

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS *Excerpts from the 442nd Journals*

Battle of Po Valley, Part I

April 1, 1945 - April 30, 1944

1 April The month began with the regiment bivouacked in San Martino, near Lucca, preparing to resume combat in Italy. The companies were conducting an intensive training schedule, consisting of range firing, conditioning marches, mine indoctrination and unit tactical problems. Cannon Co. zeroed its new 105mm howitzers on a range near Viarreggio. I Company Hq. group received unlimited supply of ammo and fired the Thompson Sub-machine gun and loaded up all of the magazines.

Command inspection by the General and Special Staff of the 92nd Infantry Division was

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egun. Easter Sunday was observed in services conducted by the Combat Team

Chaplains.

Weather was warm and clear.

The mailing address of the regiment was changed from APO 758 (Seventh Army) to

APO 464 (Fifth Army).

2 April Daily training and the command inspection progressed. The 232 Eng. C Co. operated a shower unit for all personnel.

In accordance with 92nd Inf. Div. directive, the Provisional Company was constituted to control reinforcements, RTU's and personnel above T/O strength. Initial cadre was one officer and 10 EM.

3 April – The command inspection was concluded. At 1500 General MARK W. CLARK, Commanding General, 5th Army Group, visited the 442nd Infantry and addressed members of the 100th Bn.

In accordance with radio msg dated 030700B April 45, from the CG, IV Corps, the 442nd Inf. Was detached from IV Corps, remaining attached to 92nd Inf. Div. for operation.

The 3rd Bn. and 100th Bn. moved up under cover of darkness to assembly areas on the front lines. Personnel entrucked at San Martino and rode to Pietrasanta, a distance of 17 miles. From there the 3rd Bn. marched 8 miles over mountainous, uphill terrain to the town of Assano, closing in at 0400. The 100th Bn. assembled in a similar manner near Vallecchia. The Regimental CP opened at Vallecchia 2130

3 April. All moves were carried out in utmost secrecy.

All moves were carried out with utmost secrecy. At 1930, near San Martino, Italy, the

442nd Reg. Combat Team underwent the transition of "rest" to "combat." The forward quartering parties and the guides had accomplished their tasks and now the regiment was loading in numerous large Fifth Army trucks for the front. The men boarded silently, the tension of going back into action was strong and nerves were stretched tautly. As the last of the trucks in the convoy moved forward, all that was visible was the fine dust, in the fast darkening twilight.

On the trucks, the men sat crouched as if trapped in their harness of fighting impedimenta. Rifle butts grated on the floor of the rumbling trucks, some of the men removed

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their heavy steel helmets and breathed deeply into the night air. The vehicles moved slowly and cautiously, approaching the foothill town of Pietrasanta much as a cat while warily stalking its prey. At 2100 hours, driving lights switched from dim-out to complete black-out. In the distance against a black backdrop, artillery flashes stained the sky with white brilliances. The dull boom of the explosions, growing ever closer, pointed an audible finger at the silhouetted hill masses lifting from the Ligurian Coast.

The trucks stopped in the outskirts of Pietrasanta. The brake squealed, not noisily, yet to the tense soldiers, it was as loud as a Beethoven Coda. Several blacked-out jeeps muttered fretfully up and down the smooth hard road that led thru Pietrasanta to the more forward elements. Disconnected sentences and disconnected sounds produced such hungrily sought information as, "Yes, they can shell Pietrasanta with their long range guns." "No—they haven't thrown any in tonight." Their fears confirmed and it somehow girded the men. They now knew that the inevitable had again caught up with them and they prepared themselves for the worse.

The 3rd Bn. of the 442nd RCT detrucked and stumbles around in the dark for a few moments until every man was in his proper place. A few long moments of waiting for the order to move up and then the funny clacking sound of equipment and gears being shifted into comfortable positions on the persons of the men could be heard. Then came the soft irregular shuffle of feet of men moving out in columns one on each side of the road.

The road to Pietrasanta to Seravezza at the foothills of the Apennines along the Ligurian Coast ran smooth and hard. As the men moved forward, old shell craters grew into ominous dark ovals on either side of the road: grit, sand, and rocks that somehow had stopped their mad shell-shocked flight, came to rest on the road surface to be ground under foot; stray and fallen telephone wires were kicked and dragged by reluctant feet. Many psychological conjurations of the unknown inspired by fear arose as the men mechanically yet determinedly strode forth to assume their post on the front line.

At Seravezza, the men paused briefly. During the ten minute break; words came whispering down the line. "Stay on the road, the shoulders is mined." "Keep 5 yards." Then the line dotted forward again in a fading bob of Black helmet. The Seravezza, the rout began to wind up hill, from hard road to dusty gravel roads, then to an abrupt turn up an unknown hill, cutting along side of the rock house of some Italian farmer, and then thru his hillside plot, to finally reestablish the rout on a rocky mountain trail that zigzagged uphill to Azzano.

The men were sweating and chafing under their heavy gear. They had carried sleeping rolls and two day's ration in addition to their regular combat equipment. Soon fear melted in the sweat of physical exertion. The pace was killing, but the 3rd Bn. having been committed in secrecy, had to reach their jump off position in Azzano under cover of darkness. To add to the physically grueling task was the pitch blackness of the overcast night with a drizzling rain. Moving uphill over the slippery rocks of the narrow precipitous mountain trail under their heavy load, the men soon reached near exhaustion. The long four miles trek over smooth roads, then this mountain climb, under full equipment plus bedding and two days ration, exacted its toll in exhaustion casualties.

As the men neared the small mountain side village of Azzano, approximately an eighth of the battalion strength was stalled along various points of the trail. Seventy men in the rear of the column became lost in the pitch darkness and had to hole up in a deserted hillside farm houses until early dawn and then followed the wire into Azzano. The rear was unable to keep up with the forward elements. Twenty-five men were injured in falls over the sides of the trail. Jutting rocks in the path would catch wearily dragging feet, shifting tilting loads of loosening harnesses would pitch dazed exhausted men down off 20-foot cliffs, the men rolling until halted by a thorny bushes or gnarled tree trunks. One man rolled down a steep embankment coming to rest,

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facedown and unconscious in a stream bed. An alert companion clambered down and hastily pulled him out and revived him. Both men lost their helmets, packs and weapons in the darkness of the night. Search was fruitless.

When the Combat Team opened the Fifth Army's spring offensive against the formidable enemy defenses in the Ligurian sector in northern Italy which was defended by picked and veteran troops, the 3rd Bn. was ordered to make a daring flanking movement on the high ground of Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Carchio.

In order to do this task, it was necessary for the Battalion to move from Seravezza to Azzano, thence to the ridge line between the two peaks in the strictest of secrecy and under cover of darkness in order not to forewarn the enemy of their intentions. The journey from Seravezza to Azzano was over a tortuous winding rocky mountain path in the dead of night along the forward slope of a deeply indented mountain ridge and separated from the enemy by a valley 1500 yards wide...

The trail was bordered in many places by steep drops ranging from 15 feet to 150 feet and in many places, small stream that flowed across the trail making it slippery and dangerous to walk upon. The men had to form a "human chain" by hanging on to the man ahead and even with this precaution, twenty-five (25) men fell from the trail, seriously injuring two.

Thus even the battalion pulled into Azzano at 1245 on a cold wet morning, nature had exacted her toll.

Completely exhausted men fell to the floor in the houses of Azzano. Many went to sleep without opening their gears while 1-man had no gear, having abandoned it in sheer fatigue enroute, or having hopelessly lost it in the bruising roll down the steep sides of the slippery path. Security guards slumped dejected over their rifles in doorways, some sat cross-legged with rifles across their thigh, eyelids heavy with sleep and minds benumbed from tiredness. Fatigue was so complete that many felt 'Come what may, I don't give a damn.'

Yet, there were a few who hustled about—checking the men, checking the wires and communication, setting up the guards, but very soon even these few succumbed to sleep. Such was the rigor of the ascent to the pump-off point in Azzano, Italy, and such were the settings of battle preparation in the Apennine Mountains.

Resting quietly in the enemy observed but unfired upon village of Azzano, the 3rd Bn. smoothly and quickly gathered its strength. By morning, all troops, but those requiring hospitalizations, were assembled in Azzano. Communications, supplies, and plans had been set up and the men in this short period of rest, renewed their vitality and determination. The sun shone brightly throughout the day, but the stragglers had already moved unnoticed to reach Azzano in the early dawn. The troops in Azzano having their whereabouts discovered. A Partisan guide called "Sciamino" had been picked to lead the troops to Mt. Carchio-Mt. Fragolita ridgeline, the surprise attack scheduled for 0500.

Mt. Carchio was a 3100 foot rocky ridge peak that lay between towering Mt. Altissimo on the north and the 2800 foot Mt. Fragolita on the south. To the south of Mt. Fragolita lay Cerreta with the 100th Bn., of the 442nd RCT had assigned as their objective. The entire ridge line tapered down from Mt. Altissimo to the flat coastal lands of the Ligurian Coast. The town of Azzano sat just across or directly east of the Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Carchio Ridge. In the deep valley between banks the winding white-dusty road tapping the many marble mines before it was swallowed up in the enormous maw of Mt. Altissimo. A fast mountain creek paralleled this road and emptied southwest into the Ligurian Sea

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Po Valley Campaign, Part 2, Initial Assault (Pages 4 -11)

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4 April – At 2300 hours on the night of 4-5, the 3rd Bn. heavily armed, moved quietly out of Azzano to cut diagonally northwest down along a tortuous narrow path to the valley bottom. The men waded across the narrow swift flowing creek, clambered over slippery boulders and only halted to rest a few minutes at the bottom of Mt. Carchio.

The Bn. S-4 brought up and stored in Azzano, Italy one full days ration and ammunition. The troops had moved into Azzano on the early morning of the 4th, carrying with them hard rations (K) for the days of the 4th and 5th of April. The rations brought by the Bn. S-4 on the night of the 4th was one days; reserve. In as much no ammunition was expended in the movement up to Azzano by the troops, there was thus, one day's normal expenditure of ammunition held in reserve in Azzano.

The rations were brought up the steep winding trail that led to Azzano by a 30 mule train, and by 30 Italian civilian carriers. Starting at 2000 hours, the train covered the 2-1/2 mile uphill climb from Seravezza to Azzano in 2-1/2 hours. Although the trail was rocky and steep, it must be considered a goods trail, passable to man and mule, but not by jeep. Movement was made at night in secrecy.

The area from here to the enemy had never been entered or reconnoitered by friendly troops. The descent down from Azzano had been slow and cautious, but now in the "no-man's- land" of a mountainside, the men seemed to gather fresh courage and began to move up the perpendicular slope in a relentless grind. The path that led to the Mt. Carchio-Mt. Fragolita ridge provided the maximum of what scant cover and concealment that the almost barren slope had to offer. In an early Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean Edition stated that it was a "secret trail" known only by the Partisans. It was in error, only one Partisan knew, and he was our guide and the path was so secret that it wasn't there until the 3rd Bn. made it by following Sciamino, the Partisan guide. Sciamino knew the enemy strongpoint and he knew the mountains. The path that he chose, while direct, concealed the movements of the troops even when the bright moon broke forth through a heavy cloud.

The "path" followed by attack companies, I and L, supported by the machine guns of M Co., was exceedingly steep, shifty, and precipitous. The men had to grasp the roots of stubby scattered shrubs which dotted the side and pulled themselves up, hand over hand. Several places enroute, there were drop-off ranging from 15-150 feet. One Company I man lost his footing after being struck by a huge dislodged boulder near the tip of the ridgeline. He was evacuated later in the morning, suffering from concussion and internal injuries as a result of the twenty foot tumble.

An idea of the terrific climb involved in ascending the mountainside can be learned from the fact that a total of 12 litter bearer relay points were set up from the bottom where the river ran to the military crest of the Mt. Carchio-Mt. Folgorito ridge. To reach the troops in the evening of the first day, four additional relay points had to be set up along the ridgeline. A total of sixteen relay points being necessary to evacuate one man from the some 3000 foot mountain height. The normal length of the time for anyone to go from the bottom to the near top of the ridgeline was seven hours, the time varying according to the load and the person. The roughness and steepness may also be adjudged from the fact that four pairs of OD trousers had to be requisitioned and

sent up to replace those worn out by slipping and sliding litter bearers.

As the men moved near the ridgeline, the Ammunition and Pioneer men from the 3rd Bn. Hq. Co. attached to the attacking companies swept the trail in front of the troops for booby-traps and mine. One booby-trap was set off without injury to anyone while many others were neutralized to be cleared. One man slipped and fell down the steep slope and set off his carbine. The entire attacking elements had a tense moment inasmuch as they were near the top and were sure that the enemy had heard the sound. The enemy was napping.

The attack was scheduled at 0500, but due to the darkness and the difficult ascent, the attack did not start until shortly after 0600. In spite of the delay, it was still dark and surprise was still the keynote of the attack. Although thoroughly exhausted by the climb and without a moment's rest due to the lateness of the time, the game troops carried the fight straight to the enemy

Final preparations were made for the attack. H-Hour was set at 0500 5 Apr. 45. The regimental zone of advance extended along the East side of Highway 1 and approached the city of Massa from the Southeast. The terrain was extremely mountainous and commanded the flat coastal land West of Highway 1 as well as Massa itself.

The key points in the sector were a series of peaks, Mt Cerreta, Mt. Folgorito, Mt. Carchio and Mt. Belvedere, ranging in height from 2700 to 3300 feet and extending generally in a South to North line in the order named. These peaks had been fortified by the Germans during the preceding static period and were known to be strongly defended. They had resisted previous attacks by other elements.

The plan of attack called for the 100th Bn to assault frontally from the South, while the 3rd Battalion, making an undetected approach march, enveloped Mt. Folgorito from the East and North, sent one company South along the ridge of Mt. Cerreta to join with the 100th Battalion attacking North: another 3rd Battalion company to continue the attack on Mt. Carchio

The regiment was supported by the fire of the 599th FA Bn and the 329th FA Bn: 1st Platoon, B Co, 895th Tank Destroyer Bn; B Co. 84th Chemical Bn (4.2 mortars), and Assault Guns of the 758th Tank Battalion.

At 2100 the 100th Battalion left its assembly area and moved up in darkness to jump off position on Mt. Cauala, North of Vallecchia. The 3rd Bn likewise moved, with partisan guides, and hiked four miles over the mountains from Azzano to LD near Mt. Folgorito..

Cannon Co moved into firing positions near Vallecchia at 2030. Beginning at 2000, the 2nd Battalion, in regimental reserve, moved by truck from San Martino to approximately 4 kilometers South of Pietrasanta, where the troops dismounted and marched to an assembly area near Vallecchia

As Azzano was reached at 0245 hours, 4 April, the battalion occupied the houses (of the Village), to remain in hiding the balance of the day. (The Village was within view of German positions during daylight hours). On the night of 4 April, the battalion moved out at 2200 hours on the last leg of the journey to the line of departure, the ridge line between Mt. Carchio and Mt. Folgorito. Company L leading the attack with Company I following.

The trail to the saddle was made by the men of the 3rd Bn It was a path scratched out over a series of shifty shale-like outcropping, never running in a straight line, but zigzagging up the 3000 foot ridge. The men with full battle equipment literally had to crawl up on hands and knees, many times slipping, getting up and slipping again, finally to be pushed up by a more fortunate comrade and helped along. Sixteen (16 relay aid stations had to be set up along this trail in order to evacuate the wounded.

Co. L swung left along the saddle toward Mt. Folgorito. The surprise element had been maintained: the enemy had been caught off guard, and by 0730, the saddle had been taken by

Cos. L and I, had driven the enemy back into the recesses of Mt. Carchio, blasted their observation posts, and locked them helplessly under relentless fire.

At the military crest of the ridge, Co. L swung left along the reverse slope while the second platoon of the company was ordered to move over the ridge and establish a flank guard on the forward slope. Even as the second platoon neared the ridge top, the scout had spotted a lone sentinel who was silently and quickly captured at the point of an M-1. From this first prisoner, taken on 5 Apr. 45 at approximately 0700, the attack on the ridgeline of Mt. Carchio and Mt. Folgorito spread as wildfire. The prisoner gave much information. Four of his comrades were sleeping in one large dugout just on the forward slope of ridgeline. Guiding the members of the L Co. the prisoners pointed to an S-shaped trench that led to the dug-out, going past the three machine-guns that were emplaced and prepared to fire down the slope where the platoon had just come from. Darkness and luck prevented their being discovered and fired upon. The men sighed in relief and moving by the guns placed one of their men to guard the guns. The remainder proceeded to the dug-out. Pfc Arthur Yamashita, BAR-man, fired a long burst into the dark entrance. Shouting failed to bring the occupants forth. Immediately after the BAR burst, cries and shrieks emanated, then a white rag. Seven half-awake men and half-dressed enemy emerged from the dug-out. One was so sleepy or so frightened that he stumbled into his own booby-trap which was set up near the entrance path. The explosion slightly wounded a Co. L man. It was with great restraint that all prisoners were safely delivered to the rear.

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At 0455 5 April, our artillery opened the attack with a 10 minute barrage on the enemy positions. The 100th Bn. jumped off at 0502, Co. C and A leading. Resistance developed immediately and casualties were sustained from enemy artillery and ground fire. The battalion's first objective, the "Georgia Peak." (HILL 432) at 966969 was reached and cleared at 0530, 200 yards beyond this point the battalion encountered a series of log bunkers and machine gun emplacements, from which the enemy directed interlocking fire and pinned down the leading company. Enemy mortars and SP (self propelled) guns opened up from the left flank in the sector of the 370th Infantry. The close nature of the fighting around the pillboxes limited the use of our artillery, and in order to continue the advance it was necessary to destroy the bunkers one at a time by the use of bazookas and grenades. The enemy resisted stubbornly and fighting was

severe throughout the entire day. By nightfall 12 bunkers had been destroyed. Co. C sustained 31 casualties, include killed in action. Company A lost 3 men KIA (killed in action) and 23 WIA. (Wounded in action) At 2345 the Germans counterattacked in platoon strength, but were stopped by accurate mortar and artillery fire.

Meanwhile, 3 kilometers to the North, the 3rd Battalion had attacked on the ridge between Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Carchio, with Co. I and L leading and Co. K in reserve. The attack achieved the element of surprise and initial resistance was scattered. (These high grounds at Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Cerreta had been denied the 92 Division for 5 month prior and it was achieved by the 3rd Bn. in a matter of one morning.)

At 0730 the battalion secured the ridge, Co. L took eight prisoners and started South towards Mt. Folgorito. By 1230, I Co. was on south slopes of Mt. Carchio and L Co. had taken Folgorito, terraced area south of Mt. Folgorito, cut the route supplying the Germans on Mt. Cerreta to meet the 100th Bn. Enemy resistance increased as the attack progressed, and artillery and mortar barrages caused numerous casualties, to Co. K moving forward from Azzano in support, underwent a barrage of 80mm mortars and 75mm howitzers of alpine Italian troops of Intra Bn. (major Apogees) from the ridge of Mount Altissimo which killed 3 and wounded 23 men. Co. M, hand carrying its weapons and ammunitions up the 70 degree, slope of the ridge, was similarly caught in a mortar barrage, which inflicted 20 casualties. All available personnel in the battalion

were used to evacuate the wounded, including the Antitank platoon, 57mm men from Antitank Co.

and SS from the Provisional Company. The evacuations were made difficult by the mountainous terrain, and in many cases were carried out under shell fire.

In order to supply the forward companies, carrying parties were organized, consisting of personnel from Antitank Co, Provisional Co, and Italian partisans. All rations, water and ammunition had to be carried by pack-board, from the valley to the forward elements. The trip required eight hours.

Air support from the 57th Fighter Group, XXII Tactical Air Command, was notable through out the day, bombing and strafing the enemy rear, as well as a suspected reserve battalion in Massa.

In addition to the positions occupied, the results of the day's operations showed 30 enemies killed, 12 log bunkers and 17 machine guns destroyed, and 13 prisoners taken, including one officer. The prisoners were from the 3rd Co and 4th Co, 281st Rgt, 148th Division.

KIA losses for 5 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Victor K. HADA~3rd Bn, 442nd RCT from Denver, CO

Pvt Earl HOSODA~A Co 100th Bn, 442nd RCT from Emmett, ID

Pvt James, J. KANADA~A Co 100th Bn, 442nd RCT from Concord, CA

1st Lt Saburo MAEHARA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Puunene, HI

Pfc Thomas T. MIYAMOTO~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Waniha, HI

Pfc Haluto MORIGUCHI~ C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from San Francisco, CA Pfc Sadao S. MUNEMORI~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Glendale, CA Pfc John M. NAKAMURA~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Flint, MI

Sgt Robert K. NAKASAKI~A Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Fresno, CA Pvt Tom T. NISHIMOTO~ L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from El Centro, CA Pvt Roy OTA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Sacramento, CA

T/Sgt Tamemasa T. SAGIMORI~L CO 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Berkeley, CA

Pfc Koichi K. SEKIMURA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI

Sgt Thomas T. TAKAO~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from San Francisco, CA T/Sgt Katsumi L. TAKASUGI~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Ventura, CA Pvt Shoichi J. TAKEHARA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Fife, WA

Pfc Harley TANAKA~M Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Mitchell, NE
Pvt Michio TESHIMA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Riverside, CA
S/Sgt Hidio F. YONAMINE~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Lahaina, HI

6 April, in the vicinity of Mt. Belvedere, orders issued on the night of the 5th, called for the 100th Bn. to continue the attack and drive north along the ridge to make a juncture with the 3rd Bn. The 3rd Bn. was to occupy the ridge of Mt. Folgorito and work elements at 06-0600 to clear Mt. Cerreta and meet the 100th Bn. at the same time blocking the trail leading from the town of Montignoso to the East and all trails leading into the battalion zone, to guard against counter-attack. The 2nd Bn. was ordered to move by foot under cover of darkness to relieve elements of the 3rd Bn. on Mt. Carchio, and to attack and occupy strategic Mt. Belvedere.

At 0100, the 2nd Platoon of Co. B led by Lt. Drebin, with an attached MG squad, left its position in battalion reserve, moved to the left of Co. C, and attacked the pill boxes on Rocky Ridge (958973), between Mt. Canala and Mt. Cerreta. The platoon worked its way up the hill using hand grenades and rifle grenades. Two pillboxes were knocked out. At 0930 13 prisoners were taken. Resistance was heavy, and the 3rd Platoon was called up to reinforce assaulting platoon. While moving up, the 3rd Platoon passed through a mine field that had previously been used by our litter bearers. One man stepped off the trail and activated a Schu mine, (small mine buried in the ground to cause foot injuries). The mine however, was connected to a series of others and in the explosions that followed, two men were killed and 8 wounded. After the ridge was taken, the rest of B Co. moved up and dug in. In the heavy fighting, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons took a total of 49 prisoners and captured (12 German rifles), 3 heavy machine guns, 4 cases of "potato-mashers" grenades, 3-AT grenade launchers, and 2000 rounds of machine gun ammunitions. Casualties were high, the company losing 8 men killed and 19 wounded.

At 0850 an air mission was called on the three Ohio Peaks (063975-063977-062978) In front of Co. C. Major Jack Conley, 100th Bn. Commander: directed the fire of the four fighter- bombers, who scored direct hits on the objective with bombs, rockets and machine gun strafing. Following the air attack, Co. C renewed the advance. At 1205 Co. C took Ohio 1 and Ohio 2 and sent patrols to Ohio 3. At 1320 Ohio 3 was cleared. 3 ration and ammunitions dumps with supplies for one company for one week were taken intact: in addition 15 machine guns, 2 sub- machine guns, 1 British and 1 Italian type, grenade launcher, Schu mines and demolitions, American water cans, pack-boards and "300" radio complete.

Co. L attacked at daybreak towards Mt. Cerreta, to make a juncture with the 100th Bn. Artillery and mortar fire fell in intense barrages, killing two and wounding 11 men in the company. Capt. Edward Nilges, 3rd Bn. S-3 was killed by machine gun fire while leading a reconnaissance party ahead of the company, Co. L pushed forward against resistance, took Mt. Cerreta and at 1900 made contact with the 100th Bn. The company took 30 prisoners in the fighting.

Co. I and Co. K maintained defensive positions on Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Carachio subject to artillery fire. An air mission was called on Mt. Altissimo in an effort to silence Italian batteries firing from there and protective smoke screen, was maintained along the flank of the battalion.

The 2nd Bn. left its position in reserve at 2130 5 April and following the path of the 3rd Bn. climbed up the Folgorito-Carchio Ridge. The battalion reached Mt. Carchio at noon and consolidated the ground. At 1400 Co. F. jumped off in the attack on Mt. Belvedere, the height overlooking the city of Massa. After a fire-fight on the southern slope, the company reached the objective at 1700. Pockets of enemy remained to be cleared.

Enemy artillery was active through out the day, shelling the forward companies as well as supply trails and rear areas. The regimental CP at Vallecchia was shelled by heavy Caliber coastal guns on Punta Bianca.

Lieutenant General LUCIAN K. TRUSCOTT, JR. Commanding General, Fifth Army, visited the Regimental CP during the day.

A total of 106 Germans were captured during the day, from the 2nd Co, 3rd Co, 5th Co and 7th Co, 281st Regiment. Among the prisoners was the company commander of the 2nd Co. Our KIA losses for 6 April, 1945 were as follows:

Capt Edward J. NILGES~Hq 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Cleveland, OH Pfc Minoru INOUE~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Honolulu, HI Tech 4 Haruo ISHIDA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Seattle, WA Pfc Toshio KIRITO~F Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Pahala, HI

Sgt James H. MIYAMOTO~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Pepeekeo, HI
Pvt Hiroshi F. NAGANO~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Pingree, ID
Pfc Hirao E. NAKAGAWA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Makaweli, HI
Pfc Shigenori NAKAMA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Waimea, HI Pfc Takao T
NINOMIYA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Fowler, CA Pvt Seiei OKUMA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Kekaha, HI

Sgt Sadamu R. SUEOKA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from place unknown
Pfc Shizuo TERAMOTO~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Pepeekeo, HI
Pfc Tatsuo YOSHIZAKI~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Norwalk, CA

7 April, The regiment cleared and consolidated the ground won on the preceding two days. 3rd Battalion attacked West at 0500 from Mt. Folgorito to reduce enemy pockets on the ridge leading to the Northwest. The enemy resisted strongly from machine gun nests and strong points, but the battalion overcame the resistance and advanced steadily down ridge. The town of Montignoso was bombed by air support, and the reconnaissance made by the battalion commander, guided by partisans, indicated that the way to the town had been opened.

The 2nd Battalion meanwhile pressed its attack against troops of the Kesserling M.G. Bn on Mt. Belvedere. Co F killed 20 Germans, destroyed 6 enemy machine gun emplacements, took 26 prisoners with maps and documents. The clearing of the peak was completed after hard fighting by the morning of the 8th. A company of enemy was observed forming in a draw at

940006 at 1250 hours. Division Artillery was called and the enemy threat effectively hit.

Co C relieved Co L as it moved off Mt. Cerreta, and the 100th Battalion occupied key points along the Cerreta ridge, which they organized for defense. A combat patrol consisting of the 1st platoon of Co B entered the town of Strettoia and made contact with elements of the friendly unit on the left flank.

The enemy continued to shell the regimental area with heavy coastal guns, and kept the supply routes under fire. Rations, ammo and water were brought up by carrying parties during the night. Rain and foggy weather increased the difficulties of the fighting. 250 reinforcements arrived and were attached to the Provisional Co.

17 officers and 2113 EM former and present members of the Med Dets, 100th Inf Bn Sop and 442nd Inf. were awarded the Medical Badge per GO 25, Hq 442nd RCT, 7 April 45. A total of 56 Germans were captured. Our casualties for the were 11 killed, 61 wounded.

8 April, The attack continued on the 8th, Co. L 2nd Platoon was sent forward to secure the West slope of the Folgorito-Colle Piano ridge and accomplished its mission at 1200. Co. K advanced along the ridge toward Montignoso and Co. L and Co. I followed the road into town from the East. 16 prisoners were taken in the advance. The hamlet of Vietina was occupied

during the afternoon and the battalion entered Montignoso at 1530. The town was found in complete ruin.

At 1200, Co. C pushed West from Mt. Belvedere toward the Colle (Hill) Tecchioni (Hill 381) with the 2nd Platoon on the right, 3rd Platoon on the left and the 1st in reserve. The company was under constant artillery and mortar fire and, heavy resistance was encountered from an estimated 200 Germans on the ridge. A three hour fire-fight ensued at 936014. Eight Germans were killed and six taken prisoner, 3 light machine gun and 4 mortars were captured. The company secured positions on Tecchioni by nightfall and dug in defensive positions. From 2000 until 0200

9 April the positions were under constant mortar and small arms fire; at midnight the Germans counterattacked in the 1st Platoon area, but was thrown back. The company lost 4 KIA (killed in action) and 12 WIA. (Wounded in action).

Co. E and Co. F moved off Mt. Belvedere at 1800 to begin the attack on Altagnana and Pariana, two towns along the Frigido River one kilometer to the North. A reconnaissance patrol from F Co. entered Pariana, and withdrew after drawing heavy fire.

Co. E on the battalion right fought its way into Altagnana, and had one platoon on its objective by 2400 hours.

During the day the 100th Bn. garrisoned the high peaks on the right flank and prepared defensive positions against a possible counterattack from Mt. Altissimo. B Co. took position on Mt. Folgorito and Mt. Cerreta: A Co. on Mt. Carchio and C Co. on Mt. Belvedere. 1st Platoon of B Co. again went to patrol Strattoia, returned with two prisoners.

The coastal guns on Punta Bianca were subjected to an air mission by medium bombers but continued to harass the regimental sector. Enemy mortars on Mt. Altissimo which had been firing on the supply route were brought under fire by 155mm rifles during day.

At 1100 hours the control of the coastal sector on the regimental left flank passed from the 370th Infantry to the 473 Infantry.

The regimental CP moved from Vallecchia to Montignoso

During the night, while moving up to new firing positions near Montignoso, a truck and howitzer of Cannon Co. overturned on Highway 1. One man was killed and 5 injured in the accident.

201 Additional Japanese American reinforcements arrived and were attached to the Provisional Company.

KIA losses for 8 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Hiroo H. ENDO~G Co 2nd Bn 442 RCT from Downey, CA

Pfc Lloyd IKEFUGI~F Co 2nd Bn 442 RCT from Staten Island, NY Tech 4 William I.

IMAMOTO~Med 442nd RCT from Seattle, WA Pvt Sadao KAWAMOTO~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Lahaina, HI Cpl Robert T. KISHI~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Stocton, CA

Pfc Michiru SUMIDA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Marina CA Sgt Ted A. TERAMAE~H Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Onomea, HI Pfc Jacob V. VOSHIMURA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI

9 April, in the vicinity of Massa, a bitter battle developed for Pariana. 150 Germans of the Kesselring Machine Gun Battalion were assembled in the town. They were supported by automatic weapons and mortars, a tank, an SP gun (a self propelled artillery) and a reconnaissance car. Planes were not available for air mission. After artillery preparation and a morning-long battle, the 2nd Platoon of F Co., supported by H Co. machine guns, succeeded in penetrating the defense line at 1300 and at 1400 occupied the fringe of the town. Eight German

mortars were captured intact with 75 cases of ammunitions and were turned against the enemy. In close fighting 65 Germans were killed, 8 machine guns and 4 additional mortars captured. By

1600 Co. F had control of the town, although final resistance was not subdued till nightfall. The company took 62 prisoners including three officers. The company also recovered a "300" radio and one German radio set. Co. E meanwhile secured the town of Altagnana and pushed patrols to the Frigido River. Contact was maintained with Co. F, and a machine gun squad was sent to Canevera to hold a roadblock on the road leading into Massa.

Meanwhile in the left of the regimental sector, the 3rd Bn. was pushing towards the Frigido River. A hot breakfast was brought up to Montignoso during the night—the first hot food since the attack started on 5 April—and at 0800 the battalion set out to cross the Belvedere— Tecchioni ridge. Co. K and Co. I was the leading companies, with L Co. in reserve. Machine gun and rifle fire opened up from Hill 381 in the adjoining sector pinned down the leading elements. The flanking fire threatened to halt the battalion's advance, and Co. K engaged the enemy. A three hour firing mission by Co. M mortars drove the enemy into the open, where they were subjected to artillery fire. 7 machine guns, 4 mortars and approximately 50 prisoners were taken on the hill. The battalion relieved G Co. on the Belvedere-Tecchioni ridge and descended to the Frigido River line at 2000, with L Co. and I Co. abreast and K Co. following its heavy battle, in battle reserve, at Quadrelli House. The battalion OP (observation post) was established before dusk at Manfredi House. It was evident that the enemy having suffered heavy losses was withdrawing, and patrols were sent out immediately to cross the river and maintain contact. During the day the Germans were reported arming mines in Massa and several demolitions were observed. The position of the regiment cut off Massa from the North.

G Co. was relieved by the 3rd Bn. at 1700 and reverted to 2nd Bn. reserve. A new supply route opened up along Highway 1 reduced the 12 hr. trip to 2 hours. The wounded were evacuated over the new route and supplies brought up.

The 100th Bn. remained in position on Mt. Belvedere, Mt. Carchio and Mt. Folgorito, protecting the right flank of the regiment under harassing artillery and mortar fire. The Battalion CP (Command Post) moved to Montignoso at 1045. Relief of the battalion by the 370th Infantry began.

Po Valley Campaign, Part 3

Battle - Massa and Carrara area (Pages 12 – 16)

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10 April, in the vicinity of Campaccio, the heavy losses inflicted upon the enemy in the preceding days forced the Germans to begin a withdrawal to their Green Line, a series of defensive positions above Carrara. The 442nd Infantry by-passed the city of Massa, crossed the Frigido River and advanced 3500 yards ahead of flanking units to seize high grounds south of Carrara. The 473rd Infantry occupied Massa without opposition.

Combat patrols of the 3rd Bn., with partisan guides, waded the Frigido at dawn entered the towns of Lavacchio, Bargana, Mirteto and Bergiola Maggiere. In each town the troops were warmly welcomed by the liberated civilians. The 3rd Platoon of Co. L reached Bergiola Foscantina, the battalion objective, at 1030 and the rest of Co. L marched to the objective over the difficult mountain terrain, meeting scattered small arms fire. As the company moved into Bergiola Foscantina the enemy barraged the town. The 3rd Bn. OP moved up to Massa which was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar shelling. Wiremen worked through out the night to maintain the frequently-cut communication lines.

Meanwhile Co. E left Altagnana at 0815, crossed the river and advanced on the regimental right flank. At Mt. Brugiana, a 2900 foot peak dominating the city of Carrara was occupied at 1330, with partisan support. Co. F was re-supplied with ammunition and left Pariana at 0900. At 1600 the company reached Mt. Brugiana and dug in for the night.

Co. G, in 2nd Bn. reserve, moved from Mt. Belvedere to Pariana. Reports were received from partisans of an enemy force composed of German and Italian Fascist troops (Intra Alpine Battalion) moving against the right flank from Mt. Altissimo. To observe such movement, the 2nd Platoon of G Co. was ordered to proceed to the high ground above Casette (933058). The platoon left Pariana at 1700.

Similarly, to protect the extended right flank, Co. B moved from Belvedere to Antona and Co. C assembled at Altagnana. Co. A remained on Mt. Carchio and sent a Patrol to Campaccio (north of Mt. Carchio) (958018) which found hastily abandoned enemy dugouts. .

Antitank Co. established a block on the road leading into Massa from the NE at the junction at 935054.

Lt. General LUCIAN K. TRUSCOTT visited the regimental CP at 1100. KIA losses for 10 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Tom S. HAJI~F Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Spokane, WA

Pvt Frank T. KANDA~M Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Los Angeles, CA

Pvt Haruo KAWAMOTO~F Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Fresno, CA

Pfc Manzo TAKAHASHI~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Spokane, WA

11 April The regiment continued its rapid advance on the 11th . The city of Carrara, large marble quarrying center (50,000 pop.), was occupied without resistance and the surrounding towns of Sorgnano, Gragnana and Torano taken. Strong partisan support continued to aid the advance.

Following a report that the Germans had evacuated Carrara, a platoon of Co L moved from Bergiola Foscolina at 0900 and entered the city at 1100. The troops received an ovation from the inhabitants, being the first Allied forces to enter.

2nd platoon of Co K pushed to Gragnana, North of Carrara, and the 3rd platoon to Sorzano. The 1st platoon occupied Codena (8900064) and the remainder of the company went into Torano. All platoons set up defenses on three sides.

Co. I in Battalion reserve left Castagnola at 0545, marched across the mountainous terrain to Mt. Brugiana. While descending to Bergiola Foscolina the company came under an SP barrage, without suffering casualties. The company established a strong-point at Bergiola Foscolina protecting the left rear of the regiment.

The 2nd Battalion moved off Mt. Brugiana at 1000 and attacked against light resistance. Co E entered Codena and Co F reached Bedizzano on the outskirts of Carrara. Defenses were organized and Co E sent a contact patrol to Carrara. Co G remained in reserve on Mt. Brugiana

The 100th Battalion (less Co A) assembled at Canevera and loading its weapons on mules, started working North to Colonnata. At 1600, after an 8-hour march along the mountain trail the battalion reached the ridge overlooking the objective. The weapons were set up and Co C and Co B descended into town, which was taken without resistance. 22 Germans, including 8 who had been wounded, were taken prisoner.

The 232nd Engr (C Co) (442nd RCT) in clearing roads to the forward companies, had 4 bulldozers destroyed by mines. In addition to the usual types the Germans had laid rows of 3 12" shells 1 1/2 ft beneath the ground, rigged with detonators and had re-surfaced the road. A total of 70 prisoners including 2-officers, was taken during the day.

The 4.2 chemical mortar and tank destroyer units were detached and left the regiment.

12 April The regiment consolidated its positions around Carrara and out-posted the high ground.

At 1100 a German counterattack in half platoon strength was launched against the 2nd platoon of Co K in Gragnana. The counter-attack was stopped with the help of Co M mortars. Two Germans were killed and two taken prisoner. The 1st and 4th platoons of K Co moved over to Gragnana to reinforce the 2nd platoon.

One squad of Co K, with a mortar observer and partisans went forward to Castelpoggia, a 5-kilometers above Carrara. Mortar fire was placed on a platoon of enemy infantry coming towards Castelpoggia from 852106 at 1300. Another detachment I Co out-posted Hill 574 la Bandita.

Co L completed its movement into Carrara and at 1315 the 3rd Bn CF group marched from Massa to Carrara. After the road had been opened for vehicles the remainder of the battalion Hq Co moved up, closing at 1930. The Germans began shelling the town with heavy caliber guns.

Co F weathered an artillery shelling in Bedizzano. Co G, less 2nd platoon, moved forward from Mt. Brugiana, entered Bedizzano at 1315 and moved on to Miseglia. 2nd platoon remained as rear security on Mt. Brugiana and made contact with Co I at Bergiola Foscolina.

Antitank Co held roadblocks on the right flank, at Forno and Gronda. An enemy raiding party moving against the rear right flank was intercepted by partisans at Resceto and a fight ensued. A special force at 100th Bn., 2nd Bn and regimental CP personnel was alerted to move on orders to reinforce Antitank Co, but the enemy withdrew before reaching our blocks. Six Italian prisoners were taken by the partisans. They were identified as from the 1st Bn, 2nd Bersaglieri Regiment, an Italian Fascist unit at Vaglia di Sopra, with a reported strength of 400 men and 4-

75mm guns. Partisans likewise turned over to the regiment 250 prisoners whom they had taken in previous fighting.

The 100th Bn remained at Colonnata. During the 11th and forenoon of the 12th, the Massa-Carrara road was interdicted by the enemy from the adjoining sector, and was impassable because of craters and mines. Carrying parties were unable to reach the battalion because of the precipitous terrain. A serious supply problem developed. An effort was made to drop "K" rations from planes. Air-ground panels were improvised from blankets laid on white rock and communication was maintained through the artillery liaison officer. However, the supplies were dropped on the cliffs out of reach, and only one box of the rations was obtained. Later in the day the Massa-Carrara road was secured and the 232nd Engineers opened it up for vehicles at 1730. At night, jeeps carrying rations left Carrara and reached Colonnata, negotiating the three miles on the ties of the railroad track.

After the road to Carrara had been opened, hot food was brought up to the forward companies, as well as an exchange of books.

The Regimental CP moved from Montignoso to Pariana at 1030

A quota of six officers left on TD to the Officer's Rest Center, Hotel Excelsior, Rome.

13 April, The news of President Roosevelt's death was received during the early hours. His passing caused particular sorrow among members of the 442nd RCT, in view of the fact that it was at the President's personal direction that the Combat Team was formed.

In the vicinity of Mt. Maggiore, the 2nd Bn. jumped off at 0730 with the objective Mt. Pizzacuto, 5 miles North of Carrara. The battalion marched in column of companies over the road leading North out of Carrara. G Co. was at the point, and E Co. sent strong combat patrols along the right flank as the march progressed. Tanks of the Assault Platoon, Hq. Co. 758th Bn. supported the infantry.

G Co. moved steadily, passed Gragnana and Castelpoggio. The Co. E patrols went to Mt. Uccelliera, la Pizza (3000 Ft.) and Gabellacia. At 1400 the Germans began shelling, and as the company neared the objective, the enemy barrages increased. From Hill 706 (837107) the Germans had observation on the Gragnana Valley and they barraged the road with time bursts. The advance was pinned down at 1700. At the same time enemy SP guns atop Mt. Pizzacuto opened direct fired from above. Enemy infantry was observed on the objective and artillery support was called for. None was available at the time as our advance had outdistanced the artillery range and the pieces were being moved up. The battalion dug in for the night under fire and prepared to resume the assault.

The 100th Bn. (less C Co.) left Colonnata, passed through Carrara and followed the 2nd Bn. up the road at 2500 yards. The battalion assembled at Gragnana and was subjected to heavy barrage as they moved in. The town was under constant shellfire throughout the day. One man from Co. B was killed.

Co. C remained at Colonnata as security for the right flank, and sent a patrol to Mt. Maggiore. No enemy activity was observed. 2nd Platoon, Co. G, remained on Mt. Brugiana

3rd Bn. assembled in Carrara in Regimental Reserve.

2nd Platoon of Co. I occupied La Bandita ridge and directed mortar fire upon an enemy OP on Hill 580.

The Regimental CP moved into Carrara at 0930, followed by Regimental Medics and Service Co. The city was heavily shelled by 152mm coastal guns on Punta Bianca. 2 jeeps, a 2-1/2 ton truck and an ambulance belonging to the Med. Det. were hit and destroyed near the regimental CP. Six Italian civilians were hit at the same time and treated by the Medics. Co. I CP in town was hit four times by large caliber shells. The heavy shelling caused frequent breaks in the communication lines. In all, 1300 rounds of fire of all types were registered in the Regt'l Sector during the day.

KIA losses for 13 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pvt Satoshi FURUKAWA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Waikapu, HI
Pfc Masami INATSU~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Seattle, WA

14 April, in the vicinity of Gragnana, on the 14th the German withdrawal of the preceding three days stopped abruptly. At the beginning of the day the enemy front line was at Fort Bastione (Hill 706), Mt. Grugola and Mt. Pizzacuto. It was evident that this line was strongly held and that the Germans were sending reinforcements, as prisoners were captured from the 1st Co., 4th High Mountain Battalion and the 1st Bn., 361st Panzer Grenadier Regiment. The enemy held observation on the Castelpoggio area from Fort Bastione, and was also operating an OP on Hill

580 (8576096).

Co. B, left Gragnana at 2000 hrs. 13 April and marched up to Castelpoggio to reinforce the 2nd Bn. The 1st and 3rd Platoons took position North of the town with the 2nd Platoon in reserve. The Germans infiltrated during the night, which resulted in close fighting.

At 0530, the Germans counterattacked Castelpoggio in force, surrounding the 2nd Bn. Command Post. The attack was launched by the 1st Bn., 361st PG Regt. The 1st Co. assaulted frontally down the road, the 3rd Co. from the North flank, and the 3rd Co. from the South. Each Company was supported by six machine guns. A bitter fight developed for the town. Co. B met the counterattack, with the 3rd Platoon bearing the brunt of the main assault, and fought until

0830, supported by Co. H mortars. The attack was repulsed. 16 Germans were killed and 8 wounded. Among the killed was the company commander of the 2nd Co., 361st PG Regt. The enemy withdrew towards Fort Bastione. Our losses were 5 men killed by machine gun fire and grenades, 5 wounded.

Co. G (less 2nd Platoon which was still on Mt. Brugiana) jumped off on Mt. Pizzaculo at 0800. The 3rd Platoon attacked up the right side. Co. H heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars supported the attack. Heavy enemy artillery and ground resistance was encountered. The 3rd Platoon killed 7 Germans, captured 7 prisoners, 2-20mm guns, 1 machine gun, and 1 bazooka. The 1st Platoon forced the surrender of 23 Germans. The objective was taken by 1000 and the company continued the attack down the West slope during the afternoon. By 1900 12 Germans had been killed and 54 captured; 14 of whom were wounded. Co. F followed Co. G, and went into position on Mt. Pizzaculo. Co. G deployed to assault the German stronghold, Fort Bastione, on Hill 706. Co E remained on la Pizza, Gabellacia and Mt. Uccelliera

At 0530 a carrying party of six new reinforcements from the Provisional Co. left Castelpoggio to carry water to Co. G. The men were laden with water cans and were without arms. As they made their way up the trail towards the company they were ambushed and taken prisoners by a German combat patrol. The six men were brought to Fort Bastione where they were questioned but refused to give any information other than name, rank and serial number. The Germans stripped them of all valuables and sent them under a three man guard to Castelnuovo Magra. While passing through the town of Vallecchia and at the prearranged schedule they turned on the guards, killed them and took their arms. The six men made their way back through the German Lines, by-passing the town of Casano, where they saw a German battery firing on Carrara, and with a partisan and a small boy as guide, reached the 100th Bn. aid station at Gragnana. One man was slightly wounded by powder flash burns on his face. Valuable information was obtained on the enemy strength and dispositions in the sector, as well as pinpoint locations on the ammo dump at Fort Bastione and enemy batteries...

The 2nd Platoon of Co.I, on Hill 574 (la Bandita) and the platoon of K Co. in Castelpoggio, acting in concert, engaged a German OP on Hill 580 which had been directing fire on Castelpoggio and Gragnana. After a fire fight the enemy party was dispersed and K Co. Platoon occupied the hill. Co. I Platoon had eight men wounded in the engagement.

The 3rd Bn. rested in reserve and had hot showers and clothing exchange in Carrara. The Germans continued their heavy shelling of the city, and three men from the battalion were wounded. Cannon Co. likewise had three casualties and German counter battery fire forced the company to change their gun positions.

Antitank Co. relieved C Co. block at Colonnata with 1 platoon and set up another road block at Piastra (896085). The Antitank blocks of Gronda and Forno were relived by L Co., 473rd Infantry. C Co. marched from Colonnata to Gragnana and joined the rest of the 100th Bn. A quota of 18 EM was authorized to visit the Enlisted Rest Center at Rome, and left on the 14th. KIA losses for 14 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Katsumi FUKUSHIMA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI
Pfc Henry T. FURUSHIRO~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Caldwell, ID
Pfc Yoshio IWAMASA~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Niulii, HI
Pfc Noboru MIYOKO~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Los Angeles, CA
Pfc Roy T. MORIHIRO~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Portland OR
Pvt Roy I. NAEMURA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Grisham, OR
Pvt Raito R. NAKASHIMA~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Pocatello, ID

15 April, in the vicinity of Ortonovo, during the night of the 14th-15th, enemy SP fire continued to harass our troops in Carrara, Gragnana and Castelpoggio. Co. A moved up from Gragnana to Castelpoggio to further reinforce the 2nd Bn.

The objective for the day was Fort Bastione. A carefully planned artillery and air preparation was made, with Co. G, less than 1000 yards from the target, ready to close in immediately after the bombardment. Four P-47's came over at 1005, bombed the target with 2-

500 lb. bombs each and also fired rockets. All bombs and rockets were on the target. Co. G jumped of from their positions on Mt. Pizzacuto and headed for Fort Bastione. Enemy SP guns (self propelled artillery guns) from the Casano Valley harassed the attacking elements, killing two men. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons led the attack and secured the objective at 1300. Three prisoners were taken, including one officer. After the fort was taken, the 1st Platoon continued on Northwest, attacking Mt. Grugola. At the same time Co. F moved forward and assaulted the same peak. Co. A took over Co. F's position on Mt. Pizzaculo as security for the regiment's right flank. Mt. Grugola was taken after a firefight at 1530.

Heavy fighting broke out, on the la Bandita ridge, during the day. Two platoons of Co. I and one Platoon of Co. K had occupied the ridge on the previous day after hard fighting, and had made contact. At 1240 one platoon of Co. I and platoon of Co. K were relieved by 232nd Engineers (442nd RCT), who were committed as infantry to hold defensive positions on the ridge. Later Co. C was sent from Gragnana to la Bandita ridge, to move down the forward slope and made a demonstration against Ortonovo. However, strong resistance developed and at 1450 the Germans counterattacked. The fighting lasted until dark. The Germans were identified as the

2nd Bn., 286th Panzer Grenadier Regiment, with additional elements of the 13th Fortress Flotilla, a unit of converted sailors and marines. Co. G fired 400 rounds of 81mm in helping to repulse the attack. C Co. had 10 men wounded in the fighting. The enemy battalion withdrew from the ridge at the end of the day, leaving a covering force. The withdrawal was observed by our OP (observation post), and brought under artillery fire. Lieutenant Max, Commander of German 2nd Battalion, was killed during the day's firefight.

Carrara was once again heavily shelled by coastal and SP guns. The 3rd Bn., in the town, was alerted. A presentation Co. G fired 400 rounds of 81mm in helping to repulse the attack. C Co. had 10 men wounded in the fighting. The enemy battalion withdrew from the ridge at the

end of the day, leaving a covering force. The withdrawal was observed by our OP (observation post), and brought under artillery fire.

Carrara was once again heavily shelled by coastal and SP guns. The 3rd Bn., in the town, was alerted. A presentation ceremony of Combat decorations was held for men leaving on TD (temporary duty) to the U.S. at 1600 in Carrara. At 1930 a heavy caliber shell made a direct hit on the 3rd Bn. CP (command post), wounding 8 men, among who were five waiting return to the U.S.

At 2230 the Fifth Army opened a general offensive to secure the Po River Valley. KIA losses for 15 April, 1945 was Sgt Katsumori P. HIGA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Makaweli, HI

Po Valley Campaign, Part 4,
Fifth Army General Offensive (Pages 17 -24):

16 April, in the vicinity of Mt. Tomaggiora south of Marciaso, the 3rd Bn. left Carrara at 0400 and moved up the road to relieve the 2nd Bn., Co. L and Co. K led, with Co. I in reserve. I Company was amazed to see the craft men working under a tin roof covering several thousand square feet in area, carving those marble statues and delicate marble artifacts and the shells were falling all over the area.

During the morning, Co. F mopped up resistance remaining on Mt. Grugola, killing seven Germans, wounding 10 and capturing 4; after which Co. L passed through and continued the attack. Stubborn opposition limited the gains to several hundred yards. At nightfall Co. L was fighting on Hill 694, Northwest of Mt. Grugola. Three prisoners from 1st Co., 4th High Mt. Bn. were taken. Upon relief, Co. F moved back to Castelpoggio. Co. I followed L, and came under an intense SP (self propelled artillery cannon) barrage as it moved past Fort Bastione. At 1000, when Co. L moved off of Mt. Grugola, Co. I took up defensive positions.

Co. K meanwhile passed through Co. A on Mt. Pizzaculo and marched to its objective, Mt. Tomaggiora, and sent the platoons to Pulica and la Selva. Twelve Germans from the 4th Co.,

4th High Mt. Bn. were taken. Patrols from K Co. going west to the town of Cecina, found no enemies as reported by the partisans.

Hard fighting continued for Hill 576 (la Bandita). Co. C advanced down the spur, silencing machine gun nest one by one, in an effort to assist the attack of the 473rd on Ortonovo. The Company overcame resistance at 1300 and turned Northwest towards Hill 317. Co. B moved from Castelpoggio to Fort Bastione, and then attacked Southwest down to the ridge on Hill 450 (833091).

The enemy continued to shell the Regimental CP (command post) area in Carrara with heavy coastal guns on Punta Bianca.

KIA losses for 16 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc James J. KAGIHARA~Hq 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Honolulu, HI

Pvt Tadataka MURAKAMI~Co L 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Kalopa, HI

Tech Sgt Minoru NAKAYAMA~Can Co 442nd RCT from Alameda, CA

Pvt Yoshio F. SASAKI~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Kahului, HI

Pvt Kizo SHIROKANA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Paia, HI

17 April, in the vicinity of Casano, Co. L, the point company, advanced 200 yards along the road to Fosdinovo, intense SP fire pinned the company down and prevented further advance. The company withdrew 100 yards to clear the enemy impact area and dug in. Air OP was called upon and a TOT (time on target, Aero Burst Artillery) barrage by Division Artillery was placed

on the suspected gun locations in the adjoining sector near Castelnuovo. However, renewed attempt to advance met continued SP and artillery fire.

Co. K on the 3rd Bn. right flank, sent combat-reconnaissance patrols to Tendola, Posteria and Marciaso. A patrol from the platoon at Pulica observed enemy troops in Tendola and directed mortar and artillery fire upon them. The patrol going to Posterla, led by partisan guides was fired upon by an enemy force in the town. A firefight followed, our patrol returned and a heavy artillery concentration was laid down. The town of Marciaso was reported clear.

Co. B patrols, operating to Hill 451 and the town of Casano, cleared the area South of Fort Bastione. 2nd Bn. and 232nd Engr remained in position and maintained physical contact with the patrols.

At nightfall the prisoner count of enemy taken since the start of the attack on 5th April, not including prisoners turned over to the regiment by partisans, was reported by the interrogation officer as 459.

75 Japanese American reinforcements joined the regiment and were attached to the Provisional Co. pending assignment.

KIA losses for 17 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pvt Jim NAGATA~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from San Jose, CA

Pvt Masami SAIKI~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Lahaina, HI

Sgt Masao H. TAMANAHA~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Peahi Haiku, HI

18 April, in the vicinity of Mt. Nebbione, heavy resistance continued on the 18th April. Our combat patrols probed the enemy defenses and made contact with the enemy at all points.

A patrol from Co. I proceeded toward the enemy stronghold of Fosdinovo. Reaching to within 5000 yards of the town, the patrol came upon SP (self propelled artillery guns) mortar, machine gun and automatic weapons fire. The Patrol withdrew and 2000 rounds of artillery were placed on the enemy positions and on the castle in town, which was known to be a German CP (command post)...

2nd Platoon of Co L, on patrol went to Hill 605 (825137) got behind a machine gun nest and captured seven prisoners. The patrol continued in to Pulica, where they made contact with Co. K. Co. L continued to receive artillery and SP fire from the front and adjoining sector on the left.

Co. K patrol left for Tendola at 0830. They approached the town from the East and were within 50 yards when they were fired upon by a machine gun en-placed in a building. The patrol returned fire and two enemy were believed killed. Another machine gun on their right opened up, putting the patrol in a cross fire which pinned them down for an hour and a half. The patrol had laid wire to its approach and called for mortar support. Under cover of the mortars the patrol withdrew. The two patrols leader reported 30 Germans in the town. Two other patrols from K Co. went to the towns of Posteria and Cecina, and drew fire from both towns.

A 10-men patrol from B Co. was sent to reconnoiter Gignago. On the way, at the town of Casala, the patrol was attacked and encircled by a strong German force. A platoon of Co. C was sent to reinforce the patrol, and a stiff firefight resulted. Our patrol suffered 6 casualties, including 2 KIA. One German corporal was taken prisoner.

Another patrol from Co. B sent to Ballecchia and observed the town. The patrol laid wire and was able to direct mortar fire on the enemy force at 828096. Company B cleared up pockets on the left boundary to assist the attack of the 473rd Infantry, and made contact with their unit at Hill 451 (834093).

2nd Bn. remained in regimental reserve. Hot meals were brought up. The 232nd Engr. Co. was relieved of its defensive mission on la Bandita ridge and reverted to engineer status. Service

Co. in Carrara moved from the administration building formerly occupied to the railroad station on the edge of town. The Germans continued their shelling of Carrara with heavy caliber guns.

Information from prisoners of war was indicated that Fosdinovo was being held by 200 Germans, supported by 10-105mm, field pieces. After heavy enemy fire on the 18th had prevented further advance directly against the town, an effort was made to envelope Fosdinovo from the North by taking Hill 605 and Mt. Nebbione.

Co. L was to move against Mt. Nebbione and Co. A had the mission of clearing Hill 605. Meanwhile the 2nd Bn. was to attack southwest clearing the area on the left of the regimental sector and keeping contact with the 473rd Infantry.

KIA losses for 18 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc George IKEDA~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Holualoa, HI

Pvt Robert I SAKAMOTO~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI

Pvt Theodore H. WATANABE~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Pullman, WA

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I Company CP is hit (pages 19 – 34):-

19 April Information from prisoners of war indicated that Fosdinovo was being held by 200 Germans, supported by 10-105mm, field pieces. After heavy enemy fire on the 18th had prevented further advance directly against the town, an effort was made to envelop Fosdinovo from the North by taking Hill 605 and Mt. Nebbione.

Co L was to move against Mt. Nebbione and Co A had the mission of clearing Hill 605. Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion was to attack Southwest clearing the area on the left of the regimental sector and keeping contact with the 473 Infantry.

In the vicinity of Uccelliera, Co. L moved to Pulica on the evening of the 18th, and at 0500 19 April jumped off against Mt. Nebbione. However, the Germans were strongly entrenched at this point and heavy volume of fire was directed against the attacking Co. They were pinned down at 0830, and advance toward the objective was limited. Co. A was likewise held up after advancing against heavy resistance, from Foce il Cucco, to within 400 yards of Hill 605. Co. A and Co. L dug in with all around security.

An air mission was requested against Fosdinovo. None was available. The weather was hazy and visibility too limited for air action. 1 55mm's registered (a large caliber artillery gun) on the castle at Fosdinovo, the nub of resistance, and Co. L directed artillery against Mt. Nebbione.

A wider envelopment was planned and an attempt was made to break through the enemy line at Tendola and get behind the forces defending Nebbione, Foce il Cucco and Fosdinovo. Here as well the Germans reacted fiercely and the attacking platoons made no progress.

A platoon from Co. K at Pulica went North along the ridge line to la Ripa 700 yards North of Pulica. 100 yards beyond this point the platoon was pinned down by machine gun fire from Hill 330. The Platoon also received mortar fire from the vicinity of Mo di Sopra. The platoon had no cover, and withdrew to houses in la Ripa where mortar fire was received from Tendola. Upon order, the platoon withdrew. At the same time a platoon from Co. L moved against Tendola, attacking on the trail Northwest of Pulica. They reached as far as the cemetery on the road to Tendola without being observed, at this point the Germans opened up with mortar fire and automatic and machine pistol fire from Mo di Sopra and machine gun fire from Hill 330. While under fire in the cemetery the platoon leader observed the terrain and saw a large white house at 8414 which he believed was the enemy OP and which was directing mortars against

both platoons. From the strength of the enemy resistance and partisan reports, it was estimated that 50 Germans were in Tendola.

Co. F supported by the 1st Platoon of Co. H left Castelpoggio at 0300 and occupied positions near Valleccia at 0530. One squad from the 2nd Platoon was sent to contact a patrol from the 473rd Infantry on the boundary line. At 1600 the company was ordered to attack to the west of Hill 200, and bring fire on the road leading into Fosdinovo from the South. After reaching this point the company was ordered to push on to Hill 246 (Belvedere) cutting the road below Fosdinovo.

Co. G left Castelpoggio at 0500 and reached Fort Bastione. At 1800 the company pushed down the Western slope of the Bastione and sent the 3rd Platoon to occupy Gignago, while the 2nd platoon went to the hamlet of Casala. Four prisoners were taken. Two men from G Co. were killed by a Schu mine tripped by an Italian guide.

Co. B attached to the 2nd Bn., took over F Cos' position at Vallecchia as F Co. moved forward in the attack.

Antitank Co. Put a platoon on Mt. Pizzaculo and relieved the E Co. garrison at la Pizza, Gabellaccia and Uccliera, guarding the right rear flank of the regiment. E Co. was attached to the 100th Bn. as a reserve force.

Co I left Hill 708 at 2100 18 April and on the following morning moved to Cobiata and dug in below C Co.

A report was received that the coastal guns on Punta Bianca, which had been shelling Carrara, had received a direct on their OP and that the Germans had destroyed the guns and abdicated the positions. Evidences of a German withdrawal were noted in sectors, but resistance in the Combat Team sector continued unabated at day's end.

KIA losses for 19th April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Hisashi IWAI~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from White River, WS Pfc Kiyoshi MURAKAMI~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Pocatello, ID Pvt Stanley T. OBA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Portland, OR

Pvt Mitsuru T. YETO~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Oxnard, CA

S/Sgt Isamu YOSHIOKA~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI

20 April, in the vicinity of Foce il Cucco, the operational instructions issued by Division on the night of the 19th reported that the Germans were making a general withdrawal in the Serchio Valley sector. The 442nd Combat Team was ordered to press forward, seize the city of Aulla, and cut Highway 63 and Highway 6320 to the East.

In order to carry out the above mission, a regrouping of our battalions was necessary. The 100th and 2nd Bns. were ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Marciaso 865140, and to attack due North, the 2nd Bn. to veer to the left and take Aulla and the 100th to cut the highways. Meanwhile the 3rd Bn. was to continue attacks on the strong enemy forces at Fosdinovo-Mt. Nebbione, in order to contain these forces and protect the left flank of the regiment's advance.

Company F reached Hill 246 (802113) astride the road to Fosdinovo at midnight of the 19-20th. The company was subjected to a heavy artillery and mortar barrage, and in order to secure its objective the company engaged the enemy in a firefight in which it suffered 4 casualties. 5 Germans were killed, 2 wounded and 3 taken prisoner. After taking the hill the company was ordered to disengage and return to Maraciaso.

E Co. was returned to control of the 2nd Bn. and battalion moved to the LD at Maraciaso in a column of companies, with E, G and F as the order of march.

Co. A was relieved by Co. I on Hill 605 (824136) at 0900 and the 100th Bn. assembled at Marciaso. At 1400 the battalion crossed the LD and attacked with A Co. and C Co. leading and B Co. in reserve. A Co. with 1 platoon with MG's from Co. D attached (and guided by a British

Commando who had been operating behind the lines with partisans) reached Cecina at 1930. 1 platoon out posted all the entrances to the town and a patrol were sent to observe the town. Upon returning the patrol reported the Germans were digging in. Co. C attacked the town of Posterla and engaged in a stiff firefight.

The 3rd Bn. sent combat patrols to probe further into the enemy defenses around Fosdinovo. A patrol from Co. I went to the town and observed Germans on the Southwest slope of Hill 605. The patrol remained in observation and withdrew after adjusting mortar fire. A patrol from Co. L left at 1000 to Foce il Cucco and encountered 2 machine guns and mortar fire. Two men were wounded. The patrol adjusted mortar and artillery fire.

The 3rd Platoon of Co. K went North on the ridge of Hill 330, cleared out the enemy OP in the white house at 8415 encountered intense mortar and machine gun fire from further North on the ridge, which killed one man and wounded 3. The platoon held ground and with help from the 2nd Platoon on Mt. Tameggiora adjusted fire on the enemy to the North of the ridge. Enemy casualties were estimated at 20, with 3 known killed and 4 litter cases observed being evacuated.

Antitank Co. moved into defensive positions on Mt. Grugola, Mt. Pizzacuto and Ft. Bastione.

Lt. Col. V. R. MILLER, Os 15847, Infantry, Regimental commander, received a combat promotion to the rank of Colonel, per Special Orders 107, Hq fifth Army, 17 Apr 45, with date of rank from date of order. The new insignia of grade were conferred upon Colonel Miller by Major General E. M. Almond, Commanding General, 92nd Inf Division, at the Regimental CP at Carrara.

In accordance with SO 105, Hq 5th Army, 15 April 45, former Chief Warrant Officer, T. M. Kobayashi, Asst Adjutant, received a combat appointment as 2nd Lieutenant, with date of rank from 19 Apr 45.

The regimental CP moved from Carrara to Castelpoggio at 1000.

A 24-hour rest center for enlisted men of the Combat Team was put into operation in Carrara.

During the evening of the 20th, the 1st Platoon of Co. B was sent on a contact patrol to Co. C. Halfway on its route, the patrol made a contact with the enemy barricaded in a house. The platoon surrounded the house and began the firefight, throwing hand grenades and shooting rifle grenades. The Germans fired back and inflicted two casualties on our men. However, our superior firepower forced the enemy to surrender, after eight Germans had been wounded and one killed. 17 prisoners were taken together with machine guns, machine pistols and grenades. The Platoon returned before making contact, inasmuch as ammunition was low. Later, another squad from the same company set out to make contact with Co. C, and returned at midnight with mission accomplished.

KIA losses for 20th April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Sadaichi KOHARA~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Honolulu, HI

Pfc Hitoshi NAJITA~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Haina, HI

Pvt Masao SHIGEZANE~B Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Los Angeles, CA

Pfc Masaru R. TAMURA~F Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Fife, WA

21 April, in the vicinity of Tendola, although the Germans were reported withdrawing in other sectors, it did not result in a withdrawal of the forces opposing the Combat Team. On the contrary new identification was obtained which indicted that the enemy had reinforced his positions in this sector. Prisoner interrogation corroborated this intelligence.

The 100th Bn. continued the attack with Co. A on the right, and Co. C on the left. Co. A moved over rough terrain against Hill 599 beyond Cecina. After the supporting artillery lifted,

Co. A attacked and met mortar and machine gun fire. The 2nd Platoon was on the point with a section of light machine guns from Co. D attached. The 3rd Platoon followed and 1st Platoon was in reserve. The hill was taken at 1630.

Co. C assaulted Hill 451, commanding Posterla, and met stubborn resistance. The hill was taken and at 1530 the company occupied the church on the outskirts of the town. One hour later Posterla was cleared and the company set up defense against an expected counterattack. 3 prisoners were taken. The company had 8 casualties, Lt. Yonemura; forward observer for Cannon Co. was killed while directing artillery fire.

B Co., in reserve, hand-carried ammunitions and rations to Co. A and Co. C.

Co. E attacked at 0800. Progress was slowed during the morning by a haze which limited visibility. The company reached Hill 479 and continued the attack against Colle Musatello. Co. H machine guns, supporting the attack, expended 8000 rounds. The hill was held by the 3rd Bn.,

361st Panzer Grenadier Regt. Their resistance was reported as fanatical. Co. E took the hill, killing 25 Germans and capturing 8. At 1645, the 11th Co. and 13th Co. of the enemy regiment counterattacked preceded by a mortar barrage of 400 rounds. They were beaten off with heavy losses. Co. G moved into Mt. Tomaggiora, behind Co. E.

Meanwhile on the left of the regimental sector, the 3rd Bn. continued its five day fight of Fosdinovo, Mt. Nebbione and Tendola. The 3rd Platoon of Co. K set out to secure the ridge North of Pulica to Tendola. The enemy opened up with 155mm mortar (large caliber), machine gun and sniper fire. With the help of the excellent support from Co., M mortars the enemy was driven off the ridge and the ground cleared to the 16 grid line. The platoon dug in a defensive position. Seven Germans were taken prisoner. The town of Pulica was shelled by artillery and mortars.

A reconnaissance patrol of one squad from Co. I went to Fosdinovo at 0800. The patrol met machine gun fire at the crossroads leading into town, and after a short firefight, evacuated the wounded to a safer spot. Litter bearers had to come through enemy observation and were caught in a mortar barrage. Our losses were 1 killed, 6 wounded in addition to 3 partisans casualties.

During the night of the 21st-22nd, Company I sustained heavy casualties from a direct artillery hit on the company CP (command post), located in a mine shaft near Foce il Pulica. Five men were killed, including the I Company Commander. Lt. Wheatley and seven were injured. The company reverted to 3rd Bn reserve and assembled near Pulica.

Sergeant Richard U. Shinto was directed to escort the wounded, the litter-bearers and medic traveling through the steep difficult mountain trail that which led to the forward-aid station and in the total darkness, Italians litter-bearers had problems negotiating unfamiliar trails and one team dropped a wounded soldier down the slope of the trail

KIA losses for 21st April, 1945 were as follows:

1st Lt James David WHEATLEY~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Demopolis, AL

Cpl Eiichi F HAITA~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Ione, WA

Pfc Mamoru KINOSHITA~Hq 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Winton, CA Pvt Masaru

NAKAGAKI~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Woodland, CA Sgt John N. OGAWA~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Garden Grove, CA

Pfc Donald M. OKAMOTO~A Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Honolulu, HI

Pfc Lloyd M. ONOYE~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Salinas, CA Pvt Harumatsu OYABU~L Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Waiehu, HI Pvt Roy R. SHIOZAWA~A Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Tyhee, ID Pvt Seitoku TAIRA~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Hilo, HI

Sgt Arthur I, TAKAHASHI~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Los Angeles, CA

2nd Lt Hitoshi YONEMURA~Can Co 442nd RCT from Los Angeles, CA

22 April, In the aftermath of the "I" Company's forward CP's disastrous shelling, T/Sgt Junwo Yamashita was directed to care for the remains and consolidate all the personal effects of the KIA's and WIA's soldiers. The following morning he was able to fulfill his duty in the horrific scene caused by the shelling. (This paragraph is inserted for the benefit of the I Company survivors regarding the remains of those who were killed)

In the vicinity of Viano, enemy patrols of Italian Bersaglieri troops of Mameli Bn. 1st Company-Ferrario Task force (Italia Division), under the lead of Captain Dani, probed at Co. A position on Hill 599 during the night and a defense ring of mortar fire was laid down. At daylight the company attacked in the direction of Hill 578, meeting small arms fire and mortar fire from Viano, and heavy artillery fire from enemy batteries at Gragnola by Artillery Group Bergamo of Italian Alpine Troops-Monterosa Division (Major Anzil). Following a firefight in which 12 enemy were killed (seven of Mameli Battalion and others of the 1st and 2nd Company of 1st Bn. 2nd Regt. Bersaglieri Div. Italia), Co. A secured a foothold on Hill 578, however the enemy was dug-in in fortified bunkers on the reverse slope of the hill and the attacking company drew back to allow our artillery to barrage the hill and the escape route between Hill 578 and Viano. The hill was secured late in the day.

Co. B, in battalion reserve, sent its 2nd platoon out to Hill 561, East of Marciaso, for flank security and to secure observation of enemy activity towards the Northeast.

Co. E, on Colle Musatello received heavy artillery and SP fire (self propelled cannon). The 2nd Platoon went on patrol to Hill 270 East of San Terenzo to test the defenses of the town. The platoon met heavy resistance from three sides, which caused seven casualties, and they withdrew with difficulty.

3rd Bn. continued its effort against Tendola. During the morning patrols from Co. K again endeavored to find an approach route between Mt. Nebbione and Tendola. At 1400 two patrols from Co. K moved North from Pulica along the ridge to swing around in back of the town. The two platoons attacked the town from the North and one platoon assaulted from the South. Co. L lent support to the attack from the South. Bitter fighting ensued. Artillery, tank destroyer and white phosphorous fire were put into the town. 5 prisoners were taken in the South end of the town in a house to house fighting, and two prisoners in the North section. The fighting continued at nightfall.

An organized band of partisans, bearing credentials from the office of Strategic Services, gave considerable assistance to the 3rd Bn. and turned over 60 German prisoners to the regiment. KIA losses for 22 April, 1945 were as follows:

Pfc Joe J. HAYASHI~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Pasadena, CA

Pfc Takashi ITO~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Denver, CO

Pfc Thomas T. KUGE~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Portland, OR

Pvt James S. OKAMOTO~K Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from San Francisco, CA

Tech/5 Hitoshi SUGIYAMA~Med 442nd RCT from San Francisco, CA

23 April, in the vicinity of San Terenzo, during the night of the 22nd-23rd, a German withdrawal North of La Spezia was observed by Air Force reconnaissance planes. Prisoner information confirmed this observation. All battalions sent out patrols to maintain contact.

Co. L attacked Mt. Nebbione at 0330, and occupied Mt. Nebbione against scattered resistance. Five prisoners were taken. A counterattack in platoon strength was repulsed by

0830 the mountain had been cleared and secured. The town of Fosdinovo was occupied by elements of the 473rd Infantry, on the left flank, without resistance. Co. K remained in Tendola

during the night and at dawn began to mop up the German defenders. Mortar fire helped the riflemen. At 0600, the 1st Platoon, fighting in the South section of the town, had been occupied, 25 houses. The 2nd and 3rd Platoons, coming in from the North against stubborn resistance, had 3 men killed. The two attacking forces joined at 1030. 13 prisoners were taken and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

Co. I moved out of Pulica at 1000 with the 2nd Platoon as advance guard. The company crossed Mount Nebbione, following Co. L and moved to Mt. Carbolo at 2000 and dug in. A reconnaissance patrol from the 3rd Platoon, sent out at 2045 to Ponzanello, was met by sniper fire.

In order to exploit the German withdrawal and reach the regimental objective, a special Talk Force was formulated. The force consisted of Co. E and Co. F, with a tank detachment, and was under the command of Major (then Captain) Fukuda, the Executive Officer of the 100th Bn. The mission of the task force was to move deeply and quickly into the enemy lines, seize in turn Hill 652 (Colle Dei Cerra), Hill 603 78159 and push on to Mount Grosso, (Hill 663) South of Aulla. The Tank Force formed and departed at 1400, with Co. B in the lead. The 3rd Bn. was readied to follow up in the path of the TF.

Co. E was ordered to take San Terenzo. The 3rd Platoon attacked Hill 303, flanking the town, and the 2nd Platoon fought in from the South. Simultaneously Co. G attacked Hill 270

East of San Terenzo. The enemy forces, consisting of Italian Fascist soldiers and officers (commander by captain Aldo Brunialti) with connection of German officers and non-coms, the 3rd Bn., 1st Bersaglieri Regt., were surrounded. 115 prisoners were taken in San Terenzo, together with 6 artillery radios, 30 bicycles, 25 horses and mules, a "300" radio and 2 telephones.

40 enemies were killed. Co. G on Hill 270 took 20 prisoners, killed 8, and captured 4 machine guns, 1 mortar, 2 automatic rifles and 9 rifles. The companies dug in on the hills, and 1 platoon of Co. E pressed on to take Hill 295 North of San Terenzo.

Co. A sent a reinforced platoon to patrol Mt. Calesciaio near Vizzanello (876169), and another reinforced platoon went to Mt. Nungoli. The rest of the company remained on Hill 578. Contact patrols were maintained with Co. C at Posteria. C Co. sent patrols to the town of Bardino. At 1600, Cos. A and C were relieved and began to assemble as regimental reserves. Anti-tank co. moved up and took over positions on the right flank of the regiment, on Hill 578.

The Germans had evacuated Fosdinovo and the town was entered during the day by elements of the 473rd Infantry.

KIA losses for 23rd April, 1945 were as follows:

Pvt Stanley K. HAYAMI~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from San Gabriel, CA

Pfc Tadao HAYASHI~I Co 3rd Bn 442nd RCT from Salinas, CA

Pvt Yeiichi HIYAMA~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Fowler, CA

Pfc Minoru ISHIDA~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from San Marino, CA

Tech Sgt Gordon K TAKASAKI~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Kohela, HI

Pvt Yukio E. TANIMOTO~E Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT from Honomu, HI

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General Withdrawal of enemy:

24 April Information from officer prisoners of war indicated that the 3rd Battalion, 1st Bersaglieri Regiment, had been destroyed at San Terenzo in the preceding day's fighting.

The total of prisoners taken by the 442nd Infantry from 5 April to 24 April, not including those turned over by partisans, was 707, as of 24 0900

The Task Force Fukuda set out at daybreak in pursuit of the retreating Germans. Company F passed through Co B and took the lead in the attack. The Force cleared Cstu dei Cerri (Hill 603) at 0900, Hill 603 at 1000. They marched rapidly to the objective Mt. Grosso, secured it at 1200. From there the Force moved Northeast, entered the towns of Vecchietto at

1300 and Bibola at 1400. This ten-mile march across the mountainous terrain put Fukuda Task Force immediately South of the regimental objective, the city of Aulla, an important road junction on the main enemy escape route.

The 2nd Battalion attacked at 0830, with Co E and Co G marching in a column of companies. No resistance was encountered. Pack mules were used to carry arms and equipment. They passed through Villa, Ceserano and turned West against Aulla. At 1630 the battalion reached Pallerone, South of Aulla on the Aulella River.

The 3rd Battalion remained in place occupying Mt. Nebbione and Tendola. Co I on Mt. Carbolo sent a squad from the 1st platoon to the town of Ponzanello. The squad checked the town, found no enemy, and the 1st platoon moved in and set up a defense.

The 100th Battalion remained in regimental reserve at Carrara. The troops enjoyed rest, showers and hot food. USO show D'Artega and Orchestra was enjoyed by the troops. The Regimental forward CP moved up to Tendola during the day.

25 April The town of Aulla Fell on the 25th . At 0600 the Task Force and 2nd Battalion attacked. Small enemy pockets on the outskirts were cleared, and the town was occupied without resistance. Enemy dead lay in the streets and materiel and equipment were found scattered about by our supporting bombardment.

After the fall of Aulla, the Task Force units reverted to the control of their parent battalions. The 2nd Battalion was relieved by the 3rd Bn, 370th Infantry, and moved back to an assembly area near Sarzana. The 3rd Battalion likewise moved back, and the 100th Battalion moved from Carrara to the assembly area during the morning from Carrara to the assembly area during the morning. All units were maintained on an alert status.

During the day reports were received that the German retreat, under pressure of our advancing forces and harried by partisans behind the lines, was becoming disorganized. Late in the day the 100th Battalion was motorized and set out in pursuit of the en Borghetta, which it reached at 1230 26 April, and where the battalion spent the night.

KIA loss this 25 April, 1945 was Cpl George U. KAWANO~G Co 2nd Bn 442nd RCT hometown unknown.

26 April – Rapid advance continued on the 26th . The 100th Bn. continued on to Ceresco slowed only by blown bridges and road demolitions. The 3rd Battalion left reserve at Sarzana at 1530, and moved by motor convoy to the city of Chiavari, on the coast, where the troops of the battalion slept in trucks. Motorized patrols were active probing for enemy pockets. Because of the extended and rapid movement necessary, the transportation problem became acute.

The 2nd Bn. spent the day in reserve at Sarzana, and made preparations to move forward. During the day, Regimental forward CP moved up to Sestri.

The mission of the regiment was to outflank Genoa. Operational instructions issued at 0300 on the 27th ordered the 100th Bn. to seize the town of Busalla, cutting Genoa from the North, and then to close the pass near Isola del Cantone. The 3rd Bn. was to take the West portion of Genoa and seize the garrison in the high grounds Northwest of the city.

The 100th Bn. left Carasco at 1030 after three hours rest in order to reach Busalla, above Genoa. After riding for 17 miles the troops were forced to march because of the road damages and blown bridges. The battalion marched seven miles reached Scotta Colla, where they occupied high ground and dug in there for the night.

BATTLE CAMPAIGNS *Excerpts from the 442nd Journals*

The 3rd Bn. left Chiavari at 0400 by motor convoy and arrived at Ferrada. The trucks were pulled across rivers by means of winches. At every settlement the troops were greeted by cheering crowds. At Bassi the battalion de-trucked and marched across country to Bargagli approximately 8 miles

The 2nd Bn. left bivouac near Sarzana and moved by convoy up Highway 1 to Chiavari and bivouacked over-night.

28 April The 100th Bn. continued its force march, leaving Scotta Colla at 0530. The Battalion marched 10 miles to Cosalino at which point motor vehicles caught up with the unit and shuttled the troops to the battalion objective, Busalla, 15 miles North of Genoa. Prior to the coming of the trucks, part of the men and weapons of each company reached Busalla on partisan buses and trucks. Busalla was reached at 1430. From there the 100th Bn. rode tanks to the town of Isola del Cortone which they occupied at 1600.

The 3rd Bn. marched up Highway 45 for 9 miles to the outskirts of Genoa, where they boarded trolley car, wagons, trucks, taxis and just anything that passed through the town and to take up position on the high ground to the Northwest.

The 2nd Bn., in reserve, after waiting for trucks, moved by convoy from Chiavari to Genoa and bivouacked outside of the city at 2100.

The Regimental CP was established in Busalla. Service Company left Carrara on the night of the 27th and moved by stages to Busalla, reaching there at 1400 28 April. Distance covered – approximately 80 miles.

Our KIA loss for 28 April, 1945 was Pfc William H. TAKETA~C Co 100th Bn 442nd RCT from Kent WA.

29 April The 2nd Battalion continued the rapid motorized advance, relieving the 100th Battalion near Isola del Cantone. The battalion moved up the Autostrada, reached the city of Alessandria at 1450, and outposted the town. Approximately 1000 Germans surrendered to the battalion in the city and were put on guard.

3rd Battalion continued to hold position on the outskirts of Genoa.

30 April The I&R Platoon, with a machine gun section of Co B attached, reached the city of Turin at 0930, entered the city and found it clear. Other motorized patrols radiated from Alessandria and the towns of Asti, Casale and Valenza were occupied. The Brazilian Expeditionary Force made contact with the 2nd Battalion at Alessandria.

Co K motorized patrols entered Savona and Ovada without resistance.

As the month closed, German resistance in Italy had been broken. Prisoners were surrendering by units. The regiment was patrolling a wide area. Everywhere the scene of liberation was repeated and our troops were enthusiastically greeting by the civil population.

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