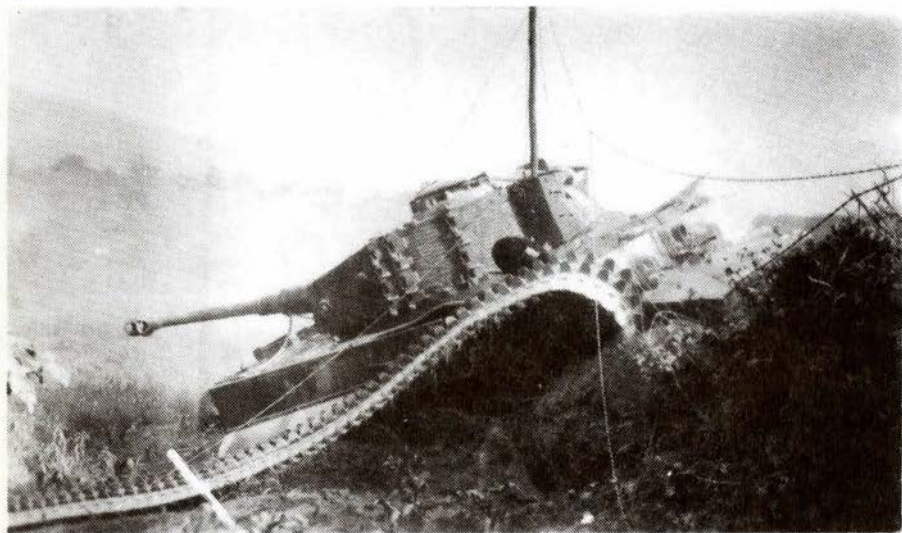


Henry H. Kanoto

COMPANY HISTORY
ANTITANK COMPANY
442nd INFANTRY
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM



from
Amy Sakamoto
12/15/93

NOT FOR SALE

These few words are dedicated to the
Officers and men of the Antitank Company
whose courageous feats and heroics are
too numerous to record.....

Let's just say they gave their all for a
worthy cause

The original history was compiled by

Capt. Charles Schettler

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July 1945

This version of the history was plunked
hunt and peck and lots of erasures on an
Italian typewriter in the Company
Headquarters on the banks of the ARNO RIVER,
Pisa, Italy ... by ...

Jimmy Sakimoto

Please excuse any errors in typing.

After all, it's an Italian typewriter...

BATTLE OF CAMP SHELBY

ANTITANK COMPANY 442nd INFANTRY COMPANY HISTORY

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BATTLE OF CAMP SHELBY

On February 4, 1943, after a two day ride from Fort Riley, Kansas, a Cadre personnel of some 80 Niseis arrived in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Of this group 20 men were assigned to form the Antitank Company of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Sgt. Sakimoto was in charge of the 20 men.

Our first impression of Camp Shelby couldn't be described in words. It was a country that you couldn't give back to the Indians. We were greeted in our new home by Lt. Tayman, who was to be our Company Commander. From the start it looked like this was going to be a rugged outfit. The Cadre went to work getting the area in shape for the rest of the company who were to be volunteers from the Hawaiian Islands. Weeds had to be cut, trash cleared up, orderly and supply rooms had to be built, the hutments put in ship-shape condition. Besides this, intensive cadre training was in progress too. Finally word came that the first group of volunteers from Hawaii were on their way.

Tired and weary after eight days of continuous traveling from sunny Hawaii, four by luxury liner and four by Pullman train, the first group of prospective Antitankers arrived at Camp Shelby on the afternoon of April 12, 1943. Burdened with barracks bags, musical instruments, and other mementos from the islands, the men single filed down from the trains and boarded waiting trucks that convoyed them to their company area. There they were met by officers and a cadre of mainland niseis who had arrived three months earlier.

Even before they were hutment broken to their quarters, which one soldier termed "chicken huts," all but six of this original group were reclassified to other units in this regiment. They were, in turn, replaced by recruits from every other company in the team.

The company was still without its full complement of troops, but basic training was commenced in earnest in May, 1943. There were enough men to form three gun platoons. A platoon consisted of a platoon leader, platoon sergeant, two section sergeants, three jeep drivers, and four gun squads.

Officer personnel of the company at the outset was composed of Lt. Tayman, C.O.; Lt. Takagi, Exec. Off.; Lt. Mildner, Recon. Off.; and Lts. Kurlan, Schettler, Scotland, and Manes. Lt. Maehara joined the company later.

The cadre personnel was composed of 1st Sgt. Sakimoto, Mess Sgt. Harada, Supply Sgt. Yano, Recon. Sgt. Hirose, Motor Sgt. Nishio, Como. Sgt. Imori, and platoon Sgts. Kawamura, Inouye, Hamada, and Kawagoye.

In addition to basic training in close order drill and extended order drill, map reading, sanitation, small arms and automatic weapons, first aid, mortars, entrenchments, etc., the company devoted additional hours to its prime weapon, the 37mm AT gun.

Just three weeks after the inception of basic training the company completed a speed march of 15 miles in the record breaking time of four hours and fifteen minutes. Only eight men failed to finish the course. This march was made with full field packs and established the first of many training records hung up by the Combat Team.

All platoons boasted of many expert gun squads that could put a 37mm AT gun in action within 8 seconds. One squad in the 3rd platoon consistently bettered this by one full second. The expert time for this drill according to the Infantry School at Fort Benning was 10 seconds.

A contingent of volunteers from the mainland joined the company when it was nearing the end of its basic training. This group rushed thru its basic at a separate school in the camp and later formed the nucleus of the Mine Platoon.

During unit training the men had the opportunity to apply what they had learned in basic to actual field conditions. Foreseeing the possibility of loss of prime movers during combat, the company spent some time moving guns over difficult terrain by hand. Other training emphasized during this period included firing of the 37mm AT gun, moving into positions by night, selections of routes of approach and withdrawal, camouflage, delaying action, air reconnaissance, support of columns on the march. . . etc.

Following unit training there was considerable change in the organization of the company. A larger, later model weapon, the 57mm AT gun, was designated as the prime weapon of the unit, taking the place of the smaller 37mm AT gun. This necessitated a complete turnover in training and personnel of the gun squads. The gun platoons were broken down into three squads instead of the previous four. The new gun required ten men to put it into action. . . a sergeant, a corporal gunner, three cannoneers, four ammunition bearers, and a driver for the prime mover.



New nomenclature, functions and duties had to be learned. It was found that the gun squads could not manhandle this bulkier gun as they had the lighter 37mms. Because the men were smaller and lighter than the ordinary, the gun drill had to be revised. Consequently Lt. Schettler and Lt. Maehara, with the help of the men, instituted a new gun drill. This method proved to be more effective and helped reduce the time to place the gun in action from 20 to 10 seconds.

Three weeks after the arrival of the 57's, Lt. Tayman left the company and was replaced by Lt. Ferris as Company Commander. The unit entered combined training under the latter's command. It learned to coordinate its movements and actions with the regiment, familiarized themselves with the firing of the larger weapon, and first experienced the inconveniences and privations of battlefield conditions on week-long bivouacs. During this period the company lost one officer and two men, who were shipped overseas with the first group of replacements for the 100th Bn. Those who left were Lt. Maehara and Pfc's Doi and Arakaki.

Shortly before the "D" Series maneuvers the company was completely reshuffled because of reported dissension in the unit. The company took part in the maneuvers under this change in lineup, but entered whole-heartedly into the maneuvers, realizing that this was the nearest thing to the real battles overseas. In the midst of the maneuvers another officer, Lt. Takagi, and three enlisted men, were alerted and later left with the second group of replacements for the 100th Bn.

Following their return to camp a month later, the company began to meet all its requirements before combat. Records were being brought up to date. Clothing and equipment were issued. Some transfers from the 1st Bn. joined the company. Two officers, Lt. Meier and Lt. Rogers, also came in to fill the gaps left by the two officers who had gone overseas. Soon word came to prepare for the movement to the Port of Embarkation. All furloughs were canceled. The guns were packed and tied down on flat cars. A comparatively large amount of packing and crating of organizational equipment was begun. The company had to go on three eight hour shifts by platoons to rush thru 200 boxes of material. Finally everything was in readiness and the officers and men of the Antitank Company stood by for the word to move.

SS THOMAS NELSON PAIGE

This was the big moment. The time had come for the last step before meeting the enemy . . . the long, tedious zig zag journey overseas. After more than a year of training the men of the Antitank Company deemed ready for combat, boarded a Liberty ship, the SS Thomas Nelson Paige, at Newport News, Virginia, on May 1, 1944. There was doubt and confusion and tense excitement as the men filed up the gangplank, descended steep stairways into the stuffy hold congested with rows of evenly spaced four-tiered bunks. The Antitank Company shared this "home" with Service Company for the next 28 days. Relations were amicable except during numerous crap games and poker sessions in which the Tank-Killers exhibited accumulative powers that could not be denied, much to the dismay of the Service Company boys.

Feeling the throb and accentuated roll and pitch of the ship, the men rushed up on deck to soak in their last look of the good ole USA. On May 3, it had taken the convoy which was strung along Hampton Roads two days to form, finally began to move. The men left with some misgivings for they were leaving loved ones behind, and they had been informed that anti-tank casualties in North Africa and Salerno had been high. Many wondered what their trip would be like. If a sudden explosion in the middle of the Atlantic would necessitate the practical use of the abandon ship drill they had a week ago. But come what may, they were determined to prove their loyalty which they so gallantly displayed more than a year ago by volunteering for combat.

During the peaceful trip across, the officers and men occupied their time with reading, writing letters, flirting with lady luck, daily calisthenics, sun bathing, doing their laundry, hectic bull sessions, more drill, heated checker games, and of course there were those who couldn't lose their land legs. There were daily chores which were divided among the two companies. There were daily cokes, occasional fruit juices, and PX rations every other day. The men stocked up on soap, cigarettes, candy, etc., for they had heard these items were scarce in combat and carried high bargaining powers with the *senorignas*. There were unprintable words in the blackout as late sleepers clumsily climbed into upper bunks. There were curses too, when an early riser daily alienated the men with a blatant, raucous, bugle. The more industrious and far-sighted men toned up on the Italian language. There never seemed to be any doubt among these that destination unknown would be somewhere in Italy.

One day the ship's engineer informed the men of the makeup of the convoy and told them of the significance of the varicolored flags that the ships flew. Talent from the two companies entertained the ship's personnel with Hawaiian songs and dances.

It became warmer as we passed the Rock of Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean Sea. All American currency was turned in for exchange to Italian Allied Lires. As we neared Agusta, Sicily, for a brief stopover, Sicilians rowed out to meet us in flimsy skiffs and frantically traded oranges and lemons for cigarettes and candy.

On May 28, the convoy finally reached the war torn port of Naples. Everywhere there was evidence of the devastation of war, battered docks, crumbling warehouses, and ships pounded beyond repair, or salvage. While waiting for the ship to berth the men witnessed a spectacular plane crash. A stray P-39, limping home from a mission, sputtered over the ship and plunged into the sea. In the wink of an eye the plane sank. The pilot barely extracted himself in time from the cockpit to escape a bubbly death. The men excitedly kept his bobbing head in sight until he was picked up by a mine sweeper.

BEFORE THE BATTLES

They were still talking about this near disaster when the ship docked. Bronzed by the sun and wobbly on sea legs, the men

debarked and marched to waiting trains. Three colored soldiers relaxing on the docks snapped to attention as the company filed past.

So this was Naples, crippled, weary, no more the lusty beauty it was. The war had left its brutal mark; mutilated buildings, neglected pock marked streets, its people, their spirits scarred for life, reduced to the bare necessities and often not even that. Old people with blank expressions on their faces hovered in dark doorways and watched us as we marched by. Their ill-clothed offspring pestered the column with, "Hey, Joe. Gimme cigarette, caramel, chewing gum," even brazenly reaching into bulging pockets when we were stunned to hesitation.

It was dark when we reached our bivouac area. Exhausted by the long trip and difficult march, the men bedded down as best they could in the dust of an old fruit orchard. For the next week they were besieged by poverty-stricken natives who descended on the bivouac area to barter fruit, cognac, peanuts, champagne, and even love, for cigarettes and candy. Makeshift open-air laundries sprung up beyond our area as whole families pitched in to wash clothes for what they could inveigle from the men. At mealtimes they, equipped with tin pails, waited patiently for left-overs near the kitchen area. Their hunger was persistent, demanding, and never satisfied.

During this period the men worked on the 57mm AT guns and prime movers, repairing damages incurred during the trip across. The men had opportunities for more leisurely appraisals of Naples, Pompeii, Bagnoli, and other nearby towns while on passes, and swimming parties. The 100th Bn veterans, convalescing in hospitals nearby, came to visit, telling the men about the enemy and their weapons, supplying them with battle-wise hints.

Two days before we pulled out of the staging area, the Fifth Army entered Rome. While we were filing up the ramps of LCTs docked near Bagnoli, a gigantic force was storming the beaches of Normandy. History was being written in blood as we headed for Anzio. These two great events, the liberation of Rome and the invasion of Normandy, following each other two days apart, accentuated the men's eagerness to get into battle, and hiked their morale sky-high.

We reached the Anzio beachhead on June 7. The war had given vent to its full fury here. Anzio was a virtual ghost town. Nothing was left untouched by the war. The men unloaded

from the LCTs and hiked five miles to a bivouac area on the outskirts of Anzio.

On the night of June 9, the company again moved, this time by our own organic transportation. Just after leaving Anzio, the Jerries paid a visit by air and we were under our first air-raid. The convoy stopped and the men took cover along the highway. The ack-ack looked like fireworks on the Fourth of July. The convoy passed through Rome in the dead of night. The men cursed the timing of the convoy and expressed keen disappointment at not being able to see the Eternal City. The following noon, we reached our bivouac area. Here at last was the long anticipated reunion with the famed 100th Battalion. Here in this area, just outside of the seaport town of Civitavecchia, the men met their brothers, relatives and friends of the 100th. They listened seriously to the veterans' battle experience, Salerno, the Volturno Crossing, Cassino, Anzio, and the drive to the very portals of Rome, eager for every scrap of information that might be helpful later.

Here we received our final training before the baptism under fire. Every man was fully equipped. The training during this two-week period was primarily designed to condition the men to the real thing.

ROME ARNO CAMPAIGN

On June 24 the company moved into its final assembly area. Here everything that the men had learned in basic about camouflage was put into practical use. 1st Sgt. Sakimoto and S/Sgt. Yano, while digging slit trenches near the bivouac area, stumbled upon two enemy soldiers who had been hiding in a hole for two days. The enemy soldiers were stragglers who had purposely stayed behind in order to be captured. They were Turks who had been forced to fight for the Germans. Everyone was excited as these were our first prisoners.

On June 26 the company cautiously moved into the front lines. It was on this first day that the men learned to respect the Jerries' 88mm gun. Combat wasn't all it was talked up to be. Our first casualty occurred when Pvt. Iwahiro was killed by an artillery shell while driving for the 1st Armored Division. The men soon learned that it was a matter of living from one day to the next. The future wasn't a thing that was talked about.

Each of the gun platoons was attached to one of the battalions in the Combat Team. One day the third platoon sighted two

enemy tanks. Orders were given to open fire on the tanks by the platoon leader. Shooting from a position 1800 yards away, a thing that was never taught in the books, and firing 45 rounds, the platoon claimed a hit on the two tanks. Due to this heavy firing, the platoon was under a twenty minute artillery barrage from the enemy.

It was here that the mountainous terrain made it impossible to use the AT guns at times. The company was used as litter bearers and ration carriers. Going up to the aid of their fellow men in the rifle companies, the men learned the meaning of team work, for nothing could be done alone.

On July 14 the company was given orders to withdraw from the lines. The men guessed and commented as to what the reason was for this withdrawal. The only thing known was that we were to proceed to Rome under secret orders. On the 15th the company moved out on its way to Rome. The trip was made without mishap.

GLIDER TRAINING AND SOUTHERN FRANCE

In Rome we set out for the Gallera Airfield, and thru the cooperation of the Air Corps, arrangements were made to bivouac there. As ordered, the company commander reported to the Headquarters of the First Airborne Provisional Division in Lido di Roma. It was there learned that the company was going to take glider training. We were to operate as a separate company.

For the next twelve days the company was bivouaced on the airfield. During this period the tables of organization for a glider borne Antitank Company were worked out. Requisitions for needed supplies were processed by biweekly trips to Naples.

The company instigated training to harden the men physically for an Airborne Invasion. A British Major of a Glider-Borne Antitank Brigade gave a short talk on Glider Training. He said that the gliders were the safest things in the air because there were no motors to go wrong. He also gave us many hints on loading and lashing.

On July 28 the company moved to Marcigliana Airfield on Route 4 north of Rome to take final glider training. Shortly prior to this movement, British 6-pound AT guns were substituted for our 57mm AT guns. The 57mm AT guns were not suitable for loading, lashing, and unloading.

On August 3 and 4 the entire company completed two tactical flights and became qualified glider-borne troops. Every member of the company was entitled to wear the glider badge.

On August 5 the company moved to a new bivouac area in the vicinity of Frascati, just south of Rome, to await future orders. We were then attached to the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, a part of the First Airborne Task Force.

Here the prime movers were substituted for jeeps. The trucks were to follow us by sea-tail on a later date under the supervision of S/Sgt. Nishio.

On August 11 Lt. Scotland, assisted by Lt. Rogers, took the third platoon and part of the fourth platoon to a dispersal field at Ombrone. The following day the remainder of the company, less the sea-tail party, moved to Orbetello Airfield. At these two fields final preparations for the glider flight were completed.

All plans were completed and the company was ready for the Invasion of Southern France. On August 15 at about 1530 hours the company assembled around their respective gliders. This was D-Day. There were 44 gliders for the company. This was it. At 1600 hours the first glider became airborne. With the exception of one glider, all planes on the field took off without mishap. This one glider, under the supervision of Sgt. Hirose, was quickly reloaded and was able to take its place in the formation.

The trip across the Mediterranean Sea to the coast of France was uneventful. Slight flak was encountered as we reached the coast. One glider carrying T/Sgt. Kawamura was hit by the flak and part of the tail was knocked off. As we approached the landing zones, visual reconnaissance was commenced by all so that previously made plans could be carried out. At 3000 feet, instead of the prescribed 100 feet, the gliders were cut off from the C-47 tug planes. Many pilots, upon approaching the ground, discovered that all was not as shown on the aerial photos used during the briefing. This fact caused considerable confusion and mix up in the landings. The terrain was covered by grape arbors of stout timber and hedge rows were a good deal higher than anticipated. All of these factors produced rough landings, some of them fatal.

Immediately upon landing, each man proceeded with his assigned mission. Gliders were unloaded and crews started out for the prearranged company assembly area. At the assembly area the company was hastily regrouped. Lt. Meier and Lt.



Scotland, with their platoons, proceeded to their designated positions. The rest of the company remained at the assembly area and were outposted for security. At this time an assessment of the casualties was taken. It was discovered that nine men were injured in the landings, six of whom were evacuated to the 517th Regiment Aid for treatment. As the British Second Independent Airborne Brigade had not taken the town of Le Muy as scheduled, this mission was assigned to the 550th Parachute Infantry Battalion. To forestall any enemy infiltration, the 2nd and 4th platoons were given positions blocking the road between Le Muy and the 517th Regimental Command Post.

On the 16th, contact was made with the seaborne units, the 45th and 36th Divisions. The company was relieved of its mission and moved to a bivouac area one mile south of Le Muy. The following day the company was preparing to remain in their location for a protracted period, but orders came, alerting the company. A Frenchman came to the CP and stated that there were five Germans hiding near his house. A patrol was organized and set off under Lt. Schettler and a guide. In order to accomplish this mission the patrol was split up into three groups. The group under S/Sgt. Yano encountered and captured the five Germans. Shortly after the patrols' return, the company left the area to take up positions with the 517th. The mission of the Task Force was now to protect the exposed right flank of the 7th Army. Due to this wide area given the 517th, all three battalions were committed. One gun platoon from the

company was attached to each of the battalions. The company's mission from this time on in southern France was to give the 517th Parachute Infantry anti-mechanized protection.

On the 20th, Lt. Rogers and his "mine laying maniacs" were told to sweep and clear the town of St. Cezaire of mines and booby traps. This was done with the utmost of efficiency and the fact that many of the mines were booby trapped made it evident that the mine platoon had done an excellent job.

On the 24th of August, Lt. Schettler and Sgt. Inaba, while making a reconnaissance for a possible forward supply route, encountered and captured two Germans. These prisoners were turned over to the 517th POW officer.

On the 26th, Lt. Rogers was notified that there were six Germans in a house near St. Valliers. He proceeded to St. Valliers with a nine man patrol and captured the Germans.

On the 30th, S/Sgt. Yano, while trying to contact the forward platoons, encountered and captured two prisoners at Tourette Levens, turning them over to the Canadian Special Service Forces in that area.

On the 31st of August, Pfc. Nakahara, jeep driver from the 1st platoon, drove the 1st Bn S-2 and a four man patrol to Turrins near the Italian border. The patrol came under intense mortar and small arms fire. The jeep was stopped and as Pfc. Nakahara attempted to remove the jeep to safety, he was wounded in the leg. On his second attempt to remove the jeep, he was hit in the leg again. He attempted the third time and was wounded in the back. Suffering from considerable loss of blood, he was evacuated to a French Hospital nearby. For this heroic action he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On the 5th of September, S/Sgt. Nishio and the sea-tail element of the company arrived to join us. With them came our kitchen equipment and our organic transportation.

By the 11th of September, the 517th had taken positions overlooking the town of Sospel, which was heavily defended by the Germans. The 1st platoon had positions in the vicinity of Pierra Cava, the 2nd platoon was at Luceram, the 3rd platoon was at Col de Braus, the 4th platoon was guarding the tunnel entrance at Touet de l'Escarene, and the company command post was located at the railroad station in l'Escarene. It was here that the men got better acquainted with the populace of Southern France, for here and the month to follow the company held the

same positions.

The general opinion of the glider ride among the men was that "it was a good thing that we didn't know what we were getting into because if we had to do it all over again you couldn't get us to ride those flying box cars."

BATTLE OF GERMANY NO. 1

VOSGES MOUNTAINS

On the 20th of October the company was relieved by the 552nd Antitank Company. We withdrew from the lines and moved to a bivouac area on the outskirts of Nice.

After a two day rest the company convoyed north to rejoin the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The company reached Bruyeres, France, on the evening of the 27th. We moved into a bivouac area near Service Company. Before we had a chance to say hello to old friends the company was committed to action.

Due to the snow covered, wooded, hilly, terrain, enemy tank action was rendered improbable so the tank-killers came into their own as a utility unit. Pinch-fighting as litter bearers, ammunition and supply packers — even as front line riflemen — the tank-killers fulfilled every assigned mission capably and especially won the sincere gratitude of Captain Kawaoka, MD, the Medical Corps, and their fellow riflemen for their efficient and speedy evacuation of the wounded during the Regiment's gallant and costly advances in the Vosges which effected the rescue of the 36th Division's "Lost Battalion."

The company suffered more casualties during the three weeks in the Vosges than it did during the rest of its combat days in the ETO. Three were killed, two enlisted men, Sgt. Fujino and Pfc. Fujioka from the mine platoon, and one officer, Lt. Rogers. The two men were killed while serving as litter bearers and the officer when the company was attached to the 2nd battalion as rifle troops. Fifteen men were wounded — ten of them while serving as litter bearers. Two were hit by antipersonnel mines when the 1st and 2nd platoons, in conjunction with Co F, attacked down into the St. Die Valley from Hill 645. Luckily no resistance was encountered in the Antitank sector. Two became casualties at the same time Lt. Rogers was killed. The remaining one became a casualty when a Jerry bazooka shell hit his rifle and knocked it from his hands.

The company commander shuffled the assignments of the

company around so that no platoon was in the lines continuously. Each platoon had a short rest at the CP area every three or four days.

The 1st platoon sent litter bearer teams to the third battalion twice, served as flank guards for the second battalion once, and relieved the riflemen twice.

The 2nd platoon hauled rations and supplies for the third battalion once, served as litter bearers once, protected the left flank of the second battalion once, and went into the lines as riflemen twice.

The 3rd platoon guarded the exposed flanks of the Combat Team on four separate occasions, and served as litter bearers once.

The "fighting headquarters" did what they could by bringing hot chow, dry clothes and PX rations up to the platoons in the front lines; even pinch hitting when some of the platoons were short handed.

On November 12, the company was honored as the Color Company at a citations ceremony held near Le Panges, France.

Combat Team Honors Fallen Comrades



SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE—Two color guards and color bearers of the Japanese American 442nd Combat Team stand at attention while their citations are read. They are standing on ground which they have secured from the German enemy and

Members of the company who served as color guards were S/Sgts Kaminishi, Sadaoka, Yamane, and Sgt. Kokubun.

The following day the entire company, less the kitchen crew, went forward as part of the second battalion and held a defensive line about one kilometer northwest of Langefosse until relieved by elements of the 103rd Division on the 17th.

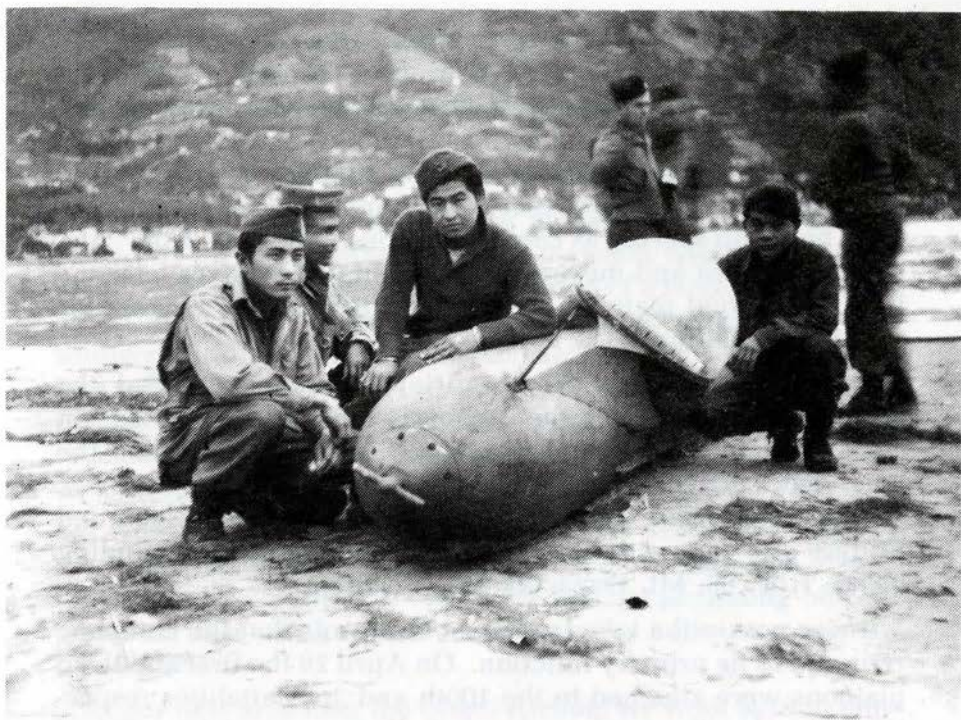
On the 18th Lt. Mapes was transferred to the 12th Tactical Air Force.

CHAMPAGNE CAMPAIGN

On the 19th of November the company started its return trip to Southern France. Three days later it was back in the province that it had helped liberate while attached to the First Airborne Task Force. After a two day bivouac at St. Janet, the third platoon was sent out to run a pack train for the third battalion, which was occupying positions above the battered town of Sospel. Here the third platoon found out about the temperament of those four footed animals called mules. The first platoon went to support the 100th battalion, then in command of the high ridges beyond the former resort town of Menton, the last French locality before the Franco-Italian border. The rest of the company moved to a bivouac area near the railroad station of Touet de l'Escarene.

On December 1, T/Sgt. Inouye won a field commission to 2nd Lt. His platoon was assigned to man a second battalion outpost near Luceram.

Alert members of the first platoon made history on the 19th of December when they captured a one-man submarine intact in the Bay of Menton, a feat which no other Allied troop has duplicated. Pfc. Mizuno and Pvt. Nakamura, while scanning Italian roads across the bay for enemy movements, spotted what they thought was a monstrous fish entering the bay. They called down to other members of the squad from the OP, predicting a big feast that night. Armed to the teeth, all members of the squad rushed down to a retaining wall just before the beach. When they realized that the fish was actually a submarine, they immediately called their platoon leader. Lt. Meier rushed down with reinforcements and deployed his men for the capture. By that time the submarine had struck a sand bar. The squad and reinforcements had a 57mm AT gun in a former German pillbox, a bazooka, automatic and small arms weapons trained on the sub ready to blast it back to Berlin. Pfc. Yokoyama was



the first to wade out and reach the sub. After some difficulty he managed to make the operator come out of the submarine. The operator explained that he thought he was entering an Italian harbor. He could not be convinced that his captors were Americans of Japanese Ancestry.

On Christmas day Lt. Schettler assumed command of the company. Lt. Ferris was hospitalized with frost bite and subsequently returned to the States.

On New Years Day the mine platoon relieved the third platoon at Sospel. Five days later Lt. Rock joined the company and was assigned as platoon leader of the mine platoon.

To the men of the Combat Team this holding action in the Maritime Alps was called the "Champagne Campaign."

BACK TO ITALY PO VALLEY

After four months of this holding action along the Franco-Italian border, the combat team secretly moved from the Riviera to Italy to spearhead the last victorious push along the Ligurian coast.

After a peaceful trip on LSTs from Marseille, the company landed at Leghorn, Italy, on February 23, 1945. Following reorganization and reequipment of the company at a staging area four miles west of Pisa and tactical training and test firing of the new 57mm AT guns near Lucca, the company was ordered into the lines. The third and fourth platoons went along with the third battalion serving as carrying parties. The rest of the company left Lucca and moved to Pietrasanta. Two days later the first and second platoons were committed as litter bearers for the 100th battalion.

From Pietrasanta to Alessandria the company aided the whirlwind advances of the combat team along the Ligurian coast of Italy in various capacities. The men evacuated the wounded, carried rations and ammunitions to the front lines, swept mines from the roads, manned road blocks, guarded bridges and even went in as riflemen to occupy commanding peaks, Hill 706, Mt. Pizzacola, Mt. Ucelliera.

It was not until a two day rest at Camprola that the company returned to its primary function. On April 26 the first and third platoons were attached to the 100th and 3rd battalions respectively to give these advancing battalions support in event of mechanized enemy attack. The following day the second platoon went to support the second battalion.

Members of the company received their first inkling that the war in Italy was coming to an end when the Italians in Camprola, overjoyed by a "finito la guerra" rumor, rioted and began to shoot off flares, pistols and anything they could expend.

The company had come a long ways, Lucca, Pietrasanta, Querceta, Montignoso, Massa, Carrara, Grugola, Sestri-Levanto, Manassema, and Alessandria. At this time the company was moving so fast that company headquarters lost contact with the company commander, who was with the Regimental command post. In order to catch up with the regiment it was necessary to move the CP from Camprola to Manassema, a haul of 130 miles in two days. Several round trips had to be made as only one truck was available for the kitchen and company headquarters.

On May 1, the company moved to Alessandria. It was here that the news that the war in Italy was over was officially announced. On May 4 all platoons were relieved of their attachments and the company moved to a bivouac area near Novi.

So the war in Italy was over. The bloodshed and all the suffer-

ing that goes with it was "finito." The men of the company were sober faced, tired and weary. It had been a long struggle. They were thankful that it was all over . . . What now.

AFTER THE WAR IN ITALY

At Novi we moved into a large mansion, the Villa Minetta owned by an Italian Marquis. This mansion was large enough to house the entire company. We boasted of a large dining room and a day room. Here the slow process of making garrison soldiers out of combat men began. Daily drills and inspection took place. It was spit and polish all over again. The men revolted at the idea, but with their usual determination set out to accomplish their new mission.

On May 13 we took part in a Regimental Citations Review at the Novi Airfield. Lt. Gen. Truscott and Maj. Gen. Almond made the presentations. The point system for discharge of men from the army came out. We were busily calculating our adjusted service rating scores when the order came to move to a new location.

At our new area near the Ghedi Airfield we went back to pup-tents. Here the regiment had the mission of processing the Prisoners of War. The job of our company was to post interior guard of the regimental area.



Here the Army Educational Program was instituted. Lt. Rock was appointed Regimental School Administrator. Inter-mural sports began. The Antitankers formed a softball team. This team won the Regimental championship.

On June 11 the first batch of high-pointers were on their way to the repple depots for transshipment home.

On the 14th of June we moved to the resort town of Lecco. Here it was drill and training again. Men were sent to the University of Florence. Passes to the various rest centers were given out.

On July 4 we participated in an Independence Day Parade thru the town of Lecco, with the regiment.

On the 7th we moved south to the town of Pisa. Here the regiment was given the Pisa, Florence, Leghorn, POW Command. The company moved to a bivouac area on the banks of the Arno River, near Pisa. Our job was now to guard the POW Stockades at the various Army installations. The first platoon guarded the 99th Field Hospital in Pisa, the second the 631st Quartermaster Laundry in Pisa, the third the 338th Engineers Saw Mill in Viareggio, company headquarters and the mine platoon guarded the 1st German Laundry on the banks of the Arno in Pisa.

From here on out the men of the company sweated out the point system for redeployment.

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These are just a few words about a gallant company of fighting men. A group of men who accomplished their missions as best they knew how. A company that led a charmed life thru all its combat days. A group of men, though insignificantly small, who helped to make up the finest and best of all fighting forces, "THE UNITED STATES ARMY." I am proud to have been 1st Sgt. of that company.

- finis - *Jummy Sakamoto*

ANTITANK COMPANY 442nd INFANTRY

HONORS

DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS

(as of 10th October, 1945)

Combat days	312
Combat days in action	252
Killed in action	4
Wounded in action	39
Purple Heart Medals	43
Battle campaign stars	5
Bronze Assault Arrowhead	1
Combat Infantry Streamer	1
Glider Invasion Streamer	1

Presidential Distinguished Unit Badge

1st Platoon
2nd Platoon

Silver Star Medal

Pfc. Mitsugi Nakahara

Bronze Star Medal

S/Sgt. Masaichi Sagawa
Cpl. Minoru Tateishi
Pfc. Ichiro Arita
Pfc. John H. Shinagawa
Sgt. Edwin Kokubun
Pfc. Lizo Honma