

C Company C.O./ST Journal

28 JAN 1943

IN OUT

1320

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Lt. Col. Ringsack received orders from Commanding General, Combat Command "B", 1st Armored Div., ordered Co. "C" attached to Col. Fechet, CO, 16th Inf. Regt. Co. Comdr. reported to Lt. Col. Wells, Executive Officer, and was told to continue on mission which was to remain in mobile reserve.

1615

Co. Comdr. reported to Hq., 601st TD Bn. and received permission to take Co. Hq. and light platoon to Co. position at O-7267.

1800

Co. Comdr. left Co. area and reported to Col. Fechet at his CP and was ordered to move to near O-7548 to be prepared to meet thrust through HALFA PASS.

2250

Co. moved to new position.

29 JAN 1943

0630

Co. arrived at cactus in vicinity of O-7548 where CP was established. Reported to new 16th CP and found no responsible Officer, therefore decided to occupy platoon positions.

0800

platoon positions occupied. Co. Comdr. reported same to CP, 16th Inf. and it was ratified. Air activity was all Axis-no friendly planes appeared. One section of guns moved near position where "B" Co. platoon had been hit. Co. Comdr. ordered them sent back after advising Col. Fechet of the folly of such a maneuver. No activity-no casualties.

30 JAN 1943

Moved to forward CP with command vehicle. 1st Plat. moved into reserve. Lt. Perry picked up 2 Italian and one Yugoslavian deserter. Prisoners said Germans were afraid of Americans and that they also seemed to have food and ammunition difficulties. No activity. German artillery had moved in. Units defending were 2 Bns. of the 16th Inf. Regt.; 3rd Bn. 26th Inf. Regt.; 2 Btrys of the 7th P.A. Bn., detached from 1st Inf. Div. who fired constantly. Co. Comdr. ordered to Div. CP at old CC/B Hq. for orders from General Allen. Orders were changed and Co. "C" remained under Col. Fechet for a short period. The sector with dividing line generally OUSSELTIA, east to DJEBEL HALFA was under General Allen. General Roosevelt took over the right sector (CTR) and Col. Fechet the left sector (CTF). No activity, no casualties.

31 JAN 1943

1330

No activity in A.M. About 1330 Co. Comdr. reported to Div. CP but found it had moved to O-568469. They said Co. "C" remained under Col. Fechet, 16th Inf. Co. Comdr. went to CP, CT 16 and learned that Lt. Col. Davis, CO, 7th FA had been killed by a German mine while riding in a jeep. Lt. Col. Gibbs took command of 7th FA Bn. Sector. It remained quiet.

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1638

Co. Comdr. called to 3rd Plat., Co. "C". Bn. Comdr. of that sector with whom "C" Co. had contact was about to order 3rd Plat. to go into mountains and shell OP's with direct fire in full view of enemy mortar and artillery positions. In view of the fact I was the only T.D.CO in the valley and also because of what happened to "B" Co., I told Bn. Comdr. he couldn't do it. He assented. Mission unchanged. Engineers laying 5000 mines along head of valley.

1 Feb. 1943

0499

Co. Comdr. received instructions to move "C" Co. to OUSSELTIA. He reported to 1st Inf. Div. CP. Co. "C" ordered to report to CO, 16th French Corps at BOU SAADIA for orders.

2 Feb. 1943

0325

Co. "C" received orders to report back to 1st Inf. Div. Company moved out and occupied bivouacs near O-531500. Mission; Division Reserve. Prepared to move into valley to meet tank thrust from North or South. Expecting tomorrow A.M.

General; Not much TD or AA stuff here. Vehicles and men need short rest. May have to call on Battalion for half-track parts. Communications still good. No actions, no casualties. Still have 8-75's and 4-37's. Being used now as we were intended. Some Mark VI German tanks reported. No large concentrations. Commanders here are ready to move me up and down valley and across mountains, chasing phantom tanks. Could use SCR 508 for liaison but know that is impossible. Can't seem to get the the large picture. Everything is as well as could be expected.

3 Feb. 1943

No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

4 Feb. 1943

Lt. Richardson sent out to select and man an OP generally in the center of OUSSELTIA VALLEY. He contacted the 1st Battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment. The Battalion Commander showed him a likely spot and said it was in our hands and absolutely safe. Lt. Richardson had two jeeps, he proceeded forward and halted on a ridge to locate friendly troops. He spotted a man 200 yards to his left and said "Give him hell Muller, he's German." Corporal Clayton F. Muller, 12004926, Company "C", 601st TD Bn. swung the 30 cal. machine gun around. The first round didn't go off and he was killed by rifle fire. Sergeant William E. Bond, 7080030, Company "C", in No 2 jeep, was last seen proceeding to East and South. Lt. Richardson and Private Moreland escaped on foot to the 16th Infantry Regiment, got an 8-man combat patrol and recovered his jeep and the body of Corporal Muller. Action took place at coordinates O-7667. Sergeant Bond, Private 1st Class Abe Rauchwarger, 32202334, Company "C" were "missing in action." Corporal Muller is buried at coordinates O-6545.

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5 Feb. 1943

Lt. Richardson and 8 men returned to valley to see if Sergeant Bond had hit friendly mine fields. No signs of men or jeep. Equipment lost: 1 jeep, 1 SCR 510, 3 Tommy guns, 3 Scabards. Radio on No. 10 and No. 15 Crystals.

Normal reconnaissance by company. No action. No casualties.

6 Feb. 1943

No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

7 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

8 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

9 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

10 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

11 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

12 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

13 Feb. 1943-No action, no casualties. Journal closed.

14 Feb. 1943

0030 Received message from Div. warning of attack. Company not alerted.

1100 Col. Rowland, Engineers, took Co. on reconnaissance of route to be worked on to make passable for tracks. Company to work on road. Coord. O-5846 to O-6149.


1600 Warning received threat serious.

15 Feb. 1943

Company working on road O-5846 to O-6149. Drivers remained with Co.

16 Feb. 1943

Continued work on road. No action, no casualties.


HERBERT E. SUNDSTROM
Capt., 601st TD Bn.
Commanding

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"C" COMPANY UNIT JOURNAL

Feb. 17, 1943

1730 "C" Co. ordered with 1st Ren. Troop to move into Ousseltia Valley to protect the withdrawal of the 1st and 34th Div.

1830 "C" Co. moved 2 platoons in Southern (PICHON) Sector and occupied strong points. Withdrawal very orderly.

Feb. 18, 1943

0645 Returned to area. No action.

1000 Cpl. Savitski reported back from getting water in Ousseltia which was No. Man's Land. No action. No casualties.

Feb. 19, 1943

1100 Ordered to move near Div. CP.

1130 Move cancelled.

1330 Call from Asst. G-3, ordered to report to Col. Cunningham, 1st Bn. 16th Inf. and take over his mission. Proceeded with Co. to O-6461. Found 1st Bn. had moved to O-5847. Turned around, reported to Col. Cunningham. Mission; To protect and defend pass at O-5847. Disposed Company on high ground. Prepared field artillery battery for defense and no contact yet made.

Feb. 20, 1943

0030 Co. alerted to move to LE KEF. Relieved outposts. "I" Co., 16th Inf. Regt. took over mission.

0200 Left bivouac area.

0730 Arrived LE KEF. Ordered to TADJEROUINE by Gen. Allen, CG, 1st Inf. Div. Moved immediately.

1345 Arrived TADJEROUINE. Received instructions to move to KALAA DJERDA.

1500 Arrived KALAA DJERDA. Mission unknown. Received instructions to move with 1st Ren. Troop to DJ KOUIF.

1830 Departed to new destination. Ordered to vicinity of BOU CHEBKA. En route no casualties. No action.

Feb. 21, 1943

0330 Co. completed march from KALAA DJERDA to S-6859. Mission; Division reserve. No action. No casualties.

Feb. 22, 1943

0600

Co. alerted.

1130

Co. ordered to move to S-6867 in assembly area. Reported to Col. Fechat. 2 men wounded--are going to Bn. for medical treatment. Cpl. Strenge and Pvt. Hunsucker sent to hospital slightly wounded. One jeep lost.



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