

COMPANY "L", 337TH INFANTRY
APO #85 U. S. ARMY

BATTLE HISTORY
2nd Plt.

The night of 16 August 1944, we relieved L company of the 363rd Infantry, 91st Division at Ponte a Evola, Italy. We took very poor defensive positions along the Southern bank of the rail road. There was a frontage of 1075 yards for one platoon with a gap between fox holes of up to 350 yards.

17 August 1944: Our position was heavily shelled and mortared. Jerry was really zeroed in on the tracks. Several shells landed so close to the LMG section on our right flank that one hole was filled and one gun knocked out of action. Captain Savacool, Lt. Sneary Sgt. Dahlberg and Pvt. Alfano went on a reconnaissance patrol some 800 yards beyond the railroad to reconnoiter for new positions for the platoon. The patrol came upon two lone Jerries upon whom they fired. The Jerries did not return the fire, just raced to the rear. That night, Sgt. Dahlberg and nine men were sent on an ambush patrol to a point 100 yards from our proposed new platoon C.P. which we had seen that afternoon. The patrol ran into a Jerry patrol already set up at their destination. We received four injured and one missing. Enemy casualties unknown.

18 August 1944: Platoon moved one squad at a time to our new positions. Each fox hole was checked by Capt. Savacool for fields of fire etc. There was no actions on the new position all during the day. Jerry continued to throw shells back where we had been. At night, Jerry returned to the same spot as the night before, but this time we were prepared and waiting for him. The LMG section and a few of the 1st Squad and Headquarters were in on the fire fight which lasted about 15 or 20 minutes. No casualties for us, enemy casualties unknown.

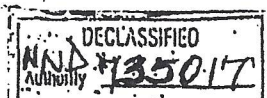
19 August 1944: The third squad on the left flank was hit by Jerry patrols at 0800 - 1530 - 2115. The second squad was hit at 0830 - 1800-. These patrols were all driven back with the aid of 60MM and 81 MM mortars which had had most of our targets zeroed in. During the day we received a light barrage of mortars on our positions.

20 August 1944: The second squad was hit by Jerry patrols at 0600 - 1200 - 2000 - 2300 and 1400. The second and third squads were ordered to withdraw 200 yards while our artillery tried to knock down the white house immediately in front of the second squad's position. In our withdrawal we were caught in a heavy Jerry mortar barrage. Our casualties, one killed, five wounded, three shock cases. LMG section hit at 2115-2330. No casualties for us. Enemy casualties unknown.

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21 August 1944: Second squad hit 0400- 1115-2045-2300 by Jerry patrols. The first squad and LMG section hit at 0600-2045-2315. No casualties for any of us. Enemy casualties unknown. Battalion demolition squad with Lt. Kreager and six men from second platoon with Lt. Sneary placed two booby traps and three trip flares around white house which was just in front of second squads position and which the artillery had unsuccessfully tried to knock down on the 20th of August. At 1400, Sgt. Holmberg with six men went on a day light patrol to our left front. At 2030, S/Sgt. Robinson with fifteen men was sent on an ambush patrol to the point Sgt. Holmberg and his patrol had reconnoitered in the afternoon, but were met by a Jerry patrol which was already set up at their destination, the patrol was ordered to clear, back of our lines and 81MM mortars were adjusted on the Jerry patrol. No casualties for us. Enemy casualties unknown.

22 August 1944: The platoon was fed fresh beef steak from an unfortunate calf, hit by shrapnel. Two men from each squad were sent to the platoon C.P. to back and clean up until the entire platoon was bathed. Third squad was hit by Jerry patrols at 1015. No casualties for us. Enemy received two wounded. At 2230 and 2300 the second and third squads called for and adjusted artillery on targets-- Jerry vehicles and mortars off to our left front. The LMG section and first squad had a short fire fight at 2315.

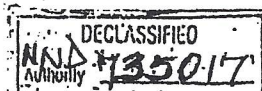
23 August 1944: At 0530 the second squad BAR position was directly hit by a fifteen man Jerry patrol which came within 100 yards of their position. Pfc. William Karg, the BAR man, Sgt. Wilbert Mayer, sqd. leader, and Pvt. Eaves, ass't BAR man were successful in driving them back. No casualties to us. Enemy casualties: two killed, eight wounded. The third squad's O.P. fired upon two Jerries to their front. Fresh beef was again enjoyed by the entire platoon. Same source as the previous day.

24 August 1944: Jerry patrols hit the second and third squads simultaneously at 0530 - 1300 - 2115- 2300. LMG section and the first squad were hit at 2130 - 2245 - 2330 . No casualties for us. Enemy casualties unknown.

25 August 1944: The second and third squads were hit simultaneously by two patrols at 1430 and again at 2315. Pvt. Glenn Williamson placed under arrest, refused arrest, turned on T/Sgt. Norwood who was attempting to bring him to platoon C.P. and was fired upon three times and hit three times by T/Sgt. Norwood.

26 August 1944: The second squad was hit by Jerry patrol at 0200. The entire platoon front was fired upon by a Jerry patrol at 0515 which was spread out over the entire front of our platoon. Jerry threw many flares. He was driven out by small arms and mortar fire. The entire platoon was sent on a raiding party ordered by II Corps at 1630. Preparation barrages were fired by the 328th Field Artillery Bn, Division

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Artillery, Cannon Company, Anti-tank Company, Tank Destroyers and Tanks, then was lifted at 1700 at which time we struck out for our objective. Result of raid-- One Jerry captive, six killed, five wounded. Our casualties-- one killed, five wounded and two stock cases. The LMG section was fired upon by Jerry patrol at 2315.

27 August, 1944: Second squad hit by patrol at 0415. No casualties for us. Enemy casualties unknown. We were relieved by Baker company of the 11th Armored Bn. of the 1st Armored Division without incident.

Note: All during our stay on the North side of the Rail Road tracks we were shelled and mortared intermittently by Jerry.



TOM F. SNEARY
1st Lt. Infantry
2nd Platoon Leader.

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