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COMPANY "K"
ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIRST REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
APO #36, U. S. Army

Narrative of action - 13 to 21 Sept 1943

On the 13th of September we were on position E of AGROPOLI with listening posts and patrols, but made no contact with the enemy. We continued our patrols until 2130 and then loaded on trucks for the front lines.

At 0100 on the 14th we arrived at a point ten miles SW of ALTAVILLA and detrucked. We marched $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to mountain crest facing ALTAVILLA and set up a defensive position. At 1000 we were ordered to move to a new position. A brief reconnaissance was made, but due to a heavy tank attack and concentrated artillery and automatic weapons fire, we were unable to move until 2100. Our mortar section was highly commended by General O'Daniels for their very effective firing on concentration of enemy troops. A piece of shrapnel from an 88mm shell exploded a hand grenade in a slit trench occupied by Pvt. Hall which completely demolished his rifle, but did not seriously injure Pvt. Hall. His injury was so slight that he was not even required to leave his slit trench. During the complete action of the day, 2nd Lt. Frank L. Beers, Cpl. Canon, Pfc McClanahan and Pvt. Herrng were slightly injured and Pvt. Wright was seriously injured by machine gun fire. That night we arrived at our new position, 600 yards E of the old position and by 2300 we were completely organized.

On the 15th of September we remained in a defensive position and were under concentrated fire from enemy tanks.

On the 16th we again received fire from enemy tanks. On this day we received replacements for two machine guns which had been lost during the landing operations on the morning of September 9th. Throughout the night of September 16th patrols from our 3rd platoon contacted Co "F" of the 142nd RCT on our left. At 2030 Cpl. Mudd was killed by a direct hit in his fox hole from an enemy tank.

At 0300 on the morning of the 17th we received a concentration of fire reported as 210mm mortar. One round of this fire was a tree burst which killed three EM and injured four. The men killed were Pfc Ferrante, Pvt. Chille and Pvt. Niedbalski. The injured were Pvt. Bredice, Pvt. Culliton, Pvt. Lowe and Pvt. Carro. Throughout this day artillery fire continued to fall on our position.

On the morning of the 18th at 1000 we received orders to move three miles S to a new position where we would be attached to the 2nd Bn of the 141st RCT. We arrived at this point at 1600 and dug in another defensive position. At 1800 we were ordered to move to the CP of the 143rd Infantry.

At 0100 on the morning of the 19th we arrived at the 143rd Infantry CP and found that they were ready to move to a new location three miles S of ALTAVILLA. We entrucked and travelled three miles to the new location to furnish protection for their CP.

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Narrative of Action - Company "K" - Cont'd

The 3rd platoon moved out about four miles N into enemy territory on an OP mission. At 1800 we left this position and moved to unnumbered hill E of ALTAVILLA, where we joined the 3rd Bn 141st Infantry. In this area we dug a defensive position. During our stay in this sector no contact was made with the enemy and on September 21st we moved into a bivouac area located between ALTAVILLA NW and the river. The 3rd platoon, which had gone out on the OP mission, rejoined the company in this bivouac area about 1400 the afternoon of 21st September.

JOHN R. McCain
1st Lt., 141st Inf.
Company "K"

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