

Brown, Lawrence R.

Pen Argyl Man With Unit Cited In Italian Action

NOV 30 1944

Pvt. Lawrence R. Brown, 200 Main Street, Pen Argyl, was a member of the First Battalion of the 168th Regiment which recently received the Distinguished Unit Citation for seizing and holding important German positions on Mt. Pantano, Italy.

For four days and nights from November 29, 1943 to December 3, the battalion, after storming and seizing the vital objective, clung tenaciously to its position despite ferocious Nazi attacks, severe casualties, bitter weather and almost insuperable supply, communication and evacuation problems.

German attempts to regain the objective were preceded by intense artillery and mortar barrages and climaxed by bitter fire fights and hand-to-hand engagements. At times, due to the shortage of ammunition, the embattled Yank infantrymen threw stones and ration cans at the assaulting Nazis.

The battalion's stand forced the Germans to abandon their Winter line. Enemy losses were estimated at 400 killed and wounded while the First Battalion suffered 24 killed and 171 wounded. The battalion commander was wounded and 15 other officers, including two company commanders, were casualties.

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