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HEADQUARTERS 3rd BCT  
141st RCT  
APO # 36, U. S. Army

Narrative of Action - Co. "L" 141st RCT - 9 Sept 1943

Company "L", comprising the 2nd wave of 3rd BCT, landed on Yellow Beach at 0337 on 9 September 1943, encountering considerable gun fire and MG barrages while in the small boats, all of which got ashore. The beach was protected by some wire, principally concertinas, and machine gun fire from both tanks and ground guns, through which the company worked its way to the first phase line where it hastily reorganized, being able to muster the 1st and 3rd platoons and the 2nd platoon, less one squad, together with the command section of company headquarters, and was directed to proceed on an azimuth of 85° to the second phase line in a column of platoons, 1st platoon leading. Immediately after leaving first phase line, this unit began to pass through small groups of Co. "K", which was effecting a reorganization, and proceeded without incident across the first canal and had pushed the 1st and 2nd platoons across the 2nd canal proceeding in the direction of RR-Route 18 crossing when the scouts of leading element reported unidentified people to the front. The two forward platoons were deployed to the front and right and put down in firing positions and the 1st platoon instructed to determine if the people to the front were friends or enemy, having been ordered to withhold fire until fired on. The platoon leader, 2nd Lt. BURCH, and a German interpreter, called out to ascertain the identity of the people to our front and were given some reassuring answer, upon which they started forward but were both cut down and killed instantly by machine gun fire. This machine gun was taken out by automatic rifle fire and rifle fire, but this action brought down such a deadly volume of machine gun fire both to the right and left that it was obvious the position could not be held in the heavy scrub without observation or support on either flank, and the unit was ordered to retire to the canal, dig in two platoons behind the parapet, the third to cover the rear ~~from~~ ~~from~~ from another canal about 100 yards farther back. This position was organized and occupied by 0610 and it was found that the whole weapons platoon, rear section of headquarters and twenty odd men from the rifle platoons including all the grenade launchers were missing. The runners sent out to contact Bn Hq had never got back and the radios could not make contact, but observation was fair, a good supply of ammunition was on hand and the position in which we had left about ten wounded was controlled by our rifles. The position was subjected to steady rifle and machine gun fire, but assault was made on the position by foot troops. Soon after daylight, Lt. McCAIN with two squads from Co "K" moved in and extended the line to the right and put a squad of light mortars in position with the support platoon of Co "L". This squad had lost the sight for its gun but made good use of it to harass machine guns and later tanks which advanced to point blank range of the position on the canal. As the light grew stronger, tank action began to increase, and by 0700, when first contact was made with Bn Hq, there were four tiger tanks beating the brush across the canal to the right and front of the position, two of them crossing the canal and taking up firing positions to the right rear of the forward positions. No fire was delivered on the men who were dug in behind the canal parapet, and mortar fire from rear positions drove them out. About 0730 a platoon from Co ~~the~~ "E" moved in and extended the line to the left along the canal and about 1000 the remainder of the Bn moved up and organized the canal line to the right. Soon thereafter, the weapons platoon rejoined the company, as did the rear section Co Hq and some stragglers, virtually completing the reorganization of the company.

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Narrative of Action - Co "L" - Cont'd

During all this time the Bn Comdr by radio had given material assistance to the preservation of this forward position by directing mortar and naval fire on tank positions and concentrations, undoubtedly preventing their over-running the salient that had been established, and finally served to effect a reorganization along this canal line. There was intermittent enemy artillery fire during the day, which caused no damage, and some close shorts from friendly mortars, causing one superficial wound to one soldier in Co "K". The position was held with only harassing machine gun and sniper fire during the afternoon and was evacuated without incident when the Bn moved forward at 2400. No instances of malingering or misbehaving were observed, but many instances of personal endeavor beyond the call of duty were noted and brought to official notice.

EDGAR FORD  
Captain, 141st Infantry  
Comdg Company "L"

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~~SECRET~~COMPANY "L"  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIRST REGTL COMBAT TEAM  
APO #36, U. S. ArmyNarrative of Action  
covering period from 9th to 21st Sept 1943The 36th  
Division  
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Company "L" of the 141st RCT landed in the assault wave in the initial landings made on Yellow Beach at 0337 on the 9th September 1943. The company met heavy enemy resistance, composed of machine guns and tanks. The company was badly scattered along the beach and had to fight as boat teams, rather than as platoons, or as a company. Two of our platoons were later organized and started to push ahead when they were pinned down by cross fire from automatic weapons. One platoon succeeded in withdrawing to a covered position along the left flank of the Bn, leaving one platoon pinned down in front of them. During this time, the rest of the company had been fighting as boat teams against tanks and machine gun nests, and it wasn't until 1100 that they were brought under company control and into position. All of the company was now together, except one platoon which was pinned down about 400 yards in front of our position. This platoon was not able to join the company until 2000. The company was reorganized and it was found that we had one officer and six EM killed, nine EM wounded and one EM missing. The company remained in position until 2330, at which time they moved with the Bn to Position "V", where they dug in and protected the rear of the Bn. No enemy resistance was encountered during the move or while occupying the position.

At 0300 on 10 September the company was moved to a position at 86.3 - 96.7 above AGROPOLI. We occupied N point of the hill, where they established a road block and protected the Bn from the South. We encountered no enemy resistance during the move or while occupying this position. We had patrols active to the South and West and received only negative reports.

At 1130 on September 11th the company was moved to a ridge SE of road bend (87.6 94.9) where they dug in and protected the left flank of the Bn from attack. We had patrols active from this position and received only negative reports. We did not receive any enemy fire while occupying this position, but one of our shells which fell on our position injured one EM. This was an AA shell and brought the total number of our wounded up to ten.

1300

On the 13th of September at 0100 we were moved by truck toward the left flank of the 45th Division. The last part of the trip was made on foot across country. While moving across country, enemy artillery was falling near our column. One man was wounded, bringing the total wounded up to eleven.

We occupied our position at 81.5 19.5 and started digging in at 0100 on the 14th of September. Patrols were sent out and brought in negative reports of the enemy. At about 1300 on this day one of the medicos attached to our company was killed by enemy artillery fire, which had been falling on and near our position all day. This brought the total of dead up to eight. At 2100 the company was moved to a new position three miles SW of BATTIPAGLIA, where we established contact with the British right flank and dug in. During the 14th and 15th of September we had patrols active and received negative reports of the enemy. Intermittent enemy artillery fire fell on and near our position all day.

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Narrative of Action - Co. "L" - Cont'd

At 0400 on the 16th of September an enemy ~~patrol~~ patrol, estimated to be 15 or 20 men, was observed trying to enter our lines. We opened fire driving the patrol off, capturing one German and knocking out one enemy half track. It could not be observed if there were any enemy dead or wounded. We suffered no casualties during this action.

On the 17th of September we began to lay wire in front of our position. At 1100 pm the men laying the wire were fired on by an enemy patrol. Patrols were quickly sent out, but could not contact the enemy. We suffered ~~no~~ casualties.

Enemy artillery fire continued to all on and near our positions during the 17th and 18th, but caused no casualties. At 2100 two of our platoons were moved to a position on a hill located  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles SE of BATTIPAGLIA, which the 45th Division was to take the following morning. The other two platoons remained in position until 0500 on the 19th, when they were moved to a position about two miles S of BATTIPAGLIA, with their right flank on Hwy 18 and in contact with the British on their left flank. The two platoons  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles SE of BATTIPAGLIA were relieved by troops from the 45th Division at 1230 on the 19th and rejoined the rest of the company. They reported no enemy action.

At 1500 on the 19th of September the company was moved to a position about one mile and a half south of ALTAVILLA, where they occupied a hill and dug in. We had patrols active on the 19th and 20th, from which they turned in negative reports.

On the morning of the 21st of September we moved to a training area located about a mile north of ALTAVILLA.

ROBERT L. DAVEY  
1st Lt. 141st Inf.  
Co "L"

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