

*W.M. West*

319.1 1st Ind. RME/ee  
HEADQUARTERS, 29TH DIVISION ARTILLERY, A. P. O. #29, U. S. ARMY, 4 Sept. 1944.

TO: The Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, A.P.O. #29, U. S. Army.

Forwarded.

WILLIAM H. SANDS,  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

319.1 2nd Ind. RME/ee  
HEADQUARTERS, 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION, A.P.O. #29, U. S. ARMY, 5 Sept. 1944.

TO: The Commanding General, VIII Corps, A.P.O. #308, U. S. Army.

Submitted herewith unit After Action Report for August.

For the Commanding General:

ROBERT H. ARCHER, JR.,  
Lt. Colonel, A.C.D.,  
Adjutant General.

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(in attached envelope)

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**HEADQUARTERS  
821st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed)  
APO 230**

1 September 1944

**A DAY ACTION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1944**

**I. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

**1. Continuation of Phase II: Exploitation of the Break Through South from 11 to 16.**

a. During this period, 1 August 1944 to 16 August 1944, the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 25th Division Artillery. On 12 and 13 August, through the 29th Division Artillery, the 821st was attached to the V Corps. On 16 August 1944 the 821st, through the 29th Division Artillery reverted back to V Corps control.

b. During the second phase, tanks were employed along possible tank approaches in the sector bounded on the east by a line through St Samson de la Roche, le Besnil pac, Tessy sur Vire, Vire and St Jean des Bois; and bounded on the west by a line through le Besnil Hermann, Villeboudon, Vire, le Besnil Huchamps, St Germain de Fallevende and St Soueur de Fallevende. The primary mission was in general support of Division Anti-Tank Detachments.

c. On 14 August 1944 the 115th, 116th and 117th Infantry regiments pushed forward to the enemy strong point of Vire and to the south of Vire, Destroyer Companies of the 821st remained in direct support of the three infantry regiments. Vire proved to be the enemy strong point in the Division sector, however, due to severe opposition and delays in the push forward. Movement of companies was slow, in some cases shown by the enclosed overlay No. 1.

d. On 17 August 1944 at 0930 the second Platoon of Company "C" engaged three rounds of 3" M1 at an enemy self-propelled 75mm Stuka 40 assault gun. Four hits were scored. The enemy vehicle was stopped. Four crew members, occupants of the vehicle, were killed. Company "C" suffered one man, the gunner, as a result of intense gun fire from the enemy vehicle. He was severely wounded and one enlisted man wounded. The incident occurred in the vicinity of the village of Fallevende, map coordinates 57763174.

e. On 18, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd of August 1944 Company "C" conducted a series of patrols in the area of Fallevende, France, was given a secondary mission of reconnoiter, reconnoiter, reconnoiter every fire. Concentrations were made on roads made and paths made and enemy lines. Viring was conducted in the hours of darkness.

f. On 24th of August 1944 the second Platoon of Company "C" conducted a series of patrols in the area of Fallevende, France. One man wounded in an accident was killed.

g. On 25th of August 1944, the second Platoon of Company "C" conducted a series of patrols in the area of Fallevende, France. General orders to 821st TD, 10th AD, to conduct a task force to clear out a rocket launching site, the location of which was reported to be south of Fallevende. The task force, consisting of the Third Platoon and one section of the second Platoon, conducted a 100% search and cleared the area of all rocket launching sites.

10 h. On 26th of August 1944, the second Platoon of Company "C" conducted a series of patrols in the area of Fallevende, France. One self-propelled 105mm howitzer was captured and destroyed from a stone house. Twelve of the crew members were captured and two elements of the

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

b. On 14 August 1944 the Third Platoon of Company "C" took an enemy half-track under fire at 1600 yards. Five rounds of 3" M6 were fired, three direct hits were scored. Fifteen enemy soldiers, occupants of the half track, were killed. The incident occurred at 1440 in the vicinity of St Jean Des Bois, map coordinates 696196.

i. On the 15th of August 1944 Co "C" was given a secondary mission of indirect unobserved, harassing and interdictory fire. Concentrations were directed at cross roads and road junctions behind enemy lines. Firing was done during the hours of darkness.

j. During the period from 1 August to 16 August a total of forty five German soldiers were taken prisoners, a total of 43 were killed. Company "C" captured 44 and killed 43. One was captured by Company "A".

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

(1) One enlisted man killed by enemy machine gun fire.  
(2) One enlisted man reported dead by the Graves Registration. Cause of death unknown.  
(3) One enlisted man wounded by enemy machine gun fire.  
(4) One officer and five enlisted men wounded from enemy artillery fire.

## 2. PHASE III: Reduction of the Fortress Brest.

a. On 16 August 1944 the Battalion moved into assembly position in the vicinity of St Jean De Bois, map coordinates 696192, for a period of rehabilitation. The Battalion remained in assembly position until 22 August 1944.

(1) During this period, First Army Ordnance inspection teams inspected all arms, vehicles, and miscellaneous ordnance equipment. Showdown inspections were held to determine shortages of clothing and individual equipment. A normal training schedule was followed, care and cleaning of individual equipment was stressed.

b. On 19 August 1944 the 321st Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the Third Army and to the VII Corps for operations in the Brittany Peninsula. On 22 August 1944, acting on orders of the Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, the Battalion moved from the vicinity of St Jean De Bois in Normandy to the 29th Division assembly area in the vicinity of Lannilis in the Brittany Peninsula. The move was made by Administrative Motor March. A distance of 245 miles was traveled in a period of 24 hours. Route of march is shown by inclosed overlay No. 2.

c. On 24 August 1944 the VII Corps continued the reduction of the Brittany Peninsula and prepared to attack, to capture Brest. Companies "A", "B", and "C", f. the 321st, moved into indirect fire positions in the 29th Division sector and prepared to reinforce fires of the 110th, 227th, and 111th Field Artillery Battalions, respectively. Positions of the companies for the period 24 August to 31 August inclusive are shown on inclosed overlay No. 3.

(1) During the period from 24 August to 31 August inclusive, 659 missions were fired. A total of 5,805 rounds were expended. Missions fired were observed call missions and unobserved harassing and interdictory fire. Observed call missions were fired 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.

Report of the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 82d Infantry Regiment.

1. The 1st Battalion, 82d Infantry Regiment, was organized at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 1 July 1940, and was first activated at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 1 August 1941. It was inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 15 November 1941, and was reorganized at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 1 January 1942. It was activated at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 15 January 1942, and was inactivated at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 15 April 1942.

2. On 12 August 1943, Company "A" moved one M1 into a direct fire position on Hill 31 and engaged enemy forces at 1600 yards. The gun crew was composed of 10 men. Two crew chief hits were scored. No hits were scored.

Losses in Personnel

1. The following personnel were killed and wounded on 31 August 1943, while serving in action against the enemy on Hill 31. All men were members of the 1st Battalion, and were recommended for the Purple Star.

2. The following personnel were killed and wounded on 31 August 1943, while serving in action against the enemy on Hill 31. All men were members of the 1st Battalion, and were recommended for the Purple Star.

3. The following personnel were killed and wounded on 31 August 1943, while serving in action against the enemy on Hill 31. All men were members of the 1st Battalion, and were recommended for the Purple Star.

Losses in Officers

1. Captain Howard H. Anbury was in command of the Battalion for the period from 1 August 1941 to 31 August 1943.

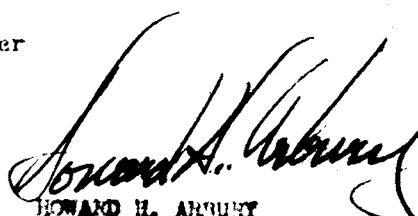
2. Commanders of companies for the period from 1 August 1941 to 31 August 1943 are as listed below:

Company "A" - Capt Edward A. Burke

Company "B" - Capt Fred W.atherington (1 August to 11 August)  
1st Lt. Gerald C. Shaddy (11 August to 31 August)

Company "C" - Capt Frank V. Stuart

Company "D" - Capt Earl C. Miller

  
HOWARD H. ANBURY  
Lt Col., FA  
COMMANDING

**MAPS AND OVERLAYS**  
(In attached envelope)

France 1/50,000, sheets 6F/3, 4, & 6, & 6G/2.

France 1/50,000, sheets 2G/1, 2, 3, & 4.

Overlay No. 1 - Positions during Phase No. 2.

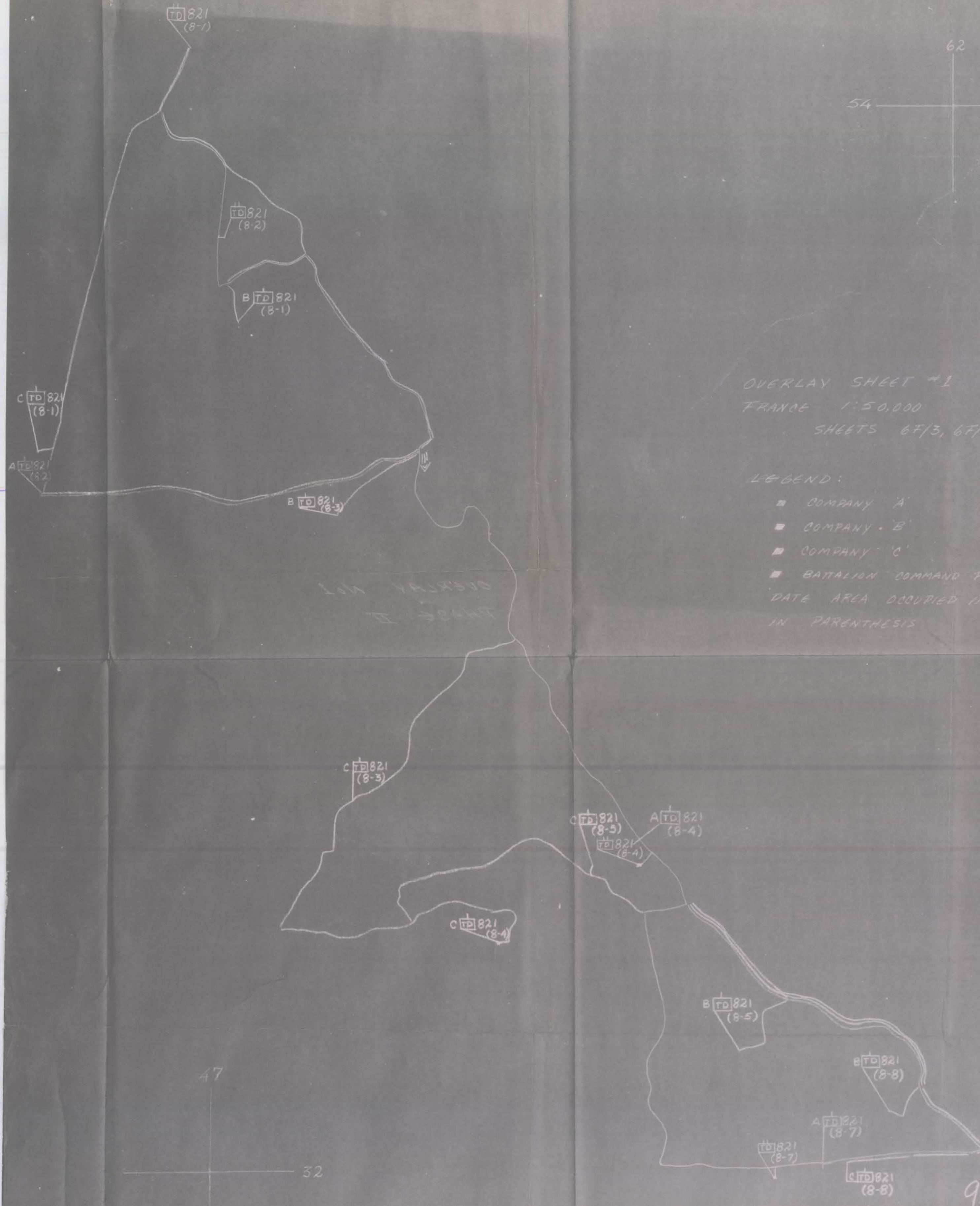
Overlay No. 2 - Route of March from Normandy to  
Brittany.

Overlay No. 3 - Positions during Phase No. 3.

**MAP COORDINATES OF TOWNS REPORTED TO IN**

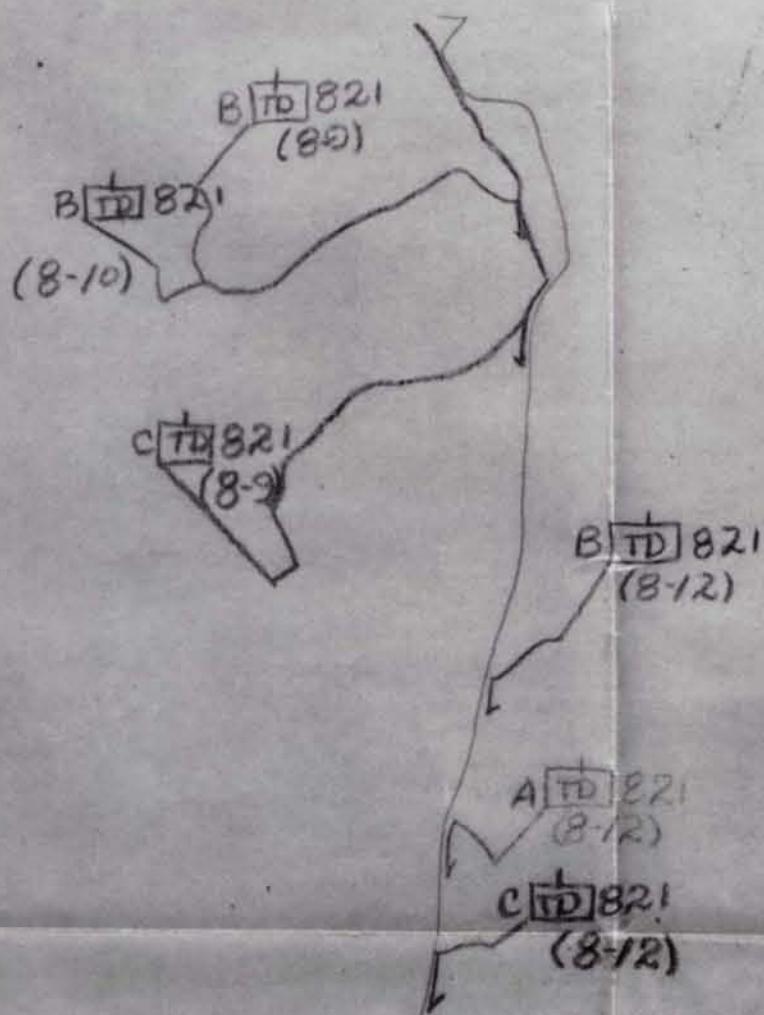
AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1944

<u>St Germain de Ton Posse</u>	<u>Map Coord - 467557</u>
le Mesnil Spec	" " - 437119
Levau sur Vire	" " - 513471
Vire	" " - 632310
Le Mesnil Spec	" " - 639183
le Mesnil Herouet	" " - 453225
Villebocion	" " - 433461
Fontenay	" " - 432370
Mesnil Plinchemps	" " - 553335
St Germain de Falleville	" " - 621875
St Souvenir de Chênehou	" " - 640210
St Martin de la Lande	" " - 605326
Le Mesnil le Roi	" " - 431297
Le Mesnil le Roi	" " - 431297



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OVERLAY SHEET #2

FRANCE 1:50,000

SHEETS 6F/3

6F/4

6F/6

6G/2

C TD 821  
(8-14)

TD 821  
(8-14)

B TD 821  
(8-15)

C TD 821  
(8-15)

A TD 821  
(8-15)

60

18

92

217.70 LANNILIS  
 208.60 LESNEVEN  
 195.80 LANDIVISTHU  
 175.00 HUELGOAT  
 163.40 CARHAIX  
 149.80 ROSTRENNAN  
 132.60 MUR DE BRETAGNE  
 121.40 LOUDEAC  
 103.80 MERDRIGNAC  
 92.60 ST MEEN  
 76.20 BECHEREL  
 63.40 COMBOURG  
 49.40 ANTRAIN  
 37.60 ST. JAMES  
 25.6 ST. MELAIRE  
 14.8 BRECEY  
 10.00 ST. POIS  
 12.0 LES MAURES

STRIP MAP

SCALE 1/100,000

REFERENCE MAPS:

EUROPE ROAD MAP

1/200,000 SHEET #58

ST. BRIEUC - RENNES

EUROPE ROAD MAP

1/200,000 SHEET #59

ST. BRIEUC - RENNES

BATTALION MOVE FROM: REHABILITATION  
AREA VIC. ST. JEAN DES BOIS TO DIVISION  
ASSEMBLY AREA VIC. LANNILIS

A 821  
 B 821 OCCUPIED  
 23 AUG 44  
 C 821

B 821 OCCUPIED  
 3B 821 24-28 AUG 44  
 2B 821  
 1B 821

C 821  
 1C 821 20 821  
 3C 821

821

OCCUPIED  
24-31 AUG 44

A 821  
 1A 821  
 2A 821  
 3A 821

95

07

B 821  
 ... 1B 821 OCCUPIED  
 28-31 AUG 44  
 3B 821 28 821

### OVERLAY SHEET #3

FRANCE 1/50,000

ST. RENAN 2F/5, 2G/1.

LANDERNEAU 2G/2

LE CONQUET 2G/3

BREST 2G/4

### LEGEND

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