

## 337TH INFANTRY U.S. ARMY

History of Operations  
10 April, 30 May, 1944.

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Period 10-12 April.

Battalion had been alerted for combat action and was preparing in the Mondragone, Italy, rest area to move forward. The initial warning order was issued on 12 April and found the Battalion fully prepared to move into position on the main Fifth Army front. Prior to this time all of the Company Commanders, Lt. Col. SCHMIDT, the Battalion Commander, and the Battalion S-2 and S-3 had been attached to the 351st Infantry Regiment of the 88th Division as observers, as well as certain NCO's selected in the Battalion. During the projected operation, it was planned to keep the Mondragone area as a base camp, from which supplies would be forwarded up to the forward supply dump.

Period 13 April, 30 May.

The Battalion moved by truck to the Garigliano River Bridge on 13 April, detrucking there shortly before 2300 and proceeding on foot to the area occupied by the 351st Inf. 1st Bn. a defensive position. These positions were located along a ridge running generally east and west, to the north of the City of Minturno. During the two months prior to the Battalion's arrival at Minturno, there had been little activity in this area and both sides had well prepared positions. Company A and Company C moved into the already established positions on the right and left sectors respectively of a 1500 yard front with Company B in reserve. Observation posts were established by the Battalion Intelligence Section and by the Companies. Two outposts were also established, one by Company C in a graveyard on the Minturno-Santa Maria Infante Road and called "Ferdinand" and another in an old farm house about 300 yards in front of our MLR, called "Snuffy"s.

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A third, called "Mothe s" Place" was located nearby. Movement to and from these positions was necessarily limited to movements during darkness only. They served as observation posts and as control points for incoming and out-patrols.

Contact with the enemy was chiefly through patrolling and the Battalion patrolled aggressively every night. In addition to routine ambush patrols, which waited in likely avenues of approach for enemy patrols, several combat patrols and many reconnaissance patrols were sent forward. As a result of this patrolling the enemy's strength, positions and habits were detected and proved of value in future operations. It was learned that he had few men on his MLR, but that there were many positions to which a large force could be rushed if necessary. Despite the few positions, the enemy had organized his automatic small arms fire so that each of his guns had an excellent field of fire and in many places large areas could be completely covered by the few weapons used. The enemy used many flares in his attempts to detect our patrols and inflicted a few casualties. First Lieutenant Edward R. Halloran, executive officer of Company A, is still listed as Missing in Action after he and his patrol engaged in a fire fight near the enemy held village of Santa Maria Infante. Lt. Halloran had courageously led his men with considerable success through enemy territory on this mission and at the time of the fire fight was acting as the point of the patrol. It has never been established whether he was killed or captured by the enemy.

We were opposed by a company of the 274th Inf of the German Army, a unit which had seen considerable battle duty and which was considered a first class organization. Since the enemy had direct observation of our forward and rear areas, he sent out few patrols. We were constantly harassed by artillery fire and suffered some casualties, although they were very few for the number of shells landing. Officers and Enlisted Men became used to the artillery and many learned to "sense" its direction and the size.

The Battalion CP was located in the Minturno City Hall. Kitchens were set up in buildings and the companies on the line received at least one hot meal daily. The three companies just behind the line, located in the city, were able to serve three hot meals daily.