

By NND NARA, Date 10/13

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HEADQUARTERS 337TH INFANTRY

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APO #85, U. S. Army,
12 April 1945.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - MARCH

PERIOD 1 MARCH - 11 MARCH

As the period opened, the Regiment with Companies "A" and "B", 339th Infantry attached, continued to hold the defensive line, including the Cuccoli-Farneto Ridge, the northwest slope of M. Grande (9932) and Montecalderaro (9933). The battalions extended on line from left to right; 2nd Battalion, (less Company "F") 3d Battalion, 1st Battalion (plus Company "F", 337th Infantry, Companies "A" and "B", 339th Infantry). The remainder of the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry, plus Companies "A" and "C", 337th Infantry, was assembled in reserve near C. del Chin (9930). All avenues of approach continued to be covered by ambush patrols. Reconnaissance patrols continued to maintain contact with the enemy at Albereto, Di Sopra, Casetta and Bertochi. Raids by combat patrols were continuous for purpose of securing enemy identifications. Normal contact with adjacent units was maintained. Daylight patrols within our rear areas continued. There was no change in the enemy situation as their positions remained essentially the same as during the previous period. Increased self-propelled activity was noted just after midnight 1 March. A propaganda broadcast to the enemy the night of 28 February - 1 March caused no reaction. Our artillery, mortar, and .50 caliber machine gun harassing fires continued to inflict casualties on the enemy. The 1st Parachute Division continued to hold C. del Braglia, Albereto, Di Sopra, C. Nuova, M. Castellaro, Ca di Ca, Bursano, M. Mezzano, Casignola, Il Poggio, Bertochi, and Casetta.

The night of 28 February - 1 March a Company "A" combat patrol of one officer and twelve enlisted men to Casetta (006329) made no enemy contact.

At 012230 March, relief of the 1st Battalion, 337th Infantry was completed by the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry. Company "G" relieved Company "F". Command of the sector passed to the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry. The 1st Battalion, 337th Infantry assembled in reserve near C. del Chin (9930) for rest and light training.

On the night of 3-4 March a Ranger Combat Patrol of one officer and ten enlisted men to Albereto (97983314) suffered two friendly casualties while attempting to approach the house and observed nine enemy in vicinity of house. The patrol withdrew and placed artillery on the objectives.

Company "I" completed relief of Company "K" at 060700 March without incident.

Two prisoners of war of the 7th Company, 4th Parachute Regiment, were captured by the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry, vicinity of (994332), at 070130 March. Prisoners were on a long range patrol (72 hours) to M. Grande.

At 072215 March, two deserters of the 6th Company, 4th Parachute Regiment, were captured by Company "E" ambush patrol at (976325). Prisoners of war stated that the 6th Company was mostly young fanatical Nazis, recent replacements, who were certain of German victory; that ambush and combat patrols were not sent out because our fire and defenses were prohibitive and that ammunition was strictly rationed.

The night of 10-11 March, the 2nd Battalion (minus Company "G") was relieved by the Lovett Scouts at 1925. Company "G" and Company "A", 339th Infantry relief was completed by the 3d Battalion, 18th Rifles (minus) at 2310. Company "G" moved to assembly area vicinity Sassimo (967308). Company "A", 339th Infantry moved to rear under parent unit control.

At 110630 March, the 2nd Battalion closed into bivouac area vicinity Gagliano (821959).

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REPORT OF OPERATIONS - MARCH (CONT'D)

At 112145 March, the remainder of the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry was relieved by the remainder of the 3d Battalion, 18th Rifles. The 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry (minus Company "A") moved to the rear under parent unit control. The 3d Battalion relief by the 3d Battalion, 1st Punjab Regiment was completed at 112350 March. Headquarters 25th British Brigade relieved Headquarters 337th Infantry and the command of the sector passed to the Commanding Officer, 25th British Brigade at 112400 March.

The 1st Battalion remained in reserve near C. del Chin (9930) and assumed control of normal ambush patrolling across the entire sector including the night of 13-14 March.

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During this period the weather was clear with increased visibility. The ground gradually dried out, and the maintenance of supplies became easier. One-quarter ton vehicles were able to move at will from (977302) to (976314) over the jeep trail made by the Antitank Company and Company "A", 310th Engineers. This greatly aided the movement of supplies.

The enemy continued his stubborn defense of the sector. Greater visibility enabled our observation posts to observe enemy personnel along the Quaderno Road, Settefonti (9737), C. Terra Rossa (967365), Vedriano (0133) and vehicular movement along Highway 9. Enemy artillery, self-propelled, mortar and long range machine gun fire, remained normal with slight increases during certain periods. Flare activity continued.

Artificial moonlight continued to be a great advantage for improving visibility of ambush and screening patrols.

PERIOD 12 MARCH - 21 MARCH

At 120630 the 3d Battalion closed into bivouac area vicinity Gagliano (825972) and at 121200 March the Regimental Command Post opened at Pruneta (829965). By this time all organizations (minus the 1st Battalion) were in the Gagliano area.

All organizations of the Regiment were to move from the Gagliano area to Montecatini Rest Area. The schedule was arranged to enable each battalion and separate company to have four days at this Rest Area, during the period from 12 March to 24 March. The organizations left in the Gagliano area, after a two day showdown inspection, began training to prepare for an early entry into offensive combat.

At 141725 the 1st Battalion closed into bivouac area vicinity Gagliano (827982).

On 21 March orders were received from the Commanding General, 85th Infantry Division for Combat Team-7 to move on 22 March from present location to special training area vicinity C. Nuove (Q-0563), closing not later than 2400A, to undergo training in river crossing for four days and all except 328th Field Artillery Battalion would on completion, return to the Gagliano area 27 March. The following security measures were taken: (a) Operational radio silence on the move except in case of emergency. In the C. Nuove area, infantry units to operate 300 and 536 radios only during exercises; all others to remain silent. (b) All identifying markings were removed from vehicles and personnel removed the Division insignia from clothing and headdress. (c) All personnel were warned that the identity of the unit would not be divulged to unauthorized persons.

The 1st Battalion, Antitank Company, 1/2 Service Company, 1/2 Headquarters Company, were then at the Montecatini Rest Center. All other organizations were at the Gagliano area undergoing training.

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REPORT OF OPERATIONS - MARCH (CONT'D)

PERIOD 22 MARCH - 26 MARCH

At 221500 the Regimental Command Post opened at (031646), vicinity C. Nuove and at 2130 all organizations had closed into the new area. The 404th Engineer Combat Battalion and the 52nd Quartermaster Dukw Company was now in support of Combat Team-7 for training. On 23 and 24 March, Combat Team-7 spent an eight hour training day in intensive river crossing exercises. On 25 March the Regiment conducted battalion river crossing problems. On 26 March a Combat Team river crossing problem was held from 0340 to 1045, followed by a critique for all officers at the Regimental Command Post at 1330.

The 328th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "A", 310th Engineer Battalion were detached following the problem.

PERIOD 27 MARCH - 31 MARCH

The 1st Battalion, 1/2 Headquarters Company, and 1/2 Service Company moved back to the Montecatini Rest Center the morning of 27 March. The remainder of the Regiment closed into a bivouac area south of Lucca. At 1500, the Regimental Command Post opened at C. Paladini (Q-265711). Maximum security was maintained to insure that the identity or destination of the 85th Infantry Division or units thereof would not be disclosed. New installations were camouflaged and all identifying markings removed from vehicles and personnel.

On 28 March the Regiment (minus) spent the day improving the bivouac area and began regular training program on 29 March.

At 301700 the 1st Battalion and elements of Service and Headquarters Companies closed into the bivouac area south of Lucca.

On 31 March all units (minus the 1st Battalion) finished their showdown inspection. The 1st Battalion had finished their inspection in the Gagliano area.

The end of the period found the Regiment continuing the regular training program.

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During the month four prisoners were captured.

Strength of the command as the period opened was as follows: 160 officers, 3 warrant officers and 3,371 enlisted men. At the end of the period the strength was as follows: 174 officers, 4 warrant officers and 3,459 enlisted men.

Decorations awarded this month:

Distinguished Service Cross - S/Sgt Gordon R. True
Legion of Merit - Lt Col August R. Schmidt (posthumously)
1st Lt Severn L. Handley
8 Silver Star Medals (2 posthumously)
1 Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star Medal (posthumously)
93 Bronze Star Medals (8 posthumously)
4 Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star Medal
2 Second Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star Medal
42 Purple Hearts
11 Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Heart
2 Second Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Heart
1 Third Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart
158 Combat Infantryman Badges

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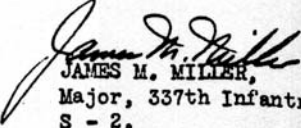
REPORT OF OPERATIONS - MARCH (CONT'D)

Our battle casualties for the month were as follows:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
Seriously wounded in action	0	6
Lightly wounded in action	0	4
Lightly injured in action	0	3
	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>

Total casualties - 13

For the Regimental Commander:


 JAMES M. MILLER,
 Major, 337th Infantry,
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