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HEADQUARTERS 350TH INFANTRY  
U. S. ARMY, APO 88

10 April 1944.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

March 1. The regiment was still bivouaced in the vicinity of Piedmont, Italy (312057 Isernia, Italy 1:100,000, Sheet 161). The physical hardening period that was conducted after arriving in Italy had been completed and preparations were being made for a movement of the entire Combat Team to the vicinity of Cascano, Italy (970-920 - Caserta, Italy 1:100,000, Sheet 172).

March 2. The regiment moved from Piedmont, Italy to Cascano, Italy and vicinity, by motor, and set up a bivouac area. Battalion Commanders, Battalion S-3's, Company Commanders, Platoon Leaders, Platoon Sergeants, Regimental S-1, Regimental S-2, and the Regimental S-3, went forward with the Regimental Commander to the combat area of the 13th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division (British) to complete reconnaissance prior to the relief the 350th Infantry was scheduled to conduct.

March 3. Final preparations were made for movement into the combat zone occupied by the 13th Infantry Brigade.

March 4. Company Commanders and the Regimental S-3 returned from their reconnaissance to the bivouac area. Under the cover of darkness, a greater portion of the regiment, ie., the number of officers and enlisted men equivalent to the number of British Officers and enlisted men occupying the front lines, under the supervision of the Executive Officer, were brought to the Minturno bridge, via Route No. 7 (798932 - Gaeta, Italy 1:100,000, Sheet 171) by motor and from that point, marched to the front lines and the relief was made. Only one casualty occurred and he (a platoon Sgt.) was not seriously wounded.

March 5. The 350th Infantry completed relieving the 13th Brigade, 5th Division (British) 0515 hours. The Commanding Officer of the 13th Brigade informed the Regimental Commander that the relief was the most efficient he had ever experienced. The 350th Infantry occupied the left flank of the 5th Army front (vicinity of Minturno, 788956 - Gaeta, Italy 1:100,000, Sheet 171). Reconnaissance patrols were sent out from all Battalions under cover of darkness. Five thousand sand bags were requisitioned. Troops in protected areas were used to fill them and Company and Battalion C.P.'s were reenforced during hours of darkness. Some mortar fire was received during the day. It was believed to be an attempt by the Germans to make friendly troops think supporting mortars were falling short.

March 6. Battalion ammunition sections continued to augment battalion dumps until day light. Information from returning patrols implied that Scauri, Italy (740955, Gaeta, Italy 1:100,000, Sheet 171) and surrounding territory was possibly manned by a skeleton enemy force. Track vehicles were heard by listening posts at 2318 hours in the vicinity of Scauri, indicating that the enemy was bringing troops into Scauri.

- 1 -

SECRET

Historical Notes, cont 1.

March 7. Artillery fire was received during the day. The visited the C.P. at 1020 hours. Harassing artillery fire was layed on enemy positions during the day and night. Twenty-six enemy artillery shells, fourteen of which were duds, fell in the Regimental C.P. from 1700-1710 hours, no damage or casualties. Counter attack plans were made, and copies forwarded to higher headquarters. Effective mortar fire was delivered by us and direct hits were scored on houses in area of 782993 (Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 171-I NW Minturno).

March 8. An enemy ammunition dump was located and blown up by artillery. More shelling by the enemy on our positions near 772952 (Italy 1:25,000 Sheet 171-I NW Minturno), 40 percent of which were duds. Some enemy action was noted in houses in the vicinity of Scauri. Fire was placed upon the two houses by 102nd Field Artillery, and one house was completely demolished. A gasoline dump was destroyed by the same concentration.

March 9. The Regimental C.P. was visited by the Corps Commander, Lt. General MCCREERY, at 1000 hours. Advance party (2 Off and 2 EM) from 5th Army Chemical Battalion arrived at C.P. and will probably be attached to the 350th Infantry. Our positions were smoked by the enemy at 2030 hours and sounds of enemy vehicles being unloaded was reported. Supporting artillery fire was immediately concentrated in the vicinity of same.

March 10. Enemy activity light.

March 11. Enemy artillery fire was received on forward positions (several duds). Nebelwerfer fire (3 rounds) was again received at 0405 hours. It became apparent that the Germans were firing nebelwerfer guns irregularly, every second or third night, and then possibly moving the guns to another sector. Two civilians found in houses near the front lines were evacuated to the P.W. inclosure. Blinking light from apparently a ship at sea, was again noticed in the vicinity of the harbor at Scauri, Italy.

March 12. Harassing fire was continued to be layed down on enemy lines. Reconnaissance patrols to this date have continued to operate each night. Little oposition has been received from the enemy and all missions, in general, have been accomplished. A day light reconnaissance patrol, from Company "F", 350th Infantry, made contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Scauri and secured the first known enemy equipment to be secured in the 88th Infantry Division: 1 machine gun, 1 rifle, 3 grenades, 2 helmets, and small arms ammunition, also secured valuable documents and identification from German dead killed in the engagement.

March 13. Patrol was sent out and found that Hill 69 was occupied by approximately a platoon of Germans. An enemy motor transport was observed moving in the vicinity of 767992 at 1800 hours, and was shelled effectively by the 338th and 102nd Field Artillery; attached to this regiment. A fire was started in a group of 20 vehicles by white phosphorus shells. Two enemy deserters surrendered in the area of 2nd Squadron 5th Recces. From interrogation, it was ascertained that they were from the 1st battalion, 274th Regiment, consisting of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th companies with the 9th company attached. Both prisoners were of Polish descent and disclosed information freely such as strength, location, names of commanding officers, weapons, etc.

## Historical Notes, cont. 1.

March 14. Our patrols were active during the night. Two German patrols were encountered, and after placing effective fire on our troops, the two German patrols withdrew. Nebelwerfer fire was again present, and it is believed that this fire originated somewhere between 757955 and 748955 (Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 171-I NW Minturno). Our mortars and artillery fire greatly reduced enemy mortar fire in 1st Bn. Sector. There was indications of activity at sea. A small boat was noted for the second day putting into shore shortly after dawn in the vicinity of Scauri. It was noted that when one orange flare appeared in the vicinity of 767955, immediately afterwards, there was vigorous machine gun, rifle, and grenade fire.

March 15. Enemy again used Nebelwerfer fire on 1st Bn. sector. A patrol from 2nd Bn. was engaged by approximately 4 machine guns and supporting weapons in the vicinity of 762952, and after an extended fire fight successfully withdrew to Bn. positions. This patrol had casualties of five wounded. The 3rd Bn. patrol from Company "I" crossed the eastern Martino feature, 759963, Italy 1:25,000, Sheet 171-I NW Minturno, and was engaged by machine gun fire when it advanced upon the western Martino feature. Fire from at least four guns in fixed positions, with supporting fire of mortars and grenades, were used by the enemy. It was ascertained that enemy positions included concertina wire, trip wires, and entrenchments. The enemy closed in on the 3rd Bn. patrol, and it is believed from information secured from six enlisted men who successfully withdrew that an officer and fifteen enlisted men were captured.

March 16. A patrol was sent out in search of the officer and 15 enlisted men, believed to be captured, but returned with no information. Instructions have been issued by higher headquarters, that combat patrols in the future will be used only on division approval, and will consist of 1 officer and 14 enlisted men. Reconnaissance patrols will normally consist of 1 officer and 14 enlisted men. Nebelwerfer fired 3 rounds in the vicinity of 731937. Vehicle lights and sounds were noted in Scauri during the night.

March 17. A reconnaissance patrol from the 1st Bn. contacted the enemy in the vicinity of 773973. Immediately upon gaining contact, the enemy used flares, machine gun fire, and hand grenades. After a brief fight, two members of the patrol withdrew. An officer and two enlisted men were wounded and are now missing. A SCR 536 which was being used by the patrol was captured. It is noted that the enemy is using more trip wires, booby traps, in areas which our troops have frequently patrolled. From civilian reports, Germans are looting and destroying buildings, and destroying gun pits in Gaeta. It is also reported that Russian laborers are present in Gaeta. A meeting of Combat Team #2 Commanding Officers, which included Battalion Commanders, and Battalion S-3's was held at 1930 hours in the regimental C.P. Attack plans were discussed at this meeting. A clear understanding of attack plans was obtained by all concerned at this meeting if in the future an attack is ordered. The 2nd Battalion sector received approximately 150 shells in its area from 2000 hours, 17 March 1944, until 0100 hours, 18 March 1944.

## Historical Notes, cont'd.

March 18. There was continued shelling by the enemy for the second consecutive night - approximately thirty rounds. Enemy action, however, was light.

March 19 - 21 incl. Major General John E. Sloan, Brigadier General Paul W. Kendall, and Brigadier General Guy O. Kurtz, visited the Regimental C.P. 19 March 1944. A meeting was held with the regimental commander and the S-3 and plans were discussed. It has been determined from patrol reports that many mines exist in front of German positions. Various German documents and films were obtained by reconnaissance patrols from vacated buildings. Enemy action in general has been quiet.

March 21 - 23 incl. Trucks were heard by O.P.'s in the vicinity of Scauri and effective artillery fire was placed on that location. New positions have been dug by the enemy and re-enforced with logs in the vicinity of 762956. This has been confirmed by patrol and O.P. reports. One enemy aircraft strafed parts of the regimental area. Nebelwerfer fire was again received on our lines. Three converging azimuths were reported by O.P.'s and artillery fire silenced the enemy gun. Gaeta was possibly bombed by aircraft, however, it could have been also bombardment from the sea as black puffs of "ack-ack" smoke were seen at sea indicating possibly an allied warship being attacked by hostile aircraft as it shelled the shore.

March 24 - 27. The C.P. was visited 24 March 1944 by Lt. General McCreery, Corps Commander, at 1000 hours and by Lt. General Clark, Army Commander, and Major General Sloan, at 1050 hours. More activity was noted at sea. Nothing greater than one small boat has been seen in Scauri harbor at any one time, but boats have been definitely observed coming and going from the harbor. The enemy has continued to place nebelwerfer fire on our lines at irregular intervals. Known casualties from nebelwerfer fire has been nil and such fire has not lowered the morale of the troops.

March 28 - 31. The 350th Infantry was relieved by the 339th Infantry to go to a rest area (vicinity of Cascano, Italy) during this period. The entire relief was made under the cover of darkness. Company "H" was relieved the night of 28-29 March 1944. The remainder of the 2nd Battalion plus Company "D", and Company "M", was relieved the night of 29-30 March 1944. The remainder of the regiment was relieved the night of 30-31 March 1944. The relief was completed with the highest degree of success. No casualties resulted from the relief. Relief was completed 0040 hours, 31 March 1944.