

From 0001 16 March 1943 to 2400 Hours 16 March 1943

- 0000 Bn arrived in new bivouac area in vicinity of S-9018. Distance traveled 53 miles.
- 0900 Capt. Parsons, 1st Div. Engineers, visited CP reporting that 899th TD Bn's M-10's in running through wadis were damaging summer felt mats laid by Engineers by turning before reaching end of mat.
- 0900 Lt. Miller, Ln. Officer, 899th TD Bn. was dispatched to advise his Bn. Commander of the foregoing.
- 0925 Capt. McCain, Hqs. 1st Inf. Div., visited Bn. CP while on reconnaissance for location for new Div. CP. He stated that Div. CP would probably be located in the vicinity of T-0205.
- 1030 Capt. McCain visited CP; stated that 1st Div. Rcn. Plt. Leader had told him 2 enemy tanks reported at about T-0203.
- 1100 Capt. Paulick reported to CP; was ordered by Col. Baker to send one Rcn. Plt. to reconnoiter area where tanks had been reported.
- 1130 Lt. Wardwell arrived at CP with new 1st Div. order (no num.) attached.
- 1135 Capt. Peters and Major Downs, 1st Div. Hqs. arrived at CP.
- 1145 Rcn. Plt. under Lt. Bagley moved out on reconnaissance ordered by Col. Baker.
- 1150 Capt. Parsons, 1st Div. Eng., reported to CP; stated that he had been chased by 4 enemy tanks at about 1145 hours, from Y-1595 to T-1900 to T-1801.
- 1520 The following verbal order was issued by Col. Baker at his CP to C.O., 899th TD Bn. and Company Commanders and Staff Officers, 601st TD Bn. and 899th TD Bn.:-
This command moves at dark to occupy positions given by FO #18, 1st Inf. Div. 601st TD Bn. responsible for reconnaissance East of "Y" Line T-1508 to Y-1584. 899th TD Bn. responsible for reconnaissance to South and Southeast, West of "Y" Line T-1508 to Y-1584. Reconnaissance to be extended approximately two miles in front of gun positions. Advised 899th TD Bn. to put two (2) platoons on GAFSA-FERLANA Road and two (2) platoons on GAFSA-SIDI BOU ZID Road. 899th TD Bn. to contact 17th FA and 5th FA. 601st TD Bn. to be prepared to move Southeast or Southwest to reinforce 899th TD Bn. Rallying Points T-0216 and S-8502.

- 1530 Col. Baker in compliance with radio message from C.G., 1st Inf. Div., ordered one (1) Company of the 899th TD Bn. to report to vicinity of MADJENE BNL ABRES, where a messenger would give it further orders. 2nd platoon, Company "A", under command of Lt. Marcus, attached, for rear security.
- 1650 Lt. Col. Thompson, C.O., 52nd FA Bn., called at Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker about TD security during occupation of his gun positions. Col. Baker ordered this security to be established.
- 1655 Col. Baker authorized over radio by C.G., 1st Inf. Div. to use his own initiative in securing the detrucking of the Division.
- 1715 Capt. Dawson, Asst't G-5, 1st Inf. Div., reported with 1st Div. memo, unnumbered, dated 16 March 1943, attached. Substance of message was that Corps Commander has directed that detrucking areas of the Division to be given TD protection.
- 1745 Gen. Roosevelt arrived at Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker on plans for securing the detrucking of the Division and approved Col. Baker's verbal order of 1520 hours to accomplish this mission.
- 1755 Company "B" moved out to occupy positions as ordered.
- 2100 General Roosevelt left Bn. CP after conference with Col. Baker.
- 2130 Col. Baker and party left to establish Forward CP in vicinity of Y-0499.
- 2145 Gen Andrus, C.G., 1st Div. Artillery, called at Rear Bn. CP to inquire as to disposition of TD Units and reported enemy 6" gun in position at Y-052848.
- 2215 Col. Baker and party established Forward CP in vicinity of Y-0499. Distance marched, 14 miles.
- 2235 Capt. Fuller, Bn. S-3, ordered by Bn. Comdr. to locate Forward CP, 899th TD Bn., check dispositions of its units, and order 1st. Col. Tencher, CO, 899th TD Bn. to report to Col. Baker.

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F. W. HODGE
Maj., 601st TD Bn.
Staff C. D.

From 0001 17 March 1945 to 2400 17 March 1945

0045

Messenger returned to Rear Bn. CP from forward Bn. CP which had been established in the vicinity of Y-0499.

0140

Col. Baker left Bn. Forward CP to confer with Gen. Allen, C.G., 1st Inf. Div., at Div. Forward CP (T-0204) regarding TD dispositions covering Infantry detrucking points.

0205

Col. Baker returned from Div. Forward CP and continue South to visit 1st Plat., Co. "B", in position at Y-0395, 7 miles North of GAFSA. He was unable to see Gen. Allen.

0235

General Allen visited Bn. Forward CP and was given TD dispositions by Capt. Hinman.

0310

Col. Baker returned from Co. "B" sector and continued on to Div. Forward CP per VOGG.

0330

Gen. Roosevelt, Asst Div. Comrd., 1st Inf. Div. and Lt. Col. Porter, G-2, 1st Inf. Div., visited Bn. Forward CP to learn TD dispositions and confer on situation with Capt. Hinman.

0350

Col. Baker returned to Bn. Forward CP after conferring with Gen. Allen on TD dispositions.

0400

Capt. Fuller returned to Bn. Forward CP after locating Co. "B", 899th TD Bn. in position at Y-0494 and Co. "C", 899th TD Bn. in position Y-0393, approximately 6-7 miles North of GAFSA.

0415

Lt. Col. Fencher, CO, 899th TD Bn., reported to Col. Baker and ordered to move one company over to GAFSA - SIDI BOU ZID road in vicinity of Y-1389 and have patrol reconnoiter to the SE to the GAFSA-MAKNASSY road in the vicinity of Y-1785.

0430

0510

Capt. Mitchell, CO, Co. "B", ordered to assemble his company on GAFSA-SIDI BOU ZID road in vicinity of Y-1393 with mission of protecting 1st Inf. Div. from enemy mechanized attack from NE or East. Capt. Paulick, CO, Recon. Co., ordered to establish patrols approximately 8 miles NE on GAFSA-SIDI BOU ZID road and 6 miles to the East across country in effort to establish contact with 1st Armored Division.

0530

Forward Bn. CP closed in vicinity of Y-0499.

0745

Col. Baker and party established Forward Bn. CP in vicinity of Y-1493 distance marched 7 miles.

0900

Col. Baker left Forward Bn. CP on reconnaissance, and to visit 32 FA in position at Y-1587, 5 miles NE of GAFSA.

0925

Col. Baker returned to Forward Bn. CP from reconnaissance and 32nd FA CP.

1103

Col. Baker received Verbal Orders from G-5, 1st Inf. Div. to assemble TD Group in vicinity of present CP (Y-1495) with mission of protecting NE (left) flank of 1st Inf. Div.

1104

Gen. Roosevelt visited Forward Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker on TD dispositions.

1118 Gen. Roosevelt, 1st Inf. Div. left forward Bn. CP after conference with Col. Baker.

1120 Col. Baker issued verbal orders to 899th TD Bn. to assemble 899th TD Bn. in vicinity of Y-1685 with mission of protecting 1st Inf. Div. from any enemy mechanized attack debarking from MAKNASSY, (Y-7908).

1610

Bn. Rear CP arrived at new bivouac area in vicinity of Coord. Y-0993, distance marched 19 miles.

1743

Col. Baker and party arrived at Bn. Rear CP.

2030

Capt. Paulick reported to the Bn. CP with the following information radioed by Capt. Sundstrom, Co. "C",

- (1) 3 TD's, 1st Plt., Co. "C" damaged by mines at X-9178
- (2) Mission of 1st Plt., Rcn. Co., Lt. Rogers, Plt. Comdr., To secure 1st Inf. Div. detrucking points at Y-1275, 3 miles SE of GAFSA, and at LORTESS, 8 miles SE of GAFSA.
- (3) 1st Plt., Rcn. Co. had made contact with enemy at EL GUETTAR (Y-2372) at 1800, this date; strength and disposition of enemy unknown.

2105 Lt. Bakey, Bn. Motor Officer, left Bn. CP to repair TD's of Co. "C" at Coord. X-9178.

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DANIEL S. T. HINMAN
Capt., 601st TD Bn.
Staff O. D.

From 0001 Hours, 18 March 1943 to 2400 Hours, 18 March 1943

0130

Officer courier, 899th TD Bn., reported to Bn. CP with information that their Rcn. patrol on SAKHASSY Rd. had been as far as Y-4497.

0550

Lt. Bakey, Bn. Motor Officer, reported to Bn. CP with information that, enroute to repair to Co. "C"s three (3) tank destroyers, his maintenance trailers right wheel had hit a small mine on edge of road, vicinity X-9879 at 0100 hours. Damage estimated in dark, was believed to be very slight. No personnel were injured.

1330

CO, 899th TD Bn. reported to Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker regarding patrol activity, and communication, and to discuss plan for defense of GAFSA.

1750

Co. "C", 601st TD Bn. relieved from attachment to 26th Inf., 1st Inf. Div.

1755

Capt. Sundstrom, CO, Co. "C", reported to Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker. He reported that three (3) of destroyers had struck mines at X-9378 on 17 March 1943, slightly wounding two (2) men.

2250

Lt. Wardwell, Bn. Ln. Officer, to 1st Inf. Div. Artillery, arrived at Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker on tactical situation and local security of positions.

2350

Col. Waters and Lt. Wardwell left Bn. CP.

2400

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PATRICK W. RIDDLEBERGER
Capt., 601st TD Bn.
Staff O. D.

From 0001 Hours 19 March 1943 to 2400 Hours 19 March 1943.

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0945

CO of 3rd Bn., 16th Infantry, 1st Inf. Div., arrived at 601st TD Bn. CP to confer with Col. Baker on preparation of area defenses.

1015

Lt. Col. Baker left Bn. CP to go to 1st Inf. Div. CP.

1245

Col. Curtis, Ass't G-2, 1st Inf. Div., arrived at Bn. CP to confer on the establishment of liaison with 1st Armored Div.

1330

Col. Curtis departed from the Bn. CP accompanied by Lts. Miner and Salfen to visit Hq. 1st Armored Div.

1410

Lt. Miller, Liaison Officer, 899th TD Bn., departed from Bn. CP to go to his organization.

1720

Bn. CP moved from T-1604.

1830

Bn. CP established at Y-0978, Distance marched 11.4 miles.

1830

Lt. Col. Curtis, G-2 Section, 1st Inf. Div., returned with Lts. Miner and Salfen. Tentative arrangements were made to send Lt. Miner to CC/A as liaison officer.

2200

Col. Baker returned to new CP and ordered Company "B" to establish a road patrol East to Y-1974 and contact "A" Co., 899th TD Bn.

2400

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F. W. HODGE
Major, 601st TD Bn.
Staff O. D.

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