

*Was the bombing necessary?
the debate continues---*

Anzio

Despite the replacements from Camp Shelby, the 100th was still not at full strength when it headed south for Naples in late March for another tour of duty. It was ordered to join the fighting at Anzio Beach where the VI Corps made an amphibious landing on January 22. There was little resistance by the Germans and by nightfall on the 24th, the beachhead had been extended to 15 miles along the coast and seven miles inland. The VI Corps had worked to consolidate its position for five days. Unfortunately, during that period, the enemy was able to bring in troops and contain the Allied offensive.

On March 24, long after the initial landing at Anzio, the 100th boarded LSTs near Naples and set out for Anzio. The 100th had just been detached from the 133rd Regt. because the 2nd Bn., which had been guarding Ike's headquarters rejoined the unit after Eisenhower was named Supreme Allied Commander and moved to London. The 100th, however, remained as an independent unit with the Red Bull Division. Two days after departing Naples, the LSTs docked at Anzio. Another campaign lay ahead for the 100th. The Anzio beachhead was squeezed into a small land area by the sudden German counter offensive which effectively stopped the Allied offensive in February. The Allied and German front lines became fixed and both sides were well dug in.

The 34th Division was ordered to replace the 3rd Division in an area west of Cisterna, a strategic town on Highway 7 held by the enemy. The 100th was south of the main body and replaced the 2nd Bn. of the 30th Infantry Regt. at Borgo Montello. Running in a north-south direction somewhat east of this town was the Mussolini Canal, a public works project of the Italian dictator. The canal drained that portion of the ancient Pontine Marshes and created land that had been converted into productive farms.

On April 2, LTC Gordon Singles, formerly of the 69th Division, became the new commander of the 100th; Maj. Clough, at the helm after Maj. Lovell was injured, returned to his post as second in command.

On the April 4, the second group of replacements from the 442nd arrived from Camp Shelby. The 15 officers and 261 enlisted men brought the battalion complement up to 1,095. The stalemate at Anzio meant long periods of inaction. The main duty of the 100th was to patrol its assigned area to seek any bit of information on the movements of enemy forces and to repulse any enemy infiltration.

The most daring patrol during the Anzio period was that led by Capt. Young Oak Kim, the battalion's intelligence officer, and Pfc Irving M. Akahoshi. No German prisoner had been taken through the first half of May and the division commander was anxious for up-to-date intelligence.

On May 16, Kim and Akahoshi volunteered to go on patrol and promised to bring back a prisoner. Three riflemen asked to join the hunt. The group left around midnight and crept along a drainage ditch to get past the enemy's suspected forward outpost. They crawled in the darkness and soon heard digging. Kim and Akahoshi crawled through a wheat field during the night, taking a circuitous route. As they neared their own lines, they caught two unsuspecting Germans relaxing in a forward outpost and at daybreak, took them as prisoners. Capt. Kim and his group crawled back to their own line by early afternoon, and delivered the prisoners as promised. When Gen. Ryder visited the battalion the next day, he called in Capt. Kim for special commendation. He and Akahoshi received the DSC for their unbelievable feat. Throughout the Italian and French



The Girl You Left Behind



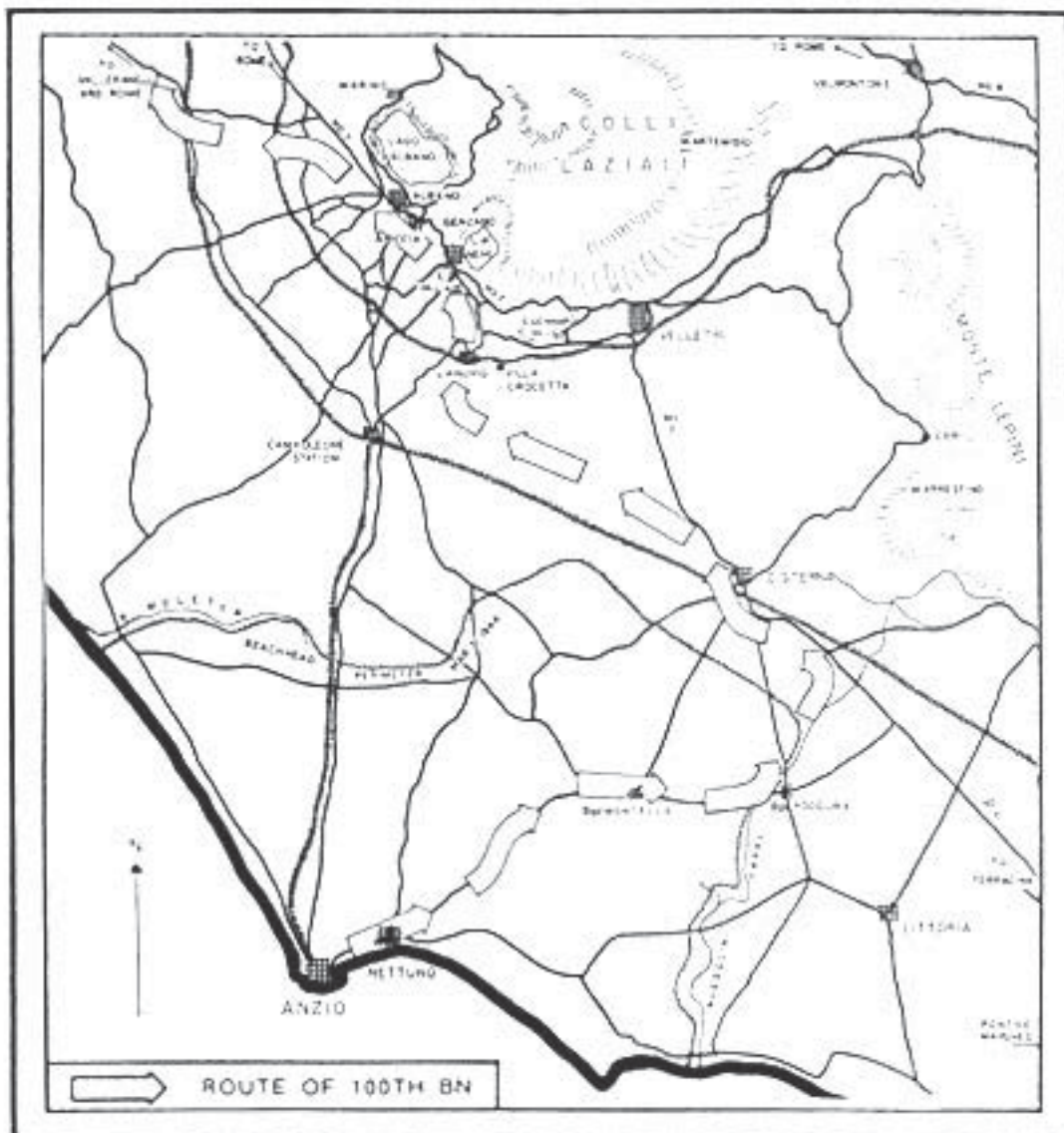
It was a rude awakening for her

The Girl You Left Behind



Joan is feeling so lonely anyway

Propaganda leaflets



Anzio through Albano

campaigns, Capt. Kim made a name for himself and the 100th for his personal exploits behind enemy lines. A product of Ft. Benning, Kim earned a loyal following among the 100th.

Among the three alternate attack plans to break out of the Anzio beachhead, the Buffalo Plan was selected and it got underway on May 23. Under Buffalo, the 34th Division was assigned as a reserve unit to be deployed as a break-through force wherever the German defensive line was breached. The enemy defense started to crumble with the Fifth and Eighth Armies breaking the Gustav Line between Cassino and the sea. In the Anzio breakout under Buffalo, seven divisions moved out of the beachhead with the objectives of cutting Highway 7, the coastal route to Rome, and Highway 6, the main route from Cassino to Rome in order to cut the escape route from the south. The Allied forces did not reach the inland highway and the advance concentrated on capturing Rome by way of the coastal highway.

With a third batch of replacements from Camp Shelby, including three officers and 112 enlisted men, the 100th was almost a full battalion. It pushed toward Lanuvio, north of Anzio, on May 27 to relieve the 135th Infantry's 2nd Bn., which was temporarily attached to the 1st Armored Division. As part of the 135th, the 100th had been in regimental reserve. On June 2, the battalion was sent to relieve the 1st Bn. of the 135th at about 1 a.m. and moved toward Pian Marano under heavy enemy mortar fire. B and C Cos. cleared lanes through mine fields to reach enemy gun nests, and by morning had taken Pian Marano. In this fierce fighting, six men earned DSCs, one a Silver Star and three were awarded Bronze Stars.

Pfc Hiroshi Yasutake, ordered to cover the right flank of C Co., reported enemy movements. Using his automatic rifle and hand grenades, Yasutake wounded seven of the enemy, engaged in a dual with another machine gun nest and got the gunners. He finally attacked another post and got four more of the enemy. He won one of the six DSCs.

B Co.'s Sgt Yukio Yokota of Honolulu, Pfc Haruto Kuroda of Aiea, and Pvt Thomas Ono of Honolulu, silenced five machine guns and five machine pistols, and killed or captured 17 of the enemy to win their DSCs. The cost to the 100th was 15 killed, three wounded and one missing in action.

On June 3, Col. Singles was assigned to command a task force that included the 100th and five heavy weapons units. Its mission: mop up the remnants of the 29th Panzer Group holding Hill 435. At 8:30 that evening, A Co. proceeded up the hill. When it was pinned down by heavy weapons fire, B Co. moved up on the left side of the hill, C Co. on the right. The battalion's heavy artillery pounded the summit area and the 100th took the hill by midnight. C Co. captured 50 prisoners.

This task force advanced on Highway 7 so swiftly, it lost contact with division headquarters. By 3 in the afternoon of June 5, the 100th found itself only 10 kilometers (6.0 miles) from Rome. But it was ordered to wait for truck transport, and ideas of being first in Rome vanished. One of the men said the 100th was deliberately stopped to let the Armored Division commander lead the way into Rome. The 100th finally reached the northwestern outskirts of Rome at 10:30 that evening. At that point the highly proficient task force was disbanded, and the 100th moved 40 miles to the north to Civitavecchia for some needed rest.

On June 11, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team arrived in Civitavecchia with its 3rd Bn., 522nd Field Artillery Bn. and the 232nd Engineer Co. The 2nd Bn. arrived six days later. The 1st Bn. had been supplying the 100th with replacements, so the few left remained at Shelby to train replacements for the 442nd. General Orders made the 100th a part of the 442nd with the provision that it keep its designation as the 100th Infantry Battalion, Separate. The reorganized 442nd Regimental Combat Team was made a part of the 34th Division.

