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Report date: 20 October 1944 – 8 May 1945

Title: After Action Report of the United States Army 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division

Abstract: U.S. Army 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, After Action Report, 20 October 1944-8 May 1945 to include notes from the Campaign in Western Europe, narratives, *overlays, unit notes, etc.

Number of pages: 127 plus *18 rescanned overlays and maps

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AAR# 289

AFTER ACTION REPORT

846-16

14TH TANK BATTALION

NINTH ARMORED DIVISION

20 OCT 44 thru 8 MAY 45

~~846-16~~

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
APO #259
U. S. Army

711K-2
20-31 Oct 44

AFTER ACTION REPORT
20 Oct 44 to 31 Oct 44

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Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

1. Campaign - Western Europe.

29 Sep 45 ----- HSP
Date Initials

2. Map References:

- a. Europe Road Map 1/200,000; Sheet Mons-Luxembourg.
- b. Central Europe, 1/100,000, OSOS 4416; Sheets 21, 21 and U1.
- c. OSOS 4414, 1/25,000, Sheets 5802, 5803, 5802, 5803, 5804, 5702, 5703, 5704 and 6102.

3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

- a. Hq & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407733.
- b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: Francis E. Voegeli, Capt Cav (Armd), 024699.
- c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: George P. Soumas, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101146.
- d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: Philip B. Pitts, Capt Cav (Armd), 0370143.
- e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: Vincent J. Tranfaglia, Capt Cav (Armd), 0254780.
- f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: Harold G. Wright, Capt Cav (Armd), 0456067.

Section II. Statistical Data:

1. Personnel Losses:

20 October to 31 October 1944 - None.

2. Personnel Replacements:

	Officers	N/Officers	EN
20 Oct 44	None	None	None
21 Oct 44	None	None	None
22 Oct 44	None	None	None
23 Oct 44	None	None	None
24 Oct 44	None	None	None
25 Oct 44	None	None	None
26 Oct 44	None	None	None
27 Oct 44	None	None	None
28 Oct 44	None	None	None
29 Oct 44	None	None	2
30 Oct 44	None	None	None
31 Oct 44	None	None	None

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Part I, Section II Cont'd:

3. Prisoner's of War taken:
None.
4. Vehicular Losses:
None.
5. Vehicular Replacements:
None.
6. Ammunition Expenditure:
76mm -- 235 Rounds.

Section III, Narrative.

The 14th Tank Battalion bivouaced in the vicinity of Ettlebruck, Luxembourg on 20 October 1944 (See overlay #1). On 24 October the battalion moved by infiltration to a new bivouac area in the vicinity of Huldinger, Luxembourg per VOCC 00000, 9th Armored Division and closed in bivouac at 241600 October 1944 (See overlay #2).

There was no change in the disposition of troops until 26 Oct 1944 at which time the 2nd platoons of company "A" and Company "B" moved into firing positions in the vicinity of Weiswampach, Luxembourg per VOCC CC "B", 9th Armored Division, and reinforced the fire of the 16th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Armored Division (See Overlay #3). The platoons closed in position at 261400 October 1944.

From 27 to 29 October 1944, the 2nd platoons of Companies A and B continued to fire in reinforcement of the 16th Field Artillery Battalion. A total of 181 rounds were fired with no results observed.

Verbal Orders from the Commanding General, Combat Command "B", 9th Armored Division were received on 29 October, 1944 directing that Companies A and B move into firing positions in the vicinity of Weiswampach, Luxembourg to further reinforce the fire of the 16th Field Artillery Battalion. The companies closed in firing position at 291000 October 1944. 154 rounds were fired from 29 October to 31 October 1944 with no results observed. (See overlay #4)

Enemy action, during the period 20 October 1944 to 31 October 1944, did not directly affect the unit's mission. However the constant possibilities of air attack, enemy artillery fire, and enemy patrol activity caused the unit to dig in, post air sentries, and post additional guards.

Operations in general were limited to the roads by both the weather and the terrain. Poor visibility interfered with fire direction and limited the time that effective firing could be accomplished.

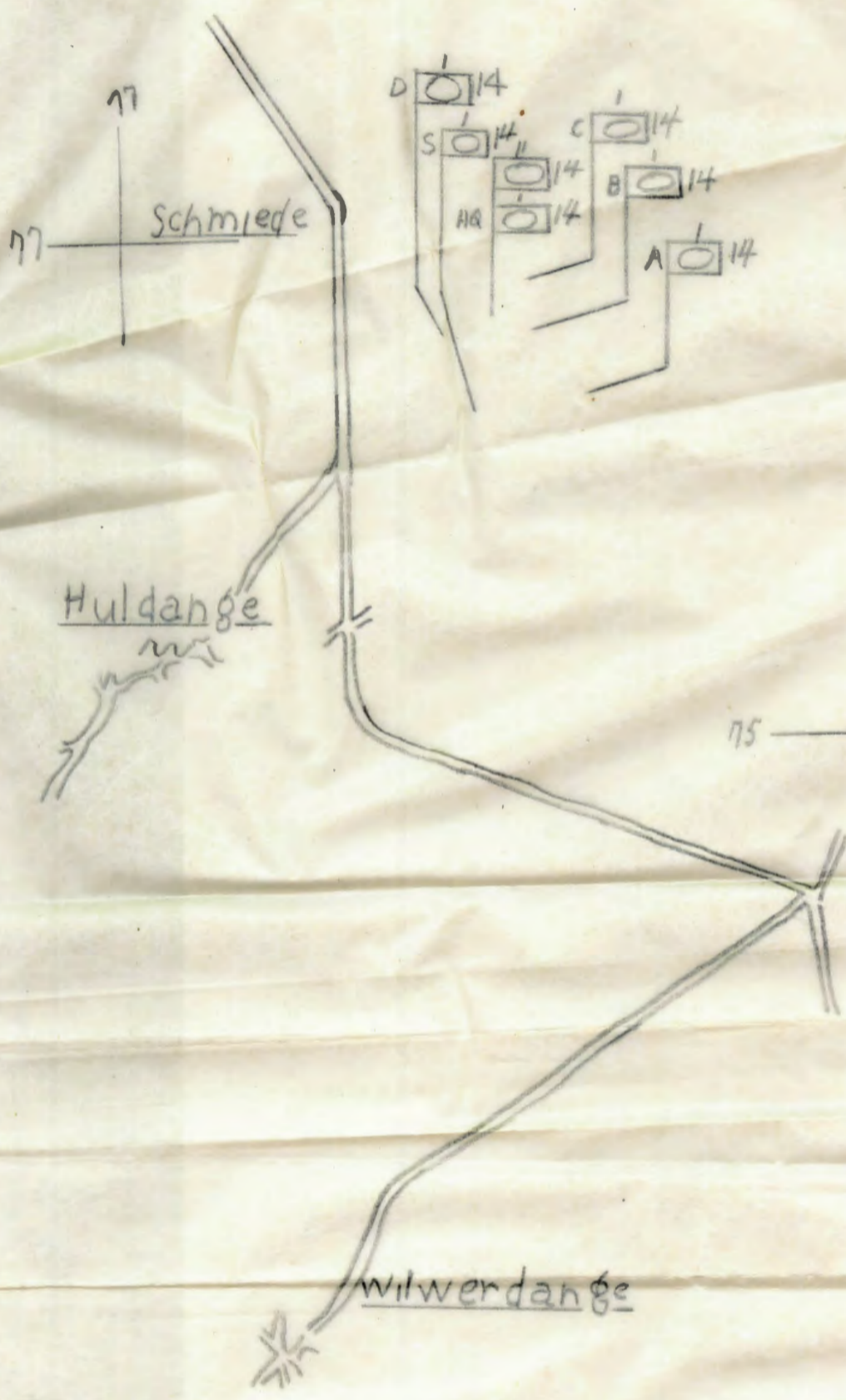
Section IV. Comment.

None.

Part I (Continued):

Section V - Maps, etc.

1. Overlay No. 1 - Position of 14th Tank Battalion near Ettlebruck, Luxembourg.
2. Overlay No. 2 - Position of 14th Tank Battalion near Haldingen, Luxembourg.
3. Overlay No. 3 - Position of 2nd Platoons of Companies "A" and "B", 14th Tank Battalion, near Weiswampach, Luxembourg.
4. Overlay No. 4 - Position of Companies "A" and "B" near Weiswampach, Luxembourg.



OVERLAY 1: 25 000
 G. S. G. S. 4414 SHEET 5802
 (BURG-REULAND)

Disposition 14th Tank Bn 241600 Oct 44

OFFICIAL

CHANDLER MAJOR
 S-3

Overlay #2

**Map overlay not available
for digital viewing.**

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION

APO #859

U. S. Army

11115-289
30 Nov 44

9 Jan 46 HSD
Date Initials

AFTER ACTION REPORT

1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944

Part I

Section I. Introduction.

1. Campaign:
Western Europe.
2. Map References:
 - a. Europe Road Map 1/200,000; sheets Mons - Luxembourg.
 - b. Central Europe, 1/100,000, GSGS 4416; Sheets T1, S1, and U1.
 - c. GSGS 4414, 1/25,000; Sheets 5902, 5903, 5902, 5903, 5904, 5702, 5703, and 5704.
3. Units and commanders of all subordinate troops:
 - a. Hq and Hq Company 14th Tank Bn., Frank M. Simon, Jr., Capt., Cav. (Armd), 0407738.
 - b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn., Francis E. Voegeli, Capt., Cav. (Armd), 024699.
 - c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn., George P. Soumas, Capt., Inf. (Armd), 0101146.
 - d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn., Philip B. Fitz, Capt., Cav. (Armd), 0370143.
 - e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn., Vincent J. Tranfaglia, Capt., Cav. (Armd), 0354780.
 - f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn., Harold G. Wright, Capt., Cav. (Armd), 0456067.

609-69
D

Section II. Statistical Data

1. Personnel losses:

KIA		DOW DOI		Wounded Injured In Action		MIA		Capt		Sk & Other Non-Battle Losses	
OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. Personnel Replacements:

Date	Officers	Warrant Officers	Enlisted Men
1 November	2	None	None
2 November	None	None	None
3 November	None	None	1
4 November	None	None	None
5 November	None	None	None
6 November	None	None	None
7 November	None	None	None
8 November	None	None	None
9 November	None	None	None
10 November	None	None	None

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Part I, Section II, Cont'd:

11 November	None	None	None
12 November	None	None	None
13 November	None	None	None
14 November	None	None	3
15 November	None	None	None
16 November	None	None	None
17 November	None	None	None
18 November	None	None	None
19 November	None	None	2
20 November	None	None	None
21 November	None	None	2
22 November	None	None	None
23 November	None	None	None
24 November	None	None	None
25 November	None	None	1
26 November	None	None	None
27 November	None	None	4
28 November	None	None	None
29 November	None	None	None
30 November	None	None	None
Total	- 2 -	None	- 15

3. Prisoners of War Taken: None.

4. Vehicular Losses: None.

5. Vehicular Replacements: None.

6. Ammunition Expenditures:

75 MM - 2979 rounds
105 MM - 1154 rounds

Section III. Narrative:

The 14th Tank Battalion Assault Gun Platoon occupied a firing position vicinity Weiswampach, to reinforce fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion, closing 021000 November 1944 (See overlay #1) per WOCG CC "B", 9th Armored Division.

Company "C", 14th Tank Bn, relieved Company "A", 14th Tank Bn, in firing position vicinity Weiswampach with mission of supporting 16th Field Artillery Battalion, closing 271200 November 1944 (See overlay #1) per WOCG CC "B", 9th Armored Division.

During period 1-26 November 1944 Companies "A" and "B" fired 2762 rounds reinforcing fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion. During period 27-30 November companies "B" and "C" fired 217 rounds reinforcing fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion. During period 2-30 November, Assault Gun Platoon fired 1154 rounds reinforcing fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion. No results observed on any firing.

Part I, Section III, Cont'd:

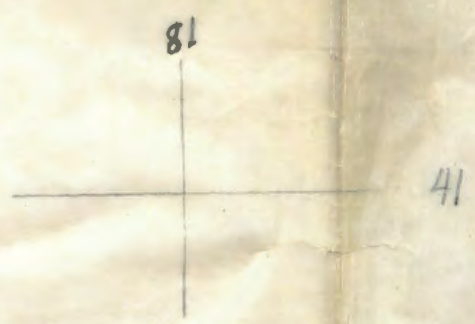
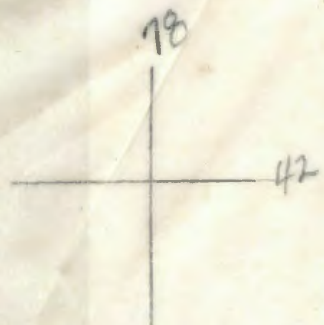
The action during November was not influenced by the enemy. Weather was generally rainy and foggy adversely affecting observation and largely limiting employment of tanks and Assault Guns to unobserved interdiction and harassing missions.

Section IV. Comments:

None.

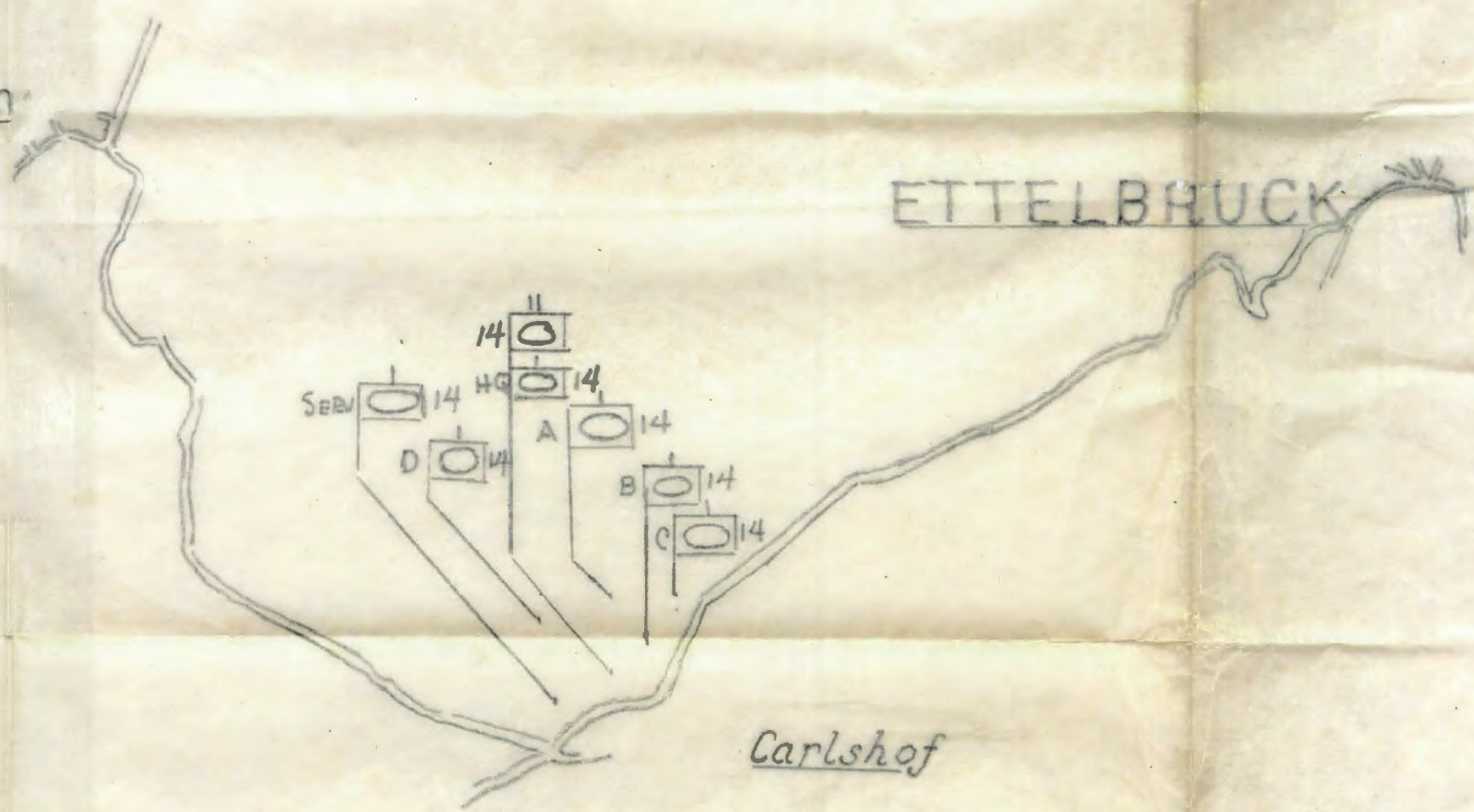
Section V. Maps, etc.

1. Overlay #1, Disposition of 14th Tank Bn, during period 1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944.



Oberfeulen

ETTELBRUCK



Carlshof

OVERLAY 1:25 000
G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 6102
(DIEKIRCH)

Disposition 14th Tank Bn 21001 Oct 44
to 241100 Oct 44

OFFICIAL:

Chandler
CHANDLER - MAJOR

Overlay #1

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HEADQUARTERS ENGINEER TANK BATTALION
APO #89
U. S. Army

AMR-283
1-31 Dec 44

AFTER ACTION REPORT
1 Dec 44 to 31 Dec 44

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Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

1. Campaign - Western Europe.

29 Sep 45 HSC
Date Initials

2. Map References:

- a. GSGS 4414, 1/25,000, Sheets #602, 5702, 5703, and 5802.
- b. France - Belgium, 1/50,000 Sheets #80, 81, 92, and 93.
- c. GSGS 4416, 1/100,000, Sheet #81.
- d. Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet #13.

3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

- a. H. & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407738.
- b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: Francis P. Voegeli, Capt Cav (Armd), 024699.
- c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: George P. Thomas, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101146.
- d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: Philip B. Pitts, Capt Cav (Armd), 0370143.
- e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: 1 December 1944 to 18 December 1944, Capt Vincent J. Tranfaglia, Cav (Armd), 0384780. 19 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, William P. DeLaWater, 1st Lt. Inf (Armd), 0101098.
- f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: 1 December 1944 to 24 December 1944, Harold G. Wright, Capt Cav (Armd), 0456067. 25 December 1944 to 31 December 1944, Paul W. Fisher, 1st Lt. Cav (Armd), 01011309.

Section II. Statistical Data:

1. Personnel Losses: 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 (inclusive)

KIA		DOF DOI		Wounded Injured in Action		MIA		Capt		Sk & other Non-Battle Losses	
OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM
0	1	0	0	4	56	0	30	0	0	2	15

2. Personnel Replacements:

	Officers	W/Officers	EM
1 Dec 44	None	None	None
2 Dec 44	None	None	None
3 Dec 44	None	None	None
4 Dec 44	None	None	None
5 Dec 44	None	None	None
6 Dec 44	None	None	None

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	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>W/OFFICERS</u>	<u>EN</u>
7 Dec 44	None	None	1
8 Dec 44	None	None	None
9 Dec 44	None	None	None
10 Dec 44	None	None	None
11 Dec 44	None	None	None
12 Dec 44	None	None	None
13 Dec 44	None	None	None
14 Dec 44	None	None	None
15 Dec 44	None	None	1
16 Dec 44	None	None	None
17 Dec 44	None	None	None
18 Dec 44	None	None	None
19 Dec 44	None	None	None
20 Dec 44	None	None	None
21 Dec 44	None	None	None
22 Dec 44	None	None	None
23 Dec 44	None	None	None
24 Dec 44	None	None	2
25 Dec 44	None	None	None
26 Dec 44	None	None	5
27 Dec 44	None	None	1
28 Dec 44	None	None	1
29 Dec 44	None	None	None
30 Dec 44	None	None	1
31 Dec 44	None	None	None
Total	7	None	17

3. Personnel of War taken: 1 December 1944 to 31 December 1944 (Inclusive)

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>W/OFFICERS</u>	<u>EN</u>
1 Dec 44	None	None	None
2 Dec 44	None	None	None
3 Dec 44	None	None	None
4 Dec 44	None	None	None
5 Dec 44	None	None	None
6 Dec 44	None	None	None
7 Dec 44	None	None	None
8 Dec 44	None	None	None
9 Dec 44	None	None	None
10 Dec 44	None	None	None
11 Dec 44	None	None	None
12 Dec 44	None	None	None
13 Dec 44	None	None	None
14 Dec 44	None	None	None
15 Dec 44	None	None	None
16 Dec 44	None	None	None
17 Dec 44	1	None	5
18 Dec 44	None	None	None
19 Dec 44	None	None	None
20 Dec 44	None	None	4
21 Dec 44	None	None	None
22 Dec 44	None	None	None
23 Dec 44	None	None	None
24 Dec 44	None	None	None
25 Dec 44	None	None	None

Part I, Section II, Par. 5 Cont'd:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>W/Officers</u>	<u>SN</u>
26 Dec 44	None	None	None
27 Dec 44	None	None	None
28 Dec 44	None	None	None
29 Dec 44	None	None	None
30 Dec 44	None	None	None
31 Dec 44	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
Total	1	None	90

4. Vehicular Losses: 1 Dec 1944 to 31 Dec 1944 (Inclusive)

Medium Tanks, M4A3:

Company "A" - 7 Destroyed

Company "B" - 1 Destroyed

Company "C" - 4 Destroyed

105mm Howitzer, M4:

1 Destroyed

1/2 ton 4x4 trucks:

5 Lost and Abandoned

2 1/2 ton 6x6 trucks:

4 Lost and Abandoned

1 ton cargo trailers:

4 Lost and Abandoned

Light Tank, M5A1:

2 Destroyed

1 Abandoned

1 Ambulance - Abandoned (Missing in Action)

5. Vehicular Replacements: 1 Dec 1944 to 31 Dec 1944 (Inclusive)

13 Medium Tanks, M4A2

1 105mm Howitzer, M4A3

5 1/2 ton 4x4 trucks

3 2 1/2 ton 6x6 trucks

1 1 ton cargo trailer

1 3/4 ton ambulance

6. Ammunition Expenditure: 1 Dec 1944 to 31 Dec 1944 (Inclusive)

76mm H.E.	2261 rounds
76mm APC	740 rounds
76mm HV APT-4	110 rounds
105mm HE	425 rounds
81mm Mortar WP	125 rounds
81mm Mortar Light	72 rounds
37mm AP	80 rounds
37mm HE	120 rounds
37mm Canister	20 rounds
50 Cal. Linked	1525 rounds

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art I, Section II, Par. 6 Cont'd:

30 Cal. Belted	91,060 rounds
30 Cal. Carbine	1,800 rounds
Grenades Frag., Hand	92

Section III, Narrative.

During the period 1-12 December 1944, the battalion bivouaced in areas shown on overlay. Company "B" and Company "C" occupied firing positions indicated on overlay supporting fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion. Assault Gun Platoon occupied position vicinity of Weiswampach supporting fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion. At 030900 two personnel from Company "C" occupied concrete water tower north of Heinerscheld as an OP to permit taking additional target area under fire. Companies "B" and "C" were registered on check points from this OP.

Action during this period not influenced by enemy activity. Weather generally misty seriously limiting visibility. Majority of missions were unobserved harassing and interdiction fires fired on call from Corps Artillery to 16th Field Artillery Fire Direction Center. Company "B" expended 625 rounds. Company "C" expended 845 rounds. No results observed. (See Overlay #1)

From 13-16 December 1944, the battalion moved from area Weiswampach, Schneide, Beyfeldt to vicinity Ligneuville by route Beho-Salmchateau-Vielsalm, Recht. Departed area 130730 and closed vicinity Ligneuville 131100 December 1944 in assembly position. Purpose of move to be in position to support attack of Second Infantry Division on Poor Five Dams above Dreiborn, Germany. Combat Command attached to Second Infantry Division as of 8 December for this operation.

Six officers from the battalion joined combat teams of 2nd Infantry Division at 121700 December 1944. One tank dozer from Company "B" sent to Second Infantry Division 150800 to assist in clearing road block. Battalion relieved from Second Division with balance of CC "B", without further participation in the operation, and returned to control of VIII Corps 161416 December 1944. (See Overlay #2)

On 17 December 1944, the battalion less "B" trains ordered to move from Ligneuville to St. Vith departing Ligneuville 170550. Order received 170130. Move accomplished via route Ligneuville, Nieder Emels, St. Vith joining balance of Combat Command there at 0700. Closed in assembly area vicinity Breitfeld 171000 December. Assault Gun Platoon moved into position to support fires of 16th Field Artillery Battalion at 171200. At 171230 December First Platoon Company "A" was committed to support an attack of the 27th Armored Infantry toward Elsherath. In this action, platoon had two tanks knocked out; one of which was recovered by Battalion Maintenance Section. At 171430 December platoon engaged German Infantry with direct fire from its 76mm guns inflicting heavy casualties and taking 87 prisoners.

At 171500 Companies "A" (less first platoon) "B" and "C" left assembly area for an attack on Winterspelt with line of departure on high ground south of Steinbruck. Attack was cancelled at 171523 prior to arrival of leading company at line of departure, and companies returned to assembly area.

At 171600 the position of First Platoon Company "A" was isolated by withdrawal of 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, and the platoon was recalled to the assembly area at 171635. Position was outposted and a perimeter defense for the night set up as indicated on overlay.

Results of action: Enemy advancing on St. Vith from vicinity Winterspelt was halted south of Steinbruck. Estimated enemy killed thirty (30), prisoners taken eighty-seven (87). See Overlay #3)

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On 17 December 1944 Service Company 14th Tank Battalion less "A" Trains, was in CC "B", 9th Armored Division trains park in immediate proximity to Ligneuville, Belgium. At about 1430 warning reached Service Company, 14th Tank Battalion command post by foot messenger that enemy columns were two to three kilometers from Ligneuville and approaching from the north and east. Small arms fire immediately followed by larger caliber enemy tank weapons occurred within ten minutes after the warning was received. This organization while becoming engaged with the enemy in a fire fight withdrew along a hard dirt road toward the northwest thru Ligneuville-Bellevaux, Ligneuville Calmedy. Then because of congested traffic at a standstill on Hwy N28 Service Company retraced to Bellevaux-Ligneuville and then traveled to Stavelot where traffic was still congested on N28. Still following hard dirt roads the route employed was Stavelot-Rois de l'abbaye-Lanneruaul-Barrance-Fauve Spinaux-Hwy 28. From Hwy 28 the trains convoy followed Grand Halleux-Vielsalm-Salmchateau-Scho-Deyfeldt arriving about 2000. On 18 December 1944 the convoy moved vicinity Deyfeldt-Scho-Salmchateau-Ioubieval to Grand Sart where it remained and functioned until 22 December 1944 when Ioubieval and vicinity was attacked by enemy foot troops from the South. Service Company trains withdrew to Verbomont without becoming engaged.

All Service Company, 14th Tank Battalion vehicles were evacuated from Ligneuville except one fuel and lube cargo trailer; one company headquarters cargo trailer with records, mail, supplies, and personal belongings; and one company maintenance cargo trailer containing supplies. Abandoned were one disabled 2 1/2 ton kitchen truck and cargo trailer of Company "B", 14th Tank Bn., one disabled 105mm assault gun of Headquarters Company, 14th Tank Battalion, and one disabled medium tank dozer of Company "A", 14th Tank Battalion. The latter was disabled by enemy action after the crew had knocked out three enemy light tanks and two enemy medium tanks. An undetermined amount of further enemy armor and enemy dismounted troops were also observed before contact was broken.

18 December 1944. At 180830 Companies "A" and "C" and Ron platoon were sent to St. Vith on orders from CC "B" to meet a German thrust from the Northeast. Companies moved to St. Vith with "C" Company leading. Enemy armored column was contacted along road about 1000 yards northeast of the city and contact was maintained until approximately 181400, by which time our forces had pushed to a position along the road about 2500 yards Northeast of St. Vith. At 18120 the Battalion F was moved to St. Vith, and established at road junction at 182533. At 181200 Company "A" was passed through Company "C" to continue the advance while Company "C" was resupplied with ammunition.

The situation to the front and flanks was obscure preventing Company "A" and "C" from following the enemy armor beyond a distance of about 2500 yards from St. Vith. The Companies maintained positions in that vicinity from 181400 to 181700 at which time they were relieved by infantry and armored units of the 7th Armored Division.

During the course of this action seven enemy tanks were knocked out by the fire of our tanks including one Mark VI. One Company "C" tank was disabled by an enemy bazooka which was fired from its rear, but was able to proceed to the rear under its own power. At 181700 Companies "A" and "C" returned to the Battalion assembly area near Breitfeld accompanied by the Battalion G.



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At 180930 the Mortar platoon was sent to the high ground southwest of Dreibutten to observe the progress of an attack by enemy forces against the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion from the vicinity of Steinbruck. The platoon continued in observation throughout the day reporting periodically to the Battalion CP by radio. Platoon was withdrawn to assembly area at 181730.

At 181000 CC "B" reported enemy concentrations in vicinity of Schlierbach and directed that the situation be developed by road patrols. At this time Company "D" was dispatched to patrol roads between Breitfeld and Schlierbach. From the vicinity of Breitfeld mounted road patrols in platoon strength were dispatched to reconnoiter Schlierbach, Die Hardt and the adjoining roads. Contact with enemy infantry of undetermined strength was established at Schlierbach. At 181500 one of our light tanks entering Schlierbach ran onto an anti tank gun at point blank range. In attempting to back into cover the tank went into a ditch and turned over. At that time the tank came under enemy small arms fire and was abandoned by the crew.

Company "D" was withdrawn from this mission at 181615 and returned to its area at 181730 bivouacking for the night on the high ground 500 yards east of Breitfeld and covering the Breitfeld-Schlierbach road by dismounted outposts.

At 181600 the 18th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to the rear and the assault gun platoon rejoined the Battalion. At 181630 Company "B" occupied the high ground 871848-870856 prepared to cover to the front.

At 181730 the Battalion less Company "D" had reassembled in the original area. At 181800 an overlay was received indicating that the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion had established lines to the south and east 500 to 600 yards in front of the tanks. Investigation proved, however, that the infantry had actually fallen back to positions directly around the tanks, and accordingly strong security measures were taken. During the night 18-19 December the sound of enemy vehicles to the south of the Battalion was distinctly audible in the Company "B" position.

Results of action. Enemy armored column advancing from Northeast was forced back from St. Vith. Enemy advancing from southeast was held along the line Lemmerweiler-Schlierbach. Estimated enemy killed 45. Enemy tanks knocked out 7. (See overlay #4)

19 December 1944. At 181900 December orders were received from CC "B" that the Combat Command would defend St. Vith from its present position against attack from the south making contact with the 7th Armored Division near Breitfeld. A defense in depth was decided on and prior to daylight dispositions as shown on the overlay were effected.

At 190030 the service "A" trains were moved to a position just north of Bauvern 842562. At 0800 Company "B" moved to defiladed firing positions along ridge 871848-872854. Company "C" moved into position along the line 876858-879860 to defend to the southeast, Company "A" and the Assault Gun Platoon were withdrawn at the same time to reserve positions between Feisenbach and St. Vith from which they could support the action. Mortar Platoon went into firing positions 500 yards north of Company "B". The Battalion CP moved to Breitfeld. Company "D" remained in position covering approaches from Schlierbach.

- 6 -

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At 190840 Company "B" reported Infantry 800 to 1000 yards south, but were unable to identify it. As elements of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion were supposed to be in that area fire was withheld. At 190845 CO "B" reported a concentration of ten enemy tanks in the vicinity of Lemmersweiler. At 190900 infantry patrols reported movement of enemy armor from vicinity of Lemmersweiler toward Schlierbach along the defile running northeast from Steinbruck.

At 190900 the 2nd Platoon of Company "C" was sent to reinforce Company "D" against anticipated enemy action from the vicinity of Schlierbach. At 191000 Company "B" position received moderate artillery fire and a few rounds fell near the CP.

At 191008 Company "B" opened fire on an enemy tank in edge of woods at 881850 knocking it out and setting the woods on fire. At 191108 Company "B" fired at another enemy tank on the ridge directly to their south. Hits were secured on this tank and the crew dismounted and abandoned it. The situation at this time regarding the 27th Infantry to the front of Company "B" was obscure, and no assurance as to the exact position of the infantry could be obtained.

At 191128 the Assault Gun Platoon leader went forward to the Company "B" position and registered his platoon in the Company "B" target area to fire in direct support. Company "B" came under enemy artillery fire again at 191128. The fire was from high velocity flat trajectory weapons with overcausing casualties in the Company "A" position to the rear.

At 191237 the road junction at Breitfeld was brought under mortar fire which appeared to be coming from a location to the southeast. The fire was accurately laid on the road junction, but did not endanger the CP which was about 200 yards from the road junction.

At 191338 Company "B" knocked out another tank to their direct front on the next ridge. This tank, which was set on fire, was believed to be a Sherman manned by enemy personnel. At 191450 Company "B" was shelled again and fired on enemy personnel assembling in woods 1000 yards to their south. This fire is believed to have been very effective. At 191500 Company "B" took another enemy tank under fire, but it retired behind a building, and it is not known if it was hit or not. At 191538 Company "B" received heavy artillery concentration from guns of medium caliber. From 191540 to 191605 this fire was shifted to the CP. The fire was accurately adjusted although no personnel or vehicles were hit.

At 191638 enemy infantry started advancing through the draw to the east of the Company "D" position. This infantry was fired on by Company "D" and 2nd Platoon Company "C". At 191640 2nd Platoon Company "C" was joined by 3rd platoon Company "C", and the two medium platoons charged the enemy at close range inflicting heavy casualties and breaking up the attack. As the enemy retreated into the woods the mortar platoon brought heavy fire into the trees over their heads continuing the disorganization of the attack. At 1730 3rd platoon rejoined Company "C" in its original position.

At 191615 orders were received to prepare for withdrawal to positions west of it. With under cover of darkness. At 1706 Company "A" was moved to high ground vicinity Galkhausen Kreis 855862 to take up positions covering to the south and east. At 1810 the balance of the Battalion started withdrawing and closed in bivouac area vicinity Trufflingen at 2045.

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Results of action. Enemy was denied access to St. Vith from southeast during the period. Estimated enemy killed 50. Enemy vehicles knocked out 3. (See Overlay #5)

20 December 1944. At 200730 Reconnaissance Platoon was dispatched to reconnoiter route Grufflingen-Neubrueck-Bauvonn-Galhausen-Rovenknapp-CR 515 (847816) and to contact Troop "D" 89th Reconnaissance Squadron which was patrolling road from 852841 to 847816. Mission was blocked by impassable road at 848827. At 200800 Company "B" was alerted by order of CC "B" and started toward St. Vith. The Company was released by CC "B" at 200810 and returned to the Battalion area from which place they were dispatched to a position at the south end of Grufflingen to protect against any armored threat from the vicinity of Oudler.

At 200830 3rd Platoon Company "C" was sent to 815150 to block any enemy armored threat from Thommen. At the same time Company "D" was dispatched to CR 515 with the mission of contacting Troop "D" 89th Reconnaissance Squadron and making a reconnaissance in force to the east and south in that vicinity. Company "C" less 3rd Platoon was disposed on the high ground northeast of Grufflingen for local security. These disposition were all completed by 200900.

Company "D" made enemy contact at CR 515 at 200955 drawing hostile small arms fire. The terrain in this locality was heavily wooded making development of the situation very slow. At 201055 an AT gun was discovered to the front, and the engines of enemy vehicles could be heard. A forward observer was dispatched to Company "D" at 201042.

At 201150 Company "B" came under fire from flat trajectory artillery from the south or southwest. This fire continued throughout the day and was believed to be direct fire, but the hostile guns were never sighted.

At 201234 Company Commander of Headquarters Company took 16 men from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and proceeded to the Company "D" position to act as an infantry platoon. This type reinforcement was necessary because of the close terrain in which Company "D" was engaging the enemy. Two wounded PW were taken by Company "D" at 201232.

At 201250 Company "D" called for artillery fire on the infantry in front of CR 515. The forward observer could not get contact with his battalion, so the fire was adjusted by a tank platoon leader who sent his commands to the Battalion CP. These were in turn relayed by telephone to the 16th Field Artillery Fire Direction Center. One battery was registered on the enemy concentration with fire effective. The concentration was assigned a number by the fire direction center for use as a base point for future missions. At 201520 Company "D" had a tank knocked out by an enemy bazooka. At 201525 Company "D" took four more PW's. By this time the mortar platoon was laid and ready to fire in support of Company "D" if needed, but this support was never requested by the Company Commander. The Company lost another tank by artillery at 201542.

At 201705 3rd Platoon Company "C" was alerted to move to the vicinity of the CC "B" CP at Neubrueck to protect against a tiger tank reported to be on the road between Neubrueck and St. Vith. This tank failed to materialize, and the platoon rejoined the Company at 201845.

At 1800 Reconnaissance platoon was attached to Company "D" to assist the dismounted men already there in patrolling during the night. Patrolling ordered by CC "B" included contact with 27th Armored Infantry Battalion on the left, the 424th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of Alster and probing to the

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front at least 1000 yards. Companies "B" and "C" were also directed to contact each other with patrols.

Results of action. Enemy was denied access to St. Vith and Grafflingen and our positions were held. Estimated enemy killed 50. Prisoners taken - 6. (See Overlay #6)

21 December 1944. At 210630 enemy made a light attack supported by artillery on Company "D" position. Attack was repulsed. At 210815 Company "C" moved northeast to vicinity 862841 to support the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion in repelling a strong enemy attack. This mission was accomplished and the company returned to the Battalion area at 211225. During its absence one platoon of Company "B" occupied the position of Company "C" near the CP.

At 211115 Reconnaissance platoon was detached from Company "D" and given the mission of making contact between Company "D" and the right flank of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

At 211205 Company "D" knocked out an enemy tank either Mark III or IV by fire from its 37mm guns. At 211335 Company "D" had located a machine gun, enemy infantry and an enemy tank to its front. At 211550 Company "D" brought artillery fire on this opposition with effect inflicting casualties on the enemy and silencing the machine gun. The company reported an AT gun 867818 at 211518. At 211519 Company "D" repulsed an enemy attack.

At 211830 3rd Platoon of Company "B" was sent to the Company "D" position to increase the power in that sector. At 1900 Company "D" was attacked along its whole front by enemy infantry in company strength supported by automatic weapons and mortars. Troop "D" 89th Reconnaissance Squadron which had been attached to Company "D" via 2918000 gave way on the left flank and retreated to the vicinity of Grafflingen. Company "D" held the position without giving ground and repulsed the attack. Troop "D" 89th Reconnaissance was rallied and returned to its position at once.

At 211900 Company "A" was shelled heavily and was alerted to be ready to move to the support of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion which was being attacked by enemy from the vicinity of Weitzfeld and Weidingen. At 211745 one platoon from Company "A" moved to the 27th Armored Infantry position for direct support. The enemy attack was repulsed and the platoon returned to the company at 211935.

At 211800 30 riflemen and two officers from units of the 424th Infantry stationed in Grafflingen were attached to Company "D" for the night patrolling missions. These missions included contact with 27th Armored Infantry Battalion at 868827 and with the 48th Infantry Regiment at Alster. Strong patrols were also to be sent to the front.

At 212230 as a result of orders from OC "B" Company "A" moved from its position to Bauvern via Salhausen to establish a road block there, contact the 7th Armored Division which was falling back from St. Vith and to cover withdrawal of the vehicles of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

Results of Action. Positions assigned to the Battalion were held and no enemy advance permitted. Estimated enemy killed - 50. Enemy tanks knocked out - 1. (See Overlay #7)

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22 December 1944. During the early morning hours, Company "A" held its position at Bauvern while the vehicles of the 27th Armored Infantry cleared behind it. The only contact with the 7th Armored Division at Bauvern was with two light tanks, one of which was knocked out by artillery fire which was intermittent throughout the night and the other of which withdrew at 230345.

At 220030 Commanding General CC "B" and Staff arrived at the CP having been shelled out of the CC "B" CP at Neubrueck. At 220230 they moved into a new CP at Waldingen. Per verbal orders CC CC "B", Company "A" was instructed to support Company "B" 27th Armored Infantry Battalion in organizing the high ground between Bauvern and Gelhausen as soon as the evacuation of the infantry vehicles had been completed.

At 220500, Company "A" reported that no contact had been made with the 27th Infantry. Company Commander was instructed to contact CP 27th Armored Infantry at Neubrueck immediately and arrange for contact. This was done and Company "B" 27th Armored Infantry was found along the road 500 yards southwest of Neubrueck. This company was conducted back to the line Bauvern-Gelhausen and put into position with Company "A". During this period when the tank company was holding alone considerable enemy infiltration of the position occurred.

From daylight on this position was under continuous small arms fire with some artillery support. By 220915 Company "B" 27th Armored Infantry started falling back on Neubrueck. This action isolated Company "A" which was receiving small arms fire from their front right flank and rear.

At 220800 the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion reported that their CP at Neubrueck was gassed by enemy and was being attacked. The situation became steadily worse and at 221000 1st Platoon of Company "B" was dispatched to render any assistance possible. 3rd Platoon Company "B" had been withdrawn from Company "D" and returned to Company "B" control at 0800. At 221000 1st Platoon Company "B" had one tank knocked out by an AT Gun near Neubrueck. This gun was knocked out by the following tank.

By 221150 Company "A" had fought its way back to Neubrueck and upon arrival there 1st platoon Company "B" was attached to Company "A". Plans were laid for recapture of the CP 27th Armored Infantry Battalion which had been captured and occupied by the enemy.

This mission was undertaken by 1st platoon Company "B" with 1st platoon Company "A" in direct support. The platoon approached the CP, sprayed it with machine gun fire and fired at the upper stories with HE. At about 221500 the enemy surrendered and evacuated the house giving up the surviving personnel of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion Headquarters. Following this the house occupied by the 27th Armored Infantry Medical Detachment was recaptured by the same tactics. 19 Prisoners were taken in this operation.

At 221530 Company "B" was attacked by enemy infantry from woods to the south. This attack was supported by some HE fire. The attack was repulsed and the infantry pinned down, but lacking friendly infantry Company "B" was unable to mop up or counterattack.

At 1430 the Battalion CP was moved to a building at 810827. As a result of orders from CC "B", Company Commanders were called to the CP at 221545 to receive new dispositions for the night. Dispositions as shown on overlay were completed by 221700.

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At 221700 Companies "K" and "L" 42nd Infantry were assigned positions to support Companies "B" and "G" to the north. The companies arrived in area 221900. At 221908 3rd platoon Company "B" was alerted to be ready to move to support Company "D" which was patrolling in and south of Gruffingen. At this same time one platoon of Company "A" 51st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to Company "D" for their operations.

During the entire night Company "D" was in constant contact with enemy patrols in and south of Gruffingen. This action was supported by the Tank Destroyer Platoon. Numerous enemy were taken under fire and one house occupied by an enemy patrol was destroyed by HE fire. The town of Gruffingen was subjected to harrasing fire by enemy assault guns throughout the night.

Results of action. Enemy held on line CR 815. Ebenknepp. Withdrawal of 27th Armored Infantry Battalion covered and enemy stopped at Neubruck. Estimated enemy killed - 35. (See Overlay #6)

25 December 1944. During period 230001 to 230400 Company "D" continued active patrolling in Gruffingen and toward Thomsen. One platoon Company "A" 51st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached for this mission.

Beginning at 230130 strong enemy pressure was exerted on the 27th Armored Infantry position at Neubruck and at about 230200 the infantry began falling back toward Gruffingen. This withdrawal was covered by Company "A" which frequently was between the 27th positions and the enemy. Company "A" was handicapped in effective use of the tank weapons by being unable to distinguish at times between friendly and enemy troops in the dark. From 230200 to 230250 the mortar platoon fired on enemy column coming up the draw at 235545.

At 230250 Company "A" had taken up positions at 230255 which were held until 230350. At 230450 two tanks became mired in draw at this position, and a recovery vehicle taken forward by the Battalion Maintenance Officer recovered them.

At 230550 orders were issued for the withdrawal of the combat command toward Madingen. The withdrawal was to be covered by Company "A" with Company "C" of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion attached and Company "B" with Company "A" 27th Armored Infantry attached. Company "C" 27th Armored Infantry Battalion did not report to the Company "A" position, and Company "A" 27th Armored Infantry Battalion reported to the Company "B" position, but withdrew immediately.

Beginning at 230650 the withdrawal started. All units were withdrawn without incident except Company "A", the last unit of the combat command to withdraw. At 231000 the Company encountered four enemy anti-tank guns (horsedrawn) covering the Gruffingen-Madingen road in the vicinity 618827. Two tanks were lost by AT fire and the AT guns were destroyed. Prior to leaving its last position Company "A" recovered three U.S. vehicles which had been manned by enemy personnel and knocked out three enemy command vehicles.

Battalion followed route Madingen-Behe-Salmstein-Lierneux-Wankay-Palampre. At 231550 Battalion was assigned the Lierneux area and returned there closing at Lencival 232200. Route of march Malmpré-Wankay-Behe-Lierneux-Lencival.

- 21 -

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At 23300 Battalion was informed that it was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. At 23500 the Assistant Division Commander 82nd Airborne Division arrived with orders for establishment of a road block at Hankey. Company "C" was dispatched to Hankey 24100 to establish the road block, and a light tank was sent to Headquarters 82nd Airborne Division at Bra. to provide that headquarters with direct communication with Company "C".

Results of action. Battalion broke contact with enemy and moved to new area. Estimated enemy killed 40. Enemy light vehicles knocked out - 5. Enemy AT guns knocked out - 4. (See Overlay 49 and 50).

24 December 1944. At 24100 information was received that German armored element had captured the town of Regne from a company of the 878th Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. The Division requested tank support for a counterattack. Company "A" was assigned the mission moving from Lansival to Vastremont at 24130. At this point the company was briefed on the situation and the infantry company was mounted on the tanks. Company then moved to high ground at 241878. Two platoons advanced toward Regne moving one on each side of the Regne-Lansival road, infantry riding the tanks. Company Headquarters and the third platoon remained in vicinity 241878 as a base of fire. As the tanks approached the town the infantry dismounted and entered ahead of them. By 241450 Regne had been recaptured.

Although the enemy made no attempt to reenter Regne Company "A" tanks were taken under fire from the high ground immediately south of Regne. As a result of this fire light Company "A" lost 3 tanks and knocked out five Mark VI tanks. Company "B" was sent to assist Company "A" at 241615, but was recalled prior to reaching Regne, and one platoon Company "A" 811th Tank Destroyer Battalion was sent to cover Company "A" withdrawal at 241700.

At 241000 Company "C" with balance of Battalion passed to control of XIII Corps (Albermar). Company "C" was ordered relieved from the road block mission vicinity of Hankey, but these orders had not been received by officers of the 5th and 7th Armored Divisions who were in charge in that sector, and these officers refused to release the company. Throughout the day the company was committed on various local actions. At 242500 5th platoon was committed to an attack against AT guns in the vicinity of La Pesee. Four tanks were lost as a result of this action.

At 243500 "C" was made contact with the 82nd Airborne Division and had necessary orders issued to accomplish relief of Company "C". The Company reassembled in the vicinity of Bra at 243600.

At 242610 the Battalion received orders that with the balance of the Combat Command it had passed to reserve XIII Corps (Albermar) and that it would move at dark to an assembly area east of Vaux Chereux prepared to move farther north. Immediate arrangements were made for the disengagement of Companies "A" and "C". Battalion moved from Lansival along route 142000- Bra-Vaux Chereux at 243115 closing east of Vaux Chereux 243200. Company "C" joined the column at Bra.

Orders were received by Liaison officer in the assembly area that the Battalion would move to a position 3000 yards north of Verbermont via Hankey and 115 passing Hankey at 243530. At 24300 Battalion left Vaux Chereux moving toward Hankey. As the head of the column approached Hankey tracer fire was observed coming into the town from the south. This fire was being returned from Hankey. The column halted about 400 yards east of Hankey while an investigation was made. Troops in the town were in a panic condition and reported that the town was being attacked by Tiger tanks. Investigation failed to reveal any such tanks in the town, and head of the column moved east

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passing IP at 2540 turning north. As the head of the column passed through Manhay it was subjected to moderate but inaccurate machine gun fire from the south. This fire was being returned by troops in the town.

When the first part of the column consisting of the Headquarters Tank Section and the half tracks of Headquarters and Headquarters Company had cleared Manhay it was informed by radio that the fire light at Manhay was of such intensity that the light vehicles and trains could not go through. The Battalion Commander directed that radio contact be made with CC "B" to request an alternate route. As radio contact could not be established with CC "B" which had moved northwest of Harge, the Headquarters column moved north until such contact could be made.

Results of action. Company "C" maintained road block vicinity of Manhay Company "A" assisted in recapture of Pegge. Estimated enemy killed - 45. Enemy tanks knocked out - 7. (See overlay #11)

25 December 1944. At 250200 Battalion Headquarters arrived at Housenloge and established radio contact with CC "B" and explained the situation at Manhay. Orders were received from CC "B" that no alternate route was available to the Battalion, and that it would have to fight its way through Manhay as best it could. The Headquarters section then returned to Verbermont where radio contact was re-established with the balance of the Battalion and orders from CC "B" relayed to the Battalion Commander.

Meanwhile Battalion Commander had contacted Headquarters 82nd Airborne Division at Bra and secured clearance on the Mamout-Nablémont-Verbermont Road. The column had been turned around and was moving to Verbermont on that road. The march was completed without further incident closing in area two miles west of Harge at 250530.

Results of action. Battalion completed march from Manhay to reserve position near Harge.

25-31 December. Battalion occupied areas near Les Baty and Romal as part of reserve XVIII Corps (Airborne). No enemy contact.

The effect of weather and terrain on operations during the period: Terrain vicinity Echerath restricted operations largely to roads. The suitable terrain north of Winterpelt not taken. Terrain largely responsible for initial attack being supported by only one tank platoon. Terrain vicinity Grufflingen wooded, and such that operations limited to trails and roads.

Commanding Ground south of Pegge gave enemy definite advantage in AT fire.

Weather such that air support could not operate during period except for first day (17 December 1944) and 23-24 December 1944. Snow during operation made roads slippery, but did not hamper operations to any appreciable extent.

The action of the enemy influenced the unit throughout the operation.

From 1-16 Dec 44 the action of the enemy did not have a direct effect but on 17 Dec 44 enemy Infantry holding vicinity Echerath slowed Infantry attack causing change in plans. One tank platoon supported Infantry attack, as suitable ground for battalion employment had not been gained.

The surprise attack on Ligneville caused hasty withdrawal of Service units and resulted in loss of equipment and personnel.

Enemy Armor threatening St. Vith on 18 Dec 44 from northeast, caused two Medium Tank Companies to be committed.

An enemy infantry threat necessitated light tank patrols in the Breitfeld Schlierbach area on 18 Dec 44.

Enemy shelling of Field Artillery position vicinity of Breitfeldt resulted in their displacement and caused Company "B", 14th Tank Bn to be placed in former Artillery Battery position to protect right flank of Battalion, and support the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion by fire.

An Infantry and Armor threat from Schlierbach on 19 Dec 44, caused Company "D" to be reinforced by one platoon Company "B" (Medium).

The battalion withdrew on order from higher headquarters to vicinity Grufflingen on 20 Dec 44. Armors and reports of enemy armored threat from the south and southeast resulted in placing of companies in perimeter defense, and patrols by company "D" and Reconnaissance platoon from Grufflingen east to cross roads 515.

On 21 Dec 44 there was a strong enemy attack on 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, Company "C" used to assist in repelling it. Attack on 27th Armored Infantry Battalion at 1630, one platoon Company "A" was sent to assist in repelling it.

22 December 1944 - Enemy attacked on 27th Armored Infantry Battalion caused the 1st platoon Company "B" to be dispatched to assist in defense. The C was captured, recaptured by task force 1st platoon Company "C", 1st platoon Company "A", in direct support and elements of 27th Armored Infantry at about 1600 hours. German patrols were in contact with Company "D" all night in Grufflingen and caused further dispersion of the company.

On 23 December 44 an enemy threat caused Company "C" to be dispatched on a road block mission at Manhay.

A German Armored attack on 24 December 44 capturing Hagne caused Company "A" to be used in counter attack retaking the town. Enemy AF fire from high ground south of Hagne, knocked out three tanks.

When the battalion moved through Manhay, enemy small arms, and some artillery or mortar fire disrupted column but caused little confusion.

Section IV. Comment.

None.

Section V - Maps, etc.

- Overlay #1 - Firing positions occupied by Co "B" and Co "C" 010001 Dec to 121300 Dec 44.**
- Overlay #2 - Dispositions 14th Tank Bn 151000 Dec to 170330 Dec 1944.**
- Overlay #3 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn 17 December 1944.**
- Overlay #4 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn 18 December 1944.**

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Overlay #5 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 19 December 1944.
Overlay #6 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 20 December 1944.
Overlay #7 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 21 December 1944.
Overlay #8 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 22 December 1944.
Overlay #9 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 0001 to 0630 23 Dec 1944.
Overlay #10 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 2000 to 2400 23 Dec 1944.
Overlay #11 - Disposition of 14th Tank Bn., 24 December 1944.

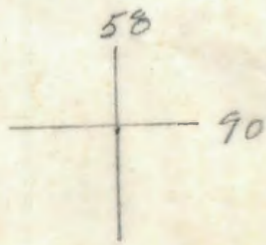
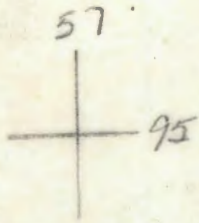
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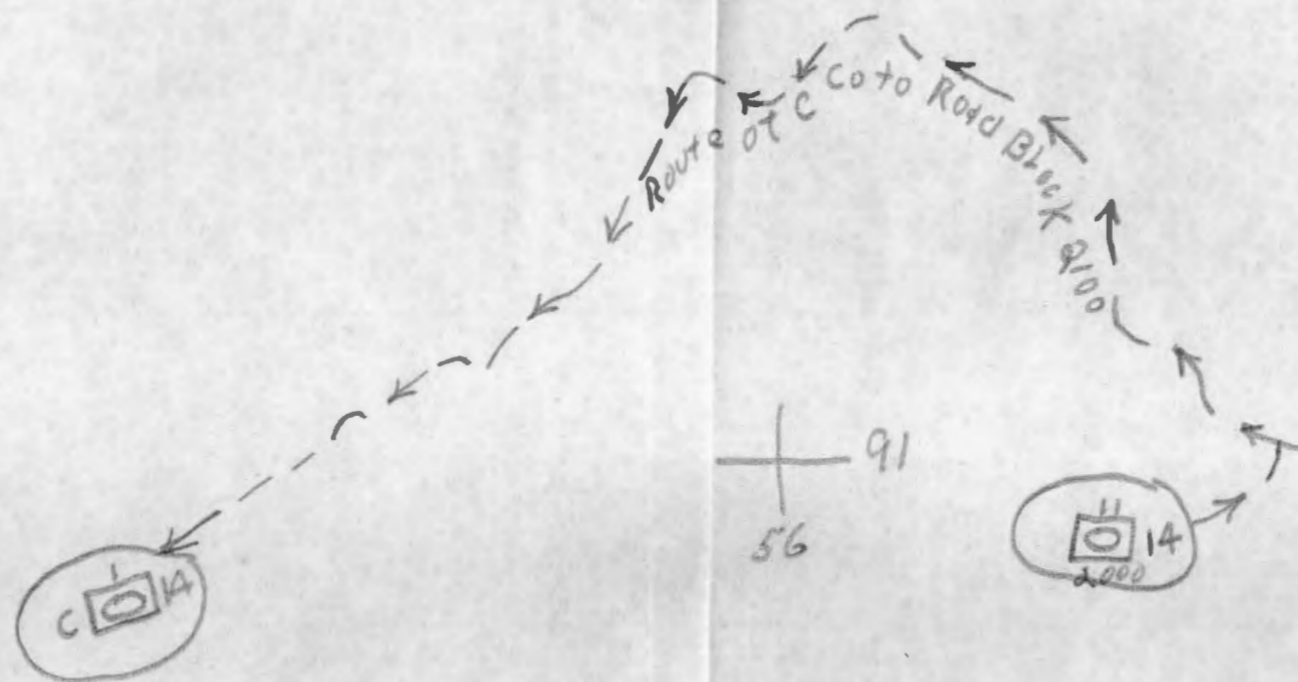
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BELGIUM SHEETS 92193
Dispositions 14th Tank Bn
24 December 1944

OFFICIAL:

Colander
8-3



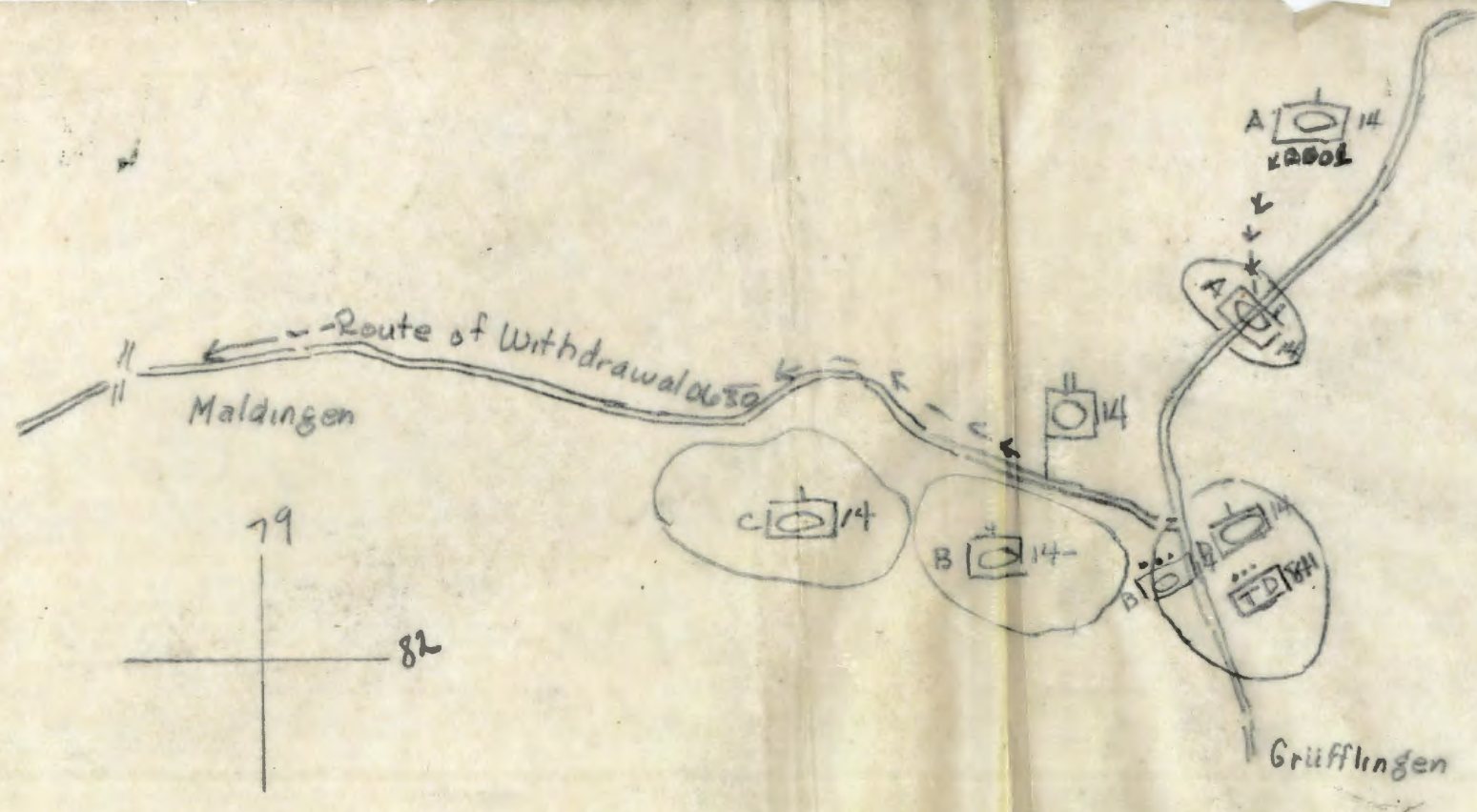
Rendezvous with Para Co
for attack on Regne
1130. Withdrew to
Join Bn on March
north at 1730



OVERLAY 1:50,000
 BELGIUM SHEETS 92 + 93
 SHEET 2 OF 2 OVERLAYS
 Dispositions 14th TANK Bn
 2000 to 2400 23 DECEMBER 1944

OFFICIAL:

Chandler
 S-3



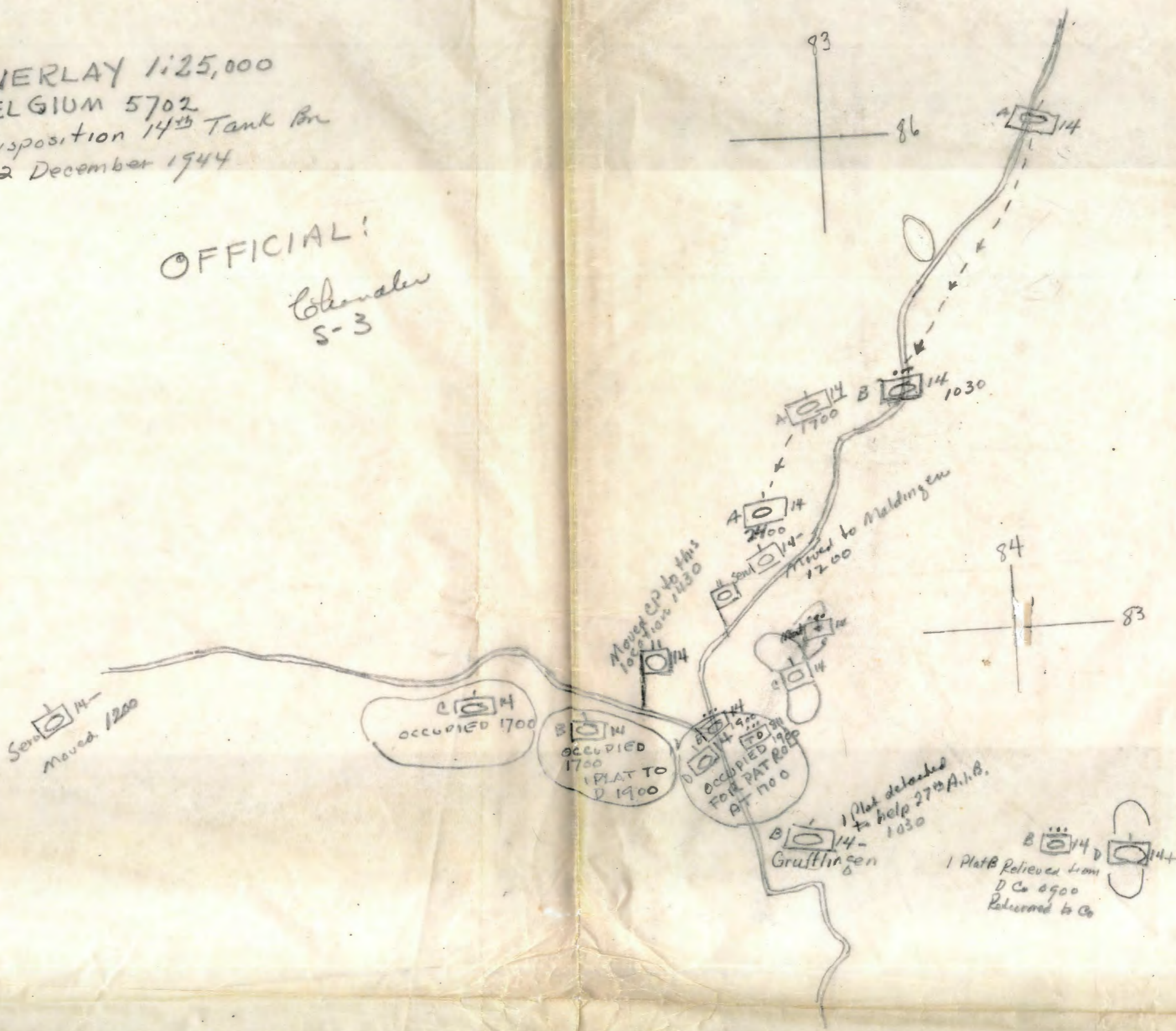
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 SHEET 1 OF 2 OVERLAYS
 Disposition of 14th Tank Bn
 0001 to 0630 23 Dec 1944

OFFICIAL:

Signature
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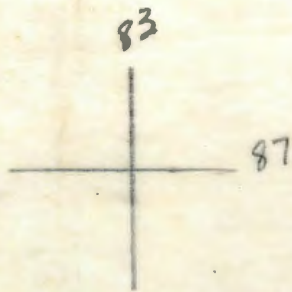
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 BELGIUM 5702
 Disposition 14th Tank Bn
 22 December 1944

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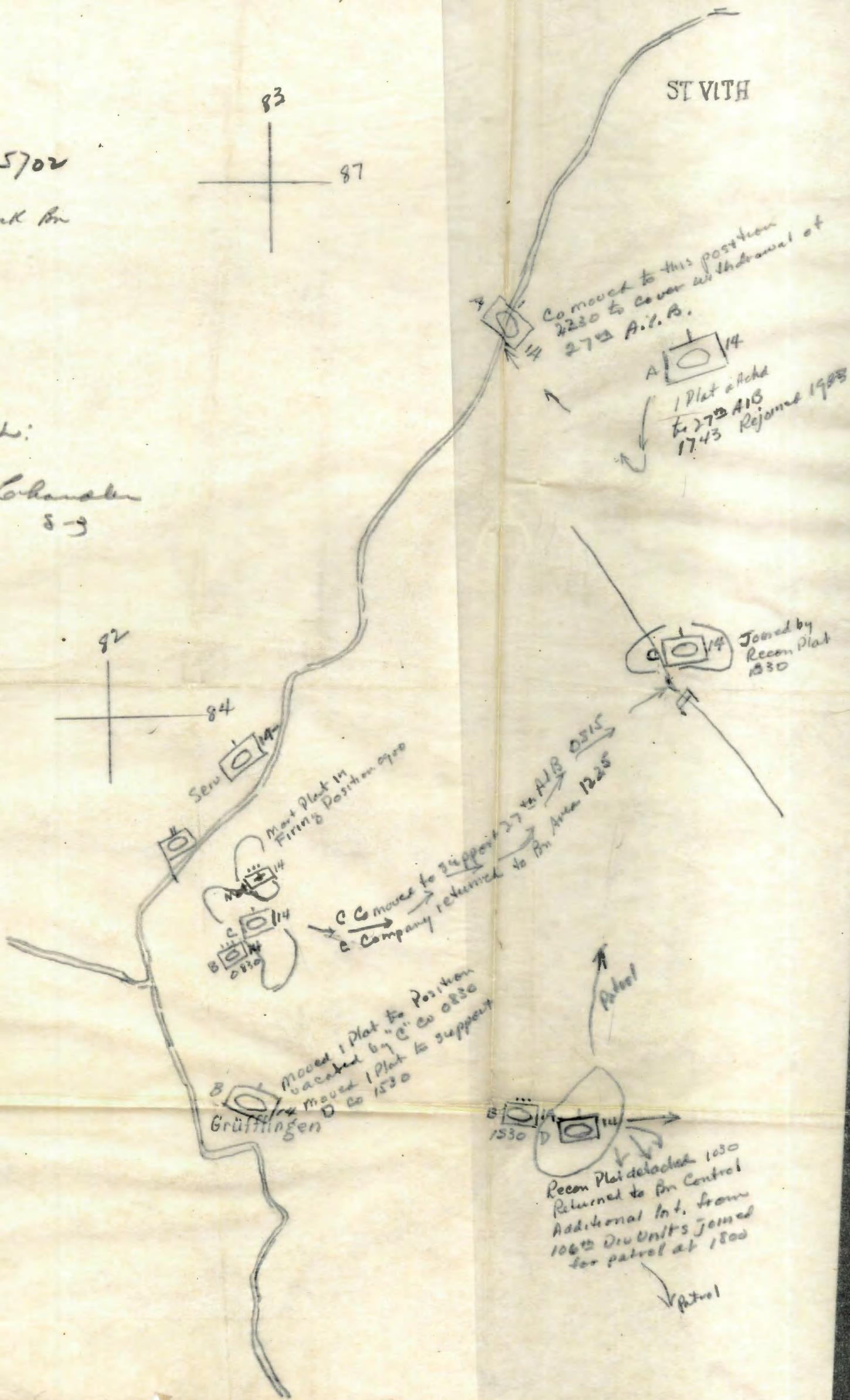
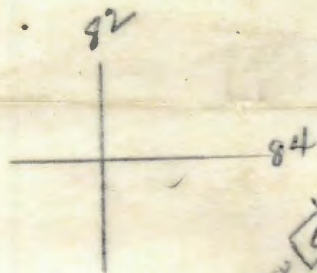
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BELGIUM SHEET 5702

Disposition of 14th Tank Bn
21 December 1944



OFFICIAL:

Chandler
8-3



ST VITH

Co moved to this position
2230 to cover withdrawal of
27th A.I.B.

A 14
1 Plat added
to 27th A.I.B.
1743 Rejoined 1938

Joined by
Recon Plat
1830

Most Plat in
Firing Position 0930

C Co moved to support 27th A.I.B. 0515
E Company returned to Bn Area 1225

Moved 1 Plat to Position
vacated by 'C' Co 0830
Moved 1 Plat to support
D Co 1530

Recon Plat detached 1030
Returned to Bn Control
Additional Inf. from
106th Div Units joined
for patrol at 1800

Patrol

Patrol



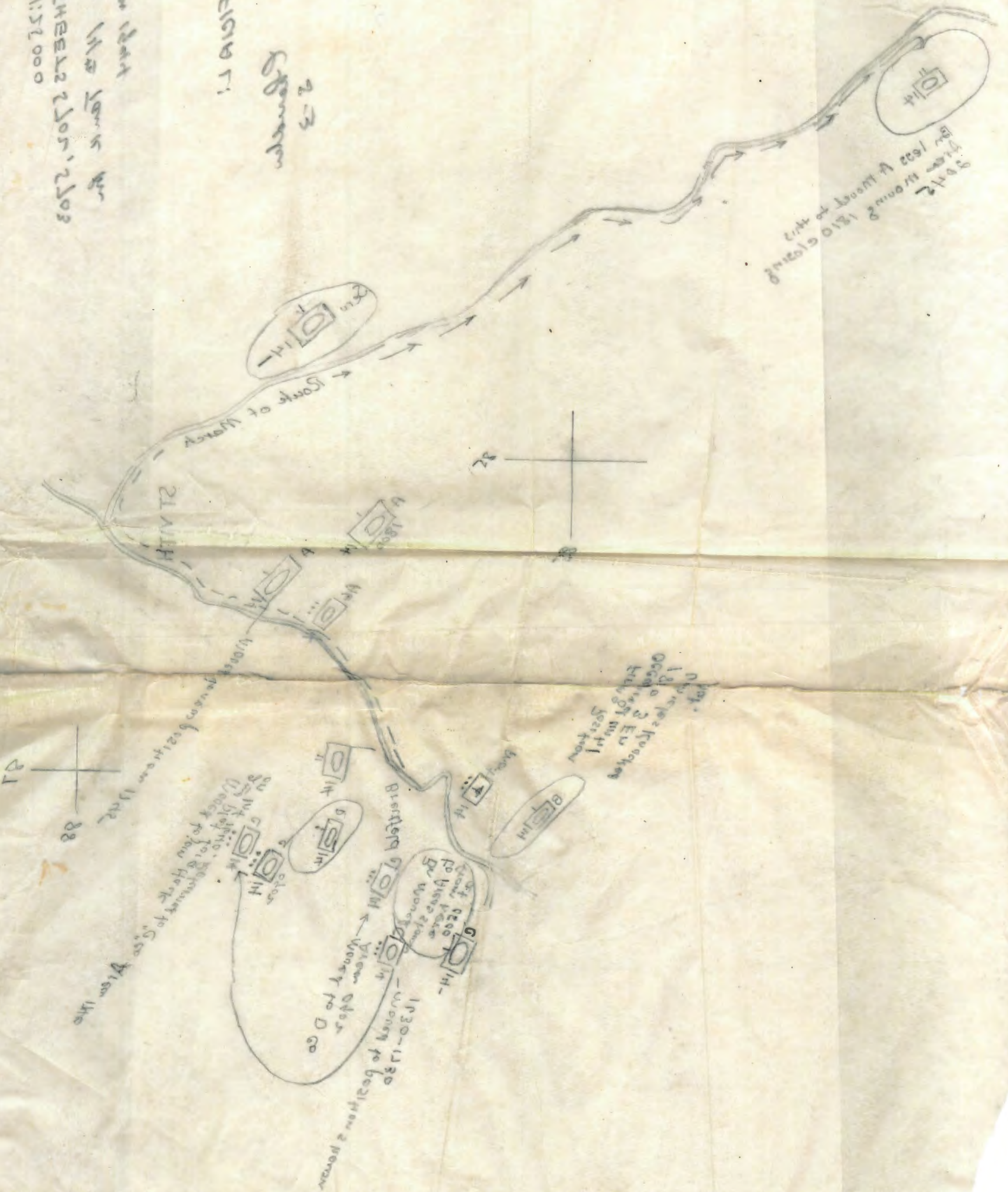
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 BELGIUM SHEET 5702
 Dispositions 14th Tank Bn
 20 DECEMBER 1944

OFFICIAL
 Chandler
 5-3

12 December 1944
 Dispositions 14th Tank Div
 BEGLOW SHEETS 2505-2503
 OVERSTAY 1:52:000

DEFINITION

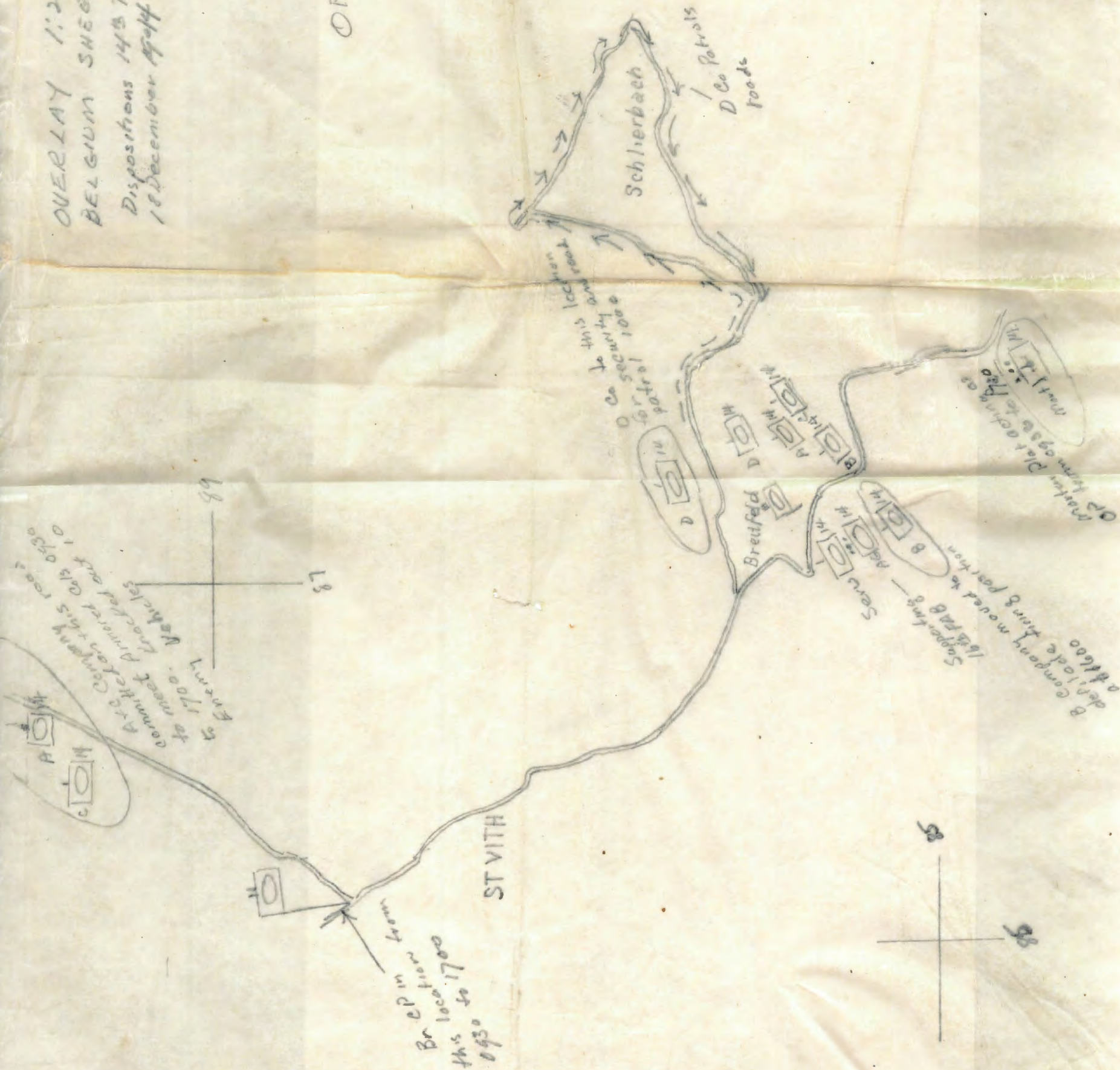
23 December



OVERLAY 1:25,000
 BELGIUM SHEETS 5702, 5703
 Dispositions 14th Tank Ar
 18 December 1944

OFFICIAL:

C. Chandler
 8-3



A-G Company tanks road
 meet point 045 0930
 at meet point
 1100. Enemy vehicles

Br CP in town from
 this loc. 1700
 to 1930

to this location
 to security and patrol 1000

Sappers moved to position
 168708
 B Company moved to position
 a 4700

D Co Petrels
 1000

D Co Petrels
 1000

OVERLAY 1:25,000
BELGIUM SHEETS 5702, 5703
Disposition's 4th Tank Bn
17 December 1944

OFFICIAL:
Cohasset
3-3

ST VITH



Supporting
16th FAB
1200-2400

219
612
HFN



LD
1220 to 1635
Supporting Colgate

AI4

A

B

C

D

17 DEC 44

Winterspelt

5-3
Eberhardt Map

OFFICIAL:

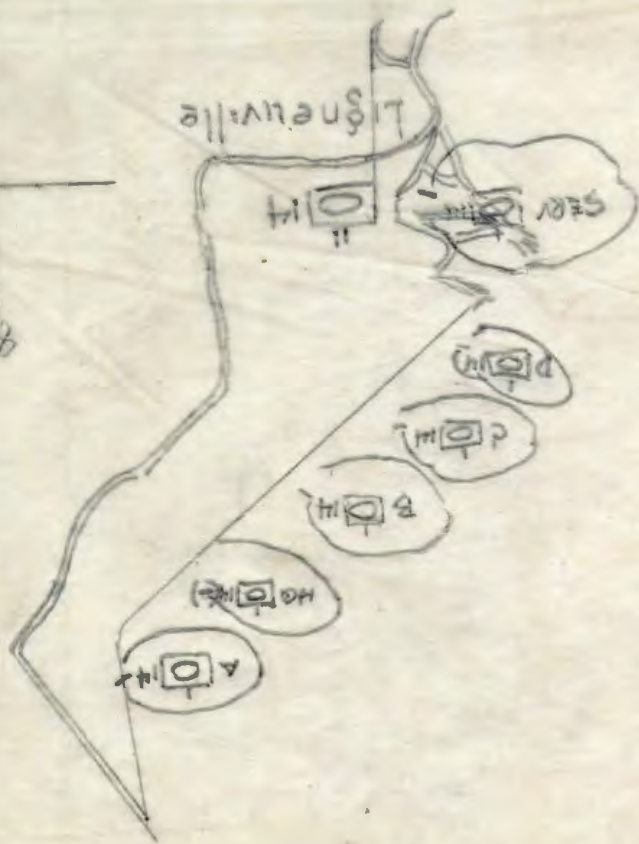
Dispositions 14th Tank Bn 181000
Dec to 170330 Dec 1944

GERMANY SHEET 5602

OVERLAY 1:25,000

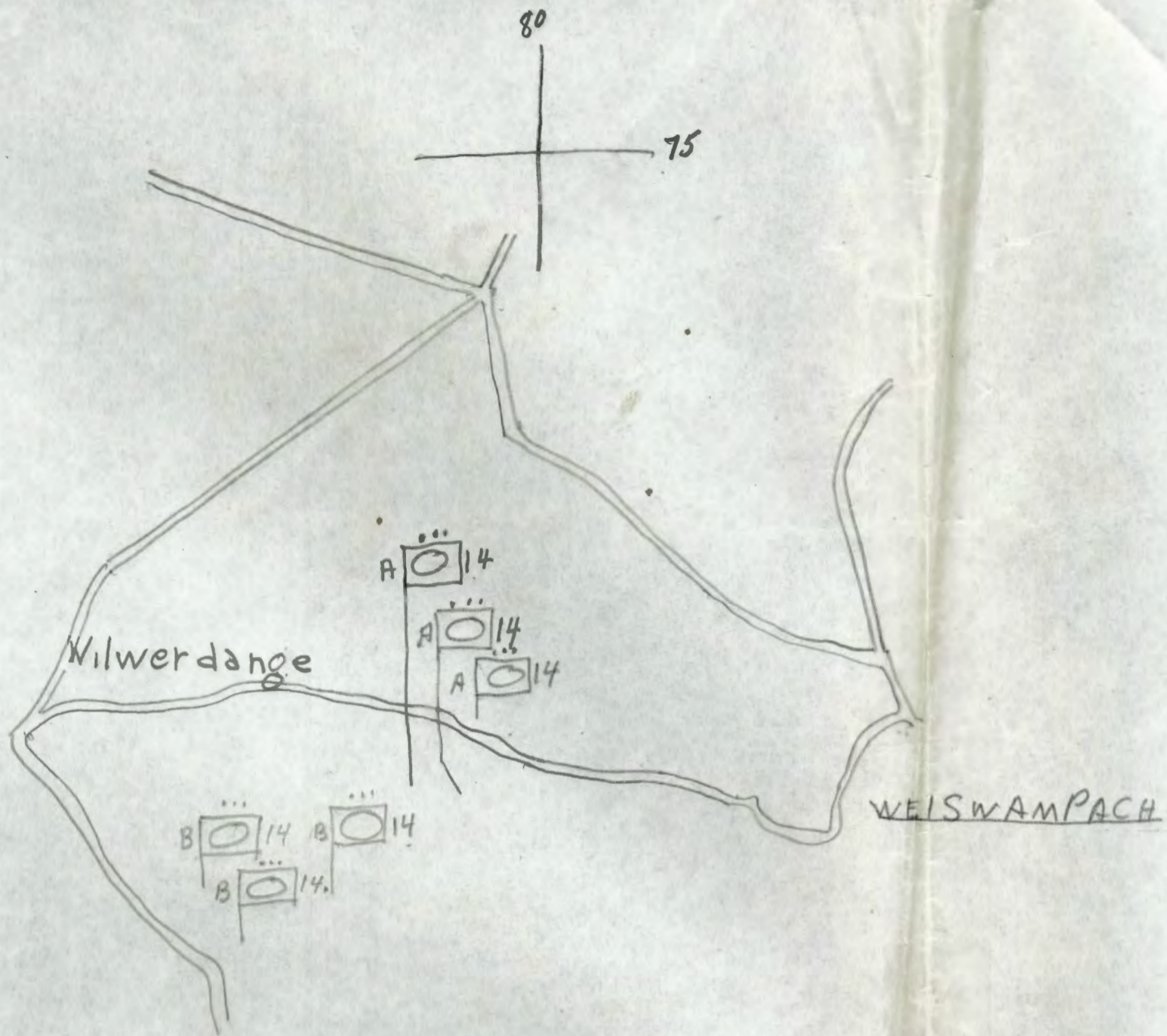
99

82



98

80



OVERLAY 1:25:000
 G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 5802
 (BURG-REULAND)
 G.S.G.S 4414 SHEET 5803
 (LEIDENBORN)

Firing Positions occupied By Company "B" 2nd
 Company "C" 01000L DECEMBER TO 12.1600 DECEMBER SUPPORTING
 Fires of 16th FAB. Basepoint and
 concentrations Fired Indicated

OFFICIAL:

Chandler
 CHANDLER - MAJOR
 S-3

Dup

**HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
APO 259
U. S. ARMY**

AFM-285
1-31 Mar 45

AFTER ACTION REPORT

1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45

**DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED**
BY AUTHORITY OF TAG JES

Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

1. Campaign - Western Europe.

29 Sep 45 *HSP*
Date Initials

2. Map references:

- a. Eastern France, 1:50,000, GSGS 4471,
Sheets - Uckange 34/12,
Boulay 35/12
Metz 34/13
St. Avold 35/13.
- b. Germany, 1:25,000, GSGS 4414,
Sheets 5205, 5206.
- c. France & Belgium, 1:25,000, GSGS 4041,
Sheet 80, NE.
- d. Michelin Road Map, 1:200,000,
Sheets 3, 4 & 57.

3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

- a. Hq & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407738.
- b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: Francis E. Veegeli, Capt Cav (Armd), 024699.
- c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: George P. Bouras, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101146.
- d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: 1st Lt Carl E. Linder, Jr., Inf (Armd), 01011420.
- e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: Richard E. Stever, Capt Inf (Armd), 0440621.
- f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: Paul M. Fisher, 1st Lt Cav (Armd), 01011309.

609-69.2

Section II: Statistical Data:

1. Personnel Losses: 1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 (Inclusive):

12650

KIA		DOW DOI		Wounded Injured in action		MIA		CAPT		Sk & Other Non-Battle Losses	
OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7

2. Personnel Replacements

	Officers	W/Officers	EM
1 Feb 45	None	None	None
2 Feb 45	None	None	None
3 Feb 45	None	None	None
4 Feb 45	None	None	None
5 Feb 45	None	None	None
6 Feb 45	None	None	1
7 Feb 45	None	None	None
8 Feb 45	1	None	None
9 Feb 45	None	None	None
10 Feb 45	1	None	2
11 Feb 45	None	None	5
12 Feb 45	None	None	None
13 Feb 45	None	None	None
14 Feb 45	None	None	None
15 Feb 45	None	None	None
16 Feb 45	None	None	3
17 Feb 45	None	None	None
18 Feb 45	None	None	None
19 Feb 45	4	None	4
20 Feb 45	None	None	None
21 Feb 45	None	None	None
22 Feb 45	None	None	None
23 Feb 45	None	None	None
24 Feb 45	None	None	None
25 Feb 45	None	None	None
26 Feb 45	None	None	1
27 Feb 45	None	None	None
28 Feb 45	None	None	None
Total	6	None	16

3. Prisoners of War taken

28 February 1945 - 3.

4. Vehicular Losses:

1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 (Inclusive):
None.

5. Vehicular Replacements

1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 (Inclusive):
5 M4A2 tanks exchanged for 5 M26 tanks.

6. Ammunition Expenditure:
1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945 (Inclusive):
2500 rounds .30 Caliber.
81 rounds 81mm Mortar M.E. light.

Section III: Narrative.

February 1 - 9: This period was used for the training of the reinforcements of the Battalion and firing of new mortars and bazookas.

100200: At this time word was brought by Liaison Officer to alert an officer to act as billeting officer for the Battalion. The Battalion Commander was called to Combat Command Headquarters where he received orders for the move.

1142: The Battalion crossed the IP at this time.

1545: After marching a distance of fifty-nine and one-tenth miles (59.1), an order was received from the Commanding General, Combat Command B, to turn around and return to Bettlainville, France.

110030: The Battalion closed into Bettlainville, France. The march covered a distance of one hundred and twenty-six miles.

February 11 - 20: This period was used for further training of reinforcements and some small arms firing was accomplished.

202150: At this time billeting officers were alerted and later left for new billeting area.

212400: At this time the march order and overlay was received for the march to assembly positions in and around Spriment, Belgium.

220940: Battalion crossed IP!

222045: After marching a distance of one hundred and twelve miles, CCB was billeted along the route of march. This Battalion stayed at Mainsin, Belgium.

230800: The Combat Command resumed march to assembly position.

231245: The Battalion arrived at its billet area in Diegne, Belgium.

231500: The Battalion closed into billet area.

February 24 - 27: This time was used in maintenance of vehicles and equipment. About forty new sets of track was received and installed on the tanks of the Battalion. Five M4A3

medium tanks were turned in and five new M26 tanks were drawn. These were given to first Platoon, Company "A".

271015: The Company Commanders and Battalion Staff were assembled and orders given for a move to an assembly position near Soller, Germany.

280627: The Battalion crossed the IP enroute to the assembly position.

281615: Closed in assembly area in the vicinity of Soller, Germany.

281730: At this time the Company Commanders were assembled and given the order to capture the towns of Muddersheim, Diesternich and Sievernich, Germany. Three task forces were formed to be called Task Force A, B and C. The task forces were of the composition as shown below:

Task Force "A"
Co A, 14th Tank Bn
Co A, 27th A.I.B.
Plt, Co B, 9th Engr.

Task Force "B"
Co. B, 14th Tank Bn.
Co. B, 27th A.I.B.
Plt, Co B, 9th Engr.

Task Force "C"
Co C, 14th Tank Bn.
Co. C, 27th A.I.B.
Plt, Co B, 9th Engr.

The task force Commander was the senior Company Commander of each force, namely:

Task Force A: Captain George P. Soumas, 14th Tank Bn.
Task Force B: Captain Saulpaw, 27th A.I.B.
Task Force C: Captain Richard M. Stever, 14th Tank Bn.

281730: Company D, the light tank company, was given the mission of screening the attack by taking up positions on the right flank of the sector. Information had been received from the reconnaissance screen by Combat Command B, that the route through Freitsheim was clear. D Company was ordered to proceed at once and take up their position. Upon reaching the point as shown on Overlay No. 1, the head of the column received AF fire. One tank was hit, and one was struck trying to evade fire. The crew from the tank that was struck were pinned down by small arms fire. It was found later that a total of six men were killed in these two tanks. Two men were evacuated, wounded by small arms fire. Company D then withdrew to position as shown on overlay No. 1. D Company commander reported that he had sighted anti-tank guns located at points shown on Overlay No. 1.

The mortar platoon took up position in the Battalion area as shown on Overlay No. 1, and fired on the reported anti-tank gun positions. The anti-tank guns ceased firing.

Task force A was ordered to proceed to their objective, which was Diesternich, by route marked on Overlay No. 1 as "B". When D Company received anti-tank gun fire, Task Force A and B were rerouted onto route A into Vettweis, from there to proceed

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to their original mission. The route for Task Force A from Vettweis to Disternich was along route F until the junction with D, road then turned left on D into objective. Task Force A was to follow Task Force B. A terrific traffic jam prevented Task Force A from proceeding any farther toward their objective as shown on Overlay No. 1.

Task Force A's objective was to take the town of Disternich and place a bridge across the Heffel River. At the time of this period they had started, but the objective was not in sight.

281925: Task Force A moved toward its objective.

282322: Task Force A reported its position as shown on Overlay No. 1.

281730: Task Force B received orders to proceed to Sievernich on route E. Their mission was to take the town and establish a bridge across the river Heffel. Task Force B's route was also changed when D Company encountered anti-tank gun fire along the B route. They were rerouted along route marked A into Vettweis, from there on their original route. Task Force B was to follow Task Force C which was already on route A. At the end of the period 282400, Task Force B was in the position as shown on Overlay No. 1.

281730: Task Force C was given the mission of proceeding from assembly area to seize the town of Muddersheim and establishing a bridge across the Heffel River. Task Force was to proceed along the route A to Vettweis, then from Vettweis to objective via route C as shown on Overlay No. 1.

281940: Task Force C halted to make reconnaissance. It was believed that heavy weapons were in position to their front.

282000: Company D reported unidentified vehicles approaching their position. It was determined that these were friendly reconnaissance vehicles.

282005: Task Force A was halted in position by order from CG, CC "B".

282045: Company C reported that two heavy weapons had been encountered by their units and that patrols were being sent forward to investigate them.

282330: Task Force C has reached the objective and was outposting it in preparation to building bridge across the river.

At the end of this period no actual contact with the enemy had been encountered. The three Task Forces were actually just getting into position to complete their given task. There was quite a bit of confusion due to the fact that other units were

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in the area. Net result was quite heavy traffic which held up the armored columns, and this action could normally be expected in an operation of this type.

Result of Action: Three prisoners taken.
Two light tanks damaged, but recovered.

The action of the enemy did not effect the battalion during the period. Operations of the Battalion were largely restricted to roads as the ground was mostly soggy and not good standing for heavy vehicles.

Section IV: Comments:

None.

Section V: Maps, etc.

Overlay No. 1, 28 Feb 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".

	Officers		N/Officers		Total
	None	None	None	None	
6 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
7 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
8 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
9 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
10 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
11 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
12 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
13 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
14 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
15 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
16 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
17 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
18 Jan 45	1	None	None	None	1
19 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
20 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
21 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
22 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
23 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
24 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
25 Jan 45	1	None	None	None	1
26 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
27 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
28 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
29 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
30 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
31 Jan 45	None	None	None	None	
Total	2	None	None	None	2

5. Prisoners of War taken:

1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive): None.

4. Vehicular Losses:

1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive): None.

3. Vehicular Replacements:

1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive): None.

2. Ammunition Expenditure:

1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive): None.

Section III: Narrative.

During the period January 1 - 6, 1945, the Battalion was attached to the XVII Airborne Corps in Corps Reserve. Battalion was located in the vicinity of Looze, Belgium.

At 08001 the head of Battalion column crossed IP in move to new bivouac, closed on new bivouac at 08000. New bivouac was located 1 1/2 miles north of Neuville. At 1100 Service Company moved from Werbomont, Belgium, to Looze, Belgium. At 1800, the Battalion CP was moved from Neuville to Oosteryn, Belgium. Several road reconstructions were made to determine the condition of the roads. In addition to the south were the only roads considered passable.

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FAAR 284
1-31 Jan 45

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
APO #280
U. S. ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT
1 Jan 45 to 31 Jan 45

DOWNGRADED TO:
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BY AUTHORITY OF TAG JFS

Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

29 Sep 45 HSD
Date Initials

1. Campaign - Western Europe.
2. Map References:

- a. France & Belgium, 1/50,000, Sheets 80, 81, 92 and 92.
- b. France, 1/50,000, Sheets: Vekange - 34/12; Boulay - 34/12; Thionville - 34/11; Waldvieux - 35/11.
- c. Europe Road Map, 1/250,000, Sheets 3, 4, 56 and 57.
- d. GSGS 4414, 1/25,000, Vekange Sheets NW 1 & 2, NE 3 & 4, SW 5 & 6, SE 7 & 8.

609-69.2

3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

- a. Hq & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407738.
- b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: Francis E. Voegeli, Capt Cav (Armd), 024699.
- c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: George F. Soumas, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101148.
- d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: 1 January 1945 to 23 January 1945, Philip B. Pitts, Capt Cav (Armd), 0570143. 24 January 1945 to 31 January 1945, 1st Lt Carl E. Linder, Jr., Inf (Armd), 0101148.
- e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: 1 January 1945 to 20 January 1945, William F. Delakater, 1st Lt., Inf (Armd), 01010078. 21 January 1945 to 31 January 1945, Richard E. Stover, Capt Inf (Armd), 0440821.
- f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: Paul M. Fisher, 1st Lt. Cav (Armd), 01011809.

Section II. Statistical Data:

1. Personnel Losses: 1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945 (Inclusive):

KIA	DOY: Wounded In-			DOY: Killed in Action			MIA			CAPT			Sk & Other Non-Battle Losses			
	OFF	EM	TOTL	OFF	EM	TOTL	OFF	EM	TOTL	OFF	EM	TOTL	OFF	EM	TOTL	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	8

2. Personnel Replacements:

	Officers	W/Officers	EM
1 Jan 45	None	None	None
2 Jan 45	None	None	None
3 Jan 45	None	None	None
4 Jan 45	None	None	None
5 Jan 45	None	None	None

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041830 January, the 506th Airborne Infantry Battalion was attached to the Combat Command to work with the tanks.

051100 January. No change in situation.

060130 January. Battalion received PD No. 10, Headquarters, Combat Command "B", to return to the 9th Armored Division control. At 070000 the Battalion crossed the I.F. enroute to new Merveux area.

060030 January. Battalion closed in Foscy, France, with majority of the vehicles. The weather hampered the movement of the Battalion.

08 - 09 January. No change in situation.

100001 January. The Combat Command was attached to the 28th Infantry Division. The Battalion received movement orders to move to Verdun, France. The head of the column crossed the I.F. at Searlencourt, France, at 100537. The Battalion closed on Millet area in Verdun at 101445. The Battalion was ordered to set up road blocks along the Meuse River. Before this could be accomplished the Combat Command was relieved from the 28th Infantry Division and reverted back to the 9th Armored Division control.

At 111725 the head of the Battalion left the Millet area in Verdun and moved to Reulin to pick up guides to new bypass area.

At 112830 Battalion closed on Elvy-Cirecourt, France.

At 121500 the Battalion received orders to move to Bettelainville, France. This move was accomplished.

From 15 - 21 January 1945, the Battalion has remained at Bettelainville, France, carrying on routine training and test firing of new weapons and training of replacements. Several training sessions have been held with the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion on Tank-Infantry training.

During the period, the action of the enemy did not effect the maintenance of roads, snow and cold weather made travelling difficult and caused columns to be straggled and vehicles to leave the road.

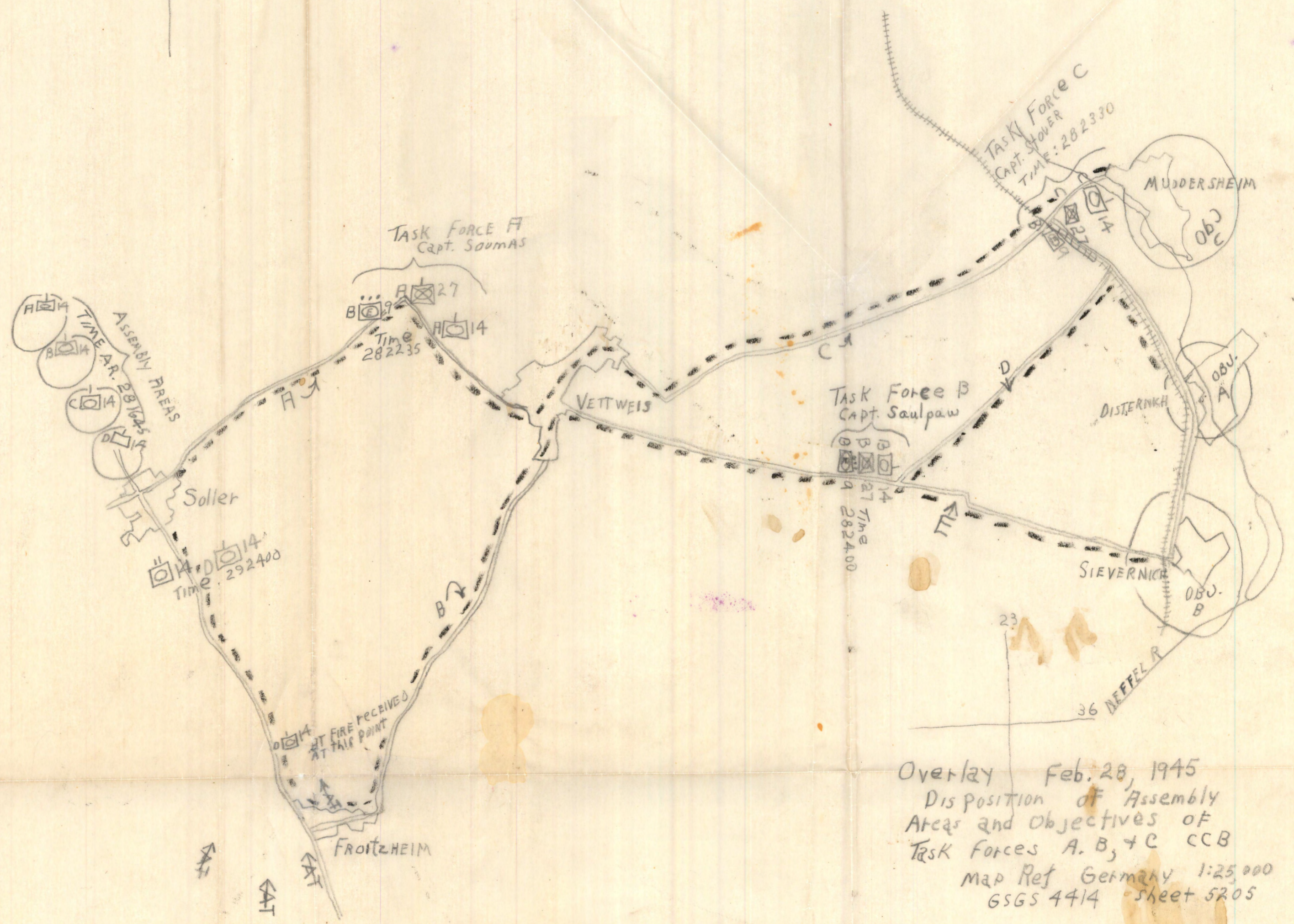
Section IV: Comments:

None.

Section V: Maps, etc.

None.

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42



Overlay Feb. 28, 1945
Disposition of Assembly
Areas and Objectives of
Task Forces A, B, + C CCB
Map Ref Germany 1:25,000
GSGS 4414 sheet 5205

OVERLAY #1

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
AFO # 269
U. S. Army

APR 186
28 Feb 46

AFTER ACTION REPORT
1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45

**DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED**
BY AUTHORITY OF TAG 208

Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

1. Campaign - Western Europe.
2. War References:

29 Jan 46 HSD
Date Initials

- a. Germany, 1:25,000, 8508 414, Sheets: 5205, 5206, 5207, 5208, 5207, 5208, 5209, 5409, 5510, and 5511.
- b. Germany, 1:50,000, sheets No. 60, 81, and 101.
- c. Central Europe 1:100,000, Sheets S 3, R 3, and Q 3.

3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

- a. Hq & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407738.
- b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: Francis E. Voegeli, Capt Cav (Armd), 024699.
- c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: George P. Thomas, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101146.
- d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: Carl E. Linder, Jr., 1st Lt. Inf (Armd), 01011420.
- e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: 1 Mar 45 to 2 Mar 45 - 1st Lt William F. Delanater, 01010078, Inf (Armd); 2 Mar 45 to 6 Mar 45 - 1st Lt. Hugh R. Morrison, 01017981, Inf (Armd); 7 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45 - 1st Lt Stanley J. Davidosyk, 01012699, Inf (Armd).
- f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: Paul M. Fisher, 1st Lt Cav (Armd), 01011509.

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Section II: Statistical Data:

1. Personnel losses: 1 March 1945 to 31 March 1945 (Inclusive):

KIA		DOW DOI		Wounded Injured in action		MIA		CAPT		Sk & Other Non-Battle Losses	
OFF	EN	OFF	EN	OFF	EN	OFF	EN	OFF	EN	OFF	EN
0	30	1	4	4	46	0	14	0	0	0	15

2. Personnel Replacements:

	Officers	W/Officers	EM
1 Mar 1945	None	None	None
2 Mar 1945	None	None	None
3 Mar 1945	None	None	None
4 Mar 1945	None	None	None
5 Mar 1945	1	None	None

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	<u>Officers</u>	<u>N/Officers</u>	<u>HM</u>
6 Mar 1945	None	None	None
7 Mar 1945	None	None	None
8 Mar 1945	None	None	None
9 Mar 1945	None	None	None
10 Mar 1945	None	None	None
11 Mar 1945	None	None	None
12 Mar 1945	None	None	76
13 Mar 1945	None	None	None
14 Mar 1945	None	None	None
15 Mar 1945	None	None	None
16 Mar 1945	None	None	None
17 Mar 1945	None	None	None
18 Mar 1945	None	None	None
19 Mar 1945	None	None	None
20 Mar 1945	None	None	1
21 Mar 1945	None	None	None
22 Mar 1945	2	None	None
23 Mar 1945	None	None	1
24 Mar 1945	None	None	None
25 Mar 1945	None	None	None
26 Mar 1945	None	None	8
27 Mar 1945	None	None	None
28 Mar 1945	None	None	None
29 Mar 1945	None	None	None
30 Mar 1945	None	None	None
31 Mar 1945	None	None	None
TOTAL	5	None	88

3. Prisoners of War taken:

1 Mar 1945	None	17 Mar 1945	None
2 Mar 1945	None	18 Mar 1945	None
3 Mar 1945	None	19 Mar 1945	None
4 Mar 1945	None	20 Mar 1945	None
5 Mar 1945	None	21 Mar 1945	None
6 Mar 1945	None	22 Mar 1945	13
7 Mar 1945	None	23 Mar 1945	2
8 Mar 1945	87	24 Mar 1945	None
9 Mar 1945	None	25 Mar 1945	6
10 Mar 1945	None	26 Mar 1945	None
11 Mar 1945	None	27 Mar 1945	8
12 Mar 1945	None	28 Mar 1945	None
13 Mar 1945	None	29 Mar 1945	1187
14 Mar 1945	None	30 Mar 1945	40
15 Mar 1945	None	31 Mar 1945	150
16 Mar 1945	None		
		TOTAL	1490

4. Higher losses:
- 21 - M48, 76mm tanks knocked out by enemy action.
 - 1 - M26, 90mm tank knocked out by enemy action.
 - 2 - M5A1, 37mm tanks knocked out by enemy action.
 - 10 - M4A3, 76mm tanks recovered and repaired.
 - 1 - M26, 90mm tank recovered and repaired.
 - 1 - M5A1, 37mm tank recovered and repaired.

B. Vehicular Replacements:

- 3 - M41, 75mm tank.
- 1 - M41, 57mm tank.

C. Ammunition Expenditures:

100 M.F.	100 rounds	75mm M.F.	100 rounds
50mm A.P.C.	21 rounds	80 cal linked	27,500 rounds
50mm H.H.	24 rounds	45 Cal.	17,500 rounds
50mm mortar M.F.	105 rounds	80 Cal belt	200,000 rounds
50mm mortar Lt.	117 rounds	80 Cal Carbine	500 rounds
75mm H.H.	2120 rounds	Grenade, Frag Hand	100 grenades
75mm A.P.C.	500 rounds	Grenade, M. Off.	3 grenades
75mm Smoke	60 rounds	Grenade, M.F.	21
75mm H.H.	500 rounds	Grenade, Incendi.	20
75mm A.P.C.	20 rounds	Smoke, 2" Smoke	204

Section III: Narrative.

00000: The situation was as follows: three tank forces had been formed and given the missions of seizing the towns of Muddersheim (F 24000), Disternich (F 24000), and Elovornich (F 24075), and establishing bridgeheads across the Ruffel River. The tank forces were composed of the units as shown below. The tank force commander was the senior company commander present.

Tank Force "A"

Company A, 14th Tank Bn
Company A, 27th A.I.C.
Plato. Co B, 9th Ingra.
Co. Co. Capt George F. Thomas

Tank Force "B"

Company B, 14th Tank Bn
Company B, 27th A.I.C.
Plato. Co B, 9th Ingra.
Co. Co. - Capt [redacted]

Tank Force "C"

Company C, 14th Tank Bn.
Company C, 27th A.I.C.
Plato. Co B, 9th Ingra.
Co. Co. - Capt [redacted]

Tank force A was to proceed to Disternich and seize bridgehead.
Tank force B was to seize Elovornich and establish a bridgehead.
Tank force C was to go to Muddersheim and put a bridge across at that point. At this time the tank forces were in position as shown on overlay No. 1.

00000: At this time Company D contacted Company C of the 688th Tank Destroyers. The tank destroyers were to relieve Company D at this point, so that Company D could proceed by another route with their original mission, which was to act as flank guard for the three tank forces.

00000: Company B commander reported that the infantry was going into the town of Elovornich. He also reported that the tail of his column had cleared the junction of B and E routes as shown on overlay No. 1.

00000: Tank force C reported that the town of Muddersheim was occupied. The engineer Officer said that he did not have the men and equipment to do the bridging job.

00000: Tank force A reached their objective and was sending the infantry forward to look over the town.

00000: Tank force A reported artillery falling on their position.

010230: Company B reported that they were proceeding through the town. They had encountered booby traps in the town.

010235: Task force A was calling for artillery support. He had to use task force C's forward observer.

010255: Company B commander reported that an AT gun had been located near the edge of town. Fire was placed on the gun and the town.

010300: Company D was relieved by Company C, 850th Tank Destroyer. Company D prepared to move into position just south of Wittweis (F 100300).

010315: Task force A had not been able to find a suitable crossing as yet. The only ones found would take at least one day to construct. Company B was still involved in taking their town.

010345: Company B captured several more enemy prisoners and turned them over to friendly doughboys. They proceeded to the East side of town to look for a bridge site to cross the Keffel River.

010355: At this time Company A received some anti-tank fire. The fire was silenced. It was also reported at this time that a bridge site had not been found.

010410: At this time Company B commander reported that he had received orders from his task force commander to withdraw from his position. His headquarters ordered Company B to remain in position. At this time only twenty doughs remained with Company B. Company B remained in position.

010700: Company D had taken up positions as shown on overlay No. 1.

010725: At this time Task force A was preparing to attack Diesternich. Task force commander had not been able to contact the engineer Officer as yet.

010745: Task force C had taken the town of Hoderstein, and had started putting down the pilings for the bridge. Work was temporarily halted due to the shortage of materials. More material was being brought up.

010745: Company B had taken objective and was setting up the defense of the town.

010755: At this time a mine field was reported by the 1st Infantry Division between Company B's position and Wittscheln (F170300). This was reported to Combat Command "B".

010815: At this time a message was received from Combat Command "B" estimating the following strength opposing the three task forces:

"Estimated Infantry Company supported by three or four anti-tank guns East of Diesternich. Estimated two Infantry Companies and three or four guns opposing task force B at Siesternich. Booby traps were also found at Siesternich."

010815: Company B had crossed the Keffel River and are holding existing bridges across the river.

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010000: Task force C had Infantry patrols out which reported the sector generally quiet. Estimated it would take two hours to complete the bridge.

010005: Company D reported some movement in Freitsheim.

010000: The command post moved to Wettweis, Germany. Hq and Hq Company closed at 010005.

010000: An overlay was received from Combat Command "B" showing sectors for further advance.

Task Force A to advance to their front and seize the town of Derham, (F 300000) and establish a bridgehead across the RFT Canal.

Task Force B to move to the town of Mulheim (F 300000), seize it, establish a bridgehead, and prepare to repel any counterattacks from the direction of Eschirchen (F 300000).

Task Force C to attack toward the town of Weilerwist (F 300000), seize the town, and establish a bridgehead across the RFT Canal.

011100: The company commanders were called to the command post in Wettweis, Germany. They were given the situation and their missions. The companies were given instructions to jump off from the Line of Departure at 1600. The meeting was delayed due to the fact that the Company commander of Company B was late. It was found out that he was late because his company had been committed on orders from the Commanding Officer, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. In this action which was started at 1100, Company B lost four tanks to anti-tank fire from the vicinity of Rovenich (F 300000). Company B commander finally arrived and was briefed on the situation and missions.

011400: Company B jumped off on their mission to seize the town of Mulheim.

011500: Task force A and Task force C jumped off at 1600. The delay was due to the fact that the bridge in task force A's area was not completed until then.

011615: Several anti-tank positions were reported to this command post. This information was relayed to the task force commanders.

011655: Task force C reported receiving anti-tank fire, and that they were calling for artillery fire to be placed on the position.

011610: Task force C and task force A both reported receiving heavy anti-tank fire from the vicinity of Weiler (F 274000).

011700: Task force A had received severe anti-tank fire from the vicinity of Weiler. Four tanks had been lost in the fire fight. The task force commander was calling for artillery on the position.

011715: Task force A had halted temporarily due to the anti-tank fire.

011725: Company B received anti-tank fire from Weiler and Rovenich and was held up temporarily.

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011733: Task force C lost three tanks to anti-tank fire from the vicinity of Keller.

011736: Task force A reported that requested artillery was coming in on the anti-tank positions.

011745: Task force C had withdrawn 500 yards to make another try. Company B was still trying to get artillery on their anti-tank positions.

011800: Task force A reported the artillery was not sufficient. More artillery was put on the position.

011835: Company B reported that artillery was coming in on their position good. Both Company B and task force A requested replacement of their load of high-explosive ammunition.

011930: Task force A sent patrols into the town of Keller to flush the town.

012030: Task force C changed commanders, 1st Lt. William F. DeLattier replacing Capt. Stover. Company Commander reported that he was trying to regroup his force and was waiting to be resupplied.

012100: Company B reports that the infantry was fighting in the woods in front of Sievernich, to clear it of the enemy. The tanks had not made advances as yet.

012210: Task force A was waiting for a report from the patrols sent out by the infantry. Everything was quiet except for a few flares. The tank company had been resupplied.

012315: Task force C was reported to be ready to move in about twenty minutes. The infantry was out in front with the tanks in support. The engineer platoon had not reported in as yet.

012330: Company B was still in the same position just out of Sievernich. The infantry had run into enemy patrols in the woods to the front. Company B had not been completely resupplied as yet.

012500: Task force A was strafed and bombed by a single plane. No damage was done.

020130: Task force C was half-way to phase line 1.

020135: Task force A was half-way to phase line 1.

020430: Task force A was still drawing anti-tank and high explosive fire from Keller. Tank company had lost contact with the infantry. Task force C was just short of phase line with tanks. The infantry had elements just ahead of the first phase line.

020445: Company B was at the first phase line.

020630: All task forces were advancing at the present time.

RECORDED

020705: Task force C reported strafing about every twenty minutes by single enemy planes.

020710: Company B received heavy anti-tank fire from left front and from pillboxes from the front.

020725: Task force infantry was in the town of Weiler. Several road-blocks were encountered. These road-blocks were in the process of being removed.

020730: Tanks of task force C needed fuel and ammunition.

020740: Task force C infantry had the town of Friesheim (F 322408). Tanks were moving into supporting positions. Infantry reported seeing several light tanks toward the northeast of town.

020845: Task force C outposted the town of Friesheim and prepared for a possible counter-attack.

020950: Task force A was moving again.

021130: Task force C had the town of Friesheim. The bridge across the Roth River was intact and a check was being made to see if it would carry a medium tank.

021325: At this time Company C was resupplied by Service Company.

021335: Company B was receiving fire from the vicinity of Bvovich. Requested resupply of fuel.

021445: Task force A located just east of Weiler. They were being held up by artillery and infantry vehicles which were blocking the way. The infantry had finally worked its way through the jam and was proceeding on foot.

021410: Company G, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was released from Task force C. Company G was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the 510th Infantry. The platoon of engineers remained with the task force.

021415: A recovery vehicle was being sent to Company C to be used in laying a trestle across the river.

021655: Company B was ready to jump off.

021835: Task force A was in Berr (F 301302), no resistance was met as yet. Tanks were in defilade west of Berr.

021845: Instructions were received from OC "B" to have Co C, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion move to the south along the east bank of the Roth River, and take Niederberg (F 313370). Task force A was given this information.

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021710: Company B reported good progress. The infantry was on the objective.

021715: Task force C reported bridge at Friesheim was intact. The task force was proceeding with its mission.

021805: Task force A reported bridge was out at Weiderberg crossing.

021815: Task force B was in the town of Weidheim.

021816: Battalion command post plus reserve moved from Disternich to village of Keller. X

021830: Task force A jumped across the Roth River. Company B reported one more tank lost to enemy action. Company C lost two more tanks to enemy action.

020845: Command post was moved to Drieschhof (F 255879).

020930: Task force A reported infantry in Niederberg. Generally the situation was in hand. Task force still was receiving some artillery fire.

021000: Task force A was expecting a counter-attack from the East.

021030: Company C tanks were in support of the infantry from positions about five hundred yards west of the town of Friesheim. Reported seeing about eight tanks leaving the town headed east.

021115: Task force A was in Lössersham (F 257280). The situation was generally quiet. No advance beyond that point.

021140: Company D moved with assault guns and mortars to area east of Weiderberg to observe the town of Klein (F 258385). Company B reverted to battalion control. Battalion could move into Battalion area as soon as room was available.

021200: Task force A reported anti-tank fire, road blocks and artillery was holding them up. Artillery was needed on the anti-tank guns.

021245: Task force C had taken the town of Kellerwist. The town had been outposted. They asked for their mess truck to be sent up.

021410: Combat Command B was attached to the 9th Infantry Division.

021430: Company B had returned to the battalion area at Drieschhof.

022000: Task force C was using a M32 to lay bridge roadway for the engineers. The night was generally quiet, with task force A sitting tight, and task force C working to complete the bridge.

040830: Company C had finished laying the bridge, and was moving over to the Battalion area.

040907: Company D, the assault gun platoon, and the mortar platoon were relieved.

040910: Task force A had taken the objective, Berkm, and had outposted the flank. A bridge was being put across the Effel Canal.

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041000: Company B, assault gun platoon, and the mortar platoon moved into a large house in the town of Gertrudenhof (F827372), generally southeast of Niederberg.

041030: Company C had moved over and joined Company D in their area.

041100: Task force A reported two bridges about half finished.

041530: One platoon of Company A was to support the infantry in an attack on Hedenheim (F 830338). Commanding General, CC "B" took personal charge of the situation.

041800: The town of Hedenheim was ours. Company A was now attached to the 310th Infantry. The rest of the battalion spent the majority of the day servicing their vehicles and in personal maintenance.

050000: Combat Command B reverted back to 9th Armored Division control. The battalion was alerted to be ready to move out any time after 0800. All of the companies were notified.

051115: The battalion commander was ordered to report to CC "B" headquarters. The battalion was ordered to be ready to move at 1300.

051200: Company B was to move at 1400 attached to the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

051400: Company B moved out to join the 27th Armored Infantry Bn. The battalion minus Company B and Company A was placed in Combat Command reserve.

051600: The battalion was to move into an assembly area west of Grossbullenheim (831321).

051700: All units of the battalion were on the road to Barkum. Overlay number 3 shows route taken.

051945: Company B reported that the town of Esch (F81311) was taken without any opposition.

051900: At this time Company C replaced Company A which was attached to the 310th Infantry Regiment.

052045: The battalion minus Company B and Company C closed into Esch and set up the command post. The town was outposted.

052145: At this time Company B reported the town of Ludendorf (F 402500) was taken and that the infantry was in the town mopping up. Infantry patrols had also gone into the town of Esig (F 829201). A few of the buildings were burning. The rest of the night was generally quiet, with routine patrol reports the only thing going on.

Company commanders were warned to the command post and alerted to move to Essig.

000040: The battalion minus Company B and Company C moved out on route marked on overlay No. 2 toward Essig. The battalion continued along the route to Ludendorf.

000044: Company B was held up by a mine field about 500 yards up the road out of Ludendorf toward Miel (F 429305).

000048: The head of the column entered Ludendorf.

000049: A few rounds of artillery landed in Ludendorf, no damage occurred to our battalion.

001039: The head of the battalion column was moving toward the town of Miel, along the axis of advance.

001038: Company B was in the town of Miel, and received quite a bit of shelling. The shells seemed to be from a high velocity weapon.

002015: At this time orders were received to break off another column to move out of Miel, along the route as shown on overlay No. 3. This column was to move to Combat Command objective, Stadt Neckenheim (F 450305). The column was composed of Company B of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion leading, followed by the light tank company of the 14th Tank Battalion. The assault gun platoon followed Company B in support of the 27th Infantry Battalion.

002040: Company B reported that its column had taken the town of Merschen (F 450300). Very little resistance was encountered, and only a small amount of artillery.

002050: At this time Company D was ordered to let Company A pass through them. The assault gun platoon and mortar platoon fell in behind Company A in direct support. One platoon of Company A was placed in front of Company B, 27th Infantry Battalion. This all took place about 500 yards beyond Miel on overlay No. 3 as indicated on route for column two.

002055: Company B reported the town of Fiersheim (F 470200) as having been taken by column number one.

002445: The reconnaissance platoon of the 14th Tank Battalion preceded the column into the town of Pepperhagen (F 442201) and captured the town, including six prisoners.

002500: The first column received orders to go over to the left toward the town of Luftelberg (F 481200). The second column was ordered along the routes shown on overlay No. 3, and to proceed to Stadt Neckenheim.

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061605: Company B and Company A were in Stadt Meckenheim mopping up.

061630: The Commanding General, Combat Command B, ordered the battalion commander to meet him in Stadt Meckenheim.

061700: At this time the battalion command section arrived in Stadt Meckenheim.

061800: Orders were issued for further objectives and the attack was to be started as soon as possible. Company B reverted back to battalion control.

061830: All plans for further objectives were rescinded. The Combat Commander gave orders to reorganize and stay in Stadt Meckenheim for the night. The battalion command post was set up in the town, A, B, and D Companies having already closed. The town was outposted for the night.

062230: Company B was attached to the 52nd Armored Infantry. The rest of the night was generally quiet.

070330: The battalion was alerted for movement. All previous orders had been cancelled. The battalion commander reported to the Combat Command B command post.

070600: The company commanders reported to the battalion command post. The route of march was given. The 14th Tank Battalion less Companies C and B, plus the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was to march along the route as shown on overlay No. 4. Both columns were to move out of town on the same route. The 52nd Armored Infantry column would continue south to the town of Gelsdorf (P 504210) then turn left on this route of march. The formation for the march was as follows:

- One platoon Company A, 27th Armored Infantry,
- One platoon Company A, 14th Tank Battalion,
- Company A, 27th Armored Infantry, minus one platoon,
- One platoon Company A, 9th Engineers,
- Company C, 27th Armored Infantry,
- Assault gun platoon, 27th Armored Infantry,
- Mortar platoon, 27th Armored Infantry,
- Company A, 14th Tank Battalion,
- Mortar platoon, 14th Tank Battalion,
- Company B, 27th Armored Infantry,
- Assault gun platoon, 14th Tank Battalion,
- Command section, 14th Tank Battalion,
- Company D, 14th Tank Battalion.

070630: The head of the 14th Tank Battalion column moved out along the route as shown on overlay No. 4.

070835: At this time the column had reached Adendorf (P 581242). So far no enemy resistance had been met.

070855: Foremost elements of the column had reached a point about one mile beyond the town of Adendorf.

071040: The head of the column received some anti-tank and high explosive fire. The infantry cleaned out the woods. The head of the column reached Arsdorf (P 541 237).

071155: The head of the column was about one mile east of the town of Birresdorf (P 580216), prepared to enter the woods and assault the final objective which was Remagen (P 642200). There had been no enemy resistance to amount to anything.

071235: The infantry dismounted at a point about half way between the towns of Birresdorf and Remagen, and took care of the enemy, estimated at only a light patrol.

071242: The column was moving again, the area had been thoroughly cleared.

071255: The S-3 of Combat Command contacted the Battalion Commander of the 14th Tank Battalion with instructions to move in on the town of Remagen.

071255: Platoon leader of Company A reported that he was on a hill overlooking Remagen. The railroad bridge across the Rhine River was intact, with traffic still moving across it. Artillery was called and a T.O.T. was called for on the bridge.

071324: At this time plans had been completed for the attack. The Battalion Commander of the 14th Tank Battalion was in command of the task force. The plan was to send Company A, 27th Infantry dismounted down into the town of Remagen. The route was under cover of the trees on the left of the road. The first platoon of Company A, 14th Tank Battalion was to lead the vehicles into the town. Behind Company A's platoon of tanks came Company C, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. The rest of the column followed in order. The walking infantry was given about thirty minutes start so that the attack would be together.

071430: First platoon, Company A, 14th Tank Battalion jumped off to go into Remagen.

071500: The rest of Company A, 14th Tank Battalion was ordered into the town of Remagen. The assault guns and mortar platoon of the 14th Tank Battalion went into position at the point marked head of column. The platoon leader of the tank platoon reported that they were proceeding to the bridge. The town of Remagen appeared to be deserted. Only ten or twenty enemy soldiers appeared to be on the bridge. At that time the platoon was receiving only a small amount of small arms fire.

071510: The assault gun and mortar platoons began to fire white phosphorus on the town of Krpel (P 648207) across the river to try to place a smoke screen over the bridge. The wind was very strong and the effect seemed generally ineffective. However, upon checking at a later date the infantry said the screen was effective.

071512: The Company A platoon of tanks were covering the bridge with fire. The only opposition appeared to be a few enemy infantry. One demolition charge was set off, resulting in only a small hole being blown in the bridge.

071517: Engineers were sent for and were on their way to report to the task force commander at the bridge.

071520: At this time a prisoner-of-war was captured. After questioning him he said that the bridge was to be blown at 1600.

071522: The task force commander had given orders for the infantry to go across the bridge, with supporting fire given by Company A tanks, assault guns, and mortar platoons of the 14th Tank Battalion.

071555: The first elements of the infantry reached the east bank of the Rhine River after crossing the bridge. They immediately began to fan out and organize the position.

071605: At this time the command half-track of the 14th Tank Battalion moved into Remagen, and set up a command post about 200 yards west of the end of the bridge on the river road.

071722: At this time the battalion was notified that the command post of Combat Command B would be in Birresdorf until further notice.

071825: Combat Command B sent a message telling of an additional battalion of infantry on its way to the bridgehead.

071855: At this time a message was received from the Commanding General of Combat Command B to secure the high ground around the bridgehead. All roads will be securely mined. The needed additional troops were on their way. The division was to protect the rear. The battalion commander of the 14th Tank Battalion had already issued these instructions prior to receiving this order.

072000: The reconnaissance officer of Company C, 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion reported to the command post.

072030: Company B reported that they had had one tank knocked out in the vicinity of Sinzig (P 655 164).

072040: Company B had a platoon checking for some reported artillery pieces. The tanks could not get into the area so the platoon leader dismounted the men and was proceeding on B ct.

072050: At this time a meeting was called at the command post which was located in a cellar in Ramagen.

072100: The following units were attached to the 14th Tank Battalion:

- Company C, 658th Tank Destroyer Battalion,
- Troop C, 69th Reconnaissance Battalion,
- 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion,
- 2nd Battalion, 510th Infantry Regiment,
- 57th Armored Infantry Battalion,
- One platoon Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion.

The mission of the task force was to secure the bridgehead and to set up road blocks and mine fields for defense.

072130: The rest of the day was spent waiting for additional infantry to arrive and the formulating of plans for the defense. The engineers continued removing the demolitions and repairing the bridge.

080015: Company A less the first platoon moved out to cross the bridge and set up road blocks on the east bank of the Rhine.

080040: Company A was across the bridge and was proceeding to set up road blocks at points shown on overlay No. 8.

080050: At this time a report of a counter-attack was received from the infantry command post. The reported attack was reported in the vicinity of the road block west of Erpal. The only report from the road block was that a few prisoners had been taken.

080137: Company A reported that two road blocks were in position. The company of tank destroyers less one platoon which was to follow behind them and help set up road blocks had not arrived to cross the bridge.

080150: Company B, 14th Tank Battalion reverted back to battalion control. This company was ordered to follow the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion across the bridge.

080153: Company A reported some small arms and machine gun fire in their sector. Most of the firing had been silenced.

080235: The tank destroyers moved out to cross the bridge.

080250: The 52nd Armored Infantry dismounted except for their command vehicles and moved across the bridge.

080335: The tank destroyer company had not yet contacted Company A, 14th Tank Battalion.

080400: The 27th Armored Infantry was told to have a guide meet the 52nd Armored Infantry when they arrived, to acquaint them with the situation, and lead them into position. The position was to be generally as shown on overlay No. 5.

080430: The second platoon of Company A, 14th Tank Battalion was calling for someone to relieve them of their prisoners.

080435: Traffic across the bridge was halted due to the fact that one of the tank destroyers had slipped off the approach and was stuck. No mounted traffic could get around the vehicle. The 52nd Armored Infantry crossed the bridge without their command vehicles and went into position.

080500: The 2nd Battalion of the 310th Infantry Regiment started to cross the bridge and go into position as shown on overlay No. 5.

080635: Company A formed a road block to the northeast of Erpel with the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion. The situation was well in hand.

080635: The 14th Tank Battalion less the part that had already crossed the river, less the first platoon of Company A whose I-25 tanks could not get across the bridge, was alerted to move across the bridge.

080715: The battalion with Company C leading, and followed by Company B and Company D moved out to cross the bridge.

080830: Company A sent a platoon of tanks with the 2nd Battalion of the 310th Infantry to Lins (V880100) to support them in taking the town.

080900: The battalion command post moved across the river into Erpel.

081030: One platoon of Company B was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment.

081130: Company A reported that they were in the town of Lins. They did not have supporting infantry. There were a number of enemy baseeka men in the town. The tanks withdrew to the west edge of town.

081300: Company C was attached to the 3rd Battalion of the 311th Infantry Regiment. The elements of the 14th Tank Battalion which were still under battalion control were: Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company D.

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081630: The bridge underwent an attack by three Stuka dive-bombers. All three of the aircraft were shot down. Heavy artillery began to come down on the town of Remagen and the bridge. The caliber was estimated to be about 210mm. Only intermittent shelling was received the rest of the day.

080800: Company A had two platoons attached to the 2nd Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment. One of their tanks had just been knocked out by bazooka fire. The 14th Tank Battalion was still in mobile reserve. Two more air attacks were received on the bridge by two ME-109s. Both planes were shot down, one in flames. Heavy artillery came in all during the day.

100915: One platoon of light tanks was attached to the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion by order of Combat Command B.

101400: The Company A and Company B platoons attached to the 3rd Battalion of the 311th Infantry Regiment were released to 14th Tank Battalion control.

101800: The battalion maintenance platoon moved across the bridge into Ispel. The platoon of Company B attached to the 2nd Battalion, 310th Infantry Regiment lost one tank due to an enemy minefield.

111000: At this time Company A was released to 14th Tank Battalion control.

111900: The platoon of Company D was released from the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion.

120000: All the units of the battalion were under battalion control with the exception of Company C, which was still attached to the 1st Battalion of the 311th Infantry Regiment.

120000: Company C, 14th Tank Battalion was still engaging the enemy at Hoenef (F 640275). The battalion received seventy-two reinforcements.

140000: Ten new tanks were received by the battalion and broken down to the following companies: Company A two, Company B six, Company D two. Company B moved into Rheinbreitbach (F 643245).

151300: Company C was released from attachment to the 1st Battalion, 311th Infantry. The company set up its command post in Hoenef. Service Company moved into Unkel (F 635225) and set up their command post there. Some artillery fell in the bridge area, no material damage was reported.

160730: Two platoons of Company A were ordered to report to the 311th Infantry Regiment for attachment.

161320: Company C moved down to Rheinbreitbach in order to be within the III Corps boundary. Three new tanks came to the battalion, and were assigned to Company C.

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171400: Two platoons of Company A were released to battalion control at this time.

171805: At this time word was received that the Ludendorff Railroad bridge had collapsed.

171818: The battalion was alerted for movement by Combat Command B. The billeting officers were sent back to their companies. The move was temporarily cancelled due to the fact that the collapse of the bridge had blocked the road.

180000: The battalion was again alerted for movement.

181318: The head of the column moved out for an assembly area northeast of Lins. Total distance covered was eight and eight-tenths miles.

180000: The day was spent on maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

181400: An alert was passed down from higher headquarters to be on the lookout for paratroopers. The companies were alerted.

210745: Billeting officers were called to the command post. They were sent to the town of Rheinbrahl (F 718100) to look for an assembly area.

211400: The head of the column moved out to Rheinbrahl. The column closed after moving a distance of eight miles.

212200: At this time one platoon of the 27th Armored Infantry was attached to Company C, 14th Tank Battalion. At the same time one platoon of the 60th Armored Infantry was attached to Company B, 14th Tank Battalion. The mission of the 14th Tank Battalion was to seize a crossing over the Weid River at Irlich (F 700049), and then to prepare to move north and seize a crossing in the 60th Armored Infantry sector. Company C, 14th Tank Battalion was given the task to seize the first crossing at Irlich. This company became attached to the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion when the infantry passed through the objective. Company B was to swing north and seize a crossing in the 60th Armored Infantry area, on order from Combat Command B.

220045: At this time Company B and Company C plus attachments moved out.

220053: The command track moved out along the route of advance in order to keep in radio communication.

220010: Company C ran into some road blocks. It took quite a while to take these road blocks out.

220053: Heavy minefields and road blocks continued to slow Company C's advance.

221010: Company C captured ten enemy infantrymen and

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encountered another minefield. The engineers estimated one hour would be needed to clear the field.

221126: Company C took the objective at Irlich. The bridge was blown.

221147: The command post moved to Leubsdorf (F 750080).

221420: Company B was to go to the left at Fahr (F 775054), up into the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion's sector, and help them on their mission. The company went to the commanding officer of the Battalion to get the situation from him.

221556: Company B hit a minefield upon turning north at Fahr.

221545: Company C was on their objective and the Company Commander was contacting the Commanding Officer of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion for the situation.

221647: The friendly infantry was across the river in Neuwid (F 602052). Company C was in position to support this infantry with fire. Company C was attached to the 27th Armored Infantry.

221735: The 14th Tank Battalion minus Company B and C assembled in Hohlendorf (F 780060) at this time.

221957: Company B was helping the 60th Armored Infantry on their objective which was in the vicinity of Niederbieber. They were receiving only a small amount of small arms fire. Company B reported that they hit only very light resistance, and that the enemy was fleeing away from the objective. Company C could not get across the river at Neuwid until it was bridged. However, they were in position on high ground generally northeast of the town of Irlich, and could give supporting fire at any place the 27th Armored Infantry needed it.

230720: A bridge was found intact up in the 2nd Infantry Division sector. It was believed capable of holding medium tanks. Permission was granted for the tank force to use the bridge. Company B started across at this time.

230830: At this time the only bridge across the river in the 20 "A" sector was at Irlich and it was a foot bridge. It was capable of holding only one-quarter and three-quarter ton vehicles. An order was received at this time attaching the 14th Tank Battalion to Combat Command A. Most of the day was spent in maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

240151: Word was received that the Bailey Bridge across the Weid River would be completed by 0700.

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240835: Verbal instructions were received from the Executive Officer of Combat Command A to be ready to move the Battalion at 0830. Billeting officers were sent ahead into the town of Roddesdorf (F 812049).

240728: Company C which was attached to the 27th Armored Infantry was on the main objective which was Kowried.

240750: Company commanders were called to the command post and orders were given for moving. The order of march was to be: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Company A, Company D, and Service Company.

240920: The battalion closed to the town of Roddesdorf. The status of the battalion was still Combat Command Reserve.

241230: Combat Command A was ordered to establish a bridgehead across the Lehr River, east of Vallendar (F 915001). The 14th Tank Battalion minus Company B and Company C was to be prepared for any employment as ordered by Combat Command A.

250950: Company C reported that they were on their first objective which was Engers (F 865028).

251400: The 14th Tank Battalion minus Companies B and C moved to Engers at this time.

251445: The battalion arrived in Engers and went into an assembly area.

251720: Company A, 14th Tank Battalion was attached to the 52nd Armored Infantry to move on Heitersburg (F 903025). Company A will report prior to 1930.

252145: Headquarters, Service, D, and Medical Detachment Commanders reported to headquarters and were told that battalion was still in reserve. One company 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the battalion.

252202: All plans were cancelled. The mission was to take ground and observe fire. Company A reverted back to 14th Tank Battalion control.

261230: The assault gun platoon was attached to the 3rd Field Artillery, effective at once.

261345: Combat Command A received orders to attack to the east with the initial objective of seizing Deis. ^{the movement to} (M 195970). The movement to Hillscheid (F 974007) was to be in a single Combat Command column. After Hillscheid the movement would be in two columns. The 14th Tank Battalion was to follow Combat Command A headquarters and was to be in reserve.

The order of march for the battalion was: Command Section, Reconnaissance platoon, Company A, 1 platoon 9th Engineers Company A, Headquarters Company, Tank Destroyers, Company D, and Service Company.

261745: The head of the column left Engers at this time.

262345: The battalion closed in Altendies. The march was uneventful.

271015: Company E, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry was attached to the battalion. Two platoons of Company D were attached to Combat Command A. This time Company B was attached to the 80th Armored Infantry, and Company C was attached to the 2nd Battalion of the 38th Infantry which was minus Company E.

271800: Plans were given to the 14th Tank Battalion minus, plus Company E, 38th Infantry. The Combat Command was to advance in zone indicated on overlay from Headquarters Combat Command A, dated 28 March 1945. The Combat Command was to advance initially in two columns. At the town of Lembachbach (S 427004), the 80th Armored Infantry would take a route to the right which would put them into the center column. Company B of the 658th Tank Destroyers placed a platoon of Tank Destroyers in support of Service Company, 14th Tank Battalion.

271830: Word was received from higher headquarters at this time that all proposed orders were cancelled.

272245: Another plan was put out to the Company Commanders. The 14th Tank Battalion's part was the same. Combat Command B was to be on the battalion's left flank on this move. The formation for the 14th Tank Battalion was as follows:

- One platoon, Company D, 14th Tank Battalion, attached
- one section Company E, 38th Infantry,
- Assault gun section (3 guns),
- Air-ground liaison tank,
- Company A, 14th Tank attached Company E, 38th Infantry,
- minus one section,
- One platoon Company A, 9th Engineers,
- Assault gun section (3 guns),
- Command Section,
- Headquarters Company,
- A Trains,
- B Trains,

The head of the 14th Tank Battalion column was to hit the line of departure at 0700.

272315: At this time information was received from Combat Command A that the H hour had been postponed for twenty-four hours.

281345: The battalion received an alert order for a move to Schadeck, Germany (S 300012).

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231455: The head of the column moved out of Altendiez, toward Schadeck. The column passed through the following places: Aull (M 190000), Staffel (M 218997), Bruchenvorstadt (M 246996), Dietkirchen (G 205006), Dohra (G 258022), Steden (G 278020), and Schadeck.

231635: The battalion closed into Schadeck at this time.

232115: Company commanders were given the order of march for the column. It remained the same as the order of 27 March 1941.

230355: Orders were received changing the march column within the Combat Command to a single column behind the 14th Tank Bn. Combat Command B would advance on our left flank. Upon arrival at Giessem the battalion would go into a march bivouac.

230615: The head of the column left Schadeck, Germany. The following towns were along the route taken by the battalion: Arfurt (G 330030), Amussen (G 348006), Elberhausen (G 390020), Blossenbach (G 403016), Leubuschenbach (G 427004), Teilbrunster (G 453040), Kottau (G 470033), Kraftschke (G 510036), Obergusenbach (G 529079), Oberwets (G 551090), Reidenhausen (G 573125), Gr. Richtenbach (G 596139), Hochelheim (G 626130), Hornheim (G 635137), Grossen-Linden (G 647150), Leihgostern (G 665148), Steinberg (G 688155), Valgenborn (G 695157), Hausen (G 707179), Annarod (G 720205), Grossen Busch (G 742240), Beuern (G 768250), Gailshausen (G 820280), Odenhausen (G 815296), Veitersheim (G 845305), Hornfeld (G 865306), Humberg (G 890375), Appenrod (G 925394), Erbenhausen (G 940407), and Kirtorf (G 965420). During the march very little if any resistance was met. Quite a few SSs were captured. In the area around Grossen-Linden there was a manned set-up of 88mm gun positions. The garrison never fired a shot. On the approach of the column white flags were flown and the people came out. In this area in the towns of Richtenbach, Hochelheim, and Hornheim nearly all of the guns found were in the back yards of the townspeople. The guns were still in complete and were not employed at all. It looked as if they had been placed there to await digging of emplacements and installation. A few troops were sighted throughout the day running on the flanks. For the most part they surrendered and were marched back down the column. The estimated take of prisoners for the day was around eleven hundred.

231715: The battalion closed into Kirtorf, Germany at this time. Over a period of eleven hours and nine minutes the battalion had led an advance which covered a distance of sixty-eight and four-tenths (68.4) miles, and accumulated eleven hundred prisoners.

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292330: At this time the order for the work to be done on 30 March 1945 was received. The 14th Tank Battalion was to follow in column behind the 2nd Battalion of the 30th Infantry, and upon reaching Fritslar (H 077022), which was their objective, assemble in the town of Lennern (H 105902). The 14th Tank Battalion was to secure the Combat Command rear from the road junction at 080015 to the Eder River at 1201. Combat Command mission was to secure a bridgehead over the Eder River at Fritslar. This job was given to the 80th Armored Infantry, with Company B, 14th Tank Battalion attached.

300000: Head of Combat Command A column moved out of Kirterf. The part of the 14th Tank Battalion in this move was uneventful. A change occurred enroute when the battalion moved into Grossenglis (G 077766) instead of Lennern.

302230: The order for the work to be accomplished on 31 March 1945 was received at this time. The mission of the battalion was to follow behind the 2nd Battalion of the 30th Infantry. At the town of Breuna (C 002140) the battalion was to swing right and occupy the towns of Mandern (C 050233), Grimelsheim (C 040210), and Dalheim (C 002114). The first elements of the Combat Command were to cross the river at Wega (H 002215), and jump off from there at 0600. The order of march for the battalion remained the same as the previous day.

310027: The head of the battalion column moved out at this time. The column passed through the following towns: Grossenglis, Ungedanken (H 040215), Mandern (H 002233), Wega (H 002215), Kellen (H 010040), Euchen (H 040270), Altendorf (H 002020), Hammburg (G 000044), Altenstadt (H 010023), Brundersen (C 012007), Kalfagen (C 000040), Rothfelden (C 020070), Niederelsungen (C 012110), Breuna, Oberlistingen (C 040170), Niederlistingen (C 054170), Eren (C 050200), Grimelsheim (C 040210), and Mandern (C 050233). The battalion march was generally uneventful. A few prisoners-of-war were taken. A distance of forty-three and nine-tenths miles were covered in the day's march.

311230: The battalion closed at this time. The area was cleared and security set-up. The day's bag of prisoners-of-war was about one-hundred and fifty. The rest of the day and night was generally quiet.

Terrain along the Rhine River restricted the battalion to the immediate river roads. The action of the enemy had little effect on the aggressive action of the battalion; however, some hasty minefields and some 20mm anti-aircraft fire did momentarily slow down but did not seriously impede the attack. The enemy, not able to establish or maintain any cohesive front, was stampeded and was not given any time to prepare or to defend any defensive or to fight any effective rear guard action. The weather was favorable throughout the period.

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Section IV; Comments:

None.

Section V: Maps, etc.

- Overlay No. 1, 1 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".**
- Overlay No. 2, 2 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".**
- Overlay No. 3, 5 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".**
- Overlay No. 4, 7 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".**
- Overlay No. 5, 8 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "B".**
- Overlay No. 6, 22 March 1945. Disposition of assembly areas and objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "A".**
- Overlay No. 7, 26 March 1945. Route of March and Objectives of Task Forces A, B, and C, CC "A".**

HEADQUARTERS
COMBAT COMMAND "B"
9TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 299, U. S. ARMY

~~RESTRICTED~~

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for the Period 1-31 March 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 9th Armored Division, APO 299,
U. S. Army.
(Attention: Liaison Control Officer, Fwd Ech.)

1. In compliance with Operations Memorandum No. 21, Headquarters 9th Armored Division, dated 25 November 1944, the above named report is submitted herewith.

For the Commanding Officer:



A. C. HAMILTON
Colonel, Infantry
Executive

609-73.2

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
SECURITY OF THE ARMY
WAC (Control) Col F.A. 8 Jan 46
GRADING COMMITTEE

#1-2

~~RESTRICTED~~

2 AUG 1945

11353
1

A Try 89 Cav Ren Sq

C Co 9 Armd Engr Bn

A Co 2 Armd Med Bn

A Co 131 Maint Bn

D Btry 482 AW AAA Bn (SP)

A Co 656 T D Bn (SP)

Capt Victor C Leiker 037027

1st Lt Wm H Burns 01016918

Capt Ellis G Fee 01104679

Capt John M Lepore 01718279

Capt Jason Rhynard 0473503

Capt Harry A Ripkey 0394671

Capt David V Cleary 0339191

SECTION II. (OOB Hq & Hq Co only).

1. Personnel Losses for Period.

Name	ASN	Rank	Reason
Hoge, William M.	004437	Brig Gen	Trfd
Baker, James M.	0345026	Major	Trfd
Doran, Charles J.	01597000	2d Lt	KIA
DeChristopher, Dominic D.	36609686	Teo 5	Non-Battle Casualty
Perkins, Arthur L.	31213778	PFC	Trfd
Lister, Roy G.	6663542	Pvt	Non-Battle Casualty

2. Personnel Gains for Period.

Johnson, Harry W.	016391	Col
Thomas, Thomas P.	33358486	Teo 5
Jourdan, Orville H.	35725162	Pvt
Georgekepeules, Pericles	31434152	Pvt

3. Prisoners of War Taken.

7 March 45 - 7 Prisoners
 29 March 45 - 195 Prisoners
 30 March 45 - 8 Prisoners

4. Vehicular Losses for Period.

1/4 Ton 4x4 Truck
 3/4 Ton 4x4 Truck
 1/4 Ton Trailer

5. Vehicular Gains for Period.

1/4 Ton 4x4 Truck
 3/4 Ton 4x4 Truck

6. Ammunition Expended 1 March 45 to 31 March 45.

50 Cal. Ammunition - 2385 Rounds.
 30 Cal. Ammunition - 700 Rounds.

SECRET

AUTH: CG 9 AB
DATE: 8 March 45
INIT: _____

HEADQUARTERS
COMBAT COMMAND "B"
9TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 259, UI 81 ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT 1-31 MAR 45

PART ONE.

SECTION I.

1. Campaign: Germany.
2. Map references: Central Germany 1/100,000 Sheets R1, S1, S2, S3,
R3, Q3.
Germany 1/50,000 Sheets 19,20,21,40,41,60,61,80,
81,100,101,130,131.
Germany 1/25,000 Sheets 5309, 5310, 5409, 5410.
3. Units and Commanders of subordinate troops:
Hq Combat Command "B" Brig Gen Wm H Hoge 04437
1 March--22 March
Col. Harry W. Johnson 016391
22 March
Hq Co Combat Command "B" Capt Jas K Brewer 0304690
27 Armd Inf Bn Maj Murray Devers 0305995
1st Bn 310 Inf Regt Maj T M Robinson
14 Tk Bn Lt Col Leonard E Engeman 0304690
16 Armd F A Bn Lt Col C Wesner 016842
1 March--22 March
Maj Dwight S Hall 0325558
22 March
C Trp 89 Cav Ren Sq Capt Jack E. Chambers 01010064
B Co 9 Armd Engr Bn 1st Lt Robert M Tischbin 01102089
1 March--4 March
1st Lt John B Mitchell 01105052
4 March
B Co 2 Armd Med Bn Capt Joseph A Panzarella 0330407
1 March--21 March
Capt Wiley B Trivett 0376420
21 March
C Co 131 Maint Bn Capt John F McKinney 0478129
B Btry 482 AV AAA Bn (SP) Capt C G Denton 01041331
C Co 656 T D Bn (SP) Capt Richard H Tuggle 0469959

At various times during the month the following units were attached to or in support of CC "B":

52 Armd Inf Bn	Lt Col Wm R Prince 020219
60 Armd Inf Bn	Lt Col Kenneth W Collins 022169
19 Tk Bn	Lt Col Burton W Karsteter 0294966
89 Cav Ren Sq (less A, C, D & 2 plat E Trp & F Co)	Lt Col Caesar F Fiore 0198297

SECTION III.

Combat Command B, during the month of March, advanced approximately 215 miles from the Roer River to the vicinity of Kassel. Enroute the combat command broke through the German defense crust between the Roer and Erft Rivers, seized the Ludendorf Bridge at Remagen, established the first Allied bridgehead on the east bank of the Rhine River and participated in the encirclement of German troops in the Ruhr sector.

Approximately 250 cities, towns and villages were captured or cut off by the combat command during its advance. Units of the command accounted for 6,345 prisoners of war. Estimated enemy killed was approximately 1,500 with 15 tanks and 65 to 70 AT guns knocked out. In the last week of March when the combat command raced 184 miles in five days from the Rhine to the vicinity of Kassel, numerous large supply dumps, particularly ammunition and signal supplies were either cut off or destroyed by the enemy.

Operations were conducted over terrain varying from the flat Cologne Plain to the hills of the Western Wall, in all types of weather except snow.

Outstanding accomplishment of the month was the seizure of the Ludendorf railway bridge at Remagen in the face of two abortive enemy attempts to blow up the structure while CCB troops were going across. This action resulted in a complete tactical surprise to the enemy and enabled the establishment of a small but firm bridgehead which was held for two days until reinforcements were moved across the bridge and the 9th Infantry Division assumed responsibility. By the time the Ludendorf bridge collapsed on 17 March, two ponton and one Bailey bridge were in operation in the vicinity of Remagen and the bridgehead had expanded into a sector with the III and VII Corps operating.

The Ludendorf bridge was taken on 7 March 1945 by a task force, commanded by Lt. Col. Leonard E. Engeman, comprising the 14 Tank Battalion less B and C Companies, 27 Armored Infantry Battalion, 1 platoon from B Company, 9 Armored Engineer Battalion, 1 platoon, C Company, 656 Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP). The mission of the task force originally was to seize and hold the west bank of the Rhine River from Remagen to Kripp. Instructions concerning the Remagen bridge were that only time and posit fuse would be fired at the structure. After the column had marched from Stadt-Meckenheim on the morning of 7 March, the commanding general, 9 Armored Division, in a conference with commanding General, CCB, issued instructions that if the bridge was found intact upon reaching Remagen, a crossing would be made. These instructions were delivered to Lt. Col. Engeman, shortly after noon, approximately 1.5 miles west of Remagen and the crossing began at 1535.

While the first troops were crossing, orders were received to advance along the west bank of the Rhine south of the Ahr River. As soon as CG 9 AD was informed of the crossing, all other missions for CCB were cancelled and orders issued for CCB to assemble its troops and get them across the river as quickly as possible. By mid-morning of 8 March, the

14 Tank Bn, 27 and 52 Armored Infantry Bns, 1 Bn, 310 Infantry, B Co, 9 Armd Engr Bn and C Co, 656 TD Bn occupied a small but solidly held bridgehead which prevented any direct heavy weapons fire on the bridge. B and D batteries, 482 AAA Bn, were in position to protect the structure from enemy air attack, the first of which came on the afternoon of 8 March.

Taking of the bridge posed a rather formidable problem in logistics; in particular of getting all elements of the command withdrawn from diverse missions, assembled and across the bridge, which permitted only one-way traffic. The rapidity of the advance from Stadt-Meckenheim to Remagen on the morning of 7 March had greatly extended lines of supply and evacuation and this extension was made doubly difficult by the interposing of a river the size of the Rhine between combat and supply echelons. Despite these barriers and intensive shelling of the bridge and towns of Remagen and Erpel, evacuation and supply continued uninterrupted and satisfactorily.

Elements of the combat command continued to assist in establishing the bridgehead until 25 March when the race to encircle German troops in the Ruhr area began. Averaging 46 miles for each marching day, the combat command took Limburg and established a bridgehead across the Lahn river on 26 March and at the close of the month had advanced 184 miles from the Rhine to the vicinity of Ossendorf, on the right flank of the 3 Armored Division, which had met 9th Army troops at Lippstadt.

A detailed account of the action for the month of March follows:

The Combat Command crossed the Roer River on 28 February and, starting from Soller, Germany, pushed through Vetsweiss and then fanned out for the NEFFEL River in three columns with Muddersheim, Desternich and Sievernich (see Overlay No. 1) as its immediate objectives and a crossing of the Erft River at Lommersum as its final mission. Enemy resistance was encountered in all three towns but by 010800 March all three had been occupied. The bridge across the Neffel at Sievernich was taken intact and engineers had bridges ready at Desternich and Muddersheim by 1200. C/89 Rcn passed through the three bridgeheads at 1200 with the columns to follow at 1400. Column B moved out of Sievernich at 1030 and encountered AT fire just east of the town, with four medium tanks knocked out. Column A crossed on time and Column C at 1445. Progress of all three columns was slow and by daylight of 2 March no column had advanced more than 2 kilometers. Column B became disorganized and was held up in the woods at 260370 by heavy fire from Rovenich. Column C took Freisheim at 0900 and had a bridgehead established east of the Roth River by 1300. During the night the 1st Battalion, 310 Infantry, had been attached to OCB. The battalion was ordered to move, by truck, to Freisheim, pass through and attack Weilerwitz. C/14 Tk Bn, Plt B/9 Engr and C/656 TD Bn were attached to the battalion. C/27 AIB was ordered, upon passage of 1/310, to move south on the east bank of the Roth River and assist Column A in taking Niederberg.

The 1st Bn, 310 Inf, passed through the Freisheim bridgehead at 1900 and at the same time Column B captured Mulheim and Wichterrich. The advance of Column A through Weiler and Borr was slow and it did not get into position to attack Neiderberg until just before midnight.

The situation during the day had become somewhat confused. Orders originally issued CG CCB prior to crossing the Roer were to advance along the axis Desternich-Neiderberg-Lommersum-Derkum. No changes to these orders were ever received. During the morning of 2 March CCB learned from 9 Inf Div that it had been assigned the mission of capturing Niederberg and Lommersum. 1 Bn, 39 Inf, had moved during the afternoon on Freisheim, which was already in our hands. About 1800 this column moved south toward Neiderberg. Column A was informed and instructed to take extreme care not to fire on these friendly troops while taking the town. Column A entered Neiderberg from the west, at 050015 March, just as the battalion from the 39th came in from the north. The town was taken with little resistance and there were no reports of casualties caused by friendly troops firing on each other. The bridge across the Roth River was found to be intact.

With Neiderberg taken, the combat command was reorganized. The 27 AIB less B Co which was waiting at Mulheim to be relieved by 2d Bn, 39th Inf, and with A/14 Tk Bn attached, was ordered to take Lommersum and establish a bridgehead across the Erft at Derkum.

This column left Neiderberg 020215 March for Lommersum followed by 1 Bn, 39 Inf, which had orders to take the same town. It was also reported that 47 Inf, which had taken Sulpich, was advancing on Lommersum. This later proved to be incorrect.

The 14 Tk Bn, less detachments, was held in a reserve position in the vicinity of Borr. C/89 Rcn was reconnoitering ahead of the 27 AIB and 1/310 to the Erft River. 89 Rcn Bn, less detachments, was screening the south flank which was open. After reaching the Erft C/89 moved to the north flank of 1/310 to establish contact with 1st Inf Div.

1/310 encountered enemy tanks and artillery fire as it cleaned up the woods east of Freisheim and was pinned down for some time. At daylight, however, the battalion moved forward and at 1115 entered Weilerwits. The two bridges across the Erft west of the town had been blown and approaches mined. The town was cleaned up and a bridgehead established under moderate to heavy artillery and mortar fire.

27 AIB advanced without opposition until it reached the western edge of Lommersum where a small arms fight ensued and at 0520 the major part of the town was occupied. The bridge across the Erft was found to be blown and heavy fire was received from the high ground on the east bank of the Erft.

The morning of 3 March was spent by 27 AIB and 1/39 cleaning up the town and attempting to get across the river. Finally, at 1400, CCB was attached to the 9 Inf Div. D/14 Tk Bn was moved east of Heiderberg where it could cover the river between Weilerwitz and Lommersum.

B/27 AIB had been relieved at Mulheim and moved by way of Heiderberg to the north edge of Lommersum to attempt a crossing. This move was held up and the crossing never was made. During the night 3-4 March 1/39 Inf got two companies across the Erft and a start was made on putting a treadway bridge across the river.

Late in the afternoon of 3 March, the boundary between the 9 and 1 Inf Divs was changed with Weilerwitz inclusive to 1 Inf Div. During the night of 3-4 March the 1st Bn, 16 Inf relieved 1/310, which moved into a reserve position at Desternich. After 1/310 had cleared the area, C/14 reverted to battalion control. C/656 TD returned to reserve at Desternich. The engineer platoon, after putting a treadway bridge in at Weilerwitz, reverted to its company and C/89 moved to the vicinity of Borr. 89 Rcn Sq, less its detachments, was given the mission of occupying Klein Vernich during the night of 4-5 March.

Progress on installation of the bridge at Lommersum during the day of 4 March was slow, due largely to artillery and mortar fire. At 1400 the CG, CCB was ordered by CG 9 Inf Div to go personally to Lommersum, take charge of all CCB units there and attack and sieze Bodenheim without delay. The CG moved at once to Lommersum and established an advance CP. A/27 AIB, supported by a platoon from A/14 Tk, was ordered to attack south from Lommersum to take and hold Bodenheim. C/27 AIB, as soon as it could be assembled from road blocks established on the north and west sides of the town, was to move to the right of A/27 AIB and protect the flank, being prepared to move in on Bodenheim from the west if necessary. The attack was uneventful, with only a small amount of enemy artillery fire. There was a small arms fire fight on the edge of town, which was occupied by 1600 and had been out-posted to the south and west (See Overlay No. 1) by dark.

Following the capture of Bodenheim, orders were received to continue the attack south at midnight, cross the Erft river and take Wuscheid and Grossebulesheim. The 1 Bn 310, which had been relieved by elements of 1st Inf Div at Weilerwitz and was now in reserve at Desternich, was given the mission and during the early part of the night moved to Lommersum, preparatory to crossing the LD, which was the outpost line of 27 AIB south of Bodenheim, at 050100 March.

While these preparations were being made, liaison officers from Combat Command R, 9 Armored Division, reported in to the advance CP at Lommersum with information that their unit was to take Wuscheid. However, advance elements of 52 AIB, during the night, came into the CP of C/27 AIB and a collision was avoided. 1 Bn, 310 Inf crossed the LD at 0120 and by dawn had occupied Grossebulesheim, after taking Wuscheid, without firing a shot. Before dawn of 5 March, CCB was detached from 9 Inf Div,

went back under 9 AD control and was ordered to take over the sector of CCR at 0600 (See overlay No. 2). C/89 Hon was ordered to Kessenich to occupy the town and establish contact with CCA, which had taken Buskirchen.

There were no bridges, except for a footbridge just east of Bodenheim, across the Erft River in CCB's sector and the morning of March 5 was spent in reconnaissance for a crossing. During the afternoon it was decided to put in a trestle bridge beside the footbridge and work was begun by E/9 Engr and completed at 1800.

At 1100 the CG CCB returned from division headquarters with orders for CCB to advance east and southeast on Stadt Meckenheim (See overlay No. 3). G/89 crossed the LD at 1300 followed by 27 AIB and 14 Tk Bn (-2 med cos) at 1500. 1 Bn, 310 occupied Kleinbüllesheim. Just after dark 27 AIB occupied Ludendorf, 14 Tk Bn was at Esch and 1 Bn 310 Inf at Grossebüllesheim. During the night a patrol from 27 AIB discovered and knocked out four dug-in AT guns in the vicinity of Essig.

At 0800 on 6 March, the advance continued as shown on the overlay. During the night 52 AIB had been attached to CCB and was moved to Esch. 1 Bn 310 followed the 14 Tk Bn prepared to drop off a company to occupy Miel, Morenhoven and Flersheim after 27 AIB and 14 Tk had passed through. Resistance throughout the day was slight and after Miel had been taken, a second route was found and the combat command advanced on Morenhoven and Flersheim in two columns. A short but brisk fire fight, with the enemy using principally small arms and mortars, took place at Flersheim. The column pushed on and advancing rapidly, entered Stadt-Meckenheim at 1530 against light resistance.

While the column was moving into Stadt-Meckenheim, orders came down from 9 Armored Division to reorganize at once on the objective and turn east to take Bad Godesburg and Lannesdorf. CG CCB moved at once to Stadt-Meckenheim, assembled unit commanders and issued orders for the advance, in two columns, to begin at 1900. At 1800 a message from G-3, 9 AD, changed the mission. CCB was to reorganize and await orders in Stadt-Meckenheim. CCA, on the right of CCB, was to continue southeast to contain Remagen, and Bad Neunhaur and establish a bridgehead across the Ahr River at Sinsig.

The command was assembled in the Stadt-Meckenheim--Flersheim area and billeted for the night. Reconnaissance was begun to find routes out of and around Stadt-Meckenheim which had been subjected to severe air attacks, causing main streets to be blocked in several places with rubble, in some instances, 10 feet high. Engineers with bulldozers, aided by tank dozers, began clearing these obstacles. Shortly after midnight CCB received orders to move southeast, taking the towns of Remagen, Kripp and Sinsig and securing the crossings of the Ahr at Sinsig and Bodendorf. CCA was to advance on Bad Nezenahr. The order further stated that the railroad bridge at Remagen would be fired upon only with time or posit fuses. (See Overlay No. 4).

At 070700 March CCB left Stadt-Meckenheim in two columns. The south column was composed of the following units:

- "C" Troop, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron, less 1 platoon.
- 52d Armored Infantry Battalion
- "B" Co, 14th Tank Battalion
- 1 platoon, "B" Co, 9th Armored Engineer Battalion
- 1 platoon, "C" Co, 656 Tank Destroyer Battalion

The column had the mission of siezing the Ahr bridges at Bodendorf and Sinzig and establishing a bridgehead wouth of the Ahr at Sinzig.

The north column, which was unable to get out of Stadt-Meckenheim until 1000 because much uncleared rubble in the streets was still blocking its exit route and had to be removed, was composed of the following units:

- 1 platoon, "C" Troop, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron
- 14th Tank Battalion, less "B" Co
- 27th Armored Infantry Battalion

Combat Command Reserve:

- Headquarters CCB
- 1st Battalion, 310th Infantry
- "B" Co, 9th Armored Engineer Bn, less 1 platoon
- "C" Co, 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion, less 1 platoon

The mission of the north column was to take Remagen and Kripp. Early in the afternoon 1 Bn, 310 Inf was committed on the combat command's left flank to clean out the area between CCB and 9 Inf Div, which was on the north.

The order to the south column directed it to move out without delay toward its objective, and to refrain from occupying any of the towns passed through on the way unless strong enemy resistance was encountered. The rate of march was set at 10 mph.

After both columns had marched the Division Commander, Maj. Gen. John W. Leonard, arrived at Stadt-Meckenheim. Gen. Leonard and Brig. Gen. William M. Hoge (commanding CCB) were discussing the situation when the question of the bridge across the Rhine at Remagen came up. The two commanders decided on the spot that if the bridge was passable CCB would cross and establish a bridgehead. Both columns already being on the road, a member of the CCB Staff set out in a peep to overtake the north column and caught up with it about a mile and a half from Remagen and relayed the new instructions to the column commander, Lt. Col. Leonard Engeman.

The advance elements of the column had just reached the high ground overlooking Remagen. Enemy vehicles could be seen crossing over the bridge to the east. Other than the movement of the vehicles no evidence of enemy activity could be seen.

Col. Engeman sent A/27 AIB down into the town of Remagen, covered by tanks. The town was taken without much trouble. A PW reported that the bridge was scheduled to be blown at 1600 that day. At 1535, A/27 started across the bridge. The north column had met no enemy resistance during its march from Stadt-Meckenheim, and encountered only light small arms fire in Remagen itself. The leading elements of the column drew scattered small arms fire while crossing the bridge, and after reaching the east bank they received some AAA fire from the west bank. The engineer company had moved up while Remagen was being occupied and engineers were among the first on the bridge searching for demolitions. Two charges were set off but only the primer exploded. After careful investigation of all reports on why the bridge was not blown this headquarters believes that a Polish railroad worker at Erpel, one Sivinski, cut the wires leading to the charges and tied them back so that the cut could not be detected by inspection.

While the crossing was taking place (III Corps had not yet heard of the new development) CCB was ordered to move south across the Ahr toward an unlimited objective down the west bank of the Rhine. The CG CCB did not know right away whether to carry out this new order or to go ahead and exploit the bridgehead. The decision was to leave the elements which had already crossed where they were until further instructions could be obtained from Gen. Leonard. The latter ordered CCB to go ahead with the expansion of the bridgehead while he got word to III Corps Headquarters. The division commander also ordered 52 AIB and attachments relieved at Sinzig by elements of CCA and 89 Rcn Sq, less detachments, was ordered to relieve 1 Bn, 310 Inf, enabling the assembly and movement of all CCB units across the river. As soon as Corps got the news of the Rhine crossing, Gen. Leonard's orders were confirmed and the mission of CCB to the south was cancelled.

Accordingly, the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion started sending the remainder of its troops across the bridge and began occupying the high ground to the east and northeast of the bridge in the vicinity of Orsberg. About nightfall on the 7th instructions were issued to assemble those elements of CCB remaining on the west side of the river and send them across the bridge. Trucks were dispatched to the 1st Bn, 310th Infantry in order to move it by motor into Remagen.

About the same time, an order from III Corps directed the 47th Infantry to move into Remagen by motor, and word was received that the 311th Infantry and the 60th Infantry were also to be moved into the vicinity of Remagen.

Just after dark, A/14 Tk was moved across. As the night wore on the two roads leading into Remagen, from Bierresdorf on the west and Sinsig on the south and Remagen, itself, become clogged with traffic first by units of the combat command being hurriedly assembled and later by reinforcements being rushed up by III Corps. The night was quite dark and rainy and almost superhuman efforts by all concerned were required to keep traffic in any semblance of order and moving. The two attempts to blow up the bridge had done enough damage in two places to make vehicular traffic one way. Shortly after midnight, to add to the difficulties, a tank destroyer, while crossing, slipped off the roadway and was precariously perched on two beams, unable to use its own power to be extricated. This block halted all vehicular traffic and the armored infantry battalions were forced to leave their vehicles in Remagen and cross on foot. Finally, after three hours, the TD was towed off the bridge and the rest of C/656 TD and 14 Tk were moved across. This three-hour block delayed the entire schedule of movement of troops and added to the traffic jam now beginning to make itself evident as far back as Bierresdorf.

At about 0200 8 March, the 52d Armored Infantry Battalion started across the bridge and moved up to the high ground in the vicinity of Orsberg on the left of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. A little after daylight, the 1st Battalion of the 310th crossed and occupied the high ground south of the bridge around Ockenfels, in order to deny enemy use of the locality for direct artillery observation on the bridge area, which was subject to constant indirect fire.

During the afternoon of the 8th, the enemy made two attempts from the air to knock out the bridge. During the day the 47th Infantry crossed and took up defensive positions to the east and northeast of the 27th and 52d AIB. By this time, the bridgehead was about one mile deep and two miles wide. See overlay No. 5.

While the 52d AIB and the 1st Bn, 310th were crossing early on the 8th tanks and tank destroyers also reached the east bank, establishing road blocks on the main road along the river. One was located at the southern edge of Kasbach, and the other just north of Erpel.

During the night of the 7th-8th, all units having elements east of the Rhine were ordered to move their CPs to the east bank so that if the enemy succeeded in knocking out the bridge, our forces could continue to hold the bridgehead. The advance CP of CCB crossed the bridge at 0800 on the 8th and set up in Erpel.

That afternoon, the 311th Infantry began moving across the river, encountering considerable difficulty on account of the ever-increasing traffic on the west bank and heavy artillery fire on the bridge and Remagen. By late afternoon there was so much traffic on the road net to the west that a serious jam resulted, tying movements up so completely that during the night of the 8th, only one battalion of the 60th Infantry got across to the other side.

At 0200 on 9 March the CG 9 Inf Div arrived in Erpel and assumed command of the bridgehead. During the period 13-20 March Combat Command B was inactive except for several shifts of location to maintain a central position as corps reserve. Throughout the period 52 AIB was attached to 310 Inf. 60 AIB was attached to CCB during the time and in turn attached to 311 Inf. 1 Bn, 310 Inf remained in action, attached to 9 Inf Div. Elements of 14 Tk Bn were attached to the above infantry battalions all of which aided materially in expansion of the bridgehead during this period.

At 1505 on 17 March, lacking 30 minutes of being 10 days to the hour from the date of capture, the Ludendorf bridge collapsed. It had been under constant fire of heavy artillery and air attack. Cause of the collapse has not been determined to the knowledge of this headquarters. At the time of the collapse two ponton bridges, a Bailey bridge and a ferry capable of carrying M26 tanks, were operating in the vicinity and loss of the railroad bridge did not hamper operations to any extent.

On 20 March CCB was concentrated at Linz. At this time the combat command consisted of the 27th, 52d and 60 AIB, 14 Tk Bn, 16 FA, C/89 Rcn, B/9 Engr, C/656 TD, B/2 Med, C/131 Ord. 60 AIB was attached to 311 Inf.

Late in the afternoon of 20 March, orders were received for CCB to relieve elements of 394 Inf S of Honningen and be prepared to attack S toward Ehrenbreitstein across the Rhine from Coblenz. CCB was to revert to 9 AD control, which was now assigned to V Corps, which was moving across the river to take over the southern end of the trans-Rhine sector. 2 Inf Div was to be on the left of 9 AD.

The 27 AIB was moved to Honningen during the night 20-21 March and during the day 21 March took over from 394 Inf just N of Leutesdorf (see Overlay No. 6). Remaining elements of the command were moved to Honningen or S of Honningen, prepared to follow up the advance of the 27 AIB, scheduled for 22 March. Orders were received late in the afternoon of 21 March to attack at 220700 March. Plans were coordinated with CO 38 Inf, attacking on CCB's left. CCB was to advance to the Meid River, establish a bridgehead and await orders. At this time, 60 AIB reverted to CCB control and moved during the night the vicinity of Hamerstein.

Just as Brigadier General William M. Hoge, commanding CCB, finished issuing his order, he announced that he had been ordered to assume command of the 4 Armored Division. Col. Harry W. Johnson was to succeed him as Combat Command Commander.

The attack jumped off on schedule 22 March. Resistance was light except that the road along the route of 14 Tk Bn was mined for a stretch of several miles, making the tanks advance extremely slow. When the column reached the outskirts of Ihrlich, 1 co. was diverted N to join 60 AIB N of Wollendorf and assist in taking 60 AIB objective.

At 221400 March all troops of CCB, except headquarters and headquarters company, passed to control of CCA, which continued the operation, assisted by the staff of CCB until the Weid River bridgehead was established.

The combat command objectives were attained by 222300 March. All bridges, except a foot bridge at Ihrlich, were blown in CCB's sector. By going a kilometer or so north into the sector of 38 Inf, 60 AIB with aid of a platoon from B/9 Engr, was able to patch up a blown bridge so that the medium tank company with 60 AIB could get across. Engineers began construction of a Bailey bridge at Ihrlich and estimated it would be ready 231800 March. By midnight of the 22d March, both 60 and 27 AIB had their objectives occupied and at 1000 on 23 March all troops assigned to CCB except Hq and Hq Co, CCB and 52 AIB, passed to control of CCA which was to continue the attack S. The CP of CCB moved to Leutesdorf and the staff was employed by 9 AD to find areas for and coordinate movement across the Rhine of the remaining elements of the division.

At 2300 on 25 March the CO CCB returned from division headquarters with orders for CCB to move east with Limburg as the objective. In addition to 52 AIB, the 19 Tk Bn, 16 FA, 38 Inf(-2 Bns), C/9 Engr, A/656 TD, D/482 AAA, A/2 Medic were assigned to CCB and A/131 Ord was in support. The 38 Inf, less, was not available to CCB until 261000 March. The Combat Command, however, was to cross the LD at Bensdorf (see Overlay No. 7) at 0800 on the 26th.

The command was divided into three forces as follows:

19 Tk Bn. Detached A and C Cos.
 Attached C/52 AIB.
 1 plat, B/9 Engr
 1 plat, C/656 TD
 D/482 AAA (less 1 plat)

52 AIB Detached A Co
 Attached A/19
 1 plat, C/656 TD
 1 plat, D/482 AAA

38 Inf Detached 2 Bns
 Attached C/19

Combat Command B marched at 0800 on 26 March. A/89 Rcn crossed at 0600 to verify the route selected from map reconnaissance or, if these were impossible, select a route. The advance was slowed by passage through elements of 9 Inf, a blown over-pass and a crater in the road. Order of March was 19 Tk, as constituted, 16 FA, B/9 Engr (less 1 plat), 52 AIB as constituted, Hq Co, CCB, C/656 TD, 38 Inf, A/2 Medics.

Shortly after noon A/89 Rcn encountered elements of 7 AD moving SE on the autobahn just NW of Montabaur. Lead elements said their objective

was Limburg. CO CCB contacted CO CCB 7 AD and informed him of the mission of CCB 9 AD. Meanwhile all troops kept moving and for about an hour units of both combat commands were racing abreast down the autobahn for Limburg. Peeps were forced to travel 35 mph to keep up with the tanks in the column. CCB 7 AD then received orders from its division headquarters to swing east and CCB 9 AD continued on to Limburg. There was little or no resistance and the advance on Limburg was a question of moving as fast as possible. Late in the afternoon the leading elements of 19 Tk Bn reached Limburg, found a bridge intact and started across. After four tanks had crossed the bridge was blown and the tanks were cut off. Limburg was garrisoned by approximately two hundred German infantry armed with small arms and panzerfaust. Before C/52 could find a way across the Lahn river, the four tanks were knocked out but the crews managed to get into a nearby house and stood off the German infantry until elements of C/52 got across the river and joined them. Meanwhile the 52 AIB was moving with utmost speed down the autobahn and at dark was crossing the river dismounted into Limburg. The town was soon cleared and out-posted.

During the afternoon orders were received to continue east of Limburg -- which was to be taken and held for 36 Army -- and occupy the west bank of the Lahn River at Weilburg.

Orders were issued to 38 Inf to continue past Limburg and carry out the above mission with A/89, which had attacked Diez, to disengage and move to Amenu. A/89 was on its objective, had found a bridge intact and crossed the Lahn River by daylight 27 March. 38 Inf encountered elements of 7 AD endeavoring to proceed N and E along the Lahn River toward Giessen, and could not reach its objectives prior to noon 27 March. In the afternoon 19 Tk moved to the vicinity of Hadamar and CP CCB was established at Elz. See Overlay No. 8.

These positions were held through 27 March and 28. During the night of 28 March orders were received to continue the advance to Giessen and await orders. The combat command crossed at Weilburg at 290800 March and by noon pulled up short of Giessen. The town had been mopped up during the morning by troops of 7 AD, which was at this time moving north on the only route out of town available to CCB. Upon reaching Giessen, CCB had been ordered to continue its advance. Due to the movement of 7 AD troops it was impossible to move prior to 1400. Resistance to the advance was either non-existent or very light. The road net in the zone of CCB did not offer a very good route of advance and it was necessary to use secondary roads in many instances. These roads had been heavily used by the Germans in their retreat and were not in very good shape. By midnight, however, the combat command had closed in the Schweinberg area after a total advance for the day of 67 miles.

Orders arrived during the night to continue north the next day with Warburg as the final objective and crossings of the Eder River in the Bad Wildungen-Fritzlar sector as intermediate objectives. The combat command moved at 0600 and outside of some small arms fire from scattered groups of enemy met no resistance. By noon the 19 Tk Bn was on the high ground east of Bad Wildungen and had found three bridges across the Eder to be intact. One, northwest of Bad Wildungen, had been captured by 7 AD, which had been advancing on the left. Early in the afternoon 19 Tk Bn crossed at Wega, moved west along the Eder and took the bridge at Bergheim. 38 Inf moved through Bad Wildungen, across the bridge held by 7 AD and established a bridgehead. 52 AIB occupied Bad Wildungen.

The march was resumed on the morning of March 31 with Ossendorf west of Warburg as the objective. The 52 AIB led off, followed by 16 FA, 38 Inf and 19 Tk Bn. A good road net was available and by 1000 A/89 had entered Wethen. The town was occupied by a small group of German Infantry led by SS troops and armed with panzerfaust. By noon the town had been cleared and 52 AIB was moving into Ossendorf with very little opposition. The 38 Inf was passed through 52 AIB and fanned out to occupy Rimbeck, Horde and Kenne, which was completed prior to dark.

SECTION IV.

Combat Commander's Comments.

None.

SECTION V.

I. Maps and Overlays:

- No. 1 - Operations 010001 March - 041800 March 1945
- No. 2 - Operations 050100 March - 051300 March 1945
- No. 3 - Operations 051500 March - 061800 March 1945
- No. 4 - Operations 070700 March - 071800 March 1945
- No. 5 - Operations 071800 March - 081200 March 1945
- No. 6 - Plan of attack for 22 March 1945
- No. 7 - Route of advance for period 25 March--31 March 1945
- No. 8 - Troop location and situation as of 270900 March 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

APNA C. HAMILTON
Colonel, Infantry
Executive

RESTRICTED

3 Aug 1945
1/100,000
Nov. 45

1. Campaign of the Battle of Germany.
2. Map References:
Germany, Sheets 20, 40, 60, 80, 81, 1/50,000.
Central Europe, Sheets S-2, T-2, T-3, S-3, R-3,
1/100,000.
3. Units and commanders of all subordinate troops:

27th Armored Infantry Battalion:

S. Fred Cummings, Jr., Lt. Col., O-19796,
to O11430.
Murray Deevers, Major, O-305995, from
O11431.

"A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion:

Jay C. Swisher, 1st Lt., O-517056, to
O10930.
Karl H. Timmermann, 2nd Lt., O-1311343,
from O10931 to O11914.
Carl L. Edwards, 2nd Lt., O-1311291, from
O11915 to O51149.
Frederick F. Kriner, Capt., O-1011537, from
O51150 to O61600.
Karl H. Timmermann, 2nd Lt., O-1311343, from
O61601 to O121230.
Richard M. Palmer, Capt., O-1283125, from
O121231.

"B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion:

Karl D. Saulpaw, Capt., O-1011530 to
O20822.
Lloyd C. Montgomery, 1st Lt., O-1287741, from
O20823 to O21600.
Major E. Sharp, 2nd Lt., O-1826432, from
O21601 to O40902.
Jack H. Liedike, 1st Lt., O-1287727, from
O40903.

"C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion:

William R. McLaughlin, 1st Lt., O-1287734,
to O61000.
William E. McMasters, 1st Lt., O-1289782,
from O61001.

Headquarters Company, 27th Armored Infantry
Battalion:

Lyman H. Smith, Jr., 1st Lt., O-1017407.

Service Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion:

Richard M. Mall, 1st Lt., O-1015295.

Medical Detachment, 27th Armored Infantry
Battalion:

Robert M. Keller, Capt., O-1755803.

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PART I
 SECTION II - STATISTICAL DATA.

1. Personnel losses for the period. 273
2. Personnel reinforcements for the period. 254.
3. Prisoners of war taken:

1 March	53
2 March	70
3 March	25
4 March	85
5 March	74
6 March	56
7 March	245
8 March	45
9 March	14
10 March	2
22 March	201
23 March	101
24 March	36
25 March	120
26 March	100
27 March	79
28 March	279
30 March	<u>15</u>
Total	1600

4. Vehicular and weapons losses for the period:

Half-tracks, M-3	4
Trucks, 1/4 Ton	2
Gun, Machine, Cal. .50	3
Gun, Machine, Cal. .30, M1917 A1	5
Gun, Machine, Cal. .30, M1919 A4	9
Gun, Machine, Cal. .30, M1919 A6	2
Browning Automatic Rifle	4
Launcher, Rocket	18
Carbines, M1	32
Sub-Machine Gun, M-3	14
Rifles, M1	12
Mortar, 60mm	3

5. Vehicular and weapons replacements for the period:

Half-tracks, M-3	4
Trucks, 1/4 Ton	1
Gun, Machine, Cal. .50	2
Gun, Machine, Cal. .30, M1917 A1	5
Gun, Machine, Cal. .30, M1919 A4	1

Browning Automatic Rifle
 Launcher, Rocket
 Carbines, M1
 Sub-Machine Gun, M-3
 Rifles, M1
 Mortar, 60mm

3
 6
 32
 14
 12
 3

6. Ammunition expenditures for the period:

	<u>Rds.</u>
Carbine, Cal..30	9600
Cal..30, Rifle	300000
Cal..45	5000
Cal..30 MG	406000
Cal..50	50000
105MM HE	4180
57MM HE	300
57MM AP	50
60MM Mortar	1422
81MM Mortar HE	815
81MM Mortar Smoke	195
81MM Mortar Light \	150
Grenade, Frag.	1680
Grenade, WP	350
Grenade, Rifle	425
Grenade, Carbine	225
Grenade, Incendiary	100
Launcher, Rocket, AT	280

PART I
SECTION III - NARRATIVE

At the beginning of this period (1 March 1945) this battalion was in Soller, Germany, coord: F 167378, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 20, as part of III Corps. Combat Command "B" formed three task forces on late afternoon of 28 February 1945 consisting of the following: Task Force "A", "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, "A" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, and one platoon "B" Company, 9th Engineers; Task Force "B", "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, and one platoon "B" Company, 9th Engineers; Task Force "C", "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, "C" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, and one platoon "B" Company, 9th Engineers. Task Force "A" and Task Force "C" were commanded by the tank company commanders, Task Force "B" was commanded by the infantry company commander. The objectives were: Muddersheim, Germany, coords: F 243399, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 20, for Task Force "C"; Disternich, Germany, coords: F 244386, for Task Force "A"; and Sievernich, Germany, coords: F 244372, for Task Force "B".

Due to unexpected resistance from the direction of Frangenheim, Germany, coord: F 173370, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 20, Task Force "A" was rerouted through Vettweiss, Germany following Task Forces "C" and "B" respectively. Congestion on the road held up progress through Vettweiss, coord: F 197385, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 20. By 010502 Task Force "C" had taken their objective. By 010502 Task Force "B" had taken their objective and after withdrawing under heavy fire reentered and secured the town. Task Force "A" secured their objective by 011130. "A" Company Commander was evacuated 010930 for wounds and Lt. Timmermann assumed command. Enemy opposition was generally light.

Plans were laid to resume the attack at 011400. After one false start at 011143 by Task Force "B" the attack was launched as planned. All Task Forces were slow in moving forward and at 011915 Lt. Edwards was appointed "A" Company Commander.

By 020700 Task Force "C" had reached Freisheim, Germany, coord: F 3240, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40, and completed mopping up by 020808, knocking out 3 tanks and one S/P gun. Task Force "B" after covering half the distance to Hülheim, Germany, coord: F 297356, Map: Germany, 1/50,000.

Sheet 40, returned due to artillery fire received. At 020825 Captain Saulpaw was relieved of command of "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion and 1st Lt. Montgomery assumed command.

Task Force "A" took the town of Weiler auf D. Ebene, coord: F 302382, by 021105 and Scheuren, coord: F 288381 by 021520. This force quickly followed up and took Borr, coord: F 302382, by 021530 meeting no resistance.

At 021430 Task Force "B", under the personal leadership of Major Deevers and Major Paul E. Cox, O-294582, executive officer, and closely supervised by Col. Adna C. Hamilton, O-12480, CC B executive officer, jumped off for Fulheim, Germany, coord: F 297357, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. This objective was cleared by 021700 and a counter attack broken up by artillery fire.

M/Sgt. Stephen S. Price, ASN. 32609668, Battalion Sergeant Major, assisted greatly in this operation. Lt. Montgomery was wounded during this action and 2nd Lt. Sharp assumed command.

Captain Glen L. Strange, O-1011156, S-2, was sent to take over the combined Task Forces "A" and "C" with the objective of seizing Derkum, Germany, coord: F 349351, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. By 030043 this force captured Niederberg, Germany, coord: F 318378, against light opposition. Continuing their mission, the combined task force captured Lommersum, Germany, coord: F 338350, and mopping up continued until 030735. For the next three hours this force was subjected to heavy artillery fire and failed to advance.

With the Battalion CP located at Niederberg by 031045, Task Force "B" was ordered up to assist in taking Derkum. Plans were laid for "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, to move through Horschheim, coord: F 352374, and Hausweiler, coord: F 351357, to flank Derkum from the north. "B" Company jumped off on this plan at 031400.

Captain Strange reported elements of the 309th Infantry in Lommersum with the same objective, i.e., Derkum. They were to attack under cover of darkness. CC B was informed but this battalion was ordered to advance according to plan. By 031900 "B" Company had reached a point 500 yards north of Hausweiler which was flaming from concentrated fire delivered by our assault guns. At 031915 CC B ordered the bat-

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poor quality due to
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talion to stop the attack, place Task Forces "A" and "C" under the control of the 309th and attain the objective with the infantry battalion.

"B" Company was halted and attached to the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron with the objective of capturing Klein Vernich, coord: F 358384, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. This objective was reached, with little opposition reported, by 040340. At 040903 1st Lt. Liedike reported to Battalion and was assigned as commanding officer of "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

With the 1st Battalion, 309th Infantry, gaining Derkum, "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was given the objective of seizing and holding Bodenheim, Germany, coord: F 339337, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was given the mission of protecting "A" Company's right flank, advancing beyond Bodenheim and outposting the town to the south and west.

"A" Company was slow in moving against its objective and Brig. General William H. Hoge, O-4437, assumed personal command and the objective was taken by 041710, against small arms and artillery fire. Major Deevers assisted by Major Donald J. Russell, O-334819, S-3, personally led "C" Company on its assigned mission and gained the desired ground against light opposition, taking six prisoners. During the "A" Company action 2nd Lt. Charles J. Doran, O-1597000, aide to the general, was killed.

During the night 4-5 March 1945 both the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 14th Tank Battalion were assembled as units and plans laid for continuing the advance by the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, with "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion attached.

Captain Kriner reported to the Battalion and was assigned as commander of "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

The 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, again personally led by Major Deevers and assisted by Major Russell and Captain Strange, jumped off from Grossbuellesheim, coord: F 353322, at 051600, going cross country to take Esch, coord: F 382312, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. The formation was column of companies, "B" Company leading, followed by "C" Company, then "A" Company; tanks to support from high ground east of Grossbuellesheim. On the way to this objective Captain Strange, S-2, was wounded by machine gun fire and evacuated. The Com-

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manding Officer's half-track which was following closely behind the advance of the leading companies was hit about 1000 yards west of Esch, killing one man and wounding another. Capt. Charles A. Caswell of the 400th AFA reported with two forward observers.

Esch was captured at 051815 after overcoming 20MM flak, small arms, and automatic weapons resistance. Then "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion followed the infantry and gave supporting fire.

A night attack was launched on the town of Ludendorf, Germany, coord: F 405300, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. As the battalion approached its objective a terrific artillery concentration was placed on the neighboring town of Essig, coord: F 399291. Enemy vehicles started pouring out of that town towards our objective. "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, using rocket launchers, succeeded in knocking out a German staff car and a six-by-six with four wheel trailer containing engineer equipment. Two German officers were captured. Ludendorf was captured by 060030. Col. Hamilton again assisted in coordinating the tanks and the infantry.

At 060730 "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was given the mission of cleaning out Essig. However, before the company could reach Essig, 1st Lt. Jimmie K. Glenn, O-1166721, Communications Officer, came into Ludendorf through Essig leading the Battalion vehicles.

At 0800 the Battalion started for Miel, Germany, coord: F 420305, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion led off followed by "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, then "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. Enroute Riegel mines were encountered hastily placed in the road. These were pulled out by the infantry and the town of Miel secured by 060850.

At Miel "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, was ordered to lead out in half-tracks followed by "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion. Several concentrations of artillery, estimated as 105mm, and mortar fire, estimated as 120mm, landed in town and Lt. McLaughlin was wounded. In the resulting confusion, before Lt. McMasters assumed command, the company failed to jump off on time.

The rest of the 14th Tank Battalion was brought forward while still in Miel and the operation put under command of Lt. Col. Leonard E. Engeman, O-304690.

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At 060730 "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was given the mission of cleaning out Essig. However, before the company could reach Essig, 1st Lt. Jimmie K. Glenn, O-1166721, Communications Officer, came into Ludendorf through Essig leading the Battalion vehicles.

At 0800 the Battalion started for Miel, Germany, coord: F 420305, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40. "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion led off followed by "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, then "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion. Enroute Riegel mines were encountered hastily placed in the road. These were pulled out by the infantry and the town of Miel secured by 060850.

At Miel "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, was ordered to lead out in half-tracks followed by "B" Company, 14th Tank Battalion. Several concentrations of artillery, estimated as 105mm, and mortar fire, estimated as 120mm, landed in town and Lt. McLaughlin was wounded. In the resulting confusion, before Lt. McMasters assumed command, the company failed to jump off on time.

The rest of the 14th Tank Battalion was brought forward while still in Miel and the operation put under command of Lt. Col. Leonard E. Engeman, O-304690.

Men of "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion were loaded on the backs of the tanks and the remainder of the company followed in vehicles; "B" Company followed. "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was sent southeast out of Miel to approach Morenhoven, Germany, coord: F 449299, from the southwest. The main column took Morenhoven before "A" Company could arrive (1315) but they assisted in mopping up. The bridge at F 44752964 was blown so "A" Company continued on foot and sent the vehicles by the same route followed by the main column. Some direct fire weapon placed fire upon the main column when it turned southeast at the corner at F 43803135 but no vehicles were hit. Resistance in the town of Morenhoven was negligible.

Col. Adna C. Hamilton appeared at Morenhoven before mopping up was completed, ordered the nearest infantrymen upon the backs of the tanks, and sent them on to the town of Flerzheim under cover of a smoke screen laid by the tank mortars. The rest of the infantry advanced on foot. By 061400 Flerzheim, coord: F 4728, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 40, was secured and additional ammunition brought forward.

As soon as the tanks had restocked with ammunition the force again took off through Luftelberg, Germany, coord: F 482281, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 60, without stopping and continued to Stadt Meckenheim, Germany, coord: F 494255. Stadt Meckenheim was secured and outposted by 061640 although mopping up operations continued until approximately 1945. During the move out of Flerzheim, Captain Kriner was wounded and Lt. Timmermann assumed command of "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion.

The Battalion set up its headquarters in Stadt Meckenheim and stayed overnight. The next morning the task force conducted a march through a disorganized and confused enemy along the route: Adendorf, coord: F 524242; Arzdorf, coord: F 542236; cross roads at F 569249; Werthhoven, coord: F 579236; Road Fork at F 581216; thence east to Remagen, Germany, coord: F 645200. Streams of prisoners were sent back down the column with no guards. The Germans seemed stunned and completely cowed by the rapidity of our drive.

Because of the openness of the ground east of the woods overlooking Remagen, the infantry led the way into the town. Upon reaching the southeastern edge of Remagen it was discovered that the railroad bridge across the Rhine River was usable and intact. However, a crater had been blown in the approaches which required repair before vehicles could cross the bridge.

plished by 0930 and the two infantry battalions jumped off in an attack. The 27th Armored Infantry Battalion then returned to Unkel to resume its role in reserve. The tank destroyers were released to their parent unit at 1330.

Sgts. Dobbins, West, Schmalhofer, and Trospen received battlefield appointments as 2nd Lts. on 12 March 1945. The bars were pinned on them by Brig. General William H. Hoge. On the same day this battalion received 175 enlisted men and 7 officers as reinforcements. Captain Palmer was assigned as commander of "A" Company at 121231.

During the period 11-17 March 1945, inclusive, the battalion cleaned weapons, vehicles, and personal equipment. Orientation of replacements in our methods was accomplished.

On 18 March 1945 the battalion marched to the vicinity of Battenberg, Germany. Billets were secured and orientation of replacements continued until the night of 20 March 1945.

By 202200 March 1945 the battalion had closed into Bonningen, Germany, coord: F 697131, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 6C. At noon on 21 March 1945 a verbal order was issued moving the battalion into the area occupied by the 18th Cavalry Squadron and the 3rd Battalion, 394th Infantry Regiment. These positions were east and southeast of Hammerstein, Germany, coord: F 725090, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet S1. Companies were moved forward somewhat during the late afternoon and evening to improve the position.

At 220700 the battalion jumped off in accordance with Field Order No. 13 which was issued verbally at 212230. The plan was for "B" Company to by-pass Hullenberg, Germany, coord: F 771060, Map: Germany, Sheet 81, in their zone of action and take Wollendorf, coord: F 779060, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet S1, also Gonnersdorf, coord: F 773057 was to be cleaned out. Following this action each company of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was to by-pass Irlich, Germany, coord: F 793049 which was to have been taken by the 14th Tank Battalion with one platoon of "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion attached. Crossing the bridge this battalion was to seize and secure Neuwied, Germany, coord: F 805030, outposting it as shown on the overlay.

Communication proved very difficult because of the ruggedness of the terrain. Hastily placed mines had to be cleared between Hammerstein and Leutesdorf, coord: F 752058 before the tanks and vehicles could advance. Leutesdorf was passed through against no resistance by 0740.

At 071600 the first attempt to cross the bridge was driven back by small arms fire and direct fire from 20mm anti-aircraft weapons. Another attempt, again with "A" Company leading, succeeded at 1630. The town of Erpel, Germany, coord: F 64852055, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 60 was cleared by 071930. The high ground up to and including Orsberg, coord: F 651216, was secured by 2100.

Heavy fire by 20mm anti-aircraft weapons firing direct fire, also direct fire from machine guns and artillery estimated as being 88mm made the securing and holding of the high ground extremely difficult. The order across the bridge was as follows: "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, and "A" Company, 14th Tank Battalion.

During the entire operation from the time Captain Caswell reported he saw that the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion receive marvelous artillery support. He frequently acted as forward observer, even though assigned as Liaison Officer, when the radios of the regular observers failed to operate. This Battalion's assault gun platoon rendered prompt support at all times and expended 1664 rounds ammunition during the period 1-10 March 1945.

Other units crossed the bridge during the night of 7-8 March 1945 and enlarged the bridgehead. During the afternoon 8 March 1945 the battalion was ordered into reserve in an area located just south of Honnef, Germany, coord: F 641274, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 60. The battalion marched as far as Unkel, coord: F 63252235, when it was discovered that the regiment that supposedly was holding Honnef was still engaged in clearing Unkel. Using infantry and the tank destroyers (3), from the 656 TD Battalion, that had been attached during the afternoon 8 March 1945, this Battalion assisted in clearing the town of Unkel and then went into billets.

The 27th Armored Infantry Battalion rested, cleaned up weapons, equipment, and personnel until 101710. At that time the battalion left for the vicinity of Dattenberg, Germany, coord: F 68651735, to relieve a battalion of the 309th Infantry Regiment. This was accomplished by 2030.

On the morning 11 March 1945 the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 393rd Infantry Regiment took over the sector, using guides from this battalion's companies. This was accom-

"C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion encountered slight resistance in Hullenberg and "B" Company met stubborn small arms resistance in Wollendorf. These towns were cleared by 1120.

"A" Company found the overpass at F 770052 blown and the approaches mined. This company continued advancing while "B" Company, 9th Engineers, were brought forward to remove the mines and repair the overpass. As a result the tanks were unable to advance to take their objective at Irlich. Fahr, Germany, coord: F 77550535 was cleared by 1150 against light opposition and "A" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion continued through Irlich. "B" Company joined the left flank of "A" Company at Irlich and assisted in clearing the town. This town was cleared by 1258.

Mines laid in the road on the western edge of Irlich held up the tank column again. However, "A" Company crossed the Wied River across the blown highway bridge at 1410 and was pinned down by heavy fire from automatic weapons, small arms fire, and 20mm anti-aircraft fire. "B" Company seized a foot bridge east of the blown highway bridge by 1430, driving the enemy away from the bridge before they could detonate charges which had been placed under it.

"B" Company gained the railroad embankment south and east of the Wied River and was pinned down. "C" Company reached and started crossing the footbridge at 1538. They extended the "B" Company line on the left but were unable to advance. After a heavy artillery concentration on the town of Neuwied the battalion advanced into the town and mopped up. It was outposted by 2105. Some artillery, estimated 88mm, and some mortar fire, estimated 120mm or 150mm, was received in the bridge vicinity but caused no casualties.

Field Order No. 14 was issued verbally at 231800. "B" Company accomplished the move to the new position against moderate small arms resistance, suffering two casualties. This was completed by 240310. "A" Company moved into the new position without meeting any opposition; their patrols reported no enemy contacted. "C" Company moved into position formerly occupied by "B" Company without incident.

At 242145 Field Order No. 15 was issued verbally giving "C" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, with one platoon "C" Company, 14th Tank Battalion, and one platoon "A" Company, 9th Engineers attached, the objective of capturing Engers, Germany, coord. F 865028, Map: Germany, 1/50,000, Sheet 81. Advancement beyond the bridge at F 8760255, except for proper

security, was to be only on CC A order and after the capture, by the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion, of Bendorf, coord: F 887026.

"C" Company, after receiving permission from CC A, tried to seize Engers under cover of darkness. However, they ran into considerable automatic weapons and small arms fire and called for several concentrations of artillery fire between 250545 and 0630 before finally moving into the town. By 0830 "C" Company had pushed through the town and secured the bridge but had had insufficient troops to properly mop up Engers.

"A" and "B" Companies were ordered into Engers to mop up. During this action Technical Sergeant Mykalo and Master Sergeant Price were commissioned Second Lieutenants. The town was mopped up by 1200.

The 60th Armored Infantry Battalion took Bendorf shortly after 1200 and moved on towards their final objective. Re-organization was completed and "B" Company, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion moved out on tanks at 1300 followed by "A" Company; "C" Company brought up the rear.

At 1400 the Battalion CP, acting on verbal information that Vallendar, coord: F 914003, was captured, moved to the outskirts of that locality so as to assist in maintaining communication. They arrived on the outskirts of Vallendar with the leading elements of the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion and were pinned down by intensive anti-aircraft fire from the high ground southeast of Vallendar.

All units of the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion were on the third objective by 2000 and the final objective was occupied by 261000.

At 1000 the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was informed that it was transferred to CC R effective 252400. At 1130 word was received that the 2nd Ranger Battalion would relieve the battalion in the afternoon. This relief was completed by 1935 and the battalion moved into Engers.

The 27th Armored Infantry Battalion moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Offheim, coord: G 231022, Map: Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet S-2, on the early morning of 27 March 1945. At 1245 the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion with "B" Company, 2nd Tank Battalion attached, attacked southeast along the Autobahn with the objective of taking Niefernhausen, coord: M 416736, Map: Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet T-2.

The only bridge over the Lahn River at Limburg, coord: M 235988, was the pontoon bridge laid by the 9th Armored Engineers. This slowed the column but upon gaining the Autobahn progress was rapid against very light resistance. Niedernhausen was captured by 1720. The line of supply from Limburg to Niedernhausen during the night 27 March 1945 was very insecure and was cut in several places.

During the afternoon of 28 March 1945 "A" Company took the town of Oberjosbach, coord: M 429748, with one platoon of infantry and one section of tanks. This was taken as a security measure.

On the morning of 29 March 1945 the battalion marched to Runkel, coord: G 297008, following the rest of the Division in its drive to the east. In the afternoon we continued through Wetzlar, coord: G 5418, Map: Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet 3-3, Giessen, coord: G 665205, and billeted overnight in Annerod, coord: G 717203.

At 1030 on 30 March 1945 the battalion continued the march through Grossen-Buseck, coord: G 742238, Geilshausen, coord: G 817282, Odenhausen, coord: G 813298, Bernsfeld, coord: G 884307, Homberg, coord: G 888374, Erbenhausen, coord: G 938407, Map: Central Europe, 1/100,000, Sheet 3-3, Firtorf, coord: G 6966420, Neustadt, coord: G 973513, to outskirts of Wiera, coord: G 984546, thence to Momberg, coord: G 965544 where the battalion billeted for the night.

At 0900 the next morning the battalion resumed the march. As the column started out the message was received that the 27th Armored Infantry Battalion was to by-pass all elements of CC R and relieve the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion at Fritzlar, coord: H 078826. Arriving in Fritzlar by 1330 the relief was completed by 1530. At 1635 an estimated 200 infantry and 3 tanks approached the town from the northeast. The assault gun platoon fired upon them and they withdrew. Intense automatic weapons and small arms fire with artillery concentrations, estimated at 105mm and 150mm made progress through Fritzlar very slow. By 2400 Fritzlar was about one-half cleared.

PART I
SECTION IV - COMMENTS.

During this action we found the men had a tendency to linger too long in towns, mainly because they were curious and wanted to explore everything in sight. We found advancement was faster by rushing through towns and have only small units of platoon size actually go through the houses. Another advantage to this system is the rapidity of outposting and getting ready for a counterattack. We found that unless a town can be sectionized, it is much better for one company to go through it. Some timidity existed with some of the junior officers and it was necessary for Battalion Staff members in many cases to lead platoons and companies. Battlefield appointments were made and the newly appointed officers did an excellent job and had the confidence of the men.

Murray Deevers
MURRAY DEEVERS,
Maj., Inf.,
Comdg.

PART I
SECTION V

None.

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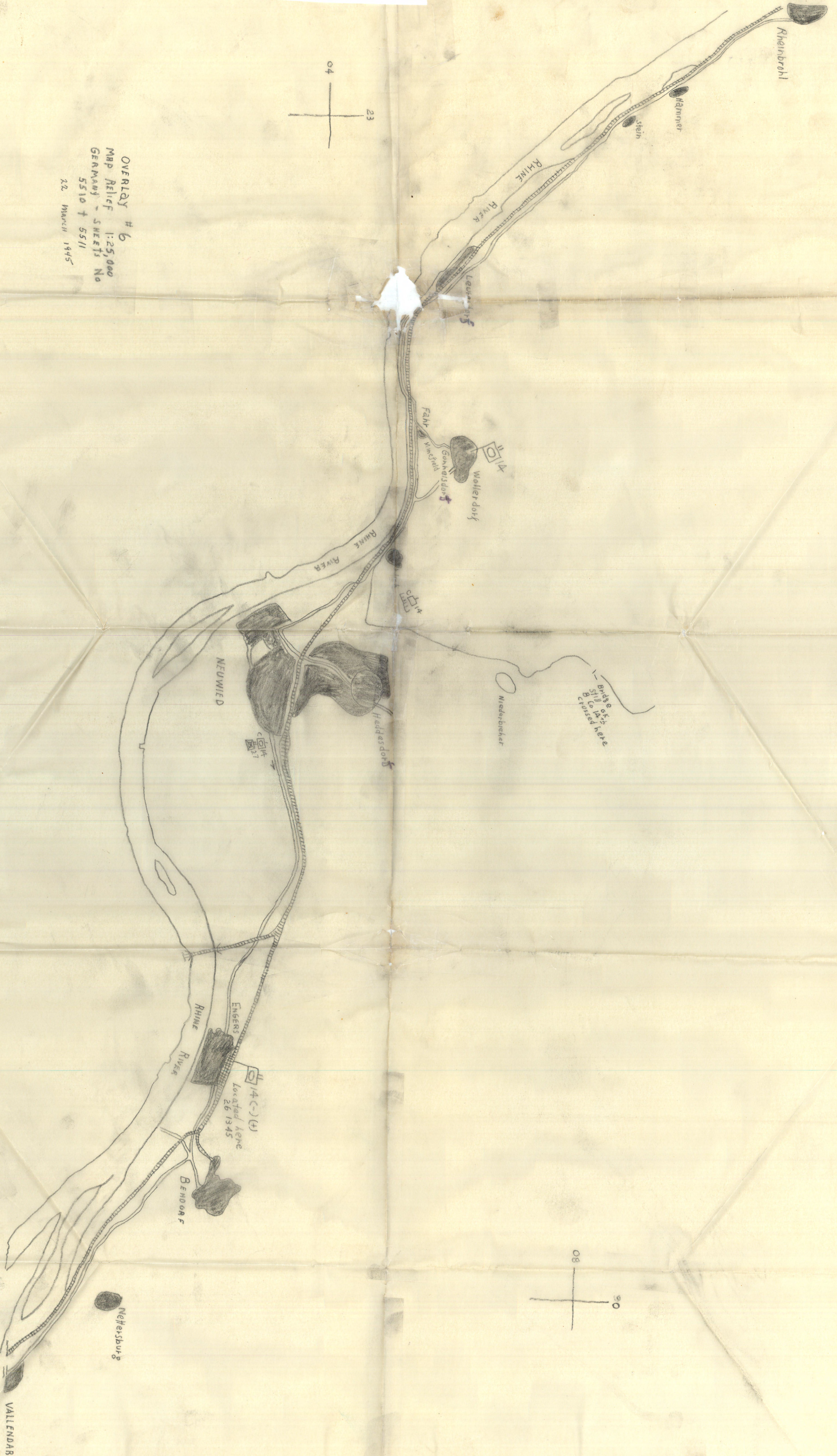
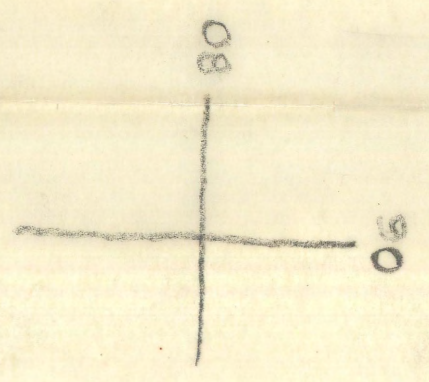
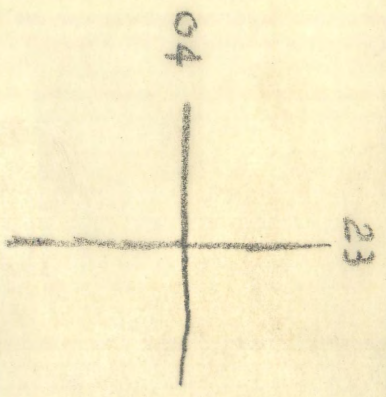
OVERLAY March 1, 1945
 DISPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY AREAS
 AND OBJECTIVES OF TASK FORCES
 A, B, C - C.C.B.
 MAP REF. GERMANY 1:25,000
 GS 65 4414 SHEET 6205

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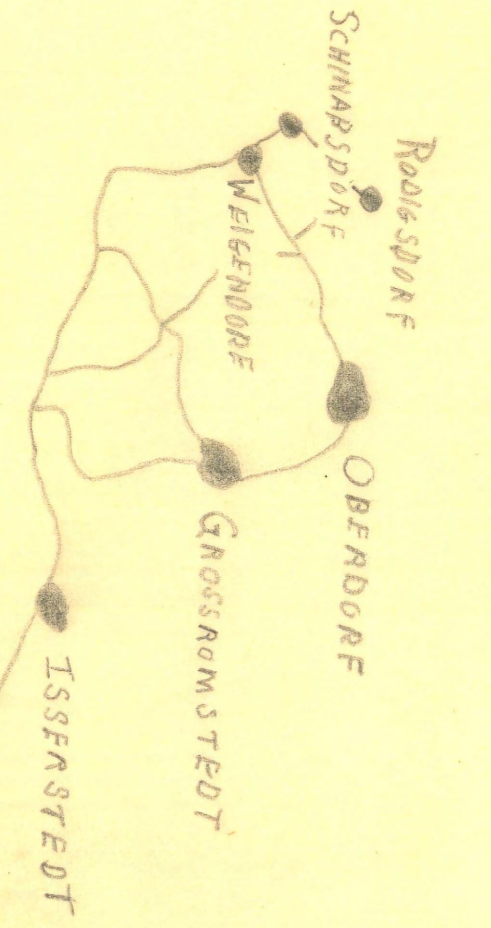
OVERLAY # 6
MAP RELIEF 1:25,000
GERMANY - SHEETS No
5510 + 5511
22 March 1945



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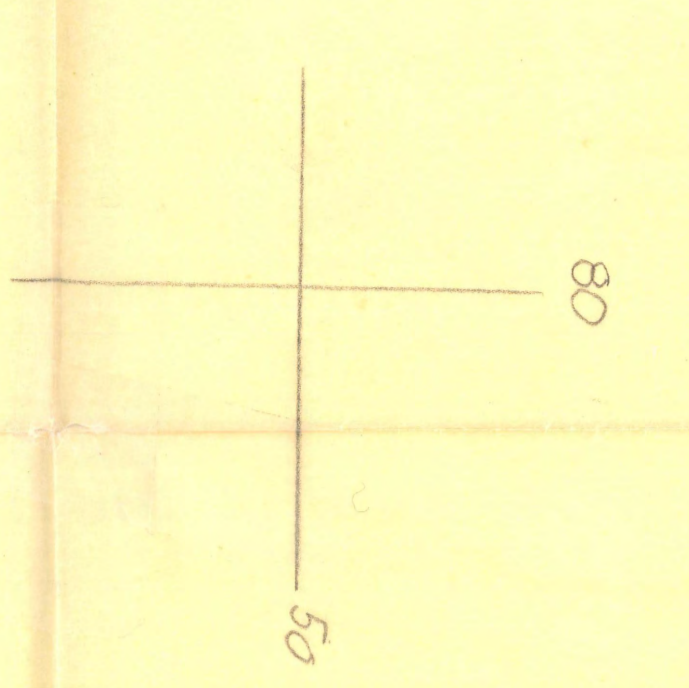
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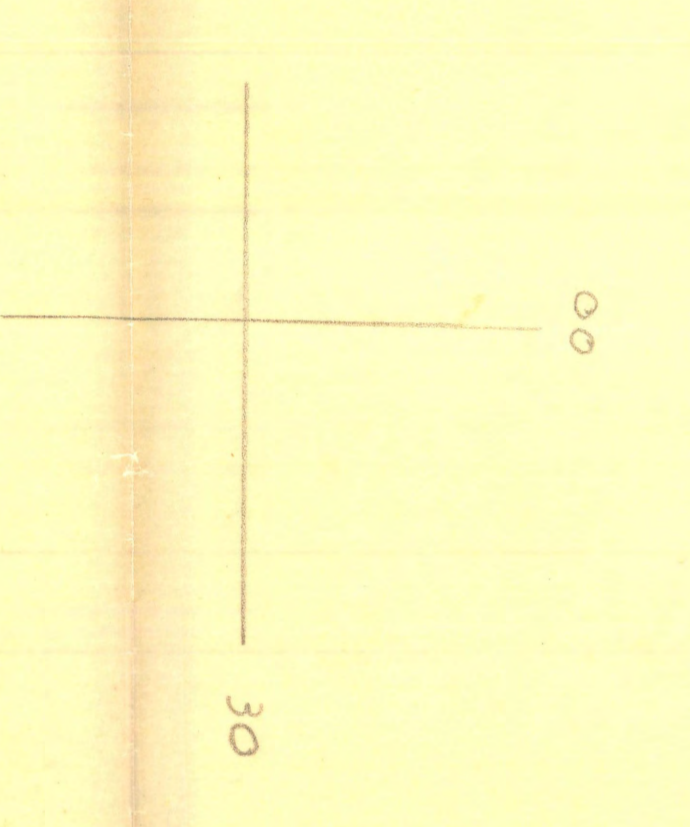
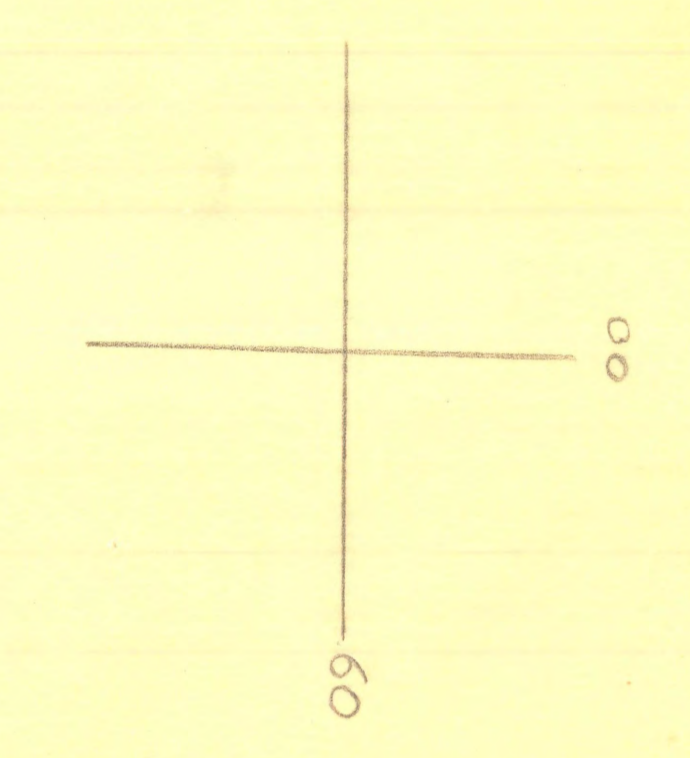
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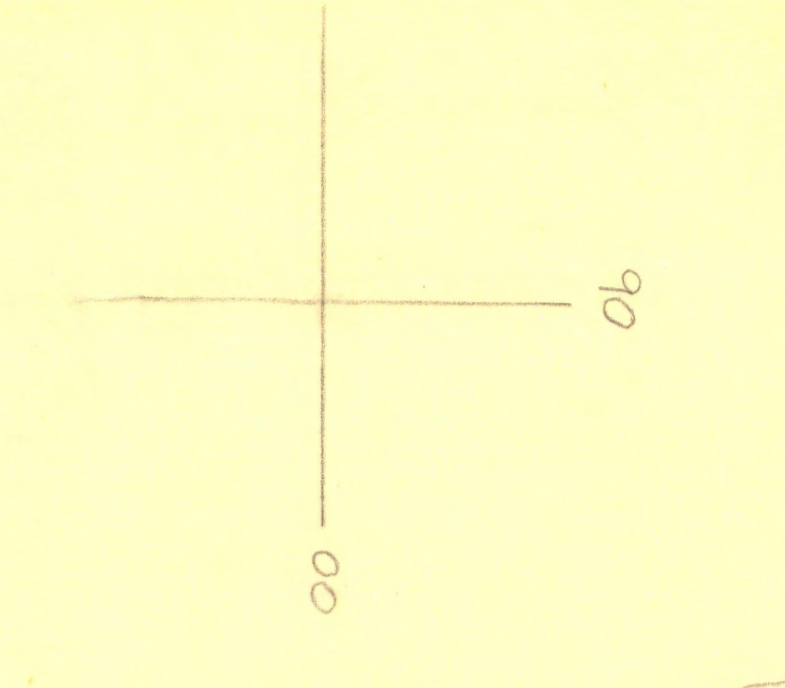
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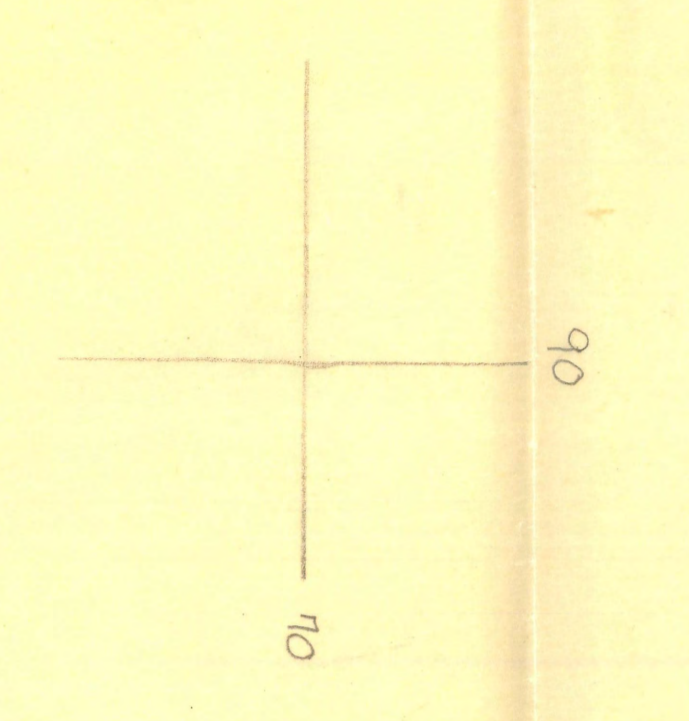


SHEET S-6
SHEET T-6

SWANTZENBACH

KICHPANITZ
MARKTLEUPEN

ODER
ROBBER



WANSFELD

MARKTLEUPEN

MITTERTACH

OVERLAY # 1
3 MAY 1945
MAP - GERMANY
SCALE - 1:100,000
SHEETS - R6, S6, T6, 9, 17

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**HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
APO #389
U. S. ARMY**

APPRECIATION REPORT

1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

1-30 Apr 45

PART I:-

SECTION I - Introduction.

1. Campaign - Western Europe.
2. Map References:
Central Europe - 1/100,000.
Sheets Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q7, H8 and H9.
3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:

Hq & Hq Company - FRANK W. SIMONS, JR., O 407 788, Captain Cavalry (Arm).

Service Company - 1 Apr 45 to 18 Apr 45, FRANCIS E. WINGGILL, O24 699, Captain Cavalry (Arm);
17 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, GEORGE P. SCHWAB, O1 O11 146, Captain Infantry (Arm).

COMPANY "A" - 1 Apr 45 to 16 Apr 45, GEORGE P. SCHWAB, O1 O11 146, Captain Infantry (Arm);
17 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, JOHN GRIMBALL, O1 O13 847, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry (Arm).

COMPANY "B" - CARL E. LINDER, JR., O1 O11 430, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry (Arm).

COMPANY "C" - 1 Apr 45 to 4 Apr 45, HUGH E. MORRISON, O1 017 861, 1st Lieutenant Infantry (Arm);
5 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45, VINCENT J. FRANTAGLIA, O 384 780, Captain Cavalry (Arm).

COMPANY "D" - PAUL W. FISHER, O1 O11 809, Captain Infantry (Arm).

609-69/1-7

SECTION II - Statistical Data.

1. Personnel losses - 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 (Inclusive):

KIA	EM	Wounded & Injured in Action	MIA	CAPT	St & Others
0	0	0	0	0	0
0	3	1	1	2	0

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2. Personnel replacements - 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 (Inclusive):

Officers - 2
Enlisted Men - 43

3. Prisoners of War taken:

1 April 1945	-	24
2 April 1945	-	3
3 April 1945	-	7
4 April 1945	-	5
5 April 1945	-	2
6 April 1945	-	1
7 April 1945	-	None
8 April 1945	-	None
9 April 1945	-	1
10 April 1945	-	3
11 April 1945	-	9
12 April 1945	-	42
13 April 1945	-	6
14 April 1945	-	5
15 April 1945	-	None
16 April 1945	-	200
17 April 1945	-	None
18 April 1945	-	5
19 April 1945	-	40
20 April 1945	-	29
21 April 1945	-	25
22 April 1945	-	4
23 April 1945	-	0
24 April 1945	-	2
25 April 1945	-	2
26 April 1945	-	None
27 April 1945	-	None
28 April 1945	-	None
29 April 1945	-	None
30 April 1945	-	1
TOTAL		578

SECRET

[Redacted]

4. Vehicular losses - 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 (Inclusive):

	<u>Hq Company</u>		
1 - $\frac{1}{2}$ ton	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
	<u>Company A</u>		
1 - $\frac{1}{2}$ ton	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
1 - M4A3 76mm tank	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
	<u>Company B</u>		
1 - M4 76mm Tank	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
1 - M4A3 76mm tank	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
2 - M4A3 76mm tanks	knocked out		burned
	<u>Company C</u>		
3 - M4A3 76mm tanks	knocked out		repaired and returned to duty
1 - M4 76mm tank	knocked out		burned
2 - M4A3 76mm tanks	knocked out		burned

5. Vehicular replacements - 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 (Inclusive):

	<u>Company B</u>	
3 - M4A3 76mm tanks		
1 - M4A1 76mm tank		
	<u>Company C</u>	
1 - M4A1 76mm tanks		

6. Ammunition expenditures - 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45 (Inclusive):

105 HE	460 rounds	
105 NF	282 rounds	
80mm APC	61 rounds	
80mm HE	79 rounds	
76mm HE	1390 rounds	
76mm APC	366 rounds	
76mm Smoke HC	35 rounds	
81mm NF	164 rounds	
81mm Light	104 rounds	
81mm Hvy	200 rounds	
76mm HE	436 rounds	
76mm APC	163 rounds	
76mm NF	61 rounds	
Cal 50 linked		17,686 rounds
Cal 30 bolted		93,360 rounds
Cal 45		6,700 rounds
Grenades, M6 Offensive		47 Grenades
Grenades, M7		4 Grenades
Grenades, Inc.		16 Grenades
Bomb 2" Smoke		72

SECTION III - Narrative.

The 14th Tank Battalion began the month of April 1945 by continuing the attack of the 9th Armored Division. At 010400 April 1945, orders and instructions were received at this headquarters via liaison officer from Combat Command "A". Companies were alerted and Company Commanders reported at the Command Post for routes and assignments. (Note - All routes and areas covered by the Battalion 1 April 1945 to 21 April 1945 are covered on Overlay No. 1.)

At 010645 April 1945, the head of the Battalion column moved out of Hauseda, Germany (C-088225), through Grinelsheim (C-088220), Kreen (C-080200), and Harlinghausen (C-080200) into Warburg (B-908220), which was the I.P. The Battalion led by Company D, which was followed by Company A, moved on the axis of advance, CC "A", to the northeast into Daseburg (C-034250). Company B continued on as far as Kerpecke (C-071275), returning then to Rosebeck (C-080200). The Command Post closed at Daseburg at 0020, after covering a total distance of 10.1 miles. Security was set up and hourly vehicular patrols sent out through the area of responsibility, 14th Tank Battalion. The five days following were spent in the maintenance of personnel and equipment.

Orders were received at this headquarters 061000 April 1945, to be prepared to move any time after 1400. Company commanders were notified and the order of march was given. The move, not being tactical, was headed by the command section, followed in order by Headquarters; Company A; Company B; Company C 80th Armored Infantry; Service Company; and Company D. Company C, 14th Tank Battalion was still attached to the 80th Armored Infantry. The battalion column moved southwest out of Daseburg, back to Warburg, and into Kalenberg (B-904100). The distance was but seven miles and the Battalion closed at 1635.

The area at Kalenberg was an assembly area with preparations being made for a move to the east. At 080900 April word was received to move forward with the advancing front lines as far as Heensen (C-408100). In administrative order the Battalion moved out of Kalenberg at 081345 April toward Heensen. The destination was reached at 082240 April after covering a distance of 41.9 miles. Towns passed through were: Watteringen (C-010100), Oberlistingen (C-041171), Niederlistingen (C-082170), Ober Meiser (C-096170), Kaldor (G-188135), Immenhausen (C-212130), Hakenkirchen (C-200120), Rathwenter (C-220115), Simmerhausen (C-240097), Nahnhausen (C-275090), Wilhelmshausen (C-281135), Hahn Munden (C-320150), Altumdam (C-330160), Volkmarshausen (C-340181), Nieder Seebach (G-380100), and Heensen (C-408100). One difficulty encountered on the march was the fact that the present regulation trestle bridge could not accommodate a weasel. Weasels in the battalion were carried over the bridge at Hahn Munden by the 10-ton heavy wreckers.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Effective 091600 one platoon of Company B light tanks was attached to Division trains. Company C, 14th Tank Battalion was still attached to the 60th Armored Infantry.

At 092145 April all Company commanders were at the Command Post for instructions as to the continued attack of the division. The 9th Armored Division, upon passing through the areas of the 2d and 69th Infantry Divisions, attacked three Combat Commands abreast to secure a bridgehead over the Elbe River, bypassing Leipzig (E-250180) enroute. The 14th Tank Battalion lead the center column of Combat Command "A". The battalion order of march was: Company B with the 3rd Platoon of Company B, 60th Armored Infantry mounted on the tanks, plus the psychological warfare loudspeaker tank; Company B, 60th Armored Infantry mounted in their half-tracks; Command section; Assault guns; Mortar platoon; Headquarters Company; attached Engineer platoon; Company A; Company B, 60th Armored Infantry minus; Company D minus; Service Company and trains; one platoon Company B acting as rear security. It was later noted that the mentioned order of march was extremely successful inasmuch as not one single unit was readily accessible and all-around protection was afforded.

At 100630 April the head of the column moved from Heussen toward the line of departure at Reinsalterode (C-700166), twenty-five miles distant. The head of the 14th Tank Battalion column passed the L.D. at 0904. At Bodmerode (C-720137) the column encountered a bridge blown. This was bypassed to the south. For approximately the next 35 miles no resistance was encountered. Upon entering all towns white flags were flying.

However, at 1400, as Company B entered the town of Ebelben (D-090027) a fire fight was encountered which resulted in the loss of one Company B tank, and one attached artillery observer tank. The infantry immediately dismounted, moving forward to support the tanks. The remainder of the battalion moved into position to cover the withdrawal of the armor from the town. When this was completed all guns fired on the town. With the aid of air support the town was worked over for three and a half hours. Finally at 1735 the column again moved forward through the ruins.

The march continued until 2045 that evening when Company B ran into a fire fight near the woods north of Hakenberg (D-140054). At this point the column was turned around and moved into Oberpior (D-175062) for the night. The 14th Tank Battalion had lead the attack through 66.7 miles. The route covered and some of the towns liberated were: Mechnan (E-250180), Juhnde (C-434204), Mariengarten (C-482196), Klein Bahren (C-500165), Gross Scheen (C-526178), Ludolfshausen (C-561163), Lachenrode (C-594170), Bruns (C-602191), Bishhagen (C-640169), Siemerode (C-659165), Guntersode (C-690168), Reinsalterode (C-700166), Bodmerode (C-720137), Wingerode (C-740134), Brunen (C-770188), Leinofelde (C-799180), Birkenungen (C-810166), Hapstedt (C-866066), Kamroden (C-917076), Kenta (C-940075), Halzthalben (C-990069), Grossbrachter (D-034075), Tebn (D-055067), Siederwuth (D-078081), Ebelben (D-090027), Markensern (D-090039), Gundersleben (D-116048), Rechenbr (D-140054), and Oberpior (D-175062). The battalion closed at 2330.

In the same order as the preceding day, the 14th Tank Battalion lead the Combat Command "A" attack of the 9th Armored Division. At 115715 April 1945, the head of the column passed the line of departure at Oberprier. The entire column moved slowly and cautiously, halting outside of Bilsing-leben (D-328034) while the air support worked the town over. Many bridges encountered were blown and the column picked alternate routes or bypassed as necessary. At 1430, outside the town of Sachsenburg (D-389045) stiff resistance was met. High explosive artillery halted the column. While the 60th Armored Infantry advanced on Sachsenburg and the overlooking hill and woods, the battalion withdrew to Kannawurf (D-370025). At 2125 the battalion closed for the night after a distance of 23.7 miles. Towns on the route of march during the day were: Oberprier (D-178032), Westerrangel (D-210035), Kirchengel (D-218035), Holsengel (D-241041), Trebra (D-261035), Niederboon (D-276035), Oberboon (D-287040), Bilsingleben (D-328034), Kannawurf (D-370025), and Sachsenburg (D-389045).

At 120630 April the 14th Tank Battalion continued the attack of the 9th Armored Division. The battalion lead by C company A, mounting the 3rd platoon of Company B, 60th Armored Infantry, plus the psychological warfare loud-speaking tank passed the line of departure at Sachsenburg at 0705. The remainder of the column in order was: Company B, 60th Armored Infantry minus; air-ground communication tank; Command section; platoon of Company B, 65th Tank Destroyers; Assault guns; Mortar platoon; Headquarters Company; Company B; one platoon Company A, 9th Engineers; Service Company and trains; and Company D minus. The first halt was outside the town of Gehofen (D-497039) where white flags were not flying. Lead elements proceeded to clear the town. A small fire fight resulted. The town was cleared and the column passed through at 1045.

During the course of the day three route changes were necessary due to the fact that bridges along the schedule route of march were blown. Change No. 1 was from Beinsdorf (D-538057) south to Memleben (D-618029). The second was from Trebra (D-276035) by a northern route through Pretitz (D-672069) and Beinsdorf (D-538057) to Steigra (D-734073). The third change occurred at the road junction east of Baumwerde (D-806036) and southeast into Weissenfels (D-998075).

As the head of the column began to enter Weissenfels resistance was encountered from the town. The armor moved to a supporting line outside the town while the infantry advanced. In the meantime battalion headquarters moved back into Pettstedt (D-992010) to prepare plans for a continued attack in the morning. The Command Post closed at Pettstedt 121835 April 1945 after a march of 49.9 miles. The route of march for the day was: Sachsenburg (D-389045), Haldungen (D-425060), Beinsdorf (D-465090), Gehofen (D-497039), Beinsdorf (D-538057), Niehe (D-566027), Allerstedt (D-586018), Memleben (D-618029), Gross Wanger (D-659035), Trebra (D-676054), Ringst (D-676054), Kleinsingst (D-671069), Pretitz (D-672069), Beinsdorf (D-696069), Steigra (D-734073), Gleina (D-778028), Baumwerde (D-806037), south at D-828041, east at D-838003, to Senckfeld (D-857009), Pettstedt (D-992010), Starkau (D-928004), to Weissenfels (D-998075).

RESTRICTED

The Battalion was alerted to move on orders from Combat Command "A" at 130400 April 1945. The Combat Command moved in two columns with the 14th Tank Battalion leading the South Column. March order remained the same as the preceding day. At 0720 the head of the column passed the line of departure at Pattstadt for Pagan (K-153050), the objective. After covering a total distance of 32.8 miles the battalion closed at Pagan at 1150. Though resistance was reported to be ahead, the battalion column, by bypassing Weissenfels, encountered no difficulty. The route was as follows: Pattstadt (D-892010), Markkrolitz (J-885025), Hamberg (J-880918), Nethen (J-880900), Cieschan (J-908990), Schmerdorf (J-912989), Priestadt (J-920998), Stossen (J-930977), Kostplatz (J-960976), Krosseln (J-980980), Tuschern (J-000987), Ranzthal (J-000998), Unt (K-028905), Gossoran (K-030918), Zumbach (K-048916), Hohemolsen (K-050930), Stockberg (K-068959), Grossgrinna (K-080944), Grunau (K-090948), Stantsch (K-130951), and Pagan (K-153050).

Orders were received from Combat Command "A" at 141210 April 1945 to be prepared to move on the assigned objective Kitzscher (K-367952). The Combat Command plus moved in two columns, the 14th Tank Battalion following the 2nd Battalion of the 273rd Infantry, Headquarters CC "A", Company A 9th Engineers, and the 987th Field Artillery. The head of the battalion column moved out at 1910, and because resistance was met at the head of the column, closed at 180210 April at Henkieritzsch (K-280930) after travelling but 8.2 miles. The route from Pagan was: Greitsch (K-178938), Brosen (K-197931), Podelwitz (K-228980), Drosdorf (K-240930), and to bivouac at Henkieritzsch (K-280930).

As the Combat Command prepared to move out at 180200 April the 14th Tank Battalion was in Combat Command reserve. The order of march was identical to the preceding day. Heavy dual purpose anti-aircraft guns and 88's were encountered by the head of the column. The battalion itself did not move out until 1610, primarily due to the fact that stiff resistance was met at Herma (K-330910). This town was by passed by way of Lebstadt (K-380920), Grossossen (K-290941), Kleinsossen (K-302949), Bula (K-340942), Dittmannsdorf (K-355941), and Kitzscher (K-367952). The Command Post closed at 2045 after covering 9.5 miles.

At 180200 April 1945 the 14th Tank Battalion again lead the advance of one of the columns of Combat Command "A". Initially the Axis of advance was in three columns, the 14th Tank Battalion having the route to the south. The objective was first to seize the town of Grinna (K-400945) and the bridge across the Mulde River. If the objective was already seized by Combat Command "B", or if the bridge was blown, as it was, the battalion was to continue north to Treben (K-497187), and seize the bridge there. Here, too, the bridge had already been destroyed by the enemy. As the columns to the left flank were meeting stiff resistance, the 14th Tank Battalion continued on to the final Combat Command objective Bennwitz (K-465185). The hopes here were in seizing the bridge across the Mulde River to Surzen (K-480195) intact. However, the bridge was destroyed as the battalion approached. The 14th Tank Battalion then secured the area until the remaining troops of the Combat Command arrived.

Through the entire march only small arms and machine fire was encountered. Upon relief the battalion returned to Fannitz (E-482145) and then to Altenhain (E-485108) where the Command Post closed at 1933. In all a distance of 25.8 miles was covered, and the following towns taken: Kitzscher (E-487042), Steinbach (E-388008), Lanterbach (E-412972), Bernbruch (E-448008), Gross Barden (E-461010), Grinna (E-480045), Rehnstadt (E-481008), Treben (E-497107), Walsig (E-484116), Reithersdorf (E-488128), Bach (E-484138), Fannitz (E-482145), Schmalen (E490174), and Bennowitz (E-488128).

At 180030 April the 2nd Battalion of the 275th Infantry was relieved from the area of responsibility at Treben for the push on Leipzig. The 14th Tank Battalion was then ordered to secure the area. At 1120 after covering three and a half miles, the head of the column closed into the town. While Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Company B, Service Company, and Company S, 60th Armored Infantry minus remained in Treben, the disposition of the remainder of the battalion was as follows: Company A plus a platoon of Company B, 60th Armored Infantry at Grinna; Company D at Seelingstedt (E-470008); the platoon of 656th Tank Destroyers at Grothen (E-488045); and the anti-tank platoon of Company B, 60th Armored Infantry at Reithersdorf (E-482072). During the remainder of the day patrols were set up and security posted. The battalion drew three new M-24 light tanks for Company B, and two medium tanks M4A1 for Company C.

One of the patrols of the 60th Armored Infantry reported to the Command Post at 190000 April that a half-track in their patrol had been hit by a machine round near a wooded area at 288000. Some small arms fire was also encountered, resulting in two men killed and fourteen men wounded. A short while later at 0210 another half track parked in the city of Treben was destroyed by a machine round. Dismounted patrols were sent to both locations. The remainder of the night the vehicular patrol bypassed the danger area until the wooded section could be thoroughly flushed in the morning.

With much enemy flak coming into the area around Grinna, Task Force 14th was organized at 191040 April to clear and harass the enemy held positions on this and the far side of the Mulde River. After assembling at Rehnstadt (E-481008), the Task Force in the following order: Company B, 60th Armored Infantry dismounted; platoon of Company D M24 light tanks, Assault gun platoons of both the 60th Armored Infantry and the 14th Tank Battalion, mortar platoon, and an ammunition truck then moved to the river. The force returned at 1640 after flushing the woods and small surrounding towns. No trouble was noted thereafter.

An alert to be prepared to move to Grinna was received at the Command Post at 201145 April. Billeting officers left an hour later. The battalion itself moved out in administrative order at 1552. The short move of 6.8 miles was completed at 1640 after which security was set up for the night.

The following day the battalion was again alerted to move, this time to Groushamedorf (E-288008). In administrative order of Command Section;

Company B; Company B, 80th Armored Infantry; Company A; Headquarters Company's platoon of Tank Destroyers, Service Company, and Company D minus the column moved at 1530. The route was through Grissa (K-402002), St-ekheim (K-530982) Kitzsch (K-367942), Dittmannsdorf (K-355941), Berna (K-335915), Lobstedt (K-296920), Bergisdorf (K-367942), Brunsdorf (K-265917), and Grosshornsdorf (K-285995). After a distance of 21.4 miles the Battalion closed at 1730.

At the completion of the move, all attached units excepting Company B, 80th Armored Infantry were detached from Battalion control. Company C and also one platoon of Company D, 14th Tank Battalion were still detached from their parent control. However, at 230900 April both Company C, 14th Tank Battalion, and Company B, 80th Armored Infantry reverted to their individual Battalion control. Company C moved into Brunsdorf at 241000 April 1945.

The 14th Tank Battalion was placed on a 6 hour alert at 231430 April 1945. A letter of instructions regarding the proposed move was received at this headquarters at 1940. An hour later all Company Commanders were at the Command Post for instructions. The order of march was: Command section, Headquarters Company, Company A, Company B, Company C, Company D, Service Company, Medical Detachment, and Battalion Maintenance. Upon arriving at the new area the entire Division was under the VIII Corps.

The head of the Battalion column moved out at 290716 April 1945, passing the line of departure at Groitzsch at 0812. The non-tactical move of 73.5 miles was completed at 1420. Towns along the route of march were: Grosshornsdorf (K-259394), Brunsdorf (K-265917), Dresden (K240830), Fedowitz (K-228950) Dresden (K-187931), Groitzsch (K-173938), Itzengrützsch (K-159119), Gaudorf (K-145110), Lobnitz (K-142898), Malitz (K-150680), Winkwitz (K-145876), Tregitz (K-125845), Zeitz (K-080816), Weisdorf (K-077768), Giebelreth (K-088712), Langenberg (K-031665), to the Autobahn, then west through Berna (J-938800), Halbsucht (J-810696), to the road junction at J-732506, to Burgau (J-710628), Gschwitz (J-711810), west again along the autobahn to the road junction at J-646456, then north to Nelligen (J-570665), Dapferstedt (J-580705), Frankendorf (J-600699), Kapellendorf (J-620705), and Gresserstedt (J-631645). Upon reaching the 14th Tank Battalion area of responsibility, Headquarters and Headquarters Company closed into Gresserstedt, while other companies closed at: Company A and Company C at Oberhof (J-628730), Company B at Weisdorf (J-694716), Company D at Weisdorf (J-602731), and Service Company at Schmalzdorf (J-696724).

In this location the 14th Tank Battalion closed the month of April 1945.

Effect of terrain, weather, and enemy action in our operations:

The terrain had little effect on operations other than the large number of streams to be crossed resulted in limiting routes to those having bridges capable of taking heavy vehicles. Many of these bridges were blown by enemy action thereby limiting the routes of movement.

Enemy action at Ebeleben on 10 April 45, SP guns and dismounted troops at Ebeleben delayed our advance for about 2 1/2 hours, causing the loss of 2 of our tanks. One blown bridge in the town caused some delay while a different route through town was located. Later the same day, dug in Saxon men and infantry caused another change in route approaching Oberpfalz. At Sachenberg, on 11 April 45, blown bridges forced a slight change in route. Hq. fire forced

the column to halt, and resistance in the form of Artillery and Small Arms held up the 60th Infantry on our left who were engaged in capturing the bridge at Sachenburg for the entire combat command to cross. Blown bridges caused frequent changes in route of March on 12 April. Heavy AA fire vicinity of Haldensfels and Infantry in town forced change of route south through Neumburg. Heavy AA and Artillery defenses from Pegau to Eitscher slowed the advance considerably. Enemy blew bridges at Grimma, Trebsen, and Wurzen across the Mulde river. The weather was generally good except on one or two days haze prevented effective air support. Otherwise the operation was not affected by weather.

SECTION IV - Comment.

No comment.

SECTION V - Maps, etc.

Overlay No. 1 - 1 Apr 45 to 21 Apr 45 Routes of March
Overlay No. 2 - 23 Apr 1945 Route of March

**Map overlay not available
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HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH TANK BATTALION
AFO #259
U. S. Army

AFTER ACTION REPORT

1 May 45 to 8 May 45

**DOWNGRADED TO:
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED**
BY AUTHORITY OF TAG *C. L. L. 19*

Part I.

Section I. Introduction:

1. Campaign - Western Europe. 29 Jan 46 *HSO*
2. Map References: Date Initials
3. Units and Commanders of all subordinate troops:
 - a. Hq & Hq Company, 14th Tank Bn: Frank M. Simons, Jr., Capt Cav (Armd), 0407738.
 - b. Service Company, 14th Tank Bn: George P. Soums, Capt Inf (Armd), 0101148.
 - c. Company "A", 14th Tank Bn: John Grimball, 1st Lt. Inf, (Armd), 01013847.
 - d. Company "B", 14th Tank Bn: Carl E. Linder, Jr., Capt Inf (Armd), 01011420.
 - e. Company "C", 14th Tank Bn: Vincent J. Franaglia, Capt Cav (Armd), 0354760.
 - f. Company "D", 14th Tank Bn: Paul H. Fisher, 1st Lt., Cav (Armd), 01011309.

Section II: Statistical Data:

1. Personnel Losses: 1 May 45 to 8 May 1945 (Inclusive):

KIA		DOW DOI		Wounded Injured in action		MIA		CAPT		Sk & Other Non-Battle Losses	
OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM	OFF	EM
0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2

2. Personnel Replacements:

	Officers	N/Officers	EM
1 May 1945	1	None	None
2 May 1945	None	None	None
3 May 1945	None	None	None
4 May 1945	None	None	None
5 May 1945	None	None	None
6 May 1945	None	None	None
7 May 1945	None	None	None
8 May 1945	None	None	1
TOTAL	1	None	1

3. Prisoners of War taken:

1 May 1945	None	5 May 1945	30
2 May 1945	6	6 May 1945	86
3 May 1945	None	7 May 1945	750
4 May 1945	None	8 May 1945	None
		TOTAL	872

4. Vehicular losses:

2 M-24 light tanks damaged, recovered and repaired.

609-69.2

12650

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Vehicular Replacements:

None.

6. Ammunition Expenditure:

75mm H.E.	119 rounds	75mm W.P.	6 rounds
75mm H.E.	75 rounds	80 Cal Belted	10,000 rounds
75mm A.P.C.	3 rounds	80 Cal Linked	420 rounds

Section III: Narrative.

At 010001 May 1945, the 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division was in reserve of the VIII U.S. Corps. Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company were located at Grossromstedt (J-631665), with the remaining companies dispersed as follows: Service Company at Schwabedorf (J-595724), Company A and Company C at Oberndorf (J-628730), Company B at Weigendorf (J-594716), and Company D at Rodigsdorf (J-602731). Company D had one platoon of light tanks attached to Division trains.

On 2 May 1945, an alert order was received from Combat Command A, 9th Armored Division. Effective 1400 hours, Company C was to be attached to the 60th Armored Infantry Battalion. At the same time, Company A, 60th Armored Infantry; one platoon Company A, 9th Engineers; and one section 482nd AAA were attached to the 14th Tank Battalion. The change took place at 1500 hours.

Orders and instructions for the move of 3 May 1945 were received at this headquarters 022300 May 1945. Combat Command A followed Combat Command R in the first column. The non-tactical march was to an assembly area in the vicinity North of Weiden (P-190290). Upon closing the Combat Command was attached to the V Corps, in reserve of the 1st Infantry Division. March order for the 14th Tank Battalion was: Reconnaissance platoon; Command section; Company A, 60th Armored Infantry; Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Company A; Company B; platoon Company A, 9th Engineers; Company D; Service Company; Medics; and Battalion maintenance. These instructions were given to all Company Commanders at a meeting at this headquarters 030830 May 1945.

At 031223 May 1945, the head of the 14th Tank Battalion column moved out of Grossromstedt, passing the I.P. at Isserstadt (J-654691) at 1307 hours. After traveling a distance of 106.5 miles, the column closed in the assembly area at Mitterteich (P-235599) at 040045 May 1945. The route of march included Grossromstedt (J-631665), Isserstadt (J-654691), Jena (J-710655), Burgau (J-710624), Loboda (J-722619), to the Autobahn at J-731605, then east to J-890617, south on the Autobahn to J-890110, through Ullersreuth (J-895109), Hirschberg (J-899085), Topan (J-940070), Ledwitz (J-964040), Hof (O-975985), Ober Katsau (O-990935), Schwarzenbach (O-994887), Kirchenlamitz (P-010810), Marktleuthen (P-011788), Ober Borsau (P-083733), Wunsiedel (P-055688), Marktredwitz (P-115650), and to Mitterteich (P-235599).

In this new area, the 14th Tank Battalion as part of Combat Command A, was in reserve of the 1st Infantry Division. Their mission was to block all movement from the East. At a staff and Company Commanders meeting at this headquarters 050930 May 1945, plans were formulated for a systematic screening and search of the area. Company D was to move to Kommerdreuth (P-215665), and an all-round security was set-up.

However, at 1100 hours, all previous plans were cancelled by orders from Combat Command A. Permanent installations were disregarded and a prepare to move out order was sent to all companies and attached units. The same evening at 2200 hours all Company Commanders were at the Command Post for instructions. The 14th Tank Battalion was to lead the daylight attack of the 1st Infantry Division on 6 May 1945. The objective was to seize and secure Karlsbad (P-650930), Czechoslovakia, moving out at 060800 May 1945.

The battalion order of march was: Reconnaissance platoon; one platoon Company A, 89th Reconnaissance Squadron; Company A, plus one platoon Company A, 60th Armored Infantry mounted; Company A, 60th Armored Infantry minus; Command section; one platoon Company A, 9th Engineers; Assault guns; Mortar platoon; Headquarters Company; Company B; Company D minus; empty half-tracks; essential trains; Medical and maintenance. Kitchen trucks and battalion trains remained in place ready to move on order. Effective 060001 May 1945, the V U.S. Corps became part of the 3rd U.S. Army.

Under radio silence, the battalion moved out at 060800 May 1945. At approximately 0950 hours the 14th Tank Battalion moved into Czechoslovakia. East of Cheb (P-315745), Czechoslovakia, the force passed through the lines of the 1st Infantry Division for Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia. First resistance was met at Kornov (P-384770). At this point, finding that the leading reconnaissance elements were too thinly armored, Company A took the lead until one platoon of Company D could pass through the column and continue the attack.

For the remainder of the day all movement was slow due to the numerous obstacles encountered. Bazooka and burp gun fire halted the column at P-400789. The infantry dismounted and rounded up the enemy. A mile and a half down the road a battery of 5 88's knocked out a light tank before they could be silenced. Near Steinhof (P-431780) and Golddorf (P-451791) more road-blocks were encountered. Fire from the woods beyond Golddorf knocked out a second light tank. Here again the infantry dismounted, flanked the wooded sector, and cleaned out the woods and supporting positions. Another two 88's were knocked out by the lead elements.

Finally, after disposing of four more road-blocks, the column closed at Radelee (P-485815), Czechoslovakia. The time was 2145 hours, and the total distance traveled was 24.7 miles. Towns passed through were: Mitterteich (P-233599) and Waldassen (P-271600) Germany, Cheb (P-315745), Kornov (P-384770), Kilsam (P-303776), Steinhof (P-431780), Golddorf (P-451789), and Radelee (P-485815) Czechoslovakia. As the companies closed, company commanders reported individually for orders and instructions of the following day. The order of march was to remain the same.

At 070615 May 1945, the 14th Tank Battalion moved out to continue the attack of the 1st Infantry Division. By 0700 hours the column was in Falkov (P-500470) heading toward Elbogen (Locket) (P-580883). No resistance was being met. At 0945 hours an order was received from Combat Command A, 9th Armored Division to cease all forward movement, take local security measures, and await further instructions. The last shot fired by the 14th Tank Battalion was at 070925 May 1945. Lead elements had advanced into Czechoslovakia to a point approximately half way between Elbogen and Karlsbad at P-596910.

The first instructions received from Combat Command A were to return to Elbogen. However, these plans were changed and the 14th Tank Battalion, less Company A, moved to Chodov (P-570945), Czechoslovakia, and secured the surrounding area. Company A moved into North Sedle (P-579910) Czechoslovakia. The move was accomplished at 1245 hours, after covering a distance of 16.8 miles.

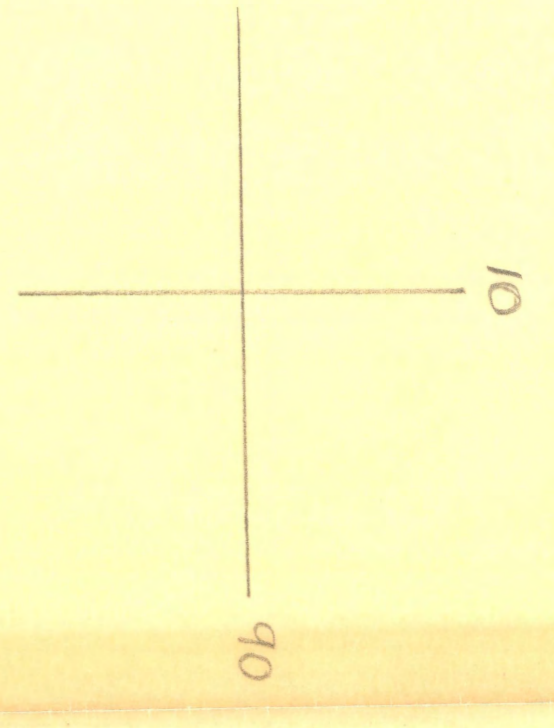
Thus, with Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Service Company, Company B and Company D located at Chodov, Czechoslovakia; Company A located at North Sedle, Czechoslovakia; and Company C still attached to the 60th Armored Infantry, the 14th Tank Battalion of the 9th Armored Division closed World War II in Europe at 090001 May 1945.

Section IV: Comments:
None.

Section V: Maps, etc.

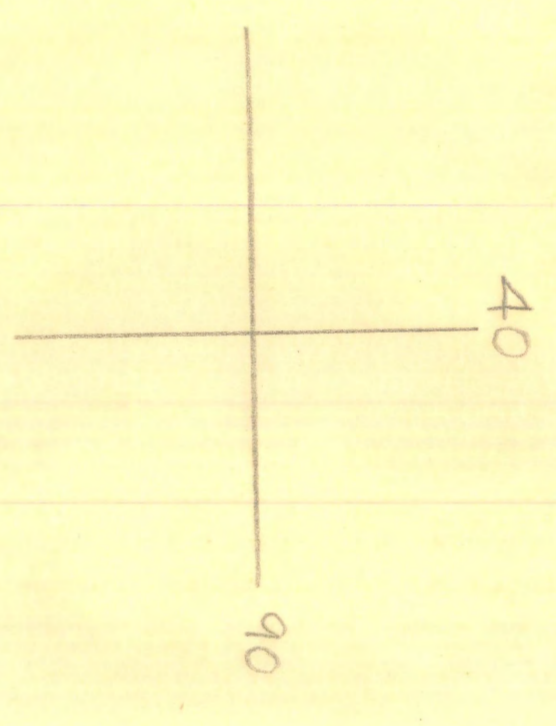
Overlay No. 1, 5 May 1945 - Route of march.

Overlay No. 2, 6 to 7 May 1945 - Route of march.



GERMANY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA



CHODOV
KARLSBROD

N
Spilo

ELBOSEN
(LOHTE)

St Spilo

FALKNOV

RUDOLFC

Golddorf

STEINHOF

KULSPIN

KORNOV

CHEB

GERMANY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

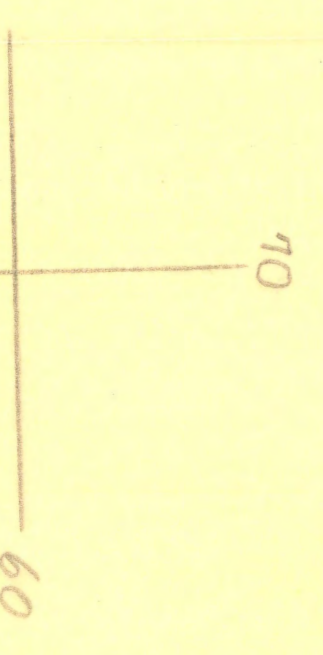
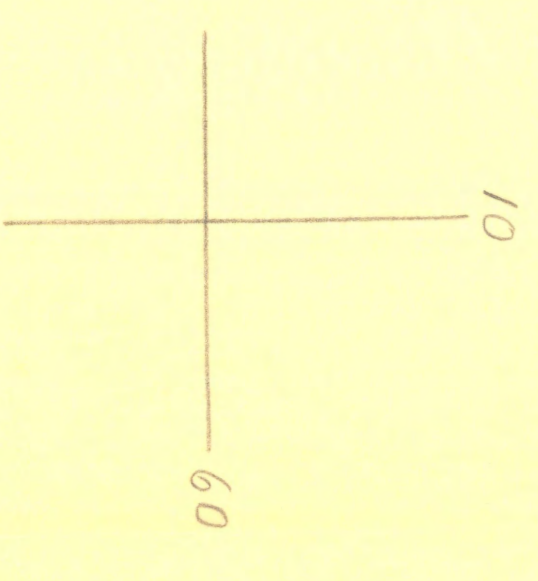
WALDRASSPEN

KANNERSREUTH

GERMANY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MITTERTEICH

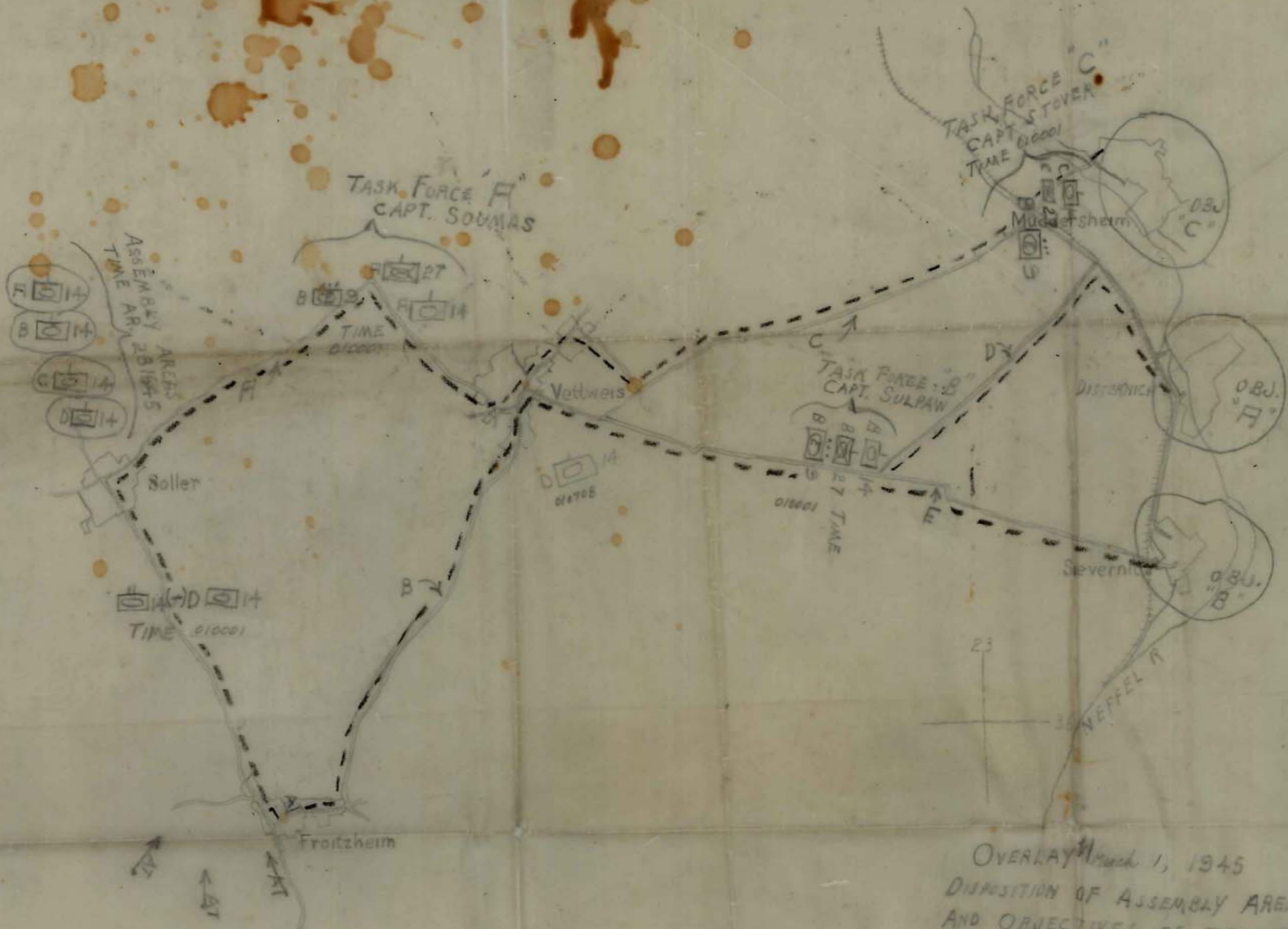


OVERLAY # 2
6-7 May 1945
MAP - GERMANY
SCALE - 1:100,000
SHEETS - T6, T7

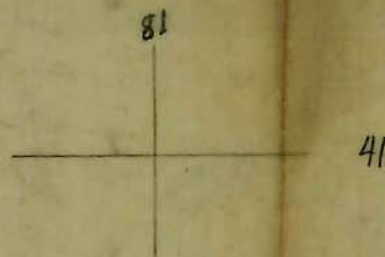
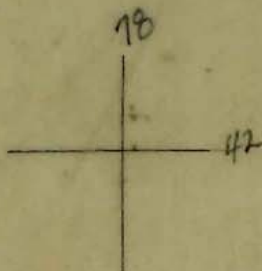
814 TB 1016

804 TB 1016

**BELOW ARE SOME OF
THE MAPS FOR THIS
DOCUMENT THAT HAVE
BEEN RESCANNED FOR
BETTER VIEWING**

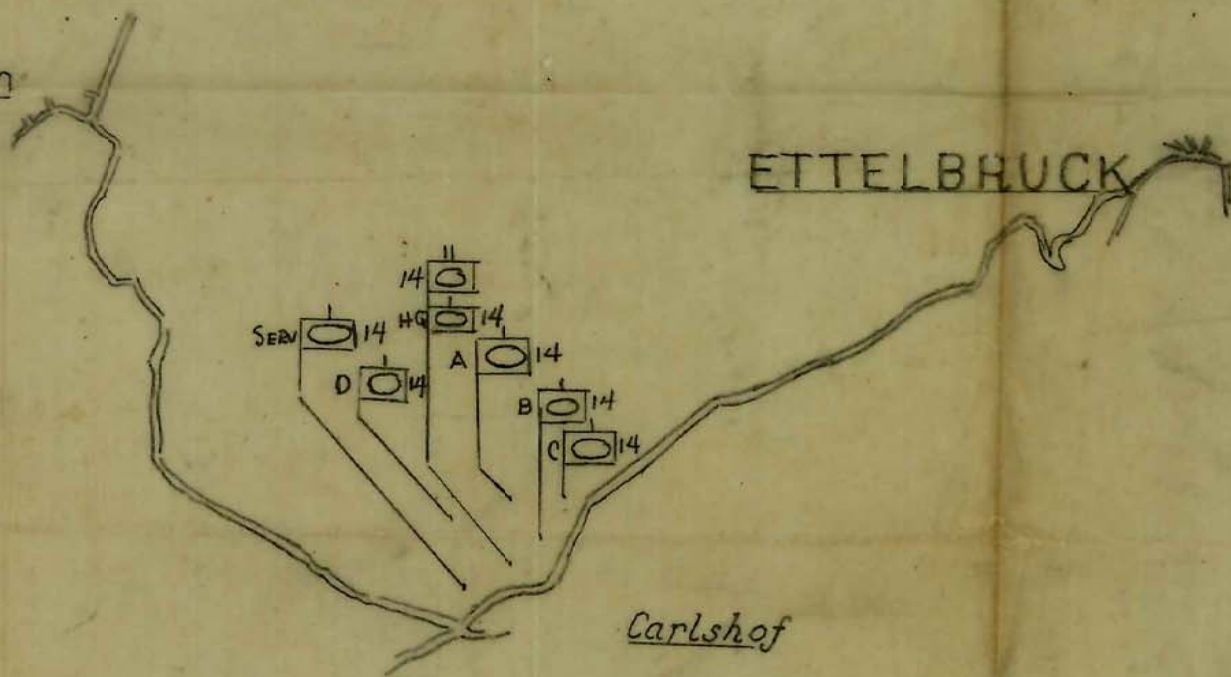


OVERLAY ^{March 1, 1945}
 DISPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY AREAS
 AND OBJECTIVES OF TASK FORCES
 A, B, & C - C.C.B.
 MAP REF. GERMANY 1:25,000
 6565 414 SHEET 5205



Oberfeulen

ETTELBRUCK



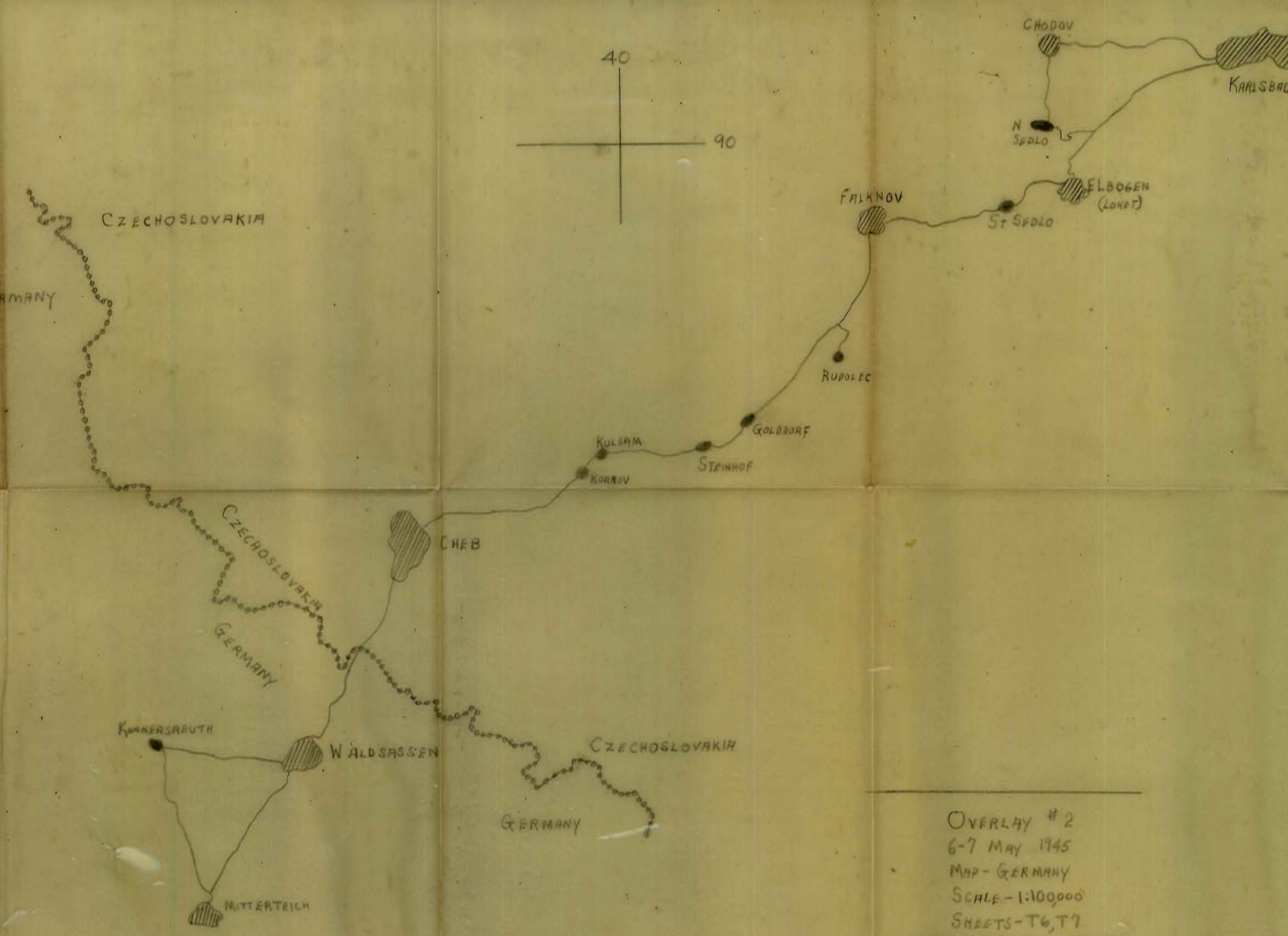
OVERLAY 1:25 000
G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 6102
(DIEKIRCH)

Disposition 14th Tank Bn 21001 Oct 44
to 241100 Oct 44

OFFICIAL:

Chaudh
CHANDLER

Overlay #1



OVERLAY # 2
 6-7 MAY 1945
 MAP - GERMANY
 SCALE - 1:100,000
 SHEETS - T6, T7

Hahnsciff
Damm

Langenburg

Grisbroth

Drossroff

Zeit

Tropitz

Miwwitz
Aulitz

Lohwitz

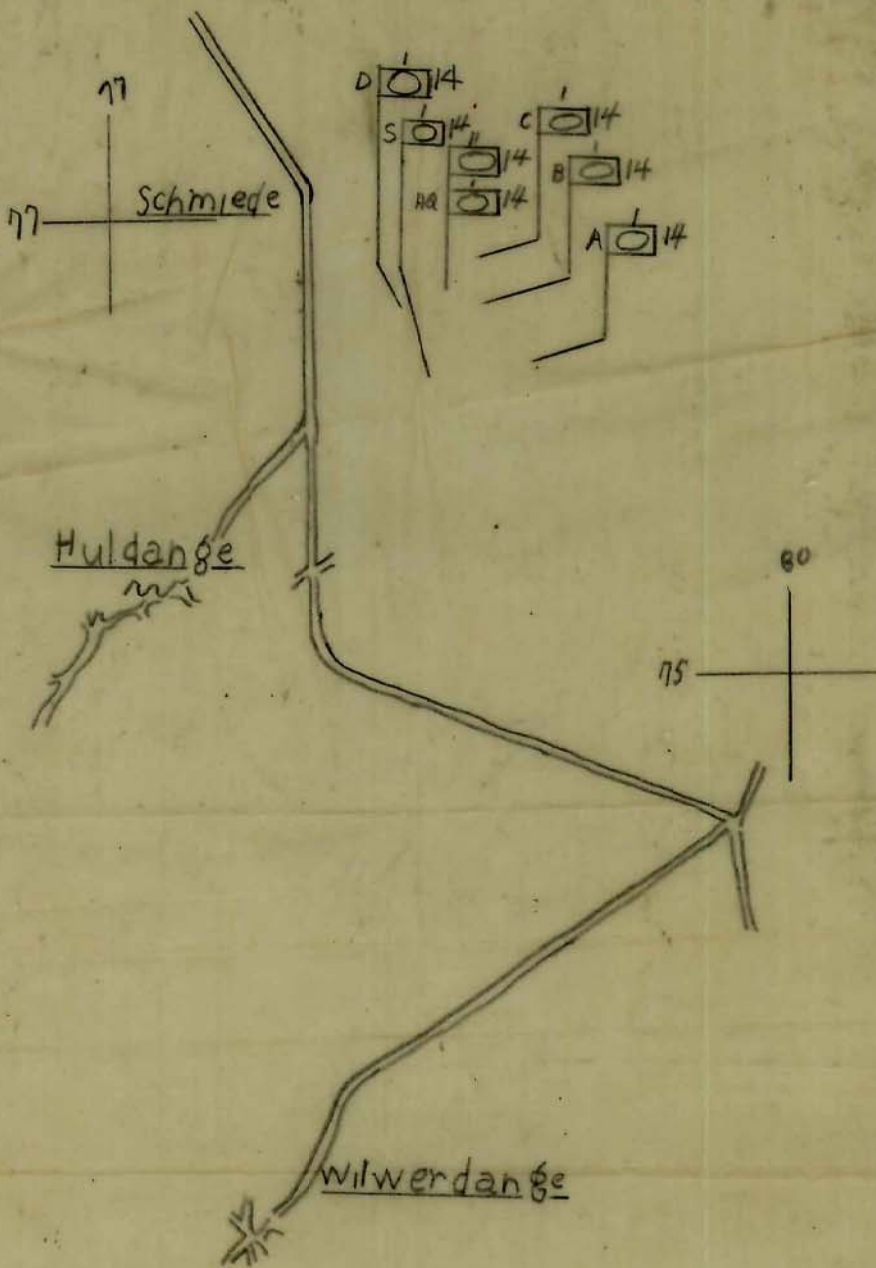
Thengsdorf
Samsdorf

Geatzsch



20

Map 7



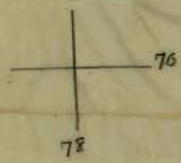
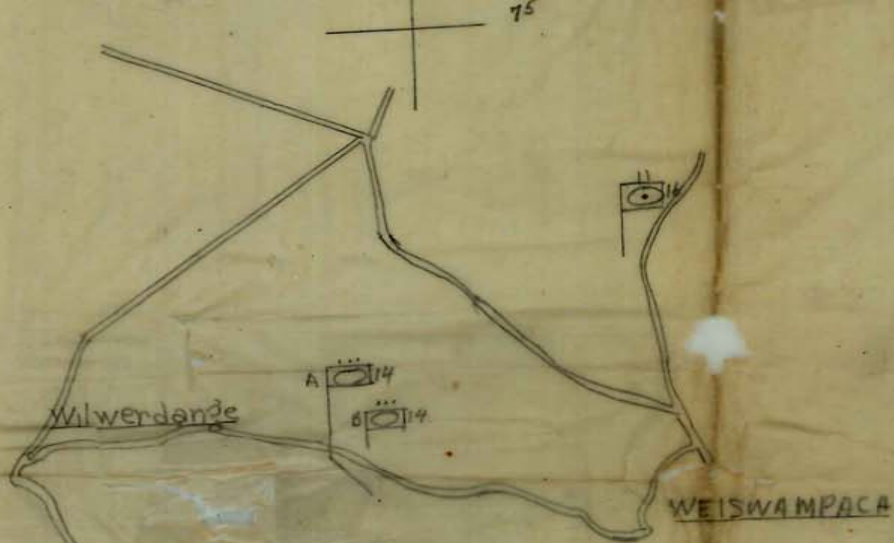
OVERLAY 1: 25 000
 G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 5802
 (BURG-REULAND)

DISPOSITION 14th Tank Bn 241600 OCT 44

OFFICIAL

CHANDLER MAJOR
 S-3

Overlay #2

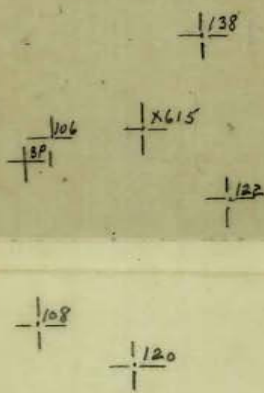


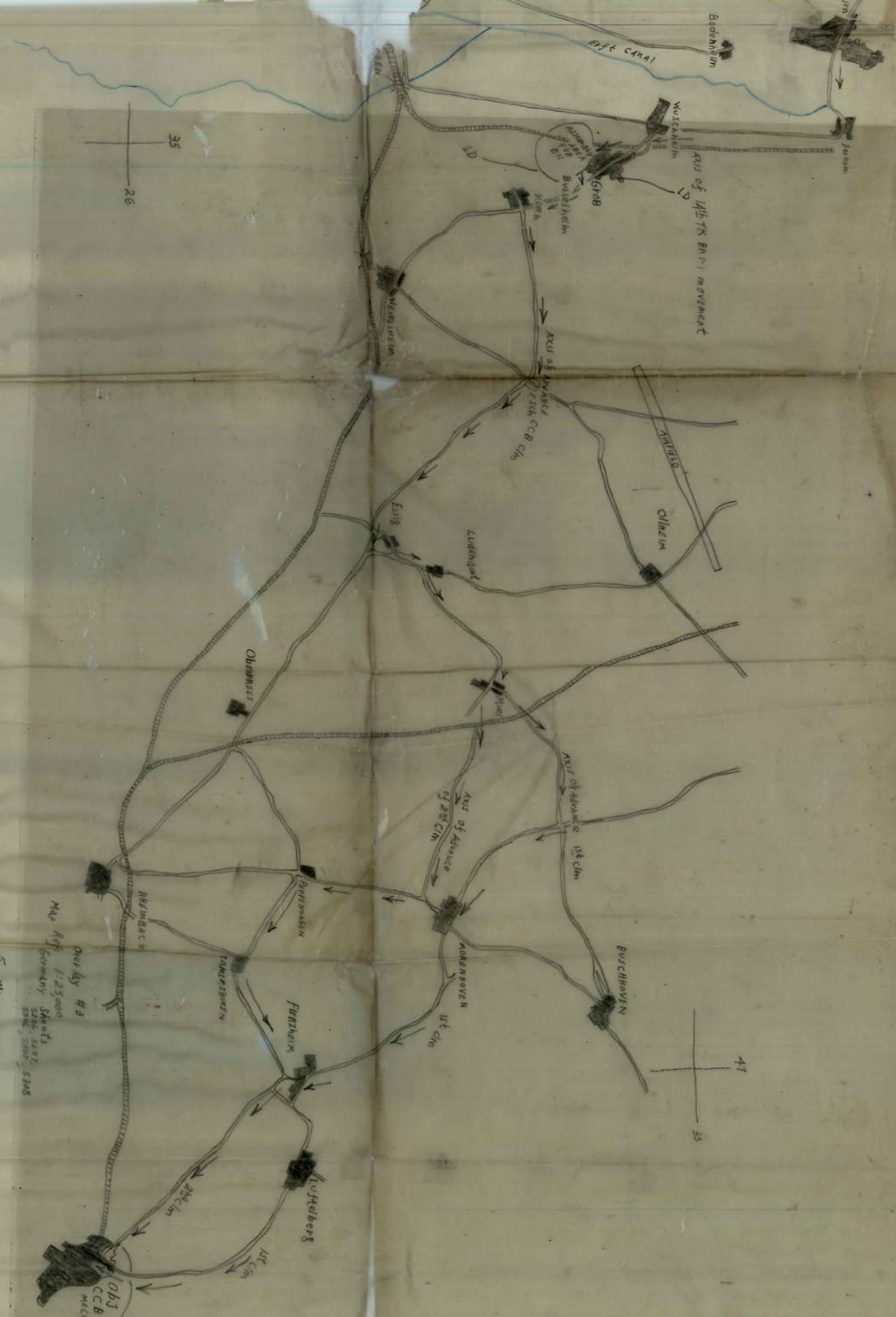
OVERLAY 1:25000
 G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 5802
 (BURG-REULAND)
 G.S.G.S. 4414 SHEET 5803 (LEIDENBRAN)
 Firing positions occupied by Platoon
 Co "A" and 2nd Platoon Co "B"
 26 Nov Oct 1944 to Support
 16th Armd F.A. Bn.
 Base Point & Concentrations Firing as Indicated.

OVERLAY # 3.

OFFICIAL!

CHANDLER-MATOR
 S-3





Overlay #3
 Map Ref. Grid Only
 Scales: 5000, 10000, 20000, 30000, 40000, 50000
 5 March 1945

Drawing #4
 Map Scale 1:50000
 Map Remains Same
 Sheet 60
 7 March 1945



Rhondorf

HONNEF

Att'd to 2nd Bn 311th Inf.

Rheinbreitbach

Scheuren

Unkel

Hastel

Erpel

Rhine

REMAGEN

Kasbach

Kripp

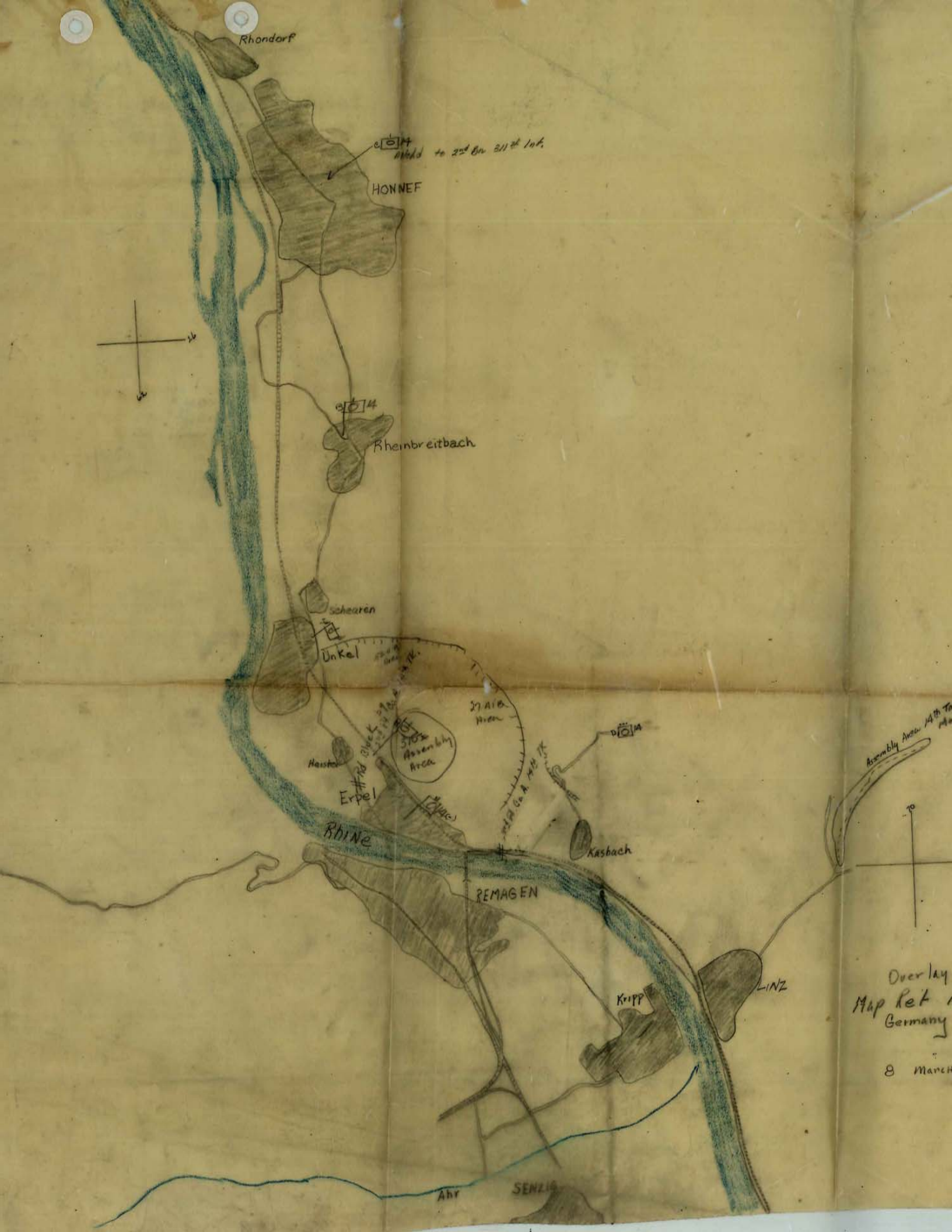
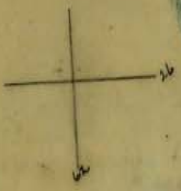
LINZ

Ahr

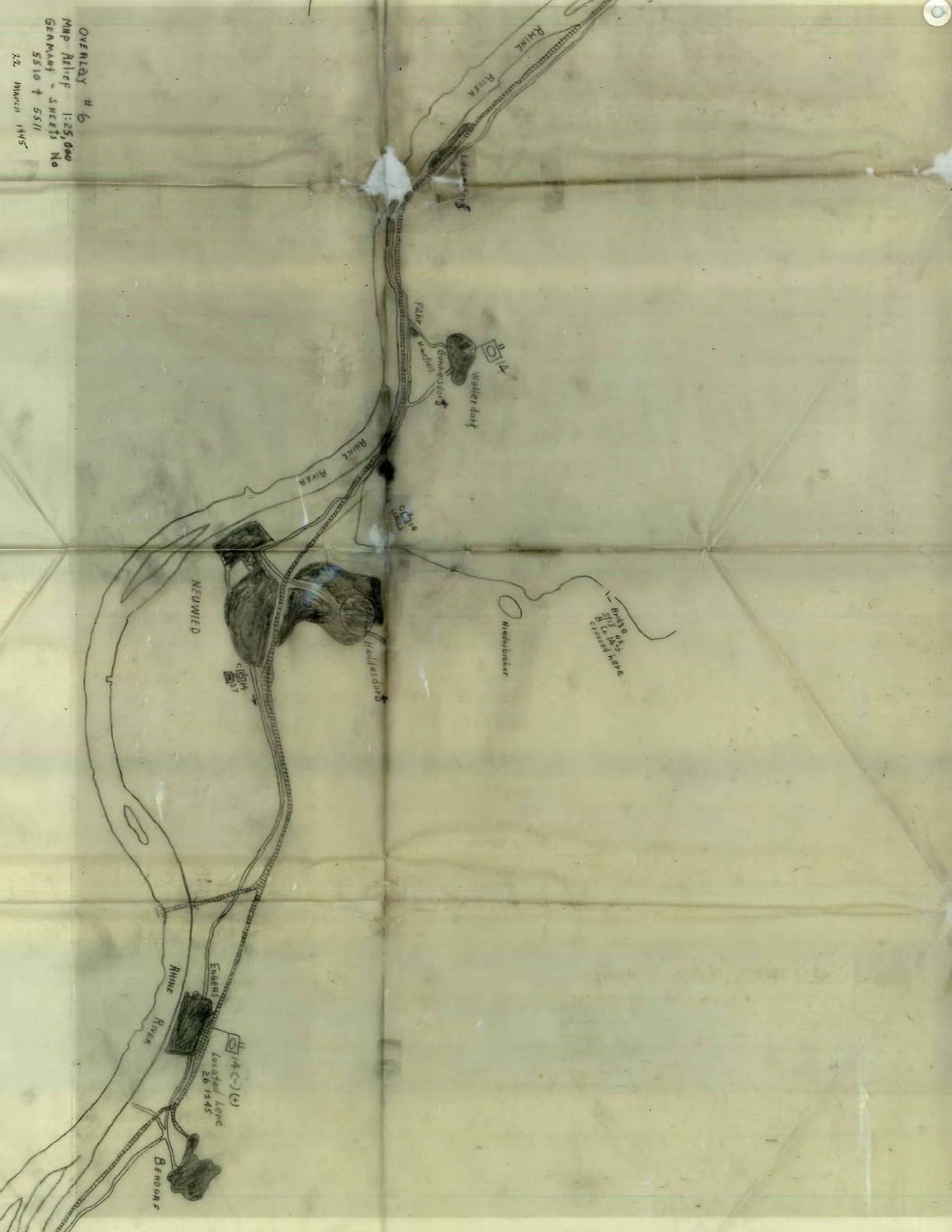
SENZ

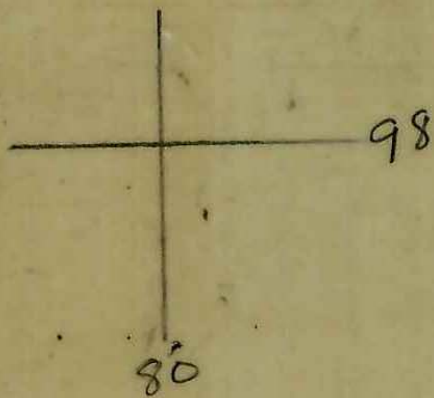
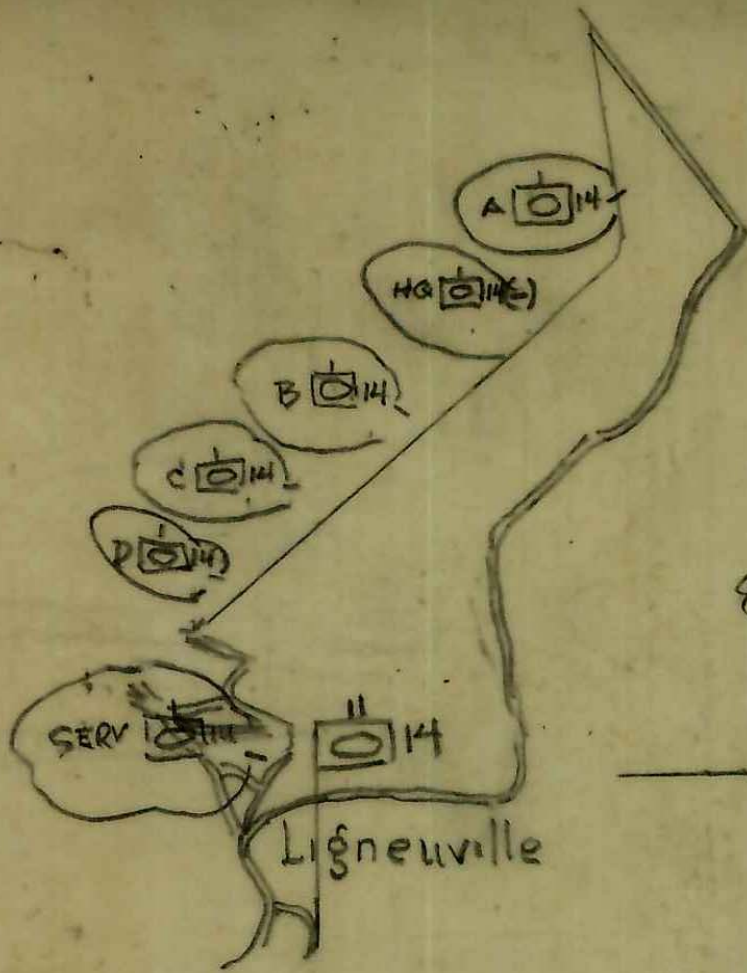
Overlay
Map Ref
Germany

8 March



OVERLAY # 6
MAP Relief 1:25,000
GERMANY - SHEETS No
5510 + 5511
22 March 1945





OVERLAY 1:25,000
GERMANY SHEET 5602

Dispositions 14th TANK BN 131000
DEC to 170330 DEC 1944

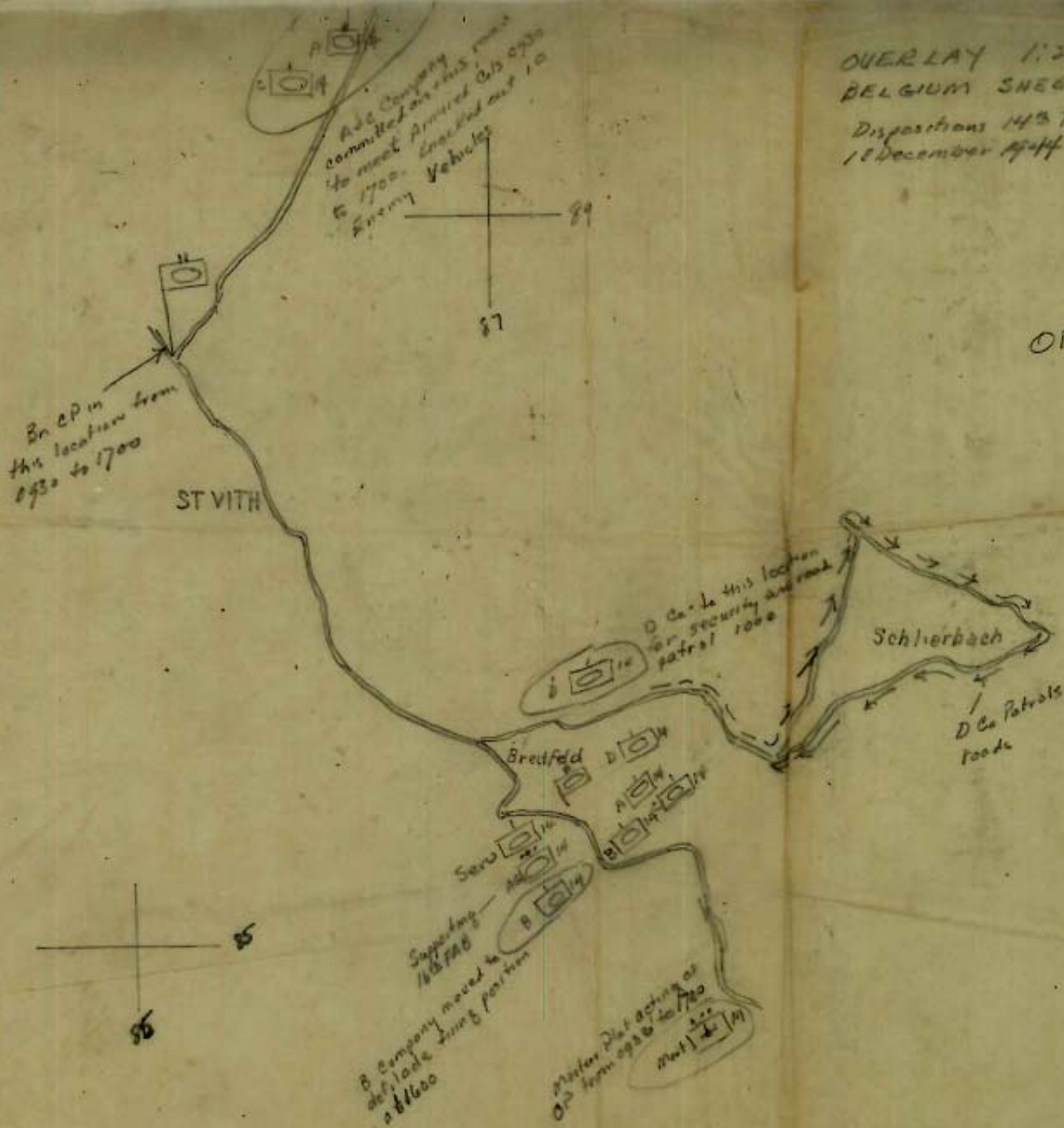
OFFICIAL:

Commander Maj
S-3

OVERLAY 1:25,000
 BELGIUM SHEETS 5702, 5703
 Dispositions 143 Tank Bn
 18 December 1944

OFFICIAL:

C. K. ...
 8-3



A Co Company
 committed on this road
 to meet Armored Cols 0300
 to 1700. Encountered out to
 Enemy Vehicles

Bn CP in
 this location from
 1930 to 1700

ST VITH

Breufeld

Schlierbach

Servin

Supporting
 143 FAB
 B Company moved to
 defilade during position
 260600

Master Det acting as
 OP from 0930 to 1700

D Co in this location
 for security and road
 patrol 1000

D Co Patrols
 roads



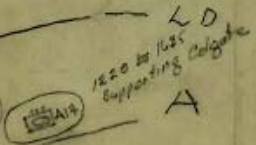
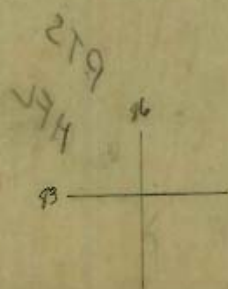
OVERLAY 1:25 000
BELGIUM SHEETS 5702, 5703
Dispositions 4th Tank Bn
17 December 1944

OFFICIAL:
Cohander
3-3

ST VITH



Supporting
16th Pz
1200-2400



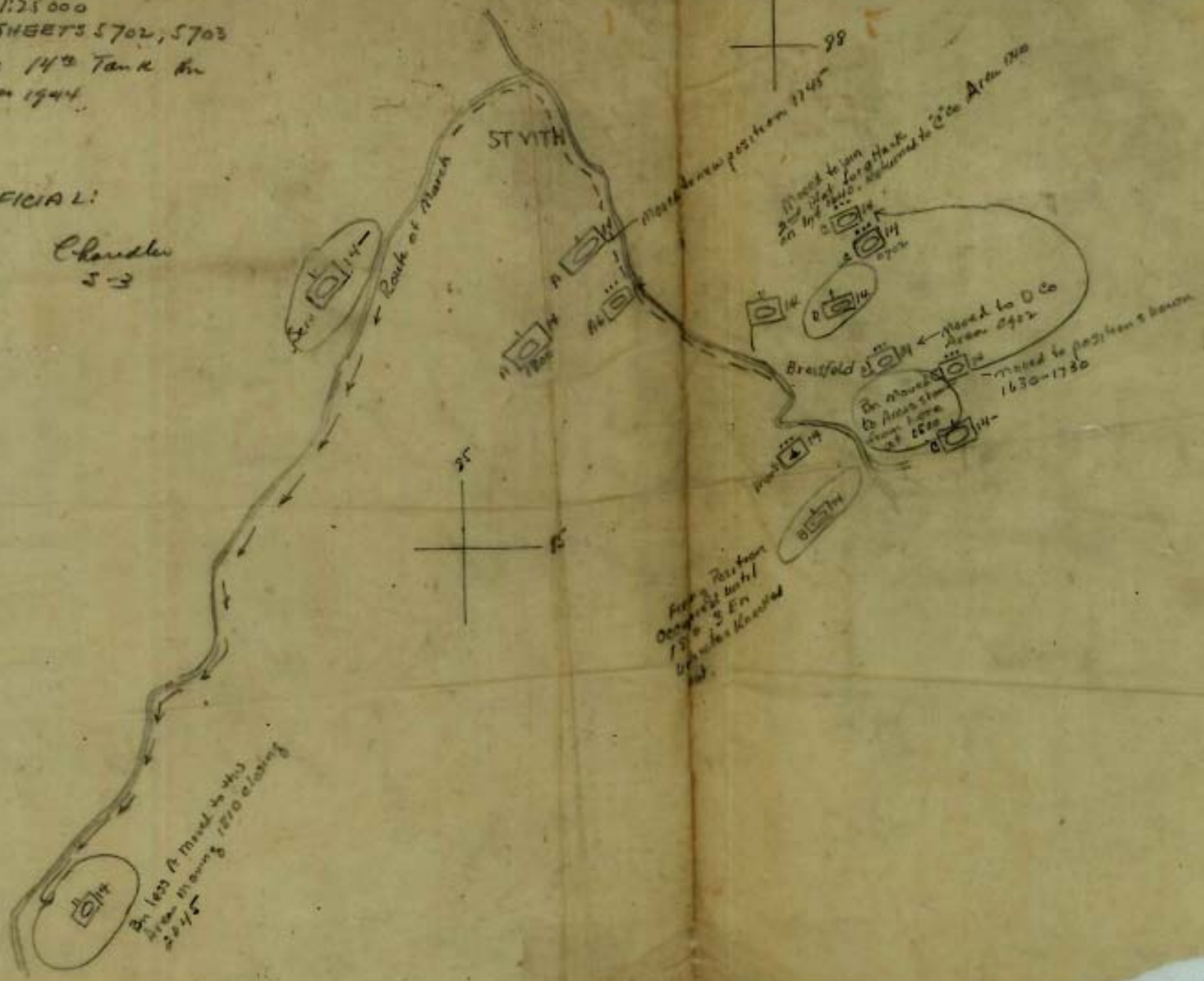
17 DEC 44

Winterspelt

OVERLAY 1:25 000
 BELGIUM SHEETS 5702, 5703
 Dispositions 14th Tank Bn
 19 December 1944

OFFICIAL:

Chandler
 5-3



In less A moved to up 3rd area in coming retro closing 2045

Firing Position Occupied until 1730 - 5 E's destroyed

Moved to join 2nd Inf. Div. - returned to C Co Area 1740

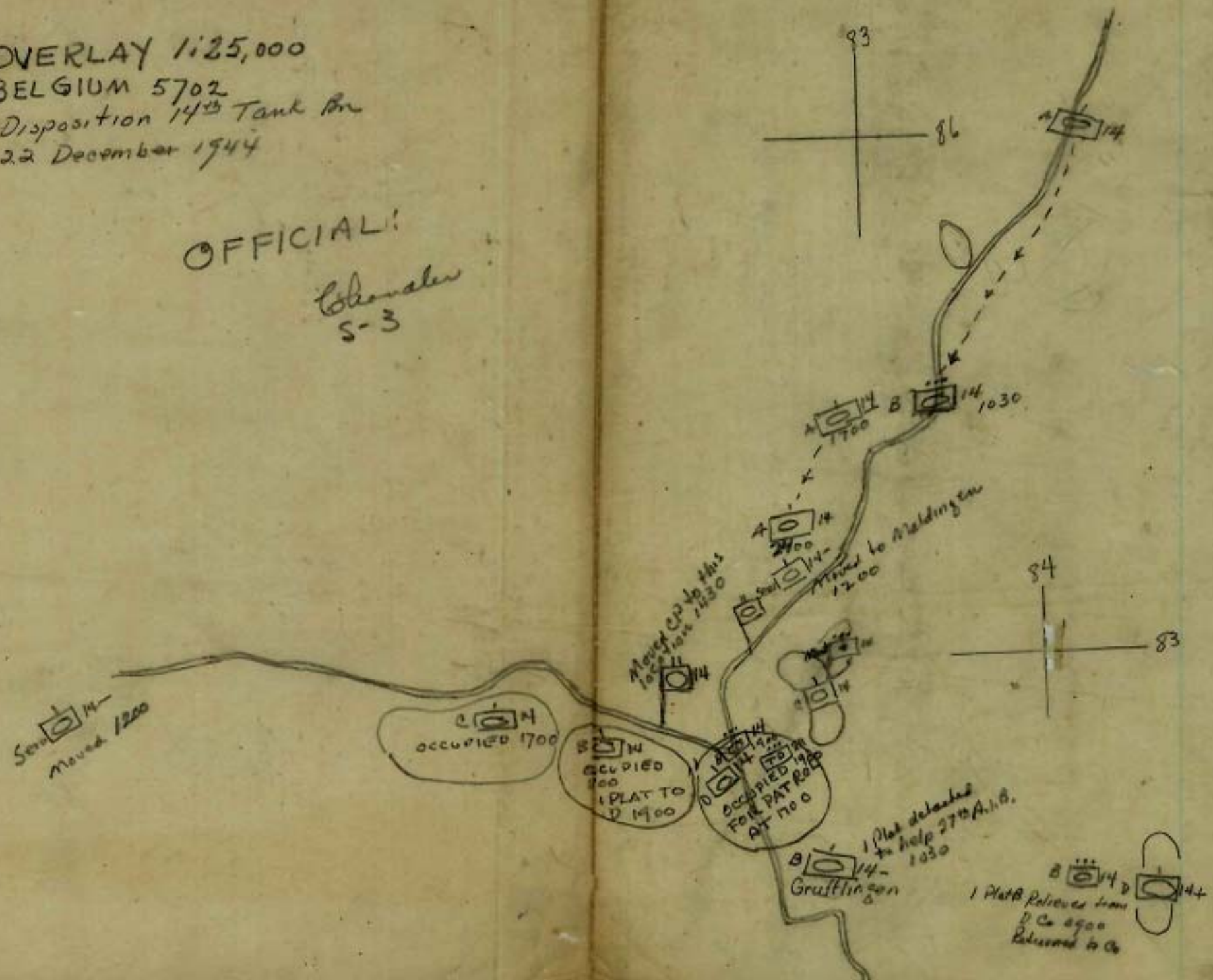
Moved to O Co Area 1742

Moved to position shown 1630-1730

In movement to Area 1740 at 1630

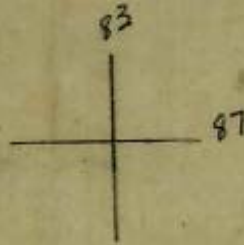
OVERLAY 1:25,000
 BELGIUM 5702
 Disposition 14th Tank Bn
 22 December 1944

OFFICIAL!
 Chandler
 S-3



OVERLAY 1:25,000
BELGIUM SHEET 5702

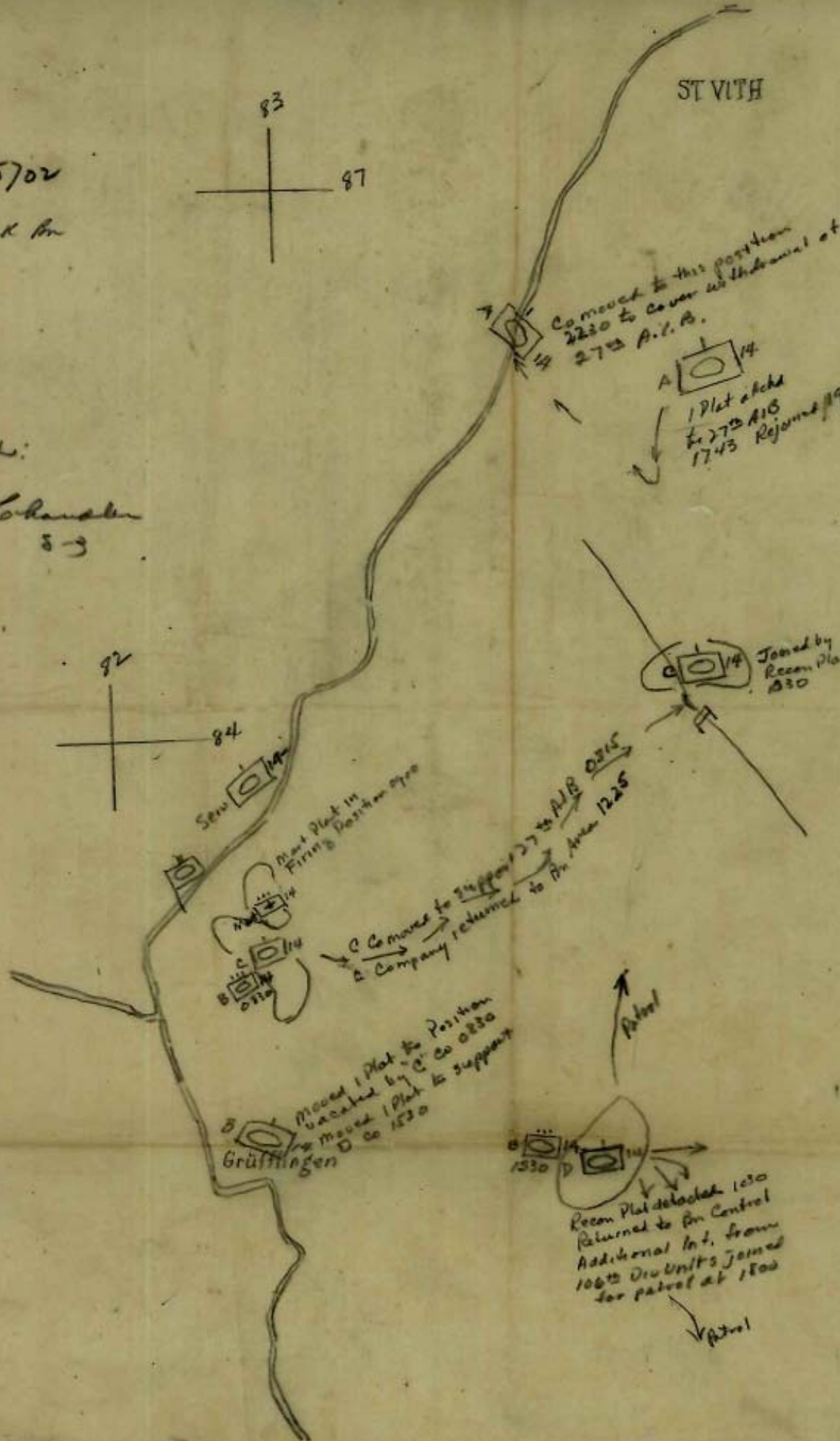
Disposition of 14th Tank Bn
21 December 1944



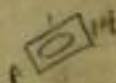
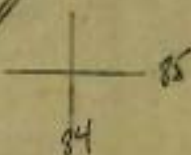
ST VITH

OFFICIAL:

Chandler
53



ST VITH



occupying this position
locating Thomson at
2875, moved toward
by 1st CCB, Reformed
at 1845
Schiff

8 Co put on road to St. Vith
at 1845 per orders GOCB
Recalled 0815 and sent to
Position shown to block road

Recon Plat reconnoitered
this route starting 0730
Stopped by mud at position
shown.

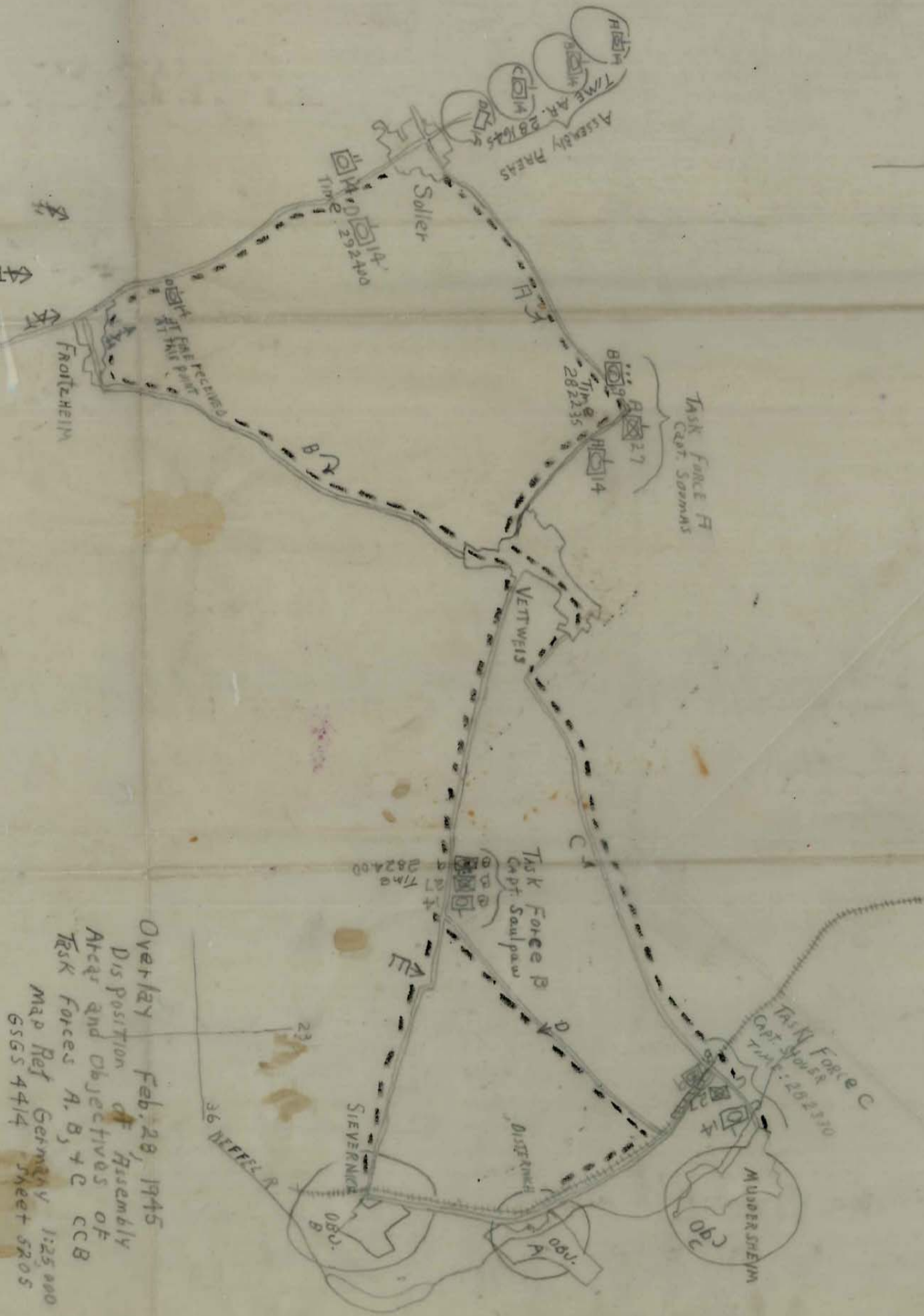
Co moved to this position
to hold OR and push
enemy back at 0900
Reinforced by 1st CCB + 16
Men from 44 + 16
Joined by Recon Plat
Patrols 1500

1 Plat moved
0815
dummy
position
occupied
Gruffingen

OVERLAY 1:25,000
BELGIUM SHEET 5702
Dispositions 143 Tank Pln
20 DECEMBER 1944

OFFICIAL

Chandler
53



Overlay Feb. 20, 1945
 Disposition of Assembly
 Areas and Objectives of
 Task Forces A, B, + C CCB
 Map Ref Germany 1:25,000
 GSGS 4414 Sheet 5205