

Dec/Jan 43

I'm aware my penmanship is terrible and my Spelling and punctuation leave much to be desired but my voice and presentation would bore you to sleep. Believe me! I've tried to listen to tapes I made.

My sketches may not be considered a work of art but they portray the situation a lot easier than I could explain otherwise.

I'm sure L.E. Marcus, M.J. Dellinger, Mike Dragon or or any of the guys that were there can give you a more complete description of what happened that day.

Late in the afternoon Maj. A. Cushman an Observer for the Pentagon joined us and stuck close to us under most Combat Conditions through out the

Flemish Campaign. In fact ^{2.}
he was recalled under charges
of a French General for refusing
to let us be used as tanks to
storm an infantry position.

It would be impossible for
me to picture for you the feeling
of hearing the burp guns ripping
out a spray of death that sounded
like birds chirping when they
passed close by or the feeling of
horror and disbelief as our 75's
blasted the Germans out of the caves
and the French machine guns cut
them down as they tried to escape!

That night we were served a
Christmas supper that I don't think
anyone had much appetite for.

I don't know about the others
but I didn't sleep much that night.

A couple of nights later Lt. Col.
Baker came up and brought our
French rations which contained a
liter of wine per day per man.

I never drank much before

3.
But that night I think I finished
off a weeks ration. I don't remember
much about that night but they tell
me the Col. had to drive the truck
back to H. Q.

About Dec. 29th Maj. Cushman
was proven right when we followed
a platoon of small tanks into
the valley where the Germans
were dug in. The tanks were
from the 13th Armored Bn. and two
of them were knocked out about
1/4 mi into the attack and the other
tanks turned around and came back
out so we did too.

We didn't dare try to
fire our 75's for the small arms
fire was rattling off our half
track like hail in a summer storm.

One of our tracks got hung
up on a small tree so the crew
abandoned it and Sargent Cobb and
Dick Hammond who were on foot
cut it loose and brought it out.

It was for this action that Cobb

was decorated.

4.

All Dick Hammond ever got was a Purple Heart for getting killed on the Plains outside ~~Smith~~ during our retreat back through Kasserin Pass!

I guess Maj. Cushman was cleared for he came back shortly after that.

Just after the first of the year we moved to a position just east of Foudouk to assist the French infantry against the Germans in the valley.

Late in the evening we fired at the enemy positions.

After things quieted down we settled down for the night.

When we looked around the next morning we found the French infantry had moved out leaving us sitting up there all alone.

We moved out in a hurry but about a mile back we ran into the French artillery unit who

notified us that the Germans⁵ had cut the road off so our only way out was through the Imoultius so we pulled to the south and took up a position in an olive grove on a plateau overlooking the Fouduk valley with a good view of the village of Fouduse itself.

We observed a lot of tank movement in the valley which was mostly a Cactus patch so we got word back to headquarters and eight P-38 lightnings dives bombed the area but I don't think they did much damage. Before they could pull up out of the valley, seven Falbwolves that were always patrolling the area came out of the scrub and trapped them. Five of the P-38^s were shot down before they knew they were under attack. The other three fought back until they could break away.

In the early days of the Campaign we ^{6.}
seldom saw any of our planes.

Whenever our planes came into the
Area they usually got shot down.

One day we got shook up
because four tanks appeared
about a half mile back of us.

They turned out to be a platoon
of the 899 T.D. who were trying
to get to Fondrak and get a crack
at the tanks in the Cactus patch.

They couldn't get through that
way for the same reason we couldn't
get out because there was an impossible
wadley running through there.

On Saturday Evening after we
had been there a week we placed
two of our guns on the ~~lip of the~~
lip of the plateau and fired into
several of the buildings in the
town where there had been a
lot of activity going on.

After dark that night they threw
up a nine star flare and I was
sure they were going to attack.

The next morning, after being alert 7. all night, we moved down and investigated and found that they had moved out so we got out of there while we had the chance.

We went back to Pichon when we joined up with the rest of "A", Co. We hadn't seen them since we were separated Christmas day.

It was a week after this that we ran into our first tank battle at Ousseltia that I wrote you about earlier.

I'm going to quit for now. The next time I'll try to cover the Scitla Kasserine Action.

Have a Happy Holiday

Tom Morrison

