

24 Mar 85

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to answer but I have been thinking about what you want. It is 43 years and some things have been forgotten. We (the main body) left Liverpool England in November and sailed on the H.M.S. Derbyshire. We laid over one night in Gibraltar and wondered as it was all lit up. Then went on to Oran and to San Lucien. We left Oran in Dec overland to the front. All the way up there was no trouble except for rain and cold.

We were around Picton when we were shot up by a ME109, which killed two or three men in Hq., everybody shot at them myself with a 30 cal from my recon jeep. We in Recon were set up in two jeeps per sect, one 30 and one 50. Sgt Jim Everett was the NCO in charge with Cpl Jim Thompson in my jeep. Each plt was the same and I was in the third platoon. The gun sections

saw a little action but nothing serious, one or two wounded and the ones killed by the plane. I alone was detached to Hq as a messenger and was there till after Christmas running messages to the different Co's so I saw no action till I went back to A Co about the 28th. I went on two or three recon and then the second of Jan we went up to find the Germans and then after finding them we fortified up on a hill top and the first thing I knew there were three Germans hitting me in the back with machine pistols, they had come up from the back of the hill and captured us.

My only combat experience was with the planes and the one time at Puckon when Straker bombed the town.

I know this won't help much but that's it. We were attached to the 1st Div and carried their marks on vehicles. I drove a jeep and remember getting the white star but I don't think we used the black V at that time, although they were trying

because we tried to use a red diamond once
and they refused because of the 5th Div. As I
remember eleven of us were captured that day,

I hope this will help but I'm not sure.

Respectfully

Sam Kelly

I do remember they were trying to
get a Bn Crest approved, a shield with a bolt
of lightning across it an eagle on the bolt and
the word action on the bottom, I don't know
if they ever got it or even a crest for the
Bn.

Sam