

25 November 1984

AG 601 ^{step} D. B. W.

In my mail yesterday was a letter from Bill Harper and he enclosed a letter from you asking about the 601st in North Africa 1942.

The Battalion left England in two different sets. Part came in with the Big Red One and the rest came in about a month later right into Oran. The first part landed at Arzew and fought there. When the rest came in the fight was well to the East of us. We went to St. Barbe Du Tethat and Sant Lucien (I believe they were spelled that way and we spent almost a month there. We then drove overland to the Tunisian front. I was driving a jeep with a Pl Thompson and Pfc Kufka, we were the second jeep in recon section which was commanded by Sgt Everett.

A few days before Christmas I went

as a messenger to Br. Hq. At this time we were command by a Col Baker, Hospital D. I spent Christmas Day at Battalion and then went back to "A" Co at Pichon where one time we were bombed by Stukas. On the 2nd Jan 1943 a group of us went out looking for German Tanks and we were captured, spending the war behind wire. I don't know when the 601st left the 1st Div but was probably around the time of Anzio as I was told I lost many good friends on the Rapido River.

On the trip up to the Tunisian front I remember one of the men buying a bottle of whiskey and finding the Arabs had drilled a small, drained the whiskey out and filled it with tea, we bought tangerines for 1 Franc a piece. The "C" ration consisted of Meat & Beans, Stew and Hash, the only thing really eatable was the meat & Beans so when we were issued the three days rations all three of us drew three days just for the meat & Beans.

We also were issued a mattress cover to be used as a shroud if killed but we

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Traded ours to the Arabs for eggs which we cooked in our mess kits.

When we landed we had American gas (90 octane) at one time we were attached to the British (50 octane) at the last, while I was there to the French and was told the gas was French 30 octane. I know I spent almost all of my free time working on the engine.

We supported the Moroccans, Algerians, French Legion and the French Army with Artillery and also against tanks, we were armed with the 75 MM on half-tracks and 37 MM mounted on 3/4 ton trucks.

It has been 41 years ago and quite a few things I still remember but so much has happened since then 28 months POW 17 months in Korea and it is kind of fuzzy some items.

If any of this helps you I'm glad and if there is anyway I can help you about the start of the 601st until Jan 1943 don't be bashful, just call on me. At my Aunt's home in N. Y. I have quite a few

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pictures of the times before we left the
States in Ft. Denver, Camp Blanding, Ft
Benning and Indian Town Gap.

as Always
Kelly

Samuel H. Kelly

One last thing I kept in touch with
a very good friend of the 601st he was also
an original but was invalided back to the
ZI from Italy for wounds. His wife told
me he died about four years ago.

Phil Van Rensselaer

A Co 601st TD Bn