

## UNIT HISTORY

### 913th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

1 October - 31 October 1944

#### 1 October 1944:

At the beginning of October the Battalion was in position in the vicinity of Moraduccio, Italy, in direct support of the 351st Infantry. At 0205, on call from Division Artillery, the Battalion fired 32 rounds on a TOT. At 0520, Captain Jordan, our Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry, called for a pre-arranged defensive fire on an enemy counter-attack. The attack was temporarily stopped and at 0603, Captain Jordan again called for the defensive fires, breaking up the counter-attack completely. At 0610 this officer adjusted our fire on an enemy rifleman with unknown effect. Captain Corcoran, Liaison Officer with the 351st Regiment, called for a TOT at 0600, in which we fired 80 rounds. During the night, Mt. Cappello was occupied by the 1st Battalion and the 2nd Battalion held the ridge to the West of this feature. They were separated by strongly emplaced and persistent enemy too close for our fires to be adjusted. Nevertheless, many profitable targets were fired during the morning. Captain Jordan fired on enemy personnel at 0645, mortars at 0725, machine guns at 0900, and enemy personnel at 0900. Lt. Hopkins, Liaison Officer with the 3rd Battalion, fired on enemy machine guns at 1028 and a strong point at 1030. A TOT was fired on Fontanelice at 0930 and at 1000 Captain Corcoran requested an unobserved mission on an enemy OP. "C" Battery Forward Observer fired on enemy machine guns at 1145 and others at 1200. Heavy enemy shelling fell on Castel del Rio, and vicinity during the morning. At 1210 our Air OP fired 104 rounds on an enemy demolition party covering the area. "C" Battery Forward Observer fired on two groups of enemy infantry at 1225 and 1235, utilizing 155 rounds for good effect. Again at 1425, this officer fired on enemy personnel at a suspected CP, neutralizing the area with 148 rounds. "C" Company of the 351st Infantry had been sent on an independent mission up the road from Castel del Rio to Fontanelice. It was thought that an additional artillery observer should be utilized with the Company and at 1450, Lt. Jones was sent to join them. Lt. Combs, Liaison Officer with the 2nd Battalion, fired on enemy riflemen at 1640 and again at 1725. Captain Jordan fired on enemy infantry at 1655 and 1725. The Air OP found horse-drawn artillery for a target at 1750 and we fired 106 rounds. The Observer reported the area was plastered. Medium artillery was obtained to reinforce our fires on this target. Heavy enemy artillery continued to harass our forward elements during the day and night and we fired unobserved counter-battery fire on suspected enemy batteries at 2110, 2115, 2305, and at 2345. A few rounds were reported in the vicinity of the Battalion's area, though no damage or casualties were reported.

#### 2 October 1944:

At 0530, 0545, and 0600 TOTs were fired as preparation for our infantry. Advance by the 3rd Battalion was unsuccessful due to enfilade fire from the exposed left. They held up until elements on the left caught up. During the morning many missions were fired on the call of our Liaison Officers and Forward Observers. Eight missions were fired by them on enemy infantry and activity. One mission was fired on enemy mortars and three harassing fires were fired; the latter being fired with approximately 300 rounds. From 1030 to 1500, the enemy fired extensive artillery on Castel del Rio and the road to the

South. Twelve shellreps were reported and sent back to Division Artillery. Shellreps were received from all batteries for fire harassing the main road but fortunately no damage or casualties were reported. During the afternoon eight missions were fired by our Forward Observers and Liaison Officers on enemy infantry and strong points, two enemy OPs were taken under fire, three mortar positions were fired on, and a suspected enemy CP was an adjusted target. Division Artillery assigned two suspected gun positions as targets for our fire and at 1505 Lt. Hopkins reported a suspected enemy light infantry howitzer position which we secured as a target for medium artillery through the Division Artillery. During the night ten targets were harassed by the Battalion. The 3rd Battalion planned and executed an attack but we did not fire any preparation as only call missions were desired by the infantry. Corporal Marlin C. Humphrey and Private Ruben Bostanjian of Battery "C", were wounded in a mine explosion this date.

### 3 October 1944:

At 0100, Lt. Hopkins, Liaison Officer with the 3rd Battalion, reported they were moving slowly and taking a few prisoners. At 0310 he reported elements had reached the objective and at 0315 he called for fire on enemy machine guns silencing them. Captain Corcoran reported an enemy supply point which the Battalion hit with a 170 round TOT at 0615. During the night the 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry was relieved by elements of the 16th Armored Infantry. Early in the morning reconnaissance was made for new positions forward. By-passes and the Bailey Bridge had been completed to allow us to advance. A CP was selected at (00.0-15.1) and Battery positions obtained due South of Castel del Rio. After reconnaissance by the Battery Commanders, permission was secured for the move forward which was ordered to be done by echelon. "Baker" Battery and an advance CP moved at 1115. During the day firing was very active and batteries, not in the process of displacing, were very busy carrying out calls for fire from the Liaison Officers and Forward Observers. Twenty-two missions were fired from these sources. Four mortar positions were fired on, four SP guns, and three machine gun nests were fired on. Eight missions were directed against enemy personnel, both in the open and dug in, and three enemy strong points were taken under fire by our Battalion. In addition to this firing, Division Artillery reported a counter-attack against Mount Battaglia, held by the [350th] regiment on our right, at 1845, requesting a maximum sustained rate of fire on a defensive fire position. At 1903, a cease firing was given as the attack had been repulsed, but an alert was maintained. At 2016, "A" Battery was in the process of reporting a shelling in their area when communications went out. "C" Battery was in the process of moving to their position at the time and later reports showed the battery column was caught in the road by an enemy light bomber who bombed and strafed the road. A direct hit was secured on the gun section of Sgt. Ferdinand Cheon, who was at the time out of the vehicle and guiding it along the road. Private Zachiro M. Martinez and PFCs Robert P. Dawson and Arthur P. Brensinger of "C" Battery were killed, and others of this section, Private Albert Rao, PFC Andy Gray Jr., T/5th Mitchell T. Mankowski, PFC Forrest L. Dunbar, PFC Domonick R. Murell, Pvt. James F. Custer, Pvt. Michael Cimino, were wounded. Also wounded were two men of "A" Battery who were in the vicinity, Cpl. James C. Patterson and Cpl. Mark Partin. The gun truck was completely destroyed and the howitzer had to be sent to ordnance for repair.

### 4 October 1944:

Reconnaissance was continued during the day but no profitable positions for displacement were

located. A move was not contemplated until our infantry was completely relieved by elements from the British. Many profitable targets were taken under fire during the day by our Liaison Officers and Forward Observers. Since the 3rd Battalion was the only infantry battalion attacking, most of these missions were fired through, or by Lt. Hopkins, the Liaison Officer with this Battalion. These missions included two counter-mortar missions, five enemy strong points, and one target offered by enemy personnel on a road. Our Air OP also located a profitable target in two enemy guns. 249 rounds were fired by the Battalion on this target. "C" Battery Forward Observer fired on enemy machine guns. Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer fired an observed mission on two vehicles and personnel, as well as arranging a preparation for the 3rd Battalion, fired at 0800, in which 160 rounds were fired. TOTs on La Madone were fired at 1915 and 2020 and on another strong point at 2045, all called for by Captain Corcoran. The 351st Cannon Company, 178th Field Artillery Battalion and Division Artillery assisted in reinforcing our fires on these targets. Throughout the night harassing fires were fired by the Battalion.

#### 5 October 1944:

At 0345, Lt. Hopkins, Liaison Officer with the 3rd Battalion called for pre-arranged defensive fires, on which we fired 204 rounds. Resistance against this Battalion's attack was very heavy, and at 0740, Lt. Hopkins reported continued resistance. At 0710, he had fired on and silenced a machine gun, and at 0810 another machine gun was taken under fire. Throughout the day, Lt. Hopkins and "C" Battery Forward Observer with the 3rd Battalion, fired many observed missions. Another machine gun was taken under fire, four strong points were neutralized and a mortar target was silenced. To assist the advance of the 3rd Battalion, two TOTs were called for by Lt. Hopkins and a prearranged defensive fire was fired. Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer, arranged two other TOTs and took under fire an enemy gun on an unobserved mission. As we were under a mission of reinforcing the 337th Field Artillery Battalion fires, we fired three harassing missions on call from them. Elements of the British were relieving our 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry and "C" Company 351st Infantry on road Northeast of Castel del Rio. Our Observer and Liaison Officers were maintained in support of the relieving British elements until the British Artillery had communications to support their own troops. The 3rd Battalion, 351st Infantry continued the attack on the night of 5-6 October and artillery preparations consisted of call missions which were arranged by Lt. Hopkins.

#### 6 October 1944:

At 0500 an 80 round TOT was fired on call from the Regimental Liaison Officer. Reconnaissance parties went forward early to find positions in the vicinity of Belvedere, as the British Artillery were in position, able to support their troops relieving our Infantry. At 1130, the 17th Royal British Artillery informed us they had communications with their observers on Mt. Capello and Captain Jordan, Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion, who had remained to support the British was instructed to return. At 1301 word was received from "C" Battery Forward Observer that two of his party, PFC Edward W. Manning and Pvt. Jack C. Reed, both of "C" Battery were wounded and were evacuated; relief for them was requested and sent forward. At 1220, "C" Battery and the Cannon Company with an advance Headquarters were ordered forward to new positions. The new CP was at Belvedere. During the day, Lt. Hopkins, Liaison Officer with the 3rd Battalion fired missions at several points in preparations for limited attacks by the 3rd Battalion, 654 rounds were fired on these targets alone. In addition, he fired

three missions on enemy machine guns, securing several hits on them. Other strong points were targets for our fires and Lt. Hopkins fired a smoke mission to mark an objective for the infantry. At 1725, orders were issued for "B" and "A" Batteries to move forward. Even with the use of tractors, utilized for the purpose, "B" Battery could not get its entire gun section out of the old position, so deep and impassable was the mud. At 2100, "B" Battery Commanding Officer reported the remainder of the battery would have to displace the next day. Even after arriving at the new location, the difficulties with "General Mud" were not over. All batteries had difficulty getting into position, and one and a half hours was the average time to be ready to fire all guns after arriving into position; this was accomplished only by Herculean effort of all Officers and men in the firing batteries. During the night harassing fires were planned and fired. These included a Battalion TOT at 2300 and 0520.

#### 7 October 1944:

"B" Battery completed its move into the new position. At 1120 the Air OP spotted two enemy guns. We fired 115 rounds and the Observer reported excellent effect. Captain Corcoran fired on an enemy strong point scoring many hits on the house occupied by the enemy. At 1330, the 351st Regimental S-2 reported mortar fire coming from a draw; an unobserved mission was fired on this draw by the Cannon Company, with adjustment of fire through the draw being made from a map in our Fire Direction Center. Three such missions were assigned to the Cannon Company during the day. Our Battalion fired on mortars at 1420 and three missions on machine guns during the afternoon. At 1540 the Air OP located an enemy gun position and we fired 136 rounds; several hits on the guns were reported. During the day plans were made for the 1st and 2nd Battalions to pass through the 3rd Battalion during the night and continue the attack. Pre-arranged call missions were prepared for the continuation of the attack and an extensive harassing program was executed. At 2215, twenty-one replacements arrived at the CP and were interviewed and assigned to the batteries by the Commanding Officer and the Executive.

#### 8 October 1944:

From 0830 to 0950 five counter battery missions were fired by the Battalion. All these missions were unobserved. At 1045, Captain Jordan, Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion fired on enemy personnel and guns. On arrangements made by Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer, Battalion TOTs were fired on critical points at 1300, 1330, and 1400. The Cannon Company and "C" Battery, 338th Field Artillery Battalion were used on these missions to reinforce our fires. Two more unobserved missions on enemy guns were fired at 1255 and 1305. Captain Corcoran called for other TOTs which were fired at 1535, 1538, 1540 and 1545, utilizing the same units as in the TOTs previously fired. An Observer reported numerous fires started on these TOTs. Numerous harassing fires were arranged and fired during the night. The attack of the 1st and 2nd Battalions was continued and again no pre-arranged concentrations in preparations for the attack were desired, but defensive fires for the objectives were prepared.

#### 9 October 1944:

The attack by the infantry progressed well and numerous PWs were taken. Interrogation by the assault Battalions revealed an enemy CP and Captain Jordan, Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion, reported the coordinates. The Battalion placed an unobserved concentration on this target. At 0800, it was reported the Lt. Combs, Liaison Officer with the 2nd Battalion had been wounded, not seriously. Later in the day

he was evacuated and Lt. Jorgensen replaced him as Liaison Officer with the 2nd Battalion. This day offered many profitable targets. During the early daylight hours, Captain Jordan was busy firing on an enemy OP reported by a PW, two missions on enemy personnel, a machine gun target and a strong point. He also reported a suspected artillery location which we turned over to the 248th Field Artillery for counter-battery fire. Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer, requested four TOTs which we fired from 0745 to 0900. At 0930, 1000, and 1015, three enemy infantry targets were adjusted upon. An enemy strong point of two SPs and machine guns was reported by Captain Jordan at 1025 and 148 rounds fired. He reported many casualties and that the enemy ceased firing as results of our fire. Our next targets were another OP, a mortar position and a platoon of enemy dug in. The latter target was fired upon with time fire, and the observer reported our adjustment directly over the enemy fox holes, resulting in enemy running and being killed in flight. At 1335 the Forward Observer reported a counter-attack later ascertained to be of one company plus two platoons strength, with many machine guns. We fired, bringing in the fires of the 338th and 248th Field Artillery Battalions and the 351st Cannon Company. That attack was repulsed. Later the observer reported a white flag displayed where we had fired, but then soon thereafter that the enemy was withdrawing. We then continued our fire on the withdrawing enemy. At 1445, Captain Jordan fired on a group of thirty enemy, inflicting casualties. The 1st and 2nd Battalions continued the attack during the night and several preparatory fires were fired for the attack. An extensive close-in harassing program was planned and fired until 0300 of 10 October, when the attack was commenced.

#### 10 October 1944:

During the morning the Battalion was occupied in firing missions for the 1st Battalion. Captain Jordan, Liaison Officer for the 1st Battalion, fired six observed missions on enemy personnel, using some time fire and in one mission setting straw stack sheltering enemy personnel on fire. He called for one unobserved counter-battery mission, which was fired, and adjusted on an enemy machine gun being emplaced, hitting the machine gun knocking it out. Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer, requested and we fired three harassing missions. At 1515, the Air OP adjusted on enemy personnel and reported an ambulance drove up after our mission. At 1540, the Air OP adjusted our fire on an SP gun. We fired 228 rounds and it was reported that the house next to the gun was knocked down, and the gun destroyed. Four more harassing missions were fired during the afternoon, as well as another machine gun target and four infantry targets. The propaganda leaflet "Frontpost" was also fired by the battalion. At 1400, Captain Olus L. Culpepper reported to the Battalion Commanding Officer as a new Officer assigned to the organization. Preparatory fires were arranged for an attack by the 1st Battalion, with "H" hour tentatively set for 2400, as well as defensive fires for their objective. An extensive harassing program to begin at 2200 was made and executed. Captain Jordan reported a PW taken by the 1st Battalion stated our TOTs on Gesso, of the previous night were very effective as the enemy spent half the night evacuating the wounded.

#### 11 October 1944:

The attack by the 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry on Gesso proceeded against stiff opposition. We fired seven prearranged fires for their attack and at 0245 they reported they had occupied the first house and were fighting house to house. At early daybreak the Liaison Officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalion, who were assisting the 1st Battalion in the attack by flanking movement, began a busy day for fire missions.

The Battalion Commanding Officer personally directed fire for the attack and twenty-three missions were fired on call from him and from the Regimental Liaison Officer, on infantry and strong point targets. In addition an unobserved mortar target was fired on call from the 2nd Battalion and at 1645 the Air OP located another mortar target upon which our fire was adjusted. Reconnaissance parties left early and new positions were reconnoitered in the vicinity of Sassoleon. "B" Battery and the Cannon Company displaced and were in the new area ready to fire at 1440. At 1040 Captain Jordan reported that the 1st Battalion CP was bombed and strafed by friendly planes. Twenty-eight casualties were inflicted but no artillery personnel were among them. On recommendation of the Regimental Surgeon, Captain Corcoran returned for a rest and Lt. Hopkins replaced him as Regimental Liaison Officer. Captain Culpepper went to the 1st Battalion to assist Captain Jordan and break in as a Liaison Officer and Forward Observer. Gesso proved a hard nut to crack and a re-newed attack was planned for 1530, with fires prearranged to assist the assault elements. The attack was later changed to 1615. The attack was not successful and plans were made for the 3rd Battalion to pass through the 1st Battalion and continue the attack during the night. Harassing fires were fired during the night.

#### 12 October 1944:

Reconnaissance parties from Headquarters, "A" and "C" Batteries left early in the morning and new positions were prepared in the vicinity of Sassonero, Italy. At 0925 word was received that Corporal Wilmer K. Murray of "B" Battery forward observer party was wounded and evacuated. After selecting new positions, the Battalion Commanding Officer proceeded to locate a CP within 500 yards of Gesso. Intense enemy artillery and mortar fire were received here, due to the presence of friendly tanks in the vicinity. The attack of 3rd Battalion, 351st Infantry was plainly visible, and Lt. Hopkins, Liaison Officer with the 351st Regiment and the Battalion Commanding Officer personally directed the supporting fire for the attack from separate OPs. By proceeding from one position to several alternate localities, a total of nine enemy machine guns were fired upon by the Battalion Commander, and in each instance silenced.

Four machine gun nests were similarly silenced by Lt. Hopkins from his OP. At about 1500 enemy could be seen evacuating the south end of Gesso Ridge in considerable numbers, estimated at nearly 200 total. Six groups of enemy infantry and two columns were fired on by Lt. Hopkins and the Battalion Commanding Officer, each adjusting simultaneously with a Battery, and each bringing in the Battalion for effect after obtaining quick adjustments. More than 100 enemy casualties were inflicted on these retreating troops, as determined when the ground was taken later. At 1700 a thirty minute preparation on South Gesso Ridge and Hill 508 was fired, with help from Division Artillery and the 248th Field Artillery in addition to the Battalion and the 351st Cannon Company which habitually works as a part of the Battalion. The entire ridge and town was captured, with 145 prisoners, and 77 enemy dead found on the ridge, mainly the result of artillery fire. Lt. Hopkins made all arrangements for this preparation fifteen minutes before the attack jumped off, with the Battalion acting as a large Fire Direction Center for the five Battalions involved. At 1815 defensive fires were called for by "B" Forward Observer and a small counter-attack broken. Normal harassing fires and one 85 round TOT were fired during the night.

#### 13 October 1944:

At 0740 Lt. Hopkins reported PFC Harry H. Hill and Sergeant Gerald E. Phillips, of the 2nd Battalion Liaison Section, had been killed and PFC George J. Boslet, Headquarters Battery was injured. Lt. Berkeley of "B" Battery was also injured. Replacements were sent forward for these casualties. During

the day seven enemy machine gun positions were fired upon by our observers, and four enemy personnel targets were taken under fire. Time fire was used on nine of these targets and excellent effect reported. Two mortar positions were fired upon and two enemy OPs with personnel around them were taken under fire. Our observers also adjusted fire on a group of vehicles at a supply point, an enemy strong point and two localities where unidentified enemy activity occurred. At 1850, our Liaison Officer with the 3rd Battalion called for a prearranged defensive fire. We fired 248 rounds and repulsed an enemy counter attack of Battalion strength. At 1815 it was reported that Sgt. Moore, Service Battery Ammunition Section Chief, was wounded by artillery at Sassoleon, while bringing ammunition forward. Harassing fires were prepared and fired during the night.

#### 14 October 1944:

At 2400 a counter-attack was reported by 3rd Battalion Liaison Officer and at 0025 it was reported that the forward company was forced back to the Battalion's main position. From 2400 to 0315 we fired against counter-attacks on the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, on call from our Liaison Officers. A total of 630 rounds were fired on these missions. At 0415 a suspected mortar position was fired on and at 0430 a strong point was taken under fire. During the daylight hours our observers fired on six targets of infantry and strong points and on call from Captain Corcoran, Regimental Liaison Officer, a mortar position was fired upon with the reported results that the mortar was silenced. Three TOTs were fired during the day, one from Division Artillery, being on a suspected counter-attack. At 2215 it was reported that Sergeant Peter Zerba and Private Robinson of the 1st Battalion Liaison Section were wounded and would be evacuated. Later reports showed Private Robinson and Private Richard C. Seckinger, another member of the liaison party were killed and Sgt. Zerba only injured. The 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion, 350th Infantry after withdrawing from the vicinity of Gesso, Italy.

#### 15 October 1944:

During the early hours before light, four unobserved missions were fired, two on enemy activity and two on mortars. During the remainder of the day, three other mortar targets were fired, fourteen missions on infantry and activity were fired, one enemy OP, one CP and a strong point, and two unobserved counter battery missions were fired by the Battalion. In addition, our fires reinforced the 338th Field Artillery Battalion on a TOT on call from them. The 3rd Battalion, 351st Infantry was relieved at 2100, leaving the 2nd Battalion in a defensive position. Usual harassing fires were fired during the night.

#### 16 October 1944:

During the day counter-mortar fire was predominate. Lt. Combs, 2nd Battalion Liaison Officer fired four unobserved mortar targets and "B" Battery Forward Observer fired two. Four more counter-mortar missions were fired on call from the 349th Infantry. Lt. Combs also adjusted on and silenced a machine gun and "B" Battery Forward Observer fired on enemy vehicles which scattered away from our fire, two being destroyed. On call from Division Artillery, two TOTs and three preparatory fires were fired at 1845 and 1900. A heavy harassing program was fired during the night as it was thought an enemy relief would take place.

#### 17 October 1944:

Division Artillery assigned our mission as reinforcing fires of the 337th Field Artillery Battalion. Lt.

Allison was sent to the 337th Field Artillery Battalion as Liaison Officer. Reconnaissance was made during the morning and positions forward were located for all firing batteries. Headquarters Battery and the CP did not displace as it was already well forward of the firing batteries in their prior location. At 1605, all batteries had moved and were in the new position ready to fire. Several harassing missions were requested by the 337th Field Artillery Battalion which the Battalion fired.

#### 18 October 1944:

At 1520, on call from an Observer of the 337th Field Artillery Battalion, we fired on enemy machine guns and personnel with good effect. An extensive harassing program was assigned to the Battalion by Division Artillery, and fired during the night. The 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry relieved elements of the 349th during the night and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 351st Infantry moved to a bivouac area in the vicinity of S. Clemente.

#### 19 October 1944:

Captain Jordan fired an observed mission on enemy infantry at 1450. At 1700 intensive preparatory fire on Mt. Grande was fired by the Battalion. These fires were completed at 1800 after 1080 rounds had been fired by our Battalion. This preparation was fired after a several hour softening by the Air Corps, consisting of 168 fighter-bomber attacks. The 349th and 350th Infantry made the attack on the feature beginning at 1700. An extensive harassing program was fired during the night on request of the 337th Field Artillery Battalion. Private Goldenberg of Service Battery was wounded in "B" Battery position by enemy artillery. He was evacuated. At 2030, a defensive fire was called for by our Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion, 351st Infantry, which broke up any enemy action planned in this sector.

#### 20 October 1944:

The attack for which a large preparation fire was fired at 1700, 19 October 1944, was successful, and the infantry occupied Mt. Grande. Captain Jordan, Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion 351st Infantry fired several observed missions during the day. Six missions were fired on enemy personnel and two on enemy vehicles. The Air OP located an enemy gun, adjusted the fire of the Battalion, and reported a hit on the gun. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 351st Infantry went into positions in the line. The 3rd Battalion, in attempting to occupy Mt. Grande taking over from the 350th Infantry ran into a fire fight and captured 18 prisoners; also knocked out an 88mm with a "Bazooka", killing all the crew.

#### 21 October 1944:

During this day the infantry consolidated its position and few missions were fired by the Battalion. Captain Jordan adjusted on four enemy vehicles, and on enemy personnel. The vehicles were believed to be knocked out as they did not move after fire for effect. The Air OP adjusted on enemy activity, believed to be guns, and reported three fires being started. Harassing fires were fired during the night.

#### 22 October 1944:

Reconnaissance was made early on this day and new positions located in the valley west of S. Clemente with the CP at 97.9-28.9 in the center of the Battalion area. At 1000 the Battalion was ordered to march to the new Battalion area. On pulling out of our old area, "B" Battery was subjected to a few



rounds of enemy artillery. One round injured 1st Sgt. Forrest Spitzer, Staff Sergeant Bower Crider, the Mess Sergeant, and Cpl. Dominick Fazio, driver of the kitchen truck, all of whom were evacuated. T/5th Milton R. Bigley, a cook, was killed by this shelling. The kitchen truck was damaged. 2nd Lt. Lawrence Naab was injured, but not evacuated. When returning to the old "B" Battery area to bring forward ammunition, more men of the ammunition section of "B" Battery were injured by enemy artillery: Sergeant F. J. Franckowiak, Staff Sergeant Alfred B. Sefton, T/4th Lawrence Umstead, Private Floyd E. Warrick and Private Clarence Hammel were all wounded. The 3rd Battalion, 351st Infantry planned an attack for the night and extensive preparatory fires and call missions were arranged by Lt. Hopkins, the Liaison Officer. Observation was almost impossible due to fog and haze and no observed missions were fired. At 2145, preparatory concentrations were fired on call from Lt. Hopkins.

#### 23 October 1944:

The 3rd Battalion's attack progressed well and at 0710, our Liaison Officer reported they were on the objective, having taken 28 prisoners. The 2nd and 1st Battalions moved up to occupy Mt. Grande. Enemy shelling on forward positions was intense and during the day our Battalion assisted and fired on several counter-battery missions. The 338th Air OP fired the 248th Field Artillery Battalion through our Fire Direction Center on an enemy gun battery, starting several fires and on a Nebelwerfer position. Our own Air OP adjusted our Battalion on an enemy gun scoring a direct hit on the gun. Plans were made for an attack by the 1st Battalion, later changed to the 2nd Battalion, for which known and suspected enemy strong points near the objective were harassed intensively, all night.

#### 24 October 1944:

The attack of the 2nd Battalion progressed well and at 0155, Lt. Combs, Liaison Officer requested our fires decrease in intensity. At 0750 a report was received that "G" Company was on the objective. At 0940, defensive fires were fired on call from Lt. Combs. It was later reported a strong enemy combat patrol was in the vicinity of "G" Company at Vedriano. At 1100, Lt. Combs fired on Nebelwerfers, stopping their firing. At 1150 and 1630 Nebelwerfers were again targets for our fire, and in the latter mission, smoke was observed coming from the target. At 1620 we commenced firing defensive fire on a counter-attack in the vicinity of Vedriano. The 248th and Division Artillery were called to assist on this firing. Later reports indicated "G" Company at Vedriano was completely surrounded and after a short fire fight, the entire company was killed or captured. A new attack was planned for the night with the 2nd Battalion being passed through by the 1st Battalion who would continue the attack. All fires were on call for the immediate assistance of the infantry, but an extensive counter-battery program was inaugurated to assist this attack and to be on call, also if the enemy shelling was renewed. Some harassing fire fell within the Battalion area, one round within a gun pit of "B" Battery and one in a gun pit of "A" Battery. Both guns were put out on action. Privates Marshall Fulgham and Albert Donato were wounded and evacuated. No one was injured in "B" Battery.

#### 25 October 1944:

The attack of the 1st Battalion met too much resistance and it ceased short of objective. "E" and "F" companies of the 2nd Battalion continued as flank guards for the 1st Battalion. Our observer, Lt. Naab, adjusted on several targets of opportunity during the day, and one unobserved mortar target was fired with a report that the mortars were silenced. At 1630 Captain Jordan called for defensive fire on a

counter-attack on which the Battalion fired. This counter-attack was reported to be broken up before it could start. Plans were made for the renewal of the attack by the 1st and 2nd Battalions. A preparation was fired from 2000 to 2045. At 2320 and 2330, Captain Jordan requested certain fires of the preparation be repeated and neutralization fire be maintained for one hour. These fires were maintained by the Battalion.

#### 26 October 1944:

The attack of the 1st and 2nd Battalions failed to reach their objective. The enemy had been and still were reinforcing that area. At 0715, Lt. Naab, "B" Battery Forward Observer with "F" Company, fired on enemy troops coming south toward the front securing many tree bursts over the enemy. This was about the only observed mission of the day, as heavy mist reduced visibility to zero. At 1130, two unobserved missions were fired on enemy SP positions. At 1425, we fired on a counter-attack using prearranged defensive fires. These fires were continued until 1510 and the 337th, 338th, 339th and 248th Field Artillery Battalions were brought in to reinforce our fires. Later reports indicated that "F" Company, against whom the attack was launched was captured after a fire fight in which some casualties were suffered. Lt. Naab and "B" Battery Forward Observer party were among those missing. At darkness, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were withdrawn to the vicinity of Mt. Grande, Cerre ridge, and defensive positions occupied. New defensive fires were arranged for these positions. Harassing missions were fired during the night. Lt. Lowell, was sent forward to replace "B" Battery Forward Observer and Lt. Radlo went to the 3rd Battalion as a relief for the "C" Battery Forward Observer.

#### 27 October 1944:

During the morning Captain Jordan adjusted the Battalion on three targets of enemy infantry and machine guns. He also adjusted the 248th Field Artillery Battalion on two strong points in houses, scoring several hits on the houses. At 1510 we fired 90 rounds of propaganda. The 1st Battalion was withdrawn to positions west of Mt. Grande at 1800. We fired heavy harassing fires in front of them to cover their withdrawal. Orders for the Division were to take up compact defensive positions. Harassing fires were fired during the night. Infantry reported a curtain of fire which greatly facilitated withdrawal of the 1st Battalion.

#### 28 October 1944:

The 1st Battalion was relieved by a 350th Infantry Battalion during the morning. Lt. Combs adjusted the 248th Field Artillery Battalion on two enemy Tiger tanks, hitting one of them, and adjusted our Battalion on an enemy OP. Several observed missions were fired during the afternoon. One SP gun was hit, and another stopped firing when our fire was adjusted. Four strong points were taken under fire. At 1710 the Division Artillery Air OP commenced an adjustment of our Battalion on an enemy six gun position; during the adjustment the whole area was disclosed as an artillery area. Our fire scored one hit on a gun and three fires were started. Corps Artillery was called in as well as the entire Division Artillery and the observer reported so much smoke and shelling that he could not adjust anyone else on the target. At 1810, we joined with the 248th Field Artillery Battalion on a TOT on an SP gun with personnel. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were relieved by elements of the 350th Infantry during the early darkness. The 3rd Battalion took up positions on Para Del Tambe. At 2030, thirteen replacements arrived at the CP, they were interviewed by the Commanding Officer and Executive and assigned to the

Batteries. Harassing fire was fired during the night.

29 October 1944:

At 1100 the Air OP adjusted on three enemy vehicles setting a large truck on fire by the adjustment. The 351st Cannon Company Forward Observer adjusted on enemy activity at 1530 and at 1645 90 rounds of propaganda, "Lies You Have Been Told" were fired by the Battalion. Extensive defensive fires were planned by the Battalion for the new defensive positions. During the night, harassing fires were fired by the Battalion.

30 October 1944:

At 1020, "A" Battery Forward Observer fired on enemy personnel in a house, hitting the house several times. Visibility was very poor during the day and observed missions suffered. However, the Battalion fired twice on suspected mortar positions reported by Captain Jordan. At 2015, the 248th Field Artillery Battalion Observer reported an attack developing against the 350th Infantry. We were adjusted on the area and fired together with the 248th Field Artillery Battalion. At 2135, the 338th Field Artillery Battalion also called on us for fire against this attack and we fired again. The attack was broken up.

31 October 1944:

At 0820, "C" Battery fired on enemy personnel near a house, hitting the house twice. "A" OP fired on personnel twice and on an enemy vehicle. The Air OPs fired on personnel and vehicles in a wooded area, hitting one vehicle and obtaining several tree bursts in the area; later the Air OP fired on an enemy gun with the Battalion firing 143 rounds. At 1800, 88 rounds of "Frontpost" propaganda were fired by the Battalion. At 1305, the Commanding Officer left, accompanied by Sgt. Grady Lee, to report to Lieutenant General Clark for presentation of awards. Lieutenant General Clark did not arrive, being detained by road conditions. The Battalion Commanding Officer and Sergeant Grady Lee were decorated by General Kendall with the Legion of Merit.

s/F. P. Miller

F. P. MILLER

Lt. Col., 913th FABn.

COMMANDING.