TOBN-814-043

HEADQUARTERS 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)

APO 339, US Army 4 Nov 1944.

SUBJECT: After Action Report for October 1944.

TO : Commanding General 7th Armd Div APO 257, US Army.

- 1. On 1 Oct 1944 the 814th TD Bn, attached to the 7th Armd Div, was subattached as follows: Company "A" to CCA, Company "B" to CCB, while Hq and Hq Company, Rcn Company and Company "C" with Company D %- 1 Platoon) 17th Tank Battalion, Company "C" 33rd Engineers together with 165 Belgium volunteers attached, formed Task Force JONES.
- 2. TF, JONES had the mission of maintaining road blocks at Deurne (#1), Liesel (#2), and Weert (#3), Holland. On October 1, 1944, the road block at Deurne was given the mission of patrolling NE from Wasberg, effecting crossing of canal and establishing bridgehead, using all attached Belgiums as foot troops. The Belgiums refused to attack and mission was discarded. On October 2 1944, Belgians were returned to their homes and normal patrols continued.
- 3. The road block at Weert, relieved by British and their force, closed in assembly position 1/2 mile North of Ommel at 1800 hours 2 Oct 1944.
- 4. Road blocks at Deurne and Riesel continued, with only small enemy patrols encountered and several prisoners taken, until relieved by CCB at 0900 hours 9 Oct 1944, at which time Reconnaissance and "C" Companies assembled in bivouac area with Hq and Hq Co at Zomeren and attached units were relieved of attachment. 814th TD Bn (- A and B Co's) reverted to CCR control as Division Reserve.
- 5. 814th TD Bn (- A and B Co's) went into training period which lasted until 25 Oct 1944. "B" Company joined the Battalion on 21 Oct 1944. During this period Rcn Company did Area and Route Reconnaissance for CCR.
- 6. On 25 Oct 1944, Rcn Co attached to CCA and 814th TD Bn (-A and Rcn) moved to billets in Asten and continued training. On 27 Oct 1944 the battalion made plans to defend against enemy armor attack north from Meijel and Company C was attached to CCB while Company B was attached to CCR.
- 7. 214th TD Bn (- A, B, C & Rcn) moved to Zomeren 29 Oct 1944, at 1915 hours, and finally arrived in bivouac 3 miles South of Maarheeze at 1015 hours on 30 Oct 1944. Company B reverted to Bn control at 1600 hours.

RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

1. Rcn Co remained under battalion control until 25 Oct 1944 when it was attached to CCA to relieve Company D, 87th Rdn, and patrol mission in vicinity of Weert. Normal patrol activity was carried on with little enemy action encountered.

"A" COMPANY

- 1. On 1 Oct 1944, Company A with 1 Platoon attached to 40th Tk Bn and Company A (-) attached to 48th Infantry, was in assembly position in vicinity of Oploo, Holland. On 3 Oct 1944 first Platoon was used as flank guard for 40th Tk Bn in attack on Overloon. The second and third Platoons were used as flank guards for 48th Infantry in reserve.
- 2. Upon the relief of Division by British, Company A moved with CCA to assembly area in vicinity of Maarheeze on 7 Oct 1944. On 8 Oct 1944, moved to assembly 1/4 mile SW of Altweert using two platoons with 48th Inf employed as road blocks. One 13 Oct 1944 platoons returned to Company control and company moved to indirect fire positions one mile east of Weert. They remained in indirect fire position firing with air observation on selected targets until 27 Oct 1944 when one platoon was attached to 40th Tk Bn and moved to position 3 miles north of Mederweert. Balance of company remained in old position with no mission.

"B" COMPANY

- l. On 1 Oct 1944, Company B was attached to CCB with two platoons employed as reserve and one platoon employed with 23rd Infantry. Upon relief of CCB by CCR the company moved to assembly area NW of St. Anthomis with CCB as reserve. On 5 Oct 1944 they moved 2 1/2 miles SE of St. Anthomis, Company Commander given task force consisting of "B" Company, 814th TD Bn, Company D 31st Tk Bn, and 1 platoon Engineers. The next day first platoon, Company B, relieved first platoon, Company A, and the task force was dissolved.
- 2. Upon relief by British of CCB, company moved to assembly position near Ommel on 9 Oct 1944 where it remained until 12 Oct 1944 at which time it moved into indirect fire positions SW of Deurne. Numerous concentrations were fired under control of 434th FA Bn in support of attack by CCB on canal. Remained in this position until 21 Oct 1944 when Company reverted to Battalion control and closed in bivouac south of Zomeren, Holland. On 25 Oct 1944 company moved, under battalion control, to billets in Asten. At 0800 hours 27 Oct 1944, company was alerted for move and company commander with platoon leaders went on reconnaissance to select positions to repel counter attack by enemy armor NW of Meijel. First platoon moved out at 1430, attached to CCR. Second and third platoons attached at 1000 and 1300 hours respectively on 28 Oct 1944.
 - 3. For period 27 to 31 Oct 1944 see attached sheets

"C" COMPANY

- 1. Company C was under Battalion control until 27 Oct 1944.
- 2. For period 27 to 31 Oct 1944 see attached sheets.

For the Commanding Officer:

WALTER W. LAND Captain FA

Adjutant

TF CHAPPUIS, CCR, 7 AD (Co. "B", 814 TD)

27-31 Oct - At 1425 hours first plateon, B Co., moved to previously selected position and was attached to TE CHAPPUIS, CCR. Lt Col Chappuis ordered first platoon to move about 1 mile south on Asten-Meijel read to establish a read block (see overlay #1). Platoen leader was ordered to reconneiter for TD positions further south (overlay #2) and reported after a dismounted reconnaissance that the ground would not hold M-10's and that there were no suitable positions. At Oloo hours the second plateon of B company was attached to TF CHAPPUIS, CCR, and went into road block position shown on overlay #2. Lt. Col. Chappuis ordered that first plateen leader move one M-10 about 1500 yards further south down the road into a position occupied by a 57 AT gun. About 0330 second plateon leader accompanied Lt Tavlinsky in a 1/4 ton, stopping at first platoon position and alerting #1 gun to move south slowly and most them when they returned from recommaissance. On arriving at the proposed position they moved the 57mm AT gun already occupying the position. While doing this the officers received SA fire and mortar fire from the East where German Infantry were moving up. A and B compenies of t he 48th AIB were also receiving direct fire from enemy tanks to their south. The officers returned to meet the destroyer. First Plat. leader took a position on the outside of the destroyer so as t guide it in the dark. Second platten leader backed his 1/4-ten behind the destrayer and followed it as it moved. Upon arriving near the intended position at 0400, first plateen leader sow small arms and machine gun fire about 200 yards should and halted his M-10. Infintry soldier ren up and reported that this fire was a ming from a German tank on the read. First plate a leader gave the order to fire. The gunner attempted to fire 5 times (3 times with the solenoid and twice with the manual bar) but the gun failed to fire. It was then attempted to back the M-10 up without being detected. the gun commander moved to the rear deck to guide the driver back. The Germans then opened fire hitting the M-10 in the turnet and the M-10 slipped off into the ditch in the east side of the road. The gun or was seriously wounded and the loader was slightly wounded. The Germans were now firing with mortars, mahhine guns, and small arms. The second platuon leader and his driver had taken cover in the ditch but the driver was killed. First plateen leader called second plateon leader to bring up the 1/4-ten to evacuate the gunner. The enemy continued intense fire but the M-10 crow and 2 officers succeeded in removing the gunner. The Plateon Leaders then returned to their plateens. Tigor tanks were reported moving North from about where #1 destroyer, first plateen, had been abendoned and Lt Col Chappuis ordered on M-10 forward to duel with them.

Second plate in lorder told him that this capleyment put the M-10 at great disadvantage and that he would obey the order under protest. He then went forward to the first platoon position and relayed the order. First platoon leader said that before he would order his M-10 forward he wanted to talk to it Gol Chappuis himself. Second by toon leader undertook to knock down the church steeple in Nearkan. (overlay #3). This was accomplished with about 30 hits, around 0900 hours. #4 gun, first platoon, opened fire at Tiper tank at about 1600 yards range (see overlay #3). Fire opened at 0800 and continued until 0930. Second platoon leader, anticipating a tank attack down the road, placed his destroyers in positions to allow short fields of fire from the flanks (see overlay #5). The flat terrain off the read was soft and #3 gun, second plat on, betained some cover by backing off the secondary road and bellving his tank do not the field.

Number four gun, third pict on, attached to first platoon, spotted an on my tank and fired until he set it on fire (overlay #3). Number four gun, first plato m, knocked aut an unidentified vehicle (presumbly a tank, according to Infantry reports) in about the same vicinity as the one with which he was aucling. Enemy fire at first platoom's position was heavy mough to cause super ting tank crows to abandon their vehicles. At least 4 medium tanks of the 17th Tk Bn and 5 half-tracks of 48th AIB ware destroyed in vicinity of first platoon position during this fire fight. Around 0930 #4 gun, first platoon, received a direct hit with white phosphorous setting it on fire, killing leader, seriously wounding gunner, and wounding assit driver in face, head, and right arm. First platon leader then ardered the Security Section and the balance of his knocked aut TD crows to the rear. The 1 1/2-ton security truck moved cross-country West of the rad but was stuck about 1,000 yards North of first platon's position. The Crow moved back on foot to C. "B", 814 TD CP, which had been established to 48th AIB CP to be ut 1000 hours. Later in the day Artitlery fire damaged the 1 1/2-ton truck.

The first plate in leader received a report about 1100 that his #1 M-10 had been evacuated by the Germans in spite of American Artitlery fire in that area. Between 1200 and 1230 hours three heavy artillary concentrations were delivered by the enemy in the area becapyed by Co. "B" CP. (See everlay #4). During the third concentration Co. Code. was seriously wounded and his M-20 craw were slightly wounded. All four were evacuated immediately.

At 1300 hours the third plate on was attached to COP and third plate on leader was given command of the co-pany. Plat in occupied reserve positions shown in everlay #4. Around 1400 four or five Cornan trike supporting a deployed Infantry attack a ved North on the Asten-Meijel road (see everlay #4) and the tanks fired on #4 gun, third plate on destribute danaging the building behind which the destroyer had taken over. When German artillery was also directed at this position Lt Tavlinsky wont back on foot to the advanced 48th AIB CP to see if they would allow him to move the lone destroyer back to a better position. He was referred to Lt Col Chappuis' CP and then learned by radio that #4 gun, third plate on, had attempted to move back cross-country without orders and was now stocknowed near the 1 1/2-ten security truck. Lt Col. Chappuis ordered another destroyer insedicted to the position originally hold by #4 gun, third plate in Second plate on leader ordered #4 gun, second plate on, back down the read to stry there until he personally ordered them sut. In spite of German direct fire in the read all day, #4 gun, see and plate on, arrived at the downed position is but 1615.

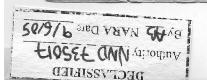
During the day small arms fire from the fast of second eletens position had been heavy and continued during the night. Around midnight Bn Maintenance accomplished the evacuation of #4 gun, third platen, and the last of second matter fire was heavy. By 0500 hours "C" Co. 48th AIB dug in East of second platen's position. (See everlay #5). During the night tanks of the 87th protected his East flank, withdrawing behind him the second platents and By daylight there were practically no supporting troops not a #4 gun, second platents position.

Ar und 0700 approximately 30 enemy Infantry moved to within 400 years of East flink but the light tanks drove them off. Ab ut 0750 5 medium tanks from CCB attempting to establish Limison with CCR arrived near second platfor leaders pusition and he used them to strongthen his west flank. At approximately the same time 3 Mk VI tanks with Infantry were reported by 48th AIB, to be moving in an second platoun's east flank. The tanks over ran C Co, 48 AIB position and one continued west coross the road and out coross e untry until it become mired. One of CCB's medium tanks had moved f roward and the second platen bearved 5 hits from its 76 bounce off. #3 gun, second plata n fired 3 rounds in the turnet and the Tiger began to smoke. Its crew oscaped. The other 2 Mk VI's to keep behind buildings to the front of the second plot on's position and subsequently withdrew under the sm ke and c nfusion. The 48th AIR moved its for rd CP back near the second platean's position and reorganized the remarks of "C" Company. The tanks from CCB were ordered back to their zone and later 4 modium tanks from Co. C, 17 Tk Bn moved up behind the TDs. In the meantime #4 gun, second plateon, radiced that he could see enemy Infantry in a position to outflank him to the East and 4 Mk VI's south on the road from his position. He stated that the supporting Infantry had withdrawn and asked for permission to come back. The sec and platson leader told him to try it down the read as the destroyer would get stuck going cross-country on either side of the rad.

While Lt Rose was listening on the radio he could hear the .50 cal. firing. With the gun in the rear position the driver swing the M-10 out on the road. It high speed and with the crew firing the three inch gun, .50 cal., and throwing hand grenades, the driver bore down on the German Infantry, crushing several under his tracks. When about 500 yards fr m the second platson position, the M-10 took a direct 88 hit in the armor plate around the gun tube splitting the armor and wounding all five of the crew. The gunner had planted to fire a round of smake and had it loaded when the M-10 was hit. The driver, although wounded in the side, started up again and drove another 1000 yards to the third platson's position where he was forced to stop because the tank was burning. Before additional help could reach him, he climed in the turret and beating the fire ith his hands, attempted to lift out the gun er. Men from the third platson reached the tank by this time and completed the evacuation.

Shortly after this had happened 4 Mk VI tanks at 50 yard interval moved in column up the road toward second platon position. (See overlay #6). Then the leading tank was about 400 yards away it attempted to move off the road to the west and slipped into the ditch. #1 gun, second platon, opened fire but was knocked out immediately by one of the Mk VI's. The assistant driver was instantly killed and the loader wounded. The M-10 burned. #2 gun, second platon, put two rounds in the side of the Tiger in the ditch, the Tiger did not burn but was definitely knocked out. The second Tiger came up abreast of the first and one craw member dismounted. #3 gun, second platon's destroyer hit the Tiger 4 times in the side. The Tiger's craw climbed out and were killed by the Infantry. The Tiger blew up. The third Mk VI moved west off the road attempted to take cover behind a farm building. #3 gun, second platon, threw ten rounds at it and the Tiger blew up. The fourth Mk VI by this time had withdrew in the sanks and confusion. Later in the morning Tigers succeeded in kn cking out a medium tank (75mm) near second platon's position. Triendly artillery was called for in view of the enemy's repeated attempts to force the crosspond.

In the early afternoon 2 more Tiger tanks attempted to come up the same road (see everlay #6). Second plate in leader had moved a tank with a 76mm gun from the Co. C, 17 Tk Bn, up to replace his burned out destroyer. It is guns both leading directed fire at one of the Tiger's side when the Tiger attempted to turn. It was hit 3 times and blew up, the crew failed to escape. The Tiger behind turned hit is a back. There were now 3 Mk VI's knocked out within 10 yards of each other on the times on the tores.



road which formed an effective road block covered by fire from second plateon's guns. Assumiti n was low so first plateon leader made a quick trip back to Asten and brought back 30 rounds in 1/4-toss. This assumition was leaded in the destroyers during the fighting which occurred later.

About 1600, 6 enemy tanks (Tigers or Panthers) were observed moving Northwest on the East side of the road (see everlay #). Their apparent plan was to attempt an end run with the two leading tanks while the 4 behind provided everwatching fire. The last two had fairly food awar. #2 gun turned around so that he could shoot East from behind the building he was using for a wor and the gunner opened fire. In 4 or 5 rounds he blow up the leading tank. After he had put I round in the second tank, the over atching tanks knocked brick and rubble from the wall of the building into the open-turreted M-10 injuring the loader and causing all but Funk, the gunner, to dismount. The gunner leaded I more round himself, hit the tank again, causing it to blow up, slipped durn into the drivers seat and backed the M-10 to a awar position on the other side of the building. While #2 M-10 was energing the two leading tanks, #5 destraying at two hits in the turnet of the nearest by r-watching tanks, #5 destraying at the hits in the turnet of the nearest by r-watching tanks. Friendly artillary was also landing in the area and the turnet was hit again. The garmin cross seeped. The other 5 overwatching tanks fired in Sgt Ferrizz is #5 gun in its explanations tanks withdraw.

Lts Lezerus, Tavlinsky, and Rose, next observed 3 German AT guns being dug into position in the open about 1200 yards southeast of their position. Artillery fire was called for again and two of the guns were destroyed; the Germans recoved the third most. The first and see and plate an leaders next put out 4 sacks puts to screen while #2 tank was backed out of the way and #1 destroyer, third plate a, was brought up. Just as it was dusk a German tank was heard moving an the road towards the 3 knocked out Tigers that formed the road block. Artillery fire was called for and the tank withdrew. Co. Cadr. was informed early in the evening that CCR was being relieved by elements of the 15th Scotch Divisi a. He ordered second plateon leader back to the rear and at 0130 the relief was effected and the five remaining TD's moved back to Zammeren.

On 30 Oct 1944 "B" Co. moved to bivounce aron 3 miles South of Machesza for reorganization and mintenance. No change on 31 October. Four M-10's had been totally destroyed (3 burned; 1 contured); no M-10 evacuated to Ordnance; one was in Bn Shop; 6 available for action.

TF WEMPLE, COB, 7AD (Co. C, 814 TD Bn)

27-31 Oct - Reconnaiseance of positions in Liosel-Heitrak area (s.e overlay #1) was completed by Co. Chdr. and Plat. Edrs. by nown, 27 Oct 1944. C Company was attached to TF WEMPLE at 1200 hours and electrons in ved from /sten toward their positions. Go. Chdr. remained at Heitrak which the anony were shalling ind was told by 87 Ren that 3 Mk VI tanks were moving West from vicinity if Helman and (see werlay #7). C. Chdr. returned to Liosel and his vehicle was hit by direct 88 fire (no casualties). See and plate in was warned about the 3 Tigar tonks and around into position. First and third plate ins mood to Heitrak and Liosel as elemed although Col. Wemple at first independ both units to Heitrak. (C. Chdr. urged him to protect blesel as it was a key point in the raid not and defense system).

Ab ut 1350 87 Ren reported that a Mk VI had been disabled by one of their M-8's about 120) yards from second plate a position and that the M-8 had withdrawn because a second Tiger had come up behind the first. #1 Destroyer a wad forward (see averlay #7) about 200 yards and set the Tiger on fire with hits in the right

side, turret and track. The German crew had left the tank when first hit in the rear by the M-8. #1 Destr yer fired about 25 r unds APC at the first Tiper, and then r ked the rand with HE and APC in an attempt to hit the sec and Tiper which had withdrawn or enemy Infantry that night be with the tanks. Effects if this fire could not be deter in al. #1 pun than resumed its ariginal position. 87 Ica reported two Tipers nowing South about 1400. See nd plate a patholished their security (see everlay #7) and the balance of the day was with ut action a cost for artillary fire.

In Liesel, third plate a occupied position in the seathern part of town displacing to the center of town around 1630. Liesel was shelled regularly during the afternoon and most of the buildings were damaged, however, no casualties occurred. Without notifying the Co. Cadr. the third plateon was ordered to Heitrak by TF WETPLE arriving there about 1730.

In vicinity of Heitrek, first plation had a me into position to protect TF WENPLE's left flank (see everlay #7). About 1500 #2 destroyer received shall arise fire from the East. A high muzzle valueity gun fired in the plation position at the same time and was silenced by 4 rounds APC, 10 rounds HE from #4 gun. The plation fired HE at houses, haystacks, etc across the road during most of the afternoon.

At dusk dispositions in all platoons were changed enough to confuse the enemy and to obtain better protection from artillery and small arms fire which had been constant during the day. About 2000 a German approached Heitrak from the South and called "Surrender my company". Fire was held to prevent disclosure of positions, and the German discoperate. During the night artillery shells hit two houses near the TD's and the resultant fires necessitated change of Position (see overlay #8).

At the second plateon consistion local security was reinforced by security assertion from the third plateon about 1700 hours, it not being considered discoutable the uniform vehicles into Heitrak because of artillery fire. An asseult gun plateon had arrived during the afternoon and was also used to further protect the rate junction (See Everley #7).

About 0400 hours a German path 1 of about 8 mon approached the second plate as security from the East. Two of them were wounded by security section machine gun fire and later a ptured. Around 0530 a German half track (personnel carrier) was identified poving on the road from the East. The negreest assault (un was told by telephone to fire but failed to do so. Machine (un fire from the security section wounded some of the Germans as they were heard to server. The half track paused a moment at the road junction then turned North and loved at high speed towards Liesel. About 45 minutes later it returned on the same road and the sec and plateon security hit it in the rear with a base had machine gun fire. The half track, however, antimued to move and disagree red down the road towards Hoogbrug.

Shortly after declipht, 28 Oct, 40 to 50 Corners carrying porters and backing guns were observed nowing up the same road towards the second plation. #1 and #2 destroyers and an assault gun moved forward a fer hundred yards and fired HE at 800 yards. The enemy Infantry dispersed.

At 0800 CCB planned to attack East astride the rand to Hoogbrug with 2 companies of Infantry supported by tanks. See nd platon was to protect their left flank, advencing behind their tanks. (See worldy #9). Just as the Infantry commines moved East from the second platon's position a terrific matter barrage was laid by the Germans on the road junction. The fire was a moentrated in a small area and was so intense that the road junction was a exploitally obscured to the Commy Communder 5 pards sway. A 1/4-timend a 1 to the truck of Communication was second as a content of the communication and content of the content

were badly direct. On of the third plate as a chine good received direct hit and a 23rd Infantry half-track was destroyed.

GCB's attack bushed in and the secind plat in deployed and foll wed. 10 of 12 energy Infratry moving a utheast were killed in a under by time fire from the TD's at 2100 yards with the fuze out to 25 secinds. In chine sum delivered he vy fire in a medium tank should of 73 destriver. #1 spotted a Cernia getting in a few hole, he fired HE, and in a few minutes the machine sum fire conside. Prisoners began straggling in and went to the rear with ut guards. The TD's fired in a house that looked like a fortific to in. More prisoners came in - about 100 by ar und 1045 hours.

However, the medium tanks on the right flank had been toking bedry lesses and the attack begged down. The second plateau neved back to its original position. During the period of this attack, the first and third plateaus at Heitrak had been firing HE and MG at visible Infantry in the same area as the previous by. The second section of the third stateour also fired 25 runds at the same church steeds in Nearkant that see not at the nor B Company was firing an. After the steeds fell, about 1030, the third plate in sums were to the fire one round every 5 minutes for 50 minutes to keep the Compans off the biss of the steeds that remined. The Germans continued to shall Heitrak and around 1400 #2 gun was hit in the breach block and evacuated after dark.

The medium tanks near Meditrak were being hit by high muzzle velicity projectiles and a foot recommissioned to the E statischesed 3 Timers bunched together about 1100 y rds away. Detailed alons for bringing the destroyers into position were made and by 1700 #/s 1, 3, and 4 estroyers with a modium tank (76 m gun) moved forward by concerled routes. The Co. Cadr. crowled through the words to where he could observe. On arriving in position (see every) all guns opened fire significances. Two Tigers were soon to be definitely knocked but but it not burn. The third was hit but it could not be enfirmed as knocked at. #4 fired 10 rounds; #1, 17 rounds: #3, 5 rounds and the nodium tank, 4 rounds - all APC.

However, it som became not and that the 3 Tigens were not the only 88's in the vicinity. Tracer from for them North could be some doing in, and before this new threat could be located the medium tank was set on fire (2 for wounded); #4 testroyer was hit in the right drive someket and the crow boile but, #3 was hit, knocking and its left century boile but was still able to escape; and #1 backed off when 5 rounds of PC whistled over anking it a parent that the enemy had him spotted.

After dark #1 destruyer a wed to the second elater position and #3 was even ted to Aston. The energy and continued to fire on #4 until it went up in flames.

The third plate on was new given a read block mission and a well into siti a by dark (see worldy #9). The mission was to block two secondary reads against attack from the East. All estroyer, third plate a hadeg me to este with meter truble. Outposts were established and security dug in.

Both the second and third that ins received artillery fire during the night, me shell half burying sine ion in their fox holes at the second plate me sition. A full scale berries can during the down about 0530.

Around 0700 a Common patrol approached the third plate in a siti in from the South (see everlay). The third plate in leader and driver of #2 destroyer advanced toward them on fact in an effort to make their surronder and were wounded.

The platson leader called to his #2 gun to open fire and it moved up and fired HE into the bushes where the Germans were hiding. Arms and legs flow up. I German bazooka up a fired at #2 gun from back of a house (Secoverlay #9) and #3 gun swung around and gave him I round of HE. The crew of #2 gun moved for enough forward so that the gun commander could lift the wounded driver on the rear lock. The Plat. Ldr. lying on his back was too seriously wounded to be handled that were and he ordered the gun to keep firing and to send the Medics for him. #2 gun attachted to back up, hit a troe with the tube and the gun swung around, knocking the driver and the locaer who was holding him off the rear dock. The Cun Commander 1 aded them up ag in and took them to the Medics. The plats an leader was evacuated by Co C aid men under heavy shall nows fire.

The Co. Cadr. was told to hold his positions at all costs and that the 23 Inf. would attack on the 29th of Oct. It the same time he was instructed to 1 cate routes by which the dustroyers could withdraw if CCB had to give up Liesel.

Theut 1000 the Germans attacked Liesel in force and the second plot in was ordered to live inhediately to the West of the town to prevent their arm of from breaking through towards Asten. I previously recommutered route (Secondary #10) was followed; the platom split at Lemsel with #1 and #2 guns going with the platom leader into woods to the North and #4 destroyer and #1 of third platom going East towards Liesel under the Co. Executive Officer.

The second plate in leader went in dismounted reconnaissance (see worldy) and spotted all VI and enemy Infantry within 900 years of his destroyers. He moved his section to firing position and #2 pulled up from cover, fired, knocking the Tiger out and withdrew to cover.

Now a small tank (possibly Mk IV) and a half-track person of carrier (see everlay #10) appeared 200 years south of the Mk VI. #2 gun sulfed up again and knocked out both. First, the tank with 5 rounds causing it to blow up; see no, the half-track with 3 rounds causing it to burn.

The plation ledler again wont flower' on discounted recommassance. He saw a Mk VI near his last target with two Germans standing in front of it! #2 destroyer fired on round of HE at the Germans suspecting they were officers or tank commanders; initiately raised the range 100 yards and knocked but the tank with 1 round. A core rounds were out in the Tiger but it 'id not burn. Range to all targets was between 800-900 yards. The nut 1200 hours 15-20 Germans were beserved going into a house 190 yards East of the K.O. 14 th TV (see everlay #10). #2 destroyer blow out the walls of the house with 10 rounds HE and then put 1 round HE in the proviously knocked out Tiger clusing it to burn. #2 again withdrew to ever.

t ab ut 1500 the plate in len's revel#1 m1 #2 to in altern to position the north.

During this period the other section under the concerny executive officer was covering the main road from Liesel to Asten (Sectionary #10). On dismounted recommissance around 120) the officer saw a Mk IV burning South of Liesel(Kold by medium to nks) and about 50 dismounted Germans a ming South out of the town. Observing that they went into buildings he returned to the gun positions and to k the buildings under fire with #1 gun, third platson. A rounds of mortar fire landed near #1 gun; #1 knocked the mortar out. Each time that 2 or 3 Germans got together, I round of HE was dropped in on them.



CCB or a real to attack Liesel with 'iscounts' Engine as and Tanks on bout 1350 TD's were are real to support the attack. Positions to accordish this wor in the open and the alaton leader reported that there was still a tonk firing from the North that should be knocked out first. The leater are were are not a move to positions to support the attack (see worday #10) and an atly of arriving there at 1400 #2 dectroyer was hit and burned. The laiver was killed and the other crown members and I security man wounded. #1 Destroyer moved up to shield their from small arms fire and picked up the four man nost seriously hurt. #4 evacuated the other same. No did not were available so the platean to der evacuated the 4 wounded to the ail state in in #1 destroyer. Then he returned he found #1 destroyer, third cation back from asten where it had gone for repairs, and put it in position (see everlay #10). He learned that #1 destroyer, first plateau had been knocked out by 5 rounds of 88 IP from the East about 1550. The discounted crow had been fired on by 88 HF but had no casualties.

About 1600 a Tiger was spotted 1300 years to the East. It was probably the gun that knocked out #1, first plateon. #1, second plateon and #1, their plateon, hit it with 5 rounds each and destroyed it. (#4, second later, evolution the remaining two TD's at 1615 (See overlay #10) and about 1700 the three destroyers were ordered to an assembly area East of Asten and remained there until CCB was relieved.

It the third plateon position, the read block mission continued during the arming. About noon a Tiger tank was reported to have move out of Liesel and to be on the read about 700 yards South. #5 and #4 guns under the plateon Sgt moved North to block this or other vehicles with 6 redium tanks (see everly #10). Plt. Ldr., first plateon, remained with security to maintain out ests at provides mights resition. Because the Germans continued to shell the arms and there were a god many Infantry wounded and 4 PW's for which no evacuation recilities were available, he sent in the 2 l 1/2-to trucks with orders not to return. When the position we relieved at about 1900 his dismounted can went cross country until out of small arms range and rede to the assembly are an tanks.

#1s 5 & 4 destroyers librate ick up the Tiper tenk reported at non and remained at their ne position until relieved. At about 1900 they avoid a route previously reconnectered (Sb) everlay #10) to assorbly area.

About 2100 Co. C towed with CCB to sombly position North of Weart. On 30 Cot the coupling was given roud black issions South of Weart. No enough antict was reported on this mission which continued through 1 Nove ber 1944.

Three (3) M-10's were totally destroyed (burned); 3 in En Shag; 6 available for action during 27-29 Oct.

HEADQUARTERS 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion

APO 339, US Army Oct Nov 4, 2 December 1944

After Action Report, Month of November, 1944.

The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C. (Through Channels).

- 1. On 1 Nov 1944 the 814th TD Bn, attached to 7th Armd Div, was sub-attached as follows: Co A and Ren Co to CCA, Co C to CCB, while Hq and Hq Co and Co B were part of 7th Armd Div Troops.
- 2. The 814th TD Bn (-) remained in bivouac 1 and 1/2 mile south of Maarheeze, Holland, until 7 Nov 1944 when the Division moved to concentration area south of Maasthricht, Holland on 7, 8 and 9 Nov 1944. 814th TD Bn concentrated at Fouron le Comte, Belgium and vicinity, with all companies reverting to Battalion control upon closing into area. Remained in billets, carrying out maintenance and training, until 17 Nov 1944 when Company LA and 1st Plat Rcn Co were attached to 113th Cav Gp and moved to assembly area in vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland. Remainder of En alerted to support XIII Corps in Corps zone of action on order from Division. Performed Reconnaissance for assembly positions vicinity Grotemath (K8261).
- 3. On 22 Nov 1944 the 814th TD Bn (-) was attached to CCR and moved to concentration area in vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland to prepare for operations to the East. Company C and 3rd Plat Rcn Co were attached to CCB on 22 Nov 1944 and moved to concentration area with that command. Company A and 1st Plat Ren Co revert ed to Bn control on 22 Nov 1944. Company A attached to 40th Tk Bn and 335th Inf Reg for mission with 2nd Armd Div. On 28th Nov 1944 2nd Plat Company B and 1st Plat Company C (90mm Gun) attached to CCR, and 814th TD Bn (-) reverted to Div Troops.
 - 814th TD Bn (-) remained in billets in Groot Haasdal, Holland.

Reconnaissance Company

- L. On 1 Nov 1944, Rcn Co was attached to 38th AIB and was used dismounted to outpost east bank of Canal from 615054 to 616038, replacing Co B, 38th AIB. The Company continued this mission, observing enemy patrols, taking a few prisoners, and performing normal duties, until 8 Nov 1944 when it moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium and reverted to Bn control.
- 2. Company remained in billets until 17 Nov 1944 when 1st Plat was attached to Company A, 814th TD Bn, and moved to concentration area vicinity of Groot Haasdal, Holland to join Task Force Biddle (113th Cav). Plat received no mission while with the task force and returned to Bn control with Company A on 22 Nov 1944. Company minus 1st and 3rd Platoons moved to Groot Haasdal, Holland with 814th TDDEr on 22 Nov 1944. 3rd Plat being attached to Company C, 814th TD Bn which was attached to CCB. 7th Armd Div.
- 3. 1st Plat relieved from attachment to Company A, 814th TD En, and returned to Company Control on 24 Nov 1944.
- 4. Company had no missionuntil 28 Nov 1944, when Pioneer Plat had mission of digging positions for three (3) M-36 Tank Destroyers of Company B, between Pommern and Suggerath, Germany (895649), which were to support, by covering with

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of Nov 44, cont'd)

direct fire the high ground east of Beek, Germany, the attack of the 40th Tk Bn on 29 Nov 1944. Positions prepared under cover of darkness and guns occupied them successfully. Company had no additional missions during month.

Company A

- 1. On 1 Nov 1944, Company A was attached to CCA, 7th Armd Div and in indirect fire positions near Weert, Holland. Company remained in these positions, firing several missions, until 5 Nov 1944 when 1st Plat established Road Block on Ospel-Weijel Road (650030), 2nd Plat acted as bridge guard 1 and 1/2 mile north of Nederweert, and 3rd Plat was in support positions with 40th Tk Bn, 3000 yards NE of Ospel.
- 2. Company moved to assembly position 3 miles NW of Weert on 8 Nov 1944 and moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium on 9 Nov 1944, reverting to Bn control upon closing in billets in that town.
- 3. Company remained in billets until 17 Nov 1944 when is was attached, with 1st Plat Rcn Co, to 113th Cav Gp to form Task Force Biddle, and moved to vicinity Groot Haasdal, Holland. Company received no mission from this Task Force and returned to Bn control on 22 Nov 1944.
- 4. On 23 Nov 1944, Vompany A, with 1st Plat Rcn Co, was attached to 40th Tk Bn which in turn was attached to 335th Inf Regt, and moved to assembly position vicinity of Geronsweiler, Germany. Column was halted near cross road 938633 due to jamming of road by unit in front of it. Enemy artillery concentration hit column and it could not disperse. Two Tank Destroyers were knocked out causing 15 casualties (Co A 12, 1st Plat Rcn 3). Two Platoons occupied defensive positions by 1715 hours, vicinity Geronsweiler, Germany, receiving both direct and indirect artillery fire. Company remained in these positions, firing at pill boxes and antitank guns, until relieved on 28 Nov 1944 at which time Company A reverted to Bn control.
- 5. 1st Flat Rcn Co relieved of attachment to Company A on 23 Nov 1944 and returned to Battalion control.

Company B

- 1. On 1 Nov 1944 Company was under Bn control in bivouac 1 and 1/2 mile south of Maarheeze, Holland performing maintenance and training.
- 2. On 4 Nov 1944 Company was attached to CCR, 7th Armd Div, but only 1st Plat moved out to join CCR as a holding force in vicinity of Ospel.
- 3. There was no change until 8 Nov 1944 when Company moved to assembly position with CCR, 1 and 1/2 mile south east of Maarheeze. On 9 Nov 1944 Company moved to Fouron le Comte, Belgium, reverting to Battalion control.
- 4. Company remained in billets performing maintenance and training until 22 Nov 1944, when it moved with the Bn to billets in Groot Haasdal, Holland. Co remained in billets until 28 Nov when 2nd Plat moved with 3rd Plat Co C, 814th TD Bn to assembly positions SE of Ubach, Germany. This Plat occupied dug in positions between Prummern and Suggerath, prepared by Pioneer Plat Rcn Co, prior to daylight 29 Nov with mission of covering high ground east of Beek. Platoon knocked out one

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(After Action Report, 814th TD Bn, month of Nov 44, cont'd)

German tank, identified as Panther, at 2800, yards on afternoon of 30 Nov 1944. (Platoon equipped with 90mm guns). The position of this Platoon was well organized and drew no enemy fire for two days.

5. Remainder of Company remained in billets.

Company C

- 1. On 1 Nov 1944 Company attached to CCB, 7th Armd Div, moved with that command to assembly area 1 and 1/2 mile south of Weert, Holland where it remained, conducting tactical training with CCB, until 8 Nov when it moved to billets in Fouron le Comte, Belgium and reverted to Bn control.
- 2. Company remained in billets performing maintenance and training until 22 Nov 1944 when 3rd Plat of Ren Co was attached to it and both attached to CCB, and units moved to concentration area in Heek, Holland.
- 3. Company continued maintenance and training for remainder of month in this location, with the exception of the 1st Plat, which was attached to CCR and moved to assembly position south east of Ubach, Germany.
- 4. On night of 28 Nov, platoon moved into defilade positions west of Gereonsweiler Setterch Road.
- 5. Platoon remained in position west of Gereonsweiler Setterch Road until 1700 hours 29 Nov when it moved into Lindern, Germany with mission of assisting 335th Inf Regt, 2 Co's 40th Tk Bn and 1 Plat 628th TD Bn in holding that town. Platoon was shifted from one side of town to other as tanks were reported. It seemed that no other unit would take them under fire, believing that only a 90mm gun would affect them. One enemy tank was knocked out on 30 Nov at about 1200 yards.

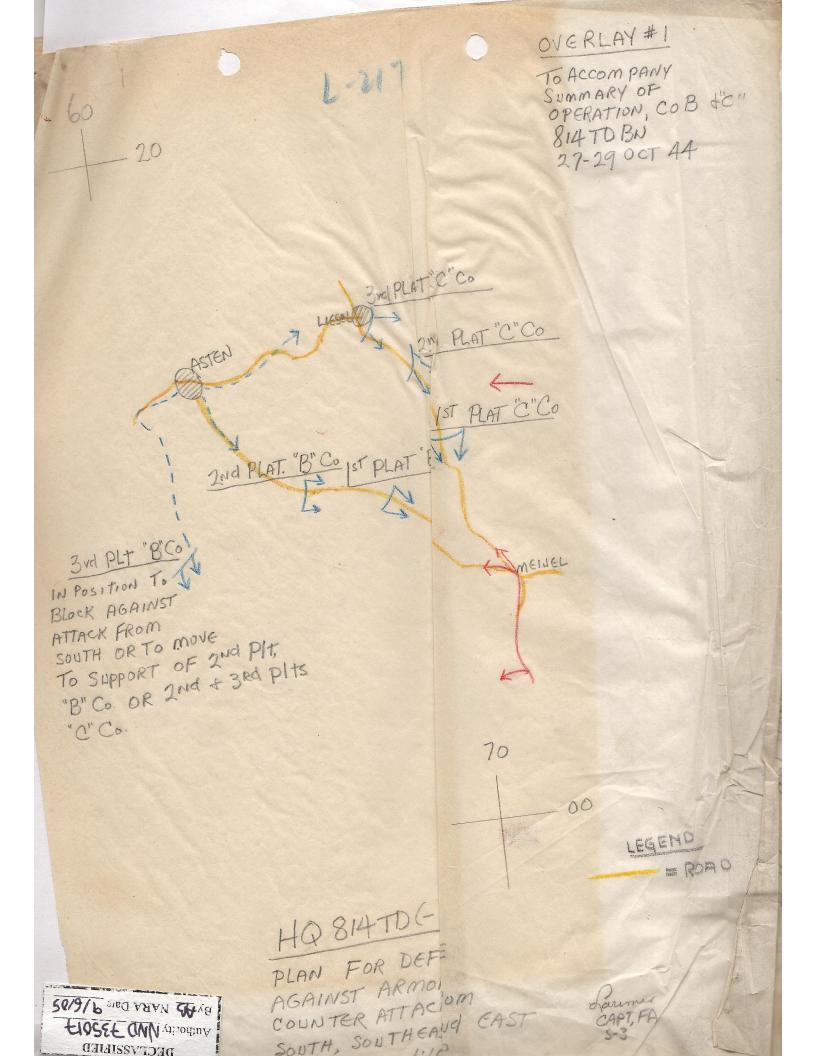
This Battalion started receiving the M-36 Tank Destroyer, which mounts 90mm gun, to replace the M-10 on 19 Nov 1944. At present date twenty have been received.

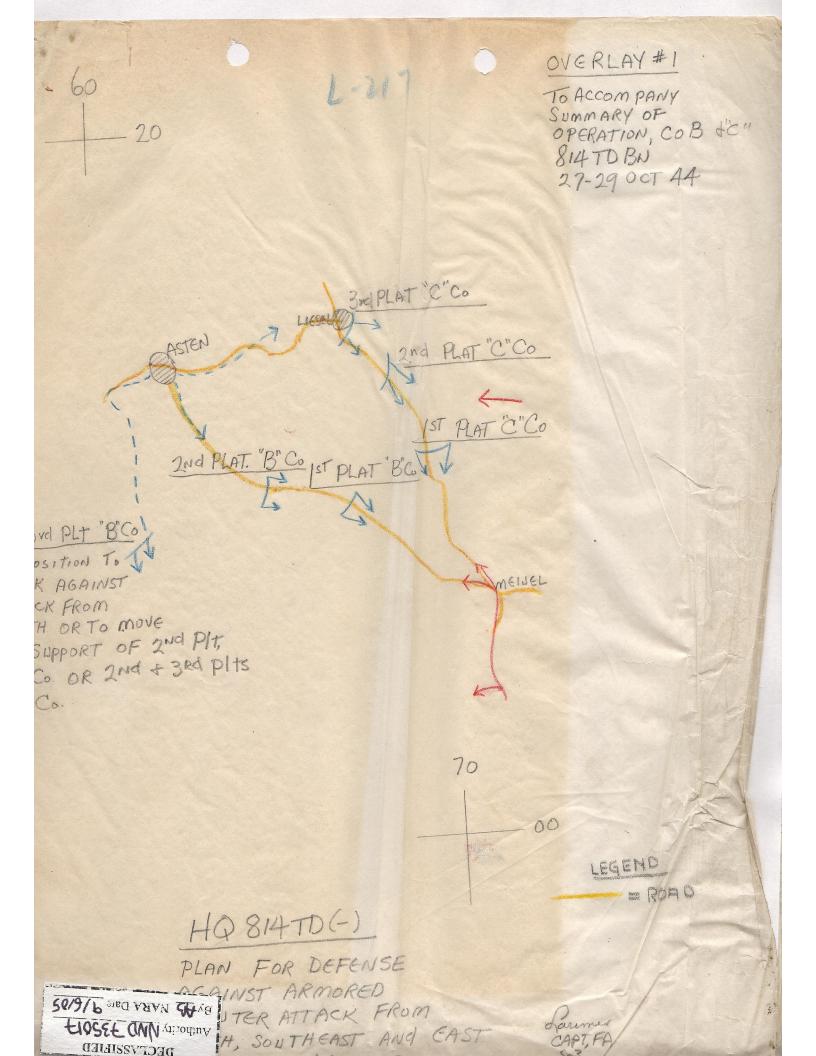
The fact that the Battalion now has a few of these guns in each company has caused platoons equipped with them to be detached from the companies and given special missions.

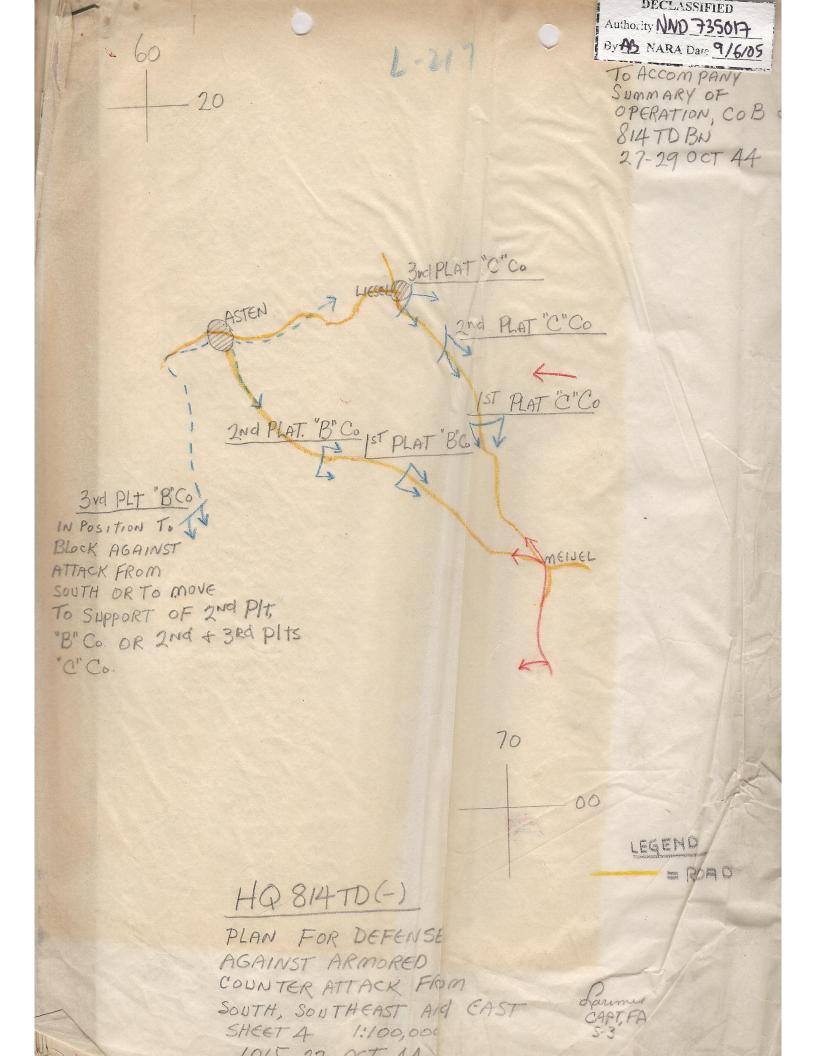
To date two enemy tanks have been knocked out by the M-36, and crews have gained confidence in them.

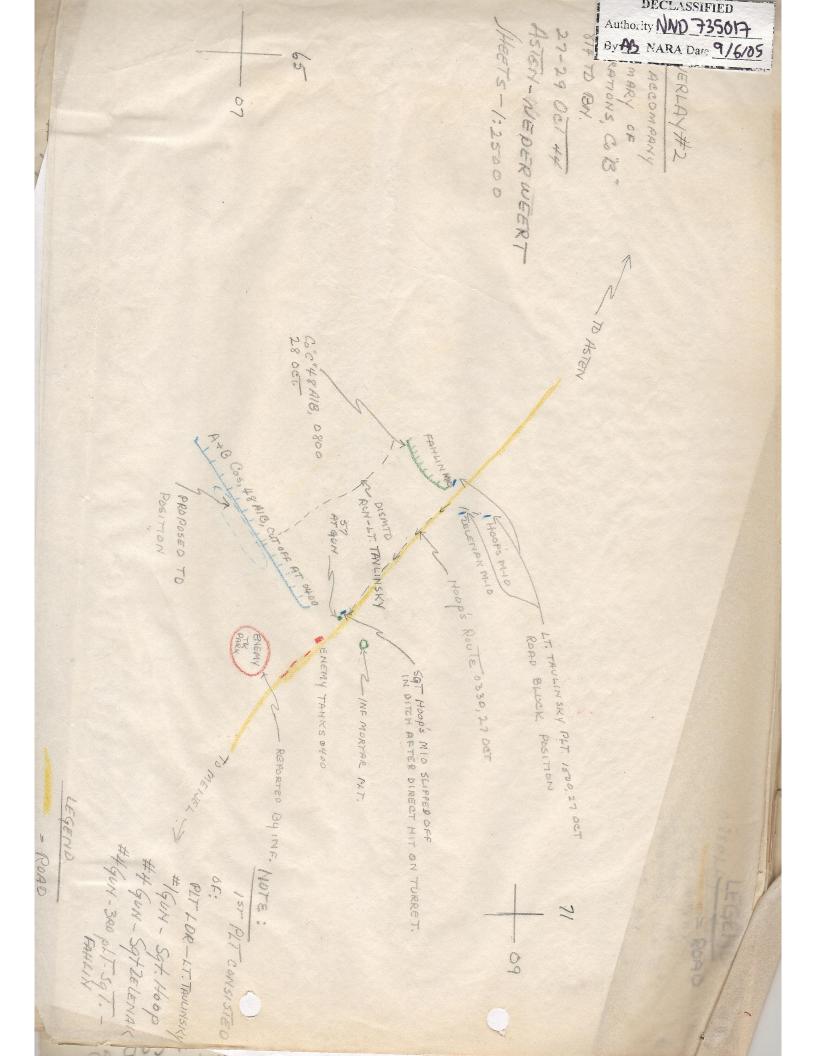
For the Commanding Officer:

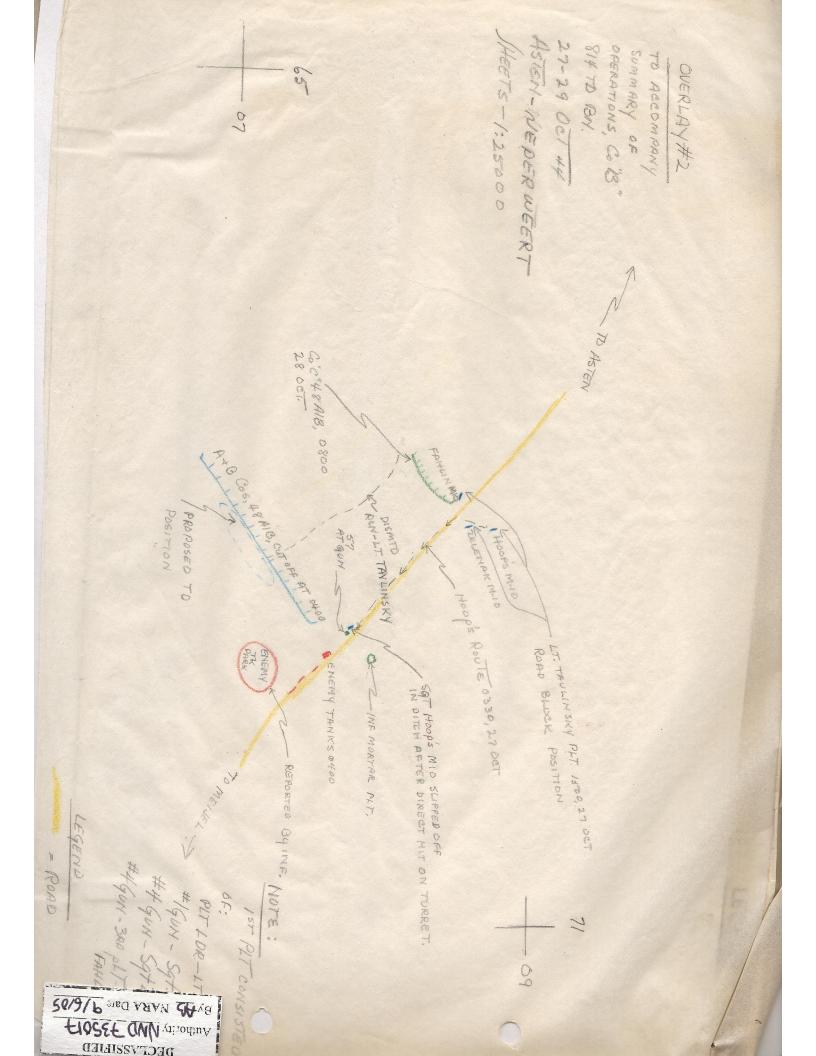
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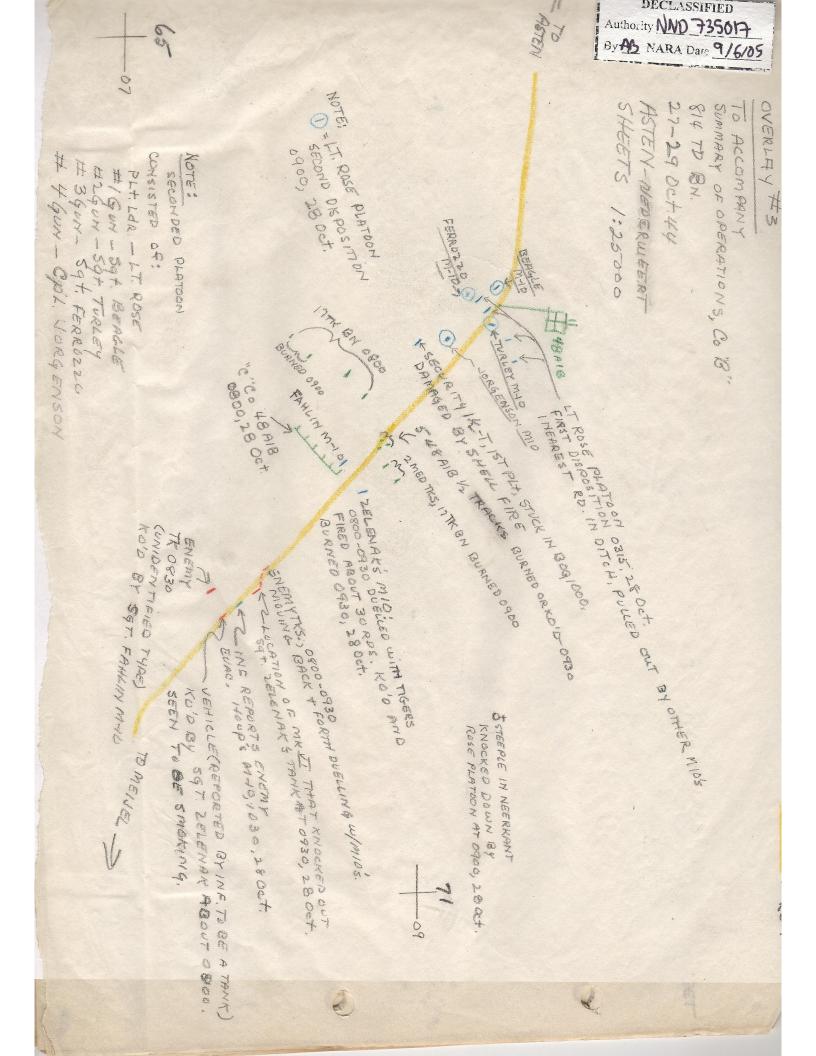




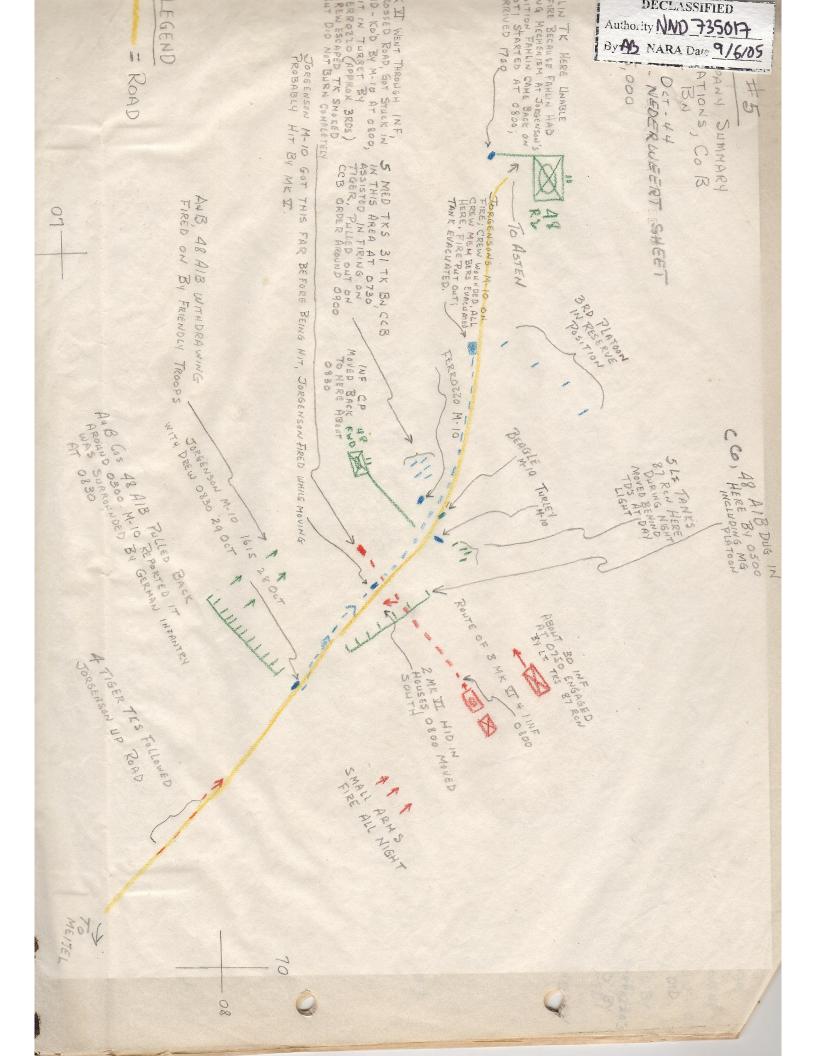


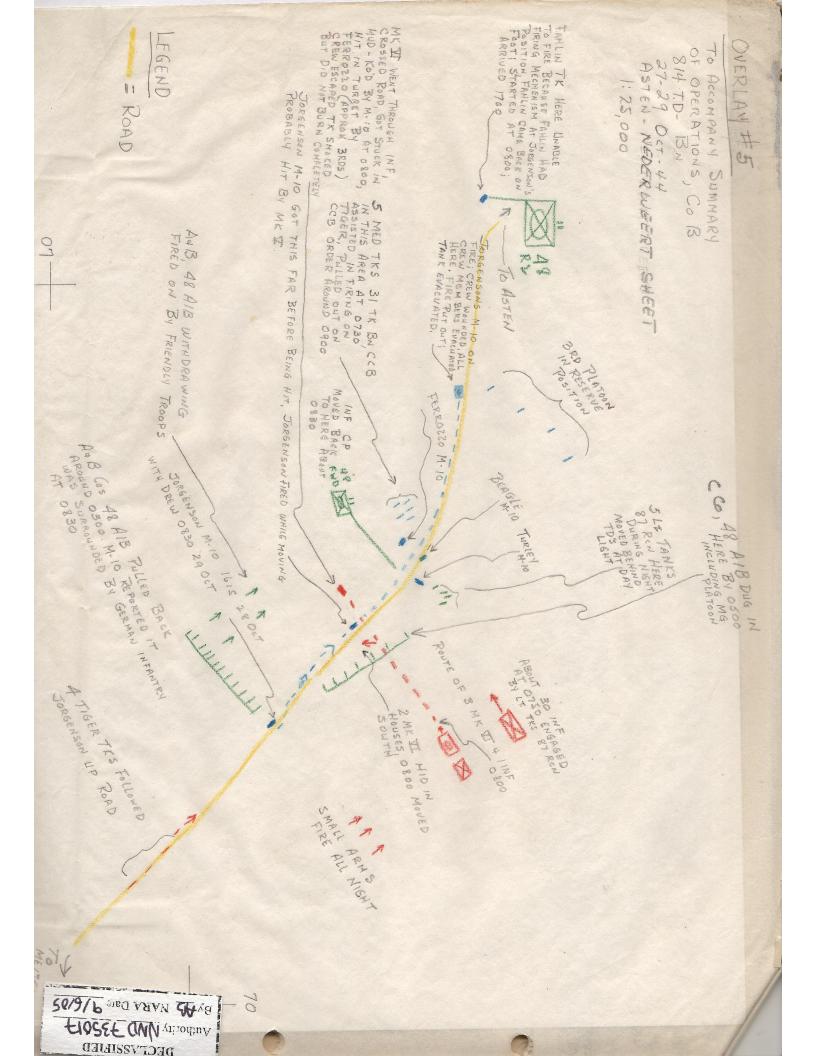


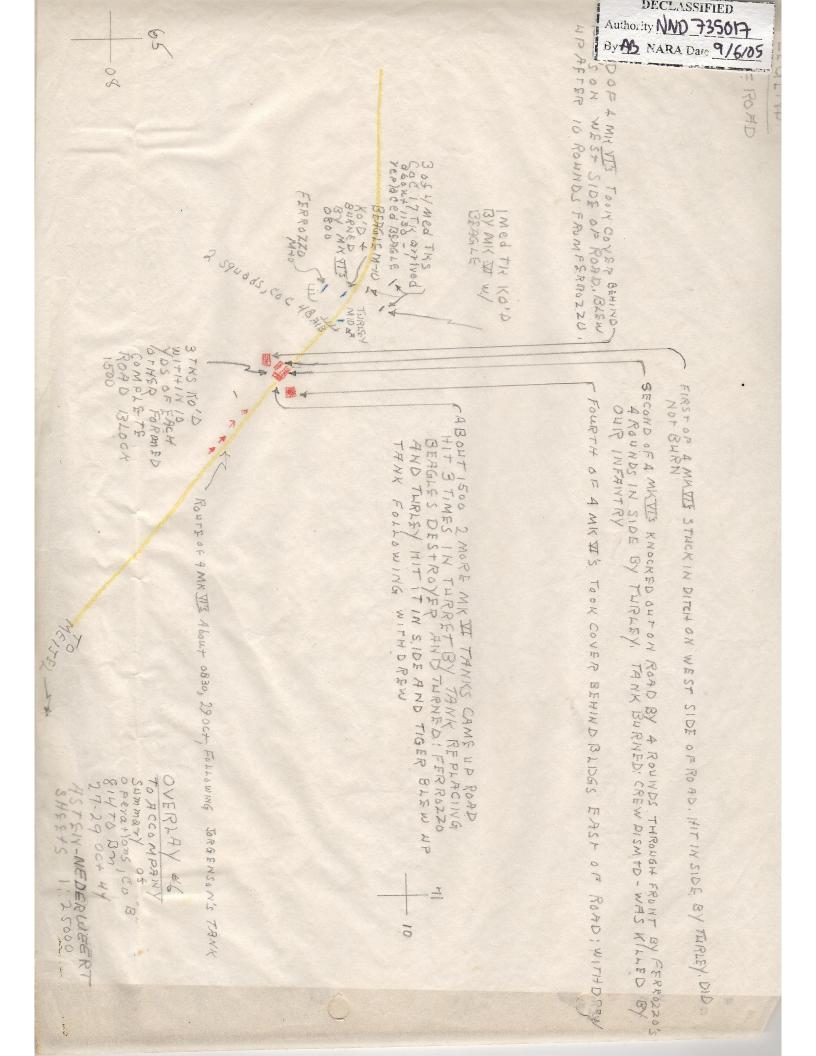




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Summary of B. OVERTAY S TO ACCOMPANY JORGENSON'S TAN

Authority (MVD 735017
By 45 NARA Date 9/6/85

ROUTE OF AMK VIS About 0830, 29 Oct, Following



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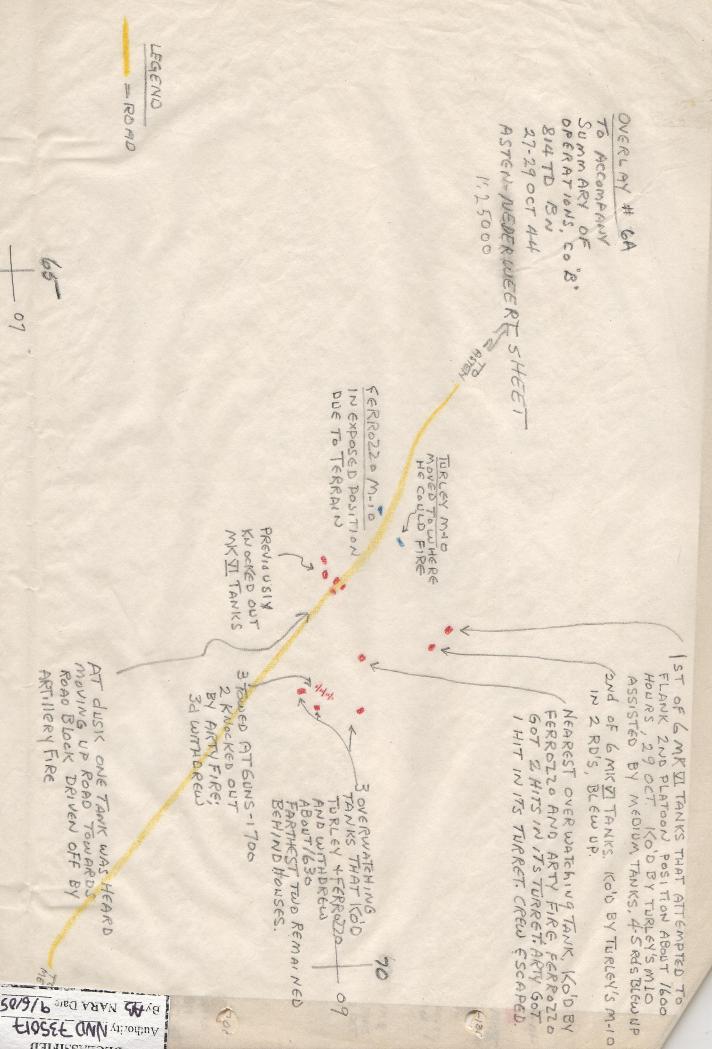
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DECLASSIFIED
By MS WARA Date 9/6/05

