions. This First Battalion was also alerted to move out on the evening of the 23rd.

S/Sgt Lauren E. Mathews, of the First Battalion, was collecting dead bodies (under orders from the Regimental Grave Registration Officer, Lt. Clap) with a team of litter bearers and found 6 bodies on a rather high embankment. The litter bearers were carrying the 6th body away when a guide that was working with the Grave Registration Officer detail, coming toward them in the darkness mistook them for enemy personnel and ordered them to halt in a low voice. Due to the fact that the litter bearers were tired, the wind blowing just enough to muffle any low noises, the night cloudy and rather dark with a partial moon, the litter bearers did not hear the guides challenge! The guide opened fire, still with the belief that the friendly detail was enemy personnel. One of the litter bearers, a Pfc David R. Jolly, was killed instantly and Sgt. Mathews immediately yelled (censored), hold your fire - You've killed one man already! This was a very unfortunate incident but in the unavoidable tenseness of close combat, occasionally happens. Pfc Jolly was from Headquarters Company First Battalion.

Patrols ^{WENT} out on this night to determine where artillery shells, both enemy and friendly, were landing, but snow and mud hampered the mission. Col. Castille, Commanding the Second Battalion, 135th Infantry notified the Regimental Command Post, that he had been wounded, and his 8-2 Lieutenant Naughton, had been killed by enemy shellfire on the way to the Command Post of the Third Battalion of the 133rd Infantry.

A little snow fell on the 23rd December 1944. Training schedule continued in the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry area. It consisted of 0800 - 0900 hours, inspection of quarters; 0900 - 1000 hours, first aid and sanitation; 2 hours, outpostting of an area, duties of sentries as out guards; three hours, platoon in the attack; 3 hours, night scouting and patrolling. BARBERINO furnished a movie for recreation in the evening.

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

The Second Battalion, 135th Infantry was alerted to move to the vicinity of SASSE, again.

The First Battalion, 135th Infantry "C" Company changed positions with "B" Company. Company "C" was now located in the vicinity of 2 houses southwest of, and a short distance from QUEROETO, and attached to the Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry. "B" Company joined the First Battalion, 135th Infantry at SADURANO. Col. Braun, Assistant Division Commander, inspected the First Battalion about noon. Church services were held at 1230 hours. Col. Manhart, Regimental Commander reported D-day was postponed for 24 hours.

The Regiment submitted a list of men who had been overseas 30 months, and 24 months and the least number of men, they would be able to operate with. All Companies in the First Battalion, 135th Infantry with the exception of Company "B", had their christmas turkey on the 23rd December. It was snowing now, and very cold. The ground was frozen.

"B" Company had their Christmas dinner on the 24th Church services were held at 1130 hours. D-day was postponed again 24 hours. The weather although cold was considered fair on this day.

A very enjoyable Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all the men in the Second Battalion, 135th Infantry on the 24th of December. Midnight protestant services were held on the night of 24-25 December.

The "A" and "F" Platoon of the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry, went forward to guard the ammo dump at SADURANO, returned on this day. The involved training program continued in the Third Battalion as follows: three hours, conditioning march; three hours, platoon in the attack, stressing use of concealment and cover, routes of approach, base of fire, fire and movement, observation in detail, communication within small units, clarity of orders, and march and combat discipline. Protestant services were held in the theater at 1030 hours while Catholic church

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

services were held in the church in BARBERINO. The Third Battalion was issued winter clothing at 2000 hours. Christmas Dinner was had by the receptive Battalion on this day.

The temperature had started to drop on the 22nd to freezing and was followed by snow on the 24th, December rendering the roads difficult for passage. Vehicles, slipping and sliding, often plunged over the banks or tied up traffic with collisions. The roads that had undergone heavy traffic had deep ruts, now frozen, made driving more difficult than usual.

It was a quiet Christmas EVE along the sector of the Regiment and the day passed with virtually no activity.

Christmas day was the occasion for turkey and several evergreen trees in the sector suddenly blossomed out with baubles and decorations. At 1930 hours Company "A", 133rd Infantry was relieved by Company "B" 135th Infantry. Company "B" was now located at POGGIOLI DI SOTTO. Six rounds of 105mm artillery fell in the vicinity of the First Battalion Command Post, 135th Infantry at 1600 hours coming from the north. The Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, Lt. Col. Chas. H. Thompson, had his orderly, Pfc. Edward J. Chrostowski, and one man from Company "B", Pfc Herman C. Gumpfer, wounded and they were both evacuated.

This was a bleak Christmas day and conditions were unsettled. Many men were starting to wear their new combat jackets. It was the 3rd Christmas season overseas for the 135th Infantry and the 2nd spent in Italy with the 5th Army.

On the 26th, clear and cold, the Regiment was notified that the command of the sector would be turned over to the 133rd Infantry on the following day and the Regiment was instructed to send a billeting party out to reconnoiter an area near VIA REGGIO on the west coast of Italy. On this day, the A and P men of the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry had to return to the ammunition dumps at SADURANO. This Third Battalion was on a conditioning hike during the morning. In the afternoon

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

there was an inspection of Ordnance and quarters. Colonel Braun, assistant Division Commander, visited the Battalion at approximately 1130 hours, and inspected the entire Battalion. Major General Bolte, went to the First Battalion Command Post about noon, and inspected the front line positions.

On 26 December, word was received that an attack by an estimated 2 enemy Battalions had penetrated IV Army Corps positions in the ~~SEARCHIO~~^{SEARCHIO} Valley. An immediate regrouping of the Army appeared in order.

With the First Battalion, 135th Infantry almost finished with their relief of the Third Battalion of 133rd Infantry, plans were cancelled and changed, and the First Battalion was alerted to move to LUCCA in the 92nd Division sector. The same thing happened with the Second Battalion 135th Infantry. The Second Battalion had almost completed their relief with "E" and "H" Companies relieving elements of the 133rd Infantry. But during the evening hours of the 27th their plans were also cancelled and changed, and they were alerted to move to the vicinity of LUCCA. So the Second Battalion, 135th Infantry less "E" and "H" Companies were on their way arriving in VIAREGGIO on the night of the 28th. The weather during this movement was fair and cold. The Second Battalion, 133rd Infantry and Third Battalion, 133rd Infantry were reverted back to control of the parent Regiment from the 135th Infantry and the 133rd Infantry assumed control of our sector at 1730 hours of the 27th of December

A BRIEF STAY WITH THE 92ND INFANTRY DIVISION ON THE WEST COAST.

The First Battalion, 135th Infantry, meanwhile, moved to the same vicinity of VIAREGGIO arriving there at about 0930 hours of the 28th under 92nd Division control. The Battalion was placed on a 1 hour alert.

The Third Battalion, 135th Infantry were alerted to move from vicinity of BARBERINO at 1300 hours of the 27th. The roads were clogged with convoys going to the IV Corps sector. The clear, cool day of the 28th saw the Third Battalion situated north of VIAREGGIO approximately 3 miles on a one hour alert.

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

The 135th Infantry Regiment was attached as a unit to the 92nd Division and placed on one hour alerts for employment in the coastal sector in the event that the enemy launched an attack in the direction of LEGHORN. The Regimental Command Post was established in a small village of GHIVIZZANI, a short distance north of MOMMIO which, in turn, is northeast of VIAREGGIO about 4 miles. The Regiment was not to be committed in this sector unless it was sanctioned by 5th Army. All the bridges around the sector were prepared for demolitions in case of a German breakthrough. They were called the counterattack plans, red, green, blue, in case of trouble.

The weather although slightly colder on the 29th was clear. Company "I" moved out and arrived at VADO, north a mile from CAMAIORE, at 1100 hours. They went by truck all the way. The mission of Company "I" was to patrol the area to the east and north of their positions along with the 92nd Reconnaissance Units. One platoon leader from Company "I", a 2nd Lt. by the name of Ire Mutchnick, went out on a reconnaissance to look for possible routes the patrol might use. The S-2 Third Battalion and two men from the Third Battalion Intelligence Section went to the left of Highway 1 to look for a route of march that might be taken to PIETRASANTA.

In the afternoon, the S-3's of the Regiment went on a reconnaissance to look over the defense of the sector in case of a breakthrough. There were plans being made for the defense of all positions in the Regiment in case of an attack by the enemy.

"E" and "H" Companies arrived on the 29th and rejoined the Second Battalion which then moved to an assembly area at PIETRASANTA and made preparations for supporting the 92nd Division in the event of a counterattack. Plans were also made and work commenced on a final Defensive Line running from VIÀ Versiliana on the coast (north of VIAREGGIO approximately 10 kilometers over 4 kilometers in length north-east to an area north of PIETRASANTA (approximately a kilometer). The actual

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

digging and wiring of the "Line" was in progress through the end of the month. These were the days of extensive planning for Defense.

1st Lt. Feiber and Brown were both promoted to Captains effective 7th and 11th of December respectively. The Second Lt. Davis, Black, and Malizia were promoted to 1st Lts. effective 7th December 1944. S/Sgt Miller received a direct appointment as a 2nd Lt. on the 25th December 1944. All these officers were from the Second Battalion.

The First Battalion received a clothing exchange and showers the last days of the month. The weather was fair with frequent cold winds causing many discomforts. A complete defensive fire plan with the First Battalion counterattack plan was submitted to Regimental Headquarters. Positions were being improved continually. Lt. Col. Thompson, Major Tyler, the First Battalion S-1, S-2 and S-3 with several other officers of the Battalion left on different reconnaissance tours to pick out defensive positions.

With the Third Battalion during the last of the month, Captain Cole and Lt. Arey went on reconnaissance in compliance with Plan #3, or the Blue Plan. The S-3 and commander of Company "A", 760th Tank Battalion, were at the Third Battalion Command Post at 1500 hours on the 30th to check the situation in case of a breakthrough. They had one platoon of light tanks and two platoons of medium tanks.

Company "I" sent out three patrols in the 30th. The First patrol contacted the "I" and "R" platoon of the 371st Infantry at STOZZEMA. They reported the condition of the trail to STEZZEMA to be fair and passable for foot troops and mules. The Second patrol went in the vicinity of PALAGNANA. They returned and reported the trails steep and poor for foot troops, mules doubtful. They heard two rifle shots. They investigated and found nothing. The third patrol went in the vicinity of BUCINE. They reported the trails rough and mountainous but passable. They saw mines (Sohu) and the civilians reported the area heavily mined. The Company Commander and runners went to M. MALANIA, approximately 2 1/2 - 3 hours from CASOLI.

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

Gun emplacements were found all along the slopes facing south and southwest. There was good observation of STAZZEMA and the terrain west-ward and east-ward to MT. BALDONA, and northeast. This position made an excellent Observation Post. There were trails half way up. Captain Leslie K. Vensel was the Captain of "I" Company at this time.

On the 31st, Col. Manhart visited the Third Battalion Command Post at D900 hours. Lt. Coleman went on a reconnaissance for a route to PIETRASANTA. Lt. Propst and Major Allen Executive Officer of Third Battalion went to check on the fatal shooting of Pfc Sanchez from Company "M" (that happened on the 30th) the Third Battalion was paid during the afternoon and church services were held in "M" Companies area. The month closed and as it did, the commanding General of the 92nd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Almond, inspected the defensive installations, prepared a secondary position for the sector by the 135th Infantry.

YEAR OF - 1945!

Prompted by the SERCHIO Valley threat, a defense in depth was directed as the new year arrived, with the Commanding General II, Army Corps electing to establish his secondary line along the FORNELLI * RADISOSA - PIANCALDOLI Lateral. Upon passing to II Army Corps Reserve, 1 January and through 10 January the Division was engaged in the actual construction of the line. Two Division sectors were laid out, one to the east of Highway 65, the other to the west. Rifle pits and crew served weapons emplacements were dug and sandbagged, artillery firing positions were surveyed, and all necessary command post, observation posts, and service installations were staked out and marked. In order to prevent dispersal of Corps supplies, mines, and wire were stocked in 5 Engineer dumps. Heavy snow threatened to obliterate the line, but a system of marking the positions with six foot poles preserved its trace.

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

Another year in Italy found the 135th Infantry still in the fight. The coastal weather was quite in contrast to the central sector. Here it was like spring. Plans were being developed to deploy the Battalion in counter offensive measures. Reconnaissance of routes, positions, and prepared assembly areas consisted of the main developments of the day. Company "I" sent out a combat patrol and a reconnaissance patrol. The combat patrol went as far as FORNOCOCHIA and contacted a friendly unit, but did not observe any enemy activity. The reconnaissance patrol found a good trail from BOCCINO to FARNOCCHIA. The New Year was celebrated in many of the units with the serving of a Turkey Dinner.

During the First few days of January, very little occurred. Showers at VIAREGGIO were used by the Regiment. The Third Battalion continued to send several reconnaissance patrols to reconnoiter routes of advance, any enemy movement or evidence, of mine fields. One patrol on the Second went as far as M. RIGLIONE, another went to the small town of AIOLA which is situated about 2 kilometers northeast from M. Riglione. The reports of any enemy activity were negative. Trails were located for movements to both localities. Two more patrols left "I" Company being sent to CAMPOLINISI and (076-914 map Italy) M. PRANO (1200 meters high). The First patrol contacted friendly troops at BUKINE where they spent the night. There were no signs of enemy activity. The second patrol went up a trail for several kilometers and found no signs of friendly nor enemy troops. A mine field was located north approximately a mile from M. NONA (1300 meters high). One mine had been detonated and signs of injury to a person were noted. Barbed wire was located northeast of the minefield and no enemy activity was observed. The patrol spent the night at PALAGANO and returned. The Third Battalion "A" and "F" platoon constructed foot bridges during this time over the canal south of PIETRASANTA. The First and Second Battalions continued their defensive plans.

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

The first of January 1945 found the first Battalion located in the vicinity of VIAREGGIO. The Battalion was under the command of the 92nd Division also and was, as the other units of the Regiment, preparing defensive positions in the vicinity of FIUMETTO.

Civilians informed Company "L" that two men in American uniforms and German helmets were seen near a main road junction approximately a mile north of VIAREGGIO. At the same time, the 92nd Division reported that 5 Germans in American and British uniforms were seen at OAPRIGLIA (north of Pietrasanta about a mile). Two of them were picked up, but three were still at large. Otherwise, the period 1-4 January passed uneventfully.

The 135th Infantry started to move out of the coastal sector on 5th January and followed Highway 66 thru PISA and FLORENCE north on Highway 65 to FILAGERE and then to the vicinity of MT. BELMONTE. The Battalions arrived on the morning of the 6th in SASSI, having to march there on foot from a detrucking point about 7 miles away. The roads were very wet and slushy. There were few facilities and cover to enable the men to get warm and dry after moving through out the entire night in a blinding snow storm. The weather was cold and no arrangements had been made for serving food. The kitchens ~~could~~^{could} not make the road.

It was on this day, the 6th of January, that the 135th Infantry Combat Team was reverted to II Army Corps control when it was decided that thrust to LIVORNO had failed to materialize. The Corps attached the Regiment to the 88th Division to relieve the 351st Infantry on MT. BELMONTE.

The relief of the 351st Infantry was completed at 0045, 8th January. The Third Battalion of the 135th Infantry was on the left defending MT. BELMONTE and the Second Battalion on the right under the dominating "Church Hill" (GORGOGNANO Hill) position occupied by the enemy. The 135th Infantry was attached to the 88th Division. The Third Platoon of "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry was attached to the

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

Third Battalion, 135th Infantry on the night of the 7-8 January. Occasional snow flurries was experienced throughout the day. "C" Company 135th Infantry with one section of Heavy Machine Gun moved up to relieve "B" Company, 135th Infantry 88th Division the previous night.

The First Battalion was now located in the vicinity of ZENARELLA.

On the same day there was a tremendous explosion at a house (in the vicinity of a small village of FORNACE, southeast of SADURANO about 2 miles) occupied by Company "B", 313th Engineers. A truckload of mines exploded and 14 men were killed. The eighteen wounded were brought to the Regimental Medical Detachment for treatment.

The weather, during this period, was generally clear and cold. Occasionally, heavy snows often showered the units with a blanket of white. The cold weather and deep drifts in the mountain sector were a striking change from the mild weather of the coastal region.

Skis and snowshoes were issued and patrols used their parka linings, painted their helmets and other equipment white. The terrain and the weather combined to make patrolling an especially difficult task throughout the month.

As the snow continued to fall, Trench Foot came more and more to the attention of higher headquarters. Many men were troubled with trenchfoot; Companies "K" and "L" suffering the greatest. This was met with deep concern and although the Special attention was given it, cases continued to occur.

Contact was made with units on the left and right; Company "C", 349th Infantry, 88 Division was on the right. Innumerable patrols were deployed continually in efforts to learn of the enemy.

On the 9th, an enemy patrol of 4 men approached the lines of the Third Battalion's Platoon, Company "L" about dusk. The 4 men appeared to be ready to surrender, but when one tried to make a break, a fire fight started which resulted in three of them being killed. The men were later identified as an officer and group from an

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

artillery Regiment. They apparently were lost and wandered into our lines.

Lt. Davis, S-2, 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry was slightly wounded on this day when several shells fell near the First Battalion Command Post, but he was not evacuated. Lt. Col. Tyler assumed command of the First Battalion on the 9th.

The elements of the Regiment not on the line were well sheltered from enemy observation, and were able to enjoy hot meals, regular Church Services, and occasional forth-class movies. (This mostly involved the First Battalion). The training was also conducted under a very limited scale; however, replacements were able to fire their weapons under an improvised range.

On the 9th January, an enemy company of about 60 men in strength was spotted on Highway 65 (at OSTI NUOVA which was a typically small Italian village on Highway 65 south about 2 kilometers from ZULA) going south and entering an icehouse in the area. Supporting artillery was notified and the enemy was subjected to heavy fire. On this day enemy harassing mortar fire was heavy at times and 150 rounds were fired into the Third Battalion sector in a 24-hour period. Light mortars wounded two men in Company "L", and a tank fired into the Company "I" sector but no casualties resulted.

A five-man group, dressed in white, attempted to raid Company "L" but it was repulsed and four of the men were killed. Papers on the bodies indicated that the men were from the Second Battalion 305th Artillery Regiment, 305th Division. One of them was a lieutenant who had maps showing routes of movement and another maps of German observation posts and concentrations. This data was forwarded immediately to the 88th Division because the 305th Division was believed at the time to have been in the rear areas around BELGUINA.

On the night of 9th January, mines were laid in the Third Battalion area. The ground was frozen, noise from digging could be heard a considerable distance in the still, cold air, and to prevent the work from attracting the enemy, push igniters

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

were substituted for trip wires.

Each Company began a campaign to combat the "trenchfoot" during this period. A change of socks every other night was put into effect. Also a determined effort to secure shoepacs for everyone was put into effect. This immediately caused the sickness to let up slightly.

The Germans were employing long range harassing fire from machine guns at C. FONCO CORESA (southeast approximately 2 kilometers from "Church Hill") and an area half way between C. RONCO CORESA and "Church Hill" on 10th January, and the Third Battalion was subjected to mortar fire again with 110 rounds falling in that area. In the Second Battalion area, one round of mortar fell every five minutes.

At night the Regiment fired harassing fire in the right sector to cover a raiding party from the 349th Infantry, 88th Division and at 2120 hours friendly planes bombed the enemy rear.

Our patrols were uneventful in the main. A raiding party from the Second Battalion went to a house (southwest of "Church Hill" and up the road north a mile from CASTLE DE ZENA) and found it unoccupied although there was an apparent machine gun position in the house and also one behind the building. There were imprints from boots that the enemy wear, about the house also.

A patrol from "L" Company went to the vicinity of GORGOGNANO in an attempt to kill or take prisoners in a house in that area. The patrol left at 0230 hours and returned at 0500 hours. The mission could not be accomplished due to enemy fire.

A patrol from "G" Company went up to a trail leading to C. PIANA DELLO SPINO in order to kill occupants in a house near the trail and take prisoners if possible. The patrol left at 0100 hours and returned at 0500 hours. The mission was not accomplished due to enemy defensive fire.

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

On the 11th, a slightly warmer day, shelling was moderate in the Second Battalion's area and no activity was reported by the patrols. Both friendly fire and that of the enemy was lighter, however, than usual. The Second Battalion set up fire .50 caliber machine guns for harassing fire on enemy supply roads. The weather turned colder however as evening came and hand grenades were used to break the ice in the creek leading to the Battalion so that jeeps could ford the stream. Eighteen cases of trench foot were reported to the commanding officer who ordered that all men wear snow pacs and that dry socks be provided. A through investigation was initiated and the conclusion was drawn that this alarming rate was caused by the long hike through swollen river beds into the position the night the Regiment relieved the 351st Infantry Regiment.

It was a relatively quiet day on 12th January with some harassing fire from enemy medium artillery, rockets and mortars. The Regiment was informed that the password had been compromised in the British sector. Measures to counter this situation were adopted immediately. Snow continued to fall on the following day and visibility was poor. More parkas were ordered for the men on guard to keep them from being spotted by the enemy. It was learned now that the password had been compromised through 17th January and accordingly new passwords were forwarded.

At 0325 hours on the 12th a "G" Company patrol went to a location on the road which curved northward (near the ZENA River) east of "Church Hill and hit a flare field immediately, a white flare went up alerting the Germans and one of them yelled "Americano!" At the same time, more flares went up and mortar and artillery fire started falling near the patrol, causing it to return. About this same time a "E" Company patrol just east of the "F" Company patrol ran into an opposition after clearing the two right buildings and going around to the left one; they were fired upon and phosphorous grenades were thrown at them. One grenade burned Lt. Krachman, the patrol leader. The patrol believed they had killed three Germans.

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

Platoon Sergeant William Haley carried the wounded Lt. back to "F" Company's forward position where the medics picked him up and evacuated him to the rear. The patrol believed there were "bou coup" Germans in the upstairs of the building and that until the first shot was fired, the Germans were sleeping. Two men were reported missing on the return of the patrol and at the close of the period, the two men were still missing.

The weather on the 12th was warm and cloudy. A tank fired approximately 80 rounds into an enemy held house from a road bend, approximately 150 yards from the Third Battalion Command Post. There was no damage nor casualties.

Lt. General Clark made a presentation of the Congressional Medal of Honor to Lt. Dervishian with one platoon of "B" Company taking part in the ceremony. Major Bolte was present for this event. The weather was fair and cold. (see AWARDS SECTION OF NARRATIVE).

On the 13th, it snowed quite heavily (approximately 10 inches) and it was on this "white" day, the 135th Infantry reverted to the control of the 34th Division. The First Battalion sent 2 patrols along various trails and roads to salvage equipment. The patrols from the Second Battalion returned with negative reports. The entire day encountered no noteworthy incident.

At about 0700 hours on the 14th, 2 rounds of 120mm mortar shells dropped on the road below the Third Battalion Command Post. There were no damage nor casualties, however. The Regimental patrol reports were largely of a negative character as they had been since coming into this sector. The patrols were meeting with some rifle, machine gun and mortar fire.

Early on the morning of the 15th January, a single plane dropped 6 bombs to the left and forward of MT. BELMONTE. Another lone plane strafed in the vicinity of ² QULU, and dropped 2 bombs at a great distance north of the Regimental Command Post during the night of this date. A raiding party from Company "I" was unsuccessful

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

when they were attacked by a strong enemy outpost but no casualties resulted. On this same night, a platoon raiding party left from "E" Company with the mission of raiding houses on the sharp bend of the road (to the east edge of "Church Hill") to secure prisoners. It got off to a good start noting no activity until they started down the precipitous just in front of the house. At this point, they heard 4 enemy shout from the direction of the house and as soon as they crossed the river they were taken under fire by mortar and Machine gun. The machine guns were not in the house but were in a half-moon arc about the house. The patrol returned without accomplishing their mission.

"B" Company relieved one of their platoons, which was attached to the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry on the 16th. It was snowing with a mixture of slight rain on this day. Patrols out during the night of the 15-16 January found evidence of newly-laid mines on the saddle between MT. BELMONTE and GORGOGNANO Hill and discovered a trail running northeast between two terrain features which apparently was used exceedingly. There was a slight increase in light and medium enemy artillery fire during the 24 hours.

"A" Company relieved "C" Company during the dark hours of the evening of the 17th without incident.

The weather on the 18th was clear. At approximately 1400 hours, some 20 rounds of high velocity, approximately 88mm shells were fired at "A" Company's Command Post. They were mixed delayed-action and quick action fuse, ~~and to determine~~. There were no casualties nor damage to equipment in this fire assault.

Our artillery fired some concentrations on the 18th at houses in the vicinity of C. RUTTO (which was just north of GORGOGNANO Hill) and at another locality north east of there about 2-3 miles near the small village of P. CERE. The guns at C. BAIACCA on Highway 65 north of PIANORO (approximately 2 miles) also received several

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

concentrations. A fire was started on Hill 283, a feature overlooking C. DELL ALBERG (just to the right of Highway 65 north of FIANORO about 3 miles.)

The Regiment was warned on the 19th that the enemy staged a sneak raid on the 85th Division the previous night. One man was killed and another captured. Similiar raids were anticipated in the 135th Infantry Regimental sector and all companies were alerted. The First Battalion was busy at this time preparing a platoon raid, taking all phases of the ^{AI}road into account. A snow table was constructed by the First Battalion S-2 showing terrain features, etc. The weather was very windy with intermittent snow, rain and hail.

On the night of the 19-20 January, an ambush patrol of "G" Company (composed of volunteers) set up positions on a trail just to the right of the peak of "Church Hill". The patrol returned at midnight reporting no activity. Patrol used snow shoes and found them very satisfactory.

An M-18 Tank Destroyer fired approximately 30 rounds from the road above the Third Battalion Command Post into enemy held houses. There was no return fire.

Col. Ashton H. Manhart was ordered to the United States on temporary duty and Lt. Col. Charles P. Greyer assumed command of the Regiment.

The Regiment carried out several raids during this period of the month to obtain prisoners for identification, but had only limited success, the main obstacles being on alert enemy, bright moonlight, and snow. Restriction on the use of artillery ammunition continued because of the need for building up a reserve so only limited harassing missions and defensive fires were carried out. A series of raids and limited objective attacks of battalion strength as part of renewed Corps effort to secure identifications and to test enemy strength was being planned about this time by the Division.

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

2 Germans were spotted by an outpost of "A" Company behind the Second Battalion on the 21st of January. They were challenged as they attempted to go east, north of Hill 357. The outpost opened fire with BAR's, MG's and rifle fire, killed 1 German and seriously wounded the other who escaped. The dead man had papers on his body, that showed he was from the 6th Company, 146th Regiment, 65th Division. This identified the 65th Division on the left flank of the 135th Infantry Regiment. The German password for the night, "Hunger Not", was learned.

The weather on this day was very clear. The total lack of enemy fire and activity observed by air observation plane behind the enemy lines caused the companies to be alerted for this night as an enemy raid or attack was expected. This did not materialize in spite of a lot of precaution.

A raid by Company "E" was staged on the 22nd of January with the objective being a house just southeast of "Church Hill". They were to secure prisoners and also blow up the house. The patrol had just got over the crest of the Hill and started down and across the river when the enemy opened up with rifle fire from the south side of the stream in the east and only 3 men succeeded in getting across the creek. Heavy defensive fires followed, and the German mortars, light artillery and machine gun fire covered an area of 600 square yards. The raiding party was forced and withdraw with 3 wounded and 1 missing. The enemy was believed to have suffered numerous casualties from effective counter-fire.

At the time of the raid, a gasoline stove exploded at the Company "G" Command Post (0200 hours, 23rd January) at OLMO and 6 men were suffocated, or burned to death. The entire building was in flames and completely destroyed. Company's Command Post lost all their equipment. At the close of the period, the burning house was in such a condition that no one was able to investigate it and recover the bodies.

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

The thaw continued on the 22nd, and Company "L" sent an ambush combat patrol to a trail east of GORGOGNANO Hill. Their mission was to kill or capture enemy personnel. The patrol consisted of one non-commissioned officer and 7 enlisted men. The patrol left at 1930 hours and returned 7 hours later with the mission not accomplished since no enemy walked into the ambush so elaborately prepared for them.

The weather on the 23rd was sunny and fairly warm. A patrol from "K" Company got as far as an area a short distance east from C. PIANA DELLO SPINO, where they were stopped by a cliff. They received machine gun fire from an area 500 yards northwest from the cliff and left of C. PIANO DELLA SPINO. There were no casualties. Their mission of getting prisoners was not accomplished. The patrol from "L" Company (an ambush patrol) left at 0200 hours and returned 3 hours later. They had stayed in position, but no enemy walked into the ambush, although movement was heard in the church on GORGOGNANO Hill.

The snow was 8" - 10" deep on this day and much deeper where it had drifted. Throughout the day there was intermittent fire and Company "K" and "M" had one man each killed by direct hits on dugouts. A sniper fired all day at the Command Post of Company "I". At night, two men were killed and two wounded in a group of replacements that had been sent up to Company "R". Our artillery and Tank Destroyer's fired on "Church Hill" and some rounds were put through a door. The Germans fired propaganda leaflets from rocket guns. These leaflets gave detailed suggestions on how men could fake illness to avoid duty.

"F" Company sent a reconnaissance patrol to the crossroads at C. SEGA GALLONI (south approximately 1 mile of GORGOGNANO) but the patrol had nothing to report except having heard some coughing at a house near the road junction when they were on their way back.

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

Enemy fire was heavy during the next 24 hours and the Third Battalion reported receiving 71 rounds of light artillery, 20 rounds of 150mm, 2 rounds of 120mm mortar, 30 rounds of 50mm mortar, 30 rounds of 81mm mortar and 10 rounds of propaganda. The Second Battalion reported receiving 59 rounds of 75mm and 23 rounds of mortar.

It was fair with good visibility on the 24th of January. There was a heavy snowfall through the night and early morning. A friendly Tank Destroyer firing from below the Third Battalion Command Post at about 2200 hours, drew approximately 20 rounds of 76mm and 5 or 6 rounds of 120mm mortar which landed near the Third Battalion Command Post. However, there were no casualties.

An "A" Company ambush patrol was sent to the draw, west 500 yards of C. PIANA DELLA SPINO, and to the west base of MT. BELMONTE but were unsuccessful in the mission of taking prisoners of war.

Shortly before midnight of the 24th January, the Regimental Observation Post reported 20 large explosions at the southern edge of the PO Valley. This was believed to be the results of bombing by our planes.

The 25th of January was a clear day and fairly warm. It became foggy late in the afternoon. "B" Company relieved one of their platoons, which was attached to the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry.

"F" Company had sent a patrol on the night of the 24-25 and this patrol had successfully occupied a house a few hundred yards north of C. SEGA GALLONI (a small village south of GORGOGNANO Hill). This house had heretofore been occupied by the enemy as a night outpost. The patrol stayed in the house and planned to ambush the enemy when they returned. On the following night, (25-26) the remaining patrol saw 5 Germans approach the house. All was still, except for a light rain fall at this early hour of a 0200 hours. When the 5 enemy had come to within 10 yards of the building, one of the men in the "F" Company patrol coughed which alerted the enemy and they started to withdraw. The men in the house immediately opened fire on them and killed all 5 Germans but could not get to the bodies because the bodies rolled

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

down a slope which was covered by enemy machine gun fire.

The day of the 25th, except for harrassing fire from both sides, passed without any further unusual incidents.

The Regiment was warned on the 26th, by G-2 of the 34th Division, that the rising stream beds were washing mines loose and that the men should take care in meeting this situation.

The bright moonlight on the night of the 26th cancelled patrolling. One dead German was evacuated from the vicinity of Company "K" on the 26th. The body was far gone in the state of decay. Company "L" sent a hoax ambush patrol to the vicinity of GORGOGNANO Hill. They dropped a dummy as planned, but no Germans came forth to investigate. The patrol, again, went out on the night of the 27th to "Cover" the dummy in case the enemy would come out to investigate. They returned from this ambush set-up also with no results.

The bright moonlight cancelled all patrols except for security and control on the night of 27-28 January.

On the 27, incidently--Margaret Bourke White, photographer for Life Magazine visited the Regimental Sector. Her pictures of the terrain and the living conditions were designed to illustrate the hardships of the 5th Army front. Miss White had photographed Mt. TROCHIO and CASSINO area when the Regiment was in that sector the previous year.

The 28th (night of a full moon) and the 29th of January were marked by mortar and counter-mortar fire and our supporting artillery scored eight direct hits on an enemy Observation Post about a mile north, northeast of GORGOGNANO Hill. One platoon of Company "D", relieved their forward platoon on the 28th. Lt. Long was transferred from "C" Company to "B" Company by verbal order of the Commanding Officer. Lt. Johnson was now executive of "B" Company. Lt. Hayes was reverted from Executive Officer to platoon leader of "B" Company.

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

Two platoons of "C" Company relieved 2 platoons of "B" Company on the 29th. "B" Company relieved "A" Company, who returned to the rear as Regimental reserve. On the 30th, 1 platoon of "C" Company relieved from "B" Company was reverted back to "C" Company control.

Also on the 30th of January all Italians working in the Regiment were sent to the rear to be processed by the OIC and work permits were issued for 24 of them. That night, a patrol from "F" Company found a BAR and 4 M-1's leaning against the bank of a hill (east of GORGOGNANO Hill and north of the small village of C. SEGA GALLONI). One of the M-1's was left there by the patrol when it noticed that a wire was tied to the gun indicating that it had been booby trapped.

On the 31st January, information was received from Division G-2 that the 157th Mountain Division had been identified in front of the South African sector. It was the first commitment of this German unit in Italy.

FEBRUARY - 1945

On 1st February, the 135th Infantry occupied the same position as in the last of the previous month. It was a hazy day with limited visibility; there was scattered medium and light artillery fire from the enemy and some mortar fire. A concentration of 300 rounds of enemy artillery fire was seen coming in on Highway 65 from the Regimental Observation Post at 1930. Throughout the day and night, our supporting artillery fire was moderate.

This month opened also with the Regiment actively engaged in extensive patrolling and reconnaissance in force. Raiding parties of an officer and from fifteen to twenty men continually attempted to probe the enemy's defenses across the Division's front but with little success. Snow, relatively little cover, a particularly alert enemy, a profusion of minefields, and the extremely effective artillery and mortar fires, effectively prevented the patrols from penetrating the enemy positions. It now appeared, in view of enemy reverses elsewhere, that it was necessary to determine whether the enemy was holding with a thin but determined

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

line or whether he could actually command the reserves of the previous month.

To this end, an attack of two Battalions was directed by the Commanding General II Corps. After a careful reconnaissance and extensive deliberation the Commanding General ordered the 168th Infantry to attack with 1 Battalion to clear the PIZZANO-COLOMBARO-ORBEGA mass while the 133rd Infantry attacked with one Battalion on the 168th Infantry's left to seize Hill 363. To broaden the scope of the attack in an effort to minimize the enemy's ability to concentrate his defensive fires, the 135th Infantry was ordered to demonstrate by fire and to raid enemy positions continuously on the GORGOGNANO Ridge. The enemy were extremely active at night and according to intelligence reports slept in their dugouts during the day, except for a skeleton guard.

The night of the 1st, one officer Lt. Kettering, and 20 enlisted men from Company "A" went to a house west of MT. BELMONTE with the mission of blowing up the house and also capturing one or as many of the enemy as possible. They arrived at the house and found it unoccupied. There were many shoe imprints on the ground about the house. Six men were left in the building which was prepared for demolition and plans were made to blow it on the night of the 2-3 when patrol of six was scheduled to return. The weather so far this month was cloudy and a bit warmer than January had been.

The following official report of this patrol from Company "A" is offered as a typical patrol report of the 135th Regiment during this period.

See below:

QUOTE:

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

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BATTALION
135TH INFANTRY
APO-34, U. S. ARMY

3 February 1945

REPORT ON PLATOON RAID, CO. "A"

1-2 February 1945

Time

- 2005: Raid Group on way from "Blue CP" (Forward).
2025: Patrol arrived at Control Point.
2030: Patrol leaving L. D.
2035: "Wisecrack (133rd Infantry Regiment) opens up with Diversion fire; all mortars and M.G.'s firing.
2110: Control point loses contact with patrol.
2115: Contact with patrol remade.
2115: Patrol Leader and 4 men reach Chicago (1st House), entered house: One room-two overturned tables: One empty room, one room S side of house full of grain. Some signs of enemy occupation, but not recently. Patrol continued investigation in and around house. Tracks found around house; some tracks (very few) running from front of house to road, then up towards our lines. Path runs from road to barn behind house; a well traveled path runs from barn NW to draw. Path at rear of barn and house running E-W (shown on air photo) is not broken. Path running North is not broken. Barn at rear of house well demolished, two small sections of West side of barn still standing with a small one man dugout there not occupied. Patrol returned to house to continue on its way.
2120: Control point notified people on our left that we have people in the house.
2135: Control point called Blue C. P. (Forward) to have Oake (dynamite) sent forward:
2150: Brooklyn: - Base of fire is now in position. Patrol, is now moving out - "8" along main road.
2153: Blue notifies Control Point - that Oake (dynamite) is on its way.
2200: Patrol reaches hairpin turn in road - had to break their own trail, nothing found here but shell holes. No signs of enemy positions or enemy occupation at this point. There is a small path (step path) running SW from this point about 75 yards a hay stack at end of path - path is unbroken, no signs of tracks. Patrol continued NW along road, observed a small building about 75 yards to their left off the road a No broken tracks observed leading to this building from road. Patrol reached next hairpin - patrol had to break their own trail on road up to this point. At this point a small trail was found leading "N" into draw. Very few tracks found on this trail. On a clear night, on this path at head of draw, one would be able to see all of draw and N. of draw. At this hairpin turn a post (stone) was found. Patrol leader thought he saw enemy positions to the South, investigation proved them to be nothing but overturned trees and logs. Patrol then returned to house.

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

(2)

- 2240: Patrol arrived back at house. Patrol furnished protection, while "F&A" crew sets Cake (dynamite) to demolish house which is to be blown at 0430 hours, 3 February. Five (5) men and 1 Sergeant, to remain at house remainder of night, following day and until 0430 hours 3 February, in an ambush - blowing up house when they leave.
- 2318: Patrol leaves 5 men and 1 Sergeant at house with one sound power phone and (1) 536 radio for communication, remainder of patrol leaves for our lines.
- 2325: Patrol arrives back at Control Point; Patrol Leader stays here to keep in contact with his ambush crew, remainder of patrol returns to their company.

Remarks

No P.W.'s were taken; patrol at no time received any enemy fire. No enemy personnel were seen or heard. Sector was very quiet during entire operations. Weather; Fair and warm. Visibility - Fair.

(W) Robert G. Davis
(t) Robert G. Davis
1st Lt., 135th Infantry
S-2, 1st Battalion.

-----UNQUOTE:

Certified a true copy (excluding coordinates)-Check with sketch attached.)

Paul Stein
S. Paul. Stein
1st Lt. Infantry
Regimental History

QUOTE:

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BATTALION
135TH INFANTRY
APO-34, U. S. ARMY

3 February 1945.

REPORT ON AMBUSH PATROL LEFT IN HOUSE AT (8935-3280) Company "A".

2-3 February 1945

Time

- 2318: One N.C.O. and 5 men left at the house to set up ambush for night of 2-3 February blowing up house upon leaving, 0430 hours, 3 February 1945. Throughout night it was very quiet, heard enemy M.G. fire from vicinity of ZULA firing harassing fire throughout night upon our friends on our left.

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

Otherwise night was very quiet. Ambush revealed no enemy fire of any sort- heard or saw no enemy.

During day of 2 February patrol investigated the house, found two stale loafs of enemy bread, one cup, one jacket, one concussion grenade (very rusty) - all of which were enemy. At "G" end of building found where two bricks had been removed from wall of house - evidently to permit observation. There were two live pigeons in the house. Patrol observed two black rabbits throughout day and night around the house.

1600: 2 February. A tank firing from due "W" - fired 10 Rounds in direction of our Battalion (later proved to be upon "B" C.P. itself) tank sounded quite close.

2100: -2200: Enemy M.G. Vicinity of Zula fired upon friends on our left.

2230: 3 White Flared due "W" about 1000yards.

0430: Patrol set fuze on dynamite and left for our lines, bring radio and sound powered phone with them. Three (3) minutes later charge went off - House demolished. On way back, one patrol member observed snow-shoe tracks. Patrol arrived back at their own Company 0515 hours 3 February.

Remarks:

No P.W.s were taken, at no time did ambush party see or hear enemy personnel, at no time did they receive any enemy fire upon them or in their immediate vicinity. Weather, Fair and warm. Visibility - Poor:

(w) Robert E. Davis
(t) Robert E. Davis
1st. Lt., 135th Infantry
S-2, 1st Battalion

Certified a true copy (excluding coordinates)

UNQUOTE:

S. Paul Stein
S. Paul Stein
1st Lt Infantry
Regimental Historian

The First of February found the Third Battalion, meanwhile, still in a defensive position, in the vicinity of MT. BELMONTE. Company "I" also sent a patrol (reconnaissance) to the same group of houses on "A" Company patrol (combat). The patrol went to a position 125 yards east of their objective. From this point, they heard voices and coughing in the vicinity of the houses. They estimated an enemy force of 8-9 men. Southwest of their position, they heard 4-5 people walking south, assumed to be an enemy patrol heading toward our lines. Fearing an ambush, they did

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

not approach the buildings any closer.

Visibility continued poor on the 2nd of February but there was somewhat of an increase in artillery activity on both sides over the previous day. The enemy fired some propaganda shells.

Company "L" sent out an ambush patrol to where the dummy had been dropped the previous week. Upon examination of the dummy, they found it full of bullet holes. Just as they were leaving this area, an enemy machine gun opened up on the patrol. However, they returned without sustaining any casualties.

Also on the night of the 2nd, a combat patrol from "E" Company occupied a house southeast of GORGOGNANO Hill from which they sent a patrol of 6 men to a house a few hundred yards north, but due to heavy enemy harassing fire, were unable to progress farther. An ambush was set up at this point until just before daylight; then withdrew to the north west house. An ambush patrol from "G" Company was also unsuccessful.

The 6 man patrol that had remained in a house west of MT. BELMONTE returned at 0400 of the 3rd. They had not sighted any Germans during their stay but reported that they believed a tank was firing from a draw westward 600 yards. The house, however, as had been planned, was blown. It was extremely foggy on this day and artillery and mortar fire lessened largely because of lack of observation.

Company "L" sent out another ambush patrol on the 3rd of February, and as the patrol was working its way toward the objective (the north side of GORGOGNANO Ridge), they were fired upon by an enemy machine gun, located at approximately the sector of the ridge they were enroute to. (This position could not be seen in daytime because of a small rise in ground in front of it). However, the patrol worked its way around to the west until the moonlight became so bright that they were completely exposed on the open terrain. They then pulled off a short distance, and set up an ambush for possible enemy patrols. They met with no results, however. This same day, Company "I" sent out an ambush patrol. This same day,

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

Company "I" sent out an ambush patrol to house west of MT. BELMONTE (FOGGIADI SCFRA). While on their objective, they received an approximately 20 rounds of mortar concentration, 200 yards west of the house, which was preceded by a white flare at 2100 hours. Also at 0130 hours, 6 white flares went up around their objective, followed by mortar fire. They located a mortar position at approximately 500 yards away in a draw running southwest by north east. No enemy was observed by the patrol.

An "E" Company patrol reported a mine field at an area 3 rows deep on the east side of a river running north. The patrol could not accomplish their mission due to heavy harassing fires by the enemy.

A Polish deserter was picked up by Company "G" near LA MADDALENA in the early morning of the 4th of September. He stated that he was from the Third Company, 576th Regiment, 305th Division, and added that his Company was partially relieved by an unknown unit during the night. Two other Poles, taking advantage of the change in units, deserted with him at the same time, but the three split up to make their way to our lines.

At 2220 hours, Company "B" received heavy mortar fire which included many phosphorous shells. One light machine gun section from Company "O" was attached to the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry at 1800 hours.

A platoon raid by Company "X" was cancelled because the platoon never crossed the line of departure. The defensive machine gun and mortar fire was too intense.

Our patrols brought back negative reports on the 4th.

The new automatic carbine was tested by officers and men of the Regiment on the 5th of February and the general opinion of those who tried the weapon was that it was superior to the comparable German weapon (schmeisser machine pistol; taking into account the two comparable weapons' varied rate of fire and accuracy.)

Company "L" sent out an ambush patrol from large house on GORGOGNANO Ridge and made progress to the north about 125 yards. At this point they encountered enemy machine gun fire, established to be coming from a knoll (north about 300 yards), as

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

well as from their right flank, which they could not locate. The machine guns seemed to be coordinated in their fire. This patrol also received about 35 rounds of 50MM mortar fire. Under these circumstances the mission could not be accomplished.

"Church Hill" was reported very quiet.

During the day, a German staff car, preceded by 2 motorcycles was seen on a road on MT. ARNIGO (north and west of MT. BELMONTE about 2 miles) and this vehicle with motorcycle escort was observed moving to the houses at C. IL MONTE (a small village northeast approximately 1200 yards of the large Italian village of GULA.) Men were observed going into a large house in the vicinity of C. IL MONTE also. Cannon Company was called upon for fire and scored one direct hit.

The pack howitzers also scored 15 hits on a house near CASA DI SOTTO (east north-east of "Church Hill" approximately a mile) using delayed action shells, and scored 13 hits on the three large houses in CASA DI SOTTA itself.

Our patrols returned with negative reports. During the darkness our planes were overhead for the purpose of taking picture of the enemy terrain.

February 5th, incidently, was the day selected as the time to attack by the 34th Division. The artillery, tanks, tank destroyers, mortars, and machine guns opened up precisely at H-Hour all across the front of the Division and their fire was pronounced excellent by the assaulting elements, particularly the high velocity fire of the tanks and Tank Destroyer's against pill boxes, dugouts, and bunkers. Elements of the 168th and 133rd Infantry moved out under cover of the preparation fires but were stopped by heavy machine gun and mortar fire a scant 100 yards north of the line of departure. The narrow confines of the ridge upon which the attack was to be made prohibited all but direct assault. Counter fire laid down to silence the telling enemy fire produced little lasting effect. An attempt was made to continue the attack but the alert enemy soon discovered the move and dispersed the assault company with extremely accurate mortar fire which moved from the head to

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

the tail of the advancing formation. Realizing that to continue the attack would produce excessive casualties, the Commanding General approved the request of the Regimental Commanders to allow the units to withdraw and take up the original defensive positions. The 135th Infantry's raids fared no better, failing to get more than a few yards north of the line of departure.

There was little activity on the 6 February, except for scattered machine gun and mortar fire, and the same held true the next day. Our patrol reports continued negative. The light machine gun section which was attached to the Third Battalion, returned to Company "E" on the 6th.

Company "L" sent a patrol (ambush) on the 7th to the trail crossing north over the GORGOGNANO Ridge, just 30 yards short of the inverted "U" of the road on the SEVIZZANO ridge. They were 50 yards beyond a point where the enemy previously had an outpost. A machine gun on a knob north about 200 yards was heard firing general harassing fire. Due to a concentration of artillery fire by the Second Battalion at 0140 hours, the patrol was forced to withdraw. However, they returned at 0200 hours and stayed until 0600 hours. On both occasions no enemy were encountered. Company "I" provided ambush patrols on the 7th and 8th to no avail since the enemy failed to make an appearance.

On this same night of the 7-8 February, "G" Company sent 3 groups of 4 men each with the objective being to infiltrate to the dugouts on Church Hill. The patrols got as far forward as the ZENA River when they saw a dugout position with a light 50 yards due east of their position. They also observed a Machine gun emplacement east of their position about 200 yards. The patrol reported they could not get to the church or to either of the dugouts without causing direct fire on their position.

The weather was clear and warm on the 8th of February, visibility was excellent and the snow was melting rapidly. Artillery activity increased; the enemy fired 35 to 45 rounds within a few minutes in the 3rd Bn. sector. Some German propaganda shells landed.

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

On the 9th of February, the Regiment learned that it was to be relieved by the 361st Infantry., 91st Division, and after a rest in BARBERINO was to relieve South African units. It was a day of threatening rain, two of the bridges to the rear of the Battalions had gone out, and the roads were deteriorating. By the next day the stream had started to recede, but an examination disclosed that five bridges would have to be rebuilt. It was possible to ford the stream.

On the night of 9-10 February, a combat patrol from "E" Company went to the house near the road leading north from "O. SEGA GALLONI" (southeast of "Church Hill about 1000 yards) and from this house, the " E" Company patrol went to within 150 yards of a house northward on a ridge top. The enemy was estimated at 25 persons. One man was slightly wounded by mortar fire; the patrol returned at 0500 on the 10th of February.

Little activity had occurred on the Regimental front, other than an exchange of heavy harassing artillery and mortar fire. Heavy rains augmented by melting snows made every gorge and stream a raging torrent. A timely alert by the Commanding General of the Division prevented any material loss, but 10 bridges in the sector were washed out. Fortunately the flood was only of flash nature and enabled the Engineers to restore road communication the following morning.

The First and Third Battalions were relieved on the night of the 10th -11th of February, while the Second Battalion was relieved on the following night. Company "B" reverted to control of the First Battalion, 135th Infantry when the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry was relieved. Command of the sector passed completely to the 361st Infantry, 91st Division on the early morning hours of the 12 of February.

The same night, the First Battalion was chosen to send one officer and 14 enlisted men to represent the American white troops in Italy at a ceremony for General MARSHALL.

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

The 135th Infantry Regiment spent the short rest in the camp relaxing and adjusting the quarters to suit themselves. They also had a complete dental inspection, a short arm inspection, care and cleaning of equipment; a complete showdown inspection of personal and organizational equipment was held; all the vehicles were grounded at this time and many of them were turned in for salvage or repair. A U.S.O. show and several movies were offered to the men in the theater in BARBERINO. Units were notified of a parade in the near future and much practicing was held.

On the 13th, a Regimental formation was held, 0830-1100 hours, a practice for a decoration of individuals ceremony, to be conducted the following day. The weather was fair and rather warm on this day which was also Pay Day. A conference was held at the Regimental Command Post in regards to the near future movement. A major part of the Regiment enjoyed the benefits of a hot shower and clothing exchange during these two days also.

Lt. Fosburg, formerly of "B" Company was assigned to the 57thMM /AT platoon.

On the cloudy but warm day of the 14th of February, at 1400 hours, the largest decoration ceremony in the history of the 135th Infantry was held. One hundred and twenty-five men were decorated by Major General Bolte who later addressed all the officers of the Regiment. At the ceremony a meritorious service plague was presented to Service Company for its efficient work in the Italian campaign. The award entitled the men of the Company to wear a laurel wreath on the right sleeve. This formation was also attended by Brigadier General Braun, Assistant Division Commander.

The 14th of February was also used for the reconnaissance of a route to the area of the Scots Guards Battalion, 24 Brigade, British 6th South African Division by the Third Battalion (135th Infantry) Commander, and his S-3 with 1st Lt. Robert O. Foster, with an officer from each Company of the Third Battalion.

On the 15th, a skeleton communication crew under the Third Battalion communication officer, 1st Lt. Willer J. Reiter, went to the new selected area to set up

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

communications previous to the arrival of the Third Battalion. This crew remained in the area and awaited the arrival of the remainder of the Battalion. At 1030 hours, Company "K's" orders were changed and a new reconnaissance was necessitated for the selection of their area in the vicinity of BRIGOLA. A suitable area was found in the vicinity of VALLE.

Meanwhile advance elements of the First Battalion and Second Battalion, left for a new area at GARDELLETTA on the 15th and spent the following day preparing the Battalions for movement.

The forward group from the 135th Infantry Regimental Command Post was at the 24th Grenadier Guards Brigade Command Post on the 16th February in the vicinity of MONTORIO, and the entire relief was completed on the 17th at 2030 hours. The 135th Infantry Combat Team was attached to the 6th South African Division. The First and Second Battalions were on line, the Second on the left flank and the Third Battalion in Division Reserve in the vicinity of RIOVEGGIO. The Second Battalion Command Post was (about 2 miles southeast of MT. SOLE and 3 miles southwest of MONTERIMICI) near the vicinity of MURAZZE GARDELLETTA.

The forward Third Battalion Command Post was at LA MANDRIA (near BRIGOLA which in turn was west approximately 2 miles of MONZUNO). The Third Battalion retained the kitchens of all the units in the Battalion and the troops in this Battalion enjoyed "B" rations. The Third Battalion supply was at MONTESOUTO VALLESE, quite a distance to the south.

A German prisoner of war questioned by the British on the 18th February said that an enemy attack was to be made in the near future on Hill 501 or Hill 505 both of which were in the close vicinity of GARDELLETTA (or northwest of MONZUNO approximately 2 miles). They were seeking prisoners. The enemy flare signals were discovered to be as follows: one white and one red flare attack; two white and one red for tank attack, and one white, one red, and one green to bring down defensive fires. The Regiment was alerted on the basis of this information.

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

The First and Second Battalions made counterattack plans and adjusted the various weapons for position in the fire plan. The weather was fair and warm on the 18th.

Nineteen rounds of enemy artillery shells fell in the vicinity of CA. BELLARIA (vicinity of GARDELLETTA) between 0900 and 0950 hours. The First Battalion Observation Post moved during this day to the church at S. NICCOLO (southwest one mile of GARDELLETTA) from high ground a mile northwest of GARDELLETTA.

On the 19th, a foggy day, the Regiment was adjusting itself to the new positions, improving them continually. On the following day, General Keyes, II Corps, visited the Regimental sector and Command Post in the vicinity of MONTORIO, a small village with a rather large church (due west of MONZUNO approximately 5 miles). There was moderate artillery fire throughout the day, and some propaganda shells fell in the Second Battalion's area.

A reconnaissance patrol was sent from "B" Company to the house along the north bound railread near GARDELLETTA. The patrol consisted of 1 NCO and 8 Enlisted Men and left at 2030 hours to remain until 0400 hours, the 22nd. The mission was to remain in the house approximately 36 hours, acting as an outpost. This house appeared to be excellent place for locating one of our ambush patrols.

The anticipated enemy raid came at 0500 hours on the 21st of February against Hill 505 in the Company "P" sector. It was supported by artillery, mortar and machine gun fire but the enemy's mission was a failure for no prisoners were taken. Eight of our men were wounded but it was not possible to make an accurate estimate of the German casualties.

That night our bombers were over the enemy lines in our sector.

The Regiment was alerted by IV Corps on a possible enemy counter-attack on the 22nd February. It was learned that the German 232nd Division was planning an attack on American 10th Mt. Division.

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

The Observation Post communication line of the First Battalion was cut and a long section of the line removed. At about 1000 hours of the 22nd, a (Polish deserter) Prisoner of War came into "B" Company's outpost in the vicinity of the railroad northwest of MURAZZE GARDELLETTA. Six rounds of enemy artillery fire fell into the First Battalion's area at 2045 hours this day, immediately after which the deserter was sent to the First Battalion Command Post.

Also a listening post was sent out by the Second Battalion to the small village of CASONCELLO and advanced as close as 50 yards to a certain house when the outpost heard coughing and talking within the house; they returned at 0150 hours with no further incident, however.

A security patrol from "G" Company was unable to contact the unit on their left flank due to heavy shelling of the route. Another reconnaissance patrol, this one sent from "F" Company went to SOPRA finding a badly demolished house with 2 enemy machine guns located nearby.

There was more than the normal amount of enemy artillery fire on the 23rd and one concentration of 200 rounds fell in the Second Battalion's area, but no casualties resulted. The day was unusually clear and warm; the temperature reaching 32 degrees.

A deserter from the enemy's 8th Company, Second Battalion, 296th Mountain Regiment, 125th Division, gave the location of his company command post as being at CA DI BAVELLINO (a cluster of about 4 buildings northwest a mile outside of MURAZZE GARDELLETTA). The deserter also disclosed the location of several machine-gun positions. This information was relayed to Cannon Company and the supporting artillery.

The 6th South Africans relinquished command of the 135th Infantry Regiment at 0600 hours on the 24th of February and the command of the 135th Infantry passed to the control of the First Armored Division (American)

There were only 9 rounds of enemy artillery during this day, which was fair and warm.

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

Patrolling continued, however, the Second Battalion sending 2 patrols out in the night meeting no contact with the enemy. One man was injured by harassing enemy artillery fire.

At 0100 hours on this day, the First Battalion Observation Post observed and reported one amber flare in front of "B" Company on Hill 429. A half hour later, "B" Company engaged approximately 20 Germans in a fire fight as they attempted to raid "B" Company's area. One enlisted man, was killed, one wounded and one missing (believed captured). The raid was broken up without further casualties.

Much later at about 1045 hours and 1245, "A" Company reported enemy aid men in the vicinity of CAMPOLUNGO. At 2100 hours, another enemy attack was encountered on the "Rock" (Hill 429 - a terrain feature in the MURAZZE GARDELLETTA area; or south of MT. SOLE). "B" Company observed approximately 20 Germans about 300 yards from the "Rock" and waited until they were closer, then threw hand grenades and fired rifle grenades. This action drove off the enemy force in the direction of Hill 445. Artillery and 81mm mortars aided the troops on Hill 429 in driving off the enemy also. About midnight, "B" Company, searched the area for dead or wounded Germans but found none. The First Battalion had 60 feet cut from their Observation Post communication line. The weather continued clear and warm on the 25th of February and it was a day of unusual quiet. The enemy did not fire their mortars and very little artillery fell in the Regimental sector. A "B" Company patrol did not contact the enemy but received some 50mm mortar fire. Reconnaissance patrols from the Second Battalion found all the forward outpost of the enemy unoccupied during this night.

There was a slight increase in mixed calibre enemy artillery on the next day, and 2 or 3 Germans approached "F" Company's positions at a rather large building due

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

south of MT. SOLE at 2055 but the enemy scattered when fired upon.

Reconnaissance patrols from the Second Battalion found most of the positions unoccupied in the enemy's outpost line but machine gun and mortar fire covering the forward areas.

Lt. Turner and a platoon from "C" Company were out on this night to raid houses on Hill 263 (north of GARDELLETTA about a mile and southeast of MT. SOLE about 2 miles) and secure a prisoner if possible. The patrol's mission was to proceed to CA DI BAVELLINA (which was west approximately 500 yards) if they found the houses on Hill 263 unoccupied. They were still to obtain a prisoner if possible. Lt. Turner lead his patrol pass the control point (a location near the railroad tracks and a trail and a stream, north of GARDELLETTA) on towards the railroad tunnel. The

officer with 6 of the men could not see any movement. About 300 yards away they heard a machine gun firing in a draw. A 5 man listening post remained at a house near the tunnel until just before the break of day. They then pulled back to the outpost and remained throughout the day. The remainder of the patrol returned

The same relative quiet prevailed on the 27th of February with some German artillery fire falling in the Regimental rear areas. The 125th Field Artillery, firing in support of the Regiment, was using a new type of aerial burst which was reported to be extremely effective. This was a V-T (Variable Time) fuze. This fuze needed no time setting and was used with the regular M-48 HE shell. The shell automatically bursted upon reaching a set distance from the ground. It is bore safe but at the time it was first used there was still a high percentage of "Duds" reaching at times 25%. Unlike the M-54 time shell, this shell does not explode upon contact. If the time element does not explode the shell, it is a "dud". The big advantage of the projectile is that it gives an ideal height of burst without adjustment or observation. For high harrasing fires, it could be particularly terryfing. At first, there were also a high degree of premature bursts. In bad

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

weather or when fired over high terrain held by friendly troops special care had to be taken. The ideal way for firing the V-T shell is to use high-angle firing. The Division Artillery gave several fire demonstrations on this new fuse the last month of 1944, and had been priming themselves for such efficient and effective support for months.

The Regimental Commander and the S-3 went to the First Battalion at 0930 hours on the 27th to make plans for another raid and were to hold Hill 431, if possible. They were to follow the route Hill 263 CA DI BAVELLINA; Hill 322-Hill 431. The leading platoon left at about 2100 hours and the raid Company was on its way! Following the assault groups was the wire party. "A" Company trip flares, 100 yards forward of the positions, went off and a party was sent to investigate. Upon reaching a point 300 yards from the First objective (Hill 263) (see attached overlay of raid), the Company raid party received some machine gun fire seemed to be coming from Hill 322 (to the northwest a couple hundred yards), so mortar fire was placed there and also on Hill 398 (north approximately a half mile). The First objective (Hill 263) was taken, nevertheless, at 0045 hours with no contact. When 50 yards from the hill, a Schu mine was tripped and 2 officers and 1 Enlisted Men were injured. The patrol expected Hill 431 (due west 300 yards) to be unoccupied but were unable to get through the minefield on the eastern slope of the hill. At 0215 hours, several enemy were observed at the mouth of the railroad tunnel to the east and permission was granted from the 34th Division Command Post to change the mission to that spot, but upon reaching that point, no enemy were found. The tunnel was searched for 75 yards until barricades were encountered, but still there was no contact. The raiding party returned at 0330 hours. The weather was fair during this operation.

On the last day of the month, another attempted raid was made by the enemy on the "Rock" (Hill 429). This was a small group of Germans, who threw hand grenades

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

and used small mortars. This was about 2055 hours. Five minutes later, another group of Germans were coming down the MT. SOLE draw. Twenty minutes later, "O" Company reserve platoon moved up to Hill 429 to support "B" Company and at 2130 (10 minutes later) things had quieted down a bit. At 2200 hours, the excitement was over and the units suffered no casualties. Small arms fire, mortar and artillery fire were the responsible factors in disbanding and compelling the approximated enemy force from 20 to 30 Germans to withdraw.

The First Battalion after advancing to Hill 425, found the body of one of their men, who had been captured, he had been beaten to death, as no wounds were found. The positions were consolidated and it was necessary to practically probe every inch of newly gained ground for mines.

Mules were used a good deal of this month in carrying rations and ammunition to the troops. All the supply trails and draws were heavily mined as it was impossible to remove all -- we had cleared and marked our own trails. This period in the defense of the winter line was marked by its unusual amount of activity. The German defense line was at the base of MOUNT SOLE, a distance of about 800 yards. The intervening ground saturated with mines. The enemy left lanes through which his patrols could enter our lines and he made slight use of these avenues of approach to attempt to infiltrate behind our lines. Many of our positions were generally on the peak of a not high, but steep, high. This necessitated the carrying of supplies by hand; even mules could not climb these hills! This time, we had the services of an Italian Pioneer Company who gave us great assistance in carrying our supplies by hand. The month closed being fair and warm. So, on the 1st of March, 1943, the regiment is displaced as follows! The First Battalion was in the vicinity of GARDALLESITA, the Second Battalion in the general area of CA DI SO. as reserve for the First Armored Division, and the Third Battalion occupying defensive positions in the vicinity of LA QUERCIA.

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

Evidence showed the enemy had pulled back his line several hundred yards in most places. Patrolling activity seemed to be the main issue last month and as this month opened, it continued to carry priority in scheduled operations for the units in the Regiment.

There were no change in positions and the 135th Infantry Regiment Combat Team was preparing to push forward by infiltration to a general line of CA SERRA (southwest of MT. SOLA approximately a mile), Hill 375, D. SOLA, CA FOCELLA, Hill 476, Hill 445, Hill 431 and a house near the railroad due north of GARDELETTA about 400 yards. This general line ran north east to a point near GARDELETTA more or less circling the south side of Mt. SOLA.

"B" Company, Third Platoon received enemy machine gun fire from Hill 431 and the platoon requested supporting machine guns to fire on the Hill in retaliation which halted the fire of the enemy. "B" Company also reported receiving machine gun fire from Hill 331 but this did not continue because 5 rounds of 81mm mortar shells were fired upon the hill by the support.

A patrol that went to CA VILLA reported men at CAMPOLUNGO. Approximately 30 rounds of artillery and mortar shells fell into the First Battalion area between the Second and Third Platoon of "A" Company.

All guns in the First Battalion were set on various defensive plans at this time and the personnel were becoming more and more familiar with them. "B" Company received 50 mortar shells falling on their First Platoon.

On the afternoon of the 1st, an order was received from the First Armored Division to attach one Company to the 135th Infantry as a Battalion Reserve for the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry at LA QUERCIA. Company "B", the Company attached to the Third Battalion moved from CA DI CO on foot to LA QUERCIA during the darkness and joined the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry at that location.

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

The scheduled operations for the 1st of March of the Third Battalion, 135th Infantry were for "K" Company to make a reconnaissance patrol for a route for a Company raid, tentatively scheduled for the night of 3-4 March. This patrol consisting of one officer and 5 men, left at 2600 hours. They went through the First Battalion outpost position to Hill 385 (due west of CA DELLETTA about 500 yards), then along a side of a draw toward CA SETTA.

Finding the terrain in this vicinity very rough, they cut across to CA FUELLA, but could not find no better route to CA SETTA FROM there. The patrol heard digging on Hills 476 and 445. They returned at 0200 hours. The results of this operation definitely showed the proposed route could not be used for the Company raid. "K" Company sent out another reconnaissance patrol at 1700 hours with their objective CA SERRA (southwest approximately a mile of MT. SOLE). They reached the objective at 1900 hours, but due to faulty radio communications, were unable to report positions. They found that a group of houses, on their objective, were unoccupied. The patrol leader left the patrol in one of the houses and returned to his Company for further instructions and was told to return and bring the patrol back to the company area which was accomplished by 2200 hours.

A reconnaissance patrol from "L" Company left at approximately 1700 hours with their objective some area west of MT. SOLE. They reached this point at 1745 hours and also found a number of houses unoccupied. The patrol remained to await a combat patrol, which was due to come up and occupy the position. At approximately 1900 hours, a 15 man enemy patrol approached and fired on the "L" Company patrol, which withdrew after returning fire. After withdrawing 200 to 300 yards, they met their own combat patrol. The two combined and fired on the enemy patrol and then withdrew as ordered. One of the enemy was killed. No casualties were reported by this team.

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

On 11 April preparations were underway for the relief of the Regiment.

A patrol from Company "L" captured a prisoner on 12 April and this soldier from the 296th Infantry Regiment claimed his unit had been in their positions for the past three months.

Early on the morning of 13 April the Regiment was shocked by the men of the untimely death of the Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt.

The following day Colonel Ellis V. Williamson, who had been with the 34th Division Artillery, was sent to the Regiment as Commanding Officer. It had been learned that Colonel Manhart probably would be confined to the hospital for a long period. On the same day the Regiment was notified that a flak danger zone had been set south of the 88-24 near LOIARO line, and that this zone would be hazardous from 1255 hours - to 1430 hours on the 15th of April. Anti-aircraft guns were being fired as a guide to our planes who was to soften the enemy as a preliminary to the ground offensive. The Regiment, now in a new location, was designated as II Corps reserve and placed on a two hour alert. Regimental Headquarters, Service Company, Anti-tank Company and the Third Battalion were stationed in the vicinity of CASTELNUOVO DI BISALCO, the Second Battalion at MONTOMENNA, the First Battalion continued attached to the 11th Armored Brigade, and Cannon Company to the 133rd Infantry.

PHASE XIII 135TH INFANTRY HISTORY (Cont'd)

COMMANDING OFFICERS AND STAFF OFFICERS ON 1 NOVEMBER 1944.

Regimental Commander	Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773
Executive Officer	Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157
S-4	Capt Jack K. White, 0336830
S-3	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359982
S-2	Capt Louis H. Hauser, 01250418
S-1	Capt Winfred H. Dunham, 01291088
Regimental Surgeon	Capt Charles W. Mills, 0368561
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Walter H. Johnson, 0328283
" Service Company	1st Lt. Mart R. Parker, 01294355
" Antitank Company	1st Lt. Jay F. Hollyfield, 01290422
" Cannon Company	Capt Dean C. Fellows, 01168659
" First Battalion	Lt. Col Charles H. Thompson, 0223488
Executive Officer	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
S-3	Capt Sumpter R. Nelson, 0420240
Commanding Headquarters Company	1st Lt. George M. Johnston, 01297544
" Company "A"	1st Lt. Louis Montelione, 01310133
" Company "B"	1st Lt. David B. Ayres, 0467438
" Company "C"	Capt William O. Huey, 0406826
" Company "D"	Capt Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
" Second Battalion	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
Executive Officer	
S-3	1st Lt. John "B". Naughton, 0380472
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt. Joel M. Lewison, 0291051
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Thomas B. Griesemer, 01310100
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bowden, 01303834
" Company "G"	Capt Nelson I. Kibler, 0373200
" Company "H"	1st Lt. Ambrose J. Briscoe, 0391531
" Third Battalion	Lt. Col John W. Joyce, 0331690
Executive Officer	Major Allison A. Conrad, 0327559
S-3	Capt William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Reid B. Huff, 0390555
" Company "I"	1st Lt. Tillman F. Wood, 01031988
" Company "K"	1st Lt. Leon H. Arey, 01290360
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Warren G. Harber, 01321772
" Company "M"	1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311398

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of November, 1944.

5 November 1944

1. 1st Lt. Tillman F. Wood, 01031988, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "I".
2. Capt Leslie K. Vensel, 01305681, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "I".
3. 1st Lt. Ambrose J. Briscoe, 0391531, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "K".
4. Capt Alfred H. Breninger, 01283716, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "H".

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS, Continued.

7 November 1944

1. 1st Lt. Mart R. Parker, 01294355, Commanding Officer, Service Company, promoted to Captain.
2. Capt Winfred H. Dunham, 01291088, S-1, evacuated sick.

10 November 1944

1. Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773, Commanding Officer, 135th Infantry, evacuated sick.
2. Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157, Executive Officer, assumed command of the 135th Infantry Regiment.

11 November 1944

1. Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, and assigned as Executive Officer, Second Battalion.
2. Lt. Col Simon Castille, 0234762, assigned as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion.
3. Capt Joel M. Lewison, 0291051, S-1, & Hq. Co. Commander, 2nd Battalion returned to the United States on Temporary Duty (furlough).
4. 1st Lt. Paul E. Feiber, 01286265, assigned as S-1 & Hq. Co. Commander, 2nd Battalion.

12 November 1944

1. 1st Lt. David B. Ayres, 0467438, Commanding Officer, Company "B", evacuated sick.
2. 1st Lt. Walter R. Hayes, 01325218, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "B".

14 November 1944

1. 1st Lt. Warren G. Harber, 01321772, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "L".
2. 1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298373, 01298373, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "L".

21 November 1944

1. Major Allison A. Conrad, 0327559, Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion evacuated sick.

22 November 1944

1. Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519, assigned as Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS, Continued.

27 November 1944

1. 1st Lt. Thomas B. Griesemer, 01310100, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "E".

2. 1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "E".

Commanding Officers and Staff Officers on 1 December 1944.

Regimental Commander	Lt. Col Charles F. Grayar, 0269157
Executive Officer	
S-4	Capt Jack K. White, 0336830
S-3	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359982
S-2	Capt Louis H. Hauser, 01290418
S-1	
Regimental Surgeon	Capt. Charles W. Mills, 0368561
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt. Walter H. Johnson, 0328283
" Service Company	Capt. Mart R. Parker, 01294355
" Antitank Company	1st Lt. Jay F. Hollyfield, 01290422
" Cannon Company	Capt. Dean C. Fellows, 01168659
" First Battalion	Lt. Col Charles H. Thompson, 0223488
Executive Officer	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
S-3	Capt. Sumpter R. Nelson, 0420240
Commanding Headquarters Company	1st Lt. George M. Johnson, 01297544
" Company "A"	1st Lt. Louis Montelione, 01316153
" Company "B"	1st Lt. Walter R. Hayes, 01325218
" Company "C"	Capt. William C. Huey, 0406826
" Company "D"	Capt. Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
" Second Battalion	Lt. Col Simon Castille, 0234762
Executive Officer	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
S-3	1st Lt. John B. Waughton, 0380472
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt. Paul E. Feiber, 01286265
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bawden, 01303834
" Company "G"	Capt. Nelson I. Kibler, 0373200
" Company "H"	Capt. Alfred H. Breninger, 01283716
" Third Battalion	Lt. Col John W. Joyce, 0331690
Executive Officer	Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519
S-3	Capt. William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt. Reid B. Huff, 0390555
" Company "I"	Capt. Leslie K. Vensel, 01305681
" Company "K"	1st Lt. Leon H. Arey, 01290360
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298373
" Company "M"	1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311393

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of December, 1944.

1 December 1944

1. 1st Lt. John B. Naughton, 0380472, relieved of assignment as S-3, 2nd Battalion.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS, Continued.

1 December 1944 (Cont'd)

2. Capt. Norman E. Brown, 01286956, assigned as S-3, 2nd Battalion.

2 December 1944

1. Capt. Walter H. Johnson, 0328283, Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, evacuated sick.

3 December 1944

1. Capt. Sumpter R. Nelson, 0420240, S-3, 1st Battalion, evacuated sick.

4 December 1944

1. Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, 135th Infantry, and assigned as Regimental Executive Officer.

2. Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773, assumed command of 135th Infantry.

7 December 1944

1. Capt. Keith O. Van Krevelen, 0377973, assigned as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, (Returned to duty from furlough in USA).

2. 1st Lt. George M. Johnston, 01297544, relieved of assignment as S-1 and Headquarters Company Commander, 1st Battalion.

3. Capt. William R. Howard, 0387017, assigned as S-1 and Headquarters Company Commander, 1st Battalion.

9 December 1944

1. 1st Lt. Sylvester J. Hunter, 01302468, assigned as S-3, 1st Battalion.

11 December 1944

1. Capt. Jack K. White, 0336830, relieved of assignment as S-4, 135th Infantry.

2. Major Roland (NMI) Anderson, 0366901, assigned as S-4, 135th Infantry.

17 December 1944

1. 1st Lt. Walter R. Hayes, 01325218, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "B", (returned to duty from furlough in USA.)

24 December 1944

1. Lt. Col. Simon Castille, 0234762, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, evacuated wounded.

2. Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283, Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, assigned as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS, Continued.

31 December 1944

1. Capt. Jack K. White, 0336830, assigned as Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion.

COMMANDING OFFICERS AND STAFF OFFICERS ON 1 JANUARY 1945.

Regimental Commander	Col. Ashton H. Manhart, 018773
Executive Officer	Lt. Col Charles F. Greyer, 0269157
S-4	Major Roland Anderson, 0366901
S-3	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359982
S-2	Capt Louis H. Hauser, 01290418
S-1	
Regimental Surgeon	Capt Charles W. Mills, 0368561
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Keith C. Van Krevelen, 0377973
" Service Company	Capt Mart R. Parker, 01294355
" Antitank Company	1st Lt. Jay F. Hoolyfield, 01290422
" Cannon Company	Capt Dean O. Fellows, 01168659
" First Battalion	Lt. Col Charles H. Thompson, 0223488
Executive Officer	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
S-3	1st Lt. Sylvester J. Hunter, 01302468
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt William R. Howard, 0387017
" Company "A"	1st Lt. Louis Montelione, 01316133
" Company "B"	Capt Donovan C. Griffin, 0416559
" Company "C"	Capt William C. Huey, 0406826
" Company "D"	Capt Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
" Second Battalion	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
Executive Officer	Capt Jack K. White, 0336830
S-3	Capt Norman E. Brown, 01286956
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Paul E. Feiber, 01286265
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bawden, 01303834
" Company "G"	Capt Nelson I. Kibler, 0373200
" Company "H"	Capt Alfred H. Brenninger, 01283716
" Third Battalion	Lt. Col John W. Joyce, 0351690
Executive Officer	Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519
S-3	Capt William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Reid B. Huff, 0390555
" Company "I"	Capt Leslie K. Vensel, 01305681
" Company "K"	1st Lt. Leon H. Arey, 01290360
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298373
" Company "M"	1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311398

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of January, 1945.

4 January 1945

1. 1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311398, Commanding Officer, Company "M" evacuated sick.

5 January 1945

1. Capt Joe (NMI) Humble, Assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "M".

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd)

8 January 1945

1. Lt. Col Charles H. Thompson, 0223488, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion.
2. Major James E. Tyler, 023079, relieved of assignment as Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, and assigned as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion.

9 January 1945

1. Capt Mart R. Parker, 01294355, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Service Company, and assigned as Regimental Adjutant.

10 January 1945

1. Capt James F. Garfield, 0370002, assigned as Executive Officer, 1st Battalion upon returning from furlough.
2. 1st Lt. Burton F. Bridges, 01310565, assigned as Commanding Officer, Service Company.
3. 1st Lt. Sylvester J. Hunter, 01302468, relieved of assignment as S-3, 1st Battalion and assigned assistant S-3, 1st Battalion.
4. Capt Donovan C. Griffin, 0416559, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "B", and assigned as S-3, 1st Battalion.
5. 1st Lt. Ernest O. Seasto, 01302201, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "B".

21 January 1945

1. Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773, Regimental Commander, 135th Infantry, returned to United States on Temporary Duty.
2. Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157, Executive Officer, 135th Infantry, assumed command of the Regiment.

24 January 1945

1. Capt Norman E. Brown, 01286936, S-3, 2nd Battalion, evacuated sick.
2. Capt Charles W. Mills, 0368561, Regimental Surgeon, transferred to Hq. 34th Infantry Division.
3. Capt Arthur (NMI) Heldman, 0428142, assigned as Regimental Surgeon.

26 January 1945

1. Capt Donovan C. Griffin, 0416559, relieved of assignment as S-3, 1st Battalion.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd)

26 January 1945 (Cont'd)

2. 1st Lt. Louis (NMI) Montelione, 01310133, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "A", and assigned as S-3, 1st Battalion.
3. 1st Lt. Robert E. King, 0524350, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "A".
4. Capt Nelson F. Kibler, 0573200, Commanding Officer, Company "G", evacuated sick.
5. 1st Lt. Gordon R. Johnson, 01319125, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "G".

COMMANDING OFFICERS AND STAFF OFFICERS ON 1 FEBRUARY 1945.

Regimental Commander	Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157
Executive Officer	
S-4	
S-3	Major Roland Anderson, 0366901
S-2	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359982
S-1	Capt Louis H. Hauser, 01290418
Regimental Surgeon	Capt Mart R. Parker, 01294355
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Arthur (NMI) Heldman, 0428142
" Service Company	Capt Keith O. Van Krevelen, 0377973
" Antitank Company	1st Lt. Burton F. Bridges, 01310565
" Cannon Company	1st Lt. Jay F. Hollyfield, 01290422
" First Battalion	Capt Dean C. Fellows, 01168659
Executive Officer	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
S-3	Capt James F. Garfield, 0370002
Commanding Headquarters Company	1st Lt. Louis Montelione, 01316133
" Company "A"	Capt William R. Howard, 0387017
" Company "B"	1st Lt. Robert E. King, 0524350
" Company "C"	1st Lt. Ernest O. Saasto, 01302201
" Company "D"	Capt William O. Huey, 0406826
" Second Battalion	Capt Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
Executive Officer	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
S-3	Capt Jack K. White, 0336830
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Paul E. Feiber, 01286265
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bawden, 01303834
" Company "G"	1st Lt. Gordon R. Johnson, 01319125
" Company "H"	Capt Alfred H. Breninger, 01283716
Executive Officer	Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519
S-3	Capt William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Reid, B. Huff, 03900555
" Company "I"	Capt Leslie K. Vensel, 01305681
" Company "K"	1st Lt. Leon H. Arey, 01290360
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298375
" Company "M"	Capt Joe (NMI) Humble, 01309738

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd)

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of February, 1945.

17 February 1945

1. Capt Jack K. White, 0336830, relieved of assignment as Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion and returned to United States on Temporary Duty (Leave).

19 February 1945

1. Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519, relieved of assignment as Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, and assigned as Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion.

2. Major Allison A. Conrad, 0327559, assigned as Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion.

3. Capt William B. Cole, 0334080, relieved of assignment as S-3, 3rd Battalion, and assigned as S-3, 2nd Battalion.

4. 1st Lt. Robert O. Foster, 0425838, assigned as S-3, 3rd Battalion.

5. Capt Paul E. Feiber, 01286265, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, and returned to United States on Temporary Duty (Leave).

6. 1st Lt. Clayton S. Oas, 01311345, assigned as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion.

27 February 1945

1. 1st Lt. Leon H. Arey, 01290360, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "K".

2. 1st Lt. George A. Hunt, 02055397, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "K".

28 February, 1945

1. Capt Louis H. Hauser, 01290418, relieved of assignment as Regimental S-2 and returned to United States on Temporary Duty (leave).

2. 1st Lt. Leo J. Remmetter, 0437485, assigned as Regimental S-2.

3. 1st Lt. Jay F. Hollyfield, 01290422, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Antitank Company, and returned to United States on Temporary Duty (Leave).

4. 1st Lt. Bruce M. Heniford, 01285588, assigned as Commanding Officer, Antitank Company.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS AND STAFF OFFICERS ON 1 MARCH 1945.

Regimental Commander	Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157
Executive Officer	
S-4	Major Roland Anderson, 0366901
S-3	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359282
S-2	1st Lt. Leo J. Remmetter, 0437485
S-1	Capt Mart R. Parker, 01294355
Regimental Surgeon	Capt Arthur (NMI) Heldman, 0428142
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Keith O. Van Krevelen, 0377973
" Service Company	1st Lt. Burton F. Bridges, 01310565
" Antitank Company	1st Lt. Bruce M. Heniford, 01285588
" Cannon Company	Capt Dean C. Fellows, 01168659
" First Battalion	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
Executive Officer	Capt James E. Garfield, 0370002
S-3	1st Lt. Louis Montelions, 01316133
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt William R. Howard, 0387017
" Company "A"	1st Lt. Robert E. King, 0524350
" Company "B"	1st Lt. Ernest O. Seasto, 01302201
" Company "C"	Capt William C. Huey, 0406826
" Company "D"	Capt Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
" Second Battalion	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
Executive Officer	Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519
S-3	Capt William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	1st Lt. Clayton S. Oas, 01311345
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bawden, 01303834
" Company "G"	1st Lt. Gordon R. Johnson, 01319125
" Company "H"	Capt Alfred H. Breninger, 01283716
" Third Battalion	Lt. Col John W. Joyce, 0331690
Executive Officer	Major Allison A. Conrad, 0327559
S-3	1st Lt. Robert O. Foster, 0425838
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Reid B. Huff, 03900555
" Company "I"	Capt Leslie K. Vensel, 01303681
" Company "J"	1st Lt. George A. Hunt, 02055397
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298373
" Company "M"	Capt Joe (NMI) Humble, 01309738

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of March, 1945.

3 March 1945

1. Capt Joe (NMI) Humble, 01309738, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "M".

2. 1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311398, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "M".

4 March 1945

1. Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519, Executive Officer, Second Battalion, evacuated sick.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd).

6 March 1945

1. 1st Lt. Gordon R. Johnson, 01319125, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "G".

2. 1st Lt. San (NMI) Guzzardo, 01312760, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "G".

17 March 1945

1. Capt Arthur (NMI) Heldman, 0428142, Regimental Surgeon, promoted to Major.

18 March 1945

1. Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, 135th Infantry, and assigned as Regimental Executive Officer.

2. Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773, assumed command of 135th Infantry.

23 March 1945

1. 1st Lt. Louis Montellione, 01316133, relieved of assignment as S-3, First Battalion.

2. 1st Lt. Robert G. Davis, 01304872, assigned as S-3, First Battalion.

25 March 1945

1. Capt Alfred H. Breninger, 01283716, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Company "H".

2. 1st Lt. Ambrose J. Briscoe, 0391531, assigned as Commanding Officer, Company "H".

30 March 1945

1. 1st Lt. Bruce M. Heniford, 01285588, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, Antitank Company.

2. Capt Edward T. Butt, assigned as Commanding Officer, Antitank Company. (01030227).

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd).

Regimental Commander	Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773
Executive Officer	Lt. Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157
S-4	Major Roland Anderson, 0366901
S-3	Major Fred H. Lippucci, 0359982
S-2	1st Lt. Leo J. Remmetter, 0437485
S-1	Capt Mart R. Parker, 01294355
Regimental Surgeon	Major Arthur (NMI) Heldman, 0428142
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Keith O. Van Krevelen, 0377973
" Service Company	1st Lt. Burton F. Bridges, 01310565
" Antitank Company	Capt Edward T. Butt, 01030227
" Cannon Company	Capt Dean C. Fellows, 01168659
" First Battalion	Major James E. Tyler, 023079
Executive Officer	Capt James F. Garfield, 0370002
S-3	1st Lt. Robert G. Davis, 01304872
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt William R. Howard, 0387017
" Company "A"	1st Lt. Robert E. King, 0524350
" Company "B"	1st Lt. Ernest O. Saasto, 01302201
" Company "C"	Capt William G. Huey, 0406826
" Company "D"	Capt Herbert E. Grote, 01302966
" Second Battalion	Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283
Executive Officer	Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519
S-3	Capt William B. Cole, 0384080
Commanding Headquarters Company	1st Lt. Clayton S. Oas, 01311345
" Company "E"	1st Lt. Edgar W. Boggan, 0413150
" Company "F"	1st Lt. Richard Bawden, 01303834
" Company "G"	1st Lt. Sam (NMI) Guzzardo, 01312760
" Company "H"	1st Lt. Ambrose J. Briscoe, 0391531
" Third Battalion	Lt Col Eohn W. Joyce, 0331690
Executive Officer	Major Allison A. Conrad, 0327559
S-3	1st Lt. Robert O. Foster, 0425838
Commanding Headquarters Company	Capt Reid B. Huff, 03900555
" Company "I"	Capt Leslie K. Vensel, 01305681
" Company "K"	1st Lt. George A. Hunt, 02055397
" Company "L"	1st Lt. Patrick J. Flannigan, 01298373
" Company "M"	1st Lt. Richard A. Kearney, 01311398

Changes in Commanding Officers and Staff Officers during the month of April, 1945.

9 April 1945.

1. Col Ashton H. Manhart, 018773, Commanding Officer, 135th Infantry, evacuated sick.
2. Lt Col Charles P. Greyer, 0269157, relieved of assignment as Executive Officer, 135th Infantry, and assigned as Commanding Officer, 135th Infantry.
3. Major Leon K. Kurland, 0284283, relieved of assignment as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, and assigned as Executive Officer, Second Battalion.

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

COMMANDING OFFICERS IN ENGAGEMENTS (Cont'd)

9 April 1945, Cont'd

4. Lt. Col Simon Castille, 0234762, assigned as Commanding Officer, Second Battalion.

5. Major Robert B. Allen, 0330519, relieved of assignment as Executive Officer, Second Battalion.

12 April 1945

1. Capt William L. Gannon, 01300471, relieved of assignment of Commanding Officer, Cannon Company.

2. 1st Lt. Wilbur (NMI) Williams, 01295971, assigned as Commanding Officer Cannon Company.

LOSSES IN ACTION

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From 1 November through 30 November 1944).

1. Killed in Action

11 November 1944

S/Sgt Dahl, Henry O.	37028794	AE	Co.
S/Sgt Thorson, Raymond S.	20707375	AE	Co.
Cpl Brown, Robert J.	37045424	AT	Co.
Pfc Ojala, Arvo A.	36229240	AT	Co.

12 November 1944

Cpl Weiss, Alexander (NMI)	32023665	Co.	"H"
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13 November 1944

Pfc Joyce, John J.	31424236	Co.	"I"
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15 November 1944

Pfc Ferree, Robert C.	33833120	Co.	"I"
Pfc Barber, Dawson W.	35884028	Co.	"G"
Pvt Longley, Herbert V.	35838905	Co.	"G"
Pfc Bennett, Edward E.	31321820	Co.	"I"
Pfc Jenkins, Clyde V.	6704186	Co.	"I"

22 November 1944

S/Sgt Thomas, Brady P.	36548038	Co.	"O"
S/Sgt Toth, Steve (NMI)	36670077	Co.	"O"
Sgt Butler, George W. Jr.	33598806	Co.	"O"
Sgt Harvell, Arthur C.	34470677	Co.	"O"
Sgt Szpajer, Norbert J.	36715343	Co.	"O"

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

LOSSES IN ACTION (Cont'd)

Killed in Action.

22 November 1944 (Cont'd)

Pfc	Baker, Paul F.	33683165	Co.	"Q"
Pfc	Bush, Samuel W.	38096534	Co.	"Q"
Pfc	Gauron, William A.	31374477	Co.	"Q"
Pfc	Janssen, John E.	36482512	Co.	"Q"
Pfc	Davis, Louis (NMI)	34760723	Co.	"Q"

Wounded in Action

10 November 1944

Pfc	White, Charles E.	35626664	Cn. Co.	
Pfc	Otterman, Allen R.	36415234	Cn. Co.	

11 November 1944

Pvt	Journeyay, William F.	34624734	AT	Co.
Pfc	Papotnik, Joseph (NMI)	33112931	AT	Co.
Sgt	Suits, Curry C.	34175282	AT	Co.
S/Sgt	Mize, Arvin R.	34101126	AT	Co.
Pfc	Geer, William L.	34710898	AT	Co.
Pfc	Subasic, Joseph F.	35387482	AT	Co.
Pfc	Tervo, Raymond O.	36162435	AT	Co.
Pfc	Breznai, Frank D.	42013973	Co.	"L"
Pfc	Gero, Francis W.	31285127	Co.	"L"
Pfc	Mueller, Virgil H.	36762809	Co.	"L"
Pvt	Fischer, Johnny B.	32753767	Co.	"M"

12 November 1944

Pfc	Stephens, Timmie E.	34813209	Co.	"I"
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13 November 1944

Pfc	Sowers, Robert K.	33624642	Co.	"H"
Pvt	Quinn, Jack (NMI)	34808019	Co.	"G"
Pfc	Hollins, Carl H.	34875816	Co.	"G"
Pfc	Stolowski, Sigmund C.	36288999	Co.	"G"

14 November 1944

Pfc	Tunrer, Halden F.	31398892	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Horcher, Marvin O.	36753723	Co.	"I"
Cpl	Goldsmith, George S.	32601816	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Winton, Otis C.	39020741	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Baranoski, Michael (NMI)	36877385	Co.	"G"

PHASE XIII 155TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

WOUNDED IN ACTION (Cont'd)

LOSSES IN ACTION (Cont'd)

15 November 1944

Pvt	Magee, Curtis E.	38685790	Co.	"G"
Pvt	Devaney, Kenneth W.	39832173	Co.	"G"

16 November 1944

Pvt	Myers, Mxie E., Jr.	35707321	Co.	"I"
Pvt	Knowles, James O.	34508199	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Hurley, Raymond P.	35706771	Co.	"I"
Pvt	Peterson, John W.	33800754	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Howard, David (NMI)	35772723	Co.	"I"
Pvt	Calendo, George (NMI)	42025739	Co.	"I"
Sgt	Gubbage, Howard V.	33454590	Co.	"I"
Sgt	Payne, Leon W.	34403816	Co.	"I"

17 November 1944

Pvt	Johnson, Howard E.	33798907	Co.	"L"
Pfc	Dowdle, John D.	34890352	Co.	"C"
Pfc	Stempien, Stanley S.	36869188	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Martin, James O.	35752144	Co.	"I"
Sgt	Rowe, James F.	32779309	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Fleming, Richard G.	36598837	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Fay, Howard K., Jr.	31262096	Co.	"I"

18 November 1944

Pfc	Linde, August W.	37286537	Co.	"D"
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19 November 1944

Pfc	Casella, Joseph P.	32651592	Co.	"G"
Pfc	Metcalf, Paul P.	34726783	Co.	"M"

22 November 1944

Pvt	Bartholomai, Joseph J.	33704500	Co.	"E"
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24 November 1944

Pfc	Ladner, Richard S.	14095786	Co.	"D"
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MISSING IN ACTION

2 November 1944

Pfc	Woodward, George O.	33793872	Co.	"L"
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14 November 1944

Pfc	Cluggish, George R.	35894546	Co.	"M"
Sgt	Schlear, Edward K.	33117469	Co.	"M"

PHASE XIII 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY

LOSSES IN ACTION CONTINUED.

Wounded in Action (Cont'd)

16 November 1944

Sgt	Rainey, Leonard R.	34764893	Co.	"I"
Pfc	Giotis, John G.	33898967	Co.	"I"
Pvt	Sawicki, Harry S.	33614312	Co.	"I"

25 November 1944

Pfc	Barnas, Michael E., Jr.	36674779	Co.	"G"
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LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO NOVEMBER, 1944, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed in Action

26 April 1944

Pvt	Green, Russell W.	42000833	Co.	"G"
	(Previously reported as Missing in action, 26 April 1944)			
Pvt	Merchant, Charles H.	33733276	Co.	"G"
	(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 26 April 1944)			

15 October 1944

Pfc	Braswell, J. D. (10)	34573031	Co.	"E"
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S U M M A R Y

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action	0	0	24
Wounded in Action:	0	0	45
Missing in Action:	0	0	8
Captured:	0	0	0

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

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From December 1 through 31 December 1944).

Killed in Action

9 December 1944

Pvt	Gunnels, Charles W., Jr.	38071855	Co.	"H"
Pfc	Haggard, Walter E.	37164898	Co.	"H"
S/Sgt	Lundy, Arthur F.	32828923	Co.	"A"

22 December 1944

Pfc	Jolly, David R.	34773806	Hq.	Co. 1st Bn.
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24 December 1944

1st Lt.	Naughton, John B.	0380472	Hq.	Co. 2nd Bn.
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26 December 1944

Pfc	Tyahla, Samuel A.	33795840	Co.	"A"
Pvt	Buttacavoli, George (NMI)	36769452	Co.	"A"
* Pfc	Davenport, Grady R.	34921299	Co.	"A"

* Died of Wounds in hospital.

Wounded in Action.

9 December 1944

S/Sgt	Shreffler, Robert E.	16161718	Co.	"H"
Pfc	Hodges, Henry W.	33650031	Co.	"A"

10 December 1944

S/Sgt	Phillips, Luther J.	35670633	Co.	"G"
Pfc	Wilson, Wayne M.	33428882	Co.	"L"

22 December 1944

Lt. Col	Castille, Simon (NMI)	0234762	Hq.	2nd Bn.
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25 December 1944

Pfc	Chrostowski, Edward J.	32112124	Hq.	Co. 1st Bn.
Pvt	Howell, Everett L.	35772924	Hq.	Co. 1st Bn.
Pfc	Gumpper, Herman O.	33610487	Co.	"B"

26 December 1944

1st Lt.	Johnson, Donald R.	01703031	Co.	"A"
Pfc	Davenport, Grady R.	34921299	Co.	"A"
Pfc	Quirk, Harold L.	39263596	Co.	"A"
Pvt	Ellis, James L.	34445044	Co.	"A"

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

LOSSES IN ACTION, Continued.

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO DECEMBER, 1944, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed in Action.

1 February 1944

Pvt Aparicio, Donald E. 39032302 Co. "B"
(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 1 February 1944)

9 February 1944

Pvt Duffield, Robert E. 36747214 Co. "E"
(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 9 February 1944)

11 February 1944

S/Sgt Nordhausen, Edgar H. 37150864 Co. "K"
(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 11 February 1944)

13 February 1944

Pvt Hoyt, Daniel K. 15118752 Co. "E"
(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 13 February 1944)

28 October 1944

Pvt Cooper, Elbert R. 34818641 Co. "B"
(Previously listed as Missing in Action, 28 October 1944)

Wounded in Action

17 November 1944

Pvt Eaton, Harold L. 34409334 Co. "M"

S U M M A R Y

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action	1	0	12
Wounded in Action:	2	0	11
Missing in Action:	0	0	0
Captured:	0	0	0

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

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From 1 January through 31 January 1945).

Killed in Action

7 January 1945

Pfc Martin Robert O. 36977243 Co. "K"

10 January 1945

S/Sgt Sapudie, Arnold J. 36839215 Co. "F"

11 January 1945

Sgt Humbert, Leonard O. 33726338 Co. "L"

Pfc Hurley, Thomas F. 32922761 Co. "L"

23 January 1945

Pfc Prigmani, Rocco D. 33733256 Co. "K"

Pvt Ohisholm, Robert E. 39420347 Co. "K"

24 January 1945

Pvt McIntosh, Thomas (NMI) 42129292 Hq. Co.

Pvt McGovern, Patrick (NMI) 42078863 Hq. Co.

Pvt McCloakey, John E. 38541051 Hq. Co.

27 January 1945

Pfc Smith, Hugh J. 38641204 Co. "K"

Pvt Paulauskas, Walter E. 33939350 Co. "K"

Wounded in Action

9 January 1945

Pfc Walpole, James O. 34814109 Co. "L"

Pfc Goble, Walter M. 34894054 Co. "L"

Pfc Hendry, William G. 38052142 Co. "F"

10 January 1945

Pvt Capeheart, Dayton D. 38696117 Co. "F"

12 January 1945

2nd Lt Krachman, Morris (NMI) 01052432 Co. "E"

15 January 1945

Sgt Settle, William O. 37721290 Co. "L"

Pfc Yergin, John J. 35919481 Co. "L"

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

Wounded in Action, Cont'd.

22 January 1945

Pfc	Thomas, William L.	-	33551144	Co.	"D"
Pvt	Bryman, Bernard C.		13178495	Co.	"E"

24 January 1945

Pvt	McOurley, Bernard L.		38687413	Hq. Co.	
Pvt	Martinez, Raymond N.		39052967	Hq. Co.	

27 January 1945

Pfc	Rose, William T.		34922319	Co.	"K"
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29 January 1945

Pvt	Carolle, John J.		32809663	Hq. Co.	1st Bn.
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31 January 1945

Pfc	Meiswinkel, Raymond W.		33809135	Co.	"K"
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Missing in Action

12 January 1945

Pvt	Breitman, Jacob (NMI)		32010832	Co.	"E"
Pvt	Peterson, Tommie J.		34793000	Co.	"E"

22 January 1945

Pvt	Gebke, Roman B.		36769264	Co.	"E"
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LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO JANUARY, 1945, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed in Action

4 July 1944

Pfc	Glickstein, Irving (NMI) (Previously listed as MIA, 4 July 1944)		32897648	Co.	"I"
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14 November 1944

Pfc	Oluggish, George R. (Previously listed as MIA, 14 November 1944)		35894546	Co.	"M"
Sgt	Schlear, Edward K. (Previously listed as MIA, 14 November 1944)		33117469	Co.	"M"

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

LOSSES IN ACTION (Cont'd)

S U M M A R Y

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action:	0	0	14
Wounded in Action:	1	0	13
Missing in Action:	0	0	3
Captured:	0	0	0

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From 1 February through 28 February 1945).

Killed in Action

5 February 1945

Pfc Bisco, Frank C. 42040666 Co. "K"

13 February 1945

* Sgt Settle, William C. 37721290 Co. "L"

20 February 1945

Pfc Kitchens, George A., Sr. 34980247 Co. "E"

21 February 1945

* S/Sgt Woolsey, Theron C. 32662153 Co. "F"
Pfc Comeaux, Horace L. 38486424 Co. "F"

24 February 1945

T/5 Mroz, Frank J. 33318012 Co. "B"

* Died of Wounds in Hospital.

Wounded in Action

3 February 1945

Pvt Masey, Leonard J. 37595369 Co. "O"

5 February 1945

S/Sgt Arneson, Edwin K. 37027536 Co. "K"
Pfc Fritz, Edward (NMI) 31358656 Co. "G"
Pfc Dean, James R. 38417734 Co. "B"

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

LOSSES IN ACTION (Cont'd)

Wounded in Action (cont'd)

10 February 1945

Pvt Hahn, Clement F. 42144109 Co. "K"

11 February 1945

Sgt Gardner, Charles R. 36735084 Co. "L"

20 February 1945

Pvt Hunter, Charles N. 33821879 Co. "E"

21 February 1945

Pvt McDonough, Francis T. 31468957 Co. "F"
 Pfc Holcombe, Willard L. 34817714 Co. "F"
 Pfc Hankins, Arthur M. 35877235 Co. "F"
 S/Sgt Mills, Alma C. 34813195 Co. "F"
 T/4 Gerbasi, Victor E. 32332945 Co. "F"
 Pvt Meany, Martin J. 42135230 Co. "F"
 Pvt Lynch, Dalton R. 33662546 Co. "F"
 Pfc Dempsey, Phillip W. 374186174 Co. "F"

22 February 1945

Pfc Harris, Golden R. 34875563 Co. "E"

24 February 1945

Pfc Garcia, Pedro G. 38257425 Co. "E"
 Pfc Beane, James F. 45609521 Co. "E"
 Opl French, Raymond K. 37540054 Co. "B"

25 February 1945

Pfc Blouse, Glenn C. 33508019 Co. "D"

26 February 1945

Pfc Reed, Robert H. 35806756 Co. "F"
 Pvt Medina, Jose E. 38351152 Co. "F"
 Pfc Zadrozny, Robert (NMI) 33919640 Co. "F"

28 February 1945

1st Lt. Hamil, Jack H. 01303719 Co. "O"
 1st Lt. Turner, Edwin K. 01695742 Co. "O"
 Pvt Estrada, Raymond S. 39293622 Co. "O"

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

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1945, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed In Action

1 February 1944

Pvt Kosiorek, John S. 33680718 Co. "E"

5 February 1944

Pfc Kopischke, Carl A. 37566524 Co. "A"
 Pvt Lindsey, James R. 34710729 Co. "A"
 Sgt Crawford, Virgil I. 38245635 Co. "A"
 Pfc Mettner, John E. 36804319 Co. "A"

16 November 1944

Sgt Rainey, Leonard R. 34764893 Co. "I"

S U M M A R Y

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action	0	0	12
Wounded in Action	2	0	24
Missing in Action	0	0	0
Captured	0	0	0

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From 1 March through 31 March 1945.)

Killed in Action

4 March 1945

T/4 Skinner, Lloyd G. 34830227 Med Det

7 March 1945

Pvt Nealey, Joseph E. 34450454 Co. "B"

11 March 1945

* Pfc Clayton, Charles E. 34827208 Co. "F"

22 March 1945

S/Sgt Doty, John A. 32835895 Co. "E"

* Died of wounds in Hospital.

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

24 March 1945

Killed in Action (Cont'd)

Pvt McKinzie, Andrew R. 35655247 Co. "C"

25 March 1945

* Pvt Donovan, James J. 42022767 Co. "C"

29 March 1945

Pvt Stiles, Daniel S. 34490073 Co. "K"

* Died of Wounds in Hospital

Wounded in Action

2 March 1945

T/5 Hogan, James T. 33305154 Co. "L"

3 March 1945

Pfc Watson, Kelsie A. 37063024 Co. "A"
 Pvt Kingsley, James F. 36984767 Co. "B"
 Pfc Schneider, George A., Jr. 42046117 Co. "A"

4 March 1945

Pfc Bailey, Charles J. 34884951 Med Det
 S/Sgt Hurrell, Phillip H. 31045855 Co. "B"
 Sgt Henchon, Martin E. 35564422 Co. "B"
 Pvt Schoen, Kenneth P. 39335186 Co. "B"
 Pvt Nickamp, Gerald A. 35401542 Co. "B"
 S/Sgt Saatzer, Ernest M. 37555518 Co. "A"
 Sgt Seale, Lonnie R. 18072265 Co. "A"
 Opl Gore, Wilner S. 34426370 Co. "A"
 Pfc Morgan, Lyndon E. 39583757 Co. "A"
 Pfc Shadd, Edward (NMI) 31325575 Co. "A"
 Sgt Christie, Ralph W. 33589386 Co. "D"
 Pvt Smith, Melvin E. 37696447 Co. "I"

9 March 1945

T/4 Giguere, Robert J. 36527626 Co. "L"

10 March 1945

Pfc Herold, Clarence E. 35808292 Co. "F"
 Pfc Olayton, Charles E. 34829208 Co. "F"

13 March 1945

Pfc Erickson, Kervin V. 36815502 Co. "G"

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

Wounded in Action (Cont'd)

15 March 1945

Pfc Beers, Arthur L., Jr. 35249258 Co. "E"

19 March 1945

S/Sgt Gould, Lawrence L. 37464986 Co. "B"
Sgt Sauls, Robert H. 34766722 Co. "F"

24 March 1945

Pvt Donovan, James J. 42022767 Co. "C"
S/Sgt Malone, James M. 34475563 Co. "O"
Cpl Soja, Romuald M. 35160535 Co. "O"
Pvt Falkenberg, Arthur J. 16099338 Co. "O"
Pvt Fivacoat, Elmo 36570111 Co. "O"

28 March 1945

T/Sgt Schwartz, Leroy W. 35588982 Co. "B"
Pfc Lipper, Ralph I. 35556972 Co. "B"

29 March 1945

Pfc Archutowski, Chester (NMI) 36584965 Co. "A"

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO MARCH, 1945, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed in Action

26 January 1944

Pvt Noell, Charles W., Jr. 14117461 Co. "E"

9 February 1944

Pfc Marshall, John J. 36669733 Co. "B"

17 October 1944

Pfc Quintana, Joe N. 37352904 Co. "L"

2 November 1944

Pfc Woodward, George O. 33793872 Co. "L"

16 November 1944

Pfc Giotis, John G. 33898967 Co. "I"
Pvt Sawicki, Harry S. 33614312 Co. "I"

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

Killed in Action (cont'd)

24 February 1944

Pvt Lang, Frederick (NMI) 42143662 Co. "B"

S U M M A R Y

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Warrant Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Killed in Action:	0	0	14
Wounded in Action:	0	0	31
Missing in Action:	0	0	0
Captured:	0	0	0

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN (From 1 April through 30 April 1945).

Killed in Action

6 April 1945

Pfc Nolley, Douglas I. 33655991 Co. "A"
Opl Schielke, James C. 15313287 Co. "G"

7 April 1945

S/Sgt Stafford, Paul C. 37664167 Co. "A"

8 April, 1945

2nd Lt. Lester, Gordon W. 01061452 Co. "H"
* Pfc Bohlig, Donald J. 32974360 Co. "G"

26 April 1945

Pfc Vaicuna, Boleslav C. J. 31430434 Co. "E"
Opl Huff, Charles A. 33684618 Co. "D"

27 April, 1945

Pfc Sikora, Stanley T. 35096475 Co. "M"
Pvt Jonas, Walter A. 36968298 Serv Co.
Opl Larson, Ernest R. 36667805 Serv Co.

* Died of Wounds in Hospital.

Wounded in Action

3 April, 1945

Pfc Lidstone, Theredon J. 31400056 Co. "L"
Pfc Pare, John A. 36457150 Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.

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

Wounded in Action (Cont'd)

5 April 1945

Sgt Duffy, Joseph L. 33457107 Co. "I"

6 April 1945

Pfc Bobay, Harry V., Jr. 37706140 Co. "G"

7 April 1945

Pvt Gaines, William L. 34813448 Co. "B"

Sgt Clayton, James I. 36479405 Co. "A"

Pfc Martin, Richard N. 35830421 Co. "A"

8 April, 1945

2nd Lt. Gibson, Richard G. Jr. 01058808 Co. "G"

Pfc Hill, Robert H. 35903776 Co. "G"

11 April 1945

Pfc Short, O. B. (10) Jr. 38368701 Co. "A"

13 April, 1945

S/Sgt McKay, Ernest O. 31352025 Co. "L"

LOSSES IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO APRIL, 1945, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS LISTINGS:

Killed in Action

26 January 1944

Pvt Jarozek, Kasimier T. 32584883 Co. "E"

17 October, 1944

Pfc Phelan, Matthew W. 36695454 Co. "F"

S/Sgt Dayton, William R. 7081146 Co. "F"

29 March, 1945

Pfc Weeks, John G. 34813268 Co. "K"

S U M M A R Y

	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
Killed in Action	1	0	7
Wounded in Action	1	0	10
Missing in Action	0	0	0
Captured	0	0	0