

## NARRATIVE OF EVENTS

December 1945

The 442d Infantry Regiment continued its assignment of guarding PW enclosures, hospitals, salvage dumps, petrol points, and medical depots. Additional duties were undertaken with two platoons of Company I detailed as train guards to commute between Naples and Leghorn per letter, Headquarters Peninsular Base Section, file No. 370.5 BPGCT, dated 27 November 1945.

On 4 December 1945, Colonel Virgil R. Miller, Regimental Commander, left the unit for a month's furlough in the United States. Lieutenant Colonel Alfred A. Pursall, Executive Officer, assumed command during the temporary absence of Colonel Miller, per par 1, GO #69 Headquarters 442d Regimental Combat Team, dated 4 December 1945.

Mr. Joe Farrell, 442d Red Cross Director, left for home on 2 December after 7 month's service with the Regiment.

Ninety-nine EM possessing the necessary points, were bon voyaged to replacement depots to be ultimately discharged. To offset this loss in personnel, 55 replacements, who since October had been attached to PBS, were assigned but not joined to the 442d Infantry Regiment. Their release from duty with PBS units was withheld pending the "breaking-in" of other replacements. Fourteen officers were assigned to the unit during the month.

Chaplain (Capt) George Aki was relieved of the bulk of ministerial duties with the addition of two new chaplains. Chaplain (Capt) Roland R. Young was assigned to administer to the spiritual needs of the 3d Battalion while Chaplain (Capt) John C. Craig assumed his duties at the 2d Battalion.

The reenlistment campaign was continued throughout the month and twelve more men signed up for various periods with the Regular Army.

Actively engaged in sports, the 442d Infantry Regiment contributed much to the entertainment of the Peninsular Base Section. Although the 442d quintet had started off rather shakily the previous month by losing its first game of the season, it quickly rounded the rough edges and went on a rampage, easily trouncing four teams successively, in as many games. Smooth coordination, teamplay, plus rabid rooting on the part of Regimental supporters contributed much to its success on the court.

The 442d football team, after a short layoff with the close of the regular season, played the champion 351st team from the 88th Division on 25 December at the Yankee Stadium, Italy, as a special treat for sport fans. Going into the game as underdogs, the 442d eleven dominated the game and won a hard-earned 7-6 victory over the previously unbeaten and unscored on representatives from the "Blue Devils".

Imbued with the spirit of giving, the different battalions held "Bambini" parties for the unfortunate and homeless orphans. The 100th Bn held its party at the "Go For Broke" Club, playing host to approximately 300 children. The



2d Bn sponsored two separate parties, with Companies E and G holding a party in their area, and Hq Co and F giving the other in the F Company area. The 3d Bn also gladdened many a youthful heart with its gala party for the orphans from the area of Pisa and its vicinity. The men from the 3d Bn donated approximately \$750.00, and this sum was used to buy 31 pairs of shoes and 175 pairs of stockings. Well over 350 bambini came to this party.

Compilation of the awards presented to members of the regiment as of 31 December 1945 shows the following breakdown:

Distinguished Unit Citation . . . . .	5
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque . . . . .	2
Unit Commendation . . . . .	1
Distinguished Service Cross . . . . .	48
Distinguished Service Medal . . . . .	1
Legion of Merit . . . . .	16
Oak Leaf Cluster to Silver Star Medal . . . . .	11
Silver Star Medal . . . . .	323
Oak Leaf Cluster to Croix de Guerre . . . . .	1
Croix de Guerre . . . . .	12
Soldier's Medal . . . . .	12
Oak Leaf Cluster to Bronze Star Medal . . . . .	35
Bronze Star Medal . . . . .	792
Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart Medal . . . . .	468*
Purple Heart Medal . . . . .	2019*
Army Commendation . . . . .	36
Division Commendation . . . . .	<u>84</u>
	3866

\*(Note: Does not include Purple Heart Medals awarded to members of this unit wounded in action, who were hospitalized and subsequently transferred to the Zone of the Interior. In some instances, copies of General Orders issued by the hospitals were forwarded to this headquarters, however, in a majority of the cases no orders were received. It is believed that the correct figure for total number of Purple Heart awards should be approximately 3600, including approximately 500 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Purple Heart Medal. The figures 468 and 2019 indicate the actual number of awards for which orders are available at this headquarters.)

The month of December closed with the 442d Infantry Regiment situated in the following locations:

Regtl Hq and Hq Co	Leghorn
Hq and Hq Co, 100th Bn	Leghorn
Co A	Leghorn
Co B	Leghorn
Co C	Leghorn
Co D	Leghorn
Hq and Hq Co, 2d Bn	Leghorn
Co E	Leghorn
Co F	Leghorn



Co G  
Co H  
Hq and Hq Co, 3rd Bn  
Co I  
Co K  
Co L  
Co M  
Anti Tank Co  
Cannon Co  
Service Co

Leghorn  
Naples  
Pisa Staging Area  
Tombolo  
Tombolo  
Pisa Staging Area  
Pisa Staging Area  
Navacchio  
Leghorn  
Tombolo



HEADQUARTERS 442D REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM  
APO 782, U. S. ARMY

21 January 1946

314.7

SUBJECT: Monthly Historical Report.

TO : Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section, APO 782,  
U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with AR 345-105, 18 November 1929, with Changes 4, 10 August 1944, transmitted herewith historical report of 442d Infantry Regiment for the month of 1 - 30 November 1945.

2. Above history consists of:

- a. Report as per par 13, AR 345-105, with Exhibit A (Incl. 1).
- b. Narrative of Events (Incl. 2).

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

T. M. KOBAYASHI,  
1st Lt, Infantry,  
Adjutant.

2 Incls:  
As listed.



HISTORICAL REPORT AS PER AR 345-105  
FOR MONTH OF 1-31 DECEMBER 1945

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1. Original Unit.  
No change.
2. Changes in Organization.  
No change.
3. Strength. \*

	<u>O's</u>	<u>WO's</u>	<u>EM</u>
a. At beginning of period 1 December 1945:	71	0	2104
b. At end of period 31 December 1945:	82	0	2054
c. Net gain or loss for period:	+11	0	-50

\*Assigned strength.
4. Stations.  
1 - 31 December 1945, Regimental CP in town of Leghorn, Italy.
5. Marches.  
Rescinded by par 12, C3, AR 345-105.
6. Campaigns.  
None.
7. Battles.  
None.
8. Commanding Officer.  
Colonel V. R. MILLER, 015847, Infantry.  
Lieutenant Colonel ALFRED A. PURSALL, 0282856, Infantry.
9. Losses in Action.  
None.
10. Present and Former Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action.  
None.
11. Photographs of Personnel, Important Scenes or Events.  
None available.



LIST OF DECORATIONS

December 1945

Good Conduct Medal. . . . . 316

EXHIBIT "A"