HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

January 13, 1943

GENERAL ORDERS:

NO. 1:

155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION ALERT PLAN


1. Objective: This Battalion will be prepared at all times to take the field in an emergency.

2. Alert Signals:

a. The Division Artillery Commander will notify the 155th F. A. Battalion that an alert has been sounded.

b. Batteries will be notified by telephone and messenger.

c. The alert contemplation an eventual return to the same camp area.

4. Action on Signal: When a general alert has been sounded the following immediate action will be taken:

a. Battalion Commanders will report to Division Artillery Headquarters for further instructions.

b. Battery Commanders will report to Battalion Headquarters for further instructions.

c. First Sergeants will assemble batteries in battery areas and stand by for alert orders.

d. All absent personnel will be notified by Personnel Officer to rejoin units at once.

5. Equipment and Clothing: Full T/BA Field Equipment and clothing will be taken. All section T/BA.


7. Rations: One (1) days rations beginning with breakfast the day following the alert will be carried. Mess Sergeants will have boxes for the packing of rations.

8. Reck Detachment and Guard: The following will remain at Camp Edwards, as a rear detachment and guard:

a. One (1) Officer for the Battalion, who will be designated at the time of the alert.

b. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Headquarters Battery familiar with records.

g. One (1) non-commissioned officer from each battery familiar with supply.

d. One (1) non-commissioned officer from Service Battery in charge of Battalion Warehouse.
9. One (1) man for each barracks building, from organization occupying building to form battalion guard.

10. One cook from Headquarters Battery to operate rear detachment mess in Headquarters Battery Mess hall.

11. One 3/4 ton truck will be left by Service Battery.

12. One day's ration per individual assigned to Rear Detachment.

9. Property:

a. In general, all property which is not taken will be left in its normal place of use or storage with due regard to its safety.

b. Personal belongings of enlisted men and clothing in excess of T/SA will be placed in barracks bags and tagged with individual's name, rank and serial number. Barracks bags will be stacked on floor near front door of barracks to which men are now assigned.

c. Individual property, personal and government of men sick in hospital, men on furlough, prisoners awaiting trial by General Courts Martial and others who may be expected to rejoin their organizations in the field, will be left in charge of battery supply guard. This equipment will be delivered to the individual upon his return.

d. Buildings will be scrupulously policed, furnaces cleaned, water cut off and pipes and boilers drained, and buildings locked. The senior non-commissioned officer occupying each barracks is responsible that these orders are carried out and will secure and tag keys with building number and deliver them to Officer in charge of rear detachment.

e. Officers' equipment and lockers will be stored in Building 1445.

f. Property list for each building will be prepared in six copies for each building. One copy will be posted in the building and the others delivered to the Officer in Charge of rear detachment for delivery to Custodial Officer.

g. Mess Sergeants will be responsible for policing, checking, preparing property lists and turning in keys for mess halls.

10. Records:

a. Strength return will be made by Personnel Officer to the Division Adjutant General, as soon as possible after the alert signal has been given. The report will include the number of Officers, Warrant Officers and enlisted men and number and types of vehicles to depart with battalion.

b. Service Records and allied papers of enlisted personnel left behind, will be indorsed by Personnel Officer to Commanding Officer, Rear Detachment, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, and delivered to Headquarters, 36th Infantry Division. Receipts in triplicate will be taken for these records.

The men left behind are not the same for all types of alerts, nor under all possible modifications, but in order to facilitate prompt turning over, records listed below will be completed correctly for all men who may be left behind. These include all men who are sick in hospital, in confinement, on special duty, on furlough, or selected to remain with Rear Detachment. The records will be completed on mimeograph forms and on the Original PD AGO Form 33, together with Service Records of men in question. These records will then be filed in a separate file. When the status of an individual changes to where he is no longer liable to remain behind, these temporary mimeograph records may be destroyed and the Service Record returned to the usual file.
(1) Service Record Instrument. This will be addressed to Commanding Officer, front inserted, clipped to indicate the soldier's status, and completed to show character and efficiency rating.

(2) Extract from Service Record will AGO Form 25 will be completed.

(3) True copies of Forms 32 and 33 for men left behind will be prepared and certified by the Supply Officer of each battery. True copies will be filed in the unit files. The original of forms 32 and 33 will be delivered to the Personnel Officer.

II. Priority of Action:

a. Notification of individuals in public places in vicinity of Camp Edwards by Military Police. Individuals living off the post will be notified by their units by telephone or telegraph. Official messages when necessary.

b. Preparation of personal property and equipment. All individuals will prepare their equipment and property and report back to their sections as soon as possible with full field equipment not later than Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

c. Organizational Property will be loaded as soon as trucks report by sections personnel will report to truck and section chief will report to Battalion Commander when section is "Completely Alerted". Vehicles will assume positions in column as shown in current 155th F. A. Battalion Motor Vehicle Movement Assignment Table.

d. Battalion Staff Officers will report to Battalion Headquarters to receive additional instructions at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes.

e. Batteries will report number of Officers, Warrant Officers, and non-leadership personnel and numbers and serial numbers of individuals remaining behind to Battalion Headquarters.

f. Battalion Adjutant will send guard to 1400-1500 Block Guard House to obtain prisoners to be returned to units.

G. Personnel Officer will prepare telegrams to personnel on leave ordering them to report for duty at once. Obtain strength reports and prepare special roster and returns.

h. Battalion Ammunition Officer will draw from Ammunition Dump ammunition load authorized by Division Ammunition Officer for specific alert. He will call on battery ammunition trains for additional vehicles, if required to have authorized load. Small arms ammunition on hand will be distributed to batteries and carried by units.

i. Battalion Supply Officer will have an inventory made of surplus food above one day's ration for the purpose of turning in to Division Quartermaster.

j. Battalion Commander will notify Commanding General, 35th Division Artillery as soon as Battalion is "Completely Alerted".

12. Miscellaneous:

a. Prisoners at work will be returned to Block Guard House. Prisoners and remanded prisoners awaiting trial for minor offenses will be released to units.

b. Convalescent patients will be returned to organizations at once.

c. Personal property will be handled as follows:
(1) Cots, mattresses, pillows, sheets, pillow cases, bed sacks, comforters, chairs, tables, and other property in barracks will be stacked and stored in barracks to which they are charged. Small equipment, such as light bulbs will be boxed. Equipment issued Officers will be stored in day room on first floor of Building 111 and room will be locked. Headquarters Battery will furnish a non-commissioned officer and each battery will furnish one man to report to Capt. William B. Waldrop at Bldg. 111 at Alert plus thirty (30) minutes to accomplish this.

(2) Other organizational equipment will be stored in supply rooms and Battalion Headquarters Building - list of materials left in these buildings will be prepared and submitted as in 9, f. above.

g. Motor Vehicle Movement Loading Plans will be kept up to date at all times and reassignment of individuals and equipment effected in compliance with any subsequent changes in T/BA or TO's for this Battalion.

h. Battery Commanders will prepare and keep up to date detailed Alert Plans for their respective batteries. All Officers and "Key" enlisted men will be assigned functions and will be thoroughly familiarized with their duties under the Unit Plan. Check lists will be prepared for each Battery Officer and enlisted man charged with a Particular Alert Duty - Copies of Battery Alert Plan, truck loading schedule, and check lists will be submitted to this Headquarters--

By Order of Lieutenant Colonel McMURTRAY:

JAMES E. TAYLOR
Major, F. A.
S-3

[Signature]

OFFICIAL:

[Signature]
BATTERY "D" 155 FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
CAMP BURR, MASS.

A LATE SQUADRON

1. Battery CO reports to 1st Lt for information.

2. First sergeant forms Battery in Bury area and stands by for orders.

3. All absent personnel will rejoin units at once.

4. After receiving alert orders:
   a. Uniform-Field service w.full field, w/gas mask
   b. Equipment-Full T/3A clothes and equipment will be taken, nothing
   c. Sectional T/3A equipment
   d. Rations-Our full day's rations beginning with breakfast the following will be carried.

5. First Sgt will be responsible for Rear Det and Guard to be left at Camp Edwards
   a. 1 non commissioned officer for supply
   b. 1 man for each Barracks building for Guard
   c. 1 day's rations per individual assigned to RD
   d. Lists and serial nos of men remaining behind

6. Supply Sgt Schultis will be responsible for property to be left behind
   a. General property will be left in normal place of use or storage, safely and storage being considered
   b. Camp, post and Station property to be stored and stacked in bldg to which they are charged. Small articles bound.
   c. Lists of materials left in each place, 3 copies of each bldg list posted on bldg 1 as posted and 5 delivered to Officer in charge of RD
   d. Temporary records of Forms 32 and 33 for men absent or left behind to be made and left with RD

7. Mess Sgt Ortes will be responsible for:
   a. Polishing mess hall, check in property, preparing property lists and turning in keys to mess hall
   b. Getting equipment and rations loaded into his trunk.
8. Chief of Destil Barracks responsible for:
   a. All men in Barracks 1505 are they have their personal equipment alerted and ready to be loaded.
   b. Storing of personal equipment to be left behind in bldg 1506.
   Each mans property will be placed in a barracks bag, tagged and carried to 1506.
   c. Policing of Barracks part of that bldg, stacking of post property, etc.
   d. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment.

9. Chief of Section 8/Sgt Hollub responsible for:
   a. All men in bldg 1506 same as 8 above.
   b. Same as 8 above.
   c. Same as 8 above.
   d. That all furnaces are cleaned out, water cut off and boilers drained in 1506.
   e. Clearing bldg of personnel and equipment.

10. Motor Sgt. Rethroak responsible for:
    a. Sections equipment and property being alerted.
    b. Having drivers to dispatch vehicles promptly after receiving order.

11. All Section chiefs responsible for:
    a. Respective sectioning personnel and property that the correct 7/8A property and equipment is packed, the right uniform worn, etc.
    b. Personnel ready to clear bldg in a minimum of time, ready to load Sectional equipment.
    c. Loading Sectional equipment.
    d. Reporting to Chief of Sections when ready to move.

12. All corporals responsible for their respective squads or Platoons as authorized above.
13. All others, for individual equipment and clothing, General policing of area.
14. After all personal equipment and clothing, etc, are properly taken care of all personnel not designated to do something else will report to Section chief for purpose of loading Sect. equipment.

15. When a Section has been completely alerted the Section chief will report to Btry Fmce or 1st Sgt and the vehicles will take designated place in column.

16. Not over 30 minutes should be taken in getting personal clothing and equipments, packed and stored.

17. The Battery alert will be responsible for all records kept at Personnel Office and extracts to be made therefrom and left behind.

18. Chief of 5th Section will be charged with all ammunition issued to Btry at alert.

19. Btry Supply Officer will inventory all surplus food above 1 days ration for the purpose of turning in to the Div QM.

20. Battery CO will notify BN CO as soon as Btry is completely alerted.

21. All Officers in General Suspension Supervision.
Subject: Men to be Left Behind on Alert

To: Personnel Section, 155 F.A. Bn.

The following named men are to be left behind in Bty. "B" area when the Battalion is alerted:

1. Supply-Opl., Sexton, B.B., ASN 20616132
2. Guards of Barracks Bldgs.
   a. Pvt. Boyd, Fred W., ASN 35310405 8ldq 1508
   b. Pvt. Keegan, John E., ASN 32293225

Robert E. Hummer
1st Lt. 155 F.A. Bn.
Comdg, Bty. "B"
HEADQUARTERS, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 36, U. S. ARMY

OPERATION "AVALANCHE"

9 - 21 SEPTEMBER 1943

ANNEX #13

155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
OPERATION: "AVALANCHE"

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THE INVASION OF ITALY

A history of the actions of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion during the landing of the 36th Infantry Division on the shores of Italy, and the subsequent establishment of a beachhead in the vicinity of Paestum, Italy.
OPERATION - "AVALANCHE"

While an endless rain of bombs, falling in almost saturation point intensity was devastating communications and military installations from Sapi to Milan and from Taranto to Rome, the Fifth Army in Africa was dressing down the last rough spots in its highly trained invasion forces. In the forefront of these forces was the V-for-Texas Thirty-Sixth Division. Long in preparation for just such an operation, General Walker's 36th Infantry Division had spent the last few months in Invasion and Battle Training in various sectors of the huge Fifth Army Training areas in North Africa. One Unit of that Division, the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, presently under the command of Major Thomas T. Atkins of Hampton, Virginia, had conducted service practice and maneuvers from Sedan in Algeria to Port Lympuy in French Morocco, and back to Mostaganem, Algeria. Our history is concerned with the experiences of this unit.

On August 27, the first units of the Division began loading its large numbers of waterproofed vehicles and radios, guns and crates on the vast flotilla which was waiting for the time to sail. The masses of plans and loading charts involved in such an undertaking kept staff and battery officers busy right up to the moment of embarkation, and it was not until the evening of 3 September that the entire 155th Field Artillery Battalion was loaded and battened down, ready for the hop to Salerno.

On the morning of 3 September, the men of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, after their overland trip from Port Aux Poiles, Algeria to Oran and Mers El-Kebir, were put aboard the following ships:

U.S.S. Andromeda-One Officer and nineteen enlisted men.


U.S.A.T. Stanton-Twenty Officers and one hundred and twenty-seven enlisted men.

U.S.S. Phoenix-Ten enlisted men.

U.S.S. barnett-Two enlisted men.

3 British LST's-Seven Officers and two hundred and eight enlisted men.

The balance of two officers and one hundred and seventeen enlisted men were left at Oran and Algiers to arrive in Italy on £ plus 7 and £ plus 12. The entire loading plan for the Battalion Staff and Headquarters Battery had to be revised at the last minute because of limited capacities of certain boats, and it was not until the morning of 3 September that the above loading plan was completed.

The Battalion loaded under a limited vehicle and installation plan, allowing only for the absolute minimum of equipment consistent with operations for a short period. The firing batteries were equipped with 2 1/2-6-G-A, 4 4-L-T Prima Movers, 4 2-1/2-6-T Cargos and 4 155mm Howitzers each. Their communications equipment included 5 miles of W-130 wire, 3 miles of W-110 wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones and 3 SCR-610 Radios each. Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Battery travelled in 8 3/4-T C6, 4 1/4-T C6, and 2 3/4-T Weapons Carriers. This transportation carried one Sidrop RL-71, 20 miles of wire, 10 KE-8-A telephones, the Battalion Radio Section with 4 radios and 5 men, the Battalion Instrument and Survey Section with Transit and 2 men, Fire Direction Center with their Fire Control Tables and 7 men, and 12 officers and 104 enlisted men. Service Battery travelled with 1 4-T Wrecker. This equip-
ment, representing only a fraction of the normal organizational transportation and equipment, was destined to carry the battalion through the critical landing phase, and the subsequent securing of the Salerno beach-head.

Life on the boats, although crowded somewhat beyond the intimacy stage, was quiet and uneventful. This quiet, however, was made electric by an undercurrent of anticipation, by an increasing sense of the approach of the landing day. The daily routine of police and general quarters, fire alarms and boat stations practice was always alive with the feeling that perhaps this time, the alarm was the real thing. The slightly helpless feeling that always comes to a soldier on a boat, where he is merely a passenger, not knowing where he is going nor by what route, nor when he will arrive — whether the enemy is close by or a thousand miles away — came also to the men of the 155th; but an imbedded sense of faith in the Navy saved the sensation from being one of apprehension, and made it instead a thrilling sense of excitement. The great, horizon-to-horizon convoy was almost as intimate a group of units as an ordinary circus area.

The days slipped by, sometimes unknown creases of islands standing off to the port, sometimes the mainland of all too familiar Africa on the starboard. Bizerte, with its ruined port and its thousand ships slipped by late one afternoon. A day later the north coast of Sicily, with Palermo in its protective ring of hills, silently watched the progress of the fateful convoy.

As the day drew nearer, the tension mounted — becoming a thing that could almost be felt between the men. Conversation was studiedly casual; the routine went on as if it were an end in itself.

Suddenly, without warning, on the evening of 8 September, the loud speaker announced the surrender of Italy and the capitulation of Badoglio's Government. First there was a moment of silence, then great cheers and whistles broke out. The tension was gone. In its place, some had a feeling of let-down and anti-climax, but a few moments of sober reflection made it perfectly clear that although the Italians had given up, there were still great German forces in Italy, and that the fighting would be, if anything, stiffer than ever.

The celebrating quieted down. Routine took over. The ship was darkened, and the boat team commanders began their final preparation to unload the troops. With silent, deadly efficiency, the last rehearsals were run through — the last inspections were made. The tension was gone. In its place, some had a feeling of let-down and anti-climax, but a few moments of sober reflection made it perfectly clear that although the Indians had given up, there were still great German forces in Italy, and that the fighting would be, if anything, stiffer than ever.

The celebrating quieted down. Routine took over. The ship was darkened, and the boat team commanders began their final preparation to unload the troops. With silent, deadly efficiency, the last rehearsals were run through — the last inspections were made. Instructions were issued in subdued voices. Orders were carried out by the precision-trained teams, and when, finally the time came for lowering over the sides, everything was in readiness. Out of the oppressive silence of whispers and running feet and creaking winches, the first boat's motor roared to life and a phosphorescent wake glittered as the tiny craft raced away to its rendezvous area. From then on, the night was alive with the sputtering of new motors, with orders shouted in hoarse voices, with the constant moving of troops up the hatchways and down over the landing nets.
Shortly after 0200 hours, 9 September 1943, the cruisers and destroyers opened fire on the beaches. The night sky which had been so dark was now aflame. German planes came over immediately; the sky was laced with the startling red pattern of anti-aircraft fire. Huge flares, dropped by the enemy planes, seemed to stand in the air and shine with constantly increasing brilliance, lighting up the entire beach and the ships out in the bay. A few minutes later, the first wave of landing craft swept up to the beaches and the long-promised invasion began.

The various batteries of the 155th began unloading from their different ships. Since the original personnel loading plan had been changed subsequent to the loading of the vehicles, the Battalion Staff and Operations Section and "C" Battery Command Group had to be transferred at midnight from the U.S.A.T. Stanton to the U.S.S. Andromeda where their vehicles and equipment were. "A" Battery Command Group were transferred to the Barnett. At the same time our Infantry were advancing on Altilia from the West. While in liaison with this force, Lt. Komskie was wounded by shell fragments and evacuated to a rear area. The first group arrived on Red Beach (see Map) at 1145, under heavy enemy fire. The assembling of the Battalion was not completed until 2000 hours. The first battery to get assembled after reaching the beach was "B" Battery, commanded by Captain August C. Moser, Jr., which went into position in the vicinity of Paestum at 1400 hours. "A" Battery, commanded by Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, was in position at 2000. The Battalion CP's were in position and reporting at 1:45 and the Battalion CP was placed in position (95.300-01.400 Rocca Dagnate, 1/50,000) at 1815 hours. This area, occupied on the first day, was near the ancient walled city of Paestum. All communication were immediately installed; fire direction center was put into operation; observers went forward; survey was initiated; and the Battalion, less "C" Battery was ready to deliver its decisive and destructive fire by 0430 hours, 10 September.

On 10 September, shortly after daylight, "A" and "B" Batteries, having registered on a common base point, fired a concentration of 3F rounds on a Cross Roads near Altilia, using map data. The effects of this concentration on enemy vehicles and troops could not be observed. At 0910 hours, "C" Battery commanded by Captain William D. Waldrop, pulled in, immediately dropped trails and entered the firing.

During the morning, Colonel Thomas J. Strycker, Executive Officer, 36th Division Artillery, arrived at the Battalion CP and directed that a Battalion concentration be placed on the mountain city of Altilia. Observers reported that the 83 round concentration was very effective on enemy emplacements. No other concentrations fired on this date.

Early on the morning of 11 September, the Battalion Commander was ordered to prepare for a forward displacement to the area of Matinella, near the junction of the La Coa and Calidare Rivers (90.00 - 13.010, Campagna Sheet, 1/50,000), at 1000 hours, the Forward Observers were in position and observing. "A", "B", and "C" Batteries were in positions selected by a reconnaissance party consisting of the Battalion S-2, Ass't S-2, Ass't S-3, Communications.
officer and the Battery Commanders.

In the afternoon of this date, Captain Raymond (now) Keller, Battalion Asst S-3 and 1/Sgt Walter C. Tucker, Battalion Sergeant-Major, were on a reconnaissance. Having located the position of a large number of enemy troops, scout cars and enemy tanks, and having radiated the information to the Battalion CP, they were returning. On their return trip, following the same road as previously used, their 1/4 ton Jeep struck a land-mine near a blow-out bridge. Sergeant Tucker was killed instantly and Captain Keller was seriously injured. Captain Keller was taken to an aid station and later transferred to a ship for return to a hospital in North Africa. Sgt Tucker was buried in the American Cemetery, Vanuella, Italy on 12 September by Chaplain Goldman S. Drury. The writer and thirteen enlisted men served as guard of honor and pall bearers.

At 1400 hours a Battalion Concentration was fired on a group of enemy tanks crossing the Sele River. The forward observers reported that 5 tanks were disabled and the tank column dispersed. On this concentration, 128 rounds were fired.

On the following morning, 12 September, Tank concentrations near two crossings of the Calore River, both above and below Persano were destroyed and dispersed. Troop concentrations between the Sele and Calore Rivers, and in the neighborhood of Alta Villa were fired on, and successful effect was noted on all firing. Four tanks were reported destroyed and the balance dispersed. During the bombing of the beach on this day, machine gunners of the Battalion Motor Shop, situated in Paestum, brought down one confirmed enemy craft, and one unconfirmed. During the bombing, Lt. Kieffer was wounded slightly by shell fragments. After having the wound dressed, he immediately returned to duty. At the same time, 1/4 Elton E. Roberts of Service Battery received a shell fragment, but ignored it, carrying on with his duties. It was not until seven days later that, under orders from his Battalion Commander, Sgt. Roberts reported to the hospital for x-ray and treatment.

About 1200 hours, this date, the battalion was ordered to cease firing on Alta Villa. Our infantry troops had occupied the city and the situation was well in hand. Later in the afternoon, our forward observers in Alta Villa called for fire on that town, saying that our infantry was being forced to withdraw, having fallen under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. However, it was deemed hazardous to fire in the area, since it was still occupied by our own troops. Our infantry was forced to withdraw from Alta Villa as best they could without the cover of Artillery fire which they so badly needed. Late in the evening, at 1800 hours, after the withdrawal had been completed, Colonel Shryock visited the Battalion CP, and again personally directed our fire. He requested a heavy concentration on Alta Villa, Hill 424 to the northeast, and the town of Silente. The Battalion fired with such effect that great numbers of German dead were found in the streets by our reoccupying troops the following morning.
At daybreak, 0635 hours, 13 September, firing began with a great number of concentrations on vehicular and track movements between the Sele and Calore Rivers, troop concentrations north of Hill 124, and increased in intensity throughout the day. The Battalion was in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry in the Altavilla area. Again, however, the Battalion was ordered to cease fire on Altavilla, and when our infantry was again blunted out of the town by mortar, machine-gun and artillery fire, higher headquarters delayed permission to fire over the heads of our troops until it was to late to help their withdrawal.

At about 1300 hours, Pvt Joe Garcia, "C" Battery, captured a German sniper in his battery area.

Early in the afternoon, 1405 hours, units of the 45th Division Artillery to our left rear became increasingly engaged in countering a large enemy tank attack which was attempting a break through southeast of Persano, where the Calore and Sele Rivers join. Our observers reported large tank concentrations in and around Persano, and far up the Calore River. Heavy fire was delivered by our observers, and the battle developed south of Persano. The battalion supported the firing of the 358th Field Artillery Battalion by means of the direct wire communications which had been initiated by that unit and our own Battalion. During the afternoon, a plan of 4-10 Tank Destroyers was attached to the Battalion, and was tied in by Survey; but before they could deliver fire in our support, they were withdrawn for another mission. Meanwhile the tank battle was being fought with tremendous concentration of fire from our Battalion and the 45th Division Artillery. The Battalion fired 2 enemy tank attacks missions for the 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry and one concentration of enemy armored vehicles. Definite effects were unobtainable, but all attacks were repulsed. The progress of the tank battle presented a threat to our rear, local anti-tank security in the form of barocks were disposed along the only possible avenues of tank approach. One battery shifted it's position to enable it to fire directly to our rear, should the occasion arise. Large numbers of infantry passing through our position in their retreat from Altavilla were fed and given medical treatment, and then forwarded to their assembly areas for reorganization. By 2000 hours, seventy or eighty infantrymen and our own local security constituted the only line between our forces and the enemy. Precarious as our position appeared, it actually had more advantages than disadvantages. It's location in the river junctions to our left, and the fire hill positions to our front and right made it a highly desirable defensive position which could have been held with a minimum of troops inflicting a maximum of loss on any attacking enemy. Although tanks appeared to be at our rear, they could not possibly have directly attacked our position by reason of the natural barriers imposed by the various river lines to the left, and an impassable gully along our front. Our rear and left was made secure by the fact that the 45th Division Artillery continued to hold their positions, and eventually repelled the tank attack with large losses to the enemy. Due, however, to the disorganized state of the infantry, higher headquarters decided not to risk loss of their medium artillery, and ordered it's withdrawal to positions on the Agnelli farm, a mile and a half northeast of Paestum. While preparing for this withdrawal, an enemy fighter plane, hotly
chased by one of our pursuit planes passed over the Battalion position, dropped its bomb, and in the straffing that eventually caused the enemy plane's destruction, Pvt J. William F. Harnett, 3rd Battery, one infantryman and one man from a Tank Destroyer unit on patrol above our positions were instantly killed. T/4 Norman D. Tucker, 3rd Battery and several infantrymen were seriously wounded. The smoke from the bomb, drifting over the CP installations, excited one of the men to the point where he thought he smelled gas; the resulting alarm case near to creating a panic in the midst of the preparations for withdrawal.

The order for withdrawal was received by this Battalion after dark, and the necessary reconnaissance to the new positions was begun immediately. The Batteries were alerted to be ready to march at 0000, head of the column to form at the cross roads in Matinella, with Major Atkins leading. They were ordered to move in the order A, B, C, and D. Service Battery, being in a less exposed position, was to move later. After the Battalion had moved to its new position, two trips were made back to the Matinella area to haul the ammunition and equipment which it had been impossible to carry at first.

The Battalion withdraw from its Matinella position at 22 hours and was in position on the Agnelli farm, 88-07 Roccalesandio, 1/50,000 at 0300 hours 15 September.

On the morning of 15 September, all batteries were in position and observers were in position or reporting to the new area. Fire immediately was delivered on the highway leading into Persano, interdicting enemy tank movements in that area. During the day of the 15th, fire was delivered on areas ranging from Persano to Altabilla, and during the night, prepared fire was delivered on areas, bridges, etc., in a wide sector north of the Sele and across the Altavilla area. During the late afternoon a Battalion concentration was fired on enemy tanks for the 36th Tank Destroyer Battalion. In all cases tanks or troops dispersed or were driven back. Five concentrations were also fired for the 36th Division Artillery.

During the night, certain units of the 82nd Airborne Division moved into Altabilla, accompanied by a liaison officer, Lt. Raymond F. Kent, from this Battalion. These units prepared to move under cover of darkness up the valley to the east of Altabilla, take Hill 424, and eventually the town. Hill 424 was taken according to schedule, but heavy resistance was met in the Altavilla and Silentana area. German agents brought Artillery fire down on various parts of the town by means of prearranged signals from church bells within the town itself. Heavy mortar fire from the ravine North of Altavilla made the situation precarious, and more fire was called for. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set afame.

On 15 September, one battalion concentration was fired on tanks in the vicinity south of Altavilla. Seven concentrations were fired for the 36th Division Artillery. Results of these concentrations were not observed. Late in the night, our troops withdrew from Hill 424 and Altavilla and called for heavy fire on Altavilla, Silentana and the ravine north of Altavilla. Our
Battalion delivered a 50 minute concentration in conjunction with naval units and light battalions on the area, making one of the heaviest artillery concentrations seen thus far in Italy. The fire enabled our troops to re-enter Altavilla the following morning and hold it from further attack.

On 16 September, the forward observer of "C" Battery fired a battalion concentration on enemy gun positions and reported that the battery was neutralized. Seven missions were fired for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy tanks and troops at 1100 hours, with the reported results that the enemy had dispersed and retreated. In the afternoon, 1200 hours, the battalion fired a mission for the 36th Division Artillery on 40 enemy tanks in the area north of Altavilla; reports from this mission state that the area of the tanks was well covered by our fire, but definite results are unknown. Later in the afternoon, 1530 hours, 2 missions were fired by "B" Battery forward observer on enemy batteries, covering the entire area with shell fire. Results unobserved.

The Battalion, remaining in the position at the Agnelli farm on 17 September, fired nine missions for the 36th Division Artillery on enemy troops and positions in the area of Altavilla and along the Calore River. It was while the Battalion was firing on enemy troops for the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion that General Eisenhower and General Clark observed "C" Battery Fire. The observed results from this fire were excellent, several enemy installations being destroyed, including a large ammunition or gasoline dump which was set afame. The rest of the day was spent in sporadic defensive firing, some observed and some from map data.

The Battalion moved to a new position (Roccadespide, 90.825-08.675, 1/50,000) due east of the Agnelli farm and north of Mount Sopranato at 1140 hours on 18 September, after having fired seven harassing missions for 36th Division Artillery.

On 19 September, 0330 hours, Battery "A" was placed on detached service and sent on a secret mission by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army. The Battalion did not fire on this date, all the time being taken up in cleaning of equipment.

Battery "C" was alerted and left the area at 1520 hours, 20 September by verbal orders, Commanding General, Fifth Army, on a secret mission.

On the morning of 21 September, the Battalion was ordered to move to a Division assembly and training area north east of the junction of the La Cena and Calore Rivers. The Battalion left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new bivouac area by 1500 hours. Here each man is re-equipped and given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

During the entire period from 9 September to this date, every man of the Battalion has put his best into every duty. The morale of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion is as a result of this action, of a very high order.
man feels that he and his unit have done a good job, and the organization is in fair shape to continue the battle whenever and wherever ordered.

Stanley W. Huth
W.O. (Jg) AM
Asst Adjutant

5 Exhibits.
Exhibit "A", Casualty List.
Exhibit "B", Unit Journal.
Exhibit "D", Situation Map & Overlays each Situation.
Exhibit "E", Firing Chart
LIST OF CASUALTIES DURING THE PERIOD
9 September to 21 September 1943

1. Captain RAYMOND (N.T.) KELLER JR., - Asst S-3 was seriously wounded on the afternoon of 11 September when the 1/4 ton (Jeep) struck a land mine near a blown out bridge on the Calore River. Captain Keller was returning after having located and radioed information concerning the location of large numbers of enemy troops and tanks.

2. M/Sgt WALTER G. TUCKER, - Battalion Sergeant Major, from Fort Worth, Texas, was instantly killed while driving the 1/4 ton (Jeep), returning with Captain Keller from their dangerous mission.

3. 1st Lt. WALTON M. VINES, - Reconnaissance Officer, "A" Battery, was riding in another vehicle directly behind the one driven by M/Sgt Tucker. Lt. Vines was injured by fragments from the explosion to the extent that first aid was necessary.

4. Cpl. STAILEY R. CASTELLI, - "A" Battery, was riding in the back seat of the vehicle carrying Lt. Vines. Cpl. Castelli received several wounds from the explosion.

5. T/5 WILLIAM A. GIESENBERG, - "A" Battery, driver of Lt. Vines' vehicle received injuries from the same explosion.

6. 1st Lt. CHARLES F. KEIFFER, - Service Battery, was slightly injured by shrapnel during an enemy air raid Faestum, Italy, on 12 September.

7. Pvt lcl WILLIAM A. BARMETT, - "B" Battery, was killed by enemy strafing near Altavilla 13 September. Pvt lcl Barnett was on patrol duty on a hill above his Battalion position.

8. T/4 NORMAN D. TUCKER, - "B" Battery, was seriously wounded near Altavilla during an enemy air raid.

9. Pvt lcl JOHN H. DICKSON, - "B" Battery, was wounded about the chest by shrapnel from an 88mm shell, 13 September.

10. 1st Lt ALBERT (N.T.) KOSCISKIE, - Battalion Liaison Officer, received wounds in the upper part of right leg from shrapnel on 14 September 1943.

Exhibit "A"
OPERATIONS IN ITALY. OCTOBER 1943

On the morning of 21 September 1943 the battalion was ordered to move to a Division Assembly area north east of the junction of the Le Closs and Clore rivers. The battalion, less "A" and "C" Batteries who were attached to the 1st Ranger Force, left the old area at 1200 hours and arrived at the new area at 1510 hours. In this area, the battalion was re-equipped, given rest, exercise and training for future operations.

While in this area, Batteries "A" and "C" rejoined the battalion from their mission with the 1st Ranger Force and their engagement at Chiunsi Pass, Italy, on 6 October 1943.

On 12 October at 0400 hours, the battalion left the area in the vicinity of Persano, Italy, for the new bivouac area two miles north of Pozzuoli, Italy, arriving at 1430 hours. (See map Italy 11:00a00 - Napoli, Sheet 18.) The battalion moved from the Pozzuoli area 7 November 1943 at 1630 hours, arriving in an assembly area one mile west of Villa-Volturno, Italy, at 2030 hours. (See Caserta, Sheet 172 II, Italy 1/50,000)

Major Thomas T. Atkin, the Battalion Commander, left on 14 November at 0730 hours with Captain William D. Gallop, Assistant S-3, and Battery Commanders, making a reconnaissance of the area occupied by the 9th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, whose positions were to be taken over and occupied by this battalion. (See overlay No. 1, attached)

16 November: Batteries "B" and "C", under command of Battery Executives, marched from Villa-Volturno at 1900 hours.

17 November: Batteries "B" and "C" arrived at new positions at 0100 hours (see attached overlay No. 2). Both Batteries registered on base point at 0630 hours; missions fired for 9th Field Artillery Battalion. Headquarters Battery, Battery "A" and Service Battery, under command of Major Frank J. Robb, Battalion Executive, marched from Villa-Volturno area at 1230 hours, closing on new positions at 2000 hours.

18 November: Battery "A" in position and ready to fire at 0400 hours. Personnel Section joined 36th Infantry Division Rear Echelon one (1) mile North of Marsanello, Italy, at 1630 hours.

19 November: Battalion ordered indirect support of 143rd Infantry at 1445 hours. Fired nine (9) missions and harassing fire, a total of three hundred and sixty-eight (368) rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward to new position after dark (see attached overlay No. 3).

Battery "C" registered at 0900. Battalion fired nineteen (19) missions and harassing fires, a total of five hundred and ninety-four (594) rounds. Headquarters Battery area shelled by artillery; Pvt. William G. Miller killed.

-1-
21 November: Battalion fired eight (8) missions, a total of two hundred and forty (240) rounds, Battery "G" position shelled by enemy artillery. Pvt 1st Robert E. Ford killed and six (6) men injured by shell fragments. Battery "C" moved from this position to former Battery position by order of the Division Commander, due to the close proximity of the battery position to the C.P.'s of the 140th and 143rd Infantry Regiments.

22 November: Fired seven (7) missions and harassing fires, total of four hundred and thirty-seven (437) rounds. Battery "A" position shelled; direct hit made on 4 ton prime mover loaded with ammunition. No personnel injured.

23 November: Fired eleven (11) missions, total of three hundred and twenty-nine (329) rounds; one mission fired by Air OP.


25 November: Fired eight (8) missions, total of four hundred and twenty-seven (427) rounds. All Batteries and Battalion C.P. shelled by enemy artillery fire throughout the day. No casualties.

26 November: Fired six (6) missions and harassing fires, a total of forty-one (41) rounds. Service Battery area shelled and 1st Lt. (Chaplain) Harley R. McDaniel killed and one (1) enlisted man injured.

27 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of thirty-seven (37) rounds. S/Sgt James R. Stegall, flying a cub of this battalion, adjusted fire on enemy guns for 2nd Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment, also for 2nd Battalion of the same regiment, using our radio and wire communications. Battery "A" area shelled, no casualties.

28 November: Fired three (3) missions and harassing fires, a total of two hundred and forty-four (244) rounds. Lt. Martin W. Williamson, FO of Battery "C", adjusted fire using IX Corps Artillery, results - fires burning one (1) hour later. Lt. William J. Jessup adjusted 13th Field Artillery Battalion on point A-1 from vicinity of Battalion C.P. Lt. Williamson adjusted on enemy artillery for 1st Battalion, 71st Field Artillery Regiment.

29 November: Fired thirteen (13) missions and harassing fires, a total of twelve hundred and fifteen (1215) rounds. Lt. Jessup adjusted 13th Field Artillery Battalion and 69th C.A. on point A-1. Battery "A" and Battalion OP shelled for twenty (20) minutes, necessitating movement of OP by Battalion Executive. One (1)
enlisted man at CP injured. Direct hit made on wreckage of battery "A" kitchen truck (truck burned 24 November).

30 November: Eleven (11) missions and harassing fires fired, a total of three hundred and fifty-eight (358) rounds. CP area shelled for twenty (20) minutes, no personnel injured. For situation on this date, see overlay No. 5.

STANLEY W. BUTH
W.O. (Jg) AUS
Asst Adj

5 Exhibits:

Exhibit "A" Casualty List
Exhibit "B" Officers Roster
Exhibit "C" Unit Journal
Exhibit "D" Report of Firing
Exhibit "E" Maps and Situation overloads
LIST OF CASUALTIES IN NOVEMBER 1943

1. 1st Lt Harry F. Frantz - Battery "C", Executive Officer, was lightly injured as a tow chain broke while winching a gun into position.

2. T/4 Clarence E. Burkholler - Headquarters Battery, fire direction center, was seriously wounded by an enemy shell burst about two (2) miles south of Mignano, Italy.

3. T/5 Allen G. Nicholus - Battery "C", was lightly injured by falling rock.

4. Pvt George A. Sargent - Battery "A", was lightly injured by falling rock.

5. Pvt Daniel A. Senese - Battery "A", was lightly wounded by shell fragments on 20 November 43.

6. Pvt William G. Miller - Headquarters Battery, was instantly killed by enemy artillery shell which burst his side as he was being relieved from guard duty, about one mile south of Mignano, Italy on 20 November 1943.

7. Pvt lcl Archie W. St. Clair - Battery "B", was lightly injured about his head when he fell off a truck while repairing wire communication on 20 November 43.

8. Pvt lcl Robert E. Ford - Battery "C", was instantly killed as an enemy artillery shell fell upon him as he lay in his foxhole.

9. Pvt lcl E. Holliday - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragments while on duty as telephone operator on 21 November 43.

10. Pvt lcl John M. Dickson - Battery "C", was lightly wounded as an enemy artillery shell burst in the gun position on 21 November 1943.

11. Pvt Kenneth L. Wright - Battery "G", was lightly injured by recoil of howitzer on 21 November 43.

12. Pvt Clarence (mnl) Jordheim - Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 21 November 43.

13. T/5 Leonard W. Charlton - Battery "G", was lightly injured by falling rock on 21 November 43.

14. Pvt Wayne L. Rader - Battery "A", was lightly wounded in the legs by shell fragments on 21 November 43.

15. 1st Lt Ross (mnl) Khan - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling shell of 1/4 ton truck on 21 Nov 43.

16. Pvt Jim R. Ard - Battery "B", was lightly injured by falling while unloading ammunition.

17. Cpl Murphy J. LaFrance - Battery "B", was lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragments on 23 November 43.

18. Cpl Weldon (mnl) Sanchez - Battery "B", fell down an embankment while leading ammunition truck during the middle of night receiving light injuries on 24 November 43.

19. Pvt Fred W. Boyd - Battery "B", broke his arm while unloading ammunition on 24 November 43.

20. T/4 Finley L. Vanman - Headquarters Battery, lightly wounded by enemy artillery shell fragment in battery area 30 November 43.

Ehribit "A"
21. Pvt Edward C. Behrens
   - Headquarters Battery lightly wounded
     by enemy artillery shell fragment
     while in battery area on 30 November 43.

22. Sgt John E. Arrington
   - Battery "G", received light wounds
     about his face from shell fragments.
OPERATIONS IN ITALY, DECEMBER 1943

The Battalion remained in action from 17 November 1943 to 30 December 1943. Operations of the Battalion for the month of November 1943 have been covered in a previous report.

01 December 1943: Battalion remained in position (See Map ITALY, 160 II and 161, III and attached overlay # 4) Battalion fired 10 missions, a total of 323 rounds. Batteries "A" and "B" and Battalion OP areas shelled by enemy artillery; no personnel injured or material damaged.

02 December 1943: Fired 15 missions, a total of 596 rounds.

03 December 1943: Fired 26 missions, a total of 1133 rounds. Battery "C" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 4)

04 December 1943: Fired 22 missions, a total of 246 rounds (See attached overlay # 5) Battery "C" registered on check-point at 1137 hours.

05 December 1943: Fired 25 missions, a total of 786 rounds. Enemy aircraft flew low over Headquarters and Headquarters battery areas, strafing; no casualties. Battalion Air OP attacked by enemy aircraft and forced down; no personnel injured but plane damaged; later, attacked again without damage to plane or personnel injuries.

06 December 1943: Fired 33 missions, a total of 720 rounds.

07 December 1943: Fired 10 missions, a total of 261 rounds. Battery "B" ordered to displace forward (See attached overlay # 6)

08 December 1943: Fired 45 missions, a total of 1137 rounds. Battery "A" position shelled by artillery; Pvt 1st Kenneth J. Schultz, 3677446, wounded. Battalion relieved from direct support 141st Infantry and ordered to direct support of 67 Infantry Motorized Regiment. (Italian)

09 December 1943: Fired 9 missions, a total of 971 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 7)

10 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 465 rounds. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson made precision adjustment of one gun on enemy pillbox for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "C" OP, pillbox destroyed. (For situation see overlay # 8)

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3. NND 735017

By RB/151 NARA, Date 8-4-80
11 December 1943: Fired 23 missions, a total of 521 rounds. Battalion position shelled by enemy aircraft; no casualties. 1st Lt. Williamson made precision adjustment on an enemy pillbox for the 77th Field Artillery, 1st Battalion from battery "D" OP, mission accomplished. (For situation, see overlay # 9.)

12 December 1943: Fired 12 missions, a total of 945 rounds. Battalion position shelled by artillery; no casualties. (For situation, see overlay # 10.)

13 December 1943: Fired 11 missions, a total of 298 rounds. Battery "A" position fired upon by artillery, no casualties.

14 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 108 rounds. Enemy aircraft bombed Battalion CP, Headquarters Battery, and battery "A" areas; 2 enlisted men injured. Battalion relieved of direct support of 67th Infantry of Motorized Regiment (Italian) and ordered to reinforce fires of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion. (For situation see overlay # 11.)

15 December 1943: Fired 4 missions, a total of 820 rounds. S/Sgt James W. Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 97th Field Artillery Battalion. Battery neutralized, 3 direct hits. Battalion area shelled by artillery; no casualties or losses to material.

16 December 1943: Fired 7 missions, a total of 266 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery missions for 98th Field Artillery Battalion.

17 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 219 rounds. Observer of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired Battalion on counter battery mission; battery neutralized. (For situation see attached overlay # 12.)

18 December 1943: Fired 8 missions, a total of 497 rounds. Observer 132nd Field Artillery Battalion fired battalion on 4 counter battery missions. Fire effective. 1st Lt. Niva S. Fingerhut observed for counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "A" OP, battery neutralized.

19 December 1943: Fired 3 missions, a total of 260 rounds. S/Sgt Stegall (Air OP) observed counter battery mission for 194th Field Artillery Battalion. Fire effective.

20 December 1943: Fired 6 missions, a total of 275 rounds. (For situation see attached overlays # 13 and # 24.)

21 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 337 rounds. Battalion ordered to displace to new position.

-2-
(See overlay # 15) Closed out new position at 1730 hours. Battalion ordered in direct support of the 504th Parachute Regiment.

22 December 1943: No firing on this date. Battery "A" ordered to displace forward (See overlay # 15.)

23 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 287 rounds.

24 December 1943: Fired 2 missions, a total of 50 rounds.


26 December 1943: Fired 5 missions, a total of 315 rounds. (For situation see attached overlay # 18.)

27 December 1943: No firing on this date.

28 December 1943: Fired 17 missions, a total of 476 rounds. Lt. Samuel Airov fired counter battery mission for 995th Field Artillery Battalion from Battery "C" OP. Battery neutralized.

29 December 1943: Fired 18 missions, a total of 779 rounds.

30 December 1943: No firing this date. Battalion ordered to displace to new area. (See attached overlay # 17.) Battalion closed in new area at 1730.

31 December 1943: Personal section left Marzanello, Italy area at 1400 hours and arrived at Battalion new area 2 miles northwest of Marzanello, Italy at 1645.

Conclusion:

Ammunition - The quality of the ammunition is very good. As yet powder charges and projectiles are not segregated by lot numbers and weights at dumps.

Communications - Telephone and radio equipment proved to be of good quality. Replacements were easily gotten. All faulty communication was due to destruction of wire line enemy shelling or by being run over by heavy vehicles.

Rations - Food in the front lines was found to be as good as better than in rearguard. The supply of cigarettes adequate and it was noted that the popular brands are more prevalent on the front lines than at the rear. The candy rations are appreciated. A liquor ration under the supervision of the battalion Surgeon should be provided.

Tables of organization - Provision should be made for battery computers for each firing battery with at least a rating of Technician grade IV for each computer.
HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.P.O. No. 36, U. S. Army

31 December 1943

OFFICERS' ROSTER
BATTALION STAFF

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Col.</td>
<td>MC MURRAY, ROY S.</td>
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<td>Lt. Col.</td>
<td>ATKINS, THOMAS T.</td>
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<td>Major</td>
<td>HOBBS, FRANK J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Col.</td>
<td>JOHNSON, HAROLD E.</td>
<td>0-2101894</td>
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Unassgd.
Br. Condr.
Br. Exec.
S - 3
Asst S - 3
S - 2
Btry C. Prov Pack Btry
In. Off.
Asst S - 2 (Sumv 0.)

Btry CO
Comm. Off.
Anti-Tank Off.
Ktr. Off.

Btry CO
Exec. Off.
Reconn. Off.
Ktr. Off.

Btry CO
Exec. Off.
Asst Exec. Off.
Ktr. Off.

Btry CO
Exec. Off.
Asst Exec. Off.
Reconn. Off.
Ktr. Off.

Btry CO
Train Comdr.
Btry Ktr. Off.

Asst S - 4
MOLIN, DONALD E. Asgn to sn. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to 1st Btry on 1 January 44.

LARTER, RICHARD F. Asgn to Ln. on 13 December 43 and Asgn to 2nd Btry on 1 January 44.

LG CRABBY, RICHARD J. Asgn to Ln on 13 December 43 and Asgn to 2nd Btry on 1 January 44.

ATHENS, THOMAS T. Promoted to Lt. Col. on 21 December 43.

NARA, RICHARD B. Promoted to Capt. on 28 December 43.

SILL, LINCOLN L. from Train Commander to Asst. Exec. "B" Btry.

KUHN, RAYMOND F. from sn. Intcr. Officer to Recom. Officer "B" Btry.
Tables of equipment - Generally the equipment is adequate and of excellent quality. It is felt that all command cars in the battalion should be replaced by 1/4 ton jeeps. It is also suggested that all 603 radios except two for battalion headquarters should be replaced by 610 radios. The two for battalion headquarters could be mounted in weapons carriers.

Lights - Some form of lighting equipment should be provided for night operation in the fire direction center and personnel section.

Maps - Maps in this sector are accurate. (taking in consideration corrections obtained by the engineers) and have proven suitable for firing charts. There has not been a sufficient supply of maps in this organization and at times the supply was almost critical.

Tractor - A caterpillar tractor should be provided in each medium battery to facilitate movement of prime movers and pieces in and out of positions.

Howitzer - The 155mm Schneider Howitzer should be replaced by the M-1 for reasons of the additional range attained thereby.

Training - Training methods and doctrines as laid down in War Department manuals have proven to be sound.

STANLEY W. HUHN
S.O. (3-g.) F.A.
Ass't. Adjt.

6 exhibits:

Exhibit "A" Casualty List
Exhibit "B" Officers roster
Exhibit "C" Unit Journal
Exhibit "D" Air Section Missions
Exhibit "E" Report of Firing
Exhibit "F" Maps and Situation Overlays
LIST OF CASUALTIES IN DECEMBER 1943

1. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin
   - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured when recoil knocked cradle traveling log from its proper position and was struck in the log.

2. Pvt 1st Roger A. Gonzales
   - Instantly killed when an enemy 88mm shell landed within 25 yards of his piece while he was on duty. (Phone guard). Battery "B", Cannoneer.

3. Sgt. Fred J. Hubbs
   - Was lightly injured while moving his gun into position in the dark early morning hours falling into trail ditch injuring his spine. Battery "B", Section Chief.

4. Pvt 1st John J. Maher
   - Battery "B", Recorder, was lightly wounded when an enemy shell landed near the exec's post. Wounded in calf of leg which later caused amputation of same.

5. Pvt Gareth L. Huntcon
   - Battery "B", Cannoneer, was lightly injured while acting as guide for an engineer caterpillar clearing road into position of mud. It was dark and he was caught in between the caterpillar and an oncoming truck.

6. T/5 George S. Yates
   - Service Battery, had been transferred to this Battalion but due to his duty at an 133rd F.A. O.P. had not reported when an enemy artillery shell landed causing his instant death.

7. Cpl Kenneth L. Schultz
   - Battery "A", Ammunition Cpl, was delivering message to 6try gun position when he was lightly wounded by enemy shell which landed 50 yards from him causing a wound near his right kidney.
SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for January 1944.

TO: The Adjutant General
    Washington 25, D. C.
    (Thru Channels)

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month of January 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.

THOMAS J. ATKINS
Lieutenant Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

1 Incl. - Narrative "January", (Sextuple)
155TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, JANUARY 1944

The battalion remained in a rest area, near Alife, Italy, from 31 December 1943 to 06 January 1944 inclusive, having been relieved by the 155th Field Artillery Battalion of the 34th Infantry Division on 30 December 1943 (see Map #1, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161 II). During this period a 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery was organized in this battalion, using the anti-tank platoon as a basis. Nine men were drawn from each of the light battalions, each of these battalions turning over two weapon carriers and the two 75 mm pack howitzers previously issued to them. During the rest period this battery was trained in the nomenclature of the weapon, standing gun drill, RSGP and other armament subjects. An effort was made to secure a range to conduct service practice, but as the battalion was ordered back into action, the battery did not have an opportunity to fire before going into combat.

During the early morning hours of 01 January, and continuing throughout most of the day, a severe wind and sleet storm raged over the area, destroying two liaison planes, leveling a number of pyramidal tents and causing slight damages to other organizational property. Beginning late in the day the weather cleared and remained calm throughout the remaining time the battalion spent in this rest area.

On 06 January the Commanding General of Division Artillery directed that the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atkins and a reconnaissance party, report to the 6th Armored Group at Cepagata for the purpose of making a reconnaissance for battery positions in the San Pietro area. After returning to the battalion area with this party, Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3; Captain Gilmer, Liaison Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer, the Battalion Commander issued orders for movement of the battalion and occupation of positions.

The battalion, less the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery and rear echelon personnel, began movement at 1100 hours on 07 January to positions near San Pietro, closing in this area at 2345 hours this date. (See Map #2, ITALY, 1/50,000 Sheet 161, I, II, III and IV and overlay #1). After positions were occupied, there was intermittent harassing fire on the road near the battalion area. During this shelling 1st Lt. Walton C. Vines, Executive Officer Battery "A" was wounded by a shell fragment in the left wrist and Sergeant Arthur A. Young, ASP 39051398, Battery "C", of Palestine, Texas was killed by enemy artillery fire while helping put gun into position. During the same enemy concentration, Pvt. Shelby R. Powell, ASP 35769767 of West End, Kentucky, Pvt. 1st Class J. Bailey, ASP 38058804, of El Paso, Texas and Private Louis J. Fasbender, ASP 35769778 of Lawrence, Massachusetts, all of Battery "C", were wounded. Pvt. 1st Class W. Devor, ASP 36133930, of Kalamazoo, Michigan of Battery "C", was wounded before reaching aid station and then returned to duty.
08 Jan Batteries "A", "B", and "C" completed registration on the base-point at 1046 hours by the Air OP. Pvt Iol Louis J. Deatch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment this battalion of San Antonio, Texas, was wounded about his legs from enemy shell fragments when the road near Battery "B" area was fired upon. The Commanding General of Division Artillery ordered the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery attached to the A56 Field Artillery Battalion and the battery moved from the Alife area to a new position near Vamauro, Italy. Seven (7) missions, a total of four hundred and forty-one (441) rounds were fired by the battalion on this day.

09 Jan The enemy shelled the road running through the battalion area, during which time Private Douglas (mai) Clinton, ASN 33320602, Medical Detachment this battalion of Jamison, Pennsylvania, was killed by enemy artillery shell explosion. There were twenty-four (24) missions, a total of one thousand and eighty (1080) rounds, fired by the battalion.

10 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. The battalion fired twenty-three (23) missions in all, a total of two hundred and seventy-six rounds.

11 Jan Until 1400 hours visibility was zero but cleared and remained good for the remainder of the day. The battalion fired one harassing mission on and in the vicinity of Mount Troggio and two guns of an enemy battery were neutralized at 1400 hours, fire being directed by the Air OP. The battalion fired two (2) missions, a total of seventy-two (72) rounds.

12 Jan Visibility was very limited during the day and only harassing missions were fired, a total of thirty-four missions, four hundred and four (404) rounds.

13 Jan As there was very limited visibility from the OP's, the Air OP registered the battalion on the check-point and base-point. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery returned to the battalion control and was ordered to a new position area (see overlay #2). Harassing missions were fired by the battalion in the vicinity of Mount Troggio and twenty-six missions in all, a total of three hundred and twenty-one (321) rounds were fired this day.

14 Jan Visibility was poor and only harassing missions were fired. Although the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery had not conducted service practice prior to being brought into combat, it was ready to fire on this day under the control of the Battalion Fire Direction Center. This battery fired three (3) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty rounds, with excellent results; the 155 howitzer batteries fired nineteen (19) missions, a total of one thousand and fifteen (1015) rounds.

-2-
15 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on Mount Trocchio. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired four (4) missions, four hundred and seventy-seven (477) rounds and the battalion fired two (2) concentrations, a total of eight hundred and seventeen rounds. On this date the Battalion Executive moved the rear echelon from Aisle area to an area near Venafo, leaving Personnel Section near Aisle with Division Rear Echelon.

16 Jan The Battalion Commander, Lt. Jessup, Survey Officer; and Lt. Evans, Communications Officer, made a reconnaissance for new positions in the Mount Trocchio area. Although visibility was unlimited, no observed targets were picked up. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of four hundred and twenty-eight (428) rounds and the 155 howitzer had one (1) concentration, six hundred and forty-five rounds expended.

17 Jan The battalion began movement to new position area in the vicinity of Mount Trocchio at 1200 hours and closed on new positions at 2330 hours. (See Overlay #2.) Prior to the move the battalion fired harassing concentrations on San Angelo. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and twenty (120) rounds and batteries "A", "B", and "C" fired one (1) mission, a total of one hundred and eighty (180) rounds for the day. Our Air OP observed and fired a counterbattery mission for the 985 Field Artillery Battalion with excellent results.

18 Jan The battalion Air OP registered "A", "B", and "C" Batteries on the basepoint at 0900 hours and these batteries fired a counterbattery mission for Division Artillery. An enemy battery was neutralized. Lt. Samuel Airrov, of Battery "B", from Atlanta, Georgia, was injured on the OP by a personnel mine. The battalion fired harassing missions on San Angelo, Pignataro and San Giorgio. For the day the 75 mm Pack Battery fired five (5) concentrations, a total of four hundred and forty-six rounds and the battalion fired eighteen missions and expended one thousand and eighty-one (1081) rounds.

19 Jan Visibility was poor due to haze. Harassing missions were fired on San Giorgio and Pignataro and a barrage was fired on an enemy assembly area and suspected enemy OP. The battalion was ordered to reinforce fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion during preparation for the division attack on the Rapido River. Enemy artillery fire near "B" Battery position resulted in no injuries or damages. Pack Battery fired five (5) missions, a total of four hundred and fifty (450) rounds and the three 155 howitzer batteries fired six (6) concentrations, expending three hundred and forty-two (342) rounds.

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NWD 735017

By RB/15C

NARA Dec 0-0-09
20 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the battalion and looked over the battery positions. The weather for the day was cold but visibility very poor. The battalion fired on Nebelwerfer and mortar positions for the British, results of which are unknown. Eight (8) missions were fired by the Pack Battery, a total of four hundred and eighty-six (485) rounds; the battalion fired four (4) concentrations, totaling one thousand three hundred and twenty-five (1325) rounds.

21 Jan The battalion fired preparation and accompanying fires for the division attack on the Rapido River. The mission of this battalion was reinforcing the fires of the 131 Field Artillery Battalion. Smoke missions were fired and visibility from our OP's was limited. Unobserved fires were placed on suspected Nebelwerfer positions. The Pack Battery fired six (6) concentrations, totaling six hundred and twelve (612) rounds and the battalion fired twenty (20) missions, a total of five hundred (500) rounds.

22 Jan The battalion was relieved of reinforcing fires for the 131 Field Artillery Battalion and ordered in general support of the division. Battalion fired preparation and supporting fires for the 141 Infantry Regiment and a smoke-screening mission for bridging the Rapido River. The battalion was restricted, until further notice, to an allowance of twenty-five (25) rounds per gun per day, except in extreme emergency. Pack Battery fired four (4) concentrations, totaling five hundred (500) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired six (6) missions, a total of two hundred and twenty-four (224) rounds.

23 Jan The battalion fired a serenade on the San Angelo area. Visibility for the day was poor. The 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired counterbattery on a Nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. Two (2) concentrations were fired by the Pack Battery, totaling sixty-three (63) rounds and the battalion fired four (4) missions, expending sixty-six (66) rounds.

24 Jan The three 155 batteries fired five counterbattery missions during which an enemy ammunition dump was destroyed. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired a concentration on a Nebelwerfer position for the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. For the day the pack battery fired seven (7) missions, a total of one hundred and fifty-eight (158) rounds, and the battalion fired ten (10) concentrations, totaling one hundred and eighty-seven (187) rounds.

25 Jan The Commanding General of Division Artillery visited the installations of the battalion and found them in good order. The Commanding General directed that the Abbey Monte Cassino not be fired upon unless by permission from his headquarters. Objection was raised by the Battalion.
Commander to the Division Artillery Commander concerning limited ammunition and the forecasting of the Battalion Commanders' capacity to estimate ammunition expenditures. Also, the Division Ammunition Officer was trying to match projectiles for power bags, irrespective of charges and that due to the rigidly controlled supply of ammunition it was next to impossible to maintain an adequate supply, without handling during daylight. Enemy anti-aircraft fire on our Air OP without injury to pilot or damage to the plane. Late in the afternoon, the author made a reconnaissance to new Division Rear location in the City of Vairano, Italy. A suitable room was found for the office and all desks moved in. Early the next morning office personnel, under Personnel Sergeant Major Camisa, arrived. During the day the Pack Battery fired eight (8) missions, a total of eight hundred and forty-two (842) rounds and the battalion fired eleven (11) concentrations, totaling one thousand two hundred and fourteen (1214) rounds.

26 Jan The Division organized a defensive position along the east bank of the Rapido River with the OPL along the east bank and MLR within its boundaries (see situation overlay). This battalion remained in general support of the division and was authorized fifty (50) rounds per gun per day for both the 155 mm howitzers and 75 mm pack howitzers. Excellent visibility on this day made it possible to fire a number of counterbattery missions and interdiction fire on enemy matériel on highway 6. During the night the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery fired harassing concentrations. Earlier, the Air OP observed counterbattery missions on four (4) enemy guns for the 456 Field Artillery Battalion. Pack Battery fired three (3) missions, a total of one hundred and sixty-one (161) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, totaling three hundred and ninety-two (392) rounds.

27 Jan The battalion fired on a motor park, setting vehicles afire. Also, the battalion fired two counterbattery missions and fired 75 mm Battery on enemy vehicles. One truck was destroyed and others damaged. This was all in addition to ordered harassing fires. S/Sgt Stegall, Air OP, observed counterbattery mission for the 194 Field Artillery Battalion. Areas near batteries "B" and "C" were shelled by enemy artillery without any casualties or damages. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired fifteen (15) missions, totaling three hundred and six (306) rounds and the three 155 batteries fired twenty-five (25) concentrations, a total of six hundred and fifty-eight (658) rounds.

28 Jan Several targets were interpreted from photographs and coordinates furnished by Division Artillery; all were taken under fire. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired seventeen (17) missions, totaling two hundred and eighty-four (284) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-nine (29) missions, a total of six hundred and five (605) rounds.
29 Jan Due to limited visibility there were only harassing fires on this date. The photo-interpreted targets received from Division Artillery were fired on with some fire and a reconnaissance flight made this date showed excellent results; two nebblers were knocked out and the remainder made to change positions; a fire started in the bivouac area that lasted all night; in the medium battery, two guns received direct hits and there were two hits in the other two emplacements. The 75 mm Pack Battery fired on enemy mortars with satisfactory results. For the day, the Pack Battery fired twenty-three (23) concentrations, totaling five hundred and forty-two (542) rounds and the battalion fired twenty-eight (28) missions, a total of five hundred and seventy-nine (579) rounds.

30 Jan Weather this date was cloudy with very poor visibility. There were scheduled harassing fires only in this period of operations. The battalion ammunition officer was unable to draw ammunition for the 75 mm Pack Howitzer Battery until they were below basic load of eight hundred (800) rounds. As the requirements for firing this battery this date were six hundred and fifty-six (656) rounds, there was only two hundred and twenty-seven (227) rounds left for emergency fire. This battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling three hundred and twenty-two (322) rounds and the battalion fired fourteen (14) missions, a total of three hundred and fifty-four (354) rounds.

31 Jan Poor visibility limited ground observation all day. As directed by the Commanding General of Division Artillery, liaison was established with the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armored Regiment and Captain Waldrop, Assistant S-3 was dispatched as Liaison Officer. This battalion remained in general support of the division attack on the Rapido River and the Battalion Commander issued FO #2 (attached). The battalion fired harassing fires during the day and the Pack Howitzer Battery fired on mortars for Division Artillery. The Pack Battery fired nine (9) concentrations, totaling nine hundred and seventy-four (974) rounds for the day and the battalion fired ten (10) missions, a total of two hundred and eighty-two (282) rounds.

Sincerely,

STANLEY W. HUTH
MOJ, AUS
Unit Historian

10 Incls.

Exhibit A Casualty List
Exhibit B Field Orders No. 1 & 2.
- B Officers roster
- C Unit Journal
- D Air Section Missions
- E S - 2 Reports
- F S - 3 Reports
- G Firing Reports

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3.}

By: RB/NSC
SECRET

CONCLUSIONS BY BATTALION COMMANDER

TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

During the period covered by this report, the principles of field artillery, as laid down by current field manuals, were found to be sound. It is believed that more emphasis should be placed on adjustment of artillery fire by precision methods. It is also believed that more training should be given the junior officers in the organization, occupation and operations of artillery OP's. It is further recommended that officer replacements for medium battalions be given training in the nomenclature, care and maintenance of the weapon which is the basis and of that unit. It has been the experience of this command that officer replacements have no knowledge of the weapon with which they are to work.

PERSONNEL

The replacement of personnel during the period covered by this report was not satisfactory. The efficiency of the battalion was handicapped by lack of officer and enlisted replacements. Specifically, from the personnel standpoint, there follows several recommendations which it is believed would improve the efficiency of this battalion:

a. FDC - An overstrength should be allowed in the T/0, or an increase provided, in order to allow two shifts to operate in the FDC. At present, FDC personnel are on call twenty-four hours a day. Also, ratings commensurate with the duties should be provided; computers should have at least a rating of Tec. 4.

b. OF DETAILS - In order to man the OP's properly on a twenty-four hour basis, additional personnel should be authorized.

c. S-2 SECTION - An S-2 clerk, to assist the S-2, should be authorized with at least a Tec. 4 rating.

d. AID MEN - Battery aid men, under combat conditions, have far more responsibility and perform a far greater service than is expected of privates. Therefore, in my opinion, at least one of the battery aid men should have a Tec. 4 or Tec. 5 rating.

MATERIAL

All the material of this battalion was satisfactory, with the exception of the 155 mm "Schneider" howitzer. It is self-evident that these howitzers
are wearing out and that a suitable supply of replacement parts is not available. It is apparent that this situation will be improved upon the issue of the 155 M-1 Howitzer, which appears to be imminent. It is believed that the issue of a bulldozer to the battalion would greatly facilitate occupations of position.

**SUPPLY**

The supply of all classes was adequate and highly satisfactory, with the exception of ammunition. There has been an apparent shortage of powder charges throughout the period covered by this report. First, there was a shortage of white bag powder; lately, we have been unable to secure sufficient green bag powder. This situation seriously restricted the use of this battalion throughout the operation.
SECRET

LIST OF CASUALTIES IN JANUARY 1944

1. Sgt Arthur A. Young, ASN 38551396, Battery "O", was fatally wounded on 7 January 1944 at 2300 hours, when an enemy artillery shell burst nearby where Sgt. Young was putting a gun into position about 300 yards south of San Pietro, Italy. Sgt. Young died a few minutes before arriving at a hospital. Buried in American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuovo, Italy, in grave 110, NW 10 and Plot H. Enter service from Palestine, Texas.

2. Pvt 1st Leonard J. Khajet, ASN 38068805, Battery "0", was lightly wounded when he received shell fragments in his left arm and both legs, from an enemy artillery shell burst nearby at 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 400 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Enter service from El Paso, Texas.

3. Pvt Louis J. Panebianco, ASN 31311216, Battery "O", was lightly wounded 2300 hours 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy, when an enemy shell exploded nearby. He was hit by shell fragments in right thigh and both legs. Enter service from Lawrence, Mass.

4. Pvt Shelby R. Powell, ASN 3576767, Battery "O", was lightly wounded in the right hip when he was hit by shell fragments from an enemy artillery shell which exploded nearby at 2300 hours on 7 January 1944 about 300 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. West Bend, Kentucky home address.

5. 1st Lt. Walton M. Vine, O-1167557, Battery "A", was lightly wounded in left wrist by fragment from exploding enemy artillery shell about 2200 hours 7 January 1944, in battery position south west of San Pietro. Enter service from Pinson, Alabama.

6. Cpl James C. Smith, ASN 2081618, Battery "E", was lightly wounded in left leg about 1 inch above ankle. Occurred when enemy shell exploded in Battery area about 2350 hour on 7 January 1944 about 500 yards west of San Pietro, Italy. Enter service from Fort Worth, Texas.

7. Pvt Douglas (NMC) Clinton, ASN 33320602, Medical Detachment, this Battalion was killed in action. Death was caused by enemy shell blast which caved an embankment in on him. Pvt Clinton had been working constantly with the wounded and went to this shelter only after assisting in evacuating wounded, when the blast caused the shelter to cave in. This happened at 2330 hours 9 January 1944 south west of San Pietro, Italy. Pvt Douglas (NMC) Clinton was buried at the American Cemetery, Marzanello Nuovo, Grave 8, Plot J on 10 January 1944. Enter service from Jamison, Penna.

8. 2nd Lt. Samuel (NMC) Airoy, O-1170618, Battery "E", was lightly wounded on 10 January 1944. 2nd Lt. Airoy was wounded when he stepped on a personnel mine in going to the observation post early in the morning. His loss was great, due to his capabilities and efficiency as a Battery officer. Enter service from Atlanta, Georgia.

9. Pvt 1st Louis J. Dethch, ASN 20816025, Medical Detachment was wounded on 8 January 1944. Pvt 1st Dethch was with Battery "E" as Battery Aidman, when the area was subjected to enemy artillery shell fire, one shell exploding nearby wounding Pvt 1st Dethch about the legs. He entered the service from San Antonio, Texas.

10. Pvt 1st Roy W. Dewey, ASN 36183310, Battery "O", was lightly wounded in left wrist by shrapnel about 1500 9 January 1944 when shell exploded in Battery area south west of San Pietro, Italy. Enter service from Kalamazoo, Michigan.
HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. No. 36, U.S. Army

10 March 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative History of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for February 1944.

TO:

Commanding General
36th Infantry Division
APO No. 36, U.S. Army

Submitted herewith History and Records of the Battalion for the month of February 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies of Situation Map, Overlays and Firing Charts.

THOMAS T. ATKINS
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.
Commanding

1 Incl. - Narrative "February." (Sextuple)

RESTRICTED
155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

OPERATIONS IN ITALY, MARCH 1944

01 Feb - Battalion continued operations in the vicinity of Mt. Irochio as shown on Overlay No. 5, Map - Italy 1/50,000, sheets 160, I, II. Observation Posts unable to observe because of haze and smoke. The 111st Infantry reported the location of an enemy installation and fire was directed with excellent results. The 111st Infantry observer also adjusted fire on another battery, destroying two. This battalion received targets from photo-interpreters and fired on them with unobserved fire, results undetermined. Other missions fired by this battalion were on suspected enemy batteries, and harassing fires. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C = 568 of HE; Pac Battery = 99 HE.

02 Feb - Visibility, good. The Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division Artillery visited 28th Battery position. Our Observation Posts were active - firing on enemy tanks, vehicles, Nebelwerfer positions and personnel. The Air OP checked the base point registered by each battery. 111st Infantry Observation Post located a Nebelwerfer position and adjusted fire on it. No further firing was observed from this target. Our Battalion Liaison Section at 6th Armoured Observation Post adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, area neutralised. Scheduled Division Artillery harassing fires were undertaken by this Battalion. The Battalion Command Post observed a second enemy adjustment on the Bailey Bridge Northeast of the Command Post. No damage was observed. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C = 474 HE; 8 Smoke; Pac Battery 310 HE; 1 Smoke.

03 Feb - Captain William D. Waldrop relieved as Liaison Officer with 2nd Battalion of the 6th Armoured Infantry. Eleven (11) FW 309's fired on by our Anti-Aircraft Unit. The enemy adjusted fire on several targets in the vicinity of the Battalion area; during the course of this adjustment, rounds fell in the Battalion Command Post, Headquarters Battery and 3rd Battery areas. By 0040 Division Artillery, Battalion in direct support of 91 Reconnaissance Squad with 121st Field Artillery Battalion and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion reinforcing our fires. Lt. Lockland reported to this Battalion as Liaison Officer from the 91 Reconnaissance Squad. Our Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy tank, Nebelwerfer positions and personnel, with good results. Lt. Raymond F. Kent, this Battalion dispatched as Liaison Officer with 59th Field Artillery Battalion. The Air OP silenced an enemy gun battery and was unable to complete adjustment on another battery because of lack of fuel. A number of photo interpretation targets from 36th Division Artillery, fired on by this Battalion; results unknown. Scheduled harassing fire were fired during hours of darkness. Ammunition expenditures: A, B, and C = 363 HE, 12 Smoke; Pac Battery 539 HE, 1 Smoke.
04 Feb - Major Frank J. Hobbs, Battalion Executive, dispatched as Liaison Officer to British 23rd Field Regiment. Our Observation Posts adjusted fire on enemy guns, vehicles and Nebelwerfer positions, several enemy batteries; no further activity noted from these positions. Schedule harassing fires fired during the afternoon. Several enemy gun positions were fired upon with unobserved fire, results unknown. VOG 36th Division Artillery, restricted Battalion to twenty (20) rounds per gun per day on 155mm's until 11 February. During the day and night, harassing fires. Ammunition expended: A, B, and C - 463 HE, 7 Smoke; Pac Battery - 201 HE, no Smoke.

05 Feb - Visibility excellent. Lt. Infantry Observer adjusted fire on Nebelwerfer position, which was neutralized. There was considerable movement in the Battalion area due to heavy traffic of adjacent units moving in. During the course of the afternoon approximately forty (40) rounds fell in the battalion area, causing injuries and one (1) death in Pac Battery; Pvt Donizck J. Cermeto, 20228862, on SD duty from 131st Field Artillery died of wounds; Pvt Antonio (mat) Don Tuscio, 31246985, Tony (mat) Camino, 37324251, both of 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, on SD with Pac Battery, were wounded; Pvt Lcl Troupe P. Griffin, 34243912, SD with Pac Battery from 131st Field Artillery Battalion wounded; Pvt Lcl Rudolph P. Hansut, 361127179 and Pvt Eugene J. O'Brien, 32761373, of Headquarters Battery this Battalion were wounded and Corporal George G. Lehman, 12323992 of Battery G was wounded by the heavy enemy concentration on the Battalion. One 75mm Howitzer of Pac Battery was damaged beyond repair and twenty-five (25) rounds of ammunition rendered unserviceable due to burning camouflage net. Six (6) NE 109's drew our AA fire. Harassing missions fired during darkness. Lt. Infantry Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Nebelwerfer position, neutralizing same. 91 Reconnaissance Observation Post adjusted fire on enemy Observation Post in a house, four (4) hits were observed. Our 91 Reconnaissance Liaison Officer reports location of enemy installations, but due to the limited supply of ammunition these targets could not be fired upon with unobserved fire. Our Observation Posts adjusted fire on two (2) Nebelwerfer positions, one enemy tank, machine gun emplacement and enemy Command Post with good results. Harassing fires fired during hours of daylight and darkness. Due to shortage of ammunition, Pac Battery fired all harassing fires for this Battalion. Ammunition expended: A, B, and C - 193 HE, 13 Smoke; Pac Battery - 326 HE, 2 Smoke.

Air OP located three (3) enemy gun positions and Nebelwerfer positions. Fire was adjusted on them. No further firing was observed from these positions. 91 Battery Observation Post located enemy gun battery beyond our maximum range and adjusted fire on them with the 995th Field Artillery. Series of explosions were seen in this area.
06 Feb - Visibility excellent. Twenty (20) M109's drew AA fire. Captain William D. Wlodarczyk relieved as Liaison Officer with 91 Reconnaissance Squad and returned to this battalion. Captain Jack E. Fulgham, S - 3, relieved from duty with this battalion and assigned to 36th Division Artillery as S - 3. 23rd Field Regiment relieved by 57th Field Regiment and Major Hobbs continued as Liaison Officer to the 57th. Our Observation Posts fired on enemy vehicles, personnel, and Nebelwerfer positions with satisfactory results. During the entire afternoon the battalion area was shelled; while the shelling was going on, certain factors underlying the use of terrain became more apparent as the shelling progressed. First, areas in sight defile were shelled, apparently by erratic rounds only, apparently observation in areas seemingly defiled from enemy observation being obtained thru a draw, which to the casual observer would have appeared an impossible situation if his reconnaissance was made during heavy weather. However during cold weather, preceded by thunder showers, atmosphere obscurity was minimized and a comparatively safe valley rendered susceptible to hostile penetration. Secondly, works of men, particularly stone, should not be utilized as parking areas for vehicles or even temporary halting areas for foot troops, more precisely, three (3) individuals enjoying sight defile and flat trajectory weapons defile from the enemy, yet in the immediate vicinity of a stone house, were killed by one (1) round which struck the house some fifteen (15) or twenty (20) feet above the ground. This projectile in its interrupted flight had rendered useless an otherwise excellent position utilized presumably by men on foot to escape the consequences of enemy shell fire. Had the stone house been someplace else it is likely that the shell on ground impact would not have been of any serious consequence. Thirdly, houses built of stone in this country, as far as we have been able to determine, consist essentially of two (2) panes: a first floor, of what might be termed limestone mortar work and a second story, if any, of pumice stone mortar work. This pumice is more easily destroyed than the limestone for destruction; consequently, it is observed that important installations might profitably utilize the ground floor of stone buildings.

Battery Observation Post picked up a gun, firing, during the course of the Battalion shelling, and adjusted fire and it is believed that this gun was silenced. About 90% of the battalion communications was knocked-out by the shelling and radio communications was successfully used in carrying on the mission of the battalion. There were no harassing firing on this date. Ammunition expended: A, B, and C - 223 HE, 14 Smoke; FAC Battery - 338 HE, 20 Smoke.
07 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility, easy to good. Major Frank J. Hobbs relieved of duties as Battalion Executive and assigned to 6750th Hq. Company City Administration (Prov. Hq 5th Army), departing at 1315. Having returned from duty with 57th Field Regiment (British at 0900). Visit from 36th Infantry Division, Inspector General, Lieutenant Colonel Roon and at 1225 to 1350. VCG 36th Division Artillery 1800 Battalion in direct support TF, to maintain liaison with 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry. Lt. Lieutenant Raymond F. Kent relieved of liaison assignment with 59th Field Artillery Battalion, returning to battalion at 1830. Five heavy enemy artillery bursts in battalion area about 1710; no damage or casualties; projectile fragments later delivered to G - 2, estimated to be 210 Nebelwerfer. No harassing fire missions; counterbattery missions adjusted by ground and air Observation Posts, with reported effective area neutralized, destruction of one (1) Nebelwerfer, an ammunition dump explosion and start of a fire in enemy gun position. Ammunition expenditure (6 missions on 5 targets) A, B, and C - 244 HE, 15 Smoke; Pac Battery - 54 HE, and 2 Smoke.

08 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility easy to good. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins attends CCB conference at 1400 hours. 1st Lieutenant Kent, 1st Lieutenant Charles A. Benet and 2nd Lieutenant Serious M. San departed at 1700 for 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry as liaison and forward observer assignment. No enemy counterbattery received. Three (3) day harassing missions (45 rds) and three (3) night harassing (126 rds) assigned by 36th Division Artillery, were fired by Pac Battery. Besides check point registration of all batteries, A, B, and C were adjusted on targets (total of 4) by air and ground observers; reported effects area neutralized and fires started. Ammunition expenditure A, B, and C - 125 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 133 HE and 13 Smoke.

09 Feb - Weather rainy to damp to fair and cold; visibility fair. Reconnaissance Officer, Survey Officer and Commanding Officer, with details, on position reconnaissance 1000 hours. VCG 36th Division Artillery at 1330 hours - battalion to move to new area at dark. Command Post closed and HC's moved forward, with parties, at 1500 hours. Head of battalion motor column on road at 1715. Battalion in new area at 2230, Command Post opened at 2300, coordinates 877228. No enemy counterbattery received. No harassing missions. One time registration, four (4) observed fire missions (all before 1500 hours), two (2) air adjusted, two (2) ground; reported effective, Nebelwerfer areas well covered, three (3) hits on house fired upon. Ammunition expenditures A, B, and C - 83 HE, 69 Smoke; Pac Battery - 14 HE, 1 Smoke.
10 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold to rainy; visibility fair to very poor. WOOG 36th Division Artillery at 0830 hours Battalion now in general support of the 36th Infantry Division. Battery Observations Posts established base point and check point registration from the positions occupied last night. No enemy counterbattery received. No targets of opportunity. Pac Battery fired one hundred and sixty (160) rounds on night harassing missions. Ammunition expenditures A, B, and C - 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 651 HE, 2 Smoke.

11 Feb - Weather intermittently rainy; visibility variable, chiefly poor. Received written confirmation (Artillery Annex to FO 47) of previous oral advice from Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division. Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, at 1443 hours - ineffective. Base Point registration checked by ground Observation Posts. Preparatory, accompanying, and defensive (counter-attack-repelling) fires accomplished by all batteries, per FO 47, 36th Division Artillery Annex as called for. The following replacements were received and assigned to the various batteries as indicated:

**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

Pvt Richard C. Abbasi, 32917983
Pvt Leyman (nąl) Burns, Jr., 33582212
Pvt Thomas P. Butler, 32977698
Pvt Bruno (nąl) Ellez, 32924778
Pvt Floyd J. Hudson, 32977630
Pvt Alfred J. Decatur, 32931486
Pvt Earl E. Eichelberger, 33723930
Opl Herbert J. Marks, 33935040

**BATTERY "A"**

Pvt Elmer A. Arrose, 33917632
Pvt Jesse G. Brewer, 33935065
Pvt Michael W. Dinges, 33925478
Pvt Charles R. Puskas, 33939324
Pvt Lloyd C. Hudson, 33917643
Pvt Lawrence E. Lent, 33931928
Pvt Augustus R. Resenfeld, 18042081
Pvt Ernest W. Wright, 33942299

**BATTERY "B"**

Pvt John A. Hyman, 32140737
Pvt Richard A. Grossly, 32977960
Pvt Charles J. Ballard, 33770538

**BATTERY "C"**

Pvt Charles B. Allen, 33762849
Pvt Nicholas (nąl) Coeselino, 42002121

**BATTERY "D"**

Pvt George Oi. Charbonneau, 34237573
Pvt lcl Charles E. Tobey, 35270707
Pvt John (nąl) Gelsas, 33778527
Pvt Richard E. Nickel, 37567723

**BATTERY "E"**

Pvt Howard T. Martin, 32730545
Pvt lcl Richard L. Cosaway, 35385480
Pvt Raymond J. Varni, 39047799

*REstricted*
Three (3) night harassing missions participated in by all batteries (100 rounds before 2400; 80 rounds Pac Battery, 20 rounds A, B, and C). Fire adjusted by ground observation on Nebelwerfer. One (1) target hit, with resulting sheet of flame. Ammunition expenditure: A, B, and C = 437 HE, 2 Smoke; Pac Battery 661 HE, 2 Smoke.

12 Feb - Weather cloudy and cold; visibility poor. Previous night's harassing missions (8) continued to 0600 (A, B, and C = 40 rounds; Pac Battery = 140 rounds). Basis point registration checked by air and ground observation. Defensive fires by Pac Battery (100 rounds) in repulsion of enemy counterattack. Observed missions (8) on enemy battery and sundry Nebelwerfers, using both air and ground Observations Posts, with effective area neutralization. No enemy counterbattery received. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 40 rounds; Pac Battery = 80 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the period: A, B, and C = 221 HE, 52 Smoke; Pac Battery = 326 HE, 38 Smoke.

13 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good, except for slight haze. Check of Basis Point registration. Previous night's harassing missions (6) continued to 0700 (A, B, and C = 80 rounds; Pac Battery = 156 rounds). Observed missions, adjusted from air and ground, on Nebelwerfers and guns, with report area neutralized and one (1) fire. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 16 rounds; Pac Battery = 71 rounds). Lieutenant Kent went to 36th Division Artillery at 1100 hours for maintenance of command liaison with British units, per VOG 36th Division Artillery received at 0945. No enemy counterbattery received. Total ammunition expenditure for the period: A, B, and C = 293 HE, 21 Smoke; Pac Battery = 231 HE, 3 Smoke.

14 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued until 0700 (A, B, and C = 100 rounds; Pac Battery = 120 rounds). Fire suspended 0800 to 1430 between 223-238, respecting truce for removal of dead. One observed mission on enemy motor column, interdicting highway at road junction and hitting one (1) truck (Pac = 31 rounds). Arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier (1330), 339th Field Artillery Battalion, Commanding Officer and S-2, for overnight visit. Six (6) rounds of enemy counterbattery in general vicinity of Battalion Command Post, four (4) rounds near, but over "A" Battery gun positions, in late afternoon. During the evening, just after sunset, Pvt Ollie J. Bailey, 38065436, Battery "A", was in a room washing his mess kit, when a shot was heard. Upon hearing the shot, Pvt Roy E. Compton rushed into the room and after getting his eyes accustomed to the darkness, found Pvt Bailey in a falling position; took him by the arm and led him outside where first aid could be given. A fallen rifle, knocked down by a nearby explosion acccidently went off, from which Pvt Bailey died later this date.
Night harassing missions A, B, and C (3) - 36 rounds; Pac Battery (A) - 43 rounds. Total ammunition expenditure for periods A, B, and C - 126 HE; Pac Battery - 209 HE, 10 Smoke.

15 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 36 rounds; Pac Battery - 43 rounds). Departure of Lieutenant Colonel Avery and Captain Frazier at 1000 hours. Aerial bombing of Abbey di Montecassino witnessed from Command Post at 0900 and periodically thereafter during the day. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, Battalion Commander, left for conference at 36th Division Artillery at 1300. Observed missions (5) on enemy guns and infantry and in interdiction of road junction and registration on bridge at check point (A, B, and C - 73 rounds; Pac Battery - 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for periods A, B, and C - 213 HE, 4 Smoke; Pac Battery - 161 HE, 13 Smoke.

16 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C - 108 rounds; Pac Battery, 96 rounds). Corporal Ernest W. Dohn, Message Center Clerk of Headquarters Battery, was killed at Headquarters 36th Division Artillery at 0015 hours as a result of enemy shells falling in and around Cervaro. 93rd Field Artillery Battalion successfully adjusted from #8 Battery and bridge at check point (A, B, and C - 70 rounds; Pac Battery - 10 rounds); reported neutralization, with fire started. Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period A, B, and C - 213 HE, 11 Smoke; Pac Battery - 180 HE, 5 Smoke.

17 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjusted five (5) missions on enemy probable Command Post, motor park, road junction, bridge and tanks, with reported neutralization effect plus a miserable fire at the motor park (A, B, and C - 186 rounds; Pac Battery - 60 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period A, B, and C - 273 HE, 9 Smoke; Pac Battery - 198 HE, 6 Smoke.
18 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's harassing missions continued to 0430 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 72 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division and Commanding General 36th Division Artillery visited the Command Post and the Battalion Area. Observed eight (8) missions adjusted by air OP and 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and our Observation Posts on Nebelwerfer, enemy guns, a self-propelled, vehicles and probably camouflaged installation, with report of effective neutralization, including target hit on the self-propelled, (A, B, and C - 136 rounds; Pac Battery - 40 rounds). Seven night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 89 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for periods A, B, and C - 319 HE, 11 Smoke. Pac Battery - 156 HE, 5 Smoke.

19 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 2330 (A, B, and C - 144 rounds; Pac Battery - 88 rounds). Commanding General 36th Division Artillery and the Commanding General, Division Artillery, 88th Division, visit battalion and inspect battery positions. Lt. Kent relieved by Division Artillery of Liaison with the British, and returned to the battalion at 1815. The 935th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted on enemy truck parl by 1st Battery Observation Post. Observed mission adjusted by ground Observation Post on Nebelwerfer, another by air Observation on enemy gun, both with reported neutralizing effect (A, B, and C - 41 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the periods A, B, and C 230 HE, 3 Smoke; Pac Battery - 208 HE.

20 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good to hazy. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0500 (A, B, and C - 48 rounds; Pac Battery - 130 rounds). Base and check point registration and calibration (A, B, and C - seventeen (17) rounds; Pac Battery - 36 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment of observed missions two (2) on bridge work party, with reported neutralizing effect, plus one (1) fire (Pac Battery - 13 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C - 36 rounds Pacific Battery - 60 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day's period: A, B, and C - 101 HE; Pac Battery - 278 HE, 13 Smoke.

21 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0500 (A, B, and C - 56 rounds; Pac Battery - 90 rounds). Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery visited Battalion 1030 to 1200 hours and inspected battery positions. Air and ground observation posts adjusted missions on Nebelwerfer and enemy installations, with reported neutralization of area (A, B, and C.
-158 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 48 rounds; Pac Battery = 72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C = 258 rounds HE; 2 Smoke; Pac Battery = 162 HE.

22 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility good. Previous nights six (6) missions continued to 0600 hours (A, B, and C = 72 rounds; Pac Battery = 108 rounds). Sector unusually quiet. One observed mission, adjusted by ground observation, on Nebelwerfer; target area well covered. Seven night missions (A, B, and C = 96 rounds; Pac Battery = 36 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C = 184 HE; Pac Battery = 144 HE.

23 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night's seven (7) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C = 114 rounds; Pac Battery = 54 rounds). Six (6) day harassing missions (A, B, and C = 294 rounds; Pac Battery = 168 rounds). Six (6) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 54 rounds; Pac Battery 124 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C = 431 HE; 1 Smoke; Pac Battery = 366 HE.

24 Feb - Weather clear and cold; visibility fair. Previous night's six (6) harassing missions continued to 0600 hours (A, B, and C = 54 rounds; Pac Battery = 114 rounds). Battalion Commander left at 0835 for conference at 36th Division Artillery and returned at 1230. At 1230 Battalion Field Order No. 4 was issued, regarding reinforcement of the 4th Battalion, 67th Field Artillery (French). Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive Officer reported to the 67th Field Artillery as Liaison Officer at 1245. Ten (10) rounds enemy counterbattery in vicinity of "C" Battery area at 1710, knocking out one (1) truck. (A, B, and C fired 29 rounds and Pac Battery fired 11 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment on Nebelwerfer ("B" Battery fired 25 rounds). Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 48 rounds and Pac Battery fired 48 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C fired 153 rounds HE and 3 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 202 rounds HE and 1 Smoke.

25 Feb - Weather cloudy; occasional rain; visibility poor to fair. Previous night's five (5) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C = 48 rounds; Pac Battery 48 rounds). Ground Observation Post adjustment on Nebelwerfer resulting in a large explosion (Battery "A" fired 15 rounds; 194th Field Artillery Battalion adjusted by "B" Battery Observation Post on enemy guns, starting two (2) fires. Three (3) night harassing missions (A, B, and C = 65 rounds; Pac Battery 96 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C = 127 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery = 144 HE.

RESTRICTED
26 Feb - Weather rainy; visibility poor. Previous night’s three (3) harassing missions continued to 0600 (A, B, and C – 35 rounds; Pac Battery – 144 rounds). Relief of 36th Infantry Division elements in progress but incomplete. One observed mission on enemy battery, Batteries A, B, and C fired 69 rounds, neutralizing area, including an explosion. Five (5) night harassing missions (A, B, and C – 50 rounds; Pac Battery – 120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C – 153 HE, 1 Smoke; Pac Battery – 264 HE.

27 Feb - Weather rainy to clear; visibility poor to good. Previous night’s five (5) harassing missions continued to 0700 (A, B, and C – 70 rounds; Pac Battery 168 rounds). March order for evacuation to rest camp received from 36th Division Artillery at 1815. Base Point registrations checked by air OP adjustment. Fire delivered on enemy mortars as called for and observed by French (67th Field Artillery) Observation Post, (A, B, and C fired 72 rounds). One night observed mission on Nebelerhor, Battery #04 fired twenty (20) rounds with reported neutralizing results. Seven (7) night harassing missions (A, B, and C – 100 rounds; Pac Battery – 180 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C – 273 HE, 5 Smoke; Pac Battery 349 HE and 9 Smoke.

28 Feb - Weather cloudy; visibility fair. Previous night’s seven harassing missions continued to 0600 0a; B, and C fired 99 rounds and Pac Battery fired 180 rounds). Further relief of 36th Infantry Division elements cancelled; 36th Division Artillery March Order rescinded. Observed two (2) missions on enemy installations, observation post and SP (Battery 48 and 5C fired 127 rounds). Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C – 50 rounds; Pac Battery – 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C – 334 HE and 2 Smoke; Pac Battery fired 330 rounds HE.

29 Feb - Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good. Previous night’s six harassing missions continued to 0700 hours (A, B, and C fired 126 rounds; Pac Battery fired 210 rounds). Lt. Colonel Lawson, Battalion Commander of the 443rd AAA, visited Command Post at 1045, advised relief of 443rd by the 630th AAA tonight. Night day harassing missions (Battery 48 and 5C fired 43 rounds. Nine missions were observed; 3 from French, 1 from 36th Division Artillery Air OP, 1 from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, 2 from Battery Observation Posts, 2 from Battery Command Posts on enemy installations, Observation Posts, enemy battery, Nebelerhor, and SPs, adjusted with reported neutralizing effect. Six night harassing missions (A, B, and C – 45 rounds; Pac Battery – 150 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for period: A, B, and C – 445 HE, 19 Smoke; Pac Battery – 360 HE.

RESTRICTED
The Battalion History and all inclosures are typed by the Personnel Section of this Battalion, namely: Tech Sergeant John J. Camisa, Personnel Sergeant Major, Chicago, Illinois; Corporal Herbert C. Peas, Headquarters Battery Clerk of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Corporal Herman J. Braun, Battery "A" Clerk, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Corporal James L. Pricemore, Battery "B" Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; Corporal William Schrading, Battery "C" Clerk, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Corporal Bert A. Spencer, Service Battery Clerk of Morgantown, W. Virginia; Corporal Edward McLoon, Headquarters Clerk of Fort Worth, Texas; and Tech Grade 5, Henry W. Plunkett of New York. Each month the Battalion History is typed by the above men in addition to their regular duties, which are plentiful while in combat.

Stanley W. Huth
WJFJ, A.U.S.
Unit Historian

11 Inclos.
Exhibits

A - Casualty List
B - Officers Roster
C - Unit Journal
L - Air Section Missions
E - S - 2 Reports
F - S - 3 Reports
G - Firing Reports
H - Field Order # 4
I - Situation Overlay for February
J - Maps
K - Firing Charts for February
CONCLUSIONS AT THE BATTALION COMMANDER

BATTALION CONTINUED IN COMBAT

The Battalion continued in combat from 17 November 1943 with the exception of eight days in January 1944, which were spent in rest area near Allie, Italy. From the positions occupied just southeast of Mt. Trocchio at the month’s beginning, displacement forward was made on the 9 February to the area some 3500 yards northeast of the town of Cassino, where the Battalion at the month’s end was still to be found.

REPLACEMENTS

On the 11 February 1944 the Battalion received thirty-two enlisted replacements, which were needed to replace those sick in hospital and wounded. These replacements were duly assigned to the several Batteries immediately.

OFFICER TRANSFERS

During the month of February Major Frank J. Hobbs, Captain Willard L. Stobaugh were transferred to Provisional City Government of Rome, Captain Jack E. Fulgham transferred to 36th Division Artillery and 2nd Lt. Donald E. Nolan transferred to 13th Truck Quartermaster Company.

AMMUNITION

For virtually the entire period under review the Battalion’s operations were subject to restricted daily ammunition allotments: 20 rounds per piece. The effect was but partially ameliorated by the availability to the Battalion of the Provisional Mountain Battery (Pack 75mm howitzer) which was particular value in execution of assigned harassing missions.

MORALE

Despite an increasing proportion of fair days, the seasonal inclemency of the weather, added to the extended stay in the line and increased duties of remaining key personnel, commenced to exact gradual toll in individual physical well-being and the functional efficiency of equipment. The effect was sufficiently manifested, it was felt, to preclude appraisal of Battalion combat efficiency as high as “Excellent” after 11 February; accordingly, it has since been consistently reported as only “Satisfactory.”

RESTRICTED
OBSERVATION POSTS

Battery Observation Post details are subject to peculiar strain under existing conditions. The employment of alternating teams in the battery, each team under the direction of an officer and neither to remain more than several successive days on Observation Post duty, has been deemed expedient. This practice operates to withdraw the Battery Motor Officer - assistant Executive temporarily from his normal assignment. Any officer incapacitation immediately transfers responsibilities to already well-burdened non-commissioned personnel.

ASSISTANCE OF OTHER UNITS

The assistance of Engineer units in road and area maintenance and improvement and of the Division Military Police in traffic control has been observed to be timely, prompt and excellent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No change is offered in previous monthly recommendations. In point of tactical doctrine official texts continue to afford sound and reliable guidance. Without deviation therefrom, and in keeping therewith, current combat experience suggests both the wisdom of maintenance of a normal officer over-strength, to meet many unforeseen and varying conditions, and a more frequent relief of units in the line to the extent that operational requirements permit, no less for the periodic repair and maintenance of vital organizational equipment than for the restoration of personnel dulled by fatigue.

CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a Consolidated List of Casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of February 1944:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Killed in Action</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Enlisted Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wounded in Action</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died of Wounds</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing in Action</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Injured in Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wounded and Remained on Duty</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Death</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

None of the enlisted men reported on Battle Casualty Reports returned to duty during February.
Provisional Mountain Battery ("Pac")

During the latter part of December, 1943, a decision was made by the Division Artillery, duly confirmed by the Division Commanding General, to experiment with organizational and tactical employment of a Provisional Mountain Battery (PMB) of 75mm pack howitzers. Organization was perfected by the process of adding to the 30-man Anti-Tank Platoon of the 155th FA BN, Headquarters Battery (including 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chockley as acting first sergeant) 9 men from each of the three light artillery battalions of the Division; supplementing with a few selected specialists from other batteries of the 155th; assigning as officer personnel Captain August C. Moser, Jr., (Battery Commander) and 2nd Lt. Stanley Chapman of the 155th FA BN; allotting the organic vehicular transportation of the Anti-Tank Platoon, as well as two 3/4 ton Weapons Carriers from each of the three light battalions; supplying nine 75mm pack howitzers and making available an unlimited supply of ammunition; and integrating the whole, as a distinct organization, into the framework of the 155th FA BN. Under Capt. Moser's command, "Pac" moved "into the line" with its parent unit on 7 January 1944 and prepared for action.

Action was not long delayed, nor did it ever slacken appreciably during the two months that ensued. From three successive positions, operating as an 8-gun battery, "Pac" as it came to be referred to conveniently and affectionately fired well in excess of 300 missions of every sort, for a recorded total of 15,939 rounds. First under Capt. Moser and thereafter under 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, who succeeded Capt. Moser upon his January 20th transfer from the Division, "Pac" shortly became and continued a hard hitting and ever-reliable member of the Battalion team, particularly adapted to the terrain requirements of the operating front.

The March 1st reorganization of the Battalion under the newly applicable T/0 called an end to the successful experiment and terminated the brief but useful existence of "Pac". It moved on March 1st from its position in the line to a rear area; on March 4th it was formally disbanded, component personnel returning to former battery affiliations. The solid achievements of the organization and the marked esprit de corps it had attained bespeak volumes to the credit of the men, officer and enlisted, who molded, inspired, and fought it.

It was 1250 when the first round came in. We, Baker Co. made a party line with the Exec post, an CP and we were sensing where they came in. They finally getting a bracket around No. 2 and 3 guns, then shifted to just over of No. 1. We kept on reporting and finally were out to En CP, but 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell had phone connections to all guns and radioed En for Medics. Pvt. 1st C. C. Smith and Pvt. Herbert L. Mulhe were hurt. 1st Sgt. James G. Williams ordered stretcher from CP. Capt. Richard B. Hawk got to the Exec Post and asked about extent of damages. Bell and Pvt. 1st C. Glorbose H. Schmidt (Med) were at Exec Post taking care of wounded. Telephone message to 1st Lt. Bell said man on 1st gun was losing blood. Capt. Hawk and Sgt. Williams went to No. 1 gun where all fire was being directed (fire for effect). Bulky of men had gone under culvert between No. 1 and 2 guns (about 6 feet wide, 3 feet tall and 1 yd longer than a CP tent.) Sgt. Williams worked on Sgt. Milton A. Herbert Pvt. Julius Shockey (Med) worked on Pvt. 1st C. Homer H. Reynolds...hurt by two shells. Capt. Hawk worked on Jack F. Feichtner Pvt. Sgt. Herbert was against bank of creek at entrance to culvert. Pvt. Shockey badged Pvt. William A. Armstrong. Pvt. Shockey pulled out morpynine syrette and said that man had not been given morphine (Pvt. Jack F. Feichtner). Said Pvt. Stanley H. Luczynski had been shot in the stomach, gave him shot of morpynine. Capt. Hawk got his shirt off, had to unbouton his clothes and Pvt. 1st C. R. Nose (Med) came down culvert with stretcher. Then Medical Capt. Charles O. Tool came in and Capt. Hawk said to him, "Here's a case hard to handle." "You take it!" Sgt. Herbert told Capt. Hawk two men in dugout were badly hurt (found Pvt. Walter J. Wimmer with left leg barely hanging on to body)...also hit in upper cheek. Cpl. Velma E. Haley was there with him. Capt. Hawk looked at Pvt. Wagner and noticed Cpl. James E. Bille - badly hurt, put hand on Cpl. Bille and realize he was dead...in a squashing position. Asked Capt. Tool to come up, and Capt. Tool pronounced Cpl. Bille dead. Sgt. Williams went to Pvt. Feichtner and turned him over to aid man. Capt. Tool started to work on Pvt. Wagner. Sgt. Williams and Pvt. John Genna took Pvt. Feichtner out of culvert and placed him in deep ditch which was parallel to road...being plitted by heavy and continuous fire. Tec 3 James W. McCall (Med) and Pvt. John Genna came in with stretchers and asked for additional blankets. Sgt. Williams showed them a tent and they were obtained from there. Capt. Hawk came back and everybody was being taken care of. Four Medics and Sgt. Williams were in end of culvert. At that time shell hit directly under Pvt. 1st C. Banne (who was having his back banded by Pvt. 1st C. Banne); blew Capt. Hawk, Pvt. 1st C. Banne, Pvt. 1st C. Banne and Sgt. Henson R. Cover (Med) into culvert and Sgt. Williams stunned and thrown against wall of culvert. When Capt. Hawk came to he called the roll and everyone answered except Pvt. 1st C. Reynolds. His body was torn apart - had been tossed across culvert and ambulance which was on top of culvert; his legs were in a tree. This was about 1315. Pvt. 1st C. Banne had been hurt and there were more holes in Sgt. Herbert (left hip).
Shell fire continued. Another round hit over the wall and Pvt Charles R. Allen in the leg; he crouched to edge of creek assisted by Sgt Williams. Pvt Kasprzak turned him over to Sgt Cover. Lt. Hall case under fire and had taken Sgt Herbert to Exec Post carrying him; had to detour as power in No. 2 reserve ammunition pit was on fire. Pvt Allen and Pvt lcl Banse sent down creek to cut across because firing was covering road. Capt. Hawk found Pvt Kasprzak, turned him over to Sgt. Cover. Capt. Hawk started to look for Capt. Tool. Somebody followed. "Medico is hurt". Capt. Hawk believed Capt. Tool would take care of whoever it was and did not start immediately to investigate. Then somebody said Capt. Tool was hurt (while working on Pvt Wagner). Sgt Cover was bandaging Pvt Kasprzak's leg and Pvt lcl Schmidt was helping. Gave him morphone. Pvt Shocko walked with Pvt Oscar K. Armstrong to Exec Post at the same time. Bell was carrying Sgt Herbert. Cpl Bernard L. Fiecke and Pvt lcl Leland E. Grove were using sandbags and bidens to put out fire and Capt. Hawk told them to get out of the field. Pvt Shocko was then returning from Exec Post. Sgt. Williams sent Pvt Kasprzak, and Pvt lcl Schmidt down the creek; a tree was not going to make it because of shell on Pvt lcl Schmidt and Pvt lcl Kasprzak in No. 3 Gun dugout. Sgt. Williams went back to culvert and Pvt lcl Schmidt continued working on Kasprzak. At the same time was all happening Capt. Hawk had gone to Capt. Tool and said, "Dr. are you hurt?". He said, "yes" want to look at my back." Capt. Hawk asked could he help him. Capt. Tool asked if all the boys were being taken care of. Capt. Hawk told him, "yes"... cut his pants off and saw hole in center of his back. Told him how and where he was hurt and asked him to try to move his legs and Capt. Tool said, "Don't worry I already have... they are all right." Bandaged Capt. Tool and gave him morphone and all this time he was working on Pvt Wagner. Pvt Wagner asked to have his tourniquet tightened but Capt. Hawk knew it was already too tight so just retarded to tighten it. Capt. Hawk went back and sent all the men into the culvert, then remembered Pvt Feichtner and went into ditch to keep him company (offered him cigarette, talked to him and assured him he was going to be taken care of all right and would soon be on the way to the hospital.) Pvt Wagner and Capt. Tool were inside dugout. Capt. Hawk went with Sgt Cover to ambulance about 1345, turned ambulance around but a shell knocked him across the front seat... at the second shell having turned ambulance around he rushed to seek cover by the wall that had been blown in. Sgt Cover took cover too... in crev. with Pvt Feichtner. Sgt Cover called for stopping of fire and then went up and got the ambulance. Pvt Genna, Pvt Shocko and Pvt Walter R. Laffine (Red) Pvt Hall and Pvt. Genna picked up Pvt Feichtner and put him in ambulance. Pvt Hall and Pvt Laffine tried moving Pvt Wagner, could not move it on account of lost footing. Sgt Cover, Capt. Hawk and Pvt Shocko lifted Pvt Wagner and put him in ambulance. All sent to litter for Capt. Tool and Capt. Hawk and Pvt. in ambulance at No. 4. Pvt Pvt Armstrong on weapons carrier and Pvt lcl Smith, Pvt Hall and Pvt Hall on weapons carrier a walking wounded. Ambulance and weapons carrier out about 1345. Pvt lcl Williams, Pvt. Genna drove ambulance and Pvt lcl James L. McNally (Red) drove weapons carrier. Sgt Williams tried to get another ambulance for remaining wounded. Lt. Hall radioed for ambulance and doctor; was criticised by radio operator for using radio for such message, then went down to No. 4 gun. At this time Pvt Kasprzak was at No. 3. Pvt Allen at No. 4 and Pvt lcl Banse had walked to aid station.
Capt. Hank and Sgt. Cover took weapons carrier and went back for bodies. Pvt. Haley and Pvt. Genna went with Sgt. Cover to wrap bodies in blankets. Sgt. Cover took weapons carrier to Baker CP. Cpt. Hank went back to creek and everyone was gone. Found out that Lt. Bell had previously gone back and ordered all out of gun positions and to take cover in creek 200 yds away. Sgt. Floyd L. Haynes was in charge. Firing stopped temporarily. Capt. Hank came up road and met Sgt. Williams and altho’ told that he had checked to see if all had been cleared Capt. Hank went back again to check gun position. Shelling started again. Sgt. Williams went back to Exec. Post and Pvt. J. Thomas W. Sowersky came back with litter. Pvt. Ptaszak on litter (Pvt. J.1. Schmidt was taking care of him). Capt. Hank, Sgt. Cover and Pvt. J.1. Schmidt went back to CP and Pvt. Ptaszak was sent to hospital in a jeep. Dr. Philbin and men from 211th aid station had meanwhile arrived and were waiting at CP but there was nothing they could do. Sgt. Cover and Capt. Hank went back to No. 4 gun to check again; found nothing. Pvt. Allen had walked from creek to CP with Pvt. Fleck and Pvt. Elwood L. Godwin. Pvt. Thomas J. Tomasso (med) was marking tags. No transportation was available to evacuate until ambulance returned.
11 IncIs:
Exhibits A - Casualty List.
B - Consolidated Casualties.
C - Officers Roster.
D - Unit Journal.
E - Air Section Missions
F - S - 2 Reports.
G - S - 3 Reports.
H - Daily Firing Reports.
I - Situation overlay's # 18, 19, 20 and 21 for March 1944.
J - Maps.
K - Firing Charts.
CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

In supplement of previous months' conclusions, from which the intervening combat experience of the Battalion has not indicated material change, the following observations and suggestions are submitted.

Metro messages received by the Battalion have been of extremely varying reliability. Inquiry has disclosed that the metro station is often located at a considerable distance to the rear of the fire units positions, which more often than not are well in advance of the Division's light battalions. In terrain of the sort confronting us, characterized by irregularly criss-crossed mountain ranges separated by deep valleys, divergent air currents and widely fluctuating atmospheric conditions between two points a few miles apart are the rule. It is felt that proximity of the place of taking meteorological readings to that of their known intended use would contribute appreciably to operating efficiency.

Receipt of recently exposed and developed air photos of the current target area, despite a relatively stabilized situation, has been infrequent at best. Regular automatic supply of these in adequate quantity would be more than helpful in the accomplishment of assigned missions.

The Battalion was "in the line" from 16 November to 18 March, with the exception of 3 days (30 Dec. - 7 Jan.), a goodly part of which week was consumed by moving out and then moving back. During the last few weeks not only was action relatively quiet on our front for intermittent days, punctuated by occasional enemy harassing mortar fire, but daily ammunition expenditure was severely restricted regardless. The conditions mentioned - protracted sojourn opposite the enemy, in a constant state of readiness, coupled with diminishing activity and curtailed ammunition allotment - provoke an "attrition" of morale and combat efficiency that, for future purposes, should be taken into critical account.
LIST OF CASUALTIES IN LUCH 1944

1. Pvt lcl Karol S. Pelacck, 36174174, Battery "A", was seriously wounded on 4 March 44 by enemy shell fragments which hit him in the back. Entered the service from Owosso, Michigan.


3. Pvt Julius (M. J.) Hanlin, 32919969, Battery "A", lightly wounded in right arm by enemy shell burst on 4 Mar 44. Entered the service from Trenton, N. J.

4. Pvt David (M. J.) Simen, 32333638, Battery "A", slight cheek wound by enemy shellfire on 4 March 44. Entered service from Bronx, N. Y.


6. Pvt James E. Lemanah, 32724698, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on 6 March 44 by enemy shell fragments near Cassino, Italy. Entered service from Rockland, N. Y.

7. Cpl James E. Bills, 20616617, Battery "B", was instantly killed when enemy shells landed near his gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.

8. Pvt lcl Homer H. Reynolds, 38039007, was killed on 18 March 44, when three enemy shells landed in area. Entered service from Abilene, Texas.

9. Pvt Charles H. Allen, 33762949, Battery "B", was lightly wounded in left leg by enemy shell fragment on 18 March 44. Entered service from Johnstown, Pa.

10. Pvt Stanley V. Kaspzak, 32730961, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments in stomach on 18 March 44. Entered service from Buffalo, N. Y.

11. Pvt Walter J. Wagner, 36174338, Battery "B", was seriously wounded by enemy shell fire which resulted in the loss of his left leg on 18 March 44. Entered service from Detroit, Michigan.

12. Sgt Milton A. Herbort, 38025562, Battery "B", seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in neck, shoulders, left side and back on 18 March 44. Entered service from Fredericksburg, Tex.

G: A

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, "N:

12356."
24. Pvt Oscar L. Armstrong, 35213544, Battery "B", was seriously wounded on head, neck, and chest 13 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. Entered service from New Cumberland, W. Va.

25. Pvt Elwood L. Godwin, 34170323, Battery "B", was lightly wounded on right knee 13 March 44 during enemy shelling of battery gun positions. He was not hospitalized. Entered service from Wade, North Carolina.


15. Pvt 1cl Lawrence K. Spitzler, 36174183, Battery "B", lightly wounded in arm during enemy shelling of gun position on 18 March 44. Entered service from Owosso, Michigan.


17. Captain Richard B. Hawk, 0-415562, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 during enemy shelling. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Dallas, Texas.

18. 1st Sgt James G. Williams, 20816603, Battery "B", slightly wounded on 18 March 44 in head and left side by shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Fort Worth, Texas.

19. Pvt 1cl Bernard L. Fiecke, 37235121, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 and remained on duty. Entered service from Winstead, Linn.

20. Pvt Harry J. Nelsen, 32745511, Battery "B", lightly wounded on 18 March 44 by enemy shell fragments. Treated by battery aid man and remained on duty. Entered service from Altamont, N. Y.

21. Captain Charles D. Tool, 0-475099, Battery "B", Medical Corps, seriously wounded by enemy shell fragments which struck him in pelvis and on back. Officer was giving aid to wounded men when hit. Entered service from Edmund, Okla.

22. Pvt 1cl John V. Barnes, 20616022, Medical Detachment, lightly wounded in left upper arm and in the right leg. Entered service from San Antonio, Texas.

23. Pvt 1cl Lawrence W. Kellerman, Battery "C", was lightly wounded by enemy shell fragment 18 March 44 on right hand. He was not hospitalized. Entered Service from Sheldon, North Dakota.
CONSOLIDATED CASUALTIES

The following is a consolidated list of casualties of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for the month of March 1944.

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>Died of Wounds---------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Of the Enlisted Personnel reported on Report Casualty Reports 12 have returned to duty with this Battalion.

(17775)
### HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.F.O. No. 56, U.S. Army

31 March 1944

#### BATTALION STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Col.</td>
<td>Aikens, Thomas T.</td>
<td>0-245315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Gilmer, Lawrence D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Walborg, William D.</td>
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<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Evans, Gerald W.</td>
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<td>Jessup, William J.</td>
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<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>Vines, Rupert P., Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
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#### HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

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<tr>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>Williamson, Martin W.</td>
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<td>Stewart, Jack R.</td>
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<td>1st Lt.</td>
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<td>2nd Lt.</td>
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#### SERVICE BATTERY

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<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Dollinger, Joseph (Mni)</td>
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<td>Ruth, Stanley W.</td>
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<td>Johnson, Harold E.</td>
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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, MNO 235017

"DD Jr."
ASSIGNMENTS, LOSSES AND CHANGES OF DUTY OF BATTALION OFFICERS

1. Captain Frank W. Davis, Battalion Liaison Officer to Staff unassigned 12 March 1944.

2. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson, Motor Officer, Battery "C" to Battalion Liaison Officer 12 March 1944.

3. 2nd Lt. Phillip A. Chamberlain from Battalion Anti Tank Officer to Assistant Communication Officer 12 March 1944.

4. 1st Lt. Gerald W. Evans, promoted to Captain and reassigned as Assistant S-3 from Headquarters Battery Commander.

5. 1st Lt. Martin W. Williamson reassigned from Battalion Liaison Officer to Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battery, 18 March 1944.

6. 2nd Lt. Karl F. Martin, reassigned from Train Commander to Motor Officer, Battery "A", 18 March 1944.

7. 2nd Lt. Leroy G. Moore, reassigned from Motor Officer Headquarters Battery to Train Commander, 18 March 1944.

8. 1st Lt. Clarence C. Henson, reassigned from Assistant S-2 to Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.

9. 1st Lt. Robert E. Reynolds, reassigned to Reconnaissance Officer Battery "C" from Executive Officer, Battery "C", 18 March 1944.

10. Captain Frank H. Davis, from Staff unassigned to Battalion Motor Officer, 22 March 1944.

11. 1st Lt. Rufus F. Vinces, Jr., from Battalion Motor Officer to Battalion Survey Officer.

12. 2nd Lt. Frank W. Burpo received Battle Field Appointment from 1st Sergeant on 19 March and assigned as Motor Officer, Battery "C" on 21 March 1944.

13. 1st Lt. Vernon C. Kropp, returned to duty with B Section after being absent sick for three months.

14. 1st Lt. Charles F. Kieffer, left for America on Rotation.

15. Captain Charles B. Tool, Battalion Medical Officer transferred to Detachment of Patients, 30th General Hospital, due to wounds received in action on 21 March 1944.
16. Captain Joseph Dollinger, assigned to Battalion vice Captain Tool transferred.

17. 2nd Lts. Harlan Cook and Paul F. Judson assigned to Battalion on Temporary Duty and assigned as Motor Officers of Service Battery and Headquarters Battery respectively.


19. 1st Lt. Harry P. Frantz promoted to Captain and 2nd Lt. Beaman W. Sam promoted to 1st Lt., effective 21 March 1944.
155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Operations in Italy, May 1944

In the interim between withdrawal of the Battalion from the line in the Cassino sector on 18 March and its preparation to re-enter combat in May, bivouacs were successively occupied near Capitone and later near Forino; complete reorganization under the 3 July 1943 T/C & E 6-35 was effected; a training program and various recreational activities were simultaneously carried on; and one 3-day field exercise, with service practice, was held.

During the period 1 to 6 May 1944, inclusive, advance detachments from the Battalion left the Forino area to prepare concealed gun positions and other necessary installations, under cover of darkness, in the area extending parallel to the bench 2 to 4 kilometers southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. Extensive digging and liberal use of sandbags and heavy timbers were entailed.

Meanwhile, the Battalion T/S, Captain Gerald H. Evans, was shaping up plans for possible undisclosed water movement.

On 6 May the Battalion moved from the Forino environs to the new, previously reconnoitered bivouac area in the vicinity of Giuliano and established a formalized base camp. Leaving this area by about 200 men as a "rear rear" echelon, with complete installations and parked simulated mortars, the bulk of the Battalion moved forward the night of 8-9 May into the prepared positions southeast of the mouth of Garigliano River. With some 300 personnel the prepared positions were occupied; and additional 100 or so, including service elements, were set up in a "forward rear" approximately 3 miles east of Mentargues, with a then dispatch vehicles, except messenger "Jeeps" and 2-3/4 ton 6 x 6s. Daily trips between "forward" and "rear rear" were inaugurated, and all the other vehicular traffic in and out of the position area was restricted to hours of darkness, during which complete blackout was imposed.

09 May Weather clear and hot; visibility clear. Enemy observation impaired by use of smoke between Battalion position and the Garigliano River. Battalion was assigned mission of general support of the 85th Infantry Division. Two ground Observation Posts set, wire circuits completed, and batteries reported ready to fire in early morning hours. No ammunition expenditure yet.

10 May No change in weather or visibility. Advantages smoke mask continues. Visit in forenoon from Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division Artillery. Brief ineffective counterbattery received in early afternoon, probably 170mm gun. Registration of 1 howitzer from 40th Battery on Base Point and Check Point #1 by a 90th Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (2345). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 23 rounds HE.

-2- RESTRICTED 25
11 May No change in weather or visibility. Same protective smoke in use. Forenoon visit from Executive and Surgeon, 36th Infantry Division Artillery, with printed messages from General Alexander and General Clark. Battalion TQI called for to report to 36th Infantry Division near on morrow. Repetition of enemy afternoon harassment. Operation "Lucky" launched throughout theatre at 2300 hours. Battalion firing in support, in its allotted zone on 8 previously assigned target areas before midnight. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 394 rounds HE.

12 May Five previously assigned missions were carried out during early morning hours (264 rounds). Continued good weather and clear visibility. Check Point 01 registration checked (36 rounds). Observed mission on enemy dugouts, adjusted by Battery "C" Observation Post; destruction reported (39 rounds). Repetition of 2 of previous night's 13 unobserved missions fired (178 rounds). Reconnaissance of new position area by Battery Commanders and S-2 in preparation for expected forward displacement. Various defensive and counterattack repelling fires before midnight (475 rounds). Three night harassing fires initiated at 2300 hours (72 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1062 rounds HE.

13 May Previous night's 9 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (360 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Area targets during day (467 rounds), plus neutralization of one machine gun emplacement (29 rounds). Night displacement forward to positions just north of Inturno. Total ammunition expenditure this date - 856 rounds HE.

14 May Weather somewhat cooler to hot. Visibility, otherwise clear, intermittently impaired by ground fog and smoke. Base Point and Check Point registrations (71 rounds). Fires in support of local attacks, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (236 rounds). Afternoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery. Nine night harassing missions (83 rounds - fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for this date - 447 rounds HE and 3 smoke.

15 May Previous night's 9 harassing missions continued to 0530 hours (306 rounds). Weather hot, visibility good. Check of registrations (74 rounds). Brief morning TOT (30 rounds). Afternoon fires in support of attacks (437 rounds); uniformly favorable results reported. Brief mission on enemy trucks (5 rounds). Scattered enemy counterbattery in late evening of 14th May till past midnight; several odds, including one almost intact 170 mm gun projectile, subsequently examined by Ordnance Lieutenant Wade, to whom it was reported. Eight night harassing missions (186 rounds fired by midnight). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 1053 rounds HE and 3 rounds smoke.

-2- Restricted
16 May
Previous night’s 8 harassing missions continued to 0500 hours (267 rounds). Weather warm, visibility clear. Alert from 36th Division Artillery for march order (0445 hours) followed at 0930 hours by message from same source scheduling 1230 hours as the tentative hour of departure. This advice countermanded at 1045 hours, and the Battalion remained in position, ready to fire, pending further orders. Unobserved fires in evening or reported enemy tank and infantry assembly areas, per 36th Division Artillery request (324 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 651 rounds HE.

17 May
No weather or visibility change. Rolling barrage from 0450 to 0600 hours (461 rounds). Four morning harassing missions (67 rounds). Infiltration march from positions to “rear rear” in Quattro vie, per 36th Division Artillery order, 0930 to 0130 hours of 16th May. Total ammunition expenditure for the day - 528 rounds HE.

16 May
Advance party, consisting of Major Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive, Captain William L. Bush, Commanding Battery “A”, Captain Richard B. Hark, Commanding Battery “B” and Captain Harry P. Frautz Jr, Commanding Battery “C”, reported to the “Texas” Staging area near Pozzuoli at 1600 hours 15 May and travelled by LST overnight to Naples with other 36th Division Artillery representatives to prepare for arrival of the 36th Division Artillery Battalions. Battalion “Beachhead Contingent” arrived “Texas” Staging Area about 1800 hours 16th May, bivouacked nearby, loaded aboard LST and departed about 1615 hours 19th May, and unloading at Anzio about 0700 hours on 20th May, proceeding thence several miles inland to a thickly forested area. Battalion Executive, Battalion Survey Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Communications Officer, Battalion Ammunition Sergeant, and three firing battery Commanders reconnoitered prepared gun positions and possible Battalion installations, with ample assistance from the 185th Field Artillery Battalion. Communications wire not installed. Battalion Executive set up permanently in selected Command Post. Bulk of Battalion bivouacked 20th to 22nd May in assembly area, to be used hereafter as rear echelon installation. Improvement of positions night of 21st - 22nd, with registration of 1 piece per Battery about 1300 hours on 22nd May (10 rounds). Fire Direction Center having meanwhile started business on the 22nd. Forward elements moved into position night of 22nd - 23rd in vicinity north of Conca, Battalion “Beachhead Contingent,” forward plus rear comprises 331 men and 24 officers. Mission: Support of 1st Special Service Force. Liaison established with 163rd Field Artillery Battalion by Lieutenant Bell. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 11 rounds HE.
23 May  
At hour 0630, preparatory fires begun 0545. Weather cloudy to clear, visibility good except as impaired by smoke. Check of registration (11 rounds). Nine supporting fires, including preparation (725 rounds). Six morning counterbattery missions, with reported neutralizing effect (319 rounds); three in afternoon (243 rounds). Five missions on enemy tanks, with reported destruction of 5 and damage to a sixth (196 rounds). Counterattack repelled (426 rounds). Five defensive fire missions (158 rounds). One night mission on enemy guns (24 rounds). Total expenditure of ammunition for period - 2103 rounds HE and 40 rounds smoke.

24 May  
Four early morning harassing missions (28 rounds) followed by 685 rounds of supporting fire in reinforcement of 151st Field Artillery Battalion fires. Enemy batteries and tanks taken under fire in series of forenoon missions (286 rounds), Air Observation Post reporting neutralization. Battalion Commander, 3-2 and Communications Officer on morning reconnaissance of possible forward position areas. Early cloudiness clears up as visibility continues hazy. Afternoon missions on enemy tanks and guns (72 rounds) adjusted by Air Observation Post.Night unobserved fire (273 rounds) delivered on enemy bridges. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1337 rounds HE and 9 rounds smoke.

25 May  
Early morning unobserved missions on SP's (310 rounds). Weather warm and clear, visibility good. Forward reconnaissance by S-2 and Communications Officer. "OSLO" at 1315 hours. Movement of B battalion to new positions some 8.5 miles northeast. Registration of one howitzer in late afternoon (7 rounds). Rear echelon simultaneously displaced forward to occupy location just vacated by Battalion Command Post. Total ammunition expenditure for day - 314 rounds HE and 3 rounds smoke.

26 May  
Reconnaissance of new positions, some 5 miles to northeast, undertaken by Major William D. Hulcoop, Battalion S-3, Captain William J. Jones, Battalion S-2, and Battery Commander at 0400 hours. Forward displacement of Battalion occupy same begun at 0545. Lieutenant Bell recalled from liaison with 463rd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 66th Field Artillery Battalion, in accordance with new Battalion mission of general support and fire-reinforcement of same. Simultaneous forward displacement of rear echelon to occupy newly vacated Battalion position area. Registration of all batteries at 0840 - 0940 hours (37 rounds). No weather nor visibility changes. Twenty supporting fire missions accomplished in forenoon (931 rounds). Continuous afternoon observed missions on enemy position, vehicles, tanks, and artillery (433 rounds), with reported neutralization, destruction of 1 tank, and commencement of several large fires.
Ammunition train engaged in steady, unrelied shuttle, cannonfire on 24 hour cycle. All available personnel (e.g., cooks, mechanics, etc.) used to supplement train and howitzer sections. Steps taken to prod Division into getting up our 200 - odd personnel from the rear near San Prisco. Lieutenant Boll recalled from liaison assignment, Battalion reverting to Division control. Five early night harassing missions (204 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1547 rounds HE and 56 rounds smoke.

27 May
Six later night harassing missions (1132 rounds). Continued good weather and visibility. Couple of morning observed missions (44 rounds). Registration check from Air Observation Post (28 rounds). Observed missions on enemy vehicles, armor, and artillery (189 rounds); neutralization plus 2 direct hits on tanks reported. Four early night harassing missions (302 rounds). Unobserved night fire in repulsion of enemy counter-attack (240 rounds). Enemy aerial harassment of this general vicinity twice during night. Ammunition expenditure for day - 2107 rounds HE and 21 rounds smoke.

28 May
Weather and visibility still all to the good. Four morning harassing missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery (30 rounds). Registration check from Air Observation Post (21 rounds). Observed mission on ammunition dump and enemy trucks (52 rounds); reported destruction of 2 trucks. Afternoon harassing fire (72 rounds). Eight unobserved missions, assigned by 36th Division Artillery, on reported enemy tank positions (383 rounds). Enemy Observation Post destroyed (24 rounds); a report from Air Observation Post. Four observed missions on enemy tanks and guns (207 rounds), with reported neutralizing effect. Five night harassing missions (114 rounds) and 2 Bingeos (120 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1081 rounds HE and 12 rounds smoke. Forward reconnaissance by 3-2 and Battery Commanders. Personnel from rear (San Prisco) having started filtering up with empty vehicles past two days and lst Lieutenant Newson, first person from this Battalion to make a trip overland from the Beachhead over the newly captured Highway 7, having returned to San Prisco to expedite the movement. Whole sale arrivals by LSTs this morning bring total personnel on hand to 27 Officers and 525 Enlisted men, plus most of equipment and all vehicles except five.

29 May
Enemy counterattacks dealt with for couple hours from shortly after midnight (1043 rounds). Three early morning supporting fire missions (130 rounds). Perfect weather and visibility conditions.
Time adjustment from Air Observation Post (50 rounds). Tanks, machine guns, and artillery taken under fire in forenoon (93 rounds); neutralization, including 1 direct on gun. The bridge destroyed (10 rounds). Neutralization of enemy guns in 4 Air adjusted missions (150 rounds). Several target hits in the observed mission on strong point and machine gun positions (63 rounds). Trucks effectively harassed (16 rounds). Demonstration, preparation fires, and a Bingo (416 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 2103 rounds HE and 23 rounds smoke. 

"A" Battery displaced forward by infiltration during afternoon, "B" Battery likewise in evening after dark. Personnel Section, having received orders from the Division Rear Commandant, moved overland in British Lorries from San Frisco, along Highway 7, to the area about 2 miles north west of Netuno.

30 May


Technician grade 5 Romeo J. Hurzi, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left upper arm by mysterious small arm slug in early morning. Private Edward A. Taunton, Headquarters Battery, attached to Battalion from Personnel Center No. 9, a reprimand for breaking drill while on leave. Both men evacuated to hospital.

31 May

Private James P. Boyle, Battery "A", seriously injured about midnight May 30-31 then excessively recoiling howitzer cleared trail trench and pinned him beneath wheel. Early morning enemy aerial harassment of vicinity. No weather nor visibility change. Forenoon visit from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery and Commanding General VI Corps Artillery. Fire started in enemy battery position - observed adjustment (59 rounds). Registration checks from Air Observation Post (52 rounds).
Seven harassing missions (416 rounds). Observe missions from noon to midnight on enemy vehicles, armor, heavy weapons, and artillery, with reported effect of area neutralization, 1 explosion among trucks and 4 direct hits on machine gun emplacement (207 rounds). Afternoon Bingo (59 rounds). Repulsion of early night counter-attack (109 rounds). Total ammunition expenditure for day - 1935 rounds HE and 17 rounds smoke.

The following type of casualties occurred during this period:

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No replacements have been received during the month.

"SILVER STAR CITATIONS RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN:"

1. NAME
   1st Lt. Phillip A. Checkley, Headquarters Battery, home, Shelbyville, Tenn.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   20 December 1944, Legnano, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   Saved lives of his men during a terrific enemy artillery bombardment, carrying to shelter those wounded and administering first aid under shell fire.

2. NAME
   1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, Battery "E", home, San Antonio, Texas.
   First Sergeant James G. Williams, Battery "E", home, Fort Worth, Texas.
   Staff Sergeant Benzon A. Cover, Medical Detachment, home, San Antonio, Texas.
   Corporal Melvin B. Haley, Battery "E", Fort Worth, Texas.
   Private First Class John L. Lencill Jr., Medical Detachment, home San Antonio, Texas.
   Private First Class Cleburne H. Schmidt, Medical Detachment, home San Antonio, Texas.
Private First Class John V. Banse, Medical Detachment, home
San Antonio, Texas.
Private Julius (Niel) Shecko, Medical Detachment, home, Eckerman
Michigan.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
18 March 1944, near Cassino, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
The above Officer and Enlisted Men were cited as follows:
Battery position having been located by the enemy, a terrific
concentration of enemy artillery was received in this area,
wounding a number of men. While the position was being shelled
the above cited worked continuously evacuating the wounded, even
though wounded themselves.

3. NAME
Sergeant Arthur A. Young, Battery "C", home, Palestine, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
7 January 1944, San Pietro, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
Saved the lives of his section during an intense enemy artillery
shelling, taking them to cover over an open field and administering
first aid. Sergeant having been wounded, disregarded his wounds
and continued with his evacuation until another burst fatally
wounded him.

ENLISTED CITATION
RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN

1. NAME
Lt. Col. Thomas T. Atains, Battalion Commander, home, Hampton,
Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
For gallantry in action near Altavilla, Italy in placing the
Battalion in position and conducting the firing on enemy
counterattack, which was repulsed at this critical time.

2. NAME
1st Lt. Clarence C. Kennon, Battalion Train Commander, home,
Cooge Spring, Alabama.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
13 September 1943, Altavilla, Italy.

CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
Under shell fire, returned to the position previously occupied
by Battalion from which he retrieved valuable, essential radio
equipment and other property.
3. NAME
   Staff Sergeant Gilbert T. Schaeffer, Battery "B", home, Cleburne, Texas.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   27 September 1943, Majarii Beach, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   After the amphibious landing at Majarii Beach all Battery Officers present became casualties. Staff Sergeant Schaeffer assumed command and directed the Battery firing, under enemy artillery fire.

4. NAME
   Sergeant Russel T. Flahie, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.
   Corporal Palmer D. Taylor, Battery "C", home, Houston, Texas.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   26 - 28 September 1943, Chialon Pass, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   The above men, under intense enemy shell fire, kept essential wire communications between the 3rd Ranger Battalion and this Battalion, working many hours without rest or relief.

5. NAME
   Corporal Bowery (Bill) Keaton, Battery "B", home, Houston, Texas.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   11 - 12 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   Operated radio on Observation Post, under intense enemy shell fire and without relief or rest for period of 24 hours or more. His loyalty to duty by keeping the only communications intact assisted in repulsing an enemy tank attack.

6. NAME
   Private First Class Grant L. Sauer, Service Battery, home, Pittsburgh, Penna.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   13 September 1943, near Altavilla, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   Under enemy artillery shelling and enemy strafing, Private First Class Sauer left his place of safety to evacuate some of his wounded comrades and administer first aid.

7. NAME
   Private First Class Welton R. Beausell, Service Battery, home, New Braunfels, Texas.
   Private First Class James W. Hawkins, Service Battery, home, Miami, Fla.

   DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION CITED
   11 September 1943, Pertuma, Italy.

   CONSPICUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
   The above two men were working in the Battalion Shop, when German planes began strafing the area. Immediately manning the 50 caliber machine gun mounted on a 4-ton wrecker, one firing and one feeding the machine gun, as one of the German planes came overhead a burst from the machine gun sent it down in flames.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 2350/17
17 Incld.:

Exhibits:
A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.
B - List of Casualties
C - Officers Roster
D - Officer Duty Changes
E - Field Order #1
F - Field Order #2
G - Unit Journal
H - Lissens Form by Air Section
I - S-1 Reports
J - S-2 Reports
K - S-3 Reports
L - Summary of Firing
M - Daily Report of Firing
N - Situation overlays #1, 2, 3, 4, 5
O - Operation overlays #2 and 2
P - Map of Pontecorvo, Casta, Sessa Aurunco, Cassino
Q - Firing Charts (5)
Experience continues to demonstrate the basic soundness of tactical doctrines expounded by the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, when applied with intelligence and discrimination to the eternally varying conditions of combat.

On more than one occasion recently, this Battalion has been assigned to a direct support mission and called on to provide two complete liaison teams and two or more officer forward observers, in addition to maintaining regular ground CP's. Under the new applicable T/O, it is well to remember, the Battalion is authorized, and has, only four (4) officers per battery (including the battery commander), no forward observers as such, one (1) liaison officer, and no liaison section, transportation, nor equipment.

The need for radio personnel additional to the limited number authorized by the T/O has been acutely felt.

The superiority of the "jeep" 1/4 ton over the 3/4 ton G & R vehicle for all combat purposes is increasingly apparent. Use of the 610-radio with the "jeep" as transport represents the most satisfactory available combination of ready communication and fast mobility.

Better provision for night lighting in the Battalion Fire Direction Center would diminish its difficulties and enhance its efficiency. Temporary accessibility to a generator of our accompanying anti-aircraft platoon of the 534th F & A R (AA) has proved of substantial aid. The platoon in question has, in other respects as well, collaborated with the Battalion to perfection.

The appropriateness of some rating for the firing battery recorder, as well as higher rating for the firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers than presently authorized (corporal and Tec 5 respectively), deserves consideration. Expert and specialized ability is required in each connection, particularly under the 24-hour, night-blackout, frequently fast-moving conditions that characterize combat. If a man measures up to the responsibility, he is definitely of higher than fifth grade caliber; he is either held in an undeservedly lower grade than his capacity warrants or he is promoted to a different assignment, and the necessity of patient development of new talent for the vacated assignment, so essential to a medium artillery battalion, crops up anew.

Hasten and unnecessary usage to wire lines by coveting armored elements in the vicinity of battery positions continues to multiply the man-hours required for maintenance of vital communications.

Hoped for and expected supply of target area air photos has failed to materialize in any appreciable quantity during current operations.
It is gratifying to remark that zealous protective measures on the malaria front are yielding evidences: not a single case has yet developed in the Battalion this season.

The first effects of rotation replacement vary widely. To date only one officer and three men have arrived, another officer and five more men are awaited. The officer and one man received, Sergeant John W. Webb, ASN 638977, fulfill requirements to satisfaction; another man, Corporal Silas E. Buchanan, ASN 35503250, had had no artillery training whatever but, by dint of patient and determined effort, is expected to "take the grade" in time as a gunner corporal; the third man, a private, gives evidence of neither artillery training, hopeful prospects, nor desirability.

In the light of the foregoing, it is RECOMMENDED THAT

(1) The Battalion, when appropriate, be authorized and provided adequate liaison and observation personnel for direct support missions, in excess of T/O.

(2) Additional radio operators be authorized and provided.

(3) The 1/4 ton "jeep" be substituted throughout for the 3/4 ton C & R car.

(4) A portable generator be made available to the Fire Direction Center.

(5) Firing battery wire chief and prime mover drivers be accorded the rating of sergeant and Tec 4 respectively, and a rating of at least fifth grade be created for the firing battery recorder.

(6) Rudimentary and repeated communications instruction be given all tank and tank destroyer drivers, with the provision that they are to repair immediately any wire lines that they cut, tactical conditions permitting.

(7) Arrangements be perfected for prompt and continuous supply of target area map photos during combat operations.

(8) The rotation system be extended to authorize that position vacancies created by rotation be filled by promotion within the Battalion, when possible, and upon approval of higher headquarters.

[Signature]

Thomas T. Andrews
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.
Commanding

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LIST OF CASUALTIES IN MAY 1914

1. Tec 5 Romeo J. Marzi, ASN 32326339, Headquarters Battery, wounded in left arm by bullet. Entered service from New York City, New York.

2. Pvt James F. Doyle, ASN 32786403, Battery "A", seriously injured when howitzer wheel ran over his chest. Trail broke when gun was fired and soldier was pinned underneath wheel. Entered service from Bronx, New York.
# HEADQUARTERS 155th FA ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.C. I.O. 36, U.S. Army

31 May 1944

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**BATTALION STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Phone No.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atkins, Thomas T.</td>
<td>Lt. Col.</td>
<td>0-246315</td>
<td>Bn Cmrr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillen, Lawrence D.</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>0-255409</td>
<td>Bn Exec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waltrip, Willard B.</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>0-348120</td>
<td>S - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans, Gerald H.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-1165012</td>
<td>Ass't S - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessup, William J.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-415050</td>
<td>S - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent, Raylind F.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1176092</td>
<td>Bn Sur Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Leroy L.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-116551</td>
<td>Bn Ln Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killinger, Joseph C.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-1682333</td>
<td>Med Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roth, Stanley W.</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>N-2108253</td>
<td>Per Off</td>
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**HEADQUARTERS BATTERY**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Williamson, Martin W.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-1166687</td>
<td>Btry C O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooks, Phillip A.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1177388</td>
<td>Ass't Cmrr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart, Jack R.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-403496</td>
<td>Mtr Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swoboda, Arnie F.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1180360</td>
<td>Air Off</td>
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**BATTERY**

**A** BATTERY

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bush, William L.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-427350</td>
<td>Btry C O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bent, Charles A.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1175945</td>
<td>Exec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sax, Herman W.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1172638</td>
<td>R. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin, Carl F.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1180399</td>
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**B** BATTERY

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hahn, Richard B.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-415562</td>
<td>Btry C O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buro, Frank W.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1173017</td>
<td>Exec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingertink, Kiva S.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1176013</td>
<td>R. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGready, Richard J.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1170486</td>
<td>Mtr. Off</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**C** BATTERY

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franz, Harry F. Jr.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-404452</td>
<td>Btry C O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds, Robert E.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1167174</td>
<td>Exec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judson, Paul F.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1121319</td>
<td>Mtr. Off (TD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cock, Harlan (HJ)</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1167785</td>
<td>R. C. (TD)</td>
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**SERVICE BATTERY**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Phone No.</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vines, Walton M.</td>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>0-1167257</td>
<td>Btry C O, S-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixson, Clarence C.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1167141</td>
<td>Bn Mtr Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore, Harold G.</td>
<td>2nd Lt.</td>
<td>0-1177102</td>
<td>Train Cmrg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey, Harold W.</td>
<td>1st Lt.</td>
<td>0-1167443</td>
<td>Mtr. Off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**RESTRICTED**

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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NAR 235017

By R/W 1977

NARA, Date 1977
HEADQUARTERS 159th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
A.P.C. no. 36, U.S. Army  

30 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Assignments, Leases and Changes of Duty of Battalion Officers from 31 March thru 31 May 1944.

1. Captain Lawrence D. Gilmer, Battalion Executive promoted to Major 23 March 1944.

2. Captain William D. Hagerup, Battalion S-3, promoted to Major 23 March 1944.

3. 1st Lt. Leroy L. Bell, reassigned from Executive officer Btry "B" to Battalion Liaison officer 11 April 1944.

4. 2nd Lt. Frank M. Burgio, reassigned from Motor officer Btry "C" to Executive officer, Btry "B", 11 April 1944.


6. 1st Lt. Raymond F. Kent, reassigned from Ass't S-3 to Battalion Survey Officer effective 11 April 1944.

7. 1st Lt. Vernon G. Krogg, Air Pilot transferred to 178th Field Artillery Group on 15 April 1944.

8. 1st Lt. Walton L. Vines, promoted to Captain on 17 April 1944.


11. 2nd Lt. Harlan (Bill) Cook Jr., reassigned from Motor officer Service Btry to Recon officer Btry "C" on 24 April 1944.


13. Capt. Frank W. Davis, from Battalion Motor officer to absent sick and transferred to 45th General Hospital on 1 May 1944.

RESTRICTED
14. COR Harold B. Johnson, transferred to the 45th General Hospital on 8 May 1944.

15. 1st Lt. Rufus P. Vines, left battalion on 8 April 1944 on rotation for the United States.
155th Field Artillery Battalion

June 01 1944

01 June

The Battalion continues in 36th Infantry Division general support, with the advantage of typical tank and artillery support. Enemy planes harass area, dropping incendiary bombs, disrupting wire communications, and inflicting some damage on the Headquarters Battery. Lieutenants Paul J. Johnson sustains slight shoulder wound later in the day from mortar fragment.

Morning bingo (60 rcs). Intermittent harassing fires during the day (230 rcs). Observations on trucks, tanks, artillery, mortars, automatic weapons, and strong points (640 rcs), with reported effect of neutralization, destruction of one mortar, and repeated hits on emplacements. Night bingo (50 rcs). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1005 HE and 31 Smoke.

02 June

Night harassing fires (350 rcs). Morning bingo and TCT (227 rcs). Continued favorable weather and observation. Prolonged dry spell, however, provides heavy cloud cover over roads.

Battalion is assigned by 36th Division Artillery the mission of direct support of 157th Infantry (45th Division). This is shortly assigned to provide for reinforcement of fires of 131st Field Artillery Battalion, in direct support of 157th Infantry, and 1st Lieutenant Bell and Officer observers proceed thither. Initial new position area reconnaissance is supervised by 36th Division Artillery instruction to reconnoiter in specific gap "goose egg," so ordered, the Battalion Commander, S-2, Survey Officer, Communications Officer, and Battery Commanders and parties go forward and engage in skirmish a German detachment which proves reluctant to evacuate the area for the purpose. Our forces retire in good order, after capturing several prisoners, losing one crew vehicle, and incurring no casualties. Thereafter a forward displacement of the Battalion and occupation of the originally reconnoitred positions, a short distance north of Velletir, is accomplished.

Thirty-sixth Division Artillery imposes limit of 100 rounds per gun per day till further notice.

Late evening registration of one battery by Air Observation Post (11 rcs). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 605 HE and 152 Smoke.
03 June

Completion of registration of battalion (64 rcs).

Towards noon 36th Division Artillery changes current battalion mission to direct support of 157th Infantry, but in less than an hour countermands such instruction.

Series of neutralizing observed fires delivered on enemy troops and weapons (423 rcs). Air Observation Post cases of registration (34 rcs) and unobserved harassment mission on enemy personnel (198 rcs).

04 June

Rear elements of battalion, including the Personnel Section, meanwhile moved forward to occupy position vacated by battalion on evening of 2 June. Further morning forward reconnaissance is undertaken at 36th Division Artillery direction and the battalion promptly follows to rendezvous after several miles in area just north of Point du Hoc. Battalion meanwhile reassumes mission of general support of the 36th Infantry Division right column; Lieutenant Bell is therefore relieved of liaison with 111st Infantry and rejoins the battalion. Lye forward is resumed and battalion occupies position for a couple of hours in area to the west of Croustefontaine, thence displacement ensues to new position about 3 miles southeast of home. By 2100 hours, battalion rear and Personnel Section, moving by successive bivouacs, have closed in the same general area. No ammunition expenditure this date.

05 June

Early morning; Grid Station Lunar Crater, directed by 36th Division Artillery, puts the battalion on road towards home at 0330 hours, rear elements remaining in bivouac. March proceeds at creeping pace through fog, after losing the battalion of 111th Infantry above trucks, crosses able, and continues to position area several miles to west, in vicinity of 111th Infantry and corps. Batteries prepare to register, but five withheld at instance of supported troops pending further call.

Hot, dry weather, with dusty road conditions, continues. No ammunition expenditure this date.

06 June

Late news of the invasion of France received by radio. Battalion makes afternoon forward displacement to rendezvous area several miles northwest of home, rear elements, including Personnel Section, simultaneously occupying positions just vacated. Normandy route resumed after evening meal, and batteries go into position in vicinity of 111th Infantry. Grid Station Lunar Crater Radio Order at 1330 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, again closes station and puts battalion on road to northwest, in coordination with 133rd Field Artillery, battalion and 976th Field Artillery Battalion. Congested traffic condition on narrow, rocky, circuitous route cause battalion to creep all night behind infantry and widely diverse other elements, to rendezvous and seize a little rest beside highway shortly after dawn. No ammunition expenditure this date.
03 June
March to north preceded by brief reconnaissance by battalion commander, and 8-2, to resume at 0500 hours. Batteries disperse in "quarantine" about 1800 hours near Station Cella Crocicchio on highway I. Battalion rear elements rejoin batteries in this area during the day. Lieutenant well established liaison with 30th Division Artillery. 8-1, on 30th Division Artillery order and in consummation of announced relief of 143rd Infantry, arranges details to transport the 143rd Infantry battalions to Tivurse; battalion trucks depart for the purpose in late evening and early night. No ammunition expenditure this date.

03 June
Ho change in weather.

Forward displacement of all battalion elements to area west of Tolve, short of Allustria, closing in early afternoon. Mendeus terminated by 36th Division artillery direct reconnaissance for positions forward, followed by night blackout march of battalion (less Service echelon) to vicinity south of Iarquina. Mission assigned: Support of 361st Infantry Combat Team (includes 96th Field Artillery Battalion, 361st Division). Occupation of positions and preparations to fire completed about midnight. No ammunition expenditure this date.

Paragraph withdrawn—Restricted

Early morning bingo, unserved (134 rounds).

Lieutenant well established liaison with 36th Division Artillery per order Commanding General.

Forward displacement of battalion in early afternoon to a barracks area southwest of Iarquina; followed shortly to that point by service echelon and Personnel Section. Quick occupation of position by batteries.

Oral advice of Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, that battalion will remain overnight in presently situated is countermanded in favor of further forward displacement. Accordingly, night move initiated over field just off highway to south of Pontetto. Total ammunition expenditure this date: 132 HE and 2 Smoke.
10 June

Forward displacement is resume. In late morning and continued to point off Highway 1, several miles northwest of Montalvo and about 3 miles south of Culpeo. Positions are occupied and missions uncertain in late afternoon, Lieutenant Bell advising from 36th Division Artillery of current assigned mission: fires to west, north and northeast in defense of 36th Infantry Division line. Unobserved fires on enemy guns (136 rds). Registration from Air Observation Post (13 rds). Explosions and fires started and personnel casualties inflicted on enemy by well adjusted 8th Battery Observation Post missions (67 rds), Captain Richard H. Han and lst Lieutenant Elia S. Fingram conducting.

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 230 HE and 6 Smoke.

alert at 2300 hours from Commanding General, 36th Division Artillery, move as far west as tactical situation permits.

11 June

Battalion Commander and Battery Commanders and their parties go forward on reconnaissance at 0500. Battalion is prepared to roll out at 0600 hours when radio message from Battalion Commander halts march and returns personnel to positions and resumption of fire. Support of otherwise unsupported 111st Infantry undertaken on initiative of Battalion Commander after conference with 111st Infantry Commanding Officer. Lieutenant is established necessary liaison and is soon wounded severely, in left upper arm by shell fragment and evacuated to hospital.

2nd Lieutenant Cook established Liaison with 142nd Infantry.

Sixteen unobserved missions on enemy personnel and in repulsion of counterattacks are accomplished at instance of 111st Infantry (625 rds).

Area neutralization with 1 direct hit in air-adjusted mission on a gun position (137 rds). 8th Observation Post adjusts series of fires on enemy troops, inflicting heavy casualties (286 rds). Air Observation Post adjusts late afternoon fires on additional gun positions, with reported neutralizing effect (231 rds).

Total ammunition expenditure this date: 1274 HE and 5 Smoke.

12 June

Four night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (144 rds). Air Observation Post check of registration (15 rcs).

No weather nor visibility changes.

Current mission assigned: reinforcement of fires of 132nd Field Artillery battalion, in direct support of 142nd Infantry.
Proceeded by position area reconnaissance, Battalion displaces forward in late afternoon to some 3 miles northwest of Caspaldo. Base point registration is conducted by Air Observation Post (45 ru). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 105 II and 9 Smoke.

13 June To further fire from present position, Battalion again makes afternoon forward displacement, preceded by reconnaissance, this time to cross highway 76 and occupy positions along Allogna River, several miles southwest of Leglina.

Upon 36th Division Artillery instructions, Battalion prepares to extend move behind 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, but continues in position then adjacent to 133rd's remaining as located to support infantry in encounter with unexpected opposition. Lieutenant Newsom established liaison with 132nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Base point registration from Air Observation Post (44 ru). Evening barrage (50 ru). Fire in regulation of counter-attack, adjusted by 132nd Field Artillery Battalion Observation Post (27 ru). Total ammunition expenditure this date: 42 II and 6 Smoke.

14 June Enemy battery and SP guns are reported neutralized by midnight fires, adjusted from 132nd Field Artillery Observation Post (32 ru). Night and early morning harassing fires, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (303 ru).

Enemy planes bomb and strafe battalion area about 0330; no casualties.

Pursuant to 36th Division Artillery Order, "A" Battery is detached from the Battalion and attached to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, proceeding thither about 0430 hours. 1st Lieutenant Newsom is recalled from 132nd Field Artillery Battalion and dispatched to 117th Reconnaissance Squadron to maintain liaison.

2nd Lieutenant Cook returns from 1,200 Infantry.

Preparatory fires are delivered at call of 132nd Field Artillery Battalion in early afternoon (41 ru).

Observe missions are adjusted by Air Observation Post on enemy artillery, troops, vehicles, and marching columns, with report of dissatisfactory results (105 ru). Afternoon barrage, as called for by 36th Division Artillery (46 ru).

15 June No let-up in summer heat, dryness and dust.

Captain Kelton // Vines, Battalion 3-4 advises of displacement forward of battalion service elements and Personnel Section along the line of Highway #1.
16 June

Weather clear; visibility clear. Morning registration is accomplished through air CP (62 runs). Missions are adjusted on targets by air CP, and neutralization is accomplished through ground CP's. Neutralization and three large explosions (59 runs). Early afternoon bingo, called for by Div Arty (3 runs). Observed missions are carried out on enemy personnel and suspected installations (35 runs), effectively covering target areas.

Current mission assigned by Div Arty; support of LTI CP. Twilight foreborders displacement, preceded by visual reconnaissance, to occupation of positions in flanks of Larom River, about 2000 yards SW of Grosseto. Battalion service elements are now situated 3 miles to rear towards Capalbio, except Personnel section, which is further 2 miles further back, in cantone. Total ammo expenditure this date: 273 lb, 14 cases.

17 June

Weather cloudy, visibility fair. Afternoon threat of rain fails to materialize. Morning registration from air CP (46 runs). Missions on enemy vehicles and artillery adjusted by air CP, with reported neutralization effect (49 runs). Hit on afternoon on horse-drawn artillery and on tanks, scoring 1 direct hit on latter (152 runs).

"3" Arty returns to its control center, 1500, but in Officer (Lt. Benson) and an officer observer (Lt. Jones) are to remain with 117th Div until further orders. Reconnaissance of German positions areas accomplished in evening; move, however, is postponed on 3rd Arty order till the morning.

Total ammo expenditure this date: 537 lb, 15 cases.

18 June

Rain 0330-0500 plays havoc with everyone's comfort. Weather gradually improves, sun shines from noon on, with high atmospheric clarity, increasing fires from midnight to 0330 (10 runs). Preparation fires preceding early morning attacks (120 runs). Afternoon harassing fires (35 runs). Destruction of 1 enemy gun in ground-CP-adjusted mission (27 runs). Morning visit from 61 Div Arty.

Div Arty assigns current mission to ins of 36th Div general support. Foreborders displacement in mid-afternoon to positions SE of Grosseto. Prompt registration (60 runs) followed by 2nd Arty (200 runs), successful observation on enemy troops (70 runs), and 1st Arty harassing fires (90 runs). Total ammo expenditure this date: 662 lb, 16 cases.
20 June

Reconnaissance is discontinued at 0130 on telephoned instructions from DIV ARTY, received at 133 FA En CP, to continue occupation of present position. En Lx6 determined upon departure of an CO, morning resumption of reconnaissance is followed by Battalion displacement to new occupation of positions about 3000 yds SSW of Luptonysall. Registration on OP is promptly effectuated through AIR CP (47 RDU).

Perfect calm and weather with clarity prevails. Total smoke expenditure this date: 40 RB, 7 smoke.

21 June

Following in 60's early evening conference with Co, DIV ARTY, new reconnaissance of road net, due in the wake of position area reconnaissance by S-2, Survey Corps, and Battery Commanders. (Occasional skirmish with a building pocket of leseuhl), Battalion infiltrated, upon occupation of the essential bridges, to a "permanent rendezvous" off by 1, immediately south of Guernicou. Reconnaissance is resumed and further forward displacement is accomplished at dusk. Positions are occupied about 3000 yds NNE of Luptonysall and 2000 yds SE of Gverneu. OP registration is effectuated through AIR CP (13 RDU). Battalion service echelon dispatches forward to location on by 1, rest of Luptonysall. Threat of showers fails to develop. Total smoke expenditure this date: 11 RB, 2 smoke.

22 June

Continued good weather and visibility. Battalion mission (36th DIV general support) continues per oral confirmation of Co, DIV ARTY, at morning conference with its CO's. For DIV ARTY authorization, Lt Martin and Llomn return from 117th SOS. Capt. Evans is dispatched as Lt Tgs, pursuant to Division order, to join and remain with DIV G-4. Four observer missions are adjusted by AIR CP in morning on
23 June

Sunny weather and clear visibility.

Morning observed mission (90° LP) on enemy personnel (15 ree),

covering indicated area.

At 1145, task displacement was made to an

reconnaissance positions about 5000 yards

away from the Arty in late afternoon.

Registration is completed through air LP (36 ree).

All observed missions are accomplished on enemy vehicles (57 ree).

One sponge (53 ree).

Lt. walks across 460th FA (48 ree) to continue liaison in area

remaining unchanged.

Mid-Afternoon, 460th FA 48 is dispatched forward to this immediate

neighborhood. Total smoke expenditure this date: 364 ree, 40 smoke.

24 June

Continued sunny weather and clear visibility.

Fire enemy tanks are observed in 3 morning missions adjusted

by air LP's (150 ree). Pursuant to 65th at 1145, reconnaissance

is dispatched to position area in vicinity of

35-60, 1500 before several thousand yards north of Pussuena

and begins his forwardmost. Authority is obtained to register,

but planes, to control bid up on other missions, finally find

the solution out of gas and call it a day. At 2200 order is

received from Axis to hit the road at dawn and proceed to a

position of forces in immediate rear of 134th FA, there

after it then may be. Total smoke expenditure this date 147 ree,

3 smoke.

25 June

Continued sunny weather and clear visibility.

Reconnaisance is instituted at 0900 and 48 accomplishes displace

ment within next hour and quarter to position 3000 yards

due north, remaining temporarily coupled. Despite communication

to 460th FA of results of further reconnaissance, which logically

predicts further movement pening advance of infantry front.

June 4th, 1944.
No artillery were fired from enemy artillery for a
hour. Sunset is caused by smoke from burning position of 120mm(+149) battery (vicinity 365-373),
which are set in motion, and in accordance, registration is completed (22 guns), preparatory fires deli-
vers (51 guns) on one and then battery neutralized (400 guns). A service combat fire is set up to point
in vicinity of 120's burning, resultant. Total ammunition expenditure this date: 395 lb, 29 same.

26 June Closing station at 0330, pursuant to relief of 36th
Division, being moved at 0930 to house area about
3 miles east of town. In 12 hours in reserve on
route consists of 3recon, 1 platoon, 1 platoon in
vicinity 0300 on morning of 27th. Capt. Bacon is in-
jured in highway accident on route.

The following types of casualties occurred during this
period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Casualty</th>
<th>Severe</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Minor</th>
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<tr>
<td>LIA</td>
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<td>LCA</td>
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Two enlisted men received as replacements during this
period. These men replaced personnel rotated during this
period.

"HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT CIVILIAN CONTRIBUTIONS
TO WORLD WAR II" 1

1. LCPL
Captain Richard C. Hite, Battery "G", 155th Field Artillery
Battalion, Boss, Louisiana, Texas.

Died a Patriotic Death
18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

Richard Hite, LCPL
Saved the lives of his men during terrific enemy bombardment,
directing all efforts to carry wounded to shelter and ad-
ministering first aid under shell fire.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NARA 235017

By RB/15
NARA, Ref: FR-1-09
2. [Redacted]

Captain Charles C. Pole, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Tuscaloosa, Cakahoma.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION GAINED
18 March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

WEATHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Despite being hit by small arms fire, continuing to render first aid to an enem after being seriously wounded by shell fragment, thereby saving the lives of eleven men.

"S. L. SHRAPNEL \& S. C. SHARDS RECEIVED" United States Army

1. [Redacted]


DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION GAINED
4th March 1944, Cassino, Italy.

WEATHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Carried wounded man to shelter during heavy bombardment. Then exposed to enemy small arms fire. Pvt. Cebula guided an ambulance to the injured soldiers and helped load them for evacuation.

2. [Redacted]

1/Sgt. Herbert C. Patrick, Headquarters Battery, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION GAINED
8 December 1943, Legnano, Italy.

WEATHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1/Sgt. Patrick skillfully organized two lines and laid communication lines through a heavily mined open field which was under intense small arms and then advanced over unfamiliar terrain to a command post to complete the important and necessary communications.

"S. L. SHRAPNEL \& S. C. SHARDS RECEIVED DURING PERIOD COVERED HEREIN" United States Army

1. [Redacted]

Pvt. Lel Harold C. Moyer, Battery "A", 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

DATE AND PLACE OF ACTION GAINED
7 December 43, Legnano, Italy.

WEATHER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Established an observation post on a prominent ridge and directed fire accurately on enemy positions.

REstricted
2.    

Pvt. Walter G. Le Flandre, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Superior, Wisconsin.  

DATE AND PLACE OF ACT: Vercelli, Italy.  

10 December 43.  

Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.

3.    

Pvt. Walter G. Le Flandre, Medical Detachment, 155th Field Artillery Battalion, home, Superior, Wisconsin.  

DATE AND PLACE OF ACT: Vercelli, Italy.  

10 December 43.  

Took an ambulance under heavy enemy shell fire to two wounded men in an exposed position and rendered first aid and then evacuated them from the hazardous area.


dr. J. AM. S.  

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S.  

Commanding.

15 incl.  

Exhibits:  

A - Conclusions by Battalion Commander.  
B - List of Casualties.  
C - Officers' List.  
D - Officers' Rations.  
E - Unit Journal.  
F - Missions flown by all sections.  
G - 4 - 1 reports.  
H - 4 - 2 reports.  
I - 4 - 3 reports.  
J - Summary of Firing.  
L - CP Ration Overlays 1 thru 7.  
M - Situation Overlays 1 thru 9.  
N - Logs.  
O - Firing Charts.
CLOGICINS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

I. Results of the past month operations detract in no way from previously expressed conclusions and recommendations. They prove moreover the compelling need of a range in Divisional Medium Artillery greater than that of the light battalions. During the rapid pursuit tactic that characterized the latter phase of the June campaign, this Battalion time and again could have fired on many targets, otherwise denied it, if it had had the additional range afforded by the 155 Howitzer III. Experience under recent conditions has demonstrated anew the soundness of the artillery doctrine that the Medium covers the forward displacement of the direct support battalions.

II. The rapidity of pace during the June operations severely tested the reliability and flexibility of communication procedure. It measured up to satisfaction, vindicating again the teachings of the Field Artillery School when applied with judicious and selective adaptation to the ever varying, seldom foreseen contingencies of actual combat. The excellent functioning of this suggests the propriety of presentation of the following scheme of organization and operation which has been developed.

1. Unexpected situations, e.g., landing on an hostile shore, conversion of the defensive to an offensive, rapid pursuit of the enemy, required that the Headquarters Battery Communications Platoon be organized in the most flexible manner. Such flexibility naturally will include rapid mobility and centralized control of small groups capable of working independently.

2. Through experience gained in the field under the above mentioned situations, the Headquarters Battery Communications Platoon had developed an organization capable of meeting the demands arising from the most adverse situations. This organization is a "revised" form of the current T/0 6-36.

3. The following general SOP and description in comparison with T/0 6-36 is submitted for consideration:

COMMUNICATIONS PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

The communications platoon headquarters is usually organized as an overhead with which no one could plan a specific function but now is so organized as to furnish not only a centralized control for the communications platoon of Headquarters Battery, but also for all communications within the Battalion. The communications platoon headquarters makes inspections, and services and supplies the Battalion communications installations, as well as preparing extracts from the S.O.I. and making codes and telephone directories.

RESTRICTED

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NWAR 235017
3 JULY 1944: The battalion executed a night march from a bivouac area about nine miles northwest of Rome, Italy, to another bivouac area about five miles northeast of Faestus, Italy. It is interesting to note that this bivouac was in one of the position areas occupied by this battalion during the establishment of the Salerno beachhead.

PERIOD 4 to 21 JULY 1944: The battalion engaged in training with emphasis placed upon waterborne operations and familiarization with the battalion's new weapon, the 155mm howitzer, L-1. The old 155mm howitzer L-1917, were replaced with the new L-1's early in this period.

On 12 July, Major William B. Walcrop, the battalion S-3, was transferred to the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion and Major James T. Clarke, Executive Officer, of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion was transferred to this battalion. The Battalion Commander assigned Major Clarke as Battalion Executive and Major Lawrence B. Gilmer, as Battalion S-3.

22 JULY 1944: The battalion marched to a "staging area" about five miles north of Faestus, Italy. Closed into this area shortly after midnight.

PERIOD 23 JULY to 6 AUGUST 1944: The battalion engaged in light training, including some calibration firing of the L-1 howitzers using B-10 ammunition, and in intensive preparation for Operation "Anvil".

On 30 July Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Atkins, at his own request, was relieved of command of this battalion.

On 1 August Major Clifford J. Snow was transferred to this battalion from the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion. He assumed command by authority of VDOD 36th Division Artillery.

PERIOD 7 to 10 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion embarked for Operation "Anvil". First waterfrooed vehicles with their drivers and assistant drivers were loaded. On the 10th the personnel embarked. The main body of the battalion, under Major Snow, embarked on L.S.T. ASH 602. A smaller group, consisting of three officers and seventy four enlisted men, under Major Clarke, embarked upon L.S.T. ASH 603. A forward reconnaissance group consisting of Captain J.J. Reilly and members of the personnel, embarked on L.S.T. ASH 610. Their mission was to find a suitable position area, so that the Battalion Commander could examine and guide the battalion to...
The rear section, under command of Captain Harry P. Franta, consisting of two other officers, 1st Lieutenants Robert E. Reynolds and Jack R. Stewart, four Lieutenants (JS) Stanley L. Ruth and eighty-six enlisted men remained in Italy. It was scheduled to follow the battalion on D plus 3 convoy.

The embarkation was completed and the LST's proceeded to their rendezvous at 1700 hours on 11 August 1944.

11 AUGUST 1944: No incident. The convoy remained in the rendezvous area.


13 AUGUST 1944: The voyage continued under ideal conditions: a calm sea, light breezes, and clear, warm weather. Maps and secret orders (FQ 52, Headquarters 36th Infantry Division) were distributed to the officers, who studied them preparatory to briefing the troops. These orders gave this battalion the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which was in direct support of the 163rd Infantry.

14 AUGUST 1944: Weather continued ideal. The convoy passed thru the Straits of Corsica at about daylight and turned northward along the west coast of Corsica. At 1700 hours, the convoy turned westward again toward its destination, the Gulf of Frejus. During the day, the troops were briefed. It was announced that 15 August was D-Day and that 0000 on that day was D-Hour.

15 AUGUST 1944: At daylight a terrific bombardment of the beach-head area and the beaches by the navy and the Air Corps prepared the beaches for the in-shore landing. By mid-morning official reports from returning landing craft indicated the waiting troops that the assault was proceeding well. Resistance was light, and casualties were unexpectedly light. LST 602 beached on "Green Beach" on the south shore of Cap de Dramont at 0445; followed by LST 603 at 0450. Just as LST 602 reached a number of light shelling, high velocity shells landed on Green Beach. Three of them struck LST 602. Light shrapnel wounds were suffered by Major Sho, the Battalion Commander, Capt. Philip A. Chockley, Assistant Communications Officer, Pvt. Earl O. Price of Battery "C", and Pvt. Cyril W. Sled Jr., Medical Detachment. The officers were given first aid and returned to duty. The enlisted men were hospitalized. LST 602 was beached by 0500 and LST 603 by 0600. As the vehicles unloaded, they were guided to the water-proofing area. As Major Sho landed he was met by Captain gunn., and they went on a hasty reconnaissance of the route and the selected position.
firing. The SP has not since been seen.

18 AUGUST 1944: At 1440 Lt. Raymond F. Lent, Battery Commander of Battery "B", reported that Battery "B" had been bothered the previous evening by snipers firing into the battery from an isolated pocket just in rear of this position. The para-troopers who had been engaging them had been moved. A request for help was made of the 142nd Infantry. The Infantry Regiment sent a reinforced platoon to mop-up, but upon arrival found that the enemy had evacuated. Two trucks were sent to join a tactical force for an indefinite period. They reported to Captain Lattar at the 36th Infantry Division Camp 1st Quartermaster dump in Draguignan. Boys firing this date. This Battalion's mission has remained unchanged since landing. ie., reinforcing the fires of the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, which, in turn, is in direct support of the 143rd Infantry.

19 AUGUST 1944: At 0215 Major Luther W. Griggs, 36th Division Artillery, called this battalion to furnish three more 2½-ton trucks for the same force which has received the two trucks on the 18th. They were dispatched at 0215 and reported to Camp 1st at 0600. Orders were received from 36th Division Artillery Headquarters at 2250 for this battalion to be prepared to move by 0600 20 August. Battery Commanders were alerted, to firing this date.

20 AUGUST 1944: Colonel A. A. A., Commanding 133rd Regimental Combat Team, called at 0130 and made arrangements for the 133rd Field Artillery Battalion to carry a battalion of his infantry (less one company) on our vehicles during the march this date. The battalion marched at 0130 in the order M-8, M-9, M-10, and Headquarters Battery. A representative, Captain Julian R. Mine, from Service Battery accompanied the battalion. The infantry entrained on our vehicles about three miles northwest of Draguignan. The column marched northward on highway No. 555 to Castellane, turned north on highway No. 85, passed thru Vence and on to Digne, southwest of Vallee. There it was found that demolitions prevented crossing the Durance River and it was necessary to proceed southward along highway No. 100 to L'Ariliane before a crossing could be effected. We turned northwest again on highway No. 76, passed thru Peyruis, to highway No. 85 just south of Vellane, passed thru Vellane and finally went into position, about a thousand yards south of Pelopin. There was no contact with the enemy; so the batteries were laid to fire as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 4000, Battery "B" on compass 300, and Battery "C" on compass 6000, no firing from this position. The battalion marched about 1200 road miles this day to a point nearly 50 miles deeper in France.
21 AUGUST 1944: Initially, it was contemplated that no movement would be made this date; but at 1300 a message was received summoning the Battalion Commander to Division Artillery headquarters. At 1410 the Battalion Commander rendezvoused for a conference of Battery Commanders and was prepared to leave at 1435 to go on a reconnaissance. Orders were given at 1435 hours for the battalion to be prepared to move toward Gap by 1945. The battalion moved at 1745. The column was met by Captain Hawk just south of Sisteron and was led to its new position area just south of Gap. For dispositions see Kep. France 1/100,000, Sheet 13 - 0, Grenoble-Gap. The battalion closed into its new area at 2045, going into position as follows: Battery "A" on a compass of 800, Battery "B" on 6400 and Battery "C" on 5200. No firing from this position.

22 AUGUST 1944: In contact with the enemy. Information received indicated that the 1st Infantry was operating to the east and north east of Gap and the 142nd Infantry was operating eastward of Gap. At 1320 a message from 36th Division Artillery, alerted the battalion for a possible move to the rear or northwest to be made later in the afternoon or on the 22nd of August. Captain August C. Larson was sent to 36th Division Artillery to obtain further information and to reconnoiter roads as far as possible. Captain Larson called by telephone at 1630 stating that two battalions could move. The battalion could carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry on our vehicles and that he was bringing a copy of the order. At 2300 hours Captain Stallings, G-3 Section, 36th Infantry Division telephoned that the order had been changed slightly— that we would proceed to Lyons instead of Grenoble and that our route would be via Gap, Vezyes, Serres, Rosans and Lyons and that low-beam headlights would be used as far as Grenoble. The Battery Commanders, including the Commanding Officer, Battery "A", 143rd AAA and Battalion Surgeon, were advised to have their units prepared to march at 0630 on the morning of 23 August and that the units commanders would report to the Battalion Executive when ready to march and to receive written orders at 0015 23 August. An acute map shortage prevented distribution of maps covering the march route, so overlays were prepared. Captain William J. Jesup, with quartering party, was sent ahead to find positions and to expedite strapping of the infantry and occupation of positions. Captain Hawk went forward to locate the strapping point.

23 AUGUST 1944: The Battalion Commander returned to the CP at 0015 and issued the march order, i.e.: the move would be administrative, to the vicinity of Lyons via Vezyes, Serres, Rosans, Lyons; our vehicles would carry a battalion of the 142nd Infantry to be entwined at 0100; order of march was "A", "B", "C", Headquarters Battery and Service Battery: Lights to Jeaus, blackout thereafter. This battalion to be in circuit support of the 142nd Infantry Regiment. The battalion left position for the strapping area at 0630 and arrived at the area at 0730.
The infantry were to clear the bridgehead from the south and west, with the arrival of tanks at the bridgehead, and infantry continued to move east of Myon. The Japanese, as reported by Captain Jason, had reported that the bridgehead was in Japanese positions and that the enemy troops were just west of Myon. Battery "A" was created to occupy position while batteries "B" and "C" were held on the road until their position could be inspected. Batteries "A" were fired from the road to its position at 0600 and were ready to fire at 1000, by which time the Battalion Commander had ordered the remaining batteries into position. "B" and "C" batteries closed into their areas at 1100. Capt. Elka S. Fingerhut was sent to establish observation on the town of尾栖 at 1230 hours. A platoon of infantry was sent with him, to protect his observation post. Capt. Patrick J. LeBreton requested and was granted permission to accompany the party. Their route had been previously reconnoitered. However, the road was narrow, since the reconnaissance, established a road block on their route. As they approached the road block the enemy opened fire. Maj. LeBreton was seriously wounded - lost his left leg. Private Leberon D. Levy was slightly wounded. Capt. J. L. Liebly and the other three members of the party were captured. All members of this party were from Battery "B". Summary of firing: 127 rounds of 75, 6 rounds of smoke. Fired five missions on tanks, vehicles and personnel. No destruction of casualties reported.

24 August 1944: The battalion remained in position during daylight. A few missions were fired (see summary of firing). During the morning an unidentified radio operator called on our frequency, using Lt. Fingerhut's call sign for the previous day, and asking for instructions. Major Lawrence D. Gilmer ordered him to return to the battalion, whereupon he went off the air and was not heard from again. It is considered possible that this call was from an enemy operator using Lt. Fingerhut's radio in an effort to obtain information. Captain Lesser called from the 122nd Infantry Command Post at 1715 advising that the battalion would likely move during the night. An hour later, the Battalion Commander called from the 122nd Infantry Command Post at 1800. At this meeting the battery commanders were informed that the battalion would move to the vicinity of Cleon and that they would carry a battalion of infantrymen in addition to their own. The battalion began moving at 1715 (headed east) stopped on the Kyosu-Myon road with the tail of the column in Kyosu, to pick up the infantrymen; one company, Company "A", had not yet arrived from the road blocks which it had been mapping. The balance of the first battalion, located on the column moved until the tail cleared the road junction just east of Les Pilles, at which point the column had turned north towards Berceaux and halted.
The battalion, after a period of 10 days' rest, was ordered to move to its next position. At this time, the battalion, consisting of approximately 250 men and 20 tanks, was ordered to move to the area of the 17th Infantry to take over the area. This arrangement relieved the 17th Infantry and made them responsible for the infantry troops of the 17th Infantry. This area was the vicinity of Xanthi. The battalion took over the area and began to move. For dispositions see map, 1/8th scale, about 1:30, Friday. Summarizing firing: Nine missions were fired. At the end of the day, no enemy were engaged. No reports of destruction of enemy material or casualties to enemy personnel were received.

The battalion arrived at this time in direct support of the 17th Infantry. 3/8

25 August 1944: The battalion was relieved from support on 3rd Infantry Division's right rear, and was ordered to move to the right rear of the 3rd Infantry Division. This was to support the infantry. The battalion took over the area of the 17th Infantry. The battalion was relieved of this mission.

26 August 1944: The battalion was relieved of its position 12th Infantry Division. The battalion was ordered to move to the right rear of the 12th Infantry Division. This was to support the infantry. The battalion took over the area of the 17th Infantry. The battalion was relieved of this mission.

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28 August 1944: The battalion was relieved of its position 12th Infantry Division. The battalion was ordered to move to the right rear of the 12th Infantry Division. This was to support the infantry. The battalion took over the area of the 17th Infantry. The battalion was relieved of this mission.
to March troops to the rear. On return, we retook at 11:13 and immediately sheet 13 - 0, Frises.

at 11:30, a 50th Division artillery 600m S of battery position 3, the vicinity of Great for the purpose of closing 606 S of the 50th Division battery position 3. Battery 3, 50th Division battery was sent to the vicinity of Great for the purpose of closing 606 S of the 50th Division battery position 3.

as per 3rd and 7th Divisions, division artillery, 600m S of battery position 3, the vicinity of Great to be in with the battery. As the division artillery commander, I, the 5th Division battery commander, have given the battery and 3rd Division a 606 S of the 50th Division battery position 3. Battery 3, 50th Division battery was sent to the vicinity of Great for the purpose of closing 606 S of the 50th Division battery position 3.

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one of the battalion elements at one time on the 30th infantry line extended in the direction indicated. As the battalion was preparing to move forward, it was directed to hold position and the artillery battalion was instructed to continue in support of the attack. The battalion was ordered to move forward and support the infantry in the attack on the 30th infantry line.

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Summary of firing: 123 hits of 20 mm and 27 hits of 50 mm. 12 missiles fired, 1 direct hit on tank, 5 hits on enemy vehicles, one man killed as a result.


The battalion commander, Lt. Col. W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison, commanding officer, Major W. A. G. Davison.

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Almond Plate: No, 30, 18.2, 7:45 p.m. 13-0. 15-0. 55. The battalions of the 15th machine gun and supporting units were at 15-0, and the 30th next. Division at 15-0. No actions taken until 18:00, when the 30th was ordered to advance in support of the 15th. The 15th suffered no casualties in this period.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Type of Casualty</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Wounded</th>
<th>Killed</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the personal records of replacements during this period:

"Almond Plate: No, 30, 18.2, 7:45 p.m. 13-0. 15-0. 55. The battalions of the 15th machine gun and supporting units were at 15-0, and the 30th next. Division at 15-0. No actions taken until 18:00, when the 30th was ordered to advance in support of the 15th. The 15th suffered no casualties in this period.


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DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NMD 235017
By PB16K
NMD Date 0-1-99
13. Capt. Frank H. Smith, 2nd Bn., 15th Field Artillery, acted as the medical officer for Battery B. He took charge of the medical section, and in this capacity, he supervised the medical treatment, including the capture of the Captain of the battery.

11. Capt. Frank H. Smith, 2nd Bn., 15th Field Artillery, was Acting Medical Officer for Battery B. He took charge of the medical section, and in this capacity, he supervised the medical treatment, including the capture of the battery.

1. Capt. Frank H. Smith, 2nd Bn., 15th Field Artillery, was Acting Medical Officer for Battery B. He took charge of the medical section, and in this capacity, he supervised the medical treatment, including the capture of the battery.
1. There were tremendous obstacles to overcome in bringing the injured soldiers to safety. Some were critically injured and needed immediate medical attention. Others were able to walk, but the terrain was treacherous, and the injured soldiers needed assistance to reach safety. The men working to bring them in were met with enemy fire, but they persevered in their mission.

2. Despite the obstacles, the men continued to work tirelessly. They set up temporary shelters and administered basic medical care to the injured soldiers. The conditions were difficult, but the men were determined to ensure that no soldier was left behind.

3. The end came with a sense of relief. The injured soldiers were brought safely to medical facilities, and their injuries began to heal. The men who worked tirelessly to save lives received the recognition they deserved for their dedication and bravery.
The 75th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas, and was in the invasion of Italy. During the advance of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion, the regiment performed its administrative and combat tasks necessary to accomplish its mission.


DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, NND 23217
By 10/15/82 NARA, Date 5-6-82
SECRET

CONCLUSIONS BY THE BATTALION COMMANDER

The operations of this battalion from the time of landing on the beach of southern France, from 15 to 31 August, inclusive, is to a great extent parallel to the rapid movements and changes of situation as encountered during the push north of Rome, in Italy, during the period May - June, 1944. The rapid changes in situations and long marches with light resistance has prevented the actual employment of medium artillery on missions for which it was primarily designed.

Our transportation facilities have been made available for the transportation of the infantry on long movements, along with our own personnel, equipment and ammunition. On those types of operations it has been found that this can be done without undue hardship to personnel or damage to artillery equipment. Fortunately, the situation has not demanded any hurried occupation of positions and in most cases we were preceded by direct support 105 mm artillery who took over any immediate emergency or request for artillery fire.

The plan of moving the battalion as a unit for an amphibious operation was found to be very satisfactory as it enabled close control upon arrival on the beach and provided an opportunity for briefing all personnel prior to debarkation.

To maintain close contact with the assault regiments of the division, and to organize and direct observation, a plan of liaison has been adopted which provides for a liaison officer maintaining close contact with each direct support battalion and assault regiment for the purpose of keeping in close touch with the situation in the sector of each and direct the battalion observers in each sector to the best observation available and keep them directly informed of the situation and position of our friendly troops. This liaison also provides a direct means of communication through which the direct support artillery or the infantry regiment could call for medium artillery fire when and where needed. These officers have acted in a dual capacity of a liaison officer and observer when the occasion demanded. A minimum of two additional observers has been employed in each regimental sector where the situation demanded. This plan of liaison and control of observation has proven very desirable as it has provided direct contact for reinforcing missions and has enabled the battalion commander to keep in direct touch with the situation along the division front at all times and has expedited plans and movements for executing assigned missions.
HEADQUARTERS 155th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
A.F.O. No. 36, U.S. Army

9 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Narrative History and Conclusions by the Battalion Commander of the 155th Field Artillery Battalion for September 1944.

TO: Commanding General,
36th Infantry Division,
APO No. 36, U.S. Army.

1. Submitted herewith History, Conclusions by the Battalion Commander and supporting records of the Battalion for the month of September 1944. The History is written in a narrative form with attached copies of Journal, Situation Overlays, Maps and Firing Charts.

2. The combat operations for this battalion for the period 1 September - 30 September 1944 was similar to the previous operations during the month of August, 1944. During the first half of the period the action was fast-moving, requiring long moves in most instances and hasty occupations of positions. The tactical plan of assigning a medium battalion as reinforcing the light artillery of a combat team has proven very satisfactory and has enabled displacement of the light and medium battalions as a unit with one battalion in position at all times to cover the displacement of the other.

On two or three occasions one battery of the medium battalion was displaced to the vicinity of the light battalion and tied in with their survey and MG for control to deepen the fires of the 105mm battalion. This situation was essential due to the wide front covered by the combat team and exposed flanks for which artillery fire was needed and required the disposing of artillery in depth. This proved very satisfactory due to the fast movement and rapid advance of the infantry troops.

HC smoke shell has proven a satisfactory screening agent, but due to the lack of the proper fuze adaptable to this projectile we have encountered a high percentage of duds. It has not been satisfactory for identification of initial rounds which facilitate rapid adjustment on observed targets. It is recommended that HE smoke shell be made available for this purpose.

- 1 -
SECRET

In the more static situation which has developed during the last part of this period it has been found that close liaison between the general support artillery and the assault infantry regiments has proven very satisfactory and has provided a quicker and more direct means of delivery of medium artillery support when and where needed.

Clifford M. Snow
Major, F.A.
Commanding

1 Incl - Narrative "September" (Sextuple)