
Section VI

THE FORGOTTEN MEN

In any summary of this type it is impossible to cover adequately the contributions that individuals and supporting units make to the victories of an entire combat team.

To the infantryman, the combat aid men have been the unsung heroes of this war. There have been no other troops in the combat team who have suffered more casualties or earned greater respect than the "medics." These troops were unflinching in their treatment of the wounded. Unarmed, they exposed themselves to fire times without number, moving through barrages that pinned the infantry to the ground. Where the wounded were, no matter how far in front, there were the aid men and litter bearers. Nor were these activities limited to the medical detachment. When casualties were heavy and there were no roads, litter bearers came from Anti-Tank Company, Service Company, Regimental Headquarters Company, the 206th AGF Band, and from the battalion headquarters companies. These men laid down their arms and went forward to aid in the evacuation of the wounded. There was always danger. There was always the back-breaking labor of carrying a wounded man over hundreds of yards of broken ground. Still the litter teams went out and always the wounded came back. No single group of men deserves more recognition or greater praise.

Wire crews also worked night and day to keep communications operating. Theirs was a vital function, for without this lifeline, the regiment was lost. Under fire, they spliced wires, laid new lines, repaired equipment, worked 24 hours a day for days on end. To these men and to the radio crews only one tribute need be paid: communications worked when they were needed.

One of the great combinations that have been brought to perfection in this war is the infantry-artillery team. Between them, the 522d Field Artillery Battalion and the Regimental Cannon Company fired over 200,000 rounds of artillery in support of the infantry. Time and again the forward observers blasted a path for the doughboys through enemy positions. Not infrequently, they were able

to drive the enemy back or break up counterattacks by sheer weight of metal alone.

Credit also goes to the 232d Combat Engineers, who, more than any others, kept the supply routes open. They neutralized mines, repaired roads and bridges. At times they were called on to build roads where none existed before. When the situation demanded it, they laid aside their tools, took up their rifles, and coolly went into the lines as infantry.

And there were others: the Supply Sections of the various battalions, and Service Company, leading jeeps or mules with equal facility and carrying rations on their backs when grave emergencies arose. The men who kept the jeeps and trucks on the road deserve recognition here as do the cooks and supply sergeants. The clerks, though they did not fight, saw that the records of the fighting men were in order.

This, then, is what we mean by a combat team. Every man on that team is vital and necessary to it, from the regimental commander to the last Kitchen Police. If each man does his job, you have a team that will not be beaten. Such was the 442d Combat Team.

DECORATIONS

The following decorations have been presented to Japanese-American troops for action in the European and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations, as of 7 Aug 1945:

Distinguished Unit Citation	3
Distinguished Service Cross	42
Distinguished Service Medal	1
Legion of Merit	13
Silver Star	249
Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star	5
Soldiers Medal	11
Bronze Star	579
Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star	24
Army Commendation	13
Division Commendation	62
Total	1002

CASUALTY TABLE	KIA		DOW		MIA		WIA		WIA <i>Not Hospitalized</i>		IIA	
	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM	O	EM
NAPLES - FOGGIA (100TH BN, only) Sep 43-21 Jan 44	7	111		21		3	20	390			5	27
ROME - ARNO (100TH BN & 442d CT) 25 Jan - 8 Sept 44	16	192		31		2 15	64	771	18	119	6	38
SOUTHERN FRANCE (AT Co, 442d CT, only)								2			1	12
RHINELAND - VOSGES (442d CT) 10 Oct - 20 Nov 44	7	135	1	17	4	38	47	824	22	299	2	26
RHINELAND - MARITIME ALPS (442d CT) 21 Nov 44 - 17 Mar 45	1	7		3	1	1	4	49	4	39	2	4
PO VALLEY (442d CT, less 522d FA) 5 Apr - 8 May 45	4	89		8		3	20	442	10	392		58
TOTAL	35	534	1	80	7	60	155	2478	54	849	14	163
KEY: KIA — Killed in action. MIA — Missing in action. IIA — Injured in action. DOW — Died of wounds. WIA — Wounded in action.												

