

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

85  
APO 85 U. S. Army.  
3 September 1944.

NARRATIVE 1 AUGUST to 31 AUGUST 1944

Beginning the month of August, the Forward Echelon, consisting of the C.G., A.C.G, C/S, G-1, 2, 3, 4, C.W.O., Division Surgeon, Special Troops Hq., Defense Platoon and half of the Special and Transportation Platoons, were located approximately four miles north of Pignano, Italy. The Rear Echelon, consisting of the A.G., Finance, I.G., J.A., Surgeon, Attached Medics, Chaplain, Special Troops Chaplain, Special Service, Band, *Co. Hq.*, and one half of the Special and Transportation Platoons were located approximately five miles east of Vada, Italy. However the Rear Echelon moved from this location at 1045 on the 1 August to a C.P. located about one mile north of Pignano, Italy.

During the period 1 to 13 August 1944, the company preformed normal duties and conducted usual training. On the 5th of August, a Division Headquarters Platoon morning report was started. Heretofore this report was included in the Headquarters Company report.

The Forward Echelon moved 14 August from its bivouac area four miles south east of Castelfiorentino, Italy. This move was made at 2100 hours under blackout conditions. The Rear Echelon moved to the same location on the 15 August at 1955 hours. This move was also made blackout. Normal duties were preformed in this area.

On the 22nd of August at 2345 hours, the Rear Echelon moved to a C.P. located three miles east of Certaldo, Italy. The Red Cross clubmobile organization moved to the 310 Medical Battalion. This unit consisting of three women and one man had been operating from the Rear Echelon. The Forward Echelon moved on the 24th of August to a C.P. in the vicinity of S. Donata, Italy. The company preformed its normal duties and continued training.

About 2200 hours on the 28 August, German planes were over both echelons. Strafing was done in the vicinity but no damage was reported. Private Millett, of the Military Police Platoon, was lightly wounded in the attack while on duty in Certaldo, Italy.

No difficult problems were encountered during the month. All the unit personnel sections in the Division reported to the Rear Echelon for rations and quarters. This group is operating in the Rear Echelon under the supervision of the Adjutant General. The unit personnel sections have 13 officers and 181 enlisted men. Arrangements have been made for a separate kitchen with the mess sergeant and mess officer being furnished by Headquarters Company. The cooks were taken from the various units. This system has been used before and it seems to work very smoothly.

Morale of the men has been excellent.

FEB 28 1950

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By JGNARA Date 8-13-70

AL

Thomas A. Roberts  
THOMAS A. ROBERTS  
Captain, Infantry  
Commanding

48075

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 85TH INFANTRY DIVISION

APO 85, U. S. Army  
3 September 1944

REPORT OF OPERATIONS  
1 August to 1 September

- 1 - Aug: Forward echelon remaining in bivouac area 4 miles north of Pignano, Italy. Italy map 1:100,000 S. Casciano In Val De Pesa (Sheet 113) Q553355.
- Rear Echelon moved from bivouac area 5 miles N.E. Vada, Italy to bivouac area 1 mile north of Pignano, Italy. Q542298, Italy Map 1:100,000, Casciano In Val De Pesa sheet 113.
- Move completed with trucks furnished by 337th Infantry. Convoy divided into two groups. The first group left old area 1045. Second group 1115. Closed in new area 1400. Weather fair.
- 2 - 4 Aug: Usual camp and administrative duties. Weather - Scattered showers.
- 5 - Aug: Started keeping Division Headquarters platoon morning report on Headquarters Morning Report form instead of Company Morning Report Form.
- 6 - Aug: Company Commander and ten enlisted men of rear echelon attended mine sweeper school conducted at 85th Signal Company. In future rear echelon will be responsible for clearing own areas for mines.
- 7 -13 Aug: Peridd spent in bivouac areas performing regular duties, and in training activities. No unusual occurrences.
- Weather very hot with scattered showers.
- 14 - Aug: Forward echelon moved from bivouac area Q553355, Italy Map 1: 100,000, Casiano In Val De Pesa sheet 113, to bivouac area 1 mile S. E. Castelfiorentino, Italy.
- Left old area 2100 and closed in new area 2330. Move made with Organic transportation and 85th QM trucks.
- Weather - Fair and warm.

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15 - Aug: Rear echelon moved from bivouac area 1 mile north Pignano, Italy to bivouac area 1 mile S. E. Costelfiorentino, Italy. Q574498, Italy map 1:100,000, Casciano In Val De Pesa sheet 113.

Move made with Organic transportation and 85th QM trucks under blackout conditions.

Convoy divided in two groups. First group left old area 1955. Second group left old area 2005. Closed in new area 2230.

Weather - Fair and hot.

16 -21 Aug: This period spent in bivouac area performing normal duties. Forward and rear echelons located about five hundred yards apart.

On 18 August 1 Warrant Officer and 11 enlisted men from 85th Division Band were placed on Special Duty with M.P. Platoon.

Weather - Fair and hot.

22 - Aug: Rear echelon made preparation to new bivouac area. Convoy formed in two serials. First serial left area 2345. Second serial 2400.

23 - Aug: Rear echelon closed in bivouac area 3 miles east of Certaldo, Italy Q 637462, Italy map 1: 100,000, Casciano In Val De Pesa at 0130.

Move completed with organic transportation and trucks and trailers furnished by 85th QM Co. Road very dusty and crowded. Convoy met long British convoy going in opposite direction.

Red Cross clubmobile transferred to 310th Med Bn and will operate from that Organization in future.

24-25 Aug: Forward echelon moved to new bivouac area vicinity S. Donata, Italy, Q669490, Italy map 1:100,000, Casciano In Val De Pesa Sheet 113.

Weather - Fair and hot.

26-27 Aug: Regular camp and administrative duties.

Weather - Fair and very hot.

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- 28 - Aug: German plane over both forward and rear echelons during night. Some strafing done in vicinity of both. Pvt. Millett of M. P. Platoon, wounded in attack while on duty in Certaldo, Italy.
- 29-30 Aug: Normal camp and administrative duties.
- 31 - Aug: Company paid.

Summary For Month

One purple heart awarded during month. Millett, Winfield S., Pvt 31153823 (MP Plat) for wound received during an air attack on night of 28 Aug.

Supply - Certain types of supplies hard to obtain due to low priority.

Weather -Very hot and dry for most of month.

Gain of two officers and loss of six enlisted men in Headquarters Company and attached units for month.

Assigned strength as of 31 August

	<u>Hq Co</u>		<u>Div Hq Plat</u>		<u>MP Plat</u>		<u>Band</u>		<u>Atchd Med</u>		<u>Hq Sp Trp</u>	
Off	4	Off	38	Off	4			Off	2		Off	3
		WO	8			WO	2					
EM	99	EM	105	EM	71	EM	59	EM	16		EM	7

THOMAS A. ROBERTS  
 Captain, Infantry,  
 Commanding

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