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Report date: 26 December 1944 – 10 February 1945

Title: Supplemental Operation Report - Leyte

Author: U.S. Army 77th Infantry Division

Abstract: Supplemental Operations Report on XXIV Corps, 77th Infantry Division in the Battle of Leyte, Philippine Islands, from 26 December 1944 to 10 February 1945. Includes graphics and maps.

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D 793.32 Supplemental Opn Rpt
U 377

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HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS

AFPO 958

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

TFAGP

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Correction of Error in Supplemental Operation Report,
77th Infantry Division, Leyte, Philippine Islands Campaign
for period 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, POA, APO 958.

Attention is invited to the figures at bottom of pages 1 and 32 of "Supplemental Operation Report, 77th Infantry Division, 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945", indicating number of Japanese killed. The 7016 as shown on page 1 of the report is incorrect. The 7316 as shown on page 32 of the report is correct. Request that all copies of the report received by your headquarters be changed accordingly.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. H. Biggerstaff
/t/ W. H. BIGGERSTAFF,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

POXMS 052.9/770

1st Ind.

Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 958,
12 April 1945.

TO: Commandant, Army and Navy Staff College, New War Department
Building, Washington, D. C.
Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, Washington, D. C.
Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, War Department General
Staff, Washington, D. C.
Commandant, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
→ Commandant, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.
Commandant, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
Commander, Task Group, 78.3, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco,
California.

1. Copy of subject operation report was forwarded to your head-
quarters by letter, this headquarters, POGCT 052.9/770, 21 March 1945.

2. For correction of subject report as indicated in basic.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

DATE 11/5/47

Classification cancelled or changed to

By authority of: HQ 77th Div - Movement Memo #14
8 Feb 48.

~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

J. F. GILLIGAN
Captain, AGC
Asst AG

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS
APO 235

TFAGP

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Correction of Error in Supplemental Operation Report,
77th Infantry Division, Leyte, Philippine Islands Campaign
for period 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, POA, APO 958.

Attention is invited to the figures at bottom of pages 1 and 32 of "Supplemental Operation Report, 77th Infantry Division, 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945", indicating number of Japanese killed. The 7016 as shown on page 1 of the report is incorrect. The 7316 as shown on page 32 of the report is correct. Request that all copies of the report received by your headquarters be changed accordingly.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. H. Biggerstaff
/t/ W. H. BIGGERSTAFF,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

POXMS 052.9/77A

1st Ind.

Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, APO 958,
12 April 1945.

TO: Commandant, Army and Navy Staff College, New War Department
Building, Washington, D. C.
Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, Washington, D. C.
Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, War Department General
Staff, Washington, D. C.
Commandant, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
Commandant, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.
Commandant, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
Commander, Task Group, 78.3, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco,
California.

1. Copy of subject operation report was forwarded to your headquarters by letter, this headquarters, POGCT 052.9/77b, 21 March 1945.

2. For correction of subject report as indicated in basic.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. F. Gilligan
J. F. GILLIGAN
Captain, AGD
Asst AG

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SECRET

AUTH: CG XXIV CORPS
INITIALS: *W.H.B.* AG
DATE 23 MAR 1945

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS
APO 235

TFAGP

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Correction of Error in Supplemental Operation Report, 77th Infantry Division, Leyte, Philippine Islands Campaign for period 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945.

TO : Commanding General, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

THRU: Commanding General, Eighth Army, APO 343.

Attention is invited to the figures at bottom of pages 1 and 32 of "Supplemental Operation Report, 77th Infantry Division, 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945", indicating number of Japanese killed. The 7016 as shown on page 1 of the report is incorrect. The 7316 as shown on page 32 of the report is correct. Request that all copies of the report received by your headquarters be changed accordingly.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

W. H. BIGGERSTAFF
W. H. BIGGERSTAFF
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY, APO 343, 26 March 1945

TO: Commanding General, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

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RECORDED



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AUTHORITY: COMGENPOA

INITIALS *EJ* AG

DATE 22 MAR 1945



HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 958

In reply refer to:

FOGCT 052.9/77b

21 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Supplemental Operation Report - 77th Infantry Division -
26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945.

TO : Commandant, Army and Navy Staff College, New War Department
Building, Washington, D. C.
Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, Washington, D. C.
Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, War Department
General Staff, Washington, D. C.
Commandant, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth,
Kansas.
→ Commandant, The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia.
Commandant, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
Commander, Task Group, 78.3, c/o Fleet Post Office, San
Francisco, California.

The attached supplemental operation report is forwarded for your
information and file.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

W. D. Dwyer

W. D. DWYER.

LT. COL., AGO.

Assistant Adjutant General.

1 Incl
Supplemental operation
report, 77th Inf Div,
26 Dec 44 to 5 Feb 45.
(Copy No. R-549).

SECRET

77 INFANTRY DIVISION ★ ★ ★ ★

SUPPLEMENTAL
OPERATION
REPORT

26 DECEMBER 1944

TO

5 FEBRUARY 1945

DATE 11/5/47

Classification cancelled or changed to RESTRICTED

By authority of: HQ 77th Div. Movement Memo #16
8 Feb 46



~~SECRET~~

RESTRICTED

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

:Auth: CG, 77 Div:

:Init: 7-07MG-3:

:Date: 22 Feb 45:

HEADQUARTERS 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION

A. P. O. #77, c/o PM

San Francisco, Calif.

22 February 1945

SUBJECT: Supplemental Historical Reports

TO : See Distribution

In compliance with letter, Headquarters XXIV Corps, subject as above, file TFAGM 314.7, dated 30 January 1945, this supplemental operations report, covering the period 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945, is submitted.

For the Commanding General:

OLIVER E. G. TRECHTER

Colonel, G. S. C.

Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

John W. Jeffries
JOHN W. JEFFRIES
Lt. Col., A. G. D.
Adjutant General

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	1
Section I - Chronological Summary	2 - 27
Section II - G-2 Summary	28 - 44
Section III - G-1 Summary	45 - 47
Overlay No 1 Areas of Responsibility	
Overlay No 2 Enemy Situation	
Overlay No 3 Attack Plan 27 Jan	
Overlay No 4 Unit Areas at TARRAGONA	
Distribution List	

S E C R E T

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SECTION I

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

26 December 1944

to

5 February 1945

SECRET

S E C R E T
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this supplemental operations report is to outline the activities of the 77th Infantry Division during the mop-up phase on LEYTE from 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945. While the island was officially declared secured on 25 December, large numbers of the enemy in small groups remained in the north, northwest, and west portions. This report covers the part played by the 77th Infantry Division in clearing up these portions of the island.

The period from 26 December to 5 February was characterized by a continuation of the attack to secure the PALOMPON Road, aggressive combat patrolling to mop-up remaining pockets of the enemy, relief of the X Corps, and movement of all elements of the division to the staging area near TARRAGONA. Section I of this report deals mainly in narrative form with the G-2 and G-3 aspects of the operations. Section II deals with detailed enemy information, while Section III offers a brief G-1 Summary. G-4 functions during this period were normal and routine and had no particular bearing upon the tactical situation, and for that reason have been omitted from the report.

The period may be divided into three phases although the distinction cannot be clearly made because of overlapping. The first phase, from 26 December to 31 December 1944, is concerned with the continuation of the attack to secure the PALOMPON Road and ends with the juncture of our two forces on the PALOMPON Road on 31 December. The second phase, from 1 January 1945 to 27 January 1945, embraces our relief of X Corps by this division, the operation of mop-up combat patrols, increased enemy action in the vicinity of VILLABA, and the increased concentration of remaining groups of the enemy on the west coast of LEYTE. The third phase, from 27 January 1945 to 5 February 1945, includes a coordinated attack by the 305th and 307th Infantry Regiments to effect final destruction of all enemy forces on the west coast, relief of this division by the Americal Division, and movement of the 77th Infantry Division to the staging area in the vicinity of TARRAGONA.

For the most part, this report consists of a chronological summary of enemy and friendly activity throughout the period. Sketch maps are provided to give a clear picture of the operation during the first and third phases. Areas of responsibility assigned to this division by Commanding General, XXIV Corps, upon the relief of the X Corps are shown on overlay #1. Outstanding instances of organized enemy activity are shown on overlay #2. The plan of attack for 27 January is shown on overlay #3. Locations of all units in the TARRAGONA area are shown on overlay #4. No attempt is made graphically to indicate in detail each separate patrol sent out during this period, but all assigned areas were thoroughly scoured by combat patrols.

Throughout this entire period enemy activity consisted mainly of attempts at infiltration into our defensive position on the west coast, nuisance raids and ambushes against the supply convoys along the PALOMPON Road, attempts to gather and organize scattered enemy groups in the ORMOC Valley and the hills to the east thereof, and to move these groups under cover of darkness to the west coast, where presumably he intended to load them into small boats for evacuation from LEYTE.

During the period covered by this report a total of ~~7016~~ 7316 Japanese were killed and 80 PWs taken. It is fairly certain that only very small, poorly equipped groups remain. Their evacuation has been effectively blocked and their fate will inevitably be a slow death by starvation in the hills to the west.

SECRET

CHRONOLOGY

At the official termination of the LEYTE campaign, elements of the 77th Division were still actively engaged with the enemy on the PALOMPON Road, a portion of which was still in enemy hands. The 305th Infantry had been assigned the task of securing the PALOMPON Road, while the 306th and 307th Infantry Regiments consolidated in the vicinity of LIBUNGAO and VALENCIA respectively and operated combat patrols in those areas.

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry occupied a defensive position on the west coast in the vicinity of LOOK and sent patrols north and east along the road with infrequent enemy contacts. The 2d and 3rd Battalions were pressing the attack to the west along the PALOMPON Road from positions as shown on sketch map for 26 December.

26 December

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry continued its occupation of the area around LOOK and operated patrols to the north and east. Six (6) of the enemy were killed on the night 25-26 December in the vicinity of LOOK but these were obviously stragglers who had become lost in trying to reach the coast. On 25 December, the 2d Battalion had completed a successful envelopment movement around the enemy's left south flank, while the 3rd Battalion engaged the enemy in a frontal attack along the road. On 26 December, the 2d Battalion withdrew to the rear of the 3rd Battalion and followed it in a resumption of the attack to the west. Increasing enemy resistance was received from positions astride the road northeast of DIPI. These positions were attacked with small arms and artillery fire throughout the day and the enemy was forced to withdraw, leaving behind five (5) 70mm Guns which had been destroyed by our artillery fire. The 2d Battalion sent out strong patrols, accompanied by light tanks, for a distance of 1000 yards to the front. These patrols were sent out in the afternoon and encountered only light enemy resistance, the main Japanese force having withdrawn previously.

The 2d and 3rd Battalions of the 306th Infantry were supported in the attack by the 305th Field Artillery Battalion. The 304th and 902d Field Artillery Battalions remained in support of the 306th Infantry in the vicinity of LIBUNGAO and the 307th Infantry in the vicinity of VALENCIA respectively. The 306th Field Artillery Battalion moved to positions in the vicinity of DIPI to support the attack of the 305th Infantry. All guns of the Division Artillery fired one volley at 261200 as a salute to the nation on Christmas day. This was followed by one minute of silent prayer for the dead and wounded of the 77th Division. Christmas dinner (December 25th at home) was served to all troops even in the front line.

The 306th and 307th Infantry regiments operated combat patrols in their respective areas but made only scattered contacts with small groups of the enemy; patrol action resulted in eighty three (83) of the enemy killed and 4 PW's taken. Approximately three hundred (300) of the enemy were killed by the 305th Infantry in its attack west on the PALOMPON Road. Friendly casualties were five (5) wounded in action.

S E C R E T

27 December

The 305th Infantry Regiment, less the 1st Battalion, continued the attack to the west along the PALOMPON Road, jumping off at 0630. Enemy resistance was heavy all along the road and our troops advanced against steady machine gun and small arms fire which prevented movement along the right (north) side of the road. The 3rd Battalion succeeded in passing this resistance by an envelopment to the south, while the 2d Battalion continued its attack along the road. During the night 26-27 December both battalions lit camp fires, sang songs and employed other ruses to give the impression of a Christmas celebration, in order to draw the enemy within range of our defensive positions. These ruses attracted no enemy action against the battalions themselves but similar ruses in the regimental CP area attracted several enemy patrols which were annihilated or driven off. The 1st Battalion (reinf) continued occupation of the PALOMPON area and sent patrols as far as 3000 yards to the front. Three (3) enemy planes bombed PALOMPON but caused no damage. Seventy six (76) of the enemy were killed by the 305th Infantry.

The 306th Infantry remained in position and operated combat patrols which succeeded in killing forty-seven (47) of the enemy.

Patrols of the 307th Infantry on this date encountered and killed only one (1) Jap in the vicinity of VALENCIA.

At about 270100 an emergency call from airplanes returning from MINDORO was received by the 6th Support Aircraft Party at the Division CP near VALENCIA. These planes were running low on gasoline and were prevented by weather conditions from crossing the mountain range to TACLOBAN, and were attempting to find some place to land. The CO of the 6th Support Aircraft Party, working through the G-3 of the 77th Division, alerted the 307th Infantry to light VALENCIA Airfield with jeep headlights for an emergency landing. The field was lighted within 10 minutes after the regiment had been alerted and word was passed to the planes that the field was ready for them. Six (6) planes, including two (2) P-40's, two (2) P-47's, one (1) P-51, and one (1) B-25 were safely landed.

The 77th Reconnaissance Troop continued patrolling to the east of Highway 2 and killed nine (9) of the enemy.

Total enemy casualties for this date were 124 killed, while friendly casualties were one (1) killed and four (4) wounded.

28 December

Owing to increasing enemy resistance along the PALOMPON Road, it was decided to split the force that was attacking west and transport a portion of it by water to PALOMPON, from which position it would attack east along the road in the enemy's rear to effect a juncture with the remainder of the force attacking west. The 2d Battalion, 305th Infantry, less Company G and elements of Company H, were selected for the task. This Provisional Mountain Force, as it was called, moved by truck to ORMOC and thence by LCM's of the 2d Engineer Special Brigade to PORT PALOMPON, arriving safely at 1500.

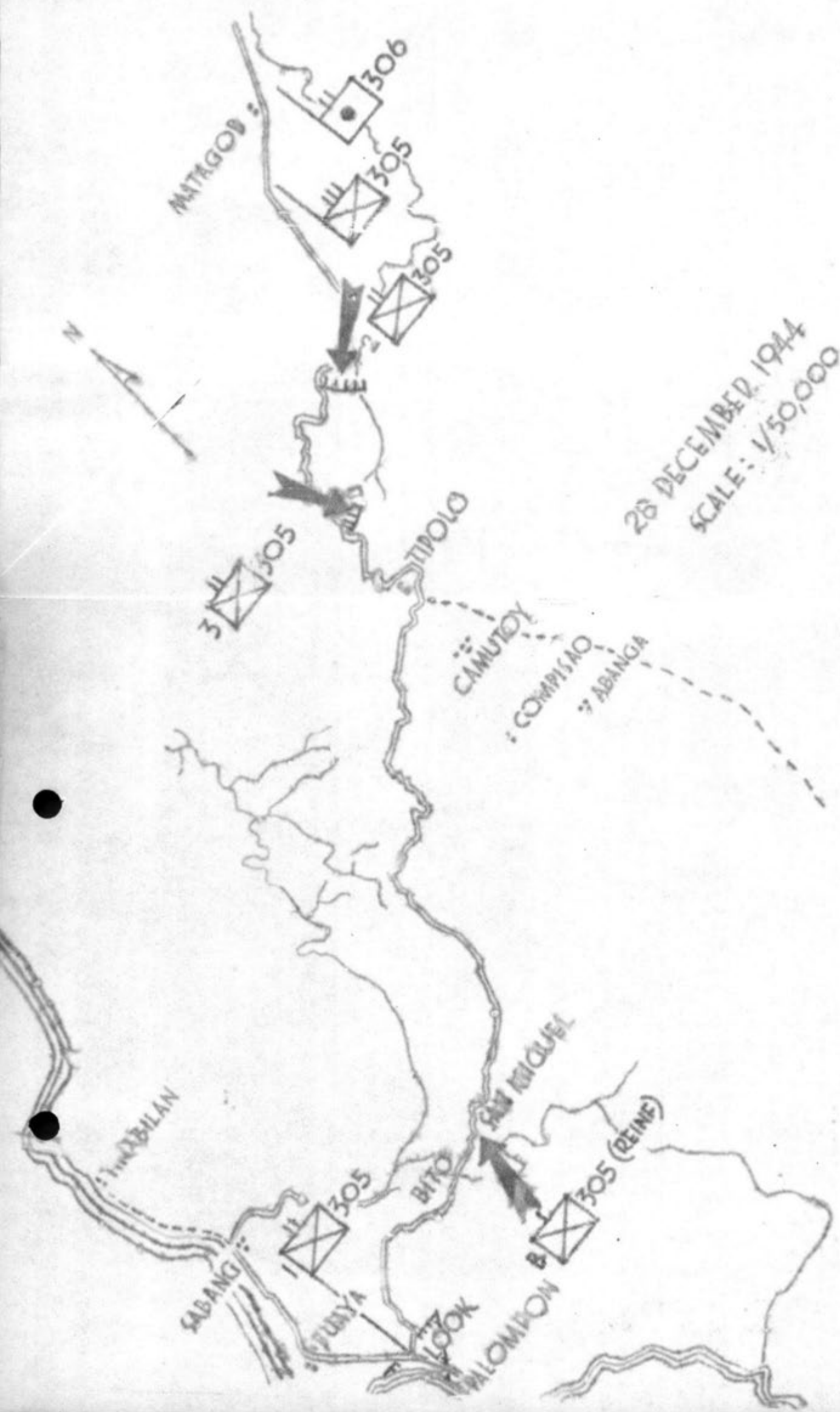
The 3rd Battalion, reinforced by Company G and elements of Company H,



26 DECEMBER 1944
SCALE: 1/50,000



27 DECEMBER 1944
SCALE: 1/50,000



28 DECEMBER 1944
SCALE: 1/50,000

S E C R E T

continued the attack to the west against stubborn resistance from enemy artillery and small arms fire from pill boxes. This battalion succeeded in advancing approximately 2000 yards during the day.

The 1st Battalion, less Company B (reinf), continued occupation of the PALOMPON area and sent patrols to SABANG with no contacts. Company B (reinf) started east along the PALOMPON Road to secure a line of departure for the Provisional Mountain Force but was held up by mortar fire near a destroyed bridge in the vicinity of BITO.

The 306th Infantry continued its operation of patrols in the LIBUNGAO area and killed 49 of the enemy. Captured enemy documents had indicated a possibility of a counterattack against the 305th Infantry forces on the PALOMPON Road, and accordingly one rifle company of the 306th Infantry, reinforced by one heavy machine gun section, one 81mm mortar section, one guerrilla squad, and 75 native carriers, was alerted to move to the vicinity of the 305th Infantry to counter the threat of enemy action from the north or if necessary to assist in the attack to the west.

The 307th Infantry continued the defense of VALENCIA and operated patrols in its assigned area but made no contacts. One patrol in the area south and west of SAN JOSE found three (3) native women raped and bayoneted; one still alive was returned to the Division Clearing Station. This regiment established a road block at the southern exit of VALENCIA to coordinate night traffic between VALENCIA and OSMOC with the 7th Infantry Division.

The 77th Reconnaissance Troop sent two (2) platoons, accompanied by artillery observers, to the vicinity of HOT SPRINGS to evacuate 3000 natives who were reported being held prisoner there by the Japanese. The Reconnaissance Troop encountered scattered groups of the enemy throughout the day and brought artillery fire to bear on a group of about 150 of the enemy on a high ridge overlooking HOT SPRINGS. The evacuated natives were escorted back to VALENCIA where they were turned over to PCAN Representatives for food, shelter, and medical attention.

Artillery battalions continued to support the attack along the PALOMPON Road and furnished call fires for combat patrols of all regiments.

29 December

The 3rd Battalion 305th Infantry continued its attack to the west along the PALOMPON Road at 0800. Enemy resistance was becoming increasingly heavy from dug in and camouflaged positions near CAMBUTOY. The battalion reached a point near TIPOLLO where heavy enemy artillery fire held up its advance for the remainder of the day. The 3rd Battalion dug in in that vicinity and prepared to resume the attack on the following day. The 1st Battalion (-) continued to send strong patrols to its front and flanks in the PALOMPON area. Company B (reinf) occupied a position 800 yards east of SAN MIGUEL, securing the line of departure for the Provisional Mountain Force, consisting of the 2d Battalion (-), which was to attack east along the road. The 2d Battalion moved out from the vicinity of LOOK at 1200 to effect a passage through Company B and to continue the attack eastward to join with the 3rd Battalion (reinf).

S E C R E T

The 306th Infantry continued its intensive combat patrolling in its assigned area and accounted for twenty eight (28) of the enemy killed.

In the area in and around VALENCIA, patrols of the 307 Infantry killed five (5) of the enemy and took three (3) prisoners of war.

Artillery battalions were active in support of the attack of the 305th Infantry and in support of patrols operating from the 306th and 307th Infantry Regiments. Artillery fired direct at a Japanese position in the foothills on the PALOMPON Road west of DIPI, killed approximately 140 of the enemy, and destroyed one (1) 75mm gun nearby. Counterbattery fire against the artillery which had held up the advance of the 3rd Battalion 305th Infantry was delivered with good effect.

The 7th AAA (AW) Battalion passed to operational control of the 32nd AAA Group and a Provisional Antiaircraft Group was formed to furnish antiaircraft protection of the BAYBAY-ORMOC-PALOMPON area.

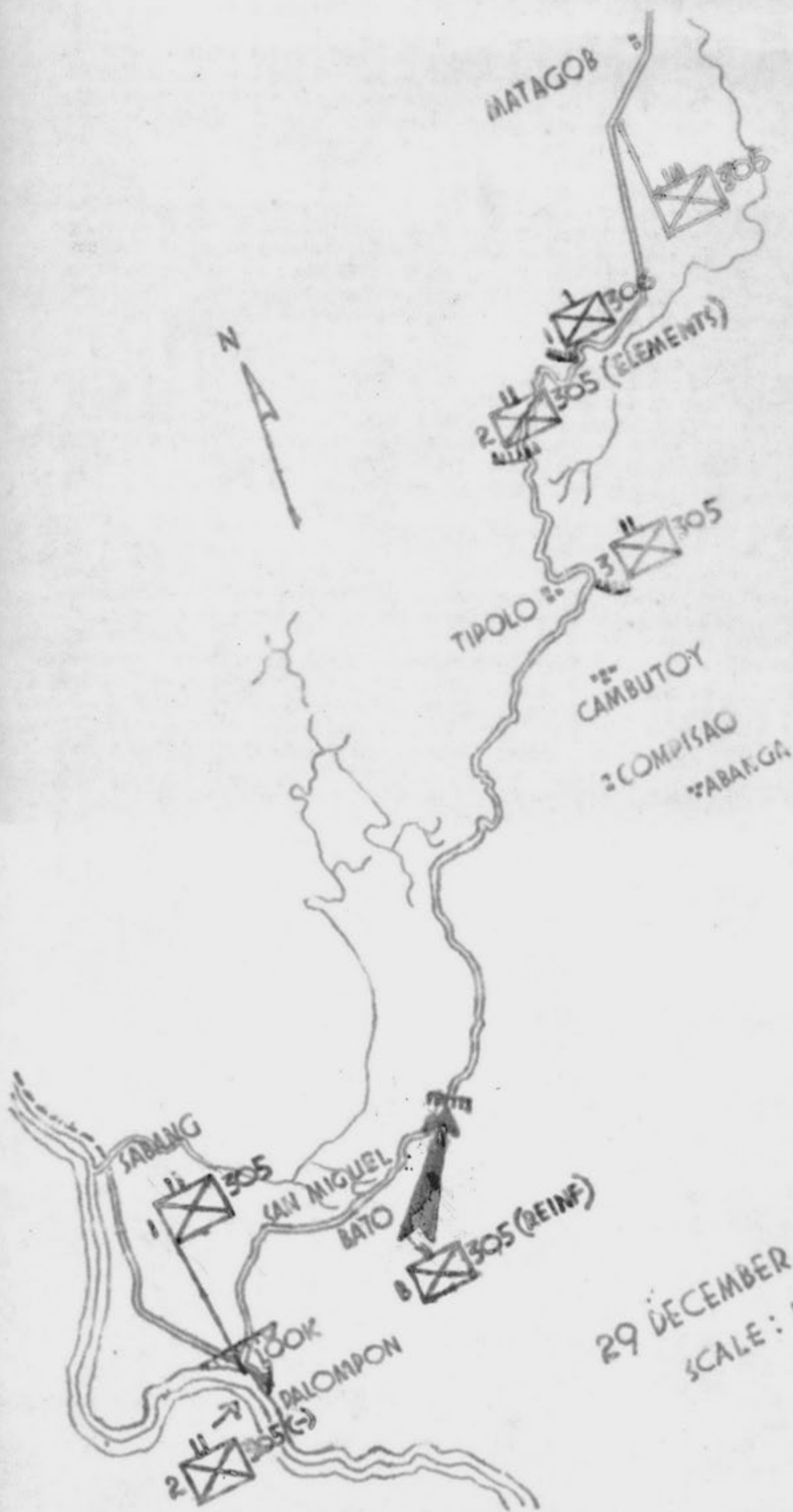
The 92nd Bomb Disposal Squad completed its mission of assembly and destruction of all unusable enemy ammunition between VALENCIA and LIBUNGAO and began work to clear the dumps to the north along Highway 2.

Enemy casualties for the day were 479 killed and 4 prisoners of war, while friendly casualties were one (1) man wounded in action.

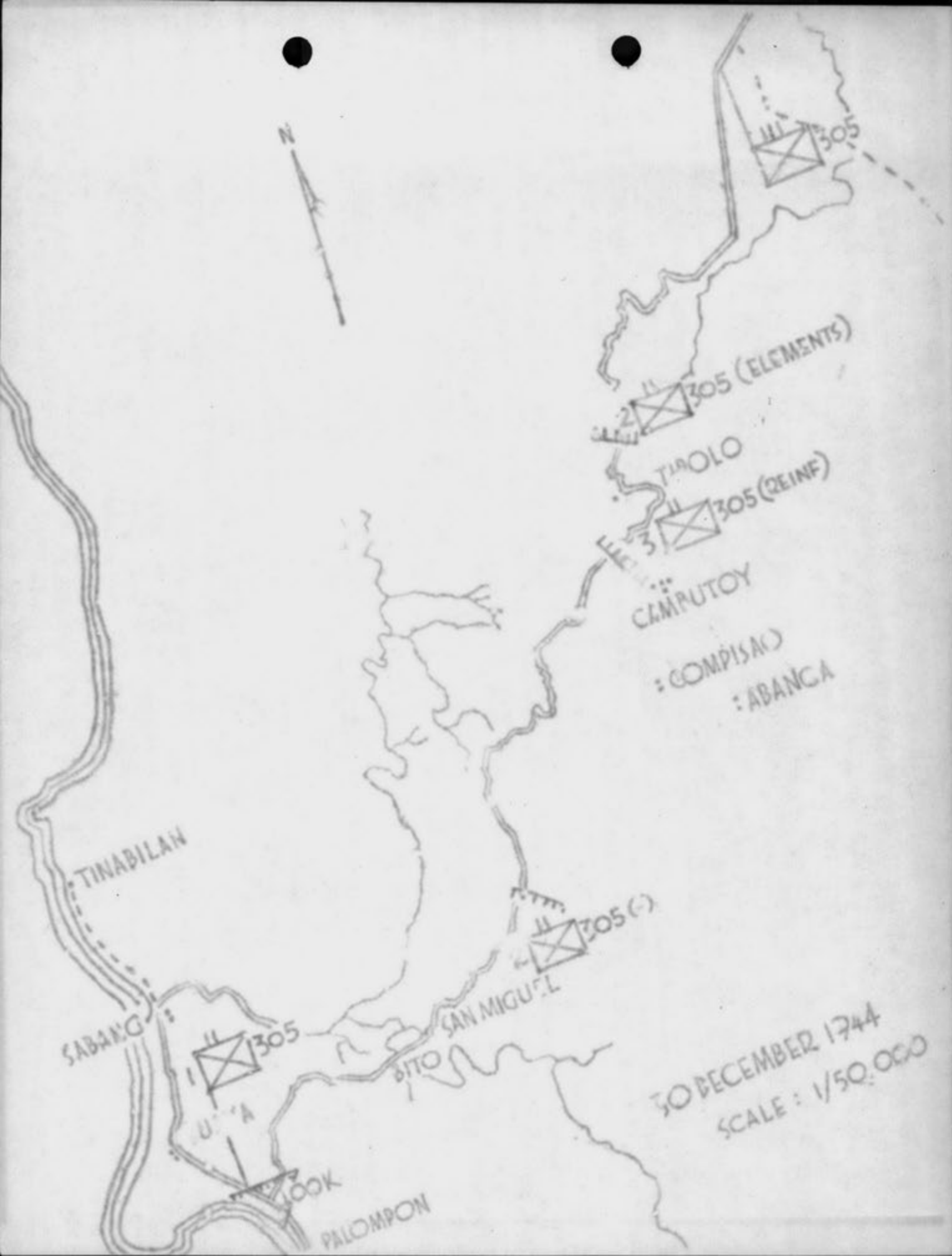
30 December

The 305th Infantry intensified its operations along the PALOMPON Road and on the west coast. The 1st Battalion (-) continued patrolling around PALOMPON while Company B (reinf) remained in its previous position east of LOOK. Company C made a reconnaissance in force and an amphibious landing at ABIJAO. The landing was met by enemy mortar and small arms fire but the resistance was overcome, the enemy driven out, and the town burned to prevent its reoccupation. Company C proceeded north along the coast to JORDAN without encountering any more of the enemy but succeeded in establishing radio contact with a patrol of the 1st Cavalry Division to the north in the vicinity of VILLABA. The 2d Battalion (-) continued its attack east on the PALOMPON Road at 0930 and advanced against scattered resistance to a point four (4) miles east of PALOMPON where they were held up by heavy and accurate machine gun fire sighted along the road from well concealed positions. The terrain on either side of the road was so precipitous as to limit greatly any maneuver to the flanks; since the next favorable terrain feature was too far ahead to be reached before nightfall, the 2d Battalion dug in on high ground near the point at which its advance had been temporarily halted. The 3rd Battalion, aided by mortar and artillery fire, succeeded in overcoming the resistance which had held up its advance on the previous day and progressed along the road to a point 1000 yards southwest of TIPOLO. Enemy artillery pieces were sighted strategically at curves on the twisting mountain road from which they delivered point blank fire on our advancing column. We lost one light tank through enemy artillery fire but succeeded in destroying three (3) 75mm guns and in capturing two (2) intact.

The 306th Infantry continued patrol action and killed twenty (20) of the enemy in its zone with no friendly casualties. The regiment initiated a preliminary



29 DECEMBER 1944
SCALE: 1/50,000



S E C R E T

reconnaissance in preparation for relief of X Corps and assumption of responsibility for mopping up areas to the north.

The 307th Infantry patrols contacted sixty-five (65) of the enemy and killed twenty-four (24) of them with no friendly casualties. This regiment also conducted a reconnaissance with a view toward assuming responsibility for a larger area upon relief of X Corps.

One platoon, Company A, 706th Tank Battalion was attached to the 305th Infantry and prepared to move out at 310800 to assist the regiment in its attack on the PALOMPON Road.

The 92nd Bomb Disposal Squad began the assembly and destruction of unusable enemy ammunition to the north of LIBUNGAO Road Junction and by the end of the day had cleared out all the ammunition from the road junction to a point two (2) miles north along Highway 2.

Enemy casualties for the day were 262 killed while friendly casualties were one (1) killed in action and two (2) wounded in action.

31 December

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, continued patrolling around PALOMPON but made no enemy contacts. The remaining enemy force between the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 305th Infantry apparently realized its untenable position and decided to withdraw to the north and west, rather than continue its defense along the road. Between 350 and 400 Japanese were observed throughout the day crossing the PALOMPON Road headed northwest. The 2d Battalion continued its attack east at 0800 against light small arms resistance and destroyed two (2) 75mm guns and small quantities of miscellaneous equipment. The 3rd Battalion continued its attack to the west against scattered rifle fire from small groups of the enemy left behind as a delaying force. Junction of the 2d and 3rd Battalions was made at 311225 two miles northeast of SAN MIGUEL, thus ending organized resistance along the PALOMPON Road and securing an overland route from Highway 2 to PALOMPON. Both battalions remained in that vicinity for the night.

Patrols of the 306th Infantry killed 12 of the enemy but patrols of the 307th Infantry made no contacts. The 2d Battalion, 307th Infantry discovered four (4) tunnels one-half mile north of the RJ Highway 2 - SAN JOSE Road containing an estimated 800 barrels of aviation gasoline, 500 500-pound bombs and 100 bomb fuses.

Enemy casualties were 310 killed and two (2) prisoners of war, while friendly casualties were four (4) men wounded in action.

Preparations were begun to move units of the division to the new defensive areas to accomplish assigned missions for the relief of X Corps and to begin rehabilitation of personnel.

The juncture of forces on the PALOMPON Road completed what might be considered as Phase 1 in the operations for the 77th Infantry Division from 26 December 1944 to 5 February 1945. Phase 2, the period from 1 January to 27 January 1945 consisted mainly of combat patrol action in all sectors.

S E C R E T

1 January

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, remained in the vicinity of LOOK and sent an emergency ammunition resupply by LVT to elements of the 1st Cavalry Division which had engaged in a heavy fire fight with the enemy near VILLABA on the previous day. The 2d Battalion consolidated into a defensive position near SAN MIGUEL while the 3rd Battalion began movement to a temporary defensive area in the vicinity of LOOK.

The division had been ordered to effect the relief of X Corps units to the north as soon as possible, and accordingly elements of the 306th Infantry began movement northward to occupy its newly assigned area of responsibility. At 1430 the 2d Battalion en route to CALUBIAN had closed into a temporary defensive area in the vicinity of PINAMAPOAN prepared to complete its movement by water on the following day.

There was no change in dispositions of the 307th Infantry. Patrols of this regiment killed three (3) of the enemy throughout the day.

Artillery battalions remained in position to support patrol actions of all regiments. A reconnaissance was undertaken for new artillery positions from which to support the infantry regiments in the accomplishment of the newly assigned mission of the division.

The two (2) platoons of Company A, 706th Tank Battalion which had been attached to the 305th Infantry were unable to reach the regiment in time to assist its attack on the PALOMPON Road owing to bridge conditions and on this date they reverted to division control. Company A, 88th Chemical Battalion, which had been attached to the 305th Infantry, reverted to its normal combat team assignment of one (1) platoon to each regiment.

Enemy casualties were twenty four (24) killed, while friendly casualties were two (2) killed, three (3) wounded and one (1) missing.

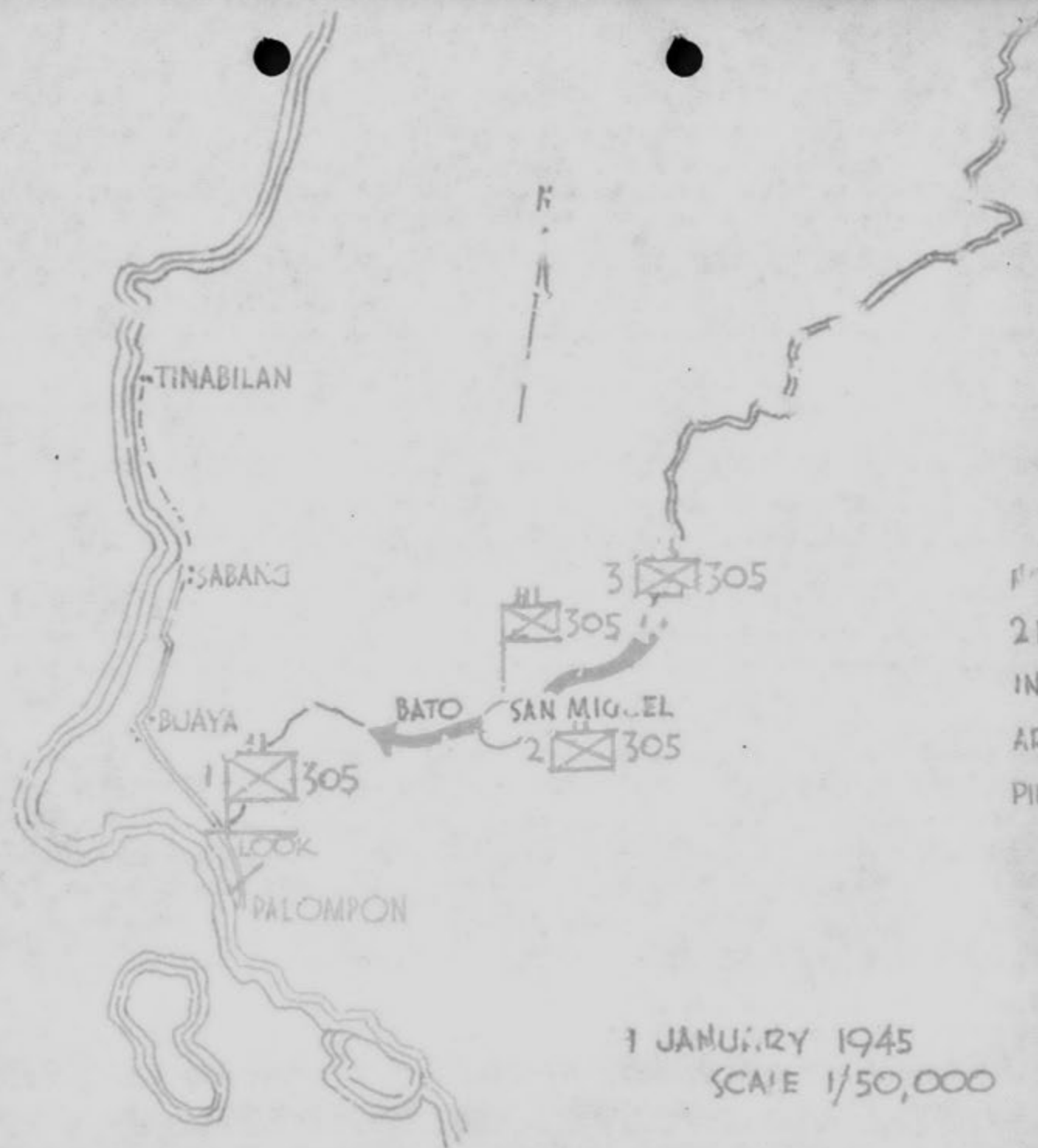
2 January

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, less C Company, remained in position near LOOK. C Company (reinf) moved by water at 1300 to the vicinity of VILLABA to assume responsibility for that area upon withdrawal of elements of the 1st Cavalry Division which had been operating near there. The 2d and 3rd Battalions and the Regimental CP remained in the vicinity of SAN MIGUEL.

Continuing its occupation of the new area of responsibility, the 1st Battalion, 306th Infantry, occupied a position midway between CANANGA and LINOY on Highway 2. The 2d Battalion began movement by water from PINAMAPOAN to CALUBIAN. The Advance Regimental CP opened at LINOY and the 3rd Battalion, Special Units, and Combat Team attachments prepared to move to that vicinity on 3 January. Company I, 306th Infantry, was still in the vicinity of DIPI where it had been sent to counter the threat of enemy action from the north against the 305th Infantry during its attack westward on the PALOMPON Road. Company I, reinforced with M-8's and light tanks,

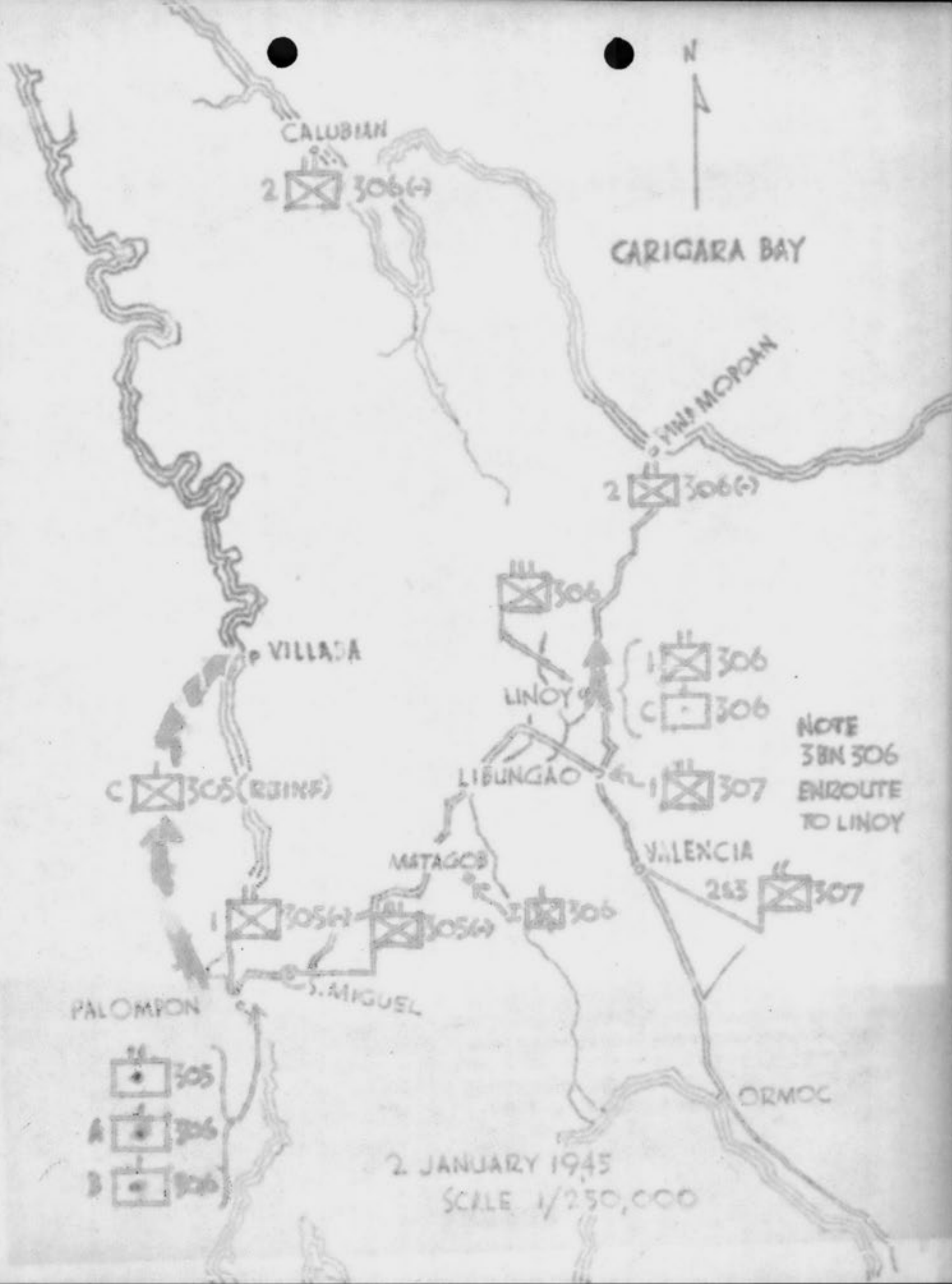


31 DECEMBER 1944
SCALE: 1/50,000



NOTE
2ND BN 306 INF CLOSED
IN TEMPORARY DEFENSIVE
AREA IN VICINITY OF
PINAMPOAN

1 JANUARY 1945
SCALE 1/50,000



S E C R E T

attacked a position held by an estimated company of the enemy 1000 yards west of DIPI which had been contacted earlier in the day by a patrol of the 306th Field Artillery Battalion. After a brisk fire fight, this patrol withdrew and artillery was placed on the enemy pending the attack of Company I (reinf). The bulk of the enemy force is believed to have withdrawn to the north before Company I (reinf) was able to launch its attack, but this company killed 52 of the enemy and destroyed approximately four (4) tons of food supplies and three (3) ammunition dumps containing small arms and artillery ammunition.

The 307th Infantry began its reassignment of areas to accomplish its new defensive mission and during the day the 1st Battalion moved to the vicinity of LIBUNGAO where it relieved the 306th Infantry of the defense of that area.

Artillery battalions commenced movement to new positions from which to support the infantry regiments in their new areas. B Battery, 304th Field Artillery Battalion, began movement to CALUBIAN to support the 2d Battalion 306th Infantry. The 305th Field Artillery Battalion moved from DIPI to PALOMPON to support the 305th Infantry. A and B Batteries of the 306th Field Artillery Battalion moved to PALOMPON to furnish artillery support for operations on the west coast, while C Battery moved to the vicinity of CANANGA to support the 306th Infantry.

The 92nd Bomb Disposal Squad, employing native labor and captured Japanese trucks, continued the assembly and destruction of enemy ammunition and began clearing 500-pound bombs from the tunnels discovered by the 307th Infantry.

Enemy casualties for the day were 97 killed and four (4) prisoners of war, while friendly casualties were two (2) killed and four (4) wounded.

3 January

Operations of the division on this date consisted mainly of a continuation of patrol activity and movement of units to new areas. There was no change in the disposition of the 305th Infantry nor in that of the 307th Infantry. The 2d Battalion 306th Infantry completed its move to the vicinity of CALUBIAN and the 3rd Battalion and the balance of the Regimental CP and Special Units closed into the vicinity of LINOY and CANANGA where they joined the 1st Battalion.

Artillery battalions continued on their normal missions in support of patrol activity. The 304th Field Artillery Battalion completed its move to CANANGA. The 531st Field Artillery Battalion (155mm How) (-) which had been occupying positions in the vicinity of SAN JOSE, reverted to control of XXIV Corps and moved out of the VALENCIA area.

The 92nd Bomb Disposal Squad completed clearance of enemy ammunition along Highway 2 to a point extending 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south from VALENCIA.

Enemy activity consisted mainly of harassing action in the area southwest of DIPI. The enemy set fire to a bridge $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southwest of DIPI but caused only slight damage to the treadway. Some enemy mortar fire was received by engineers who were extinguishing the fire on the bridge but no casualties were suffered.

Enemy casualties from patrol action were thirty-five (35) killed and three

S E C R E T

(3) prisoners of war. Seventy (70) enemy dead were found which had not previously been counted, bringing the total to 105 killed. Friendly casualties were three (3) wounded in action.

4 January

The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, less C Company (reinf) remained in the vicinity of LOOK while C Company (reinf) remained in VILLABA. The 2d Battalion, with one battery 305th Field Artillery Battalion, moved by water to VILLABA to establish a defensive position as a base from which to operate patrols from that area. The Regimental CP and Special Units moved to the vicinity of LOOK while the 3d Battalion remained in a defensive position at SAN MIGUEL. Owing to the movement of troops, only local patrols were operated by the regiment on this date with the exception of one patrol that was sent to RIZAL and another to an asphalt mine near BALITI.

There was no change in the dispositions of the 306th Infantry except that remaining elements of the 2d Battalion completed the occupation of CALUBIAN. Six (6) long distance patrols were sent out from CALUBIAN, three (3) along the PUNTA River, two (2) along the CATALATOLHAN River and one (1) along the NATABAGAN River. Three (3) patrols were sent to the vicinity of PINA and two (2) to CANAGAN. Patrols killed 12 of the enemy, found twenty-four (24) dead during the day, and destroyed four (4) enemy artillery pieces.

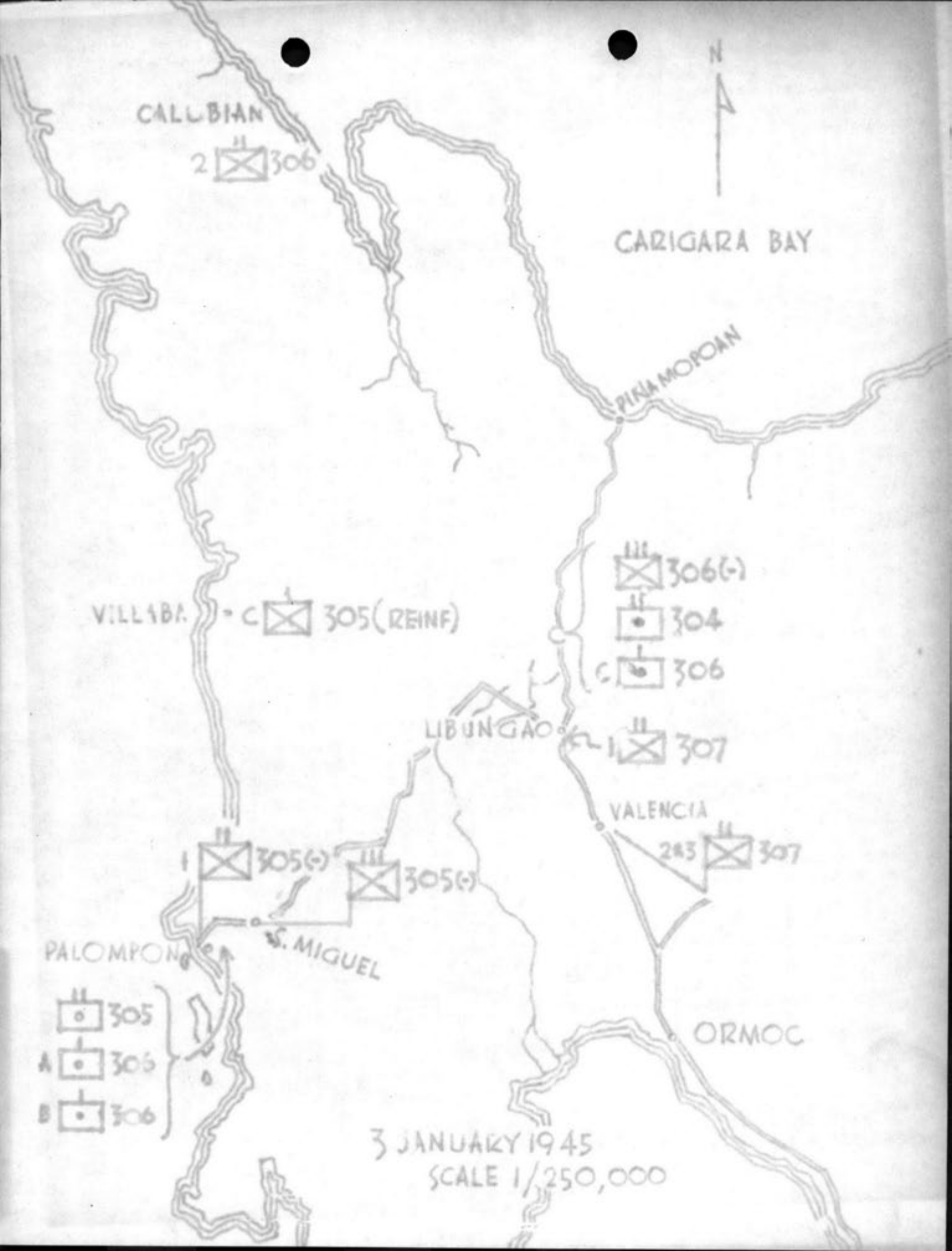
The 307th Infantry continued the defense of VALENCIA and VALENCIA Airfield and sent overnight patrols in the vicinity of VALENCIA, HUMAYBUNAY, AGUITING, PAGLACSOON, CABULIHAN, HOT SPRING and LIBUNGAO. These patrols killed sixteen (16) of the enemy and brought artillery fire to bear on another group estimated to be a platoon. Guerrillas operating with these patrols killed four (4) of the enemy. The 307th Infantry conducted a reconnaissance for the defense of ORMOG with one battalion in order to relieve elements of the 7th Infantry Division for operations in the CAMOTES SEA.

Battery A, 225th Field Artillery (155 Gun) Battalion, departed from SAN JOSE and rejoined its unit. Battery B moved from SAN JOSE to VALENCIA prepared to rejoin its unit on the following day.

Enemy killed and found dead during period totaled 68. There were no friendly casualties.

5 January

The 305th Infantry sent strong patrols from VILLABA south to BALITI and east to HALAS. A mechanized patrol operated along the PALOMPON Road. Other patrols moved north from SAN MIGUEL to CABAS and south from PALOMPON to RIZAL. The regiment set up an ambush near some houses two miles north of SAN MIGUEL and at 0100 opened fire on a group of the enemy approaching the house, killing five (5) of them. Immediately thereafter enemy 81mm mortar fire fell on the ambush position. A resupply convoy of the 305th Infantry was fired on by enemy mortars about one mile east of SAN MIGUEL but no damage resulted. The convoy continued toward PALOMPON and encountered a group of from 20 to 25 of the enemy



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S E C R E T

about one (1) mile southwest of DIPI. Three (3) of these were killed and the others fled to the south.

The 306th Infantry sent out nine (9) strong patrols in its assigned area. Three (3) operated in the vicinity of CALUBIAN; one (1) to BULAU; one (1) south through SANTA CRUZ; and one (1) south to the ARTUSAN and CALUBIAN Rivers. None of these patrols made any contacts. In the CANANGA-LINOY area a patrol operating west to a point 500 yards south of AGAYAYAN wounded one Jap and killed four (4) near TANGANTOY. Another patrol northwest to HUGUPITAN thence south to BUGABA found 25 enemy dead and some enemy ammunition. Other patrols operated around HUBAS, PINA, HILL 1836, BISLUG and CATOL. Scattered contacts were made and several enemy dead were found.

The 1st Battalion, 307th Infantry, moved to ORMOC to establish close in defense in conjunction with all troops stationed there. Strong patrols covered the area VALENCIA, AGUITING, HANGAKITANON, PAGLOC SOON, HOT SPRING, CABALONAN, HABUNAWAN. Fifty (50) of the enemy were killed near HOT SPRING.

Enemy casualties for the day were 154; 105 of which were killed and 49 found dead. One (1) prisoner of war was taken. Friendly casualties were three (3) wounded in action.

6 January

There was no change in the dispositions of the 305th Infantry. Patrols operating north, east, and south of VILLABA to a distance of 500 yards found several scattered groups of the enemy and evidences of recent enemy activity. A guerrilla scout in civilian clothing reconnoitered the ABIJAO-BADIAN-LOMONON area and reported that natives claimed there were about 800 Japs scattered in the area three (3) miles northeast of ABIJAO. He observed enemy OP's on hills at BADIAN and LOMONON and Jap supplies of food and ammunition at LINGUNAY POINT and at SABANG.

The 2d Battalion, 306th Infantry, sent two (2) strong patrols from CALUBIAN to TAGLAWIGAN through BAGACAY and return but no contacts were made and no indication of enemy activity was found. The remainder of the regiment operated patrols around CARIGARA, PINA, BALUGO, DISARES, HUGAS, HILL 1836, CATOLOGAN, CANAWAGAN and to a point 4000 yards east of CANANGA. These patrols killed two (2) of the enemy and found 42 dead.

The 307th Infantry operated local patrols around VALENCIA, PAGLOC SOON, and HANGAKITANON. Another patrol went west from VALENCIA thence southwest to CABULIHAN and returned. Contacts were limited. Only three (3) of the enemy were found, two (2) of whom were killed and the other wounded. The 1st Battalion remained in the defense of ORMOC and the 2d Battalion reorganized its position to include a larger defensive area.

Battery D, 7th AAA Battalion, which had been defending VALENCIA Airfield, moved to ORMOC and fifty (50) caliber machine guns of the 307th Infantry were displaced for antiaircraft protection of the airfield.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

The three (3) platoons of Company A, 88th Chemical Battalion, were relieved from attachment to combat teams and the entire company was attached to the 307th Infantry for employment in the defense of ORMOC.

Fifty (50) of the enemy were killed during the period and seventy-one (71) were found dead. Friendly casualties were two (2) wounded in action.

7 January

Local security patrols were operated by the 305th Infantry near LOOK, SAN MIGUEL, and VILLABA but no contacts were made. The motorized patrol operating on the PALOMPON Road received some enemy rifle fire 500 yards north of CAMBUTOY.

The 306th Infantry operated patrols from the CALUBIAN area to RABIN POINT, TUKTUK, and SAN ISIDRO with no contacts. Other patrols operated west of CANANGA north of HUMAYBUNAY and in the vicinity of TANGUBAY. At the latter location twenty (20) of the enemy were observed digging in, and artillery fire was placed upon them.

The sector of the 307th Infantry was very quiet and patrols throughout the area found and killed only two (2) of the enemy.

The 2d Battalion, 96th Infantry Regiment (PA), was ordered by XXIV Corps to assemble by 10 January for attachment to the 7th Infantry Division to assist in the operation in the CAMOTES SEA.

Ten (10) of the enemy were killed during the day and twelve (12) were found dead. There were no friendly casualties.

8 January

Patrols of the 305th Infantry killed 16 of the enemy near BALITI and reduced an enemy roadblock 1000 yards north of that village. Patrols to SAN DIAGO and CALUNASAN killed four (4) Japs and placed artillery fire on twenty (20) more.

Patrols of the 306th Infantry in the SAN ISIDRO area captured one (1) prisoner of war but made no other contacts. Patrols from LINOY to AGAYAN killed three (3) of the enemy and observed others who escaped and moved northwest. Two patrols west of Highway 2 reported no enemy east of grid line 98.

Guerrillas attached to the 307th Infantry regiment killed nine (9) of the enemy during the night in the vicinity of LIBUNGAO Road Junction and reported seeing approximately thirty (30) others in that vicinity during the day. One (1) was killed but the remainder escaped through the high grass. Regimental patrols from LIBUNGAO to CATOTOCAN sighted fifty (50) enemy and killed seven (7) of them, but the remainder scattered toward the mountains to the east. An overnight patrol returned from the HOT SPRING area and reported killing twelve (12) of the enemy en route.

Seventy (70) of the enemy were killed by patrol action on this date while friendly casualties were three (3) killed in action and two (2) wounded in action.

S E C R E T

9 January

The 305th Infantry received five (5) rounds of enemy 81mm mortar fire at VILLABA and also several additional rounds on the beach near that point. Patrols of the regiment made no contact during the day but a truck driver transporting natives in the vicinity of BUAYA reported seeing three (3) of the enemy and receiving automatic rifle fire.

Patrols of the 306th Infantry encountered and annihilated a group of fifty (50) of the enemy armed with mortars, machine guns and rifles north of HUMAY-BUNAY.

A guerrilla outpost on the PALOMPON Road in the vicinity of the TAGBONG River in the 307th Infantry sector was fired on by enemy machine guns during the night and a telephone wire was cut and grounded by the enemy near the LIBUNGAO Road Junction. Patrols reported an estimated 150 to 200 enemy troops two miles northwest of VALENCIA. Artillery fire was placed on them and a subsequent patrol investigation found 53 killed by this fire; the remainder fled toward the west. Another patrol in the AGUITING area saw fifty (50) of the enemy of which number they killed 32.

B Battery, 306th Field Artillery Battalion, moved from PALOMPON to VALENCIA and went into position there.

The 302nd Engineer Battalion repaired a bridge southwest of MATAGOB, the stringers of which had been cut by the enemy.

The movement to the east side of the island of heavy equipment of the division not needed for the accomplishment of assigned missions in the present area was begun.

190 of the enemy were killed during the period and seven (7) prisoners of war were taken. There were no friendly casualties.

10 January

Patrols of the 305th Infantry made several contacts in the area around VILLABA and succeeded in killing 41 of the enemy in that area. Evidence was becoming increasingly strong that remnants of the enemy were attempting to reach the coast near VILLABA. Motorized patrols on the PALOMPON Road, accompanied by guerrillas, killed nine (9) of the enemy in the area about 800 yards east and west of MATAGOB and captured four (4) prisoners of war.

The 2d Battalion, 306th Infantry, was relieved of responsibility in the CALUBIAN area by the 1st Battalion, 96th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army. The 2d Battalion then departed for TACLOBAN on XXIV Corps order to operate as a port detail. The remainder of the regiment operated patrols in its assigned area.

Local patrols of the 307th Infantry, one of which was a motorized patrol operating on Highway 2, killed twenty-one of the enemy. An overnight patrol

S E C R E T

returning from HOT SPRING killed 33 in the vicinity of HANGAKITANON. A patrol northwest of SAN JOSE observed small groups of the enemy, totaling approximately 150, moving west along the PAGSANGAHAN River. Five (5) were killed near BAO but the remainder escaped. A Provisional Port Company, composed of elements of the 307th Infantry and Division Artillery departed VALENCIA en route to DULAG.

Two (2) Japs were killed by the 777th Ordnance Company in the VALENCIA area and seven (7) were killed and one (1) prisoner of war taken by the 77th Military Police Platoon two miles north of PAGSANGAHAN River on Highway 2.

Battery B, 225th Field Artillery (155 Gun) Battalion was relieved, reverted to control of XXIV Corps and departed from the VALENCIA area.

138 of the enemy were killed and seven (7) prisoners of war were taken during the day. Friendly casualties were one (1) wounded in action.

11 January

The 305th Infantry intensified its combat patrols during the day and the 1st Battalion patrol met resistance from enemy patrols numbering from 20 to 40. An enemy defensive position was located about 1000 yards northeast of TABURAN held by four (4) machine guns and a considerable number of riflemen. Ten (10) of the enemy were killed in this area. The 3rd Battalion encountered several small groups of the enemy, 15 to 20 in number, throughout the day. The 2d Battalion killed 18 of the enemy at GINARUNAN. Motorized patrols along the PALOM-PON Road made no contacts. Artillery observers operating with the 305th Infantry saw one group of 75 and another group of 50 of the enemy near BUTINGA. Artillery fire was placed on both groups. Patrols returning from HALAS reported killing 83 of the enemy in that vicinity and 17 at CANBUTOY.

The 306th Infantry continued patrolling in its area but found only one (1) Jap. Patrols of the 1st Battalion went from ABALANG west to BUTISON. Another patrol from the 3rd Battalion covered the MT PILA area.

The 307th Infantry intensified its combat patrolling and made several enemy contacts. A patrol of the 2d Battalion operating southwest of VALENCIA encountered a group of approximately 75 of the enemy 500 yards south of SAN JOSE. Eleven (11) of these were killed and the remainder of the group attempted to withdraw to the east. They were pursued by our patrols and thirty eight (38) more were killed before the remainder managed to escape. A patrol of the 3rd Battalion operating around COLISAO saw approximately 25 of the enemy on the west side of the PAGSANGAHAN River. The patrol fired on them but they were unable to pursue them owing to the flooded condition of the river. This patrol succeeded in killing ten (10) of the enemy. Another patrol operating northwest of VALENCIA killed ten (10) Japanese, of which three (3) were officers. An overnight patrol returning from HOT SPRING reported killing 28 of the enemy in their area and taking five (5) prisoners of war. The 1st Battalion remained in the defense of ORMOG.

The 902d Field Artillery Battalion fired on two groups of the enemy in the VALENCIA area but no definite count on the number killed could be made.

Enemy casualties for the day were 161 killed and five (5) prisoners of war. Friendly casualties were two (2) killed in action and ten (10) wounded in action.

- 13 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

12 January

Enemy activity was increased in the VILLABA area. During the night, enemy patrols of undetermined size carrying satchel charges and pole charges attempted to enter the VILLABA defenses. Amphibious tractors operating between VILLABA and PALOMPON were fired on by enemy 81mm mortars 600 yards offshore at ABIJAO. Although the patrols attempting to enter VILLABA were fired on by the 2d Battalion, 305th Infantry, no enemy dead were found in the area on the following morning. Patrols of the 2d Battalion north and east of PINARUT killed 25 of the enemy. The 1st Battalion moved out from its position of the previous night and continued its sweep of its assigned area. During the day the battalion killed 150 of the enemy and took up defensive positions for the night two and one-half miles north of SAN MIGUEL. The 2d Battalion, proceeding to TIBUR, killed 25 of the enemy south of BALITI during the day. The 3rd Battalion, continuing its sweep in its assigned area knocked out one enemy machine gun and captured one US heavy machine gun, taking up positions for the night near the 2d Battalion.

Patrols of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 306th Infantry operating in the AGAHANG area made no enemy contacts but found two (2) enemy dead. Guerrillas operating under the 306th Infantry captured one (1) Jap at PALID southwest of LEYTE-LEYTE in the CALUBIAN area.

The 307th Infantry killed five (5) of the enemy in the vicinity of VALENCIA during the night. The 2 day patrol returning from HOT SPRING reported killing 24 in that area. A patrol from CANANGA to BAGATOON made no contact. Another patrol killed six (6) of the enemy in the warehouse area north of VALENCIA.

Company A, 776 Amphibious Tank Battalion reverted to XXIV Corps control and departed PALOMPON en route, by water, to IPIL.

Enemy casualties during the period, including those killed previously but not reported, were 310 killed and one (1) prisoner of war. Friendly casualties were one (1) killed in action and five (5) wounded in action.

13 January

Elements of the 1st and 2d Battalions, 305th Infantry landed between ABIJAO and JORDAN and mopped up ABIJAO killing 15 Japs in the process. The 1st Battalion moving north toward ABIJAO ran into stiff opposition from a reinforced enemy company and came under mortar and machine gun fire. One company of the 1st Battalion, working up the valley was forced to withdraw because the enemy occupied the high ground and was rolling grenades down the hill and bringing light machine gun fire to bear on our forces. 194 of the enemy were killed in the ABIJAO area. Elements of the 2d Battalion encountered a position on MT CANGULPOT which was held by an estimated 100 of the enemy, armed with machine guns, mortars and rifles. 43 of the enemy were killed before our forces withdrew to VILLABA. The 3rd Battalion advanced to a point 1700 yards of BUTNGA and extensively patrolled that area encountering many small enemy groups.

This battalion killed 125 in artillery-infantry action at BUTNGA and 1000 yards south and east thereof. Enemy patrols, carrying land mines, attempted to enter our lines at VILLABA apparently with the intention of destroying our artillery.

S E C R E T

and east of SAN MIGUEL made no contacts. B and K Companies, reinforced were sent to VILLABA to reinforce the 2d Battalion.

A truck column bringing supplies from VALENCIA to PALOMPON was ambushed by the enemy in the hills on the PALOMPON Road one mile southwest of DIPI. The ambush was cleverly prepared and caught the convoy on a twisting section of the road between two bridges with high ground on the north and a precipitous slope on the south. Nine of our trucks were destroyed and personnel were forced to withdraw.

There was no activity of any kind in the 306th Infantry area. The Regimental Headquarters and Special Units moved, by truck, to TARRAGONA. Company I moved to MATAGOB to protect the 306th Field Artillery Battalion and to prepare to clean out the ambush area the following morning.

Patrols of the 307th Infantry operating from TAGBONG River to CANANGA and in the vicinity of PAGLOCSOON killed seven (7) of the enemy.

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion, less one battery at PALOMPON, moved from VALENCIA to MATAGOB to furnish long range support for the 305th Infantry in the VILLABA area.

Guerrillas killed 20 of the enemy near RIZAL during the day.

An enemy fighter plane strafed an amphibious tractor column evacuating wounded from ABIJAO to PALOMPON at 151925 causing some casualties.

441 of the enemy were killed throughout the day and seven (7) prisoners of war taken. Friendly casualties were (7) killed in action and 17 wounded in action.

16 January

The 2d Battalion, 305th Infantry in the vicinity of VILLABA was shelled sporadically during the night by 81mm mortars and in the morning by 70mm artillery pieces. Patrols of the 2d Battalion operating to BALITI and around VILLABA killed 139 of the enemy by artillery and small arms fire. Patrols of the 1st and 3rd Battalions operating around LOOK and SAN MIGUEL made no enemy contacts.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry moved to MATAGOB with the mission of thoroughly scouring the hills north of the PALOMPON Road. Company I, from its position at MATAGOB, attacked west at daylight to clear the area around the ambush area of the previous night. This company met only light and scattered opposition during the day and bivouacked for the night one mile north of TIPOLO. The 3rd Battalion, less I Company, attacked west from MATAGOB at about 1000, killed 55 of the enemy in the hills northwest of MATAGOB and bivouacked three miles northeast of TIPOLO.

Patrols of the 307th Infantry were sent to MATAGOB and thence south back to VALENCIA but made no enemy contacts. Other patrols operating west and southwest of VALENCIA and in the vicinity of AGUITING observed several groups of the enemy and placed artillery fire on them with good results. Three(3) Japs attempting to enter the southeast boundary of the VALENCIA defensive position were

S E C R E T

killed during the night.

Battery A, 304th Field Artillery Battalion moved into position in MATAGOB to furnish close support for the mopping up operations for the 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry in the hills in the northwest.

From its positions at MATAGOB, the 306th Field Artillery Battalion fired on several groups of the enemy numbering from 25 to 50 per group with excellent results.

An enemy fighter plane attempted to come in over PALOMPON at 161905 but was driven off by antiaircraft fire. The plane then turned west and strafed four (4) LVT's carrying casualties south from VILLABA. One bomb was dropped near the LVT's but no damage resulted.

Enemy casualties during the period were 64 killed and one (1) prisoner of war was taken. Friendly casualties were ten (10) killed in action and 26 wounded in action.

17 January

The 305th Infantry continued to operate strong combat patrols around LOOK, VILLABA and SAN MIGUEL. Several contacts were made and 78 of the enemy were killed by patrol action during the day. One Jap barge, loaded with artillery ammunition, was destroyed on the beach near BALITI. Patrols around VILLABA found 33 enemy dead in addition to those already reported as a result of the Japanese attack in that area on 15 January. Artillery, attached to the 305th Infantry, continued to fire on groups of the enemy, ranging from 20 to 50, with excellent results. One patrol operating in the hills 3000 yards south of SAN MIGUEL, encountered several groups of from 20 to 60 of the enemy.

In the 306th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion remained at CANANGA and operated local security patrols with but few enemy contacts. The 3rd Battalion continued mopping up in the area north and west of MATAGOB and contacted several groups of the enemy in that area. 22 Japs were killed and one heavy machine gun captured by patrols of this battalion near RIZAL. 35 of the enemy were killed by the 3rd Battalion one and one-half miles northeast of TIPOL0, and two of our 50 caliber machine guns, which had been taken by the enemy from our ambushed truck convoy, were captured. The 3rd Battalion bivouacked for the night in that vicinity.

The 307th Infantry killed three (3) Japs in the VALENCIA area and three (3) near LIBUNGAO during the night. Patrols operating throughout the regimental zone made no enemy contacts.

169 of the enemy were killed while friendly casualties were one (1) killed in action and two (2) wounded in action.

18 January

In the 305th Infantry sector, patrol contacts with the enemy continued and

S E C R E T

artillery units fired on groups of the enemy ranging from 20 to 75 throughout the day. The 2d Battalion had located an enemy defensive position 500 yards northwest of MT CANGUIPOT and on this date sent a force equivalent of about two companies to attempt to destroy it. The position was not taken but 52 of the enemy were killed and one machine gun was captured. The 3rd Battalion sent two reinforced companies to RIZAL to investigate a report of an estimated 200 of the enemy in that area but made no contact.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry continued its mopping up operations in the hills north and west of MATAGOB. Two reinforced companies moved out at 0730 to clear an area 4000 yards north and west along the PALOMPON Road from DIPI to the mountain range near Hill 1204. During this action, K Company encountered approximately two platoons of the enemy and brought artillery fire to bear upon them with undetermined results. Elements of the 304th and 306th Field Artillery Battalions in support of patrols of the 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry fired on groups of the enemy and on native shacks believed to contain enemy personnel and supplies. A direct hit was made on one shack containing a large dump of ammunition and gasoline.

There was no activity in the sector of the 307th Infantry, and local patrols encountered and killed only eight (8) of the enemy. Guerrillas operating with the 307th Infantry captured one (1) prisoner of war.

One battery of the 304th Field Artillery Battalion moved from CANANGA to MATAGOB bringing the total to two batteries of this battalion in that vicinity. The remaining battery stayed in position at CANANGA.

During the day the enemy lost 24 killed and four (4) prisoners of war. Friendly casualties were three (3) killed in action and seven (7) wounded in action.

19 January

Heavy casualties, which had been inflicted on the enemy in the preceding several days had caused a decrease in enemy activity in the 305th Infantry sector. Three (3) of the enemy were killed attempting to enter 2d Battalion positions at VILLABA but patrols to CADWASAN, HIMARCO and SABANG made no enemy contacts.

The 306th Infantry reported no enemy activity during the night and at 0730, the 3rd Battalion moved out to attack an enemy position located the previous day near TIPOLO. By 1005 this position had been overrun and the mission of mopping up north of the PALOMPON Road and west of MATAGOB was completed. The 3rd Battalion returned to CANANGA at 1800. The 1st Battalion, 306th Infantry departed CANANGA at 0730 and closed at TARRAGONA at 1900 preparatory to reporting to Base K for employment as a Port Detail.

The enemy position was initially believed to be held by two reinforced platoons but as the attack progressed, the enemy strength was found to be greater than anticipated. Artillery time fire was brought on the position with excellent results and with this assistance, the 3rd Battalion was able to overcome it. Patrols of the 3rd Battalion destroyed a Japanese Flash Signal Station in the hills two miles northeast of TIPOLO which had been flashing signals to the south.

18

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

The 307th Infantry continued its defense of VALENCIA and the 1st Battalion remained in ORMOC. Local patrols killed five (5) of the enemy near AGUITING and BAGATOON.

Patrols of the 304th Field Artillery Battalion killed two (2) of the enemy and burned 37 shacks 500 yards north of KANAWAGAN.

The enemy lost 64 killed and one (1) prisoner of war. There were no friendly casualties.

20 January

The 305th Infantry continued operation of combat patrols around VILLABALOOK and SAN MIGUEL but contacts were very few. Artillery units continued to fire on small groups of the enemy located by patrols.

A count of the enemy killed by the 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry while mopping up north and west of MATAGOB was completed today and it was reported that 164 of the enemy, not previously reported, had been killed during this operation. Most of these were killed in hastily constructed squad and platoon defensive positions. Local patrols operated by the 3rd Battalion in the vicinity of CANANGA made no contact.

Local patrols of the 307th Infantry around VALENCIA and patrols operating near HANGAKITANON made no enemy contacts.

The 77th Reconnaissance Troop killed one of the enemy near VALENCIA and the 92nd Bomb Disposal Squad, clearing up enemy ammunition dumps near LIMON, killed two more.

Including 164, not previously reported, enemy losses were 193 killed. Our own casualties were 2 killed and nine (9) wounded.

21 January

Enemy activity in the sector of the 305th Infantry was very limited. Small groups of Japs were encountered by patrols, and artillery units fired on small groups located in shacks around the VILLABA area. One patrol encountered and killed 21 of the enemy 400 yards west of CAYAYGIAN. Native reported that a two-masted sailboat had been making nightly trips to BALITI from somewhere in the CAMOTES SEA to bring supplies to BALITI and to evacuate Japanese troops from that point. Local patrols of the 1st and 3rd Battalions made no contacts during the day but a reinforced company of the 2d Battalion encountered an enemy position near BALITI and received scattered rifle fire from it.

Local security patrols of the 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry in the CANANGA area made no contacts.

Enemy activity was also limited in the 307th Infantry sector. One patrol, 800 yards northeast of HIBUNAWAN located 25 of the enemy and placed artillery fire upon them with good results. Patrols also directed artillery fire on another group of 30 Japs 2000 yards northeast of HANGAKITANON. Guerrillas operating with the 307th Infantry captured one (1) prisoner of war near JALUBON.

S E C R E T

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion conducted observed fire on a group of 25 to 30 of the enemy located in shack one mile east of AGOBOB. Approximately 20 of the enemy were killed and the four shacks were destroyed.

The enemy lost 60 killed and one (1) prisoner of war. There were no friendly casualties.

22 January

A reinforced company of the 1st Battalion 305th Infantry, patrolling from LOOK to a point 2000 yards east of TUBURAN, saw eight (8) of the enemy near TUBURAN and killed two (2) of them before the remainder escaped. Elements of the 305th and 306th Field Artillery Battalions attached to the 305th Infantry fired on targets located by liaison planes at BUTNGA, HUBASAN, and AGOBOB with excellent results. Other fires were conducted on a group of 100 of the enemy 800 yards north of Hill 1204 and on an estimated platoon 800 yards to the west. A radio direction finder unit, operating in the 305th Infantry sector, located enemy radio stations at AGOBOB and BUTNGA and possibly one at HUBASAN. These radios were believed to be similar in power to our SCR 193.

Local security patrols in the CANANGA area made no contact. Company I, 306th Infantry, was relieved of its mission of defending artillery units in the vicinity of MATAGOB by Company K, 306th Infantry. Company I rejoined its battalion at CANANGA.

Local patrols of the 307th Infantry in and around VALENCIA killed 16 of the enemy and captured one (1) prisoner of war.

All artillery battalions continued to fire on isolated groups of the enemy located by patrols or artillery liaison planes.

Enemy losses were 18 killed and two (2) prisoners of war. There were no friendly casualties.

23 January

The 305th Infantry continued to operate patrols throughout its sector but enemy contacts were limited. A patrol of the 1st Battalion operating from LOOK to SABANG and HIMARCO met no resistance. A reinforced company of the 2d Battalion moved north from VILLABA toward SILAD and PINARUT. 33 rounds of enemy artillery fire fell on the company 800 yards north of VILLABA. The artillery piece was located one-half mile west of MT CANGUIPOT and was immediately silenced by counterbattery fire. The company proceeded north and east of SILAD 400 yards where they encountered a strong defensive position containing an undetermined number of the enemy armed with at least four (4) machine guns, automatic rifles, rifles, and mortars. The fighting was bitter throughout the day but no estimate of the number of enemy casualties in this action was made. A patrol of the 3rd Battalion moved to CAMBUTOY and thence 1200 yards north and killed 13 of the enemy with small arms and mortar fire. Casualties were inflicted throughout the day on scattered groups of the enemy by artillery fire.

Local security patrols of the 3rd Battalion 306th Infantry in the CANANGA area made no contacts.

S E C R E T

The 307th Infantry continued patrolling in its assigned area and killed 3 of the enemy 800 yards northwest of COLISAO and directed artillery fire on an estimated platoon 200 yards southeast of BAGATOON.

Guerrillas operating with the 77th Division CIC Detachment were reported to have killed 7 Japs and captured one prisoner of war on the previous day.

The 77th Reconnaissance Troop killed one Jap in the VALENCIA defenses.

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion captured one prisoner of war near MATAGOB and fired on small groups of the enemy throughout the day.

Enemy casualties were 24 killed and 4 prisoners of war. Our own losses were 10 wounded in action.

24 January

Combat patrols continued to operate throughout the sector of the 305th Infantry but contacts were not as extensive as on the previous day. A reinforced platoon patrol of the 3rd Battalion killed one Jap 800 yards southeast of SAN MIGUEL and 19 more in shacks at MABINI. Other patrols killed 5 of the enemy and knocked out one light machine gun 800 yards east of Hill 838. Company K was sent to reinforce VILLABA.

Patrols operating in the CANANGA area made no enemy contacts.

Patrols of the 307th Infantry operating from VALENCIA to MANLILIMAO killed 8 of the enemy while another patrol in the HOT SPRING area killed one. One prisoner of war was captured west of SAN JOSE.

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion continued to fire on small groups of the enemy throughout the day and destroyed what was believed to be a Japanese warehouse 1800 yards southwest of CASA.

Work details of the 302d Engineer Battalion took one prisoner of war near TAMBUCO and guerrillas killed two Japs in the MATAGOB area.

A reconnaissance was initiated and plans were made for a coordinated attack to effect final mopping up in the hills east of ABIJAO and on the west coast. This attack was to be made by the 305th and 307th Infantry Regiments as soon as elements of the latter could be relieved from responsibility at VALENCIA and ORMOC. The plan of attack was as shown on overlay #3.

Enemy losses were 43 killed and 2 prisoners of war. Friendly casualties were 4 wounded in action and one missing in action.

25 January

Plans for the 305th Infantry in the proposed attack were to employ the 1st and 2d Battalions moving east and south from the VILLABA area while the 3rd Battalion moved north from LOOK to enclose the enemy in a narrow terrain corridor.

S E C R E T

where they could be annihilated by the 307th Infantry driving west toward the coast. In preparation for this attack, the 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, moved from the vicinity of LOOK to VILLABA to join the 2d Battalion. Company D was already at VILLABA and company K was moved from VILLABA to LOOK for employment in the defenses of LOOK and PALOMPON while the 3rd Battalion (-) operated further north. A reinforced company patrol from PALOMPON to SAN MIGUEL killed five (5) of the enemy and destroyed one light machine gun. Artillery units attached to the 305th Infantry continued to fire on groups of the enemy throughout the day. Fire was delivered on a group of 100 1800 yards east of HUBASAN with good results.

Local security patrols in the CANANGA area made no enemy contacts.

Local patrols of the 307th Infantry made few contacts but killed 7 of the enemy. The 77th Reconnaissance Troop killed one Jap in the VALENCIA area and guerrillas operating under the 307th Infantry reported killing 13 of the enemy on the previous day.

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion, from positions at MATAGOB, continued to fire on scattered groups of the enemy.

The enemy lost 26 killed. Our own casualties were 2 killed and one wounded.

26 January

A patrol of the 305th Infantry operating from VILLABA to BALITI captured a 20mm gun and 50 rounds of ammunition at BALITI. A guerrilla patrol operating under the 305th Infantry killed 3 of the enemy and located a 37mm gun 400 yards east of Hill 838 and found a US 50 caliber machine gun nearby. Patrols during the day observed an enemy company 400 yards east of Hill 1204 and saw a group of 40 in the woods 300 yards southeast of ABIJAO. Artillery units attached to the 305th Infantry fired on groups of the enemy ranging from 10 to 75 throughout the day. The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 305th Infantry were in position near VILLABA while the 3rd Battalion was in the vicinity of Hill 1204 prepared to launch an attack on the following day.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry, less Company K at MATAGOB, sent strong patrols northward along Highway 2 to PINAMOPOAN with the mission of clearing all enemy troops from the vicinity of Highway 2 north of Grid Line 60. No enemy contacts were made during the day and the 3rd Battalion prepared to make a sweep 1500 yards east and west of Highway 2 from PINAMOPOAN south to VALENCIA on 27 January.

Local patrols of the 307th Infantry in and around VALENCIA made no enemy contacts during the day but 6 of the enemy were killed in VALENCIA during the night. The 1st Battalion, 307th Infantry, was relieved from the ORMOC defenses and moved to VALENCIA to release the 2d Battalion for participation in the coordinated attack on 27 January. The 2d Battalion moved from VALENCIA to CASA, 2000 yards west of MATAGOB, prepared to attack west to the coast to clear out the hills east of ABIJAO.

The 304th Field Artillery Battalion, less one battery at MATAGOB, moved from CANANGA to VALENCIA to relieve the 902d Field Artillery Battalion so that it might be moved to CASA to support the attack of the 307th Infantry.

S E C R E T

The 77th Military Police Platoon killed one Jap three miles south of VALENCIA and the 302d Engineer Battalion killed one in the VALENCIA defenses.

Enemy casualties, including 60 killed by the 1st Battalion 307th Infantry at ORMOC and not previously reported, were 84 killed and 3 prisoners of war. Our own casualties were one wounded in action.

The 26th of January may be considered as the end of Phase 2, during which operations of the division were confined mainly to combat patrolling in all sectors. The 27th of January began the 3rd and last Phase of the division's operations to effect the final mopping up in its area of responsibility in northwestern LEYTE. On this date a coordinated attack was launched with the 305th and 307th Infantry Regiments, the plan of which was to enclose remaining groups of the enemy into a large valley through which they could be driven to the coast or annihilated by infantry and artillery action. For the plan of attack see the operations map attached.

27 January

The 1st and 2d Battalions of the 305th Infantry were already in position along a trail running from VILLABA to SILAD and at 0800 they began their move southward to sweep the enemy down into the valley near the PAGSANGAHAN River. Originally it had been planned to move the 3rd Battalion northward by land to begin its sweep from the south, but the condition of roads and trails as well as the condition of the troops after their long period in combat made it advisable to move this force by water to the vicinity of TUBURAN from which point it could proceed inland to accomplish its mission. The landing had been made and TUBURAN was secured by 0943. The battalion then proceeded inland and made its first contact with a small group of Japs 400 yards east of TUBURAN. At 1600, the 3rd Battalion came under heavy fire from 50 caliber machine guns, rifles and mortars about 1000 yards east of TUBURAN and the battalion held in that vicinity for the night. The 1st Battalion occupied a position for the night 1000 yards east of SILAD while the 2d Battalion remained near VILLABA. An enemy fighter plane strafed the 3rd Battalion position late in the afternoon.

The 2d Battalion, 307th Infantry, from its position of the previous night near CASA, launched its attack westward at 0800. Initial resistance was light but in the afternoon the battalion encountered increasing enemy resistance including ~~artillery fire~~ 800 yards south of BULAN. The battalion reorganized its position for the night in that vicinity. The 1st and 3rd Battalions 307th Infantry remained at VALENCIA and operated local patrols in that area. The 1st Battalion was awaiting orders to move to CASA to join the attack on 28 January.

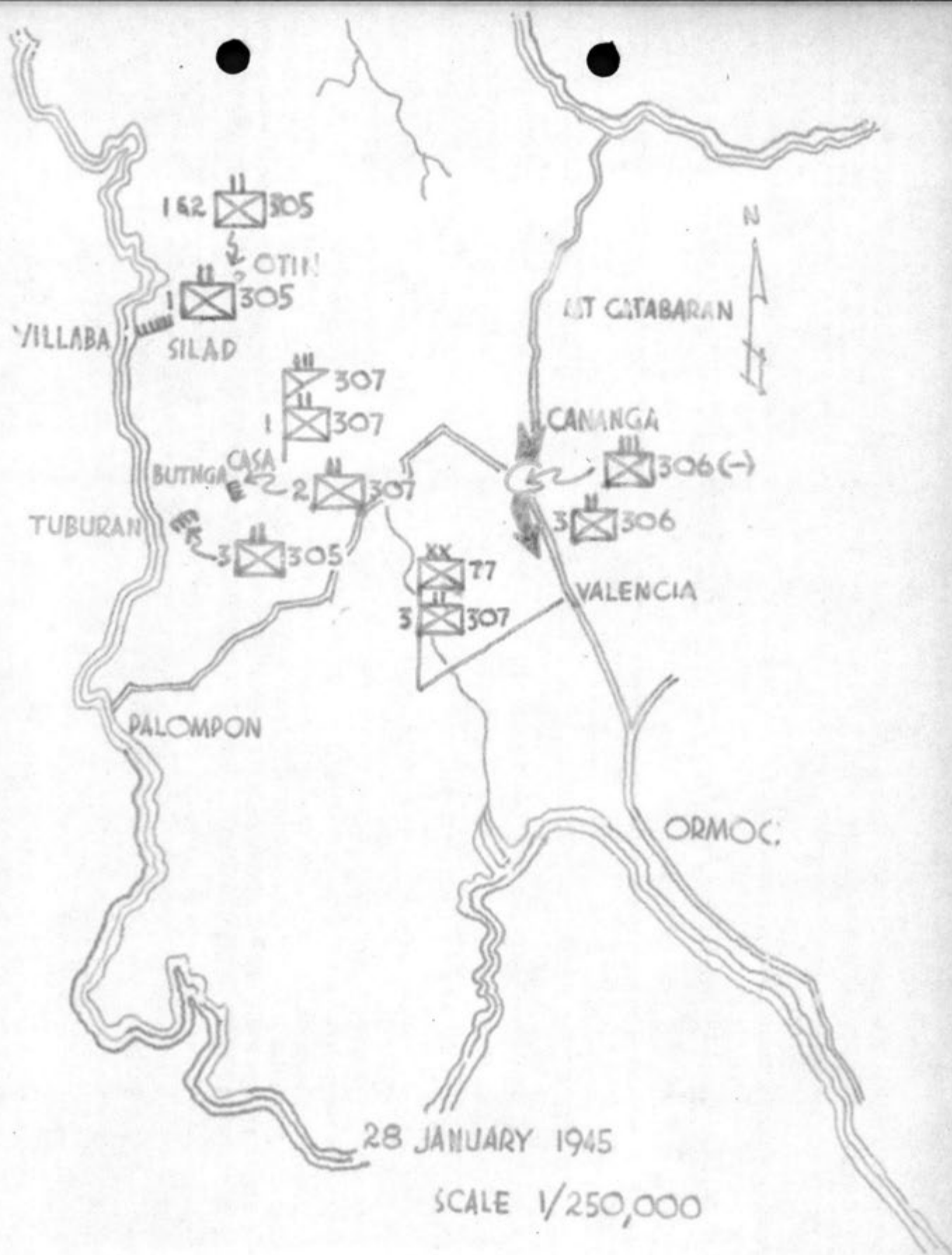
The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry, resumed its sweep southward along Highway 2 at 0800. The battalion made relatively few contacts and killed 4 Japs near LINOY, 4 near CANANGA, and 8 near LIBUNGAO.

The 306th Field Artillery Battalion continued to fire on groups of the enemy located by artillery liaison planes and fired a preparation for the attack of the 307th Infantry. They also fired on the village of OTIN with good effect.

Enemy casualties during the day were 127 killed and one prisoner of war. Our own casualties were 4 killed and 19 wounded.



SCALE: 1/250,000



S E C R E T

28 January

The 305th Infantry resumed the attack against increasing enemy resistance. The VILLABA force consisting of the 1st and 2d Battalions continued its sweep southward while the 3rd Battalion continued the push up to the north. The attack of the 2d Battalion was temporarily held up in the morning by an organized enemy position defended with rifles, mortars, and machine guns. The position was destroyed and the attack continued south to a point 400 yards east of Hill 838. The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, assisted in the sweep southward on the left (east) flank of the 2d Battalion. By the end of the day these two battalions had entirely cleared all enemy resistance from the area between SILAD and OTIN. The 3rd Battalion advancing northward met enemy resistance throughout the day including heavy mortar and machine gun fire. 14 Japs were killed; one 81mm mortar and one machine gun were knocked out. The battalion held for the night 1200 yards northeast of Hill 838. In the area southeast of VILLABA 71 Japs were killed in small groups.

The 2d Battalion, 307th Infantry, resumed its attack at 0800. They continued westward toward BUTNGA against mortar and machine gun fire and resistance from small groups of the enemy dug in on the tops of the many high hills in this area. Enemy resistance was extremely difficult to overcome owing to the nature of the terrain and the method the Japanese chose to defend it. High hills covered with tall grass could be approached only up steep slopes. The Japanese defenders were well concealed in the grass and, possessing excellent observation, withheld their fire until they could deliver it at point blank range.

The advance CP of the 307th Infantry and the 1st Battalion moved from VALENCIA to CASA to aid in the attack. The 3rd Battalion, 307th Infantry, still in the VALENCIA defenses, located a group of from 100 to 150 Japs moving westward about 800 yards northwest of the VALENCIA Airstrip. Patrols operating in that area engaged the enemy and were successful in squeezing him between the patrols on the northwest and the normal defensive position of the battalion on the southeast. While the enemy was thus boxed in, artillery fire was layed on him. Later investigation indicated that the Japanese killed in this area comprised portions of the 26th Division Headquarters and the Division Medical Unit. Approximately 25 of these were officers from the Division Headquarters. It is believed that these troops were attempting to reach the west coast to coordinate enemy activity in that area.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry, continued its sweep southward from LIBUNGAO to VALENCIA but made no enemy contacts.

The enemy lost 301 killed and one prisoner of war during the day. There were no friendly casualties.

29 January

During the night the enemy fired three rounds of 75mm artillery on the 1st Battalion, 305 Infantry's position. This fire was promptly silenced by our artillery and there was no further activity during the night. The regiment resumed the attack at 0800 and made scattered contact throughout the day. Elements of the 3rd Battalion landed at ABIJAO in the afternoon and cleaned out that area.

S E C R E T

A reinforced platoon patrol of this battalion advanced to the vicinity of HUBASAN and Company L advanced to a point one mile west of it. The remainder of the battalion held for the night in the vicinity of L Company position.

The 1st and 2d Battalions, 307th Infantry continued their operations westward from CASA. Patrols of both battalions were sent to SULPA and C Company patrolled to AGOBOB. Patrols of the 3rd Battalion killed 5 of the enemy at PONOMA. The 2d Battalion sent a reconnaissance in force northwest from BUTNGA along a prominent ridge line and encountered an enemy strongpoint defended by an estimated company. The battalion adjusted its lines to permit artillery fire to be placed on the position with excellent results.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry, now occupying a portion of the VALENCIA defenses, killed 2 Japs and wounded another in VALENCIA. The battalion prepared to move to TARRAGONA to rejoin its regiment on 30 January.

Artillery battalions continued to support the attack and to fire on small groups of the enemy in all sectors. The 306th Field Artillery Battalion fired two preparations in support of the attack on the 305th and 307th Infantry Regiments.

Two platoons of the 77th Reconnaissance Troop moved from VALENCIA to HOT SPRING to make a final sweep of that area. No contacts were made and no evidence of recent enemy activity was found.

The 92d Bomb Disposal Squad continued the destruction of enemy ammunition dumps along Highway 2 and killed 4 Japs in the vicinity of LIMON.

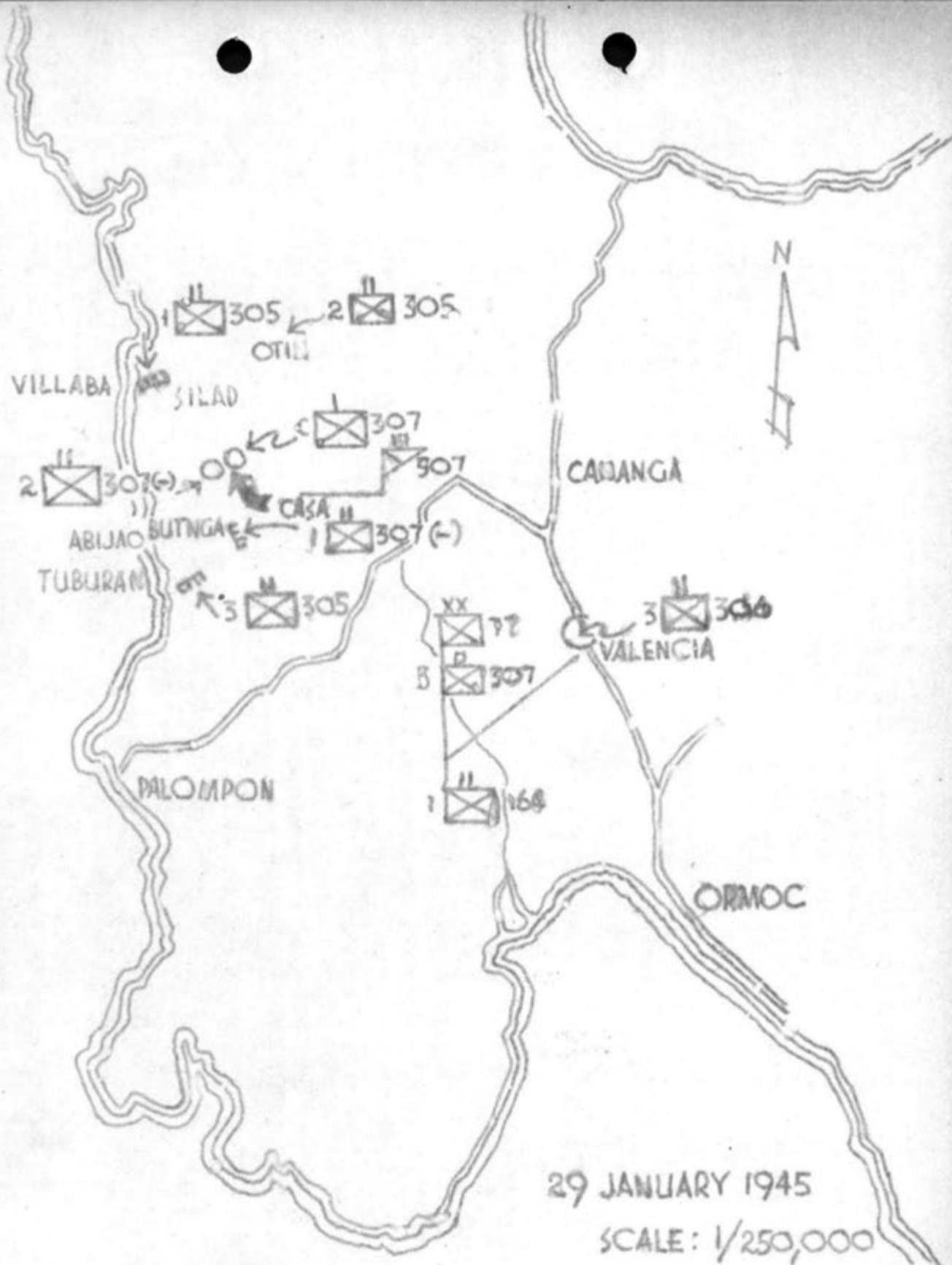
Enemy casualties were 116 killed and 2 prisoners of war. Our own casualties were 5 killed and 12 wounded in action.

30 January

The attack of the 305th Infantry was resumed at 0800 against increasing enemy resistance. 35 Japs were killed during the morning 1800 yards north of HUBASAN. The advance of the 3rd Battalion brought it within visual contact of elements of the 307th Infantry moving to the west. The VILLABA force advanced to a point 500 yards southeast of Hill 488. Guerrillas operating with the regiment killed 12 Japs 200 yards southeast of VILLABA. Throughout the day artillery supporting the regiment fired on several groups of the enemy.

The 307th Infantry resumed its attack with the 2d Battalion in the lead at 0800. During the morning the battalion ran into a strongpoint held by an estimated reinforced company one mile north of HUBASAN. By 1300 the battalion had succeeded in overrunning this position, killed 150 Japs and captured 3 heavy machine guns and 2 knee mortars. This battalion dug in for the night 800 yards west of AGOBOB. The 1st Battalion, assisted the attack by strong combat patrols to the front and flanks.

The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry had no activity in its portion of the VALENCIA defenses. On this date the 1st Battalion, 164th Infantry, Americal Division, arrived in VALENCIA accompanied by the 245th Field Artillery Battalion.





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poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

S E C R E T

and relieved the 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry and the 304th Field Artillery Battalion. The 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry entrucked and left VALENCIA on route to TARRAGONA.

Enlisted personnel of the 77th Division CIC Detachment observed an estimated 100 Japs in a creek bed immediately south of VALENCIA at about 0800. The detachment, with the assistance of guerrillas, engaged the enemy in a fire fight and killed 31 of them before the rest escaped.

The following units departed VALENCIA for the TARRAGONA Staging Area: Elements of Division Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Special Troops, 77th Ordnance Company, 77th Quartermaster Company, 77th Signal Company and Division Artillery; 304th Field Artillery; 3rd Battalion, 306th Infantry; H&S Company, 302 Engineer Battalion; Company B, 302 Medical Battalion; and the 36th Field Hospital. Remaining at VALENCIA were only elements of Division Special Troops and a small operational group of Division Headquarters and the 3rd Battalion, 307th Infantry.

During the day the enemy lost 417 killed and one prisoner of war. Our own losses were 7 killed and 33 wounded.

31 January

The drive on the west coast was intensified in an attempt to bring it to an early termination. The VILLABA force turned toward BUGABUGA to establish contact with the 307th Infantry and met scattered resistance. The 1st Battalion, 305th Infantry, attacked the asphalt mine one mile west of BUGABUGA and cleaned the enemy from that area. The 3rd Battalion (-) occupied a position for the night at HUBASAN with L Company about 700 yards to the northwest and I Company at ABIJAO. A resupply convoy of the regiment was attacked on the PALOMPON Road in the vicinity of CAMBUTOY. One truck was turned over but the balance of the convoy got through safely.

The attack of the 307th Infantry met considerable resistance during the day particularly in the zone of advance of the 2d Battalion, which was reinforced by C Company. This battalion advanced to a point 800 yards west of AGOBOB where they held for the night. Patrols of the 1st Battalion continued to operate in the area and killed one Jap at PONOMA. The regiment killed 154 of the enemy during the day.

Enemy losses for the day were 217 killed and one prisoner of war. Our own casualties were 7 killed in action and 3 wounded in action.

1 February

During the night L Company 305th Infantry was attacked by an undetermined number of the enemy but the attack was successfully driven off by artillery and machine gun fire. The Japs also attacked one of our machine gun positions of the 3rd Battalion and harassed our troops throughout the night with rifle and mortar fire. Coordinated attacks against our position were made at 2400 and again at 0400. 30 of the enemy were killed during these attacks. At the end

- 26 -
S E C R E T

S E C R E T

of the day the 305th Infantry had completed its mission; elements of the 1st and 2d Battalions returned to VILLABA and commenced a shuttle move from VILLABA to PALOMPON. The 3rd Battalion returned to PALOMPON in preparation for the move of the regiment to TARRAGONA.

In the final mopping up in BUGABUGA and the surrounding area, the 305th Infantry killed 115 Japs and in a sweep of the area from the Asphalt Mine east of BALITI southwest to the coast they killed 57 more. All of these were stragglers and were not in organized groups.

The 307th Infantry continued its drive westward and by the end of the day, the 2d Battalion, plus C Company, had advanced through BUTNGA to ABIJAO and killed 45 Japs in small groups en route. The regiment also reported killing 80 of the enemy near BUTNGA.

By the end of the day it was apparent that very few of the enemy remained on the west coast of LEYTE. Enemy losses for the day were 301 killed and one prisoner of war. Our own casualties were one killed and 3 wounded.

2 through 5 February

Operations of the division for the period 2-5 February consisted of consolidation of forces at PALOMPON and IPIL preparatory to a move to the Staging Area at TARRAGONA. Local security patrols were operated by the 305th Infantry around PALOMPON and by the 307th Infantry around VALENCIA. Contacts were infrequent and only 16 of the enemy were killed during the period.

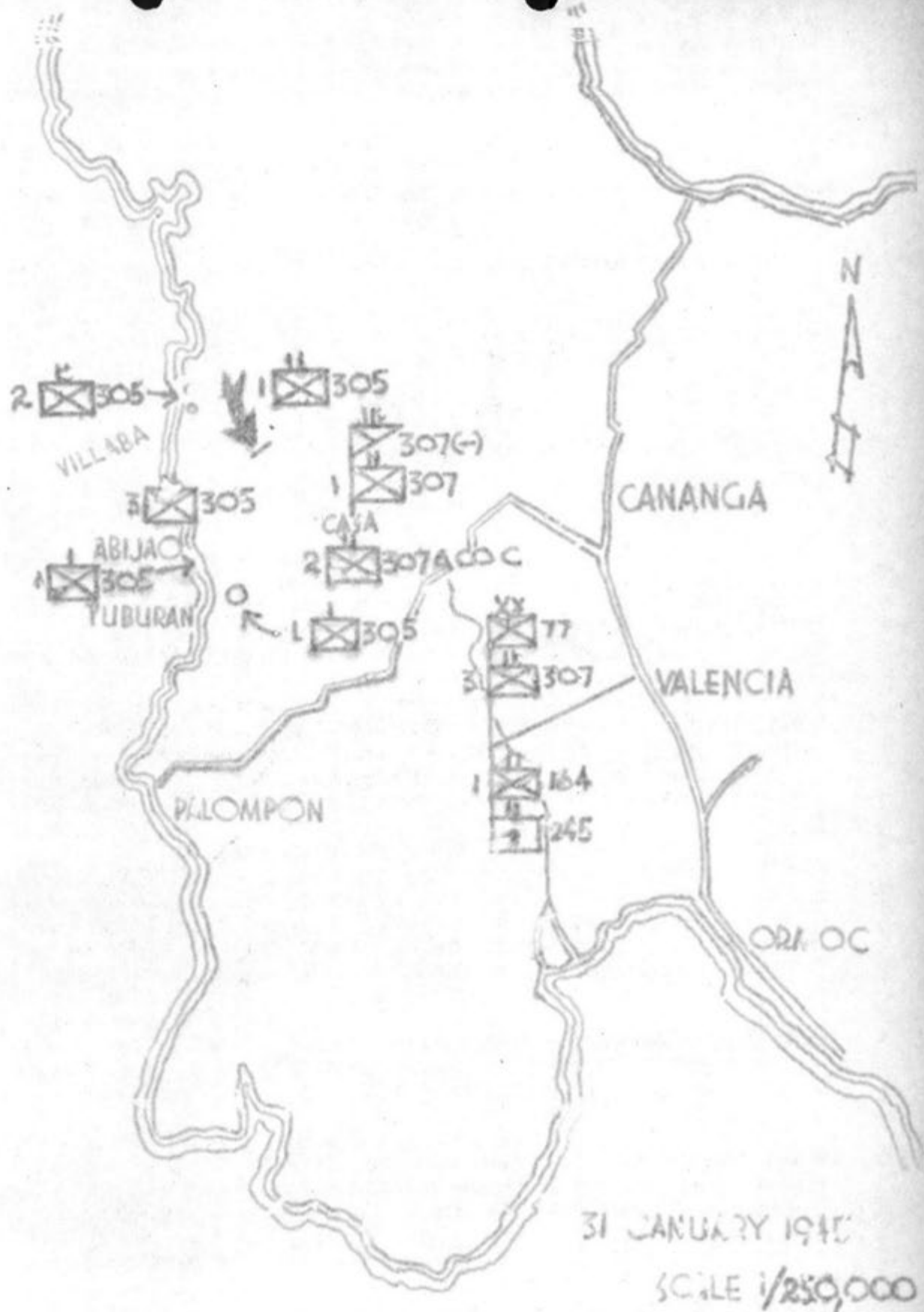
On 3 February Company I, 164th Infantry, arrived at PALOMPON to relieve the 305th Infantry of the defense of that area. The 1st Battalion, 164th Infantry, remained in defense of VALENCIA. By 3 February the entire 305th Combat Team remaining on the west coast had closed into the PALOMPON area. Movement of heavy equipment to TARRAGONA was continued.

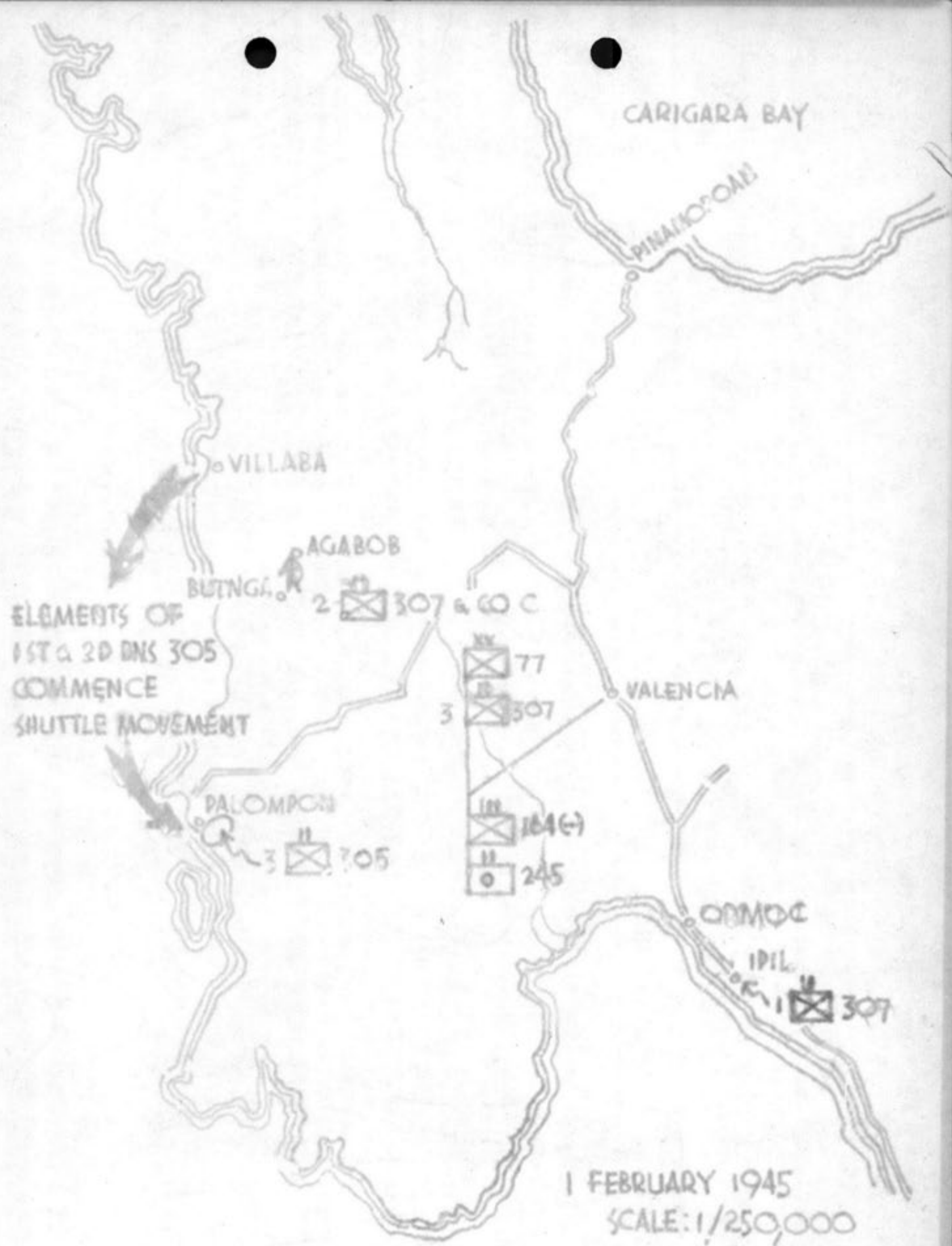
On 3 February an LVT patrol of the 305th Infantry moved from PALOMPON to VILLABA to investigate a report that the Japs had attacked guerrillas who were defending the area. The report proved to be false and the guerrilla commanding officer stated that only 2 Japs were seen and 5 rounds of ineffective mortar fire had been received. The patrol returned to PALOMPON.

On 5 February a motorized patrol of the 305th Infantry contacted a group of an estimated 20 Japs two miles northeast of TIPOLO. 10 Japs were killed and the remainder fled without attempting to return our fire.

The X Corps assumed responsibility for the 77th Division sector in northwest LEYTE at 1200, 5 February 1945. The 77th Division discontinued all patrols in the area and concentrated on the movement of troops and supplies for the move to TARRAGONA for rehabilitation and preparation for the next operation. All units had closed into the TARRAGONA area by 9 February in positions as shown on overlay #1.

Our own casualties for the period were one killed and 6 wounded in action.





REMENTS OF
1ST C. 22 ENS 305
CONTINUE
SABILE MOVEMENT

VILLABA

VALOMPOH

3 305

VALENCIA

77

1644

245

3 307

602 FA DEPARTED
VALENCIA FOR
TARRAGONA

C.B. BN ROUTE
TO L.A.

OBMOC

307

306 FA DEPARTED
IPIL FOR
TARRAGONA

2 FEBRUARY 1945

SCALE 1/250,000

S E C R E T

SECTION II

G-2 SUMMARY

26 December 1944

to

5 February 1945

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Section II

SUPPLEMENTAL G-2 SUMMARY

From: 260001 I Dec 1944

To : 052400 I Feb 1945

MAP: Special Map, LEYTE, 1:50,000.

1. Enemy Situation at end of Period.

a. As a result of our mopping up activities conducted during the period, no organized Jap forces remained in the Division sector by 5 February 1945.

b. Enemy Front Lines: None. For enemy positions during the period refer to Situation Map.

c. Defensive Organization: No organized defenses existed at the end of the period. During the period, however, a certain amount of control and organization existed among and between the groups of Japs in the area W of MATA-
GOB and N of PALOMPON. These groups ranged in size from 30-500 men and in some instances were able to initiate offensive action. At various times the enemy occupied several defensive positions of reinforced company size or smaller. The locations, identification, strengths and periods occupied were as follows:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ESTIMATED STRENGTH</u>	<u>PERIOD HELD</u>
(1) Astride Palompon Rd in depth (93.3-46.0) to (89.9-43.9)	Arty Bn 12 - 75 Guns Other remnants	26 Dec - 1 Jan
(2) 94.0-48.0	Company	Jan 2
(3) 85.5-48.9	Company	12-13 Jan
(4) 89.4-46.3	Company	12-13 Jan
(5) 87.2-55.6	100	12 Jan
(6) 86.5-49.8	(No Report)	14 Jan
(7) 92.1-46.2	Company	18-19 Jan
(8) 85.3-58.9	Est Co	23 Jan
(9) 87.7-51.3	Est Co Reinf	29 Jan
(10) 88.1-50.6	Est Co	31-2 Feb

The position mentioned in (1) was a series of defensive installations. The point where the PALOMPON RD climbs into the hills SW of MATAGOB is a natural defensive position of great strength. The Japs utilized natural caves, gullies and ridges on both sides of the road. In addition many deep holes were dug. Some of these holes were 8 feet deep, two feet in diameter at the top widening to 6 feet in diameter at the bottom. LMG crews were found under culverts. There were several coconut log pillboxes carefully landscaped and camouflaged into the forward slopes of ridges. 70mm battalion guns and 75mm guns were emplaced and

and camouflaged and in addition were well covered by fire from riflemen and machine gunners. An OP at (91.5-43.8) was a superior installation. It was dug into a forward slope with observation over 8 miles of road to the N and E. The observation port was almost invisible and the post was sufficiently large for 4 or 5 men. It had concealed entrance from the reverse slope.

The other positions listed above were typical of Jap hasty defenses. These were generally on steep sided ridges or knolls, and consisted of numerous well camouflaged holes for riflemen and machine gunners. Positions (3), (4), (5) and (9) were characterized by unusually well sited MGs and stubborn resistance.

d. Units in Contact: During the mopping up from 26 Dec to 5 Feb the 77th Inf Div encountered, in its sector, stragglers and small groups from practically every enemy unit which had ever been on the island. With a few exceptions no organized units were in opposition.

In the MATAGOB area the 1st Bn, 8th Arty Regt, 8th Div offered determined, well-organized and well-led resistance. Further to the North another Artillery Unit, the 68th Bde Arty Unit, launched full scale counter-attacks. Also encountered in the same general area, PALOMPON-VILLABA and inland, were fairly well organized and equipped service elements of the 1st Div.

Semi-organized Units were identified while trying to cross Highway 2 in the vicinity of VALENCIA. These Units had been instructed to cross the highway and proceed to the W coast in the vicinity of MT NAGUANG. Elements of these Units entered the 77th Div Sector although most of the E - W movement covered territory S of the Division Sector. Units positively identified were the following:

MITSUI BUTAI (Believed to have been headquarters for all
Shipping Units)
21st Shipping Engr Regt
IMABORI BUTAI - 12th IIR, 26th Div
16th Div remnants
26th Div remnants

Other unit identifications were made but it is doubtful whether these were of any significance since repeated contacts were not made, nor was there sufficient evidence to support the assumption that these identifications represented anything more than stragglers or small groups.

Toward the end of the period the 8th Btry, 58th IMB Arty Unit was identified in the vicinity of Hill 113 (North of ABIJAO). This unit made determined resistance. Also in this same general area remnants of the HOSHI HEIDAN were continuing to resist whenever contacted.

e. Reserves and other Forces Capable of Intervention:

At the close of the period no organized enemy forces remained in the Division Sector. However, 500-1000 Japs in small groups remained in the ABIJAO-AGUBOB-MT CANGUIPOT-SULPA Area. Although dispersed and decimated by our coordinated attacks of 28 Jan - 2 Feb the remnants of these Jap forces were reasonably well armed, well equipped and well fed.

SECRET

A force of approximately 2000 survivors from the 16th and 26th Divs and associated units were assembled in the vicinity of MT NAGUANG SE of PALOMPON. These Japs were in poor condition, critically short of equipment and were awaiting evacuation from LEYTE.

2. Enemy Operations During Period:

a. General Summary: Enemy operations during the period were almost entirely defensive in nature. The Japs fought a desperate delaying action astride the MATAGOB-PALOMPON RD from 25 Dec to 1 Jan. Thereafter, scattered, well-armed groups resisted stubbornly against our forces which patrolled and attacked various localities NE of PALOMPON. The only offensive efforts by this enemy consisted of an unsuccessful, battalion-strength attack on VILLABA, 15 Jan, and unsuccessful company-strength, attack on ABIJAO, 1 Feb and 2 attacks on our motor convoys SW of MATAGOB.

b. Chronological Summary of Enemy Operations - See Operations Summary, Section I.

c. Enemy Artillery Activity:

(1) The enemy used his artillery during the period 26 December 1944 - 5 January 1945, in much the same manner as in previous campaigns. Guns were used either singly or in pairs. The pieces usually were sighted down roads for direct fire and used as AT weapons. Neither salvo fire nor massed fires were employed.

(2) There were 9 instances of Japanese Artillery fire falling into areas where our patrols were operating and where our troops were attacking. Three of these instances occurred in the VILLABA area. Damage caused by Jap Arty was negligible and produced only a harassing effect. A total of 39 arty pieces were actually destroyed or captured by our troops. The lack of mobile transportation necessitated the abandonment by the Japs of their Artillery pieces.

(3) Counter-battery fire by American arty was employed 5 times. In 3 instances the enemy guns were destroyed or neutralized. The results of the other two missions were unobserved, however in both cases the guns ceased fire. No instances of Jap counter-battery fire were reported.

(4) An Artillery chart describing enemy artillery action is appended hereto. See pages 43-44.

d. Enemy Air Activity:

(1) Only 11 Jap sorties were flown over the Division Sector during the period. A minor harassing effect was achieved.

(2) Chronological Account of Air Activity:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>No Planes</u>	<u>Bombs</u>	<u>Strafed</u>
26 Dec 44	PALOMPON	3	9	No
14 Jan 45	Off ABIJAO	1	0	Amtracs
15 Jan 45	PALOMPON	1	1	4 Amtracs
	VILLABA			
			0	
			0	

SECRET

S E C R E T

Date	Place	No Planes	Bombs	Strafed
17 Jan 45	PALOMPON	1	0	No
18 Jan 45	VILLABA	1 (u/i)	0	No
19 Jan 45	"	1 (u/i)	0	No
21 Jan 45	PALOMPON	1 (u/i)	0	No
22 Jan 45	"	1 (u/i)	0	No
24 Jan 45	"	1 (u/i)	0	No
27 Jan 45	TUBURAN	1	0	Troops
29 Jan 45	PALOMPON	1 (u/i)	0	No

e. Enemy Tank Activity: None

3. Miscellaneous:

a. Enemy casualties including PWs: A total of 7,016 enemy were reported killed by the Division during the period 26 December to 5 February. Our losses including KIA and DOW were 107. The ratio of American dead to Jap dead was 1 to 65.6.

The cumulative Division total of Japs killed during the entire Western Leyte campaign (7 Dec - 5 Feb) was 19,557. We lost 519 men. The ratio of Americans to Japs was 1 to 37.

Eighty prisoners were taken during the period 26 Dec-5 Feb. The total for the entire campaign was 124.

b. Enemy Killed:

PERIOD	REPORTED BY					77 Rcn Tr	306 FA	Other Units	DAILY TOTALS
	305 Inf	306 Inf	307 Inf	302 Engr					
Dec 26	28	44	6	0	4	0	1	85	
27	43	47	10	0	10	10	4	124	
28	385	226	1	0	29	0	1	642	
29	172	301	5	0	0	0	1	479	
30	216	20	24	0	0	0	2	262	
31	294	1	3	0	0	0	12	310	
Jan 1	8	2	10	0	0	0	4	24	
2	14	62	1	0	0	3	17	97	
3	75	6	4	0	0	0	20	105	
4	0	36	22	10	0	0	0	68	
5	41	44	68	1	0	0	0	154	
6	18	73	3	0	0	33	0	127	
7	2	12	8	0	0	0	0	22	
8	27	3	29	0	0	0	11	70	
9	46	56	88	0	0	0	7	190	
10	61	9	59	0	0	0	9	138	
11	61	1	97	0	0	0	2	161	
12	50	0	35	0	0	0	0	85	
13	364	0	16	0	0	0	12	392	
14	211	0	31	0	0	0	4	246	
15	372	0	66	0	0	0	3	441	
16	50	4	5	0	0	0	5	64	
17	171	114	12	0	0	0	5	302	

The following
image(s) may be of
poor quality due to
the poor quality of
the **original**.

S E C R E T

PERIOD	REPORTED BY					77 Rcn Tr	306 FA	Other DAILY	
	305 Inf	306 Inf	307 Inf	302 Engr	Units			TOTALS	
Jan 18	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	14	24
19	55	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	64
20	23	164	0	0	0	0	0	6	193
21	48	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	60
22	2	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	18
23	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	8	24
24	32	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	43
25	17	0	7	0	0	0	0	2	26
26	7	0	63	0	0	0	0	11	84
27	95	17	12	0	0	0	0	3	127
28	141	0	153	0	0	0	0	2	301
29	9	2	97	0	0	0	0	8	116
30	202	0	163	0	0	0	0	56	421
31	49	0	168	0	0	0	0	0	217
Feb 1	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
2	172	0	123	0	0	0	0	6	306
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

TOTALS

FOR

PERIOD	3640	1385	1656	11	43	46	235	7316
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PREVIOUS TOTAL

7-25 DEC

	4206	3530	4214	57	115	17	102	12241
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TOTAL FOR

CAMPAIGN

	7846	4915	5870	68	158	63	337	19557
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b. PW's

PERIOD	REPORTED BY					77 Rcn Tr	306 FA	Other DAILY	
	305 Inf	306 Inf	307 Inf	302 Engr	Units			TOTALS	
Dec 26	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	
28	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
29	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	
31	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Jan 2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	
3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	
9	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	7	
10	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	
11	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	5	
12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	
14	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	
15	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	
16	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
18	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	
19	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	

S E C R E T

PERIOD	REPORTED BY						Other Units	DAILY TOTALS
	305 Inf	306 Inf	307 Inf	302 Engr	77 Rcn Tr	306 FA		
Jan 21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
22	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
23	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
24	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
29	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
30	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Feb 1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTALS FOR PERIOD	21	7	21	2	2	1	26	80
PREVIOUS TOTAL 7-25 DEC	10	10	7	-	2	2	13	44
TOTAL FOR CAMPAIGN	31	17	28	2	4	3	39	124

c. Morale: The remaining Jap forces were disorganized, isolated, ill-equipped and poorly-fed. This was especially true of those Jap groups which crossed from eastern LEYTE to the west coast area. A few small groups which were landed on the west coast in December were in better condition. All the factors causative of low morale were present. Interrogation of PW's during the period indicated that most of the Jap soldiers were bewildered and downhearted. However, being Japanese, many of these soldiers were still willing to fight to the death when cornered.

d. Enemy Equipment Captured and Destroyed:

(1) (During this period.) The enemy retreated away from his supply bases. He was without transport and lacked sufficient individual weapons and equipment. Therefore, relatively small amounts of material were available to be captured by our forces.

(2) A classified list of material captured during the period and during the whole campaign follows:

	Period- 26 Dec-5 Feb	Total- 21 Oct-5 Feb
<u>Aviation</u>		
Single motor seaplane	0	1
Parachute	0	1
Drums aviation gasoline	0	800
Bomb fuses	0	100
500# Bombs	0	500
<u>Chemical Warfare</u>		
Boxes type 94 smoke candles	0	6

S E C R E T

Period-	Total-
26 Dec-5 Feb	21 Oct-5 Feb

Chemical Warfare (cont'd)

Gas mask repair kit	0	1
Cases type 3 decontaminating agent	0	15
Horse gas masks	0	12
Cases type 95 decontaminating agent	0	20

Engineer

Tons high explosives (picric acid, blasting powder, dynamite)	0	8
Tons mines (AT-Magnetic)	0	3
Water distillation sets mounted on trucks	0	3
Sacks cement	0	1000
Water purification sets	0	5
Power concrete mixer	0	1
Blanket charges	0	2
Lunge mines	2	5

An unestimated number of feet of manila rope.

Ordnance

(1) Artillery:

Tons - 15cm semifix	0	40
Tons - 105mm	0	60
Tons - 75mm AA	0	28
Rds - 81mm mortar	0	5400
Rds - 3"	0	300
Tons - 25mm AA	0	5
Tons - small arms ammo	15	265
Tons - Porcelain grenades	0	1
Cases - Fragmentary grenades	0	400
Tons - 105mm semifix	0	15
Tons - 75mm HE AP	3	77
Rds - 75mm ammo	75	75
Rds - 81mm air barrage rockets	0	300
Tons - 37mm HE AP	0	10
Rds - 70mm amm	30	30
Tons - 25mm HE AP	0	20
Cases- Knee mortar	0	300
15' Aerial Torpedos	0	2
Boxes Dynamite	350	350
Ft - Prima cord	10000	10000

An unestimated number of rds of arty ammo

An unestimated number of safety fuses

(2) Vehicles

Amphibious tanks	0	9
Staff Car	0	1
Trucks	6	108
Medium tanks	0	5
Tankette 7	0	1
Scout car	0	1
Roadrollers	0	5
Tractors	0	2
Arty caissons	9	9
U. S. Trucks	0	15

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Period-	Total-
26 Dec-5 Feb	21 Oct-5 Feb

(2) Vehicles (cont'd)

Carts

Full track personnel carriers	4	4
Motorcycle	0	2
Bulldozer	0	1
Ordnance repair shops on trks	0	1
Arty caissons w/signal equipment	0	5
Wheel barrows	2	2
	2	14

(3) Weapons

150mm gun	0	1
155mm gun	1	1
105mm How	0	1
75mm How	0	3
70mm guns	16	62
70 or 75mm guns	2	2
75mm guns	11	50
Arty gun (type not reported)	1	1
37mm AT Gun	1	7
47mm AT Gun	3	3
57mm AT Gun	0	1
40mm AA Guns	0	11
77mm guns	2	3
20mm AA guns	0	3
Knee mortars	15	21
LMGs	16	37
LMGs (czechoslovakian manufacture)	0	2
31 Cal AA MGs - double drum feed	1	1
70mm Dual purpose guns	0	3
20mm MGs	1	1
32 Cal Auto wpn 12" barrel	0	1
HMGs	6	21
HMG (U.S. model)	1	1
81mm mortars	5	18
75mm AA guns	0	3
3" guns	0	1
25mm AA guns	0	3
4" mortars	0	3
British Lewis Gun	1	2
50mm mortars	2	2
Rifles	10	10
Machine Rifle	1	1

Quartermaster:

Packsaddles	0	1000
Tons - Horseshoes	0	2
Tons - Rations	2	7
Bolts - Cotton cloth	0	56

Signal:

Portable radios	0	8
Small radio receivers w/transmitter and power packs	1	2

S E C R E T

	Period- 26 Dec-5 Feb	Total- 21 Oct-5 Feb
<u>Signal (cont'd)</u>		
Medium transmitters	0	2
Switchboards	0	2
Battery charger	0	1
#120 Batteries	0	2
Small Jap switchboard - 8 drops - grd return	0	1
Semi Portable Radios	0	2
Large transmitters w/dynamoter and antennas tuning unit	0	1
Telephones	0	6
Large radios	0	3
Truck radio	1	1
 <u>Miscellaneous:</u>		
Range finder	0	5
Barges	1	53
Flexible landing craft	0	1
Supply parachute w/wicker baskets attached filled with food	0	5
Gas (fuel, gas and oil)	2600	2600
Carrier pigeons	0	50
Jap Flamethrower	1	1
Binoculars	0	1
Schooner, 2-mast, 80' long	0	1
Height finder	0	1
Large lifeboat	1	1
Telescope	1	1

(4) Captured material was evacuated by road to the Division Heavy Material Dump at VALENCIA, and by boat from PALOMPON to the Corps Dump at ORMOG.

(5) Ammunition of all types was collected at various points along the route of the Division advance under the supervision of the Bomb Disposal Officer. Ammunition that could be used was sent to our captured material dump and the remainder was destroyed by demolition.

(6) A motor pool for captured Jap trucks was operated under the supervision of the Ordnance Company. Here Jap trucks were repaired and put into operation and issued to various organizations needing transportation.

(7) Captured materiel that was taken in forward areas was placed under guard by the capturing unit until the materiel could either be evacuated or destroyed.

e. Reconnaissance: During the mop-up phase of the LEYTE Campaign extensive combat patrolling was employed to locate and destroy remnants of Jap forces remaining in the division sector. In addition to accomplishing combat missions these patrols obtained intelligence.

Patrols from infantry regiments and the 77 Reconnaissance Troop operating E and W of Hwy 2 near the southern boundary of the division were constantly on the alert to locate Jap groups which attempted to move from the Lake Danao area to the W coast. These patrols were accompanied by arty observers who directed fire on any concentrations encountered.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

The area E of Hwy 2 from the LIBUNGAO RJ to MT PINA was patrolled extensively to intercept any Japs attempting to move W thru the valley or W from the hills. However few contacts were made in this area.

On the W coast patrols operated S of PALOMPON to RIZAL and SAN PEDRO and N of PALOMPON to TUBURAN and ABIJAO. Elements of the division at VILLABA patrolled N to SILAD and S to BALITI and QUIBOC PT.

Prior to the final attack through the BUTNGA-SULPA-AGOBOD area a guerrilla patrol was sent from MATAGOB to SULPA to reconnoiter trails for the movement of troops and for information of Jap concentrations. The information obtained by these guerrillas was valuable to our forces. American patrols reconnoitered the area E and S of VILLABA and E of BALITI to SULPA prior to the movement of our troops through this area.

Ground reconnaissance was supplemented by continuous, daylight aerial observation from artillery liaison planes. These observers located and directed fire upon numerous groups of Japs.

f. Use of Guerrilla Forces:

(1) During the period the attachment to the Division of units of the 96th Infantry (PA) commanded by Major NAZARINO was augmented on 26 December by the attachment of the 3rd Bn. Later the entire regiment came under Division Control. These guerrilla forces were familiar with the terrain in the Division sector, had valuable contacts with the civilian population, and had an established net of intelligence operatives.

(2) Coordination and operation of guerrillas were supervised by the A. C. of S., G-3. However on intelligence matters the guerrilla intelligence officers worked directly with regimental S-2's and A. C. of S., G-2. Close liaison was maintained between Division headquarters and the 96th Inf headquarters as well as between our regimental headquarters and their attached guerrilla battalions. Lt Delfin Aguilos, Regtl S-2, 96th Inf, members of the Regtl intelligence section, and operatives throughout the sector provided almost daily reports on enemy activities.

(3) The 77th Division made every effort to employ the guerrilla forces efficiently by:

(a) Providing transportation to facilitate the assembly of widely dispersed guerrilla units.

(b) Assigning missions best suited to their training, experience and equipment.

(c) Furnishing weapons, both Japanese and American, and limited quantities of rations as available.

(4) The uses to which guerrilla forces were put included the accomplishment of the following missions:

(a) Intelligence Missions:

S E C R E T

(1) To obtain information of the enemy.

(2) To give, or obtain, reliable information of terrain, roads, beaches, and rivers. To verify or report errors in our 1/50,000 Map.

(3) To report the location of groups of Filipino civilians held captive by Japs.

(4) To assist CIC in verifying the loyalty of civilians, report pro-Jap civilians, and disarm civilian personnel not authorized to carry weapons.

(b) Operational Missions:

(1) To serve as guides for, and members of, patrols.

(2) To act as interpreters between Americans and civilians who did not understand English.

(3) To guard bridges along Hwy #2 and the PALOMPON RD.

(4) To set ambushes and protect the flanks of the Division especially N of ORMOC where they protected the left flank of the Division during the envelopment of VALENCIA and LIBUNGAO. Later they secured the bridges along the PALOMPON RD in preparation for our advance. The guerrilla activities restricted enemy movement at night.

(5) On several occasions guerrilla officers who knew the locations of concentrations of Japs were flown in cub planes to adjust artillery fire on the targets.

(6) To warn civilians and initiate their evacuation from areas which were to be subjected to artillery or air bombardment.

(7) To assist in the collection and return of military equipment which civilians had picked up in combat areas.

(8) To initiate and supervise preparation and movement of bridge repair materials to points along the PALOMPON RD where these would be needed on the arrival of our troops.

(9) To aid in controlling the movements of civilians so as to prevent them from impeding military movements.

(5) In the accomplishment of intelligence missions the guerrilla forces provided substantial quantities of information of the enemy, terrain, roads, trails, beaches and civilian concentrations. Because of inaccuracies and omissions on the 1/50,000 maps it was an asset to this Division to have immediately available guerrilla officers familiar with the geography of the region. The intelligence reported by the guerrillas from their own observations was precise and accurate. Their freehand sketches were informative and excellent. However, as the guerrillas themselves were careful to state, the enemy information gleaned by civilians and reported through guerrilla channels though generally accurate as to subject tended to be vague as to exact locations and times and considerably exaggerated as to number of Japs.

S E C R E T

(6) In the accomplishment of operation missions the guerrilla forces proved cooperative and courageous. They relieved our assault troops of certain patrol and guard missions thus reducing the number of highly trained combat soldiers which had to be devoted to such missions. Finally, they killed Jap stragglers and small groups and hindered the enemy's night activity.

(7) A fair evaluation of the assistance furnished by guerrilla forces to the 77th Division during this campaign would be that they willingly accomplished the missions outlined above, and in so doing served equally and side by side with U. S. troops. Their cooperation shortened the campaign and lessened the amount of sweat and blood which had to be expended.

g. Psychological Warfare:

(1) Approximately 18,000 surrender leaflets were distributed from artillery liaison planes over areas known to be occupied by groups of enemy. Of these leaflets 7000 were prepared by Division language specialists. These leaflets were "tailored" to fit the area and tactical situation in which their use was planned. A few prisoners surrendered with leaflets and the majority of the prisoners taken had read and been affected to some extent by the message thus conveyed. Many Jap dead were found to have leaflets in their pockets. These results plus the intangible effect upon the morale of all the Japanese caused by the dissemination of this literature indicate that the use of leaflets was of value to our forces.

(2) On December 28th several appeals for surrender were made over public address system near Jap positions SW of MATAGOB. No Japs surrendered at that time. The effect on the enemy of the broadcasts could not be determined.

h. CIC Activities:

(1) Missions: After organized resistance had ceased on the island of LEYTE, and throughout the entire period during which this division was engaged in mopping up operations, the CIC detachment continued its mission in the forward areas. These missions included the establishment and operation of two field offices (VALENCIA & PALOMPON); the supervision of military security; area security; security controls; liaison with Provost Marshall, Civil Affairs, Guerrillas and adjacent CIC detachments; tactical information and controls. These missions will be treated under separate heading.

(2) Military Security: No violations of AR 380-5 were reported, or noted, by this detachment. All organizations cooperated fully with intelligence by reporting immediately any suspicious civilians and incidents. No cases of sabotage or espionage were encountered.

(3) Area Security: During the period area search was conducted in VALENCIA, LEYTE, with the following results: On 19 Jan 1945 a cache of 350 boxes of Japanese dynamite plus approximately 10,000 feet of prima cord and an unestimated amount of safety fuses stored in concrete revetments were discovered one kilometer SW of barrio MASARAYAO. The dynamite had apparently been stored there by the Japanese since this area was formerly a Division or Corps supply dump. Due to the fact that this dynamite cache was in such close proximity to the alleged pro-Japanese barrio of MASARAYAO together with the fact that at present there are still hundreds of Jap soldiers roaming about and hiding in the

S E C R E T

nearby hills, steps were immediately taken for its disposal. 2600 gallons of Japanese fuel was located a few hundred yards from the dynamite. Search of all the nipa shacks and dwellings in this same area resulted in the location of additional boxes of dynamite. The civilians who were in possession of this dynamite explained, "We thought it was soap". They had no prima cord or safety fuses in their possession.

(4) Security Controls: From its office in PALOMPON detachment provided coastal and port security for the western coast of LEYTE, labor controls, and evacuee control.

(a) To prevent infiltration by the enemy in the small fishing craft that ply in and about the coastal waters, municipal officials were given the responsibility for the registration of all fishing craft. Fishing craft permits were issued by the Mayor, with a limit of 10 permits a day. A local policeman was placed on coastal patrol registering the departure and return of boats from their fishing ventures. No person without a permit was allowed to leave the shore. Sailboats and other craft from outside islands not occupied by our forces were beached and the crew and passengers were detained at CIC headquarters for interrogation, observation and restriction to the immediate area.

(b) To prevent the employment of former pro-Jap collaborators by the military, a laborer's pass system was instituted. Each capataz (labor foreman) recommended by civil affairs was investigated and in turn required to submit the names of all laborers under him. These names were then processed through all existing "black-lists". In all, fifteen hundred laborers were processed by this detachment.

(c) To prevent evacuees from becoming a hindrance to the tactical situation, no civilians were permitted to leave their respective barrios and municipalities unless accompanied by an American patrol. Mayors and municipal officials were required to register all civilians in their areas and by working thru PCAU and this agency they set up evacuation control by means of water transportation. In this way civilians were precluded from cutting thru our defense perimeters.

(5) Liaison: Constant liaison was maintained with Provost Marshal, Adjacent CIC detachments, Guerrilla forces and PCAU #14 and 17 throughout the period. These agencies worked together in effecting and enforcing the above security controls.

(6) Tactical information and controls:

(a) During the period, guerrilla operatives working out of this detachment killed 35 Japanese and captured 2 prisoners, documents, identifications and prisoners turned over to G-2 Language section. Captured weapons turned over to captured materiel dump.

(b) On 30 January, detachment's CP was brought under fire by a group of Japanese estimated at 100. Agents of this detachment deployed to the rear of the CP and opened fire on the Japanese. The fire fight that ensued lasted approximately one hour during which we received automatic and rifle fire.

S E C R E T

Thirty-one Japanese were killed and the remainder escaped to the west. Machine guns, knee mortars and documents recovered and turned over to G-2 language section and enemy materiel dump. One Jap prisoner was taken and turned over to G-2.

(c) During the period agents of this detachment accompanied PT boat and native banca patrols along the coast of LEYTE and were also on reconnaissance to outside islands still dominated by the Japanese. Much tactical information on troop disposition and armament pertaining to these islands was obtained thru native and guerrilla interrogation. Informant nets were established on these islands and were used to thwart the enemy in any possible contemplated counter-landings against the island of LEYTE.

(7) Counterintelligence Information: The mission of investigating, clearing and/or interning Pro-Japanese collaborators on the island was continued. Approximately 100 collaborators were apprehended; most of these were cleared by investigation but 10 were interned and will stand trial by the Philippine Commonwealth Government for their collaboration with the Japanese and for the atrocities committed by them against the Filipinos.

1. Public Relations Activities:

(1) During this period news releases for publication in home town newspapers were handled extensively. All material was forwarded through S-2 channels to the Division PRO. Emphasis was placed on awards, citations, promotions and human interest stories. Many of the releases were accompanied by pictures. A number of magazine articles were prepared and forwarded through GHQ, Public Relations, to various Military Journals. New releases are broken down as follows:

Awards-	
Silver Star	11
Bronze Star	246
Purple Heart	6
Combat Inf Badge	52
Promotions	23
Feature material-	
Newspapers	117
Magazines	5
Total	460

Photos to accompany hometown stories - 59.

(2) The Public Relations background material on the Division, for use by civilian correspondents and higher headquarters was brought up to date.

(3) The Division history was organized and work begun on bringing it up to date.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

a. (1) Remain in the hills of western LEYTE and avoid combat when possible, but defend when fixed.

(2) Employ small forces to harass our supply lines and rear

installations.

(3) Evacuate troops from the NW coast of LEYTE to CEBU or other islands in the VISAYAS.

(4) Move reinforcements from CEBU or other islands in the VISAYAS to NW LEYTE.

b. Relative Probabilities:

(1) This combined with the hope of possible evacuation is an inevitable consequence. That the remnants of the enemy forces on LEYTE could ever assemble enough troops and equipment to become an offensive threat is extremely unlikely. They can, however, withdraw to the NW hills, live off the land, organize positions around likely ports of evacuation and defend to the last. In desperation the Japs have employed these tactics on every Pacific island our forces have taken.

(2) This is a definite capability under any circumstances and at any time. Most Jap troops seem masters at infiltration tactics. At this stage, their foraging in search of food and supplies, their patrolling to contact other friendly forces, combined with an ever present desire for aggressive action make this a definite capability. Our extended supply lines are now especially vulnerable to this type of action, as recent events have proven. Blocking and mining roads, blowing bridges, sabotaging artillery guns and liaison planes, destroying supply installations, and raiding hospital areas are the most likely missions of harassing parties.

(3) It is known that high ranking officers and small numbers of troops were evacuated by sailboat to CEBU. There were numerous indications from PW's and documents that the remnants of the 16th and 26th divisions expected to be evacuated from a point 7 Kms S of PALOMPON by Jap warships about 11 February 1945. However, the activities of our ground troops in NW LEYTE, and the control exerted in and over the CAMOTES SEA by our naval units and air forces render extremely hazardous any large scale evacuation. The enemy cannot afford to risk anything larger than small craft and sailboats in this attempt.

(4) The enemy can not supply his forces now on LEYTE. There is little likelihood that reinforcements will be sent to an island which is definitely lost to them.

c. Discussion: It was the stated intention of the Japanese high command to make LEYTE the decisive campaign for the PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. This was confirmed by subsequent operations. The Japanese expended men, material and shipping lavishly but to no avail. There remain on LEYTE perhaps 3,000 harried survivors incapable of large scale offensive action and denied either reinforcements or opportunity for evacuation.

ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY
77TH DIV SECTOR

Period 26 Dec '44 - 5 Feb '45 (Incl)

DATE	TIME	JAP FIRE RECEIVED PLACE	ROUNDS	NO. GUNS	CALI- BER	GUNS LOCATED AT	COUNTER ENTRY FILE	RESULTS	GUNS ACTUALLY TAKEN BY TROOPS
26	251945- 2030 1200-1500 1350	(95.2-43.4)* - - -	100 - - -	NR 5 2	70 & 75mm 70mm 70 or 75mm	NR (92.7 - 46.2) (91.7 - 45.3) & (91.9 - 44.4)	Yes M8s fr 12	NR Destroyed Destroyed	NR 5 2
27	261916-1940	-	-	2	70mm	(92.2 - 45.3)	-	Destroyed	2
28	-	-	-	3	47mm	(93.4 - 46.1) (92.0 - 45.7) (92.35-45.40) (89.73-40.66)	-	Destroyed	3
29	0745 1200 1650 1000	(92.4-43.8) (92.2-43.8) & MATAGOB -	NR 7 - -	NR NR 1	NR 70-75 mm 75mm	NR (92.8 - 46.2)	- Yes -	- NR Destroyed	- - 1
30	1030, 1400 1630	-	NR	6	75mm	(92.1 - 43.6) (91.2 - 43.1) & (90.8 - 42.8) & (91.2 - 43.1)	Yes	4 Destroyed 2 Captured	6
31	-	-	NR	2 3	70mm 75mm	(89.5 - 40.5) (89.1 - 40.0) (92.3 - 41.7)	- - -	Destroyed Destroyed	2 3
Jan 4	1500	-	NR	4 1	70mm 70mm	(06.7 - 56.6)	-	2 Destroyed 2 Captured	5
5	-	-	NR	1	70mm	NR	-	Destroyed	1
6	-	-	NR	1 1	37mm 70mm	(85.4 - 36.9) (87.9 - 36.8)	- -	Destroyed Destroyed	1 1
9	- -	- -	-	1 1	155mm 75mm	NR	- -	Destroyed Destroyed	1 1
15	1200	VILLABA	NR	1	75mm	(84.7 - 55.7)	Yes	Neutralized	?
16	0700	VILLABA	5	1	70mm	NR	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	1	NR	NR	-	NR	1

S E C R E T

10
11
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14

ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY (CONT'D)

DATE	TIME	JAP FIRE RECEIVED PLACE	ROUNDS	NO. GUNS	CALIBER	GUNS LOCATED AT	COUNTER BTRY FIRE	RESULTS	GUNS ACTUALLY TAKEN BY TROOPS
Jan									
24	NR	800 Yds N VILLABA	33	1	NR	(87.5 - 55.5)	Yes	Neutralized	?
27	1230	(90.7 - 52.7)	2	NR	75mm	Vicinity SULPA	-	-	-
28	1400	(85.2 - 57.5)	7	NR	75mm	NR	-	Unknown	-
29	2000	(86.0 - 57.8)	3	NR	75mm	NR	-	Unknown	-
			157	Min 39 Max 45	1 - 37mm 3 - 47mm 17 - 70mm 2 - 70-75mm 11 - 75mm 1 - 155mm 3 - NR		Times Rptd 5	Total	16 - 70mm 3 - 47mm 13 - 75mm 1 - 37mm 1 - 155mm 5 - NR 39

* Not reported until 26 Dec 44.

S E C R E T

SECTION III

G-1 SUMMARY

26 December 1944

to

5 February 1945

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

G-1 SUMMARY

26 Dec '44 - 5 Feb '45

1. a. Rations: Throughout this period a combination of B & C rations was issued. Fresh meat was available occasionally, as was fresh butter. Freshly baked bread was available at all times. No eggs were received. Turkey was served to all troops on Christmas and New Year's Day.

2. EVACUATION

a. (6) Total evacuations during period 26 Dec '44 to 5 Feb '45:

Diseases
Injury
Battle Casualties

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>Total</u>
Off	3	10	0	13
W.O.	1	0	0	1
E.M.	<u>77</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>322</u>
	81	253	2	336

b. Burials

(1) Funeral services were held daily at the cemeteries under the supervision of the Division Chaplain. Prayers were said over each grave in full keeping with the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

(2) Beautification projects of the Division cemeteries at IPIL, CAMP DOWNES, and VALENCIA were nearly completed. All crosses are in place. Walks have been completed, and Division monuments placed in each cemetery. Flagpoles have been erected in each cemetery. Temporary arrangements were made with PCAU #14 for the upkeep of the cemeteries after the Division moved to another area.

(3) An impressive ceremony of dedication was held on 28 Jan '45 at the VALENCIA cemetery.

c. Prisoners of War: 73 of the enemy were taken prisoner during this period. They were confined in POW stockade at ORMOC under supervision of Division Provost Marshal. Evacuation was through normal channels.

3. TRAFFIC

a. Control:

(1) Traffic control posts were established between VALENCIA and TARRAGONA for the movement of the Division into rehabilitation area.

4. Omitted.

5. PERSONNEL

a. During the early part of this period straggler posts were maintained in ORMOC. No stragglers were apprehended.

b.. Surplus baggage: Baggage was cut down considerably by elimination of individual duffle bags and by reduction of officers allowance to one piece of hand luggage (Valpack or duffle bag).

c. Mail

(1) Mail deliveries, both incoming and outgoing, were made with 3rd Postal Regulating Station, APO 72, at SAN JOAQUIN. An average outgoing shipment consisted of eight pouches of Air-Mail and V-Mail and fifteen sacks of parcel post. During this period 12387 money orders were sold, their value being \$668,277. 742 money orders were paid, valued at \$26804.

(2) Christmas packages were received in large numbers, a large portion of which were completely or partially ruined by water or heat.

d. Shelter

The Division rear echelon, absent since 5 July '44, rejoined 27 Jan 45, bringing with them the Division's heavy tentage. This, together with new canvas was utilized as shelter for Division rehabilitation area. All men are now living in pyramidal or squad tents. The supply of cots is ample. Kitchens are screened, and in many cases walled latrine screens are in place, and showers installed in all areas.

e. Strength Returns: Daily casualty and strength reports were rendered to this headquarters by all organizations, organic and attached. These reports were transmitted in abbreviated form through the use of symbols by radio and telephone. This procedure expedited submission of these reports and has proven very satisfactory. These reports were consolidated and submitted to XXIV Corps daily. A weekly periodic G-1 report for each 7 day period during the campaign was submitted to XXIV Corps.

f. Replacements:

(1) Eleven officers (11) and six hundred sixty-six (666) enlisted replacements were received during the period covered by this report. The Forms 20 of EM were received in advance of soldiers, and assignments were made by the Division Classification Officer. Men were picked up at 4th Replacement Depot and transported directly to regiments.

(2) An additional fourteen (14) officers and six hundred thirty-seven (637) enlisted men have been assigned to the Division, but have not joined. When all assigned have joined the Division will be short one hundred sixty-five (165) officers and two hundred seventy-five (275) enlisted men.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Morale: As the Division enters a period of rehabilitation particular attention is being paid to maintaining the high morale which carried the Division through the LEYTE operation. Decorations were being processed rapidly. The Commanding General, Assistant Division Commander, and all general and special staff officers are making frequent visits to organizations checking on food, clothing, shelter, showers and all other items affecting morale. Two Red Cross Canteens are established and two more are in process. These are operated by the

S E C R E T

Cross girl workers and supply coffee, cookies, candy, gum, cigarettes, magazines, books, writing material, and playing cards. Pianos, ping-pong tables, and victrolas with an ample supply of records are available. Mail is broken down as soon as received and is promptly dispatched to units. All men are "off the ground", and living in pyramidal or squad tents. Special Service Officers are active in supplying athletic equipment and entertainment. Moving pictures are shown nightly in eight different areas. Two stage shows have been furnished by XXIV Corps, and are playing all areas in turn. Chapels and mess halls have been built, and every day sees an added improvement in the area. Ocean beaches are adjacent to all unit camps and all personnel are encouraged to swim.

b. Civil Affairs: PCAU #14 & 17 were active in re-establishing civilian life and activities. Hospitals were opened for the care of the native population. Stores were opened in PALOMPON, MATAGOB, SANTA ROSARIO, and VALENCIA, but great difficulty was encountered in securing sufficient supplies. Lacking these, black market conditions arose, but the situation improved rapidly by the end of the period of this report. In attempting to resupply PCAU stores in PALOMPON and MATAGOB, the CO of PCAU #17, a Colonel and four enlisted men were killed when their convoy was ambushed. On 5 Feb '45, PCAU #14 & 17 were released from attachment to Division and control reverted to X Corps.

c. Health and Sanitation:

(1) Active measures were taken to enforce sanitary regulations in all bivouac areas regardless of how temporary the area might have been.

(2) Skin disease is common with troops operating in rice paddies, and careful supervision is required by medical personnel to prevent the spread of this disease. Exposure to sunshine, use of showers, and swimming has done much to reduce numbers of skin diseases.

(3) Bivouac areas were drained and all stagnant water was eliminated. High grass was cut, and Jap diesel oil sprayed freely on favorite breeding places for mosquitoes. Roads and walks were constructed.

(4) Box latrines have been provided for all units.

(5) Instructions were issued prohibiting personnel from bathing, wading, etc in open streams to prevent schistosomiasis.

(6) All drinking water is treated.

(7) All individual eating utensils are sterilized before each meal and cleansed in the prescribed manner.





BALUGAIT R.

706 TK BR

235 ENGR BN

152 ENGR BN

145 ENGR GP HQ

242 ENGR BN

302 ENGR BN

36 FIELD HO SP

92 HONB DIV HQ

88 CEM CO

502 MED BN HO SP

702 MED BN

202 JACO

77 RCH TL

77 CM CO

77 SG CO

77 ORB CO

306 INF

HQ CO
SP TRS

307 INF

305 INF

CDR HQ
BUNIP

305 INF

116 STA HO SP

ENGR
BUNIP

116 STA HO SP

77A BN DIV
ARTY

306 FA

902 FA

305 FA

304 FA

532 FA BN

LEYTE
GULF

OVERLAY NO. 4

DISPOSITION OF TROOPS
77 INF DIV & ATCHD UNITS
AS OF 9 FEB 1945

SCALE OF YARDS

0 500 1000

LEYTE

DISTRIBUTION

The Adjutant General of the Army	1
(Thru USAFPOA, AGF; with all supporting documents)	
OPD, WDGS	1
GHQ	1
CG, USAFFE	1
CG, AGF	1
CG, POA	1
CINCPAC	1
CINCPHA	1
CG, Eighth Army	2
CG, Sixth Army	1
CG, Tenth Army	2
Gen Dumas (c/o Tenth Army)	1
CG, XXIV Corps	15
CG, X Corps	1
CG, 7th Inf Div	1
CG, 96th Inf Div	1
CTG 78.3 c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif.	1
Command & General Staff School	1
ANSCol	1
Infantry School	1
Field Artillery School	1
CG, 77th Infantry Division	1
ADC	1
C/S	1
G-1	1
G-2	1
G-3	3
G-4	1
Hq Special Troops	1
77 Rcn Troop	1
77 Signal Co	1
Division Artillery	1
304 FA Bn	1
305 FA Bn	1
306 FA Bn	1
902 FA Bn	1
302 Med Bn	1
302 Engr Bn	1
233 Engr Bn	1
242 Engr Bn	1
7th AAA Bn	1
Co A, 776 Amtank Bn	1
Co A, 88 Cml Bn	1
706 Tank Bn	1
305 Infantry	1
306 Infantry	1
307 Infantry	1
77 MP Platoon	1
292 JASCO	1