HEADQUARTERS 36th INFANTRY DIVISION APO #36, U. S. ARMY

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HEADQUARTERS
111th MEDICAL BATTALION
A.P.O. #36

1 March 1944

SUBJECT: "OFERATIONS IN ITALY."

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

- 1. Transmitted herewith Historical Data of the 111th Medical Battalion for its "OPERATIONS IN STALY" for the month of February 1944.
- 2. Operations for the month of February were essentially a contination of the January situation. The disposition of troops was changed from the Rapido River front to mountains North of Cassino. This greatly increased the litter and ambulance distance, which was under direct observation of the enemy most of the way. Consequently, there were many casualties of the ambulances along the way. An attempt was made to find a site nearer the front for a clearing station site, but no suitable area was available so the Collecting Stations were placed so that additional treatment could be given about half way between the Infantry Aid Stations and the Clearing Station. In most instances the ambulances could drive to the Battalion Aid stations, and the litter bearers were usually employed ahead of the Battalion Aid stations, assisting the Infantry Medical Detachments.

3. Italian soldiers were used at one time, but did not prove very successful as litter bearers.

TOIBERT F. YATER, Major, Medical Corps,

Commanding.

Encls - 1

Historical Data





HEADQUARTERS
111th MEDICAL BATTALION
A.P.O. #36

***** OPERATIONS IN ITALY ****

FEBRUARY 1944

The 111th Medical Battalion commanded by Major Tolbert F. Yater, as part of the 36th Infantry Division, continued its operation in combat in vicinity of Cassino, Italy. On the 1st lebruary 1944 the units were located as follows:

Collecting Company "A" Collecting Company "B" Collecting Company "C"	911172 898258 938158
2nd Plat, Clearing Station) = Headquarters CP } Division Medical Supply)	972136
Headquarters CP 1st Plat, Clearing Station) Hq Detachment consisting of) General Supply Motor Pool Personnel Section)	915053

Collecting Company "B" as part of Combat Team 142 was still attached to 34th Infantry Division, and were operating in vicinity of S. Elia, Italy, and evacuating to the 34th Division Clearing Station. On the 5th February 1944 a road was opened for evacuation and supplies through S. Elia - Portella - S. Michele - Cervaro - S. Vittore to Highway 6, thereby by-passing Cassino which was still in the hands of the Germans. Although this road was under observation by the enemy its use reduced the evacuation time by ambulance by several hours. On the 6th February, Collecting Company "B" began evacuating to the 111th Medical Clearing Station.

Rapido River in sector occupied by the 141 and 143 Combat Teams was very quiet except for artillery fire. Casualties up to this time processed through the Clearing Station were very light. The 6th February 1944

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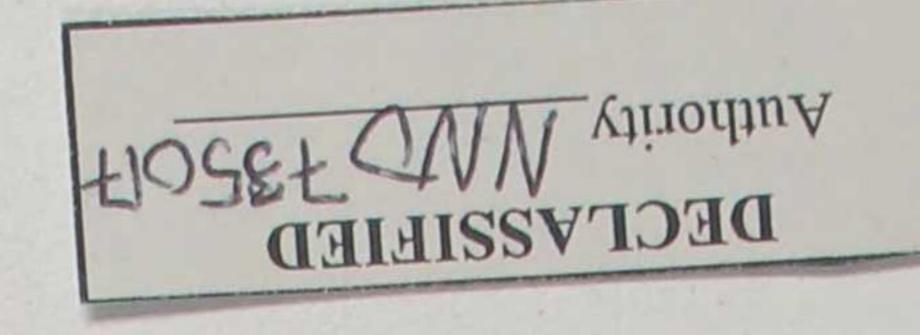
Collecting Company "C" with Combat Team 143 moved to sector North of Cassino, and set up Collecting Station at N878247. The roads in this entire area were under constant enemy artillery fire. While moving Collecting Company "C", the convoy was caught in an artillery barrage. Cupt Allan E. Markowitz, Company Commander of Company "a" was killed instantly by a shell fragment while directing his vehicles through this fire. Capt Abraham L. Kahn, MC, a junior officer of the company, assumed command. During this move 1 ambulance, I weapons carrier, and I ton Jeop were disabled by artillery fire. Earlier that day 1 ambulance was knocked out by cannon fire during an airplane straffing attack. Surprisingly, no personnel were wounded in any of these vehicles. On the 7th Fobruary the 3 ambulances loaned to Collecting Company "B" were returned to Company "C" to replace those knocked out. Capt Herbert R. Farber, Company Commander of Collecting Company "B", having returned from Caserta Rest Camp was transferred to Company "C", and appointed Company Commander. Capt Bert W. Marks of Collecting Company "B" was appointed Company Commander of Company "B".

Upon requesting additional litter bearers from Corps, 45 litter bearers and 2 officers of the Italian Army were received on the 8th February and sent to Collecting Company "C". On the 9th February one-half of this number was sent to Collecting Company "B". The work of these litter bearths area in which they were working would be shelled. On the whole, it was found that they were not dependable. In all operations including the premake the best litter bearers replacements. Whenever possible three infantrymen would be sent out with one experienced litter bearer capable of giving the present operations, personnel from the 142 AT company were used in this capacity to very good advantage and rendered excellent

On 10th February Collecting Company "A" with Combat Team 141 moved to a sector North of Cassino to support attack on Cassino and Abbey de Monte-cassino which is situated on top of mountain overlooking the town of Cassino from the West. On 11th February the attack was launched; the day was cold and raining making the roads all but impassable for evacuation. Litter squads soon became exh usted, and their replacement became critical. A shell landed near one litter squad from Collecting Company "B" killing one man and wounding two. A driver of an ambulance from Collecting Company "B" and his orderly were wounded critically while evacuating patients from the town of Cairo to the Collecting station.

A request to Corps was made for additional litter bearers. 32 litter bearers and l officer from the 54th Medical Battalion were received on the 12th February and were immediately dispatched to Collecting Company "A"





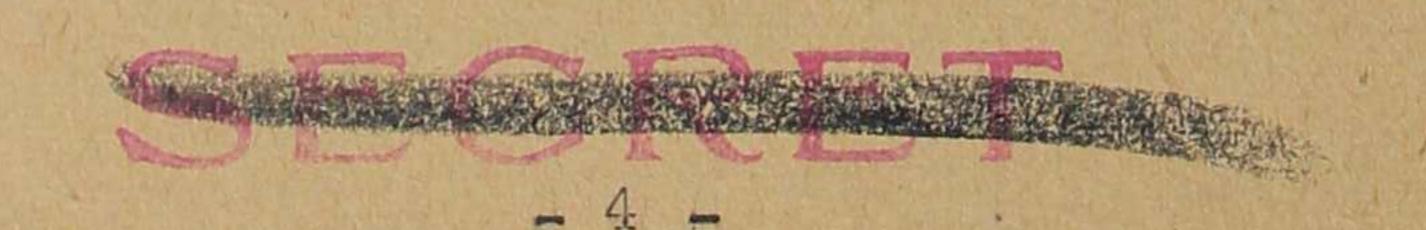


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for duty. On the 12th February Companies "A" and "?" lost one ambulance each due to shell fire. The repair or replacement of all vehicles knocked out has been very satisfactory. For the 48 hour period of the 11th and 12th February, the Clearing Station admitted 648 patients of which 369 were battle casualties. This proved to be the peak load for the month of February. During the period 12th and 13th February, the Germans made several counterattacks to regain some of the ground lost on the 11th February. Their casualties were very high, as they requested a truce on the 14th February in order to remove their dead and wounded. In one sector on the near slope of a hill 164 German dead were counted. During this truce one litter bearer from Collecting Company "C" was wounded in the loft arm by an enemy sniper. For the remainder of the month, activity in the Division sector was limited to a holding action, and very few casualties were processed through the Clearing Station.

On the 17th February the 1st Platoon of the Charing Station, which had been held in reserve was moved to the new Division rest area in vicinity of Ailano, Italy. The Division began moving out of the front lines on the 24th February through the 27th February with the exception of the Division Artillery units. The Division sector was taken over by the French and elements of the 88th American Infantry Division. Preparations were begun immediately for the reorganization of the Medical Battalion under Table of Organization 8-15, dated July 15, 1943.

The entire Division Medical Supply section has been permanently installed in two 22-ton Cargo trucks by building 72 boxes which were installed into the two trucks. The boxes were constructed in such a way as to be placed on both sides of the trucks, and opening in an aisle running through the middle. When in operation the trucks rear ends are run together, and a tarpaulin placed over the space between the trucks. The normal reserve supply of litters, blankets and splint sets are hauled in the aisles of the trucks when in transit, and when the section is in operation they are placed under the tarpaulin. This has contributed extensively to reducing the overhead personnel which were ordinarily required for the operation of this section especially when preparing for a move or in setting up the section for operation. Medical supply reserve as authorized by Table of Equipment is inadequate for a division in combat. The amount of supplies as carried in the above set-up has proved very satisfactory in all past operations, and facilitates the filling of emergency requisitions, and dispenses with numerous special trips to a Medical Supply Depot. By carrying supplies ir excess of Table of Equipment allowance, the necessary Medical Supplies are put into the hands of the using personnel without undue delay.



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Motor maintenance during the month of February has been excellent thus enabling companies to have available their full quota of vehicles practically at all times. The replacement of disabled vehicles by the 736 Ordnance Company has been far above expectation. New vehicles would be drawn within six hours after being reported as disabled. During the month of February, 34 ambulances of the battalion have been hit by shell fragments, of which, 4 were replaced with new ambulances, and 10 required 2nd Echelon repair prior to being put back into service. Ambulances requiring 2nd Echelon work remained out of service for approximately one day each. The ambulance rear steps have been removed during combat in November of 1943, as they proved impractical; patients would drop the steps from the inside of the ambulance because of their fear of being caught inside an ambulance during straffing raids, and as a result the steps would become bent or broken when traveling over a rough terrain. The removal of the steps has not caused a hardship on the loading and unloading of walking wounded, as they are helped on and off the ambulances by Medical personnel.

Morale of the troops was very high in the first part of the month, but toward the end there was a noticeable decline due to inclement weather, and also the short rest period between operations.

CASS J. KNIGHT, Capt, Med Adm C, Adjutant.

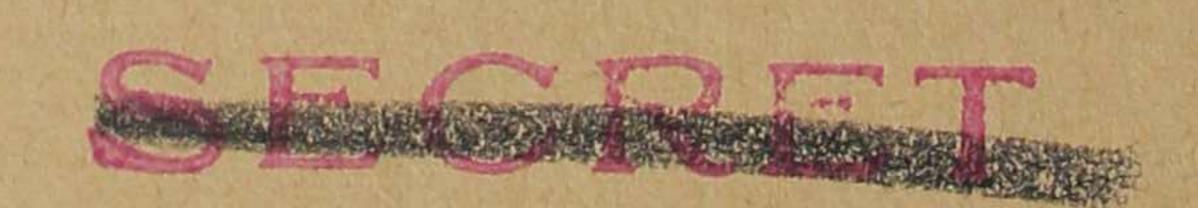
ANNEXES - 4

#1 - Daily Journal

#2 - Maps & Overlays

#3 - Casualties suffered by the 111th Med Bn

#4 - Consoldiation of casualties processed through Clearing Station



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SECORE FINANCE

DAILY JOURNAL

111th MEDICAL BATTALION

FEBRUARY 1944

ANNEX NO. 1





SECTE

l February 1944

WEATHER: Cloudy and cool. Intermittent artillery fire during day, growing more steady and intense after dusk. Casualties very light.

57 admissions - 7 Battle casualties.

2 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and warmer. Artillery fire heavy in morning; sporadic after dusk. Air activity light. Small number of casualties. 46 Admissions - 13 Battle casualties.

3 February 1944

WEATHER: Cloudy and cool. Collecting Companies report that enemy shelling is very heavy in their respective vicinities. Casualties very light. 70 Admissions - 16 Battle casualties.

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4 February 1944

WEATHER: Cloudy with showers. Enemy shells landed to Southeast of our area about 1130 hours, in vicinity of friendly emplacements there. Counter-battery fire very heavy. Enemy shells again could be heard about 1830 hours; all landing to the rear of our area. Collecting Company "C" was subjected to one air raid during the day. Casualties very light. Admissions 57 - Battle casualties 5.

5 February 1944

WEATHER: Cloudy, showers and cool. Enemy planes slipped over to bomb some front line installations driven off almost instantly by very area were processed through the Clearing Station. While AA shells landed in our immediate area, no casualties occurred. 97 Admissions -

6 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Two air raids today. Artillery shelling of roads North of Cevaro and Cassino heavy. One ambulance of Collecting Company "C" disabled in straffing raid this morning. No casualties. Capt Allan E. Markowitz, Company Commander of Collecting Company "C" company "C" forward Collecting Station. At the same time enemy shells of Company "C". Capt Abraham L. Kahn assumed command of Company "C". Capt Abraham L. Kahn assumed command of Company "C". Collecting Company "B" is now evacuating to our Clearing Station.

7 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Capt Herbert R. Farber, Company Commander of Collecting Company "B" transferred to Collecting Company "C" and appointed Company Commander, vice Capt Allan E. Markowitz. Capt Bert W. Marks appointed Company Commander of Collecting Company "B".

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8 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold, cloudy with showers. Artillery shelling of Highway #6, vicinity of San Pietro. Large flights of medium bombers went over this morning, working on front line installations. About 10 casualties from aircraft bombing were processed through Clearing Station. Patients say that the planes were allied and that perhaps they inadvertently missed their target. 93 Admissions - 15 Battle Casualties.

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9 February 1944

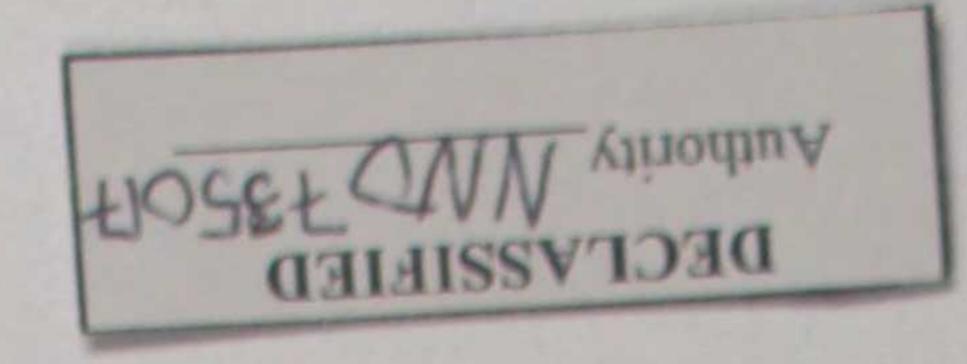
WEATHER: Cold, cloudy with showers. Casualties very light. 112
Admissions - 15 Battle Casualties.

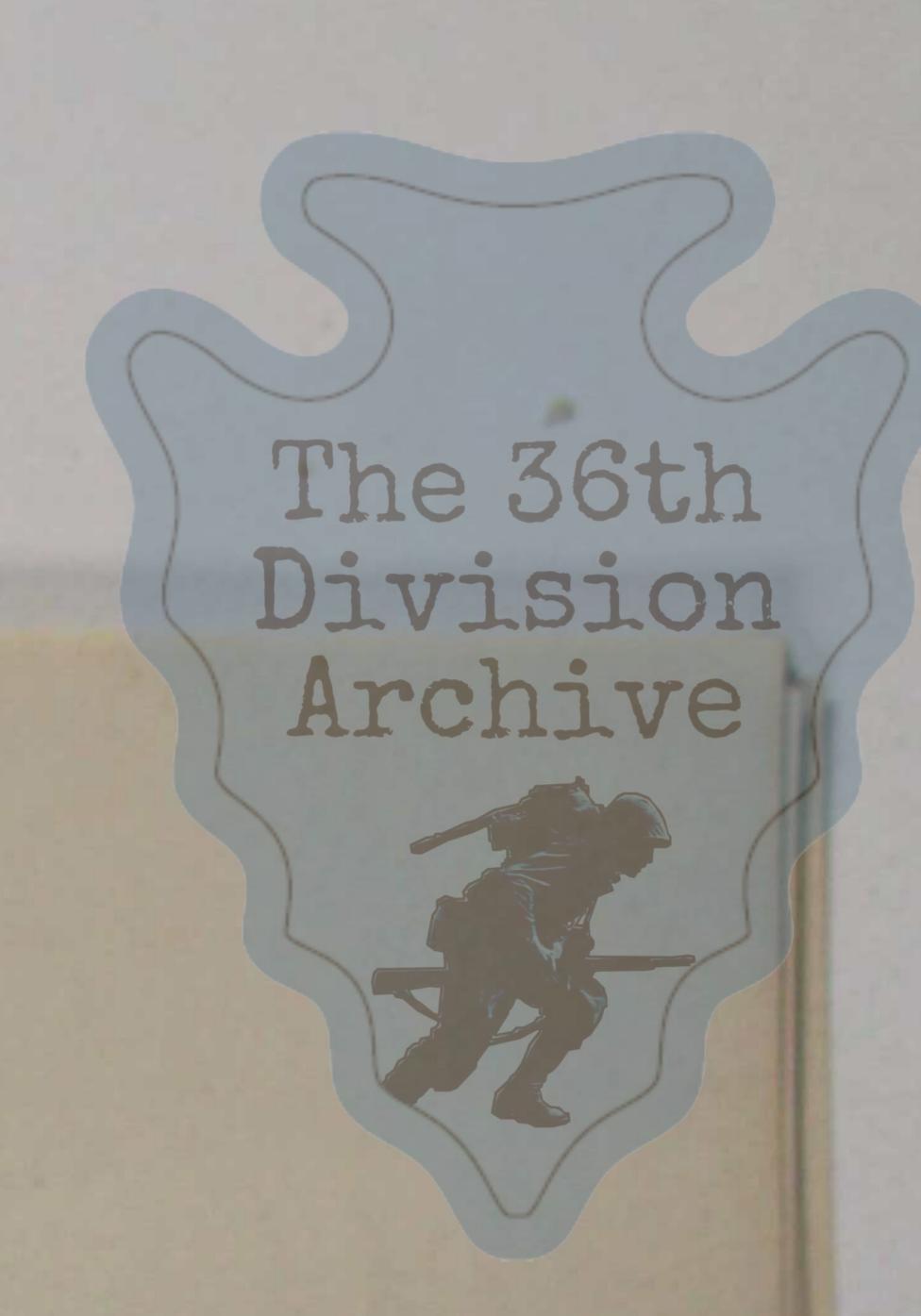


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10 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold and rain. Heavy rains throughout the day flooded the area; fortunately we do not have a boggy side road to contend with. Ambulances and other vehicles are able to pull up to Admission Tent a few yards from Highway #6 without trouble. Heavy shelling of immediate area tonight. 105 Admissions - 24 Battle Casualties.



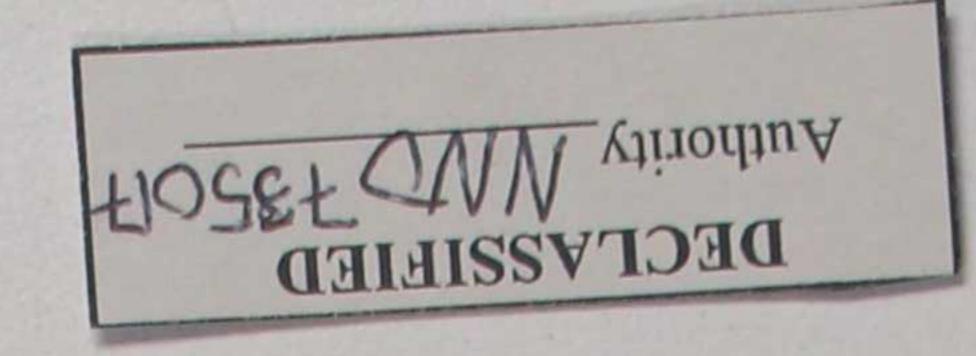


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MESSAGE NOFEB 44

11 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold and rain. One Company "B" ambulance was shelled today while carrying patients to Clearing Station. Driver and orderly, Pvts lcl James B. Treadaway and Thomas C. Short respectively, received shell fragment wounds. In independent actions Pvt Frank Smodey of Company "B" a litter bearer was killed in action. Two more men of Company "B" were slightly wounded by shell fragments. Attack on Benedictine Monastary will begin. Heavy casualties expected. 213 Admissions - 73 Battle Casualties.



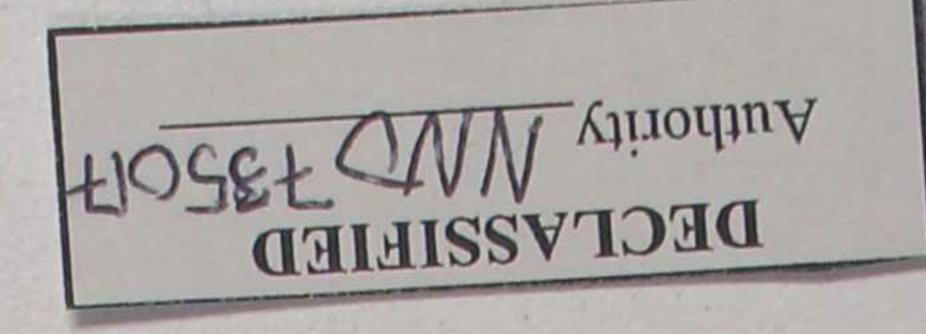
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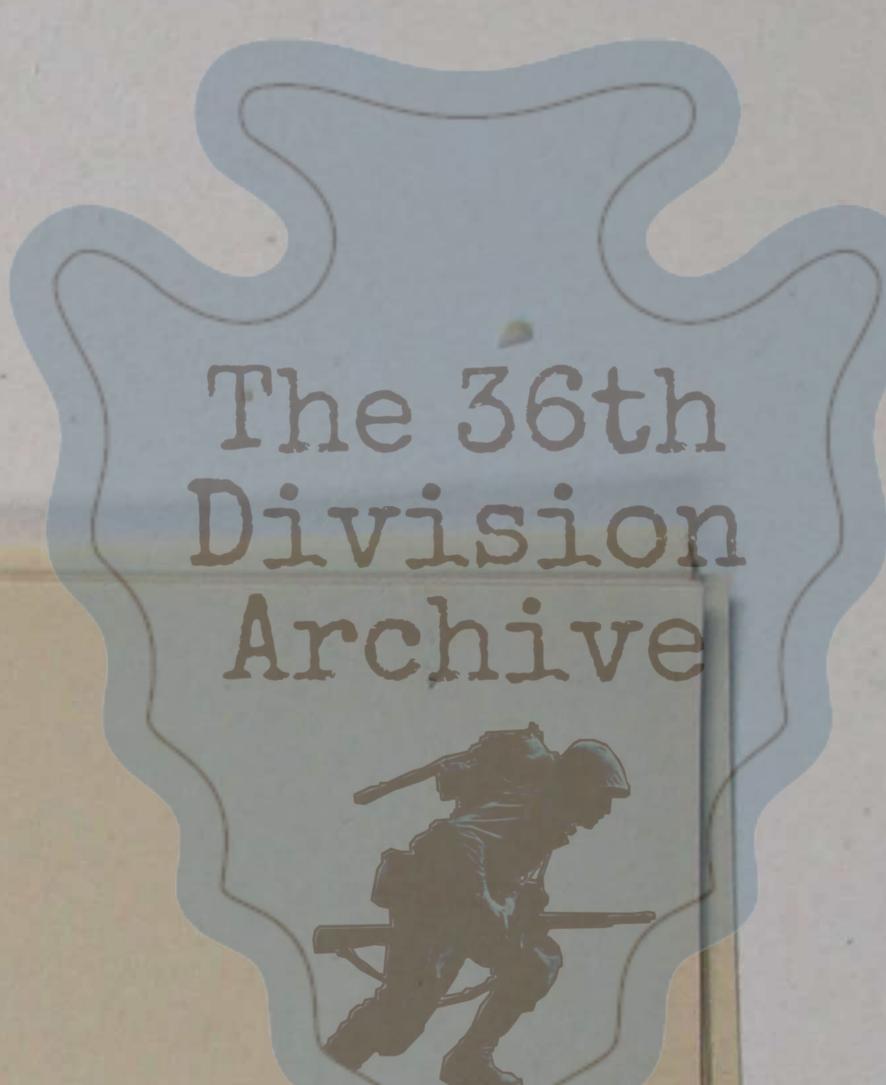
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12 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold and Clear. 32 litter bearers received from 54th Medical Battalion for Collecting Company "A" at 1730 hours. Sent forward by ambulance from Clearing Station. Heavy enemy shelling for about three hours this morning. One shell hit in Company "A's" area (rear), located about 150 yards South of Clearing Station. No Casualties, the soggy soil apparently absorbing the shell's damaging force. ties, the soggy soil apparently absorbing the shell's damaging force. One ambulance of Company "A" disabled by enemy shell near Battalion Aid Station, Cairo, Italy. Most of the shells of today's barrage were hitting in the valley South of us. No casualties have been processed through the Clearing Station, as a result of these shellings.





13 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold and Clear. 8 replacements received today. 6 to Collecting Company "B" and 2 to Collecting Company "C". Need of fresh litter bearers has been acute, but is being particularily felt at present time because of the Collecting Companies new forward positions near Cairo, Italy. Long hard hauls over difficult terrain are causing fatigue, sometimes to the point of exhaustion to the men. The weather up in the mountains, Rain, snow and bitter cold has also been a contributing factor to both the physical and mental strain. 156 Admissions - 37 Battle Casualties.

14 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Pvt 1cl John (NMI) Malavear, Wompany "C" wounded in action, receiving a shell fragment wound. Much air activity. Heavy, medium and fighter bombers making the front line installations their target. 208 Admissions - 55 Battle Casualties.

15 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and Cold. 32 litter bearers from 54th Medical Battalion relieved. 143 Admissions - 38 Battle Casualties.

16 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and Cold. Collecting Company "A" had one ambulance disabled by enemy artillery fire - no casualties. 94 Admissions - 24 Battle Casualties.

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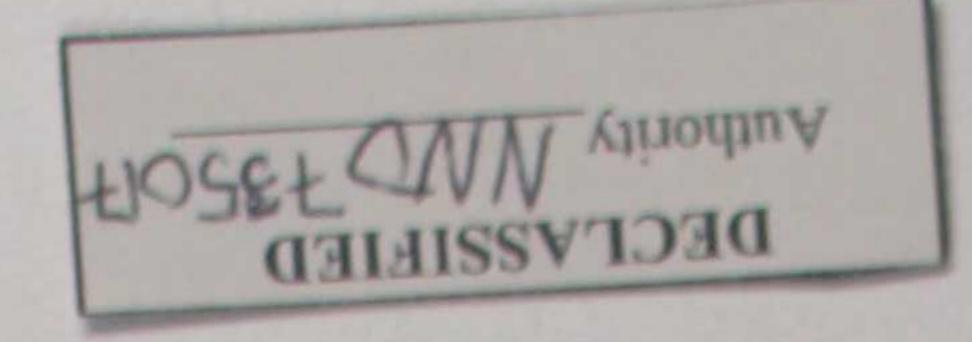
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MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE) (CLASSIFICATION) No._/ DATE 16 February 1944 ro CO, Company "A" lllth Med Bn. Request that you get word to Capt Farley 54th Med Bn that Major Hardy wants litter bearers relieved today. Let this Headquarters know if there is any need for additional kitter bearers. 6930 4 th mid 18m littling besieve men where yesterlay - no additioned letter leaven meded at preunt. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER 1530 TIME SIGNED AUTHORIZED TO BE SENT IN CLEAR SIGNATURE OF OFFICER SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER

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17 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and Cold. One ambulance of Company "C" knocked out by shrapnel from enemy artillery fire. No casualties. 1st Platcon, Clearing Company, which has been held in reserve, moved to Division rest area vicinity of Ailano, Italy. 103 Admissions - 52 Battle casualties.

18 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Action limited to patrols and counter-battery fire. Majority of casualties from Corps and Army artillery emplacements and personnel traveling on highways and mountain roads which are under enemy observation, and any concentration of vehicles or personnel draws enemy fire. 72 Admissions - 23 Battle Casualties.

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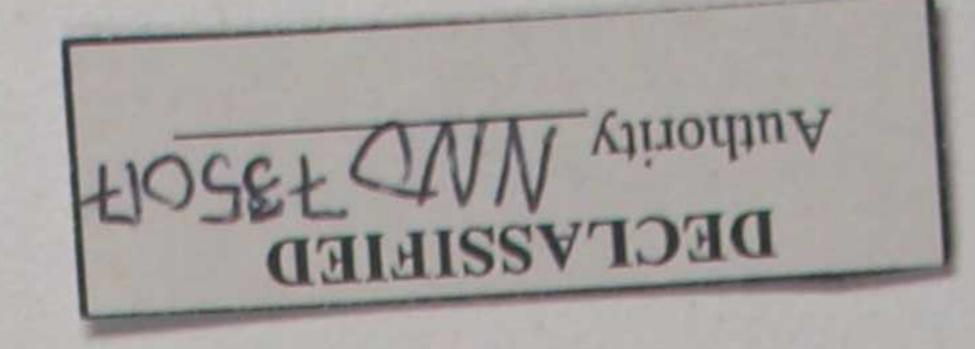
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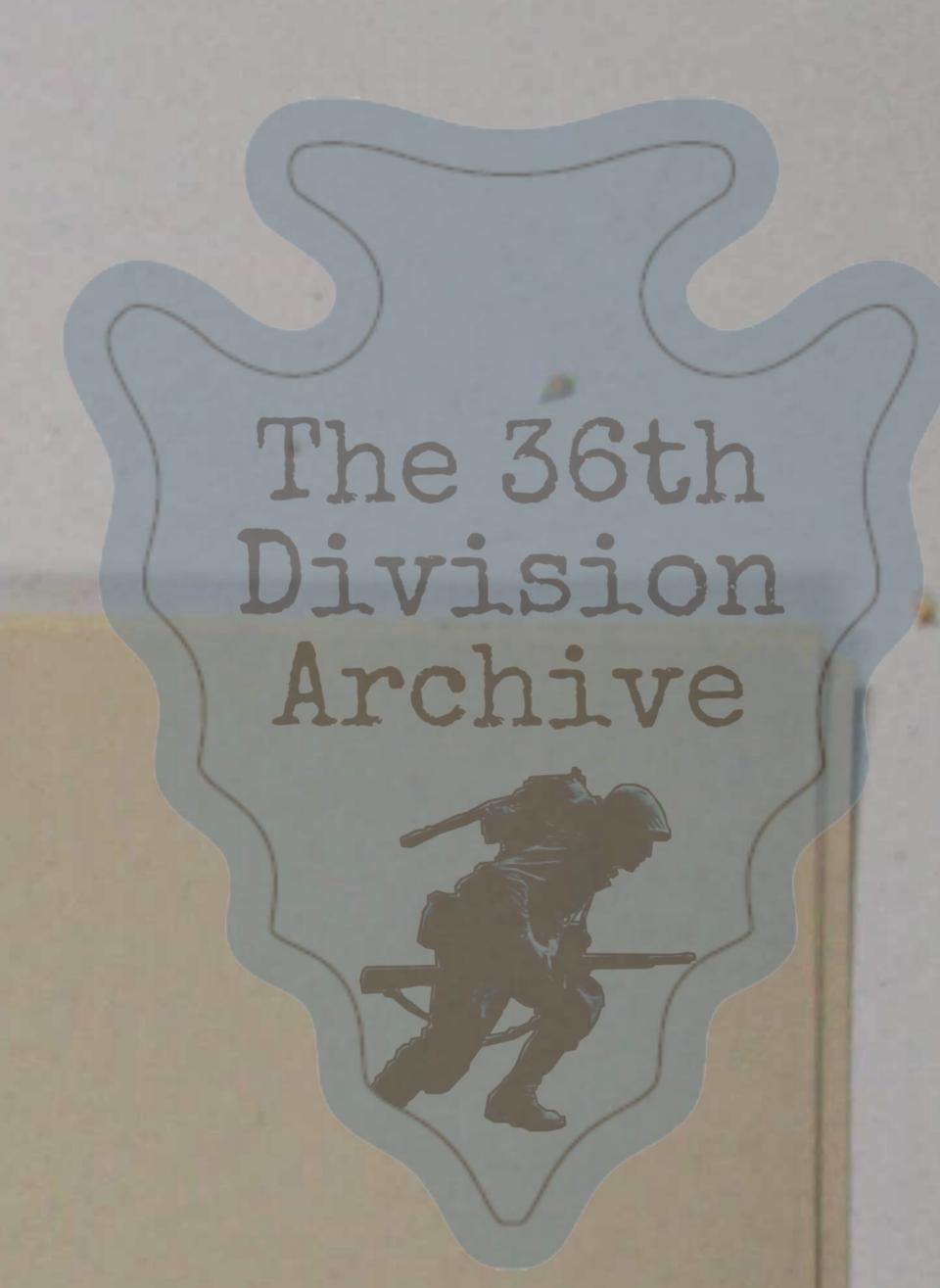


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19 February 1944

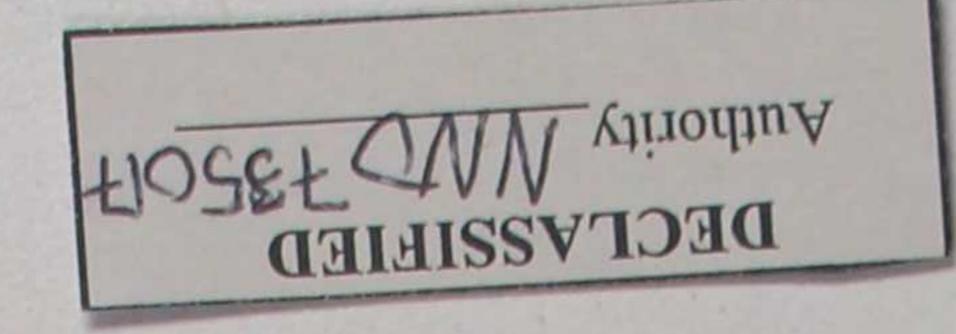
WEATHER: Clear and cold. Due to ambulance evacuating routes being under constant enemy shell fire, practically all of our ambulances have collected their share of shell fragment holes. Surprisingly, very few casualties have been caused amongst the drivers and orderlies. 95 Admissions - 37 Battle Casualties.

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20 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. Collecting Company "C" has three ambulances which are still battle casualties. Fortunately, casualties are very light and demand for ambulances has been proportunately light.

79 Admissions - 26 Battle Casualties.





21 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and cold. 74 Admissions - 12 Battle Casualties.

22 February 1944

WEATHER: Clear and warmer. Two enemy plances, probably reconnaissance planes, passed high over area drawing our AA fire - no hits.

80 Admissions - 15 Battle Casualties.

23 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold and rain. Collecting Company "B" had one ambulance demolished by shell fire. 59 Admissions - 3 Battle Casualties.

24 February 1944

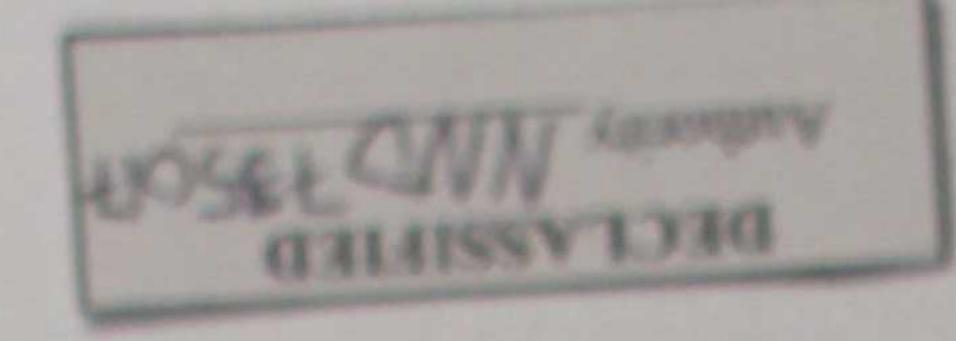
WEATHER: Clear, cold and windy. Collecting Company "C" relieved, and moved to rest area vicinity of Ailano, Italy. 58 Admissions - 4 Battle Casualties.

25 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold, cloudy with rain. Collecting Company"B" relieved by French forces and moved to rest area vicinity of Ailano, Italy. Administration elements of Company also moved to rest area. Collecting Station "A" remained in lines pending relief by elements of 88th Infant-ry Division. 21 Admissions - 4 Battle Casualties.

26 February 1944

WEATHER: Cold, cloudy with rain. Forward CP moved to rear area; began move at 1430, completed move 1600 hours - distance moved 47 miles. Medical Supply made move with Forward CP. Pear CP moved to rear area; began move at 1515, completed move 1720 hours - distance 40 miles. The Medical Battalion rest area near Ailano, Italy is a complete sea of mud due to heavy rains the previous night, and all day causing much difficulty for vehicles moving in and cut. 37 Admissions - 6 Battle Casualties.





27 February 1944

drawn from action and moved to rest area vicinity Ailano, Italy. 2nd Platoon Clearing Station closed station and moved to rest area near Ailano, Italy. Company "A" and 2nd Platoon Clearing Station were relieved by elements of the 88th Infantry Division, a fresh division which has not as yet received its baptism of fire. Attempts are being made to obtain gravel for road beds in area. Engineers have not put rock quarry in operation as yet. Steady rains are making all roads in Battalion area impassable.

28 February 1944

MEATHER: Cold, cloudy with showers. Rains continuing making roads in area practically impassable. Unable to obtain gravel dump trucks from Engineers today due to priorities within division. Some gravel is being hauled by organic transportation, but this is proving to be a slow process, as the gravel must be loaded and unloaded by hand. Engineers will have steam showel in operation at rock quarry about the lat of March.

29 February 1944

MEATHER: Cold, cloudy with showers. Property checks being made in Battalion and preparations are under way for change-over to new Table of Organization 8-15 dated 15 July 43, and Table of Equipment dated same.