

I hope I can be of some help to you
All I write here is from what I can
remember as I witnessed it or was
told at the time it happened. There will
always be some one who will have
a different view of what happened but
I will tell it as accurate and honest
as I can remember.

The plan for the attack of 'Faid
pass, was, I believe a good one. The
plan was to get our vehicles on the
other side of the mountain range (North
side) The pass itself was in the hands
of the Germans. There was a way to
get through a narrow defile that
was undefended. I can recall a
long night of waiting for the
British Army sappers to clear the
mines so we could go through.

In day light we came through
to the North side of the mountain.
I can recall a large open valley where
you could see far miles. Our attack
was from the East. The hill where the
pass was extend northward from
the main range of mountains. The
distance to the pass from where we
jumped off could have been three to
four miles. Between us and the
objective was a large camp of
Bedouin arabs. I recall the

2/ black tents

Our platoon, 3rd platoon, with our three guns moving forward by bounds had the 2nd platoon following. French Infantry out on our right flanks. The 1st platoon I think followed to our rear and flanks.

Our guns using the French Ammo (75s) about then learned how poor and useless it was. Each round landed about half the distance aimed. However our guns kept trying fire at a high elevation without the use of the sights.

As our Platoon closed in, a A.T. gun fired on us. Sgt Cox spotted it and using one of his few Super H.E. got a hit on it. The AT gun crew, three men ran up the side of the hill. Cox fired the second H.E. and the round landed between the three men. They didn't move any more.

The Ammo supply got low and the gun called for resupply. The 2nd platoon passed through us and went on to the hill. The 1st platoon, in the mean time, ^{moved} to the North and right flank to cover the North road to the pass. The French Infantry moved out to the foot of the hills and had heavy MG fire pour on them. I never did learn how they came out.

The 2nd Platoon moved in to the bottom of the hill received heavy MG fire pouring down into the open.

3. vehicles. They were forced back. The 2nd and 3rd platoon was pulled back out of range. The 1st platoon remain in place guarding the North road.

Capt Elman called for an air strike. P-38's came into attack the pass. They cover the area with fire. One plane came down and fired on the 1st Platoon. That is when they had their losses.

I can recall Lt Elson came over to our track. He was covered with blood. He told Capt Whitsit how the 146 gun fire came into his Command track. The blood came from one of his Sergeants that was killed firing his MG.

The first platoon continued to cover the north road going into the pass through the night. I can remember, while I was on guard that night, hearing small arms fire out in the area of the first platoon. Some time after the firing stopped, one man from the first platoon came into our perimeter. He was badly shaken.

The story, as I can remember it, the Germans man handle an AT gun to the North road. The 1st platoon command half track made a good target because of its square outline. The AT gun fired and the sound hit the armored windshield. The driver was in his seat and motor cycle driver was in the other seat. His cycle was parked a long side of the track. Both men were killed. 1-5 Jack Paris was the platoon radio operator. He was behind and centered where his radio was. He was not hit. He told

4 told me there were barrock bags stacked up between and abt behind the two forward seats. That is what saved him.

Lt McKnight was out checking the 1st platoon defenses. He was armed with a Thomson SMG. When the Germans fired on his platoon, he and the others in the platoon returned fire. When the firing stopped he withdrew his platoon. As I can remember one man was wounded and one man was missing.

When day light came, the 3rd platoon went out to recover the disabled half truck and the bodies. Our Maintenance truck hooked up the half truck and the bodies were put on the back of the truck. About that time, our security reported an enemy column come down the road from the north.

Capt White turned the platoon around to face the attack. I can recall calling on the radio (510 range about five miles) we were about out of radio range and that trouble to get my message through.

The 2nd platoon was ordered out to reinforce us. The enemy column was a long way off from us. With field glass I can recall seeing two armed vehicles, may have been armored cars, Several large trucks loaded with infantry and a few smaller vehicles.

The 3rd platoon formed a line with guns forward and security to the flanks. As we moved forward to close with the enemy, air craft appeared off to the east about where our Company HQ was

5. They were JU 88 five if I remember correctly. They came down hard on our Company HQ. There were some men killed and wounded. The 2nd platoon was about half way from us and HQ, and the JU 88s came in and attacked them also. HQ and 2nd Platoon took the planes under fire. The planes made four or five passes. On the last pass one of the planes had an engine smoking.

Capt Whitest passed the word our primary danger was from the ground attack and not to fire on the planes unless they attacked us. They didn't and we didn't fire on them. My guess is they had instructions not to fire on anything on that north road.

The enemy on the ground dismounted its Infantry and they formed a line on the ground. The armored vehicles turned around and went back about a half mile in to a grove of palm trees.

Capt Elman order the 3rd platoon out. We and the 2nd platoon moved back to the HQ. An air attack was ordered. The P38 came down on the enemy and cut them up. I was disappointed I felt we could not have put them out of action and got some prisoners.

My guess is Capt Elman didn't want to risk any more losses and played it safe.

6 The final phase of the taking of Faid...
pass was made by our para troopers. I
can't recall any details of what happened
I think the Germans gave up without
a fight.

B Company, took some better losses. I
think we lost fourteen men killed. I
wondered what happened to our missing
man from the 1st platoon.

The para troopers, I can say they had
it rough. All they had was their weapons
and the clothes they wore. Transportation
was anything they could catch a ride
on. Some got into our vehicles to get
onto the flight and some got themselves
hurt too.

I'd like to add Lt McKnight did a
good job that night. We didn't find any
German bodies but we did find several
rifles etc Germans left behind.