

RG 407 RECORDS OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S
OFFICE, 1917 -

WW II Operations Reports, 1940 - 48

85th Infantry Division

385-11

to

385-ART-0.3

Box 10709

Entry 427

HM 2007

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 310TH MEDICAL BATTALION
85th Infantry Division

REPORT OF OPERATIONS FOR MAY 1944

As the month of May opened front line conditions were still in a state of lull broken only by patrols and artillery exchanges. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and Company "D" were carrying on routine duties with few casualties being received. Company "A" was evacuating casualties for the Division from an area one mile south of Minturno and Companies "B" and "C" were training in an area two miles east of Mondragone.

Preparations for increasing evacuation facilities in anticipation of the coming offensive were begun early in the month. On May 2nd, Company "B" relieved Company "A" with Company "A" setting up in a rear area near Cellole. May 3rd, Company "C" moved forward to a location near Minturno and began evacuating its combat team which was in line. This marked the first time that more than one collecting station was set up to handle Division casualties in combat.

joined
as an
the
those
"C" and
inter

Army
two
Stat
in the
evac
number
hand

310th Med BN
MAY '44

assigned and
assigned
ementing
uently
B", and
on was

other Fifth
Within
the Clearing
y heavy and
ualties were
largest
had ever

terrain, which was very mountainous, the number of litter bearers provided for the Division were far from adequate. All litter bearers of Company "A" were sent to help out and in addition the Division provided men from the 85th Quartermaster Company, the Division Band and the defense platoon of Headquarters Company of the Division. Also two companies for a total of about 240 of the 67th Infantry Regiment, an Italian unit, were used to assist in litter bearing. All of these additional litter bearers were forwarded as needed to Companies "B" and "C" who in turn were called on for assistance by the battalion aid stations.

-1-

EXHIBIT "F"

SECRET

100_5862

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 310TH MEDICAL BATTALION
85th Infantry Division

REPORT OF OPERATIONS FOR MAY 1944

As the month of May opened front line conditions were still in a state of lull broken only by patrols and artillery exchanges. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and Company "D" were carrying on routine duties with few casualties being received. Company "A" was evacuating casualties for the Division from an area one mile south of Minturno and Companies "B" and "C" were training in an area two miles east of Mondragone.

Preparations for increasing evacuation facilities in anticipation of the coming offensive were begun early in the month. On May 2nd, Company "B" relieved Company "A" with Company "A" setting up in a rear area near Celliole. May 3rd, Company "C" moved forward to a location near Minturno and began evacuating its combat team which was in line. This marked the first time that more than one collecting station was set up to handle Division casualties in combat.

One hundred enlisted men and two officers were assigned and joined the Battalion on the 4th of May. These men were assigned as an authorized over-strength for the purpose of supplementing the litter bearers of the collecting companies. Consequently those men were evenly broken down among Companies "A", "B", and "C" and their need was later proven when front line action was intensified.

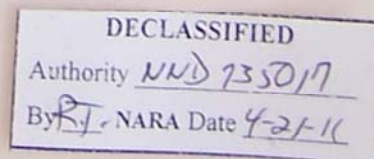
At 2300 May 11th, the Division in conjunction with other Fifth Army forces launched an attack against the Gustav Line. Within two hours casualties from the attack were arriving in the Clearing Station. Casualties during the first few days were very heavy and in the twenty-four hours of May 12th a total of 544 casualties were evacuated by this Battalion which at that time was the largest number of casualties that any similar unit in II Corps had ever handled over the same length of time.

Due to the large number of casualties and to the type of terrain, which was very mountainous, the number of litter bearers provided for the Division were far from adequate. All litter bearers of Company "A" were sent to help out and in addition the Division provided men from the 85th Quartermaster Company, the Division Band and the defense platoon of Headquarters Company of the Division. Also two companies for a total of about 240 of the 67th Infantry Regiment, an Italian unit, were used to assist in litter bearing. All of these additional litter bearers were forwarded as needed to Companies "B" and "C" who in turn were called on for assistance by the battalion aid stations.

-1-

EXHIBIT "F"

SECRET



100_5863

SECRET

In addition to needing additional litter bearers the number of ambulances in the Battalion were insufficient to keep the evacuation process open. All ambulances of Company "A" were put into use, six ambulances were drawn from Corps and with this increase it was still necessary to evacuate many truck loads of walking wounded by whatever vehicle was available. This condition was at its peak on May 12th but continued through the 13th and 14th of May when casualties were still coming in heavily.

By May 17th the Division had advanced sufficiently to enable the Clearing Station to make its first move forward when it was moved across the Garigliano to the spot vacated by Company "B" near Minturno. Company "A" had joined its combat team and all collecting companies were giving close support to their respective regiments.

From the 17th till the 27th of May the rapid advance of the Division along the coast made frequent moves of the clearing station a necessity. Following are areas occupied by the Clearing Station during the drive:

17 May	-	1 Mile south of Minturno.
20 May	-	1 Mile southwest of Formia.
21 May	-	2½ Miles north of Itri.
24 May	-	5 Miles west of Fondi.
26 May	-	5 Miles west of Sonnino.

May 27th when the division was withdrawn from combat, the entire Battalion was bivouaced in an area about one mile east of Sabaudia. However, the rest period expected at this time was of short duration and on May 30th with the Collecting Companies returned to the Combat teams the Division returned to the line, this time in the vicinity of Cori in preparation for the final drive on Rome. The Clearing station set up about one mile west of Cori in position to receive casualties.

Following are battle casualties sustained within the Battalion during the month of May:

Company "A"

Allison, Belvin A.	Pfc	Ambulance Orderly	Killed
De Long, Charles H.	T/4	Surgical Techn	Lightly Wounded
Lichtenstein, Morris H	Pvt	Litter Bearer	Lightly Wounded
Mileczarski, John W.	Pvt	Litter Bearer	Lightly Wounded
Stewart, Chandis L.	Pvt	Litter Bearer	Seriously Wounded
Wall, William G.	Pvt	Litter Bearer	Lightly Wounded

Company "B"

Moore, Isaac I.	Pvt	Litter Bearer	Lightly Wounded
-----------------	-----	---------------	-----------------

DECLASSIFIED

Authority UND 7350/17
By RT NARA Date 4-2-11

SECRET

SECRET

Company "C"

Reynolds, John H.

2nd Lt

Litter Bearer
Platoon Leader

Lightly Wounded

Gush, Paul C.

Pvt

Litter Bearer

Seriously Wounded

Savage, Philip L.

Pfc

Litter Bearer

Lightly Wounded

Turley, Charles M.

Pvt

Litter Bearer

Died of Wounds.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 735017

By RJ NARA Date 4-21-11

SECRET

100_5865