

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

Anzio to Rome Campaign Part I March 10, 1944 - June 5, 1944

Anzio life began with hot food and drink and a USO troupe for entertainment. Things would soon change.

March 1944 - The unit moved to S. Giorgio near Benevento, where its first replacements, ten officers and 151 men, arrived from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby. They were warmly received. At S. Giorgio, Purple Heart winners began returning from the hospitals, sometimes as many as ten a day. With the gaps in the ranks being filled there was more

Despite a great aerial and artillery bombardment on 15 March, followed by a tank and infantry assault which lasted eight days, the Germans held the city and Monastery Hill. Not until the third week of May were these positions finally taken.

WHILE 10 CORPS and II Corps had been making their unsuccessful attempt to break the Gustav Line, American and British troops of the VI Corps had made an amphibious landing at Anzio.

28 February - 4 March - The enemy went on the defensive. During the eleven-week stalemate which followed, VI Corps replaced its heavy manpower losses and stock-piled thousands of tons of sea-borne supplies in preparation for a break-out smash. The Germans, meanwhile, worked constantly to strengthen their defensive line.

The invasion force occupied the central portion of a low coastal plain which extends north from Terracina through the Pontine Marshes to the Mussolini Canal southeast of Anzio and then across rolling country to the Tiber River below Rome. The twenty-six-mile perimeter of the beachhead followed the northern edge of the Mussolini Canal inland from the coast for about ten miles and then turned northeast, parallel to, but generally two or three miles south of, the Cisterna-Campoleone railroad. After Anzio-Albano highway the MLR cut west along a ridge south of the Moletta River and back to the sea.

Northeast of Anzio, twenty miles inland, the Colli-Laziali Mountain mass commanded the road net into Rome. East of these volcanic hills a three-mile-wide valley led past Velletri to Valmontone on Highway 6. On the other side of this defile rose the Lepini Mountains, stretching southeast along the inland edge of the Pontine Marshes toward Terracina on the sea. From the Lepini and ColliLaziali heights the Germans had excellent observation over the beachhead area.

17-26 March - The 34th Division shipped from Naples for the beachhead during the period The 100th though no longer part of the 133rd Infantry but was still attached to the 34th Division.

Our KIA loss for 20 March, 1944

100 D Pfc. Motoishi, Hiroshi Hakalau, HI

24 March - Its members embarked in LST'S for the hundred-andtwenty mile trip, reaching Anzio two days later. A wild crap game called Ten-Twenty-Thirty, played with three dice, helped pass the

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

time and incidentally cleaned some sailors who had joined the game. As they debarked, gazing along the villa-dotted shore line, the buddhaheads were reminded of Hawaiian beaches, but Anzio itself looked like any other war-shattered Italian town. Steel girders and shattered concrete overflowed the sidewalks; and in the shells of structures still erect, doors and windows gaped on the wreckage. Burned and twisted military vehicles, shattered trees, and skeletons of animals sprawled in and near the *city*.

The Red Bulls were to take over from the 3rd Division west of German-held Cisterna, and the 100th moved by truck to a point south of Borgo Montello to relieve the 2nd Battalion of the 30th Infantry. Compared with Anzio the countryside in this direction seemed little touched by war. Miles of flat green farm land, crisscrossed by drainage ditches, stretched off to the east. One of Mussolini's biggest public works projects had reclaimed this area from the ancient and notorious malaria-breeding Pontine Marshes, and the plain was dotted with modern two-story farmhouses, alike in design, but painted red, white, green, and yellow. Except for those male Italians who had remained as civilian laborers for the Allies, most of the peasants had been evacuated by sea, and their deserted cattle grazed in untended fields.

The new bivouac was in a patch of wooded area a few miles back from the foxholes of the front line, and here the battalion kitchen was soon serving hot meals. There was plenty of water in the irrigation ditches for bathing and laundry, and the men inherited underground dugout living quarters from their predecessors. In contrast with facilities at some previous camps these conveniences seemed very fine indeed. The Germans could, of course, reach any part of the beachhead with their shells, and the inside of a dugout was the safest place to stay, though even an underground shelter offered no sure protection from a direct hit. However, the Jerries didn't have enough guns or ammunition to pepper all parts of the beachhead all the time. In the evenings, when enemy binoculars in the hills ahead could no longer pick out objects on the plain, the boys felt sufficiently safe and cheerful to sit out in the open and talk or sing.

2 April - Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Singles, formerly of the 69th Division, took over as battalion commander, and Major Clough, who had led the outfit since Major Lovell had been wounded, became second in command. Two days later a batch of replacements arrived, the second which had come from Camp Shelby and this complement of eighteen officers and 261 enlisted men brought the battalion's effective strength to 1,095 officers and men, higher than November. Only two days of training in combat tactics could be given these latest recruits.

6 April - The 100th was ordered to relieve the 1st Battalion of the 133rd Infantry which had been in regimental reserve in the vicinity of Borgo Montello, and the relief was effected that night. In this new position some elements of the battalion inherited dugouts and others were assigned to Mussolini's farmhouses. One company allotted nine of the latter, divided them three to a platoon. They lay some 200 yards behind the outpost line and about 100 yards apart. Several had been either partially or completely unroofed by shellfire; most had at least one big hole in one of the walls; and of the original six rooms generally only two or three were still usable, the floors of the others being piled high with dust and rubble. In some houses the stench of dead bodies still remained. Lithographs of the "Virgin and Child" or the "Crucifixion" hung awry on the cement-powdered walls. To the surprise of the new occupants, the model farmhouses of the Fascist "New Order" had no inside toilets. Burned-out half-tracks and tanks, brown bomb and shell craters, and

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

the remains of dead cattle spoiled the green view from the windows, and the decomposing carcasses of animals sickened the spring air.

Those soldiers assigned to dugouts found their quarters relatively safe, if not large. About three feet wide, shoulder high, and seven feet long, they had generally been built in L shape for protection even in case of a direct shell hit at the entrance. Paper or dried grass was placed on the earthen floor and then covered with blankets. Other blankets covered the walls, and to these the homesick Islanders sometimes pinned wrappers from Hawaiian pineapple cans along with the usual pin-up pictures. Five-gallon gas tins served as tables.

It was a strange kind of life. With the exception of the security guards, nearly everyone slept from dawn until midday. Except under direct orders, no one left cover during daylight. Letter-writing, checkers, cards, and napping helped fill the hours. And there was endless talk about Hawaii-"Chee, I weesh I stay relax down Waikiki makai side now. I telling you dees, no moe any kine place like da home." A cramped existence, perhaps, but restful-once one became used to the sound of intermittent shelling-and not particularly dangerous. There was always the possibility that an enemy shell might land directly on the roof of a dugout-in this area it was impossible to walk more than 100 yards in any direction without seeing a shell crater-but such accidents didn't happen very often, and even when they did, men had been known to emerge from their burrows alive. Few GIs were too lazy, however, to spend time after dark filling more sand bags to protect their shelters. Lots of jobs in the Army were "wastetime," but not this.

At sundown the beach rats emerged from their holes. Meals often owed less to the Quartermaster Corps than to skill in foraging. The Italian "paisanos" had left plenty of chickens behind; their cows seemed to offer surprisingly easy targets for German bullets; and sometimes a quick daytime shot from farmhouse or dugout bagged a rabbit which could be picked up after dark. Any plant that didn't look or taste downright poisonous was likely to find itself doing service as a vegetable. There was always some soldier who knew how to mix fresh meat, greens, and "10 in 1" rations in judicious proportions, and some of the stews that resulted were so good that men did write home about them. Broiled cow steaks were served smothered with chopped flower bulbs cooked in bouillon cube broth. Visitors from other units who stayed for a meal went away licking their chops, and the reputation of the 100th's cookery spread throughout the division. Following a practice they had adopted soon after reaching Italy, the battalion cooks continued to swap the potato ration with other outfits for rice, and the *haole* officers resignedly ate the substitute.

Red and yellow roses, dark red poppies, and pink and white carnations grown the farmhouse gardens, and at twilight the flower loving Islanders picked bouquets for their rooms or dugouts. May Day is known as Lei Day in Hawaii (there is an Island song to that effect) and the first day of May, 1944, also became Lei Day in Italy. That morning every man who had been able to gather enough blossoms wore a *lei* around his neck. On this same day, by happy coincidence, division supply issued the first beer rations!

At night men not assigned patrol duty filled sand bags or stood guard for others thus occupied. Jerry planes made frequent night raids, and then the sky filled with multicolored fire, as tracers climbed, ack-ack burst, and flares lighted the beachhead for miles. "It's beautiful," men said, "even if it is war."

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

Razor blade radios provided other entertainment for duty-free evenings. Receiving sets, made with the help of the battalion communication section, consisted of two or three double-edged safety razor blades, a few pieces of wire, and a dry battery. Small enough to fit nicely into a mess kit, they could pick up "Axis Sally," who was broadcasting nightly from Rome. The regular radio section sets had brought in her voice before the battalion had come to Anzio, but this was the first time most of the men had both leisure and facilities for frequent listening. To hear the American records Sally played (they were surprisingly up-to-date, and she occasionally played Hawaiian numbers) the men listened to her "What are you dopes fighting for?" chatter with good-humored patience. Her propaganda was as ineffectual as the German leaflet surging desertion which the boys picked up and saved as souvenirs. "The Bitch" put on a good show, her records were well chosen, and her wiles gave rise to plenty of bawdy jokes.

After Cassino, life at Anzio was more like a rest cure, but there were hours, especially those spent on patrol, when the buddhaheads wished themselves elsewhere. German motorized paratroop units were frequently sent into the American lines at night to capture prisoners and create confusion, and VI Corps ordered jeep patrols for their interception. With the windshields down for better forward visibility, and the tops folded back so that the sky could be scanned for German planes, a driver and three heavily armed companions would course the countryside within the battalion sector, eyes straining through the dark for suspicious activity.

Ordinarily a soldier assigned to this duty was in more danger from his daredevil charioteer than from the enemy, but patrol work beyond the outpost line was another matter, whether a man went out as a member of a heavily armed combat group of ten to twenty men or of a smaller reconnaissance patrol. Letters and pictures left behind, dog tags covered, canteens full to the brim so that water wouldn't slosh, and men crept along the channels of drainage ditches, or through grass and shrubs, trying always to avoid paths along which mines or ambush might lurk. When an enemy flare flooded the plain with sudden light, they froze for an eternity until it finally faded out. Sometimes the burp of a German machine pistol ripped the silence, and then there would be a short confused fire-fight. On a good night even the wounded walked back, but there were evenings when some soldiers had to be carried and others remained where they had fallen.

The worst kind of duty was that spent in a foxhole on the outpost line, with the Germans only about a hundred yards ahead. It was unsafe to show any part of the body during the daytime, and, day or night, any movement had to be stealthy. The nearest buddy in the next hole was perhaps ten or twenty yards away, and no whispered conversations helped pass the endless hours. A wound received during the day had to wait for medical attention until a relief came up at dark, and then it was sometimes too late. The lonesome vigil was especially hard on the replacements newly arrived from Shelby. One went out to his post one night and was found dead the next. That was rough, and everyone who heard about it was glum for a while. Then, "Maybe he bettah off; he got no moh *pilikia* now."

Of all the Anzio patrols, that led by Captain Young O. Kim and Pfc Irving M. Akahoshi was the most daring and successful. Kim, S-2 of the battalion, was a twentyfive-year-old Los Angeles boy whose parents were born in Korea. He had joined the 100th at McCoy on graduation from an officer candidate school, had already won a Silver Star for his part in the fighting on Hills 590 and 610, and had been hospitalized for a time as a result of a wound received in that action. In almost

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

every engagement, but especially when on patrol duty, Kim had shown an extraordinary aptitude in killing Germans. When asked to explain his success he modestly admitted that a prewar slaughterhouse job had given him specialized preparation for his present duties. Perhaps he also wanted to show his AJA comrades that Japan had not conquered his parents' homeland by reason of superior national valor. In any case Kim never seemed to get his fill of danger. Major Lovell once commented that Kim volunteered for scout duty as though it were healthy.

Patrols sent out during the first two weeks of May had captured no prisoners for interrogation, and regimental headquarters was pressing for up-to-date information on opposing forces in the sector.

Our KIA loss for 5 April, 1944

100 C Pfc. Hozaki, Toshio	Unknown
---------------------------	---------

Our KIA loss for 10 April, 1944

100 C T/Sgt. Hisaoka, Gary T	Kohala, HI
------------------------------	------------

Our KIA loss for 11 April, 1944

100 B Pvt. Oshiro, Yeishin	Pihonua, HI
----------------------------	-------------

Our KIA loss for 14 April, 1944

100 B Pvt. Morishige, Joseph	Denver, CO
------------------------------	------------

Our KIA loss for 19 April, 1944

100 D T/Sgt. Saito, Shuji	Kapaa, HI
---------------------------	-----------

Our KIA loss for 26 April, 1944

100 A Sgt. Higa, Wilson E	Wahiawa, HI
---------------------------	-------------

Our KIA loss for 28 April, 1944

100 C Sgt. Nozaki, Albert Y	Waialua, HI
-----------------------------	-------------

16 May - Kim and Akahoshi offered to go out and bag one or more Germans. Three riflemen volunteered to go along. Leaving the Company B command post shortly before midnight, the five scouts crept along a waist-high drainage ditch through and past the enemy's forward outposts. At about 2:00 A.M. they heard some Germans digging. Kim decided to wait until dawn before going ahead. When it became light enough to see, he posted the three riflemen as cover, and he and Akahoshi moved forward again, out of the ditch now, cutting and crawling through heavy briar.

At about 9:00 A.M. they halted, and Kim peered cautiously above the scrub, looking for enemy defense posts. They left the briar and stomached their way across a field of eighteen-inch grain toward what Kim had spotted as a possible German strongpoint. Two hours and some 250 yards later they heard voices, and metallic sounds as though a gun were being cleaned. A little more

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

wriggling, and then through the grass they could see a couple of security guards in a slit trench. At Kim's low-voiced command two Germans gazed popeyed at the barrel of a Thompson sub-machine gun and silently raised their hands. As this pair and their captors crawled stealthily away they could hear the talk and laughter of other Jerries a few yards away. By 4:00 P.M. all members of the patrol and their prisoners were back within the 100th's lines.

When General Ryder visited the battalion command post next day he called Kim in for personal commendation. Kim and Akahoshi later received Discs. During his visit Ryder gave notice that VI Corps would soon put its breakthrough ("Buffalo") plan into operation.

19-20 May - Companies A and B moved from the vicinity of Borgo-Montello in the direction of Borgo Podgora to relieve two companies of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry. These units had suffered heavy casualties in a raid on enemy lines the day before, and regimental headquarters, anticipating a counterattack, had decided to move in fresh troops. As the relief companies came up to the 1st Battalion positions, which were under heavy mortar and artillery fire, they were given light gas masks with instructions to carry them until further notice. The rest of the 100th moved in progressively to take over,

Our KIA loss for 20 May, 1944

100 B Pfc. Matsuoka, Satoshi Honohina, HI

Our KIA loss for 21 May, 1944

100 C Pfc. Ishiki, Walter S Honolulu, HI

22 May - The whole battalion was in line, in strong defensive position. Heavy mortar fire had evidently discouraged any enemy plans for counterattack, but patrols went out frequently from both sides of no-man's-land.

22 May - The command post received a message from the outpost line: a German emissary had proposed that a party be sent to pick up eight American wounded behind the enemy lines. Battalion surgeon Captain John J. Dahl and Chaplain Israel Yost drove out with two ambulances, a quarter-ton truck, and two litter squads, and proceeded to within 100 yards of the Mussolini Canal. A battalion rifleman told the party to dismount, disarm, and follow a drainage ditch out into the canal. Though the big cut measured 170 feet from bank to bank, only a low sixteen-foot-wide stream ran down its center. Within the canal Dahl and his party found, all without firearms, a lieutenant from Company A, several enlisted men, and two young German paratroopers. On the south bank a German sentinel gazed across at the group. One of the Germans could speak a little English; Chaplain Yost knew some German. It developed that the paratroopers wanted a truce so that *they* might bury the bodies of a dozen dead Americans still above ground within their lines. Yost replied that the battalion command had no power to make such an agreement. The Jerry spokesman and his companion saluted smartly, wheeled, and walked away.

ON THE DAY after the parley in the big ditch the 100th suddenly found itself in undisputed possession of both its banks, and sharing patrol of eight miles of the Canal Line with the 34th Reconnaissance Troop. Buffalo Plan had gone into operation at dawn; the 133rd Infantry was

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

now fighting on the right flank of a smash at Cisterna; and the Germans on the south side of the Canal were rapidly pulling back toward the threatened area.

During the previous thirteen days a combined offensive by the Fifth and Eighth Armies had broken the Gustav Line between Cassino and the sea, had outflanked the weaker Hitler line farther north, and had thrown the Germans into retreat everywhere along the southern front.

23 May - Elements of the American II Corps had reached the outskirts of Terracina, at the edge of the coastal plain below Rome, about thirty miles from Cisterna.

That same morning the seven beachhead divisions launched the first phase of their breakthrough drive, a thrust intended to cut Highway 7, most westerly of the main south-north roads to Rome. Once the German line had been broken in the Cisterna area, VI Corps planned a push north through the valley between the Colli Laziali and Lepini hills toward the upper end of the Liri-Sacco River valley system, at Valmontone on Highway 6. It was assumed that the threat in this area would hasten withdrawal of German units still fighting a stubborn rear.

Our KIA loss for 23 May, 1944

100 A Pvt. Koizumi, Yutaka San Francisco, CA

Breakthrough to Rome - Guard action against the Eighth Army in the Liri Valley, for, with Highway 7 cut, the Germans would have to rely on Highway 6 as their main path of retreat from the south.

Buffalo Plan achieved complete surprise. After elements of the 34th Division had blown gaps in the enemy mine fields before Cisterna, the 3rd Division moved against the town; the 1st Armored Division (135th Infantry attached) drove to cut Highway 7 on the north, and the 1st Special Service Force (133rd Infantry attached) attacked to gain the road south of Cisterna and to hold those enemy forces southeast of the Mussolini Canal which were on the right flank of the Allied advance.

Our KIA loss for 10 April, 1944

100 C Sgt. Suda, David I Pauwela, HI

25 May - Objectives had been attained and VI Corps held Cisterna, Cori, and Mt. Arrestino. During the first day of the breakthrough many men of the 100th hardly realized that anything unusual was happening. That evening antitank men digging gun positions still worked warily, alert for the first rustle of an enemy shell-the road alongside which they were digging had frequently been plastered by enemy artillery. The next afternoon, however, American tanks and half-tracks were roaring past the antitank positions into the former enemy lines.

24 May - A third batch of replacements arrived from Camp Shelby, and the three officers and 112 enlisted men were quickly distributed among the battalion companies. Two days later Lieutenant Kim came back from patrol with a prisoner who turned out to be a Russian who had been captured at Orel and conscripted into the Wehrmacht. He had been assigned to duty in Poland for some months, and had then been transferred to Italy by way of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Austria. In the few German and Italian words he knew the Russian told of having been provided

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

with the clothes of dead Nazi soldiers-his shoes were certainly far too large of receiving more food from the Italian military than from the Germans, and of his hope that he might be transported to the United States. He was obviously much pleased to be out of the fighting.

While the 100th had been resting the war had gone on. Along the line Velletri-Lanuvio-Campoleone Station, VI Corps had been attempting to break the southwestern anchor of the enemy defense line below Rome. The 45th Division had attacked on the west toward Campoleone; the 34th Division, in the center toward Lanuvio; and the 1st Armored Division, on the right toward Velletri. Farther east, the 3rd Division had moved against Valmontone.

27 May - The 133rd and 168th regiments of the 34th Division were up against strong enemy positions which ran along a line of ridges on the south slopes of Colli Laziali below the Velletri-Lanuvio-Campoleone railroad line. The 168th Regiment, on the right of the 34th Division sector, was only about two miles south of Lanuvio. The 100th trucked fifteen miles northeast toward Lanuvio to replace the 135th Infantry's 2nd Battalion, which had been detached for service with the 1st Armored Division.

29 May - The 1st and 3rd battalions of the 135th went into action at Pastroella Creek, but were stopped by intense automatic fire, and during the next two days advanced only a little more than a mile against fierce resistance. Throughout this fighting the 100th **remained** in regimental reserve. On the 135th's left the 45th Division and the 1st Armored Division had captured Campoleone Station but had had little success in attempting to push north toward Albano.

30-31 May - However, elements of the 36th Division captured Mt. Artemisio, northeast of Velletri, thus piercing the Velletri-Valmontone defense line, and making it possible for the 36th to drive north across the Colli Laziali mass to threaten the rear of the Velletri-Lanuvio-Albano line.

31 May - The enemy began to pull some troops out of the Lanuvio-Velletri area;

1 June - Velletri fell to the 141st Infantry of the 36th Division,

Our KIA loss for 1 June, 1944

100 B Pfc. Terada, Henry M Honolulu, HI

2 June - The men of the 168th Infantry occupied Villa Crocetta and S. Gennaro Hill, strong points east of Lanuvio which had held them in check for six days. The Germans were, however, still fighting strongly on the left against the 135th Regiment and the 45th Division. The 100th relieved the 1st Battalion of the 135th on 2 June at 1:25 A.M., and advanced under heavy mortar fire over hilly terrain toward the little hamlet of Pian Marano, west of Lanuvio. First direct contact with the enemy was made at 9:00 A.M., and fighting was continuous throughout the rest of the day and night. The Germans fought bitterly behind machine guns protected by mine fields, and Companies B and C had to clear lanes through the mines before they could knock out the Jerry gun nests,

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

Our KIA losses for 2 June, 1944

100 C	Pfc. Araki, Masashi	Selma, CA
100 C	Pfc. Fukumoto, Roy S	Kohala, HI
100 B	Pvt. Kaneshiro, Yasuo	Makawao, HI
100 F	Pvt. Kanetani, Isamu	Hilo, HI
100 A	Pvt. Kuwahara, Thomas	Wainaku, HI
100 C	Pfc. Magarifuji, Richard K	Kailua, HI
100 B	Pvt. Matsuhima, Kazuo	Waimea, HI
100 B	Pvt. Miyake, Tetsuo	Eleele, HI
100 D	Pvt. Nagaoka, Hitoshi	Honolulu, HI
100 B	Pvt. Nakamine, Shinyei	Waianae, HI
100 C	Pvt. Nakamura, Kosei	Hakalau, HI
100 C	Pvt. Nishishita, Charles J	Honolulu, HI
100 C	S/Sgt. Otani, Douglas K	Honolulu, HI
100 A	Pvt. Otsuka, Jiro	Anahola, HI
442 E	Pfc. Sakai, Richard M	Aiea, HI
100 C	1st Lt. Sueoka, Theodore T	Honolulu, HI
100 D	2nd Lt. Teruya, Kenkichi K	Waikapu, HI
100 B	Pvt. Tokushima, Patrick M	Honolulu, HI
100 A	Pvt. Fukuhara, Herbert M	Honolulu, HI
100 A	Pfc. Hayakawa, Harry M	Wahiawa, HI
442 Med	Pvt. Hunt, Leon L	Unknown
100 A	Pfc. Inouye, Masato	Honolulu, HI
100 D	Pfc. Tsutsui, Kazumi	Pahoa, HI

3 June - The battalion was in possession of Pian Marano. For their conduct in this action six men won DSCs; one received a Silver Star; and three were awarded Bronze Stars. One of the DSC winners, Pfc Hiroshi Yasotake, of Company C, who had been ordered to cover the exposed right flank of his unit, took a post overlooking enemy positions, reported German movements, and, using his BAR and hand grenades, wounded seven Germans. In a ten-minute duel with an enemy machine gun 700 feet away, he silenced its gunners. As Company C began cleaning out enemy dugouts, this soldier also advanced. At one point in his progress he was in an abandoned gun emplacement, a German advancing through the grapevines toward him. When the enemy soldier had crawled within five yards, **Yasotake** riddled him. Three more Germans who tackled the gunner were wiped out at twenty yards distance.

In another part of the battalion sector Pfc Haruto Kuroda, Private Thomas Ono, and Sergeant Yukio Yokota, all of Company B, earned BREAKTHROUGH TO ROME DSCs by silencing five machine guns and five machine pistols and killing or capturing seventeen of the enemy within a period of three hours. Pian Marano cost the battalion fifteen men killed, three wounded, and one missing in action. Some of the casualties resulted when the 100th was mistaken for an enemy unit and was fired upon by 45th Division artillery.

3 June - The 168th Infantry occupied Lanuvio, and all units of the 34th Division pushed north toward Albano against rapidly weakening German resistance. The enemy was withdrawing from the Velletri-Albano line. The 36th Division, now pushing rapidly north across Colli Laziali,

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS

Extraced from "Ambassador in Arms: The Story of Hawaii's 100th Battalion by Thomas D. Murphy

threatened the enemy rear, and elements of the II Corps of the Fifth Army were moving up Highway 6 north of Valmontone, circling the north side of the Colli Laziali mass on the way to Rome.

3 June - Colonel Singles took command of a task force composed of the 100th, the 125th Field Artillery Battalion, the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, Company C of the 191st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company A of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company C of the 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion. Supported by this firepower, Singles' foot soldiers were to mop up elements of the German 29th Panzer Group strongly emplaced on Hill 435. This knob commanded a road junction just south of Genzano which the enemy needed to keep open as an escape route for troops withdrawing up Highway 7 toward Albano and Rome.

At 8:30 P.M. Company A climbed the hill under cover of a barrage laid down by the 125th Field Artillery Battalion. When heavy machine-gun and mortar fire pinned Company A down, Company B went into action on the left, and Company C on the right. The supporting tank destroyers performed with deadly accuracy, practically all their shells landing on or within a few yards of the crest, wiping out gun emplacements and gunners, and chemical mortars simultaneously wreathed the defenders in smoke. By midnight the battalion was in undisputed possession of the mound. Company C alone had taken fifty prisoners.

4 June - The 133rd Infantry pushed through Genzano, and all along the line the 34th Division moved north. Throughout the day "Task Force Singles" advanced so swiftly up Highway 7, through Genzano, Ariccia, and Albano, that rear and forward elements were out of communication, and the combat team itself was out of touch with the divisional command post. The Germans were in hasty retreat, and masses of Allied tanks and infantry were converging on Rome along Highways 6 and 7 and all intermediate roads.

At 3:00 P.M. the next day, ten miles beyond Valleranello, a road sign indicated that Rome was only ten kilometers ahead, but here, to the intense disgust of its members, who had hoped that theirs might be the first Allied battalion to enter the Italian capital, the 100th was ordered to halt and wait for truck transport. As the unit rested, a flying columns of tanks, tank destroyers, and motorized infantry passed by, racing for the bridges across the Tiber River into Rome. By dark most of these spans were under Allied guard.

At 9:00 P.M. Colonel Single's men piled into trucks, and an hour and a half later were riding through the northwestern outskirts of the Italian capital. Only scattered cheers greeted them. Earlier in the day the first American troops had received a hysterical welcome, but the large crowds had dispersed, and now only small groups of civilians loitered on the sidewalks to discuss the events of the great day. The original members of the 100th who rode past them also had reason to mark this date.

5 June - 1942, two years ago to the day, the Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion had shipped out of Honolulu Harbor on the S.S. *Maui*.

Compiled by Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance in partnership with Japanese American Living Legacy
Last revised Thursday, December 29, 2011