

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND " A "
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
U. S. ARMY

L-1117

On the first of Nov 1944, CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of Septemes, France. The period 1 Nov to 6 Nov was spent preparing for movement to the north into the combat area. Supply shortages were corrected as much as possible along with maintenance of equipment and training of units. On the 5th of Nov the advance party left for the north to prepare for the arrival of the troops. On Tuesday, 7 Nov the first troops and track vehicles left Septemes by rail ( boxcars and flatcars ) with destination Chatel, France. The first wheeled vehicle column departed Septemes by road on 8 Nov 44, and arrived 10 Nov as did the first trains of troops and tanks

CCA closed vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux on 14 Nov 1944. The period 10 Nov to 19 Nov was spent bivouacked in the vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux preparing men and equipment for combat. Tactical studies were made of the fighting ability of tanks in the area that the command was destined for fighting. Column formations were formed for the purpose of meeting the problem of tanks being confined to the roads.

At 201400 Nov 44 CCA marched in two columns towards assembly area vic ST REMY and NONPATELIZE from which it was to cross the MEURTHE RIVER and attack to the east. After having been restrained by VI Corps west of the line ST REMY-LASALLE for approximately 10 hours, units occupied their assigned areas.

At 211400 Operations Memorandum No 12 HqVI Corps was received changing the mission of CCA to a march northwest from RAMBERVILLERS thru BACCARAT-BLAMONT and CIREY to attack southeast to seize SCHIRMECK and block enemy forces withdrawing to the northeast. At 1900 the column having completely reversed and reformed, began the march ordered. The column halted on side roads vic BLAMONT between 2300 and 0630 at which time it resumed the march.

At 220830 the first enemy contact was made by the point of the 62 AB leading the CCA column. After removing one road block the 62 was halted at another defended road block located at V500995. Enemy resistance was stubborn small arms, machine gun and mortar fire held up our advance. About 1400 the 48 Tk Bn on CCA order sent a strong reconnaissance element down the ABRESCHWILLER-LE DONON road. By dark no report had been received of this recon and the command outposted for the night.

At approximately 1900 message was received indicating transfer of CCA from VI Corps to XV Corps as of 1400.

On the morning of 26 Nov, 62 continued the attack up the BLANC-RUPPEL VALLEY and the 48 attacked up the ST QUIRIN valley. Both meeting defended road blocks. At the end of the day, our most advanced elements were at V586946. On 24 Nov both columns succeeded in breaking thru resistance at V586946 reaching a road junction V580914 near LE DONON. The 48 having reached the road junction first continued the attack down the road toward SCHIRMECK and was halted in the late afternoon by a large road crater at V582889.

By the next morning the road crater had been filled and the 48 continued its attack. XV Corps order of the previous evening had changed the CCA objective to a point 800 yards northwest of SCHIRMECK so as to prevent interference with VI Corps troops rapidly approaching SCHIRMECK from the southwest.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
2nd Lt Meyer
Cal OGA
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 8 Mar 76

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND735017





Copy No 11

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: S E C R E T :  
:Auth: CG 14th A. D. :  
:Initials: ACG :  
:Date: 23 Nov 1944 :  
:.....

S-2 PERIODIC REPORT

No 1

FROM: 220001  
TO : 222400  
HQ CCA 14TH A D, ST QUERIN  
231300 Nov 1944

Maps: FRANCE 1:100,000 Sheet 15G

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

- a. Enemy front lines. Road Blocks at V502992 and V553020.
- b. Units in contact.

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Second Company 760 VGR. PW's report this unit committed 20 November to defend road blocks already in position. Unit composed of stragglers.

Weigel Pioneer Group. PW states this unit assigned mission of constructing obstacles on Abreshveiller-Schirmeck Road; states unit used no mines except in tunnel under road vicinity V583925.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

- a. Enemy delayed at successive road blocks along both roads used by this combat command.
- b. Infantry with automatic weapons and mortars defended each road block. No AT mines yet discovered. No AT guns or artillery yet employed although PW states road block defenders have artillery support.

3. ENEMY CASUALTIES

Five killed. One wounded Weigel Pioneer Group. Three PW's Second Company 760 VGR.

- b. Morale. Low. On East road enemy withdrew rapidly when tanks appeared.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- a. Enemy may withdraw rapidly to defend pass at LeDonon.
- b. Enemy may delay behind successive road blocks.
- c. The latter capability is favored since terrain and weather prohibit movement of armor off roads, and delay on successive positions will extend the time available for withdrawal from VI Corps sector.

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of all available troops, the last capability is favored.

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