NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

1 - 31 July 1944

1 July The regiment moved by foot from Bibbona to an assembly area west of Casale and immediately south of the Cecina River. During the night of 1 - 2 July our forces continued their march and took over the front line approximately 0400 2 July 44.

The 2d and 100th Bns were in line abreast, with the 3d Bn in reserve. They crossed the Cecina River and started to attack. Resistance was encountered from enemy Infantry, self-propelled guns and tanks. The terrain in which the attack was staged is very mountainous and rugged, with narrow winding roads heavily mined.

During the day Infantry elements of the 34th Division operating on the right and left flanks of the 442d reported the towns of Riparbella and Cecina taken, the latter after an especially difficult contest.

During the night of 2 July an enemy plane dropped antipersonnel bombs and strafed roads leading to our positions.

On 2 July the 100th Inf Bn reported the following: 25 Germans killed, 43 prisoners, 1 88mm towed gun destroyed, 2 AT guns, 5 machine guns and 6 machine pistols captured.

3 July The attack was resumed at 0730, the position of the battalions being the same as on the previous day, the 100th on the left, 2d Bn on the right with the 3d Bn in reserve. Heavy enemy shelling continued. By 1600 3 July our advance elements were about 8 kilometres north of Cecina River in the center of the division sector, with the 135th and 168th Infantry Regiments flanking on the left and right, respectively. On this day, 2d Bn occupied the town of Molino A Ventoabbto (Il Terriccio), attacked and took Hill 287 and Hill 277 to the north of the town. The 100th on the left received severe artillery fire from the town of Rosignano. The regiment had tank and Tank Destroyer support from Co C, 752d Tank Bn, and the 804th Tank Destroyer Bn, and direct artillery support from the 522d Field Artillery Bn.

4 July On the night of 3-4 July, 3d Bn passed through the 100th and took over the left sector of the regimental front. On the 4th, at approximately 1500 hours, Lt Col Miller, regimental executive officer, assumed command of the 3d Bn. On the 4th stiff enemy resistance continued from prepared positions on Hill 140. These positions were reported built by the Todt Labor Organization and withstood the heaviest shelling of our artillery. The situation remained static during the 4th, 5th and 6th as

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our battalions fought for the high ground. The towns of Rosignano on the left and Castellina on the right were German strongpoints from which they had excellent observation and directed heavy artillery fire. All along the 34th Division sector the fighting was severe and resistance the strongest since the 442d entered the line on 26 June.

6 July On the 6th the 100th Bn went back to the line, relieving the 2d Bn which was withdrawn to an assembly area northwest of Molino A Ventoabbto. On the 6th the 3d Bn attacked and took the ridge at R Vallori despite 88mm, automatic and mortar fire. Co L advanced to 197297 (Sheet 112-III Chianni). Regimental forward CP was established at Molino A Ventoabbto. The mountainous country and poor roads made supply difficult, and mules were brought up for use as a pack train, and carried ammunition, rations and water over the ridges north of the town into the lines.

The 206th Army Band, a component of the 442d Combat Team, was designated as the 206th Army Ground Forces Band effective 27 June 1944 per Sec V, GO 105, Hq Fifth Army, 22 June 1944.

A list of casualties sustained by the 442d Inf as of 30 June 1944 is attached.

7 July Very slow progress continued throughout the 7th. Prisoners taken belonged to the 36th SS Regiment and reported that they had orders to hold the line until defenses at Pisa had been completed. The terrain continued mountainous and difficult to attack. The enemy was dug in and the Infantry had to go in with grenades and bayonets. Night fighting was frequent because darkness offered protection to our troops as they advanced across the open valleys. Combat patrols went out continually. A typical patrol action: On the night of 6 July a squad of Co E on patrol intercepted a German platoon in the darkness at a point blank range (5 yards), inflicted heavy casualties and withdrew.

8 July The 3d Bn occupied Hill 140. On the 9th, the 2d Bn relieved the 3dat 2300 hours

On the 6th Secretary of War Stimson visited the Fifth Army forward area, and the 100th Infantry Bn was represented in the guard of honor.

On 8 July 1944 Lt Col Alfred Pursall assumed command of the 3d Bn. On the same day the 100th Inf Bn reported 20 dead Germans, 22 prisoners, and one Mark IV tank knocked out by bazooka fire.

9 July Coordinated attack by entire division. The 3d Bn on the regimental left advanced to grid coordinate 195325 on the road running west of Casale (Sheet 112-III Chianni) and the 100th

on the right reached the outskirts of Casale, both battalions being faced by determined resistance; the Germans used their favoring terrain to full advantage. A map taken from a dead German indicated that they had every hill, house and terrain feature zeroed-in from prepared gun positions, with azimuth readings, ranges and fields of fire elaborately developed. This knowledge was possible because of their long occupation of the ground they were defending; to offset it slightly our forces had occasional help from Italian partisans as to enemy emplacements and minefields.

10 July The attack was continued by the 2d and 100th Bns to secure ground in the vicinity of the 34 grid line, north of Casale. The 2d Bn reached and occupied Hill 147 with the 100th abreast in the regimental zone. During the day the town of Casale was occupied by the 168th Inf on the right flank of the 442d.

11 July The regimental assault battalions attacked during the night of 10-11 July and moved about 1000 yards. During the 11th the 2d Bn remained in the vicinity of Hill 147, subjected to heavy shelling, which also struck in the 3d Bn reserve area and caused casualties.

Twenty-five officer replacements were obtained from division and were sent immediately into combat as the officer strength of the line companies had been seriously depleted. In all, the 2d and 3d Bns to date have suffered approximately 400 killed and wounded. Replacements of EM are not available. Despite these losses, the lack of replacements and the exhaustion of three weeks of front line combat, morale remains high. The enemy is being driven from his positions day by day and is taking appreciably heavier losses in personnel and equipment. To date about 200 prisoners have been taken since the drive began. The division is nearing its immediate objective, the seaport of Leghorn.

On the 12th, the 2d Bn attacked the ridge southwest of Mo Dei Rotini with F Co on the left, G on the right and E in reserve. The ridge was taken and held. At the same time the 100th Bn reached the town of Pastina (Rotini) and cleared it out in house-to-house fighting. On that night the 3d Bn relieved the 100th, completed the occupation of Pastina, and continued the advance.

13 July Beyond Pastina resistance temporarily lightened, as the enemy withdrew approximately 10 kilometers all along the line, and the 2d and 3d Bns made considerable progress during the day. The town of San Luce was taken by the 3d Bn, who bivouacked there during the night of 13-14 July and pulled out into the hills again 0500 14 July, where once again the enemy fought for the ground. The 3d Bn passed north of San Luce, worked along the road and turned northwest following the regimental sector. The 2d Bn took Hill 157 and the town of Pieve di S Luce,

which was found extensively mined and booby-trapped. The 3d Bn reached road junction at 194436 (Sheet 112-IV Pontedera) where it was relieved during the night by a battalion of the 168th Infantry.

14 July Antitank Co, 442d Inf, was relieved of assignment and attachment with the regiment, was assigned to AFHQ and attached to the Seventh Army for training. Its movement to the area of Galeria was directed.

The 100th Inf Bn was in division reserve, with its Able Co maintaining a road block at 148355.

15 July The 2d Bn made another night attack on 14-15 July, reached Hill 104, and kept going at 0500 15 July. 1st and 2d Platoons of Cannon Co, attached to the 2d Bn, fired 339 rounds in support of the battalion. The 3d Bn remained in support behind the 2d Bn until the night of 15-16th, when it once again took over the front line, with the 2d in reserve. Charlie Co of the 100th Inf established another road block at 141410.

A party of five swimmers was dispatched to participate in the Fifth Army Swimming Meet in Rome.

16 July The 3d Bn began its drive on Luciano, with the 2d Bn abreast on its left. The 100th was engaged in hard fighting to maintain road blocks on the extreme left of the regimental sector, Cos A and C particularly being involved on the road running generally along the 14 grid.

The fighting at Luciano was bitter hand-to-hand conflict. The enemy was barricaded and supported by several tanks and automatic weapons. Because of the close nature of the fighting, our artillery could not be brought into full play, however, it swept the roads beyond Luciano and made enemy withdrawal costly. Co K was the leading element in the attack on the town, and after a night and day of street fighting finally won the town. The 2d Bn meanwhile attacked and seized Hill 108, while the 100th was pushing road blocks up to 139428 and west to Colognole. The 100th found the area heavily mined.

On the 17th, Division announced a quota of three Guest Officers (Lts or WOs) and one Duty Officer, and 40 EM for the Rest Center at Rome from 19-23 July, and arrangementswere made to fill the quota from the line companies.

2400 hours 17 July 1944 found the regiment after a hard day with all three battalions committed in the following position: On the right the 3d Bn had cleared out the last remaining resistance in Luciano; the 2d Bn in the center was advancing on Hill 114, and the 100th Baker Co was at road junction 138440, on the left of the regimental zone.

18 July The 2d and 3d Bns continued the advance northwest, the 3d reaching the town of Terretta and the 2d cutting the road southwest of that locality. Resistance was lighter as the enemy was withdrawing to positions before Pisa. The seaport town of Leghorn fell to elements of the 135th and 363d Infantry Regiments, with the 442d's position protecting their right flank. Leghorn (Livorno), the third largest peace-time port of Italy, was a main objective of the Fifth Army drive and after reconstruction will provide a major base for future operations.

The 100th Infantry was detached from the 442d Infantry and attached to the 135th Infantry, per VOCG 34th Division, and moved into Leghorn.

19 July The 2d and 3d Bns took up defensive positions around Nuova and Colle Salvetti respective, established an outpost line, and sent out patrols as far as the Arno River. With the fall of Leghorn and the withdrawal of the Germans past the Arno, the Fifth Army had reached another main enemy defensive line, the so-called "Gothic Line." It is known that this line is established on high ground, is fortified in depth, and laterally follows the Arno River.

During the 19th and 20th the regiment remained in position with the battalions occasionally subjected to harassing artillery fire. Combat-reconnaissance patrols were sent out continuously, reconnoitering the ground between the lines and feeling out enemy positions. On one of its patrols a squad from the 2d Bn met Lt Gen Clark, Commanding General, Fifth Army, who personally congratulated the men on the fine work of the 442d.

21 July 1944 Major General Charles L. Bolte assumed command of the 34th Infantry Division, relieving Major General Ryder.

The main body of troops set up an MLR on Highway 67 on the 21st, while patrols ventured beyond that point to the outskirts of Pisa.

A patrol composed of Lt Gilbert, Lt Androvette and 12 volunteer EM from Col L set out for Pisa at 2300 20 July 1944, with a partisan guide. Their reconnaissance took them across the canals below the Arno and behind the enemy lines to the southern edge of Pisa. A report that the Germans were evacuating Pisa was found to be untrue. Enemy gun positions and troops were observed, and additional information was obtained from partisans as to the disposition of enemy troops and the location of mine fields. The information was communicated to Division upon return of the patrol at approximately 1200 hours 22 July. The patrol was for reconnaissance purposes only behind the enemy lines, and did not involve itself with enemy forces although at one time the patrol was in the second floor of a partisan's house while Germans entered and occupied the ground floor. The patrol returned intact. All members are being recommended for citation.

Two patrols from G Co also reached the outskirts of Pisa on the 21st. The first patrol, led by Lt Boyd, with 20 EM and a "300" radio reconnoitered as far as the airport south of Pisa, and then sent a three-man patrol forward into the southern edge of the town. Before reaching their objective, the patrols were under artillery fire and were engaged in a brief skirmish. This patrol was in radio contact with a similar patrol led by Lt Biano also with 20 EM. Both patrols had difficulty in crossing the canals, which they did by fording waist deep through the shallow ones, and crossing the others on improvised rafts. The patrols met at the airport and returned at midnight, having been gone approximately 24 hours. Information was obtained as the condition of roads and bridges before Pisa, the location of minefields and emplacements, and observation as to enemy strength. All members of both patrols are being recommended for commendation in Division orders.

22 July On the night of 21-22 July, a welcome relief passed through the lines and took over the 2d and 3d Bns positions. The 135th Infantry relieved the 2d Bn and the 133d relieved the 3d Bn. The 442d went into Division reserve, and thus ended the first phase of combat operations for the regiment.

On the 22d the regiment remained in Division reserve in the vicinity of Colle Salvetti, and on the 23d moved back to a rest area north of Cecina.

The 100th Infantry Bn was cited for outstanding performance of duty in action in the vicinity of Belvedere and Sassetta, Italy, on the 26th and 27th of June 1944, per GO 121, Hq 5th Army, 18 July 1944. The citation entitles the battalion to carry Distinguished Unit streamers on its colors and guidons and individual members to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge.

At the conclusion of this combat period, the following communications are quoted. Letter from Major General Charles L. Bolte, Commanding General, 34th Infantry Division, 25 July 1944, to Commanding Officer, 442d RCT:

> "Although your command has been attached to this Division for only a short time, it was during this period that your officers and men received their baptism of fire.
>
> Their enthusiasm and fighting spirit exceeded expectations; the Division has accepted them unreservedly and consider them an integral part of the Division.
>
> In token of this acceptance and the esteem in which your officers and men are held, there is presented to you the shoulder patch of the 34th Infantry Division for all of the officers and men of the 442d Infantry, 522d FA Bn, 232d Engr Co, and the 206th Army Band."

Memorandum from Commanding Officer, 442d RCT, Colonel C. W. Pence, to all officers and men of the 442d RCT, dated 26 July 1944:

> "Upon completion of our first tour of combat duty I believe it is appropriate to relate to all of you some of the accomplishments of the unit.
>
> "You have been of material assistance in driving the enemy back more than fifty miles. During this action your have never taken a backward step.
>
> "You have stood firm under heavy shell and mortar fire and have beaten off every enemy counterattack.
>
> "You have captured and killed many Germans, destroyed and captured much enemy materiel which, in reality, is our mission in war.
>
> "On the last day of combat the Division Commander stated to me 'Your unit has done a splendid job' and yesterday we were privileged to wear the insignia of the division, a division whose long, successful combat record is surpassed by no other division.
>
> "We have lost several of our comrades in combat. We mourn their loss and honor their memory. For the rest of us there is the work of tomorrow.
>
> "I am proud of you and am honored to be your commander."

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24 July Rest period begun. All personnel enjoyed hot showers and an exchange of clothing. Arms, equipment and vehicles were cleaned and overhauled. Duffle bags came out of storage. A week of athletics was planned, together with swimming and Special Service recreation programs.

Following changes in organization are made a matter of record:

Eff 11 June 44, 34th Division (with 442d RCT atchd) relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached IV Corps, per ltr AG 321.1-Y, Hq 5th Army, 10 June 44, Subj: Attachment of Troops.

34th Div (w/442d RCT and 100th Inf Bn atchd) relieved from IV Corps and reverts to Army control, per ltr AG 322.1-Y, Hq 5th Army, 24 July 44, Subj: Assignment and Attachment of Troops.

"Reduction of Basic Privates" ltr 320.3 Hq 34th Inf Div, 14 July 44, Subj: T/O & E: Pursuant to instructions contained in ltr TAG AG 320.3 (19 May 44) OB-IWDCCT-M, Subj: Reduction of Basic Privates in T/O Units, dtd 23 May 44 and 1st Ind, Hq MTOUSA, AG 320.3/568 A-O, 10 June 44, T/O & E applicable to * * * 442d Inf, 522d FA Bn, 232d Engr Co, 206th AGF Band and 100th Inf Bn (Sep) are changed eff 30 June 44 to conform -

T/O & E 7-17	Rifle Co	Unchanged	
T/O & E 7-11	Med Det	Unchanged	
		Auth Basic	Auth Enl Strength
7-11	442d Inf (-1st Bn)	165	2224
	AT Co, 442d Inf	8	152

Personnel and equipment rendered surplus by reason of above changes will be absorbed by attrition. All tables other than those listed above which provide basic privates in excess of 5% of tabular strength less basic privates are amended to reduce number of basic privates to 5%.

27 July At an impressive ceremony, the 100th Infantry Battalion was presented with the Distinguished Unit Citation Streamers by Lieutenant General Mark Clark, Commanding General, Fifth Army. General Clark affixed the blue streamers to the colors and guidons of the 100th, and decorated the battalion commander and color bearers with the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, which will also be worn by all members of the battalion. The 442d was also commended by General Clark for its part in the recent fighting. Major General Charles L. Bolte, Division commander, accompanied General Clark.

28 July At another ceremony, the 2d Battalion formed part of the Guard of Honor for King George VI of England, at Cecina. The King personally felicitated the members of the battalion who had earned the Purple Heart, and presented Silver Stars for gallantry in action to:

Sgt Hideo Kaichi	36104512	Co H
Sgt Noboru Togioka	39085617	Hq Co 2d Bn
Pfc Paul Tahara	39916516	Co H
Pvt Yeichi Furuno	36104821	Co E

On the evening of the same day a concert was presented by Miss Lili Pons, renowned star of the Metropolitan Opera and Mr. Andre Kostelanetz, symphonic conductor. The concert was well attended.

29-30 July Rest period continues.

31 July Co A, 100th Infantry Battalion, relieved Co F, 133 Infantry, at Livorno, per Division order. 2d Battalion, 442d Infantry, alerted for possible movement.

HEADQUARTERS 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 34, U. S. ARMY

27 July 1944

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BY TAG PER
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GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 69)

EXTRACT
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1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, a Silver Star is awarded to each of the following named individuals:

NOBORU TOGIOKA (39083617), Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 26 June 1944, in the vicinity of Suvereto, Italy. During the periodic mortar and artillery shellings that the second battalion command post was subjected to for six hours, the telephone lines between the Battalion CP, the Regimental CP and the front lines were knocked out. Upon learning of the situation and its seriousness, Sgt Togioka, on his own initiative, secured his repair kit and made his way along the telephone lines in the midst of terrific barrages. When two of his men offered to accompany him, he refused their offer. Tracing the lines in full view of the enemy, he finally located the damaged line and repaired it. Fully aware of the danger entailed, he continued to patrol the lines for over an hour, making repairs as the lines were blown apart by the shells. It was during one of the heaviest shellings and while repairing a line that Sgt Togioka was wounded seriously by shrapnel. Sgt Togioka's determination and undaunted bravery at the risk of his life is credit to himself and his organization. Entered military service from Sacramento, California.

YEICHI R. FURUNO (30104821), Private, Medical Department, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 6 July 1944, in the vicinity of Castellina, Italy. When the platoon with which he was attached suffered heavy casualties from enemy machine gun, rifle, mortar and artillery fire, Pvt Furuno immediately had control of the situation. Seeing a man shot down 25 yards away, he rushed over to his aid. Discovering that the man had been killed instantly, he ran over to another wounded soldier 15 yards down the slope. The fact that the man was lying in the direct line of fire of the enemy did not cause him to hesitate. For a full half hour he worked, carrying his first-aid kit from one wounded man to another, although in full exposure of the mortar and and artillery shells bursting about him. Hen them immediately went into the adjoining area to assist the aid men of another company who were seriously in need of help. Pvt Furuno's undaunted courage, faithful devotion to duty, and his willingness to risk

his life saved the lives of several of his fellow comrades and was a source of inspiration to all who observed him. Entered military service from Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

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PAUL K. TAHARA (39916316), Private First Class, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 26 June 1944, in the vicinity of Suvereto, Italy. While his battalion was pinned down by heavy fire from an enemy position, Pfc Tahara and a comrade accompanied a lieutenant on a mission to determine the location of the enemy guns. After completing this mission they crawled back under repeated enemy machine gun and machine pistol fire. When they reached the area previously occupied by one of their companies, they came upon a seriously wounded soldier. Picking him up, Pfc Tahara and his comrades carried him to the cover of a culvert 30 yards away. When the lieutenant went for aid, it became no longer safe to stay there, so Pfc Tahara and his comrade carried the wounded soldier to the safety of a building across a flat open field with only a shallow ditch for cover. For the entire 300 yards, under constant enemy fire, they carried the wounded man on their backs as they inched ahead on their stomachs. Upon nearing the building they left the security of the ditch and made a dash for the building, exposing themselves completely to enemy fire. After administering first aid, in partial view of the enemy, they carried him back to our lines under cover of our own artillery and mortar barrage. Pfc Tahara's daring courage and utter disregard for personal safety under extremely dangerous enemy fire exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Salt Lake City, Utah.

HIDEO KAICHI (30104312), Sergeant, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action on 26 June 1944, in the vicinity of Suvereto, Italy. While his battalion was pinned down by heavy fire from an enemy position, Sgt Kaichi and a comrade accompanied a lieutenant on a mission to determine the location of the enemy guns. After completing this mission they crawled back under repeated enemy machine gun and machine pistol fire. When they reached the area previously occupied by one of their companies, they came upon a seriously wounded soldier. Picking him up, Sgt Kaichi and his comrade carried him to the cover of a culvert 30 yards away. When the lieutenant went for aid, it became no longer safe to stay there so Sgt Kaichi and his assistant carried the wounded soldier to the safety of a building across a flat open field with only a shallow ditch for cover. For the entire 300 yards, under constant enemy fire, they carried the wounded man on their backs as they inched ahead on their stomachs. Upon nearing the building they left the security of the ditch and made a dash for the building, exposing themselves completely to enemy fire. After administering first aid, in partial view of the

Hq 34th Inf Div, GO #69, dtd 27 Jul 44, Contd.

enemy, they carried him back to our lines under cover of our own artillery and mortar barrage. Sgt Kaichi's daring courage and utter disregard for personal safety under extremely dangerous enemy fire exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Entered military service from Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii.

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By command of Major General BOLTE:

NORMAN E. HENRICKSON,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

(s) Dee M. White,
DEE M. WHITE,
Lt Col, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.