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THE OPERATIONS OF COMPANY M, 116TH INFANTRY
(29TH INF. DIV.) IN THE LANDING
ON OMAHA BEACH, 6-13 JUNE 1944
(NORMANDY CAMPAIGN)

Type of operation described: COMPANY IN AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Index.....	1
Bibliography.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Geographical Features.....	10
Training in Preparation for Invasion.....	11
Marshalling and Concentration Area.....	14
Embarkation and The Channel Crossing.....	15
Enemy Coastal Installations in the V Corps Sector.	16
Debarkation - Ship to Shore.....	17
Fire Support Plan.....	18
D-Day Actual Landing of the 116th RCT.....	19
D plus 1, 7 June 1944.....	22
D plus 2, 8 June 1944.....	24
D plus 3, 9 June 1944.....	28
D plus 4, 10 June 1944.....	30
D plus 5, 11 June 1944.....	30
D plus 6 & 7, 12-13 June 1944.....	31
Analysis and Criticism.....	35
Lessons.....	37
Troop List CT 116th Force.....	39
Map# 1, D-Day Objectives, V Corps	
Map# 2, Assault Landing, 3d Bn., 116th Inf., 29th Div.	
Map#3, D plus 1, 7 June 1944	
Map# 4, D plus 2, 8 June 1944	
Map# 5, D plus 3 & 5, 9-11 June 1944	
Map# 6, D plus 6 & 7, 12-13 June 1944	
Map# 7, Crossing The Elle River	
Map# 8, Development of The Beachheads	

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(29TH INF. DIV.) IN THE LANDING ON OMAHA BEACH
6-13 JUNE 1944 (NORMANDY CAMPAIGN)
(Personal experience of a Company Commander)

INTRODUCTION

This monograph covers the operations of Company M, 116th Infantry, (29th Inf. Div.) in the Normandy Campaign, from the landing on Omaha Beach, 6 Jun 44 to the defensive position north of St. Andre de l'Epine, 13 June 1944.

In order to orient the reader properly, it will be necessary to go back to April 1942, and give a brief resume' of the events that lead up to this great operation.

It was agreed upon by the American and British governments in April of 1942, that a cross-channel attack against Fortress Europe, was the principal effort in the defeat of Germany. (1) General Eisenhower was ordered to England in July 1942 to begin preparation for the invasion of Europe. (2)

It was felt by the Combined Chiefs of Staff that a successful conclusion of the campaign in North Africa was necessary before an attempt to attack Europe should be launched. (3)

The continued success in Africa indicated that plans and preparations should be undertaken immediately to organize a full scale assault against the continent. This should be done as early in 1944 as possible. (4)

Victory in North Africa was told by General Bradley in a few words. He said simply; "Mission completed". (5)

Sicily fell late in the afternoon of 18 Aug 42, and Peace Feelers were sent to Italy. The Italian Army was in bad condition, and it was felt by the Allies that Italy

(1, 2, 3, 4) R-1, p. 1. (5) R-2, p. 300. (6) R-2, p. 391.

would capitulate. (6)

The plans for landing on Salerno were being prepared with D-Day set for 9 Sep 42. (7)

We can see that the German Armies are being driven back gradually. During the period, from Salerno in Sep 42, to the Po River Valley in Oct 42, the Germans were fighting delaying actions. Upon reaching the Po River Valley, they began to organize an all out defensive. Due to the weather and the terrain, the American forces decided to wait until spring, to begin or push the offensive. (8)

At the Casablanca Conference in January 1943, the Combined Chiefs of Staff felt that the time had come to prepare the outline of a tactical plan for a cross-channel operation. The organization, with Lieut. Gen. Sir F E Morgan as the Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, was called COSSAC. This organization was composed of both United States and British personnel. (9)

In June 1943, the COSSAC and Headquarters ETOUSA, directed the V Corps to prepare plans for the use of the United States Army forces in an operation to seize the Brest Peninsula of France. (10)

At the Combined Strategic Conference of the American and British high commands in April and May 1943, it was felt that the troops in the United Kingdom should be alerted and begin specialized training. (11)

The beginning of comprehensive planning was the "Wadham" operation, which was V Corps first assignment. This operation included the landing of two Infantry Divisions in the assault and one Airborne Division to be

(6) R-2, p. 391. (7) R-2, p. 400. (8) R-2, p. 433. (9) R-1, p. 1. (10, 11) R-3, p. 20.

dropped in the assault area. The completed plans for this operation were submitted to Headquarters ETOUSA, in August 1943. (12)

In Sep 1943, V Corps was assigned another task by COSSAC; the planning of operation "Overlord". This operation developed into the actual invasion of the continent of Europe. (13)

A V Corps Planning Group was organized by General Gerow. This group was responsible for the planning phase as well as the training of the troops. (14)

An elaborate security system was installed and only those persons that were eligible were admitted into the planning room. The group continued preparation of plans for operation "Overlord" until Feb 44. The assault force was changed from three to five divisions, consequently the front or beaches had to be enlarged. Only minor changes were made after that time. (15)

An amphibious operation of the kind contemplated would require close cooperation between Ground Forces, Air Forces, SOS, and Navy, as well as within the Ground Forces. (16)

Based upon the COSSAC plan for assault; together with the revisions and size of attack, the Army plan of attack involved a D-Day assault on a five division front, on the beaches between Owestnehaue and Varreville. (17)

The American troops were assigned the right flank and the British the left flank in the operation.

The American First Army, Commanded by General Bradley, was to assault with two Corps. The VII Corps on the Utah Beach and the V Corps on Omaha Beach. (18)

The VII Corps was to land with the 4th Infantry Div-

(12) R-3, p. 20. (13, 14) R-3, p. 21. (15) R-3, p. 21.
(16) R-5. (17, 18) R-1, p. 6.

ision in the assault on Utah Beach, supported by the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions, with the primary mission of cutting the Cotentin Peninsula. Then drive northward, to seize the port of Cherbourg. (19)

The V Corps planned its attack on a wide stretch of beach between Vire River and Port-en-Bessen, known as Omaha. The V Corps would secure a beachhead on Omaha Beach with one Combat Team of the 29th Infantry Division on the right and one Combat Team of the 1st Division on the left. Both of these Combat teams were under the command of Major General Huebner, 1st Infantry Division. While Cherbourg was being taken the V Corps was to drive south and seize St. Lo by D-plus 9. (20)

On the left the British were to land with three Divisions and gain the ground to the south toward Caen - six Airborne Divisions to be dropped to secure the Caen Canal and Orne River. (21)

The 1st Infantry Division (less 26th Inf. Regt.) with the 116th Infantry Regiment attached, had the task of the initial assault on Omaha Beach. The Division was to land with two Combat Teams abreast. The 16th Regimental Combat Team on the left and the 116th Regimental Combat Team on the right - with the mission of clearing the shoreline of enemy resistance in the Corps zone. (22)

The 29th Infantry Division (less 116th Inf. Regt.) with the 26th Infantry Regiment attached, was to land behind the assault force, and complete mopping-up enemy resistance - defend the D-Day phase line in the right half of the Corps sector. (23)

The 2d Infantry Division was to land D plus 1 by

(19, 20, 21) R-1, p. 7. (22, 23) R-5.

Combat Teams, prepared to extend the beachhead farther south and southeast. Secondary mission was to assist in the defense of the beachhead position. (24)

The 16th Regimental Combat Team was to land on Omaha Beach at H plus 1 minute; with two battalions abreast, to clear the shoreline of enemy resistance and establish the D-Day phase line, in the left half of the Corps sector, two hours prior to darkness. (25)

The 116th Regimental Combat Team was to land on Omaha Beach at H plus 1 minute, in the right half of the Corps sector, with two battalions abreast. Their mission was to clear the shoreline of enemy resistance and establish the D-Day phase line two hours prior to darkness. (26)

The Provisional Ranger Force of two battalions (2d and 5th Bns.), attached to the 116th RCT, was to land on Omaha Beach at H plus 1 minute, with the special mission of seizing Pointe du Hoc. (27)

The 1st Battalion, 116th RCT would land on Dog Green Beach in a column of companies. Company "A", was to spearhead the BLT's attack at H plus 1 minute.

The company was to clear the shoreline of enemy resistance in its zone. Each boat section was organized as a tactical unit and each had a special mission in clearing the beach. Company B was to follow by 30 minutes and land on same beach. Company D, and Company C, the remainder of 1st BLT would land on Dog Green Beach, and after capture of Vierville-Sur-Mer would move west, together with the Rangers, clear out enemy resistance from the beach to the Vire Estuary. The Battalion was to be prepared to seize Isigny upon order of Regimental Commander. (28)

The 2d Battalion, 116th RCT was to land at H plus 1

(24) R-5. (25) R-4, p. 34. (26) R-4, p. 33. (27) R-4, p. 30.
(28) R-4, p. 32, 34.

minute, with three companies abreast on Dog White, Dog Red, and Easy Green Beaches, to clear the shoreline of enemy resistance in their zone. Like the 1st BLT, each company was organized into boat sections and each section was self sustaining as a tactical unit. The mission of 2d BLT was to capture St. Laurent-Sur-Mer then the high ground southwest of St. Laurent. (29)

The 3d Battalion, 116th RCT, in support during the initial assault would land at H plus 50 on Easy Green, Dog Red, Dog White Beaches, behind the 2d BLT, with three companies abreast. Their mission was to assist the 2d BLT in mopping-up enemy resistance on the beach and then pass through the 2d BLT to seize Langueville, La Cambe, then occupy the high ground west of La Cambe two hours prior to darkness. Be prepared to advance toward Isigny, supported by the 1st BLT, on order of Regimental Commander. (30)

Company "I" was to land at H plus 50 on Dog Red Beach to destroy enemy installations in its zone and advance to the Battalion assembly area. Then with two platoons abreast, proceeded by a screening force of one boat section, in the right zone of action would advance to seize high ground north of Isigny. (31)

Company "L" was to land at H plus 50 on Easy Green beach to destroy enemy installations in vicinity of Les Maulin and advance to Battalion assembly area. Then, with two platoons abreast, proceeded by a screening force of one boat section, would advance in the left zone of action to seize Longueville. Continue the advance upon order to seize La Cambe and high ground north of Isigny in its zone. (32)

Company "K" was to land on Dog White Beach at H plus

(29) R-4, p. 34. (30) R-4, p. 34. (31, 32) Personal knowledge, self.

50, to clear the beach of any resistance, then advance to Battalion assembly area. Company "K" (less one platoon) (rear guard) would follow Company "L" by two hundred yards with the mission of protecting the flanks and rear. (33)

Company "M" would land on Dog Red Beach at H plus 57 and support the battalion on the beach initially, then advance to the Battalion assembly area. The company was to provide close support for the attacking echelon and support the reorganization of the Battalion on the final objective. (34)

The 1st Platoon plus 1st Section, 3d Platoon was to land on Dog Red Beach at H plus 57 and support the Battalion by fire in the right sector, then advance inland to Battalion assembly area. This platoon plus the section would provide close support for Company "I" in its zone, with particular attention to the right flank of the Battalion. Be prepared to assist 2d Platoon in the capture of Longueville. Support the reorganization of Company "I" on high ground north of Isigny. (35)

The 2d Platoon plus 2d Section, 3rd Platoon was to land on Dog Red Beach at H plus 57 and support the Battalion by fire in the left sector, then advance inland, to the Battalion assembly area. This platoon plus the section would provide close support for Company "L" in its zone, with particular attention to the left flank of the Battalion. Support Company "L" in the taking of Longueville by coordinating the killing zone on East-West road. Continue the support of Company "L" through La Cambe and high ground north of Isigny. (36)

The 3d Platoon (less two sections) would land on Dog
(33) Personal knowledge, self. (34, 35, 36) Eye witness, self.

Red Beach at H plus 57 and assist in the support of the Battalion by fire, then advance to the Battalion assembly area. This platoon (less 2 Sections) was to follow Company "K", ready for targets of opportunity from the left flank of the Battalion. Would support Company "K" in the event they were committed. Company Headquarters and Headquarters Platoon was to follow Company "K", maintaining contact with the Battalion Headquarters. (37)

GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The terrain of the Normandy coast was well adapted for defense, offering only a few areas favorable for large scale landings.

The coast is characterized by cliffs, reefs and wide tidal ranges. The reefs extended from the Vire River to Grandcamp. In the Pointe-de-Hoe area just east of Grandcamp the coast was noted for its cliffs, averaging 100 feet in height, with a very narrow beach. (38)

Further east the coast is characterized by the gentle sloping tidal flats. The gentle slopes were bordered on the east by more cliffs close to the shoreline and continued as far as Port-En-Bessin. (39)

The cliffless coast with the gentle sloping tidal flats is known as Omaha Beach. This beach line curves landward and is backed with bluffs, gradually forming into the cliffs at either end of the sector. (40)

The beach, itself, slopes very gently to the north. At low tide the beach would be exposed for an average of 300 yards. At high tide the gentle tidal flats terminated in a bank of coarse shingle, sloping up rather steeply to as much as 8 or 10 feet in height and 1 to 10 yards wide.

(37) Eye witness, self. (38, 39, 40) R-4, p. 11.

In the eastern half of the beach the shingle lay against a low sand dune. Between this portion of the beach to the bluffs, was a ley of swamp. On the western half of the beach the shingle piled up against a sea wall. The wall varied in height from 4 feet to 10 feet. Between the sea wall and the bluffs in this sector was a narrow shelf of sand. (41)

The grass covered slopes are more numerous than they appear, and provide cover from small arms fire.

Once on top of these bluffs, that rise sharply from the flats, the terrain is generally level. Actually there is a gradual rise to a height of 250 feet which parallels the coast one and one-half miles inland. (42)

Just south of this ridge line, lies the valley of the Aure River that flows east to west. In the eastern portion of the valley the Aure River was fordable by Infantry, but to the west the valley plains had been flooded to form a barrier a mile wide. (43)

There were very few roads from the beach to the south, the existing ones are secondary. The most important highway was the Carentan-Isigny-Bayeaux road which is the main supply route east to west from Paris to Cherbourg. A double track railroad almost paralleled the principal highway. (44)

TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR INVASION

The 29th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division, was activated into Federal Service on 3 February 1941. (45)

This unit a veteran of World War I, consisted of the 115th Infantry and 175th Infantry Regiments of Maryland and the 116th Infantry and 176th Infantry Regiments of Virginia. The Division became a triangle Division in

(41) R-3. (42) R-4, p. 11, 13. (43) R-4, p. 16. (44) R-4, p. 17. (45) Personal knowledge, self.

early part of 1942 of which the 176th Infantry Regiment became a separate unit.

The Division trained at Fort George G. Meade, Md., and participated in the North Carolina Maneuvers of 1941. Then the Division moved to A. P. Hill, Virginia, for further training and participation in the North Carolina Maneuvers in 1942.

The maneuvers terminated the last of July 1942 and the 29th Division moved to Camp Blanding, Fla., to prepare for movement overseas.

The 116th Infantry Regiment, by rail, was moved to Camp Kilmer, then to the Port of Embarkation. The Regiment embarked upon the Queen Mary and sailed 27 Sep 42 for England. The entire Division landed in England in October 1942. (46)

The 29th Infantry Division was alerted and prepared a defense of the British Isles, in conjunction with the British, against an invasion of the Isle by the Germans. In spite of the preparedness, the expected invasion did not materialize.

The Division was quartered in British barracks at Tidworth, England, and a strenuous training program was maintained.

In April 43 the division began movement, by foot, to the southern coast. Units of the Division were scattered along the coast, with the 116th Infantry Regiment occupying the area in the vicinity of Plymouth, England. (47)

After the movement was completed, the units began training on the Moors to get the men in excellent physical condition. A series of small unit problems were executed.

(46, 47) Personal knowledge, self.

This type of training continued until September 1943, when they began to prepare for the cross-channel assault on the continent of Europe. (48)

The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment made the necessary arrangements with the British Navy at Dartmouth, for a joint training program. The only craft the Navy had available at that time were river barges. This amphibious program continued on a battalion scale until Headquarters ETOUSA, organized the assault Training Center at Woola Combe, England.

All units of the Division participated in this specialized training of the ATC. The final phase was a Battalion in the assault of a fortified beach. (49)

After the units completed the Assault Training at the ATC they participated in the amphibious operation in conjunction with the Eleventh Amphibious Force (American Navy). (50)

An area that most nearly approximated the Normandy coast of France was selected and cleared of all civilians for large scale amphibious operations. The area selected was Slapton Sands, on the southern coast of England, near Dartmouth. (51)

The first amphibious operation on a large scale was Exercise "Duck", held in December 1943. This exercise carried the troops through the concentration, Marshalling, Embarkation, Sea Voyage, Debarkation, Ship to shore, and the assault of the beach phases. (52)

During the period 5 January 1944 and March 1944, numerous small scale "Duck" exercises were conducted. The next Corps Level exercise was Exercise Fox, involving the (48, 49, 50) Personal knowledge, self. (51) R-3. (52) R-3.

1st and 29th Infantry Division. This exercise was quite similar in scope as the Duck Exercise. Following Fox, came Exercise "Fabius", in May 1944. This was the Dress rehearsal for Operation Overlord. As nearly as possible, each phase was to be identical to that of Operation "Overlord". (53)

MARSHALLING AND CONCENTRATION AREA

The 116th Infantry Regiment began their movement into the Marshalling area, 8 May 44, according to orders from V Corps, and was completed by 11 May 44. (54)

This was the Concentration area also, for the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, eliminating another move.

All details of feeding, housing and guard duty were executed by the SOS troops. The assault troops were forced to complete the final steps for the operation and briefing began immediately. (55)

The officers of the Battalion were briefed, with the aid of sand tables and rubber models of the beach area. Then the company officers proceeded to brief their men. (56)

Company "M" was briefed by the Company Commander and then each platoon leader briefed his platoon in detail. Each man in the unit knew the mission, how it was to be executed and what type of terrain they would operate on. Last minute information was disseminated immediately. (57)

The company was organized into six boat teams. Four boat teams consisted of a machine gun section and a mortar squad, the other two boats consisted of a mortar squad and Command group and Company Headquarters. (58)

Extra equipment was issued and all water proofing completed in this area. The Battalion was to experiment

(53) R-3. (54) R-4, p. 35. (55, 56) Personal knowledge, self. (57, 58) Eye witness, self.

with the Assault Jacket and Pack Board. Machine guns and tripods were attached to these pack boards and with the use of life belts were floated. The base plates, and bipod of the mortars were arranged on the pack board in a similar manner. The tube itself was tied to an outstretched life belt.

Every one knew this operation was not just another "Dry Run", but the real thing, or the "Big Show" as General Bradley stated several months before.

Company vehicles were in three marshalling areas. Those in the area with the troops were to land D-Day. Force "B" was at Liverpool, England, and the last group to land at D plus 8 were at Bournemouth, England. (59)

EMBARKATION AND THE CHANNEL CROSSING

On the morning of 3 June 44, units began movement to the "hards" for embarkation. The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry embarked at Weymouth, England, upon the APA, USS Charles Carroll, the same APA the Battalion had during their training. (60)

An advance party, of surplus personnel, was sent aboard the ship to operate the Army Mess and to execute M. P. duty while the Army personnel were aboard. (61)

By 1800, 3 June 44, all troops were aboard and the following days were spent in boat drill. Alerts would be sounded and every one would go to their assigned station. Four of the six boat teams of Company "M" were rail loaded, two having to be loaded over the side. (62)

D-Day was set for 5 June 44 but was postponed twenty-four hours because of the weather condition. (63)

At 2000, 5 June 44, the APA USS Charles Carroll pull-

(59, 60, 61, 62) Personal knowledge, self. (63) Eye witness, self.

ed anchor and took its place in the gigantic convoy. (64)

The crossing of the channel was slow and uneventful except for the rising wind. The convoy, preceded by mine sweepers, followed the English Coast, going far to the North East of the Omaha Beach, then turning southwest until we came to the assault area.

Troops had their last meal aboard the ship (breakfast) just prior to debarking. Force "A" was in their rendezvous area by 0200, 6 June 44. (65)

ENEMY COASTAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE V CORPS SECTOR

Based upon the information our intelligence agencies obtained, the G-2 estimate was formulated.

It was believed that the coast line was lightly held, with the reserves at least 24 hours away and the armor at least 3 days off.

Estimate of the situation further stated that the beaches were covered with obstacles and under water obstacles. Further that the tidal flats were mined and contained antitank ditches, and gun emplacements. (66)

An elaborate system of obstacles was placed along the tidal flat between the high-water mark and the low-water mark. Element "C", with teller mines lashed to the upright, was the first obstacle the landing craft would encounter. The next obstacle to be encountered was heavy logs driven into the sand at such an angle that the mine tipped ends pointed seaward. Next obstruction included the hedge hogs, which consisted of steel rails crossed at the center. (67)

Defensive positions were dug along the coast at the edge of the tidal flats. These positions had grazing or plunging fire on the beach. The system of pillboxes, open

(64) Eye witness, self. (65) Personal knowledge, self.
(66, 67) R-4, p. 20.

emplacements, antitank ditches, barbed wire, and mine fields were mutually supporting. The trenches were connected by tunnels in the hillside. (68)

Machine guns were the basic defense weapon but were supplemented with sixty light artillery pieces of various types. Concrete casemates designed for guns of 75mm to 80mm, were covering the beach. Heavier guns were sited to give lateral fire. The casemates were constructed with a thick wing wall to conceal the flash of these guns. Mortars and Rockets were in position behind the bluff to fire on the approaching craft and to lay down devastating fire on the beach. (69)

At Pointe-du-Hoe a battery of six, 155mm howitzers were mounted in casemates. These guns were in a critical position as they could place fire in both the V Corps and VII Corps areas. (70)

It was estimated that sixty Divisions were in France. Characteristics of these divisions are as follows: Seventeen Infantry; Twenty-six were limited employment units; Seven training units and Ten Panzer or Panzer Grenadier Divisions. (71)

According to our G-2 information the following units were in the V Corps sector: 716th Infantry Division, 709th Infantry Division, 711th Infantry Division and 243d Infantry Division, and were in defensive positions. It was determined that the 716th Infantry Division was defending the area between Isigny and Caen, covering a fifty-three mile front. It was estimated that only one Battalion was occupying the defensive positions on Omaha Beach. (72)

DEBARKATION - SHIP TO SHORE

Debarkation signal was sounded at 0300 hours on the

(68) R-4, p. 22. (69, 70) R-4, p. 25. (71) R-3, p. 46.
(72) R-3, p. 45, 47.

A. P. A. Charles Carroll and troops immediately moved to their assigned station. Company M moved to their station as per schedule. Four boat teams had no trouble loading but two boat teams had difficulty in loading, as the sea was very choppy.

These boats finally loaded, joined the boat group in the rendezvous area. After the assembly of the entire boat group in the rendezvous area, the group made the approach to the line of departure.

The sea was so rough and choppy that most of the craft were dragging a lot of water. Waves were breaking over top of the craft and the men and equipment were drenched. (73)

The boat group reached the Line of Departure early, but the control boat waved the Naval Officer on. Progress was very slow and the condition of the sea wasn't improving.

From the Line of Departure the boat group took up its proper formation. It was good to hear our Naval fire going in, but the personnel soon realized that this operation was not a dry run. Ships were being sunk by artillery, and machine gun fire beat against the ramps of the LCVP's.

It was very misty, which made observation of the beach and picking of landmarks difficult. (74)

FIRE SUPPORT PLAN

The Eighth Air Force for several months before D-Day had been bombing the French Coast and the interior (Lines of Communication).

The Eighth and Ninth Air Forces were to bomb strong points in the Normandy beach area just prior to H Hour D-Day. (75)

There were two Naval Fire Support Groups; Group I consisting of a battleship, a cruiser and four destroyers. This group was to support the 29th Infantry Division. Group

(73) Personal knowledge, self. Eyewitness, self. (74) Personal knowledge self. (75) R-4, p. 28, 29.

II consisting of a battleship, two cruisers and four destroyers, was to support the 1st Infantry Division. Naval fire would commence at H-40 and lift at H-3.

In addition to the support groups, there were a number of supporting craft consisting of two LCG with 47mm guns, sixteen LCT's, carrying tanks, ten LCT's carrying thirty-six 105mm howitzers. These weapons were to open fire at different ranges. Finally, nine LCT(R)'s stationed about 3000 yards off shore were to fire 1000 HE rockets each. (76)

D-DAY - ACTUAL LANDING OF THE 116TH RCT

The 116th Infantry assault teams landed with difficulty. It was evident at H plus 1 minute that the enemy fortification had not been neutralized. The well concealed emplacements were hard to locate, and the artillery and tank support was handicapped by the rough sea and poor observation.

The 1st Battalion landed at H plus 1 minute (as shown on diagram) and were confronted with devastating fire on the beach, suffering a large percent of casualties. (77)

The 2d Battalion landed at H plus 1 minute (as shown) with out much unity but casualties were comparatively light. (78)

The 3d Battalion landed at H plus 30 minutes (as shown) and began neutralizing the enemy positions in their zone. Company M was landed on Easy Green and Easy Red beaches, about eight hundred yards east of Dog Red beach. Small arms fire was heavy, but seemed to be firing in a fixed lane. Men were taking refuge behind the sea wall. No advance was being made over the sea wall. (79)

Company Commander of Company M directed that two sections of machine guns be placed in position to fire on gun emplace-

(76) R-4, p. 29, 30. (77) Eye witness, self. (78) Personal knowledge, self. (79) Eye witness, self.

ments. One section of 81mm mortars was placed in position and fired white phosphorus on open gun emplacement to assist the advance of the rifle men across the sea wall (80)

Lt Thomas, 1st Platoon leader, found a break in the wire and Company M moved across the sea wall, through the "Ley" to the bluff. The advance was slow as the unit moved through the mine field on top of the bluff. One section of machine guns and one section of mortars were not accounted for until late that afternoon.

The move across the top of the bluff was in a single file, but the rest of the men took refuge behind the shelf of the bluff.

Contact was made with the Battalion at the edge of the wood, south of the beach.

The advance of the Battalion was halted by mortar fire from St. Laurent-Sur-Mer. The column was immediately re-organized, with Company I and 1st Platoon, Company M leading the advance. The column came under fire as they reached the road from Les-Moulin to St. Laurent.

Two sections of 81mm mortars went in to position and fire was adjusted upon enemy positions. (81)

Leading elements of Company L were reported to be at the edge of the woods on the left. They were employed by the Battalion Commander organizing a base of fire.

One platoon of each Company I and Company L advanced across the draw under this base of fire. Mortar fire was shifted to the rear of the hill permitting the assaulting troops to take the position.

The Battalion, with two Companies abreast, advanced across the draw, but the leading element encountered heavy machine gun fire and were unable to get across the ridge.

(80, 81) Eye witness, self.

By 1200 hours 6 June the entire Battalion was in this draw, between Les Moulen and St. Laurent-Sur-Mer.

Lt Col Lawrence E. Meeks, Battalion Commander formulated a plan and decided to flank the enemy position on their right. (82)

Company L with 1st Platoon and 1st Section, 3d Platoon from Company M tried to attack to the east in an effort to clear out the village. The attack was in progress, when the navy fired upon the steeple in the village. (83)

The enemy fire from the village was heavy with automatic weapons firing from three directions. Small caliber antiaircraft weapons fired point blank in to Company L.

More casualties had been encountered in this maneuver than was experienced crossing the beach. Our own Naval fire had a demoralizing effect upon the troops. Company L was ordered back into the draw.

Another effort was made around the nose of the hill. The mortars from Company M placed HE and smoke in the orchard to assist Company I advance. Very little progress was made as the Company came under heavy fire from the right flank and rear. (84)

It may be well to stop here and orient the reader about the support of the Battalion. Eleven of the twelve artillery pieces were lost in the approach to the beach. Tanks were not able to get off the beaches. Naval Fire Support Party were casualties on the beach. (85)

At 2000, 6 June 44, a platoon leader of Cannon Company contacted the Battalion Commander and informed him that he had three guns coming up from the beach.

A coordinated effort with the S/P of Cannon Company and Company K was repulsed as the S/P were knocked out.

(82) Personal knowledge, self. (83, 84) Eye witness, self.
(85) Personal knowledge, eye witness, self.

By 2300, 6 June 44 it was decided by the Battalion Commander to button up for the night. Two guns from Anti-Tank Company came into the area and the Battalion Commander directed that they cover the road. Each Company was assigned a sector in the perimeter. (86)

At night fall the Battalion is far from its D-Day objective, with no communication with outside units and only limited communication with in the Battalion. (87)

Casualties of the Battalion were comparatively light to the rest of the Regiment. A total of 800 killed, in the first days action, in the Regiment. (88)

Elements of five Battalions had spent the day trying to break through enemy defense at St. Laurent-Sur-Mer. (89)

D PLUS 1, 7 JUNE 1944

Plans for D plus 1 had to be adjusted to fit circumstances. The Regimental Commander of 116th Infantry, Col Charles W. D. Canham, made contact with the Commanding General, 29th Infantry Division, early the morning of 7 June 44. (90)

The regiment was scattered along the coast line. Remainder of the 1st Battalion was in the vicinity of Vierville-Sur-Mer, with elements of Regimental Headquarters Company. The 2d and 3d Battalions were in the vicinity of St. Laurent-Sur-Mer.

The 115th Infantry Regiment was to the east of St. Laurent-Sur-Mer, where their advance had been repulsed by the enemy in the vicinity of St. Laurent.

175th Infantry Regiment in Corps reserve, were still afloat. (91)

Strong points occupied by the enemy on the bluffs, continued to harass the beaches. The enemy in the vicinity

(86) Eye witness, self. (87, 88, 89) Personal knowledge, self. (88, 89) R-5. (90, 91) R-4, p. 122.

of Vierville and Pointe-du-Hoe had three Ranger Companies isolated. (92)

It was decided that the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry and the 5th Ranger Battalion, supported with tanks, would drive west and relieve the situation at Pointe-du-Hoe. 2d and 3d Battalions would drive west from St. Laurent to Vierville and clear the bluff of any enemy resistance. 115th Infantry with the mission of pushing inland to Longueville and Isigny. (93)

The 3d Battalion in the following formation; Company I supported by one machine gun platoon and one section mortars from Company M constituted the column on the right. Company L, supported by one machine gun platoon and one section of mortars from Company M constituted the column on the left; Company K rear guard. The Battalion moved out along the bluff, encountering very little opposition.

About 500 yards east of Vierville the Company Commander of Company M made contact with the left flank column and found that his unit was following Company L, 115th Infantry. The Commanding Officer, Company M, decided to continue to follow Company L, 115th Infantry as they were to turn left and he could join the rest of his battalion at Vierville. A messenger was dispatched to the Battalion. (94)

As the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, reached the outskirts of Vierville, they were hit hard with Medium Artillery fire, but continued to advance. They had advanced approximately two hundred yards and were confronted by an enemy strong point. Commanding Officer, Company M received a radio message from the Battalion Commander of the enemy position. The small group from Company M was deployed and

(92, 93) R-4, p.123. (94) Personal knowledge - Eye witness, self.

hit the enemy position on the flank completely by surprise. This helped relieve the pressure and the battalion continued it's advance. About 2000, 7 June 44 the battalion was ordered to halt its advance to the south. (95)

Company Commanders were ordered to meet the Battalion C. O. at the Cross Road to receive further instructions. (96)

The enemy continued to shell Vierville, causing a number of casualties and a great deal of confusion. However by 2300 hours orders had been received to organize a perimeter defense around Vierville.

By night-fall the Battalions had made little progress, but casualties were relatively light. (97)

1st Battalion, 116th Infantry and the 5th Ranger Battalion were in the vicinity of St. Pierre-du-Mont. Their advance had been limited by artillery fire from Maisy and numerous strong points. (98)

2d and 3d Battalions, 116th Infantry were occupying a perimeter defense of Vierville.

The 115th Infantry Regiment advance was rather slow during the day and was in the vicinity of Louviers and Longueville.

175th Infantry Regiment came ashore between the hours of 1230 and 1630; losing several small craft to mines. They began their march inland and by 2000, 7 June 44, were in the vicinity of Gruchy.

Remainder of the Division artillery landed during the afternoon, 7 June 44. (99)

D PLUS 2, 8 JUNE 1944

General Gerhardt assumed command of the 29th Infantry Division and Field Order #3 was issued at 2330, 7 June 44. (100)

(95) Message from Lt Col L. E. Meeks, Personal knowledge, self. (96) Verbal orders of Bn CO. (97) Personal knowledge, self. (98, 99) R-4, p. 126, 127. (100) R-4, p. 127.

The 175th Infantry supported by two Battalions of Tanks was ordered to move via Englesqueville and capture La Gambe, and continue toward Isigny. The 115th Infantry (less one Battalion) had the mission of seizing the high ground from Longueville to Normanville to protect the flank of the 175th Infantry. One Battalion was to move to Formigny to protect the divisions left flank.

The 116th Infantry and Rangers had the mission of clearing the coast line from Vierville to Isigny of all enemy resistance. (101)

Situation at Pointe-du-Hoe remained unchanged and the enemy artillery in the vicinity of Grand Camp and Malsy was still active despite all efforts of the Naval fire.

Early the morning of 8 June 44 the 2d and 3d Battalions, 116th Infantry plus two Companies of Tanks moved along the Vierville-Grand Camp road with the 3d Battalion the advance guard. 3d Battalion was in its usual formation.

The advance was uneventful until the head of the column came in sight of Grand Camp and came under fire. (102)

Battalion Commander was formulating his plan of attack when he received orders from Regiment to attack toward Pointe-du-Hoe.

The 1st Battalion and the Rangers were to strike the enemy from the east, and the 3d Battalion, with tanks, from the west. (103)

In order for the 3d Battalion to take up its battle position, the Battalion had to traverse it's steps a 1000 yards under heavy artillery fire.

(101) R-6. (102) Personal knowledge, Eye witness, self.
(103) Message from Regimental Commander.

The attack was launched with Company I and Company L, abreast, supported by a platoon of tanks and Company M.

The 1st Battalion and the Rangers reached the Pointe-du-Hoe without much opposition. Communication was poor and the 3d Battalion continued to advance. Infantry and Tank fire was placed on the Pointe. The Rangers were using German weapons, this added to the confusion. Heavy casualties were suffered before the situation could be cleared up. Pointe-du-Hoe was cleared and the isolated Rangers were contacted by noon, 8 June. (104)

Movement toward Grand Camp continued. The 5th Ranger Battalion advanced to the valley east of Grand Camp. This advance was halted by machine gun and mortar fire and they lacked heavy weapons support.

Colonel Canham gave the C O of Company M orders to move his company in position to support the 5th Rangers.

Company moved across the field to find position areas. The 81mm mortars were in position and the machine gun platoons were working their way forward, when orders were received from the Regimental Commander to withdraw as he planned to use Naval fire. The company returned to the 3d Battalion area.

About 1600 hours, the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry was ordered to attack across the valley; 1st Battalion plus Company A, 743rd Tk Battalion would sweep wide to the south and attack Masey. 2d Battalion was to follow the 3d Battalion. (105)

The enemy had strong points on the high ground east of Grand Camp covering the approach across the flooded valley. The 3d Battalion made several attempts to cross

(104) Personal knowledge, self. (105) R-4, p. 130. Personal knowledge, self.

this bridge, but were mowed down by grazing fire from three directions. (106)

Company M went into position to support the Battalion. 81mm mortars placed HE and white phosphorus on enemy strong points. Tanks supported the Battalion from the road. One tank was disabled by a mine, but two tanks advanced to the bridge to provide cover for the advance of the Battalion. (107)

Company K overran the enemy strong points and Company I, with one platoon of machine guns and one section of mortars attached, passed through Company K, with the mission of clearing the right half of Grand Camp.

Company L, with like attachments was to clear the left half of the town. Company K reverted to Battalion reserve.

Company I advanced very rapidly and was ordered to hold up until Company L had caught up. (108)

During this brief period, Company I drew fire from the south section of town.

The Regimental Commander had sent the 2d Battalion south to clear out the left half of Grand Camp. This move was without coordination with the 3d Battalion Commander, resulting in considerable delay and confusion. (109)

Clearing of the town continued after the proper coordination, 2d Battalion on the left and Company L to assist Company I on the right.

Company I was pinned down on the beach at the west edge of town, but withdrew at dark. The company suffered heavy casualties. The Battalion Commander ordered Company L and I back into the town, then the advance was through the southern sector of town. The Battalion went into a perimeter defense for the night. (110)

(106) Personal knowledge, self. (107)(108) Eye witness, self. (109) Bn Condr's statement to self. (110) Personal knowledge, self.

Carrying parties were organized of volunteers from Company M and 3d Battalion Headquarters to go back to the beach and remove the wounded.

The 116th Infantry Regiment experienced their first organized resistance in the operation to take Grand Camp. A large number of casualties resulted from this type of defense.

Early part of the night the enemy bombed Grand Camp and the road from Vierville, hitting the Regimental Motor column. (111)

The 115th Infantry had been successful during the day and by night had one Battalion at Canchy and two Battalions in the Longueville area. The 175th Infantry made a twelve mile advance and captured Isigny. The 116th Infantry Regiment bivouaced in the Maisy-Grand Camp area. By the end of the day, 8 Jun 44, the area north of the inundated Aure Valley had been cleared of organized enemy resistance. (112)

D PLUS 3 - 9 JUNE 1944

Field Order #4, 29th Infantry Division was issued the night of 8-9 June 44.

The 115th Infantry was ordered to cross the Aure Valley and capture Ericqueville, Colombieres, and the Calette Woods. (113)

The 175th Infantry Regiment with the mission of securing the Corps flank along the Vire River.

The 116th Infantry Regiment had the mission of clearing out the area from Grand Camp to Isigny. (114)

About 0830, 9 Jun 44, a reinforced Company was sent back to finish mopping up in Grand Camp. The unit met practically no opposition.

(111) Statement of Motor Sgt to self. (112) R-4, p. 130.
(113, 114) R-7.

Just as the regiment was moving out on its' assigned mission, the transportation joined their units. Company M had five jeeps and one half-track ashore at this time. The 116th Infantry Regiment took up the approach march toward La Cambe, in a column of Battalions; in the following order: 3d Battalion; 2d Battalion; Regimental Headquarters; CN and Anti-tank; and 1st Battalion. The vehicles moved by bounds within the column.

The 3d Battalion was in a normal advance guard formation, with Company L and attachments from Company M led the march. Company I and attachments followed Company L. Headquarters and Headquarters Company was next in column, followed by Company K. (115)

This movement was without incident and the Regiment occupied an outpost line in the vicinity of La Cambe and Longueville.

The 1st and 2d Battalions occupied positions in the vicinity of La Cambe and the 3d Battalion in the Longueville area.

Company L and attachments were in position in the east half of the Bn Zone. Company I and attachments were in position in the west sector.

A large ammunition dump in Company L sector was hit during the night, by low bombing enemy aircraft. A number of casualties were suffered by Companies L and M. The remainder of the night was very quiet. (116)

The 115th Infantry Regiment had crossed the Aure Valley and continued to push inland. The 175th Infantry Regiment was having difficulty in securing the V Corps right flank. The 116th Infantry Regiment was in Division reserve. (117)

(115, 116, 117) Personal knowledge, self.

D PLUS 4 - 10 JUNE 1944

The 115th Infantry Regiment had the mission to push on to the Elle River. The 175th Infantry with the right flank security mission would detach a company to make contact with elements of VII Corps, with the 116th Infantry still in Division reserve. (118)

The 116th Infantry spent the day in reorganization. Men and officers were transferred to the 1st Battalion. The Regiment was about 50% of its original strength, but the 1st Battalion had suffered the greatest number of casualties. (119)

It had been found difficult to use the heavy machine guns from positions on top of the hedge rows with the regular tripod. Four light machine gun tripods, M-2, were secured from the Ordnance Company on the beach. Later on the company secured enough for each heavy machine gun. (120)

The men of the regiment really appreciated the rest as the night was very quiet.

We find the 115th Infantry on its objective in the vicinity of Marquerite-d'Elle and Epinay-Tesson. The 175th Infantry was in position west of the 115th Infantry securing the V Corps right flank. (121)

D PLUS 5 - 11 JUNE 1944

The 29th Infantry Division was to continue its mission. The 115th Infantry Regiment was to strengthen its position prior to crossing the Elle River. The 175th Infantry Regiment, with the mission of securing the Corps flank and making contact with elements of VII Corps, was to continue to strengthen its position. (122)

After the reorganization of the 116th Infantry in the Longueville-La Cambe area, the regiment was to move across

(118) R-4, p.145. (119) Personal knowledge, self. (120) Eye witness, self. (121) R-4, p. 145. (122) R-4, p. 146.

the Aure River.

The regiment in an approach march, with identical formation to that of 9 Jun 44, crossed the Aure Valley and moved in to bivouac in the vicinity of Castilly. (123)

The advance of the division had been rather slow today. The 115th Infantry Regiment met organized resistance south of the Elle River. The 175th Infantry Regiment withdrew the company that had been detached to make contact with VII Corps because of stubborn resistance. (124)

D PLUS 6 AND 7 - 12-13 JUNE 1944

V Corps mission at this time was to attack in its zone in conjunction with the British on the left. (125)

The 29th Infantry Division was to continue in its sector to strengthen and secure the right flank and push across the Elle River in an effort to relieve the pressure that was on the VII Corps.

The 175th Infantry had the mission of securing the right flank and attacking southwest across the St. Lo-Isigny highway.

The 115th Infantry now in position on the Elle River was to attack in its zone to capture St. Clair-Sur-Elle and Couvain. (126)

Early in the morning of 12 June 44, the 116th Infantry began movement to an assigned bivouac near Chippelle. The usual approach march formation was employed.

Leading elements of the regimental column were entering the bivouac area when the attack order was received. The 116th Infantry Regiment with 3d Battalion, 115th Infantry will attack and capture St. Clair and Couvain.

The 115th Infantry had been attacking all day to get across the Elle River and capture the same objectives, but

(123) Personal knowledge, self. (124) R-4, p. 151, 153.
(125) R-4, p. 150. (126) R-4, p. 154.

only one Battalion had crossed the river. This Battalion, realizing its position, pulled back. (127)

The regimental attack plan was as follows: Attack with two battalions abreast and capture St. Clair and Couvain. The 1st Battalion on the left will cross the Elle River and capture Couvain. The 2d Battalion on the right will cross the Elle River and capture St. Clair. The 3d Battalion will cross the Elle River, behind the 1st Battalion, and capture St. Jean-de-Savigny. The 3d Battalion, 115th Infantry will be in regimental reserve. (128)

Launching of the attack began about 1730, 12 Jun 44. The 1st and 2d Battalions had advanced to the river line, where they met with very determined resistance. The enemy had all possible approaches covered with anti-tank or self-propelled weapons. (129)

The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry was in its usual formation with Company L leading the battalion. Company L had advanced to the cross road, where they met the Regimental Commander. He directed Company L to bear to the right, into the 2d Battalion's sector, to cross the river. The remainder of 3d Battalion crossed the river in the 1st Battalion sector. Contact with Company L and one platoon of machine guns and one section of mortars from Company M was not established until daylight. (130)

The regiment crossed the river during darkness. Machine gun and mortar fire was heavy but not too effective.

The 2d Battalion advanced to the outskirts of St. Clair, but the resistance was heavy. With an artillery preparation placed on the town, the 2d Battalion captured the town about 1000, 13 June 44.

(127) R-4, p. 155. (128, 129, 130) Personal knowledge, self.

The 1st Battalion had more opposition in taking their objective and at daylight were far from their objective.

(131)

The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, took St. Jean-de-Savigny during the night with little resistance. Orders were received that the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry would assist the 3d Battalion, 115th Infantry in the capture of Couvain.

A coordinated attack was planned, that the 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, would attack from the east flank and the 3d Battalion, 115th Infantry, would attack from the west flank. The capture of Couvain came as a surprise, both battalions moved in without much difficulty.

The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry, was ordered to push through Couvain and occupy the outpost line just northeast of the St. Lo-Isigny highway. (132)

Company I, with one platoon of machine guns and one section of mortars from Company M, attached, were to occupy the right sector, push out as far as possible, and maintain contact with the 2d Battalion in the vicinity of St. Clair.

Company K, with one section of mortars from Company M, attached, was to occupy the center sector and maintain contact with Company I on the right and Company L on the left. (133)

Company L, with one platoon of machine guns and one section of mortars from Company M, attached, was to push as far south from Couvain as possible and occupy the left sector of the Battalion area. Contact was maintained with Company K on the right, but were unable to maintain contact with the 115th Infantry on the left. This constituted a gap in the outpost line. (134)

(131, 132, 133, 134) Personal knowledge, self.

The 116th Infantry Regiment was unable to reach the road. The 2d Battalion had secured St. Clair but didn't advance further to the front. Small enemy forces infiltrated into the town but were quickly destroyed. (135)

In the 3d Battalion area, Company I and Company K held their positions, despite several attempts by the enemy to break through. In Company L's sector, the enemy took advantage of the open flank and launched several small counterattacks during the day. Company L was able to repulse these attacks. During the night another counterattack pushed Company L back about 100 yards. The line was restored when Lt. Thomas, Platoon Leader, Machine Gun Platoon, managed to halt the fleeing riflemen and put them back on line with the Machine Gun Platoon. The counter attack was finally repulsed. (136)

Company C was ordered to move in position to protect the left flank.

During the night, 13 Jun 44, the area was pounded with enemy medium artillery. Strong resistance was being met in the entire 29th Infantry sector. This indicated that the enemy was preparing to defend St. Lo. (137)

Casualties for the 116th Infantry Regiment during the last operation were heavy. We must remember this regiment has not had any replacements since landing on the beach, D-Day.

The 175th Infantry Regiment has advanced to the Vire River, in the right sector of the Division, the 116th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of St. Clair and Couvain. The 115th Infantry Regiment in the left rear of 116th Infantry, in Division reserve. (138)

(135) Personal knowledge, self. (136) Statement of Lt. Thomas to self. (137) R-4, p. 158. (138) Personal knowledge, self.

ANALYSIS AND CRITICISM

In making a study of this operation it is needless to say the 116th Infantry Regiment was assigned a difficult task. Any unit given an assault mission on hostile beaches would be confronted with a difficult task.

Specialized training this unit received prior to the assault was well spent. Training was conducted on similar terrain to that of the actual assault. It is the opinion of the author that enough emphasis was not placed on breaching the defense in hedgerow country. The enemy had utilized the hedgerows, (of their wall of stone and trees) to build up a strong defense. More time should have been spent on the breaching of the enemy strong defense and valuable time and material and personnel would have been saved.

Planning in an amphibious operation is the most essential phase of a successful operation. Every detail was considered in the planning phase and during all rehearsals. In the plans, different teams, such as the Fire Support Parties, Naval Shore Fire Teams, would stress and maintain coordination between each team on the beach. Full effectiveness of Naval Fire Support was never obtained, due to improper coordination. Conversely a number of casualties of our own troops were suffered from our weapons due to improper coordination.

Communication in any operation is essential to good control of the assaulting units and the control of our supporting weapons. There was practically no communication between units and supporting weapons in this operation.

Assault Battalions were organized in such a manner that each boat team could assault a fortified position independently. But in the reserve battalion of the 116th Infantry,

only two boat teams per company were organized for the assault. Due to the inevitable, it would be better that all assault teams be organized alike, then any boat team would be available to assault the fortified positions.

Company M was organized in six boat teams, each boat was commanded by an officer.

Four boats were identical, with the following:

- a. One section of Heavy Machine Guns.
- b. One squad of 81mm Mortars.
- c. A platoon or section leader.
- d. A Radio operator.
- e. Messengers.

Two boats carried the other section of mortars and the Command group. The Company Commander and Executive Officer were in separate boats.

Two long pieces of rope were used during the advance from the LCVP to the beach. The ropes were used to aid the men in getting their heavy weapons ashore. All weapons were waterproofed and would float. This aided materially as the company did not lose any weapons.

Research and experiments are necessary but should be carried on during training and on friendly terrain. The 3d Battalion, 116th Infantry wore assault jackets and pack boards during this operation as an experiment. Consequently the men carried unnecessary equipment, weighing them down. A number of casualties were resulted from drowning because of the burden the individual was carrying.

Vehicles should be afloat at a safe distance and be called in as the beach is cleared. Some of the vehicles were scheduled and came in on schedule, but on top of the assaulting troops. Time, material and personnel could be saved if vehicles were called ashore as the exits are opened.

Initial operations in Normandy indicated that insufficient training had been conducted in Infantry-Tank cooperation prior to entry into combat. After the fall of Grand Camp, Tank and Infantry teams were organized. The tanks would support the advance of the Infantry by firing in the trees and along the hedgerows. An Infantry squad would protect the tank and assist its advance through the hedgerow by blowing a hole with TNT. Training in rest areas was conducted by these teams.

Light machine gun tripods (M-2) were used with the heavy machine gun advantageously because of the difficulty of obtaining position for the machine gun other than on top of a hedgerow. It was determined that the machine gun platoon could provide better support for the riflemen by staying up close.

Chain of command should work down as well as up. On three different occasions the Regimental Commander took control or issued instructions to smaller units deploying them without coordinating these operations with the subordinate Commanders. All of these cases resulted in confusion and a number of needless casualties.

LESSONS

Some of the lessons to be learned from this operation are:

1. Training on as near like terrain as the hostile terrain, with emphasis on the enemy's capabilities and limitations and the method to combat his capabilities.
2. To obtain the maximum effectiveness of the Naval fire or supporting fires, communication and proper coordination, are essential. Must have communication and liaison to control units properly.
3. Organization of the reserve, in the assault units,

should be identical to that of the assault forces.

4. Troops should carry only the necessities. More equipment they have, the larger the target.

5. Vehicles and material were lost on the beach because they came ashore before exits were provided.

6. Necessity for tank and infantry team training.

7. It was more advantageous to use the machine guns up close with the riflemen.

8. A Regimental Commander must make his plans and preparation for an attack before it starts. Once it is launched, the conduct of the assaulting units is in the hands of the smaller unit Commander. The Regimental Commander can and should influence the action by the use of his reserves and supporting weapons.

9. Aggressive troop leaders in all echelons. This operation wouldn't have been successful without the aggressiveness in the leaders.

TROOP LIST CT 116TH FORCE

<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
1. 116th Inf (Incl DUKW drivers and overstrength)	3,486	197
2. 111th FA Bn (Incl DUKW drivers) (A)	556	77
3. 121st Engr (C) Bn (A)	464	38
4. Co B - plus 1 plat Co D - 104th Med Bn (A)	157	14
5. Air Support Party (A)	8	6
6. Det 29th QM Co (B)	4	1
7. Det 729th Ord LM Co (B)	5	2
8. Det 29th Sig Co (B)	47	12
9. Det 29th MP Plat (A)	42	6
10. Det 29th Inf Div Hq & Hq Co (B)	31	8
11. Ln Party 4th Inf Div Arty (29th Div) (A)	4	2
12. PWI Teams (29th Div) (A)	4	1
13. Civil Affairs (29th Div) (A)	3	1
14. Sect GR Plat 606th QM Co (29th Div) (A)	6	1
15. Det 29th Rcn Tr (B)	27	0
16. Rcn Det 116th Inf (B)	2	0
17. Det 1st US Inf Div Arty (A)	24	1
18. 743d Tank Bn DD (A)	332	85
19. 112th Engr (C) Bn	575	47
20. 58th Armd FA Bn (A)	445	88
21. Co's B & D 81st Cml Wpns Bn (A)	212	32
22. 2d Ranger Bn (A)	554	38
23. 5th Ranger Bn (A)	533	30
24. Air Support Party (Rangers) (A)	8	6
25. Det 1st Sig Co (A)	5	1
26. Det 5th ESB (B)	1,874	122
27. 4 Teams 3d Aux Surg Gp (B)	32	0
28. 1 Btry 397th AAA AW Prov Bn (B)	87	0

TROOP LIST CT 116 FORCE (Contd)

	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
29.	Det 320th Bar Bln Bn (B)	82	11
30.	467th AAA AW Bn (B)	533	102
31.	NSFCP (5 Teams) (A)	70	5
32.	Special Engr Task Force (146th Engr CT) (B)	701	1
33.	Engr Avn Co 834th Engr Avn Bn (B)	50	5
34.	Tankdozers (w/743d Tank Bn) (A)	40	8
35.	Rcn Party (C & D 834th & 820th Engr Avn Bns) (B)	18	4
36.	Det V Corps Hq & Hq Co (B)	43	0
37.	Ln Party 16th Inf (116th Inf) (A)	3	0
38.	Ln Party 1st Inf Div (V Corps Adv) (B)	3	2
39.	Ln Party 1st Inf Div (116th Inf) (A)	2	0
40.	Ln Party 1st Inf Div (29th Inf Div Adv) (B)	4	2
		<u>11,076</u>	<u>976</u>

(A) Attached to 116th Infantry for operation.

(B) Attached to 116th Infantry for movement only.