

HEADQUARTERS
814th Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP)

2 Nov 1944

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 22 Oct-31 Oct

CCA 7AD (A Co., 814 TD Bn.)

- 22-25 Oct - Remained in Indirect Fire positions. No missions.
- 24-26 Oct - No change except on 24 Oct Mortar Crew fired 20 rounds of HF in conjunction with Tp D, 87th Rcn. One MG and 2 Pill Boxes were hit.
- 27-28 Oct - Second platoon attached to 40th Tk Bn on 27 Oct and moved to position 3 miles North of Nederweert. No missions for balance of Co.
- 29-31 Oct - *

Div Tps. 7AD (814 TD Bn minus A Co.)

- 22-24 Oct - 814 TD-Remained in bivouac, vicinity Zommeren. No missions. Cont'd training.
- 25 Oct - Rcn. Co. attached to CCA and rel'd. D Tp 87 Rcn vicinity Weert (608950) at 0830. Balance 814 TD (-) moved to billets in Asten.
- 26 Oct - No missions.
- 27 Oct - Asten shelled 0700 hours. B and C companies alerted 0800 hours. Plans and reconnaissance made to defend against armor counterattacks North from Meijel. C company attached to TF WIMPLE, CCR, at 1200 hours and moved to positions vicinity Liesel-Heitrak. First Platoon, B Co., attached to TF CHAPPUIS, CCR, 1430 hours.
- 28 Oct - Second platoon B Co. attached to TF CHAPPUIS, CCR, 0100 hours. Third platoon B Co. attached to TF CHAPPUIS, CCR, 1300 hours. Enemy planes dropped anti-personnel bombs 400 yards West of 814 CP about 1950 hours. Injured 6 men off 440th FA airstrip.
- 29 Oct - 814 TD (-) moved to Zommeren (588115) at 1915 hours.
- 30 Oct - 814 TD (-) moved 3 miles South of Maarheeze (545015) at 1015 hours. B company returned to Bn control at 1610 hours.
- 31 Oct - No missions.

CCA 7AD (Rcn Co., 814 TD)

- 25 Oct - Rcn Co. rel'd Tp D, 87 Rcn at 0830, vicinity Weert (608950) and began patrolling missions.
 - 1st Plat: From bivouac area South to Nearitter; return via Zwartbroek, Hunsel, Ittervoert.
 - 2nd Plat: From bivouac area South along MSR to Stamproij and return.
 - 3rd Plat: From bivouac area to Weert and Nederweert and return.
 - Pion. Plt: In reserve.

* Reports not available.

26-27 Oct - No change.

28 - First and third platoons exchanged missions. Entire first platoon remained at Road Block in Nederweert. (613009) because of enemy threat. Pioneer platoon laid Booby traps in this vicinity. First platoon killed 4 Germans with MG and 37 fire vicinity of road block. Second platoon given additional mission of supporting first platoon in Nederweert.

29-31 Oct - *

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

27-31 Oct - At 1425 hours first platoon, B Co., moved to previously selected position and was attached to TF CHAPPUIS, CCR. Lt Col Chappuis ordered first platoon to move about 1 mile south on Aston-Midjel road to establish a road block (see overlay #1). Platoon leader was ordered to reconnoiter 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 0100 hours the second platoon 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 platoon 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 platoon leader accompanied Lt Tavlinisky in a 1/4 ton, stopping at first platoon position and alerting #1 gun to move south slowly and meet them when they returned from reconnaissance. 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 companies of the 48th AIB were also receiving direct fire from enemy tanks to their south. The officers returned to meet the destroyer. First Platoon leader took a position on the outside of the destroyer so as to guide it in the dark. Second platoon leader backed his 1/4-ton behind the destroyer and followed it as it moved. Upon arriving near the intended position at 0400, first platoon leader saw small arms and machine gun fire about 200 yards ahead and halted his M-10. An Infantry soldier ran up and reported that this fire was coming from a German tank on the road. First platoon 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 turret. The M-10 slipped off into the ditch on the east side of the road. The gunner was seriously wounded and the loader was slightly wounded. The Germans were now firing with mortars, machine guns, and small arms. The second platoon leader and his driver had taken cover in the ditch but the driver was killed. First platoon leader called second platoon leader to bring up the 1/4-ton to evacuate the gunner. The enemy continued intense fire but the M-10 crew and officers succeeded in removing the gunner. The platoon then returned to their platoons. Tiger tanks were reported moving North from about where #1 destroyer, first platoon, had been abandoned and Lt Col Chappuis ordered an M-10 forward to deal with them.

Second platoon leader told him that this employment 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 Lt Col Chappuis himself. Second platoon leader undertook to knock down the church at 1500 in Newark (overlay #3). This was accomplished with about 30 hits, around 0900 hours. #4 gun, first platoon, opened fire at Tiger 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 #3). The flat terrain off the road was soft and #3 gun, second platoon, obtained some cover by backing off the secondary road and ballying his tank down the field.

Number four gun, third platoon, attached to first platoon, spotted an enemy tank and fired until he set it on fire (overlay #3). Number four gun, first platoon, knocked out an unidentified vehicle (presumably a tank, according to Infantry reports) in about the same vicinity as the one with which he was dueling. Enemy fire at first platoon's position was heavy enough to cause supporting tank crews to abandon their vehicles. At least 4 medium tanks of the 17th Tk Bn and 5 half-tracks of 48th AIB were 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 ass't driver in face, head, and right arm. First platoon leader then ordered the Security Section and the balance of his knocked out TD crews to the rear. The 1-1/2-ton security truck moved cross-country West of the road but was stuck about 1,000 yards North of first platoon's position. The crew moved back on foot to Co. "B", 814 TD CP, which had been established at 48th AIB CP at about 1000 hours. Later in the day Artillery fire damaged the 1-1/2-ton truck.

The first platoon leader received a report about 1100 that his M-10 had been evacuated by the Germans in spite of American Artillery fire in that area. Between 1200 and 1230 hours three heavy artillery concentrations were delivered by the enemy in the area occupied by Co. "B" CP. (See overlay #4). During the third concentration Co. Cdr. was seriously wounded and his M-20 crew were slightly wounded. All four were evacuated immediately.

At 1300 hours the third platoon was attached to CCR and third platoon leader was given command of the company. Platoon occupied reserve positions shown on overlay #4. Around 1400 four or five German tanks supporting a deployed Infantry attack moved North on the Aston-Majal road (see overlay #4) and the tanks fired on #4 gun, third platoon destroyer damaging the building behind which the destroyer had taken cover. When German artillery was also directed at this position Lt Tawlinsky went 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 platoon, had attempted to move back cross-country without orders and was now stuck near the 1-1/2-ton security truck. Lt Col. Chappuis ordered another destroyer immediately to the position originally held by #4 gun, third platoon. Second platoon leader ordered #4 gun, second platoon, back down the road to stay there until he personally ordered them out. In spite of German direct fire on the road all day, #4 gun, second platoon, arrived at the advanced position about 1615.

During the day small arms fire from the East of second platoon's position had been heavy and continued during the night. Around midnight Bn Maintenance accomplished the evacuation of #4 gun, third platoon, and the 1-1/2-ton security truck. Small arms and mortar fire was heavy. By 0500 hours "C" Co. 48th AIB dug in East of second platoon's position. (See overlay #5). During the night 5 light tanks of the 87th protected his East flank, withdrawing behind him ^{at daylight} ~~the night and~~ By daylight there were practically no supporting troops near #4 gun, second platoon's position.

Around 0700 approximately 30 enemy Infantry moved to within 400 yards of East flank but the light tanks drove them off. About 0730 5 medium tanks from CCB attempting to establish Liaison with CCR arrived near second platoon leaders position and he used them to strengthen his west flank. At approximately the same time 3 Mk VI tanks with Infantry were reported by 48th AIB, to be moving in on second platoon's east flank. The tanks overran C Co, 48 AIB position and one continued west across the road and out across country until it became mired. One of CCB's medium tanks had moved forward and the second platoon observed 5 hits from its 76 bounce off. #3 gun, second platoon fired 3 rounds in the turret and the Tiger began to smoke. Its crew escaped. The other 2 Mk VI's took cover behind buildings to the front of the second platoon's position and subsequently withdrew under the smoke and confusion. The 48th AIB moved its forward CP back near the second platoon's position and reorganized the remnants of "C" Company. The tanks from CCB were ordered back to their zone and later 4 medium tanks from Co. C, 17 Tk Bn moved up behind the TDs. In the meantime #4 gun, second platoon, radioed 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 second platoon leader told him to try it down the road as the destroyer would get stuck going cross-country on either side of the road.

While Lt Rose was listening on the radio he could hear the .50 cal. firing. With the gun in the rear position the driver swung the M-10 out on the road. At 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 from the second platoon position, the M-10 took a direct 82 hit in the armor plate around the gun tube splitting the armor and wounding all five of the crew. The gunner had planned to fire a round of smoke 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 platoon's position where he was forced to stop because the tank was burning. Before additional help could reach him, he climbed in the turret and beating the fire with his hands, attempted to lift out the gunner. Men from the third platoon 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 platoon position. (See overlay #6). When 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 platoon, 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 platoon, 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 crew member dismounted. #3 gun, second platoon's destroyer hit the Tiger 4 times in the side. The Tiger's crew climbed out and were killed by the Infantry. The Tiger blew up. The third Mk VI moved west off the road and attempted to take cover behind a farm building. #3 gun, second platoon, threw ten rounds at it and the Tiger blew up. The fourth Mk VI by this time had withdrawn in the smoke and confusion. Later in the morning Tigers succeeded in knocking out a medium tank (75mm) near second platoon's position. Friendly artillery was called for in view of the enemy's repeated attempts to force the crossroad.

In the early afternoon 2 more Tiger tanks attempted to come up the same road (see overlay #6). Second platoon leader had moved a tank with a 76mm gun from Co. C, 17 Tk Bn, up to replace his burned out destroyer. ^{This tank opened fire on the leading tank and hit it 3 times in the turret.} #2 and #3 guns both 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 back. There were now 3 Mk VI's knocked out within 10 yards of each other on the

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road which formed an effective road block covered by fire from second platoon's guns. Ammunition was low so first platoon leader made a quick trip back to Astan and brought back 30 rounds in 1/4-ton. This ammunition was loaded 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 overlay #6). Their apparent plan was to attempt an end run with the two leading tanks while the 4 behind provided overwatching fire. The last two had fairly good cover. #2 gun turned around so that he could shoot East from behind the building he was using for cover and the gunner opened fire. In 4 or 5 rounds he blew up the leading tank. After he had put 1 round in the second tank, the overwatching 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 loaded 1 more round himself, hit the tank again, causing it to blow up, slipped down into the driver's seat and backed the M-10 to a cover position on the other side of the building. While #2 M-10 was engaging the two leading tanks, #3 destroyer got two hits on the turret of the nearest overwatching tank. Friendly artillery was also landing in the area and the turret was hit again. The German crew escaped. The other 3 overwatching tanks fired on Sgt Ferrozze's #3 gun in its exposed position wounding the loader and causing the destroyer to burn. The overwatching tanks withdrew.

Lts Lazaros, 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 recovered the third one. The first and second platoon leaders next put out 4 smoke pots to screen while #2 tank was backed out of the way and #1 destroyer, third platoon, was brought up. Just as it was dusk a German tank was heard moving in the road towards the 3 knocked out Tigers that formed the road block. Artillery fire was called for and the tank withdrew. Co. Cdr. was informed early in the evening that CCR was being relieved by elements of the 15th Scotch Division. He ordered second platoon leader back to the rear and at 0130 the relief was effected, and the five remaining TD's moved back to Zambren.

On 30 Oct 1944 "B" Co. moved to bivouac area 3 miles South of Marhezzo for reorganization and maintenance. No change on 31 October. Four M-10's had been totally destroyed (3 burned; 1 captured); one 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 - Reconnaissance of positions in Liesel-Heittrak area (see overlay #1) was completed by Co. Cdr. and Plat. Ldrs. by noon, 27 Oct 1944. C Company was attached to TF WEMPLE at 1200 hours and platoons moved from Astan toward their positions. Co. Cdr. remained at Heittrak which the enemy were shelling and was told by 87 Ron that 3 Mk VI tanks were moving West from vicinity of Helenaven (see overlay #7). Co. Cdr. returned to Liesel and his vehicle was hit by direct 88 fire (no casualties). Second platoon was warned about the 3 Tiger tanks and ordered into position. First and third platoons moved to Heittrak and Liesel as planned although Col. Wemple at first ordered both units to Heittrak. (Co. Cdr. urged him to protect Liesel as it was a key point in the road net and defense system).

About 1350 87 Ron reported that a Mk VI had been disabled by one of their M-8's about 1200 yards from second platoon position and that the M-8 had withdrawn because a second Tiger had come up behind the first. #1 Destroyer moved forward (see overlay #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 Destroyer fired about 25 rounds APC at the first Tiger, and then raked the road with HE and APC in an attempt to hit the second Tiger which had withdrawn or enemy Infantry that might be with the tanks. Effects of this fire could not be determined. #1 gun then resumed its original position. 87 men reported two Tigers moving South about 1400. Second platoon established their security (see overlay #7) and the balance of the day was without action except for artillery fire.

In Liesel, third platoon occupied position in the southern 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. Cdr. the third platoon was ordered to Heitrek by TF WEMPLE arriving there about 1730.

In vicinity of Heitrek, first platoon had gone into position to protect TF WEMPLE's left flank (see overlay #7). About 1500 #2 destroyer received small arms fire from the East. A high muzzle velocity gun fired in the platoon position at the same time and was silenced by 4 rounds APC, 10 rounds HE from #4 gun. The platoon 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 Heitrek from the South and called "Surrender my company". Fire was held to prevent disclosure of positions, and the German disappeared. 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 platoon position local security was reinforced by security section from the third platoon about 1700 hours, it not being considered wise to take the unarmored vehicles into Heitrek because of artillery fire. An assault gun platoon had arrived during the afternoon and was also used to further protect the road junction (See overlay #7).

About 0400 hours a German patrol of about 8 men approached the second platoon's security from the East. Two of them were wounded by security section machine gun fire and later captured. Around 0530 a German half-track (personnel carrier) was identified moving on the road from the East. The nearest assault gun was told by telephone to fire but failed to do so. Machine gun fire from the security section wounded some of the Germans as they were heard to scream. The half-track paused a moment at the road junction then turned North and moved at high speed towards Liesel. About 45 minutes later it returned on the same road and the second platoon security hit it in the rear with a bazooka and machine gun fire. The half-track, however, continued to move and disappeared down the road towards Hoogbrug.

Shortly after daylight, 28 Oct, 40 to 50 Germans carrying mortars and machine guns were observed moving up the same road towards the second platoon. #1 and #2 destroyers and an assault gun moved forward a few hundred yards and fired HE at 800 yards. The enemy Infantry dispersed.

At 0800 CCB planned to attack East astride the road to Hoogbrug with 2 companies of Infantry supported by tanks. Second platoon was to protect their left flank, advancing behind their tanks. (See overlay #9). Just as the Infantry companies moved East from the second platoon's position a terrific mortar barrage was laid by the Germans on the road junction. The fire was concentrated in a small area and was so intense that the road junction was completely obscured to the Company Commander and his staff. A 1/4-ton and a 1-ton truck of C Company

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were badly damaged. One of the third platoon machine guns received a direct hit and a 23rd Infantry half-track was destroyed.

CCB's attack pushed on and the second platoon deployed and followed. 10 of 12 enemy Infantry moving southeast were killed or wounded by tank fire from the TD's at 2100 yards with the fuze cut to 25 seconds. A machine gun delivered heavy fire on a medium tank ahead of #3 destroyer. #1 spotted a German getting in a foxhole, he fired HE, and in a few minutes the machine gun fire ceased. Prisoners began straggling in and went to the rear without guards. The TD's fired on a house that looked like a fortification. More prisoners came in - about 100 by around 1045 hours.

However, the medium tanks on the right flank had been taking heavy losses and the attack bogged down. The second platoon moved back to its original position. During the period of this attack, the first and third platoons at Heitrek had been firing HE and HC at visible Infantry in the same area as the previous day. The second section of the third platoon also fired 25 rounds at the same church steeple in Neerkant that second platoon of B Company was firing on. After the steeple fell, about 1030, the third platoon guns were told to fire one round every 5 minutes for 50 minutes to keep the Germans off the base of the steeple that remained. The Germans continued to shell Heitrek and around 1400 #2 gun was hit in the breech block and evacuated after dark.

The medium tanks near Heitrek were being hit by high muzzle velocity projectiles and a foot reconnaissance to the East disclosed 3 Tigers bunched together about 1100 yards away. Detailed plans for bringing the destroyers into position were made and by 1700, #1, 3, and 4 destroyers with a medium tank (76 mm gun) moved forward by concealed routes. The Co. Cdr. crawled through the woods to where he could observe. On arriving in position (see overlay) all guns opened fire simultaneously. Two Tigers were seen to be definitely knocked out but did not burn. The third was hit but it could not be confirmed as knocked out. #4 fired 10 rounds; #1, 17 rounds; #3, 5 rounds and the medium tank, 4 rounds - all APC.

However, it soon became apparent that the 3 Tigers were not the only 88's in the vicinity. Tracer from farther North could be seen coming in, and before this new threat could be located the medium tank was set on fire (2 men wounded); #4 destroyer was hit in the right drive sprocket and the crew bailed out, #3 was hit, knocking out its left center bogie wheels but was still able to escape; and #1 backed off when 5 rounds of APC whistled over making it apparent that the enemy had him spotted.

After dark #1 destroyer moved to the second platoon position and #3 was evacuated to Asten. The enemy had continued to fire on #4 until it went up in flames.

The third platoon was now given a road block mission and moved into position by truck (see overlay #9). The mission was to block two secondary roads against attack from the East. #1 destroyer, third platoon had gone to Asten with motor trouble. Outposts were established and security dug in.

Both the second and third platoons received artillery fire during the night, one shell half burying some men in their fox holes at the second platoon position. A full scale barrage came down about 0530.

Around 0700 a German patrol approached the third platoon position from the South (see overlay). The third platoon leader and driver of #2 destroyer advanced toward them on foot in an effort to make them surrender and were wounded.

The platoon 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 flew up. A German bazooka man fired at #2 gun from back of a house (See overlay #9) and #3 gun swung around and gave him 1 round of HE. The crew of #2 gun moved far enough forward so that the gun commander could lift the wounded driver on the rear deck. The Plat. Ldr. lying on his back was too seriously wounded to be handled that way and he ordered the gun to keep firing and to send the Medics for him. #2 gun attempted to back up, hit a tree with the tube and the gun swung around, knocking the driver and the loader who was holding him off the rear deck. The Gun Commander loaded then up again and took them to the Medics. The platoon leader was evacuated by Co C aid men under heavy small arms fire.

The Co. Cndr. was told to hold his positions at all costs and that the 23 Inf. would ^{not} attack on the 29th of Oct. At the same time he was instructed to locate routes by which the destroyers could withdraw if CGB had to give up Liesel.

About 1000 the Germans attacked Liesel in force and the second platoon was ordered to move immediately to the West of the town to prevent their armor from breaking through towards Asten. A previously reconnoitered route (See overlay #10) was followed; the platoon split at Leensel with #1 and #2 guns going with the platoon leader into woods to the North and #4 destroyer and #1 of third platoon going East towards Liesel under the Co. Executive Officer.

The second platoon leader went on dismounted reconnaissance (see overlay) and spotted a Mk VI and enemy Infantry within 900 yards 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 personnel carrier (see overlay #10) appeared 200 yards south of the Mk VI. #2 gun pulled up again and knocked out both. First, the tank with 5 rounds causing it to blow up; second, the half-track with 3 rounds causing it to burn.

The platoon leader again went forward on dismounted reconnaissance. He saw a Mk VI near his last target with two Germans standing in front of it. #2 destroyer fired one round of HE at the Germans suspecting they were officers or tank commanders; immediately raised the range 100 yards and knocked out the tank with 1 round. 4 more rounds were put in the Tiger but it did not burn. Range to all targets was between 800-900 yards. About 1200 hours 15-20 Germans were observed going into a house 100 yards East of the K.O. of Mk IV (see overlay #10). #2 destroyer blew out the walls of the house with 10 rounds HE and then put 1 round HE in the previously knocked out Tiger causing it to burn. #2 again withdrew to cover.

At about 1300 the platoon leader moved #1 and #2 to an alternate position (see overlay #6) because of direct fire from a tank (type unknown) 1000 yards to the north.

During this period the other section under the company executive officer was covering the main road from Liesel to Asten (See overlay #10). On dismounted reconnaissance around 1200 the officer saw a Mk IV burning South of Liesel (K.O. by medium tanks) and about 50 dismounted Germans coming South out of the town. Observing that they went into buildings he returned to the gun positions and took the buildings under fire with #1 gun, third platoon. 4 rounds of mortar fire landed near #1 gun; #1 knocked the mortar out. Each time that 2 or 3 Germans got together, 1 round of HE was dropped in on them.

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CCB prepared to attack Liesel with dismantled Engineers and Tanks and about 1330 TD's were ordered to support the attack. Positions to accomplish this were in the open and the platoon leader reported that there was still a tank firing from the North that should be knocked out first. The destroyers were ordered to move to positions to support the attack (see overlay #10) and shortly after arriving there at 1400 #2 destroyer was hit and burned. The driver was killed and the other crew members and 1 security man wounded. #1 Destroyer moved up to shield them from small arms fire and picked up the four men most seriously hurt. #4 evacuated the other men. No aid men were available so the platoon leader evacuated the 4 wounded to the aid station in #1 destroyer. When he returned he found #1 destroyer, third platoon back from Asten where it had gone for repairs, and put it in position (see overlay #10). He learned that #1 destroyer, first platoon had been knocked out by 5 rounds of 88 AP from the East about 1530. The dismantled crew had been fired on by 88 HE but had no casualties.

About 1600 a Tiger was spotted 1300 yards to the East. It was probably the gun that knocked out #1, first platoon. #1, second platoon and #1, third platoon, hit it with 5 rounds each and destroyed it. #4, second platoon, moved near 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.

At the third platoon position, the road block mission continued during the morning. About noon a Tiger tank was reported to have moved out of Liesel and to be on the road about 700 yards South. #3 and #4 guns under the platoon Sgt moved North to block this or other vehicles with 6 medium tanks (see overlay #10). Plt. Ldr., first platoon, remained with security to maintain outposts at previous night's position. Because the Germans continued to shell the area and there were a good many Infantry wounded and 4 PW's for which no evacuation facilities were available, he sent in the 2 1-1/2-ton trucks with orders not to return. When the position was relieved at about 1900 his dismantled men went cross-country until out of small arms range and rode to the assembly area on tanks.

#1's 3 & 4 destroyers did not pick up the Tiger tank report at noon and remained at their new position until relieved. At about 1900 they moved en route previously reconnoitered (See overlay #10) to assembly area.

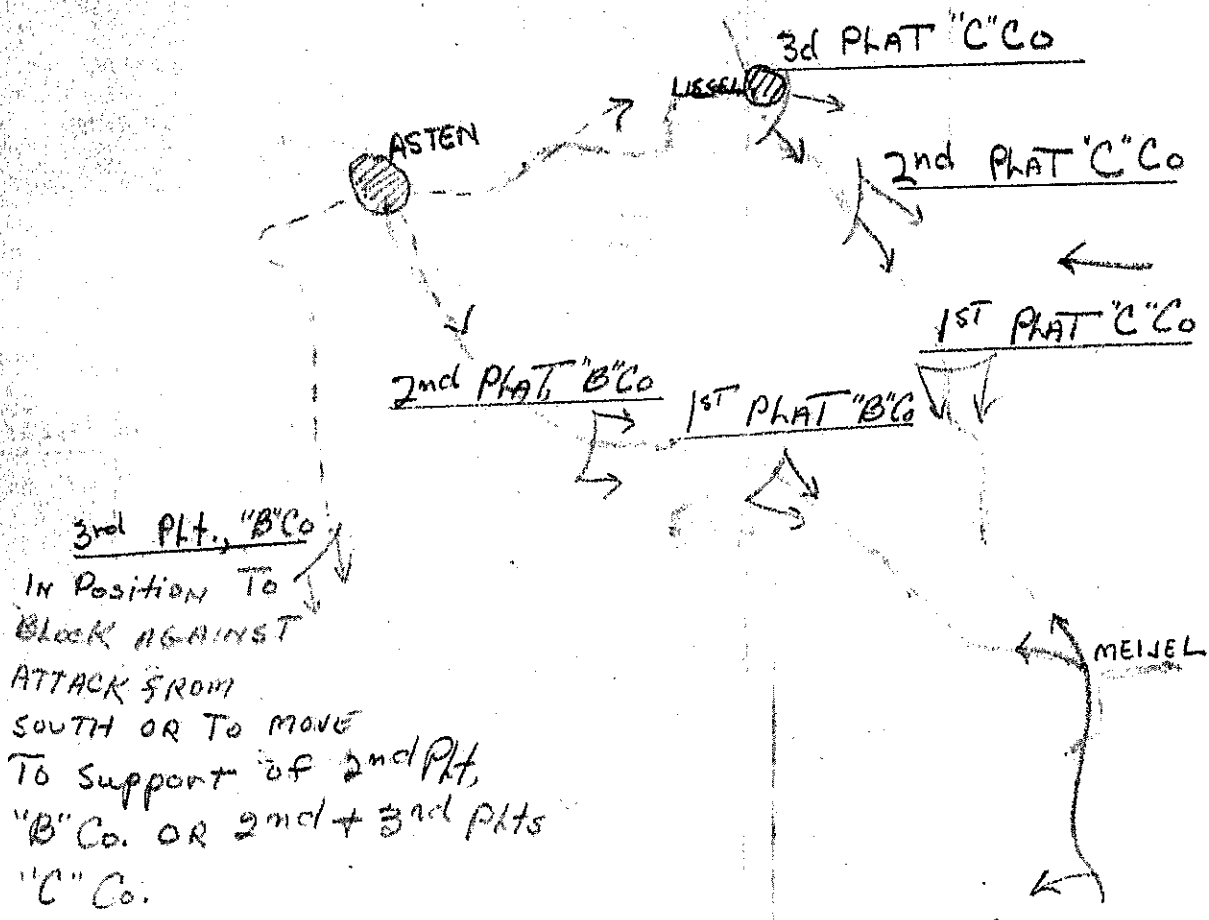
About 2100 Co. C moved with CCB to assembly position North of Weert. On 30 Oct the company was given road block missions South of Weert. No enemy contact was reported on this mission which continued through 1 November 1944.

Three (3) M-10's were totally destroyed (burned); 3 in Bn Shop; 6 available for action ~~action~~ ^{AFTER} 27-29 Oct.

Summary of
 operation, CO B
 814 TD BN
 27-29 OCT 44



20



3rd PLT. "B" Co
 IN POSITION TO
 BLOCK AGAINST
 ATTACK FROM
 SOUTH OR TO MOVE
 TO SUPPORT OF 2nd PLT.
 "B" Co. OR 2nd + 3rd PLTS
 "C" Co.

LEGEND
 = ROADS

70
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HQ 814 TD (-)
 PLAN FOR DEFENSE
 AGAINST ARMORED
 COUNTERATTACK FROM
 SOUTH, SOUTHEAST. AND EAST

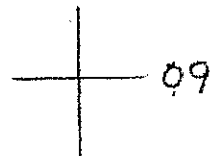
Rammes
 CAPT, FA

SHEET 11 OF 10



TO ASTEN

71



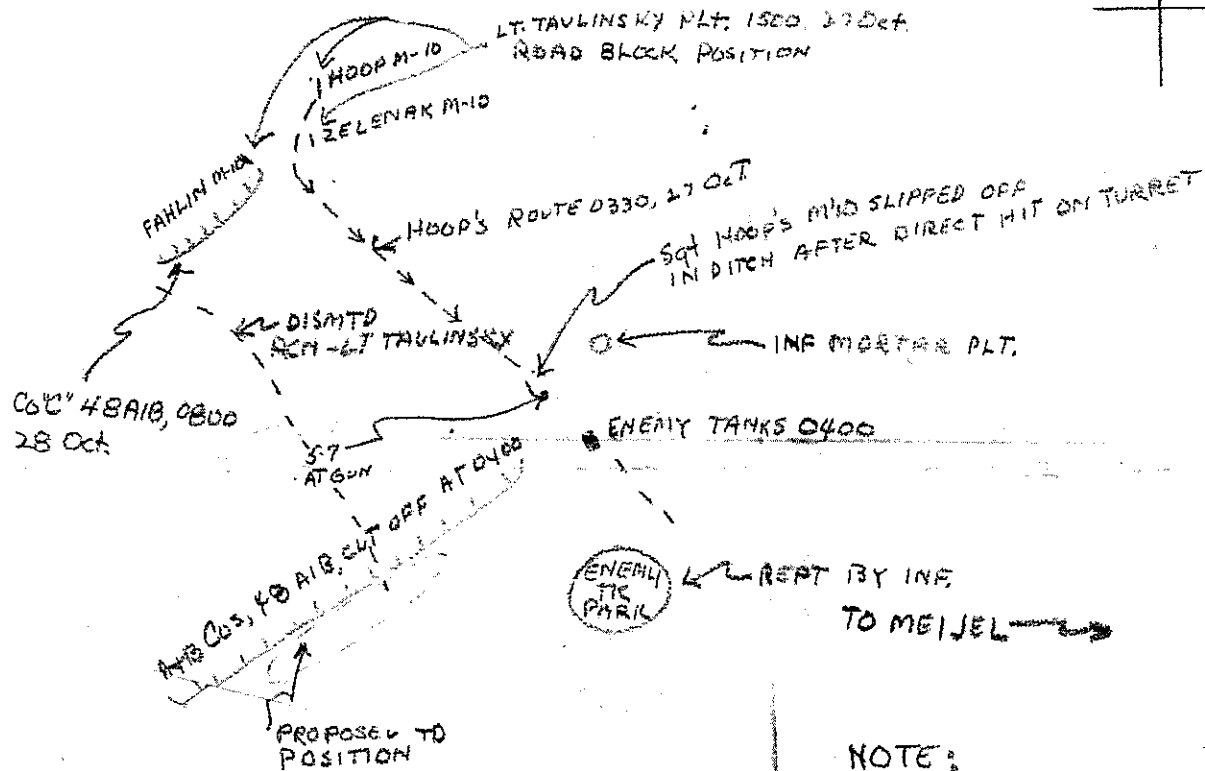
OVERLAY #2

TO ACCOMPANY
SUMMARY OF
OPERATIONS, CO. B
814TD BN.

27-29 Oct 44

ASTEN - NEDERWEERT

SHEETS - 1/23000



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NOTE:

- 1ST PLATOON CONSISTED OF:
- PLT LDR. - LT. TAULINSKY
- #1 GUN - SGT. HOOP
- #4 GUN - SGT. ZELENAK
- #4 GUN - 3RD PLT. - SGT. FAHLIN

LEGEND

= ROAD

LEGEND

= ROAD

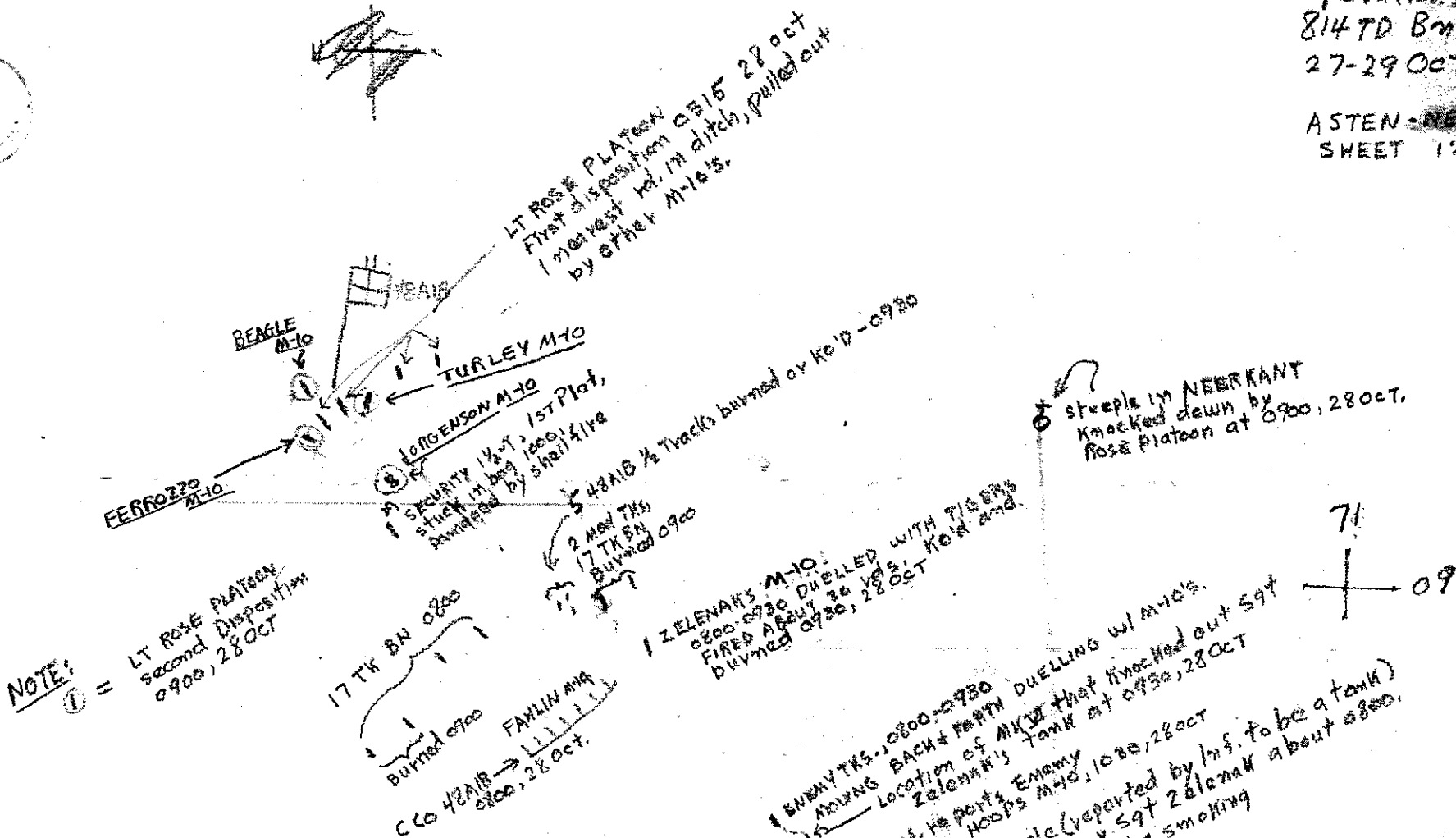
OVERLAY

To Accompany
Summary of
Operations
814 TD Bn
27-29 Oct

ASTEN - 05
SHEET 12



← TO ASTEN



NOTE:
① = LT ROSE PLATOON
second Disposition
0900, 28 OCT

NOTE:
SECOND PLATOON CONSISTED
OF
PLAT. LORILLT. ROSE
#1 GUN - Sgt. BEAGLE
#2 GUN - Sgt. TURLEY
#3 GUN - SGT. FERROZ
#4 GUN - CPL. JORGENSEN

ENEMY
TK 0850
(Unidentified
type) KO'D
by Sgt Fahlm M-10

TO MERSEL →

65
+ 07

71
+ 09

64



OVERLAY #4

To Accompany
Summary of
Operations, CO B
814 TD BN
27-29 Oct 44

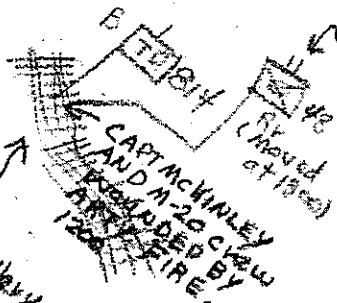
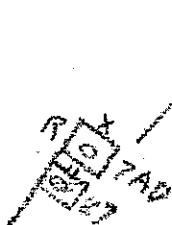
ASTEN-NEERKANT
SHEETS 1:25000



3d Plat
Pos. at
1700

COL. CHAPPUIS

MAJ. FRAZIER



BECKLE M-10

TURLEY M-10

FERRAZZO M-10

JORGENSEN M-10
UNTIL 1615, 28 Oct.

42 RV

Artillery in
barages in
this area
1230-1300 hrs.

About 150
enemy Inf.
reported here 1500
Small arms fire
on Resel's platoon

M-10 & 1/2-T
over. Under
fire by Lt
Cook & Tavlinisky
with 10-T wreckage.
during night of 28-29 Oct.

FARLIN M-10
STUCK TRYING
TO WITHDRAW
W/O ORDER
TOOK FIRING
MECHANISM
WITH HIM.

FARLIN M-10
REPLACED BY JORGENSEN

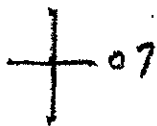
C Co. #2A1B
started withdrawing
at 1400 hrs.

40v5TKs supported
Inf. attacked
about 1400, 28 Oct.
TKs remained up
but TKs withdrew.

Note: A & B Cos, 42 Inf.
worked back to
C Co, 42 Inf pos.
during day

3d. Plat
Position at
1500 hrs, 28 Oct.

65



70

07

TO MEIJEL

TO ACCOMPANY SUMMARY
 OF OPERATIONS, Co "B"
 814 TD BN
 27-29 OCT 44
 ASTEN-NEDERWEERT SHEETS
 1:25,000

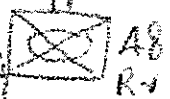


C Co A8 AIB DUG IN
 HERE BY 0500
 INCLUDING MG PLATOON

5LT TANKS
 ST RGN HERE
 DURING NIGHT
 MOVED BEHIND
 TDS AT DAY
 LIGHT

3RD PLATOON
 IN RESERVE
 POSITION

FAHLIN TK HGR UNABLE
 TO FIRE BECAUSE FAHLIN HAD
 FIRING MECHANISM AT JORGENSEN'S
 POSITION. FAHLIN CAME BACK ON
 FOOT. STARTED AT 0800;
 ARRIVED 1700



JORGENSEN M-10 ON
 FIRE; CREW WOUNDED. ALL
 CREW MEMBERS EVACUATED
 HERE, FIRE PUT OUT,
 TANK EVACUATED

BEAGLE M-10 TURLEY M-10

ABOUT 30 INF
 AT 0750 ENGAGED
 BY LT TRS 87 REN

ROUTE OF 3 MK VI + 1 INF
 0800

2 MK VI HID IN
 HOUSES 0800 MOVED
 SOUTH

SMALL ARMS
 FIRE ALL NIGHT

MK VI WENT THROUGH INF,
 CROSSED ROAD, GOT STUCK IN
 RUB - KO'D BY M10 AT 0800
 HIT IN TURRET BY
 FERROZZO (APPROX 3 RDS)
 CREW ESCAPED, TK
 SMOKE BUT DID
 NOT BURN COMPLETELY

5 MED TKS 31 TK BN, CCB
 IN THIS AREA AT 0730. I
 ASSISTED IN FIRING ON
 TIGER. PULLED OUT ON
 CCB BORDER AROUND 0900

INF CP
 MOVED BACK FROM
 TO HERE ABOUT
 0830

JORGENSEN M-10 GOT THIS FAR BEFORE BEING
 HIT. JORGENSEN FIRED WHILE MOVING
 PROBABLY HIT BY MK VI

A+B 48 AIB WITHDRAWING
 FIRED ON BY FRIENDLY TROOPS

JORGENSEN M-10 165 28 OCT
 WITHDREW 0830 29 OCT

A+B COS 48 AIB PULLED BACK
 AROUND 0300. M10 REPORTED IT
 WAS SURROUNDED BY GERMAN INFANTRY
 AT 0830

A TIGER TKS FOLLOWING
 JORGENSEN UP ROAD

LEGEND

= ROAD

07

TO
 MEIN

Reproduced at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

SECRET

= ROAD



THIRD OF 4 MKII's TOOK COVER BEHIND BLDG ON WEST SIDE OF ROAD. BLEW UP AFTER 10 ROUNDS FROM FERROZZO.

FIRST OF 4 MKII's STUCK IN DITCH ON WEST SIDE OF ROAD. HIT IN SIDE BY TURLEY. DID NOT BURN

SECOND OF 4 MKII's KNOCKED OUT ON ROAD BY 4 ROUNDS THROUGH FRONT BY FERROZZO; 4 ROUNDS IN SIDE BY TURLEY. TANK BURNED. CREW DISMISSED - WAS KILLED BY OUR INFANTRY

FOURTH OF 4 MKII's TOOK COVER BEHIND BLDGS EAST OF ROAD; WITHDREW

1 Med TK KO'D BY MKII w/ BEAGLE

3 of 4 Med TKs Co C 17 TK arrived about 1130. 1 replaced BEAGLE

BEAGLE M-16 KO'D & BURNED BY MKII'S 0800

FERROZZO M-16

TURLEY M-16

2 SPHERES, Co C. 45118

ABOUT 1500 2 MORE MKII TANKS CAME UP ROAD. HIT 3 TIMES IN TURRET BY TANK REPLACING BEAGLE'S DESTROYER AND TURNED; FERROZZO AND TURLEY HIT IT IN SIDE AND TIGER BLEW UP. TANK FOLLOWING WITHDREW

71
+ 10

3 TKs KO'D WITHIN 10 YDS OF EACH OTHER FORMED COMPLETE ROAD BLOCK, 1500

ROUTE OF 4 MKII'S ABOUT 0830, 29 OCT, FOLLOWING JOHNSON'S TANK

TO ASTEN

65
+ 08

TO MEIN

OVERLAY #6
To Accompany Summary of Operations, Co B
814 TD BM
27-29 Oct 44
ASTEN NEDERWEERT
SHEETS 1:25000

OVERLAY # 6A

TO ACCOMPANY
SUMMARY OF
OPERATIONS, CO B
814 TD BN
27-29 OCT 44

ASTEN-NEEDER DEERT SHEET
1:25000

← TO ASTEN

TURLEY M-10
MOVED TO WHERE
WE COULD FIRE

FERRAZZO M-10
IN EXPOSED POSITION
DUE TO TERRAIN

Previously
knocked out
MK VI tanks

1st OF 6 MK VI TANKS THAT ATTEMPTED TO
FLANK 2ND PLATOON POSITION ABOUT 1600
HOURS, 29 OCT. KO'D BY TURLEY'S M-10
ASSISTED BY MEDIUM TANKS. 4-5 VDS. BLEW UP

2nd OF 6 MK VI TANKS. KO'D BY TURLEY'S M-10
IN 2 RD'S, BLEW UP

NEAREST OVERWATCHING TANK. KO'D BY
FERRAZZO AND ARTY FIRE, FERRAZZO
GOT 2 HITS IN ITS TURRET. ARTY GOT
1 HIT IN ITS TURRET. CREW ESCAPED

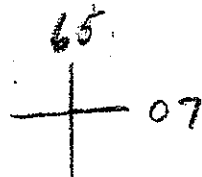
3 OVERWATCHING
TANKS THAT KO'D
TURLEY + FERRAZZO
AND WITHDREW
ABOUT 1630
FARTHEST TWO REMAINED
BEHIND HOUSES.

3 TOWED AT GUNS - 1700
2 KNICKED OUT
BY ARTY FIRE
3d WITHDREW

At dusk one tank was heard
moving up road towards
road block. Driven off by
artillery fire

LEGEND

= ROAD



TO 57
MINE