

HEADQUARTERS 1ST RANGER BATTALION
APO 302, U S Army

9 April 1943

SUBJECT: Report of Action.

TO: The Adjutant General, U S Army, Washington, D. C.

THRU: Commanding General, II Corps.

1. The following report of action against the enemy is submitted as required by paragraph 10, AR 345-105, for the period, March 14 to April 10, 1943.

2. On 14 March, the 1st Ranger Battalion was attached to the 1st Infantry Division, and was moved by truck from Le Kouif, Algeria to bivouac area in vicinity Darnaia, Tunisia. On 16 March, with mission of constituting reserve for 1st Division, protecting Division Artillery and maintaining contact with 16th CT and 18th CT, the battalion entrucked and moved to assembly area approximately six miles north of Gafsa, Tunisia. The battalion remained in division reserve during the occupation of Gafsa. On 18 March, with mission of location of the enemy, the battalion moved by truck and on foot on El Guettar, found the village free of enemy and occupied same. Patrols and observation disclosed presence of enemy in vicinity of pass at Djebel Ank, three miles west of Bou Hamran and in the area astride the Gafsa - Gabes road approximately four miles southeast of El Guettar. Received artillery fire on 18 and 19 March. On 20 March, moved on foot to position just north of Djebel Ank to attack enemy position at dawn 21 March and prepare way for 26th CT in their move to Bou Hamran. On 21 March, attacked Italian position in Djebel Ank pass, forced enemy back and took approximately 200 prisoners. During the evening of 21 March, the battalion was relieved and returned to El Guettar in Division reserve. On 23 March, the battalion was moved on foot to position on left of 3rd Bn 16th Inf at Y-2872 Sheet 17, 1/200,000 Tunisia. Position was attacked by approximately 60 enemy tanks and about one dismounted infantry battalion. Attack was repulsed by artillery fire. On 24 March, the battalion moved by truck and on foot to north slope of Djebel Berda with mission of extending the right flank of the 18th Infantry and clearing Djebel Berda of enemy, denying the use of the high ground to the enemy. The battalion was removed from the high ground the same night and given mission of extending the left of the 18th Infantry. New positions were taken by dawn. On 25 March, received heavy artillery fire all day. During the evening of 25 March, furnished rear guard for withdrawal of 18th Infantry, formed right flank element of 1st Division with position at Y-2963 on the north slopes of Djebel Berda, with the mission of preventing infiltration of the enemy from the south and east. On 27 March, the battalion was relieved by the pass-through of elements of the 9th Infantry Division and returned to Division reserve in bivouac vicinity of Gafsa, with mission of defense of Gafsa against threat from the south. On 31 March, Companies "A" and "B" were moved by truck to vicinity of Nadjene El Fedj about 24 miles north of Gafsa to establish an outpost to warn of any enemy threat from that direction and to delay in the event of an attempted break-through. Reconnaissance patrols were dispatched to Sidi Bou Zid. On 2 April Companies "D" and "F" were sent to Nadjene El Fedj to relieve Companies "A" and "B". On 5 April a force made up of Companies "A", "B" and "C" of this battalion, two companies

805th TD and three companies 19th Engineers were moved under cover of darkness from Gafsa to position about four miles east of Mdilla with mission of delaying enemy in the event of a break-through of the French positions. On 6 April, threat no longer existing, battalion was relieved and returned to bivouac at Gafsa. On 10th April, Companies "D" and "F" were relieved from their assignment and returned to the battalion bivouac area.

3. Casualties during period:

KILLED IN ACTION: Three (3)

Sgt Leonard H Sporman, Co "C"	25 March '43
Sgt John J Ball, Co "C"	25 March '43
Pvt lcl Nelson Trent, Co "C"	25 March '43

WOUNDED IN ACTION: Eighteen (18)

Capt William E Martin, Bn Hq	23 March '43
Capt Leonard F Dirks, Co "A"	21 March '43
2nd Lt Lawrence E Decker, Co "A"	21 March '43
Sgt Dick Sellers, Co "C"	25 March '43
Sgt Phil Stern, Hq Co	23 March '43
Sgt James R Dew, Co "C"	21 March '43
Corp George H Fischer, Co "C"	25 March '43
Corp Verney D Nero, Co "E"	21 March '43
Corp Peter A Vetcher, Co "A"	21 March '43
T/4 Harvey L Launer, Hq Co	23 March '43
T/5 Marvin K Madson, Co "C"	
(Died subsequently)	25 March '43
T/5 Thomas F Conrin, Hq Co	25 March '43
T/5 Edward D Fullerton, Co "C"	21 March '43
T/5 Sherman L Legg, Hq Co	19 March '43
Pvt lcl Frank W Palmer, Co "C"	25 March '43
Pvt lcl Arthur M Spckmann, Co "C"	25 March '43
Pvt lcl Warren C Fulks, Co "A"	20 March '43
Pvt lcl Roy A Freeman, Co "A"	20 March '43

WILLIAM O DARBY,
Lt Col, 1st Ranger Bn.,
Commanding.