

- Sep. 27 1942 - Lt Clarke and c/EM left on adv detail fr Downpatrick, Co Down, N.I.
- Oct 2, 1942 - Track vehicles under Lt Edson left for new station
- Oct 3, 1942 - Capt Eilmann and 65 EM left by train, remainder of Co left immediately by wheeled vehicles under Lts McKnight and Whitsit.
- Oct 4, 1942. Arrived at new location at Hankelow Court, ~~Wex~~ Eng. Lt Clarke had been adv party and had house ready for occupancy.
- Oct 5, 1942 - Wheeled vehicles arrived having come via Larne and Stranrear. On same day Lt Edson arrived with track vehicles and drivers
- Oct 13, 1942 - Lt. Smith arrived with members of 2nd Rcn Plat., Rcn Co at Hankelow. This plat. was attached to "B" Co for future operations. All personnel now assembled in England - included 6 off and 203 men, the later figure including 15 replacements recd Oct 9th and 23 men of atchd Rcn Plat plus 5 1st aid medics. Vehicles incuded 8 75SP, 4 37SP 16 HT, 4 3/4T WC 3 1/2T WC, 6 1/4T, 3 2-1/2T trks, 1 Tr and 7 MC. Guns, besides heavy weapons, included 38-.50 MGs, 26-.30 MGs, 56 Tommy guns, 170 rifles, 10 .45 pistols and 18 Very pistols.
- Oct. 9, 1942 - Pay day - with usual aftermath. - 4 AWOL's (who later rejoined before moving out, - Oct 10th.
- Oct. 10, 1942 - Lt. Whitsit and third platoon less drivers and 3 men AWOL left Hankelow for HMS Mison at Weyness Bay, Scotland.
- Oct. 13, 1942 - Remained of Co, including the 3 AWOL's, entrained at Nantwich for Liverpool where they embarked on HMS Derbyshire. This portion of the Company, along with 2000 other troops, British and Amer. remained aboard the Derbyshire for 25 days. Several days spend at Liverpool harbor, more days off Kent Allen Station, Scotland, where a practice landing was attempted ("B" Co did not participate) and more days off Clyde where convoy was finally assembled.
- Oct 26, 1942 - Derbyshire put out from Clyde harbor along with 60 other vessels. Rough going for serveral days, especially for men in the bow of the ship. "B" Co, using violins, guitar and ukelele, furnished entertainment for itself and others thruout the voyage and mission
- Nov. 2, 1942 - Destination/was made known. ~~While enroute to the new CC "B"~~, of which "B" Co was a part, had the mission of taking and holding Tafaraoui, La Senia and Oggaz airports and of proceeding against Oran from the South. Field Order No 1 disclosed that our 3rd Platoon would accompany "A" and "B" Cos, 1st Bn, 1st AR in a flying column against Tafarsoui and that the remainder of the Co would proceed against Oggaz unassisted. Next few days were busily engaged in preparing ourselves for the operation ahead. ~~Level: high~~
- Nov. 7, 1942 - Pass Rock of Gibraltar. ^{Tank landing craft}
- Nov. 8, 1942 - Dropped anchor off St. Leu 0900 hrs. Lt. Whitsit and 3rd Platoon led off for the Co, disembarking with vehicles fr the Misoa at 0600 hrs. Set forth in flying column at 0845 hrs under Lt. Col Waters, bound initially for Tafaraoui Airport. 1 Co, 6th Inf and 2 Tk Cos of 1st Bn, 1st AR included in column. 503rd Paratroop Bn unable to land at airport at 0100 as planned and column met local resistance but airport taken without undue difficulty and at 1400 hrs paratroops and fighter planes were ordered in. Before these element arrived, our column was attacked by French fighter and bomber planes. A 500 lbs bomb completely demolished one half-track and ~~some~~ inflicted Co's first wounds - on Sgt. Roy, Dant and Hornsby. Shortly after sundown an enemy 7-gun mixed battery, which had been shelling the field from NE, was neutralized, by long range fire of 3rd Plat. Numerous prisoners had been taken and our planes had landed. The day had been highly successful.
- The remainder of the Co disembarked fr the Derbyshire in LCP's at about 1000 hrs.)
- Nov 9-10, 1942 - Vehicles of 1st and 2nd Plats landed, one at a time, from motor landing craft. On the 9th the 3rd Plat saw more action, smashing a enemy tank concentration at St. Lucien. Two ~~enemy~~ tanks were destroyed by the 3rd plt. guns at ranges in excess of 2000 yards. After this engagement the plt. withdrew to Tafaraoui.
- ~~Nov 10, 1300 hrs.--2nd plt., with Lt. Clarke acting as plt. cmr, moved out with a column commanded by Lt. Col. Brusk. Mission: to remove an anchored threat at St. Barbe du Tlelat. Proceeded at great speed, with the 1st's acting as advance guard. Ordered back to St. Leu, where a hostile threat had developed to the east. Lt. Edson, finished with the unloading of vehicles, assumed command of his plt.~~

Nov. 10--2nd and 3rd plts moved against La Senia from the north in the face of heavy sniping and artillery fire. An enemy shell ~~struck~~ struck a self-propelled, setting it on fire. Sgt. Rodison, Shelton, Dunham, Whipple and Landry were killed; Stearns, the driver, was wounded but fought outstandingly throughout the day. The 3rd plt. by-passed La Senia and were among the first to enter Oran.

2nd plt. was ordered to take La Senia but the opposition proved heavier than expected and it was withdrawn. However the command half-track did not receive the withdrawal message and proceeded alone into La Senia. Its crew was composed of Lt. Edson, Cpl. James D. Petrie, T-5 Milton J. Russell, T-5 Gerald Weinberg, Pfc J. C. Gardner and Pvt. Wilbur H. Willis, a tanker who had escaped from his burning tank, and an interpreter. The vehicle proceeded against heavy sniping and artillery fire through La Senia to a pt. 3 miles beyond, where it broke down after being damaged by a road block. An enemy truck column had halted on the road and its occupants were firing at our vehicle from all directions. After a fight of several minutes eight of the enemy surrendered. Some forty others gave up shortly thereafter. Lt. Edson, assisted by the interpreter, arranged that 4 enemy trucks would tow the half-track and carry the prisoners back to La Senia. Here Lt. Edson and his crew, without assistance, made arrangements whereby some 300 French air and infantry personnel surrendered to Col. Robinette when he later arrived.

~~Nov. 10--~~ With the fall of Oran the campaign in Algeria ended. The campaign showed that Combat Command "B" had been an excellent tactical unit. Gen. Oliver, by walking unconcerned through heavy artillery fire south of La Senia, had won the admiration of his men. "B" co. had established for itself an excellent reputation. Lt. Edson was awarded the Silver Star for "gallantry in action," that is, for out-Yorking Sergeant York. Col. Waters secured a Captaincy for Lt. Whitsit.

Nov. 13--Co. assembled near Tafaraoui airport.

Nov. 16--Head for Tunisia, along with "C" co.

~~Nov. 17--~~ Bivouaced a few miles west of Orleansville.

Nov. 17--18 Bivouaced at L'Arde, south of Alger. Cyclist Henry Kirscher injured when he crashed into a RR crossing bar taken to hospital at Algiers.

Nov. 19--Outside of Setif.

Nov. 20--Outside of Constantine.

Nov. 21--1st plt. proceeded alone to ~~Tebessa~~ ^{to Fariana}; C co. and remainder of "B" proceeded to Souk Aras. Here new orders sent "C" co. in the direction of Tunis and us south to Tebessa, which was reached at 2300 hrs. Supply truck lost enroute--it was loaded with ammunition and personal equipment. ~~At Tebessa we were approached by the enemy and we fought a battle.~~ Continued to Fariana and rejoined 1st plt.

Nov. 22--At 0300 hrs., after one hr. of sleep, ~~proceeded to Fariana and rejoined 1st plt.~~ proceeded to Gasfa, which we were to attack at dawn. By good luck missed the mines which the enemy had planted at road block. Except for sniping, Gasfa was occupied without resistance.

Company attacked again in the afternoon against a enemy tank column moving against Gasfa from the east. Employed at 1600 hrs at El Gattar; enemy met suddenly by our ~~reconnaissance~~ reconnaissance. Three enemy tanks destroyed by the guns of 2nd plt. before darkness ended the battle. One peep lost, no personnel. one at a range measured to be 3500 yards. The company, less 1st plt. moved back to Fariana.

Nov. 23--After few hrs. of rest, ~~co.~~ moved out from Fariana, met the enemy just before reaching Sbeitla. Lead by 2nd plt., we knocked out eight tanks, took 70 Italian prisoners and considerable equipment. The 75SP, in which Lt. Edson

was acting as gunner, accounted for 3 enemy tanks after it had been disabled by 47 mm fire. Cpl. Benvenuti, severely wounded by a mortar fragment, was our only casualty. After the town had been cleared of the enemy we withdrew to Kasserine.

Nov. 24--French artillery and infantry moved into Sbeitla. ~~At night~~ we returned to Feriana. Rest and hotcakes--cheers.

Nov. 28--Lt. Col. Raff was awarded Legion of Honor by the French, made a full Col. by Allied hq. Capt. Ellmann and entire company awarded the Croix de Guerre, with Palm. 2nd Lt. Edson promoted to 1st Lt. Ours was a proud co.

Nov. 29--1st pl. recalled from Gafsa, where it had been retained since the fight at El Guettar. Lt. McKnight and his 37mm guns, ~~reconnoitered~~ with a few French and American infantrymen reconnoitered enemy positions around Sidi Bou Zid and Faïd, but the mission could not be accomplished; the roads were little more than trails.

Dec. 1, 2200 hrs.--Co. left Feriana as part of French-American force, including heavy weapons co., ~~and~~ and ~~the~~ co. of 26th Inf., and a co. of French inf. Mission: to take pass at Faïd.

Dec. 2, 0720 hrs.--Our aircraft (P-38's) strafed enemy positions. 2nd and 3rd plts. lead attacked supported by 50 French riflemen. American inf. mistakenly moved into hills 2 miles west. Recon. and 1st pl. of B co. deployed to guard ~~approach~~ approach to the pass on the east. Our heavy guns dealt with one anti-tank gun and 2 artillery ~~pieces~~ pieces and moved on into the pass. They were taken suddenly by heavy MG fire from high ground on both flanks. Sgt. Foster and Klopp were killed, Lt. Edson, Sgt. Patrick, Cpl. Milo, T-5 Turi, Pontillo and Howard wounded, all of the 2nd pl. We withdrew from the pass--the task was one for infantry. Recon. and 1st pl. had been ~~attempting~~ attempting to locate MG and mortar fire east of the pass. At 1020 hrs. four P-38's flew over, one plane firing a burst of MG. T-5 Cole, Bryant and Youngman were killed, Cpl. Logan and T-5 Levine severely wounded. Case of mistaken identity inexcusable and highly demoralizing. Air Corp said our vehicles were outside the bomb-line.

French inf. and ours attacked pass all day but when Lt. Clarke returned at 1700 hrs. to recover two dead the pass was still strongly defended. Prepared to bivouac in cactus patch near pass that night; 1st pl., upon orders from Col. Raff, moved out after dark to occupy its former position. Met at 2100 hrs. by 50mm anti-tank fire by enemy who had moved down from the mts. The pl. fought all night out of communication with rest of co. T/5 Hawley and Davidson killed, T-5 DeLuca wounded. Frazier was last seen severely wounded; he could not be found the following day. Several casualties believed inflicted upon ~~enemy~~ enemy.

Dec. 3--3rd pl. moved to assistance of the 1st. 2nd pl. later moved out to deal with approaching enemy tank and truck column--two trucks were destroyed. At 0900 hrs. seven enemy planes attacked bivouac position with light bombs and 20mm fire. T-4 Patterson, Cpl. Petrie and Pfc's Gooding and Caspers were killed. T-5's Wren, Patrick, Pfc Upchurch and Baker were wounded. Small arms proved no good against aircraft when fired from a vehicle or other exposed position. Strafing was extremely deadly; two HT's and one 3/4-ton truck were badly ~~120~~ damaged. At 1300 hrs. co. moved to bivouac at Sidi Bou Zid; meanwhile, ~~1500~~ Germans surrendered at the pass.

- Dec. 3 (cont.): Patterson, Patrie, Hawley, Cole, Gooding, Bryant, Youngman and Davidson buried in a cemetery at SIDI BOU ZID. Pfc. Caspers died at TABESSA hospital and was buried there.
- Dec. 4--Lt. Clarke, with pvts. Barga, Wetzel and Decker, left in a half-ton for the pass to pick up bodies of Foster and Klopp. Vehicle attacked on open road near FAID by four enemy aircraft. Strafed four times--the vehicle a total loss. In afternoon rcn. and 3rd plt. took up security positions around LESOUA.
- Dec. 5--Foster and Klopp buried at SIDIBOU ZID. Co. strafed and bombed daily. Men stayed close to their fox holes and moved vehicles and supplies only by night. Our own aircraft, based at YOOKS-LES-BAINS, was too far in the rear to afford adequate protection.
- Dec. 8--Allied hq. clarified our mission: to protect YOOKS-LES-BAINS and to obtain information of the enemy in our sector.
- Dec. 10--Resumed our position in reserve at FARIANA. Return march was on roads made almost impassable by mud. Raining hard.
- Dec. 11--1st plt. returned to FARIANA. Co. established in large olive orchard one mile south of town.
- Dec. 18--Lt. Clarke left by plane for ALGERS to obtain mail, thence to TELERGMA, BONE and SOUK EL AREA, then by truck to GUELMA and SOUK AHRAS--but no mail. Returned Dec. 24.
- Dec. 25--Christmas: thoughts of a year ago. Attended service at the "hotel" in town or in our olive orchard.
- Dec. 29--Enemy landed two gliders, carrying 16 men, and succeeded in blowing the railroad bridge 20~~0~~ miles south of FERIANA. Generals Robinette, Ward and Clark (Shadows to us) visited FERIANA on successive days; our forgotten theater of operations was waking up.
- Jan. 2--First mail.
- Jan. 3--Alerted. Attached to French forces. Left FERIANA at 1330 hrs. for SBEITLA, at 2100 hrs. continued to HAJEB EL ALOUN, and ten miles beyond. Enemy three miles to the front. Third plt. remained in this forward position for eight days, with air protection but no camouflage. Enemy, however, did not press attack.
- Jan. 4--Pvt. Turi accidentally killed. He was buried at co plot at Sidi BOU ZID.
- Jan. 5--3rd plt., with attached AA plt., moved to position left by 601st TD Bn.
- Jan. 6-17--2nd plt. called out on six occasions to occupy forward position but expected enemy tank attack never developed. Plt. performed a new function, to lay down artillery fire, covering the advance of French infantry. Enemy aircraft, especially fighters, extremely active. Everyone took a personal interest in his fox hole or slit trench. Grew deeper after every strafing, and soon contained ingenious innovations such as magazine racks and "racks" for a cup of tea, whisky--what whisky--and other prized possessions.