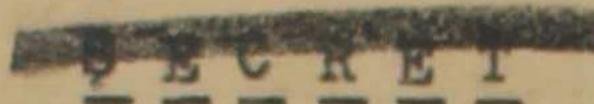
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Authority AMD 73507

The 36th Division Archive



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

OPERATIONS IN ITALY JANUARY 1944

ANNEX # 15

111th MEDICAL BATTALION

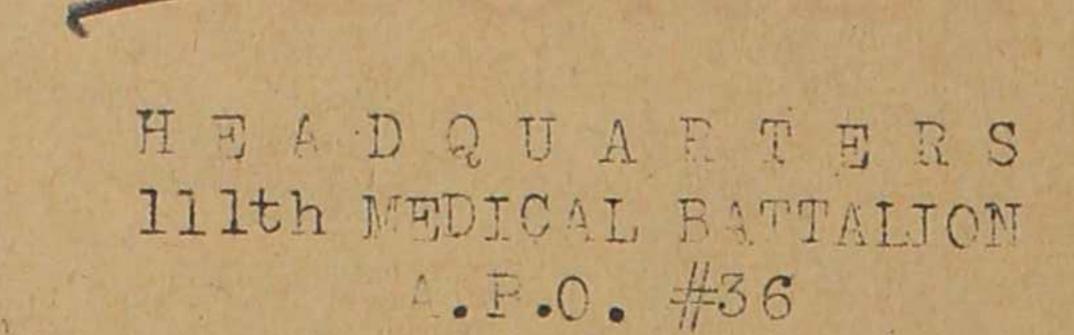
BY TAG II RIT HULLE 18 May 100

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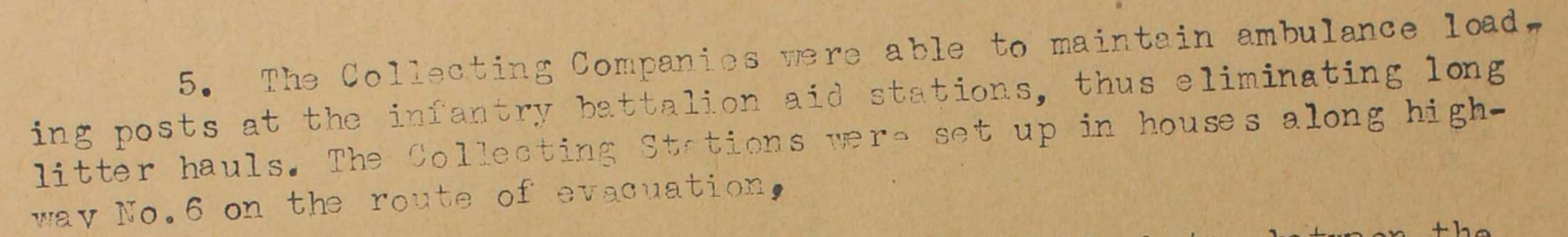


9 February 1944

SUBJECT: "OPERATIONS IN ITALY"

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

- 1. Transmitted he rewith Historical Data of the 111th Medical Battalion for its "OPERATIONS IN ITALY" for the month of January 1944.
- 2. When the 36th Division troops re-entered combat on or about 13th January 1944, the first platoon of the Clearing Station moved into an area selected by II Corps. This area was located about 1 mile south of road junction of highway No.6 and Presenzano Road, and about 2 miles north of the 54th Medical Battalion Clearing Station. The II Corps Engineers had, prior to our occupation of this area, prepared the road entrances and driveways in the area. Due to Corps anticipation of a speedy advance this platoon had set up and was ready for operation, but at the last moment had recieved instructions not to admit patients, but to send them to the 54th Medical Battalion Clearing Station.
- 3. The 54th Medical Battalion Clearing Station, which was processing all patients and casualties in this sector, was located about 16 miles from the front and could not successfully support an advance, so a site was chosen approximately 6 miles from the front lines, which could accommadate one platoon of our Clearing Station and one platoon of the 11th Field Hospital, affording good drainage, road networks, and defilade for protection against enemy shelling. This station opened prior to the first major operation of the Division, and due to the stable situation, processed casualties for the remainder of the month in this location.
- 4. Due to the lack of space in this area the Headquarters Detachment, Battalion Motor Pool, Battalion Personnel Section, and one platoon of the Clearing Station, which was loaded on trucks and in reserve, remained approximately 8 miles to the rear of the forward Clearing Station. A section of the message center and Battalion CP were maintained at the forward Station, as was the Division Medical Supply.



- 6. The exchange of property, litters and blankets, between the Clearing Station and Evacuation Hospitals has been very poor and breaks down completely when the flow of patients become heavy. This is due in part to the limited supply that the Evacuation Hospitals carry on hand for this purpose, as a result the ambulance drivers receive a hand receipt for the litters and blankets which accompany the patient. This receipt is then turned over to the Clearing Station Commander to be used as a basis for his requisitions. Fortunately the Clearing Station in the past has had on hand a sufficient supply of these items by drawing them from the Clearing Station platoon held in reserve and from the Division Medical Supply section, which is always set up in close proximity to the Station. On days when the flow of patients is extremely heavy, the Division Medical Supply sections normal stock of such items becomes exhausted, necessitating special trips to the Supply Depots to maintain sufficient blankets and litters on hand at the Clearing Station to carry on its exchange service with the · Collecting Companies.
  - . 7. The problem of additional litter bearers is still confronting this Battalion. Although an overstrength of 100 litter bearers for this this Battalion has been authorized, they have not as yet been received. In Battalion has been necessary to requisition litter bearers from the past month it has been necessary to requisitioning additional the Infantry companies when time would not allow requisitioning additional litter bearers from Corps.

8. As a whole the Medical Service during this operation was excellent.

TOIBERT F. YATER Najor, Medical Corps

Commanding.

Encls - 1 Historical Data

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

### \*\*\*\*\* OFERATIONS IN ITALY \*\*\*\*

#### JANUARY 1944

The entire month of January the 111th Medical Battalion was commanded by Major Tolbert F. Yater, Executive Officer, in the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Jay W. Pickens who has been absent since 28 December 1943 due to arthritis in his left ankle. On 27 January 1944 Lieutenant Colonel Pickens was transferred to the Detachment of Patients and evacuated to North Africa, Major Tolbert F. Yater assuming Command.

The 111th Medical Battalion, consisting of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Collecting Companies "A" and "C" and Clearing Company "D" having moved into a rest area in the vicinity of Alife, Italy, immediately set in to check and repeir its property. Quite a loss was sustained in tentage in the early hours of 1 January 1944, when a wind, of gale proportions, blew down and tore most of the tentage beyond repeir. One platoon of the Clearing Station was set up to care for the sick and injured in this area, and at the time the wind came there were 66 patients in the wards. When the wind velocity rose to such proportions that it was impossible to keep the tentage up, ambulances from Companies "A" and "C" were brought up and the patients loaded on them, the more serious cases evecuated and the remainder placed in a large barm where they were protected from the wind, sleet, and rain.

Collecting Company "B" attached to the 142nd Combat Team remained in combat during this period, with its Collecting Station located in the village of Ceppagna, continued evacuating its casualties to the 34th Division Clearing Station which was located in the vicinity of Venafro. During the reriod Company "B" remained detached from the Battalion, their flow of casualties remained very light. On the 8th January 1944, Company "B", with its combat team, rejoined the Division in the rest area and immediately began preparations for its property check.

During this rest period much time was devoted to re-equipping the Companies and training for future operations. Specialized training was given to a chosen few in mountain warfare, although the Division had just completed a month and a half combat in the mountains this specialized



training in the use of ropes for evacuating casualties will be of value in later operations. Each Collecting Company spent two days in river crossing training in support of its combat team, concluding with a night problem. Ample shower facilities were provided for all personnel. Stage and screen attractions were offered to the troops in the nearby town of Piedmonte.

On 10th January 1944, Comp ny "A" was alerted, and moved into combat on the 12th January. Very little activity was encountered and casualties were very light. The 54th Clearing Station was processing all casualties in that area. On the 13th January the first platoon of the Clearing Company moved forward and established their station at 036056 - Italy - Map 161 - 1:100,000. This platoon was not put into operation immediately because of the few casualties coming from the front and the fact that a Clearing Station site would be more desirable nearer the front. Although this station was prepared to operate, it was decided not to open it until a more suitable area could be located. Collecting Company "C" was alerted and moved into combat in support of its combat team on the 16th January 1944, and evacuated casualties to the 54th Clearing Station. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment moved from Alife, Italy to a position near the first platoon of the Clearing Station on the 18th January 1944. On the 19th January 1944, the second platoon of the Clearing Company moved from Alife, Italy to a position about 7 miles north of the first platoon on Highway #6 and began receiving casualties at 1700 hours that day. The first platoon of the Clearing Station loaded their station on their wehicles and remained in reserve in the area with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment.

The third platoon of the 11th Field Hospital established their station in the same area with the second platoon of our Clearing Station. Space in this area was so restricted that it was impractical to move the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in the same area, therefore only the Medical Supply Section and one half of the Headquarters section, with the Adjutant were moved forward. The Battalion Motor Section, General Supply, Personnel Section, and one half of the Headquarters Section remained in their old location. This set up proved very satisfactory.

On the 21st and 22nd January 1944, during the attempt to cross the Rapido River, the Clearing Station processed a record number of casualties, the two day total was 971 admissions of which 599 were battle casualties. Due to the difficulty in obtaining Medical Officer replacements, the Clearing Station had only 5 Medical officers on duty to handle this heavy flow of casualties.



A three hour truce was arranged with the Germans on the 25th January to clear the Rapido River Sector of our dead and wounded. Litter bearers from our Collecting Companies "A" and "C" crossed the river and evacuated approximately 12 wounded, they were not permitted to go beyond the barbwire barrier to make a search of the area. The German litter bearers littered our wounded to the barbwire barrier, from which place our litter bearers would evacuate them. The German representative stated that most of our wounded had been evacuated to their own hospital and offered to take a representative of ours to one of their hospitals where they had 18 of our wounded, but there was not time enough to accept this. A large percentage of our dead were also removed at this time but no accurate count can be given as they did not clear through our hands.

Collecting Company "B" with the 142nd Combat Team was attached to the 34th Division on the 26th January 1944 to an area in the vicinity of S. Elia for an offensive on the slopes of Mt. Cairo, north of Cassino. Their advance Collecting Station was set up on road south of Vallerotonda and the rear Collecting Station in the town of Pozzilli. Route of evacuation would be over a mountain road from S. Elia through Acquafondala, Filignano, Pozzilli then to the 34th Division Clearing Station in vicinity of Venafro, a distance of about 30 miles by road. Six additional ambulances were attached to "B" Company, additional litter bearers were procured from the Infentry Cannon Company. Fortunately during the next few days the casualties in their sector were light, although the route of evacuation was constantly under heavy enemy artillery fire. On the 29th January one litter bearer was killed, one litter bearer wounded, and one officer wounded from "B" Company.

Motor maintenance during the past month has been carried on normally and several improvements have been made as in the case of ambulance springs in which the standard spring is being replaced by the heavier duty type normally used on 3/4 ton weapon carrier. It has been found in past operations that ambulances equiped with the standard spring will have a breakage as high as 75%, depending on weather and terrain over which they operate. The installation of the heavier type spring has not affected the riding quality to any great extent, and has accomplished the prime purpose of keeping the ambulances on the roads. Collecting Companies have been equiped with tool sets #1 to enable them to carry on second echelon maintenance within their own organization, especially during combat when they are separated from the Batt lion, thereby materially reducing the time involved in sending vehicles for minor repairs to the rear.

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Approval has been received to parmenently install the entire Wedical Supply in two 2 ton trucks. Special boxes and cases are being constructed which will be permanently installed in the trucks making this section compact and mobile.

In the early part of the month of January, while still in the rest area near Alife, authority was requested that during combet the Collecting Companies remain under the direct supervision and control of the Medical Battalion, especially in regard to supplies with the exception of Class I and III during combat. In the past month this system has proven very satisfactory in as much as it has done away with much confusion by placing the responsibility for Class II supplies entirely on the Battalion rather than having certain items drawn through the Combat Team and other items from the Battalion, it has also simplified the keaping of uniform records throughout the Battalion.

In spite of the long litter hauls over rough and rugged terrain and inclement weather, the morale of the personnel of the Battalion is very high. Anticipation of the meeting of the two Fifth Army fronts is one of the main courses of conversation.

Adjutant.

ANNEXES - 4
#1 - Daily Journal (2: 1 type)

#2 - Waps & Overlays

#3 - Casualties suffered by the 111th Med Bn

#4 - Consolidation of casualties processed through Clearing Station.



#### 1 January 1944

WEATHER: Cold, with very hard winds: One of the hardest winds most of us have ever experienced blew all night, blowing down ward tents, pyramidal tents, and flys in all of our areas. The Clearing Station, with all of its ward tents full of patients had a very hard night trying to keep patients warm and dry. All of the available ambulances in Collecting Companies "A" and "C" were summoned to the Clearing Station to facilitate the transfer of patients to a large hay barn in our rest area to keep them warm and dry. Collecting Company "B" is still in combat, located in the village of Ceppagna, and evacuating their patients to the 34th Division Clearing Station.

#### 2 January 1944

WEATHER: Cold, with occasional rains: The most part of the day was spent checking tentage for rips and tears, and the service-able tentage put back in its original standing position.

#### 3 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Warmer: A Battalion Property Check was held today on clothing and equipment, with the exception of Collecting Company "B" which is still in combat.

#### 4 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Warm: Usual bivouac duties. The Division Special Service Section is issuing the Battalion daily tickets for a show in Piedmonte. Piedmonte is approximately 4 miles west of our rest in Piedmonte. Piedmonte is approximately 4 miles west of our rest area. Government transportation is authorized to take personnel area. Government transportation is authorized to take personnel to the show and pick them up. Personnel greatly appreciate this privilege.

#### 5 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Warm: Usual bivouac duties.

### 6 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Cool: Usual Bivouac duties.

#### 7 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Usual Bivouac duties.

#### 8 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Cool: Collecting Company "B" arrived in the Battalion rest area for a much needed rest.

#### 9. January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Collecting Company "B" had their Property and equipment check today.

#### 10 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Usual bivouac duties.

#### 11 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Collecting Company "C" is out on a river crossing problem today, in preparation for future operations. Other units of the Battalion are performing usual bivouac duties.

#### 12 January 1944

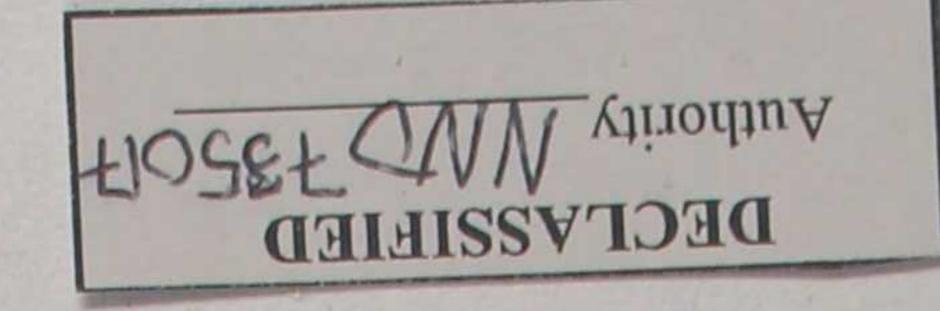
WEATHER: Clear: Collecting Company "A" moved into position for evacuation of battle casualties (see attached overlay), evacuating patients to the 54th Medical Battalion. Collecting Company "C" is still on river crossing problem, expected to return today.

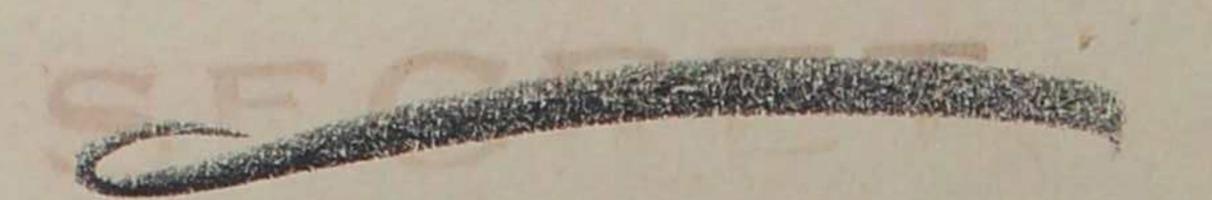
#### 13 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: 1st Platoon of the Clearing Station moved to new location (see attached overlay) for preparation of future operations.

#### 14 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: 1st Platoon of the Clearing Station in new location has not as yet begun operating. Most of their time is being spent clearing the area of debris and making roads within the area. Collecting Company "B" is out on a 2 day problem, practicing river crossing for future operations.





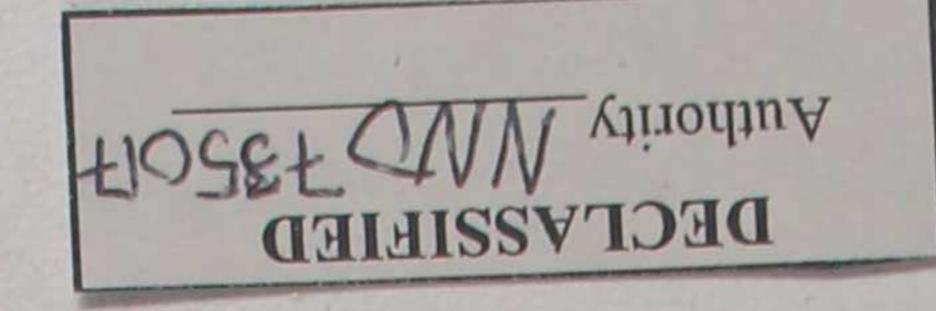
#### 15 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Usual activity, with no change in location of units.

#### 16 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Collecting Company "C" moved to new location (see attached overlay), evacuating patients to the 54th Medical Battalion.

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### 17 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear: Usual activity, with no change in location of units. Collecting Companies "A" and "C" report that casualties are light in their particular sectors.

#### 18 January 1944

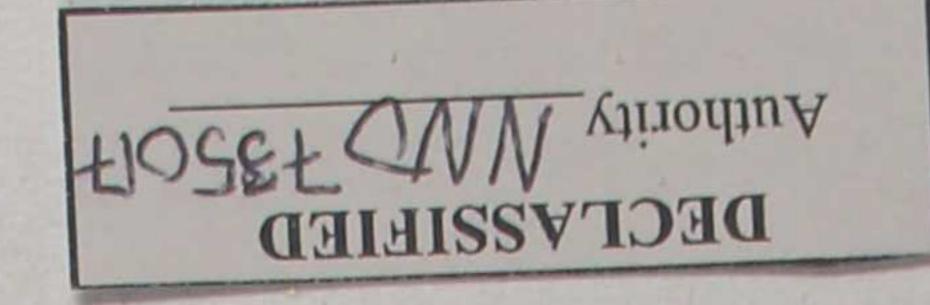
Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment moved to new location (see attached overlay) from Alife, Italy. 1st Platoon of the Clearing Station, having moved up the 13th January 1944, has not as yet began processing patients, although they are ready. Collecting Company "C" moved to new location (See attached overlay)

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MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE)	(CLASSIFICATION)
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# 19 January 1944

and Platoon of the Clearing Station moved up to new location (See attached overlay) from Alife, Italy. 2nd Platoon is approximately 7 miles north, on highway #6, of the 1st Platoon of the Clearing Station. The 1st platoon was issued orders to load their station, to be in reserve. The 2nd Platoon began processing patients at 1700 this date. Collecting Company "A" and "C" moved to new locations (See attached overlay). Plans completed for evacuation of casualties in Rapido River Crossing Operation. Plan is to split Collecting Stations, sending one section across the river and remaining section to set up on east side of river. Plan is to evacuate Battalion Aid Stations by litter until 4 ton jeeps can be sent across to operate between forward collecting station and battalion aid stations, and also between forward collecting station and rear collecting station, Until an adequate bridge is constructed, casualties will be sent across river in inflated rubber rafts. Ambulances to operate between rear Collecting Station and Clearing Station until adequate bridge can be installed over the river.

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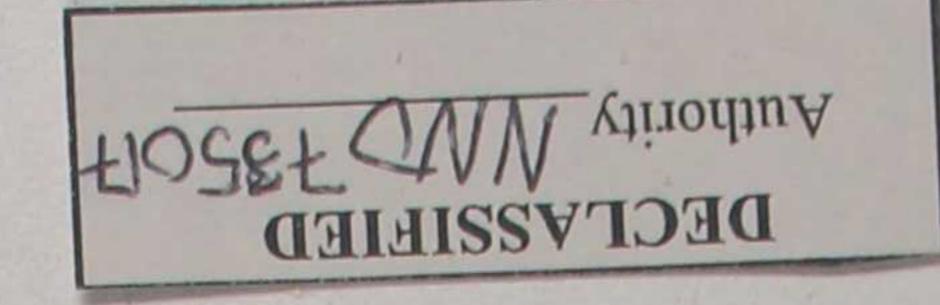


### 19 January 1944 (Cont'd)

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To Rodeo, Sun Ray Minor				
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#### 20 January 1944

Due to the lack of space in the vicinity of the Clearing Station, half of the personnel of the Command Post and the Medical Supply moved up to the location of the 2nd Platoon of the Clearing Station. All administrative and General Supply functions are handled ion. All administrative and General Supply functions are handled at the forward at the rear CP, all tactical problems are handled at the forward CP. Communication is very good, communicating by telephone and messenger. Collecting Company "A" moved to new location (See attached overlay) Total admissions to the Clearing Station within ached overlay) Total admissions to the Clearing Station within this 24 hour period have been 178 of which 56 were battle casualties.



# 

#### 21 January 1944

WEATHER: Clear - Cool: Casualties very heavy, due to units trying to cross the Rapido River in the face of intense enemy machine gun, small arms, and mortar fire. Total casualties admitted was 499 of which 308 were battle casualties. This number has been by far the highest this station has processed in combat. Considerable difficulty has arisen in the evacuation of casualties from the Clearing Station to Evacuation Hospitals. Although 18 Corps ambulances are being used it has become necessary to supplement these with three  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton trucks. Difficulty was found in that the Evacuation Hospitals failed to unload and release our attached ambulances promptly. Colonel Ginn, II Corps Surgeon, has taken steps to remedy this situation.

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			A CO E E
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#### 22 January 1944

Admissions to Clearing Station still coming in at a fast rate. Clearing Station has only five (5) Medical Officers to work the 24 hour period. At 0405 enemy shells began landing about 200 yards east of the Clearing Station, a great number going over our heads and landing along Highway No. 6. Shelling continued until 0715. No shells landed in the Clearing Station Area due to the excellent defilated position. Clearing Station processed about 450 casualties up to noon today, at which time the rate of admission suddenly fell off and from 1800 to midnight no casualties were received. Total admitted for the 24 hour period was 472 of which 291 were battle casualties.

#### 23 January 1944

In the attacks to cross the Rapido River in the last two days, no Medical Unit has been able to get across, although many casualties were littered back across at night. A high percentage of casualties have been due to personnel mines. Clearing Station admissions have been very light, totaling 141 admissions of which 46 were battle casualties. Activity has been limited to patrols and artillery fire.

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## 23 January (Cont'd)

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	-
Forward Coll Sta moved back to old CP	
Coordinates 937159N 160 II. Amb Post maintained	
at old forward Coll Sta.	-
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### 24 January 1944

Very little activity on the front, limited mostly to artillery counter battery fire and patroling. Casualties have dropped considerably.

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co 111th Med Bn	
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	1130
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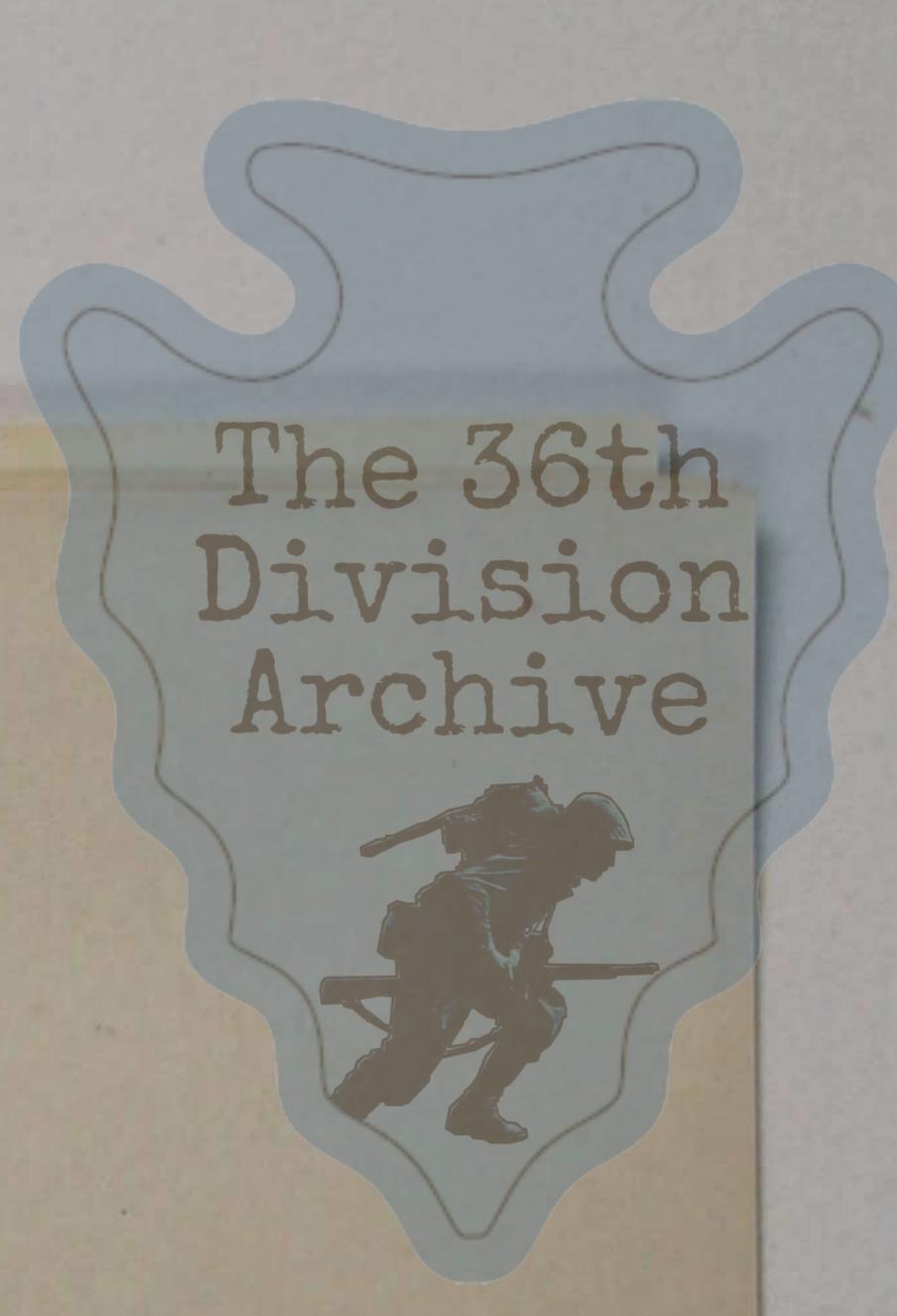
### 25 January 1944

A truce was arranged with the Germans between the hours of 1400 to 1700 on the Rapido River, south of San Angelo, for the purpose of removing the dead and wounded. Litter-bearers from Collecting Companies "A" and "C" crossed the river during this ecting Companies "A" and "C" crossed the river during this truce and evacuated approximately 12 wounded. The German reptruce and evacuated that they had 18 of our wounded in their rementative stated that they had 18 of our wounded in their hospital. Many dead were removed, but time was too limited to hospital. Many dead were removed, but time was too limited to hospital. Germans furnished a guide to lead the way remove them all. Germans furnished a guide to lead the way through the mine field, but would not permit any of our men to go beyond the wire entanglement, which was about 10 yards to go beyond the river. German litter-bearers carried our wounded up from the river. German litter-bearers carried our wounded up to the wire entanglement, where they were picked up by our litter-bearers.

### 26 January 1944

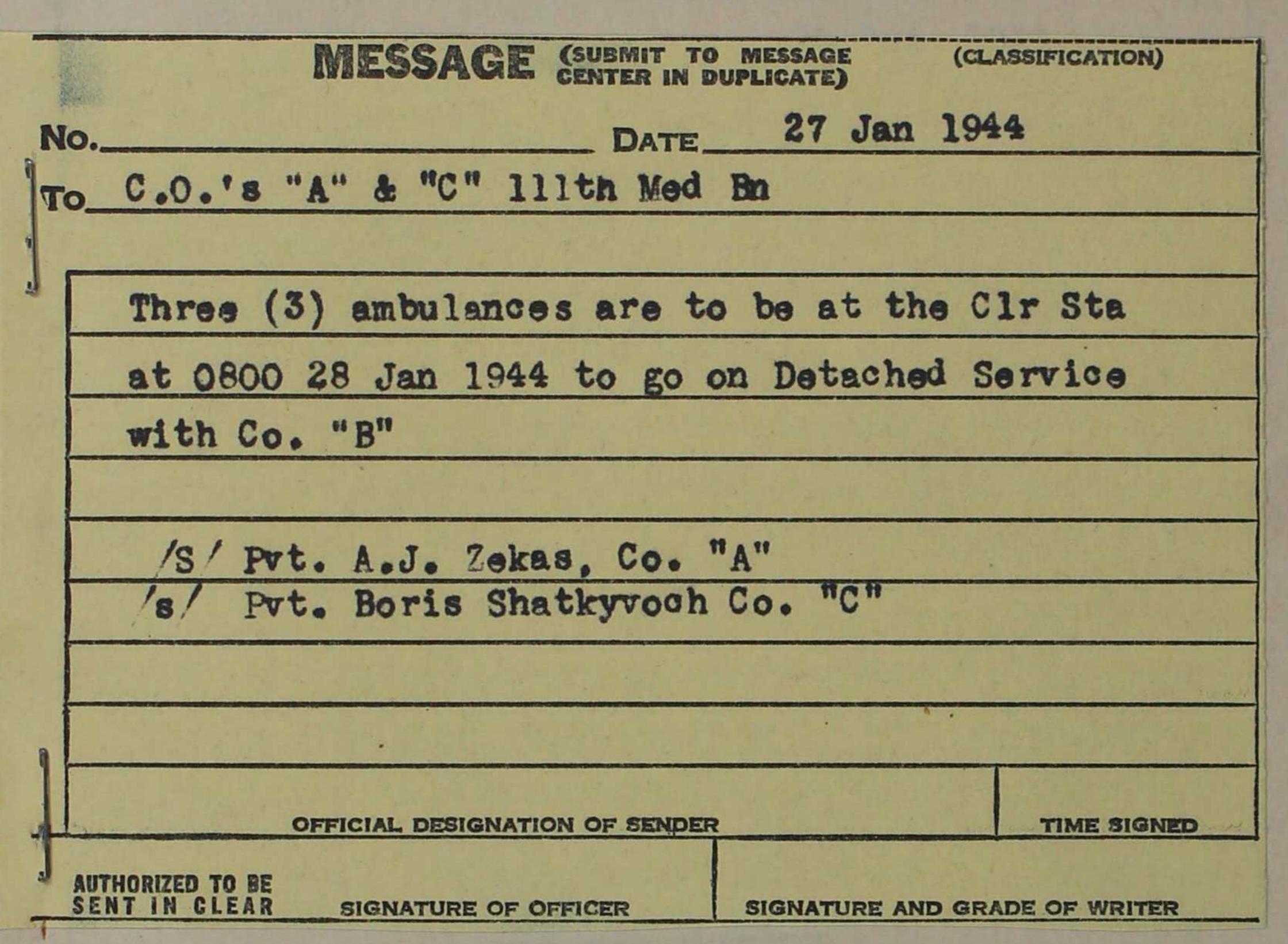
Collecting Company "B" attached to the 142nd Infantry, which is being detached from the 36th Division, will proceed to the right flank of the 34th Division in support of French, near sight flank of the 34th Division in support of French, near St. Elia for drive through the mountain mass behind Cassino and Mt. Cairo. Activity negligible on Rapido Front.

WESSAME CENTER IN DUPLICATE)	SSIFICATION)			
DATE 26 Jan 1944				
To CO Co. "B" 111th Med Bn				
Company "B" is attached to 142nd CT effe	ctive			
i-mediately for the move tonight. Contac	t your			
CT Surg or CO for further instructions.	CT Surg or CO for further instructions. Addit-			
ional vehicles to move entire Company wi	.11 be			
furnished by the 111th Med Bn.				
	100			
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C.J. Knight,	Capt.			
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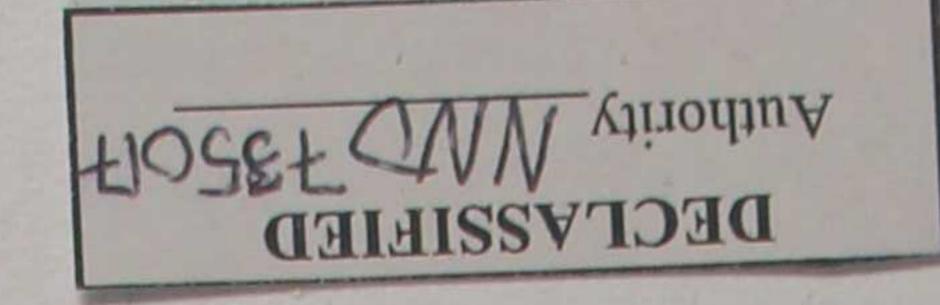
#### 27 January 1944

Three ambulances were drawn from Company "A" and three from Company "C" and were attached to Company "B". Ambulances evacuating patients from Collecting Company "B" will have an ambulance haul of approximately 30 miles through rugged mountain terrain and poor roads. Weather Clear and cold, with very little activity.



#### 28 January 1944

Collecting Company "B" received the 6 additional ambulances today, which were drawn from Collecting Companies "A" and "C". One "B" Company ambulance temporarily put out of commission due to an accident with a French vehicle. Additional litter bearers being requisitioned from Infantry. Weather clear and cold. Activity light in this sector.





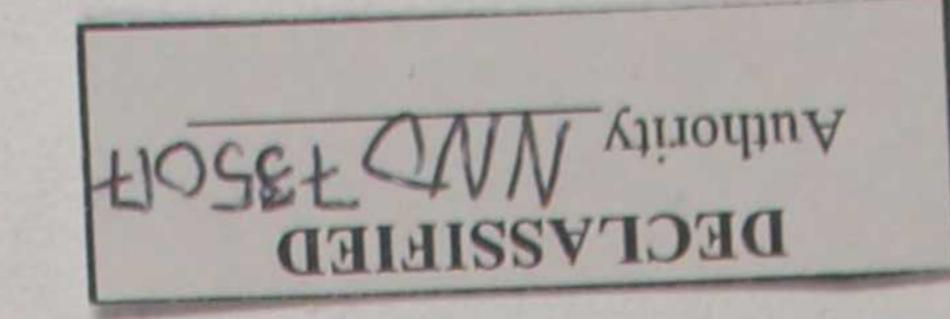
#### 29 January 1944

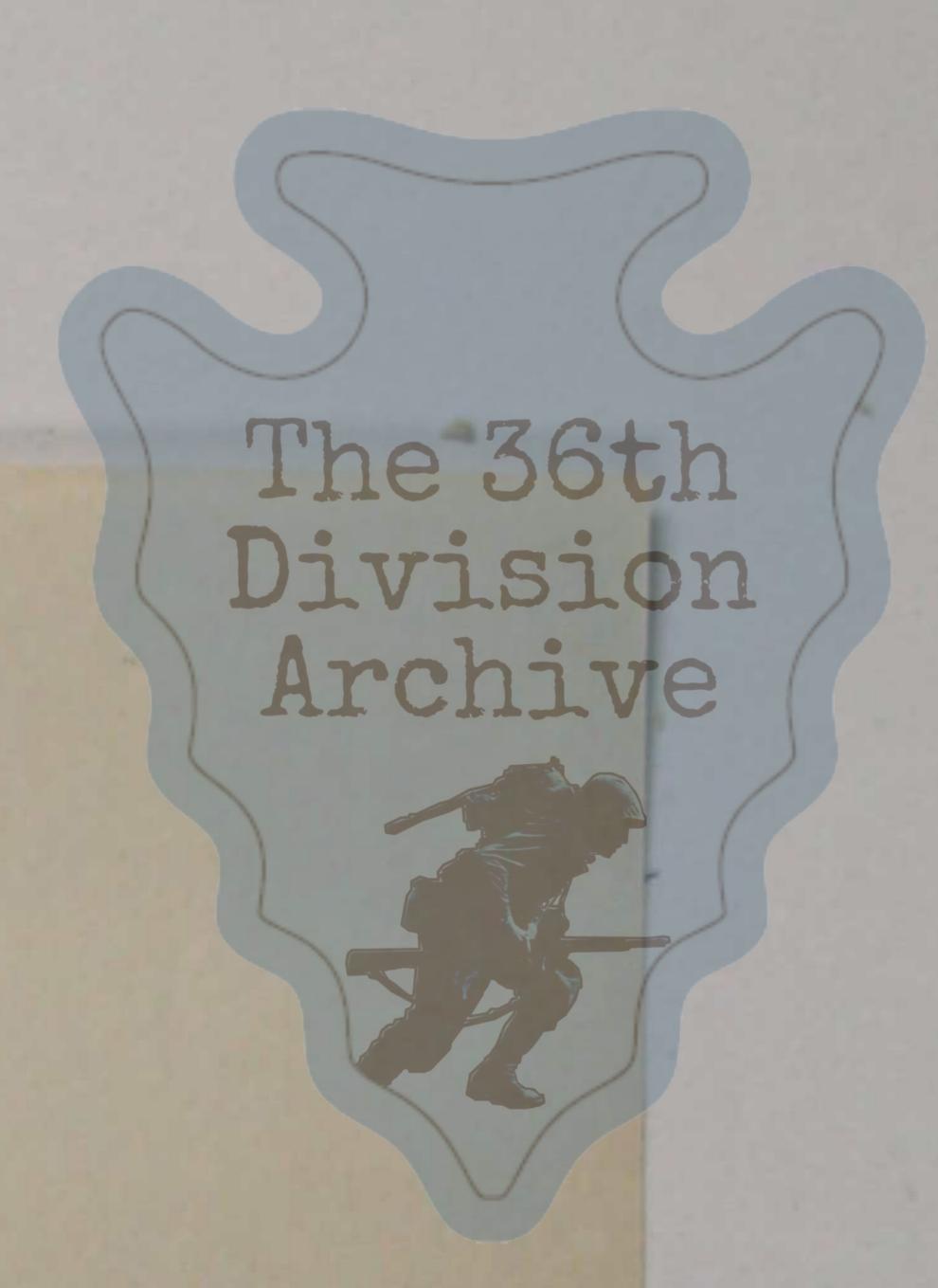
Activity very light in this sector. Weather clear and warmer. Road which "B" Company is using for evacuation in the St. Elia sector under continious shell fire. Capt. Bert W. Marks of "B" Company slightly wounded by fragments; not evacuated.

to	MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE (CLASSIFICATION)
0	GRO DATE 29 Jan 1944
-	A German body has been reported on Mt.
	Lungo at the following coordinate 971130
	Map 161 - III - 1:50,000
THE REAL PROPERTY.	
	Add 17144 or 5
	Adj., 111th Med Bn OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER
	THE SENDER
UTHORIZ	C.J. Knight, Capt.

#### 30 January 1944

Activity very light in this sector, Weather cloudy and cooler. Brigadier General Blese, Surgeon NATOUSA, visited the Clearing Station and the attached platoon of the 11th Field Hospital. Several 240mm Howitzers have been set up about 3/4 mile south of our station. In the St. Elia sector one of "B" Company ambulances was hit by shell fire. One litter bearer killed and one wounded from "B" Company.





30 January 1944 (Cont'd)

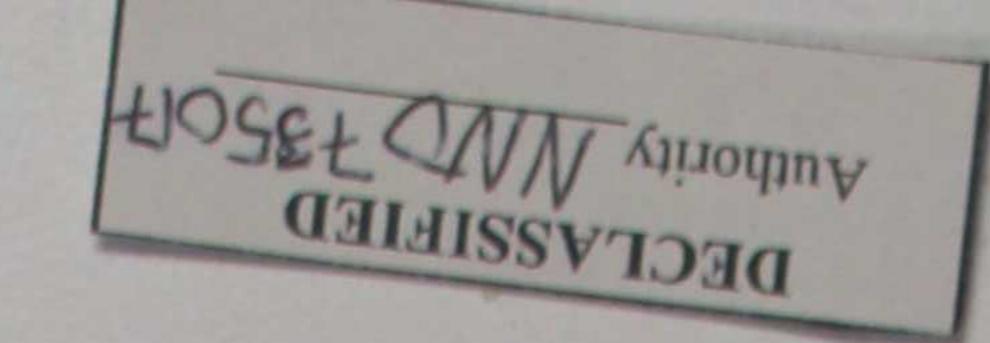
MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE (CI	LASSIFICATION)
No DATE 30 Jan 1941	
To C.O. 111th Med Bn., 36th Inf Div., APO	
Pfc Wilfred L. Waldsmith 20819106 on DS	with
Rest Center at Caserta without transport	
to return to unit. Will remain on duty s	
with Capt. John A. Bolich pending further	orders.
D. BERNSTIEN, 1st Lt., 36th Div.	
Actg Coat Caserta for 36th Div. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER	1740 TIME SIGNED
AUTHORIZED TO BE SENT IN CLEAR SIGNATURE OF OFFICER SIGNATURE AND GRA	

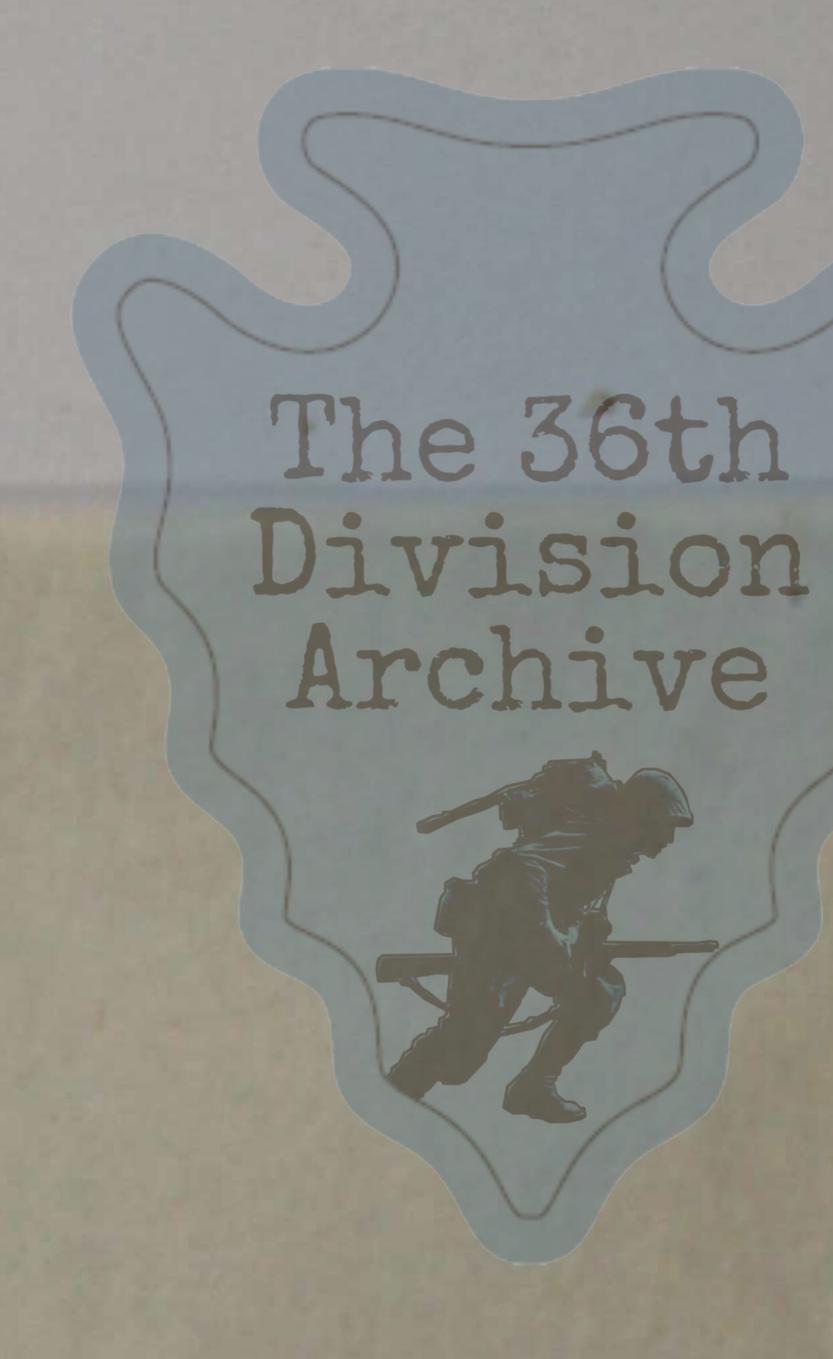
#### 31 January 1944

Activity very light, consisting of artillery fire and infantry patrols. Weather clear and cold.

	MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE (CLASSIFICATION)
No	DATE 31 January 1944
to	CO, Company "C" 111th Med Bn.
9	UPON
	NOTIFY THIS HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY/OR ANY CHANGE
	IN LOCATION OF YOUR STATIONS.
1	
	As. C.R. Kenning
1	
	Adj, lllth Med Bn 1000
AIS	UTHORIZED TO BE ENT IN CLEAR SIGNATURE OF OFFICER SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER

The 36th Division Archive 58-0N R. W. B. DIH REGRADED
ORDER SIC ARMY
BY TAG OFR
8X383





-94-W-F-25-

Location of units from 19th Jan 1944 to 20th Jan 1944 MAP-ITALY

1:100,000

1:100,000

SHEETS NO. 160-161-172

XXX coll

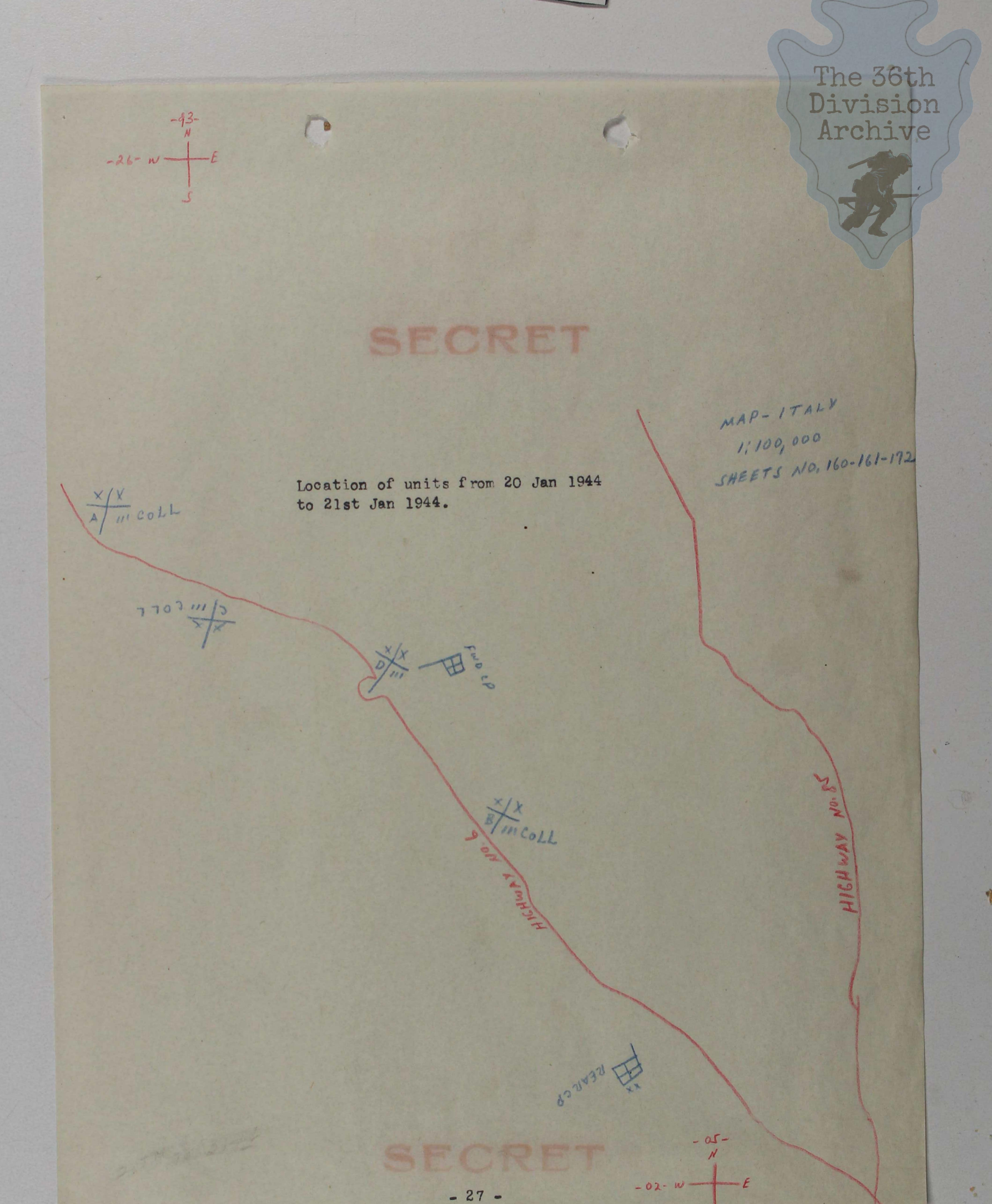
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L'EXPLEMENTARISMENT DES MANAGEMENTS DE L'EXPLESSOR LES L'EXPLESSORS DE L'EXPLE

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21 st Jan 1944

on of units from 21 st Jan d Jan 1944.

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The 36th Division Archive

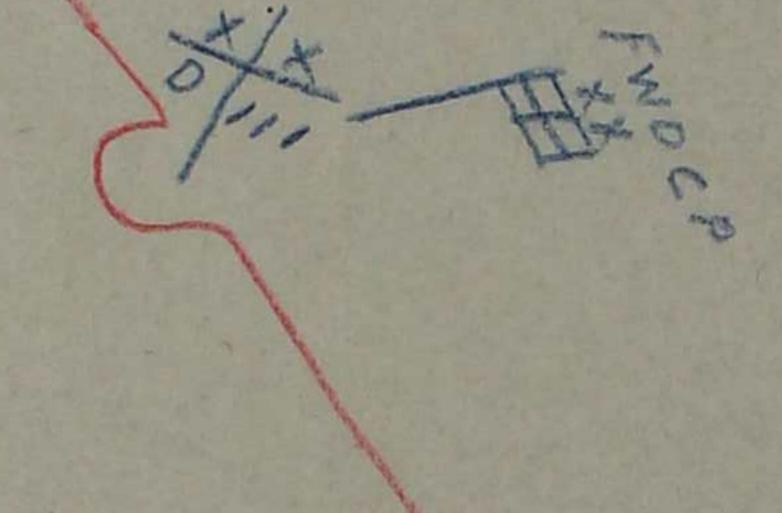
MAPS-1TALY 1:100000 SHEET NO'S 160-161-177

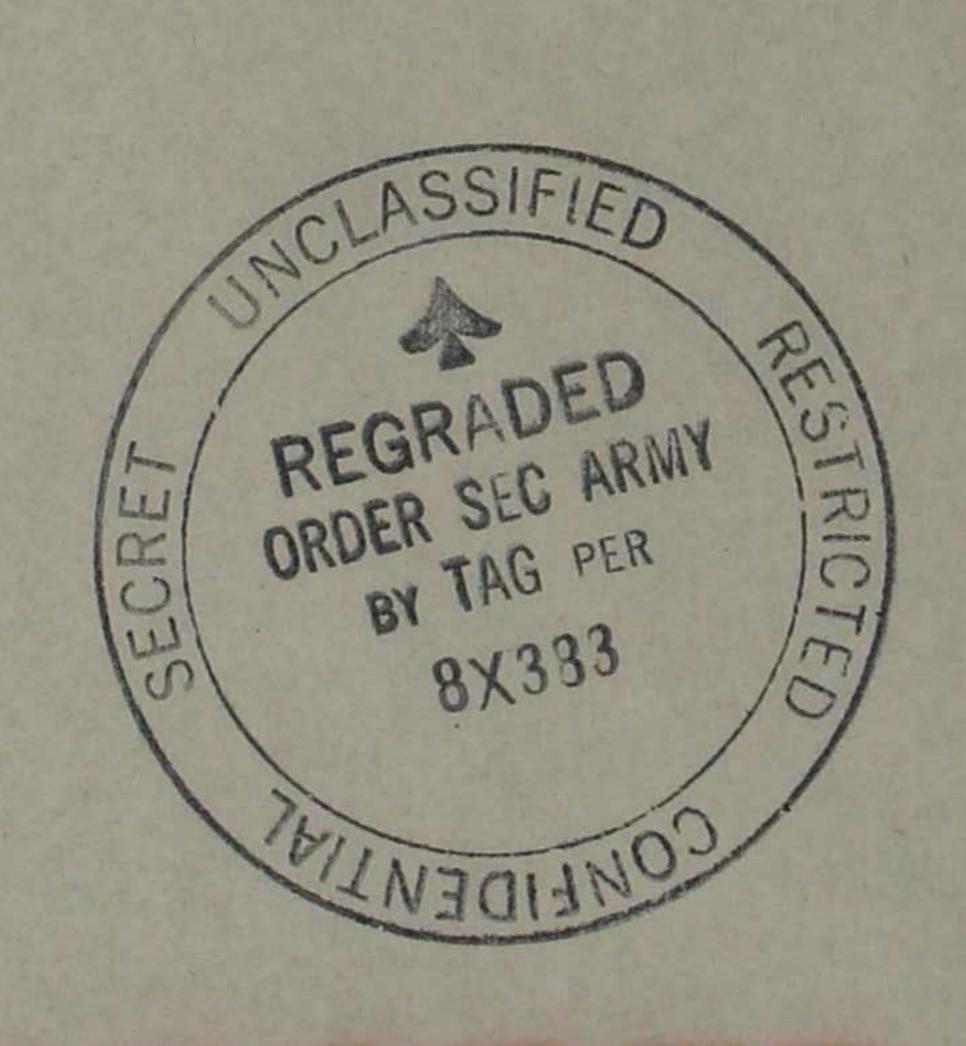
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Location of units from 22 Jan 1944 to 27th Jan 1944.





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