

**CANCELLED**  
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE  
*Cal. Fl. 9 Aug 46 1948*

AGO #85, U. S. Army,  
29 November 1944.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER

PERIOD 1 OCTOBER - 6 OCTOBER

The 85th Division resumed the offensive at 0600 on the first day of October with the 339th Infantry on the left and the 337th Infantry on the right. Supporting the regimental attack was the 85th Reconnaissance Troop, Company "A", 310th Engineer Battalion, Company "A", 752nd Tank Battalion, Company "B", 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one platoon of Company "B", 84th Chemical Weapons Battalion. The 86th Fighter-Bomber Group, Army Air Force, was also in support and maintained a liaison radio with regimental headquarters. After a thirty minute artillery preparation, the 3d Battalion on the right and the 2nd Battalion on the left moved forward in the attack from a line of departure north of the Giugnola-Roco Road. Initially progress was slow as the 3d Battalion encountered a lot of small arms fire from the draw to its front, and the 2nd Battalion received much automatic weapons fire from enemy strongpoints on the ridge at Spedaletto (9319) and il Caprullo (9218). The tanks and tank destroyers in support of the 3d Battalion were ordered to move to the 2nd Battalion sector when reconnaissance disclosed that it would be impossible to employ armor in the right sector. Company "I" in the draw just southeast of G. di Guzzo (Hill 550) was unable to advance at all because of accurate enemy mortar and machine gun fire but Company "K" advanced a squad at a time in an attempt to outflank the resistance on the Guzzo Ridge.

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In the afternoon one platoon of tanks arrived at the 2nd Battalion. Troops of a Company "F" platoon climbed on the tanks, and were ordered to push through Companies "E" and "G", held up on the ridge short of il Caprullo. This position was taken when five Germans surrendered and the rest withdrew. Companies "E" and "F" pushed forward under increasing enemy artillery fire and by 1720 had occupied both L'Oppio and Spedaletto capturing twenty-two prisoners. The 3d Battalion was then ordered to move their reserve company, Company "L", and any other troops that could be disengaged, to the ridge near Spedaletto and to capture the next objective, Hill 751 (9521). Company "I" and one platoon of Company "K" were unable to pull back because of the continuous fire being laid down by the enemy, but Company "L" and one platoon of Company "K" were able to advance and by dark had reached the Spedaletto Ridge. The 1st Battalion, in reserve, spent the day in an assembly area southwest of Piancaldoli.

The attack order issued at 2030 called for the following actions: The 3d Battalion to continue its advance after dark until stopped by enemy resistance, to attack at 020600 and capture Hill 751. The 2nd Battalion was ordered to move out at the same time and assist the 3d Battalion in taking the objective. The 1st Battalion's mission was to take over the Spedaletto position and prepare to continue forward in the 2nd Battalion zone.

During the night, however, Company "L" in column continued to advance to the north reducing six enemy machine gun positions and taking some prisoners. Near Hill 754 the company commander decided to use the trail on the crest of the ridge for the rest of the distance to the objective. By using this route, many enemy delaying positions were by-passed and at 0440, after a brief skirmish, the company was on Hill 751 (Casoni di Romagna). The day's operations put our forward elements in the lead of the Fifth Army line and netted 68 prisoners and two self-propelled guns captured. One more Company "K" platoon was able to withdraw from in front of the Guzzo Ridge during the night and joined the rest of the battalion on Hill 751. Company "I" closed in on Guzzo after dark but was forced back to Hill 504 by intense mortar and small arms fire.

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REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

But with the dawn the next day came heavier fighting and further advances. The 3d Battalion's aggressive night maneuver had by-passed many pockets of resistance to the east and west of the main ridge line. The 2nd Battalion met scattered resistance and captured 25 prisoners as they started north to join the 3d Battalion (-) on Hill 751, but by noon all three companies were engaged in bitter fighting. A Company "L" patrol reached Hill 625 to the northeast, was almost surrounded by the enemy, but fought its way back to the rest of the company, which was itself engaged in fierce fighting. Observers reported several enemy tanks north of the Company "L" position and an enemy company approaching from the right flank. In view of the stiffening resistance in front of the regiment, it was decided to clean up the pocket on the Guzzo Ridge before attempting to push forward. The 1st Battalion on Spedaletto was ordered to send one reinforced company to the assistance of Company "I" and the Company "K" platoon stopped short of Guzzo. Company "C" moved out to accomplish this mission, and the 1st Battalion (-) remained on the Spedaletto hill mass. All afternoon the operation against the enemy position on Hill 560 continued with Company "C" hitting from the west and Company "I" pushing from the south. At 1725 several enemy machine guns were knocked out, and the enemy troops who were still alive retreated to the northeast. About the same time Company "L" repulsed two attacks against Hill 751 knocking out one tank in the process. Orders were issued to hold present positions and continue the attack at 030600. The 3d Battalion was ordered to consolidate on Hill 751.

Just before midnight the enemy again attacked Company "L" from the right flank in strength of 100 men armed with machine pistols. Company "C" was dispatched to Hill 751 to assist the 3d Battalion in the event a breakthrough threatened. The 328th Field Artillery Battalion laid down prepared defensive fires 50 yards in front of Company "L". The attack was thrown back with great losses to the enemy by the combination of artillery and small arms fire, and the rest of the night passed quietly.

The plan of attack on 3 October was for the 2nd Battalion with tank destroyer support to take Ridge 626-605, assisted by the 1st Battalion which was then to continue and take Hill 587. Objectives of the 3d Battalion were Hill 625 and the C. Nupolare Ridge. This day was another day of bitter fighting and heavy casualties to both sides. As the 2nd and 3d Battalions jumped off at 0600 they were immediately pinned down by heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. When the 1st Battalion ran into the same enemy fire that was holding up the 2nd Battalion, they were ordered to withdraw a short distance and then push forward west of the ridge line in order to avoid this fire. The advance progressed well and by 1300 Casocelle and la Cella were taken. The armor in support of 2nd Battalion was unable to advance because of enemy mines. Meeting extremely heavy resistance all day, the 2nd Battalion inched slowly forward of Casoni without making much headway. On the right flank Company "L" captured 28 prisoners, but the 3d Battalion was unable to advance. At 1500 Company "A" captured C. di Rotaro and the rest of the battalion moved up to reinforce the company. The Germans continued to resist fiercely on all approaches to Hill 628, but by 1700 a few tanks joined the 2nd Battalion and, supported by their fire, Companies "E" and "F" were able to move forward. At 1800 the 3d Battalion attack against Hill 635 was making some progress, and Company "E" took Hill 628. The 1st and 2nd Battalions organized their objectives for defense and prepared to continue the attack in the morning. At 2230 Company "I" gained C. del Monte (Hill 588). Enemy artillery was particularly heavy throughout this period on both forward and rear areas. Though the day's advances were costly to our troops, the enemy suffered heavy casualties in dead and wounded and 45 were taken prisoner.

The attack order assigned the 1st Battalion the mission of passing through the 2nd Battalion at 0630 with the armor to take Hill 587. The other battalions were ordered to remain in place and gather up scattered enemy troops in their vicinity.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

Company "A" encountered mines and small arms fire as they advanced on the morning of 4 October, but by 0725 they had taken Hill 587, although numerous snipers continued to fire on our troops from well concealed positions. By noon these enemy troops were killed or captured, and plans were made to continue the attack to the next objective, Hill 566. The advances made by the regiment during the first few days of October put our leading elements well ahead of the units on either flank and so enabled the enemy to fire his self-propelled guns on our position from the east and west as well as from the north.

At 1300 the preparation started on Hill 566, and at 1330 Companies "B" and "C" attacked abreast. Heavy artillery fire from the flanks temporarily halted this advance shortly after it started, but at 1500 a Company "C" platoon had reached the objective. An hour later the hill was held by two companies, and patrols were sent to the front to determine resistance. The 3d Battalion reported all resistance in the vicinity of the village of Sassonero wiped out. Intense enemy artillery continued to fall in the regimental area and a counter-battery program was started in an effort to neutralize some of this fire.

PERIOD 5 OCTOBER - 14 OCTOBER

The next objective was the dominating Monterenzio (Hill 578). Intelligence information indicated that this mound-shaped hill was well defended and garrisoned by a large force. The surrounding hills and groups of buildings (Hill 528, Scaruglio, Hill 572, Palazzo, Poggioli) were occupied by the enemy and added strength to the Monterenzio defense. This objective was assigned to the 1st Battalion. It was decided, however, to postpone the direct assault of the hill in favor of a thorough probing of the position for these reasons: first, to accurately locate guns and strongpoints in view of the concentration of enemy strength; second, the delay would enable the adjacent units to advance and so cover our exposed flanks; third, to provide time for improving the ridge trail so that tanks would be able to move up and support the attack; fourth, to allow additional time for softening up the objective with artillery and dive bombings. A reconnaissance in force by Companies "B" and "C" was stopped by heavy artillery concentrations. Patrols sent forward during the day determined that an enemy outpost line extended from Hill 408, through Hill 496, to Hill 407. At 1740 the enemy attacked the 1st Battalion position in two places in strength after fifteen minutes of artillery and mortar fire. Prepared fires were called down along the 1st Battalion front line, and by 1815 the enemy retreated in disorder. A platoon of Company "I" was sent to Sassonero to secure the right flank and Company "G" took up positions near Ca di Bellaia (Hill 513) to prevent enemy infiltration from the highway on the regimental right flank. Division ordered that the advance be halted pending further orders. During the night the position was consolidated and strengthened.

The next day was spent in patrolling and reconnaissance. Enemy troops were discovered to be holding Hills 496 and 423. C. Maleta, however, was found to be free of Germans and was occupied by an "E" Company platoon. The 3d Battalion was ordered to move to the Sassonero area. The 1st Battalion, 358th Infantry entered the 337th Infantry sector and moved up to Hills 301 and 369 on the left flank of the 1st Battalion. Again the attack was postponed on division order.

On 7 October Company "L" was ordered to move to Ridge 407-386 in order to extend the regimental right flank. The troops sent to both points ran into fire fights and Hill 386 had to be evacuated once because enemy fire made it untenable. By 1800, however, Company "L" had captured the ridge and set up a rear slope defense. The 2nd Battalion (- Company "G") assembled near Hill 605 prepared to repel enemy counterattack. Just before midnight the enemy attacked Hill 407, gained some ground, but lost 13 men as prisoners. Division advised the regiment to continue to hold present position.

The next day patrolling continued to Palmona, Hills 423, and 424. Company "K" was dispatched to assist Company "L" in the retaking of Hill 407. After a sharp fight, Company "K" captured the hill and 29 prisoners. The rest of the day

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

was spent in issuing instructions and preparing for the attack, ordered to begin at 090600 with the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry attached to the 337th Infantry.

A three battalion attack was ordered with the 1st Battalion making the main effort in the center to capture Monterensio. Flanking the 1st Battalion was the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right. The 2nd Battalion remained in reserve. Initially, the 1st Battalion made good progress as Companies "B" and "C" advanced 400 yards and took some prisoners. Company "B" soon occupied Hill 408. But the enemy was determined to hold his outpost at any cost and he resisted stubbornly. All day long the battle raged as our troops made small advances against Palmona and La Villa. Company "B" captured Hill 423 during the late afternoon. At 1830 an enemy counterattack against Company "C" inflicted heavy losses, but the company held its position, and the attackers were driven off. At dark the line had advanced little since the attack commenced at 0600. During the night Companies "B" and "C", 338th Infantry made some progress and by 0400 had taken Hill 452 and La Villa. The enemy seemed to be weakest in front of the left flank so plans were made to commit the 2nd Battalion around the left flank. This necessitated a night move in order to bring the battalion on a line with the rest of the regiment.

At 100800 October the attack jumped-off with troops disposed on line as follows (from left to right): 2nd Battalion, 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 3d Battalion. The mud had bogged down all the armor and so close support was unavailable. In front of the 1st Battalion, the enemy position at Palmona held but Company "A" in an aggressive push took Hill 528, so surprising the Germans manning the guns that they didn't have time to fire a shot. All were captured and upon interrogation revealed a V-shaped defense of Monterensio with Hill 528 as the apex. They said that the strongpoint was moved back to Scaruglio now that Hill 528 was in our hands. They reported at least 150 enemy troops in the area. Company "C" made plans to reduce the Palmona strongpoint by an encircling move.

The 2nd Battalion executed an excellent maneuver during the night and early morning hours. Advancing under the nose of the enemy entrenched on Mount Formiohe they captured Hill 349 and some prisoners at 0940. By noon the other battalions had all made progress: the 1st Battalion was on Hills 423 and 424; the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry in face of heavy shelling had taken Hill 428; 3d Battalion patrols had been within 100 yards of Zello when the enemy forced a slight withdrawal. Late in the morning a patrol to Palmona found it unoccupied and the patrol was reinforced at 1300. Aggressive small unit action continued throughout the day and by 1830 Company "B" held Hill 409. Commanders reported the heaviest artillery concentrations received during the campaign were falling on their positions and that progress was made only with heavy losses. The left two battalions, however, crawled painfully forward, and by midnight were abreast on the Ridge 362-449. Machine guns entrenched in the buildings at Liano continued to fire. At dawn the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry engaged in several bitter fire fights to wipe out this resistance and take Hill 520.

At 0700 on 11 October the attack was resumed with little progress initially. All attempts to move were heavily shelled by mortar and artillery. The enemy had excellent fields of fire and his weapons were sited to cover every approach to the final objective. At midmorning the 3d Battalion took fifty prisoners in the Zello area, and Company "B" advanced to take Hill 572. The situation looked a great deal more promising though all day the enemy harassed the front line with mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire. In order to have a reserve battalion well in hand before the assault on Monterensio, the 2nd Battalion was ordered to assemble on Ridge 409-528 after being relieved by the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry. This was accomplished during the night, and the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry consolidated and cleaned up the remaining resistance on Hills 520, 362, and 449.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

Under cover of darkness the morning of 12 October, Company "B" stealthily closed on Hill 578, but just short of the church machine guns firing from bunkers opened up forcing a retirement of 300 yards. Later Company "I" captured Hill 418, and Company "L" continued the attack up the draws to the left of Hill 418. The 3d Battalion continued to receive heavy harassing fire from the right flank. By active patrolling the 1st Battalion, 338th Infantry determined that the enemy still occupied Hills 378, 392, and 461. At noon Company "I" wiped out the guns firing from two bunkers near Hill 356. Regiment received word that the 339th Infantry would relieve the 337th Infantry the night of 13/14 October and plans were made to accomplish this passage of lines.

In the afternoon tanks were able to move to a position from which they could bring direct fire on Hill 578 and another effort was made to drive the enemy from this bald knob. Twenty Company "A" men gained refuge in the church but here they were trapped by concentrated machine gun and mortar fire. The remainder of the company could neither advance or come to their assistance because of withering fire from an entrenched enemy in strength of three companies (3d Company, 117th Infantry, 1st Company, 147th Infantry, 3d Company, 147th Infantry). The mission of the 3d Battalion was to capture the high ground in the vicinity of Poggioli (Hill 554), and after dark Company "I" advanced toward this point without being discovered. At 2215 the 1st Battalion resumed operations against Monterenzio, Company "B" with the mission of attacking to the northwest and seizing Hills 471 and 468, Company "A" with the mission of swinging to the right of Hill 578 and taking it from the rear. About midnight Company "A" was stopped by small arms and machine gun fire and hand grenades, and Company "C" was ordered to make a wide flanking move passing to the right of Company "A" and assuming the latter's mission.

At 0245, Companies "K" and "L" reported they were dug in on Poggioli and had taken 20 prisoners. At dawn Company "B" had surprised the sentry on duty and captured Hill 471 and was engaged in a fire fight short of the house on Hill 468. Even after daylight Company "C's" advance was undetected. At 1030, Company "A" with tank support, in an all out effort attacked Monterenzio from the south in conjunction with the Company "C" attack from the northeast. The hill was captured along with 23 prisoners. The enemy withdrew the rest of his troops leaving behind many of his dead. Later in the day Company "B" mopped up Hill 468 and the Palazzo position. At 1830 the enemy attacked the 3d Battalion on Poggioli in strength of 40 men. The German force was thrown back with heavy losses. During the night the 339th Infantry passed through the regimental forward elements completing the relief at 140400. The regiment (minus Company "I" which remained on Hill 418) assembled in a rest area between Borgo di Bisano and la Villa. At 142330 Company "I" rejoined the 3d Battalion.

PERIOD 14 OCTOBER - 20 OCTOBER

The regiment spent this period in rest, rehabilitation, training, and preparation for future combat. On 18 October the 2nd Battalion was attached to the 339th Infantry and went into position on Hill 578 (Poggioli) to secure the division right flank.

PERIOD 20 OCTOBER - 28 OCTOBER

At 201455 the 2nd Battalion was ordered to relieve the 3d Battalion, 350th Infantry on Mount Cuocoli and this was completed at 2030. The next day Company "A" moved up to occupy Farneto to the right of the 2nd Battalion. This company was in position by 220200.

Division operational instructions gave the regiment the right sector and called for an attack to seize Castellaro. The scheme of maneuver was an attack in column of battalions, the 2nd Battalion leading, followed by the 1st Battalion.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

The 1st Battalion began the march to an assembly area near Furrocchia di Sassimo. During the day the 2nd Battalion sent a strong patrol to Castellaro. This platoon engaged in a minor skirmish, captured seven prisoners, and reported Castellaro unoccupied. Companies "F" and "G" were sent forward immediately to secure the hill and at 2100 they sent back word that their defenses were complete. The 1st Battalion closed into its assembly area. The advance of the 2nd Battalion again placed the 337th Infantry elements in the lead in the Fifth Army push to Highway 9.

The next morning the 1st Battalion was ordered to take the objective, Mount Mezzano, passing to the west of Hill 568. But several things prevented the accomplishment of this mission; first, all of Castellaro was not completely mopped up; second, the enemy counterattacked Hill 568 in considerable strength. Before the 2nd Battalion could control Castellaro in its entirety C. Rovine would have to be captured. This was done by Company "F" at 1450 and 17 prisoners were captured in the operation. The 3d Battalion, in reserve, was ordered to take over the defense of the now unoccupied Cuccoli Ridge and this move was completed at 1800. Later during the night the 2nd Battalion cleaned out all enemy resistance on Castellaro and organized a strong defense on the hill. The 1st Battalion, however, had a tough fight short of il Poggio and just before dawn were counterattacked by an enemy group of fifty. The bald ridge was untenable in the daylight without prepared positions, so at dawn a withdrawal back to C. Rovine was initiated.

The day of 24 October was mainly spent in patrolling in preparation for a night attack. Company "G", with an effective strength of 44 men, inched forward toward Hill 444. For the attack at 2200 a different approach was used; instead of attacking north up the road, the draw southwest of the objective was used as a line of departure, with three companies attacking abreast. Division sent word that it was vital that this objective be taken as soon as possible. The operations against Hill 444 and Mezzano continued during the night. At 250600 the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion reported the capture of the Mezzano hill mass, including il Poggio and Hill 439, but requested reinforcements to assist in holding it. Company "K" was sent to C. Rovine and attached to the 1st Battalion. Company "G" was still short of Hill 444 despite reinforcement by an "E" Company platoon. On this day the Army Commander ordered present positions strongly defended for an indefinite period, the work to be expedited and completed as soon as possible. During the period the enemy increased the tempo of his artillery and mortar fires. Supplying the regiment became a most difficult problem as the rain continued, bridges washed out, and trails turned into quagmires of mud. Mule trains were the only means of getting equipment to the front line troops. Evacuation of casualties, because of the long, backbreaking hand carries, was necessarily slow and sometimes impossible.

A small attack against the 1st Battalion position at 1745 was stopped by artillery fire but it was an indication of what was to come.

The morning of the 26 October passed uneventfully except for the constant enemy harassing fire. At 1415, under cover of the thick fog, the enemy hit the Mezzano position from the northwest with two or three companies. The two Company "A" outpost platoons were pushed back to their alternate positions suffering heavy casualties in the withdrawal. A platoon from Company "K" was used to bolster the Company "A" position and the situation was under control. Company "I" relieved Company "B" on il Poggio to enable it to extend the 1st Battalion left flank. This change was completed at midnight.

On 27 October higher headquarters ordered an evacuation of Mezzano and Hill 444 in order to straighten out the entire front in view of the predominance of enemy strength opposing II Corps. The defensive plan put into effect during the night gave the 2nd Battalion, with Company "K" attached, the mission of defending

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

Castellaro and C. Rovine, and the 3d Battalion ( - Company "K") the mission of defending the Guccoli Ridge. The 1st Battalion withdrew from Messano beginning at 1800 and closed into a rest area near Migliarina at 280400. Here a tent camp was set up and hot meals and dry clothing provided. It was planned to rotate the battalions here for a short period of rest.

PERIOD 28 OCTOBER - 31 OCTOBER

The last four days of the month were spent in active patrolling and improving the defensive position. Barbed wire, trip flares, antitank mines, anti-personnel mines were installed. Defensive fires were tested and adjusted, and coordination with adjacent units were effected. A system of night ambush patrols was set up in order to cover all draws and other approaches to our positions.

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The 85th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the regiment the first two weeks of the month. Their assigned mission was to protect the right flank and maintain contact with elements of the 88th Infantry Division on the right. This mission was accomplished as follows: a scout car with an SCR 193 stayed at the CP of the regiment on the right; foot and motorized contact patrols constantly covered the gap between the adjacent front line battalions; strongpoints were established on the right as the regiment advanced.

Excellent support was rendered the whole month by the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group, Army Air Force, in softening up objectives by strafing and bombing. Targets 1600 yards in front of the advance elements were selected at regimental headquarters, and the artillery prepared data to smoke the air target when the planes were overhead. The request was radioed to the air force by means of a liaison radio (Rover Joe) at the CP. At the time designated by the air force, smoke would be laid on the target and it would be attacked. This support was used to the maximum although poor weather many days of the month grounded the planes. On two days as many as eight missions were requested and flown. The objective, Monterenzio, received the heaviest pounding, being attacked ten times. Prisoners captured in the vicinity testified to the demoralizing effect of the raids and reported that the hill was evacuated during a period when our planes were bombing every half hour. The enemy was on Monterenzio when our infantry moved in proving that a determined enemy cannot be bombed into submission.

The attached tanks and tank destroyers on numerous occasions during the month rendered excellent close support but the majority of the time were mired down in mud or impassible trails. At one time when the armor was unable to move it was employed as artillery and fired harassing fire at long range. Three occasions when a few armored vehicles were able to get forward and greatly assist the advance of the foot troops were in the taking of Spedaletto, the advance to Hill 566, and the assault of Monterenzio.

The rugged foothills of the northern Appenines presented all the problems peculiar to mountain warfare. All personnel were required to expend every effort in order to cope with the mud, rain, poor trails, washed-out bridges, and steep slopes. These problems particularly challenged supply and medical sections. At no time was there a first class road in the regimental zone. This meant that all supplies had to be delivered to the front line by mule train. And the mule trains had their problems - constantly harassed by enemy artillery and mortar fire, they suffered numerous casualties in men and animals. Many loaded mules fell over the sides of treacherous cliffs, and there were times when even the mules got stuck in the glusy mud and had to be shot. Never were troops without necessary supplies although a superhuman effort was necessary to keep the equipment coming forward. Evacuation of casualties, though always difficult in the mountains, was not a particular problem until the occupation of the Guccoli-Castellaro position at the end of the month. For days the steady downpour made

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

it impossible to evacuate to the rear of the regimental CP any except the most seriously injured cases. So a hospital was set up in the church at Purrocchia di Sassimo to care for litter cases until they could be carried to the ambulance point a little over one-half mile away. This carry was so fatiguing that at one time it took twenty-four men two hours to deliver one litter case. When the ambulances were unable to move due to flooding mountain streams, the services of an artillery tractor were used to haul cases to the collecting station.

The outstanding work of rehabilitating battle exhaustion cases by the regimental medical personnel deserves mention. On 16 August the regimental surgeon organized a section of one medical officer and several technicians with necessary equipment to care for exhaustion cases of a physical nature primarily. Men are held at this installation located at Service Company and given rest and hot food. Of the total number of men given this rest cure 65% have been returned to duty. This set-up has reduced the regimental battle exhaustion rate to the lowest in the Fifth Army. Non-battle casualties during the month numbered 450, the lowest in the division.

A total of 704 prisoners of war were captured during the period covered by this report. All were taken in the operation leading to the capture of Monterenzio from 1 October to 14 October. No enemy troops were captured the last two weeks of the month. Organizations represented at our prisoner cage included the following regiments: 147th Infantry, 289th Infantry, 1060th Infantry, 1059th Infantry, 956th Infantry, 131st Infantry, 132nd Infantry, 117th Infantry, 289th Infantry, and the Lehr Brigade. Men from every company in the 117th Infantry were captured.

The value of preparing defensive fires immediately upon the capture of an objective was demonstrated numerous times during the month. The Germans counter-attacked our advance elements day after day in strength as small as a squad and as large as three companies. In every case he was thrown back with losses by accurate prepared artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire. At no time was the enemy able to do more than push a small dent in our front line. An objective once taken by the regiment was never recaptured by the enemy.

The terrain afforded the enemy excellent delaying positions, and although no organized defense line was encountered, German commanders were able to employ a relatively small force to stop or delay a larger body of troops. The enemy used to good advantage the protection afforded by every Italian farmhouse or group of buildings. In almost every case the position was well protected by wire and mines and the guns sited for all-round defense. Such strongpoints had to be out-flanked before the stubborn German surrendered or was captured. Often the best approach was along the high ground as was the surprise capture of Casoni di Romagna by the 3d Battalion, but many times the high ground approach was so well defended that it was necessary to attack from the valley. An example of this was the 1st Battalion successful attack against Mezzano from the draw southwest of the hill after a push out the il Poggio ridge failed to take the objective. Although the gains made by the regiment during the month were not spectacular, they were significant. In spite of the combination of a skillful enemy and adverse elements the regiment advanced nine air-line miles in twenty-five days, spearheading the Fifth Army attack most of that time.

The following men received battlefield commissions during the month of October:

1st Sgt Henry A. Trujillo to 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry  
T/Sgt Charles R. Van Volkenburg to 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry  
T/Sgt Vernon W. Dyer to 2nd Lieutenant, MAC

Strength of the command as the period opened was as follows: 171 officers, 5 warrant officers, and 3,291 enlisted men. At the end of the period the strength was as follows: 119 officers, 5 warrant officers, and 2,639 enlisted men. Two hundred replacements were received during the month.

REPORT OF OPERATIONS - OCTOBER (CONT'D)

Decorations awarded this month:

Distinguished Service Cross - Capt James M. Doyle  
Legion of Merit - Capt (Chaplain) Lewis H. Grimes  
T/Sgt John L. Daniel  
10 Silver Star Medals (3 posthumously)  
72 Bronze Star Medals (2 posthumously, 1 missing in action)  
4 Oak Leaf Clusters to Bronze Star Medals (1 posthumously)  
283 Purple Hearts  
63 Oak Leaf Clusters to Purple Hearts  
108 Combat Infantryman Badges

Our battle casualties for the month were as follows:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
Killed in action	6	160
Wounded in action	35	735
Missing in action	5	135
	<u>46</u>	<u>1030</u>

Total casualties - 1076

By order of Colonel HUGHES:

*Henry C. Triessler, Jr.*  
HENRY C. TRIESSLER, JR.  
Major, 337th Infantry  
S - 3.