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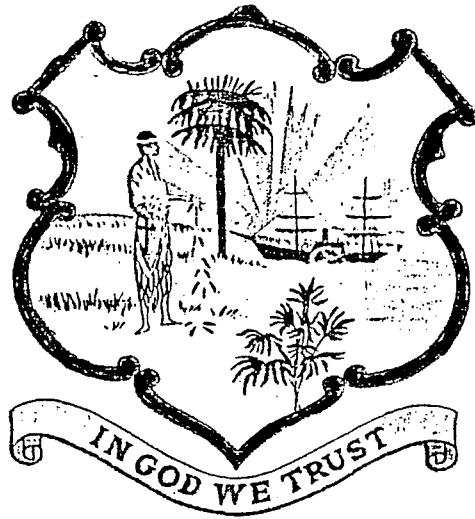
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UNIT WAR REPORTS
3RD BATTALION, 124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
1944-1945

State Arsenal
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St. Augustine,
Florida



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Robert Hawk
Director

HISTORICAL RECORD

THIRD BATTALION

124th Infantry Regimental Combat Team

Lt. Col. George D. Williams, Infantry
Commanding

FOREWORD

During the period July 12 - August 10, 1944 the 3RD BATTALION of the 124th Infantry underwent their first combat mission as a member of a Task Force.

This campaign, which we will call the Driniumor River Campaign can aptly be divided into three phases.

First: The restoration of the old Martin Line that had been broken by a terrific thrust by the Japanese on the night of July 10th.

Second: The defense of the Driniumor River which accounted for fifteen days of hard fighting.

Third: The attack east of the Driniumor River when the 124th Infantry, with the 2nd Bn of the 169th Infantry attached, attacked to the east from the Driniumor in an effort to sever Japanese communication and supply lines that were servicing large enemy forces south and east of Afua.

This Campaign proved hard but very successful. The entire BATTALION under command of Lt. Col. George D. Williams performed as seasoned campaigners and the BATTALION alone accounted for 1500 of the enemy dead.

Reference:

Notes taken from the Unit Journal
Third Battalion, 124th Infantry.

JACKSON
S-3

HISTORICAL RECORD

Third Battalion, 124th Infantry

Lt. Col. George D. Williams
Commanding

At 1300 July 5, 1944 personnel of the 3rd Bn Combat Team landed at Aitape to join the remainder of the 124th Infantry Combat Team to reinforce the defense of Aitape.

After several days of occupation of the inner defensive perimeter, a series of quick changes followed including plans for a proposed amphibious operation on Nyaparake.

On the morning of July 12, 1944 the 3rd Battalion received an order to prepare for movement to Koranal Creek and the following morning, attack to the south and east from Anamo, along the Anamo Trail. As a member of a Task Force including the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 124th Infantry and the 1st Battalion of the 128th Infantry, 32nd Division.

The night of the 12th was comparatively quiet with little activity. Friendly Artillery fired intermittently through-out the night and the rain was continuous.

At 0700, 13 July part of the load was dropped and the Battalion moved east along the coast to Anamo. Prior to turning south on the Anamo Trail intelligence reported Japs were known to be in scattered groups on the Anamo Trail as we had anticipated.

The Battalion moved down the trail in the order I, K, Hq, M, L and at 0800 contacted a Jap trail block. By 0815 the trail block had been reduced, and 3 Japs were killed. We had no casualties.

The march continued at 0815. Although the sky was clear the trail was muddy and movement was difficult. At 0935 a Jap Light machine gun that had been bypassed by the entire column, opened up on the last Company. Fortunately no one was hit and Company L, quick to recover, killed 1 Jap, captured the machine gun and routed the remainder of the crew.

At 1115 a patrol of 9 men from the 127th Infantry joined the column and proceeded with us. This group had been isolated from its unit for a period of 4 days and were very glad to see friendly troops.

The march continued without event until 1630 when after letting the 2 leading Companies pass through, several Jap riflemen

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and a light machine gun ambushed the Headquarters group. Here the Battalion suffered its first casualty. Company I returned to relieve the pressure on the Headquarters Company. Higcomb was killed by a rifleman. The enemy was destroyed and the column reorganized for movement.

Immediately thereafter the Battalion went into its perimeter for the night. Due to the terrain the perimeter was, by necessity, very small.

At 2230 it began to rain very hard. The Japs who had evidently located our position attacked us continuously throughout the night. Without a doubt this was the longest night of the campaign. An estimated 15 Japs were killed.

The Battalion moved at 0800 on the 14th and proceeded southeast toward the Driniumor River. Without opposition the Battalion reached the river at 1000 and contacted the 1st Bn, 124th Infantry who had arrived at the river the previous night.

By 1130 the Bn had occupied a semicircular perimeter on the Driniumor with the right flank extending west to deny the enemy access to our position. The Command Post was in operation by 1200 and the Regiment was notified of our location.

At 1630 the first Japs were sighted from the new position. There were several of them bathing on the west side of the Driniumor River. Artillery was instantly laid on them with good results.

The first supply patrol contacted the Bn at 1645. The load consisted mostly of ammunition and food. The route of delivery for ammunition supply was very difficult and very seldom was it possible for supply trains to reach us more than once a day.

During the night a hard fight took place. 20 Japs were killed. We suffered 7 casualties. 4 of these were killed, the other 3 seriously wounded. Those killed were Capt George L. Celles, I Company Commander, Zeldin (Co L), White (Co I) and Medlin (Medical Aid man attd to L Co).

At 0930 on the 16 July a patrol was sent from K Company, commanded by Lt. Baerreis. The mission was to contact the Bn on the right. Reported to be 1000 yds south of us. At the same time a combat patrol was sent west to locate enemy units reported in our rear. The 2nd supply train arrived, after having met some resistance along the trail, at 1300. By 1400 both patrols had returned and reported making contact with large enemy resistance, but we had no casualties. This did reveal to us that we had enemy on the right flank and to the rear. The Bn was alerted because indications were that the enemy must attack to relieve pressure on their forces.

The first rations were dropped by plane (C-47) at 1715 and they were sorely needed. At nightfall orders were received for movement to the south, the following morning. At 1600 a large patrol of the 112th Cavalry contacted us and spent the night reinforcing I Company. The night was uneventful.

The movement was underway at 0700 16 July when I Co was pinned down by what was estimated as 75 Japs on the right flank. Mortar fire was called for and 2 platoons were committed in an effort to flank the enemy. In this encounter Oneal (Co I) was killed and Lt Britt (M Co) was wounded. By 0930 the enemy lost 50 men and the remainder withdrew. Both the 81 and 60 MM mortar proved invaluable in this engagement, driving the enemy into the open where they were picked off easily by our riflemen. We lost Wellington (Co I) and had 6 men wounded before the attack was concluded. At 1120 the move continued and by 1230 the Bn had made contact with the 3rd Bn, 127th Infantry. In moving into the defensive sector the rear of the column was again cut off by a small group of Japs, believed to be the remainder of the force contacted earlier. Moore (K Co) Crispell (K Co) were killed. 3 men wounded. Because of the contact made prior to dark K, I, Hq, M Companies were unable to close with L Company. Both groups went into separate perimeters leaving a gap of 300 yds along the river.

The following morning 17th July, Capt Griffin, senior Commander of the north group sent a platoon to contact L Company on the south. This was accomplished but not without a hard fight in which 16 Japs were killed and lots of equipment captured. From information captured the enemy was identified as a portion of the 237th Infantry, part of the Jap 41st Infantry Division. By 1300 the Bn was again intact and for the first time both flanks were tied in with friendly units. Work was under way preparing the defensive sector.

At 1945 an estimated 150 Japs attack from the west side of the Driniumor. This attack was repulsed. The 60 MM mortar illuminating shell proved for the first time its value.

The following morning, July 18th, 75 Japs were counted in the river including several machine guns, 3 Jap Officers and 1 Medical officer. By 1000 the native train arrived led by Major Logan and Capt Beard of Regimental Hqs. During their stay a sniper that couldn't be located fired intermittently into the CP area.

Another ration drop at 1400 including a note of encouragement from the plane crew.

During the night of 18th K Co killed 12 of a group of Japs that attacked them from the rear. No casualties.

Two patrols left early the morning of the 19th. One to the east, the other to the west and both returned early afternoon. They made no contacts.

Several Nips were found in the afternoon and they seemed to be making a study of our position from the rear. One was killed 50 yds from the CP. Artillery registered the remainder of the afternoon and we prepared for the night.

At approximately 2300 Japs made an attempt to infiltrate into the CP from the rear. Grenades were used mostly and the attempt failed. 20 Japs were killed and we lost Whitt (Co L), who died on the 20th, by machine gun fire. 3 men wounded. During the 19th a platoon of dogs commanded by Lt Head reported to the CP and were attached. Patrols aided by the dogs will be used hereafter.

On the 20th I and L Co patrols submitted negative reports. But there seemed to be plenty of action to the south. As on the previous night Japs again tried to infiltrate our CP. They were repulsed. Sketches taken from dead showed our positions accurately with automatic weapons and CP installations marked for destruction.

Col. Starr, the Task Force Commander, arrived at the CP, early on the morning of the 20th with valuable information concerning the operation. During this day the patrols were accompanied by 2 sections of scout dogs. Day and night was quiet with only occasional artillery fire with the Battery firing a concentration hourly.

Early on the 21st it is known that Mathews (I Co) was killed by fragments of our own Artillery. 3 Japs killed with same concentration. Mathews was killed on the 20th. At 0845 Major Block, Commander of the Block Force, visited the CP and conferred with Col. Williams. Our patrols were again active to the east and west with some success. Col. Williams, Capt Jackson, Lt Grossman visited the 1st Bn CP to coordinate a shift of positions. The river line has been reinforced by additional troops which allowed us to reduce our frontage. Giving us a better plan of coordinated fires. Crispel (Co K) killed by one of our own anti-personnel mines at 1600. Several rounds of enemy artillery fell within our lines at 1615.

An advance party of the 2nd Bn 169th Infantry arrived at the CP at 1800, the following morning their Bn is to take a portion of our defensive sector. No one realized the series of events that were to follow.

During the night of the 21st strong force of Japs estimated at first to be 2 companies, moved behind our lines with the intention of severing our lines. One force hit Co I and the other hit Co L. Morning found them well dug in with plenty of automatic weapons and knee mortars. This was the Bn's hardest and most successful fight.

The Battalion was under constant fire for nearly 9 hrs. There were snipers everywhere and the Japs fought desperately using knee mortars with good effect against our CP group. As was expected the 2nd Bn, 169th Infantry were prepared to move into position, they too were soon engaged with the enemy.

The situation was summed up thus. What was thought at first to be 2 Jap companies was later discovered to be 2 Bn's. With one on each of our flanks. It was a grave situation for Co L who had 2 platoons trapped in their positions and cut off from the remainder of the Bn.

At this time Company G, 169th Infantry was employed on our right with 1 platoon of K Co. They were unable to move far because of the superior automatic fire of the enemy. The situation was becoming desperate.

A group of 19 men and 3 officers from Company L and the Headquarters Company including 1 Medico, fought desperately to release their comrades. Killing 35 Japs and climaxing their drive with a bayonet charge did release the remainder of L Co from their positions. 1 platoon of 169th was left in position to hold the line until the balance of the Bn could move in. Here another problem confronted us. Upon moving out the two platoons of Co L we found that a large group of Japs had again moved in behind them. This strategic move by the enemy necessitated the taking of the same positions again. This time those positions were taken by the 2nd Bn, 169th Inf., who, not contemplating a fight, fought desperately to restore the line. Then upon restoration of L Co's sector the shift of forces was completed and the situation was again well in hand. The next morning over 350 Japs were buried and 300 of them were accounted for by L Co. Company I were credited with 50. Their attack repulsed by our counterattack seemed to completely disorganize the Jap force to our rear and thereafter we were not molested. The Japanese Bn's were identified as members of the 239th Infantry, a part of the force that broke through the Driniumor Defense on July 10th. 11 Jap machine guns and 10 knee mortars were taken.

Our casualties were heavy. Woodall (K Co) Dattolo (K Co) Duke (Co L) Walker D.E. (Co L) Kelly (Co L) Rakestraw, L.C. (L Co) Urkoski (Co K) Crumbley, W.L. (Co I) Hemphill (Co I). 21 men wounded. The Bn's field strength after this action was 585 Enlisted Men and 31 Officers.

The following day 23rd July was uneventful with only patrol action and no contacts reported. Our Sunday church services were held by Chaplain Rogers with a large attendance.

The Battalion's sector was without action during the next 5 days. But it rained constantly. On the 29th of July Lt. Callum was ordered to take a combat patrol east across the Driniumor River with the mission of securing a prisoner. Although

being ambushed twice by large forces of Japs, Callan fighting constantly throughout the day returned his patrol intact just before nightfall. 4 men of the patrol were wounded in the action. The most serious being Rapp (Hq Co) who suffered multiple wounds, but carried his 300 radio until the mission was completed. 25 Japs were killed by this patrol and many were wounded.

The morning of July 30th, orders were received for the Bn Commander and Staff to report to the 1st Bn CP where a conference was to be held by Col Starr, including all units of the Task Force (The 124th Infantry and 2nd Bn 169th Infantry). As had been anticipated earlier, orders were issued for an attack east of the Driniumor and then south to sever Japanese supply and communication lines.

Our plan was to attack to the southeast on the 31st of July. To proceed on an azimuth of 103 degrees. The first objective designated to be Niumen Creek, 2200 yds east of the Driniumor. There we were to contact the remainder of the task force.

On the morning of July 31st the Bn moved with I and K Companies abreast on a frontage of 200 yds. I Company echeloned to the right rear. 1st and 2nd Bns were on the left and the 2nd Bn, 169th Infantry was to the right rear 1000 yds.

By 1530 the Bn had reached the objective and a half hour later was preparing its position. Lewis Force (2nd Bn 169th Inf) had the mission of tying on the right flank and extending west to deny the flank of the task force. They were in position at 1600. No contact was made with the 1st Bn that day and the Bn settled for a peaceful night.

Next morning, the 1st of August, 7 men who had been patrolling during the move to Niumen Creek were reported missing. By 1400 all missing men had been located. At 0800 L Co was sent north along Niumen Creek to establish contact with the 1st Bn. This day was spent quietly. Patrols were out but no contact was made. Word was received at 1600 that Co L had contacted the 1st Bn and our Niumen Creek line was intact.

On August 2nd all previous orders were rescinded. Orders were received from the Task Force Commander, to hold present position until the rest of the Force closed with the Bn. We were to be prepared to attack south the following morning at 0800. By 2000 the Task Force had made contact, moving into positions prepared by Lewis and Williams.

During the night one man was killed, from the 2nd Bn 124th Infantry, accidentally by his own Unit men.

On the morning of August 3rd the Bn moved as planned on an azimuth of 160 degrees. It was raining very hard and movement was difficult. The 2nd Bn 169th Inf. moved parallel with us on our right. The 1st Bn 124th Inf. moved to the right and south of the 169th Inf. Unit.

By 0830, K Co, our leading Co, was engaged with what was estimated to be a company of Japs. At the same time the 2nd Bn 169th made contact with a similar group. Snipers were deadly and both Bns only moved 150 yds during the entire day. Besides being one of the most disappointing days of the campaign, our casualties were heavy. Williamson (Hq Co) Jones (I Co) Davis (I Co) Williams (K Co) Suhrbies (K Co) Hagon (K Co) Atkinson (K Co) Kemp (K Co) Sheldon (K Co) O'Quain (K Co) were killed. 26 men wounded. The 2nd Bn 169th Inf. also suffered heavy casualties.

At 1630, although still in contact, the Bn withdrew 100 yds and set up the nightly perimeter. There was no action throughout the night.

After a ration and ammunition drop by plane on the 4th of August, again the Bn moved as proposed the day before. The objective for the day was to move southeast 1700 yds to the Afua Trail. Heavy artillery barrages preceded the move. Excellent progress was made until 1330 when a company of the enemy was surprised in bivouac. 8 were killed and the remainder routed by artillery fire. By 1430 the Bn was astride the Afua Trail, cutting the Jap line of communication. The 1st Bn and Regimental Headquarters quickly closed in behind the Bn. With a short reconnaissance I Co boldly moved east along the southern branch of Niumen Creek. Terrain was fast becoming more difficult and high hills ran along both sides of the creek. The possibility of ambush was great in this Jap held country. But as before it was the enemy who were surprised. Oaksford (K) Dead fr WIA.

I Company hadn't advanced more than 150 yds along the creek when they encountered 2 walking wounded Japs. They were killed instantly. This proved that we were holding their route of evacuation. Several other stragglers were killed before the fighting day was concluded. That night the perimeter was established with the Bn left flank on Niumen Creek.

On 5th of August the Bn moved on the same route of advance as the previous day. By 0900 a small Jap bivouac was surprised. Without awakening any of them 16 Japs were killed by I Company. Numerous times throughout the day small Jap parties were hit. Although many escaped 25 were killed. At 1440 a Jap Supply train heavily laden was ambushed and a half hour later organized resistance was encountered on the junction of the Afua Trail and Niumen Creek. An estimated company was emplaced on a high hill overlooking the Afua Trail. Mortars and automatic weapons were employed with good results. 50 Japs were killed and 2 Chinese

coolies were captured. Although still engaged the Bn was ordered to withdraw 100 yds and set up a perimeter. This was accomplished by 1850. Goolesby (Co I) Delarobba (Co I) killed.

Plans were made for movement the following day. No one realized what was to take place. On the night of August 5th and the next day the second hardest encounter of the entire campaign took place. Butler (Hq Co) Salzwedel (L Co) killed by ration drop.

At 0300 the perimeter was attacked from all sides by approximately 2 companies. The enemy was desperate and in effort to keep his supply lines intact threw wave after wave in a suicidal attempt to destroy us. Our casualties were mounting and by morning the entire perimeter was under constant Heavy machine gun fire from the surrounding hills.

At this time the 2nd Bn was ordered to pass through but they too were unable to advance. Finally they withdrew and moved to outflank the enemy from the north. At the same time L and K Companies were employed to flank south of the 2nd Bn. Mortars reduced several installations and by noon some gain had been made. Rained very hard morning and early afternoon. We had killed over 200 Japs, but in doing so had 10 men killed and 24 men wounded in this perimeter or nearby by enemy fire. Hales (Hq Co) Phelps (Hq Co) Ingram, P.C. (Hq Co) Janick (I Co) Gillen (I Co) Himler (K Co) Quail (K Co) Rhodes (L Co).

Unable to continue our advance the Bn at 1515 was ordered to withdraw and move to the northwest to establish a position on high ground. The withdrawal was successful even though Japs fought our rear guard throughout the move. It was after dark when the Bn finally closed into a perimeter made up of Regimental Hq, Anti-Tank Company and the 3rd Bn. The terrain was the most difficult that had been encountered and because there were so many litter cases, the progress from here onward would be slow.

The morning of August 8th again the Bn moved. Soon were in contact with 2nd Bn and moved at the rear of 2nd Bn's column with Regt Hq. This Force in column was to contact 1st Bn who was blocking the Afua Trail. By 1200 contact had been made and the remainder of the day was spent in moving litters 500 yds to a new perimeter. The night was without action.

Early on the 9th of August the Task Force continued west in order to reach the Driniunor River as soon as possible. Although there was no contact with the enemy thereafter, the trip took 2 days.

A native train contacted us at 1500 the 9th and evacuated the wounded with the Bn moving as protection.

The morning of the 10th of August found the entire En intact east of the Driniunor River.

August 10th 1944 wrote finis to the first campaign of the THIRD BATTALION, 124th Infantry. Though inexperienced in jungle warfare their record was enviable. The THIRD BATTALION alone accounted for over one fifth of enemy destroyed in the entire Aitape Campaign.

Compiled from Unit Journal, 3rd Bn, 124th Inf.

By

LONNIE M. JACKSON
Capt. Infantry
S-3



UNIT JOURNAL
and

CASUALTY REPORT

THIRD BATTALION

124th Infantry Regimental Combat Team

DRINIUMOR RIVER CAMPAIGN

July 12 to August 10, 1944

Lt. Col. George D. Williams, Infantry
Commanding.



UNIT JOURNAL

3rd Battalion
124th Infantry Regimental Combat Team

July 12 to August 10, 1944

Maps: Suain West, Provisional Map
1/63,360
A 54/16 Northeast New Guinea
Aitape East, Prov Map
A 54/15 Northeast New Guinea

1100K 12 Jul 44: This Unit entrucked at Tadjö Plantation (Cocconut grove) near Aitape. A part of a Task Force to proceed to the Martin Line on the Driniumor River. Under command of the 11th Corps. Order: To proceed to Tiver, go South and East and take back the area held by Japs, held by the American forces before a previous Jap breakthru.

1200K Detrucked at Nigia River. March Southeast along coast.
1700K Cross Koronal Creek and establish perimeter for night at junction of Koronal Creek and ocean on East side of said stream.

2200K Friendly Arty fire to southeast & most of night.
Thursday

0700K 13 Jul 44: Drop part of our pack loads and start to Anamo. Order of march: I, K, Hq, M, L.

0815K Encounter Jap Trail block south of Anamo. Williams & Jackson with leading companies.

0830K Continuing mission. Weather clear. Japs: 2 (Company I)
0935K L Company hit LMG nest. Japs: 1 (Company L)
1025K Friendly Ary Barrage west of us.
1115K Meet 9 man patrol, 127th Inf, and they accompanied us.
1630K Hq Co in column ambushed. I & K Co squad proceed toward Enemy fire. Japs withdrew. Lipscomb, Company I, KIA. Japs: 2 & MG

1700K Perimeter defense 3917 - 17.6 Raining.
2230K Japs try to infiltrate. Much firing, mostly our guns. Boys plenty trigger-happy.

Friday

0700K 14 Jul 44: Estimate 15 Japs killed during night. Many dragged away by their forces. 4 EM, WIA during night.

0800K Continue mission going southeast.
1130K Reach Driniumor river. No skirmishes enroute. Partly cloudy.

1600K Communication by Arty. Report to Regt our position. Contact with Unit on left. Perimeter established. Right flank open. CP 18.3 - 39.5

1630K Japs bathing across river.
1645K Supply patrol of Hq Co in from base on beach.
2000K Probable 2 Jap patrols attack rear and flanks.

Saturday

0700K 15 Jul 44: During night, 3 EM WIA. Capt Celles, KIA. White (Co I) C. Zeldin (Co L), A. Medlin (Medico) KIA. Japs: 20
0930K K & L Company patrols to flanks and rear. Panels laid for supply plane. Unit supply train in.

1000K WIA & KIA to base by A & P Pltn.
 1300K Hq Co supply train in from base. One EM WIA.
 1400K Patrols in, encountered skirmishes. No casualties.
 Nearly all trains in from base encounter Jap ambush.
 1700K A&P train in with Ammo. Out again with litters.
 1715K Plan ration drop.
 Sunday
 0700K 16 Jul 44: Quiet night. Order: Prepare to move South along river.
 0800K As Unit starts move I company pinned down. Est 75 Japs
 on right flank. We use mortar fire. R. Oneal (Co I)
 KIA. Lt Britt (Co M) WIA. One EM WIA.
 0930K Pinned down yet by Jap MG. Unit sends 2 Pltns to flanks.
 B.K. Wellington (Co I) KIA. 6 EM WIA. Japs: 50
 1120K Information taken of Jap dead invaluable such as maps
 etc. Column moves on.
 1400K Rear of column, I, K, parts of M & Hqs Co., cut off by
 Jap ambush. Japs using LMG.
 1430K T.M. Taylor (Co K) and H.D. Moore (Co K) KIA. 3 EM
 WIA in rear section of column. CP 18.1 - 38.1 For-
 ward part of column prepares night defense. Williams,
 Jackson, Bush, Sausville, L CO, M CO present. Reported
 to Regiment.
 Monday
 0700K 17 Jul 44: Quiet night.
 1000K Communications to Regt. thru Baldy & Block. Part of
 Hq, M and I, K companies to CP, while coming to CP--
 Japs: 16 Forward line being tied in. I, K, and L
 companies on line.
 1400K Rest of rear column into perimeter.
 1600K Jackson with Company I. 5 EM WIA since yesterday 1200K.
 1945K Company K attacked. Use mortar flares.
 2400K Quiet.
 Tuesday
 0700K 18 Jul 44: No casualties. Japs: 75, 3 officers, 1 Medical officer
 and 1 MG. (Co K). Got valuable information.
 1000K Native train in with CIC & Logan, Beard, also Ammo and
 Supplies. Few sick out. Sniper making things a little
 uneasy.
 1500K Plane drop. Plane crew drop cigarettes. Wish us luck
 and say "Givem Hell", "Wish we had more cigarettes".
 1700K Raining hard. Foxholes are filled with water almost.
 1945K Company K had skirmish. Japs: 12 and 1 Capt.
 2400K Wet night. Quiet.
 Wednesday
 0700K 19 Jul 44: No casualties. Few sick out when train comes.
 1030K K & L Company patrols out at 0800. Supply train in.
 Plane ration drop.
 1035K Company L patrol in. Went across river 1000 yds. No
 casualties. Company K patrol in from back of our area
 1000 yds. Japs: one

1630K Sniper near CP accosted and wounded by De Maesschalch (P-38, Hq Co). Company L patrol could see Jap blood stains but Jap was dragged away.

2000K Arty, Unit, to front. Arty registers in each evening at 1700.

2200K Japs try to infiltrate at rear of CP

2400K Scattered fire and grenade during night.

Thursday

0700K 20 Jul 44: H.M. Whitt (Co L) KIA. 3 EM WIA (Co L). Japs: 20

1030K Wounded out by litter bearers.

1025K Col Starr to CP.

1130K Company L patrol to front. Trainers and dogs for patrolling to CP. Company I patrol to rear.

1400K Col Starr left CP.

1415K Company L patrol in. Negative report.

1530K Company I patrol in. Saw 2 Jap patrols & bypassed them.

2030K Few Japs try to infiltrate CP. Dogs alerted. Grenades thrown. Unit Arty barrage. J.P. Mathews (Co I) KIA.

2400K Quiet rest of night. Arty periodically all night.

Friday

0700 21 Jul 44: Japs: 3

0845K Co I patrol to rear. Co L patrol with dogs to front. Block to CP on way to beach.

1115K Unit supply train in.

1400K Williams, Jackson, Grossman to 1st Bn.

1450K Co L patrol in, observed number unknown of Japs across river. Dogs alerted. Japs were bypassed.

1530K Co I patrol got 3 Japs and Jap MG

1600K E.L. Crispel (Co K) KIA by own anti-personnel mine. 1400K party returned. Col Starrs order: Move down river at 0730 next.

1800K Jap Arty 1 round in Co I line. 2 EM WIA.

1830K Party of 169th Inf into CP to stay the night.

2400K Quiet night.

Saturday

0600 22 Jul 44: Japs attack right flank, small arms and knee mortar. Estimate Jap patrol.

0730K Now sniper fire. Prepare to move.

1000K Sniper fire. Co I pinned down by Estimated Jap Company on left flank.

1030K Co K patrol to right flank. No reports of the drawn out morning action.

1100K Japs on Right flank now estimated to be Company. 169 Inf. patrol to right flank.

1130K Japs dug in behind both flanks. A lot of action.

1200K to 1430K Company I use mortars & Unit Arty to subdue Japs. Parts of Japs blown into trees etc. Japs: 44 and 2 Mt. Guns (Company I)

1200K to 1430K Cont'd -- W.L. Crumbley (Co I) E.L. Hemphill (Co I) KIA.
 5 EM WIA on left flank. On right flank Japs are estimated to be a Bn. Small arms and MG account for most of Japs dead. Got 212 Japs. Later 169th Inf sent word they buried over 300 Japs, after we left the area that day. Got Jap 9 LMG, 2 HMG, & 4 knee mortars. J.B. Woodall (Co K), S.D. Dattolo (Co K), P.F. Urkoski (Co K), B.G. Duke (Co L), D.E. Walker (Co L), E.L. Kelley (Co L), L.C. Rakestraw (Co L) KIA. 21 EM WIA.

1430K CP moves north. Co L still in action on right flank.
 1530K CP 18.3 -- 39.2. Wounded evacuated.
 1700K Company L still in action in old area right flank. Williams with them.
 2400K Quiet night a new CP
 Sunday

0700K 23 Jul 44: All's Well.
 0900K Williams to CP with Co L. Reported to Regt Action of yesterday.
 1030K Supply train in also trkr & trlr. Beard Msg commending 1st Sgt Prather (Co I) Morning & casualty reports.
 1130K Company I patrol & dogs across river. Bn strength in field today: 585 EM 31 Offs & Offs atchd.
 1315K Williams to front lines.
 1430K Chaplain Rogers had service on edge of river under a lone large tree.
 1500K Williams to CP
 1630K Co I patrol in. Saw dead Japs 2 or more days old probably by Arty fire. Saw no enemy movement.
 1900K All's well.
 2400K Quiet night.
 Monday

0700K 24 Jul 44: Clear
 0745K K Co patrol to East. Prepare to move CP from Kunai patch to small grove nearby.
 0930K I Co patrol to West.
 1000K Cat trkr train in.
 1400K I Co patrol in. No Japs encountered.
 1445K Supply train in. Hot meal Ham & bread. Awfully good. Chap Colgan in. Colgan had services.
 1650K K Co patrol saw 2 Japs, wounded one of them. Dogs with the patrol alerted. Msgr dog made 2 complete trips to CP from patrol and was on 3rd trip when patrol came in. The dogs gave good account of themselves. Colgan to stay night.
 2000K 3 Jap MG fire from across the river. Mortar flares. Lot of firing from unit on our rightflank.
 2030K Firing ceases. No casualties.
 Tuesday

0200 25 Jul 44: Raining hard. Foxholes full of water.
 0845K K Co patrol to rear.

1030K Supply train in. Skelton to CP.
1400K After a bite to eat Skelton left CP.
1430K K Co patrol in. Negative report. L Co patrol made recon of East bank of river. Noted pacts, holes of probably Jap pltn which fired last night.

1800K Prepared positions today. All's Well.
2400K I Co had little action during night.

Wednesday
0700 26 Jul 44: I Co got 5 Japs last night. They were attempting to cross to the east side of the river. Raining. Foxholes still filled with water.

1000K Supply train in. L Co patrol to rear.
1200K Ted to CP. I Co patrol across river. River is high, coming thru our area and swamping us. Flood stage. Ted left CP.

1230K L Co patrol in. Negative report.
1500K I Co patrol in. Penetrated 2000 yds across river. Negative report. I Co crossed river in 169th's sector but patrolled our sector, east.
1600K All's well and wet.

1800K Friendly Arty concentrating to right of Baldy.
2000K (112th Cal) all night.

Thursday
0700K 27 Jul 44: Dry night. 1st $\frac{1}{4}$ moon.
0845K K Co patrol to east.
1000K I Co patrol to west.
1100K Supply train in.
1500K Supply train again with hot steak & bread. Ration drop by plane. I Co patrol in, went to Anapopai trail 1000 yds west. Noted Jap bivouac area of sizeable force dug in small perimeters. No enemy contact.

1600K K Co patrol in. Crossed river and east 2500 yds. Saw friendly patrol going east. No Enemy contact. Beard sent air mail envelopes.
2000K Arty Barrage to south.

Friday
0700 28 Jul 44: Dry night. Moon til 2400.
0800K L Co patrol to east to Neuman Creek. Plane ration drop. K Co patrol to rear.
0930K A&P supply train in.
1015K AT supply train in. Bookout to CP. Men doing alot of letter writing.

1030K Logan, Dismukes to CP.
1200K 1030 party left CP.
1250K I & R patrol to rear.
1400K L Co patrol in. Negative report. Went to Neuman Creek. Bookout left with above messages. Sent message and overlay of bodies buried by Sgt Cubbly (M) of some American soldiers not of our Unit, to Regt. (Saye & Davis) buried Davis' remains, Saye's dog tags were found near Davis but no trace of remains. Sent

overlay of 43 Div Chap who buried Urkoske & Dattolo (K) along the Anamo Trail. His msg was dated July 24/44 and forwarded to Regt.

1410K K Co patrol in. Went to Kornal Creek. Negative report.

1600K I & R patrol back to beach by Anamo trail. Negative report.

1645K 43 Div Art & patrol in to stay the night. Surveyors.

1800K All's well.

2400K I Co fires a few shots.

Saturday

0700K 29 Jul 44: No Japs, no casualties.

0800K L Co patrol to rear. I Co patrol to Neuman & beyond. Col Starr orders that a patrol bring in a live Jap, if patrol has to stay out 3 days.

1000K AT & AP supply train in. Plane drop of rations.

1400K L Co patrol in. Negative report. Raining hard.

1450K I Co patrol radioed enemy front and rear beyond Neuman. Williams orders patrol in.

1750K I Co (Callum) patrol in. Went 2000 yds beyond Neuman Creek ran into possible Regt of Japs, killed 9 Japs. Ambushed later by probable Co of Japs, killed 11 Japs. The last action 1000 yds east of our CP. We had 4 WIA. Tspg Hq hit worst but carried on with radio, hit with schrapnel. The other 3 WIA were (I) Co.

1820K Unit Arty barrage in area where I Co patrol accosted last action.

2400K All's well. Bright moon.

Sunday

0730K 30 Jul 44: Bn supply pltn out to base on beach.

0800K K Co patrol across river to the east.

0955K Williams, Jackson, Sausville to Regtl CP.

1030K Supply train in. Bn strength today 712 EM 24 Off.

1110K 0955K party to CP

1300K Bn Unit CO meet at CP. Order: Proceed on 103 degree Az. beyond Neuman Creek. 2 Companies abreast I on right & K on left. Move 0800 next. Sent Beard 11 pounds for airmail envelopes already received for Bn.

1430K AT & AP pltns in to stay with Unit.

1600K Raining.

Monday

0700K 31 Jul 44: Unit prepares to move out.

0800K Column moves across river. Trainers and dogs stay with Units taking over our river positions. "26th QM War Dog Plt, Lt. James S. Head, Nitro 153".

1130K No opposition. Reported to Regt by plane. Plane gave us our position. Now on 135 degree az. Raining.

1400K 2nd Bn 169 on our rear.

1530K Reported to Regt by 284 "Reached objective. Position 21.1 - 36.9"

1600K Perimeter. Company has 7 EM missing. Company K has 1 man missing. Japs: 1(Company K)

2400K Quiet night, but wet.

Tuesday

0700K 1 Aug 44: All's well.
0800K Company L to north to contact 1st Bn. Company I patrol to east.
1200K Company I patrol in. Negative report. Sun shining.
1500K Plane ration drop. Hq radioman hit by ration while at radio.
1600K Company L into 1st Bn. An all day trek. Col Starr orders this Unit to close gap.
1800K Williams order to CO: Move on 20 degree az. at 0800 next, to contact 1st Bn.

Wednesday

0700K 2 Aug 44: Clear night. Moon. Move is ordered cancelled and we to stand by. 1st, 2nd Bns & Regt to contact us and RCT to move in southwest direction when contact is made.
1400K Ration drop by plane. 1/3 ration. 2 Bn 169 gave us 20 cases of rations.
1700K Col Starr & Staff, 1st, 2nd Bn & Co L to CP for night.
1800K The missing men previously reported are found. Clear.

Thursday

0130K 3 Aug 44: Rain. Man of 2nd Bn killed in perimeter by trigger happy individual.
0700K Drizzling rain.
0730K AT Co man shot himself in feet thru carelessness.
0800K 3 Bn moves out. Co K, L, Hq, M, I, 2 Bn 169 on right flank. The balance of RCT to follow.
0830K Co K encounters Est. Co of Japs.
1100K Litters being called up front all morning. Lot of sniper fire.
1600K Snipers all day. Can't see them. Gained 300 yds today. Perimeter. F.H.Williamson (Hq) F.S.Williams (K) T.E. Kemp (K) R.H.Atkinson (K) W.O'Quain (K) M.J.Sheldon (K) L.K.Suhrbies (K) C.G.Hagen (K) S.H.Davis (I) W.B.Jones (I) KIA. Lts Baerreis, Berger, Johnson and 26 EM WIA. Order: No large trees be cut in perimeter. Partly cloudy.

Friday

0700K 4 Aug 44: Clear. No action during night. Col Starr orders: 3 Bn on left flank as RCT moves forward. Oaksford (K) Dead fr WIA. Ammo, rations by plane. Unit Arty concentration on area we are to take today.
0800K Co I leads out.
0900K Scattered fire. Arty did its work well today. A Jap bivouac was routed by Arty. Very little opposition. Rain.
1200K Williams with leading company astride Afua trail. Trail used by the Japs as supply trail. Much traveled and communication wire along it.
1400K CP at 21.8 - 36.0 on Afua trail. Japs: 30. 2 EM WIA.

Saturday

0700K 5 Aug 44: A good night. Raining.
0800K Co I lead, K, Hq, M, L, 1st Bn following.
0900K Scattered fire. Raining
1000K Reprt to Regt by 284. It is that we hit rear guard of supply train of Japs. More action at front now. Column still moves up creek bed.

1200K Reported to Regt by 284. Jap strength undetermined.
 1230K Unit Arty & mortars called for. Still raining.
 1245K Concentrations laid down.
 1430K Captured 2 Chinese boys held by Japs as laborers.
 1600K CP at 2016 - 35.0 north side of creek. Japs: 50
 1800K H.D.Goolesby (I) J.Delarobba (I) O.D.Butler (Hq)
 Salzwedel, V.A. (L) KIA. Butler KIA as he sent
 msg by radio during ration drop from plane. Almost
 1 ration per man.

2000K Raining.
 Sunday

0700K 6 Aug 44: Cloudy. Sniper fire from surrounding steep hills.
 0715K Jap MG nests have moved in range of CP. Japs open up
 as loading Co of 2 Bn start to bypass us. Co I, on up-
 stream side of CP, and leading Co of 2 Bn pinned down.
 0730K Co L ordered to right flank. Call for Arty and mortar
 on trail to south west of CP. Jap MG's still firing.
 0745K O.L.Hales, M.W.Phelps (Hq) KIA Chap Rogers, Lt
 Sausville (Hq) WIA 2 EM WIA. Co K sent to get Jap
 MG nests, front center, up hill.
 0900K Jap sniper and MG firing continues.
 1100K Report to Regt by phone. Co L ordered to take next hill
 west. Order: No more than 3 men to foxhole.
 1200K Co K can't progress up hill without being shot down.
 Hvy Arty & mortar concentrations to west. Observers
 with point of Co L. Jap mortar or Mt Gun fire very
 close and are believed to have our range. Raining.
 1400K Williams to Regt. Order: Abandon hill and follow 2 Bn
 around hill to west. PC.Ingram (Hq) KIA died on trail.
 J.A.Gillen, S.J.Janick (I) R.E.Himler, P.D.Quail (K)
 E. E. Rhodes (L) KIA. Many litter patients to evacuate.
 Men are tiring and fatigued with heavy loads and short
 rations.

1800K CP on steep razor like hill top. Jap patrol reptd
 following rear end of column to CP 20.4 - 35.0. Not
 time for digging in. Rain has stopped. Japs: 150.
 Litters were miraculously taken up the last steep
 grade at dusk on a most slippery clay trail.

Monday

0700K 7 Aug 44: Force to move southwest at 0800. 2nd Bn to left to
 converge with us at next hill. Order of march K, AT
 Co, R Hq, Hq 3rd, I, L. Rough trail.
 1000K Contact with 2nd Bn. Weather clear. Williams with
 Ted. 2nd Bn leading on Afua Trail.
 1400K Column moving very slowly. Litter bearers are worn
 out. Rough trail, no food today. Whole Bn helping
 with litter cases.
 1725K To area on ridge 20.0 - 34.9 just off the Afua Trail.
 No casualties. Clear.

Tuesday

0700K 8 Aug 44: Partly cloudy. Ration detail to 1st Bn former peri-
 meter for plane ration drop.

0830K Williams to Regt CP.
 0845K Williams Order: Leave guard with ration detail's equipment, move Bn out behind 2nd Bn. K Co help AT Co carry litters.
 1000K 112 Calv patrol in, they say 45 minutes for patrol to Driniumor.
 1330K To 1st Bn former perimeter. You can see the ocean from here. How good it looks. Plane ration drop and appreciated. Raining a bit. Ted has fever, and to be evacuated by litter this PM.
 Williams Actg RCT Co.
 1415K Native train in to carry out litters. Rain has stopped.
 1600K Down to the trail to the Driniumor.
 1700K Plasma is needed badly for litters ahead.
 1800K CP on east side of Driniumor at jct of Afua Trail and Driniumor. Litters on to 18th Field Hospital, helped by I & L Cos. I & L stay night near Baldy CP. River looks inviting and Bn goes in for dip, clothes and all.

Wednesday

0700K 9 Aug 44: Raining a bit. Quiet night.
 0900K Bush & Grossman make recon for CP on other side of river.
 0950K 0900K party back.
 1015K Bn moves to 18.5 - 35.4. Panels laid for ration drop.
 1030K In to CP. Ration drop.
 1400K Bn bathing, washing, sleeping, eating. Morale exceptionally high. Butch & Fowler's Bn near CP.
 1600K 2nd Bn 169 in area we were in yesterday. Raining. 2nd Bn 169 will stay night there.
 1700K Williams order: March to beach at Driniumor jct at 0730 next. 3rd Bn, Regtl Hq, 1st Bn, 2nd Bn. 2nd Bn 169 will start from his area at 0730 next, and tie on to 2nd Bn. Arty trkr & trlrs will pick up hvy equip at 1100 next. at this CP.
 1900K All's well.

Thursday

0700K 10 Aug 44: I Co leads, Hq, M, K, L Regt Hq, down Driniumor wading across river many times.
 1000K Bn reaches beach. It really looks good.
 1100K Trks arrive to carry us to Tadji Plantation.
 1200K CP set up. Tents have been put up for us, kitchen is ready for hot meal. Beautiful world. Boys at this base have worked hard to have things ready for us.

FINIS

Strahan

UNIT JOURNAL
THIRD BATTALION 124th INFANTRY
MINDANAO, P. I.

U N I T J O U R N A L

THIRD BATTALION 124TH INFANTRY APO 31

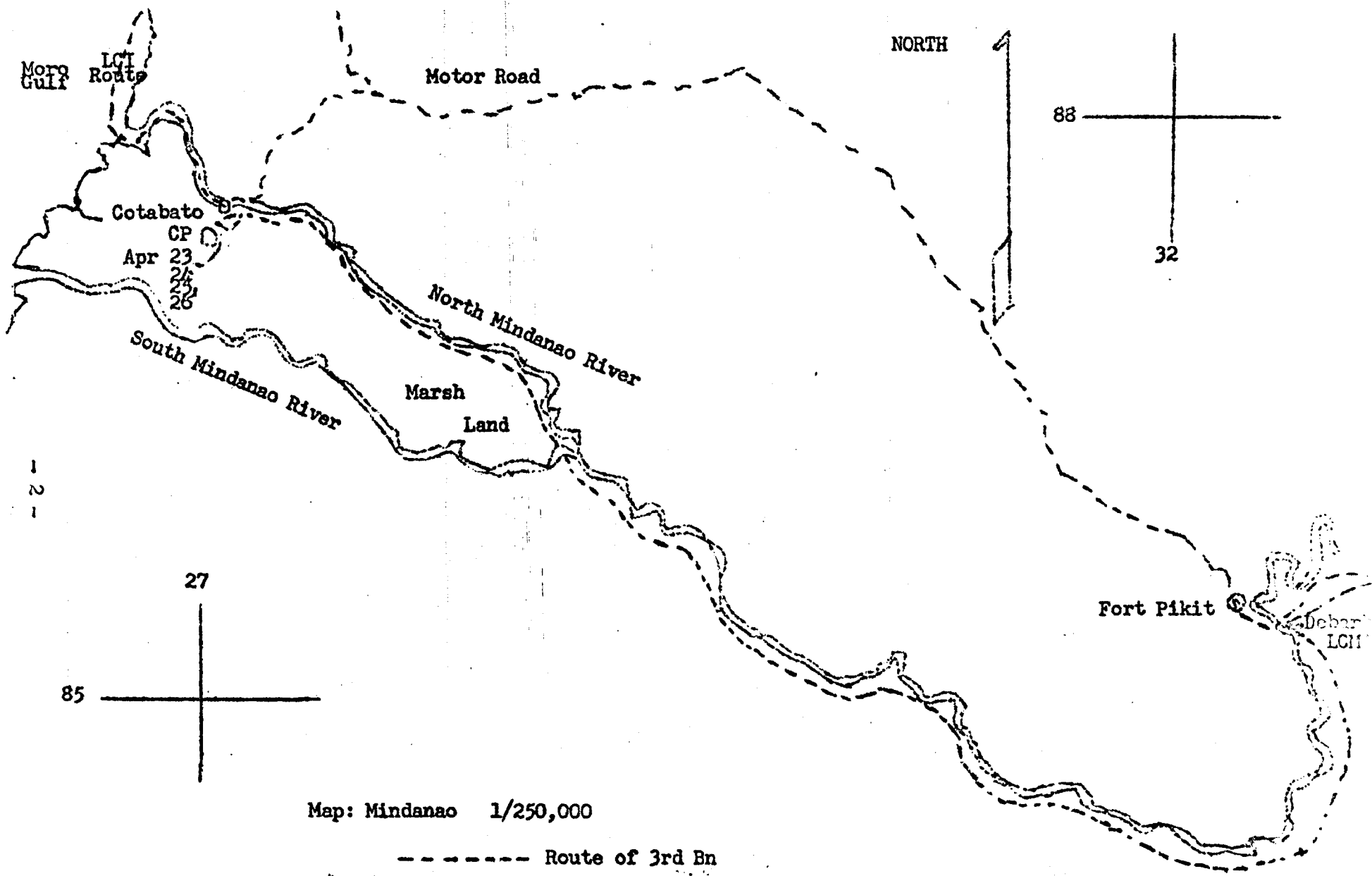
MINDANAO CAMPAIGN

April-May-June 1945

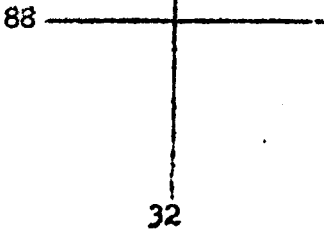
Compiled by:
S-1 Section

Maps: Mindanao
1/50,000

-
- Apr 17
0900 - L and K Companies embark LCI's in Division Area at Morotai, N.E.I.
- Apr 18
0500 - Hq, I and M Companies breakfast.
0545 - 93rd Division trucks arrive.
0830 - Troops board LCM's at Red Beach thence to LST #754 in stream.
LST crowded. Troops sleep beneath vehicles and any other place large enough to recline.
- Apr 19
0610 - Raise anchor. Convoy of ships form and sail east north-east.
Weather hot and clear. Nine packs cigarettes issued troops.
1800 - Northern end of Morotai almost out of sight. News by radio:
"35 mile beachhead established on Mindanao by 24th Division.
Blackout is in order.
- Apr 20
1000 - 20 minute air alert. Cloudy and rain squalls. Moving west.
- Apr 21
0700 - Sighted small island believed to be Talaud. Moving north north-west. Cloudy and cool.
1800 - Sighted Mindanao, Philippine Islands.
- Apr 22
0600 - Entered Pollock Harbor at Parang, Mindanao.
1030 - Pappy ashore. (Pappy is Lt Col GEORGE D. WILLIAMS, commanding 3rd Bn) Our radio communications established with 124th Infantry Regiment ashore.
1230 - Pappy boards ship after conferring with Ted. (Ted is Col STARR, commanding 124th Infantry Regiment)
1800 - Vehicles being unloaded from LST to LCM's in the stream.
2400 - Unloading continues. Vehicles must be ashore by 0800 next.
- Apr 23
0400 - LST docks at Parang. Vehicles still being unloaded.
0800 - Vehicle unloading finished. Troops board LCI's along side LST.
1000 - LCI's sail south and into North Mindanao River.
1130 - LCI's aground on sandbars in river mouth. Must wait for high tide.
Very hot. Monkeys are first seen along river banks.
1430 - LCI's move up river toward Cotabato, Mindanao.
1600 - Troops debark at Cotabato after 6 mile river cruise. Along the river route many Filipinos waving and shouting "Mabuhay" meaning "long life". Observe rice paddys, many inland canals off river,

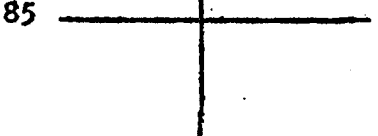


NORTH



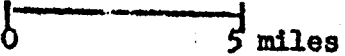
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Map: Mindanao 1/250,000

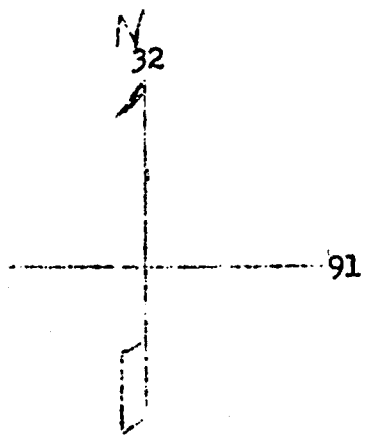
----- Route of 3rd Bn



- canals are used extensively for transportation and travel in dugout canoes in this fertile Mindanao River valley. Note banana groves, water buffalo and nipa huts on stilts.
- 1715 - Battalion assembles south of Cotabato Hill. L and K Companies arrived at this area the day previous. Kitchen trucks and vehicles in by overland route from Parang. Hot supper.
- Apr 24
 1800 - General camp improvement. Dodge (Lt Dodge Battalion Transportation Officer) and balance of battalion vehicles into Bn CP (CP - Command Post) from Parang. Very hot.
- Apr 25
 1100 - Pappy to Regiment to attend meeting.
 1800 - Generator set up, lights and radio on.
- Apr 26
 1500 - Received Regtl Order "Battalion vehicles will move by road to Fort Pikit at 1800" (about 75 miles) "Troops will embark LCM's at Cotabato and proceed to Fort Pikit at 2200" (50 miles up Mindanao River). Battalion strike bivouac and prepare to move.
 1700 - Received Regtl Order "Battalion troops will not move until following morning sometime". Troops pitch shelters for the night.
 1830 - Dodge clears Battalion area of vehicles and ferry across North Mindanao River by LCM's.
- Apr 27
 1030 - Battalion troops embark LCM's at Cotabato. LCM shuttle movement. Capt Rice (M Company commander) in charge of rear elements of the Battalion. 9 meals C rations issued per man. Battalion will clear Cotabato by 1730.
 2115 - In darkness aboard a LCM Pfc Claude R. Williams 34530968 Company M, is knocked off boat by trees overhanging river. Rescue attempt fails and man cannot be found in the murky water. Williams - Missing in Action.
 2130 - Forward elements of the Battalion debark at Fort Pikit (coordinates 25.0 - 54.0) Vehicles arrive at Kabacan (39.0 - 63.0)
 2300 - Truck shuttle troops to Carmen Ferry from Fort Pikit (12 miles).
 2400 - Troops cross Mindanao River by LCM ferry and assemble on Sayre Highway #3 (38.5 - 64.0)
- Apr 28
 0100 - I, K, L Companies truck shuttle north to 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry on Sayre Highway some 8 miles.
 0330 - Pappy, Jackson (Capt Jackson Bn S-3), Clapshaw (Lt Clapshaw Bn S-2) forward to 2nd Bn, the point of advance.
 0800 - Truck shuttle was slowed because of road conditions and security reasons. Rear elements of Bn move north on foot.
 1200 - Very hot.
 1600 - Battalion close in with 2nd Bn 10 miles north of Carmen Ferry. Bivouac at 38.0 - 78.0 AP and AT platoons of Hqs Company left at Carmen Ferry, will follow Battalion advance with supplies and serve as bridge guards.
 1800 - Ted to Bn CP. Vehicles cannot close with Bn because of fired and blown bridges. Japs flee north after fire fight with 2nd Bn.

- 1815 - Ted leaves CP. Ted orders "3rd Bn to point of advance at 0700"
- Apr 29
- 0600 - Battalion moves out. Order of march I, K, Hq, M, L. Pappy, Jackson and Clapshaw with leading company.
- 0700 - Move through 2nd Bn. Fill canteens at good deep-drilled well.
- 1030 - I Company meet resistance, Jap machine gun and sniper fire.
- 1045 - 149th Field Artillery firing concentration.
- 1100 - K Company flanks left at 36.7 - 88.5 Together leading companies reduce enemy block. Cross swift stream, large wooden bridge had been burned beyond repair. RRTR (Radio Report to Regiment)
- 1200 - Moving steadily. Cross another stream on timbers of the blown bridge.
- 1300 - Jap supply dumps found and destroyed.
- 1500 - Have met enemy sniper fire all day. Leading company has been successful in reducing same and able to progress steadily. It is estimated a company of Japs are fighting small delaying actions. Destroyed one 7.7 Jap machine gun, 10,000 rounds of ammo, 6 cases of plastic land mines, 220 rds 50mm mortar ammo. Captured 2 Jap trucks which are being used as water, supply and heavy weapon hauling since our organic cannot cross the many small and large destroyed bridges. Kill Jap horse and mule that were seriously wounded. RRTR.
- 1600 - Establish bivouac 36.7 - 88.5 and dig in. Bivouac is near an old enemy division CP. Destroy 4 separate dumps containing rice, dumps containing medical supplies, leather goods, piles of Jap invasion money. Rumor that Germany surrendered - false.
- 1800 - Received Regtl order "1st Bn will pass through you tomorrow so that you may secure rations by plane" 149 FA registers in for our perimeter support. Rations are depleted. Summary: 70 Japs killed. 1 man (L Co) LWA (Lightly Wounded in Action)
- Apr 30
- 0600 - Our perimeter receives several rounds of Jap mortar and sniper fire during night. No damage.
- 0730 - Ted to Pappy radio msg "3rd Bn will continue lead advance and secure ration dropping grounds"
- 0800 - Bn moves out L, I, Hq, M, K. Pappy, Jackson, Clapshaw with leading company.
- 0900 - Point meets sniper fire but is not held up for long.
- 0930 - Ration dropping objective reached. K Company at rear of column attacked by Jap machine gun and rifle fire. M Company heavy mortars are brought into the action.
- 1015 - Litters and litter bearers are called to the rear.
- 1030 - Action ceases and K Company in to the assembly area. 14 Japs killed. 2 men (K Co) 1 man (M Co) WIA (Wounded In Action)
- 1100 - WIA men are evacuated to rear by Jap truck (captured), thence peep, thence ambulance. RRTR. Ted to Pappy "Ration drop at 1400". Sgt Edwards, Medico, captures a Korean, a prisoner of the Japs.
- 1330 - General MARTIN (Division Commander) and Col STARR visit point of advance. L Company is ordered to continue advance while

to
May 5



Omonay

CP May 1

Pulangi River

April 30 CP

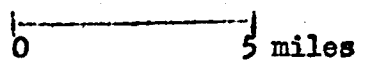
April 29 CP

Sayre National Highway
31st Division Route
3rd Bn 124th Inf. at Point of Advance

CP April 28

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Scale:



Route of 3rd Bn.

April 27 CP

Distructed
Kabacan

35

Pulangi River

Route of 24th Division
Road to Davao

Fort Pikit

Entructed

- balance of the Battalion gather and distribute rations.
- 1400 - L Company moves out. C47 drop rations.
 - 1500 - Some of the Bn vehicles catch up to us. 3 meals K rations per man issued. Weather is very warm.
 - 1630 - Bn moves out with rations for L Company.
 - 1640 - Knobby to Pappy radio msg "Have reached 40.3 - 96.0 high plateau objective. Captured 3 trucks, 37mm gun, radios, telephones and saki. Had light skirmishes with Jap demolition rear guard engineers. Killed 16. Destroyed a 75mm gun and 6 cases of ammo."
 - 1830 - Bn closes in to L Co, perimeter established and dig in. 2nd Bn close in to our rear. Summary: 30 Japs killed. 2 men (K Co) 1 man (M Co) WIA.

May 1

- 0700 - Quiet night some sporadic sniper fire, no damage.
- 0800 - Bn moves out at point again. K, I, Hq, M, L order of advance. Pappy, Jackson and Clapshaw with leading company. AP and AT pltns of Hqs Company are guarding bridges as 106 Engineers repair them.
- 0900 - Rear company kills 1 Jap. Very hot and canteens are empty, water not so plentiful on this plateau. Very little opposition and advance is swift.
- 1030 - Column held up while Marine Helldivers bomb and strafe positions on the far bank of the Mulita River gorge. Japs are withdrawing as fast as they can, fighting delaying actions. Bombers drop 6 tons of bombs. Marine Liaison Officer with the point of our unit reports that planes destroyed several enemy supply dumps. Col STARR visits point of advance.
- 1200 - Battalion crosses swift river, bridge has been burned and blown. No opposition. Men are allowed to wash and bathe.
- 1230 - As 2nd Bn ford river one of their men is swept downstream with full field equipment on. Man was rescued by Chaplain Visscher, S/Sgt Adams (then T/4) and T/4 Zapf (then Pfc) all of Hqs Co. 3rd Bn precedes the advance to a point 1000 yards beyond the river and rests until 1500. Weather is very warm.
- 1500 - Battalion moves out, same order as earlier in the day.
- 1545 - Light skirmishes. Destroy 1000 lb rice, 4 cases grenades, TNT, 30 Jap .25 cal. rifles, blankets and other supplies.
- 1630 - K Company hits stronger resistance and is pinned down by machine guns. I Company, 2 pltns of L Company and M Company heavy weapons committed. Objective is high open ground for the night perimeter.
- 1700 - Calling litter bearers at front.
- 1730 - Resistance broken and perimeter established. 51.3 - 02.3 RRTR.
- 1900 - 2nd Bn closes in to us. 1st Bn behind 2nd Bn. Summary: 7 Japs killed. Pfc Angelo Gulino 32798169 (K Co) KIA (Killed In Action), 1st Lt. Harry Jacobs 0-1322228 (M Co) WIA to DOW (Died of Wounds), 1 man each (Hq Co) (I Co) (K Co) (M Co) WIA. Jap 'dog-tags' taken signify engineer units majority. Add 5 men (K Co) WIA

May 2

- 0700 - Some small arms fire during night.
- 0800 - 1st Bn ordered through us to take advance, 2nd Bn and 3rd Bn.

- 1000 - C-47's drop rations, 4 meals per man. 3rd Bn will move out at 1130.
 - 1130 - Move out K, I, Hq, M, L. K Company kill 1 Jap as we leave area.
 - 1300 - Reach wooden and steel bridge which is intact over the Mlita River branch. First bridge we have found intact. 1st Bn has reported no opposition. In our advance we have fought and marched 37 miles from Carmen Ferry. Our Division objective Kibawe, where the Japs are reported to be using a trail to supply their Davao sector, is about 11 miles forward. The terrain thus far has been wooded, hilly, deep gorges, hairpin curves in the highway necessary in gaining the Bukidnon Plateau.
 - 1600 - Gen MARTIN and Col STARR pass toward point battalion.
 - 1730 - Column moving steadily. Raining.
 - 2030 - March continues forward. Raining. Objective is to be taken today. In the darkness, peeps, trucks become bogged and stuck in the muddy unkempt road.
 - 2200 - Battalion reaches Damulog airstrip in a downpour of rain. No opposition. 1st Bn attained Kibawe. Perimeter is hurriedly made and troops attempt sleep in the continuous rain.
 - 2230 - Regimental Hqs pass through to set up CP at Kibawe. Summary: 1 Jap
- May 3
- 0700 - Rained until dawn. Foggy. Everyone cold and wet.
 - 0900 - L Company ordered left of road and to secure Damulog airstrip.
 - 0935 - Airstrip secure. No opposition Japs evacuated. Regimental CP with 1st Bn at Dancagan.
 - 1000 - Battalion less L Company moves to perimeter on road near airstrip.
 - 1100 - Pappy, Jackson, Bookout, Clapshaw to Regiment. Ted orders: "clear strip of weeds for the landing of planes". Balance of battalion vehicles and Lt Dodge in to CP.
 - 1200 - Volunteer patrols back to the bypassed supply dumps. Captured 2 horses and destroyed supplies and foodstuffs.
 - 1300 - Wire communication in to CP from Regiment.
 - 1800 - Ted orders "1 pltn back to guard the intact wooden and steel bridge" K Company pltn selected and transported to bridge. 4.2 mortar unit set up for Regimental support. 149th FA have not been able to cross the rear streams over which bridges were blown. 2nd Bn advance 1700 yds on the trail toward Davao. Engineers clear a Jap mine field south of Kibawe, near us. Rations depleted at breakfast this morning.
- May 4
- 0800 - All personnel work on strip cutting grass with machetes.
 - 1100 - Massingill (Capt., Hqs Co CO and S-1), Bookout and party back to bombed supply dump. Enroute back to CP capture another horse. M Company now has 2 horses to carry some of their heavy weapons, 1 horse Hqs Company to carry 284 radio and equipment.
 - 1600 - Strip cleared so that Gen MARTIN landed his cub plane. Pappy at strip to greet General.
 - 1800 - C47's drop rations, 3 meals issued per man. L Company furnish guard for ration dump. Company strengths, officers and men: Hqs 116, I 160, K 145, L 165, M 133. Bn total: 719 (Represents strength in field).

May 5

- 0900 - Clapshaw, Swartz (Lt, Bn Communication Officer), Beale, Palazola (M Co) Knight (Hq Co) enroute to CP from airstrip rout 3 Japs. Japs ran and 2 killed, one was halted and questioned, later tried running escape and was killed. One Jap was an officer.
- 1400 - Catholic Mass at CP. K Company pltn bridge guard back to Bn area.
- 1600 - C-47 lands on strip, evacuate 1st Bn wounded. Strip not large enuf for cargo planes. Ted orders "Bn advance 0700 next".
- 1800 - A Bn volunteer patrol returned from Jap supply dumps. Encountered Japs in surprise move and killed 12. Patrol find flags, dry goods, Jap personal items and 4 year old whiskey. Reported to Regt. Ration issue: 2 meals. Summary: 15 Japs killed.
- 2000 - Raining hard. K Company guarding Regt supply dump and water point.

May 6

- 0700 - Bn moves out, I, L, Hq, M, K, picking up K Co as we pass Regt. 3rd Pltn L Co remains at airstrip as guard. 1st Bn leading advance.
- 1200 - Reach blown bridge 1800 yds south of Lake Pinalay. 1st Bn pinned down on the road near the lake. Have marched 8 1/2 miles since 0700.
- 1300 - Ted orders "3rd Bn left flank enemy positions". Bn moves out, and west off road at 61.8 - 26.8.
- 1600 - L Company takes point of advance. Have moved 1000 yds west and are proceeding north using all available terrain cover.
- 1700 - Raining. Column advancing in dense undergrowth and swamp. Marine bombers bombed Jap positions early afternoon.
- 1730 - 4.2 mortars firing for effect on our right rear.
- 1830 - Column breaks and contact is difficult to effect in the dense, dark swamp. Rain continues. Have moved north about 6000 yds.
- 1930 - Proceed back to road. L Co point observe 2 Japs in the darkness and rain as they reach road. Kill one and other fled. Get map from dead Jap. 3 pltns K Co spend night in swamp upon losing contact. Perimeter at 61.7 - 29.9. Raining. Summary: 1 Jap

May 7

- 0600 - Foggy after a very wet night.
- 0645 - Pappy to Ted Radio "Reached objective 061935. No signs of enemy activity. Am astride road at 61.6 - 29.5." 3 pltns K Company intact from swamp to CP.
- 0730 - 1st Pltn I Co and MG (Machine Gun) section patrol by road to north. 2nd Pltn L Co patrol east of road.
- 0830 - 4.2 mortar schrapnel falling in our area as they support 1st Bn in the attempt to break the enemy block to our rear.
- 0905 - Ted to Pappy "When Curley (Lt Col Koonce CO 1st Bn) clears woods you lead off and secure Maramag strip #1". Weather hot and clear after fog clears. 2nd Pltn L Co patrol to CP. Negative report.
- 0915 - L Company patrol at point 2 miles north and establish road block. No enemy opposition enroute. Upon order of Ted "Bn will move forward and secure strip #1 "at 1000". Order of march K, L, Hq, M, I.
- 1000 - Column moves left of road forward. Pappy, Jackson, Clapshaw with leading company.
- 1015 - K Company and all of L Company with exception of its Hqs pltn

- clear perimeter area. Troops in perimeter receive sniper and machine gun fire from Japs which have moved in on our right and rear. Column is broken as rear of the column move to wooded section for cover and deployment. I Company attempt flank move, pinned down.
- 1030 - Men wounded during the initial attack are given aid, but aidmen and litter bearers are driven from the open field perimeter by Jap knee mortar concentration. Impossible to get some of the wounded to safety. Jap origin of fire cannot be located.
- 1040 - Arty observer plane radio us that leading elements of column are 800 yds from airstrip.
- 1100 - Japs have closed in for hand to hand combat. Capt Gifford (Medical Section) kills 2 Japs with his pistol after being hit in lower jaw. Troops extend 300 yds into woods.
- 1130 - Action ceases as DeRouen (Major, Bn Exec) orders withdrawal and reorganization in deep woods. Marine planes bombing Japs behind us. Massingill and party from I Co return toward scene of action in search of missing and wounded. Temporary perimeter established.
- 1200 - Assemble litter cases and plan route of march to forward elements of the battalion. Planned order of march - 2 pltns of I Company, Hqs Company, remnants of M, L and I Companies. It is learned that a 26 man patrol of A Company 1st Bn in an attempt to contact us, became cut off from their unit and elected to dash across open field to our lines. Only 12 of the patrol get through.
- 1330 - Massingill and party, Fowkes (Capt, FA Bn), Sherin (Lt I Co) and Markovitch (Lt L Co) missing in action.
- 1335 - DeRouen to Ted radio "In woods back of last night's perimeter, digging in, Japs over-run rear of column. Can't move until help arrives. Need medical aid."
- 1350 - Ted to DeRouen "Help will not arrive until Curley is through woods". Decide to move Azimuth 340 degrees. Entire organization is utilized in carrying litters.
- 1400 - Troops move out.
- 1500 - Ted to DeRouen "Fowkes spotted by FA plane. Plane is guiding him to you."
- 1530 - Column is held up after clearing woods, so that Fowkes and other missing personnel might catch up.
- 1600 - DeRouen to Ted "Give us Pappy's location".
- 1610 - Fowkes and small party arrive. Ted to DeRouen "Pappy is astride the road at the bridge only 600 yards northeast of you. Join him at earliest possible time today. Plasma will be dropped."
- 1630 - Ashley (Lt L Co) and two squads contact rear column. Pappy sent the patrol back to guide DeRouen to him. Forward elements of the battalion secured airstrip with no opposition. Plasma dropped by cub plane.
- 1645 - Column moves out after wounded are attended.
- 1700 - Marine planes bomb Jap positions in 'Colgan' Woods (so named for Catholic Chaplain Colgan, killed there while ministering rites to wounded). Planes use fire and demolition bombs.
- 1730 - Battalion assembled in large perimeter at airstrip 62.2 - 31.6
- 1745 - Pappy to Ted "Need 10 units of plasma, litters, bandages".

Rations were depleted with yesterday dinner. Raining.

1800 - Summary: Japs unknown, count 10. 10 men (I Co), 1 man (K Co), 1 (Med), 4 men (L Co) and 2 men (M Co) all WIA. Massingill (Hqs Co), Sherin, Gelman, Fusek, Freiman, Billington, Richalis, Gawronski (all of I Co), Witkus (M Co), Calvin Smith, Lt Markovitch (L Co) and Yates (Medico) all MIA (Missing in Action). Hawkins (3rd Bn Medic), Dennison (106 Medic KIA (Killed in Action).

May 8

0800 - Spasmodic firing during night. Pappy to Ted "Received Jap artillery fire, 4 rounds at 0745 from about azimuth 40 degrees". M Company machine gun position on road killed 2 Japs during night. Dogtags of dead Japs stated 74th Infantry. Sniper is now firing from our right rear into the perimeter. Reported to Regt the names of yesterday's casualties, also asked for all kinds of ammo. Troops are hungry.

0910 - Ted to Pappy "Ration drop today. Hold present position making every effort to clear situation at your rear".

1000 - C-47's circle field but don't drop rations.

1100 - Cub plane dropped plasma. 11 Marine dive bombers circling Jap block position, peel off and fire bomb.

1200 - Helldivers still bombing and strafing.

1500 - Cub planes drop a few K rations. No word of our MIA men.

1600 - Radio again for ammo. Planes bombing again.

1630 - C-47's dropping rations. Issue 5 meals. Ration strength: 87 Hqs Co, 144 I Co, 122 K Co, 119 L Co, 114 M Co, total: 584

1930 - Our machine guns are firing on the outer rear perimeter. Raining. Summary: 2 Japs killed.

May 9

0700 - Japs harassing perimeter all night as estimated pltn attacked L Company sector. Killed 5 Japs. 2 men (L Co) WIA.

0900 - Litter train of 13 patients with Lt Taylor (K Co) in charge, and pltn, move out in flanking movement to Regiment.

1100 - Cub planes dropping ammo, wire, sound phones.

1300 - Received word that litter train arrived at regiment safely. Marine planes are again bombing and strafing 'Colgan and Berlin Woods' (the road separates the two).

1315 - Regiment reports MIA men Massingill, Fusek, Freiman, Billington, Richalis, Gawronski came in at regiment. No news of other MIA.

1330 - Part of S01 (L Co) lost. Reported to Regiment.

1450 - Ted orders "Clear airstrip by noon tomorrow".

1500 - Panels laid for ration drop. Raining.

1700 - Ammo train in from Regiment with Massingill and party, 3rd pltn L Company previously left at Maramag strip. Raining. No ration drop. News received concerning Germany's surrender. Massingill reports on May 7 he and his party were able to get 2 A Company men out and to safety.

1800 - Enemy block at our rear has not yet been broken. Helldivers and 4.2 mortars have bombed and shelled the positions all day.

2000 - Nine rounds of Jap mortar received in perimeter. No damage. Raining. Summary: 5 Japs killed. 2 men (L Co) WIA.

May 10

- 0700 - No firing during night.
- 0745 - Ted to Pappy "Send patrols northeast. Check bridge to rear".
- 0830 - Pappy orders "50% of men to airstrip with machetes to clear grass for cub landing".
- 1130 - Grass cutting detail finish.
- 1145 - Radio from Regiment "Sherin at 1st Bn. Sgt Pratt K Co both men from MIA to duty".
- 1200 - Panel laid for ration drop.
- 1300 - I Co patrol to east. K Co patrol to northeast.
- 1330 - Helldivers still bombing Colgan and Berlin Woods.
- 1400 - Cub planes using strip. Bring in socks, clothes, ammo.
- 1500 - Pappy to Ted "What about rations".
- 1525 - I Co patrol found 100 250lb American bombs. K Co patrol found 1 dead Jap Lt. Ted to Pappy "L-5 (cub plane) to bring rations".
- 1600 - 5 C-47's over strip and drop ammo including 4.2 mortar ammo. Cubs bring in rations, 1 meal per man.
- 1730 - Pappy to Ted "Received C-47 drop of ammo and 4.2 mortar".
- 1745 - Pappy to Ted "Bridge to rear can be bypassed. Bridge burned. 20 ft long, 10 ft high".
- 1750 - Ted to Pappy "C-47 made mistake and dropped everything to you. Make list of items and notify."
- 2000 - Enemy fires 24 rounds of artillery at perimeter, no damage as missiles pass harmlessly over. Men complaining of hunger, have missed 9 meals in past few days. Summary: 1 Jap found dead.

May 11

- 0600 - Japs fire 20 rds artillery at perimeter again. No damage. Artillery thought to be 75mm. Some firing during night.
- 0700 - L Company reports killing 2 Japs during night. Men search dead Japs for rice to relieve hunger.
- 0730 - Bookout (Lt, Bn S-4) lands by cub plane and brings 1 meal per man.
- 0800 - Pappy orders "50% of men cut grass for C-47 strip".
- 0930 - 4 men M Company evacuated by L-5's, 2 were accidental gunshot wounds.
- 1300 - Corsairs drop fire bombs on Berlin Woods.
- 1330 - Patrol of L Co east to Pulangi River. K Co patrol northeast to Maramag village.
- 1430 - General HUTCHISON arrives by cub and to CP. Got overlay of our position.
- 1500 - Marine planes bombing the 'Woods' again. Tough going for 1st and 2nd Bns there.
- 1530 - General left CP.
- 1625 - K Co patrol negative. L Co patrol found trails used recently running north and south. RRTR.
- 1630 - 7 cub planes bring in K rations. 1 meal per man issued.
- 1900 - L Co observes estimated platoon of Japs to northwest. We put 81mm mortar fire on them. Results unknown.
- 1915 - Raining. Japs fire 35 rounds at our perimeter. No damage.
- 2000 - M Company heavy mortars in support of L Company fire 4 rounds at unknown number of Japs as they enter and escape through the

west side of the perimeter. Summary: 2 Japs.

May 12

- 0700 - Quiet night after 2000.
- 0800 - Issue K Rations brought in by cub plane. 2 meals per man.
- 0900 - I Company patrol to north 3 1/2 miles. C-47's dropping rations, ammo. Regimental field artillery support is now in position.
- 0930 - Cub plane evacuates 3 sick men.
- 1030 - Ted to CP by cub.
- 1115 - Ted orders "L Company to replace G Company back in Berlin Woods, to move at once to position, attack after artillery concentration".
- 1125 - Ted to Becker from CP "Move G Company only to Berlin Woods immediately, where they will be met and guided to Pappy. L Company is on way back to Berlin Woods. Suggest you put mortar fire on Berlin Woods immediately but do not hold up G Company movement. Have G Company meet L Company in northeast edge of Berlin Woods".
- 1135 - Ted leaves CP. L Company moves out.
- 1142 - DeRouen to Burns (Regimental Exec) "5 C-47's are dropping rations and ammo here. Equipment now being dropped for hospital. Please stop dropping here".
- 1222 - Pappy to Ted "Please furnish me by cub a copy of photo strip to north".
- 1230 - Ted to Pappy "Photos are on the way".
- 1315 - G Company arrives at our perimeter, strength: 92 men. Lt. Crisovan Commanding. G Company fills L Company gap in perimeter.
- 1330 - One man sick evacuated by cub. 20 bombers attack Berlin Woods.
- 1335 - I Company patrol to the north saw 1 Jap and small fire, bypassed to high ground. Saw no other movement in village west of Maramag. RRTR.
- 1400 - All available men of battalion carry rations and supplies which were dropped from the 47's to dump inside our perimeter. 149th FA fire 2 or 3 100 round concentrations on Berlin Woods where the Japs are still holding out from their defensive positions. K rations issued, 3 meals per man.
- 1550 - DeRouen to Bookout at Regiment "Secured 348 cases of rations, 7,500 rounds M-1 ammo, 8,000 rounds MG (machine gun) ammo, Yank magazines, 4 oxygen tanks, 4 tents, poles, pegs, 600 cartons of cigarettes".
- 1630 - Marine planes bombing 'Colgan Woods'.
- 1800 - 149th FA registers in on points near our perimeter.
- 1840 - Pappy to Ted "Would appreciate information if Knobby (Capt Knoblauch, CO of L Co) arrived".
- 1845 - Ted to Pappy "Knobby arrived with Bob (Lt Col Fowler CO 2nd Bn). Jumped off at 1600 passed through woods with little opposition. Bob should be somewhere just southeast of you. Further instructions in morning." The Japs have finally been forced from their positions. Summary: Calvert (L Co), Meid (L Co) LWA. 3 Japs.

May 13

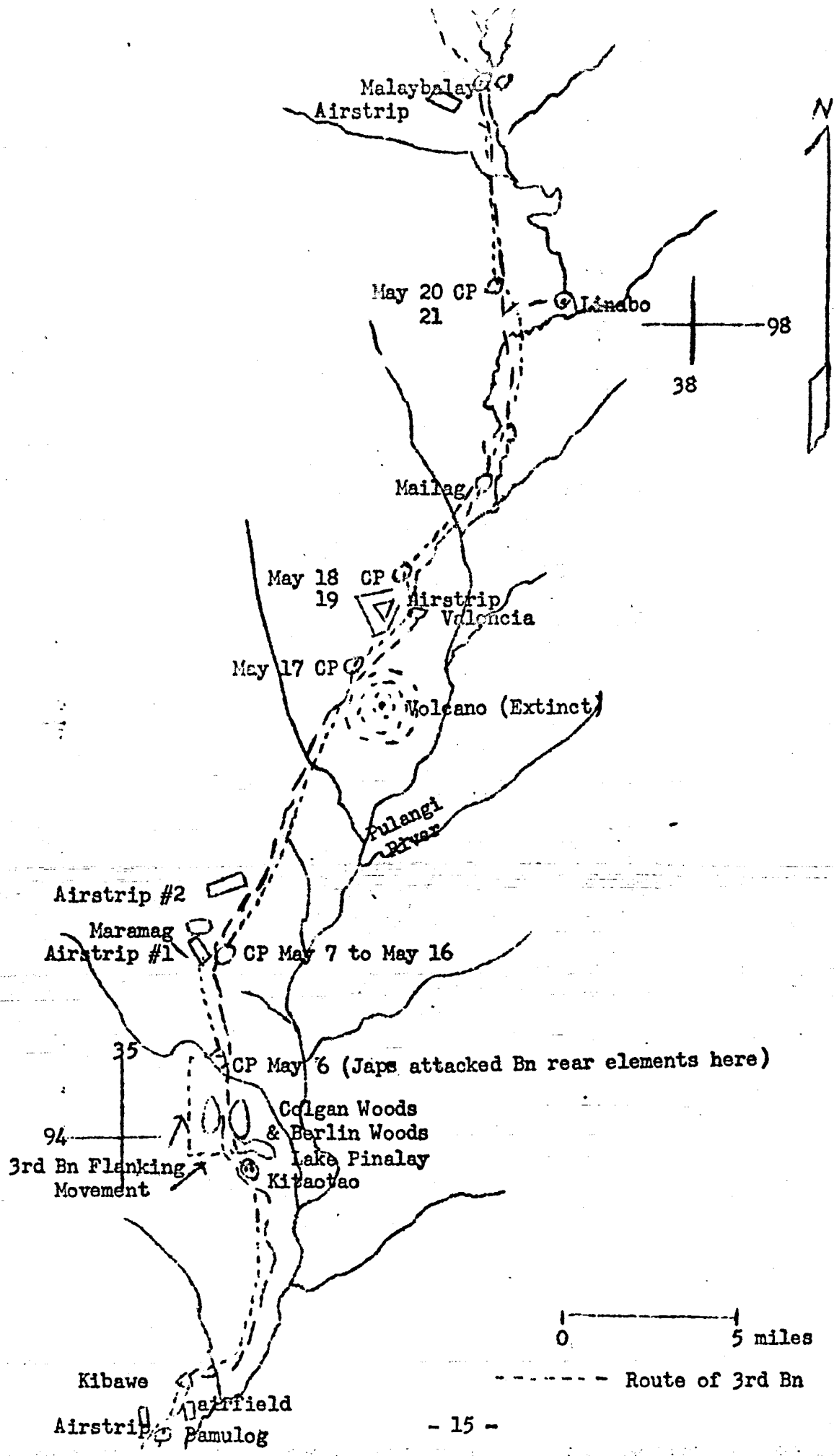
- 0700 - Quiet night within the perimeter. Loud explosions heard far to our front. Believe Japs are destroying bridges and warehouses.

- 0743 - Ted to Pappy "Our mission today is to secure strip #1 only by moving north. However you will await my orders before moving. Hanna (Col HANNA, CO 155th Inf.) will pass through you early today. Patrol strongly east of #1 to river. Contact Bob he is responsible for strong patrolling east of road through woods to river behind you. Burns and Beard (Capt. Regtl Adj) coming."
- 0745 - Pappy to Ted "5 loud explosions, demolitions, between 2045 and 2115. 5 more this morning between 0530 and 0615. No activity against perimeter during night."
- 0900 - L Company in yesterday's action had 2 men wounded (as noted in summary of May 12). L Company with elements of 2nd Bn jumped off yesterday at 1600. Encountered enemy machine gun fire, withdrew, and had 149 FA lay down concentrations. Advanced in skirmish line steadily thereafter. Established perimeter in Colgan Woods and are to proceed by road to our 3rd Battalion CP today. Witkus (M Co 1st Sgt) from MIA to duty.
- 0910 - K rations issued. 3 meals.
- 1000 - C-47's dropping rations. Burns and Beard to CP.
- 1300 - L Company in to CP leading 2nd Battalion. G Company reverts back to 2nd Bn and L Company fills their former position in 3rd Bn perimeter. L Company got 2 Japs this morning.
- 1318 - Pappy to Ted "Bob is now in my CP".
- 1330 - 155th Infantry (Hanna's outfit) go through us. 2nd Bn into position 700 yards to our rear.
- 1400 - 5 C-47's land on strip with rations, tractor and mowing machine.
- 1450 - Fowkes to Ted "Cub observer reports bridge over Maramag river blown". 116FA into our perimeter.
- 1500 - Bn patrols return with negative reports.
- 1530 - Regiment reports that Gelman (I Co) Lt Markovitch (L Co) bodies were found. Status report - from MIA to Deceased. Lt Sherin (I Co) (heretofore noted MIA to WIA and reported to 1st Bn) lay 3 days and 4 nights after the action of May 7. He was searched by Japs and left by them as dead. He was shot through cheek and shoulder. Yates (Medic) Calvin Smith (L Co) bodies found.
- 1600 - Ted orders "Move forward 1000 yds at 0700 next".
- 1700 - Rear echelon vehicles of 155th Inf move into our perimeter also 106 Engineers are beginning work on bypass for the burned bridge immediately forward of us.
- 1730 - Several Japs crawled to our perimeter. Are firing at 116 FA as they prepare positions for their 105 howitzers. We kill 3 Japs. Japs identified as 7th Co 74th Regt.
- 1745 - Chaplain Visscher has protestant service. 81mm mortars registering in for the night. 155th Infantry units still proceeding through us and forward.
- 1800 - Summary: 1 man (L Co) 2 men (M Co) WIA. Lt. Markovitch (L Co) Yates (Medic) Calvin Smith (L Co) Gelman (I Co) from MIA to deceased. Japs: 5.

May 14

- 0700 - Battalion moves forward 1 mile to form large perimeter around strip, Division Hqs, Regimental Hqs. Ration issue: 3 meals.

- 0830 - Wire communication from Regt to CP.
 0930 - I and K Company patrols east to Pulangi River. L Company patrol west.
 1100 - Battalion vehicles, kitchens, Hqs Co A & P pltn to CP.
 1200 - Beard reports Williams (M Co) drowned and body found in Mindanao River, MIA to deceased.
 1400 - Hqs Co Anti Tank Pltn to CP after assisting Anti Tank Company in picking up bodies in Colgan and Berlin Woods.
 1600 - Patrol reports negative.
 1800 - Clear and warm evening. Dive bombers land on strip.
- May 15
- 0700 - Spasmodic perimeter firing during night. 2nd Bn at our rear are in a fire fight and have been since 0530 this morning.
 0900 - Light tanks pass through toward the 155th Inf front.
 1000 - Company or more of Japs attacked 2nd Bn this morning. Fire fight has ended. 73 Japs dead. 2nd Bn had several casualties.
 1130 - General EICHELBERGER by B-17 to strip thence to Division.
 1500 - 1st Bn through toward front.
 1730 - Generator set up, have lights at CP and radio news.
- May 16
- 0700 - Quiet night.
 0800 - 2nd Bn through toward front. L Company takes over positions held by 2nd Bn.
 0925 - Ted to CP.
 0935 - Ted leaves.
 1000 - Troops are paid April pay. Regiment moving to strip #2.
 1400 - Wire communication to Regt.
 1700 - Raining. Ted to CP. Much talk of the point system.
 1710 - Ted leaves CP. We, 3rd Bn, have advanced approximately 60 miles since crossing river at Carmen Ferry.
- May 17
- 0700 - Quiet night except for the 1 Jap L Company killed on perimeter.
 1000 - 167th Infantry contact made by advance party of 167th officers at CP.
 1200 - Division says we'll move at 1430. We await orders from Ted.
 1420 - Ted orders forward move of about 11 miles.
 1430 - Troops move out. Order of march K, I, Hq, M, L.
 1730 - Begin truck shuttle movement of troops.
 1830 - Bn perimeter formed around Division Artillery at the extinct volcano. 70.3 - 54.4 Moved forward 12 miles.
 2030 - Vehicles and Kitchens to CP. Kitchen serves coffee and hot rolls. Clear evening, moon shining.
- May 18
- 0700 - Rain in the early morning. Quiet night.
 0900 - Bn Strength: Hq 131, I 153, K 144, L 161, M 127, Medics 36. Total: 735
 1300 - Ted orders forward move at 1400.
 1330 - Bn vehicles move out. 155th Infantry leading the point of advance up highway some 10 miles in front of us.
 1400 - Troops move out. Raining.



1700 - Perimeter set up at north end of Valencia airstrip in front of Division Advance CP and Regiment. Communications in. We moved 5 or 6 miles. Position coordinates 75.3-61.7

May 19

0700 - Quiet night.
0800 - Hamburger and fresh eggs for breakfast.
1000 - Chaplain Visscher conducted services.
1130 - Ted orders 'no move prior to 1400' Men wash clothes and bathe.
1200 - Concentration of Japs sighted across Pulangi River to southeast about 5 miles by cub plane observer. About 1000 in one area and 600 in another. Artillery concentrated on the areas. Results unknown.
1700 - Artillery again fires on the Jap areas.
1745 - Pappy calls meeting of Company CO's and orders move forward some 10 miles at 0700 next.
1830 - Raining. Movie shown in area.

May 20

0700 - Troops move out. L, K, Hq, M, I
1030 - Arrive Mailag. Fill up all canteens at artesian well. Engineers have completed bridge across Manupali River. Former bridge of steel was blown.
1200 - Troops halt for an hour at pump beyond Mailag. Vehicles catch up.
1300 - Troops move out.
1330 - Battalion arrives at cross roads near Linabo. 79.0 - 75.3.
1600 - Move forward again and set up perimeter on a bald hill 79.0 - 77.5 Battalion to protect our Marine Liaison Radio station. Heard that at 1100 this morning 155th was fired on by Jap 75mm mountain gun. Raining hard.
1800 - Vehicles and kitchens in and well dispersed. Our artillery firing periodically now and all night.

May 21

0700 - No action on the perimeter during night. Battalion will stay in position.
1200 - I Company patrol 3000 yards east.
1630 - Patrol returned, negative report.
1700 - Three I Company men go to a brook east of the road for water. On way they investigate a native shack and found 3 armed Japs. Japs ran and were killed. Japs today: 3

May 22

0700 - Regimental Order "Move to Malaybalay by truck at 0800".
0800 - Troops and trucks move out. Ration issue - 6 meals.
1030 - Battalion intact at Malaybalay.
1045 - Troops begin fording Sawago River. Cable is stretched across river to support combat laden troops as they cross the swift river. Engineers start work on a Bailey bridge across river. Regimental CP set up on high ground near river. Troops remove shoes, socks and trousers prior to the crossing. Battalion mission is to proceed through Malaybalay, east by trail into the mountains. Japs reported as using trail to evacuate Malaybalay garrison and supplies.
1215 - Battalion assembled across river and move through Malaybalay.

- 3 Filipino boys with us as guides. Order of march K, I, Hq, M, L.
- 1400 - No opposition as we reach crest of first high ridge overlooking Malaybalay. Encountered 2 dead Japs, cases of ammo, supplies, dead Japs had evidently worked feverishly to hurry the evacuation. Find parts of mountain guns and 75 mm ammo.
- 1430 - Establish perimeter on east side of first ridge. RRTR.
- 1615 - Regimental wire team run wire to our perimeter. 80.2 - 87.6
- 1645 - Pappy to Ted by phone "Will need wire for communication to the next ridge objective to the east of us. Will move out at 0800 next. No contact during day. Saw 4 dead Japs in all. Will report when next ridge is reached".
- 1650 - 149th FA registering in.
- 1830 - Raining. Summary: 4 Japs found dead.
- May 23
- 0730 - Quiet night. Bn moves out. I, L, Hq, M, K. Jap artillery firing over us, some 15 rounds or more. No damage.
- 1100 - Battalion gain crest of ridge. Encountered 2 and killed 2 Japs. Through binoculars DeRouen sees a number of Japs on the trail in the valley. Pappy to Ted via radio "No opposition. 2 Japs converted to good Japs."
- 1130 - 149th FA fires on observed Japs. Japs scatter, results unknown. RRTR.
- 1200 - Perimeter on knoll below ridge. Knoll overlooks valley. 1 Jap more reported killed. Perimeter coordinates 84.2 - 87.6
- 1400 - Clapshaw to Barnes (Regimental S-2, Major) "Identified dead Japs as 2nd Company 30 FA, Hqs 30 FA, 1st Company 30 Engineers".
- 1430 - Broadway, Butler (Hq Co) Trask (M Co) and 2 Filipinos to CP from Malaybalay. As they were leaving the village they killed 1 Jap in a shack. C-47's drop rations. Issue 3 meals.
- 1730 - Japs again noted in the valley. Put 81mm mortar on them. Results not known.
- 1745 - Pappy to Ted "70 boxes of rations recovered".
- 1800 - 2 rounds 81mm mortar fired on sighted Japs again.
- 1820 - 149th FA fire for effect on known Jap area. Results unknown.
- 1900 - Ted to Pappy "Move your battalion west to previous 1st ridge just east of Malaybalay at 240730. Call on arrival." Summary: 4 Japs.
- May 24
- 0645 - Issue rations out of temporary dump. 1 meal per man depletes dump.
- 0730 - Battalion moves back toward May 22 perimeter as per Ted's order. Order of march L, K, Hq, M, I.
- 1000 - Battalion clears first steep ridge enroute back.
- 1015 - Pappy to Ted "Head of column to designated place".
- 1100 - Battalion intact in May 22 perimeter. No opposition. Wire communication to Regiment.
- 1200 - Pappy, Jackson, Rice, Fowkes proceed on in to Regiment.
- 1445 - Raining.
- 1715 - Pappy (at Regt) to DeRouen "Move to Malaybalay at once. K Company platoon and 1 section of M Company stay on ridge pass until 0700 next".
- 1730 - Battalion moves out L, K, Hq, M, I.

- 1830 - Perimeter established on the Provincial Capitol park lawn. Eat hot meal prepared by kitchens.
- 2000 - Pappy meets with Company CO's "Will move at 0800 next. Route: Silae trail. Objective: Silae".

SILAE TRAIL CAMPAIGN

May 25

- 0630 - Breakfast. Issue 6 meals K rations per man.
- 0700 - K and M Company guard to CP from pass on the ridge.
- 0800 - Battalion moves north then east of Malaybalay on Silae Trail. Order of march K, I, Hq, M, L. Chaplain Visscher notified to stay back for new assignment with paratroops.
- 1100 - Trail turns east southeast. Pass 2 Jap light tanks on trail, had been previously knocked out by our planes or destroyed by their own hands because of terrain and mud.
- 1300 - 106 Medic by litter back to Regiment because of gun shot wound (GSW)
- 1330 - Firing up front. Dive Bombers bombing and strafing trail to our front. 3 missions.
- 1545 - Pappy to Ted "Perimeter established 600 yards northwest of our May 23rd position. Coordinates 85.2 - 89.0. CP is in rice paddy. Killed 17 Japs, scattered, found 12 dead. Captured 1 Jap howitzer, 3 machine guns, 2 mountain guns, 3 tanks and much ammo. Road can be improved to 2000 yards of our present bivouac. Tracked vehicles could use stream bed and reach here".
- 1630 - Ted to Pappy "Will control air strikes. Keep us informed of your forward elements and targets".
- 1635 - Clapshaw to Barnes "Japs killed were of 2nd, 6th, 9th Companies of 77th Regiment. One a 1st Lt. Condition poor, no shoes and 1/3 of them had 1917 Enfield rifles".
- 1640 - Ted to Pappy "Guerilla Officer reports that natives have made traps along trail. They are camouflaged pits with bamboo spikes in the bottom". Raining.
- 1645 - Bookout to Pappy "Request coordinates for ration drop early tomorrow, send coordinates by 1800 each day".
- 1653 - Pappy to Bookout "Check all kitchens and move all combat troops, without EMT's (Emergency Medical Tag), with supply train to join us tomorrow". Pappy notifies I Company CO to advance at 0800 next.
- 1800 - Ted to Pappy "Cub will guide SBD's (Marine Bombers). Mark forward elements with panel". Summary: Japs killed and found dead, 29.

May 26

- 0700 - K Company got 1 Jap during night. Fairly quiet night.
- 0800 - I Company moves out. Battalion will wait for ration drop.
- 0805 - Pappy to Ted "Minor attempted infiltration. 1 Jap killed identified as 5th Company 77 Regiment. Need plasma and sulfa drugs with supply train today".
- 0825 - Ted to Pappy "SBD's received AA fire yesterday from positions 700 yards east of you".

- 0835 - Bookout to Pappy "Checked kitchens, all men have slips or have entered hospital".
- 0900 - Ted to Pappy "Supply train on way. Cub will drop medicine". I Company receives fire from 2 Jap MG's located on ridge south of trail, kill 1 Jap, destroyed some ammo and tentage dumps.
- 0915 - Pappy to Ted "Will remain in present position on advice of Battalion Surgeon as 60% of command have acute gastritis and dysentery and 50 men went in yesterday. Will patrol vigorously to east".
- 1000 - Pappy to Woody (I Co CO) by semifore and radio "Hold where you are until further orders".
- 1030 - Ration drop. 6 meals per man. L Company kill 1 Jap near their sector.
- 1100 - Pappy orders I Company to withdraw to ridge right of trail. I Company destroys 6 cases 7.7 MG ammo in Banana Grove.
- 1200 - SBD's bomb and strafe trail forward.
- 1230 - Pappy to Ted "Casualty train in to you, be on lookout".
- 1300 - 149th FA shell Jap positions which were located by I Company.
- 1330 - Hq, K, L, M take rations to I Company 1500 yards to front.
- 1400 - Three SBD's bomb Jap positions. Hit an ammo dump and destroy position. Forward observers stated that 3 Japs were blown into air.
- 1430 - Supply train arrives from Regiment with mail, medicine, etc.
- 1500 - Woody report to Pappy "Advanced 900 yards. While locating a perimeter came upon Jap bivouac area and 2 MG's. Killed 1 Jap and located ammo dump. Moved Company across stream to high ground right of trail. Bombers scored direct hits with good visible results. No casualties." K Company gets 2 Japs during the day, near their sector. Japs identified of 30 FA Regiment.
- 1545 - Pappy to Ted "Coordinates are 86.5 - 88.5".
- 1600 - Ted to Pappy "Casualty train arrived".
- 1730 - Several shots being fired in L Company Sector.
- 1735 - Men of L Company yell over to CP "Chalk up another one". RRTR.
- 1825 - Pappy to Ted "Will resume advance at 0800 next". Summary: 6 Japs.
- May 27
- 0610 - Battalion perimeter and I Company fired on by Jap 75mm and smaller artillery. No damage. RRTR. 149th FA prepare to fire.
- 0700 - Jap artillery silenced after 149FA counter fire.
- 0800 - L Company moves out at point of advance. K, Hq, M, I to follow.
- 0900 - Balance of battalion moves out. Casualty train moves out to Regiment, Massingill (sick) in charge. L Company moving ahead with no opposition.
- 1400 - Battalion perimeter on high ridges some 2 miles or more from rice paddy. Waded stream most of the way. Perimeter coordinates 87.6 - 88.6 Sighted many old Jap bivouacs along the stream.
- 1430 - Pappy to Ted "Closed in at 1400. Killed 5 Japs, found 7 dead. Will resume advance at 280800".
- 1530 - Heavy rain. 106 Medics train, Lt. Sibley in charge, arrive from Malaybalay. Enemy ammo destroyed today: 6 cases 7.7 MG ammo, 4 cases 50mm mortar ammo, 2 cases 75mm Mt. Gun ammo, 2 cases

dynamite, 2 cases land mines. Summary: 12 Japs killed, found dead.

May 28

- 0630 - Rifle and grenade fire during night and early morning. Japs attack K Company sector of perimeter. 1 man (K Co) WIA, 1 man (K Co) KIA. Killed 6 Japs. Japs were armed with rifles, grenades and explosives.
- 0800 - K Company moves out at point. Battalion will await ration drop. Litter train out to Regt. Prather (I Co) and Russell (Hqs Co) called in by Regt to accept field commissions.
- 0845 - K Company in a fight. Stan (Capt Grossman K Co CO) to Pappy "Japs using knee mortar and MG's, asking for artillery support". 1 man (K Co) WIA. RRTR
- 0945 - 149FA fire for effect on the known enemy positions. 1 man (Hqs Co) WIA by schrapnel of our artillery's close in firing.
- 1015 - K Company forward immediately after artillery concentration.
- 1100 - Ration drop by C-47's. 3 meals per man issued. 1 Man (K Co) WIA.
- 1200 - Ted to Pappy "Ashley, Massingill, Chapman eligible for Army Readjustment Program. Do they desire it?"
- 1205 - Pappy to Ted "Massingill and Chapman are in hospital in rear area near you. Ashley says yes".
- 1245 - Pappy to Ted "Recovered 46 cases rations. 1 drop went to the Japs". Strength of Battalion in field this date: Hq 65, I 132, K 136, L 109, M 84, Medics 44, Arty Ln 16, Total: 570. I Company ordered to line with K Company then turn right and take high ridge right of trail. I Company moves out.
- 1300 - K Company encounters Jap light artillery in stream bed supported by flanking machine guns. Pappy orders K Company to withdraw and hold while I Company gains ridge on right.
- 1400 - Japs fire knee mortar on I Company as they ascend steep slope. We use 81's to good advantage, fire being observed by cub plane. 1 man (I Co) WIA. 1 Jap killed. We use artillery for effect.
- 1600 - I Company has ridge secure. K Company ordered back into I Company's old perimeter position.
- 1620 - Pappy to Ted "Due to MG, mortar and rifle fire, also light artillery, advance of leading elements limited to 1000 yards. 5 known Japs dead. Our artillery used to good effect but results undetermined. Terrain ahead is densely forested with mountains on both sides of trail. Japs have prepared positions on next 3 ridges. Will resume advance at 0800. Forward movement will be slow".
- 1635 - Reported WIA's to Regiment.
- 1640 - Raining.
- 1730 - Pappy to Ted "Need BAR, Mortar, M 1 ammo and grenades".
- 1830 - Ted to Pappy "One of Bob's Companies will join you tomorrow." Bob is in our former rice paddy perimeter. Summary: 12 Japs. Pratt (K Co) KIA. 2 men (K Co) WIA. 1 man (Hq Co) WIA

May 29

- 0430 - Jap artillery, believed to be mountain guns, firing at our perimeter. No damage. Jap mortar and machine guns firing into perimeter most of the night.

- 0740 - Pappy to Ted "Minor attacks during night at 2000 and 0430. Japs used rifle, MG, mortar, Mt Guns. 1 man slightly wounded. 1 Mt. gun brought under our mortar fire at 0645. Jap casualties unknown. Moving as planned. Casualty train leaving at 0800." Cub plane used again to observe mortar fire.
- 0800 - K Company moves out as advance unit up creek trail.
- 0930 - C-47's drop ammo. I Company patrol out to the sector on the ridge on which we placed mortar fire. Found and captured 1 Mt. gun. K Company is fired on by mortar and MG. 2 men (K Co) WIA.
- 1000 - K Company withdraws for 149th FA concentration on the known Jap positions.
- 1015 - G Company with 90 men report to Bn CP. K Company advances quickly after the artillery fire is lifted.
- 1030 - K is pinned down as before. Our artillery cannot penetrate the dug-in Jap positions in the deep gorges. We use 81's.
- 1100 - K Company forward again. 1 man (K Co) KIA. 3 men (K Co) WIA. K withdraws for artillery. Jap column, estimated to be a pltn, observed front left in draw of perimeter. Put 81's on column. Results unknown.
- 1200 - 149FA puts another concentration on Jap emplacements in deep gorge. Believed Japs were hit as they could be heard screaming.
- 1230 - K Company advance again.
- 1400 - K Company fighting. 1 man (K Co) KIA, 1 man (K Co) WIA. K Company continues to maneuver forward and reduce 1 MG position. Have 1 more MG emplacement to knock out. I Company sends 1 pltn to right flank the MG from the ridge. Captured Jap 37mm gun.
- 1500 - K Company put 81's on the position. K Company strength: 80 men, have organized into 2 pltns. Litter train toward rear to be met by 2nd Bn train.
- 1600 - K flanks MG and break the block are meeting sniper fire. 1 man (Medic) WIA and will stay night with K Co.
- 1730 - K Company secures high ridge to the left of trail and establishes perimeter. K carrying casualties with them. Stan to Pappy "Hill secure, place is crawling with Japs". RRTR.
- 1845 - 149 FA registers in. Stan to Pappy "1 man WIA. Japs above and all around my position but believe we can hold them off". RRTR. Bn strength: Hq 75, I 128, K 96, L 106, M 85, Medics 26 including 106 Medics, Total: 516. Weather clear. Wire team from Regt to CP. Bn CP still in old perimeter position. Summary: 5 Japs. 5 men (K Co) WIA. Hutchens (K Co) KIA. RRTR.

May 30

- 0600 - Bn perimeter received 25 rounds of Jap artillery fire at 2000 and 2200. No damage. K Co received Jap mortar and MG fire. G Company kills 1 Jap. RRTR.
- 0630 - Cub observes our 81mm mortar fire.
- 0730 - Our artillery firing concentrations on the forward trail.
- 0745 - K Company casualty train starting back from their position. Clapshaw and scouts proceed to I Company. I Company has orders to advance up their present ridge then turn left and go down

- ridge to creek trail. This will put I Company on the trail to the front of K Company.
- 0800 - I Company moves out.
 - 0900 - C-47 drops rations. 6 meals per man issued. Dropped wire and ammo.
 - 1100 - I Company secures objective against light opposition.
 - 1130 - L Company and balance of Bn advance up creek trail.
 - 1200 - Column moving slowly as Hqs and G Company carry rations for K and I Companies.
 - 1300 - L Company in a fight against mortar, MG and rifle. L Co kills 6 Japs.
 - 1400 - Japs put mortar fire on L Company. 1 man (L Co) KIA, 6 men (L Co) WIA.
 - 1430 - L kills 18 more Japs in flanking movement, but have to withdraw for artillery support.
 - 1545 - 114th FA firing 155mm's in concentration. 1 round is left and short, explodes in K Company perimeter. 1 man (K Co) KIA, 3 men (K Co) WIA.
 - 1630 - L Company ordered to hold. Bn CP set up between K Company and creek trail, on a steep hillside. I Company is on right of trail forward. G Company on small knoll on creek at rear of CP. Raining.
 - 1845 - I Company observes Japs pulling back in the gorge. Artillery is placed on them, a lot of screaming, results unknown. Summary: 25 Japs. Adams (K Co) KIA. Lemke (L Co) KIA. 1 man (I Co) 5 men (K Co) 6 men (L Co) all WIA.

May 31

- 0600 - Quiet night.
- 0800 - Our artillery firing concentrations on forward sectors of trail. Battalion strength: Hq 63, I 119, K 79, M 86, G 93, FA Ln and Medics included. Total: 539.
- 0900 - G Company ordered to lead advance. RRTR.
- 1000 - L Company kills Jap near their perimeter.
- 1030 - G encounters Jap mortar fire, litters called up front. Hqs Company buried Hankins near 1st knocked out 37mm Jap gun. G Company pinned down.
- 1100 - I Company, less 1 platoon to hold ridge, ordered to right flank draw of G Company.
- 1120 - Japs still mortar our forward elements. 1 man (G Co) 1 man (Medic) WIA.
- 1200 - Hqs Company litter bearers start toward rear. C-47 drops ammo.
- 1215 - G and I Companies pull back for artillery concentrations.
- 1245 - G and I attack.
- 1330 - Advancing slowly. 1 Jap killed. Hqs Co litter train ambushed. Japs throw grenades at the men carrying litters down the rocky stream bed. 1 man (Hqs Co) LWA.
- 1400 - Squad of K Company ordered back to assist litter train.
- 1420 - Litter train personnel had reduced the hold up, had killed 2 Japs before K Company squad arrived. Train continues back toward rear.

- 1515 - Chaplain Melton reports to CP from Regiment.
- 1545 - Raining. I Company asks for ammo.
- 1600 - G Company establishes perimeter left of creek trail on knoll in front of L Company. Met heavy resistance all day at creek forks. I Company less 1 pltn to perimeter up right fork 100 yards. 8 Filipinos, 4 caraboa to CP from Regiment with wire and signal equipment. Will stay with Bn and assist carrying heavy loads. Ammo carrying party to I Company is fired on by Jap MG at forks.
- 1700 - Wire communication is out of order to Regiment. Pappy to Clapshaw (with I Company pltn on ridge top) "Bring the platoon off ridge and knock out Jap MG in draw below you at 0700 next".
- 1905 - Ted to Pappy "Report situation and activity".
- 1914 - Pappy to Ted "Woody advanced 300 yds on right of creek. Cris (Lt Crisovan G Co CO) did not advance. Renewing attack at 0700. Japs today 24." Summary: 24 Japs. Ledbetter (K Co) WIA May 30 DOW. 1 man (Hqs Co) 1 man (I Co) WIA.

June 1

- 0600 - Quiet night. Bright moon.
- 0720 - Pappy to Ted msg by Cub plane "We need 12 units of plasma and other medical supplies."
- 0900 - Casualty train moves out to rear. Clapshaw with pltn advancing down draw. 1 man (I Co) LWA.
- 0930 - I Co pltn kills 1 Jap, encounter empty Jap positions. Captured 1 37mm gun at creek forks, 20mm gun, 2 heavy MG's, found 100 dug-in positions with hole to hole line communication. This information imparted from Clapshaw to Pappy by radio. Wire line to Regiment is in again. RTR.
- 0935 - Pappy to Knobby "You push to and meet Clapshaw at creek forks. On reaching forks push up left fork trail".
- 1030 - Clapshaw reaches fork. Ordered to hold. L Company encountering sniper fire. Progress is slow.
- 1040 - L Company meets Clapshaw and proceed up left fork.
- 1200 - L pushing slowly, kill 1 Jap. Clapshaw to CP, returns to front.
- 1210 - L Company fighting up front against mortar and MG's. G Company behind L Company. L Company 300 yds up trail from forks. L is calling for litters. 4 men (L Co) WIA. Raby (L Co) Hill (Medic) KIA. Clapshaw WIA. 25 Filipinos arrive at CP to carry litters.
- 1400 - Pappy and Jackson to Front. L Company pulls back for artillery.
- 1430 - We concentrate artillery fire. Jap MG firing from point across creek from CP. No damage.
- 1445 - L Company pushes again. Clouds closing in. C-47 makes 1 run over dropping area, is fired on by Japs. Because of the low ceiling in these mountains plane carries its load of rations back to strip. Bookout guides C-47 crews and accompanies plane on all ration drops.
- 1530 - Raining. L Company pushing slowly.
- 1700 - L Company breaks block and gains 400 yds of the toughest kind of terrain and opposition. L Company's perimeter on knoll commanding trail.

1730 - Pappy, Jackson, Clapshaw, Fowkes return to CP. Summary: 15 Japs. Clapshaw LWA. 1 man (I Co) 4 men (L Co) WIA. Raby (L Co) Hill (Medic) KIA.

June 2

0600 - Japs assault L Co perimeter early morning with grenade and mortar. Young (L Co) Eckstrom (L Co) KIA. 2 men (L Co) WIA. Japs were driven off.

0715 - Our artillery concentrates forward of our positions.

0800 - I Company ordered and moves through to L Company to lead advance. Bn strength: Hq 54, I 124, K 74, L 89, M 75, G 90, Medics 13. Total: 519.

0830 - I Company on trail abreast of L Company meet heavy resistance. 4 men (I Co) WIA. I Company ordered to pull back.

0930 - We concentrate artillery fire. Litter train to rear. Pappy, Jackson, Clapshaw and Fowkes to front. 4.2 mortar outfit joins our Bn and kill 1 Jap on way to our CP.

1045 - Terrific fire fight up front as I Company attempts advance.

1100 - 4 C-47's drop rations. 7 meals per man. I Company holds and G Company ordered to flank left up steep mountain.

1400 - Rations gathered, which is no small job after the planes drop them all over the country side. Many boxes are broken badly. K and Hqs Company carry rations forward to I, L and G Companies.

1445 - Cub plane crashes on K Company perimeter ridge. Pilot is scratched and bruised but otherwise OK. Stays night with Bn CP.

1500 - Bn CP moves to forks of the creek. G Company still attempting flank tactic over most difficult terrain.

1515 - Chaplain Melton buried Lemke, Eckstrom and Young 100 yards below forks. Battalion destroyed 2 cases TNT, 2 cases 37mm ammo.

1630 - G Company has attained right flank ridge. Killed 17 Japs after a stiff fire fight. Had some casualties. Impossible to evacuate casualties tonight.

1715 - Pappy and party to CP from front. Reported casualties to Regt.

1900 - G Company is ordered to return to CP tomorrow since they have so many casualties to bring down the steep slope. L Company has 1 casualty up front with them, WIA by sniper fire.

2100 - Firing and grenade explosions up front. Raining. Summary: 18 Japs. 4 men (L Co) WIA. Eckstrom (L Co) Young (L Co) KIA.

June 3

0600 - Battalion to reorganize. G Company reports they have 6 litter cases.

0700 - I Company ordered to send 1 pltn to help G Company get out. Pappy goes with I Company platoon.

0900 - Big casualty train start toward rear, 33 patients.

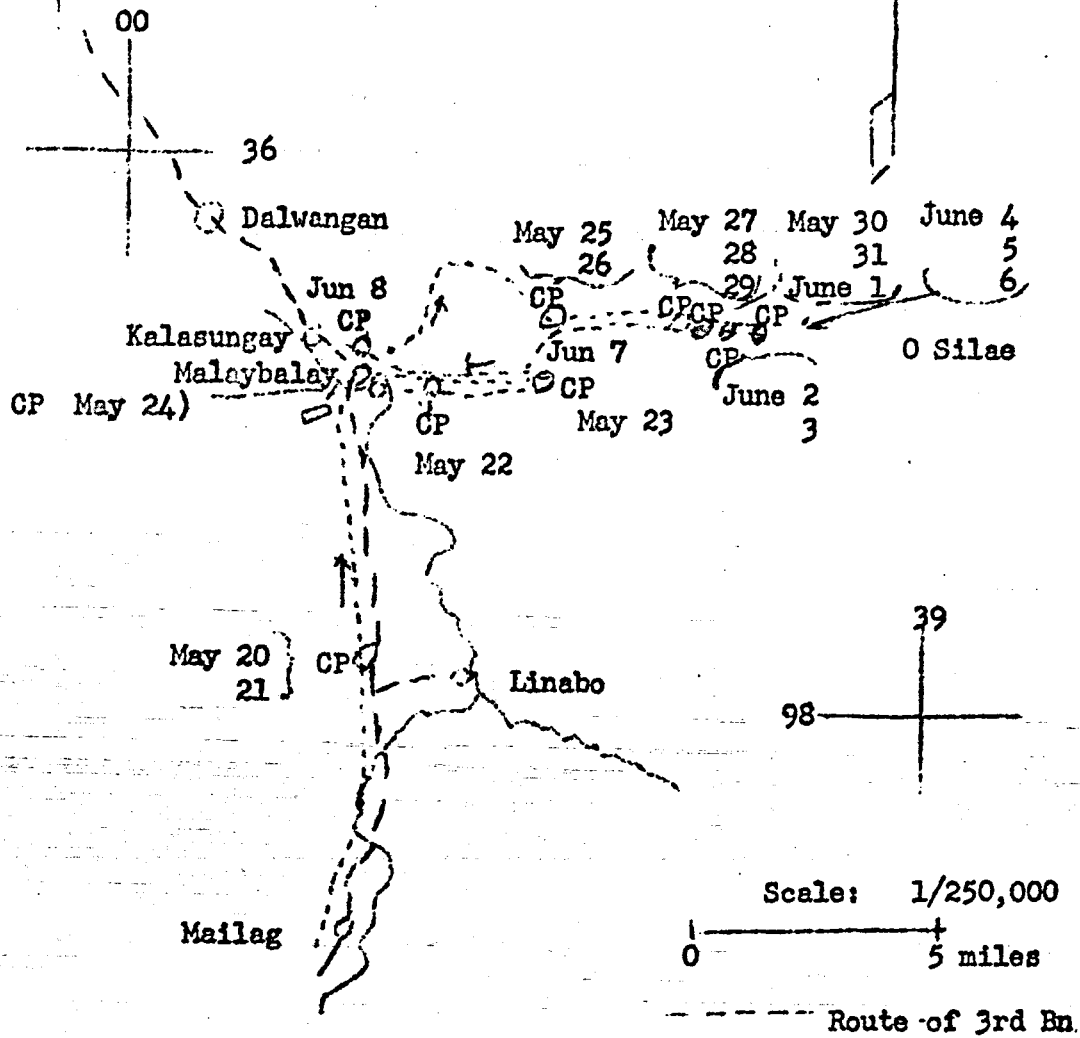
1045 - I Company reports their pltn with them, G Company coming out behind them, Pappy on way to CP. RTR. Ted says Bob will arrive tomorrow as support.

1130 - Pappy meets all CO's at CP. Plan made for next day's advance. I Company will lead attack after heavy mortar and artillery concentration. Bn strength: Hq 58, I 92, K 66, L 81, M 59, G 57, Arty Ln 6, Medics 11. Total: 430.

To Del Monte and North Coast

65 miles

NORTH



- 1200 - 4.2 mortar pltn set up on edge of air dropping clearing. Another litter train out, 3 litters, 6 walking patients.
- 1300 - C-47 drops ammo. Ration drop tomorrow.
- 1600 - Raining. 4.2 mortars registering in. 4.2 mortar FO (forward observer) with Knobby.
- 2300 - K Company outpost above CP kill 3 Japs. Estimated enemy squad had attempted to enter perimeter. Summary: 3 Japs. Carothers (L Co) WIA June 2 to DOW. Billington (I Co) WIA June 2 to DOW. 1 man (I Co) WIA.

June 4

- 0745 - Quiet night except for few MG bursts and grenade explosions. 4.2's and 155 mm artillery put down heavy concentration of fire forward of our positions after our forward units move back.
- 0800 - I Company moving forward right of creek. L Company moving forward left of creek. Regiment calls 21 men from Battalion to report to Regiment at once for possible discharge per Army Readjustment Program.
- 0815 - K Company follows I and L by trail. Pappy, Jackson, Clapshaw and communication personnel forward with L and K. DeRouen to Regt sick. Rest of Hqs Company and G Company stay in position.
- 0900 - Casualty train out to Regt.
- 1030 - Firing up front.
- 1145 - Bob into CP with his command, E, F, H Companies. G Company moves out and back midway to rice paddy to help litter trains.
- 1230 - Knobby to aid station sick. Point has advanced 300 to 400 yds he said.
- 1400 - Raining. No ration drop because of closed in weather conditions. Firing at front. New Lts Russell and Prather and 27 men in to CP from Regiment. Many of the men are assistant vehicle drivers. Men are needed badly in the field. Battalion is some 400 or more men understrength.
- 1700 - Pappy and party, including communication personnel, call by phone to the unmoved 3rd Bn rear CP. Pappy has established forward CP up front. Pappy to Ted by phone "Got 18 Japs, 2MG's, 3 knee mortars, have 3 litter cases. Are in a deep gorge, visibility 10 yards. Tough going. Advanced about 1000 yards. Found 80 to 100 Japs dead by our artillery. Japs found dead still in their foxholes. Forward CP located in gorge at 'The Hook' in the creek. Coordinates - 91.0 - 87.4."
- 1800 - Raining. Regiment reported that DeRouen arrived there. Summary: Japs killed and found dead, 111. Cates (I Co) WIA June 2 to DOW. Hummer (L Co) WIA to DOW. 8 men (I Co) WIA 1 man (K Co) 3 men (L Co) WIA 1 man (M Co) WIA.

June 5

- 0550 - Advance CP received 10 rounds of Jap Howitzer fire. No Casualties.
- 0700 - Ted to Pappy "Take high ground east of trail, then 2nd Bn will go through you". 1 Jap was killed during the night.
- 0745 - L and K Companies move to take east high ground left of trail. I Company takes high ground right of trail. Rations are to be dropped for both 2nd and 3rd Bns this morning. Rear 3rd Bn CP will move

to Pappy's advance CP when rations are collected. 2nd Bn stayed on perimeter of 3rd Bn Rear CP area.

- 0900 - I Company has ridge on right secure. K and L Companies have secured positions on left of trail. Ration drop. 6 meals per man.
- 1010 - 2nd Bn patrol reaches Pappy at the 'Hook'. Companies send details to rear CP for the carrying up of rations. RTR.
- 1130 - Rear CP personnel in at advance CP. Chaplain Melton buried Raby on way to CP at 'The Hook'.
- 1200 - 2nd Bn passes through. Chaplain buried Hummer.
- 1400 - Rations are all carried in to CP and distributed. 2nd Bn up front is having a fire fight.
- 1700 - Raining. Summary: 1 Jap. 1 man (I Co) 1 man (K Co) 4 men (M Co) WIA.

June 6

- 0700 - Rained all night. Very little firing. Bn strength: Hq 60, I 79, K 57, L 70, M 65, Medics 12. Total: 343.
- 0915 - Casualty train out, Clapshaw and about 30 others.
- 1045 - C-47's drop ammo at air dropping clearing.
- 1115 - Division wire team in to CP.
- 1555 - Reported to Regiment. DeRouen is getting along OK.
- 1810 - Japs shelling 2nd Bn about 200 to 300 yds up the gorge from us. Raining very hard. Holes filling with water.

June 7

- 0700 - Uncomfortable night, holes filled with water.
- 0830 - Ration issue. 2 meals per man. Larson and Rouse (Hqs Co) to rear sick. (Later) On the way Larson and Rouse kill 1 Jap and capture 1 Jap. They take the prisoner on in to Regiment for questioning minus pants.
- 0930 - Casualty train out, 27 men. Received Ted's order "Move back to Regiment after being relieved by 3rd Bn 108th Inf".
- 1200 - Pappy meets with all CO's at CP. Order "Move out at 1300 back to 27th Portable Hospital located in rice paddy. Pappy with K Company will stay in present position until 3rd Bn 108 Inf. arrives. Pappy will orient CO of 3rd Bn 108 Inf. Jackson will command Battalion enroute to rice paddy and until Pappy catches us".
- 1300 - Battalion moves out.
- 1630 - Battalion in to rice paddy. Pass 3rd Bn 108 Inf. enroute.
- 1715 - Pappy and K Company arrive in rice paddy perimeter. Anti Tank Company is set up here and assist with litter trains as casualties return from front. Raining. Summary: 1 Jap killed, 1 Jap Prisoner of War.

June 8

- 0700 - Order of Pappy "Battalion will move in to Malaybalay at 0800 or when the 12 litter cases are made to move from the 27th Portable Hospital".
- 0730 - Pappy and small party move out in advance of the Battalion to Regiment.
- 0800 - Battalion moves with litters over 2 ridges, same route the Battalion used May 24th. Trail is very slippery and progress is slow going up and down the steep slopes with litters.

- 1200 - Pappy and party arrive at Regiment. DeRouen has Battalion kitchens set up and area arranged for the Battalion to move. 78.3 - 88.6
- 1430 - Battalion arrives with litters. Battalion litter bearers were met at crest of last ridge by Dodge and party of rear echelon drivers and men. They carry litters to waiting ambulances. Kitchens have good hot meal prepared. Ice tea later.

END OF SILAE TRAIL MISSION

Have been on the Island of Mindanao, P. I. 47 days. Subsisted on K rations 39 days.

June 9

- 1400 - General HUTCHISON to CP.

June 10

- 1300 - I Company moved to Malaybalay airstrip as guard. Newly assigned Chaplain Barnett conducts services.
- 1430 - Col STARR and Maj BECKER to CP. Special Service issues cold cokes to men.

June 11

- 0800 - L Company ordered to send patrol 6 kilometers north to investigate Filipino report of 50 Japs in area.
- 1400 - L Company patrol back. Negative report. Division band entertains in Battalion area.

June 12

to

- June 19 - Nothing special to report.

June 20 -

- 0730 - K Company reinforced ordered to patrol north then east to Dila River. K moves out.
- 1545 - Radio Stan to Pappy "On high ground at 74.0 - 99.9 overlooking river. Saw 7 Japs east of river. Will send patrol east at 210800.

June 21

- K moving east to river. Killed 2 Japs at 76.1 - 99.4

June 22

- K sends out patrols, negative. Receive rations by air.

June 23

- 0730 - Ted to Stan "Remain in present location. Send out local patrols Cannon Company will be in position to support your advance this PM".
- 1110 - Stan to Ted "Captured 1 Jap prisoner, no identification".
- 1200 - Stan to Ted "Local patrols returned. No activity".
- 1650 - Stan to Ted "Plan to move south 240800. Rich (Capt CO Cannon Co) has fire preparations".

June 24

- 0955 - Stan to Ted "Am at approx. 76.0 - 98.0. River trail very rough for gunshot wound litter case. Am moving south cross country to Kalasungay".
- 1300 - Stan to Ted "At 76.4 - 94.7 should be in Kalasungay 1630".

- 1510 - Stan to Ted "At 75.6 - 93.5 investigated positions at 76.7 - 99.1 found saber, no Japs. Plane reported 2 miles of river cleared before we turned south".
- 1726 - Ted to Stan "Stay in present position tonight. Investigate position at 78.5 - 97.1. Send litter case back to Kalasungay as planned".
- 1730 - Regimental Radio Section to Rapp (3 Bn Radio Section) "Please stay on the air at all times until you are given permission to leave. We have called for two hours and no answer".
- 1735 - Rapp to Costello (Regt Radio Section) "You invent a way to walk and operate and we will".
- June 25
- 1135 - Stan to Ted "Am at 77.5 - 97.3 killed 30 Japs counted, in 2 gardens. Am moving southeast along creek".
- 1140 - Stan to Ted "Captured Filipino, a prisoner of the Japs. Filipino says 100 Japs east of river. Will try to have Cannon Co adjusted to area".
- 1212 - Stan to Ted "Cannon Co fired mission. My patrol investigated and found 2 dead Japs.
- 1310 - Ted to Stan "When patrol completes reconn return to base camp".
- 1825 - K Company intact in Battalion area. Stan reports to Pappy on today's early morning action. "We were proceeding back to river and as we gained the crest of a ridge we saw in the valley 2 gardens and a large number of Japs gathering food. We deployed, advanced, set up MG's with riflemen forward on lower slope. On signal weapons were fired. Japs were taken fully unaware."
- June 27
- Bn entrucks to Del Monte.
- July 24
- Bn entrucks to Del Monte strip. Duty: Infantry training battalion in new weapons for X Corps Combined Arms School.
- Sept 2
- War ends! Training ends!

THE END

T/Sgt Strahan, Bn Sgt Major