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AUTH: OO 152nd FA

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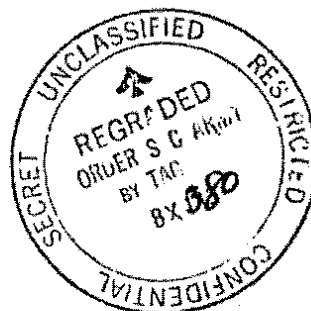
DATE: 27 Sept. 1945

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CITATION - "AVANCEMENT"

THE INVASION OF ITALY

A history of the actions of 152nd Field Artillery Battalion during the landing of the 16th Infantry Division on the shores of Italy and the subsequent establishment of a beach-head in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy.



132nd Field Artillery Battalion
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27 September 1943

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The 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was assigned the mission of direct support of the 142nd Infantry Division in ship to shore operations. Cooperation to be provided by the 142nd Infantry Division. Mission of 36th Division was to seize and hold the beachhead. Other American forces. 141st Infantry reinforced on the right; 142nd Infantry reinforced on the left; 145th Infantry reinforced in reserve. A field gun was allotted to each Regiment for artillery support prior to landing of the 142nd. Two Naval Liaison Officers, Ensign Woodmore and Lt. Col. Green, were assigned to the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Forward Observers of each Battery (A, B, C) were trained in conduct of naval gunfire. Six SCR 264 sets were furnished this Battalion in addition to PBA for communication direct with the ships.

The 132nd Field Artillery Battalion under command of Lt. Col. John N. Green embarked from Ft. Meir, Algeria, on 27 September, 1943. Loaded as follows: Howitzers and mortars (100 mm) - Batteries A, B & C, and Battery Executives - Lt. Col. John N. Green, A Battery - 1st Lt. Estes S. Griffith, B Battery - 1st Lt. John S. Bartles, C Battery, all under command of Major Clifford L. Green, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Board USS Aramis. Capt. John A. Gasbert, Battery Commander of "A" Battery and party, 1st Lt. John F. Shirk, P. O. of "A" Battery and detail, 1st Lt. Walter T. Ladd, P. O. 1 and detail, Captain Harold S. Loding, Battery Commander, 2nd Lt. John J. Nickham, Asst. FA and Motor Officer of "A" Battery and "B" Battery, D-Day vehicles aboard USS Lyons with 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry. Battery Commander of "B" Battery and detail, 1st Lt. Charles L. Horn, P. O. 2 and detail, Ensign Alfred S. Butte, Naval Liaison Officer No. 1 and detail, Capt. Lloyd S. Davis, Battalion Asst. 3-3 with PDC - Survey party, 2nd Lt. Royal A. Moore, "C" Battery Asst. Executive and "C" Battery D-Day vehicles aboard USS Dickson with 2nd Battalion 142nd Infantry. Captain Lark L. Hodges, Battery Commander of "C" Battery, 1st Lt. James A. Stout, P. O. of "C" Battery and detail, 1st Lt. John L. Logie, P. O. 3 and detail, Ensign George R. Woodmore, Naval Liaison Officer No. 2 and detail, Lt. Col. John N. Green, Battalion Commander, 1st Lt. Louis J. Green, Battalion Asst. 3-2 and PDC. - Survey party, and "C" Battery D-Day vehicles aboard USS Barnett with 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry. Headquarters Battery under command of Capt. Joseph T. Brown and Service Battery under command of Capt. Herbert S. Bishop and Medical Detachment under command of Capt. Lloyd L. Southwick, Capt. Richard L. Fillegood, Battalion 3-2 aboard USS Harnix, Convoy sailed from Ft. Meir on September 3, 1943.

Maps and orders were distributed after sailing. Maps issued included: 1:50,000 contoured tactical maps, 1:25,000 contour maps, and photo mosaics of beach areas. D-Day was announced as September 9, 1943, and H-Hour set as 1330. Rendezvous points, routes, and gun positions were directed in Battalion Order as selected from maps and photos. Men were instructed in duties after landing and were instructed by maps and photos on nature of terrain and routes to follow. Landing craft loading was practiced several times while enroute. P.O.'s were organized to direct naval gunfire using 264 radio direct to firing ships.

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Debarcation commenced on schedule and the first waves of 142nd Infantry hit beaches Red and Green at 0500 September 9, 1945. Battery commanders, Liaison Officers, Forward Observers, Naval Liaison Officers, Field Artillery Battalion Commanding Officer, Battalion Asst. S-3, and Battalion Asst. S-2 landed in first four assault waves with Infantry battalions of 142nd Infantry Regiment. The Naval Liaison Officer #1 SON 204 was damaged and lost in debarcation when one of the landing craft fouled on the davit. This same accident caused Lt. Col. Graham, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion 142nd Infantry to change boats and he landed in boat #32 in third wave with Asst. S-3. The assault waves landed under severe and punishing machine gun cross fire, mortar fire and artillery fire. The Germans had the dunes filled with machine gun positions and many mortar positions. When the landing craft began hitting the beaches the Germans sent up flares and by that light began shooting at our troops and landing craft. At frequent intervals they would send up very lights or flares to locate our troops in the dunes and renew fire; actually potting at our troops with mortars as we moved through the dunes. T/S William R. Lents was wounded by mortar fire while making way thru dunes with survey party. Enemy reinforcements arrived in trucks and moved out into position. A single enemy tank moved about firing and maneuvering. During the hours of darkness before dawn the enemy artillery kept firing into the beach area; after day light artillery fire of the enemy was placed on observed targets and areas. Some of our Infantry landed and crossed cultivated fields under a time fire concentration of apparently one battery. Single targets such as DUK's and vehicles were fired on by what was decided to be 18 mm guns. The Forward Observers and Liaison Officers made their way thru the fire to join their respective Infantry Organizations. During a tank attack in reaction about 0625, Captain Hodges was severely wounded and Pvt. Alfano was killed by tank machine gun fire.

Howitzers and Sections in DUK's landed on Red Beach under command of Battery Executives at about 0630 hour. They were due to land at 0500 but were held off shore because of the heavy hostile fire on the beach. Even when the DUK's were coming in heavy observed artillery fire was raking the beach. Direct hits on 3 howitzer carrying DUK's were seen but turned out to be from another battalion. Our howitzers all landed together except two from "A" Battery and one from "C" Battery who separated in the boat assembly area about 1 mile off shore. The four "B" Battery howitzers and Executive, three of the "B" Battery howitzers and executive, and two of the "A" Battery howitzers landed together on Red Beach, unloaded from DUK's and Lt. Curtis and Lt. Griffith organized a position as one large battery about 200 yards inland from the beach. They established radio communication with Division Artillery, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Liaison Officers. The German Artillery tried to adjust on this position but was not successful. One howitzer from "C" Battery, 4th Section under Sgt. Jenak, landed and was put into position with "C" Battery, 155rd Field Artillery Battalion and remained in action there until Lt. Curtis learned its location and sent for the section and it rejoined battery at the second position. The two "A" Battery howitzers landed under command of Lt. Plunkett further to the north and went into a position with two guns of the 155rd Field Artillery Battalion. There the "A" Battery guns received tank warning and prepared for it but the attack did not materialize. The two guns rejoined the Battalion about 1400 in the second position.

The Battalion was placed in position at Rendezvous coordinates point 85.3 - 05.4 and commenced firing about 1300. Initially, there were four howitzers from "B" Battery, three from "C" Battery and two from "A" Battery. All organized in one position under Lt. Curtis and Lt. Griffith. Fire Direction Center was not set up in vicinity of gun positions and functioned at once using 1:25,000 meter grid sheets with true coordinates and having previously designated reference points plotted.

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Forward Observers (Lt. Smith, "A" Battery, Lt. Simpson, "B" Battery, Lt. Stout, "C" Battery, Lt. Smith, "D" Battery) of 142nd Infantry and rendered support with direct fire of their howitzer fire of this battalion. Lt. James Stout, "C" Battery, Lt. Smith, "D" Battery, moved with 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry north of the Superimposition of the road and its way under heavy fire thru drainage canals and fields of corn. Casualties heavy, about 1500 yards north of summit. There the unit rendered support to all way and enemy mortar fire and artillery fire at night range. Six 88 mm IV tanks got into their rear and the individuals were ordered to get about 1/2 mile to avoid offering a profitable target to the tanks. After 11:00 p.m., they were killed and moved about a mile to the east toward the objective and 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry. Here Ensign Woodmore and a radio detail stayed during night. At 204, he established contact with their ship. Lt. Ashcroft of 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry operated the radio. Lt. Stout's party laid wire forward from the rear of the line. Lt. Stout brought Naval fire on about 20 scattered German tanks in vicinity of the road junction near base of Mt. Supreme. Thirty minutes later the tanks appeared at the same spot and Lt. Stout conducted another mission with naval direct fire at them. About this time Lt. Doyle informed Lt. Stout that artillery enfilade fire on Ensign Woodmore's position at the 204 radio killing Ensign Woodmore, Lt. Smith, L. V. Webb and Pvt. Jack Lindley while they were operating the radio. Ensigns and Pvt. Smith. The 3rd Battalion remained on their objective until (nightfall) until noon of the next day.

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... to investigate the situation and then report. They continued to the first objective of the 1st Battalion 142nd Infantry and arrived there about 1500. They then moved on to the second objective on the check point which was a road named "El Corral". They met the Naval Liaison Officer and his men and stayed there overnight.

The third Liaison Officer, Lt. Boyle, was split up under the fire of the 1st Battalion 142nd Infantry, Col. Nielsen, Lt. Becker and Pvt. Morris. Third Lt. Boyle, Liaison Officer of 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry, was also split up. He stayed with the Col. carrying their sections and the fire was falling on them. Pvt. Morris was wounded and, after rendering first aid to him, left him behind while they followed the 1st Battalion Commander. Tanks attacked their position and at 1500 they sent in coordinates and requested a fire mission. (Nature of target: 2 tanks) They got fire on them and later reports showed that two of them were disabled. They moved to a new position under a tank attack and continued to send in fire missions on enemy tanks and positions. Reports were that firing ceased. Lt. Boyle was contacted at 1700 and they stayed in position overnight.

The Battalion moved at 0630 on September 9, 1943, under cover of darkness to positions at Gallinas: A 06.00 - 06.70, B 06.20 - 07.10, C 06.65 - 06.80. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were in a farm house at 06.40-06.90. The survey party set up a line of coordinates of battery positions and put in an orderly line, with a 100 yard interval between points and calculated base angles for each battery. The communications were laid to the batteries, radio observers and to the Infantry. Twelve missions were fired using 195 rounds of 105 ammunition. A request for fire on the town of Altavilla from 142nd Infantry, was received. This was beyond our range so the request was forwarded to Division Artillery and the mission was fired by another battery. Lt. Quast reported by radio that he was unable to contact Liaison detail because they kept moving. Lt. Seward was assigned and sent out as Liaison Officer #1. Lt. Quast did not return to the battalion until noon Sept 10th after trying all the while to find the radio and remainder of Lt. Madlen's section. Lt. Shirk's detail, with 1st Battalion 142nd Inf., moved up to a hill near Alta Villa about 1100. It registered batteries on a check point. There was not much activity that day in Lt. Shirk's sector other than intermittent shelling by 80's.

Lt. Seward joined the Liaison detail replacing Lt. Madlen. He and his men contacted Lt. Col. Thompson's 1st Battalion 142nd Infantry. They advanced and set up an OP on high ground north of Altavilla about 1430. About an hour and a half later they were in the midst of a tank attack by approximately 25 German tanks. Lt. Seward adjusted Artillery fire on them and the attack must have been good because it drove the tanks off.

Lt. Chapman with 2nd Battalion 142nd moved up the ridge to the crest of Mt. Corral and on to Mt. Vescale meeting no resistance except snipers. They established observation at many places as Infantry moved forward to position above Boca Grande. Upon arrival at this position, they found that Germans had blown the bridge across Clore River. Boca Grande was being shelled and enemy vehicles were observed leaving and taking cover.

1st. Chapman and Lt. Moore with 2nd Battalion advanced without opposition. Lt. Moore advanced with part of the 2nd Battalion around north edge of Mt. Corrono. Apparently they were the first Americans there because a wild reception ensued. They were kissed and cheered by the civilians who told them there had been 600 to 700 Germans in that vicinity but they had pulled out to the north. Road to Rocca D. Sanville was reported mined. Lt. Chapman held his OP on top of Mt. Soprano.

1st. Seward and Lt. Shirk with the 1st Battalion 142nd moved into Altavilla about 1100 and moved to the hills beyond seeking O. P.s. Lt. Shirk's detail received some fire while seeking an O. P. They tried to get to Hill A24 but met small arms fire. Lt. Seward established an O.P. on the forward slope of the hill above Altavilla. Lt. Shirk left Pvt. Brock and Pvt. Godbey outside of town with his radio while he and Sgt. Wade went up to establish an O.P. on the hill. They were accompanied by Company "1" and ran a line up under heavy enemy fire. He called them to the 132nd FA Battalion CP twice during the night and had batteries laid on coordinates awaiting further observation. The telephone line was broken between him and the radio and no contact was made with him after that. Lt. Shirk and Sgt. Wade were missing in action during the night of September 11, 1943 and early morning of September 12, 1943.

The Battalion dispersed at 2345 hours Sept. 10, 1943 under cover of darkness to positions as follows: A 91.28 - 10.63, B 90.40 - 10.55, C 90.55 - 11.05. Coordination of positions and base eyles were maintained by the survey section. Night fire missions were fired in this position using 47 rounds of 105 ammunition. Lt. Seward adjusted the fire of this position on a concentration of German tanks. There were eight tanks destroyed or disabled and the balance were driven back and dispersed. Snipers wounded two men in Battery "C" position.

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The battalion dispersed at 2000 under cover of darkness to

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positions as follows: A, 94.75 - 12.56, B, 93.28 - 12.53, C, 93.90-12.85 and FDC was initially set up in a house during the night and at dawn the CP and FDC was moved to a creek in good defilade and a dugout construction begun. This position was first below Altavilla and it was here that last contact was made with Lt. Shirk.

The balance of the night, Sept 11-12, 1943, was spent in comparative quiet after the move to new position just south of Altavilla. Spasmodic communications were had thru the night with 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry whose area was rapidly becoming the center of interest. The 2nd Battalion had met little or no resistance and had moved out of range of our light field pieces and reassuring reports of all quiet came from Lts. Hearn and Brown. The 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry had attained their objective and were quietly holding their ground. Jerry seemed to have more interest in the high ground that 1st Battalion held. In the rapidly expanding beach head the battalion of Infantry had occupied a large area of high ground and in fact, had bitten off more than they could hold. The morning of the 12th brought loss of contact with both Lt. Shirk and Lt. Seward. Lt. Shirk's telephone line was broken and Lt Seward's line was blown out by the shelling on the town. Since about 0200, Lt. Seward's radio was out because they had to destroy it when they surrounded by German patrols. This was done under orders of an Infantry Officer in order to prevent capture and use by the enemy. Sounds of machine gun and rifle fire were heard from all parts of the hill. Various reports began to dribble in to the CP and the situation became rather cloudy. A liaison officer from 151st F. A. Battalion was assigned to us as the 151st was to reenforce our fire. Also present was a liaison officer from the 155th F. A. Battalion for the same purpose. Our positions received enemy artillery fire all day from various calibered guns. At times the shelling got extremely heavy and it seemed the men spent half the time falling to the ground to avoid stopping shell fragments. The whine of approaching shells got to be familiar and the ability of each one to judge where it was going to hit improved to a surprising degree of accuracy. After a few hours one didn't even bother to duck in a hole or fall flat after cocking an ear to the sound and deciding it was going over. But always in case of doubt a fellow did a belly flopper into any nearby slit trench. The men by this time, were really trench conscious and none of them needed encouragement to dig in at each and every pause of enough duration to unsling a pick or shovel.

We learned that a Battalion 143rd Infantry was in reserve on a hill to our south about a mile away. Also our tanks began to mill around us and the tank commander came in to the CP to get the situation. The tanks drew down more fire on us so his presence was not as welcome as one might think. We began sending observation parties up to the Infantry to get observation and fire on the Germans. We sent out Capt. Joseph T. Brown and Lt. Oscar B. Colley in a radio car to the hill about 1300. Their orders were to contact the 1st Battalion 142nd Infantry and establish observation and communications. No word was heard from the party after they left the CP. Their car and equipment was later found well up on the hill and the 610 radio had been taken forward. These two officers were missing in action while in performance of their duty under fire in the presence of an active enemy.

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It. Quast organized a detail of about 20 men to go up the hill later with the mission of establishing liaison with the 1st. Gr. He found the Gr. and checked in over wire communications and arranged to have the wire to Hill 424 where observers were supposed to be in place. When he was within 300 yards of the objective, he was stopped by machine gun fire. He did not get back from this point so the detail ran the line back to the 1st. Gr. and switchboard abandoned. Quote Lt. Quast: 'Got up to a line of machine guns on Hill 424. Brown and Lt. Colley and were fired on by the 34's. Found our wire was shot, so traced back to town to the cause. Found that our troops had pulled out of the town. No one soldier could be seen. Fired on again by the 34's as we came back but from town down the mountain-side and back to our line. Found the wire for Capt. Brown and Lt. Colley.'

Capt. Bennett was sent up with a detail to establish observation about 1330. On the way up he met Lt. Seaward and together they found observation. They got two Infantry radios (SOR 330's) from D.O. to relay messages to their GIC and went up to hill above Altavilla around 1400 (Hill 424) alone. Quote Capt. Bennett: 'Advanced to hill above Altavilla to establish observation. I was using an Infantry radio. Instructed Sgt. Prater, Cpl. Wilson, Pvt. Seaward and had to take our GIC and one Infantry radio back down to a safe place in town. Seaward went forward for observation. Enemy Infantry advanced on the hill from all directions at the base, when our calls for artillery fire pinned them down--a large part of them, while a small group of friendly troops went to the top of the ridge. On top ridge unable to observe due to small arms and air fire, called artillery fire to right where the enemy was coming. Being unable to communicate with GIC, Lt. Seaward, party and myself tried to make it back to ammunition dump with Infantry ammunition carriers to get ammunition. We went for our communications in town. Enemy advancing rapidly. We found Battery "A" jeep with GIC radio that was in working order. Enemy shell fire began. I said to the group with me 'We cannot leave this jeep and radio in town.' Pvt. Lloyd of Headquarters Battery said, 'Capt., I'm going to drive this vehicle down the hill if you go with me.' We got in the jeep and started down the hill. Artillery shells were falling all around us. We came between the buildings at which time artillery hit the vehicle. Every one except Pvt. Lloyd went over the wall on the right side. Lloyd was last seen going down the road.'

Capt. Gabbert from "A" set very hard and established a battery CP. Lt. Wickham went up the hill to bring wire as he went with the mission of getting wire communication to Capt. Brown. He made it up the hill where he found Capt. Brown's car but not Capt. Brown himself.

The Germans launched an attack in force about 1700 after previously shelling the hills and town all day with artillery and mortars. The 1st Bn. 142nd Infantry was forced to withdraw and were somewhat disorganized as they came down the hill under intense MG fire from the now familiar ripping 34's. The Infantry formed up for a stand along the line of gun positions of the 132nd P. A. Bn. and the 3rd Battalion 143rd Infantry was started up to stop the German advance. Truck convoys were called to haul in other doughboy units to plug up the hole. The situation got very hard on the ner as shelling of positions and air became heavier. News of a big tank battle to our west began to trickle in and the sound of heavy guns in that direction did not ease the situation. Every evening at dusk was giving the beach bombing and occasional dogfights a flower lit up the sky. Capt. Bennett and Lt. Seaward returned to the Gr and Lt. Quast came back.

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vills on the night of Sept. 17, 1943. With 3rd Battalion 143rd Infantry and Division Artillery the morning of Sept. 15, 1943. We were subjected to a heavy mortar shelling in our position and on one occasion an enemy mortar shell landed in our position. We moved Battery "A" to a new position that night and the old position received another good shelling early the next morning. Lt. Seward spotted the enemy battery firing so we shelled it. We fired numerous missions on tanks and vehicles. The enemy kept sending out moving tanks that kept us a constant nuisance. They fired against our positions. We, in turn, sent tanks against him or crashed down on his vehicles concentrations with Division Artillery on the same concentrations. During this period two problems were observed and reported by Infantry officers their sensing being related that Division Artillery could not observe the targets. We had excellent results in our missions.

On Sept. 16th the 50th Airborne Division with the mission of retaking high ground around Altevilla. Our cooperation with the Air Force 50th were Lt. Quast, Lt. Wickham, Lt. Hearn, Lt. Duffin, Lt. Boyle. The 50th obtained their objectives without any enemy resistance. Jerry brought everything down on the 16th. Our Division observers had some good shooting in this action. Lt. Hearn, for example, got a very good counter-battery adjustment on a German battery, the 36th F. A. Battalion 155 MM rifles. He adjusted on two of the guns singly that were plainly visible and as best he could adjusted destroyed the pieces and many of the gun crew. He ended up with a battery volley of the 155's in the position. He did this using a German T. C. scope captured on his position. Lt. Wickham registered one gun on a locality where he planned a concentration to cover the advance of the Air Force troops. About a half an hour later, on a time schedule, we laid in a battalion concentration for three minutes. We received gratifying reports on the results of this fire. A direct hit on a mortar position scattered Germans all over the place. After the Air Force troops successfully occupied the ground after meeting very little resistance, they found many German casualties - machine gunners and riflemen. All were very well pleased with this short concentration. Lt. Hearn's party got two German mortar shells right in the 02 at 1115 Sept 17, 1943. Pvt Leher was wounded in the leg by a fragment. The whole party was badly shaken by the concussion and hastily retired from the position. Lt. Hearn found cuts and holes in his web equipment and field glasses came by fragments.

On the night of the 16th of Sept., about 2000 the 132nd F. A. Battalion was placed in support of the O'Connell's force on the left of the Division Sector and furnished the following officers with them: Lt. Stout, Lt. Seward, Lt. Reed and two observer parties from the 131st F. A. Battalion (Mission of 131st was to reinforce the fire of the 132 F. A. Bn.) The 132nd F. A. Battalion displaced at 2230 to positions as follows: A 92.65 - 10.22, B 92.65 - 10.13, and C 92.20 - 10.13. We fired no mission at all from this position, not even registration. 36th Division Artillery informed us at about 0330 on the morning of the 19th of Sept. that we would not fire without clearing with Division Artillery. All was quiet in all sectors. Our troops occupied the high ground around Altevilla. Lt. Quast and Lt. Hearn reported enemy gun positions far to the north near Berre. These were taken under fire by the 155 MM guns using air O. P.'s.

During the night of Sept 19, 1943 the 141st Infantry Regiment re-

Relieved the 9th Infantry at the Littleville area. Arrangements were made with Colonel [redacted] for our observers to contact the 141st elements to give them artillery support during the relief of the unit at the front. No enemy activity, however. The enemy was out of range of our artillery.

On the afternoon of the 14th, Sergeant Lt. Plunkett relieved Lt. [redacted] at his OP, and Lt. [redacted] relieved Lt. [redacted] at his OP. All observers reported no activity and no enemy in range. Several activities were reported to the north and northwest. No firing ensued.

Our troops remained in their same position maintaining observation until 1550 hours, Sept. 11, 1963, when the battalion was ordered to a bivouac area for rest and replacements.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Floyd D. Gattis

FLOYD D. GATTIS

Capt. 132nd F. A. Battalion

Asst. S - 3

Assisted in preparation by:

Cpl. Paul L. De Vico, HQ Btry. 132nd F. A. Bn.
T/5 John V. Hawkins, HQ Btry. 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt John B. Getham, HQ Btry. 132nd F. A. Bn.
T/4 Joseph A. McClure, HQ Btry. 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire Mission information:

S/Sgt Donald R. Hope, HQ Btry. 132nd F. A. Bn.

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

Killed in Action:

PVT. JACK LINDLEY, 35213461, age 23, of Hq Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0930 9 Sept. 1943. He was operating a generator for a radio, which was being employed for the purpose of obtaining naval gun fire on the enemy, when an enemy shell burst among him, Pvt. S.P.V. Webb and Ensign Woodward. The three of them were killed instantly. Nearest of kin to the deceased is his mother, Mrs. Nellie Lindley of Beardsforks, W. Va.

PVT. SYDNEY P. V. WEBB, 38037959, age 29, of Hq Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0930 9 Sept. 1943. He was part of a radio detail, the purpose of which was to obtain naval gun fire on the enemy when an enemy shell burst among him, Pvt. Jack Lindley and Ensign Woodward. The three of them were killed instantly. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Mamie C. Webb of Monticello, Texas.

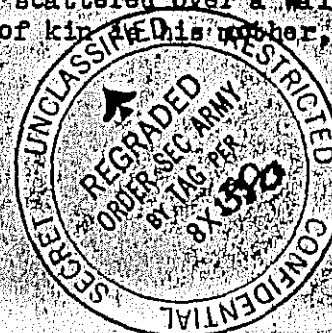
OPL. WILFRED S. OLUNK, 35531830, age 28, of "B" Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0430 9 Sept. 1943. He was part of Btry "B" F.O. Party under the command of Lt. Chapman. The group was making its way along the Coastal road in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy when they were forced to scatter because of enemy artillery and machine gun fire. When the group reorganized a short time later Opl Olunk was missing. It was later discovered that Medics had found him when the group had formally scattered. He had been killed by machine gun fire. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Margaret R. Olunk, Lisbon, Ohio.

PVT. SALVATORE ALFANO, 32223416, age , of "O" Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy about 0530, 9 Sept. 1943. He was a member of a F. O. Party under Captain Hodges, whose mission was to get to Paestum to set up radio for fire missions. Enemy Mark IV tanks fired on him and killed him instantly. Nearest of kin is his father Mr. Francisco Alfano of 323 Melrose St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

SGT. STEWART CLARK, 20814904, age 21, of "B" Btry., was killed in line of duty in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy about 1241, 13 Sept. 1943. He was chief of section of the 3rd section firing on an enemy counter-battery. Under heavy enemy artillery fire, he had just finished giving his section the order to fire, when an artillery shell burst nearby and a shell fragment killed him instantly. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Chloecelia T. Clark of Joshua, Texas.

PVT. JOHN R. LLOYD, 33318186, age 24, of Hq Btry., was killed in line of duty at Altavilla, Italy about 1700, 12 Sept. 1943. Pvt Lloyd was with Capt. Bennett and "B" Btry. F.O. Party in Altavilla, Italy when the group had to clear out of the town because of heavy artillery fire. To use Capt. Bennett's own story: "We found a jeep and radio belonging Btry "A" and I said 'We cannot leave this vehicle and radio here'. Pvt. Lloyd said: 'Captain, I'll game to drive it down the hill if you go with me'. The party and I jumped in and were on our way when an artillery shell hit a brick building near our right side not 20 yds from the vehicle blocking the road. All of the party but Lloyd scattered over a wall on the right. Lloyd was last seen in the jeep. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Emma R. Lloyd of 1145 Harding Drive, Llanerch, Pa.

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Missing in Action:

CAPT. JOSEPH T. BROWN, O-023969, age 24, battery commander of Hq Btry. has been missing in action since 1350, 12 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy. He and a fellow officer, 2nd Lt. Oscar B. Colley Jr. were sent to Altavilla to check communications. That was the last time either one had seen. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Edith Brown of East Orange, N. J.

1st LT DALTON Y. MEDLEN, O-411634, age , attached to Hq Staff has been missing in action since , 9 Sept. 1943. His duty on landing was to go forward and establish liaison for the 1st Bn. of 142nd Inf. and establish an O.P. to conduct naval fire on the enemy. He and Sgt. Mansell went up a wooded draw for the purpose of obtaining better observation when enemy tanks opened fire on them wounding Sgt. Mansell, Pvt. Lloyd, who were nearby was ~~known~~ Lt. Medlen maps by an infantryman and told to get out. Lt Medlen was last seen with an infantry officer as tanks closed in around them. Pvt. Lloyd and others later on investigated the place where Lt. Medlen was last seen, but no trace could be found of him. It was thought; however that Lt. Medlen was wounded at the same time as Mansell. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Juanita MacDonald Medlen of 715 So. 6th St., Bonham, Texas.

1st LT JOHN F. SHIRK, O-391478, age , of "A" Btry. has been missing in action in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy since , 12 Sept. 1943. He was in charge of a F.O. party whose mission was to conduct naval fire on the enemy. On 9 Sept. 1943. He conducted naval fire which knocked out 2 gun batteries of 88's and crippled or knock out a minimum of 25 tanks on 11 Sept. 1943. He was sent to hill on which "O" Co. 1st Bn. was so as to be ready to observe at daybreak. He and Sgt. Wade ran a line to the O.P. under heavy enemy fire. That was the last time he was seen. It was reported, not officially; however, that he was wounded in the hand and later went forward with the infantry. Nearest of kin is his

2nd LT. OSCAR B. COLLEY JR., O-1175978, age , attached to Hq Btry as motor officer has been missing in action since 1350, 12 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy. He was taken along with Capt. Brown to Altavilla to check communications. That was the last time he or Capt. Brown had been seen. Nearest of kin is his father Clifford C. Colley of 69 Philips Ave., Swampscott, Mass.

SGT. LAWSON L WADE, 2081329, age 29, of "A" Btry. has been missing in action since , 11 Sept. 1943. He was a member of 1st Lt. Shirk's F.O. party whose purpose was to conduct naval fire on the enemy. Lt Shirk & he were ordered to hill on which "O" Co. 1st Bn. was so as to obtain observation to fire on enemy at daybreak. The last time either on was seen was while they were laying wire to an O.P. under heavy enemy fire. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Louise Wade of 614 West 4th Ave., Corsicana, Texas.

PVT. PERRY L. ROBINSON, 37200197, age 33 of Hq Btry. has been missing in action since 1300, 9 Sept. 1943. Certain members of Hq Btry. saw him land on beach; however he hasn't been seen since. Nearest of kin is his mother, Mrs. Minnie A. Robinson of Wellington, Kansas.

SECRET

Seriously Wounded in Action:

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CAPT. MARK L. HODGES, O-406106, age 30, I.O. of "C" Btry. He was seriously injured about 0530, 9 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. After landing it as his duty to go to the vicinity of Paestum ^{to reconnoiter & destroy positions} and on his way there enemy tanks opened fire and he was seriously wounded. Pvt Alfano was killed. Nearest of kin is his wife, Mrs. Margaret E. Hodges of 28 So. Main St., Paris, Texas.

Sgt. LAWRENCE L. DAHLBERG, 36025495, age 24 of Hq Btry. was seriously wounded by mortar fire at 0540, 9 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was a member of Lt. Hearn's liaison party whose duty it was to go forward and establish liaison with 2nd Bn. of 142nd Infantry. Nearest of kin is his mother, Emma Dahl-gerge of Rt. #1 Box 112 Melvin, Texas.

T/5 RUSSELL W. TURNER, 321355646, age 21, Wireman from "B" Btry. was seriously wounded about 0730, 9 Sept. 1943 approximately 150 yds. off Red Beach in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was part of a party making a landing in a DUKW when a shell landed near his boat. Some of the shell fragments went through the side of the boat. He was hit in the back in two places. The fragments cutting through his web equipment and life belt.

PFC. LUTHER W. BLACKSTOCK, 20814960, age 24, a member of the 4th gun section of Btry. "B" was seriously wounded about 0730, 9 Sept. 1943 approximately 150 yds. off Red Beach in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was part of a party making a landing in a DUKW when a shell landed near his boat. Some of the shell fragments went through the side of the boat. One piece of fragment pierced his helmet in- juring his head.

PFC. ELROY A. AUGUSTINE, 36803488, age 24, a member of Btry. "B" 4th gun section was seriously wounded about 0730, 9 Sept. 1943 approximately 150 yds. off shore from Red Beach in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was part of a party making a landing in a DUKW when a shell landed near his boat and some of the fragments went through the side of the boat and struck Augustine in both legs.

T/5 CHARLES A. DEPAW, 321355646, attached from 601 T.D. Bn. was seriously wounded on 9 Sept. 1943. He was a C.W. operator and was wounded while attempting to reach his objective.

PVT. RAY E. HAMILTON, 20814925, age 26, of "A" Btry. was seriously wounded at 0753, 11 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was a member of a gun section when an enemy shell landed between the 2nd & 3rd sections. He was wounded in the shoulder.

PVT. WILLIAM J. GREGORY, 20814794, age 26, of "A" Btry. was seriously wounded at 0753, 11 Sept. 1943 in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy. He was a member of a gun section and was manning his gun when an enemy shell landed between the 2nd & 3rd sections and wounded him in the leg.

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Lightly Wounded in Action:

T/5 WILLIAM R. LEITZ, 35169107, age 23 of M Btry. was lightly wounded by shell fire at 0445, 9 Sept. 1943 on the beach near Saestum, Italy. He was a member of a survey detail. His duty was to get the de-water proofing area to reorganize and form a survey party.

PVT. JAMES L. MORRIS, 37206782, age 26, of M Btry. was lightly wounded at 0700, 9 Sept. 1943. He was a member of L.O. 3 under Lt. Boyle, whose object was to keep in contact with G.P. of 3rd Bn.

SGT. ERA P. HANSELL, 38060537, age 26 of M Btry. was lightly wounded about 0350, 9 Sept. 1943. He was a member of L.O. 1 under Lt. Medlen. He and Lt. Medlen went up a wooded draw so as to get better observation in order to fire and he was hit in the leg by shrapnel.

PVT. EMMETT B. LEWIS, 20814614, age 24, of M Btry. was lightly wounded in the leg y mortar fire in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy on 15 Sept. 1943. He was a member of Lt Hearn's liaison party, who at that time, was firing on German artillery units. Two direct hits by mortars on a tree nearby caused him to be injured by fragments of the shell.

PVT. CHESTER EMBRY, 35484392, of "C" Btry. was lightly wounded 9 Sept. 1943 about 1400 in the vicinity of Sinico. He was wounded in the right hand by sniper fire.

PVT. DONALD F. HYNES, 32336174, age 22, of M Btry. was lightly wounded in the arm by shell fire on 12 Sept. 1943. He was a member of the wire section laying wire in the vicinity of Altavilla, Italy.

~~SECRET~~

AUTH: Gg 36th Inf Div
INITIALS:
DATE: 5 December 1943

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

* * * * *

1 - 30 November 1943

132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (105 mm)

A history of the action of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion during the month of November 1943, Italian Campaign.



~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. Army

5 December 1943

NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS - ITALIAN CAMPAIGN
1 - 30 NOVEMBER 1943

For the period 1-15 November 1943, operations of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion may be summarized briefly. From 1-5 November inclusive the battalion was in the 36th Infantry Division Bivouac Area northwest of Naples and north of Pozzuoli, Italy. Throughout this period normal training was conducted. On 6 November 1943 the battalion moved under cover of darkness to the 36th Infantry Division assembly and bivouac area generally north of Capua, Italy. The Division movement was by Combat Team, the 142nd Regimental Combat Team, making the movement between the hours 1700 and 2100, 6 November. Attached for combat operations only and making the march with this battalion was Battery "B", 143rd Anti-Aircraft. Movement of the battalion was preceded by the battalion quartering party on 3 November 1943.

From 2300 hours 6 November until 1815 hours 16 November the battalion remained in the Division Area north of Capua, Italy. Camouflage maintenance and discipline were stressed throughout this period. Training consisted principally of physical conditioning of the men and practice in river crossings. River crossing training area on the Volturno River east of Capua. On 13 November instructions were received that units of the 142nd Regimental Combat Team would relieve units of the 7th Regimental Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in the Mignano area.

The following morning the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, accompanied by First Lieutenant Clare N. Lyke, Commanding Officer Headquarters Battery, Captain John R. Gabbert, Commanding Officer, "A" Battery, Captain John D. Bennett, Commanding Officer "B" Battery, First Lieutenant Wilmette S. Curtis, Commanding Officer "C" Battery, Captain Harold E. Golding, S-3, First Lieutenant Louis N. Quast, Battalion Survey Officer and Captain Robert F. Reed, Jr., Commanding Officer "B" Battery 143rd Anti-Aircraft, left to make a reconnaissance of routes and positions, and to make contact with the units of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion which we were to relieve. The party returned to the battalion area around 1130, 15 November and it was learned that units of this battalion would relieve the units of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion in two groups during darkness on the nights of 16th and 17th November. Liaison Officer #1, First Lieutenant Remus D. Jones, and party with First Lieutenant John T. Hickham and Second Lieutenant Paul V. Reilly "A" Battery Forward Observers with their parties, left at 1345 to make contact with the respective groups they were to relieve, and who were to orient them on the ground as to enemy installations, locations, etc. prior to arrival of the battalion. The remaining liaison -

- 1 -



forward observer parties were to leave at thirty minute intervals. Liaison - Forward Observer group 2 composed of First Lieutenant Charles L. Hearn, Liaison Officer #2 and party; First Lieutenant Virginus O. Ruffin and Second Lieutenant Donald C. Gilpin, "B" Battery Forward Observers with their parties. Group No. 3, First Lieutenant Gaines M. Boyle, Liaison Officer #3 with party; First Lieutenant James H. Stout and Second Lieutenant Bernard F. Reed, "C" Battery Forward Observers with parties. Plans were made for movement of the batteries.

At 1000 hours 16 November Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, Captain Floyd D. Gattis, Assistant S-3, Headquarters Battery Commanding Officer and party, "B" Battery Commanding Officer and party, "C" Battery Commanding Officer and party, left the battalion Command Post for the advanced position to organize the battery areas for the arrival of "B", "C" and Headquarters Batteries after dark. At 1845 hours the convoy left for the new location in order Battery "B", attached anti-aircraft, Battery "C" and Headquarters Battery. Several days rain had made all roads in the Mignano area next to impassable and mud chains were put on all vehicles before departure. The march was completed without incident but with considerable delay en-route caused by by-passes, blown-out bridges, and traffic supplying front line units. Route followed was Highway 6.

The convoy arrived in the new position area around 2240 hours and went into surveyed positions: "B" Battery at Map Coordinates 9918604327; "C" Battery at 9901104132; Command Post and Fire Direction Center at 989038; Maps: Sheet III, 161, Italy, 1/50,000. An attempt to put "B" Battery in an advanced position failed because it was impossible to take vehicles more than a few yards off of established roads, the mud being so deep. As it was it was necessary to use a tractor to put "B" and "C" Battery howitzers into position and to remove the howitzers of "B" and "C" Batteries 10th Field Artillery Battalion, which were pulled out that night. By 0300 hours 17 November 1943, Batteries "B" and "C" were in position, layed and ready to fire. Each battery was registered shortly after dawn using an observer from the 3rd Division Artillery Air Section. The relief of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion was completed after dark on the night of 17 November with the arrival of Battery "A" and Service Battery. It was again necessary to use tractors to place the "A" Battery howitzers in position and to remove the howitzers of "A" Battery, 10th Field Artillery Battalion. "A" Battery was placed in surveyed position at Map Coordinates 990908868 and completed occupation of the position, was layed and ready to fire at about 0515, 18 November. The "A" Battery position was an advanced position with nothing more than sight defilade from enemy observation from Mt. Camino, Mt. La Difensa and Mt. Lunge. For this reason it was decided that "A" Battery would not be used during the hours of darkness on harassing and interdiction fires, and would be used during darkness only on emergency missions. Relief of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, by the 142nd Infantry was accomplished during the hours of darkness on 16-17 November. For installations and sectors see attached situation overlay.

In general, operations from 17-30 November inclusive may be summarized briefly. The situation throughout this period remained fairly static with little activity on either side other than constant patrolling by our Infantry units, and a constant exchange of Artillery fire. The relative inactivity during these days may be attributed to several factors: first, the seemingly never-ceasing rainfall which restricted movement to a minimum and comfort to something that could only be remembered by the men in the line; second, the bringing up and installation of supporting artillery units and other troops.

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and the planning of future operations; and third, the difficulty in maintaining suitable communications. Wire lines, including those most carefully laid, were constantly going out or being broken by enemy shell fire, by vehicular movement in the mud (particularly tracked vehicles), and sometimes apparently for no reason at all. One instance was reported of a wire line shorted to the ground by means of a phonograph needle, apparently work of some German sympathizer. Never-ending servicing of all wire was required to keep wire communications functioning properly. The constant rain and the difficulty in keeping moisture away from the radios and batteries, combined with a supply of batteries not up to standard as far as quality was concerned, hampered radio communication to a considerable extent; and made more difficult the job of supplying our liaison officers and forward observers on the mountains with this essential item. During this two week period to the best of my recollection there were not more than two days when it did not rain - and it probably rained during the night on those days. Resupply of ammunition throughout this period also presented a problem greatly enhanced by the continuous rain. Long supply lines with next to impassable roads made each ammunition haul a twelve hour trip. The Battery positions could only be supplied at night and then each round had to be carried by hand some 300-400 yards to the gun position, requiring many hours each night.

Throughout the two week period one Liaison Officer and two Forward Observers were in position with each Infantry Battalion. Initially the First and Second Battalions, 142nd Infantry were in position on the northeastern ridge of Mt. Ia Defensa sloping toward Mignano, the 2nd Battalion on the right. Mission of the 142nd Infantry was purely a defensive mission - to hold the ridge installation. Third Battalion, 142nd Infantry in reserve in position near the foot of the mountain. See situation overlay attached. With British units on our left whose mission during this period was also a defensive nature, it was necessary that all defensive fires, harassing and interdictory fires, and patrol activity by our Infantry units, be coordinated closely. As a result many harassing and interdictory missions, as well as observed missions on targets picked up by our observers, were fired upon in the British sector. In turn Royal Artillery units assisted in fires on targets in our sector. During this period too we had our first introduction to what the British mean by the term "Drum-Fire" with reference to their use of the 25 pounder. The phrase is very descriptive.

Although many times our observers were hampered by fog, mist, rain and generally inclement weather with accompanying poor visibility, many targets were picked up and fired on. And in many instances information picked up by the observers and passed on back through the Battalion Fire Direction Center assisted the Corps Counter-battery Officer in Counter-battery missions. For detailed account of missions fired and ammunition expenditures see the attached summary of firing.

Since the German had only recently occupied the area in which we were now in position, it is only reasonable to suppose that he had fairly accurate locations of most of the probable gun positions we could occupy. This fact coupled with the perfect observation he had from Mt. Camino, Mt. Ia Defensa and Mt. Lungo, overlooking the entire valley area, made us certain from the beginning that we would receive our share of harassing fire and counter-battery. This proved to be the case, "B" Battery position, "C" Battery position and the Head-

quarters battery and gun and first installations being subjected intermittently to harassing fires, usually by one or two guns. Rarely however would fire approaching the size of a battery concentration be put down. Why we were never able to understand since it seemed at times that the German had our locations accurately and had completed a good adjustment. It is interesting to note that "A" Battery, which, because of its most exposed position was never called on to fire at night, was never subjected to German shelling of any kind, although sizeable concentrations (50-60 rounds) were put down several times several hundred yards to the right flank and to the rear of the "A" Battery position. That more casualties were not suffered during this period is probably due to careful construction of gun pits and shelter pits, restriction of circulation to the minimum necessary, and a lot of luck. Fragmentation of projectiles used during fires identified the following types of artillery used by the German during this period: 170 mm gun, 150 mm howitzer, 105 mm howitzer and gun, either 75 mm or 83 mm gun, and the 150 mm nobelwerfer.

Chronologically enemy harassing fires and counter-battery fires laid down in or near battery areas could be listed. For the purpose of this narrative however it is believed that a statement to the effect that during the four day period 26-29 November no counter-battery or harassing fires were reported, is sufficient. On all other dates fire of varying intensity was received. Our first casualties during this operation were received on 22 November 1943 when a shell burst in "C" Battery area at about 1920 hours and three men walking guard were lightly wounded. On 23 November a shell burst in the "C" Battery gun position killing two men, seriously wounding one and lightly wounding one man. On 24 November two members of Battery "A" Forward Observer party were killed instantly when a shell made a direct hit on the radio tent in which they were sleeping. 26 November brought two additional casualties when two "C" Battery wire men servicing wire lines a mile south of Mignano were lightly wounded in action when a shell burst nearby. Total casualties during the four week period: four killed; one, seriously wounded; seven, lightly wounded. More specific details concerning the casualties suffered are given in the Report of Casualties. Much could be written concerning the near misses. There were many of them but unfortunately not enough as evidence by the above paragraph.

On the other side of the fence however many excellent adjustments were completed; on enemy infantry installations - quarters, mortar squads and machine gun sections. Results can only be surmised in many instances but enemy prisoners of war all testify to the effectiveness of our artillery fire as being something they cannot take any more. A few have given themselves up rather than face additional "automatic artillery". During the period approximately 105 rounds of propaganda ammunition was fired at different times. Tangible results are not yet known but it is believed that concentrations of HE mixed with smoke and time fire are probably a little more effective. Shortly before dark on 28 November First Lieutenant Charles L. Hearn, Platoon Officer with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and one of the Army's best junior platoon officers, completed the adjustment of a battalion of the 77th Field Artillery Regiment on three different four gun battery installations and three gun battery, effectively neutralizing each. Little German artillery fire was reported that night and it is believed that the German plans for the evening were rather effectively disrupted.

Operations during the night were further characterized by the effective and efficient operation of the Battalion Fire Direction Center with its attached radio room; the tireless, pleasant cheerfulness of the switchboard operators; and the sleepless energy of the wire crews. First noticed after the hauling near Tacatum through Altavilla, their has been a continuation of good work well done. They are good men - all of them.

Under cover of darkness on the night of 30 November, Batteries "B", "C" and Headquarters displaced to advanced positions in the vicinity of "A" Battery's position. Surveyed positions occupied: "B" Battery 99090904, "C" Battery at 99810947. Command Post and Fire Direction Center 99030935. The move was made in order to render more effective support during future contemplated operations.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Richard L. Ellwood
RICHARD L. ELLWOOD
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.
Cpl Milton J. Bramer, Typist - Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John D. Cotham, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.
T/4 Joseph W. McClure, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.

Fire Mission information:

S/Sgt Donald R. Hope, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.

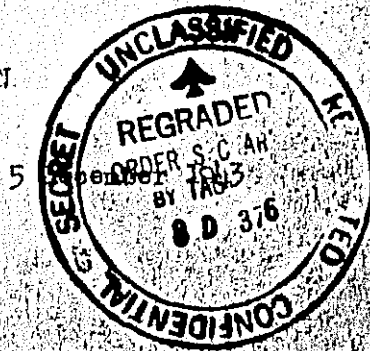
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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. #36, U. S. Army



REPORT OF CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION

David H. Gordon, ASN 20815095, Private First Class, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action one mile north of Conoa, Italy. 2345 hours, Tuesday 23 November 1943.

Pvt. Gordon was talking to his Chief of Section - Sgt. Bohannon and preparing to go on duty when an enemy shell burst about 20 feet from where he stood. One of the fragments pierced his chest on the left side. His only words were, "Sgt. Bohannon". Death was instant.

Pvt. Gordon was 23 years of age. Born 5 February 1920. He enlisted in the service 23 November 1940. Next of Kin: Clara Preston Gordon (Mother) 409 Throckmorton Street, Weatherford, Texas.

Otho M. Shank, ASN 33093252, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action one mile north of Conoa, Italy. 2345 hours, Tuesday 23 November 1943.

Pvt. Shank was on guard in the motor park area of Battery "C" when an enemy shell burst nearby. One of the fragments pierced the back of his neck. Death was instant - resulting from the spinal cord being pierced and broken.

Pvt. Shank was 31 years of age. Born 11 March 1912. He was inducted into service 23 May 1942. Next of Kin: Mary Shank (Mother) Route #1, Dayton, Va.

Billy F. Horton, ASN 20811032, Private First Class, Battery "A" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action near Mt. Ia Defensa, Italy. 2140 hours, Wednesday 21 November 1943.

Pvt. Horton was with Pvt. Charlie J. Deuvall in a shelter set up for radio and telephone communications when a shell landed directly in their position. He was asleep at the time and was killed instantly. Pvt. Horton was a member of Battery "A" Forward Observers party and were on duty serving in that capacity when killed.

Pvt. Horton was 21 years of age. Born 7 August 1922. He was inducted into the service 21 November 1940. Next of Kin: Mrs. Ima Mitchell (Mother) 222 North 11th Street, Paris, Texas.

Charlie J. Deuvall, ASN 20829539, Private, Battery "A" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action near Mt. Ia Defensa, Italy. 2140 hours, Wednesday 21 November 1943.

Pvt. Deuvall was with Pvt. 1st Billy F. Horton in a shelter set up for radio and telephone communications when a shell landed directly in their position. He was asleep at the time and was killed instantly. Pvt. Deuvall was a member of Battery "A" Forward Observers party and were on duty serving in that capacity when killed.

Pvt. Deuvall was 22 years of age. Born 11 December 1920. He enlisted in the service 13 January 1942, having previously been in service from 17 September 1940 to 17 September 1941. Next of Kin: Mrs Sarah G. Deuvall (Mother) General Delivery, Vian, Oklahoma.

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SECRET

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

Henry A. Schaefer, ASN 33200332, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion seriously wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 2345 hours, Tuesday 23 November 1943.

Private Schaefer was on watch in the motor park area of Battery "C" when an enemy shell burst nearby. Fragments from the shell caused a fractured elbow and leg.

Private Schaefer is 35 years of age. Born 14 March 1908. He was inducted in the service 25 May 1942. Next of Kin: Carrie Schaefer, 3515 Esther Place, Baltimore, Maryland.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

Grady Smitherman, ASN 34334082, Private First Class, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 1920 hours, Monday 22 November 1943.

Pvt. Smitherman was on guard in Battery "C" area when a shell burst about fifty feet from him. He was treated and returned to duty.

Pvt. Smitherman is 21 years of age. Born 12 January 1921. He was inducted into service 11 July 1942. Next of Kin: Seduthria Smitherman, Route #1, Randolph, Alabama.

William B. Walker, ASN 20815102, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action near Pt. La Defensa, Italy. 1500 hours, Tuesday 23 November 1943.

Pvt. Walker was in the act of recovering some communication equipment from an area being shelled when a piece of enemy shell fragment cut his back near the shoulder blades. He was treated and returned to duty.

Pvt. Walker is 30 years of age. Born 24 July 1913. He enlisted in the service 20 November 1940. Next of Kin: Minnie Walker (Mother) 312 Dallas Avenue, Weatherford, Texas.

Raymond C. Thomas, ASN 32752768, Private, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile south of Mignano, Italy. 1230 hours, Friday 26 November 1943.

Pvt. Thomas was servicing Forward Observation lines along with T/5 Joe Dodson when a shell landed nearby. The wound was caused by fragmentation. Pvt. Thomas was evacuated to the hospital.

Pvt. Thomas is 20 years of age. Born 25 March 1923. He was inducted into service 27 February 1943. Next of Kin: Florence Thomas (Mother) 1167 North 33rd Street, Camden, New Jersey.

Joe Dodson, ASN 20815055, T/5, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile south of Mignano, Italy. 1230 hours, Friday 26 November 1943.

T/5 Dodson was servicing Forward Observation lines when an enemy shell landed nearby. He was wounded by fragmentation and was treated and returned to duty.

T/5 Dodson is 30 years of age. Born 17 April 1913. He enlisted in the service 7 October 1940. Next of Kin: Nell Dodson (Mother) Route #1, Garner, Texas.

S E C R E T

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION CONT'D

Ira Barnes, ASN 20815047, T/4, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 1920 hours, Monday 22 November 1943.

T/4 Barnes was walking guard in Battery "C" area when an enemy shell burst nearby. Small fragmentation hit him. He was treated and returned to duty.

T/4 Barnes is 34 years of age. Born 7 June 1909. He enlisted in the service 2 October 1940. Next of Kin: Susie Barnes (Mother) Peaster, Texas.

John H. Eddleman, ASN 20815056, T/5, Battery "C" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 1920 hours, Monday 22 November 1943.

T/5 Eddleman was walking guard in Battery "C" area when an enemy shell burst nearby. Small fragmentation hit him. He was treated and returned to duty.

T/5 Eddleman is 36 years of age. Born 16 February 1907. He enlisted in the service 13 July 1940. Next of Kin: Annie Eddleman (Mother) Route 5, Weatherford, Texas.

John F. Gorenflo, ASN 35414185, Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion - attached to Battery "C" 132nd Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action one mile north of Conca, Italy. 2345 hours, Tuesday 23 November 1943.

Pvt. Gorenflo was on duty in Battery "C" area during some enemy shelling when a shell burst nearby causing him to receive a slight concussion. He was treated and returned to duty.

Pvt. Gorenflo is 22 years of age. Born 14 November 1921. He was inducted into service 15 August 1942. Next of Kin: Mrs. Rosa E. Gorenflo, (Mother) 475 East Mark Street, Marion, Ohio.

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S E C R E T

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ADJ. CG 30th Inf D
INITIALS:
DATE: 8 January 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

* * * * *

DECEMBER 1943

132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (105 mm)

A history of the action of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion during the month of December 1943, Italian Campaign.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
RESTRICTED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Sturgeson Col. F4
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 24 July 1945



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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 January 1943

SUBJECT: Historical Records and History of Organization

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division,
APO # 36, U. S. Army

1. Submitted herewith the report of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Historical Records and Histories of organization covering action of this battalion during period 1-31 December 1943. This report is submitted in compliance with letter dated 20 April 1943, Allied Force Headquarters, APO #512, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organization and wrapper indorsement dated 21 September 1943, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division and Memorandum No. 56, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division dated 28 November 1943.

2. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the past six weeks:

a. The 105mm Howitzer M2A1 is a satisfactory direct support cannon for the infantry division in this type of terrain. The ability to fire at elevations greater than maximum range is necessary for close-in support in the mountains and to search out reverse slopes.

b. Operations in mountainous terrain requires the closest relationship between artillery and infantry. The forward observer must know where the friendly troops are and their plans in detail and through the liaison officer keep the artillery informed. The infantry in their plans must leave some room on visible terrain for maneuver of artillery fire, as maps are not accurate in detail and complete survey is out of the question. Hence all close-in artillery fire should be observed and initial rounds be given approximately 400 yards safety factor either in range or deflection.

c. Communications are difficult and the use of relay stations for radio must be anticipated. More often than not these relay stations are O.P.'s on commanding terrain and serve a dual purpose as such. Wire requires time but should go into infantry battalions. W-110 should be used. It takes longer but is worth it.

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d. Many targets which on open terrain would be mortar or even machine-gun targets become artillery targets in the mountains as the supply problem to front line units is usually most difficult.

e. Operations must be planned not only to gain observation but to gain artillery positions. It may prove to be desirable in some stages to use the 4.5 gun battalion in direct support of this objective.

f. Gun pits should be made secure and kept livable at all time; one does not displace often.

g. Artillery battalions should have four firing batteries of six guns each. This would decrease the number of battalions required by one-half and materially decrease the number of vehicles, wire lines, radio channels, staff officers and general overhead in any theatre.

h. Each battalion should have two bull-dozers of appropriate size as part of their equipment to operate in the mountains and mud.

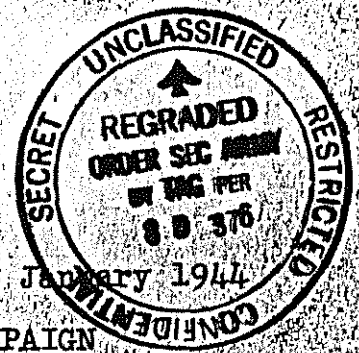
3. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

John M. Green
JOHN M. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding



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NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS - ITALIAN CAMPAIGN
1 - 31 December 1943

Under cover of darkness on the night of 30 November, Batteries "B", "C", and Headquarters displaced to advanced positions in the vicinity of "A" Battery's position; the battalion area being approximately 2000 meters south of Mignano, Italy. The positions occupied had been prepared for occupation and surveyed prior to the movement. With "A" Battery in position at 99040887, "B" Battery's new position at 99090904 and "C" Battery's position at 98810947, the battalion position in effect was that of a twelve gun battery, with a battalion frontage of about 700 meters and about 200 meters in depth. The Command post and Fire Direction Center installations were located in two caves at 99080935 on the flank of "B" Battery's position and in rear of the "C" Battery position.

In general throughout the month of December, the same difficulties were encountered as those discussed in the narrative covering November Operations. The almost continuous rainfall restricted vehicular movement principally to established roads, and necessitated the use of tractors or bull-dozers to move the howitzers in or out of any position. Also, because of this factor, all howitzer positions were restricted to areas adjacent to established roads.

The Battalion position area was an exposed area with nothing more than sight defilade from enemy observation from Mt. Camino, Mt. La Difensa and Mt. Lungo. Necessarily all installation and movement of supplies had to be at night. On the night of 30 November all of Baker Battery howitzers were placed in position but by daylight on 1 December only two of the Charlie Battery guns had been installed. This was due primarily to the availability of only one bull-dozer to assist in the occupation of the new positions. Occupation of the "C" Battery position was completed after darkness on 1 December. Throughout occupation of the new area from about 1900, 30 November until about 0400, 1 December the Command Post area and the adjacent Mignano Highway were shelled intermittently, approximately 55 rounds landing in the area. These were mostly 105mm, some 150mm and probably three 170mm. There were 8 or 10 duds in the group. It is worthy of mention here that much of the German harassing or interdictory fire is done with two or three guns of different calibre, firing from different positions.

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Little firing was done by the Battalion on 1-2 December because of the lack of flash defilade, and in order that all plans for the operation "Raincoat" could be coordinated between the units participating. Our mission throughout the operation was to support the attack of the 142nd Infantry, who at 0620, 3 December, were to seize and hold the Mt. La Difensa Ridge 368 and the Mt. Maggiore hill masses. Also, in direct support of the 142nd Infantry (as a groupment under command of the Commanding Officer, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion) was the 131st Field Artillery Battalion (105mm), with the 155th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm), reinforcing our fires on call. The attack of the 142nd Infantry was coordinated with the attack of the 1st Special Service Force who were to seize and hold Hill 960 (Mt. La Difensa) initially and the British 56th Division who were to take Monastery Ridge and Mt. Camino Peak on the left, the whole constituting the operation "Raincoat". Numerous Corps artillery units were in general support of the operation.

In preparation for the operation many preliminary fires, close direct-support concentrations, and defensive fire plans to be used when the final objectives were attained, were all worked out by personnel of the Combat Team. Throughout this operation, as in all operations, two forward observer groups and one Liaison Party functioned with each of the Infantry Battalions. In addition two Battalion Observation Posts were maintained as well as Command Liaison with Infantry Regimental Commander at all times, either by the presence of the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, at the Infantry Command Post, or his representative in his absence.

The success of the operation, and of the next subsequent operation insofar as this battalion is concerned, can best be attested to by reference to the letter of commendation initiated by Colonel G. E. Lynch, Commanding the 142nd Regimental Combat Team, and the indorsements thereto. The letter, which compliments the battalion and its commander highly, is reproduced in whole as an annex to this narrative.

Worthy of note and characterizing the months operations was the cooperation attained between elements of the Infantry-Artillery Team and the personnel of the two organizations. Essential for the efficient functioning of any artillery unit is the active, uninterrupted work of its Liaison and Forward observer parties. In Mountainous terrain supply of those parties with food, water, and the essential radio

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batteries, presents a problem of considerable magnitude. The impetus of supply is from rear to front and it is absolutely essential that supply to Observer and Liaison parties be maintained at all times. As difficult as was the job of supplying their own personnel on the mountain ridges, the co-operation of the Infantry Supply and pack train personnel in seeing that necessary supplies reached our forward parties each night, was exceptional. The high degree of cooperation in the planning of operations has already been mentioned.

In connection with the functioning of forward observer-liaison groups, the importance of maintaining all possible means of communication cannot be stressed too greatly - and the work of the battalion wire crews in laying and servicing the wire lines to those groups cannot be praised too highly. Theirs is a difficult job. During inclement weather as experienced throughout the month it is essential too that personnel of the forward-observer-liaison groups be relieved and rotated with some regularity. To effect these reliefs and to familiarize all personnel with the problems and the functioning of the forward observer-liaison groups, Staff and Battery Officers and personnel of the Headquarters and firing batteries were used. Efficiency of both groups was high throughout the month.

By 8th December the operation "Raincoat" had virtually been completed. In passing the comment could be made that the weather seemed to typify the name of the operation. It rained almost every day. During the period all types of targets were engaged. Preparation fires in which all artillery units, both British and American, in the sector, took part, were probably the heaviest in the Italian Campaign. The extent of casualties caused by the fire is of course not known. Because of the caves and the well-organized positions held by the German, the probabilities are that they were not great. Most prisoners of war taken however testified to the demoralizing effect of the heavy concentrations of artillery fire, and many were undoubtedly influenced in their decision to give up rather than face the intensity of allied artillery fire again. The large majority of fire delivered throughout this period was on direct support observed-fire missions. Many rounds however were expended on harassing and interdiction fires, and on Division Artillery or Corps "Serenades". See the attached "Summary of Firing".

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From 8-15 December the situation remained fairly static with only the normal activity - harassing and interdictory fires at night; observed fires on targets of opportunity during the day. Several times during this period targets were marked for Air Corps bombing missions by the use of smoke. At 0958 on 11 December a target was marked for a group of A-36 bombers by the use of green smoke. The Air Corps informed us that afternoon that the smoke identification fired for them was perfect, and apparently are very enthusiastic about the use of colored smoke for this purpose. With five colors of smoke shell available, its use presents some interesting possibilities. Throughout this period there was considerable air activity, both enemy and our own, with occasional enemy raids strafing and bombing in the vicinity of Mignano. On these occasions it was heartening to see the sections of our attached anti-aircraft artillery unit, Battery "A", 443rd AAA, go into action. They seemed to welcome each enemy plane and always gave a good account of themselves. They were quite successful too in discouraging the close approach of enemy air, no unfriendly planes coming close enough to the Battalion area to do damage. A number of enemy planes were shot down although we could never tell who got in the good work. Intermittently throughout the period, the Command Post and the battalion area would be subjected to harassing fire by German guns of various size. After he lost his observation from Camino-Difensa and Monastery Ridge however no sizeable concentrations were laid down. One incident worthy of note as being unusual for a field artillery battalion occurred on the night of 5th December, when "C" Battery reported that they were being shelled by enemy mortar fire. Investigation disclosed that the German had retaken Monastery Ridge from the British (temporarily) and the mortar fire was originating from that vicinity.

By 15 December plans had been completed for the attack of the 142nd Infantry to seize and hold Mt. Lungo, the attack to jump off at 1700 hours on that day. Our fires were to be reinforced by the fires of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm). The operation was speedily and successfully concluded, the infantry taking some prisoners on Lungo but meeting little opposition. By the afternoon of 16th December the hill mass had been pretty well cleared out. By 19th December units of the 142nd Infantry had been relieved by elements of 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division. Because of damaged bridges and an impassable road, the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, the direct support artillery unit of the 15th Regimental Combat Team, who were to relieve this battalion,

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Were unable to move into position. Our Liaison Officers and observers had been instructed to remain in position for 24 hours after relief of the 142nd Infantry had been accomplished, to orient on the ground the observers and officers of the relieving unit. Delay of the 39th Field Artillery, who did not occupy position until the night of 21 December, made it necessary that observers and liaison officers remain at their positions until the afternoon of 22 December.

A few problems encountered that were not discussed in the narrative covering operations during the preceeding month should be mentioned. In mountainous terrain it often becomes necessary to use only high-angle fire because of the mask which must be cleared. Much firing with charges 6 and 7 exerts a terrific strain on the trail of the howitzers. Damage sustained in this manner required the replacement of two howitzers during the month. During the period the battalion remained in position in the Mignano area, no time shell was fired as such because of the high angle required to clear the mask, and the resulting long time of flight. If operations are contemplated in mountainous terrain, and time fire is desired, it will be necessary to develop a time fuze with a time of burning greater than the 25 second fuze we now have. For time fire at maximum ranges using high-angle fire, a fuze timed to burn as long as 66 seconds will be required. With a mask of varying elevations in different parts of the sector, it frequently becomes necessary to change from normal angle to high-angle fire as shifts in deflection to the various parts of the sector are made - further complicating the job of the Battery Executive or of the Fire Direction Center. These problems are mentioned only as being of interest. They are not new.

Preceded by two days of labor of working parties from each of the batteries, organizing the new position areas, the battalion moved on 22 December to new positions in the Venafro sector. Surprisingly enough the weather had been good for several days and a few of the men at least, had begun to think that there was something to the proverbial expression "Sunny Italy". As it became evident however that we were to displace - the rains came. Movement to the new area and occupation of the positions was accomplished during a steady rain that lasted throughout the night and through the following day. By the time the weather improved and visibility was good again the battalion was well-dug-in and the area

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well-camouflaged. There had been no enemy shelling of the area during occupation, no enemy air activity. Ducks wouldn't even fly in weather like this. The new positions were on a ridge on the southern slopes of Mt. Sammuero about 2000 meters East of S. Pietro. The surveyed positions occupied placed "A" Battery at map coordinates 99301613, "B" Battery at 99771618, "C" Battery at 99951614, and the Command Post and Fire Direction installations at 002162; the battalion area thus being about 100 meters in width and some 800 meters in depth. As the battery positions were on a pronounced slope each howitzer section was at a different elevation. The area was one of the few areas available for occupation that could be occupied. Again it was necessary to require the assistance of a bull-dozer to occupy the position, as it had been to remove each howitzer from the position vacated. Because of the limited area and the exposed position, all prime movers and vehicles not needed were sent back to the Service Battery area near Venafrò, and only the gun crews and the minimum personnel necessary to operate remained in the forward area.

This position was occupied until 28th December. The situation during this period remained fairly static and little firing was done, a few targets of opportunity being engaged and several harassing missions fired. Christmas Day differed from those preceding it by reason of an excellent Turkey Dinner and a cheery "Greeting of the Season" passed from one man to the next. Many men attended church services in Venafrò. For many it was the first Christmas spent away from home - and there was much writing of letters. We all hope that it will be the last. Late in the afternoon the battalion commander adjusted fire from an Air OP on two enemy gun batteries - the battalion's Christmas Greeting to the Nazis.

On 27th December it was learned that our position area would be taken over by the 151st F.A. Bn., the artillery units of this Division being relieved by the units of the 34th Infantry Division. On the same date it was also learned that this battalion as part of the 142nd Regimental Combat Team would not be relieved, but would occupy positions in the vicinity of Ceppagna, then occupied by the 376th Field Artillery Battalion. The move was made the following day, by echelon, "A" Battery occupying position at map coordinates 0274517726, "B" Battery at 0239117436 and "C" Battery at 0173017640. The Command Post and Fire Direction Center was installed in a rock enclosure formed by some old ruins on the left flank of the Baker Battery position. We were again in direct support of the 142nd Infantry, detached from the Division and attached to II Corps, as of 1500 hours,

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30 December 1943. Only a few more hours in the year and only a few more paragraphs to this narrative. Mission of the 142nd Infantry was to take over the areas of Hills 1205 and 687q relieving the 504 Airborne Infantry and the First Special Force. This was effected by daybreak on the 29th, our observers and Liaison Officers with their respective battalions.

Our first casualty during the month occurred on 1st December when a member of the Service Battery ration detail was seriously wounded by a shell fragment as rations were being delivered to the "B" Battery area. Death resulted on the 14th. On the 2nd a member of the "B" Battery Forward Observer group was lightly wounded on Mt. La Difensa. On 5th December a shell burst near the doorway of a house in the "B" Battery - C.P. area, killing three Headquarters Battery men instantly and lightly wounding one. Fragments from a shell bursting nearby lightly wounded a member of the "B" Battery forward observer group on Hill 960 on 6th December while he was sleeping. On this same date 1st Lt. Virginus O. Ruffin, "B" Battery Forward Observer was lightly wounded by machine gun fire on Hill 510 during a German counter-attack. On 16th December a member of the "A" Battery forward observer section was seriously wounded when an enemy shell burst near his position near Mt. Giacomo.

On the 7th December 1st Lt. William P. Ellermeyer, O-445875, with a detail of two "B" Battery men, was sent to man the observation post of 1st Lt. Virginus O. Ruffin, O-1177621, evacuated because of wounds, on Hill 510. The three men were last seen about 1600 hours on that date in the vicinity of 510, shortly before a German counter-attack in that area. They have been missing since that time and it must be presumed that they walked into the counter-attack and were captured. Total casualties during the month: four enlisted men killed; one officer, two enlisted men, missing in action; one enlisted man, seriously wounded; one officer and three enlisted men lightly wounded. More specific details concerning the casualties suffered are given in the Report of Casualties.

Attached as an annex to the narrative is a section on "Awards and Commendations". Detailed information is given therein concerning the gallantry in action and exceptionally meritorious conduct of members of this organization. On Tuesday, 2 December 1943, the following officer and enlisted men were awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action near Altavilla after the Salerno landings: First Lieutenant Louis N. Quast, O-452469; Sergeant Stewart (NMN) Clark, 20814904 (posthumously); Sergeant Al Gene James, 20814949; and Corporal Joe J. Williams, 20815028. On Monday, 13 December 1943, Letters of Commendations were received by the following officer

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and enlisted men for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of their duty in the same area: Captain Herbert C. Bishop, O-290764; Private Earl C. Wacker, 36351134; and Corporal John M. Lisdero, 36049961. Men - outstanding among outstanding men. They are good soldiers - all of them.

Many others have been praised and commended for work well-done. That all could not be so listed is perhaps regrettable. That others shall be so listed in the future there is no doubt. That there will be others, many of them, who should be included, cannot be denied - for there are many heroic action that go unknown or unnoticed during the excitement of battle, and much essential work well-done that could never be outstanding. It is these things that constitute war and battle: rain and mud, cold and discomfort, of digging and of sleepless nights and tiring days, of being afraid and of being hungry, of repairing roads and of building bridges, of being lonely - of an endless number of little things; that, principally, is of what war consists. All ~~MEN~~ then who are soldiers, are good soldiers, because all men experience all of these things.

The month and the year ended in a fitting fashion. The 31st brought with it a day of rain end, towards dusk, high gusty winds achieving gale-like proportions. In Texas the wind might have been termed a rip-snorter. It succeeded in pulling one of the cub planes from its moorings shortly after dark, carrying it some twenty yards and setting it down - bottom-side up. The plane was badly damaged.

Throughout the month a total of 21,069 rounds of ammunition were fired - and morale was high.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Richard L. Ellegood
RICHARD L. ELLEGOOD
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.
T/Sgt Frank Borelli, Typist - Hq Btry 132nd F.A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS, 142D INFANTRY
APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

20 December 1943

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : The Commanding General, 36th Inf Div, APO # 36,
U. S. Army

1. The work of the 132nd Field Artillery During the engagements of this Regimental Combat Team with the Germans on Mt. Maggiore and Mt. Longo during the period December 3 to December 19, 1943 was of such outstanding calibre that I feel honored in being able to report its achievements to the Division Commander, with the request that those achievements be made a matter of record and unit history.

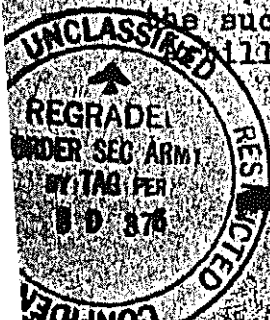
2. The Combat Team had swift and complete success in its efforts. The part the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion played in attaining these successes cannot be measured; however, it can be said that without the support of that Battalion, the results would not have approached those actually reached. Enemy counterattacks were destroyed in the assembly phase; enemy truck columns were destroyed by surprise fires; positions were softened by close direct support fires, and in every step of the action, from planning to completion, the personnel of the battalion were completely one with the 142d Infantry Regiment in forming a true combat team.

3. It is worthy of note that the probable reason for the success attained by this battalion is that the commander himself, on his own initiative, was present with the 142d Infantry Regimental Commander from the opening of the action until the close of the battle. He visited Infantry Battalion Commanders and his own OP's at times when the situation warranted his absence for the Regimental CP. To further the efficiency of our team-work he has initiated in his unit the practice of having Battery Commanders, Staff Officers, and Battery Officers operate as forward observers with the Infantry Companies, and firing battery personnel taking turns in functioning as O.P. parties. This has resulted in a keen appreciation by the men who operate the guns, of the urgent necessity for quick, accurate fire when called for by the Infantry.

4. Too much credit cannot be given Lt. Col. John N. Green, Commanding Officer of the 132nd Field Artillery, for the successful functioning of the Artillery in this Infantry-Battery Team.

/s/ G. E. LYNCH
/t/ G. E. LYNCH
Lt. Col., 142d Inf.
Commanding

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HQ, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO #36, U. S. Army, 23 December 1943

TO: Commanding Officer, 36th Division Artillery, APO #36,
U. S. Army

1. The Division Commander has noted, on many occasions, the firm, aggressive, active personal leadership of Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green, Commanding Officer, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, and is also aware of the very effective manner in which all of the resources of the 132d Field Artillery Battalion have been devoted to the close support of Infantry units with which it has been associated. The strong personal leadership of Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green is principally responsible for the fact that the 132d Field Artillery Battalion has been able to effectively support the Infantry with which it has been associated.

2. The magnificent work of the observation personnel, communications personnel, transportation personnel and gun battery personnel, working in cooperation under most difficult conditions of terrain, weather and hardship, has earned for the 132d Field Artillery Battalion the highest compliments for efficiency in battle.

3. I wish to add my commendation for the splendid service rendered by the officers and men of the 132d Field Artillery Battalion and its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel John N. Green. Their fine spirit, devotion to duty and excellent teamwork is a real contribution to the efficiency of the Division as a whole.

/s/ FRED L. WALKER
/t/ FRED L. WALKER
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

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2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 36th Inf. Div. Arty, APO #36, U. S. Army, 25
December 1943

To: C.O. 132nd F.A. Bn., APO #36, U. S. Army

1. The Division Artillery Commander has noted with extreme gratification the commendation originated by Lt. Col. G. E. Lynch, 142d Infantry, and 1st Indorsement thereto by the Division Commander.

2. I wish to add my commendation and congratulations on the splendid work of your battalion and for your personal devotion to duty and exemplary leadership.

/s/ WALTER W. HESS JR.
/t/ WALTER W. HESS, JR.
Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS FOR MONTH DECEMBER 1943

Stewart (NMN) Clark

STEWART (NMN) CLARK, Sergeant, ASN 20814904, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded, posthumously, a Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December 1943.

STEWART (NMN) CLARK, 20814904, Sergeant, Battery "B" **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Sergeant Clark, without regard for his own safety, personally checked the disposition and safety of members of his howitzer section before seeking his own fox hole. His section was engaged in firing an artillery mission, and after completing fire of one round, he instructed and checked that each member of his section had sought proper protection, a shell from an enemy weapon landed in the vicinity of his howitzer section killing Sergeant Clark, but causing no serious injury to any other member of his command. This outstanding display of leadership in the interest of the safety of his men was an inspiration to all members of the battery. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Chloecia T. Clark, wife, P.O. Box 114, Joshua, Texas

LOUIS N. QUAST

LOUIS N. QUAST, O-452469, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded a Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December 1943.

LOUIS N. QUAST, O-452469, First Lieutenant, **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Lieutenant Quast led a small detail under enemy mortar and machine gun fire up the rugged terrain toward **** beyond our own lines, successfully observing for and conducting the fire of two artillery battalions on enemy targets after repeated attempts of other observers had been repulsed by enemy fire. The following morning, with utter disregard for his own safety, he entered the town then occupied by the enemy, and secured some abandoned

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radio batteries to install in his radio and continue communication. His courage and determination were an inspiration to all who witnessed his outstanding acts and materially assisted in the accomplishment of the mission. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Entered the service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

JOE J. WILLIAMS

JOE J. WILLIAMS, 20815028, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded a Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December 1943.

JOE J. WILLIAMS, 20815028, Corporal, Battery "C", **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on the night of 12 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. When the Commanding Officer of Company D, *** Infantry, reported an urgent shortage in ammunition, Corporal Williams voluntarily organized a special detail from his artillery ammunition section. With utter disregard for his own safety, he led the section successfully throughout the night and accomplished the vital supply of ammunition despite severe enemy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Entered the service from Weatherford, Texas.

AL GENE JAMES

AL GENE JAMES, 20814949, Technician Grade IV, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star, Tuesday 2 December 1943.

AL GENE JAMES, 20814949, Technician Grade IV, Battery "B", **** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 13 September 1943 in the vicinity of ****, Italy. Sergeant James, radio operator with an artillery liaison section with the *** Infantry Regiment, with utter disregard for his own safety, continued to operate his radio throughout a heated enemy assault supported by artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. This vital communication, which enabled artillery support to be accurately rendered, was maintained constantly despite the severe fire and the fact that two of the four men of the detail had become separated from the section and were not available to assist in providing cover, improving the in-

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stallation or in transporting the equipment. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

Entered the service from Godley, Texas.

AWARDED LETTERS OF COMMENDATION BY COMMANDING GENERAL,
36TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY. PUBLISHED TO COMMAND
IN GENERAL ORDERS:

HERBERT C. BISHOP

HERBERT C. BISHOP, Captain, ***Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 14 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. On the morning of 14 September 1943, Captain Bishop, Commanding Service Battery and acting as Battalion Ammunition Officer, personally led trucks and men forward into the unprotected area and secured 900 rounds of 105mm ammunition which had been left behind. There was no known covering force protecting the position. Upon leaving the area the train came under heavy enemy artillery fire. Captain Bishop was the last member of his command to leave. This action of aggressive leadership on the part of Captain Bishop and his determination to conserve the ammunition available in the area was an inspiration to his command and reflects great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

Letter dated Wednesday 8 December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

EARL C. WACKER

EARL C. WACKER, 36351134, Private, Headquarters Battery, *** Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy. A small group of infantry officers and men to whom Private Wacker was attached became isolated and were under attack from enemy motorized and infantry troops and subjected to severe artillery and machine gun fire. Although separated from the artillery officer under whom he normally worked, Private Wacker exposed himself to fire in order to assist another man in setting up radio communication. His actions materially contributed to the resultant effective artillery concentration which overcame the enemy threat and enabled the small group to escape.

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The initiative, resourcefulness, and courage displayed by Private Wacker reflect great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Chicago, Illinois.

Letter dated Wednesday 8 December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

JOHN M. LISDERO

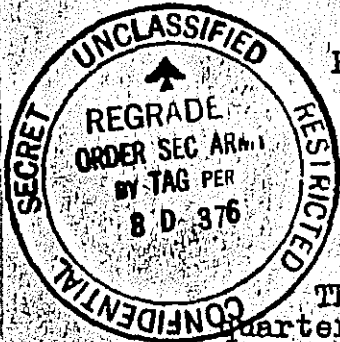
JOHN M. LISDERO, 36049961, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, *** Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious service on 9 September 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy.

A small group of infantry officers and men to whom Corporal Lisdero was attached became isolated and was under attack from enemy motorized and infantry troops. Although separated from the artillery officer under whom he normally worked, Corporal Lisdero exposed himself to severe enemy artillery and machine gun fire, set up his radio with the assistance of another man, and directed artillery concentration on the enemy so effectively that the threat was overcome. The initiative, courage and resourcefulness displayed by Corporal Lisdero reflect great credit upon himself and his organization.

Entered service from Crete, Illinois.

Letter dated Wednesday 8 December 1943. Commendation received Monday 13 December 1943.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO # 36, U. S. ARMY

REPORT OF CASUALTIES, MONTH OF DECEMBER 1943

KILLED IN ACTION

THOMAS CHARLIE MC CORMICK, ASN 20814842, Sgt., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, Killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35 -- Sheets 160 II, 161 III, -- Mignano, Italy.

Sgt. McCormick was with Pvt 1cl Nils R. Helge, Pvt. Arthur (NMN) Johnsen and Pvt 1cl Joseph N. Rich in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, Helge, and Johnsen, instantly.

McCormick was 24 years of age. Born 5 August 1919. He was inducted into service 23 September 1940.

Next of Kin: Mr. Troy M. McCormick (brother), Paris Hotel, Paris, Texas.

NILS R. HELGE, ASN 32301688, Pvt 1cl, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Sheets 160 II, 161 III, Mignano, Italy.

Pvt. Helge was with Sgt. Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pvt. Arthur (NMN) Johnsen and Pvt 1cl Joseph N. Rich in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, McCormick and Johnsen instantly.

Helge was 27 years of age. Born 25 April 1916. He was inducted into service 12 May 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Ida Helge (mother), RFD # 1, Jamesburg, New Jersey.

ARTHUR (NMN) JOHNSEN, ASN 32332670, Pvt., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Sheets 160 II, 161 III, Mignano, Italy

Pvt. Johnsen was with Sgt. Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pvt 1cl Helge, and Pvt 1cl Joseph N. Rich in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed him, McCormick and Helge instantly.

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Johnsen was 26 years of age. Born 17 March 1917. He was inducted into service 7 May 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Alvida Gardella (sister), 442 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

EDGAR H. MUELLER, ASN, 38026782, Pvt 1cl, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, died of wounds received in action at 0130 hours, Wednesday 1 December 1943, at coordinates 99.2 - 04.3, Sheets 160 II & 161 III, Mignano, Italy.

Pvt. Mueller was on ration detail duty along with Cpl. Bryant, Cpl. Green and Pvt. Kraft. This detail was bringing rations to Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery, and were approaching the battery when they came under enemy artillery fire. Fragments from the shelling wounded Mueller. Cpl. Bryant summoned Battalion Medical aid. Mueller was evacuated to 94 Evacuation Hospital. It was found that shell fragments had pierced his left buttock, left lower thigh and left lower bowel. Mueller died as a result of these injuries at 0330 hours, Saturday 4 December 1943.

Mueller was 27 years of age. Born 18 November 1916. He was inducted into service 3 February 1941.

Next of Kin: Martha Mueller (mother), Star Route, Ledbetter, Texas.

MISSING IN ACTION

WILLIAM P. ELLERMAYER, ASN, O-445875, 1st Lt, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1615 hours, Wednesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Lt. Ellermeyer was in charge of an FO party sent up to man observation post of 1st Lt Virginius O. Ruffin who had been evacuated that morning after receiving wounds in a counter attack the night before. Pvt Roy E. Fagan and Pvt Ernest F. Flipp made up the party under command of Lt Ellermeyer. Lt Ellermeyer was last seen about 1600 hours by 2nd Lt Gilpin, Btry "B", on Hill 510, shortly before a German counter attack in that area. Pvts. Fagan and Flipp are missing also.

Lt Ellermeyer was 23 years of age. Born 1 September 1920. He was commissioned 1st Lt 16 January 1943.

His father, W. F. Ellermeyer, lives at 503 N. 5th Street, Belen, New Mexico.

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ROY E. FAGAN, ASN 20814941, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1615 hours, Wednesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Pvt Fagan and Pvt Ernest F. Flipp were on FO party under command of 1st Lt William P. Ellermeyer on way to take over observation post of Lt Virginus O. Ruffin, who have been evacuated in the morning after being wounded in a German counter attack the night before. This FO party was last seen by 2nd Lt Gilpin, Btry "B", about 1600 and right before a German counter attack took place on Hill 510.

Pvt Fagan was 23 years of age. Born 22 November 1920. He enlisted in the service 21 November 1940.

His wife, Mrs. Bessie Fagan, lives at 202 Williams Avenue, Cleburne, Texas.

ERNEST F. FLIPP, ASN 20814919, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1615 hours, Wednesday 7 December 1943, on Hill 510.

Pvt Flipp and Pvt Roy E. Fagan were on FO party under command of 1st Lt William P. Ellermeyer were on way to take over observation post of Lt Virginus O. Ruffin, who had been evacuated in the morning after being wounded in a German counter attack the night before. This FO party was last seen by 2nd Lt Gilpin, Btry "B", about 1600 and night before a German counter attack took place on Hill 510.

Pvt Flipp was 21 years of age. Born 20 July 1922. He enlisted in service 21 November 1940.

His wife, Mrs. Helen R. Flipp, lives at 1144 Middle Street, Weymouth, Massachusetts.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JAMES R. GODBEY, ASN 35109214, Pvt 1st, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, at 1400 hours, Thursday 16 December 1943, in Infantry assembly area S.W. of Mt. Giacomo, Italy.

Pvt Godbey and three other men were part of carrying party with FO party under command of Lt. Roberts. Godbey was in an assembly area when a heavy enemy shell burst nearby. Fragments from the shell hit Godbey in right shoulder. He was evacuated through 111th Clearing Station.

Pvt Godbey is 23 years of age. Born 22 January 1920.

His mother, Mrs. Jennie Godbey, lives in Ware, Kentucky.

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LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JOSEPH N. RICH, ASN 32340344, Pvt 1cl, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 1145 hours, Sunday 5 December 1943, 200 yards south of coordinates 99.08 - 09.35, Sheets 160 II, 161 III, Mignano, Italy.

Pvt Rich was with Sgt Thomas Charlie McCormick, Pvt 1cl Nils R. Helge and Pvt Arthur (NMN) Johnsen in the doorway of a house when a heavy enemy shell burst near their position. Concussion and shell fragments killed McCormick, Helge and Johnsen instantly. Rich escaped with just a few scratches.

Rich is 30 years of age. Born 24 September 1913. He was inducted into service 20 May 1942.

His mother, Mrs. Isabella Rich, lives at 21 Evergreen Avenue, Rye, New York.

HERBERT E. MOEDE, ASN 36579904, Pvt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 0245 hours, Monday 6 December 1943, on Hill 960.

Pvt Moede was a member of Battery "B" FO party and at the time of being injured was in a pup tent near Captain Bennett's OP on Hill 960. An enemy shell struck a rock above the tent and fragments pierced the shelter in 56 places. One of the shell fragments struck Moede in the right shoulder. He was evacuated to 95th Evacuation Hospital Tuesday 7 December 1943.

Moede is 20 years of age. Born 28 October 1923. He was inducted into service 4 March 1943.

His mother, Mrs. Anna Moede, lives at 1639 Stinner Road, Monroe, Michigan.

VIRGINIUS O. RUFFIN, ASN 0-1177621, 1st Lt Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, at 1600 hours, Monday 6 December 1943, on Hill 519.

Lt Ruffin was manning an observation post when he was caught in a German counter attack. He received a wound in the left shoulder from machine gun fire. Lt Gilpin, also from Battery "B", came to his assistance. Evacuation at the time was impossible and he was evacuated at 1000 hours Tuesday 7 December 1943.

Lt Ruffin is 25 years of age. Born 12 March 1918. He was commissioned 2nd Lt 11 February 1943 and promoted to 1st Lt. 4 November 1943.

His father, John F. Ruffin, lives in Pottstown, Pa.

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JOHN J. JEDRUSIK, JR., ASN 36119531, T/Gr 5, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, on Mt. La Difeusa, Italy, about 2200 hours, 2 December 1943.

Cpl. Jedrusik was a member of a forward observer party with 2nd Bn., 142nd Infantry. While moving from the assembly area on the slope of Mt. Camino in preparation for the attack scheduled for the following morning, along the trail on the side of the mountain, a shell landed nearby. The trail was wet and slippery and Cpl. Jedrusik fell, the 610 radio which he was carrying on his back, hitting him in the back of the head, causing concussion of the brain. He was hospitalized from 2 - 15 December 1943.

Cpl. Jedrusik is 24 years of age. Born 6 May 1919. He was inducted into service 20 June 1941.

His mother, Bertha Jedrusik, lives at 5433 Casper Street, Detroit, Michigan.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

JANUARY 1944

NARRATIVE

Mr. Weatherman was not very considerate in his welcome of the New Year. With the passing of 1943 and the arrival of young 1944, we were being greeted with an 80 mile wind mixed with rain, sleet and snow. Those of us who were not on a tour of duty were huddled in blankets attempting to keep warm. A welcome to the new year was far from our thoughts at the time.

With the beginning of a New Year the Battalion occupied position about 3000 meters South of Venafro with the mission of direct support of 142nd Infantry. The battery positions were as follows; "A" Battery Coordinates 0274517726, "B" Battery 0239117436 and "C" Battery at 0175017410. The Command Post and Fire Direction Center was located in the walled inclosure of an old ruins about 200 yards to the left flank of "A" Battery. The rear echelon of the Battalion was in position on the olive grove slope about one mile West of Venafro and on the North side of the Venafro - Ceppano road. The Mission of the 142nd Infantry was to maintain garrison on Hills 1205 and 607 and the high ground East and North East of San Vittore.

After the initial storm that welcomed the New Year the weather has been pleasant. With little rain through out the month all roads have become passable and enabling movement of vehicles and material with ease. By the close of the month cross country movement was possible. With very little wind, early morning fog and haze has obstructed observation and has prevented the effective use of Artillery on enemy targets of opportunity. There have only been a few days during which observed fire could be adjusted on Enemy targets and on those days the observation was limited to the afternoon when the fog and haze had cleared from the valleys.

The 142nd Infantry had the mission of holding until elements of the 34th Division could get into position and attack in the direction of San Vittore and the high ground to the North and North West. As direct support, our activi-

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ies during the period were confined to harassing fires, defensive fires and a few observed missions where observation would permit. The 6th Armored Group reinforced our fires during this period.

On 3 January the Battalion was assigned the mission of direct support of the 2nd Regiment of the S.S.F. Their mission was to seize the high ground generally North of San Vitoria and along the boundary of the 45th Division. The ground was to be occupied by elements of the 3th Division. To furnish direct support of 2nd Regiment, S.S.F. liaison was established with the Regimental Headquarters, and Forward Observers were sent out to accompany the assault units.

On the 4th January this Battalion passed to control of 6th Field Artillery Armored Group. During the period 4th January to 13th January inclusive our mission was direct support of 2nd Regiment S.S.F. when actively committed and reinforce the fires of the 131st and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion who were in direct support of the 1st and 3rd Regiments of the S.S.F. respectively.

The plan for Support was to maintain close Liaison and keep Forward Observers close up with assault elements of the S.S.F. 2nd Regiment. In the plans for the attack no preparation fires were included as none were desired by this Force. The support consisted of observed missions, close in defensive fires during the night and during periods of reorganization together with unobserved harassing missions and interdiction fires. To enable the Battalion to accomplish its mission the Battalion displaced forward to positions in the valley approximately 1000 Meters North East Copacagua on the morning 9 January 1944. During the displacement the fires of the Battalion were taken over by 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

At 1800 hours 7 January 1944 the 36th Division Artillery took over control of artillery support of S.S.F. from the 6th Armored Group.

At 1500 12 January 1944 the Battalion took over the mission of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, supporting the 133rd Infantry; also continue support of 2nd Regiment, S.S.F. The 131st and 132nd Field Artillery Battalions were assigned to reinforce this Battalion. The mission of the 2nd Regiment of the S.S.F. was accomplished on the 15 January 1944 and they were relieved by the 133rd Infantry.

On 11 January 1944 we received notice that the 36th Division would return to combat and that this Battalion would be relieved of the present assignment as soon as the Mission of the S.S.F. was accomplished.

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On the 12 January 1944 a conference was held for new positions in the area between Mt. Inigo and Mt. Trocchio for which positions we were to be assigned the mission of general support of the 11th Division and reinforcing the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion who were to be in direct support of the 11st Infantry. The mission of the 2nd Battalion, 33rd, was accomplished on 13 January and at 1500 this date we were ordered to the mission of direct support of this force in order to move to new positions for which previous reconnaissance and preparations had been made. The unit moved as a unit under cover of darkness to the new positions and were in position and ready to fire by daylight 14 January 1944. On 14th and 15th of January the Battalion was occupied registration, improving positions, establishment of Observation Posts, harassing fire, a few observed missions and coordination of fires with 131st Field Artillery in support of the attack of the 11st Infantry on the Southern portion of Mt. Trocchio. The mission of the 11st Infantry was accomplished on the 16th of January with little resistance. During the period 17th January to 20th January inclusive the Battalion resumed harassing missions assigned by Division Artillery and such observed missions as were possible during the limited periods that observation would permit. Our general target area was the Valley West of the Rapido River, extending from Cassino to the Liri River and during most of the day this area was covered by fog and haze which permitted very little observation. On the night of the 19th January the Battalion displaced to positions along the Railroad between Mt. Porchia and Mt. Trocchio.

On the 20th January we were assigned the mission of General Support of the 36th Infantry Division and reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. The mission of the Division was to establish a bridgehead over the Rapido River in vicinity of St. Angelo. The mission of the 113rd Infantry with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion in direct support was to cross the Rapido River to the South of St. Angelo and envelope the town from the South and Southwest. To support this mission with Artillery fire, a heavy 30 minute preparation was planned and heavy concentrations to be fired beginning with "H" hour, lifting from phase line to phase line on a time schedule. The plans of fires for this Battalion were closely coordinated with the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and the Division Artillery. The time of the attack was announced as 1930, 20 January 1944. For the preparation and supporting fires for the period up to 2400 21 January this Battalion expended approximately 3500 rounds of ammunition on prearranged observed missions in support of this attack. Having failed to accomplish their mission the Division resumed the attack the night of 21 January 1944. The plan for artillery support was generally the same as that for the initial attack of the preceding night.

Having failed to accomplish their mission the 11st and 113rd Infantry were ordered to organize defensive positions along the high ground East of the River.

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Our mission remained the same, General Support and Reinforcing the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

On the 26th January the 142nd Combat Team was attached to the 34th Infantry Division and assigned a mission of occupy in the high ground that had been previously taken by the French about 2 Kilometers East of Terelle, attack to the South and secure the high ground in vicinity of Mt. Castellone. To Accomplish this mission the 142nd Infantry moved to an assembly area in vicinity of St. Elia and on the night of the 27th January this Battalion displaced to positions in vicinity of Cevaro. The 935th Field Artillery Battalion took over the mission of direct support of the 142nd Infantry during the night of 27th January and the 28th January until this Battalion could complete organization of positions and complete installations to render direct support. Registration was completed 28th January and prearranged fires completed for direct support of 142nd Infantry who were to move into assembly areas during the night 28th January preparatory to attack the following morning. The initial objective of the 142nd Infantry was Hill 875 at Coordinates 32.7 - 27.2.

Due to heavy opposition the Regiment was unable to reach its assembly position preparatory to attack until the 29th January. The attack was launched the early morning of January 30th and the initial objective was secured 31st January 1944.

In Support of this operation this Battalion was assigned the 935th Field Artillery Battalion and 932nd Field Artillery Battalion to reinforce its fires. No preparation fires were ordered by the Infantry and the plan for Support consisted of close in observed missions by Forward Observers who accompanied the assault Companies. Counter Battery and extensive Harassing missions were fired on enemy supply routes, probable enemy gun positions, assembly areas and known enemy installations.

Due to limited fire possibilities in the positions in vicinity of Cevaro new positions were selected in vicinity of St. Michele and one gun per Battery was displaced forward and Registered during afternoon of 30 January 1944. Displacement was made under cover of darkness on night 30 January by Batteries and at all times there were at least two Batteries in position to fire. Displacement was completed by daylight 31st January and all Batteries were in position to fire either observed or unobserved missions. Upon reaching its initial objective our Forward Observers with leading elements of the Infantry began immediate adjustment of defensive concentrations on likely avenues of approach of the enemy and conducted fire on observed missions while units were in process of reorganization.

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Thus with the end of January we were very actively engaged on a mission of direct support and doing our best to give the "doughboys" everything possible in the way of artillery support. Our close combat liaison with Infantry Regimental Commander and our plan of keeping liaison and Forward Observers sections with each Infantry Battalion at all times has developed a mutual understanding of each others problems and a relationship which is so essential to the success of any operation involving an Infantry-Artillery Combat Team.

Our Supply problems have been minor as in almost all locations we have been fortunate in having our Service Battery and Rear Echelon within communicating distance of the Battalion position. Supply dumps have been accessible and the only trouble encountered has been the congestion of traffic during hours of darkness, which has in some cases delayed movement of Ammunition and Supplies into the position areas.

No replacements were received during the month and at the close of month the Battalion was short approximately 3 Officers and 32 Enlisted Men of effective combat strength. This shortage appears to be very light, but it handicaps the efficiency of the Battalion when the operations require continuous work for twenty four hours per day to deliver essential artillery support.

There are no comments to be made on Enemy personnel Killed or Captured or Material destroyed or Captured as no personnel or Material was captured by the Battalion and evacuation units had disposed of Personnel Killed or Material Destroyed before an opportunity afforded a close observation.

So ends another chapter in the history of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and the close of the month saw this Battalion engaged in its 77th day of continuous combat. During this period not a single day has passed that artillery fire has not been placed on enemy targets.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Clifford M. Snow
CLIFFORD M. SNOW
Major, Field Artillery
Executive

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Mq. Btry., 132nd F.A. Bn.

T/5 Richard J. Paine, Typist - Mq. Btry., 132nd F.A. Bn.

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AWARDS FOR MONTH JANUARY 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

Per General Order No. 8, Headquarters, 38th Infantry Division,
dated 24 January 1944.

BERNARD F. REED, O-176361, Second Lieutenant, Battery C, ** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 26 November 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Lieutenant Reed was a forward artillery observer with the 3rd Battalion, ** Infantry, occupying a defensive position on Hill 363. While under heavily concentrated enemy mortar and artillery fire, and with little cover, he directed the fire of his own artillery on an approaching unit of enemy infantry. With utter disregard for his own life, while others took cover, he refused to leave his exposed position, realizing that unless the approaching enemy was stopped, the Infantry troops which his unit was supporting would suffer a counter-attack. He continued his fire direction, thereby assisting in repulsing this imminent counter-attack by inflicting heavy casualties upon this enemy force. His display of outstanding calmness and aggressive vigor inspired the confidence of all who witnessed his actions and resulted in destroying the enemy counter-attack without loss of any of our infantry. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered the service from Brooklyn, New York.

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

JOHN F. GOREMFLO

JOHN F. GOREMFLO, ASN35414195, Private, Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address: 475 East Mark Street, Marion, Ohio

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

PAUL R. DAVIDSON, ASN 33282912, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart for injuries sustained during enemy shelling while on liaison duty 28 December 1943. Awarded Purple Heart 7 January 1944. Home address: 3604 Orchard Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

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AWARDS FOR MONTH JANUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

FRANK A. EMANUEL

FRANK A. EMANUEL, ASN 33436089, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 4 January 1944. Home address: 1421 Poplar Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

BATTERY "B"

LOUIS N. QUAST

LOUIS N. QUAST, ASN 0-452469, 1st Lieutenant, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 4 January 1944. Home address: 929 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

STEPHEN J. THOMPSON

STEPHEN J. THOMPSON, ASN 35695518, Private, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart, 22 January 1944 for injury sustained 18 January 1944. Home address: Hodgenville, Kentucky.

JOE Q. WALKER

JOE Q. WALKER, ASN 20814929, Sergeant, Battery "B" 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart, 22 January 1944 for injury sustained 19 January 1944. Home address: 413 E. Woodville Street, Clebourne, Texas.

SERVICE BATTERY

CHARLES A. KAISER, JR

CHARLES A. KAISER JR, ASN 37243071, Private, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart, 27 January 1944, for injury sustained 19 January 1944. Home address: Route No 3, Palmyra, Missouri.

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AWARDS FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

SERVICE BATTERY

MARCEL J. DE BEL

MARCEL J. DE BEL, ASN 36039705, Corporal, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address; 12 North 11th Street, St Charles, Illinois. See Narrative.

ROBERT A. HALLAM

ROBERT A. HALLAM, ASN 35169086, Private First Class, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address; R.R. #3, Owensville, Indiana. See Narrative.

HUDSON D. LARRISON

HUDSON D. LARRISON, ASN 38051050, Private First Class, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address; Box 197, Orange, Texas. See Narrative.

VINCENT J. GAFFNEY

VINCENT J. GAFFNEY, ASN 32334650, Private, Service Battery 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home address; 407 North 49th Street, New York, New York. See Narrative.

TROY L. MARSHALL

TROY L. MARSHALL, ASN 38069815, Private, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion awarded Purple Heart 5 January 1944 for injury sustained 3 January 1944. Home Address; 1023 Coffin Street, Donison, Texas. See Narrative.

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HEADQUARTERS 1st2nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1944

CONCLUSIONS

1. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the period.
 - a. All shelter available should be used, houses, barns, caves etc. The men, as many as possible, need the sense of security and the opportunity to get dry and warm once in awhile afforded by houses. Our experience to date indicates that buildings can be used if the circulation is controlled by day, lights by night and fires giving off smoke be used only at night.
 - b. T/O 6-25 is none to generous in man power for actual operation in battle. Direct support artillery operates 24 hours per day 7 days per week and for week after week and therefore requires at least two men for every job.
 - c. Operations should be planned to secure positions and routes along the axis of advance.
 - d. Due consideration should be given to time and space in planning operations. There should be ample time for reconnaissance, planning, moving into position and building up essential supplies.
 - e. A river crossing is most difficult and should not be attempted until observed artillery fire is delivered in quantity on all hostile installations in the proposed beachhead area. After a considerable softening by observed fire the crossing should be supported by intense artillery fire as close to our own troops as communications will permit.
 - f. Direct support artillery can function continuously as such over long periods of time but should have breaks when it functions as general support and can rest the Liaison Officer and Forward Observers and their details, and repair their equipment.

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Charts and Overlays;

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cothran, Hq. Btry. 152nd F. A. Bn.
T/4 Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry. 152nd F. A. Bn.

Fire Mission information;

S/Sgt. Donald R. Roper, Hq. Btry. 152nd F.A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 152ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.C. # 56, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1944

AWARDS FOR DECEMBER JANUARY 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

Per General Order No. 3, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division,
dated 24 January 1944.

JAMES H. STOUT, O-1167240, First Lieutenant, ** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 3 December 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. Lieutenant Stout displayed outstanding courage in the face of direct enemy fire on his observation post. While adjusting the battalion on an enemy force assembling in a draw to his right, an enemy weapon opened fire on the observation post from a point about 1000 yards to his front. He immediately ordered his radio section to take cover and without regard to his own safety continued adjustment of the artillery fire on the enemy assembly area. The effective results of the fire broke up the enemy formation and prevented a possible counter attack against our forces. The courage displayed by Lieutenant Stout and the sacrifice of his own safety in the face of direct enemy fire were an inspiration to his command. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

VIRGINIUS G. RUFFIN, O-1177621, First Lieutenant, ** Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 December 1943 in the vicinity of **, Italy. The 2nd Battalion, ** Infantry, was ordered to move from positions on the east slope of ** into a nearby assembly area preparatory to a daylight attack the following morning. Lieutenant Ruffin, artillery forward observer, with utter disregard for his personal safety, remained at his observation post directing artillery fire on hostile enemy weapons which were harassing and inflicting casualties on the infantry troops. The result of his accurate adjustment was the neutralization of the enemy fire, permitting the infantry to move with a minimum of casualties. Lieutenant Ruffin and a telephone operator were the last to leave the exposed area. His display of outstanding courage in the face of constant enemy fire inspired all who witnessed his deed. His gallant action reflects great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered service from Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

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1. Basic load of ammunition is ample for most days but in this almost stable situation a stock gives one a feeling of security, against enemy action or traffic conditions.
2. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

John H. Given
JOHN H. GIVEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

FEBRUARY 1944

N A R R A T I V E

During February our activities consisted of direct support missions almost the entire month. Unlike the preceding months, however, the situation has been rather static during most of the period and has only required one displacement of positions, an unusual record over a month's period for a direct support Battalion. It has been a decided change from the previous months of combat when frequent changes of positions were involved due to faster moving engagements. The Rapido River and Cassino with its surrounding heights has proved to be a hard nut to crack, however the situation has permitted some relaxation to the Battalion personnel who have now completed three and one half months of continuous combat.

With the opening of February the Battalion occupied position in the vicinity of St. Michele with mission of direct support of the 142nd Infantry. The Infantry at this time occupied positions on the high ground East of Terelle in vicinity of Hill 875. Their Mission was to continue the attack to the South, make contact and relieve the 135th Infantry who at the time occupied Mt. Castellone. To support our Mission, we were assigned the 932nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 935th Field Artillery Battalion to reinforce our fires.

The rugged mountainous terrain over which the attack was to be made created a problem in planning supporting fires. As stated in our January report no preparation fires were planned and the supporting fires consisted of prearranged fires on supply lines, possible assembly areas and known or suspected gun positions and installations. These Missions were assigned to the reinforcing units as far as possible and our Battalion was kept

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free for Observed Missions from our Forward Observers and Liaison Officers. As in all previous engagements two forward Observers were assigned to each Infantry Battalion, one to accompany each Assault Company of the Battalion. They maintained continuous Observation from advantageous terrain and during the attack toward Mt. Castellone many Observed Missions were fired. This attack was successful and relief of the 135th Infantry was accomplished by the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry the night of 1st - 2nd February.

Immediately upon occupation of Mt. Castellone our Forward Observers registered the Battalion on defensive concentrations on avenues of approach and likely assembly areas to this position. Our firing during the period 2 February to 10 February inclusive consisted of close in supporting fires, harassing missions and observed targets for the 142nd Infantry whose mission was to occupy and hold the high ground from Mt. Castellone to Hill 706. With the advantage of good observation from this high ground many targets of opportunity were fired upon with excellent results.

The Battalion with the 142nd Infantry reverted back to control of the 36th Infantry Division on 8 February and plans were made for a joint attack by the 34th and 36th Divisions on Cassino and the high ground West and North West. This attack was planned for the morning of 11 February and to increase our fire possibilities and to enable the Battalion to support attack on the town of Piedmonte, a new Battalion position was selected about 1500 yards West of St. Michele. Displacement was made during night of 9 - 10 February and registration was completed 10 February in preparation for this attack.

The mission of the 142nd Infantry was to seize Hill 468 and we were assigned the mission of direct support. Artillery support of the Division for this operation required close coordination and planning between the Infantry and Artillery due to the limited objectives and limited sectors for maneuvering. A 60 minute preparation was planned consisting of Battalion concentrations on known enemy strong points and installations. Accompanying fires consisted of observed missions and repetition of preparatory fires on call by Forward Observers and Liaison Officers with the Assault Battalions.

The 142nd Infantry were successful in seizing Hill 468 although the resistance was very heavy. Limited advances were made by the remainder of the Division and the 34th Division due to heavy casualties and enemy resistance developed by the attack. At approximately 1800, 11 February all units

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were ordered to organize and hold the ground they then occupied.

On 12 February the 36th Division was assigned the mission of organizing and defending the Ridge extending from Mt. Castellone through Hill 706 to Hill 593. The mission of the Division remained the same for the remainder of the month until relieved. The 142nd Infantry was relieved the night of 27 - 28 February at which time this Battalion was assigned the Mission of General support along with the other units of the 36th Division Artillery and reinforcing the fires of 1st Battalion, 67th Group, C.E.F. Artillery.

Our fires during the period consisted of targets of opportunity, harassing missions and close in defensive fires for our supported Infantry. A coordinated plan of defensive fires was planned by the Division Artillery and we were assigned certain missions to be prepared to fire on call. All close in concentrations were accurately registered upon to obtain maximum effect when called for. During this period we were also assigned Missions to be fired to support an attack of the New Zealand Division on Cassino on a date and time to be announced. These Missions were broken down into Battalion concentrations with prepared data carefully figured and checked by actually firing on a few where observation permitted. In addition to the above missions for support of an attack by the New Zealand Division we were assigned certain sectors in which we were to be prepared to fire defensive fires on call of this Division. These fires consisted of pre-arranged missions data for which was prepared by the Fire Direction Center to enable quick delivery of fire on call.

It has been suggested that our narrative include a statement as to actual observed effects of Artillery fire on enemy targets. It is hard to observe detailed results of Artillery fire on the enemy as usually Observation is distant from the target and results are the neutralizing effect obtained on each. The German soldier is very highly trained in camouflage and concealment and in situations with which we have been confronted during the past month, it is seldom a target presents itself of a nature that you can adjust Artillery on and actually see detailed effects of the fire. An Observer will often pick up a target revealed by some form of enemy activity but when fire for effect is concentrated on the target the enemy has taken cover or his installations are so well concealed that actual results of the fire cannot be accurately ascertained. A good Alert Observer will occasionally pick up targets where he can really see the demoralizing results of Artillery fire. In one case reported to me our Ob-

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server adjusted fire on two enemy vehicles on the road or trail leading West out of Villa St. Lucia. The two vehicles were disabled by our fire and shortly after completing the mission he observed a column of enemy Infantry marching toward him on the same road. When the column approached the vicinity of the vehicles the Observer called for fire for effect by the Battalion. The results were obvious with many casualties and the remainder dispersing for cover. This particular concentration proved effective on several other occasions when movement of personnel or vehicles were observed in the same vicinity.

Another example of an Alert Observer getting results with Artillery fire occurred in the vicinity of Hill 468 on the night of 11 - 12 February. After securing this terrain feature our Infantry withdrew and organized positions for the night some 300 yards from the limit of their advance. Our Observer with this unit adjusted the Battalion on a likely enemy assembly area for a counter attack near by, during the late afternoon so that accurate Artillery fire could be placed on the area instantly on call. During the night it was reported that enemy activity could be heard in this particular area in what appeared to be enemy moving up and digging in. The Observer called for fire for effect on the prearranged concentration. It was impossible to see the results of the Artillery fire but screams and yells could be heard from the area indicating a heavy casualty and demoralizing effect.

As in the past two and a half months of combat our supplies problems have been minor except for heavy mud and congested traffic during periods of rainy weather. Commendations are due all echelons of supply for their speed and thoroughness with which supplies of all nature have been made available as far as conditions could possibly enable them to do so direct to the battery positions where they were to be used.

The Battalion received 51 enlisted men replacements during the month, all of which were direct from the States. These replacements appear to have been well trained in the basic subjects but lack experience so essential for combat duty. They have been found to be technically qualified for the positions to which assigned and with experience it is believed that they will prove to be efficient combat soldiers. We have placed these men sparingly on duties involving actual combat and have used them, along with experienced personnel, to enable them to gain experience without endangering their own safety. At the close of the month the Battalion was at full strength in officers and enlisted men of effective combat strength.

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There are no comments to be made on enemy personnel killed or captured or materiel destroyed or captured. Our operations for the month were such that we did not occupy the areas covered by our artillery fire and we were therefor unable to observe the actual damage resulting there from.

With the close of another month of active combat the morale of the troops is excellent considering the long period of active service.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Clifford M. Snow
CLIFFORD M. SNOW
Major, Field Artillery
Executive

Assisted in preparation by:

T/5 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
T/5 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
T/4 Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire Mission information:

S/Sgt. Donald R. Hope, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

GEORGE C. ADAIR

GEORGE C. ADAIR, ASN 20614620, Pvt 1cl, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 9 February 1944, for wounds received 8 February 1944. Home address: 104 South East Third Street, Bonham, Texas.

RALPH F. FERGUSON

RALPH F. FERGUSON, ASN 6039192, Pvt, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 18 February 1944, for wounds received 17 February 1944. Home address: 121 R.E. Miller Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

RICHARD J. RIPLEY

RICHARD J. RIPLEY, ASN 42000786, Pvt, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 18 February 1944, for wounds received 17 February 1944. Home address: RFD #2, Plainfield, New Jersey.

BATTERY "A"

JOHN J. WICKHAM

JOHN J. WICKHAM, ASN 01170601, 1st Lt. Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 3 February 1944, for wounds received 30 January 1944. Home address: 169 E. Elm Avenue, Quincy, Mass.

AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

BATTERY "A"

ROBERT A. LANG

ROBERT A. LANG, ASN 01178282, 2nd Lt, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 13 February 1944, for wounds received, 12 February 1944. Home address: 112 Etra Road, Heightstown, New Jersey.

JOE E. GRAY

JOE E. GRAY, ASN 20814827, Corporal, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 15 February 1944, for wounds received 14 February 1944. Home address: 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ Kaufman Street, Paris, Texas.

BATTERY "B"

JOHN T. PARIS

JOHN T. PARIS, ASN 20814966, T/Gr 5, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 3 February 1944, for wounds received 2 February 1944. Home address: 2135 Washington Street, Cleburne, Texas.

EUGENE H. SEWARD

EUGENE H. SEWARD, ASN 33093234, Pvt, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: 56 West Rock Street, Harrisonburg, Va.

BATTERY "C"

JAMES H. SHIVERS

JAMES H. SHIVERS, ASN 20814445, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 3 February 1944, for wounds received 3 February 1944. Home address: 1424 West 5th Avenue, Corsicana, Texas.

AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1944

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

BATTERY "C"

WILLIAM B. WALKER

WILLIAM B. WALKER, ASN 20815102, Pvt, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: 312 Dallas Avenue, Weatherford, Texas.

EPHRAIM D. EARWOOD

EPHRAIM D. EARWOOD, ASN 37048914, Pvt 1cl, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 12 February 1944, for wounds received 11 February 1944. Home address: Lohrville, Iowa.

CLARENCE W. HEINTZELMAN

CLARENCE W. HEINTZELMAN, ASN 33828991, Pvt, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 15 February 1944 for wounds received 14 February 1944. Home address: Route #2, Statington, Pennsylvania.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1944

CONCLUSIONS

1. The following conclusions are based on combat operations during the period:

- a. The high casualty rate in the forward observer and liaison sections was due to a great extent to the fact that during the period close contact with the enemy has been had. During the entire period the observation posts have been within small arms range of the enemy. The incidents of terrain have been such that the observer had to accompany the assault elements to get to a suitable O.P. and in two instances became a casualty by small arms fire. Further, the ground held necessitated the location of observation posts in the out-post line to have the observation necessary for close support.
- b. The fighting inside the so called winter line has been most bitter.
- c. The German use of artillery is unpredictable. The Division Artillery has occupied positions for three weeks within four thousand yards of the enemy who has held dominating heights on three sides. Our positions have little sight, and no flash, defilade yet we have received little counter battery fire. However, in preparation for an attack by one battalion the Germans fired a heavy artillery preparation over three thousand yards of front and in depth for a period of three hours, expending an estimated 6000 rounds. We fire at all times night or day. The Germans have also fired every day and night on roads and areas to our front and rear.

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2. Combat efficiency can be maintained for three and one half months of continuous action in direct support under rather severe combat conditions. However it is not recommended as the usual thing. Men and officers need some mental relaxation. Time also will be needed to pass on to replacement officers the lessons learned thus far.

3. "B" rations should and can be used by direct support artillery.

4. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

John N. Green

JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

MARCH 1944

N A R R A T I V E

March found the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion still in the line. Now in a mission of General Support reinforcing the fires of 1st Battalion 67th Group, D.I.A., French Forces. The Battalion maintained an O.P. on Mt. Castellone near Hill 706, furnished Liaison officers to French. Lt. Blanchet was at French Division Artillery Headquarters, Lt. Buckley at 1st Battalion Headquarters. Also had Captain Gabbert on liaison job with British New Zealand Corps.

Battery positions remained the same except for "A" Battery whose position was moved on March 5th due to counter battery fire received. The new position was prepared, which in itself took plenty of work. A bridge had to be built across a stream, fields of fire cleared through some trees, and an exceptionally muddy road improved under the able direction of Captain Bennett. The move itself was accomplished one night with aid of a small bulldozer from the Engineer Battalion. One gun was not put completely in position because the small bulldozer could not handle the gun up a muddy slope. A larger bulldozer aided the completion of occupation of position the second night. It should be noted that this very difficult position was occupied because of crowded conditions in the general area. There were very many Artillery units in the valley before Cassino so that mostly every likely Artillery position was occupied.

The Battalion O.P. on Mt. Castellone proved too be a very hot spot. The ridge was barren and very little cover and concealment existed. Our O.P. party occupied a cave which was

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evidently an old cistern, and successfully lived through heavy artillery and mortar concentrations. Maintaining and operating the O.P. was made a bit more difficult by the fact that French Infantry occupied the ground and the resulting difference of language and tactics. The observers at times found that this O.P. constituted the most forward element of the line in that sector which proved to be rather disturbing on occasion. The Germans frequently gave the ridge a thorough going over with mortars and artillery when movement was observed on the ridge. And also interesting to note is the fact that when the Germans suspected observed fire was being conducted from the mountain he showered it with fire. Actually when unobserved fires were being delivered on the Germans, they in turn would plaster the mountain. Another fact that is very unusual is that the mountain was exposed to fire from enemy artillery located back on both right flank and left flank. We found that German self-propelled artillery or tanks would move up on Abbey Hill (Abbey de Montecassino) and fire into the infantry positions. Also on the North toward Bellemonte Castello, and even further East than that town, the Germans had artillery that fired into positions on Castellone. These fires from the flank and rear caused many reports of "friendly" Artillery hitting the Mountain. The O.P. proved its value, however, in that successful and damaging observed fires were adjusted on German mule trains, Infantry and installations by observers there. One afternoon Captain Jones observed and fired on three mule trains and an Infantry column on one mountain trail. Harassing fires were fired on this concentration every night thereafter, and no further daylight activity was observed on the trail. Captain Curtis fired on two mule trains on another mountain trail and then observed extensive activity in the town of Piedmonte and brought down a Division Artillery Concentration on town. Visibility was nearly always undependable in these mountains. Weather changed rapidly from clear to fog or rain and snow; then just as unexpectedly clouds and fog would clear away. Wire lines from the O.P. thru Cairo across the valley to Battalion were almost constantly under heavy fire and were difficult to keep in and service.

In the battery position areas several things of interest occurred. Battery "C" reported mortar shells falling about 300 yards to their left front. Fragments recovered were identified

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as Italian 81mm mortar shells with range of 5000 yards. The mortar concentrations were heavy, approximately 100 rounds each in two of the concentrations, and the mortar fire was moved about a little. The concentrations were repeated several days. The location of the mortar was never definitely discovered, but were thought to be firing from town of Cassino. The Germans intermittently delivered harassing fire on the road passing the battalion area. Some of the fire came from the North toward Belmonte Castello, some came from direction of Cassino, and some from Piedmonte area. Weapons firing were thought to be 105mm and High Velocity tank guns of about 75mm or 77mm. On March 5th Battery "A" received a heavy Counter Battery Concentration that killed two men, wounded one seriously and damaged one howitzer by gouging the tube. The fire was observed and adjusted as indicated by rounds of Smoke and over and short ranging rounds of H.E. The conclusion was reached that actually the target was a Cross Roads (that is where a much used road crossed a stream bed that was also used as a road) that became a busy thoroughfare after Battery "A" moved in. Nevertheless the Battalion Commander decided to move the Battery and selected an area some 300 yards to the rear and slightly to right of Battery "B". The move was made as previously described. The new "A" Battery position deserves comment for another reason: range difference between most forward piece and piece furthestest to rear was approximately 300 yards, the vertical difference between highest and lowest piece was 150 yards. The fact that fire was successfully delivered from this position demonstrates the effectiveness of individual correction of each piece by the Battery Executive to deliver a 100 yard sheaf in the target area. A battery position survey locating each piece vertically and horizontally was used to determine individual correction for each piece. Particular note is to be taken of the fact that the Battalion was advised to be prepared to fire in support of the British New Zealanders on the South and the French on the North; making a total zone of fire of 2400 mils, and gun pits were built to accomplish this.

On March 6 this battalion detached a single howitzer and section from Battery "A" to act as roving gun. The first position for the gun was between St. Michele and Cervaroli.

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The gun was moved four days later to a position just outside of St. Michele. While in these positions the roving gun was used for observed harassing missions. Majority of the targets were in valley to South and West of Cassino. Fire was conducted from the Division Artillery O.P. in Cervaro.

The very forward disposition of the artillery can be judged by receiving mortar fire near one battery. Actually the position area and Battalion C.P. - F.D.C. was about 4000 - 5000 yards from "downtown" Cassino. Our position was near the valley floor on the East forward slopes of the mountains of Cassino. This forward disposition made possible Adjustments from the Battery positions, establishing of a good local O.P., and the window O.P. at F.D.C. Fire was successfully adjusted from these points on various enemy activity both on Montecassino hill and in the valley to the South. We also had a vantage point position for witnessing the Division Artillery 5 volley salute fired in honor of the 108th Anniversary of Texas Independence on March 2, 1944, the 108th day of continuous Combat for our Battalion. The salute was fired on the now battered, but still German held, Abbey de Montecassino.

On March 12, 1944 the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion began its march out of the Combat area on its 118th day of Continuous Combat. The Battalion went into Combat on November 16, 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Advance parties from batteries and Headquarters of 131st Field Artillery Battalion arrived, preparatory to their relieving us on night of March 12-13, 1944. During the day most of the personnel and equipment was made ready, and the rear area at Service Battery was used as the assembly area. After dark the guns were pulled out by bulldozers, where necessary, and march units assembled in rear area. Head of the Battalion column left the assembly area at 2030 March 12, 1944. To the relieving unit we turned over firing chart, prearranged fire data, K's, and minimum elevations, orienting lines, place marks (they moved into the same gun position), and all wire lines. The 132nd Closed into bivouac area near Maddaloni, Italy about 0400 March 13, 1944.

On March 11, 1944 Lt. Col. Green commanded a composite Artillery Battalion as part of a 36th Division Review which was held near St. Michele, Italy in honor of the Award winners of the

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36th Division. The Silver Star Medal was presented by Lt. General Mark W. Clarke to the following members of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion:

1st Lt. Clare N. Lyke, ASN 0-24501, Battery "A", Gallantry in Action near St. Michele, Italy. Adjusted artillery fire on enemy artillery from Air O.P. after being wounded on ground O.P. Refused Medical Aid until fire mission was completed 5 February 1944.

1st Lt. James H. Stout, ASN 0-1167240, Battery "C", Gallantry in Action near Mignano, Italy. 3 December 1943 ordered others to safety but disregarded his own. Remained on his O.P. adjusting fire on the enemy while his O.P. was receiving direct fire from enemy weapons.

Sgt. Wayne Denham, ASN 20815054, Battery "C", Gallantry in Action 23 November 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Disregarding his own safety, left his fox hole and under enemy shell fire rendered aid to the wounded. Carried a wounded comrade to a place of safety.

Tec-5 Ray Barker, ASN 38026787, Headquarter Battery, Gallantry in Action 17 January 1944 near Mt. Porchia, Italy. Repaired a vital telephone line under intense shell fire, climbed a tree near a cross roads to repair the line despite continuous shelling. During entire three hours he was constantly subjected to shell fire.

Tec-5 Knox Paine, ASN 20814547, Medical Detachment, Gallantry in Action 23 November 1943 near Mignano, Italy. Left place of safety and under enemy shell fire rendered aid to three wounded men, helped move one to safety, was knocked unconscious by concussion of shell; continued to other two upon regaining consciousness but found them dead.

This historical narrative was prepared under direction of the Battalion Commander.

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AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

KNOX PAINE

KNOX PAINE, ASN 20814547, Tec-5, Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943. Tec-5 Paine entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR

LAWRENCE W. MICKELSON

LAWRENCE W. MICKELSON, ASN 36245113, Pvt. 1cl., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Bronze Star 6 March 1944, for meritorious conduct in line of duty, in combat against the enemy. Entered service from Cadott, Wisconsin.

AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

WILLIAM J. MAAG

WILLIAM J. MAAG, ASN 35461659, Tec-5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 6 March 1944 for wounds received in action against the enemy on 29 February 1944. Tec-5 Maag entered service from Cincinnati, Ohio.

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AWARDS FOR MONTH MARCH 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

JAMES H. STOUT

JAMES H. STOUT, ASN 0-1167240, First Lieutenant, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 3 December 1943. Lt. Stout entered service from Cleburne, Texas.

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

CLARE N. LYKE, ASN 0-24501, First Lieutenant, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on the afternoon of 5 February 1944. Lt. Lyke's home is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

WAYNE DENHAM

WAYNE DENHAM, ASN 20815054, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 23 November 1943. Sgt. Denham entered service from Weatherford, Texas.

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

RAY BARKER

RAY BARKER, ASN 38026787, Tec-5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star 11 March 1944 for gallantry in action on 17 January 1944. Tec-5 Barker entered service from Georgetown, Texas.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1944

CONCLUSIONS

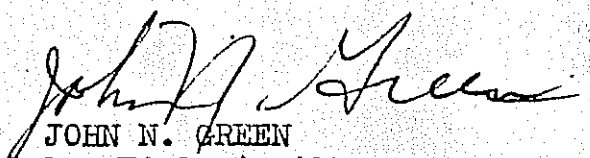
1. The maximum time that a light artillery battalion can stay in action and maintain a high state of efficiency was not determined. But it can be assumed to be longer than four months if it is interspersed with periods of general support or reinforcing missions.

2. General maintenance of materiel and equipment was satisfactory but certain lessons were learned principally the necessity for up to date records of motor maintenance to be certain none on detached missions are neglected.

3. Having once gotten out of hostile artillery range it was concluded that men and officers were more tired than they thought. A state of lethargy seemed to prevail for two or three days.

4. Any conclusions arrived at as to the Germans capacity and ability for counter battery purely from the facts of our experience to date are silly and must not be allowed to lull us into a sense of false security.

5. The report was prepared under my direction by personnel of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.


JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 June 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

MAY 1944

N A R R A T I V E

The first of May 1944 the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion bivouaced near Avellino, Italy; undergoing extensive training in mountain operations and service of the howitzers.

On the 3rd of May the Battalion was moved to an area near Qualiano, Italy, at which place all of the howitzers were calibrated.

Major Clifford M. Snow had left the first of May as liaison officer for 36th Infantry Division Artillery with the 85th Division Artillery. Areas were assigned in the Minturno sector for the artillery battalions.

On the 3rd of May battalion and battery officers with details made reconnaissance of battery positions. These were selected and work begun on them. This was done at night with the utmost secrecy. Preparations on positions were completed on Saturday 6 May 1944.

On the 5th Captain Richard L. Ellegood, Battalion S-3, received orders for his promotion to the rank of Major. John P. Conley, Robert Lang and Leonard Pohner were promoted from 2nd Lt. to rank of 1st Lt. at this time.

Saturday 6 May Lt. Col. John M. Green was decorated with the Silver Star Award at an impressive ceremony. Major General Fred

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L. Walker made the presentation before members of our combat team in the 142nd Infantry Regimental area.

Monday May 8 plans were presented to the Division Artillery for operations in support of the 85th Infantry Division and also for a proposed amphibious operation - presumably Anzio.

Tuesday 9 May march order instructions were received for movement to the prepared position in the vicinity of Minturno. Movement was made the night 9-10 May; with the battalion in position at 2310.

At this time the friendly front lines were 3400 yards North West of our position. This front was in a static state - having been the same for the past three months - and at this time was exceptionally quiet. The mission of our battalion was in general support of the 85th Division Artillery.

The battalion area was to the rear (South East of the Minturno Hill) and the battalion CP was located in an orange grove; which was heavily laden with ripe fruit - there was no lack of Vitamin "C" on this operation.

An OP was established in the castle in the town of Minturno, at which place the OP personnel had excellent observation in our zone of action and they were very comfortably situated except for occasional enemy artillery fire.

Firing on the 10th was limited to registration with one gun. Only three rounds were fired - proving excellence of the survey.

Secrecy was rigidly enforced with radios silenced and movement held to a minimum.

The "Front" area was exceptionally quiet with only occasional exchanges of artillery fire.

An air of expectancy prevailed which was noticeable as everyone was set for big things to happen.

Thursday 11 May plans were brought from 36th Division Artillery for preparation fires for the 85th Infantry Division and "H" hour

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was announced as 2300.

During the afternoon messages from General H. R. Alexander, Lt. General Mark W. Clark, and Major General Keyes were received congratulating the troops in Italy on their past performances and encouraging them to even greater efforts.

General Clark stated, in part, that although in terms of territory gained progress in Italy was slow; but the campaign in Italy is a major operation since it has drained the enemy's reserve strength.

Heavy artillery preparation was fired and the attack jumped off at 2300.

By 0600 12 May, 2472 rounds had been fired by the battalion on unobserved missions. The attack was reported to be progressing favorably across the whole Southern Front. Throughout the day the battalion continued firing in support of the 85th Division Artillery and by 2400 fired 3396 rounds.

The 85th Division Infantry was advancing in the face of determined enemy resistance. Our artillery fire was said to be devastating and all battalions were concentrated in a small area.

Enemy artillery fired counter battery on a 240 howitzer battalion to our right but none of the rounds fell in our area - although shell fragments were heard striking the building which housed our C.P. and F.D.C.

The next two days we continued our supporting fires - firing 1543 rounds on the 13th and 1447 rounds on the 14th.

By the 15th the action had moved away from us to the North West. The battalion fired only 157 rounds on unobserved missions.

That night, at about 2200 hours enemy planes flew over our general area and dropped many flares - all artillery fire was halted. No bombs were dropped, however, and the action was

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described as a fake air raid with the object of silencing our artillery during the withdrawal of enemy troops.

At 0440, 16 May, orders were received from 36th Division Artillery to be prepared to move at 0800. At 1030 this move was canceled and our batteries remained in position although out of range. Everyone got a much needed rest - our action was characterized by reading magazines, playing cards and eating oranges.

The following day, at 1300, orders were received to be prepared to move back to the Qualiano bivouac area. This move was made between the hours of 1500 and 1930 and performed by infiltration. That evening warning was given of an impending amphibious move.

During the past nine days of combat only one man of the battalion was injured - this was Sergeant Rogers of Headquarters Battery, while on duty at the battalion O.P. in Minturno. He was given first aid and remained on duty.

This period was one of the few times in which the battalion acted in a general support role. Compared with the customary direct support missions it was found that the general support role was exceptionally easy for all personnel in that the battalion did not have to displace or imploy its LO's and FO's.

The latter half of the month will be called the Anzio operation and this began on the morning after our return from Minturno; with orders to be ready to leave for the embarkment staging area by 1600.

Extensive plans concerning personnel and materiel had already been made and preparation, movement and loading on the LST's was executed quickly and effeciently.

The convoy left the port of embarkation, Bagnoli, Italy at 1715, 19 May 1944. The sea was quite rough and rain fell periodically during the night. It was still misty and drizzling when our ships docked at Anzio at 0830. The poor weather was

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a godsend for us as it restricted the enemy's observation of our arrival and subsequent motor movement from the port to a bivouac area.

Gun pits had already been prepared and wire lines laid by the personnel of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.

The latter installations were improved during the night of 20 May and occupied under cover of darkness the next evening.

It was very quiet on the 22nd May with little activity on either side. One gun of the battalion was registered during the afternoon.

"H" Hour for a large scale attack on the beachhead front was announced for 0600, 23 May.

The mission of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was direct support of the 39th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. 1st Lt. Louis N. Quast, who had rejoined the battalion as S-2 on the 18th May was sent to the 39th Field Artillery Battalion as liaison officer.

A heavy preparation program was fired commencing at 0545 and other unobserved missions were fired during the day - expending 3790 rounds. In addition 341 rounds were expended on observed missions. Supporting fires were continued the next day till 1900 when preparations were made to move. The guns were coupled up and all equipment loaded at 2400 when orders were received to re-occupy the position, to fire that night and the next morning.

The front lines became very fluid and advances quickened - necessitating displacement of the battalion four times in that many days. These movements were so frequent that the batteries became expert at fast displacements. Only the necessary operating personnel were carried along - The remainder being left in a rear bivouac area.

A bulldozer attached to the battalion from 111th Engineer Battalion aided greatly in these moves by digging the gun pits and other necessary installations. Many times the gun crews

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were so exhausted from their continuous service of the piece and displacements that it would have been extremely difficult for them to have had to dig their own gun pits.

Our mission of general support of the 39th Field Artillery Battalion was changed on the 27 May to general support of 27th Field Artillery Battalion. On the 28th our mission was again changed to general support of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and observed missions were fired on call. On the 30 May we began direct support of 142nd Infantry.

Up to this time although the attack had been progressing satisfactorily there was no indication of a break through but strong resistance was encountered all along the front - Except for the right (Southern) flank which had pushed South to join forces with the "Southern Front," thereby eliminating the beach-head, as such.

The month was a very interesting one as far as the battalion was concerned as it contained a variety of action - including the Minturno drive and also participation in the Anzio attack.

This historical narrative was prepared under direction of the Battalion Commander.

Louis N. Quast

LOUIS N. QUAST
1st Lt., Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech. Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClune, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 June 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH MAY 1944

AWARDED THE SILVER STAR

JOHN N. GREEN

JOHN N. GREEN, 0333369, Lieutenant Colonel, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Silver Star on Saturday, 17 May 1944, for gallantry in action on 6 December 1943 in the vicinity of ***, Italy, Troops of the Second Battalion, 142d Infantry, defending Mount*** were subjected to heavy effective artillery fire from the enemy guns in the ***Valley. Because best view of the enemy's emplacements in the valley could be obtained from an observation point in advance of an infantry company on Hill***, Lieutenant Colonel Green on his own initiative went forward through intense mortar, nebelwerfer and artillery fire and observed from that extremely hazardous point. With information obtained at this great personal risk he directed such effective counter-battery fire that the subsequent enemy attack failed. While with the front line infantrymen during doubtful phases of the battle, Lieutenant Colonel Green deliberately exposed himself to go among the junior officers and enlisted men, encouraging them and bolstering their bravery by his own inspiring valor, helping them to resist enemy infiltrations and counterattacks. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

JUNE 1944

N A R R A T I V E

The operations for the month of June shall be divided into two main periods - The first being the culmination of the Anzio break-through from 1 June to 3 June. The second being the pursuit of the enemy through Rome and into northern Italy; until the Division was relieved on the 26 June.

The beginning of the month found the battalion in the vicinity of Velletri, Italy, where it had gone into position very close behind the front lines. The mission of the battalion being to support the 142nd Infantry in the attack of the hills to the north.

Although Allied Forces on the Beach-head were making a concerted effort at this time - no real break-through was apparent.

It was not until the morning of 4 June - after the Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders had gone on reconnaissance - that it appeared that the enemy had with-drawn completely. This was the beginning of the pursuit of the enemy through Rome and on into northern Italy.

Part of the Infantry in our combat team was motorized, and the mission of our battalion was to remain motorized and follow the Infantry until contact with the enemy was established.

Our Regimental Combat Team column reinforced with reconnaissance troops, tanks and tank destroyers proceeded on the road towards Rome, and reached a point on the outskirts of the city at about 1600. At this point enemy rear guard action was encountered and the convoy halted. Our artillery moved into an assembly area; with the primary mission being anti-tank defense.

Early the next morning orders were received to march through Rome; with the objective being to cross the Tiber River and go into a defensive position five miles north-west of the city.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

OPERATIONS IN ITALY

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Many of the Infantrymen were loaded on artillery vehicles - thus enabling as many troops as possible to be motorized. No enemy opposition was encountered in the drive through Rome, although traffic was impeded by thousands of citizens who were out in the early hours to welcome us as we came through.

The first determined rear guard action of the enemy was encountered about four miles west of the city. The column was halted, the Infantry deployed and our Battery "A" quickly brought up and put into a position of close support. Registrations were made on points less than two thousand yards away.

The enemy strength was estimated to be about two companies of Infantry - supported by anti-tank guns, mortars and automatic weapons. Fire was placed on the primary defense positions of the enemy and artillery fire placed on these points until the Infantry was observed to be ready to close in on them.

By 1500 all organized enemy resistance had been overcome; about thirty prisoners taken and ~~three~~ ^{nine} anti-tank guns destroyed.

During the remainder of the days of the month our battalion continued in pursuit of the enemy, generally along Highway #1 to the north-west. This pursuit covering a period of twenty one days - between 5 June and 26 June. During this time a total distance of about one hundred and fifty miles was covered by our advancing troops. This necessitated frequent displacements of the battalion, and often two or three positions were occupied in a single day.

During the early stage of the pursuit resistance encountered was very small and oftentimes the positions occupied were merely assembly areas; from which no firing was done. However, the rear guard resistance increased during the last two weeks and at these times our artillery was more active.

At times the battalion was in the role of direct support - during which time all of our personnel - including LO's and FO's - were extremely busy. At other times the mission of the battalion was that of reinforcing fires of other artillery units.

The movement was so rapid that in order to keep continuous artillery support of battalion strength for the attacking Infantry the direct support and the reinforcing unit had to coordinate their movements very closely. In order to accomplish this the direct support battalion sent a radio and a liaison officer to the reinforcing unit which would take over the missions while the former was displacing forward.

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Another characteristic of the fast moving situation was the effect on the battalion communications. Due to the rapid and frequent displacement moving wire communications outside of a simple battalion net was virtually impossible; therefore, it was necessary to rely on radio for communications with the Infantry - through LO's and FO's with reinforcing artillery units and with Division Artillery. It might be noted that radio communication in this situation - where they were so necessary - proved satisfactory in all respects.

During the period situations have often occurred where targets of opportunity of the retreating enemy were observed. In most cases these could easily be taken under fire due to the close artillery support.

In more than one occasion columns of Infantry and horse drawn artillery were observed along the road and fired on. In one case - near Grosseto - nine 150 mil. howitzers and many dead horses and some live ones were found in an area that was fired on by our Artillery.

The value of a battalion CP was displayed particularly when our battalion was in a reinforcing role. During these times none of our LO's or FO's were in position to adjust our battalion on a base point or check points. Most of the time these necessary registrations were made by Air OP's; however, a quicker and more efficient adjustment was often found to be obtained from a ground CP established prior to the occupation of the position.

Another element of this operation was that many prisoners were taken in our Artillery positions and other areas behind our front lines. Although these enemies rarely gave us any trouble, it was always necessary to maintain good local security. Approximately thirty prisoners were taken by personnel of our unit.

During the month the battalion lost the services of 16 men through various causes. Although these losses were not welcome the efficiency of the battalion was not substantially reduced in as much as the battalion had been over strengthened and trained personnel were available to take the place of key men that were lost.

The action of the month was unique in that it was very different from any operation that the battalion had been in before. Prior to this time the action had been slow moving and occupation of positions deliberate with enemy artillery fire being our greatest hazard. However, during the past

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month the situation has been fast moving requiring frequent displacement and hasty occupation of positions with little or no preparation. The hazard of artillery has been virtually non-existent.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Louis N. Quast
LOUIS N. QUAST
1st Lt., Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech/Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

RAY BARKER

RAY BARKER, 38026787, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 5 June 1944. Entered the service from Georgetown, Texas.

BENJAMIN CALDERAIO

BENJAMIN CALDERAIO, 33586373, Tec 5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

DIVISION COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

ROBERT F. RITTER

ROBERT F. RITTER, 13073527, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 3 February 1944 in Italy. Assigned to a liaison section working with the infantry troops, Corporal Ritter accompanied the artillery liaison officer to an observation post and there established radio communications. While he was operating his radio, the enemy blasted the area with an intense concentration of artillery fire. Headless of the danger to which he was constantly exposed, Corporal Ritter maintained his post and continued operating the radio, thus enabling the artillery to deliver accurate fire in support of the infantry forces. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

OFFICERS

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

BATTERY "A"

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

ISADORE STEIN

ISADORE STEIN, 01179214, Second Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 5 June 1944. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. # 56, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

BATTERY "A"

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

PILAR M. RAMIREZ

PILAR M. RAMIREZ, 38065437, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the Service from Shafter, Texas.

ROBERT J. MASSAGO

ROBERT J. MASSAGO, 12095953, Private, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 3 June 1944. Entered the Service from Utica, New York.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

BILLY F. HORTON

BILLY F. HORTON, 20814832, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Next of Kin: Mrs Irno Mitchell (Mother) 222 North 14th Street, Paris, Texas.

CHARLES J. DEUVALL

CHARLES J. DEUVALL, 20829539, Private, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Next of Kin: Mrs. Sarah G. Deuwall (Mother) General Delivery, Vian, Oklahoma.

For gallantry in action on 24 November 1943 the above named men were assigned to the forward observation party of their battery and they worked tirelessly for five days carrying supplies up the precipitous mountain trail to the post. On the afternoon of 24 November they volunteered to remain at the post and operate the radio during the night. When the enemy began shelling around the ridge where the radio was located, they valiantly maintained their post and disdained leaving it for a position of safety. Shells began bursting on the ridge and a direct hit on the observation post killed them.

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HEADQUARTERS 152nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.C. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

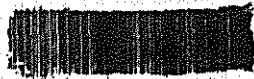
AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

BATTERY "B"

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

EARL H. GAGE

EARL H. GAGE, 17086872, Private, Battery "B" 152nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Oak Leaf Cluster, 25 June 1944 for wounds received in combat 13 June 1944. Entered Service from Denver, Colorado.



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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. # 38, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

ENLISTED MEN

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1944

BATTERY "C"

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

GORDON W. MOORE

GORDON W. MOORE, 32835957, Private, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded the Purple Heart, 16 June 1944, for wounds received in combat 26 May 1944. Entered the Service from Rochester, New York.

DIVISION COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

PAUL G. ADELSPERGER

PAUL G. ADELSPERGER, 35267912, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 1 January 1944 in Italy. Ordered to maintain a new observation post to cover a troop movement with Artillery fire, Corporal Adelsperger directed his section in establishing communications. When a blinding snow storm descended upon the group, he sought places of cover for his men, encouraging them not to despair. Although half-frozen by the extreme cold and the biting wind, he continued to perform his duties, courageously maintaining communications in spite of the extremely hazardous conditions. Entered the Service from Lexington, Kentucky.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

3 July 1944

CONCLUSIONS

1. The principal conclusion to be drawn in connection with the type of combat engage in during most of this month from the point of view of a direct support battalion are:

a. The artillery must be aggressive in displacement in the exploitation of a break in enemy lines and more aggressive if possible in pursuit.

The use of two battalions in direct support moving ahead by battalions leapfrogging each other is the best way to keep well forward and at the same time be prepared for a counterattack.

b. The air C.F. is of inestimable value in the pursuit.

c. No men can defend in hasty position against observed artillery fire. Time after time German soldiers were driven from positions by artillery fire plus the threat of advancing infantry.

d. The Germans made very poor use of his artillery in covering his withdrawal. Abandoned artillery was all out of proportion to the value he got out of it. In many instances well sighted guns were found that from my observation never fired an effective round against us, from the position they were left in, although ammunition was at hand. In my opinion this can only be explained by saying his artillery soldiers and officers lacked boldness and determination.

John N. Green

JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

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L-1009.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 September 1944

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

AUGUST 1944

N A R R A T I V E

Having participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy, the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion was experienced in ship to shore invasions. It may be recalled that the battalion began its invasion training at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, in the fall of 1942. It was also given a second training period in Africa prior to the Italian landing. Therefore, the two weeks intensive training period prior to the present invasion was more or less a review of past experiences. Approximately sixty per cent of the personnel of the battalion were veterans of the Italian Invasion. Our activities therefore were greatly benefited by this experience.

With the exception of Liaison and Forward Observer officers and parties who accompanied their respective Infantry units, the mass of the battalion was loaded on an L.S.T. near Naples, Italy, on the 10th of August.

Twenty two DUKWS (Amphibious 2 1/2 ton vehicles) were assigned to the battalion for the purpose of the initial landing. These were used primarily by the firing batteries to carry in howitzers and ammunition. The howitzers were so placed in the DUKWS that they were in firing position and could have been fired while enroute from ship to shore or after landing without unloading. Each battery had three DUKWS with "A" Frames constructed on them for the purpose of unloading the howitzers. The DUKWS were stowed on the tank deck of the LST and debarked at sea by backing out into the water from the ramp. It required thirty two minutes after debarkation began for the entire twenty two DUKWS to get off the LST. The organic transportation and remainder of the personnel came ashore later in the day when the LST came in to the beach.

The landings of the 36th Infantry Division began at 0800 hours on Tuesday 15 August 1944 in the vicinity of St. Raphael, Southern France.

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The 132nd Field Artillery Battalion landed at "H" plus 153 minutes on the beach established by the 143rd Infantry Regiment and had the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.

The initial landings had little to no resistance and everything went according to plan with the battalion landing at it's designated time. On landing the battalion went into an assembly area about one hundred and fifty yards from the beach; at which time the howitzers were unloaded from the DUKWS. The DUKWS then became prime movers and the battalion continued on to a position area about one mile away. The guns were in position and ready to fire within one hour after hitting the beach.

The 142nd Infantry Regiment landed at 1530 hours in the afternoon and at that time our battalion went into direct support of this regiment. With the 142nd Infantry Regiment the battalion had one liaison officer attached to each infantry battalion and one liaison officer with Regimental Headquarters, two forward observer officers with each battalion and two Naval liaison officers for shore fire control. There were also one artillery forward observer with each Infantry Battalion especially trained for conducting naval gun fire.

In as much as the initial resistance was light very little observed fire was conducted on "D" day. The battalion sustained only one casualty (Slightly wounded by artillery fire shortly after landing) All other personnel and equipment landed safely.

On "D" plus one first serious resistance was met by our Infantry and many observed missions were fired. This resistance was quickly overcome and by night fall we had penetrated ten miles inland.

Our Infantry in their advance during the night of the 15th by-passed many small groups of enemy infantry. On "D" plus one our Battery Commanders and Survey Section picked up thirty nine prisoners while on reconnaissance for a forward position area.

The following day and for the next week the campaign became very fluid. The Regimental Combat Teams took the form of task forces which moved quickly to the northeast and northwest to exploit the rout of the enemy and destroy him. This required the battalion to travel many miles each day - at times covering a hundred miles in a single day's march. This took us to the northeast near the Italian boarder at Buillestre and as far west as the vicinity of Montelimar.

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As an example of the operations during the month we will examine the period of the 24th, 25th and 26th. At noon on the 24th the battalion was at the town of La Roche St. Secret after a seventy mile road march from Rosans. During the afternoon the men had a chance to relax a little. At 2000 hours orders were received to move into vicinity of Cleon d' Andran - a distance of fifty four miles. For this move the battalion, less Battery "B" which had been left at St. Clement, was to haul the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment - less one company - in addition to it's normal personnel, equipment and over one thousand rounds of ammunition per battery. To make this haul there were present in the battalion twenty 2½ ton trucks and the normal number of smaller vehicles plus eight anti-aircraft half tracks. (which were used to haul about fifty infantrymen) The trucks were both overloaded and over-crowded and some accidents occurred when personnel fell off of the trucks. The battalion arrived in it's defensive position at 0500 hours.- complete with "B" Battery which rejoined us at that point. A large part of the Division had come to this vicinity, east of the Rhone River - north of Montelimar, in an effort to trap elements of the 19th Army moving up the Rhone Valley to the north. It was here that a pitched battle took place when the enemy attempted to break through. The First Battalion of the 143rd Infantry, Regiment attached to the 142nd Infantry Regiment, received the brunt of this attack which was reported to be of regimental strength. The First Battalion of the 142nd Infantry counter attacked and were subsequently pushed back. However, our forward observers were in position to fire observed missions on tanks, heavy weapons and enemy infantry. Forty observed missions were fired between 1500 and 2000 hours. We are credited with knocking out four Mark VI tanks with indirect fire. Although our units were pushed back - the artillery at one time firing at a range of two thousand yards - the enemy was repelled and subsequently withdrew. By the time the worst of the attack had passed our ammunition supply was a critical item and only twenty five rounds per gun were on hand at night fall. This was due to the fact that ammunition dumps were approximately one-hundred miles to the rear. The re-supply was made even more difficult by the fact that six of our ammunition trucks had been taken from the battalion for special duties elsewhere. It was common practice in our motor movements for our organic transportation to haul a battalion of infantry as well as three thousand rounds of ammunition. This made it necessary to overload our vehicles two hundred to three hundred per cent. However, as yet, no major maintenance difficulties have been encountered.

On the 26th the combat team made another flanking movement to the north and west in an effort to cut off the enemy again. This time our action

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met with considerable success and by the next morning one infantry battalion was in possession of high ground overlooking the Rhone River in the vicinity of Livron - sur - Drone. Our artillery reinforced by 155th Field Artillery Battalion (Medium) was in position to cover the area to the west including the river itself.

1st Lt. James W. Darden, our liaison officer with the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, fired both our battalion and a medium battalion battery on many targets of opportunity. These consisted of convoys of vehicles and horse drawn artillery and wagons. It is estimated that at least five hundred vehicles, fifty artillery pieces and countless enemy personnel and equipment were destroyed by this action as the enemy attempted to escape through the bottle - neck. This resulted in complete disorganization of the enemy and many hundred prisoners were taken by our infantry.

The end of the period found the greater part of the German 19th Army destroyed or captured; with the remaining disorganized elements in rout to the northeast.

Much credit for the success of this operation should go to the drivers and the Service elements of the battalion. Many hundreds of miles were covered in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. This required our drivers and supply personnel to be on the go both day and night.

Even though the situation was fast moving and the front was fluid there was not much danger from snipers or surprise attacks in as much as the French Forces of the Interior and Marquis (Guerilla forces) were much in evidence. These people were of great value in supplying important information as well as taking care of straggling enemy.

Operations during the period were made more difficult due to the inadequate supply of maps. At times activities were in an area covered only by 1:200,000 road maps and the usual map was the 1:100,000 tactical map. Many times the liaison officers and forward observers, as well as battery commanders, were without maps of any kind. The 1:100,000 map was the only type of map available to the FDC during the latter part of the period. In the hasty occupation of positions it was found that this scale map was satisfactory for locating the batteries by inspection (before a position area survey was made) and making the initial round a sensible one. However, it was of doubtful value for "K" Transfers" or unobserved fires.

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Our Air OP continued to be of great value in the pursuit for their reconnaissance missions as well as for adjusting artillery fire. In previous operations it was general practise to have all the Division Artillery Air OP's under centralized control. In this operation they departed from this and the Air OP accompanied the battalion. The terrain was such that landing fields near the battalion positions could usually be found from aerial reconnaissance. It was found that by having the plane in close liaison with the battalion our missions for them could be more quickly and effeciently carried out.

The Battalion received no replacements during the month.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Louis N. Quast

LOUIS N. QUAST

Captain, Field Artillery

S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 September 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH AUGUST 1944

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF SILVER STAR

GAINES M. BOYLE

GAINES M. BOYLE, O-406662, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 11 June 1944 in Italy. Captain Boyle was liaison officer with 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. During an advance by the battalion, the portion of the column Captain Boyle was with was ambushed and cut off from the main body of troops. He quickly organized the trapped men for an all round defense. It was imperative that the battalion be contacted and help summoned. Captain Boyle remembered having seen an abandoned infantry radio. He crawled out under direct rifle and machine gun fire to search for the set. When help came and the survivors were rescued, Captain Boyle was found dead by the radio. His pistol was in his hand and an empty cartridge clip lay nearby, mute evidence of the fight he had made to defend himself so that he could call for help to save his men. Next of kin, Mrs. Lee M. Boyle (Mother), 52 South 26th Street, Paris, Texas.

BERNARD F. REED

BERNARD F. REED, O-1178301, Second Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 2 February 1944 in Italy. Lieutenant Reed was leading his forward observer detail in an advance toward enemy positions when he and his party were suddenly subjected to grazing machine gun fire and heavy artillery shelling. One of the men was wounded in the leg; and, although all the personnel in the area was pinned to the ground, Lieutenant Reed selflessly exposed himself to the hostile fire in an attempt to aid the injured man. Moving calmly and rapidly, he advanced to the position where the soldier lay and started carrying him toward a place of safety. While so engaged he was mortally wounded by the enemy fire. Next of kin, Mr. Thomas F. Reed (Brother), 116-23 219th Street, Albany, New York.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

GAINES M. BOYLE

GAINES M. BOYLE, O-406662, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9

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to 20 September 1943 and from 15 November 1943 to 25 February 1944. Next of kin: Mrs. Lee Boyle, (Mother), Paris, Texas.

WILLIE LEEVER, 37453025, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 1 November 1943 to 5 June 1944. Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Leever (Mother), Bayard, Nebraska.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

CHARLES L. HEARN, 0-0406767, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 29 January 1944. Entered the Service from Italy, Texas.

JOSEPH W. MC CLURE, 20814560, Staff Sergeant (then Technician Fourth Grade), Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9-20 September 1943. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas.

JOE E. GRAY, 20814827, Corporal, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 17 November to 7 December 1943. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

EMIL PETR, 38038630, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 September 1943. Entered the Service from Dallas, Texas.

HENRY F. ROEDIGER, 33318117, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 3 December 1943. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pa.

ROBERT B. SCHNEIDER, 37349541, Private, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 February 1944. Entered the Service from Lamar, Colorado.

KENNETH T. REDMAN, 38038959, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 17 November 1943 to 8 January 1944. Entered the Service from Tyler, Texas.

JESSIE D. TIMER, 20814909, Private, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 February 1944. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas.

EARL H. GAGE, 17086872, Private, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 3 February 1944. Entered the Service from Denver, Colorado.

COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

JOHN D. BENNETT, 0-380489, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 7 December to 25 February 1944

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serving as Liaison Officer for the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment in Italy.

REMUS L. JONES, O-406028, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 12 to 20 September 1943 and from 15 November 1943 to 11 January 1944 in Italy serving as artillery liaison officer with 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment.

FRANK W. GASTON, 20814774, First Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 8 February 1944 to 12 March 1944 in Italy.

WILLIAM H. WHITLOCK, 20814441, Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November 1943 to 3 March 1944 in Italy as a radio man.

THOMAS L. DUKES, 34202262, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 16 September 1943 in Italy as a radio repairman.

PAUL L. DI VICO, 32334173, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

MICHAEL F. SACHER, JR, 36218928, Technician Fourth Grade, Hq. Btry., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy performing accurate detailed map work and aerial photo reading to furnish the firing batteries with correct data.

EDWARD OBRZYCKI, 33200966, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

JOHN J. TOMASZEWSKI, 36355772, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 20 September 1943 in Italy serving as a computer.

JOSEPH M. BROOKS, 20815325, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 9 to 19 September 1943 and from 17 November to 12 March 1944 in Italy serving as a radioman.

ARGYL L. DRYDEN, 37014071, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 24 to 30 December 1943 in Italy serving as a wire communications man.

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ROBERT L. PAINE, 20814569, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct on 18 January 1944 in Italy serving as a aidman.

RALPH F. FERGUSON, 6939192, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptionally meritorious conduct from 17 November to 19 December 1943 in Italy serving as a wireman with the liaison section attached to the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment.

AWARD OF PURPLE HEART

Stanley Chapman, ^{1st Lt.} Captain
Richard Galvin, Cpl.
Ernest G. Wolfcale, Cpl.
Eustachius S. Baranski, Pvt.

(See account of casualties in
Report of Casualties)

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER
to Purple Heart

Clare N. Lyke, Captain
Eldon Frair, Tec 4
Pilar M. Ramirez, Tec 5

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

8 September 1944

CONCLUSIONS

The landing was successfully made on a very narrow beach having only one exit. The fact that this was accomplished with few casualties indicated that the German considered this beach to be impractical. Had the prepared positions been manned the landing could well have been costly.

Too much praise can not be given to the all around worth of our standard transportation. It stands up under 100 to 300 per cent overload, otherwise it would have been impossible to travel the distances we have the past few weeks carrying a battalion of Infantry in addition to our own personnel and equipment plus 150 % basic load of ammunition. (Note we were always short 6 to 12 $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks of our TE allowance)

Resupply was a constant concern of all unit commanders, especially gasoline and ammunition. Ammunition resupply was always critical due to distance to the dump. Many times trucks had to wait 4 to 18 hours at the dump for ammunition to be delivered there.

The German in France is no better than those in Italy in retreat. He does not cover with artillery. Many horse drawn artillery pieces were shot up by this battalion, yet he did not in many cases attempt to place some artillery in firing position to protect or cover the withdrawal of the remainder. This failure is very surprising to wit. In instances where it would appear that the situation was critical he showed no disposition to drop trail and fire on our batteries. He lacked observation, yes, but it was his for the taking in many instances, but fear of the F.F.I. apparently kept him off the commanding ground.

Indirect observed artillery fire continues to be effective against tanks. We knock out a few and drive off the rest.

The campaign in France to date has moved at a speed over distances which must have been considerably greater than any thing ever hoped for as we have been much further from the A.S.F. than any artilleryman likes.

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-14-

John N. Green
JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

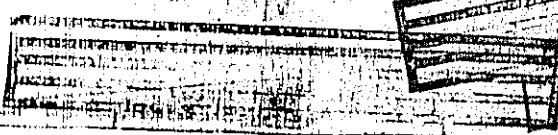
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MAPS: France, 1/50,000 - Sheets - PREJUS XXXV - 44 and CANNES XXXVI - 44
 France, 1/25,000 - Sheets - PREJUS XLV - 44 7 and 8 SE and CANNES XXXVI -
 44 S SW

- 1.a. See intelligence, annex No. 2 to FO No. 53 Headquarters 36th Infantry Division
- b. The 36th Infantry Division (reinf), as part of VI Corps (US) lands at H-hour on D-day and establishes a beachhead, for details see FO No. 53 Headquarters 36th Infantry Division and operations overlay therewith.
- 2.a. 132nd Field Artillery Battalion lands at H+153 on Green Beach.
 1. Initially reinforces fire of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion.
 2. When 142nd Infantry (reinf) is committed 132nd mission is direct support of 142nd Infantry.
 3. When physical contact is made Battery "C" 93 A.F. Bn. (which lands on Red Beach with 142nd Infantry) is attached to 132nd Field Artillery
- 3.a. 22 DUKWS are assigned to 132nd to ferry howitzers ammunition and personnel ashore and for use as prime movers etc. until normal transportation is landed.
 - b. Each DUKW carries 6 men and officers in addition to a howitzer or 100 rdg. ammunition. 46 DUKWS are assigned to each Firing Battery for carrying personnel (36 men and officers) 4 DUKWS are assigned to Headquarter Battery for carrying personnel (24 men and officers).
 - c. DUKWS will move from transport area to line of departure in 3 parallel columns.
 Right column "A" Btry. and 1 Hq. DUKWS
 Center column "B" Btry. and 1 Hq. DUKWS
 Left column "C" Btry. and 2 Hq. DUKWS
 Order in column "A" frame DUKW, 2 How DUKWS, A Frame, How, A Frame, How. interval between DUKWS - 50 yards -
 - d. Battalion will land in column A, B, C, clear the beach rapidly and unload in first feasible area to the left of beach, occupy positions for firing, paying particular attention to A.T. defense and local security
 1. Initial positions approximately 1500 yds left of beach.
 2. Direction of fire compass 5200.
 3. Each firing battery will establish O.P.s and will push observation to the left following closely the left Battalion 143rd Infantry gaining observation on Red Beach to support landing of 142nd Infantry.
 4. As soon as situation permits Battalion will displace by Battery to position approximately 1500 yds. East of boundary 143 - 142. When the 142nd has secured phase line III Battalion will displace to positions vicinity of F-1 When 142nd has secured phase line IV Battalion will displace to positions centered on grid line 49 and as situation permits will again displace to positions centered on grid line 44 to support the attack on final objective and the beachhead.
- 4.a. Liaison Officers, Forward Observers and Naval Fire Control parties will load and land with normal Infantry Battalion's.

Battalion Executive and communications party will load and land with B-1.

141



22 DUKWS (12 how. 10 ammo.)

Hq., Hq. Btry. 9 Off. and 76 Enlisted Men

4 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck (Bn. C.O., Bn. S-2, Btry. C.O., Survey)

2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton C & R (608 radio)

6 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton W.C. (3 wire - 2 radio - 1 F.D.C.)

A Btry. 4 Offs. and 84 men

1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck (B.C.)

2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck (P.M.)

B Btry. 4 Offs. and 84 men

1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck (B.C.)

2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck (P.M.)

C Btry. 4 Offs. and 81 men

1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton truck (B.C.)

2 - $\frac{3}{4}$ Ton W.C. (Wire)

4 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck (P.M.)

Service Btry. 1 Off. and 6 men.

2 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton trucks

Attached Medical 1 Off. and 12 men

1 - $\frac{3}{4}$ ton ambulance.

e. All other vehicles load on cargo vessels (except 1 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton SWB truck, 1 - 1 t trailer - 1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ ton trailer which load for D 5 with R.C.T. 142nd) Drivers and 1 ammo. handler only accompany vehicles - C.O. Lt. Pahner.

f. Remainder of personnel load on L.S.T. No. 620

Hq. - 32 men

Serv. - 1 Off. and 40 men.

C.O. - Capt. Bishop.

g. Ammunition Loads.

(1) How. DUKWS 2 rds. HEAT, 3 rds W.P.; 16 rds. HE Fuze M48. (HEAT Ammo. A Frame DUKWS (58 HE Fuze M48, 22 rds. HE Fuze M54, 11 rds. WP, 2 rd 5th section, train, and Hq. and Serv. Kitchen trucks, 95 rds. HE Fuze M48, 35 rds. HE Fuze M54, 17 rds. WP, 3 rds. HEAT.

(2) Resupply see Annex No. 4 to FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Div. Arty.

h. 1 Air CP plans to be deck loaded on Div. Arty IST and to be flown from same at H-Hour or on order. Other Air CP plane loaded on B Btry. kitchen truck and load on cargo vessel.

i. For other administrative details see Annex. No. 4 to FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Inf. Div. and appropriate appendices.

j. Bn. S-2 and party of 3 E.M. to load with R.C.T. 141st and land at approximately H+100 to reconnoiter beach and exits to assist in rapid clearing of beach by DUKWS.

k. Lt. Findley and party to establish and maintain liaison with 171st F.A. Bn., loads and lands with them.

l. 50 oal. machine guns to be loaded on prime movers, set up and sited for AA, AT, and AP defense upon reaching Bn. Area.

m. At least 2 rocket launchers per battery to go ashore on DUKWS.

5. Communications

- a. Wire W 130 Bn. to batteries until vehicles are landed normal thereafter.
- b. Radio (1) Ln. O. and FO normal. (2) Naval officers and gun spotters have fire ship channel and Div. Arty. channel on 609's and 284 to fire ship when vehicles land. Navy command ship monitors Div. Arty. channel and Bn. A channel commencing at Z-Hour, for emergency missions. Normally fire ship channel is used. Gun spotters also have 609 with Bn. channels A and B for use in conducting artillery fire.
- (3) Any or all observers can conduct naval fire by communicating with Ln. O's or Bn. FDC.
- (4) Hq. Btry. takes 3 - 609 radios ashore on DUKWS and each firing battery takes 2 - 609. 2 of these 9 radios to have Div. Arty. channel, 1 - B channel of 133rd and 1 Div. Arty. Air channel, others normal Bn. channels.
- (5) See FO No. 53 Hq. 36th Div. Arty. for other details including codes.

OFFICIAL:
ELLEGOOD
S-3

JOHN W. GREEN
Comdg.

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L-1010

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 October 1944

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

SEPTEMBER 1944

N A R R A T I V E

The first part of September was much like the last week of August - long moves in approach march formations with Infantry riding on all available vehicles. The usual order of march consisted of an advance guard having as the point elements of the cavalry reconnaissance troop the support of a platoon of tanks and one of Tank-Destroyers with a company or less of Infantry riding on the armored vehicles. The remainder of the advance guard battalion following in organic Infantry vehicles (kitchen and supply trucks or Anti-Tank or Cannon Company prime movers). The direct support artillery Battalion came next with an Infantry Battalion loaded on the prime movers, ammunition trucks and A.A.A.W vehicles. The other Infantry Battalion was either moved up by shuttling or on the vehicles of a reinforcing artillery Battalion.

This method of motorizing an Infantry Division proved effective as contact was never lost for long. Many Germans got away but not necessarily because we were not mobile, rather because there simply was not enough troops to cover all of the roads leading out of southern and central France.

On September 1st the Battalion had the opportunity to fire from the hip, so to speak, our observers picked up some enemy who were moving out while the 132nd was just pulling into position. Fire commands were computed at "B" and "C" Battery positions from map locations by inspection while the Battery was being layed. Effective fire was delivered with observers communicating directly to the Batteries by radio and fire commands relayed to guns by voice over a 300 yard battery front.

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The period September 2 to 7 consisted of motor movement to get into position to cut off the enemy again. The Battalion with the Combat Team marched 213 miles from September 1st to 7th inclusive. Much time was lost and distance added due to enemy destruction of bridges.

September 8th found the Battalion in position near Byans (67.1 - 41.2) (14 J) and the Infantry crossing the Doubs River under mild protest from the enemy. The Battalion displaced to the Northeast near the town of Boussieres (20.2 - 46.0) (14 K) still on the left bank of the Doubs about noon in order to adequately support the Regiment in its mission of securing the bridge site and blocking the roads from the South and West into Besancon.

During the day of September 8th several observed missions were fired on hostile troops and weapons. Enemy resistance was stubborn for a few hours at several points; the attack was carried on during the night and the Battalion displaced forward during the early morning hours of September 9th.

The new positions were in the vicinity of Villers - Buzon (662 53.5) (14 J) about 12 kilometers West of Besancon. We crossed the Doubs on a bridge constructed by the 111th Engineer Battalion at the site of a destroyed bridge. These positions were occupied in the early morning hours in an area that had not been patrolled by the Infantry, but no enemy were encountered.

These moves in the early morning following a night attack keep one on the alert. It sometimes takes days to mop up the small groups of enemy that are by-passed or scattered during the night by our Infantry. As an illustration on this morning the Battalion made an effective road block and captured a German officer and his driver who came speeding up to a road junction, having driven through our front, just as a prime-mover and howitzer filled the road making the corner. The Jerry had to stop, the road was full. Later on Major Snow Commanding Officer, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, who was reinforcing our fire came up on reconnaissance. The Commanding Officer of 132nd suggested that he have a platoon of the Reconnaissance Troop precede him or accompany him. This was arranged and the platoon found approximately 200 German soldiers in the proposed position area. They were mostly Turkoman and ready to give up and were brought in. There are not many dull moments when one is in pursuit.

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Resistance in this area ceased by the 10th. From the 11th to 14 th

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inclusive our activities consisted of moving and waiting to move - the Regimental Combat Team being in Division or Corps reserve. The Division during this time captured Vesoul and moved on toward Luxeuil and St. Loup.

On September 15th the Battalion was in position in the vicinity of Betoncourt (K 00.5 - 14.0) supporting the 142nd Infantry in the mission of cutting the roads leading into Luxeuil from the South and East. The 141st Field Artillery Battalion was reinforcing our fires. Considerable resistance was developed on this mission but was cleared up and Luxeuil was occupied by September 16th. The Battalion displaced for short distances three times during this period.

On September 15th "C" Battery received counter-battery fire from an enemy tank. Eight men were wounded and one died that day. Three guns were damaged slightly but only one had to be replaced. This tank was with a force that had not been discovered during the advance of the night before and it fired from a concealed position, then moved out.

The bathing in Luxeuil Les Bains was short lived. After the resistance in the vicinity of Faddon (K 09.5 - 24.5) was cleared up the Battalion moved to the Northeast on the evening of September 19th carrying the 3rd Battalion 142nd Infantry on its prime movers. The mission was to seize Remiremont (K 17.5 44.5) as some report had been received that it was not occupied by the enemy. Upon contacting elements of Reconnaissance Troops of 636th Tank Destroyer Battalion in vicinity of (K 095 - 435) and getting the latest information first hand the Infantry was dismounted and the Battalion put in position in that area. The Infantry Battalion proceeded on foot approximately 4000 yards toward Remiremont that night with out contact and organized the position for the night. Road blocks were set up around the artillery positions.

On the morning of September 20 the remainder of the Regimental Combat Team moved out and the attack on Remiremont was on. The 3rd Battalion advancing from West to East and the 1st and 2nd Battalions from the South. The 141st Field Artillery Battalion supported the 1st Battalion principally and reinforced the fires of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion generally. The distance between the 3rd Battalion and the other Battalions and the 132nd and 141st Field Artillery Battalion made for independant action during the early phases of the attack.

Stubborn enemy resistance was encountered at well placed road blocks by all three battalions and bitter fire fights developed in the woods

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adjacent to the road blocks.

On September 20 the Battalion displaced forward in order to be in better position to fire on enemy convoys that night by moving in or out of Remiremont and to improve our position from a communications standpoint.

Remiremont fell on September 22nd. The 141st Infantry had previously forced a crossing over the Moselle about four miles North of Remiremont.

The bridge of Remiremont was completed early on September 24th and the Battalion displaced to positions in the vicinity of Eloyes still in direct support of 142nd Infantry who continued the attack to the Northeast.

The enemy contested the enlargement of the bridge-head over the Moselle bitterly through-out the remainder of the month. Our Infantry engaged in bitter small arms fights for each important piece of terrain or road junction. Movement to the North was not contested very much but he seems to have a definite line generally North and South in the foot hills of the Vosage Mountains. Positions in this line are supported by artillery. On some days during this period our troops were under extremely heavy artillery fire. The German also launched several local counter-attacks - one at least in Regimental strength. All were beaten back.

The end of the month found the Battalion still in position near Eloyes. It looks like it could be another winter like 43-44.


JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tech Sgt. John B. Cotham, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 October 1944

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

HEADQUARTERS

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CLARE N. LYKE

CLARE N. LYKE, ASN O-24601, Captain, Headquarters, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1545 hours, Wednesday 27 September 1944, near Tendon, France, coordinates: 212 - 453, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

In very recent operations in France casualties have been very heavy in the Infantry. All battalions have been operating under-strength. In many cases Artillery officer observers have found themselves in positions where they have had to act as Infantry officers besides directing artillery. It was just such a situation as this that confronted Captain Lyke, Liaison officer with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, when the 3rd Battalion was advancing through the heavy wooded section of Tendon. Shortly before 1400 hours, Wednesday 27 September 1944, the battalion had dropped off one company to set up a road block and proceeded on with the plan of reorganizing on the far slope of Hill 827. The remaining elements of the 3rd Battalion were moving forward when scouts reported large numbers of German infantry up ahead. The companies had just started to deploy when they were subjected to heavy mortar fire - believed to have been 120 mm. Several men and officers were wounded - including the Battalion Commander. Captain Lyke and also 1st Lt. Robert A. Lang, ASN O-1178222, forward observer from Battery "C", besides directing very effective artillery fire helped to organize the companies into a defensive position and succeeded in holding the ground. Captain Lyke was thrown to the ground by the force of the same shell that wounded the Battalion Commander. He suffered injuries to his left shoulder and head. Captain Lyke remained on duty to help organize an all around defense. He was later treated for his injuries and given relief. Captain Lyke holds the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Italy, and also the Purple Heart for

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wounds received during the Italian Campaign. He was twice wounded on 16 August 1944 - the day after the invasion of Southern France.

Captain Lyke is 27 years of age. Born 2 June 1917. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 20 February 1942 and promoted to rank of Captain 5 August 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Ruth S. Lyke, (Wife) 5126 W. Roosevelt Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

RALPH F. FERGUSON

RALPH F. FERGUSON, ASN 6939192, Private, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1545 hours, Wednesday 27 September 1944, near Tendon, France, coordinates: 212-453, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

Private Ferguson, radio operator with the 3rd Liaison Section, received lacerations of the hands from mortar fragmentation while on duty with his section. About the same time Captain Clare N. Lyke, Liaison officer, and Private Rayburn L. Rushing, also on the section, were lightly wounded. The 3rd Liaison section was moving forward with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. One re-inforced company had been dropped off to set up a road block. The battalion planned to assemble on the far slope of Hill 827. As the battalion advanced scouts reported large numbers of Germans up ahead. The companies deployed for attack just as a heavy concentration of mortars was directed at them. Several officers and men were hit during the shelling that ensued. Private Ferguson was thrown down by the force of the shelling and received lacerations of both hands from fragmentation. The 3rd Section was relieved shortly after this and Private Ferguson was treated and returned to duty.

Private Ferguson is 23 years of age. Born 1 September 1921. He enlisted in the Service 29 June 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs Bertha M. Ferguson, (Mother) 121 R. East Miller Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

RAYBURN L. RUSHING

RAYBURN L. RUSHING, ASN 38058020, Private 1st class, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1545 hours, Wednesday 27 September 1944, near Tendon, France, coordinates: 212 - 453, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

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Sergeant Hazlewood was on duty at his gun when Battery "A" received enemy artillery fire - believed to have been a self-propelled gun. This same gun directed heavy fire on Battery "C" causing ten casualties, setting fire to two camouflage nets and damaging two howitzers. One round hit in Battery "A" wounding S/Sgt. Hazlewood and Private Francisco C. Marin Jr. Both of these men were lightly wounded. Sergeant Hazlewood suffered abrasions of the right cheek. He received immediate treatment and was returned to duty.

Sergeant Hazlewood is 27 years of age. Born 14 April 1917. He enlisted in the Service 19 October 1940. Previous to this he had four months and eighteen days service.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Zoe Hazlewood (Wife) 463 Pine Bluff Street, Paris, Texas.

FRANCISCO C. MARIN JR.

FRANCISCO C. MARIN, ASN 38065159, Private, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates: 0329 - 1106, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

Private Marin was on duty at his gun when Battery "A" received enemy artillery fire - believed to have been a self-propelled gun. This same gun directed heavy shelling on Battery "C" position causing ten casualties, and setting fire to two camouflage nets and damaging two howitzers. One round hit in Battery "A" position wounding Private Marin and S/Sgt Quincy A. Hazlewood. Both of these men were lightly wounded. Private Marin suffered a penetrating wound in the left shoulder. He received immediate treatment and was returned to duty.

Private Marin is 25 years of age. Born 5 October 1919. He was inducted into the Service 24 February 1941.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Piadad C. Marin, (Mother 515 N. Stevens Street, El Paso, Texas.

BATTERY "B"

MISSING IN ACTION

ROBERT A. THOMPSON

ROBERT A. THOMPSON, ASN 0-1179720, 1st Lt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action, since Friday 22 September 1944, last reported in position at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Robert A. Thompson, artillery forward observer, from Battery "B" and Tec 4 James O. Painter, ASN 20814965, Private Rafael De La Rosa, ASN 38052428,

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Private Rushing, radio operator with the 3rd Liaison Section, received a penetrating wound on the left cheek from mortar fragmentation while on duty with the section. About the same time Captain Clare N. Lyke, liaison officer, and Private Ralph F. Ferguson, also on the section, were lightly wounded. The 3rd Liaison Section was moving forward with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. One re-inforced company had been dropped off to set up a road block. The battalion planned to assemble on the far slope of Hill 827. As the battalion advanced scouts reported large numbers of Germans up ahead. The companies deployed for attack just as a heavy concentration of mortars was directed at them. Several officers and men were hit during the shelling that ensued. Private Rushing was thrown down by the force of one shell and hit on the left cheek by fragmentation. The 3rd Section was relieved shortly after this and Private Rushing was treated when he returned to his Battery.

Private 1st class Rushing is 22 years of age. Born 18 September 1922. He was inducted into the Service 7 February 1941.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Mae Rushing, (Mother) 6-35 Gram Street, Dallas, Texas.

BATTERY "A"

KILLED IN ACTION

ANDREW J. DAVIDOVICH

ANDREW J. DAVIDOVICH, ASN 33696177, Private, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 1500 hours, Thursday 28 September 1944, approximately one mile Southeast of Tendon, France.

Private Davidovich was a member of the forward observer party from Battery "A". This party - under command of 1st Lt. John W. Smith, ASN 0-519221, was accompanying the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry in an attack South of Tendon when they were subjected to enemy artillery and mortar fire. Private Davidovich was hit in the top of the head by shell fragmentation. He died instantly.

Private Davidovich was 24 years of age. Born 20 December 1919. He was inducted into the Service 10 July 1943.

Next of Kin: Mrs Helen Davidovich, 309 Ann Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

QUINCY A. HAZLEWOOD

QUINCY A. HAZLEWOOD, ASN 20811782, S/Sgt, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates: 0329 - 1106, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

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and Private Robert C. Hetherington, ASN 33487798, were last heard from when Lt. Thompson reported his position as being at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9. This was about 1500 hours and at that time the party was approximately a thousand yards from the infantry. When the 2nd Battalion was in the process of securing the high ground in that area Lt. Thompson and his party were accompanying "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. It is believed that in trying to locate a suitable observation point the party wandered away too far to the Northeast and was surrounded. Later on, when our infantry occupied the position from which Lt. Thompson last reported they found no traces of the lost artillery party. Saturday 23rd the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry took a German captive who claimed his outfit had taken an artillery observer and three men the day before.

1st Lt. Thompson was 23 years of age. Born 29 November 1921. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 11 May 1943 and 1st Lt. 30 September 1944.

Next of Kin: Mr. W. A. Thompson, (Father) General Delivery, Stigler, Oklahoma.

BATTERY "B"

MISSING IN ACTION

JAMES O. PAINTER

JAMES O. PAINTER, ASN 20814965, Tec 4, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action, since Friday 22 September 1944, last reported in position at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Robert A. Thompson, artillery forward observer, from Battery "B", Tec 4 James O. Painter, Private Rafael De la Rosa, ASN 38052428, and Private Robert C. Hetherington, ASN 33487798, were last heard from when Lt. Thompson reported his position as being at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9. This was about 1500 hours and at that time the party was approximately a thousand yards from the infantry. When the 2nd Battalion was in the process of securing the high ground in that area Lt. Thompson and his party were accompanying "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. It is believed that in trying to locate a suitable observation point the party wandered away too far to the Northeast and was surrounded. Later on, when our infantry occupied the position from which Lt. Thompson last reported they found no traces of the lost artillery party. Saturday 23rd the 1st Battalion took a German captive who claimed his outfit had taken an artillery observer and three men the day before.

Tec 4 Painter is 23 years of age. Born 21 August 1921. He enlisted in the Service 28 October 1940 at Cleburne, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Alice I. Painter, Bdx #38, Joshua, Texas.

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RAFAEL DE LA ROSA

RAFAEL DE LA ROSA, ASN 38052428, Private, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action, since Friday 22 September 1944, last reported in position at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Robert A. Thompson, Artillery forward observer, from Battery "B", Tec 4 James O. Painter, ASN 20814965, Private Rafael De La Rosa, and Private Robert C. Hetherington, ASN 33487798, were last heard from when Lt. Thompson reported his position as being at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9. This was about 1500 hours and at that time the party was approximately a thousand yards from the infantry. When the 2nd Battalion was in the process of securing the high ground in that area Lt. Thompson and his party were accompanying "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. It is believed that in trying to locate a suitable observation point the party wandered away too far to the Northeast and was taken prisoner. Later on, when our infantry occupied the position from which Lt. Thompson last reported they found no traces of the lost artillery party. Saturday 23rd the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment took a German captive who claimed his outfit had taken an artillery observer and three men the day before.

Private De La Rosa is 22 years of age. Born 6 September 1922. He was inducted into the Service 14 February 1941 from Houston, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mr. Felipe G. De La Rosa, 3819 Canal Street, Houston, Texas.

ROBERT C. HETHERINGTON

ROBERT C. HETHERINGTON, ASN 33487798, Private, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since Friday 22 September 1944, last reported in position at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Robert A. Thompson, artillery forward observer, from Battery "B" Tec 4 James O. Painter, ASN 20814965, Private Rafael De La Rosa, ASN 38052428, and Private Robert C. Hetherington were last heard from when Lt. Thompson reported his position as being at coordinates: 17.5 - 42.9. This was about 1500 hours and at that time the party was approximately a thousand yards from the infantry. When the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment was in the process of securing the high ground in that area Lt. Thompson and his party were accompanying "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. It is believed that in trying to locate a suitable observation point the party wandered away too far to the Northeast and was surrounded. Later on, when our infantry occupied the position from which Lt. Thompson last reported they found no traces of the lost artillery party. Saturday 23rd the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment took a German captive who claimed that his outfit had taken an artillery observer and three men the day before.

Private Hetherington is 22 years of age. Born 14 December 1922. He was inducted into the Service 11 January 1943 from Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Mary Hetherington, R.R. #3, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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S E C R E T

BATTERY "C"

KILLED IN ACTION

CHARLES E. HOFFMAN

CHARLES E. HOFFMAN, ASN 0-1175166, 1st Lt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 0730 hours, Friday 29 September 1944, in area South of Tendon, approximately 200 yards South of coordinates; 22.8 - 45.4, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Hoffman was a forward observer from Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. He and his party were accompanying "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment in an attack against an enemy road block at coordinates; 22.8 - 45.4. Approximately 200 yards short of the objective they were subjected to enemy artillery and mortar fire. There were many trees in the area and many "tree bursts" resulted. Lt. Hoffman was hit in the back by heavy fragmentation from one of the shells that burst upon hitting a nearby tree. He died instantly.

1st Lt. Hoffman was 27 years of age. Born 23 January 1917. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 2 December 1942 and appointed 1st Lt. 7 August 1944.

Next of Kin: Mr. Charles J. Hoffman, (Father) 41 N Penn Street, York, Pennsylvania.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JOHN P. CONLY

JOHN P. CONLY, ASN 1178743, 1st Lt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1130 hours, Sunday 17 September 1944, in area 5000 yards Northeast of Luxeuil Les Bains, France, coordinates: 079 - 24, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

1st Lt. Conly and his artillery forward observer party were accompanying "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. The Company had just come out of a march area, crossed a secondary road and were making their way up some high ground just off the road. After going about fifty feet an enemy sniper fired three shots. One of these rounds hit Lt. Conly in the left thigh and also bent the sight on his pistol. He rolled down the incline to the road after being shot. He was treated by Infantry aid men and evacuated.

Lt. Conly is 28 years of age. Born 13 September 1916. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 11 March 1943, and 1st Lt. 27 April 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Al Conly, (Mother) Washta, Iowa.

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KILLED IN ACTION

WAYNE (NMI) DENHAM

WAYNE (NMI) DENHAM, 20815054, Sergeant, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

Sergeant Denham was critically wounded when he and another enlisted man - Sergeant Porter M. McCrey - left a place of shelter during heavy shelling of their battery position to put out fire that had started in nets covering number three and four guns and around ammunition. Sergeant Denham suffered evisceration lower quadrant, penetrating wound in the back, lacerations of the head and penetrating wound of the right elbow. He received immediate treatment and was evacuated. He died shortly after being admitted to the hospital.

Sergeant Denham was 23 years of age. Born 18 June 1921. He enlisted in the Service at Weatherford, Texas, 7 November 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Beulah Denham, (Wife) 266 Spring Street, Weatherford, Texas.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

THELBERT R. WINGATE

THELBERT R. WINGATE, 20814619, Staff Sergeant, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H.

On the morning of 15 September Battery "C" moved into position near Dambenoit, France. The battery was layed and had just completed firing one mission when one round of enemy smoke shell landed short of the battery position. This was followed by three volleys. One round hit about twenty yards from number two gun wounding Cpl. Clifton C. McDonald and Pvt. William T. Logue. Tec 5 Knox Payne, medical aid man, ran to the gun position to give aid to the wounded men as four more rounds of artillery landed nearby. Payne was having considerable difficulty getting the wounded men to a place of shelter. Sergeant Wingate saw the difficulty the medical aid man was having and rushed to his assistance. Sergeant Wingate and Tec 5 Payne managed to get the two wounded men into a ditch and were treating them when several more rounds of artillery landed nearby. Fragmentation from this shelling hit Sergeant Wingate causing a compound fracture of the upper right arm and penetrating wounds of the chest. He received immediate attention and was evacuated.

Staff Sergeant Wingate is 29 years of age. Born 24 April 1915. He enlisted in the Service at Bonham, Texas, 25 October 1940.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Helen Wingate, (Wife) Route No. 1, Bonham, Texas.

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LAWRENCE E. HOAK

LAWRENCE E. HOAK, 35512702, Private, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

Pvt. Hoak took cover in a ditch near Battery "C" CP when enemy artillery was directed at the battery area. Fragmentation from one of the shells hit the ditch in which he was hiding causing penetrating wounds of the left arm and right leg. He received immediate attention and was evacuated.

Pvt. Hoak is 21 years of age. Born 4 October 1922. He was inducted into the Service at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 10 July 1943.

Next of Kin: Mrs Emma S. Hoak, (Mother) 1939 North 7th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

WILLIAM T. LOGUE

WILLIAM T. LOGUE, 35483303, Private, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

On the morning of 15 September Battery "C" moved into position near Dambenoit, France. The battery was layed and had just completed firing one mission when one round of enemy smoke shell landed short of the battery position. This was followed by three volleys. One round hit about twenty yards from number two gun wounding Cpl. Clifton C. McDonald and Pvt. William T. Logue. Pvt. Logue received a penetrating wound in the left knee. He received immediate treatment and was evacuated.

Private Logue is 23 years of age. Born 11 January 1921. He was inducted into service at Springfield Kentucky, 7 July 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Pauline Logue, (Wife) Route No. 1, Rose Hill, Kentucky.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CLIFTON C MC DONALD

CLIFTON C. MC DONALD, 20815010, Cpl., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

On the morning of 15 September Battery "C" moved into position near Dambenoit, France. The battery was layed and had just completed firing one mission when one round of enemy smoke shell landed short of the battery position.

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This was followed by three volleys. One round hit about twenty yards from number two gun wounding Cpl. Clifton C. McDonald and Pvt. William T. Logue. Cpl. McDonald received lacerations of the left wrist. He received immediate treatment and was returned to duty.

Cpl. McDonald is 26 years of age. Born 29 May 1918. He enlisted in the Service at Weatherford, Texas, 1 July 1940.

Next of Kin: Mr. Charles E. McDonald, (Father) Route #1, Garner, Texas.

WILLIAM M. ANDERSON

WILLIAM M. ANDERSON, ASN 36301128, Pvt. 1st, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

On the morning of 15 September Battery "C" moved into position near Dambenoit, France. The battery was layed and had just completed firing one mission when one round of enemy smoke shell landed short of the battery position. This was followed by three volleys. One round hit about twenty yards from number two gun wounding Cpl. Clifton C. McDonald and Private William T. Logue. Pvt. Anderson was on duty at number one gun position and received a slight wound in the right shoulder from shell fragmentation. He received immediate attention and was returned to duty.

Pvt. Anderson is 29 years of age. Born 28 October 1914. He was inducted into Service at Chicago, Illinois, 10 October 1941.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Catherine Anderson, (Mother) 4102 North Hamlin Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

GORDON W. MOORE

GORDON W. MOORE, 32835957, Private, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1145 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

On the morning of 15 September Battery "C" moved into position near Dambenoit, France. Shortly after firing the first mission the battery position came under enemy artillery fire. During the course of the shelling eight men were wounded - one of these Sergeant Wayne Denham received critical wounds from shell fragmentation while attempting to keep fire away from an ammunition supply. Sergeant Steve J. Ruzicka and Pvt. Gordon W. Moore carried Sergeant Denham to a place of comparative safety. Pvt. Moore was wounded in the small right finger during this time. He received immediate treatment and was returned to duty.

Pvt. Moore is 26 years of age. Born 16 October 1917. He was inducted in the Service 25 March 1943 from Rochester, New York.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Annie Noble Moore, (Wife) 19 Rochester Street, Nashville, New York.

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JAMES V. PATTERSON

JAMES V. PATTERSON, ASN 14091619, Cpl., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0730 hours, Friday 29 September 1944, in area South of Tendon, France, coordinates: 22.8 - 45.1, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

Cpl. Patterson was a member of the forward observer party from Battery "C" - under the command of 1st Lt. Charles E. Hoffman - when he was wounded. 1st Lt. Hoffman's party was accompanying "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, in an attack against an enemy road block at coordinates: 22.8 - 45.4. About 200 yards short of the road block they were subjected to enemy artillery and mortar fire. There were many trees in the area and this resulted in many "tree bursts". Cpl. Patterson was wounded in the left hand by shell fragmentation. He was treated and later evacuated. During this shelling 1st Lt. Charles E. Hoffman, ASN 0-1175166, was killed and another of the party Pvt. Mason D. Koffman ASN 36546760 lightly wounded.

Cpl. Patterson is 24 years of age. Born 7 March 1920. He enlisted in the Service 23 April 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Alice V. Patterson, (Mother) General Delivery, West Plains, Missouri.

IE ROY (IMI) STEINBERGER

IE ROY (IMI) STEINBERGER, 37610246, Pvt. Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1115 hours, Friday 15 September 1944, near Dambenoit, France, coordinates 0329 - 1102, 1:100,000 map, sheet 15-H, France.

Pvt. Steinberger was on duty at number two gun when heavy enemy shelling was directed upon Battery "C" area. This shelling caused several casualties in the battery. Pvt. Steinberger suffered penetrating wound of the left arm. He received immediate treatment and was evacuated.

Pvt. Steinberger is 21 years of age. Born 7 February 1923. He was inducted into Service at Houston, Missouri, 30 March 1943.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Neva Steinberger, (Mother) Licking, Missouri.

MASON D. KOFFMAN

MASON D. KOFFMAN, ASN 36546760, Pvt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0730 hours, Friday 29 September 1944, in area South of Tendon, France, coordinates: 22.8 - 45.1, sheet 15-H, 1:100,000 map, France.

Pvt. Koffman was a member of the forward observer party from Battery "C" - under the command of 1st Lt. Charles E. Hoffman - when he was wounded. 1st Lt. Hoffman's party was accompanying "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry

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Regiment in an attack against an enemy road block at coordinates; 22.8 - 45.4. About 200 yards short of the road block enemy artillery and mortar fire was received. There were many trees in the area and this resulted in several "tree bursts". Pvt. Koffman received a penetrating wound in the left shoulder from one of these bursts. During this shelling 1st Lt. Charles E. Hoffman, ASN 0-1175166, was killed, and Corporal James V. Patterson, ASN 14081619, lightly wounded. Pvt. Koffman was treated and later evacuated.

Pvt. Koffman is 26 years of age. Born 8 July 1918. He was inducted into the Service 21 November 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Sadie Koffman, (Mother) 1009 Columbus Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

During the month of September this Battalion received (4) four Rotation Replacements (Enlisted Men).

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CONSOLIDATED NUMBER OF CASUALTIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS</u>					
Lyke, Clare N.	Capt.	0-24601	IWA	9/27/44	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u>					
Ferguson, Ralph F.	Pvt.	6939192	IWA	9/27/44	Jefferson City, Mo
Rushing, Rayburn L.	Pfc.	38038020	IWA	9/27/44	Dallas, Texas.
<u>BATTERY "A"</u>					
Davidovich, Andrew J.	Pvt.	33696177	KIA	9/28/44	Mc Keesport, Penn.
Hazlewood, Quincy A.	S/Sgt.	20814782	IWA	9/15/44	Paris, Texas
Marin, Francisco C.	Pvt.	38065439	IWA	9/15/44	El Paso, Texas
<u>BATTERY "B"</u>					
Thompson, Robert A.	1st Lt	0-1179720	MIA	9/22/44	Stigler, Oklahoma
Painter, James O.	Tec 4	20814965	MIA	9/22/44	Joshua, Texas
De La Rosa, Rafael	Pvt.	38052428	MIA	9/22/44	Houston, Texas
Hetherington, Robert C.	Pvt.	33487798	MIA	9/22/44	Allentown, Penn.
<u>BATTERY "C"</u>					
Hoffman, Charles E.	1st Lt	0-1175166	KIA	9/29/44	York, Penn.
Conley, John P.	1st Lt	0-1178743	SWA	9/17/44	Washta, Iowa
Denham, Wayne (NMI)	Sgt.	20815054	KIA	9/15/44	Weatherford, Texas
Wingate, Thelbert R.	S/Sgt.	20814619	SWA	9/15/44	Bonham, Texas
Hoak, Lawrence E.	Pvt.	33512702	SWA	9/15/44	Harrisburg, Penn.
Logue, William T.	Pvt.	35463303	SWA	9/15/44	Rose Hill, Kentucky
McDonald, Clifton C.	Cpl.	20815010	IWA	9/15/44	Garner, Texas
Anderson, William M.	Pfc.	36301128	IWA	9/15/44	Chicago, Illinois
Moore, Gordon W.	Pvt.	32835957	IWA	9/15/44	Nashville, New York
Patterson, James V.	Cpl.	14081619	IWA	9/29/44	West Plains, Missouri
Steinberger, Le Roy (NMI)	Pvt.	37610246	IWA	9/15/44	Licking, Missouri
Koffman, Mason D.	Pvt.	36546760	IWA	9/29/44	Bay City, Michigan

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L-1010

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	1	2	3
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0 _n	0
IWA	1	10	11
SWA	1	3	4
MIA	1	3	4
POW	0	0	0

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 October 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH SEPTEMBER 1944

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO AIR MEDAL

MAX B. BENJAMIN

MAX B. BENJAMIN, O-1182512, 1st Lt., Air Observation, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Oak Leaf Cluster, 25 September 1944, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot, by performing thirty five field artillery observation sorties against the enemy in Italy during the period 21 January 1944 to 8 March 1944. Entered military service from Whitman, Kansas.

RAYMOND E. BIBB

RAYMOND E. BIBB, O-1691374, 2nd Lt., Air Observation, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, awarded Oak Leaf Cluster, 25 September 1944, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot, by performing thirty five field artillery observation sorties against the enemy in Italy during the period 6 March 1944 to 9 June 1944. Entered military service from Nashville, Tennessee.

2nd Lt. Bibb was a Staff Sergeant during the period he earned this award.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records and History of Organization

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division,
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. Army

1. Submitted herewith the report of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Historical Records and Histories of organization covering action of this Battalion during the period 1-31 October 1944. This report is submitted in compliance with letter dated 20 April 1945, Allied Force Headquarters, APO # 512, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organization, wrapper indorsement dated 21 September 1945, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division dated 28 November 1945 and letter dated 20 May 1944, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organizations and letter dated 4 September 1944, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of Organizations and letter dated 28 September 1944, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records.

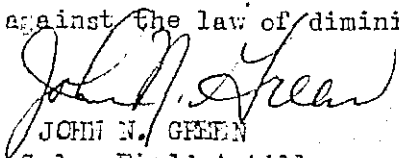
2. Nothing outstanding was developed during the past month. Rather I think long established principles were again demonstrated.

a. Tired soldiers advance slowly if at all.

b. Fire power should be used to the maximum. Fires should be observed, to achieve maximum effect.

c. Artillery ammunition was very limited and the units operated over wide fronts making limited objective attacks in most difficult terrain. Visibility was generally poor.

3. All factors seemed to bring us up against the law of diminishing returns.


JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 56, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

OCTOBER 1944

N A R R A T I V E

The first of the month found the Battalion in position in the vicinity of Eloyes, France, on the East bank of the Moselle River. These positions had been occupied since 24 September 1944, and aside from a few harassing rounds directed at the town and highway no artillery fire was received. All three infantry battalions of the 142nd Infantry were engaged with the enemy, and action in all sectors was characterized by stubborn resistance, including heavy artillery and mortar fire. After forty five days of combat the effective strength of the infantry companies had been greatly reduced through casualties and fatigue. The fighting in the dense woods of the Vosges mountains was very difficult for the infantry, and because of the poor observation our observers could give only limited support.

On the 4th of October the front lines had become fairly well defined. Our battalion displaced to positions previously occupied by the 131st Field Artillery Battalion - some four thousand yards West of the front lines. Our mission was that of direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment; whose mission was to form defensive positions in the vicinity the battalions now occupied. Our battalion remained in this position until 13 October. During this time the infantry improved and consolidated their defensive positions. Our battalion did very little firing, due to lack of suitable targets and curtailed ammunition allowance.

Replacements for the infantry battalions were brought in and the battalions were relieved one at a time to assimilate and train their new men. This lull in the action of our regiment gave men of our battalion an opportunity to get cleaned up and take advantage of what recreation facilities were available. Small groups from each battery were transported daily to bathe and see a moving picture.

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On the 5th October the liaison officers, who had been on continuous duty with the infantry battalions, were relieved by battery commanders of Battery "A", Battery "C" and the Regimental Liaison officer, respectfully. Two of the liaison officers took over temporary jobs as battery commanders; the third going to Regimental Liaison.

On the 13 October the battalion displaced to the Northeast about seven miles and occupied positions three hundred yards Northeast of Houx. This position was about twenty five hundred yards behind the front lines; but the battalion had both sight and flash defilade from the enemy. The occupation of this position was made necessary when the 142nd Regimental Combat Team relieved the 143rd Regimental Combat Team positions in addition to its present positions. At this time an eight thousand meter defensive front was being held by the 142nd Infantry Regiment.

Although our battery positions had good defilade, our nearness to the front lines made it possible for the enemy to determine our approximate location by sound and occasional light harassing fire was received. This fire was very ineffective and we had only one slightly wounded casualty in this area for the whole period. However, the town of Houx, through which all of our communications and supplies had to come, was under enemy observation. This restricted our movement into and out of the battalion area as the town was subjected to intermittent harassing fire almost every day. As time was available gun pits were improved and all gun sections constructed elaborate underground shelters for the gun crews. The positions were on the side of a ridge line making the drainage of the wet ground an easy job.

On the 22nd October an additional fourty five hundred meter defensive sector was taken over by the 142nd Infantry when it relieved the 30th Infantry of the 3rd Division on our right flank. The 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry, with Company "B", 111th Engineer Battalion, 36th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troops, Reconnaissance Platoon, 636th Tank Destroyers Battalion and Regimental "I" and "R" Platoon occupied this sector. To accompany this force we sent out an additional liaison officer and two sergeants experienced as forward observers to man two additional observation points. A liaison officer was also sent to the French Artillery Headquarters on our right and an observer sent to man an OP in the French sector as protection for our right flank.

The end of the month found the 142nd Infantry Regiment in a defensive position along a twelve thousand, five hundred meter front, and our

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battalion from the position occupied on 15 October covering twenty two hundred mil sector. At this time we had four liaison officers, nine forward observers (two of which were Sergeants) with the Infantry. During the latter part of the month the amount of firing that was done was governed by the daily ammunition allocations, and this was very small - as low as ten rounds per gun per day. However, as the action on the front consisted only of patrolling, very few fires were necessary.

The Battalion Motor Maintenance sections made the most of this period of relative inactivity. An excellently situated motor maintenance shop was set up and a program of six thousand mile maintenance checks began on the 4th of October. The Battalion motor maintenance section worked in conjunction with the Batteries' maintenance sections at the battalion shop; during the next twenty seven days 70% of the vehicles in the battalion had received a six thousand mile maintenance inspection. The Battalion maintenance section received special commendation from the Division Artillery Commander for their excellent work.

In general the action of this period can be characterized as a transition from the fast moving pursuit of the previous months to a situation in which the front lines were well defined; with stubborn resistance along the full front. Artillery action was limited by the poor observation possibilities in the wooded terrain in which the action took place and further by the restricted ammunition supplies.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.


LOUIS H. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
3-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hennie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CHARLES F. TREMMEL

CHARLES F. TREMMEL, ASN 33019135, Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1300 hours, Saturday 7 October 1944, 2000 yards West of Rehaupal, France, coordinates: 23.6 - 47.2, France, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXV - 18.

Sergeant Tremmel is a member of the 1st Liaison Section and at the time of being wounded was with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry. The Battalion was moving on the heavy wooded areas East of Hill 627 prior to occupying the Eastern slopes when enemy mortar and artillery was directed into the area. Sergeant Tremmel was hit in the back by fragmentation from a mortar shell. He received treatment and returned to his organization.

Sergeant Tremmel is 28 years of age. Born 3 February 1916. He was inducted into Service 4 May 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs Madgelena Tremmel, (Mother), 3775 Dentzler Road, Parma 9, Ohio.

BATTERY "A"

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

EDAS E. MOFFITT

EDAS E. MOFFITT, ASN 20811783, Sergeant, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1500 hours, Thursday 5 October 1944, 2400 yards Northeast of Tendon, France, sheet XXXV-18, 1:50,000 map, Bruyeres, France.

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Sergeant Moffitt was a member of a forward observer artillery crew working with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry. The 1st Battalion had been operating in heavy wooded areas and subjected to heavy artillery fire for several days. The 1st Battalion was finally relieved by the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry. Sergeant Moffitt volunteered to remain on forward observer duty with the 141st Infantry to assist the forward observer party from the 131st Field Artillery Battalion in adjusting artillery on known points. Sergeant Moffitt went forward with an assault company to establish an OP and was caught in an area being shelled by enemy artillery. During the shelling he was hit in the upper right leg by shell fragmentation. He was given immediate treatment and evacuated.

Sergeant Moffitt is 26 years of age. Born 15 August 1918. He entered the Service from Paris, Texas, 26 May 1940.

Next of Kin: Mrs Odas E. Moffitt (wife), 127 Clarksville Street, Paris, Texas.

HAROLD C. MC INTYRE

HAROLD C. MC INTYRE, ASN 35208056, Tec 5, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1500 hours, Thursday 5 October 1944, 2400 yards Northeast of Tendon, France, sheet XXXV - 18, 1:50,000 map, Bruyeres, France.

Tec 5 Mc Intyre was a member of a forward observer artillery crew working with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry. The 1st Battalion had been operating in heavy wooded areas and subjected to heavy artillery fire for several days. The 1st Battalion was finally relieved by the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry. Tec 5 Mc Intyre volunteered to remain on forward observer duty with the 141st Infantry to assist the forward observer party from the 131st Field Artillery Battalion in adjusting artillery on known points. Tec 5 Mc Intyre went forward with an assault company to establish an OP and was caught in an area being shelled by enemy artillery. During the shelling he was hit in the chest by shell fragmentation. He was given immediate treatment and evacuated.

Tec 5 Mc Intyre is 28 years of age. Born 6 August 1916. He was inducted into Service from Clarksville, West Virginia, 18 June 1941.

Next of Kin: Mrs Carrie Pearl Mc Intyre, (Mother) General Delivery, Alvy, West Virginia.

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LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CLINE C. OAKLEAF

CLINE C. OAKLEAF, ASN 20314798, Corporal, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0830 hours, Friday 6 October 1944, on Hill 827, 3000 yards Southeast of Tendon France, coordinates: 25.9 - 46.3, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXV 18, Bruyeres, France.

Corporal Oakleaf was on duty with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry as a member of the forward observer party when enemy mortars and artillery fire was directed on the position. Corporal Oakleaf received multiple penetrating wounds back of his left hand. He received immediate attention and was evacuated.

Corporal Oakleaf is 29 years of age. Born 23 October 1914. He enlisted in Service from Paris, Texas, 19 October 1940.

Next of Kin: Mrs Faye Oakleaf (wife), Rt # 7, Paris, Texas.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

FRANCIS (NMI) O'BRYAN

FRANCIS (NMI) O'BRYAN, ASN 58027479, Private, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1400 hours, Wednesday 18 October 1944, 350 yards Northeast of Houx, France, coordinates:

Throughout the morning of 18 October 1944 enemy artillery had been falling in and around the town of Houx and the battalion positions. At 1400 one round falling much shorter than previous ones hit a tree near Battery "A" motor park. Pvt. O'Bryan was nearby at the time and one of the shell fragments hit the calf of his leg causing a penetrating wound. He received immediate treatment and was evacuated.

Pvt. O'Bryan is 32 years of age. Born 15 April 1912. He enlisted in the Service 5 February 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs Dove O'Bryan (Wife), Box 422, Sterling City, Texas.

JAMES D. CHAMBERS

JAMES D. CHAMBERS, ASN 20314812, Pvt. 1cl, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly injured in action 1300 hours, Friday 6 October 1944, approximately 2000 yards Southeast of Tendon, France, coordinates: 25.7 - 46.2, sheet XXXV - 18, 1:50,000 map, Bruyeres, France.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CASUALTIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u>					
Tremmel, Charles F.	Sgt.	33019135	IWA	10/7/44	Parma 9, Ohio
<u>BATTERY "A"</u>					
Moffitt, Odas E.	Sgt.	20814783	SWA	10/5/44	Paris, Texas
Mc Intyre, Harold C.	Tec 5	35208056	SWA	10/5/44	Alvy, West Virginia
Oakleaf, Cline C.	Cpl.	20814798	IWA	10/6/44	Paris, Texas
O'bryan, Francis (nmi)	Pvt.	38027179	IWA	10/18/44	Sterling City, Tex.
Chambers, James D.	Pfc.	20814812	LJA	10/6/44	Paris, Texas

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Pfc. Chambers was on duty with the forward observer party from Battery "A" with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry when he was injured. Enemy artillery was falling in the area and Pvt. Chambers was on his stomach, keeping low. One shell entered the ground directly under him and failed to explode. Pvt. Chambers was not wounded but he suffered from shock and was returned to his organization after receiving treatment.

Pvt. 1st class Chambers is 25 years of age. Born 27 October 1918. He enlisted in the Service from Paris, Texas, 24 November 1940.

Next of Kin: Mr. Roland Chambers, Route #6, Paris, Texas. (Father)

There were no replacements received by this Battalion during the month of October.

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HEADQUARTERS 152ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	0	0
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	1	1
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
INA	0	3	3
SWA	0	2	2
MIA	0	0	0
POW	0	0	0

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

AWARDS FOR MONTH OCTOBER 1944

CITATION OF UNIT

The 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for exceptional performance from 26 May to 26 June 1944 in the monumental 29-day push from the Anzio beachhead area through Rome to the hills overlooking Pisa. Authority: General Order No. 387, section I, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 13 October 1944.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER
IN LIEU OF A SECOND SILVER STAR

WAYNE DENHAM

Wayne Denham, 20815054, Sergeant, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. Date of deed - 15 September 1944. Authority: General Order No. 417, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 25 October 1944.
Entered Service from Weatherford, Texas.

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

Thelbert R. Wingate, 20814619, Staff Sergeant, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action. Date of deed - 15 September 1944. Authority: General Order No. 417, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 25 October 1944.
Entered Service from Benham, Texas.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

AWARD OF THE SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL

RAYMOND E BIBB

Raymond E. Bibb, 204010321, Staff Sergeant, (now 2nd Lt.) 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights against the enemy from 10 September 1943 to 10 June 1944, in the Italian Campaign. Authority: General Order 92, Section V, Seventh Army, dated 19 October 1944.

Entered military service from Nashville, Tennessee.

S E C R E T

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 November 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records and History of Organization

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division,
A.P.O. #36, U. S. Army

1. Submitted herewith the report of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Historical Records and Histories of organization covering action of this Battalion during the period 1-30 November 1944. This report is submitted in compliance with letter dated 20 April 1943, Allied Force Headquarters, APO #512, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organization, wrapper indorsement dated 21 September 1943, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division dated 28 November 1943 and letter dated 20 May 1944, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of organizations and letter dated 4 September 1944, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records and Histories of Organizations and letter dated 28 September 1944, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, Subject: Historical Records and Circular Number 34, section IV, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 November 1944, Subject: Handling of Historical Documents in Seventh Army.

2. The operations during the month demonstrated nothing new. Rather, I think further emphasized the fact that artillery fire is necessary, and it must be delivered accurately, in sufficient quantity, if our infantry is to advance and their casualties be reasonable. To illustrate; a small strong point in and around a house just north of Rahaupal (V-25.2 47.2) was attacked several times unsuccessfully by day and night without artillery support, and with only a small amount of artillery and mortar fire. This point was needed before a proposed attack was to be launched. 8 inch howitzer in addition to a 105mm battery was adjusted on the house and the point was taken without much trouble by one platoon. (The 8 inch howitzer was fired within 150 yards of our own dug-in troops)

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3. Time should be given to probe with patrols if ammunition is to be used economically. On one or two occasions preparations were fired early in the morning on unoccupied points which had been defended successfully by the enemy against company size attacks the evening before. (Contact cannot always be maintained in wooded mountainous terrain at night)

4. Close command liaison must be maintained and vigorous reconnaissance for positions be made to the front and flanks if possible.

5. This is especially true in a fluid situation such as characterized the latter part of the month. If this close contact is not maintained the action will either be delayed or the infantry will get out of range.

6. The combat efficiency remains high even after more than one hundred days of continuous action over about five hundred miles. However it may be said without peradventure of gainsayment that romance has been completely stripped from modern warfare.

John N. Green
JOHN N. GREEN
Lt. Col., Field Artillery
Commanding

4-1022

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 December 1944

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

NOVEMBER 1944

N A R R A T I V E

The beginning of the month found the Battalion in position in the vicinity of Houx in direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment which was holding a twelve thousand five hundred meter defensive front. These battery positions had been occupied since 13 October 1944, but due to relative inactivity of the front and restricted ammunition allowances little firing was done.

The remainder of the Division - including the 442nd Infantry (attached to the Division) was engaged in a aggressive action to the East of Bruyeres and considerable gains had been made in this sector.

On the 3rd November plans were initiated to employ the 142nd Regimental Combat Team to relieve the elements of the 141st and 442nd Infantry Regiments in Forêt Domaniale de ' Champ region. Reconnaissance was made for battery positions in the vicinity of La Rouge Baux and occupation completed the night of 3-4 November. There was really little choice in the selection of battery positions. Most of the terrain was heavily wooded hills with only a narrow wet valley which was already occupied by a light battalion and a battery of mediums. Gun positions were made possible by laying boards on the soft ground and building up emplacements around them.

The 142nd Infantry Regiment began their attack the morning of the 5th November through the difficult wooded terrain in the face of rain, sleet and snow. The progress was slow but satisfactory and by the 10th November the enemy had been cleared from the Forêt Domaniale de ' Champ. The Regiment was then ordered to attack to the South and reconnaissance for new positions was made further up the valley in an area just recently cleared by our troops.

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The objectional features of this position were the extensive enemy mine fields in the area and the front lines being only one thousand five hundred yards to the East. However, there was plenty of time for the preparation of the positions and the mine fields were cleared with the aid of the Engineers. The positions were occupied the night of 13-14 November. Only the necessary equipment and personnel were taken to this position because of the limited space. The remainder of the Battalion remained in the La Rouge Maut area.

The attack of our Infantry to the South met with very little resistance. It was soon apparent that we would have to displace again and a reconnaissance was made on 14th November in an area Southeast of Bruyeres. Meantime, the battalion was given the mission of reinforcing fires of the 382nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 103rd Division which was making an attack on our left flank towards Ste Die. This required our guns to be shifted to enable us to fire to the Northeast, whereas, heretofore we had been firing to the South. The 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion took over the direct support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. This mission was very easily accomplished by merely having the 93rd Field Artillery Battalion tune in on our primary radio channel.

The morning of the 16 November our battalion assisted in firing a preparation for the 103rd Division and at noon it's reinforcing mission accomplished the battalion began displacing to positions South of Biffontaine. The new area afforded the batteries good gun positions and also contained enough houses so that most of the men could get inside, away from the elements, part of the time.

The action during this period had been bringing us closer and closer to what was considered the German Winter Defense line. Many of the villages and farms immediately in front of this line had been destroyed by demolition and burning, and mines and booby traps were in perfusion.

On the 19th November reconnaissance was made East of Corcieux in which area care was taken to search for mines and booby traps. These positions were occupied on the 20th November at which time the battalion's mission was one of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and the 131st Field Artillery Battalion. The 142nd Infantry Regiment had withdrawn to a rest area. Our Liaison and Forward Observers returned to the battalion for a short rest during this period.

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The remainder of the period is concerned with the push through the German Winter Line, and the throwing back of the enemy to the Rhine Valley. The situation in the Vosges Mountains sector on the 20th November consisted of the French Army breaking through the Belfort Gap in the South and reaching Mulhouse and the Rhine River. In the Northern part of the sector the 3rd and 103rd Divisions had broken through the German Winter Line and out-flanked Ste Die. The forces to the North of these units were making favorable gains to the East - towards Strasbourg.

The combination of the successes to the North and South threatened the entire enemy defenses in the Vosges and a general enemy withdrawal was anticipated. Plans were initiated for hasty pursuit of the enemy by motorizing the 112nd Infantry Combat Team. Our battalion was to accompany this motorized task force and render continuous support by leap-frogging the batteries. The detailed plan had Battery "A" accompanying the 1st Battalion, 112nd Infantry, which was spear-heading the attack.

The motor movement began on the 23rd November with Battery "A" accompanying the 1st Battalion. Only the necessary vehicles were taken on this movement. This included the prime movers, one wire truck, the fifth section and two extra ammunition trucks. In addition a skeleton Fire Direction Center crew, in a 608 radio car, accompanied this battery. The remainder of the Battalion - including Battery "K" (5 Self Propelled 105's) from the 753rd Tank Battalion which was attached to us for this operation, remained in the present position East of Corcieux.

The column advanced to the vicinity of Mandray - a distance of five miles - where it encountered heavy mine fields defended by ground troops, artillery and flak wagons. Our troops were forced to de-truck and advanced by foot in an effort to drive out the enemy. Battery "A" was put into position in the West edge of the town of Mandray early the morning of the 24th November. During the morning of the same day the Battery Commanders of the other batteries were brought forward and a position for one other battery was selected. Battery "B" occupied this position during the afternoon and at the request of the Regimental Commander the other batteries were not brought forward at this time because of the poor road conditions and the scarcity of battery positions.

During the day the foot troops made very good advances and a forward displacement of the artillery was in order. However, the only route forward in our sector could not be used due to mine fields, enemy artillery

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and snipers. Late in the afternoon a route through the sector of the unit on our left was found in a reconnaissance made for positions in the vicinity of Ban de Laveline. The batteries were all brought up and put into position the night of 24-25 November.

The progress of the Infantry was fairly rapid, however the scattered resistance and road blocks made continuance of the motorized movement impracticable. One such road block was encountered where the highway passes over the peak of the Vosges mountains. This consisted of a strong physical block of timber and rocks and defended by approximately 100 troops with automatic weapons and two anti-tank guns. Artillery fire was adjusted on this block preceding the attack by our Infantry, and about 350 rounds were dumped on this one target. After this preparation the road block was over-run and easily cleared. About forty prisoners were taken and one of the 77mm Anti-Tank guns had been destroyed by a direct hit. This opened the way for another quick advance by our troops. These advances were not made on the highway, but by forced marches on the ridges parallel to and North of the highway. In this manner the enemy in Ste Marie aux Mines and Ste Croix aux Mines (a distance of 8 and 10 miles respectively from the road block) were outflanked and surprised. Ste Marie aux Mines was completely cleared the same day and fighting was still going on in the Eastern half of Ste Croix.

Early the morning of the 26 November Batteries "A", "B" and "C" moved forward five thousand yards to positions in the vicinity of Wisembach and Battery "X" with skeleton Fire Direction Center crew moved up to Ste Marie aux Mines. During the same day the remainder of the battalion moved up to the latter town. Due to the scarcity of positions one battery found it necessary to set up "parade style" in the town square. Battery "C" of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion (medium) was attached to the battalion and put into position in the same vicinity. This battery was fired through our Fire Direction Center with the aid of one of their computers.

During the afternoon action flared up in Ste Croix aux Mines as our troops attempted to clear the town. This action was centered around two tanks and about forty enemy infantry. An infantry company commander using telephone communications adjusted the fire of one of our guns on the tanks which were about two hundred yards in front of him. After about thirty rounds of HE, hits and near misses, while not destroying the tanks forced one of the crews to abandon their tank. The officer adjusting the fire then called for a couple of rounds of white phosphorus smoke while he brought up his own armor. The scheme worked perfectly with our tank

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moving up under the smoke screen and knocking out the enemy tanks at point-blank range. The afternoon of the same day our infantry moved into position on the high ground North of Musloch about one mile East of Ste Croix. Our Forward Observer accompanying this group observed approximately one hundred enemy personnel and some vehicles in the vicinity of Musloch. One battery was adjusted on the target and the battalion fired a total of 1,75 rounds for effect. This caused the enemy heavy casualties and completely disorganized the remainder enabling our troops to occupy the village and take some seventy prisoners.

As we approach the Rhine Valley enemy resistance seems to be stiffening, although poorly organized. In order for us to give close support to our Infantry units it was necessary to keep the batteries as close behind the Infantry as possible. This was difficult to do at times because of the scarcity of suitable battery positions along the narrow valley in which the action took place. The next displacement therefore was made by moving the two rear batteries to positions about five thousand yards forward in the vicinity of Musloch. With these two batteries a separate Fire Direction Center crew was sent along. The other two light batteries and the medium battery remained in Ste Croix with the remainder of the Fire Direction Center.

On the 30th November another leap-frog movement was made by displacement of Battery "B" and Battery "C" of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion (Attached to us) to positions in vicinity of Liepvre. Another skeleton Fire Direction Center crew was sent forward with this group. The primary mission of these two batteries was to support the 2nd Battalion of the 143rd Infantry which was operating in our sector. To accomplish this mission a radio from the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion went forward with this Fire Direction Center. A radio with our channel also monitored our radio net so as to be able to fire any missions which were out of range with the rear batteries. Wire communication between the two Fire Direction Crews made for complete coordination and the battalion functioned efficiently firing six batteries through two Fire Direction Centers.

One striking feature of the period was the demonstrated flexibility of our artillery. At one time our role was changed from direct support to reinforcing while another battalion took over our direct support mission merely by switching on our radio channel. Another instance was the efficient handling of four, five and even six batteries by the battalion at one time. The use of two Fire Direction Centers in the leap-frog

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displacements, which were necessary in the latter part of the period is a further example of flexibility.

The weather elements have been rather kind to us the latter part of the month and most of the time we have managed to find shelter for our troops. These combined with the recent successes have kept morale and efficiency at a high level despite our one hundred and eight days of continuous combat duty.

The end of the month finds us on the eastern slopes of the Vosges Mountains with observation points looking across the Rhine River into Germany.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Louis W. Quast
LOUIS W. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hennie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. # 56, U. S. ARMY

7 December 1944

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JOSEPH A. DELLE MONACHE

JOSEPH A. DELLE MONACHE, ASN 42003767, Pvt., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1500 hours, Sunday 26 November 1944, near Ste Croix - aux Mines, coordinates, 61.5 - 62.3, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVII - 17, Selestat.

Private Delle Monache was a member of the artillery liaison section accompanying 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. Around 1500 hours Private Delle Monache was moving forward with the 2nd Battalion on the Eastern side of Ste Croix when an enemy mortar shell landed a short distance from him. Fragmentation from the mortar caused penetrating a wound of the head. He received immediate attention and was evacuated.

Private Delle Monache is 21 years of age. Born 27 May 1923.

He was inducted into Service 13 July 1943.

Next of Kin: Mr. Constantino Delle Monache (Father), 23 6th Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

STANLEY (NMI) MC CUTCHAN JR

STANLEY (NMI) MC CUTCHAN, ASN 39376859, S/Sgt., Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1500 hours, Sunday 26 November 1944, near Ste Croix - aux Mines, coordinates, 61.5 - 62.3, France, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXVII - 17, Selestat.

S/Sgt. Mc Cutchan was a member of the artillery liaison section accompanying 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. Around 1500 hours S/Sgt Mc Cutchan was moving forward with the 2nd Battalion on the Eastern side of Ste Croix when an enemy mortar shell landed a short distance from him. Fragmentation

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from the mortar caused penetrating wounds in both legs and one arm. He received immediate attention and was evacuated.

S/Sgt. Mc Cutchan is 26 years of age. Born 24 September 1918.

He was inducted into Service, 7 March 1941, at Tacoma Washington.

Next of Kin, Mrs. Etta Mae Mc Cutchan (Mother), 1806 Colbey Avenue, Everett, Washington.

BATTERY "A"

KILLED IN ACTION

NEWTON E. BEVILLE

NEWTON E. BEVILLE, ASN 20811/807, Private 1st Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 0500 hours, Sunday 26 November 1944, coordinates; 62.80 - 65.20, France, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXVII - 17, Selestat.

Private 1st Class Beville was a member of the artillery liaison section with the 1st Battalion, 112nd Infantry. On the morning of Sunday 26 he was staying at 1st Battalion C.P. Around 0500 had to leave the building. Pvt. Beville was carrying a rifle at the time. He had not gone far when a figure approached him. Beville pulled back the bolt of his rifle - evidently preparing to challenge. The figure approaching him was another American soldier, and he taking Private Beville for an enemy grabbed his rifle. In the scuffle that followed Beville's gun went off wounding the other man in one leg. The other soldier, still thinking him to be an enemy, shot Beville twice in the stomach. Private 1st Class Beville died shortly after.

Beville was 31 years of age. Born 22 September 1913.

He enlisted in the Service 24 November 1940.

Next of Kin, Mr. James J. Beville (Father), Route #1, Potts, Texas.

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

JAMES D. CHAMBERS

JAMES D. CHAMBERS, ASN 20811/812, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 2000 hours, Thursday 23 November 1944, Coordinates; 31.40 - 56.10, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXV - 18, Bruyeres.

Private Chambers was on his way to the latrine when he either tripped a booby trap or stepped on a loose board that had a grenade with a loose pin tied to it causing a grenade to go off. Fragmentation from the exploding grenade

went through the clothing on the lower part of his right leg and skinned his leg slightly. He was treated and remained on duty.

Pvt. Chambers is 26 years of age. Born 27 October 1918.

He enlisted in the Service 21 November 1941.

Next of Kin: Mr. and Mrs. Roland Chambers (parents), Route #6, Paris, Texas

BATTERY "B"

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

LEON G. PIERCE, ASN 0-1180276, 1st Lt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, seriously wounded in action, 1200 hours, Sunday 5 November 1944, Coordinates: 33.8 - 59.7, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXVI - 18, Bruyeres, France.

1st Lt. Pierce was an Artillery Forward Observer with the 2nd Battalion, 112nd Infantry. He had accompanied "F" Company in occupying the high ground, and was digging in when an enemy shell - believed to be from a tank - hit a tree about twenty feet from his position. Lt. Pierce was hit in the back and the right shoulder blade. He was unable to move on his own power due to temporary paralyzation and had to be carried quite a distance by two men of his section to obtain medical aid. He received medical attention and was evacuated.

1st Lt. Pierce is 25 years of age. Born 25 March 1919. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 8 April 1943 and 1st Lt. 27 September 1944.

Next of Kin: Mr. Webb Pierce, Honoraville, Alabama.

There were three officers and one enlisted man received by this Battalion as replacements during the month of November 1944.

All replacements have been very satisfactory.

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HEADQUARTERS 102ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 December 1944

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CASUALTIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u>					
Mc Cutchan Jr., Stanley S/Sgt.		39576859	LWA	11/26/44	Everett, Washington
Delle Monache, Joseph A. Pvt		42003767	SWA	11/26/44	Newark, New Jersey
<u>BATTERY "A"</u>					
Beville, Newton E.	Pfc.	20814807	KIA	11/26/44	Petty, Texas
Chambers, James D.	Pfc.	20814812	LWA	11/23/44	Paris, Texas
<u>BATTERY "B"</u>					
Pierce, Leon G.	1st Lt.	0-1180296	SWA	11/5/44	Honcraville, Alabama

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HEADQUARTERS 152ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. # 56, U. S. ARMY

7 December 1944

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	1	1
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
IWA	0	2	2
SWA	1	1	2
MIA	0	0	0
POW	0	0	0

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1945

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

JANUARY 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The beginning of the year 1945 finds the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion in the vicinity of Strasbourg, on the West bank of the Rhine River. The mission of the Battalion was that of reinforcing the fires of the 33rd Field Artillery Brigade. The general situation was defensive and the sector, all along the Rhine was quiet. All of the Infantry Regiments of the 36th Division were in a rest and training area to the rear, and our battalion was on a six hour alert to rejoin the Division. Although there was little activity in our sector - there were plenty of rumors circulating concerning the German advances in Northern Alsace, and many civilians were already evacuating the city of Strasbourg.

On 3 January 1945, at 1330, the Battalion was ordered to rejoin the 36th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Saverne or Saarebourg. At 1530 we were on the road and arrived at Saverne at 1730 where we were instructed by Military Police to proceed to Saarebourg. After some delay in the latter town an officer who had been sent ahead contacted us and informed the Battalion Commander that the Division was moving to the vicinity of Montbronn, in the Bitche sector, and giving us the route which we were to follow. At 0200 the march was resumed to Montbronn. This difficult march through darkness and cold was completed about 0530. The assistant S-3 met us in the vicinity of Montbronn and took the Battery Commanders on reconnaissance of positions which he had selected. These positions were actually an assembly area; but the guns were put in firing position as the enemy was well within range. During the morning another position area was assigned in the vicinity of St. Louis les Bitche and reconnaissance was completed by noon. During the afternoon the batteries occupied these positions. Our present mission was that of reinforcing the fires of the 131st Field Artillery Battalion as

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the 141st Infantry Regiment was the only Infantry Regiment in the lines. The activity on our immediate front was negligible; but the front was more or less "on edge", in as much as the enemy was putting strong pressure to the North and Southeast of us.

The preparation of the gun pits was made difficult by frozen ground and hilly terrain in our area. Further, in two of the battery areas there were no buildings or shelter of any kind. However, with the aid of some dynamite, logs and a lot of pick and shovel work by the gun crews excellent dug-in gun pits and dugouts with over head cover were soon constructed.

On 6 January the 142nd Infantry Regiment relieved the 141st Infantry Regiment, and our forward observers were committed with the infantry. The sector remained quiet until 8 January 1945 when the 1st Battalion made a limited objective attack to improve the positions. The attack was successful and the anticipated counter-attack, which developed the next morning was beaten off with heavy casualties to the enemy. The 142nd Infantry Regiment was relieved by the 143rd Infantry Regiment and our mission changed to reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. Our immediate front again quieted down, but in as much as the enemy's intents and capabilities was questionable a switch position to the South was selected and partially prepared.

The plans for an attack to the Northeast were also prepared. However, before any action could be taken in either direction the 142nd Regimental Combat Team was alerted to move to the sector of the 103rd Infantry Division, in the vicinity of Sarreguemines. The plans, including the route and destination to an assembly point, were drawn up on the night of 13 January 1945 and the march begun the next morning at 0400. The Battalion was given the mission of general support and reinforcing the fires of the 383rd Field Artillery Battalion; while the mission of the 142nd Infantry Regiment was that of reserve. Reconnaissance was made in the vicinity of Metzling where we were to occupy positions vacated by the 382nd Field Artillery Battalion. The Battalion got a break this time in as much as the positions were already prepared, wire installations in and enough houses in the area to accommodate the personnel. The front, generally between Sarreguemines and Forbach, was very quiet and few missions were fired.

The 103rd Infantry Division was being relieved by the 70th Infantry Division, who were being supported by the 69th and 93rd Armored Field

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Artillery Battalions. On the night of 16 January 1945 the 383rd Field Artillery Battalion (103rd Infantry Division) was scheduled to move. However, the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion which was to relieve them had not been released from their mission in the Haguenau area. This necessitated the displacement of our battalion on very short notice to take over the positions and direct support missions of the 383rd Field Artillery Battalion. This was done between 2100 - 2400 the night of 16 January 1945, and included bringing up our liaison and forward observer parties to the supported infantry - 276th Infantry Regiment. The next day the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion arrived and relieved us of the mission and positions during the late afternoon. Batteries moved back, as they were relieved, to their previous positions at Metzing.

At 0100, 18 January 1945 warning order was received for the Battalion to be ready to move at 0800 to a destination in the Haguenau area. A quartermaster party was sent out the next morning and the route to Saverne, where a guide was to meet us, was announced. The motor movement began at 1140 under the command of the Battalion S-3. The Battalion Commander and the Battalion S-2 rode ahead. Upon arriving at Fenestrange, ahead of the Battalion, Lt. Col. Green was informed by the Military Police that the destination of the 142nd Regimental Combat Team had been changed from Saverne to Durstel (WQ 6032). The Battalion was re-routed and taken to an assembly area in the vicinity of Bettewiller where it was pulled off the road to await further orders. At first it was thought we would occupy our old positions in the vicinity of Montbronn which was nearby. However, at 1800 the orders were received to continue the march to Haguenau beginning at 2030. In the mean time dinner was cooked and served. The march was resumed at 2030 and the Battalion arrived in an assembly area in the South-western edge of Haguenau at 2400. Lt. Col. Green proceeded immediately to the 36th Infantry Division Artillery C.P. where he was given orders to occupy positions in the vicinity of Camp de-Oberhoffen immediately. Lt. Col. Green with the Battery Commanders left at 0330 and the Battalion, under the command of the Battalion Executive, followed at 0400. At 0600 the Battalion was in position and ready to fire having completed an 18 hour - 80 mile motor march. The Haguenau sector which we had just moved into was an extremely active one. Since the first of the year the enemy has exerted considerable pressure on the Northern Alsace sector forcing withdrawals on the part of our troops. As we enter the sector the situation is somewhat confused.

On 20 January 1945 one infantry regiment - the 143rd Infantry Regiment -

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was in the line in the Corps right flank between Rohrwiller and Weyersheim. Our mission was that of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. On the same day plans were made to carry out a major withdrawal from North of the Haguenau Forrest to a line running along the Moder River generally West through Haguenau. This necessitated a hasty displacement on our part. During the afternoon the Battalion displaced to positions in the vicinity of Gaudertheim. In our sector three infantry battalions were in the line and each had a battalion of artillery in direct support of it. In addition there were from one to three light field artillery battalions reinforcing these fires, as well as a medium battalion. Therefore when the enemy reacted to our withdrawal and began making probing attacks to test the strength of our front we were able to crack down on him quickly with a large mass of artillery fire. After making two or three probing attacks and suffering heavy casualties the enemy seemed no longer inclined to continue his offensive action in our sector. At the same time an estimated one thousand enemy troops secured a temporary bridge head across the Moder - Northwest of Haguenau. This was also counter attacked and the enemy driven back across the river with heavy casualties.

The strengthening of our front, combined with the Allied successes on the other fronts seems to have changed the enemy's intentions in our sector. During the remainder of the month he appears to go on the defensive, and from all indications his Panzer Divisions are withdrawing from our front. As soon as this was realized by our commanders we again became more aggressive, and at the close of the month the Battalion occupied positions in the vicinity of Bischwiller in preparation for an attack to the North and East. At first appearances the month would be characterized by the old Army expression "SNAFU". However, on closer inspection and when considering the role played by the 36th Infantry Division - the 142nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team in particular - it can be seen that our Army Commanders were engaged in a mighty game of military chess; in which the 36th Infantry Division played the roll of the "Queen". Most of the period we were in Corps or Army reserve subject to action on any part of the Army sector. At the first of the month we saw action on the 7th Army right flank at Strasbourg; then to the middle of the front in the vicinity of Bitch; later to the left flank in the vicinity of Sarreguemines, and finally back to the right flank again Southeast of Haguenau. The fact that all of these difficult moves and operations were made without detering incidents -

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despite the hardships of winter - is a credit to all personnel of the command.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.

Louis N. Quast

LOUIS N. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hennie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

Staff Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1945

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

BATTERY "A"

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

MARSHALL G. QUIAT

MARSHALL G. QUIAT, ASN 0-439461, 2nd Lt., Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1000 hours, Monday 8 January 1945, near Lemberg, France, coordinates 74.5 - 46.5, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVII - 13, Bitché.

2nd Lt. Quiat was artillery forward observer with "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry. This battalion was in the process of an attack to seize the high ground overlooking road running Northeast from Lemberg. Lt. Quiat was adjusting artillery fire when a 50 mm mortar burst near his position. Fragments from the exploding mortar hit him in the right leg, arm and hand. He received treatment and was evacuated.

2nd Lt. Quiat is 23 years of age. Born 10 March 1922. He entered Service from Denver, Colorado. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 15 March 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Barbara M. Quiat, (wife), 11 Clover Drive, Great Neck, Long Island, New York.

There were two officers and four enlisted men received by this Battalion as reinforcements during the month of January 1945.

All reinforcements have been very satisfactory.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1945

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CASUALTIES

NAME

RANK

ASN

TYPE OF CASUALTY

DATE

RESIDENCE

BATTERY "A"

Quiat, Marshall G.

2nd Lt. O-439461

LWA

1/8/45

Great Neck, Long Island,
New York

L-104✓

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1945

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	0	0
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
IWA	1	0	1
SWA	0	0	0
MIA	0	0	0
PCW	0	0	0

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HEADQUARTERS 132nd FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 February 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH JANUARY 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WILLMOTTE S. CURTIS, O-406807, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion,
25 November 1944, France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

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L-1043

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

FEBRUARY 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The beginning of the month of February finds the Battalion in position Southwest of Bischwiller, France, with the enemy front lines about 1500 yards to the North and East. This relatively "close up" position was occupied in preparation to support the attack of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. In reviewing the events of the previous period it will be recalled that during the month of January the units of the VI Corps had withdrawn in the face of enemy troops and armor. At the end of the month a defensive position running generally East and West, South of the Moder River, had been defended successfully against strong enemy attacks. The fact that these attacks failed, coupled with the Allied successes on other fronts made it apparent that enemy troops were being withdrawn from our sector. As a result it was believed that the enemy had given up the offensive in our sector and would therefore be on the defensive. The attack in which the 142nd Infantry Regiment participated had the object of straightening out our line and also testing the enemy's strength and defenses as well as establishing a bridgehead across the Moder. This attack jumped off on the 1st of February with the primary object of seizing Oberhoffen with one battalion. The attack was initially successful, and two companies were in the town the next morning. However, these companies did not have any supporting armor with them as the bridge over the Moder River had not yet been completed. During the morning the enemy counter-attacked with infantry, supported by tanks, and succeeded in getting into the town and disorganizing our troops. During the time our ground observers, as well as the Air OP, expended some 1500 rounds on observed missions on tanks and infantry. Late in the afternoon the town was again attacked from the South by the 1st Battalion against stiff opposition. The attack was resumed the next morning, and by slow and steady progress succeeded in clearing out most of the town during the day. The next few days, although the town had been cleared,

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it was made almost untenable for our people by enemy self-propelled and tank fire from the woods - 300 to 400 yards to the Northeast.

At this time the continuation of the attack to the East of Oberhoffen was taken over by another unit and the 142nd Infantry given a sector including Kaltenhouse. This made it necessary for us to move West to be in better position to cover our regimental sector. Things quieted down again for a few days during which time our artillery fires were very much restricted by ammunition allocations. Observed targets were always available due to the aggressive enemy, and although we fired on most of the missions the proper fire for effect could not always be given. On the 11th February the enemy launched a battalion sized attack on Oberhoffen supported by at least two self-propelled guns. With the help of darkness and an early morning snow storm they succeeded in getting into the center of the town without much opposition. However, when daylight came and the snow storm stopped, the enemy's route into town was sealed off with artillery fire and our troops in town converged on the enemy from the North and South. By nightfall two hundred prisoners of war had been taken, including one battalion commander and two company commanders, and one of the self-propelled guns knocked out. The failure of this attack as well as the previous counter-attack apparently proved to the enemy that we were determined to hold Oberhoffen and no further attacks were launched against us; having established a bridgehead across the Moder River we too went on the defensive. This situation continued with the center of activity on the front being around Oberhoffen where considerable self-propelled and tank fire was exchanged. Our ammunition allowance of approximately twelve rounds per gun, per day, allowed us to make only weak efforts to combat the enemy's self-propelled guns, mortars and automatic weapons which incessantly harassed the town.

On the 15th February the 142nd Infantry Regiment was relieved by the 143rd Infantry Regiment, and our mission then became one of general support. The third week of February was a rather quiet and inactive one for us because of the nature of our mission and the ammunition restrictions. However, we were comfortably situated, and showers and movies were available. Along about the end of the week the Division sector was changed to include more frontage to the West and to be relieved of all the sector including Oberhoffen to the East. The 142nd Regimental Combat Team was to relieve elements of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division in a sector East of Haguenau. On the 22nd February our battalion occupied positions

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in the vicinity of Huttendorf. Our initial role in this position was general support of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division Artillery. However, in as much as this was an extremely inactive front we did little more than to register on a number of check points.

On the 26th February the 142nd Infantry came into the lines and we again took over the direct support. Two battalions of Infantry and the Anti-tank Company were put in the line and we had five observers in position with these units. Because the flat terrain and forest offered poor observation it was necessary for some of our observers to occupy positions in dugouts along with the front line Infantry. Although there were no major targets fired on - every day found us firing on small groups of infantry, mortars, and machine guns.

The month ended with the 142nd Regimental Combat Team in this inactive, defensive, position.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.


LOUIS N. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hermie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

S/Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

BATTERY "A"

OFFICERS

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

ISADORE (NMI) STEIN

ISADORE (NMI) STEIN, ASN O-1179214, 1st Lt., Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1730 hours, 2 February 1945, in Oberhoffen, France, coordinates: 09.2 - 20.6, France 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Brumath, France.

1st Lt. Stein, an artillery forward observer with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment was with "C" Company in Oberhoffen. Our infantry was rounding up several prisoners taken during the fierce fighting. The enemy was shelling the town intermittently. 1st Lt. Stein was standing outside of the C.P. when a round of enemy artillery landed nearby. He was hit in the left side of his upper lip by small fragmentation. 1st Lt. Stein was treated and remained on duty. This makes the third time he has been wounded during combat in Italy and France.

1st Lt. Stein is 27 years of age. Born 30 August 1918 in New York. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 18 March 1943, and promoted to rank of 1st Lt. 27 July 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Norma Stein (wife) 3041 Cruger Avenue, New York, 67, New York, c/o Cottler.

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BATTERY "A"

ENLISTED MEN

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CLARENCE W. WITT

L-1043

CLARENCE W. WITT, ASN 20814573, Corporal, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1730 hours, 2 February 1945, in Oberhoffen, France, coordinates: 09.2 - 20.6, France 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Brumath, France.

Corporal Witt was a member of the artillery forward observation party, under the command of 1st Lt. Stein, accompanying "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. Our infantry was rounding up several prisoners taken during the fierce fighting. The enemy was shelling the town intermittently. Many of the prisoners were wounded. Corporal Witt was standing outside the C.P. helping the Infantry take care of the prisoners when an enemy shell landed nearby. Corporal Witt was hit in the left knee by small fragmentation. He received treatment and returned to duty shortly after this.

Corporal Witt is 25 years of age. Born in Springtown, Texas. He enlisted in the Service 6 November 1940 from Cleburne, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Helen O. Witt (Wife), Route #1, Azle, Texas.

BATTERY "B"

MISSING IN ACTION

CHARLES R. CRAWLEY

CHARLES R. CRAWLEY, ASN 20814913, Cpl. Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1300 hours, Thursday 1 February 1945, in Oberhoffen, France, coordinates 09.2 - 20.6, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Brumath, France.

Cpl. Charles R. Crawley was a member of the artillery forward observer party with 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. This party was with "G" Company. "G" Company had occupied Oberhoffen in the morning and encountered only scattered infantry resistance. By noon this resistance grew into a counter-attack with infantry and tanks. These tanks were able to enter the town and a dart house to house fight ensued. During the chase the members of the F.O. party became scattered. Corporal Crawley and Pvt Dominic S. Mercadante were last seen in a section where a group of German infantry were rounding up American prisoners. 1st Lt. Gilpin who was in charge of the party is also missing. It is believed that all three members of the party were taken prisoner.

Corporal Crawley is 24 years of age. Born 26 February 1921. He enlisted in the Service 20 September 1940.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Florence B. Blackshear, Route #2, Alvarado, Texas.

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DOMINIC S. MERCADANTE

DOMINIC S. MERCADANTE, ASN 32827353, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1300 hours, Thursday 1 February 1945, in Oberhoffen, France, coordinates 09.2 - 20.8, France 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Brumath, France.

Pvt. Dominic S. Mercadante was a member of the artillery forward party with 2nd Battalion, 112nd Infantry Regiment. This party was with "G" Company. "G" Company had occupied Oberhoffen in the morning and encountered only scattered infantry resistance. By noon this resistance grew into a counterattack with infantry and tanks. These tanks were able to enter the town and a dart house to house fight ensued. During the chase the members of the F.O. party became scattered. Pvt. Dominic S. Mercadante and Corporal Charles R. Crawley were last seen in a section where a group of German infantry were rounding up American prisoners. 1st Lt. Gilpin who was in charge of the party is also missing. It is believed that all three members of the party were taken prisoner.

Pvt. Mercadante is 20 years of age. Born 13 February 1945. He was inducted in the Service 8 March 1943.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Laura Mercadante, 166 East Avenue, Glen Cove, New York.

MISSING IN ACTION

DONALD C. GILPIN

DONALD C. GILPIN, ASN 0-1177411, 1st Lt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, missing in action since 1300 hours, Thursday 1 February 1945, in Oberhoffen, France, coordinates 09.2 - 20.8, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Brumath, France.

1st Lt. Gilpin was artillery forward observer with "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 112nd Infantry. "G" Company had occupied Oberhoffen in the morning and encountered only scattered infantry resistance. By noon this resistance grew into a counterattack with infantry and tanks. These tanks were able to enter the town, and a dart house to house fight ensued. Lt. Gilpin was last seen entering a house during the fight by an Infantry Sergeant. Immediately after Lt. Gilpin two German infantrymen entered the same house. The American Sergeant crept up to the house and entered it. All he found was some American equipment stacked in a corner of a room. A further search was made later to find some traces of Lt. Gilpin, but nothing was found. It is believed that he was captured.

1st Lt. Gilpin was 29 years of age. Born 5 May 1916. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 11 February 1943 and 1st Lt. 17 April 1944. Lt. Gilpin entered Service from Ravenna, Ohio.

Next of Kin: Mr. Clarence C. Gilpin, (father) RD #2, Ravenna, Ohio.

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BATTERY "C"

OFFICERS

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

NORVIN F. RAQUE

NORVIN F. RAQUE, ASN 0-1173298, 1st Lt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 2130 hours, Friday 2 February 1945, East of Bischwiller, coordinates: 12.3 - 18.5, France 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXVIII - 15, Brumath.

1st Lt. Raque was accompanying "L" Company, 142nd Infantry as an artillery observer for the 3rd Battalion on the night of 2 February 1945. The Infantry was crossing an open spot East of Bischwiller when enemy flares went up over them, and a machine gun opened up on them from the fringes of the woods further East. The recent thaws had made the going difficult. One enlisted man near Lt. Raque's position hit the ground and was partly submerged in water and in danger of sliding into deeper water due to his heavy equipment. Lt. Raque realizing the man's plight pulled him out of the precarious position and in so doing partly exposed himself. The machine gun opened up again and this time fire caught Lt. Raque in the left thigh and hand. He was treated shortly afterwards and evacuated.

1st Lt. Raque is 25 years of age. Born 4 November 1919. He entered Service from Louisville Kentucky; was commissioned 2nd Lt. 25 February 1943 and promoted to 1st Lt. 7 August 1944.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Amelia Raque (Mother), 2164 Eastview, Louisville, Kentucky.

SERVICE BATTERY

ENLISTED MEN

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

CHARLES R. HENRY

CHARLES R. HENRY, ASN 32301742, Tec 5, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1100 hours, Saturday 24 February 1945, near Keffendorf, France, coordinates: 95.0 - 23.3, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Haguenau, France.

Tec 5 Henry, a member of Service Battery had arrived at Battery "C" early the morning of 24 February to assist in some maintenance work. The weather

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was cold and Henry had stepped inside the maintenance tent after working on one of Battery "C" trucks. He had just set down on a cot inside the tent when two rounds of small arms ripped through the tent. One round hit Henry in the left chest. Tec 5 Henry was treated and evacuated.

Tec 5 Henry is 27 years of age. Born 6 December 1917. He was inducted into Service from New Brunswick, New Jersey, 12 May 1942.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Elizabeth M. Henry (wife), 60 Commercial Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

There were two officers and one enlisted man received by this Battalion as reinforcements during the month of February 1945.

All reinforcements have been very satisfactory.

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CASUALTIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
<u>BATTERY "A"</u>					
Isadore (NMI)	1st Lt.	0-1179214	LWA	2/2/45	New York, 67, New York
Clarence W.	Cpl.	20814573	LWA	2/2/45	Azle, Texas
<u>BATTERY "B"</u>					
Donald C.	1st Lt.	0-1177411	MIA	2/1/45	Ravenna, Ohio
Charles R.	Cpl.	20314913	MIA	2/1/45	Alvarado, Texas
Dominic S.	Pvt.	32827353	MIA	2/1/45	Glen Cove, New York
<u>BATTERY "C"</u>					
Morvin F.	1st Lt.	0-1178298	LWA	2/2/45	Louisville, Kentucky
<u>SERVICE BATTERY</u>					
Charles R.	Tec 5	32301742	LWA	2/24/45	New Brunswick, New Jersey

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	0	0
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
LWA	2	2	4
SWA	0	0	0
MIA	1	2	3
POW	0	0	0

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH FEBRUARY 1945

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

ROBERT A. LANG, O-1178222, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action in France. Date of deed - 24 September 1944. Authority: General Order No. 21, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 6 February 1945.

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER

IN LIEU OF A SECOND SILVER STAR

LOUIS H. QUAST, O-452469, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action in France. Date of deed - 29 August 1944. Authority: General Order No. 23, Section III, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 7 February 1945.

JOHN W. SMITH, O-519221, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action in France. Date of deed - 27 August 1944. Authority: General Order No. 25, Section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 8 February 1945.

ROBERT A. LANG, O-1178222, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action in France. Date of deed - 6 November 1944. Authority: General Order No. 25, Section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 8 February 1945.

S E C R E T

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1945

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY

MARCH 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The beginning of the month found the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion in position in the vicinity of Huttendorf in direct support of 142nd Infantry Regiment. The general situation was of a defensive nature with only patrol action by either side. The front was defined by the Moder River which ran Northwest and Southeast through Haguenau. The front was generally quiet all along our Army sector with the main action in the theater taking place farther North where the First, Third and Ninth Armies were attacking.

From the 6th to the 13th of March the battalion was out of the line and in a training area. It was quite a relief after over two hundred continuous combat days to be out of the lines away from the noise, danger, and tension of combat. Our training during this week consisted mainly of toning up in accuracy and military discipline. During this time one day was devoted to the calibration of the twelve howitzers. The calibration brought out the fact that several guns in the battalion consistently fired as much as two hundred yards short in average range than the rest of the guns. Corrections were made for these guns in subsequent firing with better results reported by the forward observers.

On the 13th March orders were received and plans made for our return to active combat. Positions were selected in the vicinity of Dauendorf - about fifteen hundred yards from the front lines. These positions were to be occupied in preparation for an attack in which our Division as well as other Divisions of the Seventh Army were to participate. On the night of the 14th these positions were occupied. Our mission was that of direct support of 142nd Infantry Regiment, and the mission of the Division was to breach the Siegfried Line which began some twenty miles North, and then to push East to the Rhine.

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The attack all along the Seventh Army front jumped off on the morning of the 15th with no artillery preparation in our particular sector. The initial resistance at the river crossing was quite strong, but lacked depth. After this crust had been penetrated resistance was spotty or non-existent. However, the infantry and tanks were delayed by mines and demolitions abatis.

Early on the morning of 17th March the battalion displaced forward a distance of four miles, and alternate plans were made for rapid pursuit with the infantry riding on our artillery vehicles. However, these plans were not carried out due to demolitions and the battalion again displaced four miles later in the evening. In as much as there was little or no resistance very little firing was done by our battalion from these intermediate positions. On the noon of the 18th March we again moved forward a distance of fifteen miles to positions in the vicinity of Lobsann where the batteries went into temporary positions. The Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders went forward another four miles to the vicinity of Drachenbronn, and the battalion brought up at 1900 hours. These positions were occupied in preparation for an attack on Wissembourg, where it was believed that the enemy would make a stand. However, with the exception of mines and demolitions only light resistance was encountered and the town was quickly cleared. The advance continued through the next day until our infantry ran into the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line - about five miles North of Wissembourg. At this time our battalion had moved to positions about two miles North of Wissembourg, and inside the German border. We were then in position three thousand yards from the first "Dragon's Teeth" and pill boxes of the Siegfried Line. As our infantry approached the Siegfried Line and prepared for an attack against it enemy opposition became much more intense. This included artillery and Nebelwerfer fire as well as machine guns and small arms. On the 20th the infantry began its attack on the line, but advances were made only through the hilly, densely wooded country on the left of our sector and here the going was very difficult. Our battalion did a lot of firing against machine guns, Nebelwerfers and artillery; but our light, or even the medium artillery, was ineffective against the enemy pill boxes. It was only the infantrymen with demolitions who could clear them out.

On the 21st and 22nd March the job of capturing the pill boxes continued with slow, but steady progress. In one instance one of our forward observers adjusting an 8 inch howitzer found it to be very effective and knocked out four pill boxes.

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At the time this was taking place the armored units of General Patton's Third Army had broken through to the Rhine at a point 80 miles North of our front. From there they had pushed on to the South and by the 22nd March were reported to be only twenty miles North of our position. This threat to the enemy's rear plus the fact that our infantry had penetrated the line in some points made any further opposition in our sector unwise.

The night of the 22nd we were subjected to very heavy artillery and Nebelwerfer fire as the enemy withdrew. Our infantry was quick to follow the retreating enemy. With infantry riding on tanks spearheading the pursuit, our battalion with an infantry battalion on our vehicles followed after the retreating Germans from noon until the next morning - (24th March) when we went into position in the vicinity of Rulzheim about five thousand yards West of the Rhine. This rapid advance of twenty five miles through the completely disorganized enemy found many small groups by passed. The morning of the 24th found our batteries capturing small groups of from six to ten enemy soldiers. - About seventy five prisoners were taken by the battalion in two days.

Our occupation of the town of Rulzheim is an example of American versatility. We moved into the town early in the morning while the infantry was still clearing it. An occasional round of enemy artillery came in until about noon. The evening of the same day a picture show was given for the battalion in the auditorium of a hotel used as the Battalion Headquarters.

This completed our mission of breaking through the Siegfried Line and taking all of the ground up to the Rhine river. The only activity in the sector was policing up of small groups of enemy that failed to get over the river.

The battalion remained in this position until the 29th of March. During this period the only activity that was observed was a few individuals around pill boxes on the opposite side of the Rhine. There was little artillery firing done from either side during this period.

The last three days of the month the Division was withdrawn from the line and moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Landau - sweating out our next mission.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Louis M. Quast
LOUIS M. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1945

REPORT OF CASUALTIES

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

ERNEST G. WOLFCALF

ERNEST G. WOLFCALF, ASN 35329254, Tec 4, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action 1600 hours, in the town of Ober-Otterbach, Germany, coordinates 17 2-52 4, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXIX-13, Wissenbourg.

Tec 4 Wolfcalf a member of the artillery liaison party operating with 2nd Battalion 142nd Infantry was on duty outside 2nd Battalion CP when enemy mortar fire landed nearby. Tec 4 Wolfcalf suffered lacerations of the left ankle. He received treatment and remained on duty.

Tec 4 Wolfcalf is 21 years of age. Born 20 October 1914. He entered Service 19 July 1942 at Van Wert, Ohio.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Elsie C. Wolfcalf (Wife), 515 Shafer Street, Van Wert, Ohio.

Tec 4 Wolfcalf was lightly wounded on the invasion of Southern France.

JAMES H. HILYER JR.

JAMES H. HILYER JR., ASN 34195014, Tec 5, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action 1400 hours, Friday 16 March 1945, in vicinity of Mertzwiller, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII-14, Haguenau.

Tec 5 Hilyer is a member of the 3rd Liaison Section operating with the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. Tec 5 Hilyer was on duty outside the 3rd Battalion CP when enemy artillery fell nearby. He was hit in the right hand by fragmentation. He received treatment and remained on duty.

Tec 5 Hilyer is 25 years of age. Born 7 June 1919. He was inducted into Service 28 November 1941 at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Catherine R. Hilyer (wife), 175 West Fairview Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey.

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BATTERY "B"

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

BERNARD L. WILKIE

BERNARD L. WILKIE, ASN 0-1181193, 1st Lt., Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0900 hours, Sunday 18 March 1945, in Morsbronn-les Bains, coordinates 00.6-33.5, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXVIII-14, Haguenau.

1st Lt. Wilkie was in command of the artillery forward observation party with the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. On the morning of 18 March he was riding in jeep with his crew as part of the column of "E" Company. While the column moved through Morsbronn-les Bains small arms fire came through the back of the jeep. One of the rounds went through the head of Private 1st Class Zibura, ASN 32385420, killing him instantly. The same round grazed Lt. Wilkie in the right cheek.

1st Lt. Wilkie is 29 years of age. Born 22 May 1916. He was commissioned 2nd Lt. 22 April 1943 and promoted to 1st Lt. 16 March 1945.

Nest of Kin: Mr. William L. Wilkie (Father) 547 College Avenue, Aurora, Illinois.

KILLED IN ACTION

CHARLES E. STELL

CHARLES E. STELL, ASN 35169033, Corporal, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 0630 hours, Tuesday 20 March 1945, West of Ober-Otterbach, Germany, coordinates 16.6-52.5, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXIX-13, Wissembourg.

Corporal Stell and Pvt. Thomas W. Horton, ASN 20814947, were members of the artillery forward observer party with 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. They were under the command of 1st Lt. Bernard L. Wilkie, ASN 0-1181193, and at the time were attached to Company "E". Company "E" was making an attack on enemy pill boxes in the mountains in the vicinity of Ober-Otterbach (Siegfried Line). After a terrific fire fight Company "E" was able to drive the enemy from two of his dug in lines of defense. Because of heavy barrage of machine gun, mortar and artillery fire Company "E" was forced to set up a defensive position and reorganize for their attack on the enemy pill boxes. During this time Corporal Stell and Private Horton bravely carried the artillery 610 radio and by this action were able to deliver defensive fire that prevented the enemy from forming for a counter attack. The following morning while Corporal Stell and Pvt Horton were in the process of operating their radio under an intense hail of machine gun fire in preparation for an attack, they were both shot through the head by enemy fire. They died instantly.

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Corporal Stell was 25 years of age. Born 9 March 1920. He was inducted into Service 8 October 1941.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Bertha Hahn (Mother), RR #3, Huntington, Indiana.

THOMAS W. HORTON

THOMAS W. HORTON, ASN 20814947, Private, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 0650 hours, Tuesday 20 March 1945, West of Ober-Otterbach, Germany, coordinates 16.6-52.5, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXIX-13, Wissembourg.

Private Horton and Corporal Charles L. Stell, ASN 35169033, were members of the artillery forward observer party with 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry. They were under the command of 1st Lt. Bernard R. Wilkie, ASN O-1181193, and at the time were attached to Company "E". Company "E" was making an attack on enemy pill boxes in the mountains in the vicinity of Ober-Otterbach (Siegfried Line). After a terrific fire fight Company "E" was able to drive the enemy from two of his dug in lines of defense. Because of a heavy barrage of machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire Company "E" was forced to set up a defensive position and reorganize for their attack on the enemy pill boxes. During this time Private Horton and Corporal Stell bravely carried the artillery 610 radio and by this action were able to deliver defensive fire that prevented the enemy from forming for a counter attack. The following morning while Private Horton and Corporal Stell were in the process of operating their radio under an intense hail of machine gun fire in preparation for an attack they were both shot through the head by enemy fire. They died instantly.

Private Horton was 27 years of age. Born 3 October 1917. He enlisted in Service 22 November 1940 from Cleburne, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Hattie M. Horton (Mother), Cleburne, Texas.

JOSEPH J. ZIBURA

JOSEPH J. ZIBURA, ASN 32885420, Private 1st Class, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, killed in action, 0900 hours, Sunday 18 March 1945, in Morsbronn-les Bains, coordinates 00.6-33.5, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII-14, Haguenau.

Private 1st Class Zibura was a member of the artillery forward observation party with 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. On the morning of 18 March Zibura was riding in a jeep with 1st Lt. Bernard L. Wilkie, ASN O-1181193. The vehicle was part of the column of "E"

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Company, and while the column moved through Morsbronn-les Bains small arms fire came through the back of the jeep. One round went through Zibura's head killing him instantly. The same bullet grazed Lt. Wilkie on the right cheek.

Private 1st Class Zibura was 34 years of age. Born 24 July 1910. He was inducted into Service 22 June 1942 at Newark, New Jersey.

BATTERY "C"

LIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION

ILM H. WEST

ILM H. WEST, ASN 20815089, Sgt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0200 hours, Thursday 15 March 1945, in vicinity of Mertzwiller, France, coordinates: 95.7 - 27.1, France 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Haguenau, France.

On the morning of 15 March 1945 at 0100 hours the 142nd Infantry jumped off on attack to cross the Moder River South of Mertzwiller and take Mertzwiller. As they progressed they met with heavy resistance. At about 0200 part of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion was pinned down in the open by machine gun fire. Sergeant West serving with the artillery forward observation party under 2nd Lt. Lee was with "I" Company. During the time the enemy was raking the area Sergeant West was hit in the right hip. He was treated and evacuated.

Sergeant West is 23 years of age. Born 25 January 1922. He enlisted in the Service 25 April 1940 from Weatherford, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mr. L. H. West SR. (Father), Route No. 3, Weatherford, Texas.

PAUL G. ADLSPERGER

PAUL G. ADLSPERGER, ASN 35267912, Corporal, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1830 hours, Thursday 22 March 1945, near Dernbach, Germany, coordinates 19.6-71.8, Germany, 1:25,000 map, Edenkoben, sheet 6714.

Corporal Adelsperger a member of the artillery forward observation party with 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry, was accompanying "A" Company in an assault South of Dernbach when the group became the object of Nobelwerfer and self propelled fire. Corporal Adelsperger received slight wounds of the nose, face, right hand and right leg. He received treatment and remained on duty.

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EUGENE J. RAMSDEN

EUGENE J. RAMSDEN, ASN 36714092, Tec 5, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 0200 hours, Thursday 15 March 1945, in vicinity of Mertzwiller, France, coordinates: 95.8 - 27.2, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXVIII - 14, Haguenau.

On the morning of 15 March 1945, at 0100 hours, the 142nd Infantry jumped off on attack to cross the Moder River South of Mertzwiller and take Mertzwiller. As they progressed they met with heavy resistance. At about 0200 part of "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, was pinned down in an open field by machine gun fire coming from the woods. Tec 5 Ramsden serving with the artillery forward observation party under 1st Lt. Lang was with "K" Company. During the time the enemy was raking the field Tec 5 Ramsden was nicked in the back of the neck, the bullet passing through his helmet. He was treated and returned to duty.

Tec 5 Ramsden is 22 years of age. Born 3 June 1922. He was inducted into Service 30 November 1942 from Chicago, Illinois.

Next of Kin: Catherine Ramsden, (Mother) 9023 Justine Street, Chicago, Illinois.

ASA SMITH

ASA SMITH, ASN 34353114, Private 1st Class, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1400 hours, Monday 19 March 1945, near Schweigen, Germany, coordinates 16.2 - 50.3, Eastern France, 1:50,000 map, sheet XXXIX-13, Wissembourg, France.

Private 1st Class Asa Smith was with the artillery forward observation party accompanying the 3rd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. The battalion column was moving through the toll gate into Germany just above Schweigen when the toll house became the target of a concentration of enemy Nebelwerfer fire. Everyone had to take cover in ditches along the road and many were injured as a result of the severe blasts. Private 1st Class Smith riding with "I" Company took cover in a ditch. During the shelling that ensued he was struck in the left knee by fragmentation. He received treatment and remained on duty.

Private 1st Class Smith is 23 years of age. Born 28 October 1921. He was inducted into Service 10 July 1942 from Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Bertha S. Smith (Mother), Route #1, Flouilla, Georgia.

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ALFRED D. SCHERER, ASN 20815098, Private 1st Class, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1630 hours, Monday 19 March 1945, in Wissembourg, France, coordinates 15.9 - 48.5, France, 1:50,000 map, Sheet XXXIX-13, Wissembourg.

Private 1st Class Scherer was assigned to direct battalion traffic during movement through Wissembourg. The enemy was shelling the town and surrounding areas with Nebelwerfer and artillery fire all the while. During one shelling Private 1st Class Scherer was hit in the right hip by fragmentation. Scherer was first thought to be missing-the report of his being wounded did not reach this headquarters until 22 March 1945. He had been evacuated by another unit.

Private 1st class Scherer is 33 years of age. Born 19 December 1911. He enlisted in the Service 20 November 1940 from Weatherford, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mr. Ernest A. Scherer (Father), Route No. 5, Weatherford, Texas.

JOSEPH A. JUSTICE

JOSEPH A. JUSTICE, ASN 20815056, Private 1st Class, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, lightly wounded in action, 1630 hours, Thursday 22 March 1945, near Dernbach, Germany, coordinates 19.6-71.8, Germany, 1:25,000 map, Edenkoben, sheet 6714.

Private 1st Class Justice a member of the artillery forward observation party with 3rd Battalion, 112nd Infantry, was accompanying "A" Company in an assault South of Dernbach when the group became the object of Nebelwerfer and self propelled fire. Private 1st Class Justice received slight wounds of the right leg and right hand. He received treatment and remained on duty.

Private 1st Class Justice is 23 years of age. Born 1 December 1921. He enlisted in the Service 2 October 1940 at Weatherford, Texas.

Next of Kin: Mr. Henry V. Justice (Father), Route #5, Weatherford, Texas.

There were four officers and two enlisted men received by this Battalion as reinforcements during the month of March, 1945.

All reinforcements have been very satisfactory.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.C. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1945

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CASUALTIES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>
<u>HEADQUARTERS BATTERY</u>					
Wolfcale, Ernest G.	Tec 4	35329254	LWA	3/20/45	Van Wert, Ohio
Hilyer Jr., James H.	Tec 5	34195014	LWA	3/16/45	South Orange, N. J.
<u>BATTERY "B"</u>					
Wilkie, Bernard L.	1st Lt	0-1181193	LWA	3/18/45	Aurora, Illinois
Stell, Charles E.	Cpl.	35169033	KIA	3/20/45	Huntington, Ind.
Horton, Thomas W.	Pvt.	20814947	KIA	3/20/45	Cleburne, Texas
Zibura, Joseph J.	Pfc.	32385420	KIA	3/18/45	Newark, New Jersey
<u>BATTERY "C"</u>					
West, Lem H.	Sgt.	20815089	LWA	3/15/45	Weatherford, Texas
Ramsden, Eugene J.	Tec 5	36714092	LWA	3/15/45	Chicago, Illinois
Smith, Asa	Pfc.	34353114	LWA	3/19/45	Flouilla, Georgia
Scherer, Alfred D.	Pfc.	20815098	LWA	3/19/45	Weatherford, Texas
Adelsperger, Paul G.	Cpl.	35267912	LWA	3/22/45	Berea, Kentucky
Justice, Joseph A.	Pfc.	20315036	LWA	3/22/45	Weatherford, Texas

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1945

CONSOLIDATED TOTALS

<u>TYPE OF CASUALTY</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KIA	0	3	3
DOW	0	0	0
LIA	0	0	0
SIA	0	0	0
DIA	0	0	0
IWA	0	9	9
SWA	0	0	0
MIA	0	0	0
POW	0	0	0

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 April 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH MARCH 1945

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

LEON G. PINACE, O-1180296, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944 in France. Entered the Service from Honoraville, Alabama.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

WILLIAM D. CHILTON, 20816024, Cpl., Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

LAWRENCE P. HOAK, 33512702, Pvt., Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

CITIZEN IN LINE OF SECOND BRONZE STAR MEDAL

ANDREW F. LITTLE, 20816033, Technician Fourth Grade, Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Stockdale, Texas.

ROY JACKSON, 20816048, Pvt., Medical Detachment, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas.

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL

JOHN W. GREEN, O-333369, Lieutenant Colonel, Headquarters, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 25 December 1943 to 23 February 1945, Italy and France. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas.

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AWARD OF AIR MEDAL

NORVIN F. RAQUE, O-1178298, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 June to 18 November 1944, Italy and France. Entered the Service from Louisville, Kentucky.

NORMAN S. FRIEDMAN, O-1179404, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 September 1944 to 1 January 1945, France. Entered the Service from Exeter, New Hampshire.

JOSEPH M. BROOKS, 20815325, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 29 September to 5 November 1944, France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

CHIEF IN LIEU OF SECOND AIR MEDAL

JOSEPH M. BROOKS, 20815325, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 November to 16 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas.

CHIEF IN LIEU OF SIXTH AIR MEDAL

MAX B. BENJAMIN, O-1182512, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 29 October to 11 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas.

RAYMOND E. BIBB, O-1691874, 1st Lt., 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 26 October to 24 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Nashville, Tennessee.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #36, U. S. ARMY

10 March 1945

AG 201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery,
APO #36, U. S. Army.

THRU : Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division,
APO #36, U. S. Army

It was an honor and a pleasure to take part yesterday in the decoration ceremony of the 36th Division Artillery Command.

The smart, soldierly appearance of all participants and the percision of their marching were outstanding. There was every indication of that attention to detail and thorough planning that plays so strong a part in all successful operations.

Please extend my commendation to all concerned with the successful formation.

/s/ Edward H. Brooks
/t/ EDWARD H. BROOKS
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

A G 200.6 Comm 1st Ind.
36th Div Arty

Hq 36th Inf Div, APO #36, U. S. Army, 12 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery,
APO #36, U. S. Army.

I take great pleasure in transmitting this well deserved commendation to you.

/s/ R. I. Stack
/t/ R. I. STACK
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

AG 200.6 Comm
36th Div Arty

2nd Ind.

Hq 36th Inf Div Arty., APO #36, U. S. Army, 19 March 1945.

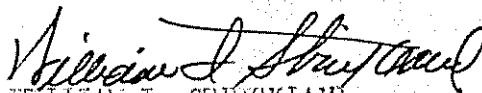
TO: Commanding Officer, 132nd FA Bn., APO #36, U. S. Army.

The excellence of the performance of the officers and men as displayed in the ceremony which earned such generous praise from the Corps Commander is the source of great pride to me. I am proud of it because I know it is an example of your ability and of your every day efficiency in battle. I know that such thorough planning and such attention to detail on which the Corps Commander commented will be henceforth more and more evident by the results you obtain against the enemy. I congratulate you, your officers and your men and encourage them to continue their high order of efficiency.

This commendation will be given the widest publicity throughout your unit.

/s/ Walter W. Hess, Jr.
t/ WALTER W. HESS, JR.
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Commanding

A TRUE COPY, I CERTIFY:


WILLIAM I. STRICKLAND
WOJC USA

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 May 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

APRIL 1945

L-1045

N A R R A T I V E

The activities of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion for the month of April can be divided into two periods. The first of these including the first twenty four days of the month, being a period in which the battalion aided the Division's support of the Allied Military Government in occupying a part of Germany and also carried on some training and preparation for future offensive operation. The second period consisted of the last week of the month during which time the Division joined the XXI Corps and participated in the pursuit of the fast crumbling German army.

During the occupational period the batteries were billeted in four small towns, some fifteen miles North of Kaiserlautern. Our mission consisted of supporting the military government in this zone. The battalion was assigned a large area, and this in turn was broken down to the batteries. The actual work consisted of policing up all explosives and military equipment in the area, screening the villages for enemy military personnel, and enforcing the ordinances and regulations prescribed by the military government. The performing of these tasks took the time of considerable men and trucks for the first week in as much as there was quite a lot of military equipment abandoned in the area. Large stores of equipment that could not be hauled away required guards. This combined with the guards on the highways to restrict civilian travel kept a large number of our personnel on continual guard duty. In regard to the handling of civilians, it was found a battalion civil affairs officer was necessary to coordinate the civilian control. By the middle of the month the policing job had been completed and the guard arranged so that two batteries performed all the duties while the other two were free for training. On the 19th of April the battalion was inspected by inspection teams from the Division Headquarters. The various teams inspected kitchens, billets, orderly rooms and records, trucks, howitzers and other ordnance equipment. Although there were some minor deficiencies the battalion made a good showing on the inspection.

On 23 April we received orders for movement East across the Rhine River, and a billeting party was sent forward. This time it was understood that we were to take a hundred mile motor move and to move into an assembly area. At 0745 on 24th the first serial left. At 1600 the battalion closed into the town of Geggembach after a 160 mile move without incident. The entire 142nd Regimental Combat Team was billeted in the nearby towns. Twenty five of our trucks were dispatched the next morning to help move up the remainder of the Division.

On the 26th of April the 3rd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry and our battalion received a sudden mission to investigate a by-passed group of two hundred enemy soldiers who were located in the woods Southeast of Aalen. The trucks that we had sent out the day before returned in time for the battalion to pull out at 1600 following the 3rd Battalion. At 2300 hours we closed into town just North of Aalen and the batteries went into firing positions. The suspected enemy never materialized, however the mission that the Division would soon undertake was announced. This was the relief of the 63rd Infantry Division which was to take place as soon as we could move in and take over. At this time the general situation on the XXI Corps front was fluid and resistance was spotty. The general position of the troops at this time was somewhere immediately South of the Danube River and rapid progress to the South and Southeast was reported by all units in this sector.

On the 26th April the actual relief took place and at this time the line of farthest advance was along the Lech River in the vicinity of Landsberg. Here although there were no enemy troops in contact our troops were held up by blown bridges. One railroad bridge was captured intact and the 12th Armored Division, which was working in our sector, was given priority in the crossing. The next day a pontoon bridge had been constructed across the river and the 142nd Regimental Combat Team went across during the late afternoon and night of the 29th April. The order of march in this move was; Reconnaissance Troops out in front, 2nd Battalion riding on Company "B", 753rd Tank Battalion, Regimental Headquarters Company, Company "B", 111th Engineers, the 3rd Battalion riding on Company "B", 822 T.D., and the 933rd Field Artillery Battalion (155mm M-1) then the 1st Battalion mounted on the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion vehicles, "B" Company, 111th Medical Detachment, "A" Company, 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion. This move was made into territory that had only just been over run by the 12th Armored Division and there was danger of sniping from by passed enemy troops. This move became very unpleasant when it started to snow at about 2200 hours, however it cleared up at 2400 hours and afterwards it was not so bad. After fifty miles of night driving we arrived in an assembly area in the town of Polling, immediately South of Weilheim, at 0500. Here we rested for a few hours and fed out a hot breakfast while plans were being made for the march to the South and Southeast. At 0800 on the 30th April the orders were received to continue the motor movement in the same order as the previous night with the mission of moving South

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to the town of Murnau where the infantry was to form road blocks on two of the main roads leading to the Alps. At 0920 we were on the road again and arrived in Murnau at 1515. While we were in route six ME - 109's flew across the column, two of which zoomed low to straff, but they over shot their mark and no damage was done. This was the first time we had seen enemy planes during the daytime for many months. The road blocks were set up without incident and our Battalion billeted in the town of Murnau with the guns in a position of readiness.

To summarize the month of April, the first three weeks of non combat duty as occupational troops although it required a lot of work was a welcome relief after the many months of combat which we had been through. The latter part of the period found the battalion moving one hundred and fifty nine miles to rejoin the fight and then moving another one hundred and sixty miles in pursuit of an enemy which never materialized. No rounds were fired by our battalion during the month and no casualties sustained. Hundreds of enemy prisoners were rounded up in the last few days. Much credit for the successful rapid pursuit goes to the drivers and motor maintenance personnel who were kept constantly busy.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander.



LOUIS N. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Cpl. Robert E. Rombke, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hemme, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Fire mission information:

S/Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 May 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH APRIL 1945

AWARD OF SILVER STAR MEDAL

DONALD C. GIIPIN, O-1177411, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 15 November 1944 in France. Authority: General Order No. 118, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 5 April 1945. Entered the Service from Massillon, Ohio.

ISADORE STEIN, O1179214, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 8 January 1945 in France. Authority: General Order No. 157, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 30 April 1945. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

ALBERT F. REGENTHAL, O-1177947, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 29 August 1944 in France. Authority: General Order No. 134, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 24 April 1945. Entered the Service from Newark, New Jersey.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

MAX B. BENJAMIN, O-1182512, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 12 December 1944, France. General Order No. 136, section I, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 26 April 1945. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas.

FRANK W. GASTON, 20814774, First Sergeant, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 14 September 1944, Italy and France. Authority: General Order No. 126, section I, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 10 April 1945. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas.

EIDON FRAIR, 20814641, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 16 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Bonham, Texas. Authority: General Order No. 114, section I, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 2 April 1945.

SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER IN LIEU OF THE THIRD AIR MEDAL

JOSEPH M. BROOKS, 20815325, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 17 December 1944 to 17 March 1945, France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas. Authority: General Order No. 120, section IV, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 6 April 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

20 May 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

MAY 1945

N A R R A T I V E

It may be recalled that during the month of April 1945 the Battalion had returned to the line in the vicinity of Landsberg, Germany, relieving the 63rd Division and had participated in the hasty pursuit of the fast crumbling German army. This pursuit carried the Battalion to Murnau in Southern Germany, which is near the Northern entrance to the Alps, and on the edge of what was thought to be the German army's redoubt. It was in this location that we opened the month of May. The mission of the 142nd Regimental Combat Team was to block two entrances to the Alps a few miles South of Murnau, and our guns were in a position of readiness to support these road blocks. However, there had been no enemy resistance for the past few days and none was encountered here. Many German soldiers were being picked up as they quit their disorganized flight into the mountains.

The Battalion received a short rest in the comfortable billets in Murnau while plans for further pursuit of the enemy were being drawn up. Four or five different plans were issued during the next three days. On the 4th of May these plans crystalized and the Battalion moved out at 0800 hours in the morning and traveled some fifty miles to the East and then twenty miles to the South closing in at 2100 hours in Kufstein, Austria. Along the way the convoy passed thousands of enemy soldiers on their way back to our Prisoner of War cages.

In Kufstein the Battalion went into firing position, but no firing was done. The forward Infantry elements, however, did run into some scattered resistance from the hard SS Troops, but these were quickly overcome. On the 5th May at 1600 hours we again got march orders and with the 1st Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, riding on our trucks moved thirty five miles deeper into the Tyrolean Alps, into the town of Schlitters - some twenty five miles Northeast of Innsbruck. At 2030 hours the same day the Battalion Commander read the following message to the

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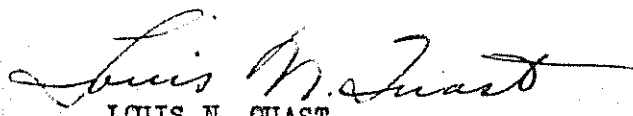
Staff and the Battery Commanders assembled: "German surrender effective 051200 May 1945. All units will remain in place". This was a very welcome message to everyone. Even though we had not been doing any fighting lately it was a great relief to know that the job that we had worked on incessantly for so long was at last about to be completed. Realization of the end of "blood, sweat and tears" in Europe did not come upon us suddenly. We had lived a pattern of definite uncertainty for so long that change would only come gradually.

The Battalion remained in the vicinity of Schlitters for the next three days while we gave the German army a chance to transmit the terms of surrender to all of their personnel. On the 8th of May the Battalion moved seventy miles to the Southeast into the heart of the Tyrolean Alps where the Regimental Combat Team was to occupy an area and enforce the terms of surrender and instructions given to the German army. The latter included the laying down and collecting of all arms and ammunition, and secondly the assembling of all army personnel at designated assembly points.

It was here in the beautiful setting of the Alps Mountains that we find the Battalion at the close of the European War. A war that had afforded us many strange sights and experiences through Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

There were no casualties during this period.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:


LOUIS N. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paine, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

Tec 4 Francis J. Hennie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
S/Sgt Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
S/Sgt. Joseph W. McClure, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. (Fire Mission information)

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

20 May 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH MAY 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

CHARLES I. SMITH, III, 13075436, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 20 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C. Authority: General Orders No. 169, paragraph 1, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945

KENNETH L. SHELT, 35330776, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Elkhart, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No. 169, paragraph 1, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945

DONALD C. HANA, 37453028, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Bridgeport, Nebraska. Authority: General Orders No. 169, paragraph 1, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 June 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

MAY 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The end of the war in Europe found the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion deep in the beautiful Tyrolean Alps of Austria. The fact that our actual combat days in this theater were over was of course a big relief to everyone. However, we soon found out that there was still a lot of work to be done. Our mission in the vicinity of Muhlbach, Austria, was to occupy a portion of the country and to enforce the terms of surrender on any enemy in our area. In general this consisted of collecting and guarding all arms, explosives, and equipment surrendered by the German army. Secondly, the soldiers themselves were to be assembled and kept together as units pending further disposition.

On the 12th of May the Division was assigned a new area and on the 13th of May our Battalion moved some two hundred miles to the Northwest. The Battalion CP was now in Erkheim some forty miles South of Ulm, and we were in rather flat, uninteresting farm country. Our mission in this area, which we expect to be in for some time, is that of occupation and support of the military government.

Initially the whole Battalion was billeted in two towns which were right close to each other. In as much as this was a farming community there were no large buildings to use as barracks, and it was necessary for the men to be quartered in private homes which had been requisitioned. Later on as we became more familiar with our area more suitable billets were found. It was our desire to find large buildings to house the personnel of each battery. In most cases this was accomplished very satisfactorily and the batteries set up barracks style billets, mess halls with tables and chairs and pleasant day rooms.

Our activities during the latter part of the month can be broken down into three categories, namely: Our duties in support of the Military

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Government, military training, athletics and recreation.

Our work in support of the Military Government consisted of screening all of the twenty three towns and villages in the Battalion area, placing guards on important installations and stores, maintaining check posts on the highways and in general being responsible for law and order. Initially our check posts had quite a problem on their hands trying to enforce the travel restrictions laid down on the German civilians. Prior to our occupation of the area there had apparently been no one in the area to enforce the travel restrictions, and many refugees had taken advantage of this in violation of standing orders prohibiting their travel. At two of the posts it was necessary to keep a vehicle on hand most of the day for the purpose of hauling the violators into the Military Government Court at Memmingen. The civilians soon found that we meant business and later in the period this trouble was cleared up.

The maintenance of law and order was our second biggest problem, the root of which lay in the fact that there were eight hundred displaced persons in the area - the most of these being Poles and Russians. Many cases of alleged looting and pillaging were charged against these displaced persons by German civilians. Each case of this type required careful investigation, but in most of the cases the guilty party was not to be found. Most of these crimes were petty thefts of a few items of wearing apparel or food stuffs.

All of the guard and check posts duties were performed by two of the batteries leaving the other three free for training and recreation.

The military training was designed to attain and maintain a high standard of discipline, proper orientation, health and physical condition. A day's training consisted of calisthenics, disciplinary drill and instruction classes during the morning, and "I and E" activities and physical recreation in the afternoon. Each battery constructed it's own athletic field, soft ball diamond and volley ball court.

In summary the period was one of settling down to our present job as occupation troops. It has been our first opportunity to stay in any one place for over a week since leaving Italy, and in general it has been very pleasant to follow a garrison life. Although there are duties to perform in connection with the support of the Military Government there is

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some time left for military training and recreation. There were no reinforcements received for the month of May by this Battalion. During the month 62 men were sent home on the redeployment program, and many more individuals are anxiously awaiting their opportunity.

There were no casualties during this period.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

LOUIS N. QUAST
Captain, Field Artillery
S-2

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec 4 John V. Hawkins, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
Tec 4 Richard J. Paige, typist, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

Charts and Overlays:

S/Sgt. Michael F. Sacher, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.
S/Sgt. Paul L. DiVico, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn. ()
Tec 4 Francis J. Hennie, Hq. Btry., 132nd F. A. Bn.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 June 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH MAY 1945

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

JOHN D. BENNETT, O-380489, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 18 March 1945 in France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas. Authority: General Orders No. 172, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 12 May 1945

MARION B. FINDLAY, O-1182570, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, for gallantry in action on 16 March 1945 in France. Entered the Service from San Antonio, Texas. Authority: General Orders No. 194, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 May 1945.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

CLARENCE W. WITT, 20814573, Corporal, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 30 January 1945, France. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas. Authority: General Orders 182, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 May 1945.

MORRIS S. COBB, 20814788, Private First Class, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 24 January 1945, France. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders 182, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 May 1945.

SAM S. INZINNA, 38193625, Private First Class, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 30 January 1945, France. Entered the Service from New Orleans, Louisiana. Authority: General Orders 182, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 May 1945.

WILBUR H. JONES, 35001866, Private First Class, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 30 January 1945, France. Entered the Service from Bucyrus, Ohio. Authority: General Orders 182, section II, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 17 May 1945.

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AWARDS FOR MONTH MAY 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

CHARLES I. SMITH, III, 13075436, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 20 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Washington, D. C. Authority: General Orders No. 169, section I, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945.

KENNETH L. SHELTON, 35330776, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Elkhart, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No. 169, section I, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945.

DONALD C. HANA, 37453028, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Bridgeport, Nebraska. Authority: General Orders No. 169, section I, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 9 May 1945.

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - AIR MEDAL

SEVENTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER

RAYMOND E. BIBB, O-1691874, Second Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 29 January to 19 March 1945, France. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No. 178, section IV, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 16 May 1945.

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

SERVICE BATTERY, 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, for outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks from 13 September to 31 December 1944 in France. Authority: General Orders No. 187, section I, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 May 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS, 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

7 July 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

JUNE 1945

NARRATIVE

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The beginning of the month of June found the Battalion still occupying the position in the Erkheim area, east of Memmingen, which it had taken over about the middle of May. The principal role, as before, was that of supporting the Military Government and conducting training and rehabilitation. The usual problems of handling civilians and displaced persons were still being encountered, however by this time most of the civilians were aware of having to carry passes and were apparently trying to abide by the regulations governing travel.

On 6 June all training was suspended in observance of the Normandy Invasion. Only the necessary guard and fatigue details were maintained and the day was devoted to athletic contests of various types. In addition to being a holiday, this was also the beginning of a period which was to see an almost complete turn-over in the personnel of the Battalion. Lt Col Green, the Battalion Commander, left on this day to join the staff of General Alexander M. Patch, who was preparing to return to the United States. A small percentage of the Battalion had left prior to this time and the end of the month was to see all but a very few of those remaining on their way.

A few days later the organization was ordered to occupy a new area by 14 June. This change was brought about by a relocation of the boundary between the Seventh and the Third Armies. This called for a move of only about ten miles from the present area. The new sector was immediately west of the Iller River, between Mooshausen on the south, Rot on the west and Dettingen on the north. The new position brought no noticeable change in the kind of terrain or the duties of the Battalion. Check posts were set up and guards were placed on vital installations in the area, the most important of which were three power plants along the river.

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Towards the end of the month training was suspended due to redeployment of troops and checking of property by all organizations. Some difficulty was experienced in providing enough personnel for guard and check posts due to so many men being transferred to other units and various calls for extra details in connection with the same. Fewer problems were encountered in handling displaced persons in the new area, due to more experience in this line, and also to the fact that the Russian contingent was moved to an assembly camp as a step towards starting them back to the homeland.

Some difficulty was caused by the boundry between the American and the French zones dividing the Landkreis of Biberach. The burgomeisters of all towns in the Battalion area had been accustomed to receiving their orders from Biberach which was now in the French zone and orders from the French Military Government were sent out from time to time to towns in the American zone. Due to the differences between the French and American policy quite a bit of confusion was caused by these orders, especially among the civilians in the American zone.

The end of the month found the last and largest contingent of the high point men ready and waiting for orders to leave. Only a very few of the older men were left in the organization, some being classed as essential due to MOS numbers and a few lacking only one or two points of being above the minimum critical score. Thus the month ended and so did the original 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, which was one of the first light artillery battalions to land on the beach at Salerno in the first invasion of the continent of Europe. Although the men who compiled the records and established the battalion's reputation have departed, replacements are being received and the task of training them to uphold the organization's position is under way.

There were 14 Officer and 168 Enlisted Men replacements received during the month of June 1945.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Assisted in preparation by:
Dec-4 John V. Hawkins, Hdq Btry.

John R. Gabbert
JOHN R. GABBERT
Captain, Field Artillery
S-3

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HEADQUARTERS, 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 July 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH JUNE 1945

AWARD OF AIR MEDAL

ROBERT C. ADAMS, O-1171862, Second Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 8 March 1945 to 30 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Austin, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 226, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 June 1945.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

REMUS L. JONES, O-406028, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 28 August 1944, France. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 230, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 26 June 1945.

PAUL G. ADELSPERGER, 35267912, Sergeant, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 and 23 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Lexington, Kentucky. Authority: General Orders No 222, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 18 June 1945.

EMMETT J. STACK, 37283767, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Authority: General Orders No 222, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 18 June 1945.

JOSEPH B. STARMAN, 37420612, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 28 September 1944, France. Entered the Service from Carroll, Iowa. Authority: General Orders No 201, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 1 June 1945.

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JOSEPH J. JUSTICE, 20815036, Private First Class, Battery "C", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 22 March 1945, Germany.. Entered the Service from Weatherford, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 206, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 4 June 1945.

JAMES R. STALLINGS, 36642149, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 19 March 1945, Germany.. Entered the Service from Springerton, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 206, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 4 June 1945.

FRANK H. SILVEIRA, 6584754, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 19 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from Modesta, California. Authority: General Orders No 206, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 4 June 1945.

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - BRONZE STAR MEDAL

JOHN N. GREEN, O-33369, Lieutenant Colonel, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 to 24 March 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Abilene, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 235, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 29 June 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36; U. S. ARMY

7 August 1945.

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

JULY 1945

NARRATIVE

The beginning of the month of July 1945 found the Battalion still occupying positions in the Erbkheim Area, east of Memmingen which the Battalion had taken over about the middle of May. Principal role as before was that of supporting the Military Government and rehabilitation. The usual problem of handling civilians and Displaced Persons was still encountered.

On the 5th Of July, received Operations Instructions No 217, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 4 July 1945, relieving this Battalion from this sector, and the sector this Battalion vacated was occupied by French troops. In turn this Battalion was to relieve units of the 100th Division. On 7 July 1945, this Battalion moved to the Grand Area relieving elements of the 925th Field Artillery Battalion, 100th Infantry Division. Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery, Batteries "A" and "B" were located in large buildings in Schwabisch, Grand. Battery "C" in German Barracks in Eschach and Service Battery in Butlagen. These positions were taken to continue support of the Allied Military Government. Our primary mission is to guard the Displaced Persons Camp Number 7 in Grand.

Due to redeployment of the personnel of this unit, our Battalion strength became so low that much difficulty was encountered in the accomplishment of our primary mission.

On 20 July 1945, a secret operation of screening all personnel and inspecting all houses and buildings was carried out as prescribed by Headquarters 36th Infantry Division. Several collaborators were apprehended and some firearms and propaganda booklets were picked up.

On 24th July 1945, an investigation of a reported murder at Displaced Persons Camp Number 7 was conducted by Colonel Zimmerman, Captain Mintzer, Captain Curtis and the Provost Marshal of the 21st Corps. Findings were that the person committed suicide by strangling herself, that no American soldiers were involved.

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This Battalion is now commanded by Lieutenant Colonel JOHN S. ZIMMERMAN who took over command from Major LASSETTER who was transferred to Division Artillery as S-3. This is our third Battalion Commander in as many months.

There were 34 Officers and 51 Enlisted Men received as replacements during the month of July 1945.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

sted in preparation by:
Edward D. Russell, Hdq Btry.

William C. Curtis
WILLIAM C. CURTIS
Captain, Field Artillery
S-3

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HEADQUARTERS, 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 August 1945.

AWARDS FOR MONTH JULY 1945

AWARD OF SILVER STAR

RAYMOND E. BIER, 01691874, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 in France. Entered the Service from Nashville, Tennessee. Authority: General Orders No 237, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 1 July 1945.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR

FREDERICK F. ATRIG, 01175923, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from West New York, New Jersey. Authority: General Orders No 293, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

ALEX WINTZLER, 01689145, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 6 April 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York. Authority: General Orders No 293, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

LEONARD T. POMER, 01180004, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bedford, Ohio. Authority: General Orders No 313, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

LYON G. PIERCE, 01180296, First Lieutenant, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 19 November 1944, France. Entered the Service from Honoraville, Alabama. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

MILTON E. SMITH, W2110398, Chief Warrant Officer, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brownwood, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 313, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 26 July 1945.

WILLIAM T. STERNFELD, W2110400, Warrant Officer Junior Grade 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered Service from Miami Beach, Florida. Authority: General Orders No 293, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 22 July 1945.

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GERALD P CAMPBELL, 37074547, Staff Sergeant, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Lebanon, Kansas. Authority: General Orders No 311, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 26 July 1945.

Staff Sergeant
FRANCIS R. CHANEY, 35389001, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France, and Germany. Entered the Service from Canton, Ohio. Authority: General Orders No 318, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

CHARLES W. FIDLER, 20814918, Staff Sergeant, Btry B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Cresson, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 21 July 1945.

JOSEPH H FITZGERAID, 20814823, Staff Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

QUINCY A HAZLEWOOD, 20814782, Staff Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

CARL L JEWELL, 20814899, Staff Sergeant, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

ORVILLE J BAKER, 20814771, Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

ROGER L EVANS, 20814773, Sergeant, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

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JOHN D VIAL, 20314910, Sergeant Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Claburne, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

PAUL WHITNEY, 20314856, Sergeant, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

BEN EST W BALI, 31013474, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 24 June 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Surry, New Hampshire. Authority: General Orders No 311, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division dated 26 July 1945.

BENJAMIN CALDWELL, 33586373, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

FRANK A BRANDEL, 33430029, Technician Fourth Grade, 20 November 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Greensburg, Pennsylvania. General Orders: No 287, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

JOHN CHILES, 20314813, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 311, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 26 July 1945.

JOHN J TOMASZESKI, 36355772, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 22 July 1945.

BILLY A BOWEN, 34208821, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Port St. Joe, Florida. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

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JON L. FRYDMAN, 37092053, Corporal, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Hayward, Minnesota. Authority: General Orders No 311, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 26 July 1945.

WALTER S. JOHNSON, 36355925, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 22 July 1945.

WILTON W. MITCHELL, 38051867, Corporal, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 20 November 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Saratoga, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

WYCHEM J. RASSEN, 36714092, Corporal, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

ROBERT F. RITTEN, 13073627, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland. Authority: General Orders, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 22 July 1945.

ROBERT M. POMER, 35330813, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Authority: General Orders, No 291, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, 22 July 1945.

ROBERT R. BIGNATTI, 31300553, Corporal, Service Battery 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Boston, Massachusetts. Authority: General Orders No 318, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

DON S. MARTIN, 14082537, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Waco, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

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ACME I PRYER, 35391161, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Orville, California. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

EUGENE A TOLLE, 35504890, Technician Fifth Grade, Service Battery, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Evansville, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No 318, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

FAY OGD L STANLEY, 35329331, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery D, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from New Paris, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

LEWIS A TUBER, 34335117, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Limestone, Alabama. Authority: General Orders No 282 Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

JAMES SCHULMAN, 32727018, Private First Class, Battery F, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 14 March 1945 in France. Entered the Service from New York, New York. Authority: General Orders No 266, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 18 July 1945.

CHARLES N VARGAS, 38038721, Private First Class, Battery B, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 14 March 1945 in France. Entered the Service from Denton, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 266, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 18 July 1945.

LUCAS L BRAPP, 20814354, Private First Class, Battery A, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 15 August 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Paris, Texas. Authority: General Orders; No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

MICHAEL WASHBOL, SR., 34430516, Private First Class, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 3 October 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

JOHN L BERRY, 34733732, Private First Class, Battery C, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 45. Entered the Service from Sale Creek, Tennessee.

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JOSPH P TOPORA, 3358377, Private First Class, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 19 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

WALTER E TRAMP, 36060712, Private First Class, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Rock Island, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

BOYDE TESLINER, 36506352, Private First Class, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

QUANT E KLIWOLIN, 33239327, Private First Class, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 1 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

MAVIN A STUBB, 32784374, Private First Class, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from New York, New York. Authority: General Orders, No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 21 July 1945.

DONALD C MITCHELL, 35359653, Private First Class, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Michigan City, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

FRANCIS L NICOLDS, 32288204, Private First Class, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 29 January 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Elmira, New York. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

HOWARD W SWANSON, 36356422, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Chicago, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

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ELMER L WATZEL, 39328070, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 20 November 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Portland, Oregon. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

RAIPH E HUTTON, 34352695, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Davisboro, Georgia. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 22 July 1945.

LLOYD G SHEKMAN, 37420890, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Casey, Iowa. Authority: General Orders No 287, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 22 July 1945.

BARNETT M GOLDBERG, 42001650, Private First Class, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 21 March 1945, Germany. Entered the Service from New York, New York. Authority: General Orders No 316, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 27 July 1945.

JOSEPH J DEPTIMATTI, 32599609, Private First Class, Service Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York. Authority: General Orders No 318, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

MARLO E SAIDBERSON, 35330311, Private First Class, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No 318, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 28 July 1945.

ALFRED W SCARFOTZZI, 36576700, Private, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan. Authority: General Orders No 282, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 21 July 1945.

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER--BRONZE STAR MEDAL

BARNETT A PARSON, JR., 32747596, Technician Fourth Grade, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 20 November 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Cobleskill, New York. Authority: General Orders No 285, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 22 July 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 September 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

AUGUST 1945

NARRATIVE

The beginning of the month of August found the battalion continuing its security mission and support of military government in the Schwabisch Gmund area. Headquarters, Battery "A" and "B" located in Gmund, "C" in Eschac, Service Battery in Mutlangen.

On 6 August a battalion non-commissioned officer's candidate school was instituted by the 132d, located at Rennenhof (55126) under command of Captain Merle L. Carey. With an initial enrollment of 20 enlisted men, the school, operating on a rigid 8 hour per day schedule, developed some outstanding NCO material, resulting in promotions for a majority of the candidates. Generally, morale was high and the interest and cooperation of individuals enrolled excellent.

The night of Wednesday, 8 August, a serious disturbance at DP Camp # 7 resulted in the death of two Poles and injury to at least two more. At approximately 2200, the battalion duty officer received a call from the Sergeant of the Guard reporting a small riot within the camp. Guards were called to suppress the disorder and by the time the Battalion Commander, Exec Officer and S-3 arrived on the scene, one Pole was dead of stab wound inflicted by another DP and one was dead of gunshot wounds, inflicted by a guard after the Pole had fired two rounds at him with a pistol. A thorough investigation was conducted, evidence showing that the altercation resulted from an argument over a female DP at a dance in the camp. Armament confiscated included an Italian automatic rifle, a .32 caliber pistol and a .32 caliber revolver. The guard was absolved of blame for the shooting. Prior to the small riot, an American soldier had been seen going over a fence into the camp, and was fired on by a guard. A thorough search failed to produce the man, and, while he was in no way involved in the shooting or stabbing, the incident resulted in an order to guards to shoot anyone who fails to halt when challenged.

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

7 September 1945.

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

AUGUST 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The big news story of Japan's surrender, following by a few days the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, highlighted the news of the month. The event was observed soberly, with most men concerning themselves with speculations on earlier return to the United States and civilian life. The battalion commander was host of a party for the enlisted men Saturday night, 18 August.

First service practice since VE day was conducted by the battalion on Tuesday, 21 August, at Herbert E. Loree range, near Munsingen, Germany. Battery "C", which was in the field the entire week, did the firing, and an interesting shoot was conducted at the OP after German civilians had been escorted from the danger area. The firing battery performed in a superior manner, and conduct of fire by officers was generally very good.

Captain Carey's NOO school held a premature graduation exercise 25 August; in order to be prepared for the organization of a new and larger class, consisting of 30 men from each battalion in Division Artillery. This school opened Monday, 27 August, with several graduates of the original school assuming duties as assistant instructors. Excellent progress is reported at the close of the month.

During August, several minor disturbances between displaced persons and German civilians were reported, including a number of thefts. This necessitated increasing security guards and patrols, as well as more rigid guarding of DP Camp # 7, known as Bismark Kaserne.

The battalion I & E program was expanded to include several new technical courses under direction of Captain Thomas E. Selby. Security demands, requiring the duty of a majority of our enlisted personnel, cut sharply into the educational program.

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All remaining officers and enlisted men with more than 85 points left the battalion during the month, including Captain John R. Gabbert and Captain Willmote S. Curtis, leaving very few native sons in the "Texas" Division.

In general, morale continued to be excellent. At the close of the month, 30 officers and 398 enlisted men were assigned, with 6 officers and approximately 110 enlisted men absent from the battalion.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Assisted in preparation by:

Tec-4 Edward D. Russell, Headquarters Battery.

Clarence F. Ax

CLARENCE F. AX
Captain, Field Artillery
Executive.

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HEADQUARTERS 132D FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A. P. O. # 36, U. S. ARMY

5 September 1945.

AWARDS FOR MONTH AUGUST 1945

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - AIR MEDAL

MAX B. BENJAMIN, 01182512, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 12 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas. Authority: General Orders No 360, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 11 August 1945.

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR

HAROLD L. ST CLAIR, 39329863, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 November 1945 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brownsville, Oregon. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

WILLIAM J. GERHARDT, 36546579, Corporal, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

DAVID R BARNHARDT, 39566073, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 16 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from San Marino, California. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

ANTON DARILEK, 38026861, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Moulton, Texas. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

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THOMAS G. CLARK, 34333713, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Butler, Alabama. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 24 August 1945.

PAUL A DESROCHERS, 31348965, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 3 October 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Holyoke, Massachusetts. Authority: General Orders: No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 24 August 1945.

WAYNE FELTNER, 35136195, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 2 June 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bulan, Kentucky. Authority: General Orders: No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 24 August 1945.

BARNET M. GOLDBERG, 42001650, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 2 June 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

BERNARD GOLDMAN, 32978814, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, N. Y. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, 24 August 1945.

HENRY W. HARVEY, 34762370, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Alma, Georgia. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

DOMINICK MAGGIO, JR., 34544585, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Tampa, Florida. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

ERVIN L. MARLMAN, 37349937, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Las Animas, Colorado. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

JOHN MAUSER, 32978893, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from New York, New York. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

RALPH M. METZER, 42024707, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 15 July 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

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R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

NORMAN EPSTEIN, 32978620, Technician Fifth Grade, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Brooklyn, New York. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

EDWARD G REEB, 36614339, Technician Fifth Grade, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Cicero, Illinois. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

JAMES A. ALLEN, 35792110, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 26 September 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Hamilton, Ohio. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

JOHN H. ANDERSON, 39452591, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 26 September 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Priest River, Idaho. General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

EUSTACHIUS BARANSKI, 32672027, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 16 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Lackawanna, New York. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

GEORGE J. BLANCHARD, 31259214, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 26 September 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Athol, Massachusetts. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

JOSEPH J. CAMARDA, 32978027, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from New York, New York.

MANUEL J CASTRO, 32977608, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bronx, New York. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

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HERBERT E MOEDE, 36579904, Private First Class, Battery "B", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Monroe, Michigan. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

RALPH G. REINAGEL, 34508632, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Memphis, Tennessee. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

GERALD M. RIDLER, 42020313, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 18 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Buffalo, New York. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

RICHARD J. RIPLEY, 42000786, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 18 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Plainfield, N. J. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

LAMONT G ROUSE, 34636887, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 18 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Saucier, Mississippi. Authority: General Orders No 373, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division dated 24 August 1945.

ROBERT H. SCHLATTER, 37506076, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 16 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Solomon, Kansas. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

CARL T. SHEARIN, 35359498, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Indianapolis, Indiana. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

ERNEST O. STORKSON, 37320239, Private First Class, Battery "A", 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Grand Forks, North Dakota.

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ABUNDIO C. VALENZUELA, 39857830, Private First Class, Battery "A" 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bisbee, Arizona. Authority: General Orders No 372, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 24 August 1945.

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R E S T R I C T E D

AWARD OF OAK LEAF CLUSTER - BRONZE STAR MEDAL

JULIUS SCHNEIDER, 32727018, Private First Class, Battery "B",
132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 9 September 1943 to 8 May 1945, -
Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Detroit, Michigan.
Authority: General Orders No 379, Headquarters 36th Infantry
Division, dated 27 August 1945.

R E S T R I C T E D

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HEADQUARTERS 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. #36, U. S. ARMY

2 October 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

September 1945

N A R R A T I V E

The beginning of September found the Battalion getting set for a move of about forty-five miles north to occupy the kries, Kunzelsau. Battery "A" was already in Kunzelsau, having gone ahead the 27th of August to take over the security responsibilities relinquished by units of the 63rd Division. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, and the Medical Detachment remained in Schwabisch Gmund, "C" Battery in Eschbach, and Service Battery in Mutlangen. The remainder of the Battalion was scheduled to make the move to Kunzelsau on September 10.

The I & E program was going strong with eight classes under way and attendance good. The security responsibilities remained the same, consisting of motorized patrols and guarding the Bismarck Kaserne, a Displaced Persons camp. Rumors that the Division would soon be placed in category IV and ship home sometime within the next two or three months persisted, and added a bit of excitement to the daily routine.

The official signing of the Japanese surrender document and the announcement of Sunday, September 2, as VJ day came somewhat as an anticlimax after the earlier news of negotiations. The men were relieved to know the surrender was finally official, but were not inclined to indulge in any wild celebrating. The day passed with no one becoming unusually boisterous.

The next few days passed quietly while plans were made for the move to Kunzelsau and for the formal Division review to be held on September 9th in honor of "Salerno Day," anniversary of the day the 36th Division landed in Italy. On September 6th, a thorough search was made of all farm houses within a radius of 10 kilometers of the town of Welzheim ("Operation Edison"). The purpose of the search was to confiscate hidden electrical equipment, but none was found.

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Operations in Germany - Narrative

2 October 1945

On "Salerno Day," September 9th, the Battalion sent men to participate in the festivities at Geislingen. Many men, however, remained at home to take over the security of other battalions in order that they might participate more fully in the anniversary celebrations.

The following day, the remainder of the Battalion made the march to Kunzelsau, with the exception of "C" Battery. "C" Battery followed the next day. The march was made by Battery and was completed in good order. Batteries "A", "B" and Headquarters were billeted in what was once an old castle, converted into a fairly modern military school. "C" and Service Batteries occupied another school building a few blocks away. The security mission consisted of patrols and guarding two Displaced Persons camps.

The next few days brought about several changes in the officer personnel. Lt. Colonel Zimmerman left the organization and his place as Battalion Commander was taken by Major Hunt from the 133rd. Captain Ax left for Fort Sill along with Lieutenants Andrews and Shelhamer.

On September 15, the much discussed rumor of "Category IV and Home" became a fact, the Division was officially placed in category IV. The next few days kept everyone except the very high point men and the over-age men in a state of nervous tension. The minimum number of points required to go home with the division were first announced as 45, then 49 and then 62. The final figure of 60 did not come out until several days later. Meanwhile, a large number of men with over 70 points and men over 38 years were shipped to units scheduled for early sailing. The transfer of these men left openings in the TO ratings allowed and many men were made happier by promotions they had long ago felt they had earned.

The remainder of the time spent in Kunzelsau found the Battalion busy turning in equipment. The shortage of men kept everyone busier than usual, and the training schedule and the I & E program suffered. Two different artillery battalions inspected our installations preparatory to relieving us when we returned to the Gmund area. The 350th Field Artillery Battalion, a colored outfit, officially took over the security of the area at 1000, September 21st. The move back to Gmund was made in an orderly manner and in good time in spite of the shortage of men. The Battalion commander later complimented the men on the efficiency with which the move was made.

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Operations in Germany - Narrative

2 October 1945

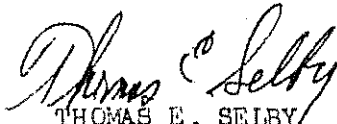
Back in Gmund, Headquarters and Service Batteries and the Medics occupied the area that had formerly been occupied by Headquarters Battery before the move to Kunzelsau. "A", "B", and "C" Batteries billeted in the buildings on the edge of town formerly occupied by the Division Artillery NCO school.

Very few men were available for security missions and these were sent out to help other units. A night patrol for the town of Gmund was started on September 26 consisting of five men driving about town all night. Responsibility for this patrol was shared with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion on alternate nights.

The remainder of the month was spent turning in equipment and in preparation for inspections by Division Artillery and Seventh Army. Six officers and forty enlisted men were transferred to the Delta Base Section on September 29th. This brought the Battalion down to practically a skeleton force. At the close of the month, the Battalion consisted of 13 officers and 119 men. Only three new high-point men had been received and approximately fifty men with fewer than 60 points were awaiting transfer.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Assisted in preparation by:
T/4 H. B. Harris


THOMAS E. SELBY
Captain, Field Artillery
Executive

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HEADQUARTERS, 132ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. 3 36, U. S. ARMY

2 October 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

JAMES W. DARDEN, 0398206, Captain, 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 8 to 19 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Morristown, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No. 394, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 10 September 1945.

ORAL E. WITT, 37516925, Private First Class, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 16 November 1943 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the service from Caplinger Mills, Missouri. Authority: General Orders No. 412, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 19 September 1945.

ROBERT A. DEIHL, 3382028, Private First Class, Battery B, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 11 February 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No. 404, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 15 September 1945.

WELDON E. MORRIS, 31317536, Private First Class, Battery A, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 8 October 1944 to 8 May 1945, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Bangor, Maine. Authority: General Orders No. 404, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 15 September 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER - BRONZE STAR MEDAL

JOHN D. BENNETT, 0380489, Captain, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 28 February to 13 March 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Corsicana, Texas. Authority: General Orders No. 405, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division, dated 15 September 1945.

JOSEPH P. TOTORA, 33588377, Private First Class, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 2 December 1944, France. Entered the Service from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Authority: General Orders No. 385, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 2 September 1945.

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HEADQUARTERS, 132D FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 36 US ARMY

3 November 1945

OPERATIONS IN GERMANY

October 1945

N A R R A T I V E

At the beginning of October, the entire Battalion was located in Schwabisch Gmund. Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Batteries, and the Medical Detachment occupied a group of buildings on Farler Strasse and operated a joint mess. The three firing batteries occupied factory buildings on the edge of town and messed together.

The Battalion had been drained of almost all men below 60 points, and all men over 70 points and over 38 years of age. Battalion strength consisted of 119 men and 13 officers with approximately 50 men yet to be shipped out. The Battalion was scheduled to leave the Gmund area for a staging area on approximately 15 October, and begin loading on boats approximately 28 October. Full replacements were due to arrive before the 15th.

The security activities of the Battalion were necessarily limited by the few men available. They consisted of guarding the 7th Army Collecting Point in Gmund, and of conducting an all-night patrol of the streets of the town. Responsibility for this patrol was shared with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, each battalion taking the patrol on alternate nights. Later, a second patrol was added to include the area around Gmund. The 132d Battalion conducted this second patrol every night, while the 131st Battalion accepted full responsibility for the town patrol.

During the first two weeks of October, replacements arrived almost daily. The remaining low point men were shipped out; and by 14 October the turnover in men was practically completed. The Battalion was scheduled to be processed in Gmund and by-pass the regular staging areas. Strength had increased from 119 EM and 13 officers to 541 EM and 41 officers. The administrative personnel had been readjusted to accommodate the experience and rank of the new officers and men, and the battalion had settled down to a

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daily schedule designed to train adequate drivers, improve the condition of motors, and accomplish the necessary requirements to prepare the unit for overseas movement.

On October 15th, the Battalion, in conjunction with the 131st Field Artillery Battalion, conducted a large-scale shake-down raid on the Bismark Kaserne DP Camp. Each battalion supplied 144 men and 12 trucks. The men were divided into teams, each with an officer and an interpreter, and surrounded the camp at the appointed hour (0830). Each team had a prearranged area to search. Many items of U. S. Government property were found, principally clothing; also, ammunition and weapons were found and confiscated.

Also on the 15th, units of the 1st Armored Division, which had arrived in Gmund earlier in the month, began taking over the security responsibilities of the area. This battalion was relieved of the guard at the 7th Army Collecting Point on the 15th, and of the Road Patrol of the area surrounding Gmund, on the following day.

The new men of the Battalion were given a chance to show how they looked as soldiers on October 17th at a retreat parade by the combined troops of the 131st and 132d Battalions. The division Band was engaged for the occasion, and the troops were reviewed by Colonel Johnson, the new Division Artillery Commander. The day was cloudy but the rain held off. Even though it was the first formation of the Battalion as a unit, the men made a splendid appearance.

The next two days brought about some changes in patrols and guard. A daily Traffic Control Patrol was instituted for the purpose of cutting down traffic accidents and the misuse of government and civilian vehicles. The patrol made four trips a day and covered the roads around Gmund. An officer, a driver, an NCO interpreter and a civilian policeman made up the patrol. Several violations on the part of military and civilian personnel were handled before the patrol was taken over by Military Police of the 1st Armored Division on October 25th. Security responsibilities were increased by the addition of an Alert Guard of 26 men. This guard functioned in the nature of a riot squad and was subject to call 24 hours a day. On the 19th of October, the Battalion took over the guard of the Hardt Kaserne, the smaller DP Camp in Gmund.

On the 22nd of October, training was suspended while a Division POM team checked the personnel records of every man in the Battalion. This operation took the entire day. Results of this inspection were considered very favorable; only a few minor discrepancies were found.

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Wednesday, 23 October, The Alert Guard, furnished by "B" Battery on that date, was called out at approximately 1630 to the main DP Camp in the event of any trouble in an attempt to move some 700 DP's out of the Camp to Stuttgart. Actually, only about 50 DP's were moved, due to complications in rounding them up, and no trouble was experienced. The guard returned to its Battery area at 1800.

The last week of the month brought a slight change in redeployment of the division. The readiness date was further advanced to the 15th of November and word was received that 60-64 point men would be transferred to other units not as far along in the redeployment schedule as the 36th Division; while men with 80 or more points would be sent to units scheduled to sail before the 36th. A few days later, it was announced that men would be shifted around within the Division to provide different ranges of point scores for different units. Artillery units would be in the 70-79 point classification, with Infantry units in the 65-69 category.

The close of October found the Battalion in about the same place in the redeployment schedule as the close of September. A large scale transfer of men was scheduled for the first days of November; new men would require processing; and the Division was scheduled to sail the latter part of the following month.

Prepared under the direction of the Battalion Commander:

Assisted in preparation by:

M/Sgt Flynn

T/4 Harris

Burt R. Shurly, Jr.
BURT R. SHURLY, JR.
Major, FA
Executive

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HEADQUARTERS, 132D FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 36 US ARMY

2 November 1945

AWARDS FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1945

AWARD OF BRONZE STAR MEDAL

THOMAS E. BOHANNAN, 38036507, Sergeant, Battery C, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 19 January 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Coleman Texas. Authority: General Orders No. 429, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, Dated 2 October 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER - BRONZE STAR MEDAL

HERBERT C. BISHOP, 0290764, Captain, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 26 March 1944 to 8 May 1945, Italy, France and Germany. Entered the Service from Cleburne, Texas. Authority: General Orders No. 432, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 2 October 1945.

ROBERT F. RITTER, 13063527, Corporal, Headquarters Battery, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 3 February 1944, Italy. Entered the Service from Baltimore, Maryland. Authority: General Orders No. 424, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 1 October 1945.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER - AIR MEDAL

MAX B. BENJAMIN, 01182512, First Lieutenant, 132d Field Artillery Battalion, 9 January 1944 to 8 March 1945, Italy and France. Entered the Service from Wichita, Kansas. Authority: General Orders No. 435, Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division, dated 6 October 1945.

HEADQUARTERS, 132D FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
APO 36 US ARMY

UNIT JOURNAL

NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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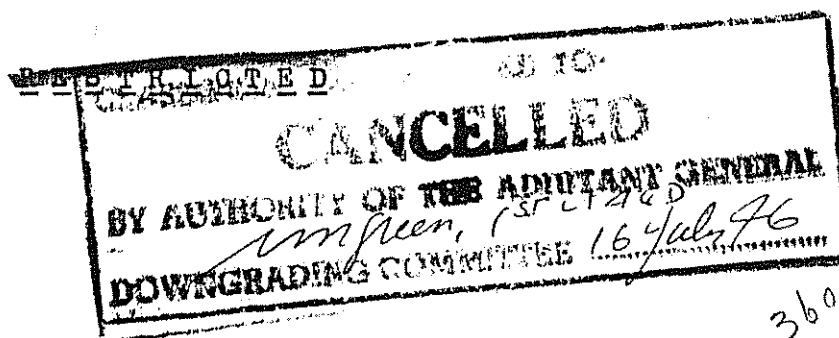
Thursday 1 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment,
Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see attached schedule).
- 3 Transferred 129 men to the 84th Division (60-64 points).
- 4 Alert Guard taken by C Battery.
- 5 Received 227 men from the 111th Medical Battalion; re-
ceived 86 men from the 736th Ordnance Battalion; trans-
ferred 246 men to the 141st Infantry Regiment.
- 6 Summary of remainder of period from 2400 Wednesday 31
October to 2400 Thursday 1 November: No unusual activity.

Friday 2 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment,
Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
- 3 Alert Guard taken by Headquarters Battery.
- 4 Summary of period from 2400 Thursday 1 November to 2400
Friday 2 November inclusive: No unusual activity.

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N	OUT	NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
Saturday 3 November 1945					
500		1		Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.	
630				Unit Journal closed.	
630				Unit Journal opened.	
830		2		Training Schedule for today (see schedule attached).	
200		3		Alert Guard taken over by A Battery.	
800		4		Guard of Hardt Kaserne (Artillery Barracks) taken over by the 131st FA Battalion.	
400		5		Summary of remainder of period from 2400 Friday 2 November to 2400 Saturday 3 November: No unusual activity.	
Sunday 4 November 1945					
600		1		Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.	
630				Unit Journal closed.	
630				Unit Journal opened.	
200		2		Alert Guard taken over by B Battery.	
400		3		Summary of remainder of period from 2400 Saturday 3 November to 2400 Sunday 4 November: Personnel section began work on the Separation Center rosters.	
Monday 5 November 1945					
600		1		Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.	
630				Unit Journal closed.	
630				Unit Journal opened.	
830		2		Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).	
200		3		Alert Guard taken over by C Battery.	
530		4		Battalion Commanders' meeting at Div-Arty.	
400		5		Summary of period from 2400 Sunday 4 November to 2400 Monday 5 November inclusive: Inspection of quarters by Colonel Fairchild, assistant Division Commander. No other unusual activity.	

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NO.	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
	DATED		

Tuesday 6 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
- 3 Alert Guard taken over by Headquarters Battery.
- 4 Colonel Johnson, Div-Arty Commander, attended the Headquarters and Service Batteries retreat ceremony and presented Service Battery with a plaque in recognition of the outstanding performance of that Battery during combat.
- 5 Summary of remaining period from 2400 Monday 5 November to 2400 Tuesday 6 November: A physical inspection was made of all new men; Captain Andrews was appointed Recruiting Officer in place of Captain Turner who was transferred to another unit; received official word the Division readiness date was moved back to the 20th of November.

Wednesday 7 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
- 3 Alert Guard taken over by A Battery.
- 4 Staff and Battery Commanders meeting held to discuss the organization of personnel for close control during the move.
- 5 Summary of remainder of period from 2400 Tuesday 6 November to 2400 Wednesday 7 November: No unusual activity.

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N	OUT	NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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Thursday 8 November 1945

600	1	Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
630		Unit Journal closed.
630		Unit Journal opened.
0830	2	Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
200	3	Alert guard taken by B Battery.
800	4	Guard of Hardt Kaserne taken over from the 131st Field Artillery Battalion.
400	5	Summary of remaining period from 2400 Wednesday 7 November to 2400 Thursday 8 November: No unusual activity.

Friday 9 November 1945

600	1	Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
630		Unit Journal closed.
630		Unit Journal opened.
0830	2	Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
1200	3	Alert Guard taken by C Battery.
2400	4	Summary of period from 2400 Thursday 8 November to 2400 Friday 9 November inclusive: An inspector from Division Artillery inspected reveille, mess and quarters of Headquarters and Service Batteries. Rained all day.

Saturday 10 November 1945

600	1	Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
630		Unit Journal closed.
630		Unit Journal opened.
0830	2	Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
1200	3	Alert guard taken by Headquarters Battery.
2400	4	Summary of period from 2400 Friday 9 November to 2400 Saturday 10 November inclusive: No unusual activities; Weather, wet snow.

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NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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Sunday 11 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund. Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Alert Guard taken over by A Battery.
- 3 Summary of period from 2400 Saturday 10 November to 2400 Sunday 11 November inclusive: No unusual activity.

Monday 12 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund. Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Alert Guard taken over by B Battery.
- 3 Battalion and Battery records, including personnel records, supply records and funds, were inspected by officers from the Inspector General's Office, Port Command.
- 4 Summary of remaining period from 2400 Sunday 11 November to 2400 Monday 12 November: This day was a holiday in honor of the close of the First World War. Training was suspended and only the necessary details were carried out.

Tuesday 13 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund. Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 The Staff, Battery Commanders, and all Motor Officers met to discuss the problems involved in moving the Battalion to the port by motor.
- 3 Alert Guard taken by C Battery.
- 4 Officers of the 131st and 132d Field Artillery Battalions attended a packing and crating demonstration conducted by Lt. Johnson from Division Artillery.
- 5 Summary of remaining period from 2400 Monday 12 November to 2400 Tuesday 13 November: No unusual activity.

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OUT NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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Wednesday 14 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
- 3 Dental inspection of entire battalion.
- 4 Alert Guard taken by Headquarters Battery.
- 5 Guard of DP Camp, Hardt Kaserne, taken over by the 131st Field Artillery Battalion.
- 6 Summary of remainder of period from 2400 Tuesday 13 November to 2400 Wednesday 14 November: No unusual activity.

Thursday 15 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Held a practice motor march to Lorch and return as scheduled.
- 3 Alert Guard taken over by A Battery.
- 4 Summary of remaining period from 2400 Wednesday 14 November to 2400 Thursday 15 November: No unusual activity.

Friday 16 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
- 3 Alert Guard taken over by B Battery.
- 4 Summary of remaining period from 2400 Thursday 15 November to 2400 Friday 16 November: No unusual activity.

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I	NO.	TIME	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
		DATED		

Saturday 17 November 1945

1. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
2. Training schedule for today (see schedule attached).
3. Alert Guard taken over by C Battery.
4. Summary of remaining period from 2400 Friday 16 November to 2400 Saturday 17 November: Received official information that the Battalion would begin the motor march to the Calas Staging Area on Tuesday 20 November.

Sunday 18 November 1945

1. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
2. Staff and Battery Commanders meeting held to discuss final plans for vacating the area.
3. Summary of remaining period from 2400 Saturday 17 November to 2400 Sunday 18 November: Battalion busy with final preparations for the move.

Monday 19 November 1945

1. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Schwabisch Gmund.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
2. The Battalion advance party, consisting of the S-4, Personnel officer and ten enlisted men, left for the Calas Staging Area.
3. Received instructions for the march: IP, IP time, route, etc.
4. Staff and Battery Commanders meeting.
5. Received instructions to leave a party behind to go over area with Division inspectors and clear up anything that might have been overlooked.
6. Summary of remaining period from 2400 Sunday 18 November to 2400 Monday 19 November: Battalion fully packed and ready to move.

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OUT.	NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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Tuesday 20 November 1945

Unit Journal closed.
Battalion en route from Schwabisch Gmund, Germany to Metz, France.

Wednesday 21 November 1945

En route from Metz, France to Dijon, France.

Thursday 22 November 1945

En route from Dijon, France to St. Rambert, France.

Friday 23 November 1945

En route from St. Rambert, France to Calas Staging Area, Calas, France.

Saturday 24 November 1945

00	1.	Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in the Calas Staging Area.
30		Unit Journal opened.
00	2	Staff meeting held to discuss staging requirements.
00	3	Battery Commanders meeting held to discuss staging requirements.
30	4	Battalion Commanders' meeting at Div-Arty Headquarters.
00	5	Summary of remaining period from 2400 Friday 23 November to 2400 Saturday 24 November: All A Battery vehicles turned in. Supplied trucks to transport men of the 142d Infantry Regiment.

Sunday 25 November 1945

500	1	Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Calas Staging Area.
630		Unit Journal closed.
630		Unit Journal opened.
400	2	Summary of period from 2400 Saturday 24 November to 2400 Sunday 25 November inclusive: All men in the Battalion were inoculated for influenza and turned in their German money.

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OUT	NO.	TIME DATED	INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	DISPOSITION
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Monday 26 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Calas Staging Area.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Summary of period from 2400 Sunday 25 November to 2400 Monday 26 November inclusive: Turned in remaining vehicles in Battalion with the exception of 2 jeeps and 2 $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons. Each man received 850 francs from the French Government.

Tuesday 27 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Calas Staging Area.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Summary of period from 2400 Monday 26 November to 2400 Tuesday 27 November inclusive: Very little activity.

Wednesday 28 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Calas Staging Area.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Summary of period from 2400 Tuesday 27 November to 2400 Wednesday 28 November 1945 inclusive: All French francs turned in for redemption. Very little activity.

Thursday 29 November 1945

- 1 Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Medical Detachment, Batteries A, B, C and Service in Calas Staging Area.
Unit Journal closed.
Unit Journal opened.
- 2 Summary of period from 2400 Wednesday 28 November to 2400 Thursday 29 November inclusive: Ten percent of Battalion given passes to Marseilles. Very little activity.

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