

C O N T E N T S

NARRATIVE REPORT

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Inclosure No. 1, S-1 Journal
- Inclosure No. 2, S-2 Journal
- Inclosure No. 3, S-3 Journal



MAPS AND OVERLAYS  
(In attached envelope)

- France 1/50,000, Sheets 2G/1, 2, 3, and 4
- Belgium and N.E. France 1/100,000, Sheets 4 and 9
- Overlay No. 1
- Overlay No. 2
- Overlay No. 3

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG/WD Lt dated 26 Oct 1945

POSTED RAC 3/15/48 BY R.E.M.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS  
821st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)  
APO 230

1 October 1944

AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS1. Continuation of PHASE III: Reduction of the Fortress Brest.

a. During the period, 1 September 1944 to 18 September 1944, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion remained attached to the 29th Division Artillery. On 5 September 1944 the 821st was relieved of assignment to the 1st Army, relieved of attachment to the 3rd Army and assigned to the 9th Army.

b. On 1 September 1944 the VIII Corps resumed their attack to capture the Fortress Brest. The 29th Infantry Division continued to protect the VIII Corps right flank. Companies "A", "B" and "C", of the 821st, continued to reinforce fires of the 110th, 111th and 224th Field Artillery Battalions, respectively. Positions of the companies for the period 1 September to 18 September 1944 are shown on inclosed overlay No. 1.

(1) During the period from 1 September until the capture of Brest on 18 September 1944, 1, 328 missions were fired. A total of 12,420 rounds were expended. Indirect fire missions were observed call missions and unobserved harassing and interdictory fire. Observed call missions were directed at enemy fortified gun emplacements, machine gun emplacements, self propelled guns and concentrations of enemy infantry. Unobserved harassing and interdictory fire was directed at cross roads, road junctions, fortified positions, and troop assembly areas behind the enemy lines.

c. On 1 September the 1st Reconnaissance Platoon was assigned the mission of providing additional security for Company "A" of the 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion, in the zone of the 175th Infantry Regiment. Additional security was necessary to fill a gap in the lines of the 175th Infantry. While on this mission 6 rounds of 37mm were fired at a stone house, being used for shelter by the enemy. The enemy were routed. The 1st Reconnaissance Platoon was relieved of security mission at 2400, 2 September 1944.

d. On 7 September the 2nd Platoon of Company "C" moved into direct fire position in the zone of the 175th Infantry Regiment. The position was east of hill 103, map coordinates 871998. Mission assigned was to support the attack of the 175th Infantry, firing upon targets of opportunity. The 2nd Platoon remained in this position until 13 September 1944.

(1) While in direct fire position TD guns were used against enemy infantry, machine gun emplacements, field guns, fortified gun emplacements and houses which afforded protection for the enemy.

(2) HE ammunition was fired direct at hedgerows which were providing protection for enemy infantry. The hedgerows as well as the enemy entrenched behind them were destroyed. HE ammunition was fired direct at both stone and wooden houses. In both cases the houses were set on fire and destroyed. Direct hits were scored on fortified gun positions, however due to the great range (1500 yds and up) it was impossible to accurately determine the results of the fire against these positions.

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ORDER SEC ARMY BY TAG/W.D.Lt datel 26 Oct 1945

- 1 - POSTED RAC 3/15/48 BY A.E.M.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Cont'd: After Action Report for the Month of September 1944.

e. On 8 September 1944 the 2nd Platoon of Company "B" moved two 3" guns into position west of Recouvrance on the south coast, map coordinates 889959. Mission assigned to take under fire enemy shipping attempting to pass through Goulet de Brest. At 1830, 17 September the two guns fired nine rounds of HE at a 35 foot enemy motor launch. Four direct hits were scored. The motor launch was sunk. While in this position 50 cal. machine gun fire was directed at enemy 20mm AA gun positions on the Crozon Peninsula.

f. The Battalion remained on secondary mission until 17 September when the gun companies were alerted for direct fire employment. Company "A" in direct support of 116th Infantry Regiment, Company "B", less 2nd Platoon still in direct fire position on Pt du Diable, in direct support of 115th Infantry Regiment. The 2nd Platoon of Co "C" was attached to Company "B" for operations. The 3rd Platoon of Company "C" was held in a position of readiness. At 1030, 18 September 1944 the order was given to cease firing. At 1350, 18 September all companies were relieved of their operational missions.

g. As a result of enemy action the following casualties were suffered.

(1) Two enlisted men killed by shell fragments from enemy artillery fire.

(2) One officer was wounded by shell fragments from enemy artillery fire.

(3) Eight enlisted men were wounded by shell fragments from enemy 20mm AA guns.

2. On 18 September 1944 the Battalion moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of Cosquer, map coordinates 795975, for a period of rehabilitation. The Battalion remained in assembly area until 25 September 1944.

a. During the rehabilitation period one hour a day was devoted to mass callisthenics and close order drill. Sight seeing tours were conducted. Care and cleaning of equipment was stressed. Shortages of clothing and individual equipment were requisitioned and issued to the men.

3. On 21 September 1944 the Battalion was relieved of assignment to the 9th Army and from attachment to the VIII Corps and was assigned to the 1st Army and attached to the XIX Corps.

4. On 25 September 1944 the Battalion started on a motor march from the vicinity of Cosquer, Brittany Peninsula, France, map coordinates 495975, to the vicinity of Maastricht, Holland, map coordinates 565510. The Battalion arrived at it's destination and went into assembly positions at 1145, 28 September 1944. The total distance traveled was 675 miles.

a. On 29 September 1944 Company "B" was attached to the 116th Infantry Regiment for operations against the Siegfried Line. The Battalion, less Company "B", remained in assembly positions as division reserves. The Battalion was in these positions, as shown by inclosed overlay No. 3, at the end of the period, September 30, 1944.

II AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. For heroic achievement in military operations against the enemy, on the dates following their names, the following named enlisted men were awarded the Bronze Star Medal: Tec 5 Helmer A. Anderson 39676380, 8 August 1944; Tec 5 Clarence E. Collise 35306318, 9 September 1944; Sgt Clifford D. Davis, 19104614, 31 July 1944; PFC Clinton B. Welch 37203678, 31 July 1944; Pvt Langard P. Darter 35352864, 31 July 1944; Pvt Arthur F. Gunter 33413467; 31 July 1944; Pvt Richard Jacob 32708404, 31 July 1944.



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Cont'd; After Action Report for the Month of September 1944.

2. The Purple Heart was awarded the following named enlisted men for wounds received in action against the enemy on the dates following their names: Pvt Victor Stich 39399764, 11 September 1944; Pvt Daniel F. Sullivan 32108916, 11 September 1944; PFC Charlie O. Shipley 38105494, 9 September 1944.

3. The following named officers and enlisted men were recommended for award of the "Croix De Guerre", for exceptionally meritorious service in direct support of military operations against the enemy in Normandy and Brittany, France, from 30 June 1944 to 18 September 1944 inclusive.

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lt Col Howard H. Arbury O-255103   | 1st Lt Frank T. Savage O-1825710   |
| Maj Robert E. Vollendorff O-415807 | 1st Lt Harry G. J. Sweed O-1169361 |
| Capt Edward A. Burke O-440563      | 2nd Lt Dale A. Nafziger O-526610   |
| Capt Dock A. Stuart O-1166377      | 1st Sgt Milton R. Blunt 39235700   |
| 1st Lt Mershan G. Shaddy O-1822638 | S/Sgt Warren E. Hahn 37203384      |
| Capt Russell L. Smith O-1166377    | S/Sgt Harold D. Streeter 39308571  |

4. The following named officers and enlisted men were recommended for award of the "Croix De Guerre", for exceptionally meritorious service and gallantry in action during actual combat against the enemy and in direct support of military operations against the enemy in Normandy and Brittany, France, from 30 June 1944 to 18 September 1944 inclusive.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st Lt Wilbert G. Saal O-1823649   | S/Sgt Wallace M. Elliott 38157016 |
| 1st Lt William F. Dudley O-1822248 | Sgt Irving Weber 39552720         |
| 1st Lt John J. McGoey O-1825030    | Sgt Frank R. Carlson 39605250     |
| T/Sgt Ray E. Whiton 20945496       | Sgt Elio A. Tramelli 39605280     |
| S/Sgt Marvin J. Lanferman 37251815 | PFC John W. Craft 32708410        |

5. The following named officers and enlisted men were recommended for award of the "Croix De Guerre", for heroic performance of duty during actual combat against the enemy and in direct support of military operations against the enemy in Normandy and Brittany, France, from 30 June 1944 to 18 September 1944 inclusive.

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st Lt William J. Woods O-1825390    | S/Sgt Leslie C. Clauson 393099392 |
| 2nd Lt John M. Dille O-522754        | Sgt Joe A. Goodart 39036734       |
| 2nd Lt Victor E. Musser O-1826020    | Cpl Albert B. Furgeson 17041859   |
| S/Sgt Joseph D. Whitecotten 38137268 | Pvt Raymond H. Weigmann 32740766  |

III COMMANDING OFFICERS

1. Lt Col Howard H. Arbury was in command of the Battalion for the period from 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944.

2. Company Commanders for the period from 1 September 1944 to 30 September 1944 were as listed below.

- Company "A" - Capt Edward A. Burke
- Company "B" - 1st Lt Mershan G. Shaddy
- Company "C" - Capt Dock A. Stuart
- Hq Company - Capt Carl L. Miller

*Howard H. Arbury*  
 HOWARD H. ARBURY  
 Lt Col., FA  
 COMMANDING



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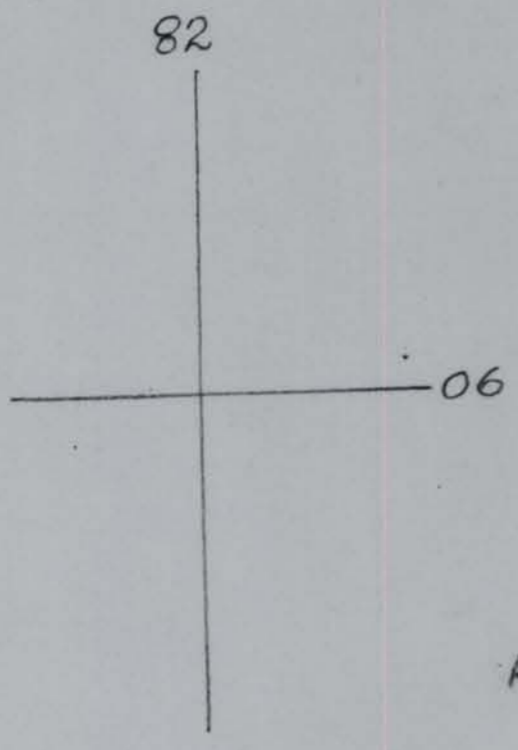
### MAPS AND OVERLAYS

- France 1/50,000, sheets 80/1, 2, 3, and 4  
Belgium and N.E. France 1,000,000, sheets 4 and 9  
Overlay No. 1 - Positions during Phase No. 3  
Overlay No. 2 - Route of march from Brittany,  
France to Maastricht, Holland.  
Overlay No. 3 - Assembly position during last  
two days of period.

MAP COORDINATES OF TOWNS REFERRED TO IN  
AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944.

NEST	MAP GRID - 25172
COCHUY	MAP GRID - 12172
HILL 103	MAP GRID - 25103
Maastricht, Holland	MAP GRID - 10520
St. Lo Bible	MAP GRID - 25172
NEST	MAP GRID - 25172

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3B 821  
 2B 821 SEPT 1-17  
 1B 821  
 A 821  
 2A 821  
 3A 821  
 1A 821  
 SEPT 1-9

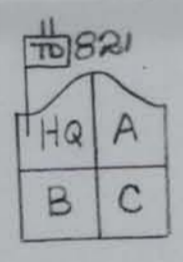
3C 821  
 C 821  
 10 821 20 821  
 SEPT 1-5  
 821  
 SEPT 1-6

A 821  
 1A 821  
 3A 821 2A 821  
 SEPT 9-17  
 821  
 SEPT 6-18

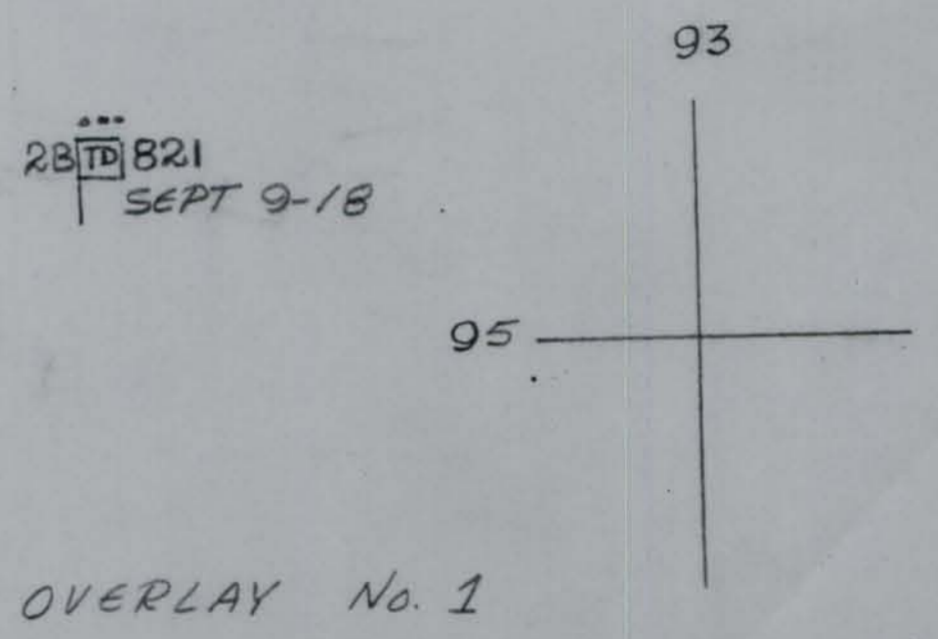
C 821  
 10 821  
 SEPT 5-18  
 30 821

20 821  
 SEPT 8-13

B 821  
 SEPT 17-18  
 CO. MINUS 1 SEC. 2ND DET.  
 IN ASSEMBLY POS.  
 821 A 821  
 SEPT 17-18  
 IN ASSEMBLY POS.



SEPT 18-25

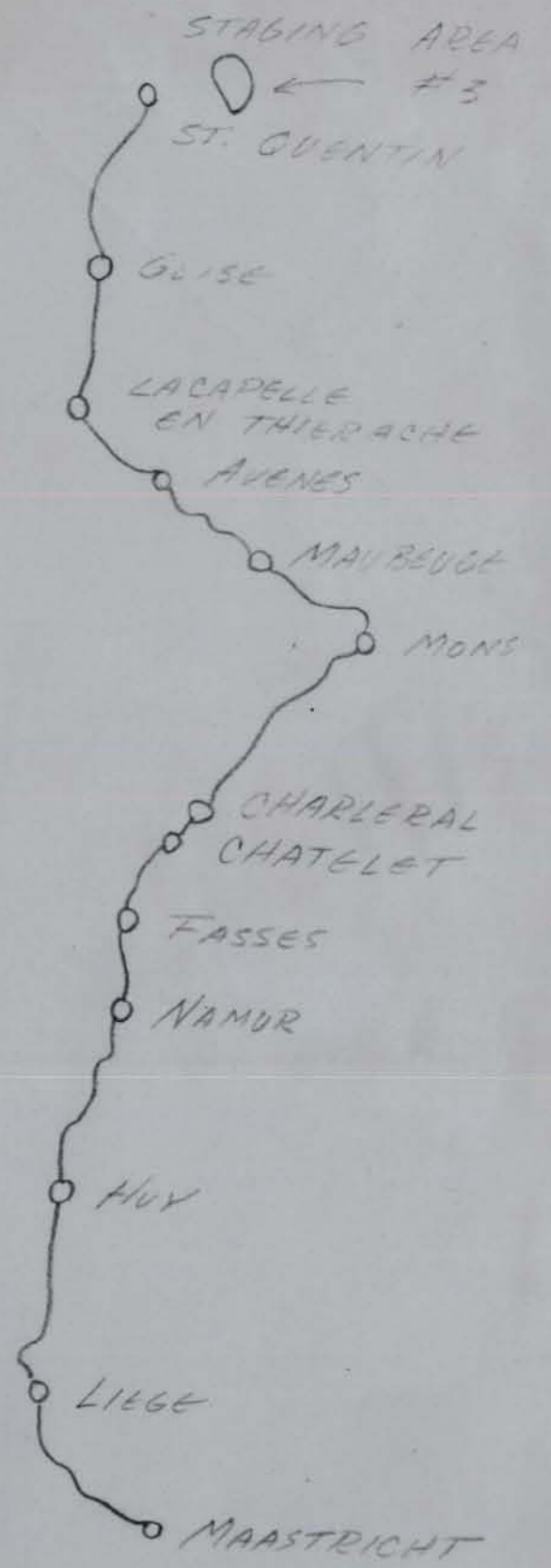
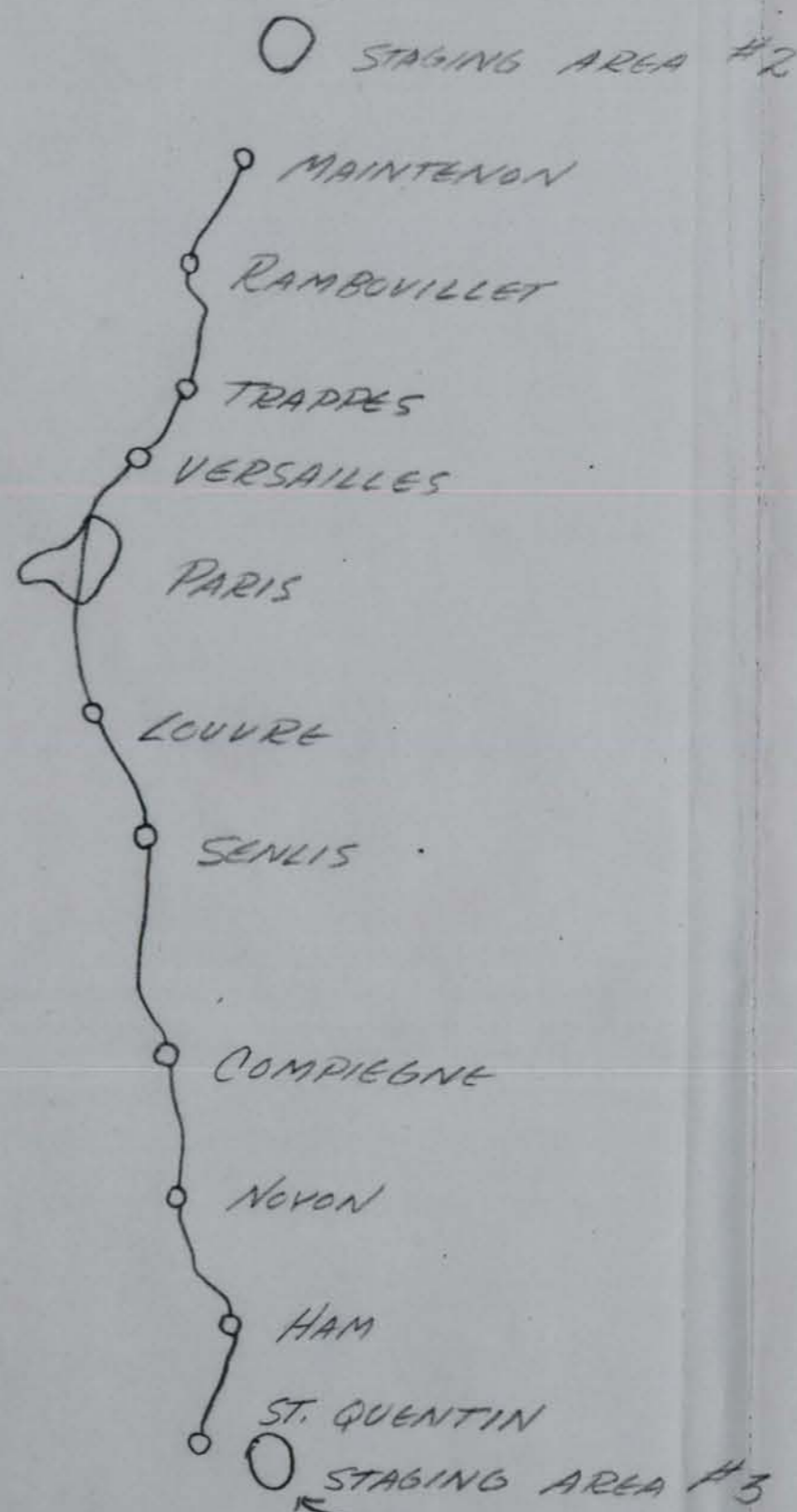
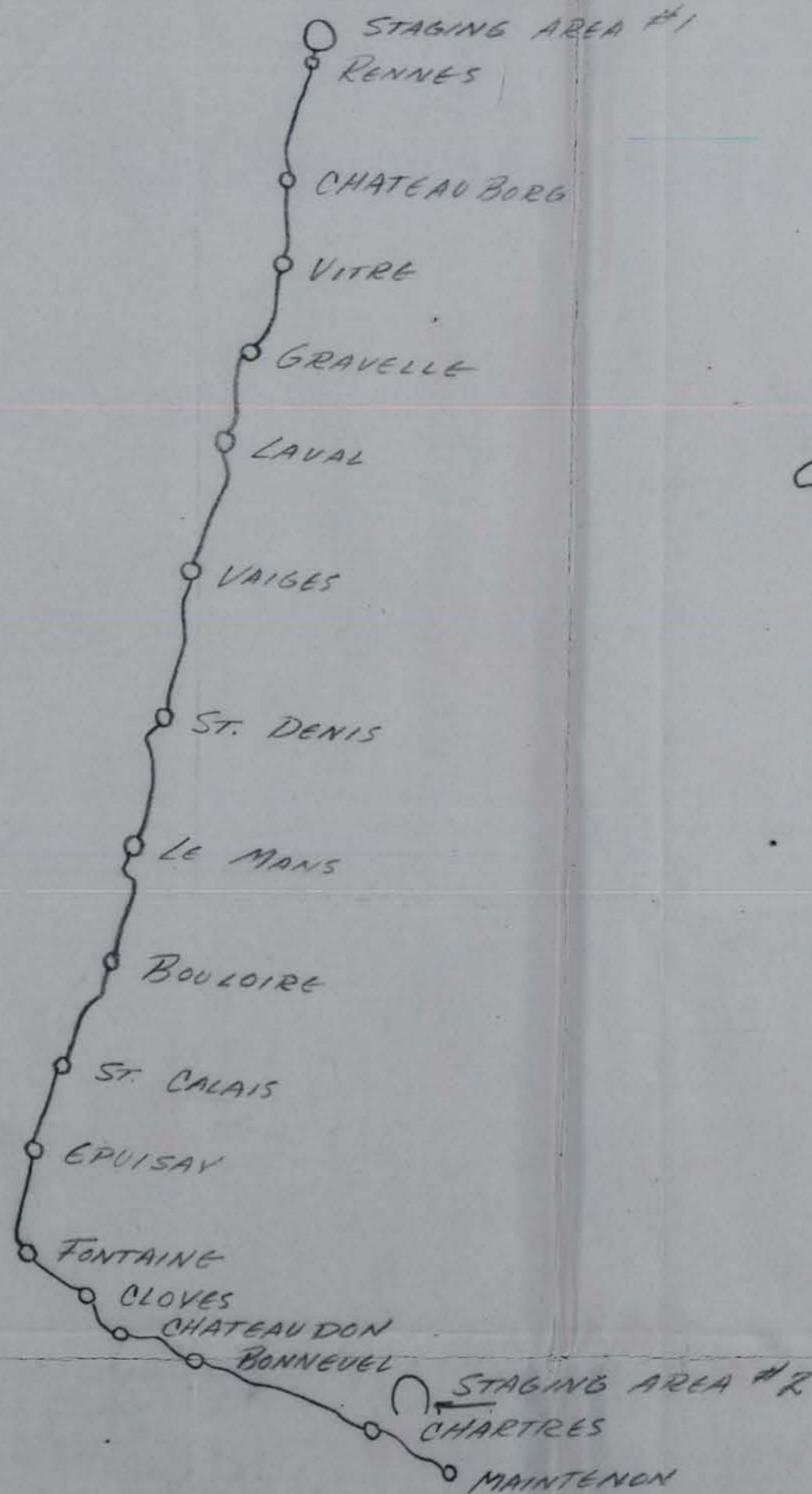
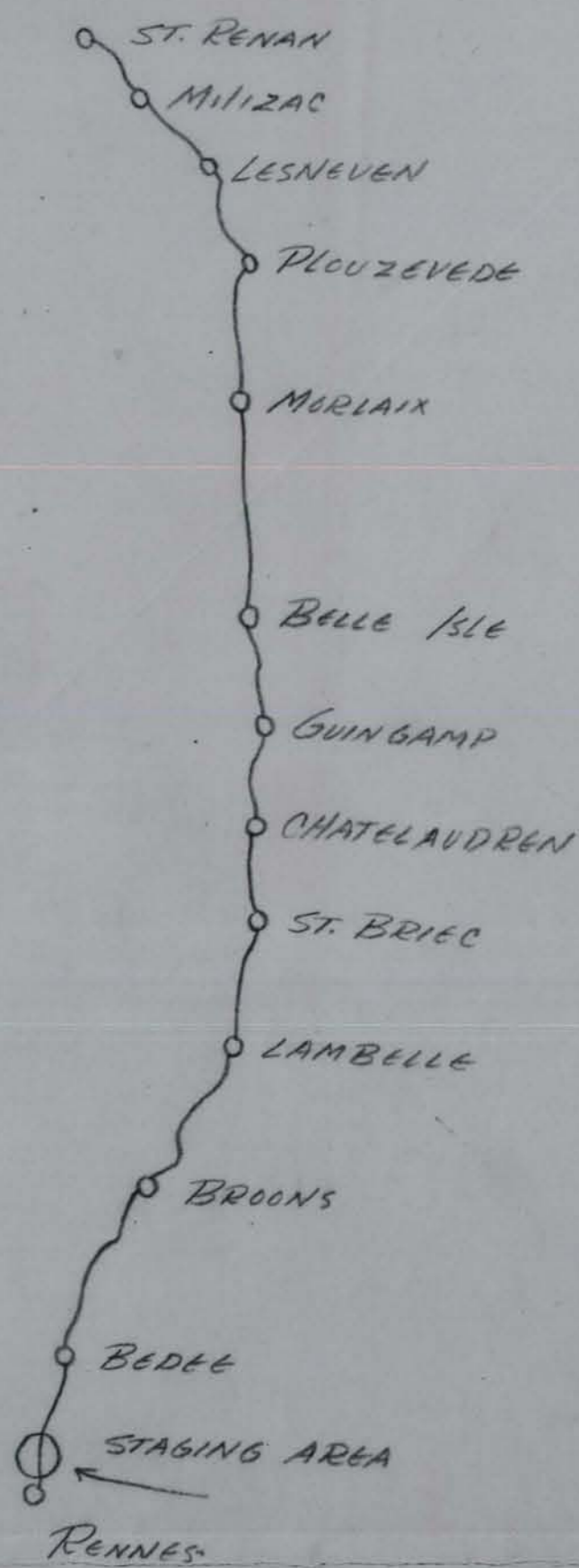


OVERLAY No. 1

FRANCE 1/50,000  
 ST. RENAN 27/5, 26/1  
 LANDERNAU 26/2  
 LE CONQUET 26/3  
 BREST 26/4

- LEGEND
- BATTALION COMMAND POST
  - COMPANY "A"
  - COMPANY "B"
  - COMPANY "C"

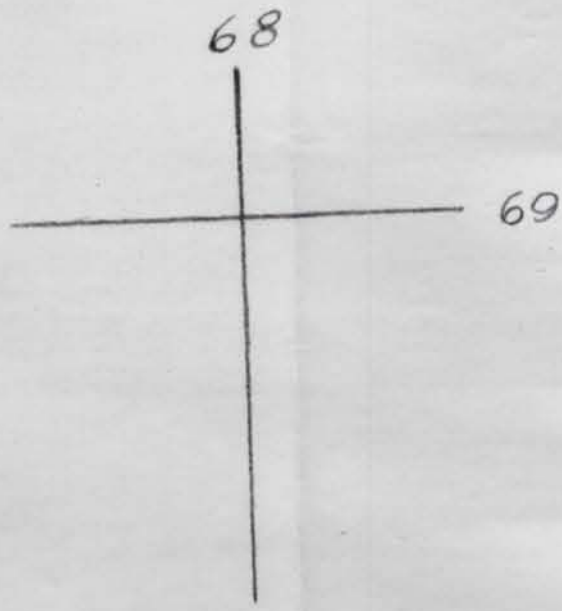
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STRIP MAP  
OVERALL No. 2

STRIP MAP  
BATTALION MOVE

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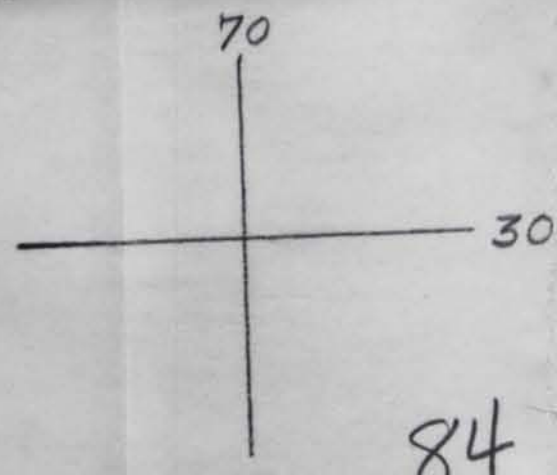


TD 821

SEPT 30<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSEMBLY AREA

TD 821

SEPT 29<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSEMBLY AREA



OVERLAY No 3

BELGIUM + N.E. FRANCE  
 1:100,000  
 SHEET 4 MAÏSEVCK  
 SHEET 9 LIEGE