AFRICAN VETS

HOLD REUNION

Rense Acquaintance During Visit Of War Department Official At Atterbury

CAMP ATTERBURY, June 6.—A major and a sergeant who joined in the first wave of American troops during the invasion of Africa on Sunday afternoon, sounded a trumpet and this time the sound of gunfire, but this time the salute was not to the enemy and it was just for practice.

Major H. P. Frezzell, aide to Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, was watching a demonstration of fire power put on by the 10th Division at Camp Atterbury when he caught sight of 834th Charles D. Weber, who wears the silver star for gallantry in action.

The major, who had recommended him for the decoration, bounded from his seat, greeted the sergeant warmly, introduced him to Undersecretary Patterson, and sat with him throughout the demonstration, continuing over battle experiences and then certainly had something to talk about.

On November 9, 1942, the first wave of the First Division had landed on African soil and was advancing rapidly toward St. Cloud. There had been no resistance, as a rule company was given the assignment of capturing the city, particularly the railroad bridge. Capt. Weber, an assistant squad leader, led his six-man patrol directly toward the company, moved down a number of American soldiers and sped on. The company dispersed along the road. There were armored cars appeared and moved in to destroy the unit.

Capt. Frezzell stood a tank, prepared to fire, and fired first shot of the war against the enemy. There was a terrific explosion and the armored carSkills added to a halt. The other two were blocked behind it, and in a matter of seconds were captured.

Two days later, Capt. Frezzell was wounded by shrapnel, but insisted on rejoining his command after his recovery rather than returning to the States.

The company fought on throughout the African campaign, and two days before the German collapse, Capt. Frezzell joined the 10th Division, and when the war ended in 1945. Capt. Weber remained in the Army with his injuries, and with the rank of Major, has become an Army to the Undersecretary of War.

1944-06-06 Africn Vets hold reunion at Atterbury

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Sun, May 7, 2017