

HEADQUARTERS  
601ST TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
A.P.O. # 302 U. S. ARMY

16 April 1943

SUBJECT: Battle Operations Report

TO : Commanding General, 1st U.S. Infantry Div., APO # 1, U.S. Army.

1. Pursuant to written memorandum, your Headquarters, dated April 12, 1943, the following report is submitted covering the operations of this battalion in the Gafsa offensive, March 16-19, 1943.

A. EVENTS & OPERATIONS FOR 16 MARCH 1943, 0001 to 2400 hours.

1. The battalion, less Company "C" and (1) Recon. Platoon marched on verbal orders from the Commanding General, 1st U.S. Inf. Division from Bou Chebka forest, Tunisia, to a new bivouac area in vicinity of S-9818.
2. The 899th T.D. Bn. was attached to this command for the coming operation and marched to the same bivouac (S-9818)
3. At about 0930 hours enemy tanks were reported in the vicinity of T-0203. One reconnaissance platoon was sent out to investigate but found no enemy signs.
4. At 1520 Col. Baker issued verbal order (see attached copy of daily Unit Journal) for the night movement forward. The mission was in essence that this T.D. force would be responsible for and cover the movement and detrucking of the 1st Infantry Division from enemy mechanized attack. T.D. security would also be furnished to the 32nd F.A. Bn. during occupation of gun positions.
5. Battalion Forward C.P. was established in the vicinity of Y-0499.

B. EVENTS AND OPERATIONS FOR 17 MARCH 1943, 0001 hours to 2400 hours.

1. Operations for this period consisted in the main of moving the bulk of this command's T.D. strength to the NE (left) flank of 1st Infantry Division vicinity of Y-1493.
2. Mission of the T.D. force was to protect 1st Infantry Division from any enemy mechanized attack debarking from Maknassy and to establish contact with 1st Armored Division.
3. Bn. C.P. established at 1610 at Y-0993.

C. EVENTS AND OPERATIONS FOR 18 MARCH 1943, 0001 to 2400 hours.

1. Battalion and 899th remained in approximately the same position with continuing the mission of protecting the Division from the Northeast in the Maknassy sector.

2. Company "C", 601st T.D. Bn. was relieved from attachment to 26th Infantry.

D. EVENTS AND OPERATIONS FOR 19 MARCH 1943 0001 to 2400 hours

1. Battalion C.P. moved forward and established at Y-0978 on the East side of the town of Gafsa.
2. During the entire offensive and occupation of Gafsa this battalion saw no enemy action or active combat.

For the Battalion Commander;

*Benjamin A. G. Fuller*

BENJAMIN A. G. FULLER II

Capt., 601st T.D. Bn.

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