

damage. Our outfit moved up just before dark. At 2230 A plane came over the valley they had been in and dropped flares & "butterflies". Blackshear said, "They should get after him. Doesn't he know there's a blackout? Some organization fired thousands of rounds at the flares. Very bad."

29 April, 1943.

The tankers said that, "Though the anti-personnel bombs caught most of their men asleep. No one was hurt." I completed my hand grenade collection. Looked the area over. Wadle reported that our own arty. was shelling him. As always, it turned out to be enemy fire. Two wounded. Barney came over with a peacock for

our mess. Turned in at 2100.

30 April, 1943.

Up at 0500. Good breakfast. Went down to the C.P. after checking with Sero. No dope. Col. B., Maj. B., & I took a peep into the "mouse-trap". Swung around and checked "White's" position. We are set so well that I wish "Herman" would come along. Checked a couple of fox-holes & got 4 German canteens. Had pancakes for lunch. Look over the area near Hill 350. It stinks. Lots of infantry, both sides, got hurt there.

GERMAN SOLDIER
Unidentified

 Enemy planes worked over the area just a bit to the north. Haven't bothered us. Examined a lot of enemy munitions. Got some celluloid & fixed up a big map-board. Turned in 2015.

May
1 April, 1943.

Up & copied a map in colors showing each day's gains for the last week. It was quite interesting. Took it down to the Col. There was roast peacock for lunch today. It rained last night. The day is so overcast that our O.P.'s reported little. A detail burying Germans found one body "booby-trapped". A Col. Foster from Texas came to us. We discussed the new T/O with him. 2 P-51's came over. Our org. did not fire, but many took them for ME109's & did. Promiscuous (AA) fire killed 4 men on the ground, shot the planes up wounding one pilot 3 times, & wounded a Col. on 1 Div. staff. Capt. Klause was officially proclaimed "Queen of the May". Turned in at

dark, almost. It rained.

2 May, 1943.

Over to the outfit early. Morris gave me a German mosquito bar. Lots of plane activity - all ours (1140). Traded my carbine with Davis, & traded my boots for pistol # 17677 (Rem.) Davis traded the carbine for a pistol & promptly had an accidental discharge. Nothing hurt. I talked to him & then gave him some instruction on the weapon. There is never any excuse for an accidental discharge! The horizons are hazy, but overhead the sun is clear & hot. Got the detailed S-2 situation for Hale. Ate evening meal over there & then talked with Lou, Kimo, Foster, Hale, & Shirley until 2300. Earlier in the day I went by Div. & picked up some map supplies. I almost had to use

a gun to get them. On the way back to the C.P. I passed an amphib. that was burning. A shot exploded the gas tank which set off the rockets. Grim was killed. Two others hurt. It rained hard all night.

3 May, 1943

Col. Russell got me up with a message that contact has been lost. The outfit is to be ready to move in an hour's notice. We are pushing forward through the "mouse-trap" along Riley St. (Broadway wadi crossing is out). At 1130 Rcn. elements reached Matuer. (Our intercept heard them ask where the trucks were that were to carry them away at 2300 last night.) By 1830 we were in position adjacent to Matuer. No resistance encountered. Moved into an olive grove & dug in. Sorenson had to run

^{held}
= F.O. at 0100.

4 May, 1943.

Spent the morning hanging around an overcrowded S-2 tent trying to get information. Planes dived in on Matuer. They were ME-109's with bombs. Those who had not dug in last night really have the shovels flying. Capt. Franco came back with information he got by questioning Frenchmen. The German troops in the extreme N. have been replaced by Italians. Traffic from Bizerte has been to Tunis. Bizerte has few civilians. Some Arabs & dock workers are still there. The city is a shambles. There are approx a thousand troops in Bizerte. no more. On the 27th the Germans ask which French (farmers) wanted to be sent back to France. None (?) accepted. Matuer has been evacuated for 2 days.

Before leaving they stripped the city of everything, including furniture & public phones. They have been taking 50 cattle & 1000 kilo. of wheat from the local people each week. To avoid the military activity 355 women, children, & old men moved into an old quarry at the edge of the city. We took them back to Beja for care. They were in pitiful condition. Some of the local farms have not been molested. These people are being rounded up. At 1400 approx. I sat down under an olive tree to write up the 3rd & 4th. I got as far as the "*" when a shell whistled. After the "brump" I climbed out of my hole & found that I had put this book under a weight, & ~~it~~ clipped my pen in my pocket & I jumped. The shells continued to fall for a couple of hours. The only

damage done, and this will read like propaganda wars to our medical truck & an ambulance. Artillery from 1700 to 1830 about 50 yards from our new position (we moved into defilade along the Tine R.) and 4 bombing raids kept the day eventful. I am convinced their air is somehow warned of our air activities.

5 May, 1943.

Some dog dropped a load of bombs in our back yard last night & then popped a flare right over my head. I was all set to jump if I heard a "ssssssss"; but he went on. Planes got me up early. They have really been pounding the valley. Lots of planes just dove onto the outskirts N. of Matruh. No U.S. planes seen as yet. It is 1330, hot, & everything (close) is quiet. I am going to sleep. At 1410 8 enemy planes

dived in on "B". They called for "Green Day". Though this has been falling all around us, again we were lucky & had a small respite between us & the bombs. Heard German over our F.M. set. (Air?) "Jammed" him. Lots of planning tonight. Turned in at 2200. From daylight to down today we have been bombed 18 times & under artillery fire ^{1 man slightly wounded in C. B. no more}.
6 May, 1943.

~~was awakened~~
~~woke up~~ at 0030. Sent Sorenson after the outfit with a draft of the F.O. Went back to sleep. CC/B moved up before dawn to the highest point in Matuer. Didn't awaken us. We were down by the river line & didn't hear them. Luckily I woke up in time to catch them. Our attack was to jump at 0445.

The entire thing was a bit late. I can see the entire show from here. We could only be given a cover from 0500 to 0900. Even then ME 109's with bombs came right on in. Our 40's hit the 2nd & 3rd of them, but they flew off. "Destructive probably". It is now 0930. Artillery light. AT fire heavy. It's a strange & interesting war! The period from now (the attack having stalled in the face of heavy AT) until 1600 taken up with light arty. fire. I set up topside in the intense sun & studied a bit of Italian phrases. Last night when I turned in I was more jumpy than I have ever been before. However, this morning I got up solid as a rock. From pictures of

"Benito" & Italian literature, I figure Matuor was largely Italian. I have a box seat for this show. At 1600 we opened up with a terrific barrage. We smoked the right, cover with direct & indirect fire from the big boys, ^{155 mm.} & launched a tank attack to the right & left flanks of our objective. This one "took", & we made the high ground. We rounded up droves of prisoners. They all said about the same thing. They have been told that we kill our prisoners. When they found out we treat them well they were all glad the fighting was over with for them. They are all from the Russian front. Our army, as at Hill 350, is worse

than anything they have ever before encountered. They said they had wished they were back on the Russian front. A few were sullen, hard eyed hombies, but most are grinning youngsters. Maj. Bevington brought a drove of them back in front of his peep. No more planes, but a few rounds of H.E. & air bursts came in 500yds to our S. I am surprised we didn't catch it on the hill. Col. Gardner had a tank knocked out ^(He is O.K.) from under him. (His fourth) ^{low} Wadle was hit in the head & was evacuated while his unit was detached. I hear he is O.K. (I hope.) We had a fine evening meal at 1800. I had my crew turn

in at dark & did the same
later. Was awakened at 2300.
A messenger told me he "was
to get me up to the S-3 tent.
Someone was going to attack
us" I dashed up to find that a
unit was to be attached to
us. Took some more dope down.
The night was very dark & rainy.
The road was indistinguishable.
Got back at 0130. Was given
an F.O. Since Blackshar went
with me I sent Davis
with Sonenon. Wouldn't think
of sending a man out alone
tonight. They got back at
0400. I got up & checked
with Col. Coime. He was asleep.
Slept until 0700.

7 May, 1943.

Awakened at 0700 to go to S-3.
Everything going according to plan.
Knowledge of our own units vague.
I took off to find out the
situation. Found Col. Barney &
Lt. Ferguson. We roamed all
through the bottle area. Got $\frac{1}{2}$
a mile ahead of our attack once.
The damage our org. did yesterday & today was beyond expectations even. I was interested in
the strange collection of junk in
the deserted fox-holes; rugs, pillows,
china ware, glass ware, silver -
all looked from the towns to
take home, I guess. I picked up
a bit of sheer red lace as a curio.
We have no infantry to outpost
us nights & the enemy infantry
came within 50 yards of us,

last night so the men need sleep. Tonight will not be so bad. We have had practically no casualties.

8 May, 1943.

Out running around last night I slid into a wadi & turned over in the peep. No damage done. It is very dark, there are no roads, & the last two days of rain has made things slick. Slept in till 0800. We have been pushing forward rapidly. Lots of men & materiel have been taken.

9 May, 1943

We have been pushing & pushing. If the men don't get a rest soon I don't see how they can go on. We have done great work with so few casualties as to be unbelievable. We

pushed on to the big flat this morning. We are over-running guns of every description, & capturing prisoners by the thousands. My driver said, "If I had known there were this many I'd have been more scared!" At night we have to outpost ourselves & the tanks since all the infantry was needed on the left. However, that is over now. The Germans agreed to an unconditional surrender & the order to cease firing was given by General Harmon at 1111 hours. We then set to work to gather in prisoners & equipment. I ran across a great deal of stuff including two 3 X 80 scopes, one 10 X 45 Zeiss

scope, two pair 6X30 binoculars,
Pistole Modell 27 Kal. 7,65 #48332
(Bohmische Waffenfabrik A.G. in ⁷⁰⁶⁰ Prag). A large P.38 (Walther) #
on the barrel, 1909a & ^{ac}43 on the
slide, & 181h on the receiver. Luger
(P.08) #6202. Guns were in beautiful
shape, each with two clips. The
Germans tried to disassemble &
destroy all of their small arms
& binoculars, but in some cases
we rolled in on the much too
quickly. The German E.M. in many cases
had been told that we kill our
prisoners, which made them bad
to handle at first. When they found
we treated them well they
behaved like a bunch of sheepish
school-boys caught playing hookie.
We just pointed out the

road they were to take & off
they went. No guards were
necessary. These Germans expressed
a belief that ^{Germany} they would still win
the war, but that they were all
glad they were out of it. Our
artillery gave them more trouble
than they had ever had on the
Russian front. They said our
infantry was good, & marveled
at our large vehicles. Tonight
we swapped tales, had a few
lights, & compared trophies. Every-
one is elated. My minimum
estimate as to the end of the
Germans in Africa was the 15th
10th of May, 1943.

Little was accomplished today. We
mopped up a lot more Germans.
One screwball refused to come

out from behind his mg. Larson
just about cut him in half with
his .50. I pick up another
pair of binoculars & gave
them to Capt (Doc.) Monroe.

11 May, 1943.

Moved to a rest area just
east of Mateur.

12 May, 1943.

We are sorting out the few
aiming circles & range finders
that we need, & gunner's quad.
The rest are to be turned in.
It grieves me to part with
some of this stuff. I hope
it will be put to some
real use. The men are
getting their vehicles &
military courtesy cleaned up.

13 May

13 May, 1943.

Up early. Hotcakes for breakfast.
Went to II Corps & request
permission to run a convoy
to Tunis & Bizerte to give
the men a chance to see
them. They fought very close
to them both, but in between
them. After coming so far it
would be a shame for them
to miss those cities. On the
way back from Corps I picked
up a large wooden box &
had the company carpenter
make us an honest-to-god
latrine.

14 May, 1943.

~~King~~ We made a pistol
range & let everyone fire.
Their captured small arms.

When everyone was satisfied & tired of shooting we collected all the ammunition. After evening chow Lt. Mishkin brought out hundreds of gallons of wine for the men. They are entitled to a drink. They all intended to get drunk. This way we kept them out of town & trouble.

15 May, 1943.

Last night will go down in history. As Rothschild said, "We drove ourselves into the sea!" I took revenge. I think the wine truck will have fewer customers tonight even though there is plenty of free wine there. It is the best in N.H. too. I cleaned, fired, & cleaned.

all my weapons. This book fell away behind in the excitement. From the 8th to date was written just now.

next chapter
May 16 May, 1943.

Took 8 men out to fire. Found that the Engineers had moved onto line with our pistol range. Loaded them into my "jeep" & went out to find a spot. While we were firing a man came out of a near-by house & invited us in for a glass of wine. He was a Belgian; had left when the Germans came. His house in Bizerte was taken by the Germans so he moved to this little "war house" outside Mokure where he had once drilled for oil. In the afternoon

Pescott, Ferguson, & I went to Tunis. (Mishkin was unable to go). The shops are open from 0830 to 1200 only, so I was unable to purchase anything. Tunis was but slightly damaged, but the docks & dock buildings are pounded flat. The English have control of that city, & are there by the thousands. We went over to the Carthage area. The ruins there are very disappointing. Sebeitia was much more interesting. On the way home we picked up a bunch of German signal flares. Nice warm day. Wadie got back from his

17 May, 1943.

I was at Div. "liaisoning" while the org. did a memorial service for those who died. I gather that it went well. At 1200 we started; marched 3 miles. Listened to Gen. Harmon speak. There ^{were} about 15,500 men there. Marched back.

said I'm not an infantryman! On the march back an arab in a car ran over a nice dog with both wheels & never slowed at all. I came very close to shooting him, but had to settle for shooting the dog. Arabs should not be allowed to drive if that is typical.

18 May, 1943.

Spent the day doing little odd jobs on my equipment to get it in shape, and writing & typing on the diary. It was very windy & rained.

19 May, 1943.

I am "staff officer on duty" & am working on the "Soga" come more. Got mail from mom, dad, & Carol. A few days ago I heard from the Peacocks, & Dewey, (also Carol). Censored a lot of mail. Every time I do this I notice the various education

Packed up & ran over to 1st I.D. only to find that I wasn't to stay there.

20 May, 1943.

Mishkin issued me a carton of Nestle's bars. My crew (^{mine} - Sorenson) & I moved to Souk Ahras. Contacted a very fine English officer at their "Q" Movement Control HQ, Captain Spears. Tried to get permission to use the coast route. Called Constantine. Permission denied. Took a look around town. Lots of nice looking girls. I let my men go for the evening.

21 May, 1943.

Went back to Ghardimoua to meet the battalion. It is very hot. We are going to have hamburger

tonight. (We missed the steak they had last night.) We are moving west, and just had to set our watch an hour later?? It is 1730 & a cool breeze has broken the heat. (Where else could it happen but in the...?! -) Noticed 3 cattle & a dozen Arabs came out of a small hut when it got cool. Moved my bed-roll over near Mishkin, & listened to his German radio for a long time. Feeling kind of blue.

22 May, 1943.

Up at 0800. Breakfast at 0830. Hot cakes tasted of vinegar. Maj. Bevington, Captain Monroe, & I went on to Constantine. Met the outfit at Ain-M'lila. Terrain is mountainous, but smooth & rolling. Lots of good wheat. Rain in the afternoon.

23 May, 1943.

I slept very well last night. Moved out at 0700. To an area west of Mansoura-des-Bibans. Terrain rough, mountainous, desert. Hot (1640). Drove up on a ridge to the south & took a picture of this desert valley.

24 May, 1943.

We moved out at 0600 for l'Arba & got there at 1300. Bill Gray, Ferguson, Hale, & I bought 6 quarts of Algerian champagne, 2 of wine, & a quart of cognac, and saw Algiers. It's a great town. We swam in the sea. Had a lot of fun with British, arabs, & French. Back to l'Arba by dark. (We picked up Welch somewhere

Sang a few songs & turned in. Remember the drive to the castle on the hill. (Bought Card a silver brooch.)

25 May, 1943.

This business of getting up at 0340 to move out at 0600 seems silly to me. On to Orleansville through wonderful agricultural country. Drove into town with the Col. Arabs are clean, sturdy, & intelligent. I am begining to revise my opinion of them. There are classes in all races. Received orders tonight that change our destination. There is a swimming pool & showers here, but only the few troops stationed here are allowed to use them. Why? Turned in early.

26 May, 1943.

On to Sidi-Bel-Abbas. The ride today

as for the entire trip, has been beautiful. Have been reading Arrowsmith. If ever a book made me think Arrowsmith has. Sidi-Bel-Abbes has changed a lot. It is very nice now. (Relative) Hale, Hovey, "Fergie", & I went to town. Drank aperitifs, & ate omelet & liver, & went to a show, "Gloria Jean in 'The Under Pup'", a very old picture, but welcome. Wayne King had a "short". The men went wild over the music.

27 May, 1943.

On to TDC south of Sebdu. Hot & dusty. Area not bad. Trees & high plateau breezes keep down the heat. Reptiles & insects. No gas.

28 May, 1943.

Spent the day getting adjusted. Sebdu "off limits" due to

Typhus, Smallpox, Malaria, & venereal diseases.

29 May, 1943.

Ferguson & I. ask for 2 days in Oran to check signal supplies. The Col. gave us 3 days. Censored the usual batch of mail & left via Sidi-bel-Abbes at ¹³⁰⁰ noon. Stopped for a shave there. Reached Oran at 1700.

(It does not get dark until 2200.) Moved into the Continental hotel. Looked the town over.

French girls quite nice. Clubs: Le Col'Or, Florida, & Cintella, Plus the Red Cross.

30 May, 1943.

Up early. I checked with Special Service & got some things for the men. We finished

our business by 1700. (The Signal Corps sent us on a useless trip to Mostaganam.) On the way back from there we saw a beautiful beach so we went in. The water is warm the sand fine. Surf too light, though. Saw some landing practice. Came back & accidentally met Fawcett & Peter. Ate together & went out. A fine time was had.

31 May, 1943.

Up early. Fergie & I used Fawcett & Peter's mess cards since ours were void after last night. Then we all fooled around town a while. They tried to get us to stay another night, but we are supposed to be back today. Tried to buy some things at the PZ, but the red

tape froze us out. Took the Coast route back. Turned in after listening to the radio a while.

^{June}
1 May, 1943.

March 8, 1961

Note the notes at the very back of this book. The discussion appears to be about mortar charges.

Cole

black stuff with one hole. A third is little squares of thin black stuff. The 1st had a small flat round container of very fast burning powder (containing magnesium?) for a booster next to the primer. The second was in silk bags with a greenish booster charge sewed in the bottom. The 3rd has the booster built into the case. The first, I am certain, is the best. The others are very similar to some Italian powders I have tested. All metal parts are marked in German. Striking mechanisms are surprisingly varied.

324,000

First 02:45

Breakfast 03:00

Line vehicles 04:10

Movie 04:20

30

Rear S-4 Red Green

~~02:10~~

~~03:40~~ 0630

13 RR

US