







# AMERICANS

## *The Story of The 442d Combat Team*

By  
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TO THE NISEI, WHO HAVE ASKED ONLY FOR THE RIGHT  
TO BE CALLED AMERICANS, NOT JAPANESE-AMERICANS

THIS STORY IS DEDICATED

THEY HAVE RICHLY EARNED THE RIGHT



# CONTENTS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| INTRODUCTION.....   | 15  |
| CHAPTER 1   |     |
| ACTIVATION AND BASIC TRAINING.....                                  | 19  |
| CHAPTER 2   |     |
| UNIT TRAINING.....  | 24  |
| CHAPTER 3   |     |
| POM.....  | 28  |
| CHAPTER 4   |     |
| THE ROME-ARNO CAMPAIGN.....   | 33  |
| CHAPTER 5   |     |
| BATTLE OF BRUYERES.....   | 51  |
| CHAPTER 6   |     |
| THE CHAMPAGNE CAMPAIGN.....   | 75  |
| CHAPTER 7   |     |
| PO VALLEY CAMPAIGN.....   | 78  |
| CHAPTER 8   |     |
| OCCUPATION.....   | 93  |
| CHAPTER 9   |     |
| AWAY FROM THE COMBAT TEAM.....                                      | 99  |
| AWARD LIST OF 442d REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, MAY 1, 1946.....         | 101 |
| BATTLE HONORS, 442d REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM.....                     | 103 |
| APPENDIX  |     |
| PERSONNEL, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, 442d REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM..... | 105 |
| 442d Infantry Regiment.....   | 107 |
| 232d Engineer Company (C).....                                      | 146 |
| 522d Field Artillery Battalion.....                                 | 148 |

## MAPS

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| ITALY—GROSSETTO TO THE ARNO RIVER.....           | 32    |
| ITALY—ARNO RIVER, Florence Area.....             | 46    |
| FRANCE—VOSGES MOUNTAINS, Epinal to St. Die.....  | 52-53 |
| FRANCE—MARITIME ALPS, Franco-Italian Border..... | 74    |
| ITALY—NORTH APENNINES, Massa to Aulla.....       | 80-81 |
| ITALY—THE BREAKTHROUGH, La Spezia to Torino..... | 88    |

(All maps by Infantry Journal Press, from original drawings by Mitch Miyamoto)

# PHOTOGRAPHS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Colonel Charles W. Pence, Combat Team Commander.....  | 19 |
| Gun crews learned dexterity that paid off in Italy and France ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 22 |
| Elements of the 100th Battalion moving up ( <i>163d Signal Photo Co.</i> ).....   | 33 |
| Lucy, found by 3d Battalion medics in Luciana.....  | 41 |
| 100th Battalion soldier patrolling in Leghorn.....  | 43 |
| King George VI of England and Lt.Gen. Mark W. Clark review 2d<br>Battalion honor guard ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 44 |
| Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal and Lt.Gen. Mark W. Clark review 100th<br>Battalion honor guard ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 44 |
| BAR man firing at field targets ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 45 |
| Faces of men on their way to battle.....  | 54 |
| Elements of 3d Battalion moving up in regimental reserve ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 55 |
| 522d Field Artillery gun crew firing in support of the attack on Bruyeres ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 57 |
| Squad of 3d Battalion Pioneer Platoon moves up to clear minefield beyond Bruyeres ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 59 |
| Chaplain Higuchi conducting services for men of 2d Battalion ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 60 |
| Riflemen moving through shelled area as attack to relieve "lost battalion" jumps off ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 63 |
| Cannon Company crew fires in support of attack.....   | 64 |
| 3d Battalion litter squads wait in the aid station for the last attack that relieved the "lost<br>battalion." Minutes later these men were moving up to evacuate casualties. ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> )..... | 66 |
| Capt. Joseph Hill, Company F, planning the next attack with one of his platoon leaders ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 67 |
| Machine gunner mans defensive position ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 68 |
| 522d FA crewman prepares shell for firing propaganda leaflets ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 69 |
| Lt.Col. James M. Hanley, CO, 2d Battalion, and Lt.Col. V. R. Miller, Acting CT<br>Commander, at 2d Battalion Armistice Day memorial ceremony ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....                                 | 70 |
| Regimental colors at decoration ceremony, November 12, 1944 ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 72 |
| Time for a break on the long road south to the Maritime Alps.....   | 73 |
| Readying a mule train for the trail.....  | 75 |
| Manning an observation post in the Maritime Alps.....   | 75 |
| Pfc. George Marihiro, Company I, at Christmas party with child from St. Joseph's<br>Orphanage, L'Escarene, France ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 76 |
| Col. Virgil R. Miller assumed command of the Combat Team.....   | 77 |
| These were the enemy's rock-ribbed defenses.....  | 79 |
| The cost—these men died in a mortar barrage on the "Ohio" peaks ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 84 |
| Combat Team supply convoy moves across the Frigido River over a by-pass built by the<br>232d Engineers ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 87 |
| Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Fifth Army Commander, affixed the Distinguished Unit<br>Citation streamer to the 3d Battalion guidon ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....  | 94 |
| GIs guarding Headquarters, Enemy Concentration Area, at Ghedi Airfield ( <i>Signal Corps photo</i> ).....   | 95 |



PHOTOGRAPHS—continued

206th AGF Band holding a practice session (*Signal Corps photo*)..... 96  
End of the long road. Elements of the Combat Team march down Constitution Avenue,  
Washington, D.C., to have the CT colors decorated by President Truman (*Signal Corps photo*) ..... 102

(Unless otherwise credited, all photos by 442d RCT)

# ILLUSTRATIONS

(Illustrations by J. W. Guenther)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Men spent most of their time huddled around hutment stoves.....                 | 20 |
| Inspectors searched for thumbprints on salt shakers.....                        | 21 |
| The GIs showed the late <i>Afrika Korps</i> how to work an M1.....              | 22 |
| Someone was always wandering in with a snake of some description.....           | 25 |
| One man got his blouse back à la Little Lord Fauntleroy.....                    | 28 |
| Inevitably, many men were seasick.....  | 30 |
| Nakano fired, scoring a direct hit and blowing up the tank.....                 | 34 |
| One man discovered 15,000 gallons of wine.....                                  | 35 |
| Koda circled the building, throwing grenades in the windows.....                | 39 |
| Madokoro crawled to the lip of the draw and tossed in a grenade of his own..... | 42 |
| German and American medics mix under the Geneva flag.....                       | 48 |
| Men pulled themselves up by low-growing shrubs.....                             | 82 |
| Wire crews worked day and night keeping the lines in.....                       | 86 |
| Inouye raked the second gun with fire from his tommy gun, killing the crew..... | 91 |

## INTRODUCTION

THIS is the story of the 442d Regimental Combat Team. We have taken up the activation of the unit, its training, and finally its participation in combat. We have dwelt briefly on the motives behind its activation and on some of the problems these Japanese-Americans were forced to face in their effort to prove themselves worthy of being called simply "Americans." In the truest sense of the word, this is not a history. We have not sufficient perspective in time to evaluate carefully and fully the contribution of the 442d Combat Team to victory over the German armies and to the general welfare of Japanese-American citizens. Neither have we sufficient written data to insure the absolute accuracy of many minute details in the battle reports which make up a large part of this volume. In the heat of battle, especially among small units, almost nothing is written down. As a result, many of the stories of outstanding actions of individuals and small units come from memory, capricious at best and often made more so by the din and confusion of infantry combat. Records have been lost and destroyed by explosion and fire; units and individuals have been transferred. Being a small unit, we have never been able to afford the luxury of a full-time historian or photographer. The foregoing, however, is explanation rather than apology. The record of these men speaks for itself. The Nisei, as individuals and as a unit, rank with the greatest soldiers who ever served their country in time of war. They had faults, as every soldier has, but no single voice was ever raised to question their ability or gallantry on the field of battle.

Material for this volume has come from a wide variety of sources. We have taken data from the regimental journal and operations log. Members of the staff have gone to the battalions and com-

panies of the Combat Team to collect detailed information on some of the outstanding engagements in which the unit participated. Many of the anecdotes come from the diaries and personal recollections of the men. Our source material on citations and decorations is culled from the general orders awarding the official citations. We also quote from commendations given to the unit by the Division and Army commanders under whom it served.

Most of this book deals with the combat operations of the 442d Combat Team. We have gone through the training period briefly, certainly not in proportion to its importance and the emphasis it deserves. We have also dealt briefly with the intricacies and confusion of overseas movement. But, since all of this was only a prelude to the final mission of every infantry unit, we feel justified in reserving the larger part of our space for the battle activities of the Regiment.

The units that went to make up the 442d Combat Team were the 442d Infantry Regiment, the 522d Field Artillery Battalion, the 232d Combat Engineer Company, and the 206th Army Ground Forces Band. We regret that we have been unable to present a complete picture of the magnificent contributions which the artillery and engineers made to the victories of the Combat Team. However, it is the job of both of these branches to support the advance of the infantry or to back up its defense. To show either of them as functioning apart from the basic infantry regiment would be a gross distortion of the true picture. Therefore as we traced the advance of the 442d Infantry Regiment we have endeavored to show the artillery, the engineers, and at times the band, not in a subordinate, but in a supporting role, thereby giving the reader the correct perspective of a combat team in action.

O.C.S.



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