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Report date: August – September 1943

Title: After Action Report, 2nd Armored Division

Author: Headquarters Combat Command “A”, 2nd Armored Division

Abstract: Historical record of the 2nd Armored Division.

Number of pages: 6

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AAR # 660 - U

AFTER ACTION REPORT

CC "A"

2ND ARMORED DIVISION

Aug 43 -
~~21 Apr 43~~ thru Sept 43

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HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
2D ARMORED DIVISION

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APO 252,
4 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Historical Record, September 1-30, Inclusive.

TO : Commanding General, 2d Armored Division
(Att: Asst. Chief of Staff, G-3)

1. In accordance with Operation Memorandum 6, Headquarters Second Armored Division, dated 28 July 1943, the following report for the period September 1-30, 1943 is submitted.

a. CC"A" journal and casualty report: attached herewith as annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

b. Operational and movement orders: Elements of this command moved upon written order of Division, or upon verbal order of the Commanding General, Combat Command "A" (See: Paragraph "e" below).

c. March tables and location statements: No march tables issued except verbally; for location statements, see Para. "e" below.

d. Traces, maps and plans: See attached master overlay.

e. Historical narrative of monthly events:

On September 1, G.C."A" Hq. was located at PARTANNA MONDELLO (B405559).

Troops assigned and their locations:

- 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. (-1st Bn).
- Hq. & Hq. Co., Service Co. at FIGUZZA (B453206).
- 2nd Bn. at MARINEO (B500298).
- 3rd Bn. in vicinity 2 miles NW of CORLEONE (B354143).

Troops supporting and their location:

- Co. "C", 48th Medical Bn. at CORLEONE (B385130).

From September 1-7, inclusive, the command was engaged in training and guarding the area of responsibility (see: Overlay). The 3rd Bn., 41st Inf. moved to B322200 on September 6. On September 8, the 41st Inf. was alerted; the 2nd Bn. reverted to Regimental control, the 3rd Bn. came under C.C."A" control and with the advanced CP, C.C."A", moved to the airport (B176670), closing by B322453. On September 11, this special force was recalled and reverted to its former status by 121200.

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On September 14, the C.C."A" a-
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL

overlay, and the 2nd Bn., 41st Inf. moved to the vicinity of SFERRACAVALLLO (B371553), and guards in the former area of responsibility were relieved by II Corps troops by September 18. On this date, the 2nd Bn. sent 2 Officers and 76 Enlisted Men to the FALERMO PW cage for guard and maintenance. Routine guard and training until September 23-24 at which time the 2nd Bn., 41st Inf. moved to the area of the Division Special Reserve force, and their area and work was taken over by the 1st Bn., 41st Inf. which came directly under C.C."A" control. This change was accomplished by 251200B. On September 28-29, Regimental Headquarters, 41st Infantry moved, with Hq. Co. and Service Co. to the vicinity of BORGIO (B322200). During this period, the Division Special Reserve was under C.C."A" for training. For details of the guarding, etc., see the report of the 41st Infantry for this period.

For the Commanding General:

John W. Mettler, Jr.
JOHN W. METTLER, JR.
Major, FA.,
S-3.

Incls. 3

- 1- Annex No. 1
- 2- Annex No. 2
- 3- Master overlay

Cameron 27 Nov.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
2D ARMORED DIVISION

AGO 252,
Sept. 1, 1943.

SUBJECT: Historical Record.

TO : Commanding General, 2d Armored Division,
(Att: Asst. Chief of Staff, G-3)

1. The following report on the activities of Combat Command "A" for the period August 21st to August 31st inclusive is submitted in compliance with your request by message August 29, 1943.

a The CP of Combat Command "A" was located in the villa at G030902. The Combat Command consisting of the 41st Armored Infantry (less the 1st Battalion), was then engaged in the maintenance of law and order CMA in its assigned area of responsibility (See Overlay). The 41st Infantry less the 1st and 3rd Battalions were operating under Combat Command control in the eastern portion of the area; the 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry operating directly under Combat Command control was located in the western portion of the area. The activities at this time consisted of the consolidation of ammunition and materiel into centrally located dumps, patrolling all the main roads and motor vehicles maintained contact with AMGOT officials and guarded essential installations and lines of communication. At 1950B on the 20th of August, the 3rd Battalion had reported an enemy dump containing persistent gas and had established a guard over it. This guard was maintained on the dump until we moved to our new area of responsibility when it was relieved by a guard from CCB.

b The 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry upon being notified of the change in areas was directed to have liaison with the 3rd Infantry Division with reference to their taking over the area. The 41st Armored Infantry Regiment maintained liaison with the II Army Corps on our East with reference to being relieved in that sector by elements of that Corps.

c At 1243B on the 25th of August we had been notified that the relief of our area would be accomplished that day. The 3rd Division had already relieved the 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry as of 0800B, 25th of August and the 3rd Battalion was assembling in the vicinity of Castelvetrano in preparation for move to its new area.

d On the 26th of August, 1943, the CP of Combat Command "A" was established in Partanna-Mondello at 1530B. The 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry moved into its new area and started relieving elements of CCB in that area. It reverted to Regimental control at that time and Regimental Headquarters of the 41st Armored Infantry initiated their move to the new area. The 2nd Battalion, 41st Infantry started assembling preparatory to move on the 27th of August.

e On the 27th of August, 1943, the 2nd Battalion, 41st Infantry closed in its new area at 1600B and began to operate directly under control of Combat Command "A". At the same time it started to relieve elements of CCB in its new area of responsibility.

f When Combat Command "A" moved to its new area of responsibility the 2nd Battalion, 41st Infantry had left guards on several dumps and hydroelectric plants in the old area of responsibility. These guards were not relieved by elements of the II Army Corps until the 28th-29th of August. Elements of Combat Command "A" immediately began to take over patrols of maintenance of law and order CMA in their new area of responsibility and established guards on dumps and essential installations and OP's overlooking the beach sector in Combat Command "A" area of responsibility, being particularly alert for any hostile movement from sea.

g During the period from the 21st-25th of August that Combat Command "A" was in the old area of responsibility (See Overlay), guards were kept on 75 essential installations, vital points and communication lines. Numerous

were located in the 3rd Battalion area of responsibility which were either guarded or consolidated into central dumps. The dumps located are as follows:

F915924 - Railroad Trestle.
A930150 - 1-90mm towed gun, part of breech block missing. No amm.
A935151 - 1-90mm towed gun, part of breech block missing. No amm.
A915142 - 1-90mm towed gun.
A909198 - Rifle grenade ammunition.
A880130) - Old German Bivouac. 88 and 75 shell, about 80
A878120) rds. at each place.
F993991 - 1-75mm gun, damaged trails. 1 truck load of ammunition.
F953965 - 1-75mm gun.
F982914 - Stacked Teller mines.
G055855 - Small Arms.
F963878 - 50 rolls Barb wire.
F908978 - 1000 fuses, 3-75mm guns, 250 rds ammunition.
A989079 - 4-field guns, 300 rds ammunition.
B105116 - 69 drums Mustard Gas.
B130130 - 9-torpedos, some extra w r heads.
F760950 - 5-box cars ammunition and about three truck loads ammunition.
F780951 - 2-truck loads ammunition.
Large ammunition dump in Mazara, guarded by Carbaneiro.
F879919 - 4-Coast Artillery guns, 100 projectiles.
F900954 - 1000 rds 75mm Ammunition in a house.
B069001 - 2-90mm guns.
G095865 - Wrecked American two-motored Bomber.
F784993 - 800 rds 149mm amm. 4-149mm guns.
F753985 - 5-truck loads ammunition stored underground.
G102910 - Unexploded bomb, estimated 250# size, marked by white flags.

h The 2nd Battalion, 41st Infantry investigated a shooting in the vicinity of Giulianna on the 10-21st of August, but was unable to determine the source of the firing.

i Prisoner of War information during this period, negative.

2. During this entire eleven day period training was accomplished in the following subjects in addition to patrols and guards:

a Physical conditioning.
b Close order drill.
c Crew drill.
d Platoon problems.
e A complete maintenance inspection of all vehicles.
f A show down inspection in compliance with orders of Commanding General, 2d Armored Division.

3. In the new area of responsibility guards were placed on the following dumps and installations:

B297086 - Ammunition dump.
B302193 - Oxygen Cylinders.
B339187 - Vehicles.
B39204 - Ammunition dump.
B4315 - Ammunition dump.
B430240 - Vehicles.
B400295 - 300 S Mines.
B383319 - Reservoir.
B393316 - Booster dump.
B380313 - Pier.
B422427 - Ammunition dump.

[REDACTED]

- B393395 - Water Works.
- B374383 - Tunnel w/amm.
- B387383 - Tunnel w/amm.
- B388386 - Tunnel w/amm.
- B393385 - AA Gun, Gun disabled.
- B415316 - Water pipe line.
- B436403 - Cont. Water pipe line.
- B440543 - Enemy Naval gun.
- B437548 - Enemy Naval gun.
- B378547 - RR Bridge.
- B359558 - RR Tunnel
Hwy. Bridge.
RR Bridge.
- B342482 - Disabled AA Gun & Amm. dump.
- B348492 - Disabled AA gun & amm. dump.
- B374477 - Amm. dump.
- B378452 - Amm. dump.
- B434521 - OP w/Radio.
- B427548 - OP w/Radio.
- B371571 - OP w/radio.

4. In compliance with orders from Commanding General, 2d Armored Division operations started on the 31st of August to investigate all Sicilian males of military age to see that they had proper parole or discharge papers. The 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry established six posts for this purpose. The posts are located at:

B351063, B290292, B288309, B366332, B400318.

The 2nd Battalion, 41st Infantry visited Altofonte by patrol for this purpose. Other patrols are also working in the area.

5. Enclosed with this report are the following inclosures; inclosure Number 1 master overlay; inclosure Number 2 copies of overlays received and distributed by this headquarters during the period; inclosure Number 3 operational memoranda (including S-3 File), and inclosure Number 4 two copies of the S-3 Journal.



MAURICE ROSE,
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

Incls: 4

- #1- Master Overlay.
- #2- Copies of overlays rec'd & distributed by this Hq.
- #3- Operational Memoranda.
- #4- Two Copies of S-3 Journal.