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All fighting came to an end in Tunisia on May the 13th, 1943. The Germans had suffered a major defeat and yet, there was little time to congratulate ourselves. The war was not over; only one phase was completed. The period of waiting to again be committed was one of training, guarding prisoners of war and still more training. The Regiment was in their bivouac area near GHOULI PASS when word was received that the French had planned a Victory March through the streets of Tunis. All American forces who had taken part in the African fighting were represented on this occasion by the 135th Infantry Regiment who marched past in a single body under the palms of the BOULEVARD MALLIENI, to the vigorous applause of the crowd.

Following the parade, the Regiment moved to the vicinity of FERRYVILLE, there to train lightly, but mostly rest. While in this area the men were rotated by battalions, so that everyone would be given a chance to enjoy the fine swimming offered by the Mediterranean and other recreational activities, for a period of about three days at a beach west of BILKES. There was work to be done though, and about the 30th of May the Regiment moved to the vicinity of TEBOUCHA, where in an olive grove which seemed probably the hottest in all of Africa, a Division School had been set up by order of the Commanding General. Lessons learned in TUNISIA were here studied and passed on to all men of the Division. All of the staff and demonstration troops came from the Division itself, with the First Battalion, 135th Infantry serving as the Infantry Demonstration Battalion for about 2 weeks. At was a very serious school for General Ryder remarked in the opening address, "We shall fight in Europe, and we shall find there that, in comparison, the TUNISIAN Campaign was just a maneuver conducted with half ammunition". The training was carried on from 0800 hours to 1130 hours each day and training in the afternoon out altogether because of the terrific heat. The Regiment, at this time, was still in woolens and the temperature often rose to 130.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, 1945 (Cont'd)

Finally, after much discomfort in the intense heat, sufficient summer uniforms were issued, "Sun-Tans" being worn by all.

After their demonstration duties were over, the First Battalion was detached from the Regiment and moved to the vicinity of BIERTE where they had their hands full manning a huge prisoner-of-war camp, that was capable of handling 10,000 prisoners. These duties kept the First Battalion busy for about one week.

During the last week in July the Regiment was re-assembled near BIERTE where the First Battalion again came under Regimental control. The entire Regiment then loaded on "40 and B's" (small box-cars that were used in the First World War to transport either 40 men or, else, 8 horses) and their organic vehicles and proceeded to the vicinity of OTAH where the Fifth Army Invasion Training Center was located. There they underwent vigorous training under the direction of the Fifth Army for about 4 weeks. The training was very realistic and included living on ships a short ways off shore. Practice landings were made daily from LVT's and similar craft, and training was carried on under conditions as near to those encountered in combat as possible. To give basic training in amphibious assaults, "lock" wooden ships on dry land were used. The actual landings included the assault of simulated enemy positions. The next 2 weeks following the Invasion, the training was spent in a variety of ways. This training for all units included instructions on mine warfare and booby traps given by Engineer Officers. The Engineer's instructions included training in demolitions, Allied and enemy mines, both anti-vehicle and anti-personnel. This period also included training in street and village fighting, using mock villages and ball ammunition. All men were given opportunities to fire their weapons on both known distance and combat ranges. During the full period, physical training was emphasized which included cross country runs and vigorous road marches, with and without full-field equipment. Big tents "were the style" and the hot dusty country side was dotted with these shelters.

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PHASE V 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

The last week in August the Regiment moved to the vicinity of ELIS-EN near SIDI BEL ABAD, by truck. Here the troops were put through the tough training at the Fifth Army Leadership and Battle Training Center.

In the middle of July, all Company Commanders had been sent to this Battle School to prepare for the conditioning of the troops when they arrive. Here began the tough program of obstacle courses, live artillery barrages and problems with ball ammunition. The men were also given training in the operation, capabilities and tactical use of the enemy's weapons. Night problems were conducted regularly. Infiltration, attack, scouting and patrolling were studied and many problems involved units as large as a Battalion in these operations. Physical training was continuously stressed; "You get out of training only as much as you put into it" - and General Alexander said he had never seen troops "go at it with so much spirit!"

At the conclusion of this training the Regiment returned to an assembly area between BOU SPER and AIN EL TURGE. While the vehicles and equipment were prepared for loading aboard ship, the men continued a regular standard training schedule of physical training, nomenclature of weapons, study of crew served weapons and preparing themselves for what lay ahead.

The loading of vehicles and equipment started on the 9th of September, 1943 and on the 15th of September, 1943, personnel and unit-baggage was loaded aboard three British ships. Col. Robert W. Ford was the officer in charge of troops on the ARANDO which had aboard, the Headquarters and Headquarters Co., the Band, the Medical Detachment, Service Company, Anti-aircraft units; Detachment 47th Quartermaster Co., Graves Registration Unit and the 44th Fire Intelligence section. The ARANDO was the only ship that transported the 1st Battalion, and kept the Bar open to the enjoyment of many! Major F. A. McCulloch, was the officer in charge of troops on the EMPIRE TROOPER, which carried the Second Battalion. The DURBIN CASTLE carried the Third Battalion and the 185th Field Artillery Battalion. The ships moved to the outer MERS EL KEBIR harbor; the same port at which most of the Regiment landed nine months previously; formed in convoy and sailed for an unknown destination.

PHASE V 135TH INFANTRY REGIMENT HISTORY (Cont'd)

Information for the above narrative came from the following sources:

1. Regimental S-3 reports
2. The 31st Infantry Division Handbook-Louisiana to Pisa published by I and A Section, MTOUSA.
3. Personal accounts of Capt. James Garfield, 1st Sgt Donald Shutt, and 1st Sgt Ernest Flowers.
4. Narrative History, 135th Infantry Regiment (May 15th, 1943, Oct. 31st, 1943).
5. Battalion Diaries

There were no battle casualties suffered during the above period, although several accidents occurred both in training and in movements.

The Regiment received the following replacements during the period.

Officers	_____	40
Enlisted Men	_____	371

The following personnel were wounded by enemy bomb fragments while on guard duty at BIZERTZ

Pvt	Malone, Charles G.	36307195	Co. "K"
Pvt	Mobley, Clarence F.	38321448	Co. "K"