

1 February 1945

Bischwiller, France

1	1000	- - - - -	
2	1200	- - - - -	
3	1215	CCB	68 CP
4	1235	68 CP	CCB
5	1235	CCB	68 CP
6	1245	68 CP	I&R
7	1330	I&R	68 CP
8	1345	- - - - -	
9	1400	CCB	68 CP
10	1415	CCB	68 CP
11	1425	CCB	68 CP
12	1448	CCB	68 CP
13	1458	68 CP	B-25
14	1503	B-25	68 CP
15	1512	68 CP	B-25
16	1525	CCB	68 CP
17	1526	68 CP	B-25
18	1538	CCB	68 CP
19	1541	68 CP	B-25
20	1555	B-25	68 CP
21	1559	CCB	68 CP
22	1602	B-25	68 CP
23	1610	68 CP	B-25
24	1620	68 CP	CCB
25	1621	68 CP	B-25
26	1630	68 CP	B-25
27	1635	B-25	68 CP

Bn and attachments began mtd road march from Batzendorf to Bischwiller. (For route of march see overlay).

Tail of column closed in completely at Bischwiller. Troops dismounted from vehicles, vehicles re-turning to assembly area vic Marienthal (see overlay). Awaiting to occupy Oberhoffen and hold when town has been taken by friendly troops.

(Via In O). Request location of companies and positions in Bischwiller.

(Via In O). Plotted positions of companies (see overlay).

Make reconnaissance of bridges being repaired at (09541876).

I&R Patrol departed on above rcn mission.

Both bridges are OK; one treadmill and one 40-ton bridge. Treadway brg at (10261840) and 40-ton brg at (09541876). Engrs report 40-ton brg will hold anything we have.

Approx 6 rds Nebelwerfer fell vic (091191).

Have CO 68 and CO-B25 report to CCB without delay.

CO 68 returned to CP with orders for B-25 Tks to move to SE corner of Bischwiller, atk woods at NE edge of Oberhoffen, and return as soon as mission is accomplished. To begin immediately in order to relieve pressure on Oberhoffen.

On above mission, tks may fire into NE edge of Oberhoffen.

CCB: Has B-25 left yet and have you had any reports from them yet? 68: They left at 1437 and no reports from them yet. We have good communication with them.

68: Have you jumped off? B-25: Are now between Ck Pts "A" & "C" (See Sketch of Oberhoffen).

Have jumped off; on way to Ck Pt "E".

Safe to fire vic Ck Pts 5, 9, 10, I, H, E.

Can you give positions?

What is your position?

No troops N of Ck Pt F and G.

Safe to fire N and E of Line I, H, G & F.

Receiving fire from friendly vehicles. Can you do anything about it?

White clad troops moving from (097206) along edge of woods to main road leading NE out of Oberhoffen. They are dropping 2 or 3 men off at intervals as though going into defensive positions.

Friendly fire has stopped.

Is everything in town?

(Intercept from B-25) 68: One tk has been knocked out and B-25 is moving to withdraw. CCB: Order them to press on.

Continue on your mission.

Orders from CCB are to continue atk.

Impossible to continue mission.

1 February 1945

Bischwiller, France

28	1638	B-25	68 CP	CO, B-25 returned to 68 CP; tks have returned and are just other side of creek in Bischwiller.
29	1715	CCB	68 CP	(Via In O) One tk of B-25 knocked out at coord (105198). 2 plats tks reached points (102197) and (105198). Entire 25 Tk Bn ordered to move to find atk position in Bischwiller.
30	1715	I&R OP	68 CP	One ey tk painted white moving S on road at edge of woods vic (103205) at 1715.
31	1730	68 CP	CCB	Above info.
32	1745	---	---	Arranging for patrol to evacuate wounded man in knocked out B-25 Tk at (105198).
33	1748	I&R OP	68 CP	From mag. az. of 65 deg. from OP (08741920) can observe gun flashes; shells apparently landing vic bridge at (095188); approx 8 rds between 1735 and 1745. About 3 seconds between gun flashes and time shell falls vic bridge.
34	1800	68 CP	CCB	Above info.
35	1900	CCB	68 CP	Ey believed to be laying minefield from cross-roads vic (1020) to the E. Info rec'd by CCB at 1830.
36	1915	CCB	68 CP	Atch one plat riflemen to D-94 tonight only for security; to re-inforce D-94 guard.
37	1920	68 CP	---	Patrol consisting of 3 riflemen, 1 tanker, one aid man, and 3 litter bears left, after obtaining clearance from adjacent units, to recover wounded man in knocked out B-25 tk.
38	2145	---	68 CP	Report of patrol to B-25 knocked out tk: Left approx 1915 but were constantly pinned down by ey fire and were unable to get to within 400 yds of tk, but could not get to tk to evacuate wounded man because of intense ey fire.
39	2155	68 CP	CCB	Above info.
40	2230	Ex O-68	C.O.	Check I&R OP's every hour for latest info.
41	2240	I&R OP	1 68 CP	Green amber flare seen in vic of ey.
42	2300	OP #1	68 CP	Heard one unidentified tk on right of OP.
43	2305	OP #2	68 CP	No report.
44	2400	OP #1	68 CP	No report.

HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 446 U.S. ARMY

PLAN FOR DEFENSE OF SAESSBOLSHHEIM

1. Outpost system (See overlay). Outposts manned twenty-four hours per day. Two man roving patrols operate over route shown on overlay from 1830 until 0630. Mission of patrol is to keep all civilians off the streets, enforce blackout regulations, and guard against acts of sabotage.
2. Assembly area in case of alert (See overlay). In case of alert all company commanders will immediately report to Battalion CP for instructions, or in event time does not permit companies will be prepared to dispatch their troops to positions shown on overlay #2. Hq Co will be prepared to support rifle companies from positions within the town.
3. In case of infiltration by enemy at night all troops will fight for their own houses and court-yards, firing on anyone in street. All personal weapons and an ample supply of ammunition will be kept in billets. Maximum use will be made of vehicular automatic weapons.
4. In case of enemy air activity all vehicles and troops will seek cover and concealment and not fire on planes unless they display hostile action, and then only on order from a commissioned officer. .50 cal. anti-aircraft mounts will be kept available and each platoon will select positions offering good fields of fire for this weapon.

For the Commanding Officer:

J. E. FOPPIANO,
Capt., Infantry
S-2

HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
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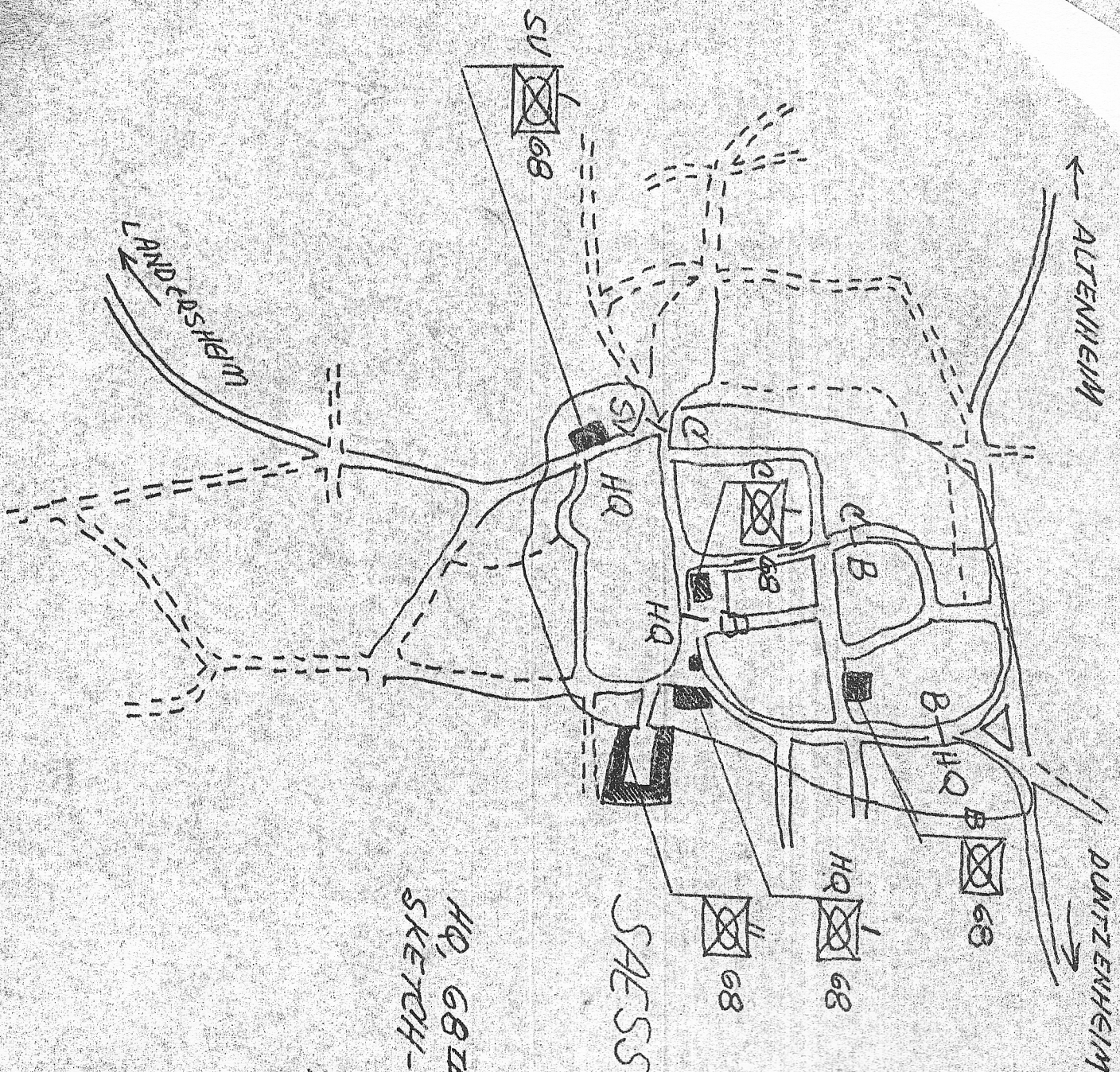
28 February 1945

SECURITY PLAN

- (1) CP - Q838120
- (2) See Overlay #1 and Sketch.
- (3) Alert Signal - telephones.
- (4) Total number of men and weapons:
 - Officers 29 EM 741
 - M1 Rifles - 373
 - Rifles 1903 - 37
 - Carbines - 246
 - Pistols Cal. .45 - 3
 - SMG - 111
 - MG Cal. .30, 1919 - 42
 - MG Cal. .30, 1917 - 24
 - MG Cal. .50, - 54
 - BAR - 20
 - 60mm Mortar - 6
 - 81mm Mortar - 6
 - Rocket Launcher - 54
 - 57mm AT Gun - 6
 - Assault Gun
 - 75mm - 1
 - 105mm - 1
- (5) Location of civilian check posts. Same as outposts.
- (6) Reserve rallying points. See overlay #1.
- (7) Communication facilities - Telephone
- (8) Nearest radio set in command net: Bn CP

For the Commanding Officer:

J. E. FOPPIANO,
Capt., Infantry
S-2



SAESSOL SHEIM

HQ, 68TH A/B 28 FEB
 SKETCH-SHOWING DISPOSITION
 OF TROOPS, COMP
 & BATTALION C.O.'S

COPYS43 REPORT

From: 0001, 5 Feb 45
 To : 2400, 5 Feb 45
 Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
 Place: Bischwiller, Fr.
 Date: 050830 Feb 45

No. 47

Map: Reference - Sketch of Oberhoffen.

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See sketch of Oberhoffen.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See sketch of Oberhoffen.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:

B-25 Tk Bn atchd.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain.
 Visibility: Poor.

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Launched attack on Oberhoffen at 0730 from positions in southern part of town in an effort to clear northern part of town of ey. Troops advanced slowly under intense ey automatic wpsn fire, followed by intense hvy ey arty and mortar fire. Advance continued slowly as troops had to search each house for ey possibly hiding in basements. Ey strong point seemed to be NW of church. For furthest point reached by troops see atchd sketch of Oberhoffen. For defensive positions for night see sketch atchd. 68 plus B-25 relieved from CCB control and passed to control of 142d RCT at 1400.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent.

7. RESULTS OF OPERATION:

Troops successful in clearing houses in considerable portion of town and established new defensive positions for the night.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

Company	Type Vehicle	Operationally Fit	UNDER REPAIR		Lost During Period
			Under 24 Hrs	Over 24 Hrs	
B-25 Tk	M4 (76)	5	0	1	0
	M4 (75)	9	0	0	0
Hq Co-68	M8 (75)	2	0	0	0
	M4 (105)	2	0	0	0

/s/ A. E. Seifert (k)
 A. E. SEIFERT,
 Capt., Inf.,
 S-3

COPY

Hq 68th Armd Inf Bn
042200 Feb 1945

S-2 ISUM

Enemy not aggressive during period. Unmanned ey AT gun (75 or 77mm) found and destroyed by patrol at edge of woods (102206) at approx 1000.

Patrol contacted ey dug in at edge of woods along line (098205) to (101206) at approx 1130.

Patrol traveled to church and returned w/o contacting ey.

Ey activity heard vic cut at (099206) at approx 1330. Sounded like trees being felled.

Ey personnel and vehicular activity observed vic Shirrhein by CP at approx 1300.

Ey arty - moderate throughout period.

PW's @ Five captured hiding in basements.

/s/ Foppiano
FOPPIANO
S-2

HEADQUARTERS (SECRET) DISTRICT OF
MAY ARMED DIVISION, 100th
THIRD STRIKE AREA

26 February 1945

100th DIVISION

PATROL NUMBER: six (4) - Company HQ, 68th Armored Inf Bn (Daylight)

PATROL LEADER:

NUMBER OF MEN:

NUMBER OF VEHICLES:

MISSION:

REMARKS (OF OVERALL):

TIME OUT:

TIME EXPECTED IN:

TIME IN:

REPORTED BY:

SPECIAL PREPARATION:

REMARKS: Patrol left observer in house at (9322772) to observe for ey activity in woods vic (932278) and along road running N through woods. Patrol leader sent 2 men into edge of woods vic (932278) to protect them from surprise from that direction. Patrol proceeded through woods along left side of road to vic (9322786). Patrol leader sent two men along creek to vic (932280). From there they got fleeting glimpse of one ey moving S. Patrol continued from there until it reached vic (9322800). From there they could hear voices speaking in very low tones to across their whole front. They observed from this position but could see no movement. Observer left in house near Rd saw one ey cross fr N side of road and enter woods on S side of road. Patrol heard rifle fire fr woods vic (932280). Patrol returned 1100.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "B"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
UNITED STATES ARMY

Date 24 Feb 1945

PATROL RECORD

PATROL NUMBER: Four (4)

PATROL LEADER: ~~Sgt McCormick~~ SGT. FAULKNER

NUMBER OF MEN: Ten (10)

NUMBER OF WEPS BY TYPE: 2 BAR's; 4 SMG's, 1 Carbine, 3 ML's (lw/grenade launcher)

MISSION: To capture a prisoner from dugouts along RR between (93462736) and (93702758).

ROUTE (ON OVERLAY): See overlay.

TIME OUT: 2100, 24 Feb 45

TIME EXPECTED IN: 0100, 25 Feb 45

TIME IN:

BRIEFED AT: 1400 at briefing room.

SPECIAL PREPARATIONS: Observe ground from CP, study aerial photos and maps, coordinate w/artillery for protective fire; carry SCR 300.

RESULTS:

HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.C. 446
U.S. ARMY.

17 February 1945

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 18 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>AREA</u>
0800-0830	Military Courtesy & Discipline	Co Area
0830-0900	Personal Hygiene, Care of Feet	Co Area
0900-1000	Battle Reviews (Discussion)	Co Area
1000-1100	Care & Cleaning of Individual Weapons	Co Area
1100-1200	Maint of Vehicular Weapons & Radios	Co Area
1300-1400	Map Reading & Compass (Use of Current Maps)	Co Area
1400-1530	Maint of Vehicles (-B68 - Central Survey conducted by Med Det).	Co Area

OFFICIAL:

HOWARDS
Cmgy.

WALLS
8-3