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Report date: June-August 1944

Title: 2nd Armored Division

Abstract: Action Against Enemy, After Action Report including information on such operations as Neptune and Cobra, St. Lo, Tourovre-Elebeuf and Beauvais-Mont Didier

Number of pages: 42

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831-1

AFTER ACTION REPORT

2nd ARMORED DIVISION

June 1944

July 44

Aug 44

831-1

67th Armd Regt; Night Attack

After Action Report, 67th Armd Regt
Document 835

2 April: 67th AR Task Force was relieved of responsibilities for road blocks in LIPPSTADT. These blocks were taken over by 33d Inf Div at 2335A, 1 April 1945. Orders were received at 0200B for 67th AR Task force comprising 1st Bn 67th AR (-) (Reinf); 3rd Bn 41st AR (-) (Reinf); and Hq and H, Co 67th AR, to cross IP at LIPPSTADT at 0630B following 2nd Bn 67th AR; 1st Bn 41st AR and Div Arty Hq. Mission of these leading CC"B" elements was to push to EAST and secure passes through the TEUTENBERGER WALD in order that 67th AR Task Force could pass through and lead the advance to East. Orders were received at approximately 2000B that 67th AR Task Force would not pass through leading elements as crossings through WALD not secured.

2nd Bn 67th AR Continued advance as leading element of CC"B" column, starting at midnight 1-2 April 1945 with mission of advancing to East to secure pass through the TEUTENBERGER WALD immediately west of Detmold covering the further advance of the Combat Command through this mountainous sector. Passes were secured against stiff enemy opposition prior to 1500B, but Eastern exits were not secured.

3rd Bn 67th AR moved under CC"A" control. ~~xThaxxxx~~ at 0800B with mission of relieving CC"A" from holding Northern pass through TEUTENBERGER WALD. By 1230B entire battalion deployed in assembly and blocks established covering entrances to pass.

Hcn Co 67th-----.

3 APRIL: 67th AR TASK FORCE ATTACKED WITH MISSION OF SEIZING AND SECURING PASSAGE THROUGH TEUTENBERGER WALD AND CONTINUING ADVANCE TO SECURE CROSSINGS OF WESER RIVER. RCN (1-12th AIR) WAS ATTACHED TO 67th AR TASKFORCE. 3rd BN 41st AIR (UNDER 67th AR TASK FORCE CONTROL) JUMPED OFF AT 0300 FROM VICINITY OF BT 15603 ALONG ROUTE TO NUTTENHOLZ-HILZHAUSEN-BLOMBERG AND TO THE EAST. THE ORDER OF MARCH WAS: 3rd BN 41st AIR; "3" BTAY 92nd AAA BN; 1st BN 67th AR; FWD CP 67th AR; 92nd AAA BN (1-12th AIR) and HQ 67th AR.

3rd BN 41st AIR ENCOUNTERED ENEMY RIAD BUNKERS COVERED BY 88^{mm} AAA AND SMALL ARMS FIRE ALONG THE ROAD THROUGH THE WALD. BY 1700 THE PASS HAD BEEN CLEARED AND A SMALL DRIEDHEAD WAS SECURED ON EASTERN SIDE OF WALD. ROAD BLOCKS WERE ESTABLISHED COVERING THE TWO MAIN ROADS OUT OF HAHNBERG AND BIRKENBERG. BECAUSE OF LIMITED SIZE OF BRIDGES THE 1st BN 67th AR WAS NOT COMMITTED THROUGH THE WALD.

2nd BN 67th AR ATTEMPTED TO PUSH THROUGH THE WALD AND ADVANCE TO RETAKE BUT ~~WAS~~ THE ADVANCE WAS HALTED BY STRONGLY REINFORCED ROAD BLOCKS IN VICINITY OF BT 15603. AT 1720 THE BATTALION WAS RELIEVED BY 12th INF REGT AND MOVED TO HAHNBERG (BT 15603).

3rd BN 67th AR SECURED ———.

RCN ———.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMORED DIVISION: Date, 9 Sept 1944
Office of the Division Commander

A.P.O. 252
9 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports

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

MAPS: GSGS, 4250, FRANCE, scale; 1/50,000. Sheets; ST. LO,
CARENTAN, ISIGNY, LE HAYE DE PUITTS

In compliance with letter 319.1/401 (C) Headquarters First
U. S. Army, A.P.O. 230, dated 13 July 1944, subject; "Action
Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports", the following
report is submitted covering the period 1 to 30 June 1944, inclu-
sive.

For the Commanding General

Robert H. Shell
ROBERT H. SHELL
Lt. Col., AGD
Adjutant General

Inclosures:

- 5 copies, After Action Report, June 1944
- 1 copy, Journal, G-3
- 1 copy, Journal, G-2
- 3 copies each, After Action Report
- 12 Subordinate units

370 (AG) 1st Ind.
HQ XIX CORPS, APO 270, US Army, 13 Sep 44.

ER/jjp

TO: CG, First US Army, APO 230, US Army.

For the Commanding General:

Incl: n/c

Ellen Rotherberg
ELLEN ROTHERBERG
AS AG

[REDACTED]

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

A.P.O. 252
9 September 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT
JUNE 1944

The 2nd Arm. Div. completed plans for the Operation NEPTUNE between 1 June and 6 June 1944. This was done under the direction of Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks, who personally supervised a series of map problems, terrain board exercises, and staff conferences on the operation in Clive House Annex, the Division War Building at TIDWORTH, WIMBORNE, ENGLAND.

The Division was moved on 6 and 7 June 1944 to the marshalling area in the vicinity of SOUTHAMPTON and PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, preparatory to embarking for NORMANDY. The advance C.F. of Com at Command "A", under command of Brig. Gen. Maurice Rose, was embarked at BARRY, ENGLAND, on 2 June and sailed on 3 June, establishing a C.F. north of ST. LAURENT SUR MER, NORMANDY at 071830Z June 1944. The purpose of the advance C.F., C.C. "A" (see Annex I) was to gain information of the progress of the operation, to receive and organize C.C. "A" and to receive, orient, and command all units of the Division which arrived prior to the arrival of the Division Commander.

Major units of the Division started loading on 8 June 1944 and first shipments to NORMANDY started that night. The first large elements of the 2nd Arm. Div. were unloaded in FRANCE on 9 June 1944. 86 officers and 1,591 enlisted men were ashore at ROSLEZ, FRANCE, by 092400Z June 1944. Meanwhile, the Commanding General, C.C. "A", had established liaison with Commanding General, V Corps.

On 10 June 1944, V Corps called for infantry reinforcements. Consequently 3rd Bn. (less Co. I) 41st Arm. Inf. Regt. was ordered to assist units of the 28th Inf. Div. in securing the VIRE RIVER bridgehead near AUVILLIE SUR LE VEY. Recon. Co. of the 66th Arm. Regt. and 52nd Arm. Recon. Bn. sent out patrols to contact other friendly forces at the same time. Unloading continued on the beach that day, so that by midnight 10 June 1944, 214 more officers and about 4,000 additional enlisted men were ashore. Combat Command "B" (see Annex I) and units under Division Control (see Annex I) disembarked near COLLEVILLE SUR MER and advanced inland to assembly areas near LA MIE, LITTRY, LENCLOY, and other villages on the edge of CERISY FOREST.

Losses during the crossing from ENGLAND to NORMANDY were 31 tanks and 32 other vehicles from the sinking of an LST. The craft struck an enemy mine on 11 June 1944. The craft bearing Gen. Brooks and his staff was jarred by explosion of a German bomb off the NORMANDY coast, also on 11 June 1944.

The I. and R. platoon of 1st Bn., 41st Arm. Inf. Regt. was sent to coordinate with patrols of the 101st Airborne Div. for reconnaissance of a route to MONTMARTIN EN CAUGNES on 11 June 1944. It met stiff resistance and Co. H of the 41st Arm. Inf. Regt. was ordered to its assistance. 18 enemy were killed and

5 prisoners were taken in this operation. Our forces lost 1 officer and 1 enlisted man killed. The 3rd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. was returned to C.C. "A" control on 12 June 1944.

Late the night 12 June 1944, the Commanding General, 2nd Armd. Div. received orders from Commanding General, V Corps, to send a battalion of infantry and a battalion of tanks to ISIGNY, but obtained permission from Commanding General, V Corps, to send one Combat Command. The Commanding General, C.C. "A", was directed on the mission. This mission was to secure the bridgehead at ISIGNY. Patrols were sent south toward MONTAIGNEY, supported by fire from the American battleships Texas, Nevada, and Arkansas. The mission was changed before the force was actually committed.

C.C. "A" was then directed to assist the 101st Airborne Div. in securing CARENTAN. C.C. "A" launched its attack southwest from CARENTAN on 13 June 1944, in coordination with the 101st Airborne Div. The German hedgerow type of defense was first encountered here. A method of attack consisting of closer tank, infantry, artillery teamwork was developed to overcome these defenses. One task force composed of 3rd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. and 2nd Bn., 66th Armd. Regt., the other task force consisting of 1st Bn., 66th Armd. Regt. and elements of the 101st Airborne Div. Both of these task forces received close support from the 14th Armd. F.A. Bn. 500 Germans were estimated to have been killed in the day's fighting. Our losses were 2 officers and 6 enlisted men killed; 6 officers and 39 enlisted men wounded. 2 prisoners were taken. Co. A of the 66th Armd. Regt. was assigned on 13 June 1944 to assist in holding the ISIGNY bridgehead.

C.C. "A" inflicted further heavy losses upon the Germans on 14 June 1944 when an infantry platoon and a tank platoon were given the mission of wiping out patrols which had infiltrated toward LA RAVERIE. An order from First U. S. Army on 15 June 1944 called for a force with the mission of probing enemy strength along the axis of the CARENTAN-PERIERES road. This force was composed of elements of Rcn. Co. 66th Armd. Regt., 3rd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. and 1st Bn., 66th Armd. Regt., supported by the 14th Armd. F.A. Bn. An unestimated number of enemy were killed, wounded, or captured in the engagement which followed. 9 of our men were killed, 4 officers and 27 men wounded, and 1 officer and 6 men reported missing.

C.C. "A", less 1st Bn., 66th Armd. Regt. was then disengaged from contact with the enemy and returned to the Division, having secured 101st Airborne Div. units in positions beyond CARENTAN. The 1st Bn., 66th Armd. Regt. remained in position near CARENTAN, attached to the 101st Airborne Div. and later to the 83rd Inf. Div. until 6 July 1944. During this period, C.C. "A", less 1st Bn., 66th Armd. Regt., occupied assembly areas near LE MARAIS, FRANCE. The CARENTAN operation also resulted in the capture of several enemy supply and ammunition dumps.

The 2nd Armd. Div. prepared for further operations by carrying on advanced training in hedgerow warfare in addition to maintenance of vehicles and equipment during the latter part of June. Tests were conducted in the use of anti-tank

[REDACTED]

weapons against captured German armor, the use of flamethrowers, demolitions and mine detectors. Constant planning was conducted to support actions of the V Corps and XIX Corps and to meet various possible hostile counterattacks.

To gain experience, combat patrols from Co. B and Co. C, 82nd Armd. Ren. Bn. with detachments from 2nd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. were sent out and penetrated the enemy line south of CAUMONT on 26 June 1944, after passing through outposts of the 18th Inf. Regt., 1st Inf. Div. One patrol advanced 600 yards inside the German lines on 28 June 1944 and returned after gaining information of enemy positions and inflicting casualties. Our losses were 1 killed and 3 wounded.

Division assembly areas were subjected to strafing and bombing raids during the month, but vehicular weapons and other anti-aircraft fire drove off most of the German planes. The severest losses resulted from a bombing which occurred on 20 June 1944, when a 500 pound bomb and an estimated 2,000 pound bomb dropped in the assembly area of 2nd Bn., 67th Armd. Regt. 7 men were killed and 4 officers and 47 enlisted men were wounded. The 195th A.A.A. (A.M.) Bn. (S.P.) arrived from ISIGNY shortly after this bombing and set up an all around air defense. Btry. A was attached to CC"B", Btry. B to Div. Tns., Btry. C to Div. Hq. and Div. Res., and Btry. D to C.C. "A". The 195th A.A.A. Bn. reported 10 engagements with flights of enemy aircraft of between 2 and 6 planes each, from 21 to 30 June 1944. Btry. A was credited by V Corps with knocking down 1 ME 109 on 22 June 1944.

The 702nd T.D. Bn. (S.P.), attached to the 2nd Armd. Div., arrived in FRA CE on 11 June 1944. This Bn. maintained contact with the 1st, 2nd and 26th Inf. Divs. in the front lines until 30 June 1944. British units on the left were contacted and anti-tank positions were occupied south of MILLEROY and CERISY FOREST. The units also assisted in anti-tank experiments against a German Mark V tank.

The 48th Armd. Med. Bn., commanded by Lt. Col. John S. Weir, established its first clearing station a few hours after landing 9 June 1944. Co. A, 48th Armd. Med. Bn., supported the 3rd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt. when the latter participated in its first mission near ISIGNY. The Co. A clearing station also followed other C.C. "A" units in the CAREWAN operation and handled 178 patients in 9 days. Gen. Brooks and Gen. Rose visited the station during the operation. Co. B, 48th Armd. Med. Bn. arrived in FRA CE on 12 June 1944 after rescuing 2 of the survivors of a sunken LST. More than 50 soldiers were treated at Co. B's clearing station after the bombing on 20 June 1944. Col. Abner Zehr, Division Surgeon, also reported on the handling of combat exhaustion and recurrent malaria cases at Co. C's clearing station. These patients were retained in the 2nd Armd. Div. Complete records for June 1944 showed that 220 wounded and injured passed through the clearing stations between 9 and 30 June 1944; 31 men were returned to duty and 12 died of wounds.

ANNEX I

Unit assignments for Operation Neptune were as follows:

COMBAT COMMAND "A"
(Commanded by Brig. Gen. Maurice Rose)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Hq., C.C. "A"	
62nd Armd. Rcn. Bn. (with Co. D, 17th Armd. Engr. Bn. attached)	Lt. Col. Wheeler G. Merriam
66th Armd. Regt.	Col. John Collier
1st Bn.	Lt. Col. Carl O. Parker
2nd Bn.	Lt. Col. Lindsay C. Herkness, Jr.
3rd Bn.	Lt. Col. Amzi R. Quillan
41st Armd. Inf. Regt. (less 1st Bn.)	Col. Sidney R. Hinds
2nd Bn.	Lt. Col. Wilson D. Coleman
3rd Bn.	Lt. Col. Marshall L. Crawley, Jr.
17th Armd. Engr. Bn. (less Cos. B, D, and E)	Lt. Col. Louis W. Correll
14th Armd. F. A. Bn.	Lt. Col. Carl I. Hutton
92nd Armd. F. A. Bn.	Lt. Col. William R. Buster
1st Det., Co. A, Supply Bn.	
Co. A, Maint. Bn.	
Co. A, 48th Armd. Med. Bn.	

COMBAT COMMAND "B"
(Commanded by Col. I. D. White, now Brig. Gen.)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Hq., C.C. "B"	
67th Armd. Regt.	Col. Paul A. Disney
1st Bn.	Lt. Col. Richard E. Nelson
2nd Bn.	Lt. Col. William M. Stokes, Jr.
3rd Bn.	Lt. Col. Harry Hillyard
78th Armd. F. A. Bn.	Lt. Col. Hugh M. Extor
1st Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt.	Lt. Col. Martin J. Morin
Cos. B, E, 17th Armd. Engr. Bn.	
Co. B, 40th Armd. Med. Bn.	
Co. B, Maint. Bn.	
2nd Det., Co. A, Supply Bn.	

DIVISION CONTROL

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commanding Officer</u>
Hq. and Hq. Co., 2nd Armd. Div.	
Hq., Div. Arty.	Col. Thomas A. Roberts

Unit

Commanding Officer

142nd Armd. Sig. Co.
M.P. Plst., Serv. Co., 2nd Armd. Div.
Det. F, 165th Sig. Photo Co.
2nd Plst., 608th G.M. G. R. Co.
Det. D-9, Co. B, 6901st E. C. A. D.
195th A.A.A. (A.W.) Bn. (S.P.)
702nd T.D. Bn. (S.P.)

Lt. Col. Lawrence A. Devlin
Lt. Col. John A. Beall

ANNEX II

The following unit assignments were in effect in 2nd Armd. Div. subsequent to completion of landing operations:

COMBAT COMMAND "A"

Hq., C.C. "A"
66th Armd. Regt.
3rd Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt.
14th Armd. F. A. Bn.
Co. A, 17th Armd. Engr. Bn.
Co. A, 48th Armd. Med. Bn.
Co. A, Maint. Bn.

DIVISION RESERVE

41st Armd. Inf. Regt. (less 1st
and 3rd Bns.)
3rd Bn., 67th Armd. Regt.

COMBAT COMMAND "B"

Hq., C. C. "B"
67th Armd. Regt. (less 3rd Bn.)
1st Bn., 41st Armd. Inf. Regt.
78th Armd. F. A. Bn.
Co. B, 17th Armd. Engr. Bn.
Co. B, 48th Armd. Med. Bn.
Co. B, Maint. Bn.
92nd Armd. F. A. Bn. attached

DIVISION CONTROL

Hq., 2nd Armd. Div.
82nd Armd. Recon. Bn.
Div. Arty. Cnd.
17th Armd. Engr. Bn. (less 2 Cos.)
702nd T. D. Bn. (S.P.)
106th A.A.A. (A.A.) Bn. (S.P.)
Div. Ins.
142nd Armd. Sig. Co.

ANNEX III

THE DIVISION STAFF

Commanding General	Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks
Chief of Staff	Col. Charles D. Palmer
A. C. of S, G-1	Lt. Col. Lowell S. Love
A. C. of S, G-2	Lt. Col. Jesse M. Hawkins
A. C. of S, G-3	Lt. Col. Russell W. Jenna
A. C. of S, G-4	Lt. Col. Charles C. Peterson
G-1 Civil Affairs	Maj. Marcel F. J. Brunow
G-3 Air	Maj. Lloyd P. VanCourt
Air Officer	Lt. Col. Joseph G. Focht
Anti-aircraft Officer	Lt. Col. Lawrence A. Devlin
Arty. Cndr.	Col. Thomas A. Roberts
Chemical Officer	Lt. Col. Richard L. LaBolle
Engineer	Lt. Col. Louis W. Correll
Hq. Cndt.	Maj. James D. Webster
Ordnance Officer	Lt. Col. Allan L. Harts
Provost Marshal	Maj. John W. Doran
Signal Officer	Lt. Col. Carmon L. Clay
Division Surgeon	Col. Abner Zehn
Adjutant General	Lt. Col. Robert H. Shell
Chaplain	Maj. Lawrence M. Nelson
Finance Officer	Lt. Col. Harold W. Uhrbrock
Inspector General	Lt. Col. Ernest W. Howell
Judge Advocate	Maj. Edward N. Sylva
Quartermaster	Lt. Col. Lewis M. Flint
Ammunition Officer	Capt. Charles E. Branson
Special Service Officer	Maj. Marshall W. Dickson

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
SECOND ARMORED DIVISION


APD 252
24 July 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After (Period 1-30 June 1944)

TO : Commanding General, 2d Armored Division (Atten: AC of S, G-1)

1. In compliance with par. 5, 1st Ind, letter, Hq 1st US Army, 13 July, subject, "Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports", the following attached report is submitted for Combat Command "A", 2d Armored Division, covering period 1-30 June 1944.

For the Commanding General:


B. M. BAILEY, JR.
Lieut. Colonel, Cavalry,
Executive Officer.

Incl - 4 Copies Opns Rpt — *1 need 240170*
1 Copy - Journal, S-3
1 Copy - Journal, S-2

13
[REDACTED]
AUTH: CG 2 AD
INIT: *[Signature]*
DATE: 22 SEP 44

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

APC 252
22 September 1944

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports

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

REF: GSA, 4250, PARA 10, 1/50,000
S. L. C. SUR VIRE, COORDINATES, VIRE

1. In accordance with paragraph 10 (C3) AR 345-105 and as directed by letter Headquarters First United States Army, dated 15 July 1944, subject "Action Against Enemy Reports After/After Action Reports", the attached reports and documents are herewith submitted for the month of July 1944.

For the Commanding General:

[Signature]
R. H. SMELL,
Lt. Col., AGD,
Adjutant General

ENCLOSURES:

1. Original and 4 copies, After Action Report, 2nd Armored Div
2. G-2 Journal, July 1944
3. G-3 Journal, July 1944
4. Reports of subordinate units

370 (AG) 1st Ind.
HQ XIX CORPS, APO 270, US Army, 27 Sep 44.

ER/jjp

TO: CG, First US Army, APO 230, US Army.

For the Commanding General:

Incl: n/c
[REDACTED]

OCT 25 1944
7469

INCLOSURE No. 4 to AFTER/AFTER ACTION REPORT

2D ARMORED DIVISION JULY 1944

After/after action reports for July 1944, from the following units:

☒ 66th A.R. ✓
☒ 66th "B" ✓
☒ 66th A.R. ✓
☒ 67th A.R. ✓
☒ 41st Arm'd Inf Regt ✓
☒ 14th Arm'd FA Bn ✓
☒ 78th Arm'd FA Bn ✓
☒ 92nd Arm'd FA Bn ✓
☒ 17th Arm'd Engr Bn ✓
☒ 82nd Arm'd Rcn Bn ✓
☒ 48th Arm'd Med Bn -
☒ Maint Bn ✓
☒ Supply Bn ✓
☒ 142nd Arm'd Sig Co -
☒ Hq 2d Arm'd Div Trains ✓
☒ Div Arty Section ✓
☒ Div Surgeon -
☒ 62nd Arm'd FA Bn (Attached) -
☒ 95th AAA AW Bn (SF) " ✓
☒ 702nd TD Bn " ✓
☒ 258th Arm'd FA Bn " -

HEADQUARTERS 2D ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

A.P.O. 252,
21 September, 1944.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

JULY 1944

The 2nd Arm Div, commanded by Maj Gen Edward M. Brooks, attached to the V Corps, and later to the VII and XIX Corps of the FIRST US ARMY, participated in 2 major operations against the Germans in FRANCE during July 1944. The operations were: (1) defense of the CAUMONT sector, 1 to 17 July inclusive; (2) the breakthrough west of ST LO (Operation COBRA) 26 to 31 July, in which the FIRST US ARMY advanced from the confines of the original beachhead.

DEFENSE OF THE CAUMONT SECTOR

The 2nd Arm Div moved south from its assembly area near FORET DE CHRISY on 1 July and relieved the British 7th Arm Div in a defensive zone east of CAUMONT (see Overlay, Annex I). The front lines extended approximately 3000 yards in the area south of LIVRY, FRANCE. The Division relieved the British 6th Queens Regt, who were defending the sector, and the Br 2nd Army - Am 1st Army boundary was moved east to the left flank of the Division.

Combat Command "A", under Brig Gen Maurice Rose, with 2nd and 3rd Bns, 41st Arm Div Regt attached, was disposed as shown on overlay, Annex I. Contact was established with British elements on the left. The 66th Arm Div Regt, less the 1st Bn, was held in a position which would enable it to move forward rapidly in event of an enemy attack and was also disposed to protect the left flank of the Div. Routes to points that were considered vulnerable were reconnoitered and the 17th Arm Div Engr Bn then constructed roads to furnish access to these points. Combat Command "B", with 1st Bn 41st Arm Div Regt attached, under command of Brig Gen I D White, was disposed as shown in overlay, Annex I. Roads for the use of CC "B" were constructed by the 17th Arm Div Engr Bn. The infantry battalion commanders were: 1st Bn, Lt Col M J Morin; 2nd Bn, Lt Col W D Coleman; 3rd Bn, Lt Col Marshall L Crawley. Each of the infantry battalions placed 2 companies in line and the 3rd company in reserve, company assignments being rotated. Bn Hq Cos furnished close support with machine guns, mortars and assault guns. Snipers were placed in many spots and outposts were occupied well ahead of the main line of resistance. The existing British defenses were improved with wire, mines and booby traps and in some sectors the line was pushed forward. Patrols went out nightly to contact the enemy and to gain information.

Incl 4'

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The Div Arty, 66th AR, 67th AR and the 702nd TD Bn were given support missions. The 14th Armd FA Bn supported CC "A" and the 78th Armd FA Bn supported CC "B". The 92nd Armd FA Bn reinforced the fires of the 14th Armd FA Bn and the 62nd Armd FA Bn, an attached unit, reinforced the fires of the 78th Armd FA Bn. The 92nd Armd FA Bn also reinforced the British Royal Horse Arty in the British sector and fired support missions on 5, 7 and 8 July on ST GERMAIN D'ECTOT, supporting the British 50th Brigade attacks. The 92nd Armd FA Bn aided the breakup of a local counterattack on British elements west of HOTTOT, destroying 4 MK IV tanks and killing 80 Germans. Air observers were employed by the Arty to spot targets and adjust fire to destroy enemy guns. 186 arty concentrations were fired during this period, neutralizing 11 enemy batteries and destroying tanks, SP guns, mortars, ammunition dumps, vehicles, and OP's.

A campaign of psychological warfare was conducted during this time from the front lines by the Div G-2 section, under Lt Col Jesse M. Hawkins, resulting in the surrender of a number of Germans from the 2nd SS Pz Div.

The 702nd TD Bn (less 2 Co's) took up positions to supplement the actions of the Combat Commands in case of a strong enemy attack. Two companies were located on the front line with the infantry and delivered direct fire with their M-10's. One M-10 was damaged by enemy fire and 2 officers and 19 men were wounded.

The 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP) supported the Div with batteries assigned as follows: Btry A, to CC "B"; Btry B, Div Tns; Btry C, Div Hq and Div Res, and Btry D, CC "A". Medical reports listed 187 total casualties during the 1 to 17 July operations. These included 30 killed, 122 wounded and 35 combat exhaustion cases.

The 1st Bn, 66th AR remained in the vicinity of CARENTAN from 1 to 6 July. It was attached to the 101st Airborne Div until 2 July, then on 3 July to the 83rd Inf Div. On 4 and 5 July, it supported attacks of the 83rd Inf Div. Co F and the 1st plat, Co C, supported the attack of the 330th Inf Regt on 4 July south of CARENTAN. Heavy resistance, including minefields and fire of machine guns and rocket dischargers checked progress of the tanks after the village of ST GEODE BOHN was reached. Co I and Co C, less 1st plat, 66th AR supported the attack of the 329th and 331st Inf Regts on 5 July. They attacked astride the CARENTAN-PERIERS road. Steady progress was made through minefields and against resistance from strong enemy infantry units, supported by SP guns. 1st Bn, 66th AR, was relieved from attachment to the 83rd Inf Div on 6 July 1944 and rejoined the 66th AR in the vicinity of LE MESNIL, taking up positions similar to those of other battalions of the 66th AR.

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The Division was relieved from its defensive mission by the British 50th Division on 17 July and returned to an assembly area north of FORET DE CERISY, where preparations for further action were undertaken. Operations for the Division from 18 to 25 July included maintenance of equipment and vehicles and further training in hedgerow warfare. The 17th Armd Engr Bn installed a Div showerpoint at VAUBODON, FRANCE. Special Service programs for all men were held. Advanced training tests were held, emphasizing infantry-tank cooperation.

Operation "COBRA"

The 2nd Armored Division was attached to VII Corps for Operation "COBRA", which began on 25 July 1944. The Division was ordered to exploit the breakthrough made by infantry units south and west of ST. LO and to drive West toward the coast, holding a series of objectives extending as far west as BREHAL. Purpose of the mission was to prevent enemy counterattacks from the south or east along the line of TESSY SUR VIRE-VILLEBAUDON-PERCY-GAVRAY-BREHAL (see Annex II for troop list).

Operation "COBRA", started on 25 July. CC "A" was committed on 26 July. CC "B" followed CC "A". The operation was preceded by the saturation bombardment of the breakthrough area which was followed initially by launching of attacks by the 9th and 30th Infantry Divisions.

CC "A" advanced south from its assembly area below ST. JEAN DE DAYE at 260945B July on its mission to repel possible enemy counterattacks from the TESSY SUR VIRE-VILLEBAUDON area. It passed its IP near PONT HEBERT and began an advance over damaged roads and difficult terrain. First objective of CC "A" was near LE MESNIL HERMAN. It moved out initially in one column, later splitting into two columns, with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions 66th Armored Regiment abreast, operating with the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the attached 22nd RCT. The 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment was in support. The 24th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, attached, was used as a covering force. Division Artillery, reinforced by batteries from the 188th and 258th FA Battalions, supported the attack from positions between ST. JEAN DE DAYE and RUMPAN as the operation began. CC "A", in a single column, reached ST. GILLES at 1510B, advancing through anti-tank defenses and around minefields and bomb craters and drove toward CANISY. A fuel dump was burned, 2 enemy tanks destroyed and 80 prisoners were taken enroute to CANISY. Here CC "A" split into two columns and continued to advance astride the CANISY-LE MESNIL HERMAN road, meeting further obstacles and strong resistance. 2nd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, on the right, pushed south of CANISY to the vicinity of ST. MARTIN DE BON FOSSE. It was forced to negotiate a serious roadblock at CANISY, where a railroad underpass had been blown. Anti-tank guns and dug-in tanks allowed the left column, which reached ST. EREMONT DE BON FOSSE and ST. SAMSON DE BON FOSSE.

CC "B" remained near ST. JEAN DE DAYE with orders to follow CC "A" after the latter's main units had cleared CANISY.

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CC "B" advanced in 2 columns on initial objectives near DANGY. Div Res, assembled in the ST. JEAN DE DAYE area, was alerted. The general area of the Div CP was bombed and strafed during the night for a period of 28 minutes, 7 being killed and 62 wounded.

CC "A" consolidated its positions on 27 July, the west (right) column having secured LE MESNIL HERMAN, its objective, at 0800B. The CG, CC "A" gave orders to 1st Bn, 66th AR and attached units to reconnoiter in force along routes to TESSY SUR VIRE. It encountered strong anti-tank resistance and also had to overcome infantry delaying action. The 3rd Bn, 66th AR was also ordered to lead a task force on a similar mission to VILLEBAUDON. This force marching toward VILLEBAUDON met moderate resistance. 2nd Bn, 66th AR and attachments, was ordered to secure HILL 183. The third element of CC "A" accomplished its mission about 1500B and was relieved by infantry units. The attacks were forced to skirt main roads which were blocked by burning enemy vehicles. Strafing German planes which came over the columns were driven off by friendly fighter-bombers in support of CC "A" which shot down one enemy aircraft. The fighters remained to strafe and destroy enemy tanks and troop carriers.

On 27 July, CC "B"'s attack was delayed by heavy traffic on all main roads. The combat command moved out its reconnaissance and advance guard elements at 1100B. These elements, later supplemented by the 82nd Armd Rcn Bn, were to locate routes over which main forces of CC "B" could advance to cut off the enemy from the north along the line extending from CANISY to EREHAL. Contact was made just southwest of CANISY on the road to PONT BROCARD. Patrols of the 82nd Armd Rcn Bn reported that an enemy force of infantry supported by mortars and artillery, held LAISNEY and QUIBOU. The advance guard was deployed and Btry A of the 78th Armd FA Bn took up a supporting position to shell enemy SP guns and mortars. Envelopment of the enemy's left flank eliminated the resistance and the advance of the main body was resumed. The advance guard seized DANGY at 1900B and was reinforced by 1st Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt and Co D, 67th AR. This force moved on to occupy PONT BROCARD before nightfall, after overcoming further resistance from enemy in armored cars. An enemy counterattack near PONT BROCARD was repelled. Units of the main right column then coiled up off the roads to allow the left column to move forward. The left column reached a point one mile south of DANGY destroying elements of enemy infantry and horsedrawn artillery enroute.

Units of the 82nd Armd Rcn Bn continued to cover the advance of CC "B" as it approached its second objective, southeast of NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY. Co B operated along the main road out of CANISY; Co C checked routes on the right of the main road and Co A took these on the left. These organizations reached LA PENETIERE by 2400B after an advance of 12 miles. They encountered elements of 5 German regiments, took 39 prisoners and destroyed 3 enemy tanks. The Div Res remained in its assembly area, prepared to move south to CANISY. The Div Arty commander placed 2 batteries of the 129th AAA Bn, newly attached, in anti-tank positions in the division rear. The 702nd TD Bn and Btry D of the 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP) occupied support positions, capturing 16 prisoners.

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The 3rd Armd Div was reported crossing the ST LO-PERIERES road on the right of the 2nd Armd Div, and elements of the 1st Inf Div approached MARIIGNY, west of ST GILLES.

On 28 July, both Combat Commands were confronted by strong enemy resistance. Large German forces sought to escape southward from the First U. S. Army trap and other enemy forces attempted to counterattack from the southeast. The enemy from the north encountered elements of CC "B"; enemy armor and infantry approaching from the southeast, were met by CC "A", now attached to XIX Corps.

CC "B" units advanced 4 to 8 miles against stubborn resistance, gaining their objectives at LENGRONNE and CAMBERNON. Co H, 67th AR and Co G, 41st Armd Inf Regt, an advance group of CC "B", seized the crossroads on the COUTANCES-GAWRAY highway near CAMBERNON. Elements of the 82nd Armd Rcn Bn pressed forward with the mission of securing crossings over the SIENNE River. Its patrols reached LENGRONNE and LA JOURDANMIERE, on their objective and captured 125 prisoners. An advance force, composed of 1st Bn, 67th AR (less Co D) and 1st Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt, with a platoon of Co B, 17th Armd Engr Bn attached, was ordered to secure the road north of HAMBYE. In a sharp engagement while this objective was being occupied, Lt. Col. R. E. Nelson, commander of 1st Bn, 67th AR was killed when his tank was hit by anti-tank fire.

The main right column of CC "B" was counterattacked in force by enemy which approached PONT EROCARD and NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY from CERISY LA SALLE. As a result of this attack, Div Res was committed. Co E, 41st Armd Inf Regt attacked west from PONT EROCARD; Co F, 41st Armd Inf Regt drove southwest and Co I, 67th Armd Regt moved south to NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY and attacked north. By midnight CERISY LA SALLE was occupied and reserve units were disposed to block escape routes from the north. German tanks, infantry and artillery units were destroyed in this engagement. Advance elements of the 8th Inf Regt, 4th Inf Div moved into the NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY area in rear of CC "B". The 3rd Armd Div was contacted on the right flank and the 4th Armd Div was contacted moving south from COUTANCES.

CC "B" was engaged throughout the next day, 29 July, by continued counterattacks and escape efforts of the enemy. An 8 mile advance to their final objectives was made by main units of the Combat Command. Starting at 0400B, remnants of 2 Nazi Pz Div tried to break through CC "B" lines near NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY. An enemy column was destroyed after driving back 4th Inf Div outposts and threatening positions of the 78th Armd FA Bn. Two batteries of the 78th Armd FA Bn fired direct fire at a range of 500 yards on the column. Tanks and anti-aircraft guns joined in the ground action and a tank-infantry team mopped up enemy remnants. The 78th Armd FA Bn reported 7 MK IV tanks destroyed, 126 enemy killed and many other casualties inflicted in the engagement. 1st Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt and 1st Bn, 67th AR advanced toward LENGRONNE after bypassing resistance at HAMBYE. Other units met light resistance going through ST DENIS LE GAST and the final objective at LENGRONNE was secured at 1530B by 1st Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt. Forces were ordered to secure the area as follows: 2 infantry cos and platoon of Rcn Co, 67th AR at ST DENIS LE GAST; one platoon, Rcn Co, 67th AR at HAMBYE, and the rest of

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Rcn Co in LEMERONNE, where liaison was maintained with 4th Armd Div units. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn stationed Co C at TREILLY, Co B between GAVRAY and ST DENIS LE GAST and Co A between CERENCES and GAVRAY, occupying all its final objectives.

Div Res, advancing in rear of CC "B", set up roadblocks and outposts late on 29 July, with the mission of securing areas as far west as GRIMESNIL. As one of its 6 posts was being occupied, a force of approximately 600 Germans with tanks, artillery and automatic weapons began a breakthrough to the south. They were engaged at point blank range by both No. 5 and No. 6 posts, and a heavy toll of the enemy was taken. The enemy assault continued through the line and overran portions of the Div Res CP, and also the CP's of 2nd Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt and 3rd Bn, 67th AR. All personnel engaged in close combat, and support was given by the 92nd Armd FA Bn. Three prisoners were taken in the immediate Div Res CP area. Lt Col W. D. Coleman, commanding the 2nd Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt, was killed in this engagement. Another tank-infantry attack was launched from the southeast and forced units holding ST DENIS LE GAST to fall back on friendly outposts. From roadblock positions they engaged the German column on its flanks and inflicted heavy losses. When the column reached positions of the 78th Armd FA Bn, it came under direct fire from the artillery's 105-mm and .50 cal guns, as well as from one M-10 tank destroyer. Three trucks, three half-tracks towing AA-AT guns, a truck with a 75 howitzer, and 4 SP guns were destroyed; 40 enemy were killed and 199 captured. The 62nd Armd FA Bn took 238 prisoners after this action and 10 were captured by the Div Arty section. During the engagements, Col Sidney R. Hinds, Div Res Commander and Lt Col Robert B. Galloway, 41st Armd Inf Regt Executive, made a patrol by half track from the Div Res CP area to ST DENIS LE GAST. Armed with pistols, they encountered a German armored car and killed one and wounded another of the guards of the car.

In the early hours of 30 July, other elements of CC "B" engaged in another sharp encounter with a German column, numbering 90 vehicles. More than 2000 enemy were estimated to have been in the column, which moved under cover of darkness from secondary roads onto the CAMBERNON-ST DENIS LE GAST road and approached GRIMESNIL. The column was engaged by elements of 2nd Bn, 67th AR and 3rd Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt, and was stopped west of GRIMESNIL, when the MK V tank leading the column was destroyed. Tank, anti-tank, mortar and small arms fire was directed at the length of the column and later the 62nd Armd FA Bn, reinforced by Btrys A and B of the 78th Armd FA Bn, opened fire on the column from the rear. All vehicles in the column were destroyed and it was estimated 480 enemy were killed. The column included tanks, a self-propelled 150mm gun ("Ferdinand"), artillery prime movers, half tracks and administrative cars. During daylight hours Cos A, B and C of the 82nd Armd Rcn Bn combed the area for escaping enemy; 166 prisoners were taken and 100 enemy killed. After CC "B" had secured the areas of its objectives around TREILLY and CERENCES along the SIENNE River, the Combat Command was ordered to assemble and reorganize. The sector was turned over to the 4th Armd Div and elements of the 1st Inf Div. CC "B" took a total of 1058 prisoners during the period.

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On 28 July, CC "A" was attached to XIX Corps and received orders to attack and secure the XIX Corps objective in the vicinity PERCY-LE CHEFRESNE-ST MARIE. The attack was launched in 3 columns and made steady progress toward the objective. Major elements in the columns comprised the tank battalions of the 66th AR and infantry units of the 22nd RCT. The center column, advancing south from the LE MESNIL HERMAN area, reached MOYEN, but found it strongly held by enemy and defended by terrain obstacles. The column secured high ground north of MOYEN, and held this position until relieved by 29th Inf Div on the following day. The left column reached high ground south of LE MESNIL OPAC where enemy tanks and dual purpose AA-AT guns were engaged. In the engagement 5 MK IV tanks and 4 guns were destroyed, with no losses to the attacking forces. The attack continued under steady artillery and mortar fire and at 2200B the force was assembled, outposting the area south of LE MESNIL OPAC. The column had been cut briefly by an enemy tank-infantry counterattack, but the enemy elements were surrounded and reduced. The right column, meeting little resistance, pushed south rapidly and secured VILLEBAUDON; the advance was continued and elements of the column captured the town of PERCY on 29 July. It was later relieved by the 175th Inf Regt of the 29th Inf Div.

The left column of CC "A" resumed its attack from LE MESNIL OPAC at 0800B on 29 July, having as its objective ground in the vicinity PONTFARCY. Small arms fire was met at the outset; this resistance was reduced and the advance was pushed ahead in search of a stream crossing. Enemy tanks, artillery and mortar fire were encountered along the stream. The CC "A" column returned the fire and destroyed 3 German tanks. At 1800B the Force was ordered to disengage from enemy contact and assemble. The right column, which had taken PERCY on 29 July, continued its advance.

On 30 July an attack on TESSY SUR VIRE was launched by a force consisting of 2nd Bn, 66th AR, 1st Bn, 22nd RCT and engineer and reconnaissance elements. The Force moved south through VILLEBAUDON and then swung east, attacking toward TESSY SUR VIRE. The advance was slowed by fierce enemy resistance in the VILLEBAUDON area. Heavy German artillery concentrations fell on the town and enemy tanks counterattacked the CC "A" column. The attack was repelled and enemy AT guns were destroyed. The attached infantry unit held the town and secured the VILLEBAUDON crossroads in spite of artillery fire which continued to fall in the sector. Tank elements of the column moved to an assembly area northwest of the town.

CC "A" renewed the attack on 31 July, when 1st Bn, 66th AR and attachments were ordered to secure high ground around DUMONT. The drive was made eastward along the left flank of the VILLEBAUDON-TESSY SUR VIRE road. The Force passed through the 29th Inf Div lines and advanced to a point near BEAUCOURRAY. Enemy tanks were discovered across a wooded ravine and artillery fire fell on the assault elements during reconnaissance for a crossing over the ravine. No suitable crossing was located and the Force consolidated for the night. Other elements of CC "A" were in assembly areas near PERCY and LE PESRON at the close of the period.

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2nd Armd Div (less CC "A") was relieved from VII Corps on 31 July and was assigned to XIX Corps. CC "A" remained in XIX Corps, as attached on 28 July. 2nd Armd Div (less CC "A") occupied assembly areas in the PONT BROCARD-NOTRE DAME LE GENILLY vicinity and prepared for future action.

The report of the Division Surgeon for July listed 149 men of the 2nd Armd Div killed in action; 922 were wounded and 247 combat exhaustion cases were handled. Medical units also treated 27 civilian and 346 enemy wounded. During the Operation "COERA", the 48th Armd Med Bn's 3 clearing stations, handled 1778 cases, including many enemy wounded and wounded men of attached units.

In its July action, 66th AR, major unit in CC "A", took 1200 prisoners, killed 230 enemy and destroyed more than 40 enemy vehicles, including 6 MK V tanks. 66th AR lost 3 officers and 51 enlisted men killed, 17 officers and 185 enlisted men wounded, 1 officer and 51 enlisted men missing. During Operation "COERA", CC "B" claimed an estimated 1250 enemy killed and 73 officers and 3650 enemy captured. Elements of 8 German divisions were wiped out by CC "B" and more than 250 vehicles and heavy guns were destroyed. CC "B" losses included 3 officers and 64 enlisted men killed, 26 officers and 258 enlisted men wounded, 1 officer and 68 enlisted men missing.

The report of Div Arty noted that 45 artillery concentrations were fired during Operation "COERA". One enemy battery was neutralized, 7 MK IV tanks were destroyed, and 2 counterattacks were smashed. The 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP), which had Btry A and Btry B of the 474th AAA Bn attached from 28 to 31 July, was in 32 engagements with enemy aircraft, and also participated in ground action. Five German planes (4 by Btry A) were shot down and 7 probables claimed. The 702nd TD Bn accounted for more than 35 enemy vehicles destroyed. Thirteen of its own vehicles were damaged and the battalion lost 10 men killed and 3 officers and 53 enlisted men wounded.

Maj William P. Ring Jr., became commanding officer of 1st Bn, 67th Armd Regt after Lt Col R. E. Nelson was killed in action, on 28 July. Lt Col Anni R. Quillian, commanding officer of 3rd Bn, 66th Armd Regt, was wounded in action on 28 July and Maj Hugh R. O'Farrell succeeded him as commander. Lt Col W. D. Coleman, who was killed on 30 July, was succeeded by Maj Charles E. Etter, as CO of 2d Bn, 41st Armd Inf Regt. Maj Harold G. Maynard assumed command of the 78th Armd FA Bn on 30 July, after Lt Col Hugh M. Exton was wounded in action.

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ANNEX II TROOP LIST FOR OPERATION COBRA

COMBAT COMMAND "A"

Hq CCA
66th Armd Regt
22nd Regt Combat Team with
normal attachments
14th Armd FA Bn
Co's A, C, 17th Armd Engr Bn
702nd TD Bn (SP) (less Co B)
Co A, 48th Armd Med Bn
Btry D, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
Det Maint Bn

DIV CONTROL

Hq and Hq Co 2nd Armd Div (w/1 Co,
41st AIR attached, plus 3 sects
Btry C, 195th AAA Bn (AW) (SP))
142nd Armd Sig Co
82nd Armd Rcn Bn (plus Co B, 17th
Armd Engr Bn)
24th Rcn Sqdn Recz (-1 Trp)
Div Tns (plus Btry B, 195th AAA Bn
(AW) (SP))
Hq 195th AAA Bn (AW) (SP)
17th Armd Engr Bn (less 3 Co's)

COMBAT COMMAND "B"

Hq CCB
67th Armd Regt (less 3rd Bn)
1st, 3rd Bns, 41st Armd Inf Regt
78th Armd FA Bn
Co B, 17th Armd Engr Bn
Co B, 702nd TD Bn (SP)
Co B, 48th Armd Med Bn
Btry A, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
Det Maint Bn

DIV RESERVE

41st Armd Inf Regt (less 3 Bns)
(-1 Co)
3rd Bn, 67th Armd Regt

DIV ARTILLERY

Hq Div Arty, 2nd Armd Div
62nd Armd FA Bn
65th FA Bn
62nd Armd FA Bn
Btry C, 195th AAA Bn (AW) (SP)
Btry's C, D 129th AAA Bn

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HEADQUARTERS 2D ARMORED DIVISION
Office of the Division Commander

SECRET

Auth: CG 2d AD

Initials: *WCH*

Date: 27 Sept 1944

APD 252

27 September 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT AUG 1944

Operations of the 2d Armd Div during the period 1 Aug to 31 Aug 1944 may be grouped into three major phases:

- I. The VIRE-DOUVRONT OFFENSIVE (1 to 15 Aug 1944) exploiting the ST LO breakthrough of 25 to 31 July 1944.
- II. The TOUOVRRE-ELBEUF OFFENSIVE (20 to 26 Aug 1944)
- III. The BEAUVAIS-MONTDIDIER PURSUIT (29 to 31 Aug 1944)

PHASE I

THE VIRE-DOUVRONT OFFENSIVE (1 to 15 AUG)

Major units of the 2d Armd Div operated under VII and XIX Corps of the First United States Army in certain stages of this phase of operations. The Div less CC "A" was attached to VII Corps until 021200B Aug; then to XIX Corps until 7 Aug. The Div less CC "A" was again attached to VII Corps on 7 Aug and CC "A", which had been operating since 28 July under XIX Corps, was placed in XIX Corps reserve. 2d Armd Div was again relieved from VII Corps on 13 Aug and attached to XIX Corps.

General missions of the two Corps comprised exploitation of the ST LO breakthrough, accomplished during the preceding month. In pursuit of these missions the 2d Armd Div destroyed enemy units south and southeast of VIRE and secured successive objectives from the VIRE area to DOUVRONT. Units of the VII and XIX Corps aided materially in closing the FALAISE-ARGENTAN gap, entrapping the remnants of the German 15th Army.

1 AUGUST

At first light on 1 Aug 3rd Bn 66th AR, reinforced, attacked from an assembly area in the vicinity of VILLEBAUDON with the mission of securing TESSY SUR VIRE. The attack was launched employing a secondary east-west road north of the VILLEBAUDON-TESSY SUR VIRE highway as an axis. Advantage was taken of a ground mist which covered the movement of the force; a column of enemy vehicles was overrun and destroyed enroute and the thrust continued to high ground northwest of TESSY SUR VIRE. Two tanks of Co G 66th AR actually entered TESSY SUR VIRE at 1030B, but were engaged by a superior number of German tanks and destroyed. The column was attacked along its length by a number of Mk V German tanks, which were driven off or destroyed in a series of fiercely contested actions. 3rd Bn 66th AR assembled all elements and consolidated on commanding terrain NW of TESSY SUR VIRE. The position was held against determined enemy counter thrusts, which isolated the force until

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relief was effected by other elements of CC "A".

At 1500B, 1st and 2nd Bns 66th AR, reinforced with elements of the 22nd RCT, attacked astride the VILLEBAUDON-TESSY SUR VIRE highway. The advance was made against heavy enemy resistance in the form of artillery and anti-tank fire, and a large number of enemy Mark IV and Mark V tanks placed in concealed positions along the highway. The enemy was forced to withdraw to positions south of TESSY SUR VIRE, and CC "A" consolidated its forces, securing the town for the night. In supporting the attack of CC "A", Co A and Co B of the 702nd TD Bn destroyed 19 enemy vehicles, and captured 64 prisoners.

The 2d Armd Div, less CC "A" was in VII Corps reserve and occupied assembly areas near PONT BROCARD. Units engaged in reorganization and maintenance during the period.

2 AUGUST

2d Armd Div less CC "A" passed to control of XIX Corps at 021200B Aug and resumed operations with an attack to secure Corps objectives to the south. CC "B" moved out at 021600B from its assembly area in vicinity NOTRE DAME LE CENILLY and advanced through VILLEBAUDON and PERCY in the zone of the 28th Inf Div. By 022200B the advance guard had reached MARGUERAY after meeting heavy resistance from German artillery, tanks, mortars, anti-tank guns and infantry. CC "B" consolidated its gains north of MARGUERAY. Div Res was placed on a 2 hour alert status and prepared to follow the advance of CC "B". CC "A" was withdrawn to an assembly area near VILLEBAUDON for reorganization and maintenance. Div Tns moved from CANISY to an area southwest of PONT BROCARD during the period.

3 AUGUST

2d Armd Div units continued to meet fierce resistance from enemy rear guard elements. Mines and log roadblocks were encountered on the route of advance of CC "B". Units of the German 2nd Pz Div and 363rd Inf Div offered stiffening resistance; although hampered by rain and difficult terrain, the Combat Command advanced in two columns about 7 miles along its main axis PERCY-MARGUERAY-MONTERAY-SEPT FRERES. The left column reached SEPT FRERES and was fighting in the town at nightfall, finally consolidating in a position south of LA CAVE. The right column encountered a blown bridge and minefield covered by artillery and mortar fire along its route, and reached a point one mile northwest of ST SEVER CALVADOS, where gains were consolidated for the night. Div Res prepared for action and moved up to an assembly area south of PERCY. Div Arty fired 4 concentrations from the PERCY area, and supporting artillery battalions fired missions and reported hits on the FORST DE ST SEVER. The 78th and 62nd Armd FA Bns supported CC "B" directly; the 14th, 65th, 92nd and 258th FA Bns were in general support. CC "A" continued vehicle maintenance and personnel rehabilitation in its VILLEBAUDON assembly area and was alerted to prepare for action by 040600B Aug.

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4 AUGUST

2d Armd Div's field order assigned CC "B" the left sector of the Div zone of advance and gave CC "B" the mission of passing through the 28th Inf Div positions on 4 Aug to secure the XIX Corps objective, which was the high ground southeast of SOURDEVAL. CC "A" was assigned the right sector, and was to pass through and coordinate with 29th Inf Div units and advance to the Corps objective, bypassing VIRE if necessary. CC "A" moved into the attack at 040600B and executed the Div order with a 12 mile advance southwest from its VILLEBAUDON assembly area. Minefields and a series of road-blocks were reduced and a damaged bridge was repaired during the advance. Anti-tank guns and roving and dug in tanks were encountered and destroyed. At 2010B a new attack, coordinated with 29th Inf Div elements, was launched by CC "A" and the combined force pushed to within 3 miles of VIRE. Patrols were sent toward VIRE during the night. CC "B" met stubborn resistance in its advance from SEPT FRERES and COURSON. Assault elements were slowed by enemy mines, artillery, nebelwerfers and mortars. CC "B" occupied areas west and north of ST SEVER CALVADOS for the night, and patrols reconnoitered for routes to bypass the town. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrolled toward VIRE and into FORET DE ST SEVER to secure routes of advance for the combat commands. Both Co A and Co C of the 82nd Rcn came under heavy fire and suffered severe casualties. Div Res was on alert status in its assembly area.

5 AUGUST

CC "A" continued to advance on the left in the 2d Armd Div zone, coordinating with 29th Inf Div units in that area. CC "A" launched its attack at 0800B in two columns. The left column, led by 2d Bn 66th AR, was directed south toward VIRE and the other, composed of 1st Bn 66th AR and attached infantry, moved to the west of the city to secure a flanking position overlooking VIRE and the VIRE River. All bridges and adjacent roads were found to be mined and strongly defended by the enemy with infantry and AT fire from assault guns and dug in tanks. CC "A" made a 3 mile advance during the period. Hill 219 was secured by 1st Bn 66th AR. 2d Bn 66th AR Reinf, met stiff enemy resistance at MARTILLY, northwest of VIRE, and disengaged for the night. CC "B" operated in a sector with 28th Inf Div and continued to drive toward SOURDEVAL. CC "B" attacked in two columns at 0800B and made steady progress against stubborn enemy resistance and local counterattacks. The right column attacked southwest toward BOIS DE LA HAYE and reached a point north of CHAMP DU BOULT. The left column, after encountering bazooka and artillery fire, captured ST MANVIEU BOGAGE. Div Res was prepared to support either of the combat commands by routes through ST SEVER CALVADOS. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrols encountered heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire in their reconnaissance of FORET DE ST SEVER. Div Arty fired concentrations on ammunition dumps, barracks, guns and vehicles in the forest.

6 AUGUST

XIX Corps order directed the 2d Armd Div to attack southeast, seize GATHEMO and assist the advance of the VII Corps on the right. CC "A", again coordinating with 29th Inf Div was ordered to attack in the XIX Corps zone, secure VIRE and advance to the Corps objective. 2d Armd Div less CC "A"

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was directed to attack, with objectives on the line DOMFRONT-AMERIERES (See ANNEX I for troop list, 6 August).

After a heavy shelling of VIRE during the night, CC "A", reinforced by 2nd Bn 41st Armd Inf Regt, launched its attack on VIRE. Heavy fire by enemy artillery, mortars and direct fire from anti-tank guns halted the left column comprising the 2nd Bn 66th AR Reinf, at a crossroads north of the city, after an advance of about 500 yards. The 1st and 3rd Bns 66th AR and 2nd Bn 41st AIR were cut off from the 115th Inf Regt, 29th Inf Div, at this point and were heavily engaged by German infantry and tanks which attacked from the vicinity ST. MARTIN DE TALLERENDE. All counterattacks were repulsed successfully. This force of CC "A" was later relieved by the 175th Inf Regt of the 29th Inf Div and was withdrawn to XIX Corps reserve. CC "B" advanced 2½ miles against determined enemy resistance. The left column ran into heavy fire from mortars, artillery and anti-tank guns, but successfully penetrated FORET DE ST. SEVER to the vicinity of LE GAST, where the Force was relieved by the 115th Inf. CC "B"'s right column attacked through the forest with dismounted infantry in support and after a short advance turned the sector over to the 109th Inf Regt of the 28th Inf Div. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrols reconnoitered for routes for a proposed move through ST. POIS to MORTAIN, and also screened the advance southeast of ST. SEVER CALVADOS. Heavy fire was laid down by all artillery battalions on targets in FORET DE ST. SEVER and in the VIRE area.

7 AUGUST

82nd Armd Rcn Bn moved out at 0700LOB from positions near ST. SEVER CALVADOS and acted as advance guard for the Div less CC "A" in a movement to the vicinity of ST. POIS. Patrols contacted 9th Inf Div elements south of CHERENCE LE BOUSSEL. The main column of CC "B" left the ST. SEVER CALVADOS area at 0530B. Co "B" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn contacted enemy after passing CHERENCE LE BOUSSEL and leading elements of CC "B" also came under fire. Enemy mortars and artillery were bypassed and a local tank attack was repulsed.

At 1100B, 2nd Armd Div less CC "A" was attached to VII Corps and the mission was modified. The march to the south and east was continued by a route through ST. POIS, CUVES, REFEUVILLE, ST. HILAIRE DU HARCOUET and LE TEILLEUL. All CC "B" units closed in vicinity of BARENTON by 2330B after a 45-mile march. Div Res and other units of 2nd Armd Div less CC "A" began to move on the route of CC "B" at 1700B. CC "A" less 2nd Bn 66th AR was detached from 2nd Armd Div and put in XIX Corps reserve. 2nd Bn 66th AR was attached to the 28th Inf Div.

8 AUGUST

CC "B" attacked at 0800B from a position west of BARENTON, driving north with the objective of securing high ground in the vicinity of GER. CC "B" moved in two columns with 1st Bn 41st AIR on the right and 3rd Bn 41st AIR on the left. 3rd Bn 67th AR, attached to CC "B" from Div Res, supported the infantry battalions. Both columns advanced more than 3 miles across difficult terrain, through minefields and against anti-tank guns. At nightfall the two columns consolidated their gains and maintained enemy contact by active patrolling. Div Res dispersed an enemy patrol at BUAIS and sent a combat patrol toward

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MORTAIN to eliminate an enemy roadblock. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrols reconnoitered toward GER, MORTAIN and DOMFRONT to cover the attack of CC "B". Other Rcn Bn patrols guarded bridges over LA VARENNE river. Div Arty concentrations were fired on enemy artillery, vehicle and infantry columns, anti-tank guns and a flak tower. The 702nd TD Bn and Div Res occupied outposts and established roadblocks to protect the rear and flanks of the Div. CC "A" remained in reserve in the vicinity of VIRE.

9 AUGUST

CC "B" resumed its attack toward the vicinity of GER on the morning of 9 August, and by 1630B had seized high ground 4 miles north of BARENTON. The attack was preceded by a heavy artillery barrage and was supported by 3rd Bn 67th AR. Air Support aided the advance considerably by destroying enemy tanks, guns and ammunition dumps in the MORTAIN-GER-BARENTON pocket. CC "B" repulsed a tank-infantry counterattack on its left front and at 2000B destroyed an enemy tank column which had advanced south toward "CC "B" lines on the GER-BARENTON road. Forward units outposted their positions and patrolled into enemy territory at nightfall. Considerable artillery and mortar fire fell in CC "B"'s sector during the night. 3rd Bn 120th Inf Regt, 30th Inf Div, was attached to CC "B" in preparation for a renewed attack on 10 August. Div Arty fired 22 concentrations during the period and scored hits on enemy tanks and guns north of the front lines of CC "B" infantry. Patrols from 82nd Armd Rcn Bn occupied ST. GEORGES DE ROUELLE, contacted 35th Inf Div elements near MORTAIN, covered the BARENTON-DOMFRONT highway and observed enemy tanks at LONLAY L'ABBAYE.

10 AUGUST

Enemy planes bombed the vicinity of Div CP and Div Res areas for about 25 minutes, starting at 0100B. Heavy demolition and anti-personnel bombs were dropped and 35 casualties were reported in the area of 1st Bn 67th AR. CC "B" held its positions north of BARENTON and drove off an enemy counterattack at 0530B. Enemy infantry were reinforced with tanks and advanced under supporting fires of artillery, mortars and nebelwerfers. Supporting artillery and fighter planes dispersed an enemy infantry column which moved from the northeast at 2030B and approached CC "B"'s lines. CC "B" acted as a covering force for 30th Inf Div units which attacked north from near LE TEILLEUL to open a supply and communication route to 2nd Bn 120th Inf Regt, which had been isolated on a hill east of MORTAIN. 45 Div Arty concentrations were fired during the day, assisting in smashing the counterattacks on CC "B". 82nd Armd Rcn Bn and attached engineers blew up bridges between BARENTON and DOMFRONT to prevent their use by enemy for a possible counterattack from that sector. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn also occupied ST. GEORGES DE ROUELLE. The 238th Comb Engr Bn (less 1 Co) arrived in the Div Res area and was placed in direct support of 2nd Armd Div.

CC "A", attached to XIX Corps, assembled a task force which was attached to the 28th Inf Div at GATHEMO. The Force consisted of 66th AR (less 1st and 3rd Bns, Rcn Co and "A" Co), 2nd Bn 41st AIR (less 1 Co), 14th Armd FA Bn, Co "A" 702nd TD Bn, 1 plat Co "A", 17th Armd Engr Bn and det Co "A", 48th Armd Med Bn. The Task Force passed through lines of the 109th Inf Regt at 0600B

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[REDACTED]

and attacked south and southeast of GATHEMO, with the towns of VENGEONS and ST. SAUVEUR DE CHAULEIU as objectives. The Task Force progressed steadily across country over rough terrain, encountering mortar, bazooka and extremely heavy artillery fire. 1st Bn 66th AR was attached to the 28th Inf Div for an attack south of GATHEMO against remnants of the enemy's 84th Inf Div which had just been cleared from the town.

11 AUGUST

CC "B" received another enemy counterattack from the northeast, German infantry engaging a CC "B" patrol and then following the patrol toward positions of CC "B", under cover of artillery and mortar fire. The enemy attack was checked; a heavy artillery barrage by Div Arty aided in repelling the counter-attack. CC "B" patrols penetrated FORET DE LANDE POURRIE and area in vicinity of GER, contacting enemy in force. Div Res was ordered up to vicinity of BARENTON and received the mission of relieving CC "B", which planned a renewed attack to the north on 12 August. Units of 82nd Armd Rcn Bn continued to outpost ST. GEORGES DE ROUELLE and crossings over LA VARENNE river. CC "A" resumed its attack in the XIX Corps sector on 11 August, its Task Force being given the mission of seizing Hill 338 and then proceeding to Hill 367. When the Task Force entered the 29th Inf Div zone it was to be attached to 29th Inf Div. Fierce enemy resistance was met, comprising an anti-tank battalion equipped with 88mm guns, bazooka teams, and heavy mortar and artillery fire. The Task Force was delayed until 12 August in securing the initial objective. The Div CP area, south of BARENTON, was shelled by long range gun at about 1500B. Air reconnaissance located the gun near DOMFRONT and fighter bombers destroyed it.

12 AUGUST

CC "B" and Div Res continued to hold defensive positions in the 2nd Armd Div zone at the start of the period. At 1100B a new attack was launched by CC "B" with 1st Bn 41st AIR on the right and 3rd Bn 41st AIR on the left. 3rd Bn 67th AR reinforced the infantry and 2nd Bn 67th AR and one infantry company were held in reserve. The right column advanced 800 yards against light opposition; the left column was checked by intense artillery and automatic weapon fire. The attack continued until 2200B, at which time defensive positions were taken on order of CG VII Corps. All units were alerted to meet possible enemy counterattacks. Two enemy thrusts were beaten off, one by CC "B" at 0230B and the other by Div Res at 1610B. Air cover of CC "B" strafed enemy columns and positions north of CC "B" positions and reported destroying 10 enemy tanks. 3rd Bn 120th Inf Regt, which had been attached to Div Res, was released at 1800B and returned to 30th Inf Div control. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn sent patrols, reinforced by a light tank unit, to seize high ground south of LONLAY L'ABBAYE. After accomplishing its mission the force was relieved by elements of the 4th Inf Div. The Task Force of CC "A" continued to attack in the XIX Corps zone, and advanced slowly from the northwest toward SOURDEVAL and GER. Enemy tanks, observed heavy artillery concentrations, and anti-tank guns delayed the progress of the Task Force. 2nd Bn 66th AR and 2nd Bn 41st AIR secured the crossroads on Hill 338 at 1110B. Four enemy 88mm AT guns were knocked out in this attack.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13 AUGUST

2d Armd Div less CC "A" was released from VII Corps at 1000B and attached to XIX Corps. CC "A" continued in the status of attached to XIX Corps. CC "B" maintained vigorous patrol activity north of its defensive sector. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn, reinf. began a reconnaissance in force against DOMFRONT. CC "A" (less 2nd Bn 66th AR) was reinforced with one battalion of 112th Inf Regt, 28th Inf Div. Advance elements of CC "A" bypassed SOURDEVAL and turned east towards GER, meeting moderate resistance. A damaged bridge south of SOURDEVAL was repaired and the advance continued through ST. CLEMENT and on toward GER, an enemy tank being knocked out on the way. West of GER Rcn Co 66th AR became heavily engaged with enemy infantry and artillery and was relieved by 3rd Bn 66th AR, which forced an enemy withdrawal before consolidating for the night.

The 82nd Armd Rcn Bn, Reinf, had the following elements attached for its move on DOMFRONT: Co "E" 41st AIR, Co "D" 67th AR, Co "D" 17th Armd Engr Bn and 62nd Armd FA Bn. The Force advanced at 1300B in three columns east of LA VARENNE river. Co "A" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn, Co "E" 41st AIR and a platoon of Co "D" 67th AR advanced along the MORTAIN-DOMFRONT road; Co "C" and a platoon of Co "D" 67th AR moved east on the LE TEILLEUL-DOMFRONT road and Co "B" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn, with a third platoon from Co "D" 67th AR, advanced east between the other two columns over secondary roads. Co "D" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn protected roads to the north and to the rear. Co "A" made good progress along its axis of advance, encountering only sporadic artillery fire, and consolidated a position west of DOMFRONT overnight. Co "B" closed in to the north on Co "A"'s right flank. Co "E" 41st AIR swung to the south and joined Co "C" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn at 1800B, when an enemy thrust threatened the right flank of the Force; Co "E" 41st AIR and these elements advanced to a position southwest of the town and consolidated for the night. The 62nd Armd FA Bn and Co "D" 17th Armd Engr Bn supported the attacking elements.

14 AUGUST

82nd Armd Rcn Bn, Reinf, continued its advance to DOMFRONT at 0800B and took its objective at 1600B. CC "B", reinforced by the 99th Sep Inf Bn attached, prepared for a new attack against elements of 11 enemy divisions still believed to be located in the FLERS-DOMFRONT-MORTAIN pocket. This plan was cancelled and CC "B" and Div Res were ordered to assemble and begin maintenance of vehicles and equipment. CC "A" renewed its attack in the north sector of XIX Corps' zone, moving out at 0700B. Steady progress was made toward GER until minefields covered by enemy mortar and small arms fire were encountered. Infantry and engineer units cleared these obstacles and the advance was resumed through GER and LONLAY L'ABBAYE, which was occupied at 2005B. Here a blown bridge over the EURENNE River, defended by artillery and SP anti-tank guns, delayed further movement until late at night. Infantry, reconnaissance and tank destroyer units crossed and moved east toward the final objective of CC "A" before the close of the period. Co "C" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn made the main effort

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along the highway from the southwest. Co "C" was reinforced by Co "E" 41st AIR and Co "D" 67th AR. Co "B" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn forded LA VARENNE river and advanced on the right flank, repulsed an enemy counterattack, and then advanced with an assault into the streets of the town. Co "A" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn was initially in reserve and at 1200B entered the action from south of DOMFRONT. The 62nd Armd FA Bn fired close support which aided the assault when it threatened to bog down on the outskirts of the town. Co "D" 17th Armd Engr Bn laid a trestle bridge, removed enemy demolition bombs from under another bridge and cleared minefields to support the attack. 200 prisoners were taken by the Force, which was relieved later in the day by the 117th and 120th Inf Regts, 30th Inf Div. Units then withdrew to an assembly area.

15 AUGUST

CC "A" was 2nd Armd Div's only unit in contact with the enemy during this period. After crossing the EURENNE River east of LONLAY L'ABAYE, elements of CC "A" overcame a small pocket of resistance near the IP. 3rd Bn 66th AR reached the CC "A" objective, Hill 329, north of DOMFRONT, at 1000B. Infantry continued to mop up and consolidate the objective until it was secured at 1330B. 2nd Bn 66th AR, which had been located near SOURDEVAL, rejoined CC "A" at GER. The 112th Inf Regt of the 28th Inf Div then relieved CC "A", which was released to 2nd Armd Div and directed to join the remainder of the Div in vicinity of BARENTON on 16 August. All other 2nd Armd Div units engaged in maintenance of equipment, vehicles and weapons, and training and rehabilitation of personnel. The 17th Armd Engr Bn opened a Div showerpoint near BARENTON.

16-17 AUGUST

All units of 2nd Armd Div conducted rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance of vehicles in their assembly areas in vicinity of BARENTON, preparing for future operations. Test firing of rocket equipped tank was conducted on 16 August at a temporary range north of BARENTON. Div Res oriented 99th Sep Inf Bn units in tank-infantry tactics.

18-19 AUGUST

The 2nd Armd Div, detached from XIX Corps and attached to V Corps, moved from the Barenton area to the vicinity of MORTAGNE AU PERCHE and TOUROVRE. (See ANNEX II for troop list). Two routes were used. CC "A" moved on 18 August over the south route through AMERIERES, JAVRON, PRE EN PAIL and ALENCON to the vicinity of SEES. CC "B", Div Res, Div Arty and units under Div control followed the north route through DOMFRONT, LA FERTE MACE and CARROUGES to SEES. The march was resumed on 19 August. The two main columns advanced east and occupied assembly areas near ST. ANNE and LONGNY AU PERCHE. On completion of the move, 2nd Armd Div was detached from V Corps and attached to XIX Corps. The Div covered approximately 80 miles in the two-day march.

[REDACTED]

PHASE II

THE TOUROVRE-ELBEUF OFFENSIVE

20-26 AUGUST

2nd Armd Div operated under XIX Corps in this phase of its August operations. In a seven-day offensive from 20th to 26th August, the Division advanced approximately 95 miles north and northeast to the SEINE River. Elements of the German 2nd SS Pz Div, 116th Pz Div, 17th GAF Div and 344th Inf Div were routed in the Div zone as it accomplished its mission in securing successive objectives from TOUROVRE to ELBEUF.

20 AUGUST

Orders of CG 2nd Armd Div directed an attack at 200800B August, Combat Commands abreast, to secure successive objectives in the XIX Corps zone. CC "B" advanced on the left and CC "A" on the right, with the mission of seizing or bypassing towns from VERNEUIL to ELBEUF. The enemy was reported to be defending along the line VERNEUIL-LAIGLE, which had been reconnoitered by 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrols. XIX Corps assigned the 113th Cav Rcn Sqdn to cover the Div's left flank. CC "B" advanced in two columns from vicinity of ST. ANNE, with the objective of crossing the AVRE river at VERNEUIL. Both columns met determined resistance near the town and sought to cross the AVRE river to the east and west. Reconnaissance was being made at the end of the period for suitable crossings. CC "A" advanced from the vicinity of LONGNY AU PERCHE through LA FERTE VIDAME and MONTIGNY. Little resistance was encountered until it reached the AVRE river, northwest of BREZOLLES. Bridges were found to be blown and bridge sites well defended. Co "A" 17th Armd Engr Bn constructed a 30-foot trestle across the AVRE and CC "A" advanced 2nd Bn 66th AR, 2nd Bn 41st AIR and Co "A" 702nd TD Bn across the stream to positions along the railroad north of the river before nightfall. The remainder of the combat command crossed during the night. Div Res units advanced northeast to vicinity of BREZOLLES and maintained roadblocks and local security in the Div rear.

21 AUGUST

2nd Armd Div operations were hampered throughout the day by rain and low clouds, which cancelled scheduled air support. Both combat commands advanced toward new objectives, reconnaissance elements being moved out at 0600B. Successive objectives were seized and secured by CC "A"'s major elements at 211100B and 211500B. CC "A" then ordered an attack by 2nd Bn 41st AIR (less 1 Co) and a company of medium tanks to secure DAMVILLE. The town was secured against stubborn resistance by 2130B and the enemy was driven back to high ground north of the town. CC "B" attacked north from vicinity south of VERNEUIL with BRETEUIL as its objective. A bridge and ford east of VERNEUIL were used to cross the AVRE river and the attack moved steadily north. Enemy resistance remained stubborn, but before the close of the period CC "B" cut and blocked the BRETEUIL-DAMVILLE road in two places. Both combat commands encountered artillery, anti-tank, nebelwerfer and small arms fire along their routes. Advances of between

8 and 10 miles were made during the period. Large numbers of prisoners were taken and much enemy equipment was destroyed.

22 AUGUST

Lack of stream crossings delayed both CC "A" and CC "B" during their attacks on 22 August. Little enemy resistance was encountered. At 0800B, CC "B" crossed the ITON river, bypassed BRETEUIL to the east, and continued to move north on the east side of the BRETEUIL-CONCHES road. The two columns of CC "B" merged to bypass CONCHES and advanced to a point on the ROULOIR river, 3000 yards east of CONCHES. Here a bridgehead was established and a force large enough to secure it for the night was sent across the stream. At 0800B, CC "A" advanced from vicinity of DAMVILLE in two columns. 2nd Bn 41st AIR was the major unit in the left column and 2nd Bn 66th AR in the right column. Both columns attacked north and by 2100B had established bridgeheads across the ITON river. During the night other elements of CC "A" were ordered to cross. Advances of about 9 miles were made by both combat commands and approximately 500 prisoners were taken. Co "B" and Co "C" 82nd Armd Rcn Bn advanced as a cover force for the two combat commands. Co "B" destroyed an enemy column of 14 vehicles near LA BOCHELLE and took 274 prisoners. Patrols of 82nd Armd Rcn Bn advanced within 5 miles of the SEINE river.

23 AUGUST

The attack was resumed at 0730B. Advancing from the ITON river bridgeheads, the combat commands met little opposition at first and the attacks progressed favorably. Resistance stiffened as pockets of infantry and retreating vehicle columns were overtaken. Scores of enemy were killed, much equipment destroyed and approximately 300 enemy were captured. CC "A" advanced about 20 miles. Its left column cut the highway between LE NEUBOURG and ELBEUF and the right column reached a point one mile south of ELBEUF. Dug-in enemy tanks were encountered and CC "A" consolidated its positions to prepare for a new attack on 24 August. In 2nd Armd Div's left sector CC "B" advanced rapidly and seized a 12-mile strip along the CONCHES-LE NEUBOURG road. Its elements, attacking in two columns, received heavy fire from enemy artillery and automatic weapons. LE NEUBOURG was cut off at 1800B and positions astride the road were consolidated. Road blocks were set up on all roads out of LE NEUBOURG. Enemy tanks and other vehicles attempting to escape under cover of darkness were destroyed. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn patrols reconnoitered deep into enemy territory, taking approximately 100 prisoners. Div Res mopped up bypassed pockets of resistance and the 28th Inf Div performed a similar mission in the Div rear.

24 AUGUST

German planes bombed areas of 2nd Armd Div forward elements during early hours of the period. Casualties resulted. Lt. Col. Benjamin M. Bailey, executive officer of CC "A", was killed. All units resumed their advance toward the SEINE river and objectives to the north at 0800B, and continued to take scores of prisoners and to destroy columns of motor and horsedrawn enemy vehicles.

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One column of CC "A" drove past the LE NEUBOURG-ELBEUF highway and the other column attacked ELBEUF from the south. The latter column ran into almost impassable terrain in the form of a defile strongly defended by tanks and anti-tank guns. The column also encountered enemy artillery fire on outskirts of ELBEUF, and the attack was suspended until reinforcements arrived. CC "B", after being relieved by 28th Inf Div units at its roadblocks around LE NEUBOURG, resumed its attack north from the LE NEUBOURG-LOUVIERS road, with the mission of seizing and consolidating positions in vicinity of TOURVILLE LA CAMPAGNE. Stubborn defenses of the enemy were encountered and a brief tank versus tank engagement ensued north of LE NEUBOURG. Enemy tanks were routed and by 1600B CC "B" had gained all of its objectives. The 82nd Armd Rcn Bn pushed patrols to within two miles of BOURGTHEROUDE and continued to take many prisoners. Div Res was engaged in mopping up activities. The 702nd TD Bn reported seizing 60 prisoners and knocking out an enemy column of 11 vehicles.

25 AUGUST

CC "A" and a combat team of 28th Inf Div launched a coordinated attack at 1100B to seize ELBEUF and capture enemy escape sites on the west bank of the SEINE river. 1st Bn 66th AR attacked north toward the highway leading west from ELBEUF and swung to the east after cutting the road. The 99th Sep Inf Bn, attached to CC "A", and 2nd Bn 41st AIR attacked abreast along the LE NEUBOURG-ELBEUF road. 2nd Bn 66th AR joined with the 109th RCT, 28th Inf Div in an attack from the southeast. Enemy artillery from across the SEINE river, anti-tank guns and nebelwerfers placed fire on the attacking columns. By nightfall 2nd Bn 41st AIR, 99th Sep Inf Bn and 2nd Bn 66th AR had penetrated the town and other units were favorably positioned for a renewed attack on 26 August. Div Arty supported the attack of CC "A" and also placed concentrations on SEINE river bridges and ferries which escaping German units were using. CC "B" maintained roadblocks on the left flank of the Div zone, northeast of TOURVILLE LA CAMPAGNE. CC "B" contacted Canadian units in the British sector to the left of 2nd Armd Div. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn reached its objective at BOURGTHEROULDE and then was relieved by units of the Canadian XII Corps.

26 AUGUST

The assault on ELBEUF was resumed by CC "A" and all attacking units converged on the center of the town at approximately 1200B. Mopping up continued until late afternoon, when the Canadian 4th Armd Div occupied the town. CC "A" assembled south of ELBEUF upon being relieved. Div Res relieved CC "B" in the sector around TOURVILLE LA CAMPAGNE. Div Res was later relieved by Canadian units in that sector, and maintained contact with the Canadian XII Corps. CC "B" reported that Canadian 3rd Inf Div had taken positions near CC "B"'s assembly area. Div Arty placed heavy fire on SEINE river crossings and on an enemy assembly area north of the river. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn conducted maintenance for a half day and then at 1930B began a 48-mile movement from ECQUETOT to the XIX Corps concentration area in vicinity of MANTES GASSICOURT. Div Tns also began to move during the night to the new area.

For a record of tanks knocked out by 2nd Armd Div during the TOUOVRE-ELBEUF offensive, see ANNEX III.

[REDACTED]


27 28 AUGUST

During this period the 2d Armd Div moved from vicinity of ELBEUF and LE NEUBOURG to an assembly area west of MANTES GASSICOURT in preparation for future operations. All units closed in the new area by 280600B. Maintenance and reorganization were conducted during the remainder of the period. Small elements of CC "B" crossed the SEINE River and moved to an area north of ST MARTIN LA GARENNE. The 2d Armd Div was detached from XIX Corps at 280800B and attached to XV Corps.

PHASE III THE BEAUVAIS-MONTDIDIER PURSUIT 29 TO 31 AUGUST

The 2d Armd Div was ordered by XV Corps to cross the SEINE and take up pursuit of the withdrawing enemy. Marching to the northeast and north elements of 2d Armd Div covered more than 60 miles in 3 days, reaching an area between BEAUVAIS and MONTDIDIER. Vast amounts of equipment were destroyed; many enemy vehicle columns were overrun. Hundreds of enemy were killed and captured. This phase of 2d Armd Div operations continued through 2 Sep 1944 when the Div arrived at an assembly area astride the Belgian border.

29 AUGUST

CC "B" attacked on 29 Aug through lines of the 79th Inf Div and advanced north to seize high ground beyond LIMAY. 1st Bn 67th AR was detached from Div Res and attached to CC "B". Good progress was made against light resistance and CC "B" advanced to the vicinity of ARTHIES before the close of the period, leading elements reaching MAGNY EN VEXIN. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn crossed the SEINE at ROSNY SUR SEINE, passed through CC "B", and reconnoitered to the front of the Div zone. Co E 17th Armd Engr Bn furnished treadway equipment to 82nd Engr Bn for a bridge across the SEINE at MEULAN. Rcn Co 66th AR crossed the SEINE to an area in rear of CC "B". 2d Armd Div was relieved from XV Corps and attached again to XIX Corps at 291200B after CC "B" had accomplished its mission in the XV Corps zone. Units of the Div not engaged or moving conducted maintenance and reorganization in the vicinity of MANTES GASSICOURT.

30 AUGUST

CC "A" was still in its assembly area near MANTES GASSICOURT at the start of the period. CC "A" moved out at 0630B, crossed the SEINE River at ROSNY SUR SEINE and advanced in its zone to come abreast of CC "B". Other combat elements of the Div followed CC "A" across the SEINE. CC "B" attacked at 0700B after being delayed in a fire fight which developed around its positions during the night. CC "B" advanced rapidly against light resistance and forced a bridge-head across the EPTE River under mortar and artillery fire. The attack continued through CHAUMONT to an area southeast of GISORS - a 12 mile advance. CC "A" advanced in its zone to the left of CC "B", passed east of GISORS in an attack to the north and reached a point 8 miles south of BEAUVAIS at the close of the period. 82nd Armd Rcn Bn elements took 150 prisoners during the day and reached the BACHVILLERS-AUTEUIL area, 6 miles south of BEAUVAIS. Div Res units held an area near CHAUMONT after moving initially in rear of CC "A".

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31 AUGUST

82nd Armd Rcn Bn moved out rapidly on 31 Aug in advance of the division. By nightfall an area north of MONTDIDIER was held, comprising a 40 mile advance. Both CC "A" and CC "B" pushed ahead steadily in their sectors, bypassing resistance wherever necessary. CC "A" had little opposition and advanced five miles north of MONTDIDIER by the close of the day. CC "B" was held up by enemy infantry and anti-tank guns east of BEAUVAIS, but advanced to points 4 miles southwest of MONTDIDIER before consolidating for the night. Div Res, with 1st Bn 66th AR and 1st Bn 67th AR attached, advanced along an axis between the two combat commands and reached a point 15 miles northeast of BEAUVAIS.

Major changes in Div personnel were the transfer of Brig Gen Maurice Rose, Commanding General CC "A", to the 3rd Armd Div as Commanding General on 7 Aug, and assignment of Col John H. Collier who had commanded the 66th AR as CO, CC "A". Lt Col William M. Stokes Jr. assumed command of 66th AR. Col Thomas A. Roberts, Div Arty Commander, was killed on 4 Aug while adjusting artillery fire from his tank near ST SEVER CALVADOS. Lt Col Carl I. Hutton, formerly CO 14th Armd FA Bn, became Div Arty Commander. Lt Col Jesse M. Hawkins, A C of S, G 2 of 2d Armd Div, was killed in action on 31 Aug. Lt Col Hugh M. Exton who had been wounded in action on 29 July resumed command of 78th Armd FA Bn on 30 Aug, relieving Maj Harold G. Maynard. Maj Wilson M. Hawkins became executive officer of CC "A", succeeding Lt Col Benjamin M. Bailey, who was killed on 24 August.

Monthly reports of August operations were received from 702nd TD Bn and 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP). 702nd TD Bn reported destroying one Mk III tank, 12 Mk IV tanks, 12 MK V tanks, one French Hotchkiss tank, 6 armored cars, 6 trucks, one AT gun, 4 reconnaissance vehicles and one motorcycle. The Bn captured two enemy officers and 155 enlisted men during August operations. Casualties of 702nd TD Bn were two officers and 6 men killed, 4 officers and 62 men wounded. The 195th AAA Bn engaged two flights of enemy planes and took part in ground action. The Bn captured 44 prisoners and lost one man killed and two wounded.

ANNEX I Troop assignments for operations 6 Aug to 15 Aug 1944

COMBAT COMMAND "A"

Hq, CC "A"
66th Armd Regt
Co A, 17th Armd Engr Bn
Co A, 48th Armd Med Bn
14th Armd FA Bn
One Bn, 119th Inf Regt
Co D, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
Det Maint Bn, 2nd Armd Div

COMBAT COMMAND "B"

Hq CC "B"
67th Armd Regt (less 3rd Bn)
Co B, 17th Armd Engr Bn
Co B, 48th Armd Med Bn
78th Armd FA Bn
1st and 3rd Bns, 41st Armd Inf Regt
Co A, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
Det Maint Bn, 2nd Armd Div

DIVISION RESERVE

41st Armd Inf Regt (less 1st and
3rd Bns)(less Co E)
3rd Bn, 67th Armd Regt
Co C, 48th Armd Med Bn

DIVISION CONTROL

Hq and Hq Co, 2d Armd Div
Co E, 41st Armd Inf Regt
142d Armd Sig Co
702nd TD Bn
82nd Armd Rcn Bn
113th Cav Rcn Sqdn
17th Armd Engr Bn (less 4 Cos)
Div Tns

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Hq Sec Div Arty
92nd Armd FA Bn
62nd Armd FA Bn
65th Armd FA Bn
258th FA Bn
Attached AAA units

ANNEX II Troop list 18 Aug 1944

CC "A"

Hq CC "A"
66th Armd Regt
2nd Bn, 41st AIR
14th Armd FA Bn
Co A, 48th Armd Med Bn
Det Maint Bn, 2d Armd Div
Co A, 17th Armd Engr Bn
Btry D, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
Co A, 702nd TD Bn (SP)

CC "B"

Hq CC "B"
67th Armd Regt (less 1st Bn)
1st Bn, 41st AIR
78th Armd FA Bn
Co B, 48th Armd Med Bn
Det Maint Bn, 2d Armd Div
Co B, 17th Armd Engr Bn
Btry A, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP)
702nd TD Bn (SP) (Less Co A)

DIV RES

41st AIR (less 1st and 3rd Bns)
1st Bn, 67th Armd Regt
Co C, 48th Armd Med Bn
99th Sep Inf Bn (Mtzd)

DIV ARTY

Hq, Div Arty
92nd Armd FA Bn (w/Btry C (less 3
sects) 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP))
65th Armd FA Bn
258th Armd FA Bn

DIV CONTROL

Hq and Hq Co, 2d Armd Div
(w/142nd Armd Sig Co)
(w/Co I, 41st AIR, Hq 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP), 3 Sects, Btry C, 195th
AAA (AW) Bn (SP))
17th Armd Engr Bn (less 4 cos)
82nd Armd Rcn Bn (w/Co C, 17th Armd Engr Bn (less 1 plat)
Div Tns (-) (w/Co E, 17th Armd Engr Bn, Btry B, 195th AAA (AW) Bn (SP))

ANNEX III

**ENEMY TANKS DESTROYED IN TOUROVRE ELBEUF OFFENSIVE
(20 to 26 Aug 1944)**

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Type of tank</u>	<u>Mk VI</u>	<u>Mk V</u>	<u>Mk IV or lower</u>	<u>Total</u>
CC "A"		3	18	21	42
CC "B"		1	8	35	44
82nd Armd Rcn Bn		0	1	5	6
Div Res		0	1	0	1
Totals		4	28	61	93

[REDACTED]

AIR SUPPORT ANNEX TO AFTER ACTION REPORT, AUGUST 1944.

Throughout Divisional operations in August 1944, air support operated with assault elements. Ground control of fighter bombers was maintained in each Combat Command through the use of VHF radios installed in medium tanks. Each ground control station was manned both by a Ground Force officer and an Air Corps fighter pilot.

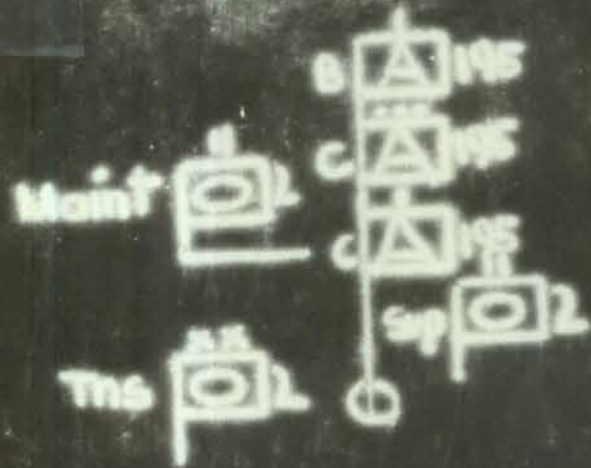
Except during the latter part of the month, weather conditions were generally favorable for flying operations, and air support materially aided the Div in accomplishing its assigned missions. During the GER-BARENTON-DOMFRONT operation (7 to 15 Aug) many enemy tanks and guns were destroyed or neutralized by dive bombing; infantry and transport of all types were strafed.

The TOUROURE-ELBEUF OFFENSIVE (20 to 26 Aug) was well supported by planes. Column cover was flown regularly, except on 21 Aug when inclement weather curtailed air operations. Toward the end of this operation many barges transporting enemy troops, attempting to escape across the SEINE River in the ELBEUF area, were sunk or damaged by fighter bombers. Planes were of substantial assistance in overcoming stubborn enemy resistance around ELBEUF. Many tanks and AT guns were destroyed.

During the BEAUVAIS-MONTDIDIER pursuit (29 to 31 Aug) much of the available air cover was diverted to the strafing and bombing of enemy traffic fleeing to the northeast. Cover over the immediate vicinity of our columns was light as enemy resistance to our advance was for the most part ineffective.

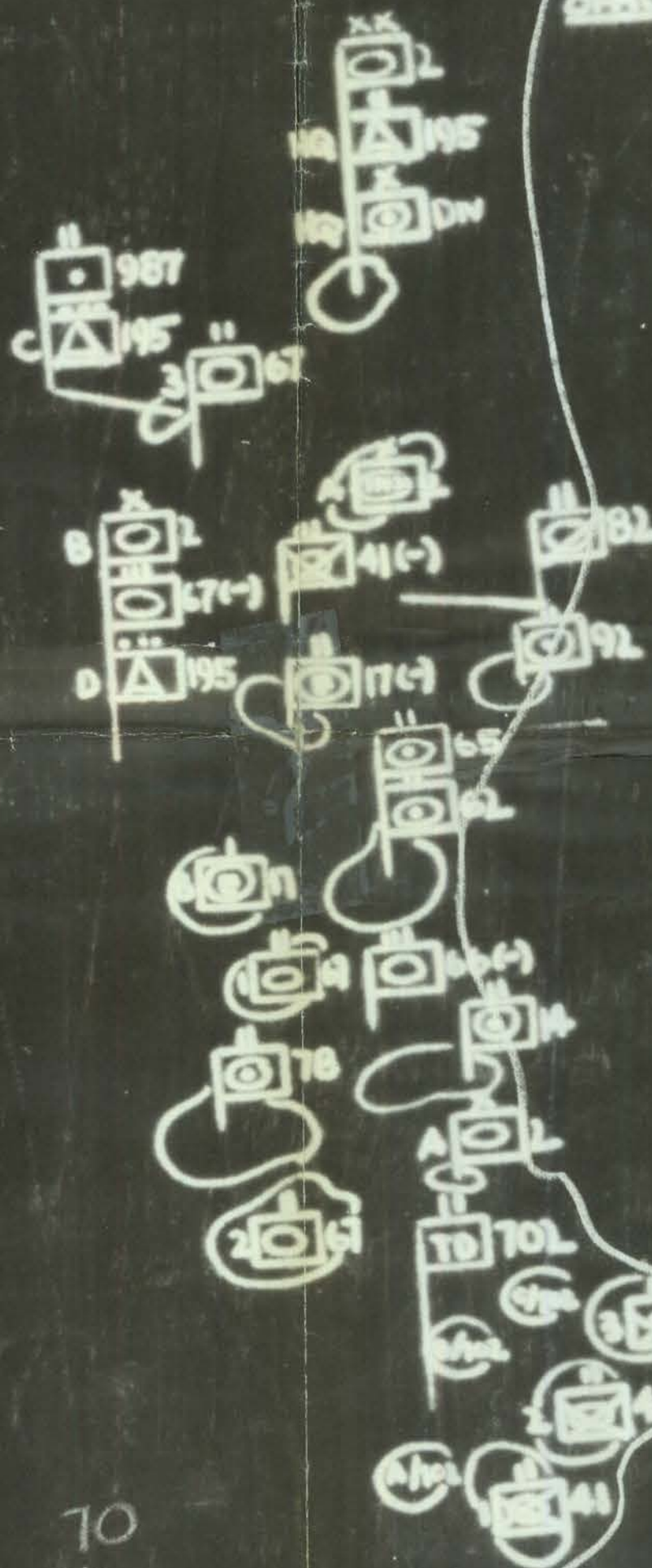
[REDACTED]

21



48(-)

Mod France GSGS 4150
1/50,000



OVERLAY To ACCOMPANY
After Action Report For July
012400Z JULY 1944

410 24 AB
012400Z JULY 44

BROOKS
Cmdg

OFFICIAL

Jenna
Danna
C-2

70

80

70

60

First
US

Second
BT

43

LEGEND:

→ Route of Advance 2^d AD G-CC-A

--- " " " " CC-A

--- Main Points of Contact

○ Assembly Areas

Map Ref:

Europe (AIR) GSGS 4072
1/500,000 Sheet NW45/2

