

HEADQUARTERS 1ST RANGER BATTALION
APO 302, U S Army

5 March 1943

SUBJECT: Report of Action.

TO: The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., (thru II Army Corps).

1. The following report of action against the enemy is submitted as required by para 10, AR 345-105 for the period Feb. 14 to Feb. 28.

2. On Feb. 14, the 1st Ranger Battalion was ordered to withdraw from the vicinity of Gafsa, Tunisia with Companies D and G as rear guard for the Butler force. Withdrawal to vicinity Feriana was affected without contact with the enemy. On Feb. 15, the battalion occupied positions on the high ground to the left (east) of Feriana. On Feb. 16, the Battalion was ordered to withdraw to positions astride the Feriana - Tebessa road in front (south) of Bou Chebka. On Feb. 17, a patrol in Djebel Krechem was routed by the enemy, with the loss of one man, Cpl. PAUL S. HERMSEN, 20706785, believed captured. On Feb. 20, at about 0800 hours, one truck, two sedans and one motorcycle, all enemy, approached our position and were fired upon. The truck was destroyed by gun fire, one sedan captured and one sedan and the motorcycle escaped. Seven Italian prisoners were captured and three enemy killed. No losses to us. At about 1500 hours one enemy sedan approached and was destroyed by gun fire. Three Italians were killed and one wounded and captured. On Feb. 21, two enemy personnel cars and one truck approached our position. The truck was destroyed by gun fire and the personnel cars were captured. Eight German prisoners were taken. The battalion area was shelled with artillery fire till about 1600 hours. The fire was judged to come from the back (south) of Djebel Krechem. Shelling ceased when our own artillery fired on the position. On Feb. 22, Company C was sent to 16th Infantry as a mobile reserve. There was little activity in the battalion area other than normal patrolling. On Feb. 23, one of our patrols reported heavy motor activity on the Kasserine - Feriana road. On Feb. 24, Company C was relieved from reserve with 16th Infantry and returned to the battalion. Our patrol again reported heavy motor activity on Kasserine - Feriana road with vehicles concentrating at the Thelepte road junction. Reported same to higher headquarters and requested bombing mission. Period Feb. 25 to Feb. 28 was comparatively inactive. On March 1, the battalion was relieved by the 60th Infantry and moved to vicinity La Kouif in II Army Corps reserve.

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