

Oct 1 - 31, 1944

Report of CO.

- 1st Bn 337

On the morning of 1 October 1944, Co. A & B moved from positions on Mt. La Fine to an assembly area near Piancaldole, It. on 2, Oct, our Bn. moved to the vicinity of Spedalotto to occupy positions of the 2nd Bn. The Bn. CP was set up at S. Appio. During the day the 3rd Bn was pinned down by fire from C di Guzzo & unable to move. Co. C was alerted to move from position on Spedalotto to the Rt flank of the enemy and assist the 3rd Bn in the capture of C di Guzzo. Late in the afternoon Co. C captured the 3rd Bn. Obj. after 1 hr battle with the determined enemy. During the same afternoon the Bn. CP which was set up at Spedalotto was heavily shelled & collapsed killing one & wounding six. On the night of the 2nd, Co. C was relieved by Co. I & moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of La Caserma.

Oct. 5, Capt. Ballantine assumed command of the Bn. Due to the illness of 2nd Bn. C.O. On this day the Bn. moved from its position in rear of the 2nd Bn. which was in the vicinity of C. di Lenzo, at noon the Bn. recd. orders to move to the left flank of the 2nd Bn. Co. B moved to position of La Cella & patrolled to their left flank & contacted the 328th Inf. At 1500 Co. A passed through Co. B to take their Obj. C di Rotaro. Co. A moved quickly to their Obj. receiving heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire, they captured 12 EM & 1 off. in the house on their Obj. Co. B moved to the left flank of Co. A to defend Obj. C di Rotaro. The Bn. C.P. set up at La Cella. At 0600 4 Oct. 1944 Co. A passed through the 2nd Bn. on Obj. 8. to capture Objective C. (Hill 587)

The tanks which were to support the attack of Co. A were unable to move forward because of enemy mines. At 0200 Co. A succeeded in pushing 2 platoons well on Obj. C. The remaining of the Co. was unable to move on the Obj. between

Active patrolling

because of snipers between the obj. & remaining platoons at the bottom of the obj. The snipers were later killed and the remainder of the Co. occupied obj. C. Co. B was moved from the ass. area vicinity of C. di Rotaro to occupy the left sector of obj. C. Co. C was held in reserve.

The Bn O.P. & C.P. moved to a skyline house in the vicinity of C. di Rotaro. At noon the Bn was ordered to push on & take hill 566. At 1530 a coordinated attack with Co. B on the left & Co. C on the rt. was made on Hill 566. In the face of heavy & concentrated enemy artillery and mortar fire the attacking elements pushed on slowly to their obj. As the first elements of Co. C moved on to the obj. tank support became available, one plat. of medium tanks with elements of Co. B & Co. C secured the military crest of Hill 566. Co. A remained in position on hill 587. Late in the afternoon we consolidated & organized our position on Hill 566.

On 5 Oct plans were made to continue the attack to secure obj. 9 (Montenapio Hill 578). Early in the morning leading elements of Co. B & C moved out in the attack, 5 minutes after they moved out orders were received from Div. C.O. to hold in position. Active patrolling was carried out during the day. Co. C patrol captured 22 enemy 300 yards forward of their position. Patrol reported strong enemy resistance at Palmano. At 1700 a strong counterattack was launched against the right flank & front of Co. C position. Heavy enemy mortar barrages were placed on our position during the counterattack. The enemy attacked in force of 1 Bn. after many interminable attempts on our position the enemy was repulsed & forced to withdraw. Our accurate artillery & 81 mm fire caused heavy casualties to the enemy during the counterattack.

Active patrolling was continued on 6, 7, 8 of Oct. Lt. Col. Schmidt returned to the Bn. & assumed command on 8 Oct. The attack to seize Obj 9 was launched at 0600 on 9 Oct. Co. B & C reached intermediate objectives with little resistance. The reserve Co which was Co. A was moved to position on Hill 566. Co C & B after reaching intermediate positions were pinned down by automatic & small arms fire from mountainous features to their front. During the night enemy resistance was reduced on the left flank by Co. B.

In the morning of 10 Oct. Co B had reached Hill 423 & cleared the enemy from 424. At 0800 Co. A was committed to take Hill 528 to relieve pressure on elements of Co. C at Palmsora. After 45 minutes Co A was on their Obj., surprised & captured an enemy group with automatic weapons.

Co. B seized the forward nose of Obj. 9 on 11 Oct., Heavy enemy M.G. fire from both flanks & from top of the Obj. prevented the forward movement of Co. B.

At 0600 on 12 Oct. Co. A moved to the right flank of Co. B. They were pinned down on the right slope of Hill 572 by M.G. & mortar fire. Co. C was removed to a reserve position on Hill 528. During the night attempts were made to capture Obj. 9. All attempts failed due to heavy M.G. fire from prepared positions on Obj. 9.

On Fri. 13 Oct. a coordinated attack with tank support was made to capture Hill 578. Co. C moved in position to attack the position from the rear. Tanks placed accurate fire on known enemy M.G. emplacements, neutralizing enemy fire. Co. A & C jumped off & captured Obj. 9. Relief of the Bn. was effected on the night of 13 Oct by the 339th Inf.

Period 14 Oct. & 21 Oct.

Bn. rested & carried on a light training program

22 October the Bn. moved to a forward assembly area, vicinity of De Bus.

23 Oct. the Bn. was ordered to attack Mt. Messino. Co. A & B were moved into position forward of Mt. Grande for the attack on Obf. 13. Co. C was in a reserve position at Fornets. Co. A & B remained in this position because of a counterattack on the 88th Div. The positions that were counterattacked had to be cleared of enemy resistance before our attack could be launched. During the night Co. A & B moved along the left flank of the 88th Div. & attack Obf. 13.

Early in the morning of 24 Oct. Co. A & B were held up by Heavy M.G. & mortar fire from the vicinity of Il Poggio & were forced back to the reserve position at C Ravine. During the remainder of the day, reconnaissance for a night attack were made. At 2200 hours the attack was launched to capture Mt. Messino.

At first light 25 Oct. Co. B ~~captured~~ captured Il Poggio. Co. A & C captured Mt. Messino without any resistance. On 26 Oct. the enemy launched a counterattack on our position after a 30 minute concentration of all types Artillery & mortar fire falling on our position on Mt. Messino. Three German Companies attacked from the Northwest overrunning one platoon from Co. A. This platoon plus one platoon of Heavy M.G. of Co. D were captured. Although the attack forced all outposts to withdraw it was successfully repulsed at 1610 without broadening our main battle positions. The enemy remained in our outpost positions, 30 yards forward of our M.L.B. Exchange of small arms fire was continued throughout the night.

During the night Co B reinforced Co A left flank. Co K was attached to the Bn to occupy Co B's position at Il Poggio. A withdrawal from our positions was ordered by the 5th Army commander. The Bn withdrew to a position on Montunzio and was placed in Regimental reserve until 1 November when it relieved 2nd Bn of this regiment on positions on M. Castellaro.