

Material for DIARY

RCN

November (which detached for (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Nov 1 to 10 - Regular Garrison Duties - Combat training at Macclesfield, Eng.

Nov 10 to 20 - Same

Nov 22, 1942 - Two Officers and 57 EM left Co on DS (with Grp II shipment) on DS enroute to unknown destn (Oran, Algeria, N.A.)

23-30 - Bal of Co - Usual Garrison Duties - Combat Training at Tytherington Hall, Macclesfield, England.

1942

Dec 1 to 8, 1942 - Usual Gar duties at Tytherington Hall, Mac. Eng.

Dec 9, 1942 - Hq Plat, 3rd Rcn Plat and two off left garrison at Tytherington Hall, Macclesfield Eng at 0800 hrs enroute to Port of Embarkation at Liverpool Eng Bearded Treep ship "Empress of Canada" at 1200 hrs.

Dec 10, 1942 - Abd treep ship "Empress of Canada" anchored at Liverpool Eng.

Dec 11, 1942 - Abd Treepship E of C - left Liverpool harbor at 1145 hrs enroute to unknown destination (Oran, Algeria). Weather: Light fog and rain. Morale: excellent

Dec 12, 1942 - Abd TS "E of C" at sea. Weather: foggy, sea: calm Morale: Ex.

Dec 13-17, 1942 - Abd TS "E of C" - Weather: stormy. Sea: Very rough - excessive amount of sea-sickness among treeps. Morale: Ex.

Dec 18-20 ABD TS "E of C" - Weather: Warm and clear. SEA: Calm. Morale: Ex.

Dec 21, 1942 - Hq and 3rd Rcn Plts disembarked fr TS "E of C" at Mers-el-Mebir, Algeria, N.A. at 1700 hrs. Rejoined 1st Rcn Plat. and Pioneer Plat at Bn biv. area located 5 mis east of St. Louis and approx 30 mis SE of Oran, N.A. Weather: Hvy rains causing excessive muddy conditions around biv area. Morale: Ex.

Dec 22-31 - Stationed @ Biv Area 30 mi SE of Oran. Normal field serv.

1942

-8

~~Jan 1, 43 - In Biv Area 30 mi of SE of Oran. Normal Field Serv.~~

Jan 8, 43 - Lt. Parker & 44 EM shipped w/9 HT fr Oran to Phillipville

Jan 9, 43 - Bal of Co left Biv Area @ 0800 hrs. Biv that night @ Orleansville.

Jan 10, 43 - Left Orleansville in blackout - Biv that night at l'Arba, Alergia.

Jan 11, 43 - Left l'Arba, Alg. in blackout - Biv that night at en read approx 20 mi W of Setif, Alg.

Jan 12, 43 - Left Biv Area at dawn for Div assembly area in Oued Seguin Area.

Jan 13, 43 - Pien Flt under Lt. Parker (30 EM) proceeded to Ain Beida area to establish G & O dump and to guard this dump. 1 AD Dump.

Jan 18, 43 - Bal of Co in 2 day march moved to Beu Chekba area (Div Assembly area) in preparation for movement into battle. Biv 1st night in Ain Beida area. March was made in blackout during hours of darkness.

Jan 25, 43 - Lt. Parker (Pien Flt) and 30 EM relieved fr guard duty G & O dump in Ain Beida area and rejoined Co in Beu Chekba area.

9
Jan. 30: Received ~~orders~~ from 1st AD to attack SENED station, near GAFSA, at dawn Jan. 31. 701st to act as Combat Command "A" staff, with Col. Maraist as C.O. Left bivouac at 2015.

X
Jan. 31: In bivouac 20 miles east of GAFSA at 0150 hours. Battle orders issued. Rcn. co (less Lt. Smith's platoon, w/ B co., moved out at 0822, ~~and~~ behind 81st ~~the action throughout the day~~ Straffed at noon by Me's, suffering four casualties: Sgt. Mach, Pvt. Cavendish, Greene and Noe, all wounded. One half-track w/trailer knocked out of action. Rcn. held front line positions from 1500 to 1800 hrs., under constant bombing and artillery. ~~xxxxxxx~~ "C" co., less ~~Sgt~~ Lt. Romani's four 75's and Lt. Lewis' platoon, acting as MP's. Romani attached to 3rd Bn., ~~the~~ 13th Ar

Feb. 1: Rcn. moved out at 0700 hrs., moving up the left flank, ~~xxxxxxx~~ followed by tanks. 3rd platoon, detecting 88mm guns to the immediate front, ~~xxxxxxx~~ moved out to reconnoiter. S/Sgt. Averson's half-track, when within 200 yards, was filled upon. Pfc. Kaiser, of the Medics, was killed by the first shell; another ~~got~~ Averson as he was attempting to remove Kaiser. Noe received his second wound; Taylor also wounded. The half-track was destroyed.

Averson recommended for a post-humorous purple heart; Noe, a purple heart. Pvt. Carter, a motorcyclist, broke his leg while in action. ~~xxxxxxx~~ First objective ~~xxxxxxx~~ SENED, taken by combined forces at 1600 hrs. after heavy fighting and constant air attack. Enemy counter-attack drove us out; retook the town by 1730.

"C" co. moved in ~~to~~ to police the town, silenced all sniping by 2000 hrs. Pfc. Rocus and Sgt. Ferguson ~~xxxxxxx~~ both slightly wounded.

Command group bombed by 11 Stukas at 0810 this morning, ~~xxxxxxx~~ sent up heavy flak. Twin fifties proving their worth. Three Me's downed in attack; credit uncertain. A P-40 pilot, ~~xxxx~~ who also came down, said he had never seen such a barrage from ground troops. No casualties on our side but all spent the remainder of the morning digging deeper.

Feb. 2: Rcn. moved through SENED at 0700 hrs., under heavy bombardment. A jeep carrying Pfc. Deise, Pfc. Germano and Pvt. Palmer struck an enemy land mine, sending all three to the hospital. Contact enemy; Pvt. Swafford killed by mortar fire. Pfc. Whatley wounded by strafing. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Second objective, a high ridge overlooking Fakuoin pass, taken at 1030. Rcn. proceeded five miles beyond objective.

Command Group, at its CP a few miles east of ST. SENED, had a front seat at a dogfight between a P-40 and an Me. The Me shot down the P-40, we shot down the Me. Even-steven.

Feb. 3: Rcn. again five miles out in front, then to six miles west of MAKNASSY. Lt. Romani's TD guns chased five Italian tanks almost to the town's entrance. 1430 hrs: ordered to withdraw to BOU CHEBRA by II Corps. Command group left 1900 hrs., arrived old Div. bivouac area at 0300 hrs. Feb. 4 after black, cold drive. Several vehicles into the ditch, but no damage.

Feb. 4: Rcn. pulled into bivouac. All secure. The Bn's "first rest camp" Mail, long delayed, pouring in. Christmas every day. Total Bn. casualties: 3 killed, 4 seriously wounded, 9 slightly wounded.

X

- Feb. 6: Lt. Burghardt and 46 ~~EM's~~, C co., assigned to MP duty, left area. Capt. Bohlender relieved as S-3, to liaison officer. Lt. Waters to S-3.
- Feb. 9: 2 M-2 half-track replacements to Rcn. co. Orders from II Corps for movement of CC "D" (less trains) from BOU CHEBKA TO THELEPTE area, attached to 26th Combat team.
- Feb. 10: Rear echelon at BOU CHEBKA woke up to see an inch of snow--in Africa! Forward echelon, at THELEPTE, blistered by wind, sand and sun. Lt. Romeni C col gun section relieved from patrol duty ~~taxi~~ around SEMED (Stuka valley.)
- Feb. 11: Div. order to 701st: released from CC "D", assigned ^(less A Co) (less C co.) to CC "C" under Col. Stack, 6th Inf., at ~~HAJEB~~ EL AIGUN. Co. C assigned to KERN force, 12 miles from SBEITLA on FAID road. Night march enroute: Bn. 4-ton wrecker turned over, slight damage.
- Feb. 12: Rejoined by B co., at ~~HAJEB~~ EL AIGUN bivouac. Lt. Smith's plt. rejoined Rcn. co.
- Feb. 13: Camouflage and security of camp.
- Feb. 14: German successes at Sidi bou Zid reported. Battalion alerted and began moving out of bivouac area about 1600 hrs. Capt. Bohlender and Driver Jerard, advance party for movement, strafed by 4 ME-109s. Capt. Bohlender killed, Jerard, seriously injured. Bn arrived at assembly position 2 mi North of DJ Alma at 1845 hrs. Rcn Co sent out four patrols (no enemy contact). CO and Ex C to CC "C" for orders at 2200 hrs.
- Feb. 15: Rcn Co moved out at 0700 with 2d Bn 1st AR atchd, determined enemy armor in direction of Sidi bou Zid. CP established about 9½ mi from assembly area. Tanks move into position. Col King and Lt Morrison, advance element of command group, contacted Rcn Co. Col King returned to CC "C" CP. While there, Col King and Col Stack (Cmdr of CC "C") was strafed. Col Stack slightly injured. Tanks attacked at 1230 followed by B Co 701 on flanks. Forward flanks protected by Rcn Co - Lts Parker and Kennedy plts on left, Lts. Smith and Sumner on right. At 1755 enemy tanks were reported to have broken thru right flank. Lt. Morrison did outstanding work, remaining well forward doing observation and reconnaissance work, furnishing the CC with valuable information. Units withdrawn to assigned assembly areas, B and Rcn Cos adjacent to Command Group, 701st. Captain Harris, CO, Rcn Co. suffered a leg injury and was sent to hospital. One B Co 37 SP and 1 Rcn Ht lost in day's activities.

INSERT A CO DIARY (Jan 23 - Feb 15, 1943)

- Feb. 16: CC "C" absorbed by CC "A" and A Co, rejoined Battalion. Battalion ordered into position. Mission: to protect a 7 mile front on right flank in vicinity of DJEBEL HAJRA. Column moved to DJEBEL HAJRA at 1500 hrs, strafed enroute, but no damage. At about 2150 enemy machine gun fire and flares noted in main valley, quite near and at 2210 the Battalion was alerted by Col King (who had returned to CC "A" for orders) to move out toward Sbeitla. Cyclist Murphy and ~~ENNAI~~, acting as guides on main road, returned to biv area before Bn moved out, reported about 16 enemy tanks moving toward Sbeitla. Tanks had run over cycles. Battalion completed move back to point about two miles west of Sbeitla--and went into defensive position. Two half-tracks lost; mechanical defects.

- Feb. 17: A and B Cos take up defensive position on right flank of Sbeitla. Artillery duel thruout day. Enemy vehicles reported entering Sbeitla at about 1300 hours and Battalion ordered to withdraw in leap frog fashion. Withdrawal successfully completed to assembly area and 701st reattached to CC"C" and ordered to withdraw thru Kasserine pass. CC"B" to cover withdrawal. Bn moved out at about 1840 hrs, next to last in column.
- Feb 18: Arrived bivouac area ten miles north of KASSERINE at about 0045. Left that area to Tebessa at about 0615 in slow-moving column thru Thala. Arrived bivouac area 15 miles south of Tebessa on Feriana road. Lt Cox's plat (A Co), believed to have been lost in first day of fighting Sidi bou Zid (CC"A"), joins battalion. Almost complete loss of equipment.
- Feb. 19: The day spent resting until 1930 when Lt Romani and Lewis plts (C Co) move out of bivouac attached to 68 F A to 16 miles SW of Tebessa. Defensive positions taken up. Battalion now under command of CC"A".
- Feb. 20: Battalion (less two C Co plts) left bivouac area at 0330 on defensive mission approximately 15 miles SW of Tebessa. No enemy contact thruout day and at 1830 hours The battalion, with Lt Romani and Lewis platoons rejoined, move EL EL EL ABUID area and take up defensive positions. Enemy attack expected, depending on outcome of KASSERINE action (CC"B").
- Feb. 21: Day spend in digging in. No enemy activity in area.
- Feb. 22: Rain and chilly. CC"B"'s successful counterattack at KASSERINE reported. CC"A" now Division Reserve. Ordered to THALA area at 1900 hours. Lt. McKnight, B Co light platoon, left behind--no contact for two days. Move to THALA extremely difficult. Roads muddy and slippery. Lasted 14½ hours.
- Feb. 23: Bivouac area at THALA with CP established about 6 miles South of town. Mission: Reconnaissance and security. No enemy activity in area. Ordered back to EL EL EL ABUID area at 1800 hours, arriving at that area at 0230.
- Feb. 24: Security and Rcn, EL EL EL ABUID bivouac area. Lt. McKnight's platoon rejoined battalion. Trns pick up C Co halftrack, lost in action over a month ago at LEDJEB EL BAB and recaptured. Had swatika painted over white star, no other change.
- Feb. 25: Rcn and security. No enemy activity.
- Feb. 26: 2 guns, Capt Whitsit's platoon (B Co), atchd to co. of tks and co. of inf. under Col. Crosby for rec. mission in force.
- Feb. 27: 1st AD placed in II Corps reserve
- Feb. 28: Trns. rejoin Bn.
- Mar. 1 : Pay day, 1st in five months for B & C cos.
- Mar. 2 : Hot showers, army rolling snaitary unit. Five pepes asgd. to A co.
- Mar. 4 : Rcn co. plts. (Lt. Smith, Kennedy and Sumner) moved out on permanent reconna-ssance mission of CHERIA-BIR EL ATER-NEGRINE area. Rcn CP finally located in wadi just outside of BIR EL ATER.
- Mar. 6: Maj. Gen. Patton replaced Maj. Gen Fredendall as II Corp cmdr.
- Mar. 7: Tightening of discipline: reveille, helmets to be worn at all times, drill.

- Mar 8: Battalion receives 64 replacements from 2 AD. Assigned: 4-Hq, 1 Med Det, 36-A Co, 5-B Co, 8-C Co, 10-Rcn Co.
- Mar.9: Hq Rcn Co moved to waadi about 4 miles NE Tamerza. Reconnaissance patrols continued.
- Mar 10: Officer's meetings in Bn area, El Em El Aboid at terrain plots of Sidi bou Zid and Sened
- Mar 11: Static position. Officer's meeting, Bn area, at terrain plots (1100-Terrain of Sidi bou Zid and 1730-Terrain of Sened). Discussion on same ensued.
- Mar 12: Preparation for move to West end of Kasserine valley.
- Mar 13; Bn moved out of El Ma-el Aboid area at 1530. Under CC"0" upon leaving area. Column proceeded to S-8076, west end of Kasserine Valley. Head of column entered bivouac area at 2140 hours. Four officer replacements arrived and assigned: 2nd Lts. Andrew Wallace, Jr. to A Co., James Bancka to C Co., Leonard Neelman to B Co, Harry D.S. Boening to Rcn Co.
- Mar 14: 26 75 SP's drawn from Ordnance, but 2 overturned enroute. Remaining 24 assigned: A Co - 9, B Co - 8, C Co - 7. Two wrecked vehicles turned back to Ordnance. 20 Replacements (EM) received from 27th FA Bn and assigned: 12 to B Co and 8 to C Co. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ T Trucks received were assigned to A Co. At 2000 hrs A Co leaves Bn, attached to 3d Bn, 13th AR and proceeds to area 3 miles west of Sbeitla. This force under command of Col. C C Benson, former Bn commander, now commanding 13th AR.
- Mar. 15: Gun Cos test fire new 75's. 25 replacements received (TD's) and assigned 3 to Hq Co, 3 to B Co, 12 to C Co, 6 to Rcn Co, 1 to Med. Det. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ T trucks received and distributed 7 to C Co, and 6 to B Co. Afternoon spent in preparation for move. Rain thruout day causing muddy, slippery roads. Col. King called to 9th Div (Inf) at 1800 hours. Our mission changed; we are to defend Thelepte Air Fields from enemy armor attack and upon taking up these positions will revert to 9th Inf Div control.
- Mar. 16: Meeting of all Co officers with exception of A Co at Bn CP. At 1600 hours enlisted men were assembled. Col King gave the general plan of the operation to come and told of our mission; the defending of Thelepte airfields. Letter from General Patton, II Corps Cmdr read by Col King. The letter spoke of the reason for our being in North Africa, emphasized being cool under fire, fighting hard and that victory must and will be ours. A Co moved from Sbeitla to Thelepte and took up their positions before nightfall.
- Mar. 17: Bn moves from Kasserine Valley and takes up defensive positions at Thelepte. Under 9th Inf. Div. control with Co I, 39th Inf attached to us. Altho there was no rain, roads were very muddy and slippery making the move difficult. 1-37SP each from B, C and Rcn Co turned into 78th Ord. per Div. order.
- Mar. 18: Camp established and vehicles cleaned and camouflaged. Heavy rain thruout day.

37mm MG
now only in
Rcn Co.

BATTALION DIARY

- Mar. 19: Cloudy all day. Mud in evidence resulting from rains in past two days. Operations temporarily postponed.
- Mar. 20: Fair weather. Allied air activity noted. B Co detailed mobile guard duty of Thelepte Airfield #1. Two peeps, 3 men in each, mounted with MG's, going in opposite directions to circle field from 1900 hours to 0700 hours daily. A precautionary measure against attack from enemy paratroops. Officers meeting held in Bn. CP at 1900 hours.
- Mar. 21: Church services at 0645. Much air activity. Commencing of land operations by Allies reported.
- Mar. 22: Weather fair. Inspection of vehicles, arms and personnel. Allied air activity continues.
- Mar. 23: Weather fair. Enemy paratroops landing in vicinity during night reported. Alerted to move and broke camp at 1735 hours. March began 1950 hours. Order of march: Rcn Co., Gnd Grp, B Co., A Co., C Co., and Trains. Our status changes as follows: detached from 9th Inf. Div. I Co, 39th Inf. detached from 701st and reverts back to 9th Div. control. 701st attached to 1st Inf. Div. and ordered to Gafsa-el Guettar area.
- Mar. 24: A night, nuisance raider delays march about 1 mile west of Gafsa. Bombed and strafed. No casualties within Bn. Arrived at bivouac area 3 miles east of Gafsa at 0210. Command Group and all companies, excluding Trains, move out at 1000 hours. CP established at point 5 miles east of El Guettar. We relieve 601st TD Bn. and take up defensive positions they vacate. Positions shelled by enemy gun fire at 1045. Some allied air activity noted. No enemy planes.
- Mar. 25: Heavy artillery barrage through early morning hours. Gains consolidated and positions changed. Two Bn. Inf. and battery of artillery, also Bn of Rangers, move through our positions forward. Massing of enemy vehicles and tanks at various points reported. Alerted against possible enemy armored attack. Positions shelled for nearly an hour between 1600-1700 hours. B Co. lost Johnson and Romine, killed and Roberts and Peters wounded. One peep destroyed. Our reconnaissance units active throughout day, directing Div. artillery via radio and phone communications and gaining valuable information. Two enemy positions silenced, one a six gun mortar position, the other a three or four mortar position. A hit on an ammunition or supply dump also scored. Enemy air activity continues throughout night. Many flares dropped and bombing and strafing. Little damaged observed; none within the battalion.
- Mar. 26: Little activity until noon, than some forward infantry and tank action with artillery. Col. King to Div. Hq. at 1300 hours. Mild sand storm at 1330. Windy. Enemy shell fire on road 100 yards to right of CP at 2000 hours.
- Mar. 27: Bn. becomes a part of 1st TD Group. Status with 1st Inf. Div. does not change. Command Group moves to DJ el Ank Valley area at 1720.
- Mar. 28: Americans attack as ordered at 0600. 701st mission: To protect left flank of 1st Inf. Div. from attack of enemy armor. Much artillery used. Operations observed by Col. King from forward OP. Much allied air activity. Attack successful.

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- Mar. 29: American forces again attack. Col. King and others to forward OP at 0730. Me-109's, Focke-Wolfe's and Stukas (12 in all) bomb and strafe battalion area, concentrating bombing near Command Group road. 20 mm shells, machine gun fire damage three ambulances and one truck. Killed a wounded man and wounded a driver in one ambulance and eight others. Allied fighters interrupted raid and dogfight resulted. 1 Focke-Wolfe and 1 Me-109 downed. B Company detailed to act as patrols and listening post for 18th Combat Team throughout night. Operations for day successful on this front.
- Mar. 30: Again attack. Area strafed at 0810, no casualties. Enemy reconnaissance flights throughout afternoon. Large Allied bomber flight seen at 1645 over this area. C Co. (Lt. Lewis' platoon) shell enemy infantry and artillery positions in Sakket valley west of Sakket during afternoon, also observes for Div. Artillery. Operations observed by Col. King and others from new forward OP. A Co. patrols of 18th Combat Team.
- Mar. 31: Enemy planes active during early morning hours. Flares and bombs dropped. A Companies position heavily shelled at 1400 hours but with no damage. Many enemy reconnaissance flights, probably searching for heavy artillery positions. Three JU-88's knocked down by P-40's when enemy attempts to bomb artillery positions. Observers (elements of our Rcn Co) for artillery successfully silence two gun positions, damage one vehicle and destroy another. Message received from 1st TD Group ordering immediate move of Bn to new positions. Order complied with and then a message received canceling move received. Dry run.
- Apr. 1: Report of enemy elements have been driven north by British 8th Army toward this front. Warned of possible attack. Number of enemy air attacks throughout day. Many dogfights. At least 3 JU-88's known to have been downed.
- Apr. 2: Night nuisance raider again. 35 enemy tanks and approximately 5000 troops to our south at Y415642 reported. Our Reconnaissance observes for artillery fire on enemy vehicles at 5379. Four hits scored. C Co acts as listening post for 18th Combat Team.
- Apr. 3: 1 JU-88 brought down by ground fire in early morning raid. Lt. Kennedy, answering a call from Lt. King, who while out on reconnaissance observes a peep accident in minefield about 200 yards west of Sakket. Lt. Kennedy, who was nearer to the accidently, finds peep demolished and Lt. Mathews, 1st Inf. Div. with compound fractured leg. Lt. Kennedy administered first aid and carried the wounded officer to nearest medical unit. Trip back was made under enemy shell fire. Lt. Waters observing officer from Bn OP for past three days. Lt. Boenning, Cpl Hughes, Rcn Co., to Sakket/ARAS for instructions in laying of minefields, both enemy and friendly.
- Apr. 4: Dawn patrol and reconnaissance, Lt. McKnight, west of Sakket and Lt. Edson, south and east of Sakket on Gum Tree road. Worked to within 800 yards of enemy infantry. Inspection of personnel, arms and vehicles by Col. King. Church services. Little activity throughout day.

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- Apr. 5: Lt. Sumner reconnoitering and observing for artillery. Two gun positions silenced and two vehicles destroyed. Bn. Commander, vehicle and personnel to foothills of O. el Keddab to establish OP and forward CP. B Company moves to east slope of O. el Keddab, C Company to position south of intersection (Y2741).
- Apr. 6: O. el Kaddab OP used. Col. Van Hecke, Capt. de Frediegue and Sergeant Mercklin, French Army, attached to Bn. per Corps order for purpose of observing our organization, methods and tactics. Lt. Sumner, observing from high ground overlooking north of Sakket Valley for artillery, sees four heavy cargo vehicles destroyed.
- Apr. 7: Terrific artillery barrage on enemy positions along Dj el Kreraua observed from O. el Keddab OP at 0630. Resulted in major breakthrough in which Col. Benson's forces contact British 8th Army on Gabes-Gafsa road. Forward CP moved from O. el Keddab to El Dekrla pass at 1830 hours.
- Apr. 8: Reconnaissance out, but no enemy contact. Detached from 1st TD Group and attached 1st Inf. Div. Mission: Holding force, Pass el Dekrla. Sgt. Wooten and Pvt. Chamblis, in weapons carrier, hit land mine. Vehicle destroyed, both men badly shaken but uninjured. Shrapnel from mine kills Warrant Officer of 18th CT and wounds 4 men of C Co., 701st.
- Apr. 9: Col. King to Div. Hq. Meeting of battalion officer at CP, 1600 hours. French officers leave for their Hq. in Algiers.
- Apr. 10: Command Group moves to bivouac area in mouth of Pass el Dekrla.
- Apr. 11: Move out for Bou Chekba area. Order of March: Rcn Co., Cmd Group, A Co., B Co., C Co., Trains. Arrive Bou Chekba 1730. Relieved from 1st Inf. Div. and attached to 1st TD Group.
- Apr. 12: Establishment of camp. Pay Day.
- Apr. 13: Col. to 1st TD Group. Showers for all men in Bn.
- Apr. 15: Gun Companies to firing range. Group CPX. Col. Stevens and others of 1st TD Group guests for supper and evening's entertainment. Outdoor movie in Bn. area.
- Apr. 16: Static position, Bou Chebka area.
- Apr. 17: 1st TD Group CPX, Kasserine Valley.
- Apr. 18: Rest day. Alerted to move at 1200. Battalion Commander to II Corps Hq., Beja.
- Apr. 19: Battalion Commander returns from II Corps. Battalion leaves Bou Chebka at 0600, arrives at bivouac area six miles south of La Calle at dusk.
- Apr. 20: Advance detail to II Corps and 1st Inf. Div at 0700. Battalion moves out for Beja at 2200 hours.

- Apr. 21: Battalion arrives at bivouac area approx. 9 miles NE of Beja. C Co detached to 26th Inf. Regt and immediately moves out to the front. Rest of battalion takes up gun positions in Dir Bou Escha area, about 13 miles NE of Beja at 2200 hours. Trains occupy area vacated by battalion. 1st Bn, 13th AR and 1 platoon 16th Engrs attached to 701st. 701st Attached to 1st Inf. Div.
- Apr. 22: Executive Officer and 3 Company Commanders, 13th AR hit mines at 1100. 3 COs killed, Ex. O. seriously injured. Col. King to Div. Hq. at 1200.
- Apr. 23: Inf. attacks under cover of heavy artillery barrage. Attack supported by 1 company tanks, Rcn Co and A Co, 701st. Action observed by Bn. Commander from forward OP on Hill 337. A Co. was shelled at 0930. Tanks heavily shelled at 1245. Col. W. J. Thompson, Army Ground Forces Observer, Wash. D. C., attached to Bn to observe action, and progress on this front. Major Patterson, British Officer of RA attached to observe function of CP in American army.
- Apr. 24: Bn. Commander observes infantry action from OP. Our artillery shelled Dj. el Roml in support of infantry attack. Rcn Co. reconnoitered for gun positions.
- Apr. 25: Lt. Morrison to OP at 0500. All platoons of Rcn Co active. Two light tank platoons, 13th AR, reconnoitre east of Hill 407 through pass Dj. Sidi Meftah. Mine detector teams were attached to this patrol. B Co took up new gun positions north of Fondouk at 1000 hours. Infantry moves forward. Mine detector team of 1st Inf. Div. attached to Rcn Co., 701st. 1st Bn., 13th AR. relieved from attached to 701st by II Corps order at dark.
- Apr. 26: Command Group moves to Oum Guerdjima area. Trains occupy old Command Group area. Bn. Commander, Col. Thompson and Major Patterson to companies. Rcn Co. active, contacted adjacent units and observed enemy actions. 18th Inf. on 52 line on Sidi Meftah.
- Apr. 27: A Co. moves to new gun positions north west of Dj. Touta. Rcn. Co. active; reports enemy shellfire. Col. Thompson and Major Patterson leave battalion. Major Tardy, Executive Officer, relieved from assigned to 701st and assigned to 601st per II Corps order. Capt. Redding appointed Battalion Executive Officer, Lt. Childs becoming CO of C Co..
- Apr. 28: A Co takes up positions at 442563 in support of 16th Inf. Regt. Rcn Co active, draws fire. B Co. moves to vicinity of 500562, C Co to 480567 at 1545. Roads in this sector practically impassable because of mines, narrow passes and poor fords of streams.
- Apr. 29: Rcn Co. out but report little activity. Numerous German intercepts made and forwarded to higher headquarters. Bn. Commander to B Co, C Co and to OP.
- Apr. 30: Reconnaissance patrols out at 0600. OP reports heavy enemy fire on Dj Anz and Dj Chankoura. Heavy artillery duel throughout morning. Some enemy air activity, one man, B Co, injured by AA fire. Hill 609 heavily fortified by enemy and hold up progress in this sector.
- May 1: OP reports poor visibility, heavy fog. Enemy planes bomb but could not be seen because of fog. Hill 609, in 34th Sector, still in enemy hands. Rcn Co. out, observed enemy actions and contacts adjacent units. Lts Dan McLeod, and John T. Degman assigned and join battalion.
- May 2: Visibility poor, fog. Patrols reveal had withdrawn somewhat during night. Hill 609 still occupied by enemy, also Dj Badjar. Hills 523 and 558 vacated, but mined.

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- May 3: Early morning reports indicate enemy withdrawal. Our infantry occupies Dj. Badjer, Dj. Anz and Hill No. 558 at 0755. Reconnaissance sent out and Command Group moved forward to 561607 on the Mateur road. 1st Armored Div. takes Mateur.
- May 4: Reconnaissance parties sent out to contact enemy. Many mine fields reported. Forward gun positions reconnoitered and some platoon moved forward. Lt. Degman and Pvt Longworth, C Co., do not return from reconnaissance. Search reveals nothing. Enemy aircraft active throughout day.
- May 5: B Co takes up forward positions during early morning hours. New OP established on Hill 213. Spasmodic bursts of both enemy and friendly artillery throughout afternoon. Col. King visited A and B Cos.
- May 6: Our artillery lays down heavy barrage beginning at 0300 in preparation for infantry attack. Attack met heavy resistance with heavy artillery concentrations on attack throughout the day. One platoon of each B and C Cos. displace forward to new gun positions. 1st Armored Division reported to have reached the outskirts of Ferryville.
- May 7: Lt. Clarke reconnoitres in 1st Armored Division sector. Important information obtained from P/W relayed to Division. Included enemy gun positions and CPs in this sector. Intercepts indicate the Ferryville has fallen to 1st Armored Div and Tunis to the 1st British Army. Heavy allied air activity.
- May 8: Bn. OP established at dawn. Liaison established with 1st Armored Division Artillery (Lt. Morrison). All Companies push reconnaissance forward. C Co. patrol first element of 1st Inf. Div. to contact the British. Numerous minefields and abandoned equipment reported. No resistance in this sector. Bezerte falls to troops of II Corps.
- May 9: Day begins with numerous reports of much abandoned equipment and many P/W. All resistance ceases at 1100 north of the 76 Grid line when enemy accepts terms of Unconditional surrender.
- May 10: Static position. Souvenir hunting by many. 701st TD Bn detached from 1st Inf. Div. and revert back to II Corps. Enemy resistance in Cape Bon sector practically surrounded by British 1st and 8th Armies.
- May 11: Inspection of battalion personnel, arms and vehicles by Capt. Redding. Officers meeting at Bn CP at 1830 hours
- May 12: Battalion assembles at 569627 just west of Mateur road. Letter of appreciation of cooperation given the 1st Inf. Div. in this operation by the 701st from Maj. Gen. Terry Allen, 1st Inf. Div. read to all personnel. Movie "High Sierra" in Bn area.
- May 13: North African campaign ends at 1145 this day when British unconditional surrender terms are accepted by enemy in Cape Bon peninsular area.
- May 14: Pay day. Motion picture "Mayor of 44th Street" shown in Bn area.
- May 15: 4 M-10 and 1 M-5 mounts with crews borrowed from 776th TD Bn for instructional purposes.
- May 16: Church services. Athletics being encouraged. Schedules arranged for softball, baseball and volley ball games.

BATTALION DIARY

- May 17: Colonel W. J. Thompson, Army Ground Forces Observer visits Battalion Command. Capt. Kahn, Bn. Medical Officer, appointed TD Group Medical Officer.
- May 18: Officer's meeting for instruction on M-10 mount at Bn CP with Lt. Briggs instructor.
- May 19: Officer's class at 0800, instructions given by two Artillery officers of 601st TD Bn. Orchestra and Movie, "Once upon a honeymoon," shown in Mateur for personnel of 70 1st TD Bn.

Blk as file
Diary File

ACTION	DATE FR TO	ATCHD TO	COMPANY	REMARKS
Tafaraoui Airport	Nov 8, 42	Flying Col., CC"B"	3d Flt. B Co	Invasion of NA
St. Lucien	" 9, 42	" " "	" "	" "
La Senia	" 10, 42	CC "B"	2d Flt. B Co	" "
Gafsa-El Guettar	Nov 22, 42	Paratroops	B Co	Tunisian Campaign
Fiad Pass	Dec 2 - 3	" - Col. Raff	B Co	
Sidi bou Zid	-Dec 2-11/42	" "	B Co	
Hedjeb el Aioun	Jan 6-17/43	" "	"	
Sened	Jan 31- Feb 3/43	CC"D"	Hq, Rcn, C Cos	
Sidi bou Zid- Sbeitla	ONLY Feb 14 - 43	CC" ^A "	A Co	<i>Wm Cof Assistant Paratroop Platoon</i>
"	Feb 15-18/43	CC" ^C "	Bn (less C Co)	<i>Wm Cof</i>
Cheria-Ber el Ater- Negrine	Mar 4 - 13/43	II Corps	Rcn Co	Reconnaissance mission.
Maw El Guettar	Mar 24 - Apr 8/43	1st Inf Div	Bn	<i>Wallace Hodder McAlister Wm Cof</i>
Mateur	Apr 21- May 8/43	1st Inf Div	Bn.	<i>McAlister</i>

NOTE: Diary of C Co on actions while detached from Battalion have never been submitted.

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70/82

Present Status as of May 20, 1943:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Enlisted Men</u>
Bn.	8	
Hq Co.	8	154
A Co.	6	158
B Co	5	177
C Co	5	179
Rcn Co	6	145
Med	2	23
Total	40	856

FOLLOWING BATTLE CASUALTIES

Officers

Bohlender, John E.	Bn Staff	Killed in action
Arbruster, Harry M.	A Co	Missing in action
Aten, Frank	A Co	Captured
McAloon, James	A Co	Neurosis ant.
Paulson, Vernon L.	A Co	Captured
McLeod, Dan	A Co	Wounded
Haden, Eugene	A Co	Neurosis ant
Bankers, Jr. J. W.	C Co.	Missing in action
Burghardt, William C	C Co.	Captured
Degman, John T.	C Co	M.I.A. to Hosp. wounded
Eggleton, John	C Co.	Killed in action
Harris, Maurice	Rcn Co.	Injured

Bn Killed in action	41 E.M.
	2 Officers
Bn Missing in action	51 E. M.
	2 Officers
Bn Captured	8 E.M.
	3 Officers
Bn Wounded	80 E.M.
	5 Officers

m/c

HEADQUARTERS
COMBAT COMMAND "D"
APO 251

7 February 1943.

MEMORANDUM.

TO : All Units, Combat Command "D".

The following is published for your information:

<u>UNITS</u>	<u>C.O.</u>
701st TD Bn (-Cos A & B)	Lt. Col. Harrison King.
66th F.A. Bn (-Btry C)	Major Edwin H. Durba
3rd Bn., 13th Armd Regt	Lt. Col. Crosby
Co. "D", 16th Engineers	Capt. Powell
1st Platoon, Btry "D", 43rd CA Bn	

Staff of Combat Command "D"

Colonel Marzist.	Commanding Officer
Lt. Col King.	Executive Officer
Major Tardy	Assistant Executive Officer.
Captain Combs	Assistant Executive Officer
Captain Behlender	Liaison Officer
Captain Walls	S - 1
Lt. Morrison.	S - 2
Lt. Waters.	S - 3
Captain Walker.	S - 4

For the Commanding Officer:

F. H. WALLS,
Capt., 701st TD Bn.,
Adjutant.