

SECRET

with: G.O. 6324 23 In
Units
Date: 6 October 1944

HEADQUARTERS 6324 TANK DESTROYER BATTALION
A.P.O. 705
L2001, 5 Oct 44

F.O. 1

MAPS: 1:1,000,000 Aeronautical Charts, Leyte - Samar sheets
1:200,000 G. & G.S. Maps (1937-1940), Leyte - Samar sheets
1:63,360 Special Map, Leyte & Samar
1:25,000 Special Line Map, Leyte Battle Map
1:25,000 Photo Map, Leyte
Contact Glassy Prints of all available air photos
Maps and Photos contained in AGS Terrain Study #2, Leyte Province.

1. a. Enemy:

- (1) **GROUND** - An estimated 21,700 troops are disposed in the operational area and the areas adjacent thereto. Of these, 10,425 are combat troops, 10,075 are service troops and 1,200 are base defense troops. Employment of base defense and service troops as combat troops is expected and will materially increase the combat potential. The veteran 16th Division is believed charged with the defense of the Operational Area as well as immediately adjacent areas. It is reported that the enemy has been conducting maneuvers in the Operational Area and in all probability is well acquainted with the terrain and tanks have been observed in target area. (See Intelligence Overlay #1 and #2 for details)
- (2) **AIR** - Higher Headquarters estimate an enemy air force of 200 fighters and 225 bombers. Within three to six hours after sighting our surface craft, the enemy is capable of utilizing the above force against us.
- (3) The enemy is believed to be well equipped with barges and other small craft, thereby making a counter-attack from the sea on our beachhead and flanks a definite capability.
- (4) For strengths, compositions, identification, location and movements of enemy in target area see Intelligence Overlays #1 and #2.

b. Own Forces:

- (1) Forces of the SWPA covered and supported by the Third Fleet, continue offensive operations to re-occupy the Philippine Islands.
- (2) The XXIV Corps will land on A-Day at H-Hour in the Dulag-Labiran area on Leyte Island and will seize the Tansum - Burzon - Dulag area; establish and maintain contact with the Corps along the Binahaan River.
- (3) The I Corps, part of a larger force will land on A-Day at H-Hour on Leyte Island on White and Red Beaches; will seize Tacloban - Tacloban Drome; will establish control of the San Juanico Strait; will seize Palo and advancing in the Leyte Valley, will seize and occupy the Copocan-Parigara-Barugo area; will protect the right flank of the Sixth Army and will establish and maintain contact with the XXIV Corps along the Binahaan River; will when directed by the C.O. Sixth Army, be prepared for such subsequent operations as he may direct.

SECRET

119

SECRET

- (a) 1st Cav Div., re-enforced, with Co B 632nd TD Bn (2nd Run Plt. atchd) atchd will land on A-Day, H-Hour on White Beach and seize a beach head in its Z of A; will destroy hostile forces in Tacloban Valley and establish control of San Juanico Straits; will establish and maintain contact with the 24th Div on the left and protect the right flank of Sixth Army; will defend occupied areas; will be prepared on Corps order to execute such shore to shore and overland missions as may be directed.
- (b) The 24th Inf Div re-enforced (less 21st Inf) with 632nd TD Bn (less Co B re-enforced) atchd will land on A-Day at H-Hour on Red Beach, 2 R.S.T.'s abreast; C.T. 19 on the left, C.T. 34 on the right; will seize occupy and defend Palo; will advance rapidly within its Z of A, destroying all hostile elements therein and seize and occupy the Capocan Carigera - Barrago area; will secure the Palo - Tanvan Highway within the Corps Z of A, and will establish and maintain contact with the XIV Corps and the 1st Cav. Div. I.T.; will defend occupied areas; will make ME initially on its left.
 1. C.T. 19, (19th Inf re-enforced, with 19th F.A. Bn., Co B 3rd Engr Bn; Co C, 85th CAL Bn., Plt 603d Med Tk. Co. atchd) will seize and secure IBH in its Z of A; advance rapidly to the west and south, seize and occupy Palo; establish a block in the vicinity of San Joaquin; establish and maintain contact with element of the XIV Corps on the left (south) flank of the Div. protect the left (south) flank of the Div. be prepared to continue advance westward in its Z of A.
 2. C.T. 34 (34th Inf less 1 Bn; 63rd F.A. Bn; 1 Plt Co C 3rd Engr Bn; 1 Plt 603d Med Tk. Co. atchd) will seize and secure IBH in its Z of A; advance rapidly to the west, seize and hold A-Day objective in its Z of A; be prepared to assist C.T. 19 in the capture of Hill 522 with all available fire power; establish and maintain contact with Z of A; be prepared subsequent to A-Day, to hold A-Day objective of the Div.; and establish and maintain contact with C.T. 19.

2. Mission:

- a. The 632nd T.D. Bn. (less Co B with 2nd Run Plt atchd) with four D-8 dozers atchd with crews from the 339 Engr Const Bn (two per L.S.T.) will land on A-Day at H plus 65 in the 11th Wave in support of the 24th Div. I.T. on Red Beach, under Div. control prepared to destroy hostile mechanized vehicles or enemy fortifications as directed; attachment effective 1 October 1944.
- b. B Co, 632nd T.D. Bn (reinforced with 2nd Run Plt atchd) with two D-8 dozers, with crews from 339th Engr Const Bn atchd and with the 109th Bomb Disposal squad, atchd for over water movement, and with B Co, 44th Tk. Bn. atchd for loading operations, will land on A-Day in support of 1st Cav. Div. under Division control; upon disembarkation, will pass to control of G.O. 8th Cav. in Div Reserve; attachment effective 1 October 1944.
- c. Detailed Missions:

(1) The 632nd T.D. Bn. (less B Co. reinforced with 2nd Run Plt. atchd), initially under 24th Div LT control in Div Reserve, will be prepared on A-Day to:

- (a) Assist the securing of the IBH by direct fire.
- (b) Defend and protect the IBH from tank or mechanized attack.
- (c) Assist the assault on Hill 522 by direct fire.
- (d) Assist the assault on Palo by direct fire.
- (e) Defend and protect the A-Day objective from tank or mechanized attack.
- (f) Defend assembly or bivouac areas from day or night attack.
- (g) Be prepared to assist the defense of the IBH from enemy sea-borne attacks under the direction of the Perimeter Defense Commander.

120

SECRET

PARA 1

- (2) B Co. (with 2nd Ren Plt attd) attd to 1st Cav Div. as prescribed by O.P., 1st Cav Div.
- d. Ammunition: See annex #2.
 - (1) Loading plan & loading list
- e. Disembarkation: See annex #2.
3. a. Ren Co. (less 2nd Plt) under Bn control, upon disembarkation, will initiate mechanized or foot Ren of the 24th Div. L.T. zone on an order; will assist the defense of the CR; be prepared to assist the gun companies in crossing obstacles.
 - (1) Reconnaissance.
 - (a) Zones of Ren:
1st Ren Plt: Zone of Action RCT 19
3rd Ren Plt: Zone of Action RCT 34
 - (2) Phase Lines
 - (a) Highway 1
 - (b) Hill 522 - also Bridge
 - (c) Highway 2
 - (3) Limits of Ren.
 - (a) Forward recon is limited to the support of the assault Inf. Bn.
 - (4) Reports: Will be made at 30 minute intervals; negative reports will be rendered. Reports will include:
 - (a) Terrain:
Passable
Impassable
Firing positions
Routes of tank approach
 - (b) Road Nets, fords, and bridges:
Passable
Impassable
Capacity
Alternate routes
 - (c) Obstacles: strength, location, disposition, attitude, weapons, tank and other vehicles; movement and speed, direction, time and place seen.
- b. (1) A and C Companies will on A-Day be prepared to operate initially in the zone of action, RCT 19 and RCT 34 respectively, on an order to assist the advance of the RCT within its initial zone by direct fire; to destroy any armored attack on the L,E,F; to assist in the assault on Hill 522 by direct fire from positions within its zone; assist the securing of the A-Day objective by direct fire; defend, in coordination with adjacent units, assembly or bivouac areas from night attack; occupy beach defense positions in 24th Div L.T. zone.
- (2) Subsequent to A-Day, A and C Companies will be prepared to: operate anywhere within the 24th Div L.T. zone of action, reinforce artillery fires; conduct overland and over water movement; destroy enemy armor and fortifications on an order.
- e. Reserves: Initially on A-Day, the Bn reserve will be constituted by the pioneer platoon and that gun company which has not been committed in direct fire support. The reserve will be prepared to operate anywhere within the 24th Div L.T. zone on order. Subsequent to A-Day reserve will be as designated by fragmentary order.
- x. (1) All organizations will make complete preparations for hostile counter-attacks prior to the night of A-Day. Organizations will be prepared at all times to meet counter-attacks and suicide raids.
- (2) Gun Companies will initiate reconnaissance within their initial zone in anticipation of early commitment. Vehicles for this purpose will be limited to three per gun company.
- (3) Efforts will be based on the destruction of the enemy with secondary objectives the securing of terrain.
- (4) When committed the enemy will be destroyed by careful massing of all available fire power.
- (5) From front to rear personnel on exterior perimeter (24th Div L.T. perimeter) only will fire.
- (6) Organization commanders are responsible for the defense of that portion of the battalion assembly area that is occupied by that organization.
This includes:
 - a. Proper fire discipline.
 - b. Coordination of the plan of defense with adjacent organizations or units.

SECRET

8. Breakfast and camouflage discipline.
 9. Careful installation of warning devices and hooby traps where landing of the air troops is not endangered. (Installations will be reported to this HQ.)
 - (7) There will be no firing except when an enemy plane is attacking the position.
 - (8) Units or elements of air organizations will remain completely mobilized at all times, to insure immediate replenishment of combat load and continuous maintenance.
4. Administrative
- A. SUPPLY
 - (1) Location of supply points will be reported to organizations upon landing.
 - (2) Supply plan (see administrative order #1 to Field Order #2)
 - B. EVACUATION (See administrative order #1 to Field Order #1)
 - C. TRAFFIC (See administrative order #1 to Field Order #1)
 - D. Landing of main load not until after dark. Initial location is in the rear of the landing assembly area.
 - E. Personnel (See administrative order #1 to Field Order #1)
5. Communications
- A. General Instructions
 - (1) Radio net opening will be determined by tactical commander.
 - (2) Air ground messages by 5th Air Force listening stations.
 - (3) Special instructions (See Signal Annex)
 - (4) Reference CMA TO DA 541 1 part 4.
 - B. Command Posts
 - (1) Higher Headquarters (See Operations Overlay)
 - (2) THIS HEADQUARTERS (See Operations Overlay) (Opens at H-1000)
 - (3) Adjutant Headquarters (See Operations Overlay)
 - (4) Subordinate Headquarters (To be reported)
 - C. Area of Communications
 - (1) Point approximately 500 yds east of Highway No. 1, 1000 yards South of Iving - Palo. Palo - Cavite.

FANNING
CO

MARCKLER

3-3

Annexes:

1. Intelligence
 - A. Intelligence Services #1, 2, 3, and 4.
 - B. Passwords
 - C. Tide Tables
 - D. Distances between towns.
2. Landing Plan
 - A. Embarkation
 - B. Debarcation
3. Operations Map #1.
Operations Map #2.
4. Signal Annex #1.