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Authority NND 738017

HEADQUARTERS 262D INFANTRY
APO 454, U.S. Army

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Annex Number 4 To Accompany After Action Report 1-30 April 1945

1. Unit: 1st Platoon, Company I, 262d Infantry, plus five (5) light tanks of F Troop, 107th Cavalry, and two (2) assault guns of E Troop, 107th Cavalry, attached.

2. Mission: Infantry-Tank assault on enemy dugouts previously located to destroy enemy installation and secure prisoners.

3. Number of Officers and Men: Infantry Platoon - 1 Officer and 34 enlisted men; Easy Troop - 2 Officers and 11 Enlisted Men; Fox Troop - 2 Officers and 21 enlisted men; Support Platoon - 1 Officer and 29 enlisted men.

4. Weapons: M-1's - 26, BAR's - 5, SMG's - 2, Carbine - 1. Tank Vehicular Weapons - 5 (37mm Guns) and 10 LMG's. SP Guns - 2 (75mm How.).

5. Support - 2nd Platoon (Company "I" 262d Inf) - 1 Officer and 29 enlisted men.

6. Communications - 9 SCR 300's, 1 w/Assault Platoon, 2 w/Tanks, 1 w/SP Guns, 1 w/81mm Mortars, 1 w/60mm Mortars, 1 w/Aid Station, 1w/Company Commander, 1 w/Battalion Commander.

7. Overlay of route - See attached.

8. Action: At 0610 Artillery fired concentrations on enemy positions in right rear of positions to be assaulted. Assault guns of Easy Troop fired concentrations on FESSION commencing at 0610. At 0617 tanks of Fox Troop passed through Infantry platoon at LD and moved forward to assault enemy positions, then pressed on through to bring fire on positions in rear and cover mopping up of infantry. At this point two of tanks were trapped, one by running into concealed tank trap, and one by running upon dugout and crashing through. Infantry at this time closed on positions and in close firing killed several of enemy occupying connecting trenches, who would not move out. Four prisoners, driven out of dugouts by use of WP grenades and small arms, were then started to the rear. Infantry platoon withdrew with tanks and arms, covered by fire of mortars and support squad/platoon. Two prisoners were immediately evacuated to Battalion PW stockade. Remaining two were held by platoon who took cover from enemy artillery fire in positions occupied by Company "K" pending evacuation. Medical aid men of Company immediately returned to enemy dugout area to search for a missing man and recovered one dead of Company "I" platoon. There they encountered one German officer and one German EM and had conversation with them regarding location of possible casualties. At cessation of enemy fires, assault platoon evacuated positions and marched to rear entrucking point. Check of men while in Company "K" positions by platoon leader showed results of two (2) dead, two (2) seriously wounded, four (4) slightly wounded, one (1) man missing. Two seriously wounded cases suffered wounds from mines located forward of enemy positions. Barbed wire entanglements and concertinas were encountered. Five definite positions were encountered of which four are believed to have been destroyed, the fifth partially destroyed.

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HEADQUARTERS 66TH INFANTRY DIVISION
AFO 454
UNITED STATES ARMY

GENERAL ORDERS)

2 August 1945

NUMBER 56)

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I. SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUSLY). By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, a Silver Star was posthumously awarded to:

Technician Fifth Grade FRANK M CALDARONE (Army Serial Number 31331443), Company I, 262d Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy on 19 April 1945 in Brittany, France. Technician CALDARONE was in the support squad of a combined tank-infantry attack against a strong enemy force. The tanks passed through the infantry and as the assault squads pushed forward it was discovered that the assaulting tanks had overlooked a well fortified pillbox on the right flank. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, Technician CALDARONE worked his way forward, under intense small arms fire, to an open aperture in the pillbox, firing directly into it as he went. While throwing a white phosphorous grenade into the aperture, Technician CALDARONE was killed by enemy automatic fire from the pillbox. As a result of his action the balance of the support squad was able to move forward and knock out the enemy position. Technician CALDARONE'S aggressiveness, initiative and outstanding courage against a strong enemy was an inspiration to all members of his organization and materially assisted in the accomplishment of the mission. Next of kin: Mrs Betty Caldarone (Wife), 123 Myrtle Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut.

II. SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 Septmeber 1943, as amended, a Silver Star was awarded to:

Second Lieutenant LEON F AUSTIN, 0547312, Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy on 19 April 1945 in Brittany, France. Lieutenant AUSTIN led a tank-infantry assault against strong enemy fortified positions at La Desertais, France, on that date. He displayed unusual initiative and skill in planning the operation and directing it on the field of battle with successful results. With great daring he led his platoon to a point within 50 yards of enemy lines; there, he further directed the assault, completely disregarding his own personal safety in the face of heavy hostile artillery and machine gun fire. In order to properly deploy the members of his platoon he moved among them while directing fire of riflemen, mortars, assault guns and artillery. His superb leadership inspired the men in his command, who fought with great courage and deliberation. In the action 25 enemy soldiers were killed and four were taken prisoner. Three members of Lieutenant AUSTIN'S platoon were lost in the engagement. Lieutenant AUSTIN'S gallantry and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the highest credit upon himself and his organization. Entered the military service from Durham, New Hampshire.

Technical Sergeant GEORGE CHUN FAT (Army Serial Number 20014842), Company I, 262d Infantry, United States Army. For gallantry in action against the enemy on 19 April 1945 in Brittany, France. Sergeant CHUN FAT was leading a support squad during a tank-infantry assault on enemy lines through intense enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire. During the action he observed the tanks had entirely overlooked one strongly fortified position which would threaten the entire assaulting force. Acting on his own initiative he crossed over a hedgerow, followed by the scout of his squad. Within a few minutes Sergeant CHUN FAT reappeared with two German prisoners he had captured at bayonet point. Thoroughly inspired by his daring and courage the other members of the squad then joined Sergeant CHUN FAT and advanced in face of withering fire to destroy the dugout position. His unbounded courage and devotion and his display of heroism contributed to the success of the attack and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Entered the military service from Hilo, Hawaii.

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9. Ammunition Expended:

- a. Small Arms - 350 (Cal.50), 2530 (Cal.30)
- b. Mortar - 81mm - 141 HE, 123 WP; 60mm - 640
- c. Artillery - Direct Support - 492 HE, 25 Smoke. Counter Battery - 229 Rds

Destruction of Abandoned tanks - 26, 75mm SP Guns - Diversion - 167 Rds.

10. Time of Departure - 190617 April 1945.

11. Time of Return - 190700 April 1945.

12. Action of Enemy - Evidence that the enemy in dugouts attacked were taken by complete surprise of presence of Infantry or tanks to their front. Small arms fire was returned by a few enemy who were able to gain positions. It is believed that some enemy personnel moved out to rear at first warning of tanks. During actual assault some enemy mortar fire fell in rear of assault group, and searched forward. Following mopping up operations and movement with prisoners to Company "K" positions, heavy enemy Artillery fire was brought down on general area. This fire was impact fire. Some direct and indirect artillery fire was also laid on vicinity of SP guns in rear of lines.

13. Attitude of Enemy - Complete surprise, partially neutralized by tank fire, and confused by appearance of tanks, reluctant to surrender or move out except by applied force.

14. Weapons and Equipment of Enemy - Interrogation of members of Assault platoon disclosed presence of following weapons in area attacked:

Estimated number of Enemy encountered - 50
(See overlay for locations)

#5 dugout - one (1) LMG - 7.92 Cal. (MG 42)

#3 Dugout - one (1) LMG - 7.92 Cal. (MG 42)

#3 Dugout - One (1) 20mm Cannon.

#4 Dugout - one (1) MG Cal. and type unknown.

Personnel in dugouts were individually armed with Rifles (Karabiner 98) and Pistols (Luger)(Pistole 88).

15. Enemy Casualties - Estimated killed by Assault platoon - 12.
Estimated killed or wounded by tank action - 10.

For the Commanding Officer:

WILLIAM H. STEIN
Captain, 262d Infantry
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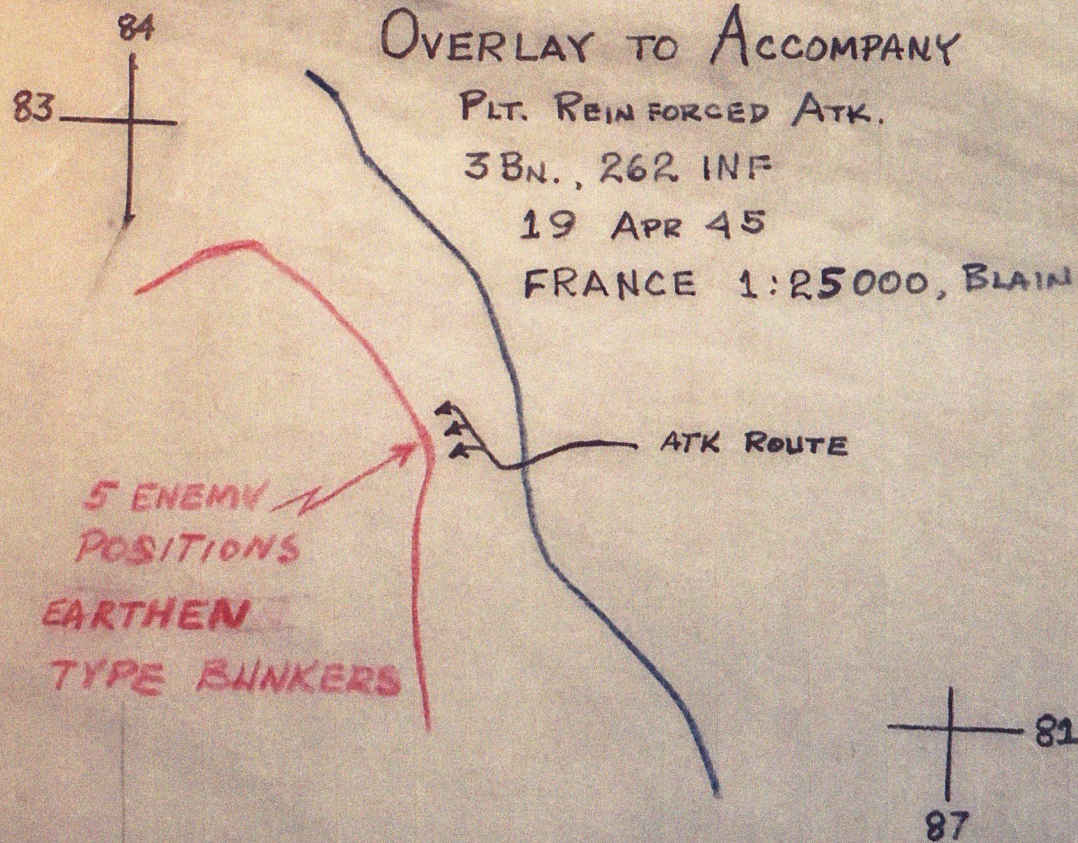
OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY

PLT. REINFORCED ATK.

3BN., 262 INF

19 APR 45

FRANCE 1:25000, BLAIN



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