

UNIT REPORT

No. 6

From: 010001A Dec 1944

To : 312400A Dec 1944

103rd Medical Battalion, APO 28

2 January 1945

Location: Vic Epioux, Belgium
(P246311, Sh No 17)

Maps:

GSGS 4336, 1:100,000

GSGS 4416, 1:100,000

1. OWN SITUATION:

a. Location of troops, command posts, and boundaries.

(1) At the close of the period, the three collecting companies of this battalion were in operation, each supporting its respective combat team. Their locations, as shown on the attached overlay, were at the following points.

Company A - Petitvoir, Belgium (P303408, Sh. 17)

Company B - 1 Mi W of Straimont, Belgium (P332282, Sh 17)

Company C - Bomal, Belgium (P428999, Sh 13)

(2) The Division Clearing Station had one platoon in operation at Epioux, Belgium (P246311, Sh. 17). The other platoon was in reserve at Chiney, Belgium (P277294, Sh 17).

(3) The Battalion CP, Division Medical Supply, and Battalion 2nd Echelon Maintenance Section were located in proximity to the Clearing Station and Battalion CP, at Epioux, Belgium (P246311, Sh. 17).

b. Location of adjacent medical units and supporting elements.

(1) At the close of the period the following medical units were adjacent.

Right flank - Collecto-Clearing Co. of CC "A", 9th Armd Div.,
Longlier, Belgium (P359420) Sh 17.

Left flank - Division Clearing Station, 87th Inf Div., Vic
Bouillon, Belgium (P080362) Sh. 17.

(2) Supporting the evacuation of the Division Clearing Station were the following units:

(a) Ambulances of the 595th Ambulance Co., 170th Med Bn,
64th Medical Group (CP at Gerouville, Belgium P335160,
Sh 17.

(b) Casualties were being evacuated to the 107th Evacuation Hospital at Sedan, France (O-980260, Sh 13) and 635th Clearing Station at Villers (P262162) Sh 17. During the month the following medical units also serviced this battalion. The 580th Ambulance Company, the 32nd, 102nd, 103rd, 106th, 109th and 110th Evacuation Hospitals, the 42nd Field Hospital, the 130th General Hospital, and the 618th Clearing Station.

c. Operations during the period:

The medical battalion ~~continued to carry out~~ its normal function of supporting the 28th Infantry Division by evacuating, treating and disposing

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of the casualties suffered by the Division. During the first half of the month the Division carried out defensive operations on a wide front. The width of this front and concurrent wide separation of the medical units necessitated the split of the clearing company, with sections so located as to best support the collecting stations.

This was a continuation of the system used the previous month, where in three separate clearing stations were maintained, each receiving the casualties from one of the collecting stations. Ambulances attached to each clearing station evacuated casualties directly to the nearest evacuation hospital.

During the first half of the month, with a very low division casualty rate, a training and re-equipping program was continued and efforts made to correct any deficiencies previously noted. All of the units were comfortably billeted in available buildings, and all our stations were likewise set up in comfortable surroundings.

In the latter half of the month, the enemy on our front became most active and aggressive. Our medical units were constantly subjected to shell fire and sometimes small arms fire. They were forced out of their positions by the tactical situation which became very fluid. The units were kept on the move continuously endeavoring to best continue the support of the tactical units and avoid enemy capture. Companies A and C, with their CT's, were attached temporarily to other Divisions as the tactical situation caused their release from control by this Division. The clearing station supporting A Company remained with that CT until the 109th CT rejoined the Division. The clearing station supporting C Company returned to the clearing company CP just before C Company, with its' CT became attached to another Division. B Company continued to evacuate casualties to our clearing station, and when conditions allowed, established medical department straggler point for the Division. B Company also examined all stragglers for medical disabilities, as in a most critical period, it was necessary for the Division to use all available personnel and stragglers for the defense of the front. Medical service in these rapidly changing situations was maintained by the formation of provisional medical detachments to serve the hastily organized defense units, utilizing medical personnel and equipment from available medical detachments, our collecting company and medical department stragglers.

Towards the end of the month the clearing station which had been attached (with A Co and the 109th CT) to another Division, returned to our control, when the 109th RCT rejoined the Division. At the close of the month C Company with the 112th CT was in Corps reserve, and evacuating its casualties to the nearest clearing station.

d. Estimate of combat efficiency of the command:

During this month, as in the previous period, the personnel of the command, carried out their assigned duties in a highly efficient manner. This was evidenced very noticeably at times when the units were in imminent danger of capture by the enemy, as was the case during the critical stages of the tactical situation. In the attempt to maintain the usual high degree of efficiency of this unit, twenty one (21) members of the command were captured by the enemy. Under such conditions the personnel of the the command continued the medical support of the Division and managed to save all but an unavoidable amount of equipment from falling into enemy

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hands, in spite of the added handicap of the limited amount of available transportation. In the month of December 1944, 11 Bronze Star Medals and 6 Purple Hearts were awarded to members of the medical battalion.

e. Results of operations.

(1) The following numbers of patients were treated during the month by the companies indicated:

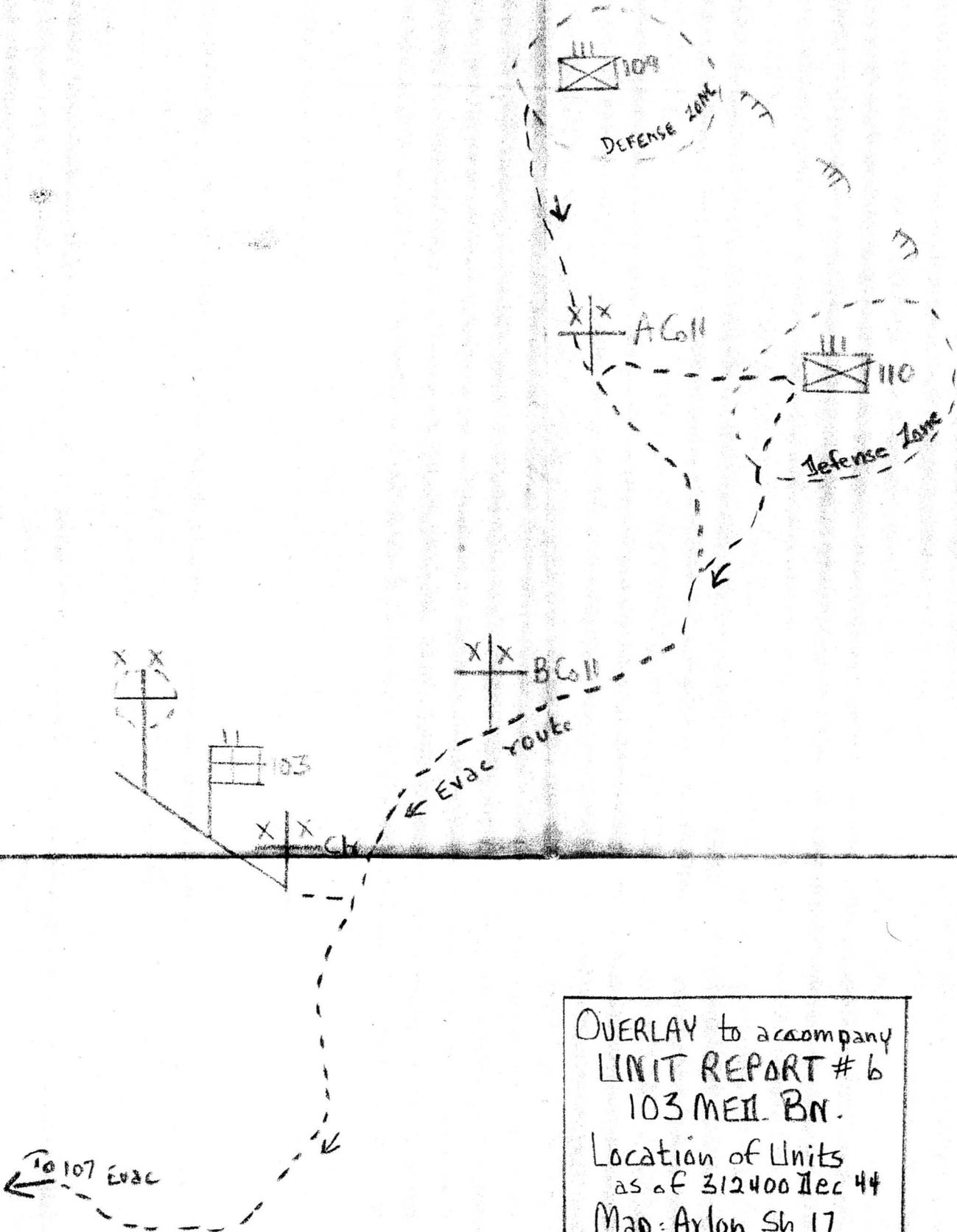
Company A - 573 patients

Company B - 418 patients

Company C - 515 patients

Clearing Company - 1958 patients (including 151 enemy and 35 civilians).

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OVERLAY to accompany
LIMIT REPORT # 6
103 MEIL BN.
Location of Units
as of 312400 Dec 44
Map: Arlon Sh 17
1:100,000