

805th

Dec 29, 1986

Dear Sir

I bet you thought I was going to keep the history of the 805 in Africa that you sent me. It came at a bad time, the start of hunting season. I am retired so I hunt every chance I get. I am always tired then I am in no mood to write letters. I am not much of a letter writer anyway. Then the Christmas season comes along and I still <sup>am</sup> in contact with about twenty or so that I was in the service with so I try to write a note or short letter with my Christmas cards. So much for the excuse.

The 805 history you sent was much the same that I bought from you, except for the five

Companies. These were not with the history I bought from the T.D.A. so I copied yours. I enjoyed reading them.

You would like to have my personal experiences in the African Campaign. To be truthfull with you I didn't know what was going on about ninety per cent of the time. I do know we were running part of the time.

Last summer at our reunion I was talking to the driver of the M3 she was on. He told me at one time we were twenty three miles behind German lines and that we came through a road junction in Sbeitla that a German M.P. was directing traffic. it was after dark.

Read under 14 February 1943 of the history about A.Co then go to annex B on A.Co. When we got to Sbeitla

we were lined up eight or ten feet apart facing a large plain. One low level air attack would have wiped out the whole company, but it didn't come. we spent the night in an Olive grove. the next morning the platoon I was in took positions at a road junction about twenty miles from Sbeitla, there was a little Arab town there but I don't remember the name of it. we were still there when they blew up the ammo dump in Sbeitla... so we could have been better than twenty miles behind German lines. We moved back through Sbeitla toward Kasserine Pass. we had a couple dive bombing raids but they didn't do <sup>us</sup> any damage. Reading the history 21, 22 and 23 February 1943 I was on one of the four guns capable of action.

After Kasserine the third platoon had their M3s replaced with M6s, the 37mm mounted on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck.

Again reading the history of 27, 29 and 30 March 1943. The man killed there was my section sergeant.

The M6s were most always in reserve during the last part of the African Campaign.

This is my personal experience in Africa. It's been forty three years ago and I am seventy years old so maybe my mind has slipped a little.

I sent for a book that was offered in a TDA newsletter, it's a copy of the Leavenworth Papers No 12 U.S. Army Tank Destroyer Doctrine in World War Two by Dr. Christopher Gabel. He didn't mention A Co, 105 Inf AT "That's before we were 805 TD" in the 1941 Carolina maneuvers, A Co.

was one of the Tank attacker units

He didnt mention the 805 in the Kasserine fight, just the 601, 701, and the 894.

Well I should recopy this. If I did it might be couple of months till I would get around to it, so you better take it as it is. you will have to excuse the mistakes and the erasing. Thanks for loaning me your copy of history so I could copy it. I doubt if there is anything I could add that you would want to know, if there is ask me point blank, maybe I could help. Well I guess thats about it, so I will say So Long.

Sincerely Yours  
E. Lynn Warner