

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

All Saints' Day of 1918 at Falzè di Piave: Lt. Paul Meyer Wood



As does the Po River to the south, Italy's alpine Piave River (to Venice's north) drains into the Adriatic Sea. A Columbia University medical student and future anesthesiologist, Lt. Paul Wood, served along the Piave as a commanding officer (C.O.) for his 557th Section, U.S. Army Ambulance Service, which was attached to the 22nd Army Corps of the 8th Italian Army. Pausing on November 1, 1918 in Falzè di Piave while besting the Austro-Hungarian forces during the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, the following "22nd C.d.A., 8^{vo} Armata" officers and support personnel assembled (*left-to-right above*): the 4th Field Hospital's C.O., Lt. Col. Gennatazio; the Sanitary Services Director, Col. Abelli; Lt. Amato (Abelli's adjutant); C.O. Maj. Gen. Vaccari; Lt. Paul M. Wood; Maj. Ghidoli (Vaccari's adjutant); and the Y.M.C.A.'s Mr. Edwin and Mr. Ray. Having persevered under shellfire, in treating and evacuating casualties, Lt. Wood's entire 557th Section received the Italian War Cross of Merit. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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