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FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT.(U)
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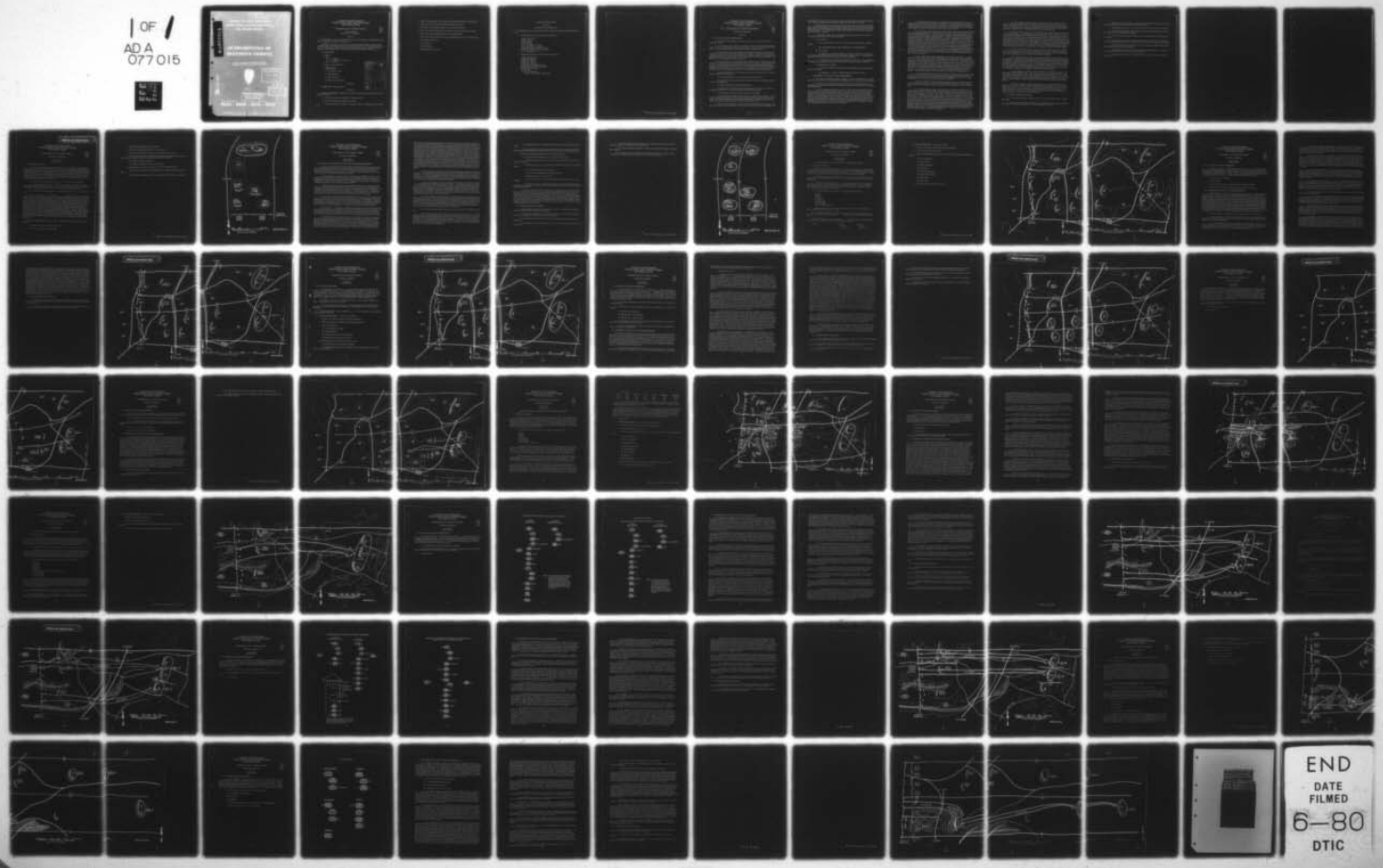

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COMMAND AND STAFF DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

ORIGINAL CONTAINS COLOR PLATES: ALL DDC REPRODUCTIONS WILL BE IN BLACK AND WHITE.

1962

Instructional Material for Problems

6135 - 6136 - 6170 - 6137

With Advance Sheet, same title and numbers.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

ADVANCE SHEET
(Inclosure 1 to Accompany)

Section I

1. PURPOSE: To provide the student with a general knowledge of the fundamentals of offensive combat at the brigade and battalion level.

2. SCOPE: Conference and practical exercise utilizing sketch maps to cover the basic concepts of offensive operations at the brigade and battalion level. Considers planning and conduct of the attack under varying conditions of mobility and fire support. Includes scheme of maneuver, measures for control, and plan of nuclear and nonnuclear fire support.

3. INSTRUCTIONS.

a. Study -

FM 7-20, Chapter 5
Chapter 11, Sections I-II.
FM 7-30, Chapter 6.

b. Solve - First Requirement.

c. Bring to Class -

(1) This advance sheet.

(2) O&T Handbook.

(3) FM 7-20 and 7-30.

(4) Infantry Reference Data.

Section II

4. TROOP LIST. (See Inclosure 1)

Section III

5. FIRST REQUIREMENT: Make notes in order to be prepared to discuss answers to the following questions:

a. What is the mission of the Infantry in offensive action?

b. Why must a commander analyze his mission?

c. What is a penetration? What are its phases? What is its relationship with infiltration?

d. What is an envelopment? How is the turning movement related to an envelopment?

e. What are some reasons for selecting intermediate objectives?

f. How does the axis of advance differ from the direction of attack?

g. What is the relationship between the scheme of maneuver and the plan of attack?

h. When is a mounted attack favored over a dismounted attack?

i. How does a mounted attack differ from a dismounted attack? Include the following:

(1) Distance to objectives.

(2) Formations.

(3) Use of tanks.

(4) Displacement of reserves.

TROOP LIST (Abbreviated)

Inclosure I

(Applicable to this problem only)

The organizations used in this problem are the 21st Infantry and the 52d Mechanized Divisions.

a. 21st Infantry Division units used in this problem are:

1st Bde, 21st Inf Div.
1st Bn, 66th Inf.
1st Bn, 67th Inf.
1st Bn, 68th Inf.
Co A, 1st Tank Bn, 1st Armor.
Co B, 1st Tank Bn, 1st Armor.
1st How Bn (105mm) (towed), 45th Arty.
1st How Bn (105mm) (towed), 47th Arty.
Co A, 21st Engr Bn.

b. 52d Mechanized Division units used in this problem are:

1st Bde, 52d Mech Div.
2d Mech Bn, 76th Inf.
2d Mech Bn, 77th Inf.
2d Mech Bn, 78th Inf.
2d Tank Bn, 4th Armor.
7th How Bn (105mm) (SP), 50th Arty.
7th How Bn (105mm) (SP), 51st Arty.
2d Recon Sqdn, 23d Cav.
52d Engr Bn.
    Co A, 52d Engr Bn.
    1st Plat, Co E (Bridge), 52d Engr Bn.

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PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Section IV

6. SOLUTION TO FIRST REQUIREMENT:

a. The mission of the Infantry in offensive combat is to close with and destroy or capture the enemy.

b. The commander must analyze his mission to ensure that he understands all tasks stated, implied or deduced that his unit must accomplish. This normally includes the seizure of one or more terrain objectives at the level of the division and lower units.

c. In the penetration, the main attack passes through and ruptures the enemy's principal defensive position to destroy the continuity of his defense. The penetration normally includes three phases: (1) rupture of the enemy forward defensive position; (2) widening of the gap; (3) seizure of the objective(s) which destroys the continuity of the enemy's defense. The infiltration is a technique used to effect a penetration.

d. In an envelopment, the main attack passes around or over the enemy's main defensive force to seize objectives which facilitate his destruction in position. Envelopments may be close or deep depending upon the distance by which the main and supporting attacks are separated. The turning movement is a variation of an envelopment in which the attacking force passes around or over the enemy's main force to seize an objective deep in the enemy's rear which will cause him to abandon his position or to divert major forces to meet the threat.

e. Intermediate objectives may be designated to proved for destruction of the enemy and the seizure of terrain features:

(1) Which dominate all or a portion of the attacking force's zone.

(2) Upon which prolonged and difficult combat is anticipated, indicating a need for a period of reorganization.

(3) Which facilitate control of subordinate units.

(4) Necessary for positioning of units and weapons for the purpose of closely coordinating an attack by more than one unit against a strong enemy position.

(5) Essential to the retention of the momentum in the attack.

f. The axis of advance differs from the direction of attack in that the former is not as restrictive and bypassing of enemy who cannot jeopardize accomplishment of mission is permitted. The higher commander is informed of such bypassing. The direction of attack indicates the specific approach to be used, and bypassing is not permitted.

g. The plan of attack includes a scheme of maneuver and a plan of fire support. The scheme of maneuver is the detailed plan for the placement and movement of subordinate units

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in carrying out the mission. The scheme of maneuver is developed concurrently with the plan of fire support to ensure the best integration of fires with the maneuver of troops.

h. Mounted attacks are favored over dismounted attacks when conducting fluid operations, where rapid movement over great distance is required. Such operations include attacks against light or discontinuous enemy resistance and the exploitation of success or the effects of nuclear weapons. In mounted attacks, Infantry units dismount when the situation requires (enemy resistance, obstacles).

i. (1) Distance to objectives: In mounted attacks deeper objectives are assigned. In dismounted attacks objectives are relatively shallow.

(2) Formations:

(a) In mounted attacks, single or multiple column formations are normally adopted.

(b) In dismounted attacks, linear formations are normally adopted.

(3) Use of tanks:

(a) Mounted. In mounted operations, the mobility, firepower, and shock effect of tanks can be fully exploited; therefore, tank-heavy, Infantry-heavy, or unweighted company task forces are formed by attachment of rifle and tank platoons.

(b) Dismounted. In dismounted operations tank platoons are normally attached to attacking rifle companies to add their shock effect and firepower to that of the Infantry.

(4) Displacement of reserves:

(a) Mounted. Reserves normally follow the leading echelon at prescribed distances or by bounds.

(b) Dismounted. Reserves normally displace by bounds, on order.

7. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FIRST REQUIREMENT:

a. The mission of Infantry in offensive combat is to close with and destroy or capture the enemy. The mission is accomplished by a combination of fire, maneuver and close combat.

b. The first step in developing a scheme of maneuver is a thorough analysis of the assigned mission and a consideration of all available information of enemy, terrain and weather, and friendly forces.

(1) The commander must study his order to ensure that he understands all tasks stated and implied or deduced which his unit must accomplish. Frequently, these tasks are stated in terms of objectives that must be seized. Assigned objectives must be seized and controlled. At times it may be necessary to physically seize the entire objective to ensure its control. When the objective is large, its control is frequently accomplished by seizing the terrain from which the remainder of the area can be controlled. Based upon his estimate of the situation, the commander may subdivide the objective, designating the dominant terrain as subordinate unit objectives. A unit mission may permit objectives to be controlled or denied by controlling approaches thereto and by use of radiation.

(2) Communication centers, key installations and enemy positions may also be assigned as objectives where their capture is necessary for the accomplishment of the mission. Communication centers may assume greater importance in fluid situations because of their impact on the control of speed of advance. After seizure of the objective, forces consolidate and reorganize to control the objective and prepare for future operations.

c. The penetration is favored when the enemy is overextended, when the hostile flanks are unassailable, or when there is insufficient time to envelop. It is characterized by a rupture of the enemy battle position, widening of the gap by attacks against the shoulders, and seizure of objectives by operations through the gap. At times, the second and third phases of the penetration may be conducted simultaneously. A brigade or battalion may participate in any of these phases or it may conduct all three phases alone. Infiltration forces which have previously moved by stealth to positions in the enemy's rear may assist other forces effecting a ground penetration by seizing objectives which facilitate the rupture, divert the reserve, widen the gap, and/or destroy the continuity of the enemy's defense. As an example, the penetration of an enemy battalion main defense position is effected when that enemy battalion's reserve(s) position(s) is seized or overrun, or the reserve itself has been defeated thereby destroying the continuity of his defense. In the conduct of the rupture (phase I) the attack must be made sharply and the objective(s) seized rapidly to preclude degeneration into a pushing type action. The penetration thus effected will make possible continued action against deeper enemy defensive positions.

d. A force may conduct a ground envelopment or an aerial envelopment. Ground envelopment requires that the enemy have an assailable flank or that one be created by nuclear fires. In a close envelopment the fire support available to the commander can support the enveloping force and the supporting attack. When this cannot be done, it is referred to as a deep envelopment. In this situation provisions must be made to ensure continuous fire support to the enveloping force. An aerial envelopment requires suppression of enemy air defense fires, or that enemy dispositions and capabilities be unable to interfere materially with the flight of the airlift force. In the turning movement enemy forces that abandon positions or that are diverted to meet the threat of the turning force usually have to fight on ground chosen by the attacker. Other attacks engage the enemy during the movement of the enveloping force.

e. An intermediate objective is one whose seizure will materially assist in the accomplishment of the mission, aid in the seizure of the final objective and/or facilitate control of the maneuver forces. Only the minimum necessary are designated since their seizure may slow the attack, restrict maneuver, and cause excessive massing.

f. The axis of advance is a directional control measure which is relatively unrestrictive as compared to the direction of attack. The commander assigning the axis will ensure that deviation from the assigned axis does not interfere with the maneuver or fires of adjacent units.

g. (1) The plan of attack is made up of the scheme of maneuver and the plan of fire support; these are developed concurrently. In determining the scheme of maneuver, the commander determines those critical areas which can be neutralized by fire alone and those which must be seized by maneuver elements. The scheme of maneuver envisions the maximum utilization of fire, employing only the troops necessary to ensure accomplishment of the mission. The availability of fire support means greatly influences the scheme of maneuver. The greater the firepower available, the greater influence fires have upon the scheme of maneuver. Use of nuclear weapons may allow the attacker to use approaches which would otherwise be denied. Conversely, obstacles created by the use of nuclear weapons may prevent the use of a certain scheme of maneuver. The scheme of maneuver and the plan of fire support must be closely coordinated. Both the scheme of maneuver and the plan of fire support are supported by the plan of administrative support. The logistical situation must be considered when developing the scheme of maneuver and/or the plan of fire support.

(2) In developing his plan of attack, the commander imposes control measures upon his subordinate elements only to the extent necessary to ensure that the attack is conducted in accordance with his concept. The planning and conduct of the attack seek to apply superior combat power at the decisive point and time by the proper selection of approaches, formations, organization for combat and maximum use of supporting fires.

h. Although offensive operations of mounted infantry are essentially the same as those of dismounted infantry, in mounted attacks the armored personnel carrier (APC) is used to increase battlefield mobility of the infantry and afford it a degree of armor protection. However, the APC is not a fighting vehicle and should not be used as such. In planning the attack, the commander and his staff make every effort to capitalize on the mobility of the APC while at the same time reducing its exposure to enemy antitank fire. Plans should include maximum use of concealment and cover to allow the mounted infantry to advance as closely as tactically possible to the objective before dismounting. When enemy action necessitates the infantry will dismount. This does not preclude moving to or through the objective mounted when the situation allows. Once dismounted, the attack is conducted in the same manner as that of dismounted infantry.

i. (1) Since the mounted attack can only be made when enemy resistance is light or when nuclear weapons can be exploited, its objectives will be deeper. Since dismounted attacks are required against initial strong enemy resistance and because of the slow rate of advance and reaction time of reserves shallow objectives are assigned.

(2) In mounted operations, the increased mobility allows greater reliance on column formations. Mounted reserves usually follow the leading echelon at a prescribed distance or by bounds. The added protection afforded by the APC may allow a reduction in the minimum safe distance required for the use of nuclear weapons and provide a better capability to exploit the effects of nuclear and nonnuclear fires. Line formations maximize frontal firepower and allow the majority of the brigade or battalion to close rapidly with the enemy. Column formations maximize flank security and flexibility of employment, and facilitate control. The column formation is seldom used in brigade or battalion dismounted operations.

(3) When Infantry is mounted, it can capitalize on the mobility of the tanks. The commander organizes Infantry-heavy, tank-heavy or unweighted company task forces by the attachment of rifle and tank platoons. This organization for combat is based on the commander's estimate of the situation. In dismounted operations, the rate of advance is reduced to the speed of the foot elements. Because of the limited tank strength, tank platoons are often attached to rifle companies to add their firepower and shock effect to the weight of the Infantry attack.

(4) When the brigade or battalion is dismounted, more compact formations are required since units are unable to move as rapidly to support each other, to protect exposed flanks, and/or to be committed to action. Reserves are normally displaced from one reserve location to another on order so that they are readily available for rapid employment to influence the action. The lack of protection against nuclear effects and reduced mobility when dismounted limits the capability to exploit nuclear fires.

8. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The mission of Infantry in offensive action is to close with and destroy or capture the enemy.

b. Objectives are assigned to facilitate the accomplishment of the mission; intermediate objectives are assigned to facilitate control and phasing of the attack.

c. Mounted infantry units engage in close combat dismounted from their carriers; APC are essentially means of transport and are not fighting vehicles.

d. When assigned an objective, the unit is required to seize and control the objective.

e. The principal directional control measures in offensive operations are zones of action, axes of advance, and directions of attack.

f. The two elements of the plan of attack are the scheme of maneuver and the plan of fire support.

g. In dismounted operations, formations and control measures are prescribed which maximize frontal firepower and allow the majority of the force to close rapidly with the enemy.

h. In mounted operations, formations and control measures are adopted which exploit the increased mobility of the attacking force.

i. The penetration is required when the enemy has no assailable flank, or when time or other reasons do not permit execution of an envelopment.

j. For a ground envelopment, an assailable flank must exist or may be created by nuclear fires.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6136
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PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section V
(Sketch Map A)

9. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. 21st Inf Div has been advancing to the north. Late this afternoon, reconnaissance elements contacted what appears to be an Aggressor outpost line. Subsequent probes pushed in the outpost and developed the enemy positions. The division commander has ordered an attack at 0545 (BMNT) tomorrow with two brigades in the attacking echelon to penetrate the enemy defenses. 1st Bde consists of 3 battalions: 1/66 Inf, 1/67 Inf, and 1/68 Inf. The bde commander has decided to attack with two battalions in the attacking echelon, 1/66 Inf and 1/67 Inf, with 1/66 Inf making the main attack. Intelligence reports indicate the enemy situation in the zone of the 1/66 Inf to be as shown on Sketch Map A.

b. The 1st How Bn (105mm) (towed), 45th Arty is in direct support of 1st Bde.

c. Weather and terrain. Weather is fair and cool, wind is from the west at 10 knots. Trafficability is excellent throughout the zone. Trees in the area are scattered and offer fair concealment. Concealment and cover range from fair to good throughout the area.

d. A nonactive nuclear situation exists. United States Air Force has local air superiority.

10. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 061830 Oct ___. The 1/66 Inf is in contact as indicated on Sketch Map A. In analyzing his mission, the battalion commander deduces that, in addition to his stated task of capturing Objective 661, he must effect a rupture of the enemy forward positions; he must first seize HILLs 892 and 865, each occupied by an estimated platoon, capture HILLs 895 and 870, then gain control of HILL 898, since it dominates a large portion of the battallion zone, before proceeding to Objective 661. Objective 661 consists of two hills (945 and 900) which must be seized or controlled to accomplish his mission. HILL 945 (on left) is the dominant terrain and the decisive area within his objective. HILL 900 (on right) can be controlled by fires from HILL 945 but not the eastern approaches thereto. Thus accomplishment of the mission will require occupying HILL 900 as well as HILL 945. (Having made his analysis of the mission, the battalion commander must issue his planning guidance to his staff, make his reconnaissance, his estimate of the situation, announce his decision and concept of operation. The staff will then complete the details of the attack order for the battalion commander's approval. After approval of the order, the S3 prepares the order for distribution to the subordinate units.)

11. SECOND REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, 1/66 Inf. Based on your estimate of the situation:

a. Where will you make your main attack? Why?

b. How may you weight your main attack?

c. What supporting attack(s) will be required?

d. What is the composition and mission of your reserve?

e. What control measures are necessary to control the attack? Why?

f. Assuming an active nuclear situation, with no nuclear weapons allocated to the brigade, would you make any change in your scheme of maneuver to include:

(1) Designation of the main attack?

(2) Number of companies in the attacking echelon?

g. Assuming an active nuclear situation, with nuclear weapons allocated,

(1) What are the commander's responsibilities in the employment of nuclear weapons?

(2) How could the employment of nuclear weapons affect the scheme of maneuver?

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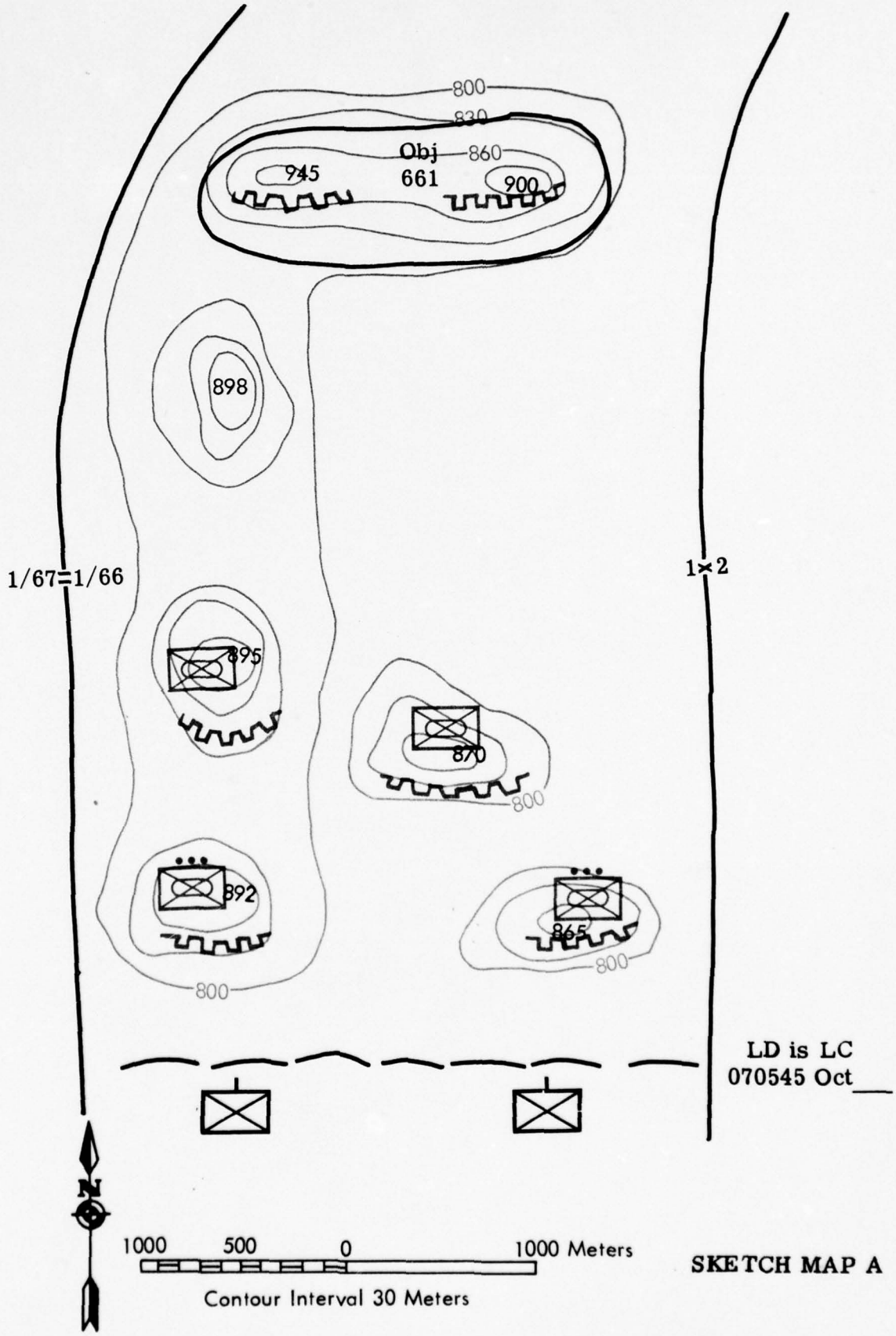
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SKETCH MAP A

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Section VI
(Sketch Map A1)

12. SOLUTION AND DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SECOND REQUIREMENT:

a. The main attack is directed toward the objective (HILL 945) whose capture assures the accomplishment of the mission. In this situation, the main attack will be made along the best avenue of approach by Co A on the west. This approach (ridge approach) affords Co A dominant observation, gains high ground early, and leads directly to the objective (Obj 6), the seizure of which will produce the most decisive results.

b. The main attack is weighted in order to increase its probability of success. This weight may be provided by the personal presence of the commander, placement of attached and supporting units, by allocating it priority of fires, by positioning the reserve to facilitate its employment in support of the main attack, and by assigning it a narrower zone. It may also be weighted by giving it the most favorable avenue of approach.

c. While the main attack receives these favorable considerations, supporting attacks, if any, are also provided with those means necessary to ensure that they can accomplish their mission(s). When supporting attacks are used, they are planned to assist the main attack. The commander allocates minimum necessary combat power to supporting attacks. A supporting attack will be made by Co B on the east to divert enemy attention and fires, to prevent enemy moving forces from HILL 870 to 895 and to deceive enemy as to the main attack.

d. The reserve consists of all uncommitted maneuver elements and may include nuclear fires. Co C (not shown) is the battalion reserve in this situation. The company would move to an assembly area in the vicinity of the LD and when the attack starts on HILL 895, to HILL 892. By following Co A by bounds, the reserve Co is placed in a position to be committed to influence the action when the situation so dictates. The mission of the reserve is to be prepared to exploit a success or an enemy weakness, or to assume the mission of an attacking company.

e. Sketch Map A1. The battalion commander imposes only those control measures upon his subordinate units which are required to ensure that the operation proceeds according to his concept. In this situation, the battalion is dismounted and must penetrate the enemy defense. The assigned zones of action provide maneuver space for the attacking companies in which they are free to fire and maneuver as they deem necessary to accomplish their respective missions.

(1) Objectives are assigned to ensure that terrain which is vital to the accomplishment of the battalion mission is seized and controlled. In analyzing his mission, the battalion commander determined that HILL 945 is the critical portion of Obj 661, that Obj 661 is too large to be seized and controlled by one company; he therefore subdivides it into two company-size objectives (Obj 6 and 7). From a study of the terrain, the commander determined that the best approach into the objective area is along the high ground in the west (left) portion of the zone. HILL 898, which is situated on this approach, is selected as an intermediate objective

(Obj 5) since it dominates a major portion of the battalion zone and, if occupied by Aggressor, can interfere with the progress of the attack. Further, Obj 5 provides required observation for the attack on Obj 6. An examination of the enemy's dispositions reveals that he is strongly entrenched on HILLs 895 and 870, located about 2000 meters forward of the line of contact, and the commander thus foresees the possibility of prolonged and difficult combat in these areas. Selection of Obj 3 and 4 provides for a concentration of combat power to complete the rupture of the enemy's forward defenses and affords maximum coordination of effort. Obj 1 and 2 are selected because they constitute the best terrain available from which to launch a coordinated attack against the Aggressor's main defenses (Obj 3 and 4). However, the battalion commander could well have left them to the company commander. Had the commander not designated Obj 2, he might well have assigned Co B a direction of attack thru HILL 865 in order to ensure a convergence or coordination of effort. Consideration is given to selection of an objective along the low ground approach extending from Obj 4 to Obj 7, but none is selected since the terrain does not dominate a major portion of the battalion zone. Enemy positions in this area would not be able to interfere with progress of the attack conducted over the best approach in the left portion of the zone. Capture of Obj 6 by the main attack will assure the subsequent capture of Obj 7.

(2) The battalion commander prescribes boundaries between companies to delineate the zones of responsibility and to coordinate the fires of two companies attacking in proximity of each other. They are located generally along terrain easily recognizable on the ground and are extended to a point where the battalion commander can reasonably foresee how he will employ his companies. The boundary between Co A and B is along low ground and affords each company favorable avenues of approach to its designated objectives.

(3) The line of departure and time of attack are assigned to the battalion by brigade. The line of departure is designated to coordinate the attack. The leading elements of the attack cross the line of departure at the specified time of attack. The battalion commander assigns a portion of the line of departure to each of his attacking companies in order to coordinate their attack. If the line of departure by brigade is unsuitable for use in any particular portion of the battalion zone, the commander may select a different line of departure for one or more of his subordinate units. However, it must be crossed in sufficient time to ensure crossing of the line designated by brigade at the specified time of attack.

(4) Axes of advance are not used because in this operation further control measures would restrict the attack. These control measures are used primarily in fluid situations in lieu of assigning zones of action. Check points may be designated and used to report progress of the attacking units, and to facilitate ordering changes in the scheme of maneuver as required by the situation. Check points may be located throughout the zone on easily identifiable terrain features. Since the intermediate objectives selected are adequate (close enough in depth) to control the rate and direction of advance, phase lines are not required.

f. If an active nuclear situation did exist and no nuclear weapons were allocated to the bde:

(1) No change would be made in the scheme of maneuver of the battalion. The basic tactical principles remain valid and must be applied with professional judgment. The main and supporting attacks are considered essential to overcome the known enemy resistance regardless of the enemy's total firepower (both nuclear and nonnuclear). No change would be made in the main attack. The main attack is directed along the avenue of approach and toward the objective which best facilitates the accomplishment of the mission. Company A will make the main attack since the same considerations are applicable.

(2) A supporting attack by one company would still be required to assist the main attack.

(3) Care should be taken to ensure that Company C did not reach the forward area before Company A and Company B crossed the LD in order to prevent unnecessary massing.

g. In an active nuclear situation with nuclear weapons allocated:

(1) The important responsibilities of a commander would include:

(a) Integrate employment of nuclear fires with nonnuclear fires and with the scheme of maneuver.

(b) State generally the results desired and results not desired from the nuclear attack.

(c) Prescribe troop safety requirements.

(d) Provide for an exploiting force when appropriate.

(e) Make decisions to fire or not to fire.

(f) Provide security for the nuclear weapons and their delivery means, if appropriate.

In conjunction with the responsibilities listed, the commander must have an alternate plan for the attack in the event the nuclear weapon(s) do not achieve the desired result or allocation is withdrawn.

(2) The employment of nuclear weapons may strongly influence the scheme of maneuver. The scheme of maneuver may be designed solely to exploit nuclear fires or to cause the enemy to form into remunerative targets. In this instance the use of nuclear weapons against the enemy on HILLs 892 and 865 could obviate the necessity for the assignment of Obj 1 and 2. The scheme of maneuver may be developed to ensure compliance with the commander's troop safety requirements. The possibility of danger from induced radiation, radioactive fallout, fires ignited by thermal radiation, and blowdown must be taken into consideration. Plans must also provide for modifications in the scheme of maneuver to take care of failure of nuclear weapons to produce the desired effects.

13. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. Upon receipt of a mission, the commander analyzes it to determine the stated and implied or reduced tasks his units must accomplish.

b. A main attack is designated to seize the objective(s) which ensure the accomplishment of the mission and is weighted to make its action decisive.

c. The supporting attack(s) is assigned minimum combat power needed to assist the main attack.

d. The commander uses control measures to ensure that his concept of the operation is carried out.

e. The control measures most frequently used in dismounted operations are lines of departure, boundaries, objectives, and times of attack.

f. The reserve company is positioned to weight the main attack and influence the action when required.

g. The reserve is used to facilitate the accomplishment of the unit mission, to deal with unforeseen contingencies, and to exploit success or enemy weakness.

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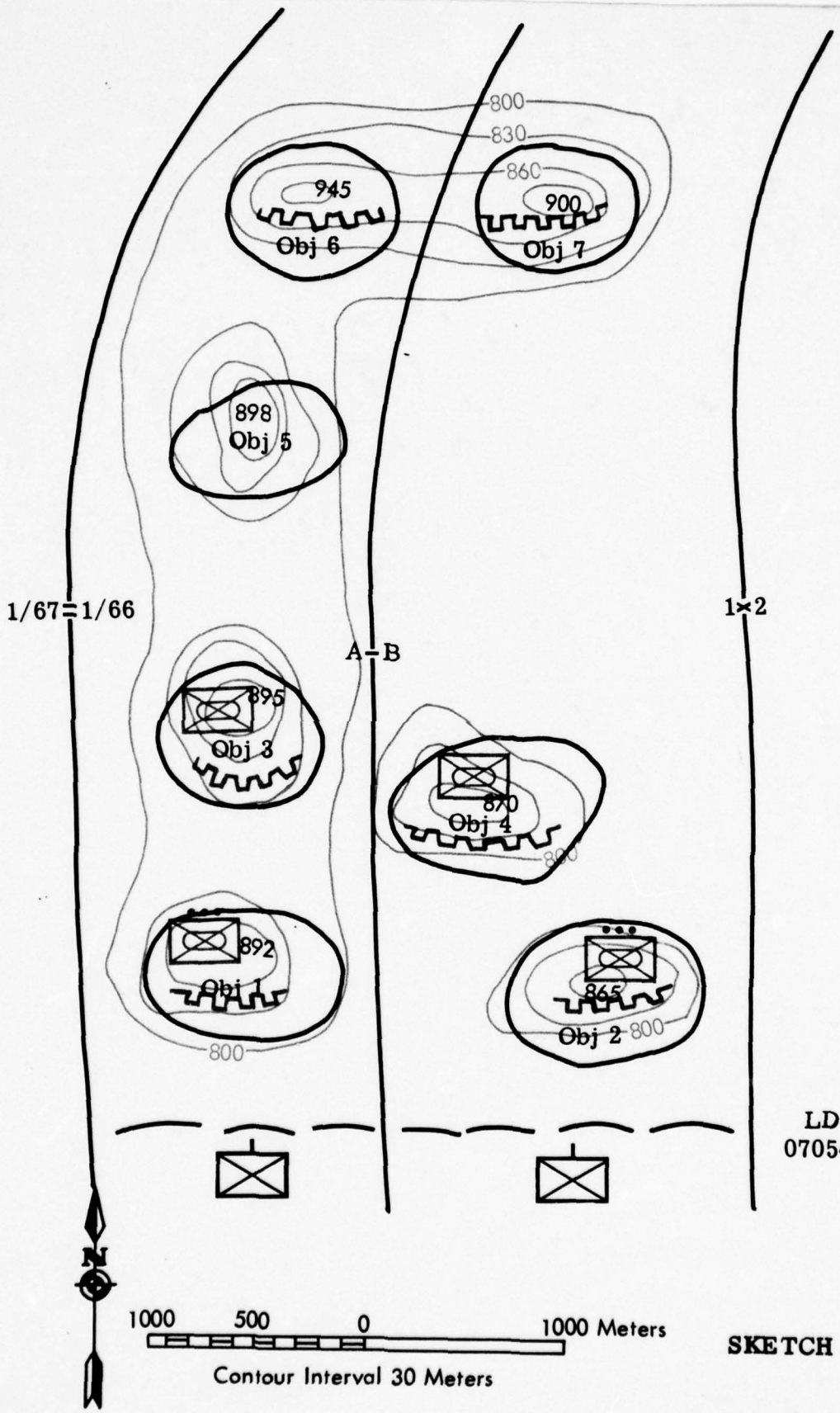

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SKETCH MAP A1

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135 6136 6137

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section VII
(Sketch Map B)

(THIS SITUATION HAS NO RELATION TO PREVIOUS SITUATION)

14. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. 21st Inf Div has been advancing to the east. Early this morning forward elements were halted by a strong Aggressor outpost line. Attempts by these elements to continue the advance were met with a heavy volume of automatic weapons, antitank, and artillery fire. Aerial reconnaissance indicates considerable Aggressor movement east of BLUE CREEK.

b. The division commander ordered an attack with two brigades to reduce the enemy defenses and continue the advance to the east on order. Pertinent information contained in the order follows:

"21st Inf Div attacks at 101115 Oct ___ to seize high ground vicinity of MARBLEHEAD (east off map). 1st Bde seizes Obj 301; continues attack to east on order. For boundaries, objectives, LD and enemy situation see overlay (Sketch Map B). No nuclear weapons have been allocated in support of the operation."

c. The following units are attached to or in support of the 1st Inf Bde:

1/66 Inf
1/67 Inf
1/68 Inf
A1/1 Armor
B1/1 Armor
A/21 Engr (DS)
1/45 Arty (DS)
1/47 Arty (Reinf 1/45 Arty)

d. Weather and Terrain. Weather is fair and cool, wind is from the southeast at 5 knots. Trafficability ranges from fair to good.

e. A nuclear situation exists; however, nuclear weapons will not be employed in corps zone until authorized by the corps commander. United States Air Force has local air superiority.

15. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 100645 Oct ___. 1st Bde occupies assembly areas to the west of Hill 549. Task organization of the 1st Bde is as follows:

1/68 Inf	TF 1/67	TF 1/66
	1/67 Inf	1/66 Inf
	B1/1 Armor	A1/1 Armor

16. THIRD REQUIREMENT: You are Col, 1st Bde.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver and task organization?

b. Who will receive priority of fires?

c. Which of the following control measures will you prescribe (indicate on Sketch Map B):

(1) Line of departure?

(2) Time of attack?

(3) Attack position(s)?

(4) Boundaries?

(5) Axis (axes) of advance?

(6) Direction(s) of attack?

(7) Objective(s)?

(8) Phase lines?

d. What provision do you make for security?

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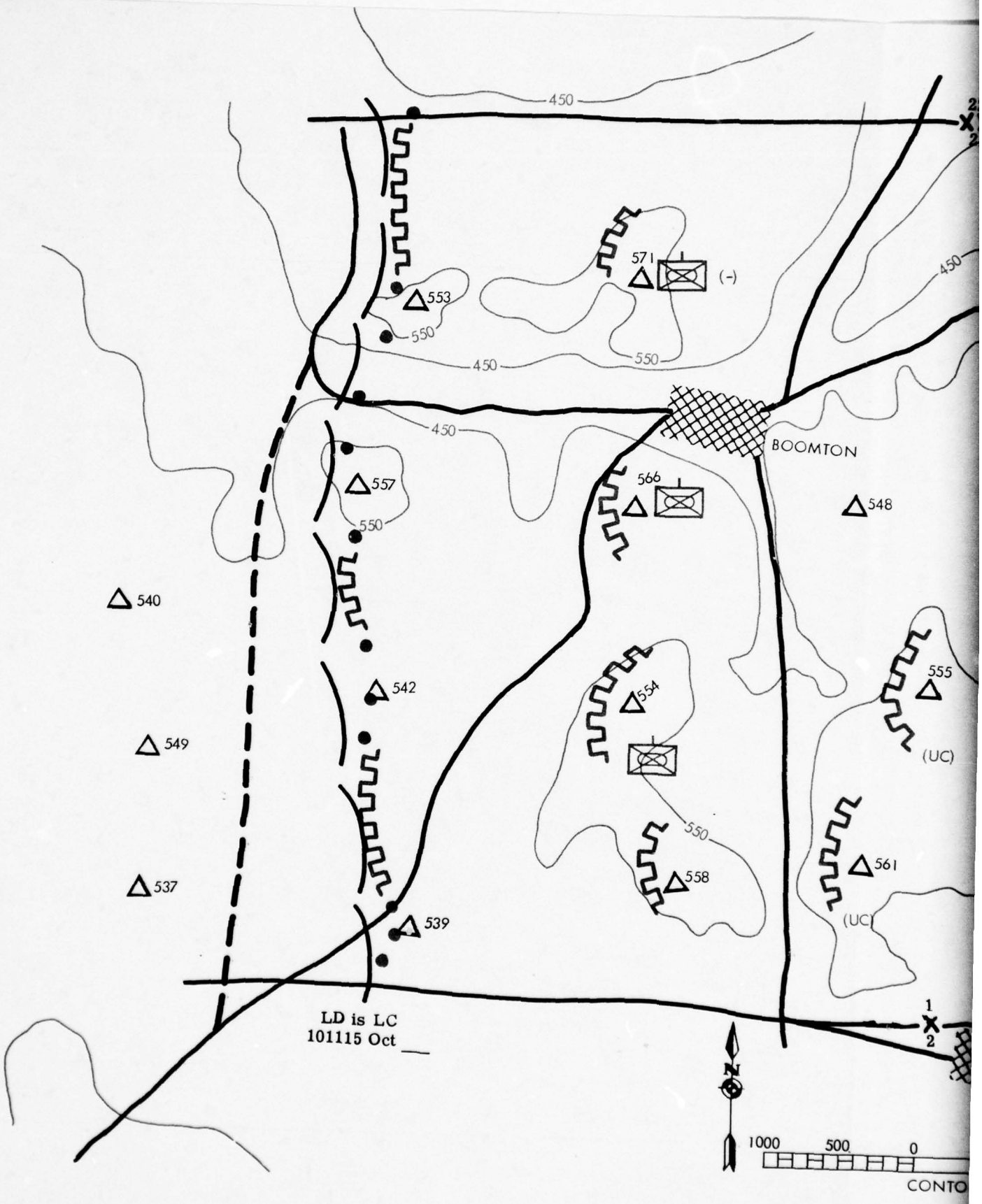
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CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 METERS

SKETCH MAP B

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UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

6135
FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6136
6137
PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section VIII
(Sketch Map B1)

17. SOLUTION TO THIRD REQUIREMENT:

a. Scheme of maneuver: 1st Bde attacks at 101115 Oct ____ with two battalion task forces in the attacking echelon to seize objectives X and Y; TF 1/67 in the north in the direction of Hills 571-566-580 (Obj X); TF 1/66 makes the main attack in the south in the direction of Hills 549-561-585-599 (Obj Y). 1/68 Inf, reserve, remain present location initially, move to vicinity Hills 540-549 on order. 1st Bde continues attack to the east on order.

b. Priority of fires to TF 1/66.

c. Sketch Map B1.

d. (1) TF 1/66 is directed to maintain contact with 2d Bde initially.

(2) TF 1/67 is directed to maintain contact with 22d Div initially.

18. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO THIRD REQUIREMENT:

a. When the brigade commander is assigned an attack mission, he and his staff make estimates of the situation in order to determine the best possible course of action to accomplish the mission. Feasible courses of action are selected, analyzed, and compared to determine the course of action offering the most promise of success. In this case the bde commander decides to attack (main attack) in the direction Hills 549-Ridge line Hills 561-585-599, in the southern portion of his zone. This attack is directed toward dominant terrain (Obj Y), which will attain the most decisive results in the area and is the objective assigned by division. This attack avoids the bulk of the Aggressor strength and the town of BOOMTON and utilizes the most direct approach to the objective. He decides that one battalion task force (TF 1/66) can seize this objective and that one supporting attack employing a battalion task force (TF 1/67) in the north is required. One battalion (1/68 Inf) is considered an adequate reserve, and it is positioned for employment in either zone but positioned to favor the main attack.

b. Priority of fires is normally given the main attack, in this case, TF 1/66.

c. To ensure adequate coordination and control of the attack of dismounted elements, the brigade commander normally assigns a line of departure, time of attack, boundaries and objectives to each attacking battalion.

(1) The line of departure is inseparable from the time of attack and causes the attack to commence at a time and place known to all units. In this instance, the line of contact is designated as the line of departure. If the line of contact was not sufficiently clear, the trail running generally north and south in front of Hill 549 could be used.

(2) The time of attack is not changed. The brigade is using the line of departure selected by division and crossing the division LD at the time specified ensures coordination with the adjacent brigade. If the commander selects a line of departure other than that selected by division, he must adjust the time of attack to ensure crossing the division LD at the time specified in the division order.

(3) No attack positions are designated. The brigade does not normally designate attack positions. However, this does not preclude the assignment of attack positions by the battalion or company commander. The battalion commander may select company attack positions in certain highly coordinated operations such as river crossings and night attacks. Attack positions designated by battalion or company are used only when final coordination, deployment, and other last minute preparations for the attack cannot be completed in the assembly area or on the move. Normally the company commander will select his own attack position if required.

(4) To clearly delineate areas of responsibility and to facilitate coordination of fires and maneuver, the brigade commander prescribes a boundary between the two attacking battalions, thus assigning zones of action. Within their respective zones, the attacking battalions may fire and maneuver without coordination with adjacent commanders. To prevent slowing the attack, the brigade commander has not ordered his attacking units to clear their respective zones.

(5) A zone of action is considered a sufficient control measure and is required in this case to coordinate the fires of the attacking echelons. The further inclusion of axes within the zone would unnecessarily restrict the attacking battalions. If it were considered desirable to keep the two attacking battalions well apart, axes could be selected within each battalion zone; however, in this case the frontage is so wide that there is little chance that the battalions would so converge as to present a nuclear target.

(6) Directions of attack are not prescribed because they will unnecessarily restrict the maneuver of attacking units.

(7) In this situation, the brigade commander determines that the objective assigned him by division can be seized and controlled by one battalion. However, to seize this objective he has determined it necessary to attack with two battalions in the attacking echelon; he has assigned an additional objective to TF 1/67. Obj X is dominating terrain in the brigade's zone and must be seized to protect the left flank of the brigade.

(8) The distance from the LD to the final objective is approximately 8,000 meters; therefore, the brigade commander assigns a phase line to assist him in controlling his subordinate elements. The phase line extends completely across the zone and is located on easily recognizable terrain features. The units will report arrival at the phase line but not halt unless so ordered. A phase line may also be used to limit the advance of attacking elements or as a nuclear safety line.

d. The purpose of security in the offense is to prevent compromise of the attack, to avoid unexpected interference by the enemy, to maintain the integrity of the formation, and to gain and maintain freedom of action. The violence and speed of the attack frequently offer the best security by keeping the enemy off balance, both physically and psychologically, so that he has neither the time nor the means to endanger the success of the attack. Frontal security for the brigade is provided by the attacking echelon maintaining pressure on enemy forces and, if necessary, the timely commitment of reserves to maintain the momentum of the attack and/or

to exploit anticipated or unexpected enemy weaknesses. The flanks of an attacking force are frequently exposed, and flank security elements may be required to give adequate warning of enemy approach. The attacking echelon usually secures its own flanks. The areas extending from the rear flanks of the attacking echelon to the rear flanks of the attacking force trains are secured when required by designated units. Protection of an interior flank is usually provided by the presence of an adjacent unit, if the unit remains generally abreast. In this situation, if an armored cavalry troop had been attached to the brigade, it would be used to secure the most dangerous flank of the brigade. Rear security and flank security are obtained by positioning the brigade reserve, consistent with their anticipated employment. The commander may designate a reserve unit(s) to be prepared to move to the flank(s) if it is anticipated that a flank may be threatened or become exposed. In this situation the brigade commander has directed attacking battalions to maintain flank contact as a security measure. The brigade security is further enhanced by air and ground surveillance provided by organic, attached, and supporting units. When the brigade moves alone and/or removed from other forces, a rear guard must be provided. The rear guard is kept to a minimum, consistent with the threat. Security forces are located where they can provide warning in sufficient time for the main body to react effectively to the threat.

19. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. When security elements are not attached to the brigade, the brigade commander provides for flank security by the proper positioning of forces and assigning security missions to subordinate units.

b. A phase line is used as a control measure to assist in controlling subordinate elements when the distance from the LD to the final objective is relatively great.

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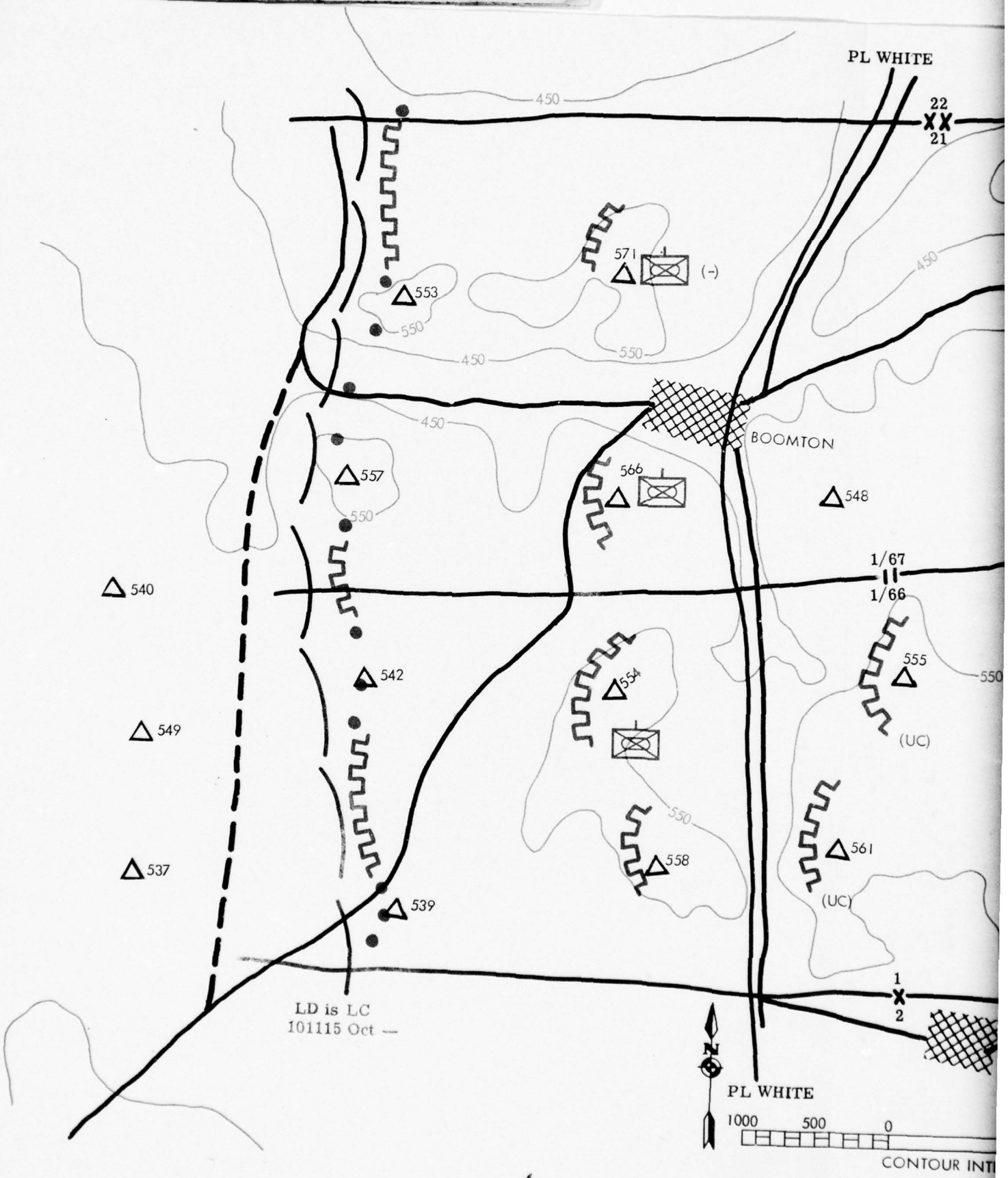

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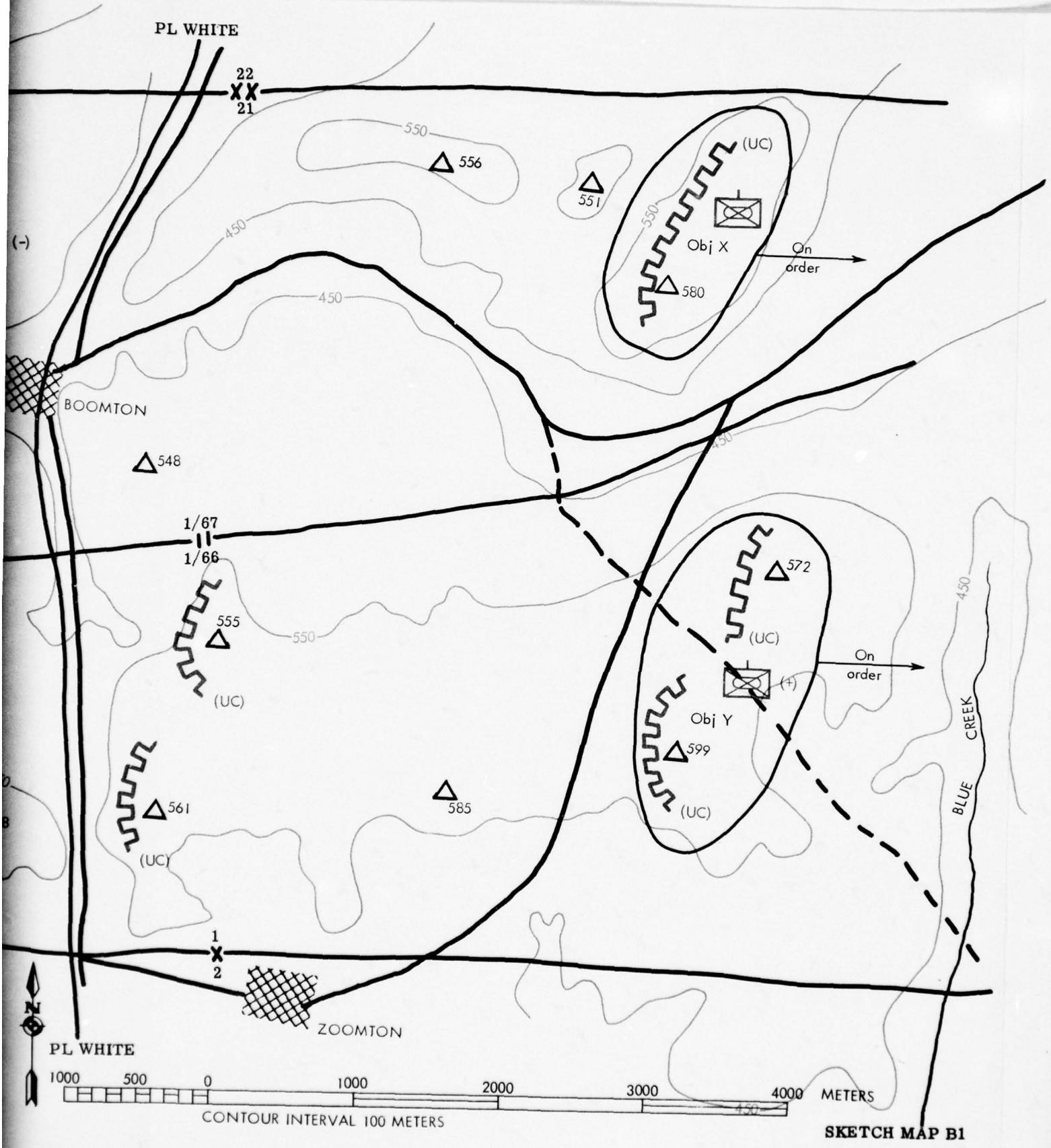

SKETCH MAP B1

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UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

6135
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Section IX
(Sketch Map C)

20. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. 1st Bde attacks at 101115 Oct ____ with two battalion task forces in the attacking echelon to seize Objectives X and Y. TF 1/67 will attack in the north and seize Objective X. TF 1/66 making the main attack, attack in the south and seize Objective Y. Continue the attack to the east on order. No nuclear weapons have been allocated in support of the operation. The commander TF 1/66 has just returned from brigade headquarters after receiving the attack order. For boundaries, objectives, LD and enemy situation see overlay (Sketch Map C).

b. Weather and Terrain. Weather is fair and cool, wind is from the southeast at 5 knots. Trafficability ranges from fair to good.

c. A nuclear situation exists; however, nuclear weapons will not be employed in the corps zone until authorized by the corps commander. United States Air Force has local air superiority.

21. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 100845 Oct ____. TF 1/66 is presently in an assembly area to the west of HILL 549.

22. FOURTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, TF 1/66.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver and task organization?

b. What is your plan for preparatory fires and priority of fires?

c. How will you employ:

(1) The attached tank company?

(2) Antitank platoon?

(3) Battalion mortar/Davy Crockett platoon?

(4) Battalion ground surveillance section?

d. What provision do you make for security to include:

(1) Employment of the reconnaissance platoon?

(2) Additional battalion task force elements you will employ and the security missions you will assign them?

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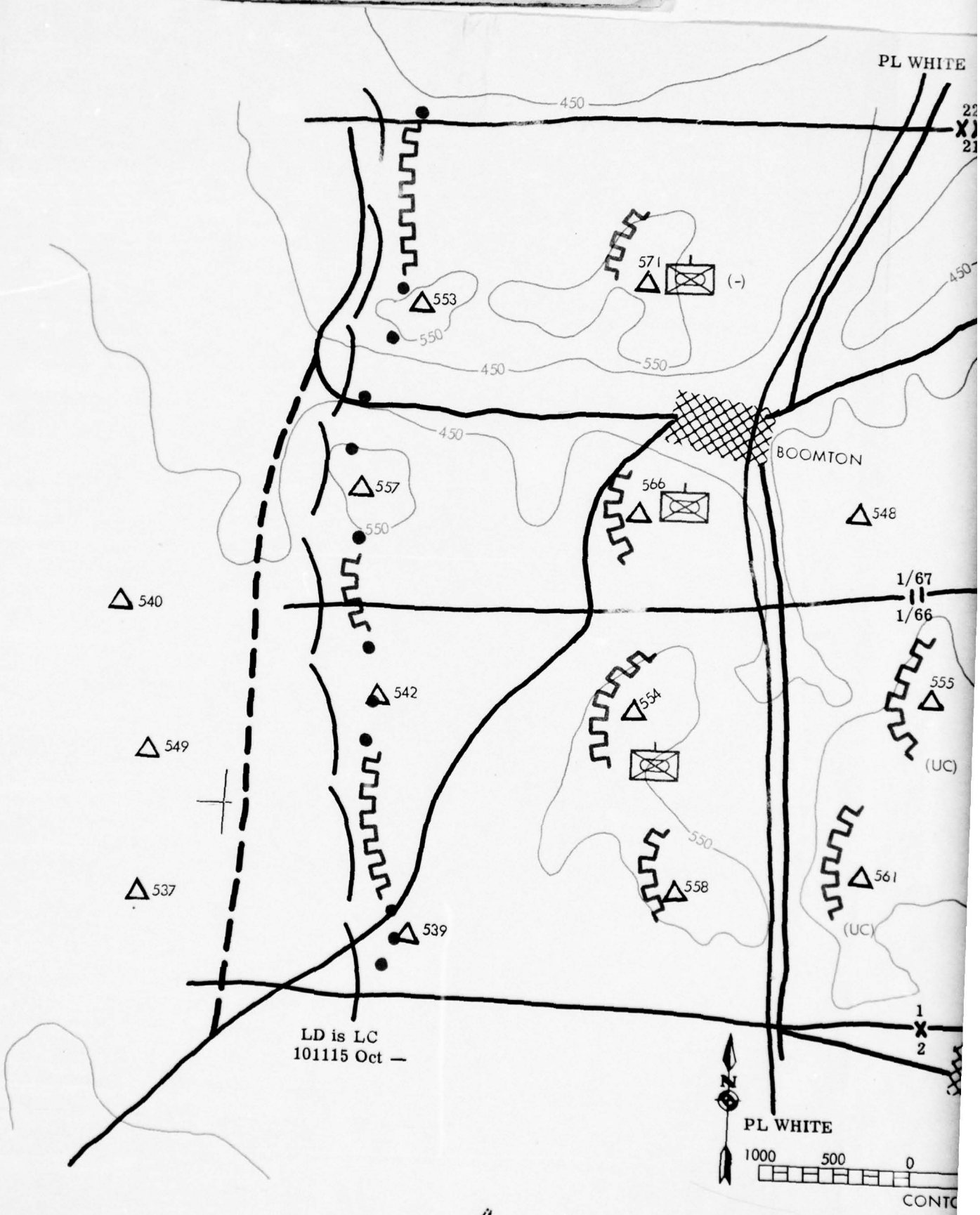

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SKETCH MAP C

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UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135
6136
PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6137
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Section X
(Sketch Map C 1)

23. SOLUTION TO FOURTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Scheme of maneuver: TF 1/66 attacks at 101115 Oct ___ with two company task forces in the attacking echelon to seize objectives T and U. TF BRAVO on the north attacks in the direction HILLS 554 (Obj R) -555 (Obj V) -572 (Obj T). TF ALFA on the south makes the main attack in the direction HILLS 558 (Obj S) -561 (Obj W) -585-599 (Obj U). Co C, reserve, remains present location initially; moves to vicinity HILLS 537-549 on order; be prepared to assume the mission of TF ALFA or TF BRAVO on order. Upon seizure Obj T and U TF 1/66 continues attack east on order.

b. A nonnuclear preparation H-5 to H-Hour will support the attack. Priority of fires to the main attack.

c. (1) A1/1 Armor: Attach two platoons to Co A, one platoon to Co B. Co (-): TF Control.

(2) AT Plat: General Support.

(3) Mort/DC Plat: General Support.

(4) Gnd Survl Sec: General Support.

d. (1) Reconnaissance Platoon (one short range radar team attached): Screen task force south flank; maintain contact with 2d Bde.

(2) Co C: Be prepared to provide not less than one rifle platoon to battalion control to screen task force north flank.

24. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FOURTH REQUIREMENT.

a. Based on his analysis of the mission and his estimate of the situation the battalion commander decides to make his main attack in the direction HILLS 558-561-585-599. This attack is directed toward dominant terrain (Obj U). It utilizes the best approach to the objective. He decides that a company task force (TF ALFA) can seize this objective and that a supporting attack employing a company task force (TF BRAVO) will be required in the north. To weight the main attack two tank platoons are attached to Co A. One tank platoon is attached to Co B to provide additional combat power to the supporting attack. Company C, battalion reserve, is positioned to favor the main attack.

b. A 5 minute artillery preparation will soften initial enemy resistance. This preparation can be extended or additional "on call" fires requested as necessary, and fires can be

shifted to enemy positions along line HILLS 554 and 558 ahead of the advancing Infantry. Priority of fires, will be given to the main attack, TF ALFA.

c. Employment of Units.

(1) Tanks are attached to the attacking companies to provide additional combat power at the company level. A tank platoon will be shifted to the reserve company if the reserve is committed in order to influence the action if and when required. This operation is dismounted; consequently, the Infantry cannot move at the speed of armor, and the tanks will thus be somewhat restricted in their speed of movement. The battalion commander retained the tank company headquarters under his control where, if necessary, its excellent command control capabilities are readily available to help form an additional maneuver element. In the meantime, the company headquarters will be utilized as a planning group and the tank company commander will be available to fill his role as battalion commander's chief adviser in antitank matters.

(2) The antitank platoon is employed to provide antitank protection for the battalion. These weapons may be employed to assist in providing flank protection for the battalion and in providing antitank protection in depth. One squad would be attached to a rifle platoon screening the left flank to reinforce the platoon's antitank capability if the screening mission is required. The platoon is retained in general support prepared to move to any portion of the battalion zone where an armor threat may appear. In some situations, it may be desirable to attach antitank squads to one or more of the attacking or reserve companies. This is particularly applicable if the enemy is strong in armor and/or insufficient tanks have been provided. The antitank weapons will normally be provided those units other than the reconnaissance platoon, which have a flank security mission. The two 106mm recoilless rifles organic to the reconnaissance platoon provide it with an antitank capability.

(3) The battalion mortar/davy crockett platoon is employed in general support whenever possible to provide the flexibility which can be gained through centralized control of fires. Usually, the platoon is positioned to support the main attack. If the separation of the rifle companies makes centralized control impracticable, the mortar squads may be placed in direct support of the attacking companies. In the same situation the DC squads in general support may be directed to follow the attacking companies in order to be in position to fire if and when the battalion commander so authorizes. The battalion mortar fire direction center (FDC) may refer requests from its observers to the FDC of the artillery battalion in direct support of the brigade, and, conversely, the FDC of the artillery battalion may refer requests to the heavy mortar section. This procedure enables the forward observers of either the artillery battalion or the heavy mortar section to adjust the fires of any heavy mortar or artillery unit supporting the battalion, thereby ensuring maximum integration of these fires.

(4) Instructions for the employment of the battalion ground surveillance section are not normally included in the operation order. The battalion ground surveillance section provides the commander with a means of extending and improving the battalions ground surveillance capability. The S2 coordinates the positioning and area coverage of all radars, including those of the attached tank company, as a part of the surveillance plan. Radar teams are used during daylight as a supplement to visual ground surveillance. Enemy or friendly use of smoke at any time during the operation will increase the battalion and subordinate units dependence on these devices. In the offense, short range radar teams, organic to the rifle companies, are positioned in the battalion zone to extend ground surveillance to the front and flanks. In situations where a threat exists to the rear, short range teams may be oriented to provide surveillance in that direction. In this situation, one short range team is attached to the unit responsible for flank security. In order to provide this surveillance capability to the unit of the flank, one short range team is detached from the tank company. In the event it becomes neces-

sary for Company C to furnish a rifle platoon to the north as security, a short range team from the company will be attached to this platoon. The medium range teams are normally employed in general support and positioned to supplement and extend the area covered by the short range teams.

d. Flank security is provided by designating specific elements for these missions. Because of its organization (firepower, mobility and excellent communications) and training the reconnaissance platoon is ideally suited for flank security missions and is normally employed to screen the most dangerous flank of the battalion after contact has been made with the enemy. Since it does not have the capability of screening both flanks, additional reconnaissance elements may be required. Rifle companies attacking on an interior flank are required to maintain contact with elements of the adjacent battalion. When this cannot be done or when contact is lost or the location of the adjacent unit would permit a hostile counterattack to strike the flank of the battalion, the battalion commander is so informed. He may then detail a flank security element, normally from the reserve, to regain and maintain contact with the adjacent unit. Infantry is capable of performing this mission when provided with means comparable to those organic to the reconnaissance platoon. Infantry elements assigned flank screening missions must be provided increased mobility, firepower and communications. The source and type of vehicles, weapons and communications should be made a matter of SOP. Immediate responsiveness of flank security elements to the bn commander, who has the means to counter threats to the flank, is essential. Therefore, flank security elements are normally employed under bn control. Rear security and additional flank security are obtained by positioning the bn reserve, consistent with their anticipated employment. When the bn moves alone and/or is removed from other forces, a rear guard must be provided. The rear guard is kept to a minimum, consistent with the threat. The commander may designate a reserve unit(s) to be prepared to move to the flank(s) if it is anticipated that a flank may be threatened or become exposed. The bn security is further enhanced by air and ground surveillance provided by organic, attached and supporting units.

(1) The reconnaissance platoon (with one short range radar team attached) is directed to screen the bn south flank and to maintain contact with 2d Bde. This flank is considered the most dangerous flank due to known enemy dispositions, a different brigade and several favorable enemy avenues of approach into the bn area from the south, particularly the ridge line approach leading in from the south of Obj U. By directing the reconnaissance platoon to screen the south flank, the commander relieves Co A of this responsibility.

(2) In this situation, no requirement exists for a security element to screen the north flank. The attacking company on the north will maintain contact with TF 1/67. However, if contact is lost, the battalion commander will be informed. The battalion commander has directed Company C, the reserve, to be prepared to provide a rifle platoon to assume this mission if necessary. To assign this mission initially would unnecessarily deplete the battalion reserve.

25. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The battalion commander allocates additional combat power to subordinate elements, as required, to accomplish their assigned missions.

b. The medium range radar teams are normally employed in general support of the battalion and positioned to extend the coverage of the short range radar teams.

c. The reconnaissance platoon is normally employed to screen the most dangerous flank of the battalion.

d. Security forces required in addition to the reconnaissance platoon are normally furnished from the reserve and operate under the control of the battalion commander.

e. The antitank platoon provides the battalion with an antitank capability and is normally employed in general support of the battalion.

f. The heavy mortar section is normally employed as a section and is positioned to support the main attack.

g. The davy crockett section provides a nuclear capability and is normally employed in general support of the battalion.

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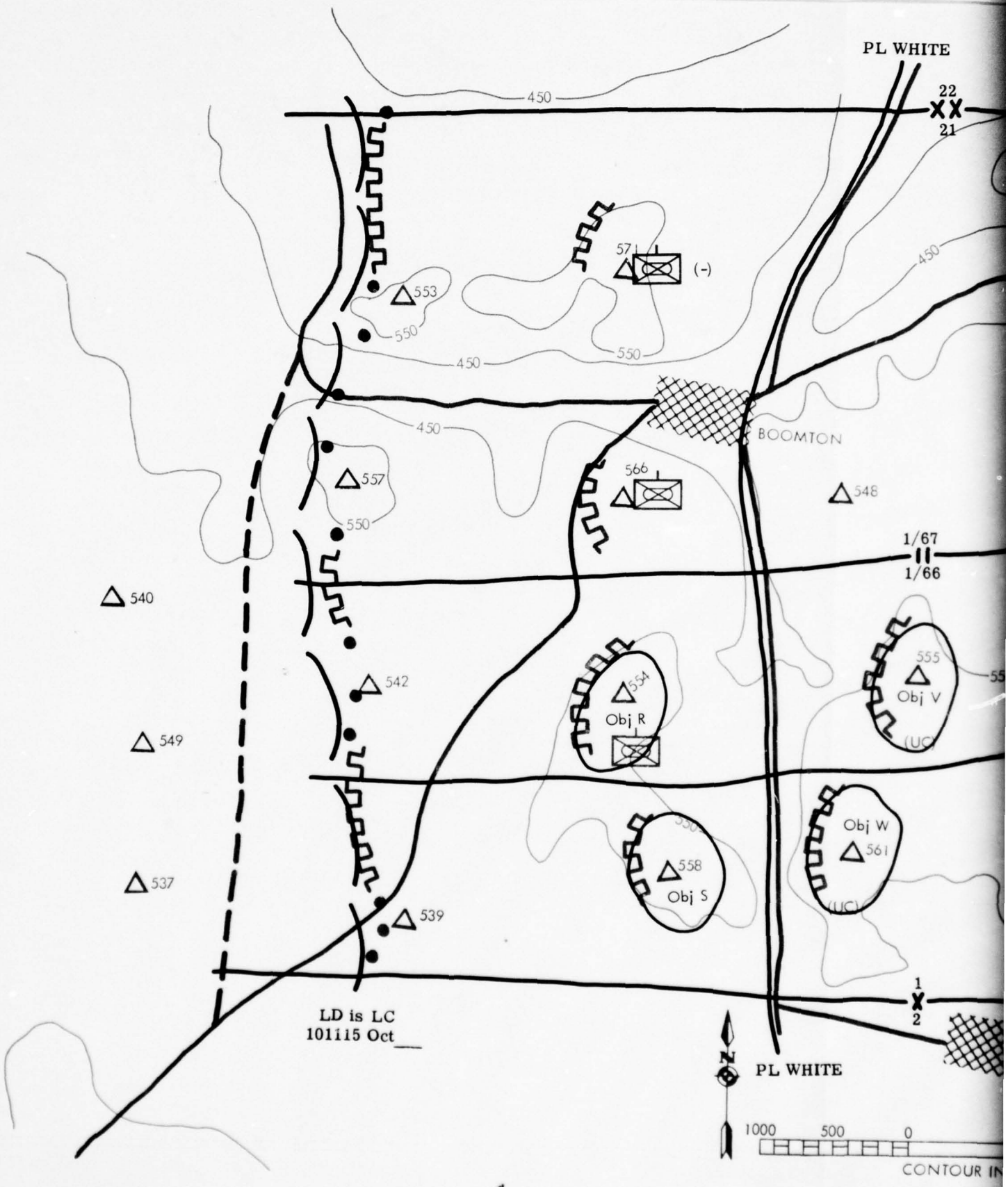

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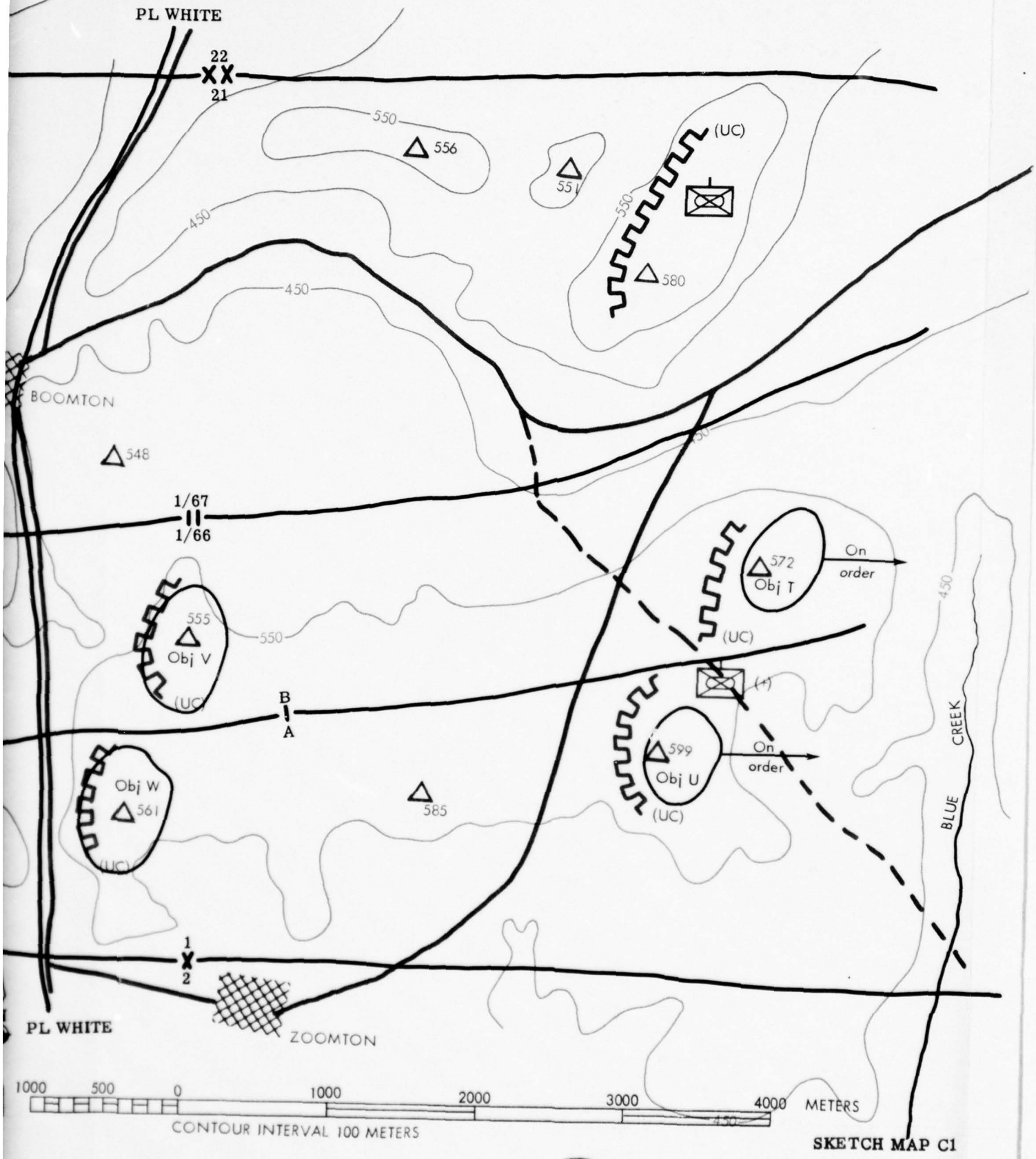

SKETCH MAP C1

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Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135 6136 6137

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XI
(Sketch Map D)

26. SITUATION CONTINUED: The attack commenced as planned and the initial objectives were rapidly seized. Task Forces ALFA and BRAVO continued the attack. The attack progressed according to plan until Task Force ALFA reached HILL 585 at which time Capt, TF ALFA reports that his unit has been stopped by the enemy dug in on HILL 585 and has received heavy casualties. He further reports that he is committing his reserve and should be able to reduce the enemy defenses within approximately an hour. Capt, Task Force BRAVO reports that he is continuing the attack. The situation is as shown on Sketch Map D. Reports indicate that enemy in unknown strength occupy Obj U and T.

27. FIFTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, Task Force 1/66. What orders or instructions do you issue to the following:

a. Your company commanders?

b. Your FSC?

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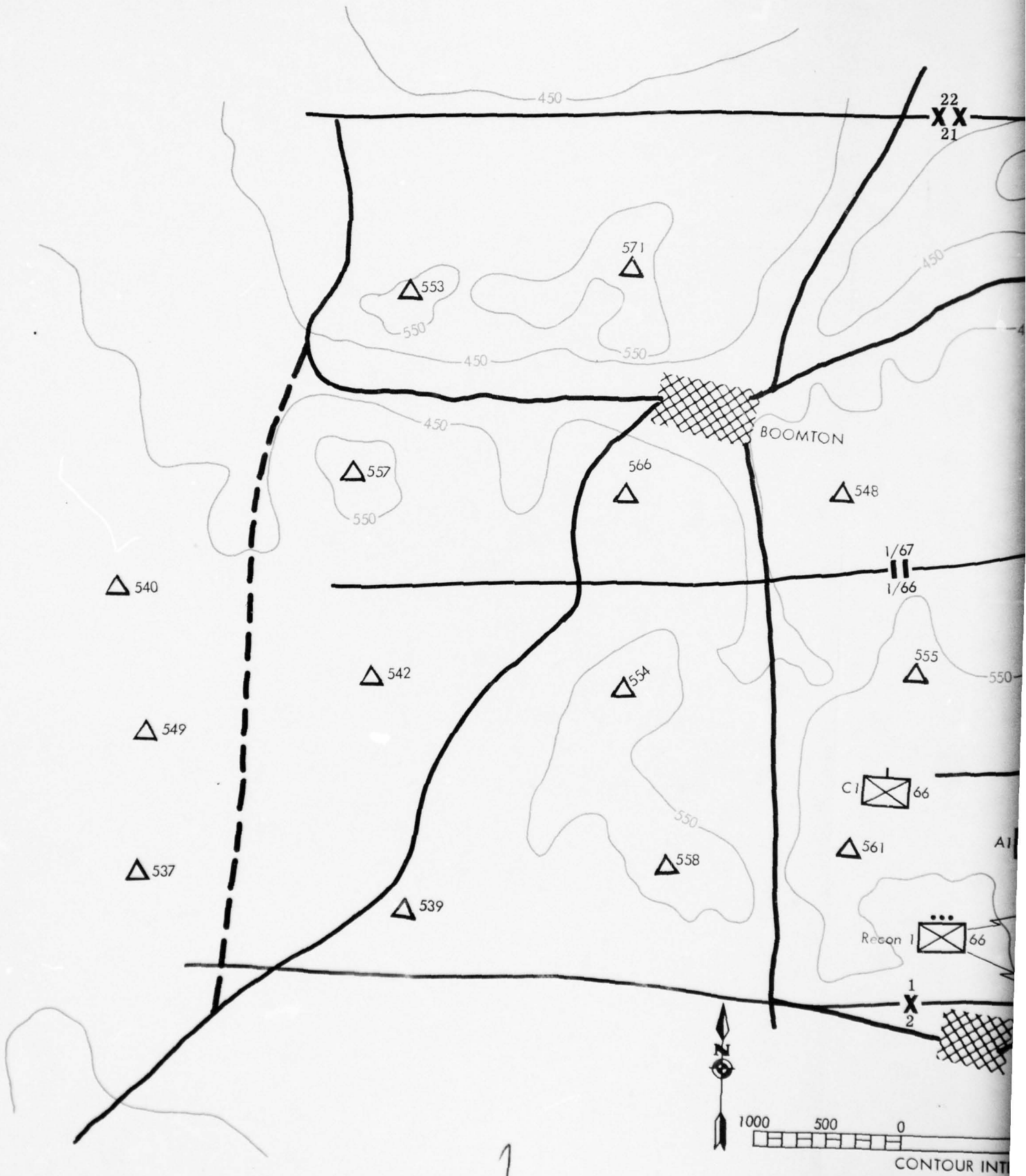

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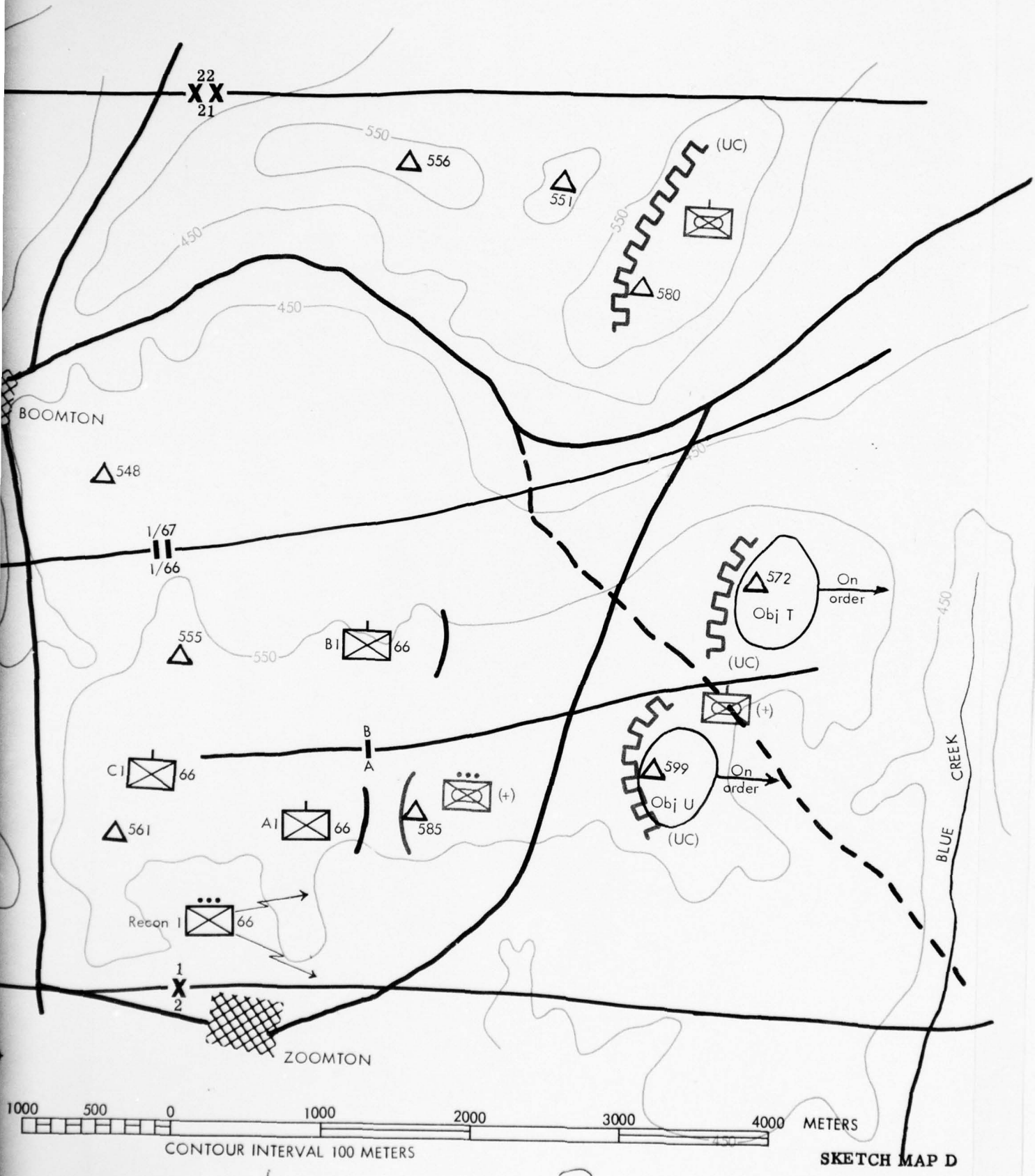

SKETCH MAP D

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Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135 6136 6137

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XII
(Sketch Map D1)

28. SOLUTION TO FIFTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) TF ALFA: Detach one tank platoon for attachment to Co C; seize HILL 585; revert to reserve; be prepared to seize or assist TF CHARLIE in the seizure of Obj U on order.

(2) TF BRAVO: Seize Obj T; continue the attack to seize Obj U on order.

(3) TF CHARLIE: Attached tank platoon from TF ALFA; move to the north, bypass TF ALFA and assume main attack to seize Obj U; continue the attack to seize Obj T on order.

(4) Tk Co (-): No change in mission.

b. FSC: Priority of fires to TF CHARLIE.

29. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FIFTH REQUIREMENT:

a. In this situation the task force making the main attack has been held up while the task force making the supporting attack has been successful. In order to maintain the momentum of the attack, the battalion commander decides to commit his reserve to the north, bypass TF ALFA, and assume the mission of the main attack. He weights this attack by the attachment of a tank platoon and by shifting priority of fires to this unit. Since CO, TF ALFA has reported he has received heavy casualties and has committed his reserve, Lt Col, TF 1/66 determines it is not feasible to hold up TF BRAVO until the resistance has been overcome. He, therefore, directs TF BRAVO to continue the attack to the east and seize objective T. The situation still requires two companies in the attacking echelon. Consequently, the battalion commander commits the reserve to bypass TF ALFA to the north, and assume the main attack to seize Obj U. The reserve has been following the company making the main attack by bounds and is in a position to assume the mission of TF ALFA. In addition, all units are informed of the changes in the scheme of maneuver.

b. The most expeditious action the battalion commander can take to support the change in his plan of attack is to shift the priority of fires. The fact that priority of fires is shifted to TF CHARLIE does not indicate that TF ALFA will not have the fires necessary to accomplish its mission. When more than one unit calls for fires at the same time, the call of the unit which has priority is answered first. However, if a unit called for fires on a target more serious in nature than the priority unit, these fires may be answered first.

30. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The reserve is employed to maintain the momentum of the attack to ensure the accomplishment of the mission.

b. The commander must be prepared to commit his reserve without hesitation.

c. The shifting of priority of fires is an expeditious means of changing emphasis from one unit or area (axis) to another.

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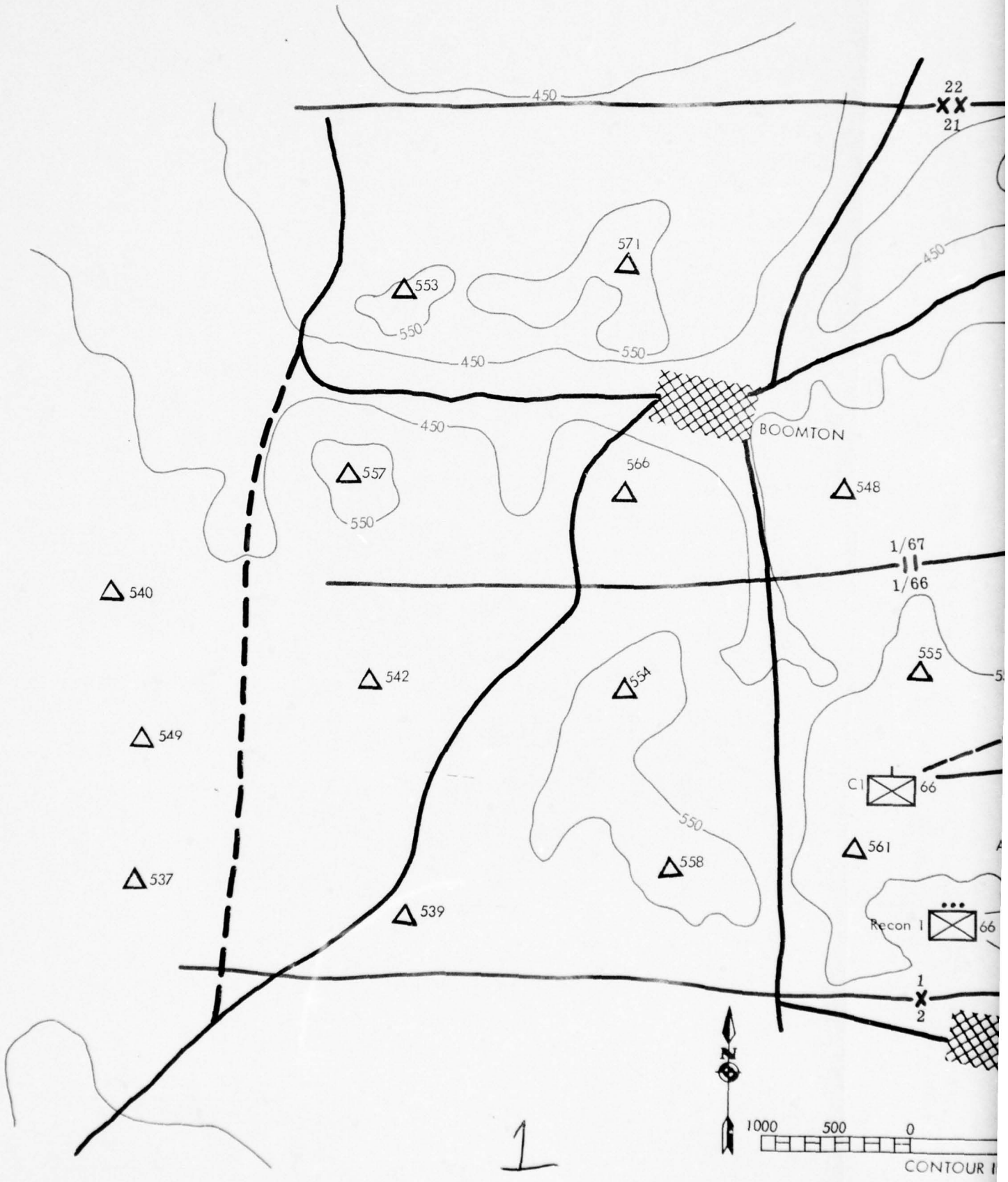
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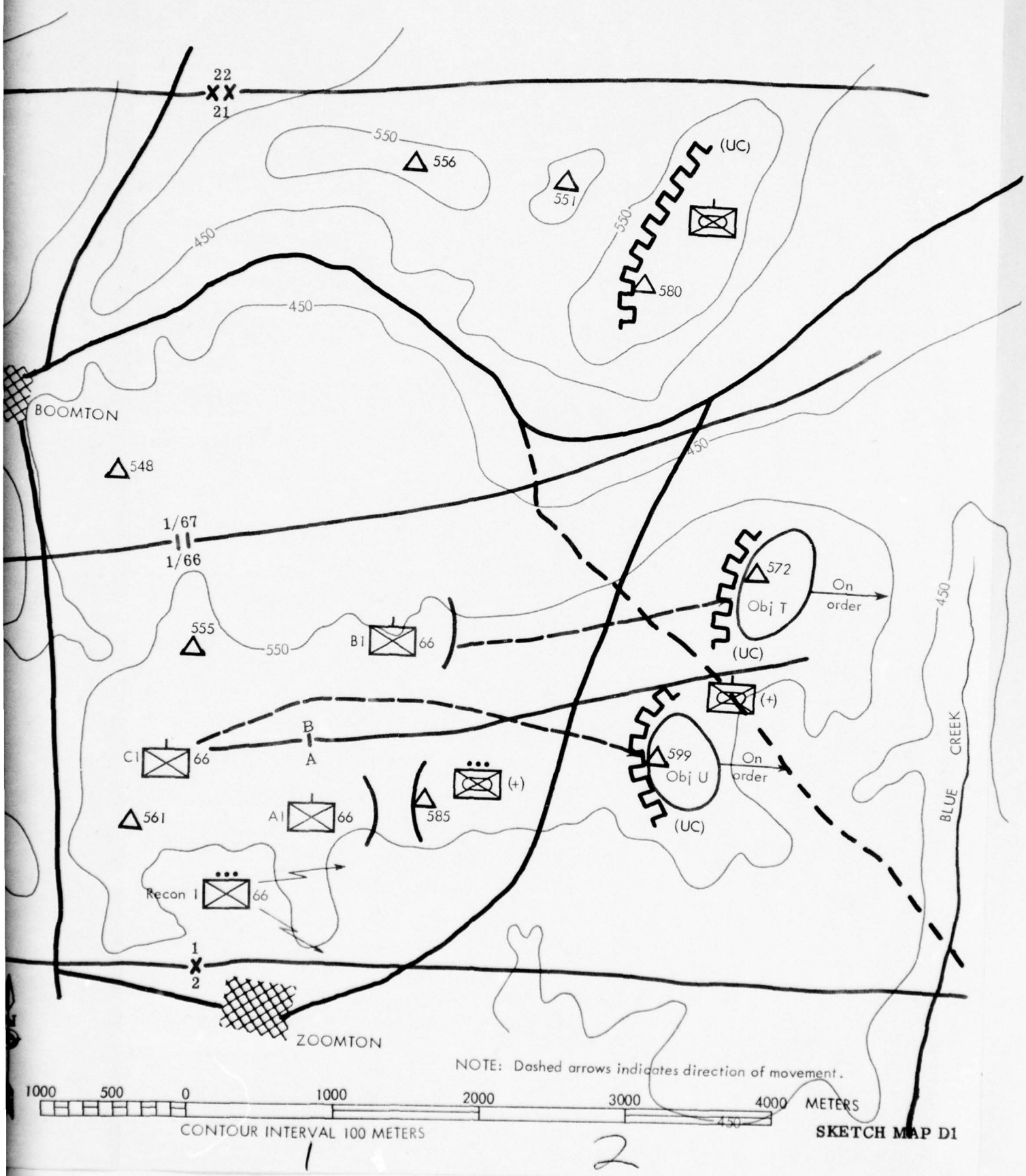

SKETCH MAP D1

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UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

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Section XIII
Sketch Map E

(THIS SITUATION HAS NO RELATION TO PREVIOUS SITUATIONS)

31. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. 21st Inf Div has been attacking east for the past several days. Early today the armored cavalry squadron, leading the division, was halted by strong Aggressor resistance along line as shown on Sketch Map E. Immediate attempts to continue the attack were met with heavy automatic weapons, antitank, and artillery fires. The division commander has ordered the two leading brigades to attack through the armored cavalry squadron at 060445 Aug ___ to seize high ground in vic of near bank of BLUE CREEK and continue the attack east on order. The 1st Bde on the north will attack to seize Objective 210.

b. The 1st Bde presently has attached or in support the following units:

1/66 Inf
1/67 Inf
1/68 Inf
A1/1 Armor
A/21 Engr (DS)
1/45 Arty (DS)
1/47 Arty (Reinf 1/45 Arty)

The brigade commander has decided to attack with 2 battalion task forces (TF 1/66 and TF 1/67) initially, with TF 1/67 making the main attack in the south to penetrate and seize HILL 575. TF 1/66 will make a supporting attack to seize HILL 570. Upon seizure of HILL 575, TF 1/67 will assist passage TF 1/68, and revert to bde reserve. The brigade commander visualizes early seizure of HILL 575 to facilitate passage of TF 1/68 to seize Obj 210.

c. Intelligence reports indicate the enemy situation in the zone of 1/67 to be as shown on Sketch Map E. Foot patrols have successfully penetrated approximately 2000 meters along JAMES CREEK and report that gaps exist in the enemy defense in the swampy area. Aerial reconnaissance indicates considerable Aggressor movement on roads east of Objective 210.

d. Terrain and weather. Weather is mild and rainy. Poor visibility conditions are expected for the next twenty-four hour period due to predicted fog and intermittent heavy rain squalls. Wind is from the east at 5 knots. Trafficability is generally good except in the swampy area along JAMES CREEK. Here vehicle movement is prohibited due to soft surface and heavy woods. These conditions do not overly restrict movement of dismounted troops. Concealment and cover are excellent in the swampy area and from fair to good throughout the remaining area.

Light Data:

DATE	BMNT	BMCT	EECT	EENT	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5 Aug -	0545	xxxx	xxxx	2002	xxxx	xxxx
6 Aug -	0548	xxxx	xxxx	2003	xxxx	xxxx

e. A nuclear situation exists; however, nuclear weapons will not be employed in the corps zone until authorized by the corps commander. Friendly air support is capable of attaining local air superiority for limited periods.

32. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 050930 Aug ___. TF 1/67 now occupies assembly areas approximately 2 km west of present line of contact. The battalion commander has completed an aerial reconnaissance of the area. Based on an analysis of the mission and the existing situation, he decided to infiltrate a force to seize HILL 575 to penetrate the initial enemy defense positions. He has requested and obtained approval from the higher headquarters to infiltrate prior to the designated time of attack. TF 1/67 has the following attachment:

1A1/1 Armor

33. SIXTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, 1st Bn, 67th Inf.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver and task organization?

b. Who will receive priority of fires?

c. Which of the following control measures will you prescribe to control the infiltrating force?

(1) Line of departure?

(2) Point of departure?

(3) Infiltration lanes?

(4) Rally points or areas?

(5) Attack positions?

(6) Time of attack?

(7) Objectives?

(8) Other controls?

d. What control measures do you consider in planning the supporting attack?

e. What provisions do you make for flank security?

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(-)
SMITHVILLE
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JAMES CREEK
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LD is LC
060445 Aug

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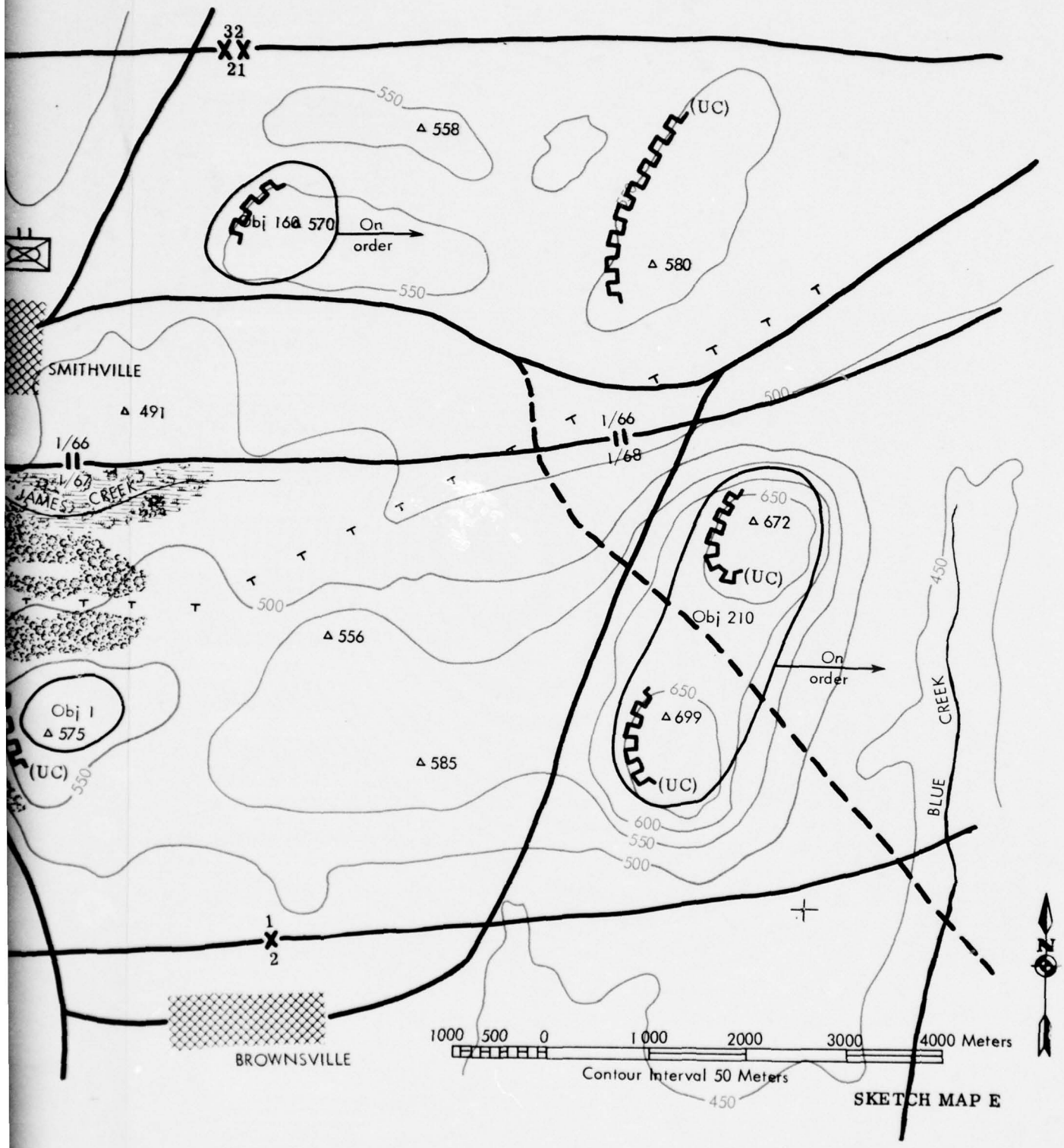

SKETCH MAP E

1 2

Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

6135
FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6136
6137
PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XIV
Sketch Map E1

34. SOLUTION TO SIXTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Scheme of maneuver: TF 1/67 will make a night-type attack with two companies to seize Objectives 1, 2, and 3, assist passage of TF 1/68, revert to bde reserve. Co B infiltrate at 052315 Aug ___, and on own initiative seize HILL 575 (Obj 1). TF ALFA attack 060445 Aug, or sooner on order, seize HILLS 578 and 564 (Obj 2 and 3), link up with Co B. TF ALFA and Co B assist passage of TF 1/68. Co B makes main attack. Co infiltrate on order to vicinity rally point JOHN, prepare to assist TF ALFA, Co B or passage of TF 1/68.

b. Priority of fires to Co B making the main attack.

c. Sketch Map E1.

d. Sketch Map E1.

e. The reconnaissance platoon (one short range radar team attached) is directed to screen the south flank and maintain contact with 2d Bde.

35. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SIXTH REQUIREMENT:

a. In analyzing existing factors the commander determined that an excellent opportunity exists to move forces to a position behind the initial enemy positions by infiltration. He further determined that the seizure and control of HILL 575 (Obj 1), in rear of the enemy's initial defense by infiltration, will greatly facilitate destruction of initial enemy forces that must be eliminated to accomplish the assigned mission. Two companies are considered sufficient to make the penetration to permit passage of TF 1/68, but difficult fighting may be required to dislodge the enemy dug in on HILL 578 (Obj 2). The surprise effect gained by a night attack in their rear area will tend to undermine the morale and reduce the combat efficiency of these forces. Seizure of HILL 575, which is key terrain, will cause the enemy to divide his fires, block his withdrawal and divert the movement of enemy reserves. The scheme of maneuver and control measures for the infiltrating force will be developed as part of the battalion plan of attack. Tactical preparations for the infiltration will follow the same principles as for a night attack and for a link-up operation. The infiltrating company will move in groups of platoon size through and around enemy positions using stealth and dispersion to escape detection. In addition to prearranged signals, control measures, and fire support, radar may be effectively employed to assist in surveying infiltration lane(s) for enemy activity and/or to determine the progress of the infiltrating unit. The infiltrating groups upon closing at predesignated attack positions, will form for the attack. Depending upon the situation, the infiltration force may remain dispersed and concealed until concentration into an attack formation at a prescribed place and time. In this situation as soon as commander, Company B is ready, the attack will be launched against Obj 1. Subsequently linkup with TF ALFA or other elements of TF 1/67 will be accomplished.

The primary consideration regarding the battalion reserve (Co C) is that it be positioned and ready for commitment to influence the action of the battalion. Positioned in the vicinity of HILL 453 the reserve will be in position to support the attack of TF ALFA but will not be located for employment to assist Co B making the main attack to seize Objective 1. By timely movement of the reserve to the vicinity of rally point JOHN it will be favorably situated for rapid employment in the area of the main attack to ensure seizure of Obj 1, to assist in the seizure of Objective 2 and 3 and to assist TF 1/68 in its movement beyond TF 1/67 to attack Obj 210.

b. (1) Fire support is planned to support the passage of the infiltration groups of Co B through enemy positions. A preparation and supporting fires will be planned on the infiltration objective. The preparation will be used only in the event surprise is lost. Since Co B will be limited to hand carried weapons, additional fire support will be required.

(2) Fire support plans for the night attack are similar to those for daylight attacks and will be discussed in subsequent problems on night operations.

c. (1) The infiltration will take place at night and will require control measures similar to those used in a night attack. The line of departure designated by the brigade will be adopted by battalion for the supporting attack.

(2) Points of departure are designated for the infiltrating company. A point of departure is that point on the ground where the infiltrating unit or elements thereof coordinate with the unit in contact as the point of departure to eliminate confusion when the passage of lines is effected.

(3) The infiltration lanes are designated to provide space for the infiltrating groups to move by stealth to attack positions and to facilitate the control and coordination of supporting fires. In selecting infiltration lanes the battalion commander chooses areas in which gaps are known to exist in enemy defenses. If possible and appropriate, multiple lanes are used for passage through the enemy positions. If an infiltrating group is fired upon a short time after crossing the LD the infiltrating force will attempt to avoid the enemy; however, if required it will fire on the enemy and continue the infiltration. Groups that lose direction or are unable to bypass enemy resistance proceed to rallying points or areas and take appropriate action as required by contingent plans. In this situation the battalion commander designated two infiltration lanes to provide adequate space for Co B to infiltrate to the assigned attack position.

(4) Rallying points or areas are selected to assist in controlling the infiltration. The unexpected may and probably will occur during this type of operation. Therefore, the infiltrating force must know what to do in the event the enemy action prevents the force, or any part of it, from accomplishing its mission. The designated rally positions (JOHN and JOE) are easily recognized and will facilitate control and the initiation of contingency plans if required.

(5) Attack positions are normally designated in a night attack to effect last minute coordination prior to crossing the LD. In this situation attack positions are assigned by battalion to the supporting attack (Co A) and to the infiltrating force (Co B). The attack position assigned Co B is located short of its objective (Obj 1) to provide for assembly of infiltrating groups, adoption of an attack formation, and last minute coordination for the attack. No attack position was designated for Co B short of the LD. However, if the company commander desires he may specify attack positions short of the LD to coordinate the movement of infiltrating groups to and through points of departure.

(6) The desired time of attack is 060445 Aug ___. It is anticipated that the infiltrating force will need approximately five and one half hours to infiltrate, close, and form for the attack. Therefore, the infiltration will begin at 052315 Aug ___. This time is reported to

brigade since the commander Co B has been directed to attack on his own initiative. He will designate the actual time of attack against Obj 1 as soon as he determines that his company will be ready to attack.

(7) Infiltration objectives selected may be key terrain features in the enemy rear area the control of which will restrict movement of the reserves or isolate defense positions. They may also be enemy reserves, fire support means, or command control or logistical installations. Small infiltration forces may also be employed on intelligence or target acquisition missions which will support the attack. In this case HILL 575, key terrain has been assigned to battalion by brigade. The seizure and control of HILL 575 will result in a penetration of the initial enemy defense position, and permit the movement of TF 1/68 through to continue the brigade attack to Obj 210.

(8) As soon as Co B has infiltrated and assembled it will conduct a night attack against Obj 1. Because of increased difficulty in controlling and coordinating a night attack, additional control measures are employed to include: attack positions, points of departure, boundaries, directions of attack, release points, probable line of deployment and specific objectives for each subordinate unit. Considerations for planning, controlling and conducting the night attack will be covered in detail in subsequent problems on night operations.

d. A supporting attack will be made by TF ALFA (Co A with 1A1/1 Armor attached) to seize Obj 2 and 3. A direction of attack is assigned so that TF ALFA will attack Objective 2 from the northwest. An attack from this direction will avoid a frontal attack against Obj 2 and direct the fires of TF ALFA away from Obj 1. Seizure of Obj 2 will rupture the enemy forward defense and permit early linkup with Co B on Obj 1. A continued attack to the south to seize Obj 3 will widen the gap and facilitate early passage of TF 1/68. TF ALFA will attack as soon as the main attack (Co B) is launched against Obj 1, or at 0445 if the infiltrating force has not attacked by this time. Since the attack by TF ALFA will be a night attack the control measures previously referred to in discussing the infiltrating force night attack are applicable. In addition a fire control line (FCL) will be added between Obj 1 and 2 and check points may be designated to assist coordination of fires, linkup and if required the employment of the reserve. The tank platoon, attached to Co A, located in the vicinity of the LD initially will move to join Co A as soon as the tactical situation will permit.

e. Considerations regarding flank security similar to those discussed in Section X, paragraph 24d, are applicable to this discussion. The south flank is considered by the battalion commander to be the most dangerous flank. He directs the reconnaissance platoon to screen that flank and to maintain contact with the 2d Brigade. No flank security is considered necessary initially on the north flank. The infiltration movement is along this flank, and the infiltrating force will furnish its own security. Further, security will be achieved by the movement and positioning of the reserve (Co C) on the north flank of the battalion. Flank security for the attack will be assumed by TF 1/68 upon passage through TF 1/67.

36. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. Infiltration is a technique of accomplishing a penetration.

b. The purpose of an infiltration is to deploy strong forces in the enemy rear for decisive tasks while exposing only small forces to enemy fires during the passage through the enemy defense.

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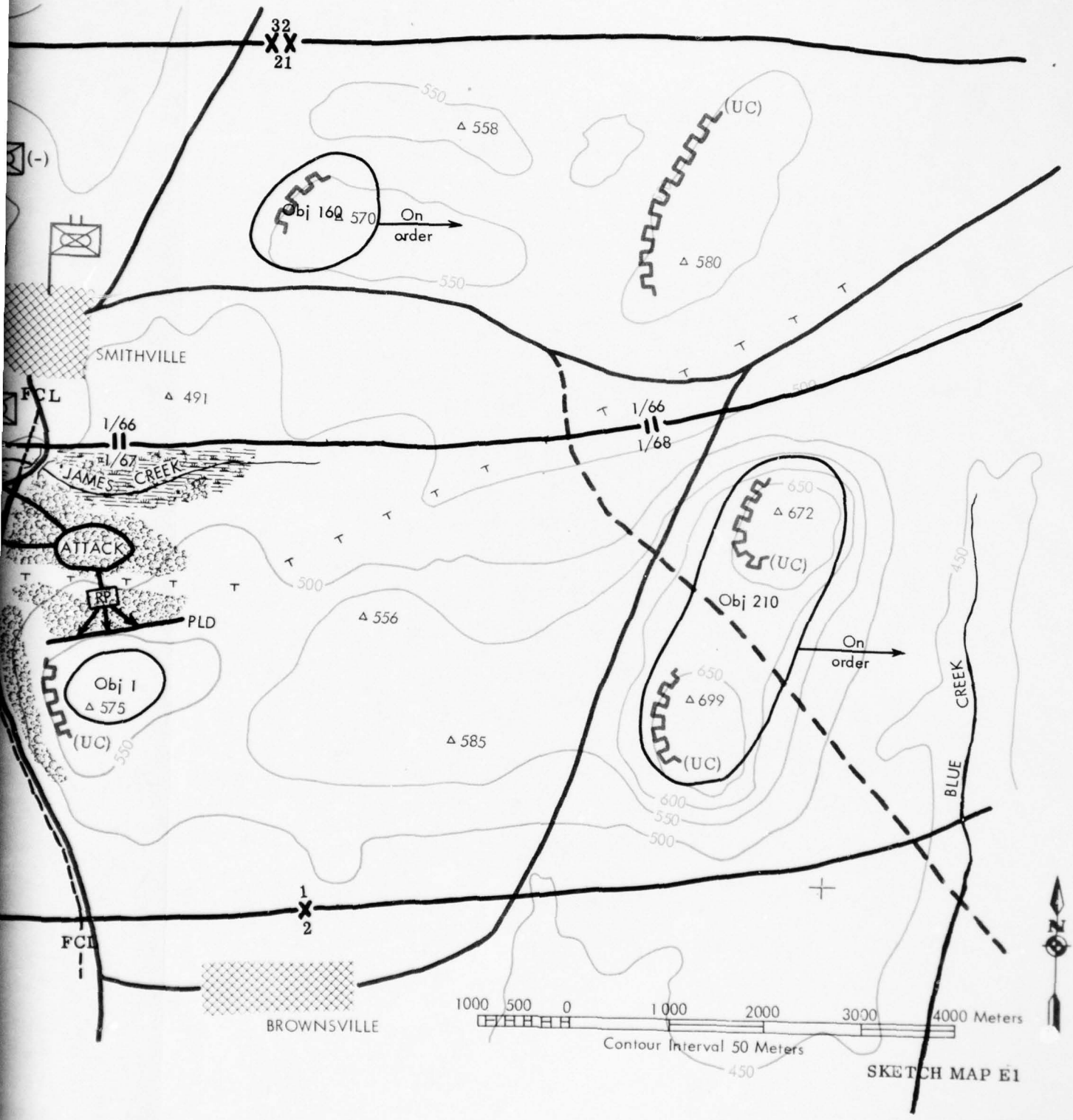

SKETCH MAP E1

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Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135 6136 6137

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XV
(Sketch Map F)

(THIS SITUATION HAS NO RELATION TO PREVIOUS SITUATIONS)

37. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. The 52d Mechanized Division, attacking to the east, seized Objective 550 (approximately 2 km west of Rock City). Continuation of the attack was delayed to permit refueling of vehicles and to allow time for adjacent units to catch up. The division is now ready to continue the attack. Enemy resistance has been diminishing during the past several days. Elements of the 52d Mech Div are presently in contact with the enemy as shown on Sketch Map F.

b. The division commander has visited the CP 1st Bde and issued the following orders:

"The division continues the attack at 0545 hours with two brigades in the attacking echelon; the 1st Bde in the north and the 2d Bde in the south. The 1st Bde will attack and seize Objective 520 and continue the attack to the east on order. G2 reports the enemy strength in your area an estimated under strength battalion reinforced by tanks and artillery. I think you will be able to make the attack mounted most of the way to seize the assigned objective."

c. The following units are attached to or are in support of the 1st Bde.

2/76 Mech
2/77 Mech
2/78 Mech
2/4 Armor
A2/23 Cav
A/52 Engr (Reinf w/1 bridge plat and 2 AVLB)
7/50 Arty Gp (DS)
7/50 Arty (SP)
7/51 Arty (SP)

d. Weather is fair and cool, and the wind is from the southwest at 5 knots. Trafficability is generally excellent except in the swampy areas along the COMO Creek and OFFENBACH River. All streams and rivers are fordable with difficulty to vehicles. Numerous woods in the area will restrict maneuver to some degree but do not prohibit movement of tracked vehicles. These areas are free of undergrowth and offer fair concealment. Concealment and cover run from good to fair throughout the area.

e. Nuclear weapons have been used tactically by both sides. No nuclear weapons have been allocated for this operation. United States Air Force has local air superiority.

38. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 151800 Oct ____. Attachments and supporting units have reported to the 1st Bde which is located approximately 4 km west of ROCK CITY. ROCK CITY is in the hands of friendly troops.

39. SEVENTH REQUIREMENT: You are Col, 1st Mech Bde.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver?

b. Who will receive priority of fires?

c. What is your task organization, initial order of movement and provisions for flank security?

d. What control measures do you prescribe (indicate on Sketch Map F)?

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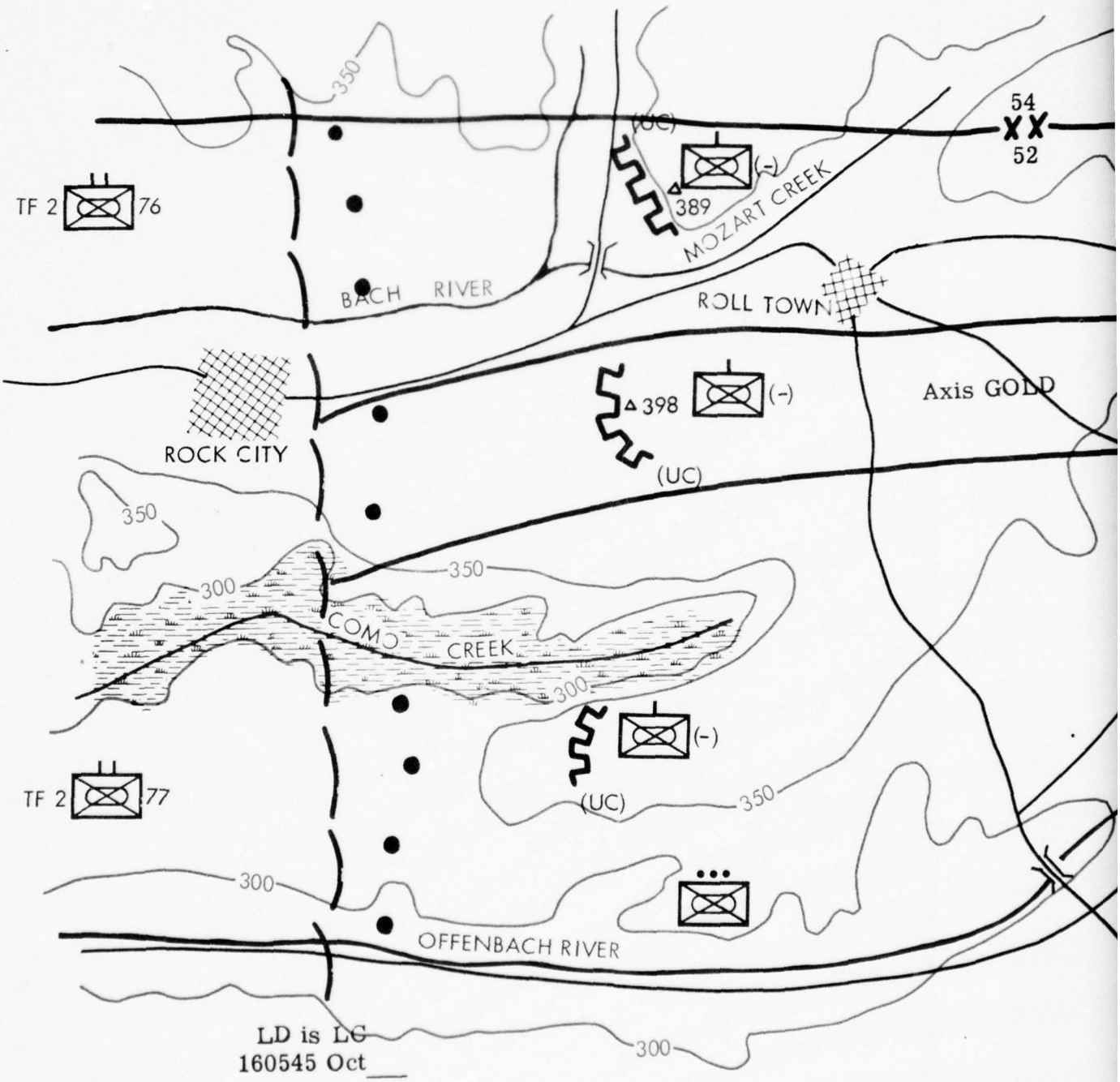

LD is LG
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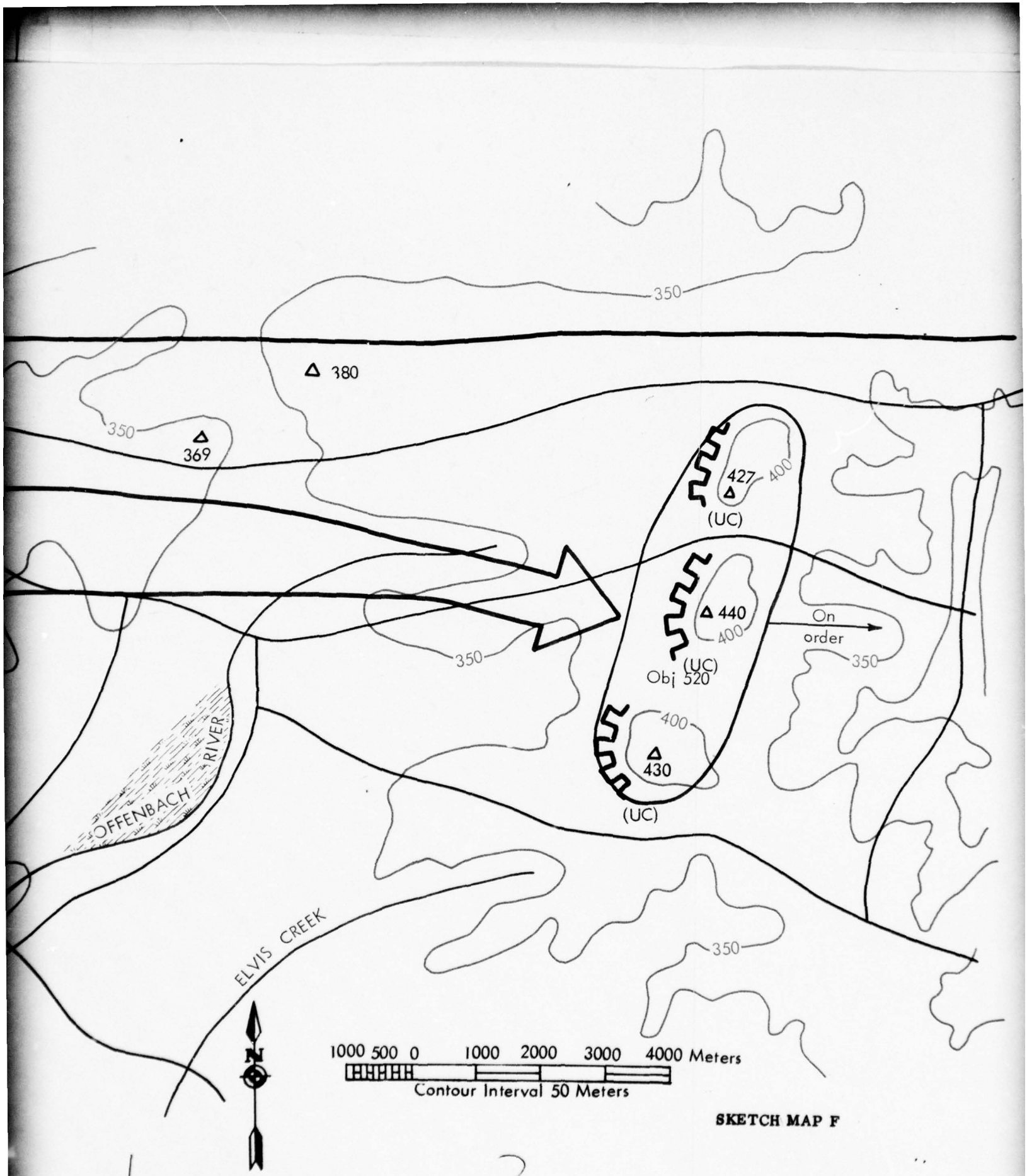

SKETCH MAP F

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Fort Benning, Georgia

6135
FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6136
6137
PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XVI
(Sketch Map F1)

40. SOLUTION TO SEVENTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Scheme of Maneuver: 1st Bde attacks at 160545 Oct ___ along Axis BLUE and Axis WHITE to seize objectives X and Y; TF 2/77 will attack on Axis WHITE to seize objective Y, continue the attack to the east on order; TF 2/76 will attack on Axis BLUE to seize objective X, continue the attack to the east on order. TF 2/76 will make the main attack. TF 2/4 Armor and 2/78 Inf will follow TF 2/76 on Axis BLUE.

b. Priority of Fires to TF 2/76 leading the main attack.

c. Task organization and initial order of movement. (See page 44 and 45.) Troop A, 2d Recon Sqdn, 23d Cav, is directed to secure the north flank.

d. Sketch Map F1.

TASK ORGANIZATION AND INITIAL ORDER OF MOVEMENT

AXIS BLUE
(MAIN ATTACK)

TF 2 76

A2 4

A7 50 (DS)

1A 52 (+ one AVLB) (DS)

(Bde Comd Gp)

A2 23

7 50 (-) (DS)

A 52 (-)

1E 52 (Brg)

TF 2 4

A2 76

B2 77

HQ 1 (Bde CP)

2 78 (-)

A2 78

AXIS WHITE
(SUPPORTING ATTACK)

TF 2 77

B2 4

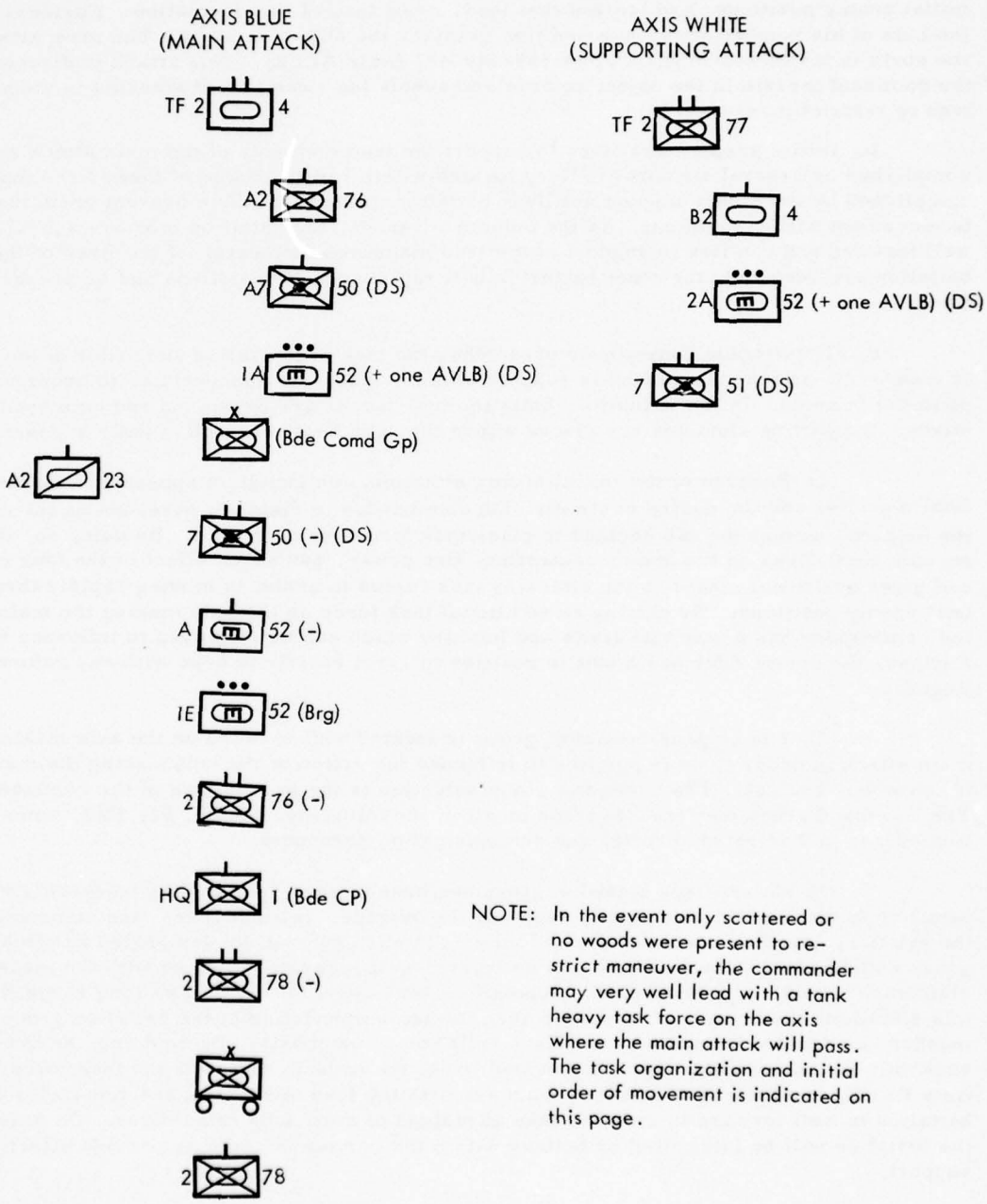
2A 52 (+ one AVLB)(DS)

7 51 (DS)

NOTE: In situations where woods restrict but do not prohibit movement of tracked vehicles, where obstacles must be breached or antitank defenses are strong, an infantry - heavy task force is preferred to lead the attack. The task organization and order of movement on this page indicate this type organization.

ALTERNATE SOLUTION

TASK ORGANIZATION AND INITIAL ORDER OF MOVEMENT



NOTE: In the event only scattered or no woods were present to restrict maneuver, the commander may very well lead with a tank heavy task force on the axis where the main attack will pass. The task organization and initial order of movement is indicated on this page.

41. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SEVENTH REQUIREMENT:

a. The brigade commander decides that two battalions in the attack are adequate to overcome the initial enemy resistance. In a mounted attack the brigade may attack on single or multiple columns or in a linear formation. In this situation the brigade commander elects to attack utilizing two axes because of the initial enemy strength, vague information beyond the initial enemy positions, and terrain that lends itself toward this formation. Further, it places the bulk of his combat power in a position to attack the objective early. The main attack is on the north in the direction HILLS 398-369-440-427 (Axis BLUE). This attack is directed toward the dominant terrain in the objective area and avoids the swamps and streams in the south that tend to restrict maneuver.

b. Initial preparatory fires to support the lead elements of the main attack are accomplished by general support artillery located within range. Some of these fires may be accomplished by the direct support artillery battalion group from their present positions prior to movement with the column. As the column advances, the battalion mortars and A7/50 are well forward and can fire in support of the lead maneuver elements. If the fires of the entire battalion are required, the other batteries will rapidly occupy positions and be prepared to fire.

c. The brigade commander prescribes the task organization and order of movement of those units attached or placed in support of the brigade, as appropriate, in order to accomplish the mission. In this situation, battalion task forces are organized and employed in the attack. Supporting elements are placed where they can best accomplish their support mission.

(1) Because of the initial enemy situation, the excellent approaches leading to the final objective and the desire of the division commander to maintain pressure on the enemy, the brigade commander has decided to place task forces on each axis. By doing so, the commander capitalizes on the armor protection, fire power, and shock effect of the tank companies and gives additional means to the attacking task forces to assist in moving rapidly through initial enemy positions. By placing an additional task force on the axis making the main attack, the commander has a unit with tanks and Infantry which can be employed to influence the action. Further, the commander has a unit in position to react rapidly to cope with any unforeseen contingency.

(2) The brigade command group is located well forward on the axis making the main attack in order to be in position to influence the action of the unit making the main attack if and when required. The command group selection is the prerogative of the commander. The command group may include some or all of the following: the S2, S3, FSC, communication officer and selected security and communication personnel.

(3) An artillery battalion group has been formed by attaching a second artillery battalion to the one which normally supports the brigade. In such cases, the commander of the artillery battalion normally associated with the brigade will be designated as the battalion group commander. The artillery will be located well forward and move with the maneuver elements in order to provide close support for front line units as well as long range fires. In this situation, the brigade commander upon the recommendation of the battalion group commander has decided to locate an artillery battalion on each axis. By so doing, he has given each axis an indirect fire capability in addition to the organic means of the task force. On Axis BLUE, one battery of artillery marches with the lead task force; the remainder of the battalion is well forward in order to take advantage of their long range fires. On Axis WHITE the battalion will be integrated by battery within the column in order to provide effective fire support.

(4) Attached or supporting engineers are made available to the brigade. These units should be kept under brigade control whenever possible, with platoons normally placed

in direct support of the leading battalion task forces on each axis. In this situation, an engineer company, reinforced with a bridge platoon and 2 AVLB from the bridge company, has been attached to the brigade. In order to support the attacking echelons, an engineer platoon reinforced with one AVLB, has been placed in direct support of each leading task force. There are numerous streams throughout the area, and although fordable, the placement of the AVLB well forward will assist in maintaining the momentum of the attack. In addition, the attached tank battalion has an AVLB section containing 2 AVLB. The truck mounted floating bridge platoon is kept under control of the attached engineer company.

(5) Sufficient logistical support must be provided on both columns to provide immediate necessary support. The brigade trains will move on the axis making the main attack and will move at the rear of the column. Each task force will have the battalion combat trains as well as individual company trains accompanying to provide the immediate support. The composition of the trains will vary depending upon the type operation being performed. For example, during the penetration phase, increased amounts of Class V supplies and lesser amounts of Class III will be required; whereas, during the exploitation, it will be necessary to increase the amount of Class III and reduce the amount of Class V supplies.

(6) A flank security unit may be given a mission "to screen" or "to secure" the flank. With a mission "to screen" the unit provides early warning by observing, reporting and maintaining visual contact with enemy forces encountered. Because of its relatively limited combat capability, a screening force is usually not capable of offering strong resistance to the enemy. However, it protects itself and, within its own capability, may destroy or disperse small enemy elements that attempt to penetrate the screening position. Conversely, with a mission "to secure" a flank, the force should have the capability for occupying and defending from blocking positions to protect the flanks of a major force.

(a) The bde commander is always responsible for his own flank security whether or not division provides a flank security force. To provide this security he normally designates a flank guard operating under brigade control, and assigns it an area of responsibility. The mission may be accomplished by an attached cavalry troop or by a unit designated from the brigade reserve.

(b) On occasion in offensive situations where division may provide the flank security for the division, the brigade commander may achieve an acceptable degree of security by merely alerting elements of his reserve for possible employment on the flank.

(c) When the division assigns the brigade the responsibility for securing one flank of the division, the brigade commander assigns the flank guard mission to a security force as in paragraph (a) above.

(d) In some situations, the proximity of adjacent attacking combat elements is such that, by maintaining contact with those elements, a degree of flank security is derived. Here the brigade commander may assign the leading battalions the mission of maintaining contact with adjacent forces and alert the reserve to be prepared to furnish security units if required.

(e) In this situation, the brigade has an armored cavalry troop attached. Troop A, 2d Recon Sqdn, 23d Cav, will provide flank security on the north flank of the brigades main attack. The placement of TF 2/77 in the south provides for south flank security. No provisions have been made to furnish security elements between the axes. However, attached or supporting Army aircraft and/or reconnaissance units organic to the battalions in brigade reserve could be utilized in this role. The attacking echelons will provide security to cover the area between the battalion axes and will maintain contact with each other.

d. The mechanized brigade must exploit its mobility by moving rapidly to seize objectives deep in the enemy rear. Consequently, the brigade commander will utilize only those control measures which are essential to the accomplishment of the mission. Intermediate objectives are held to a minimum.

(1) Axes are assigned as directional control measures in this situation. By assigning axes, the brigade commander is not unduly restricting the subordinate units and provides the general direction of the attack. There is no requirement for clearing the zone; therefore, the battalion commanders are afforded maximum latitude.

(2) The brigade commander divides objective 520 into two battalion-size objectives. Seizure of these objectives ensures control of the brigade objective. Intermediate objectives are not assigned initially since there is no known enemy force capable of stopping the attack short of the final objective. The assignment of intermediate objectives in this situation would have the tendency of slowing the momentum of the attacking force. The fact that intermediate objectives are not assigned at this time does not preclude the assignment of additional objectives at any time the commander may deem necessary. A boundary is established between objectives X and Y for the purposes of delineating areas of responsibility and coordination of fires in the objective area.

(3) The time of the attack and line of departure were prescribed by the division commander. The brigade commander selects the time of attack designated by the division commander and the line of departure as the line of contact.

(4) Phase Line APPLE has been designated as a control measure primarily because of the distance from the line of departure to the final objective. Units report the time of their arrival at the designated phase line, but do not halt their attack unless directed to do so.

(5) Check points may also be used to assist in controlling the advance of the brigade.

42. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The directional control measure most frequently used in mounted operations is the axis of advance.

b. Task organization and initial order of movement in mounted operations are designed to exploit the capabilities of units and to facilitate their timely employment.

c. The use of multiple axes are favored when adequate approaches are available, there is a clear indication of enemy dispositions, and adequate fire support is available.

d. During mounted attacks flanks become more exposed than in dismounted attacks; therefore, each unit commander must be alert to his increased vulnerability and ensure adequate security.

e. The brigade flank security unit normally is furnished from the brigade reserve, or armored cavalry unit when provided, and normally is controlled by brigade.

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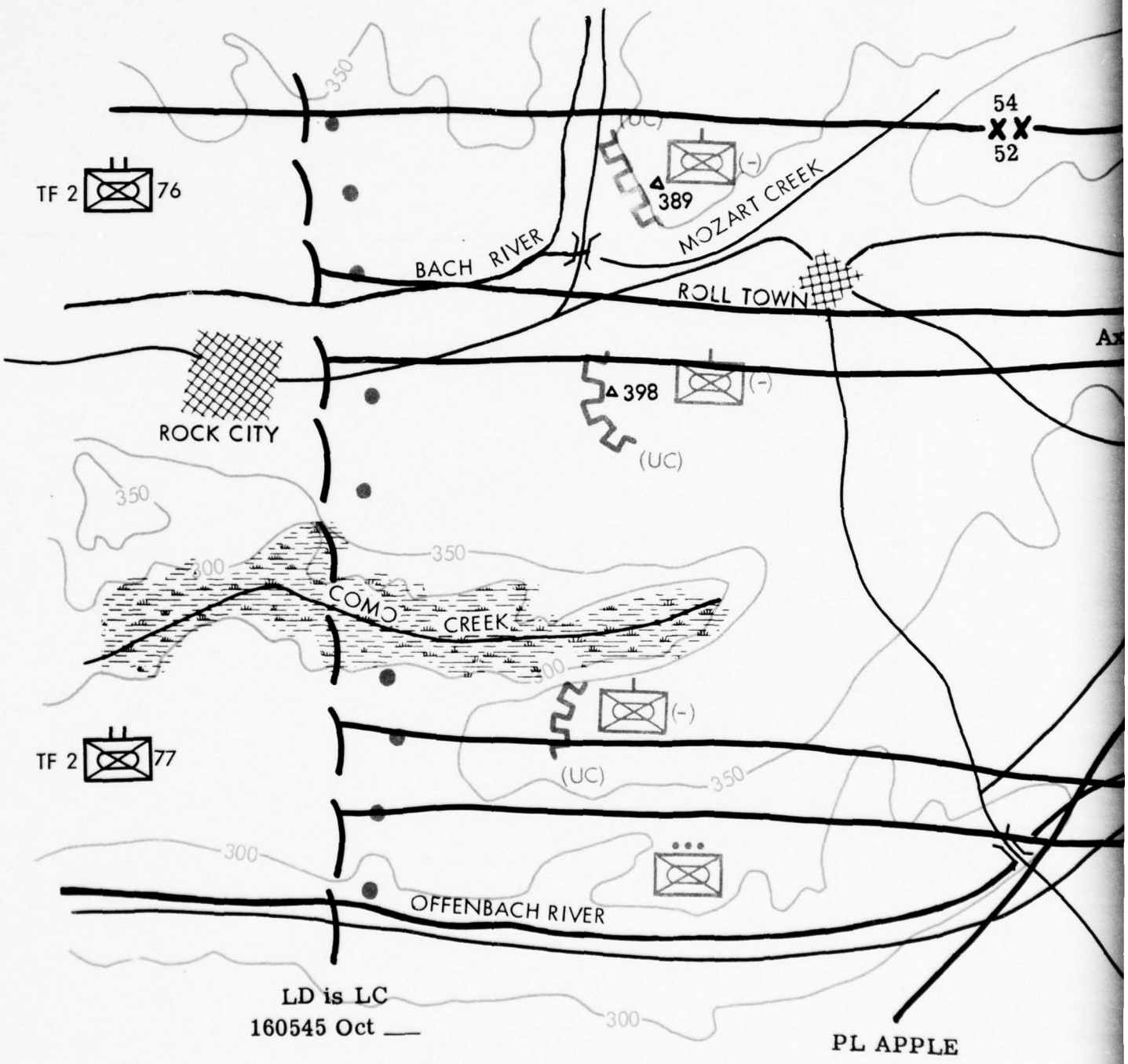
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52
TF 2
76
(UC)
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389
MOZART CREEK
BACH RIVER
ROLL TOWN
ROCK CITY
398
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COMO
CREEK
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PL APPLE

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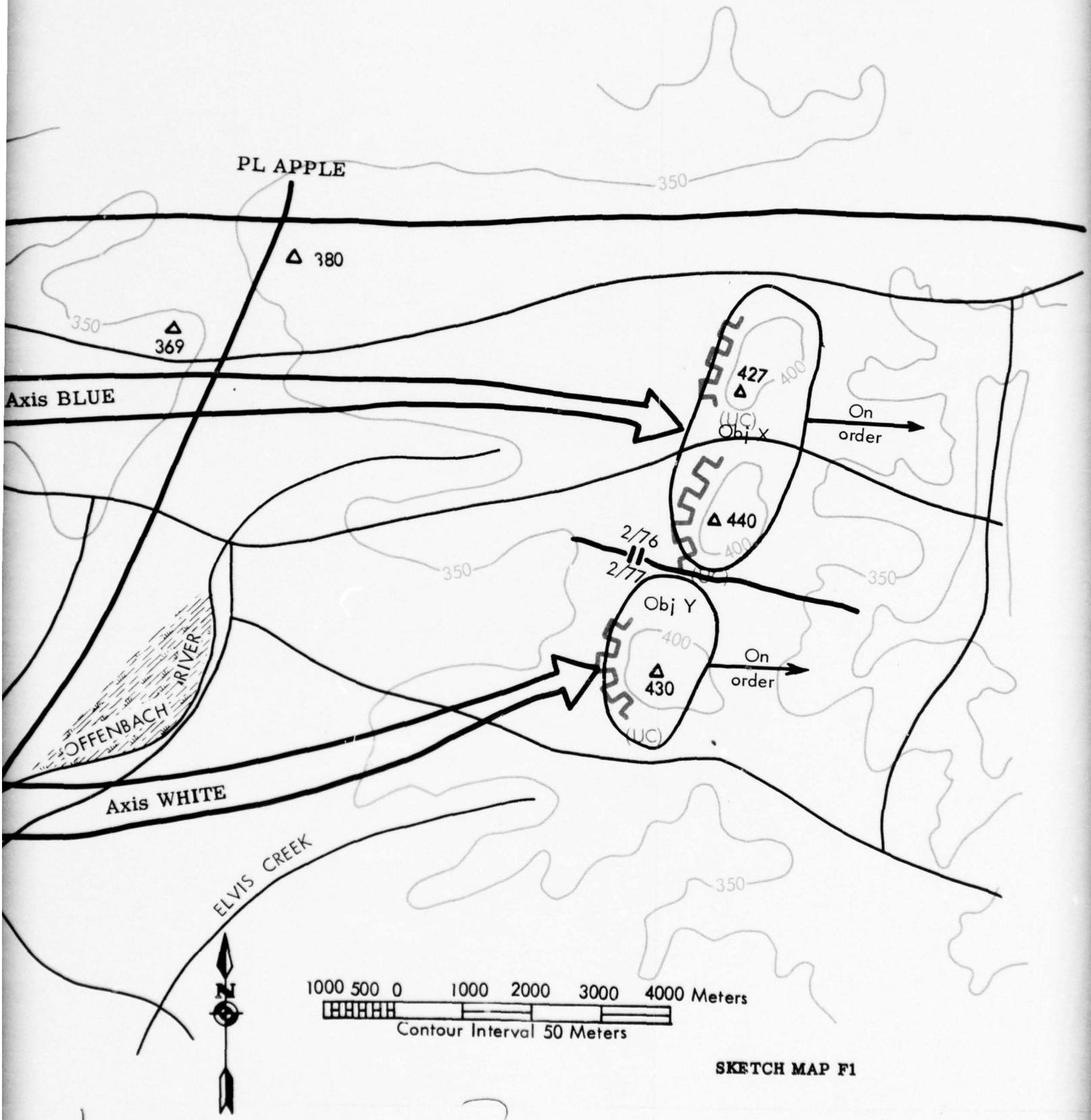

SKETCH MAP F1

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FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6135 6136 6137

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XVII
(Sketch Map G)

43. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. The general situation is as indicated in Section XV.

b. The division commander plans to continue the attack at 0545 hours with two brigades in the attacking echelon. After receiving the attack order from the division commander, the brigade commander, 1st Bde, made an estimate of the situation and issued the following orders:

"The 1st Bde attacks at 160545 Oct ____ along Axis BLUE and Axis WHITE to seize Objectives X and Y; TF 2/77 will attack on Axis WHITE to seize Objective Y, continue the attack to the east on order; TF 2/76 will attack on Axis BLUE to seize Objective X, continue the attack to the east on order. TF 2/76 will make the main attack. No nuclear weapons will support the operation.

"7/50 Arty (- Battery A) will follow TF 2/76. Battery A, 7/50 Arty will move with TF 2/76. I think you will be able to attack mounted most of the way to seize assigned objectives. TF 2/76 will maintain contact with the 54th Mech Division. TF 2/77 will maintain contact with the 2d Bde."

c. Task Force 2/76 is organized as follows:

2/76 Mech (- Co A).
A2/4 Armor.
1A/52 Engr (+ 1 AVLB + 1 CEV) (DS).

44. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 152200 Oct ____. Attachments and supporting units have reported to TF 2/76, which is located in an assembly area west of ROCK CITY. ROCK CITY is in the hands of friendly troops.

45. EIGHTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, TF 2/76.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver?

b. Who will receive priority of fires?

c. What is the task organization, initial order of movement and provision for flank security?

d. What control measures do you prescribe (indicate on Sketch Map G)?

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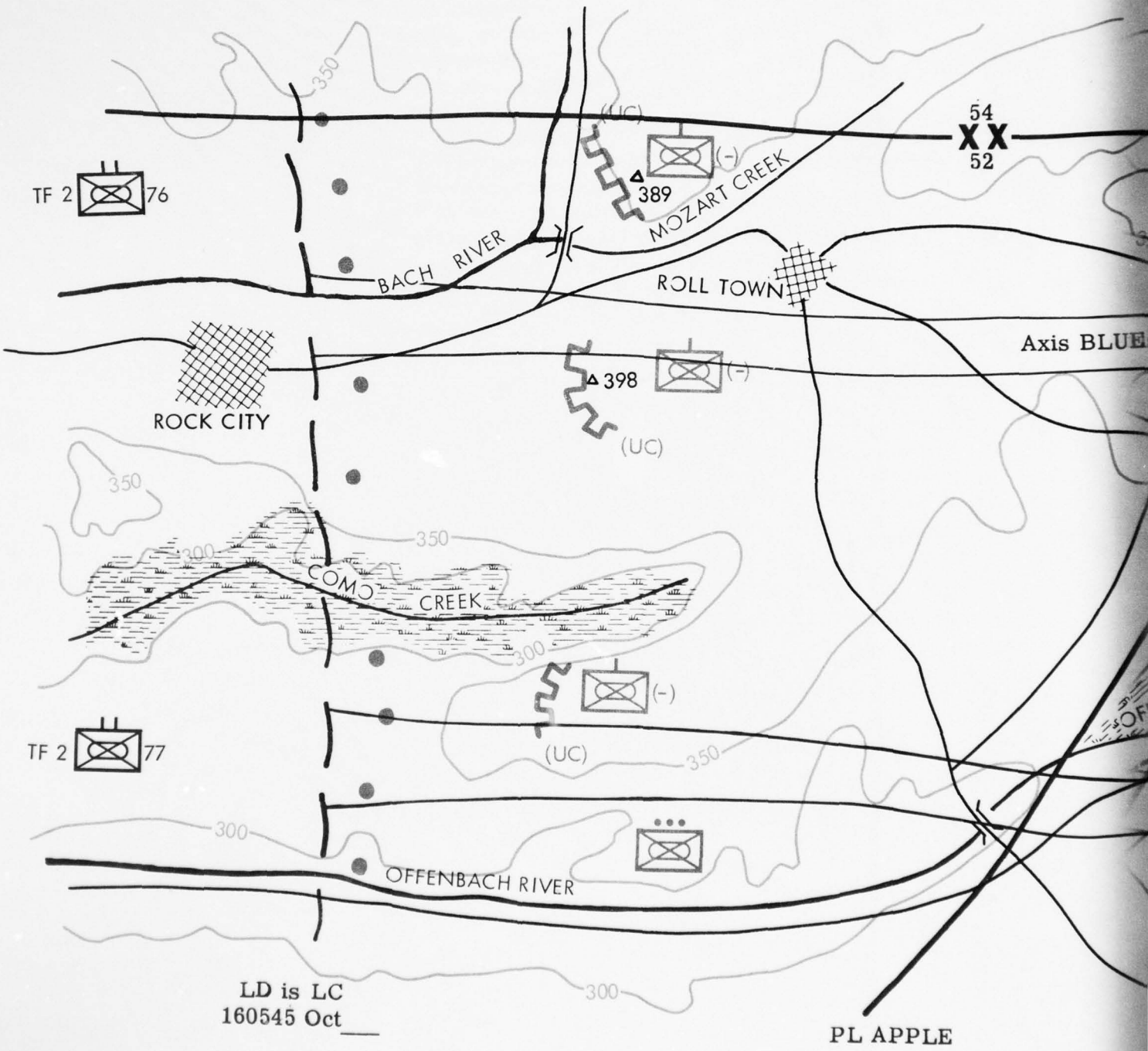

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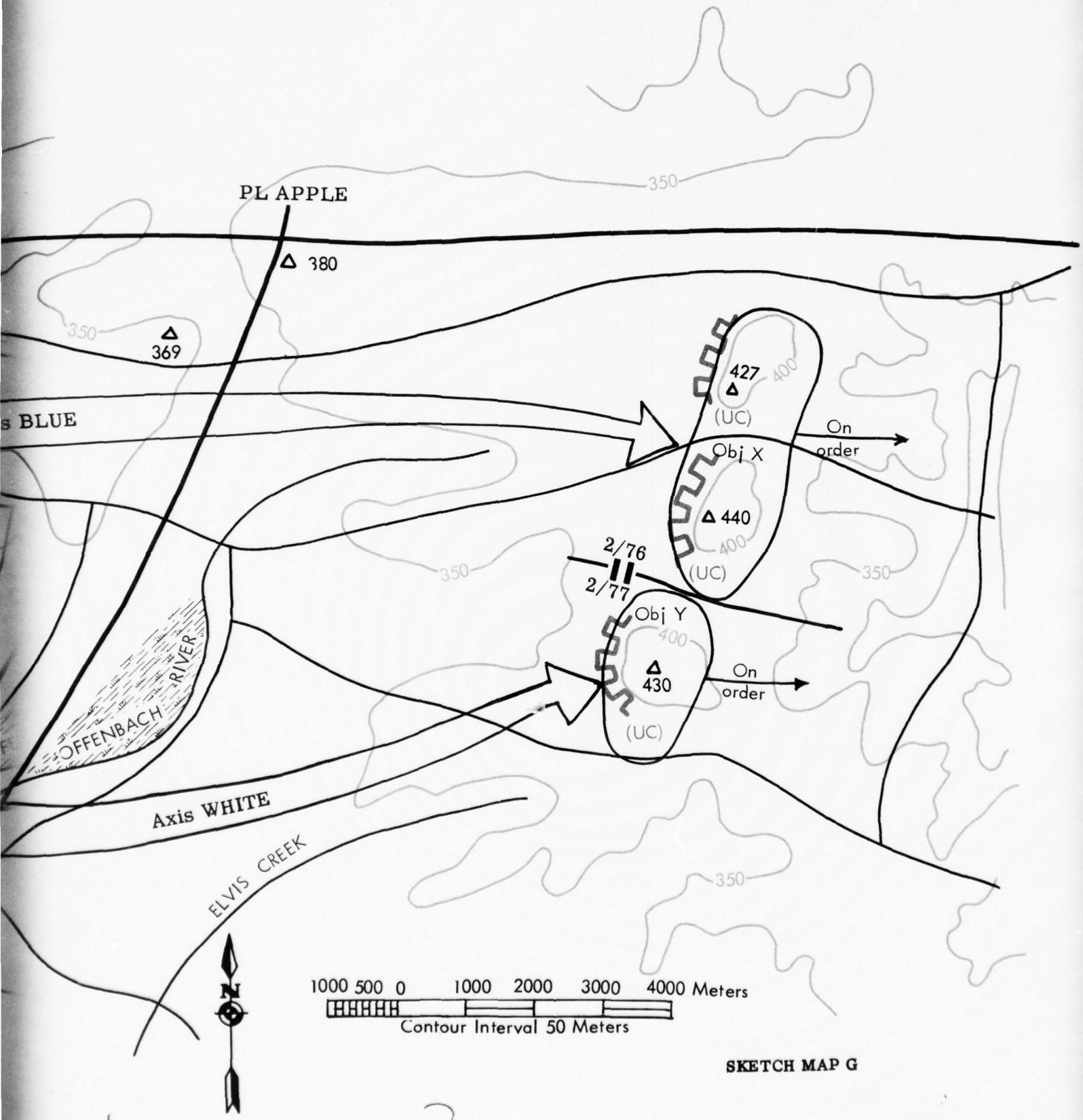

SKETCH MAP G

1 2

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Section XVIII
(Sketch Map G1)

46. SOLUTION TO EIGHTH REQUIREMENT:

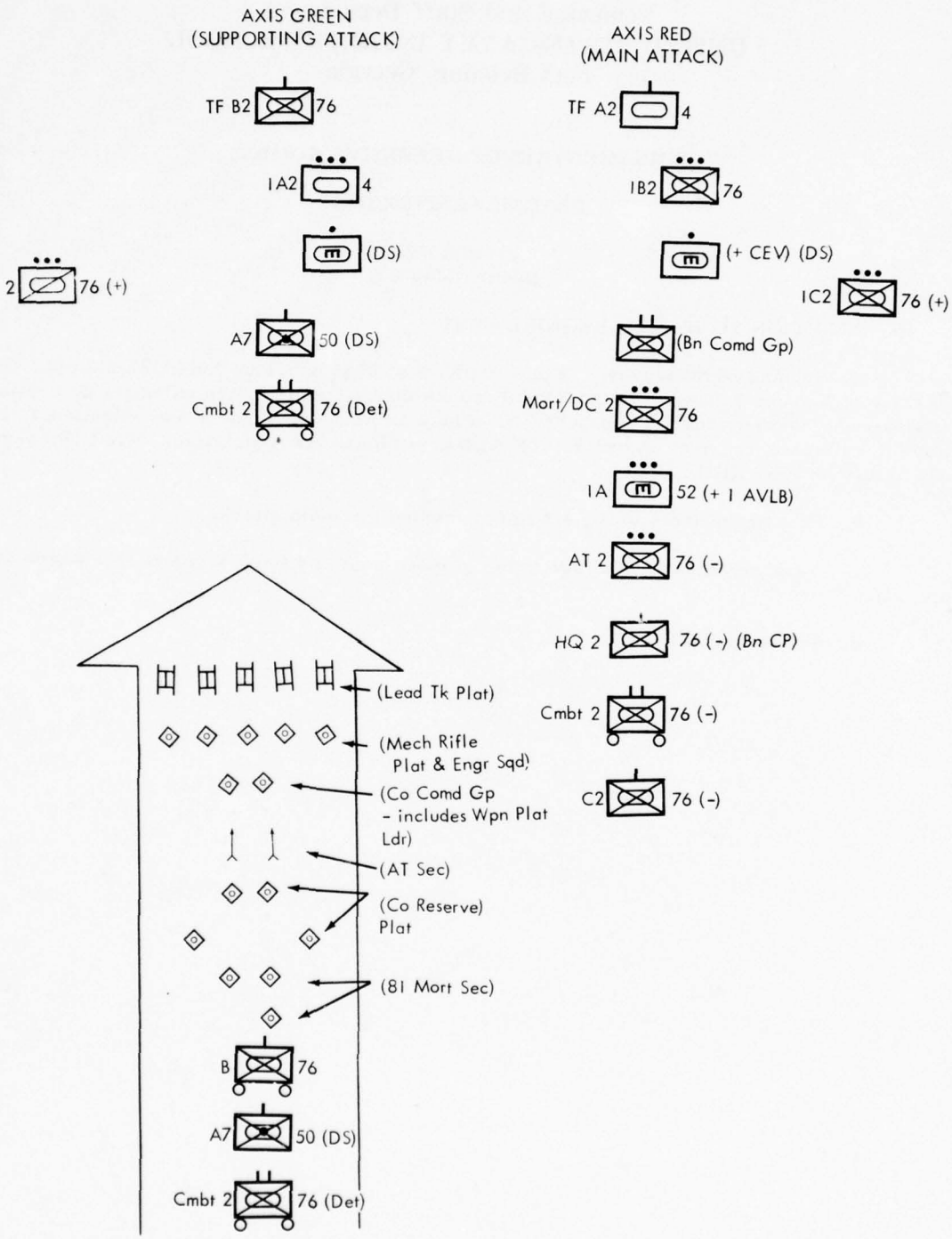
a. Scheme of maneuver: TF 2/76 attacks at 0545 hours on Axis GREEN and Axis RED to seize objectives 1 and 2. TF ALFA will attack on Axis RED, seize objective 2, continue the attack to the east on order; TF BRAVO will attack on Axis GREEN to seize objective 1, continue the attack to the east on order. TF ALFA will make the main attack. Co C, reserve, will follow on Axis RED.

b. Priority of fires to A2/4 Armor, making the main attack.

c. Task organization, initial order of movement and flank security (see pages 54 and 55).

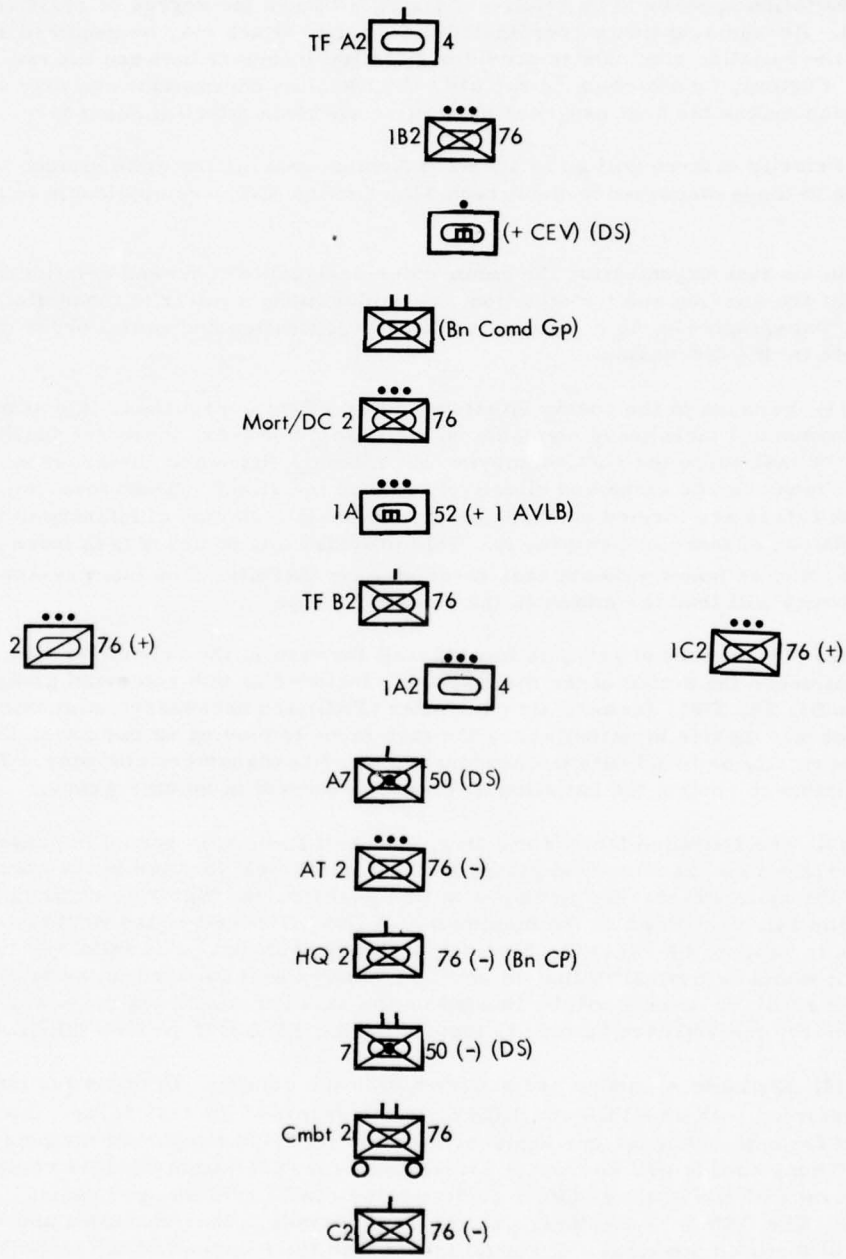
d. Sketch map G1.

TASK ORGANIZATION AND INITIAL ORDER OF MOVEMENT



Schematic example of company task force B2/76 formation prior to meeting enemy resistance. The mech rifle plat following the tanks may advance behind the tanks or follow by bounds

Example of Task Organization and Initial Order of Movement for Battalion Task Force Attacking on One Axis.



47. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO EIGHTH REQUIREMENT:

a. The battalion commander decides to attack on two axes for essentially the same reason as the brigade commander except for the initial enemy strength. In this case the strength against the battalion appears to be relatively strong although the degree of resistance cannot be predicted. Recognizing that a coordinated dismounted attack may be required against HILLS 389 and 398 the battalion commander provides an initial boundary between the two attacking companies. Further, by attacking on two axes the battalion commander can take advantage of the force which makes the best progress by shifting his main attack if necessary.

b. Priority of fires will go to TF A2/4 Armor, making the main attack. Considerations similar to those discussed in paragraph 41b, Section XVI, are applicable to this discussion.

c. In his task organization the commander designates command relationship and tailors his units to fit the mission and the situation. Considerations similar to those discussed in Section XVI, paragraph 41c, to determine the task organization and initial order of movement are applicable in this discussion.

(1) Because of the enemy situation and excellent approaches, this situation is suited for the employment of tank-heavy elements on both axes; however, there are insufficient tanks available to the task force for such employment. Although there are numerous woods throughout the area, tanks can be employed effectively to lead the attack. Therefore, Infantry-tank company task forces are formed on each axis by attaching a platoon of Infantry to the tank company and a platoon of tanks to Company B. This provides a tank-heavy task force on Axis RED (main attack), and an Infantry-heavy task force on Axis GREEN. The Infantry-heavy and tank-heavy task forces will lead the attack on the respective axis.

(2) The command group is located well forward in the column on Axis RED where it can best influence the action of the main attack. Included in this command group normally are found the S2, S3, FSC, forward air controller (FAC) and necessary communication and liaison personnel. In this situation where the task force is moving on two axes, the XO, S1 and S4 will normally be found with the headquarters and headquarters company. This group may also function to control the battalion or elements thereof in an emergency.

(3) The Battalion Mortar and Davy Crockett Platoon is placed in general support. The platoon will follow the command group, and is located well forward in the column on the axis making the main attack. By placing it in this position, the high rate of fire of the heavy mortar section can be utilized to the maximum. A Davy Crockett squad would be located on Axis GREEN to support TF BRAVO. Since an artillery battalion (-) is following the battalion task force, it would be normal to find an artillery battery well forward in the task force column. The artillery battery will be located on the axis not containing the heavy mortar platoon. Therefore, the artillery battery is located behind TF B2/76 on Axis GREEN.

(4) Engineer elements are provided for each column. In this situation, an engineer platoon, reinforced with an AVLB and 1 CEV, is in support of the task force. To provide engineer support for both columns, one engineer squad is in direct support of the lead company on each axis. These squads will be further located well forward within the lead company and will normally travel with the leading platoon to determine road conditions and assist in the passage of obstacles. The CEV with bulldozer can control bypasses, clear obstacles and assist in the elimination of fortified positions. It should travel with the engineer squad supporting the main attack. The engineer platoon (-) will normally follow the heavy mortar platoon and is in a position to move forward to accomplish engineer tasks. The AVLB will remain with the engineer platoon (-) until required. Whenever required, the necessary bridging will be sent forward to span a gap or a stream.

(5) The antitank platoon (-) is in general support and is positioned in the column where it can provide antitank protection for Company C, yet where, should a greater need arise, it can be moved forward in the column to meet an armor threat to one of the flanks. To assist the rifle platoon assigned the flank guard for the south flank to accomplish its security mission, an antitank squad is attached to this platoon.

(6) In order to provide a surveillance capability to the flank security elements, a short range radar team is attached to the platoon from Company C on the south flank and to the reconnaissance platoon on the north flank. In this situation the two short range radar teams from the reserve company are attached to the units providing flank security. The ground surveillance section, organic to HQ and HQ Co, containing two medium range teams, is retained in general support of the task force. The medium range teams will move in the column with HQ & HQ Co on Axis RED.

(7) The battalion combat trains (-) will normally move on the axis of the main attack and a detachment of the combat trains will move on the axis of the supporting attack when the battalion task force is attacking on two axes of advance. The combat trains move in the rear of the columns and consist of those vehicles, equipment and personnel required for the immediate logistical support of the battalion combat mission. In addition to the combat trains within the columns, the company trains will move at the rear of the companies and contain the maintenance and medical elements which provide support for the companies. The field trains will be located in the brigade trains.

(8) The brigade commander has directed Task Force 2/76 to maintain contact with the 54th Mechanized Infantry Division. The armored cavalry platoon normally screens the most critical flank of the battalion, and in this situation has been placed on the north flank. In order to provide flank protection on the south flank, the task force commander directs Company C to furnish not less than a reinforced platoon to screen this flank. This platoon and the reconnaissance platoon will operate under the control of the task force commander. Since the two axes are mutually supporting and approximately 2,000 meters apart, there is no requirement for security between the two axes. The aircraft from the aviation platoon, of Brigade HQ & HQ Co, normally in support of the battalion can be utilized to assist in screening between the axes if a requirement exists. In some situations a platoon from the reserve company(ies) will be given this mission.

(9) Company C, task force reserve, will be located to facilitiate its rapid movement to points of probable employment. In this situation it may well move further forward in the column than shown, positioned for rapid committment to assist in maintaining the forward momentum of the attack.

d. The battalion task force commander, in attacking on two axes, exploits the mobility of the mechanized Infantry battalion. In prescribing control measures, the commander will assign only those control measures necessary to accomplish his mission. Considerations similar to those discussed in Section XVI, paragraph 41d, are applicable in this situation.

(1) The assignment of axes affords the subordinate unit commanders maximum flexibility. It indicates the general direction of the movement of the unit and deviation from the axis is allowed; however, major deviation must be reported. There is no requirement to clear the area along the axis, and the unit moving on an axis may bypass enemy forces which do not threaten the accomplishment of the mission. If the enemy is bypassed, the brigade commander is notified of such bypassing. The task force commander in prescribing the axes has ensured that he follows generally the axis prescribed by brigade. The units are separated to the extent practical so that the effects of an enemy nuclear weapon employed against the forces on one axis are minimized on the forces on the other; yet are not so widely separated that the force on one axis is subject to defeat before the force on the other can move to its assistance.

(2) The task force commander divides objective X into two company-size objectives since objective X is too large for one company to seize and control. Seizure of the assigned company objectives ensures the control of the battalion task force objective. Intermediate objectives are not assigned initially in this situation since the distance to the objective, approximately 20,000 meters, and the requirement for speed, would have the tendency to slow the momentum of the attack. However, this does not preclude the assignment of additional objectives at any time the task force commander may deem them necessary. A boundary, effective on order, will be assigned between objectives 1 and 2 to provide for the coordination of the attack as well as coordination of fires.

(3) The line of departure and time of the attack were assigned by the brigade commander. Consequently, in this situation, the task force commander will designate the LD as LC, and the time of the attack as 0545 hours. No attack positions are necessary nor assigned by the commander. If attack positions are deemed necessary by the company commander, he will designate them in the vicinity of the line of departure. Halts in attack positions are avoided.

(4) A boundary has been designated extending from the line of departure beyond HILLS 389-398 to coordinate fires and maneuver if required.

(5) Phase Line APPLE has been designated by the brigade commander and will be utilized by the task force commander. There is no requirement for additional phase lines in this situation. Units will report their arrival at Phase Line APPLE, but will not halt unless directed to do so.

(6) Check points may also be used to assist in controlling the advance of the task force. Check points can assist in determining the location of flank security elements.

48. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. Even though assigned an axis by the higher headquarters, the commander may prescribe additional axes provided their use is consistent with the assigned mission.

b. The distance between axes is determined by the fire support available, mobility of units and the condition of the terrain between the axes.

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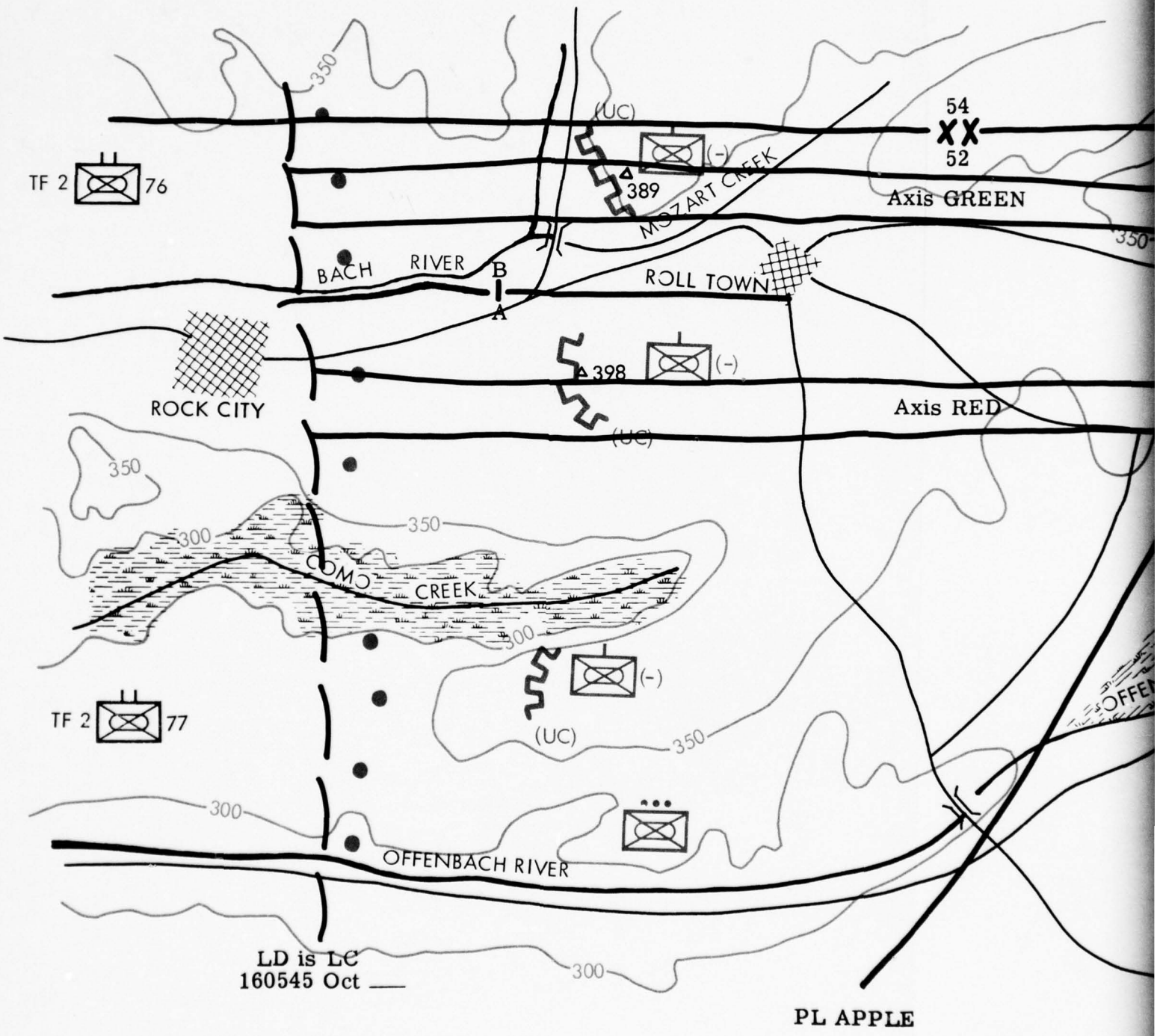
350
(UC)
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XX
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TF 2
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Axis GREEN
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RIVER
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ROCK CITY
Axis RED
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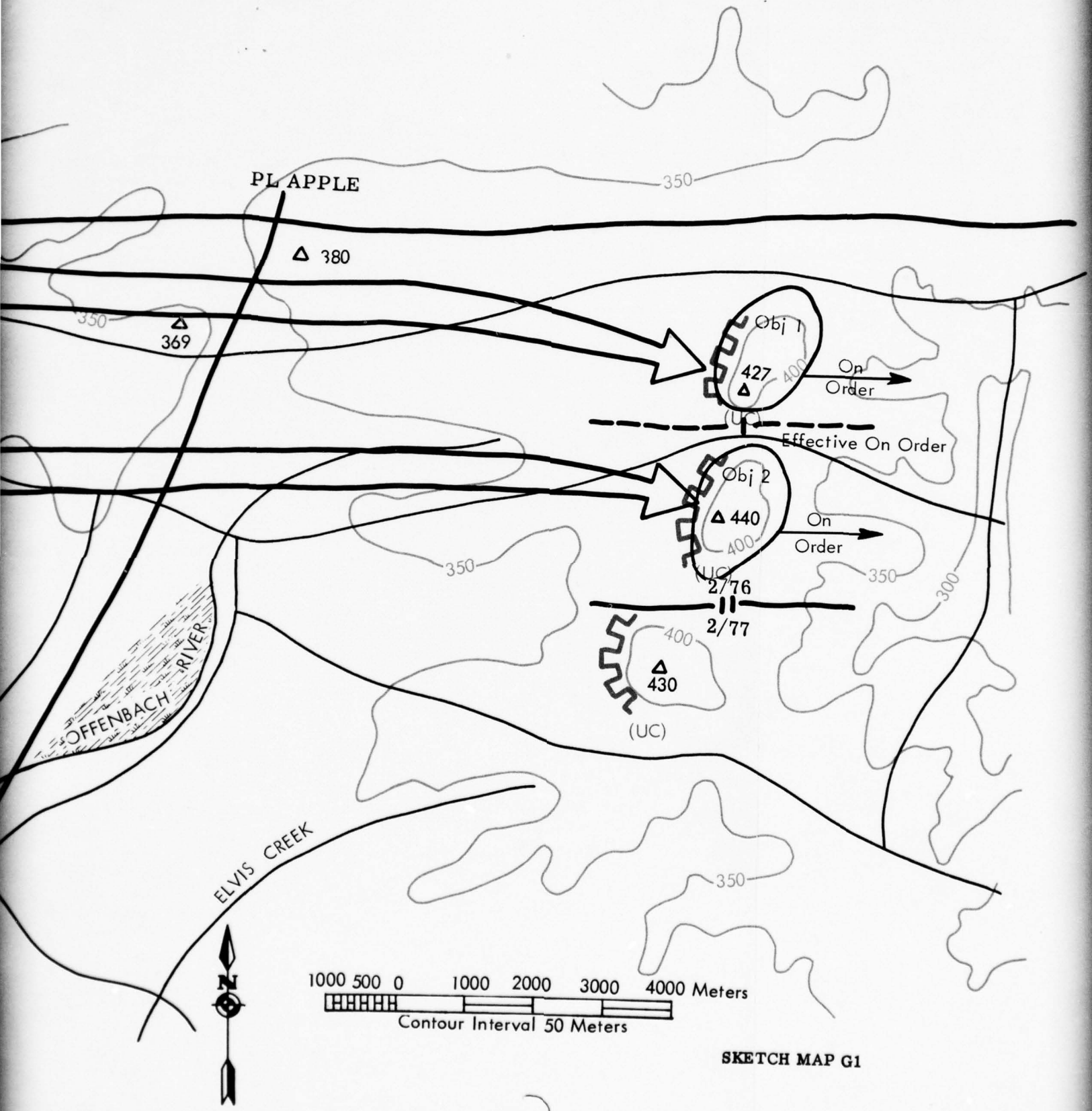
PL APPLE

1



SKETCH MAP G1

1

2

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UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

6135
6136
6137
6170

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Section XIX
(Sketch Map H)

(THIS SITUATION HAS NO RELATION TO PREVIOUS SITUATIONS)

49. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. The 52d Mechanized Division has been advancing to the east for the past several days against relatively light enemy opposition. During the past few hours enemy resistance has halted the forward movement of the division. Attempts to continue the advance have succeeded in forcing in enemy outpost positions. Further efforts by the division cavalry squadron have been stopped by heavy volumes of antitank, small arms and artillery fire. Elements of the 2d Recon Squadron, 23d Cavalry are presently in contact with the enemy as shown on Sketch Map H. Information from the cavalry indicates heavy enemy resistance in the vicinity HILL 367. Prisoners captured by the cavalry and prior information on Aggressor forces in this sector indicate the following: Aggressor units are at approximately 75 per cent strength and have lost many of their antitank weapons and tanks; Aggressor units have been in these positions less than 24 hours.

b. The division commander plans to attack 150545 Oct _____ with two brigades in the attacking echelon. He ordered the 1st Bde to seize Obj Y.

c. The Commanding General, 1st Bde, issued the following orders:

"The 1st Bde attacks 150545 Oct _____ to seize objectives X and Y; TF 2/78 attacks to seize objective X, continues the attack to the east on order; TF 2/76 attacks to seize objective Y, continues the attack to the east on order. TF 2/76 makes the main attack. No nuclear weapons have been allocated to support the operation. 7/50 Arty DS, 1st Bde. 7/51 Arty; Reinf 7/50 Arty. Priority of fires to TF 2/76. TF 2/76 maintains contact with the 2d Bde. TF 2/78 will maintain contact with the 54th Mech Div."

d. TF 2/76 consists of:

(1) 2/76 Mech.

(2) B2/4 Armor.

(3) 1A/52 Engr (+ 1 AVLB and 1 CEV) (DS).

e. Weather is fair and cool, and the wind is from the southwest at 5 knots. Trafficability is generally excellent except in the swampy area along JAMES River which restricts movement of vehicles. All streams are fordable to vehicles. Numerous woods in the center and southern portion of the zone will restrict maneuver to some degree but do not prohibit movement of tracked vehicles. These areas are free of undergrowth and offer fair concealment. Concealment and cover run from good to fair throughout the area.

f. Nuclear weapons are being used tactically by both sides. US Air Forces are capable of attaining local air superiority in a particular area.

50. SPECIAL SITUATION: It is now 142200 Oct _____. TF 2/76 with attachments and supporting units is located in an assembly area northwest of HILL 378.

51. NINTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col, TF 2/76.

a. What is your scheme of maneuver?

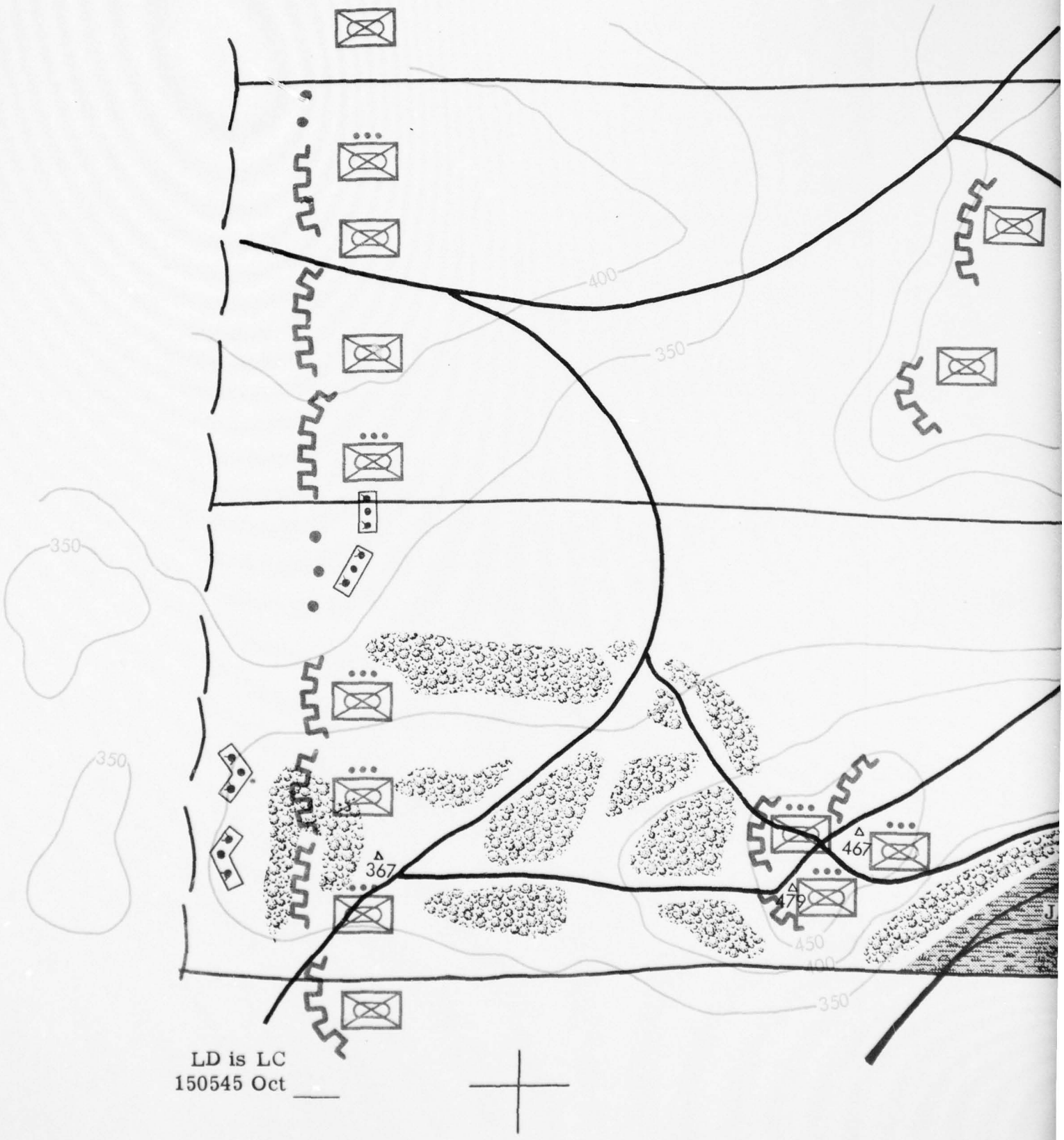
b. Who will receive priority of fires?

c. What is your task organization?

d. What provisions do you prescribe for flank security?

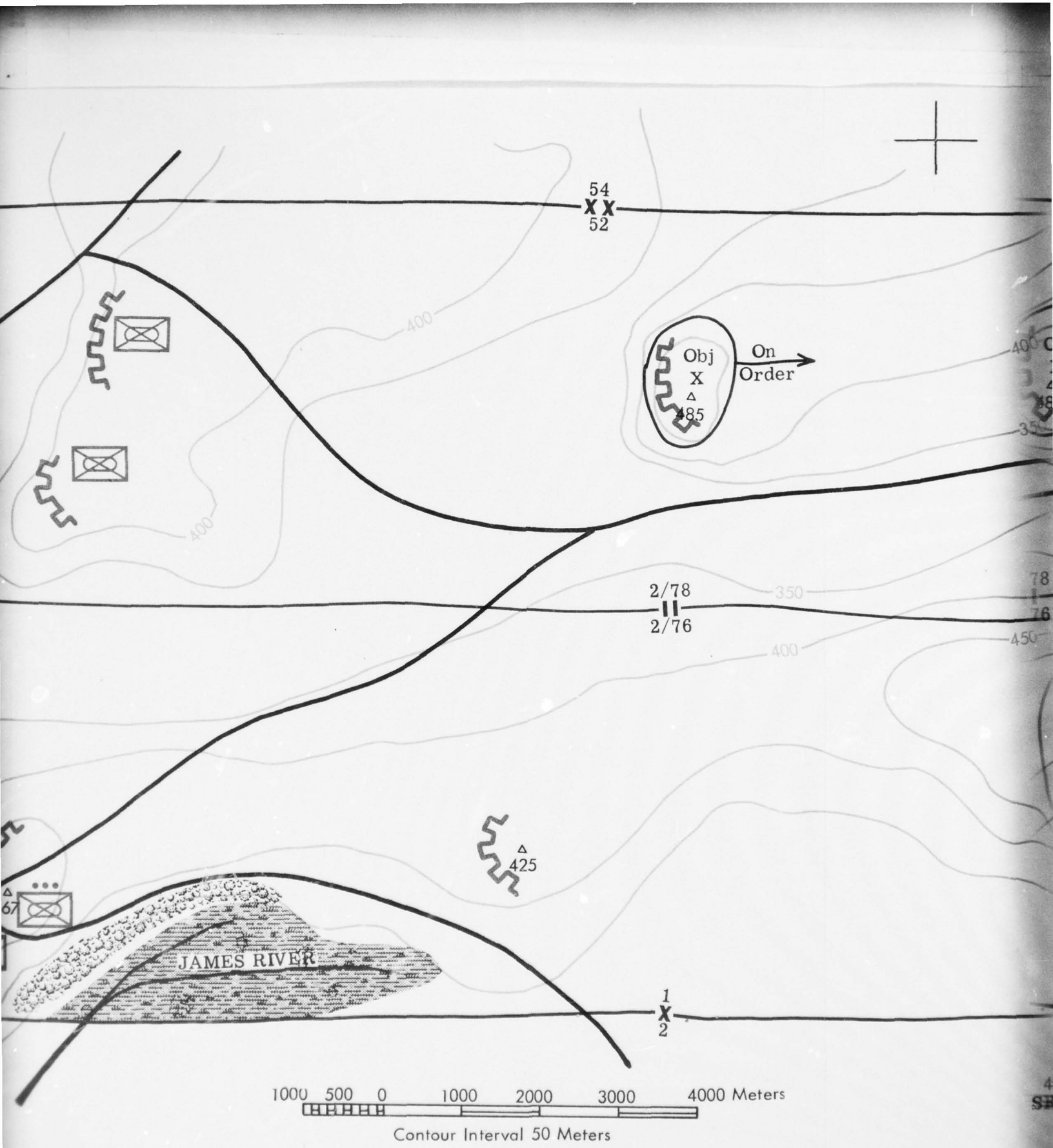
e. What control measures do you prescribe?

33963 Army-Ft. Benning, Ga. 17 Apr 62 5400



LD is LC
150545 Oct ___

1


54
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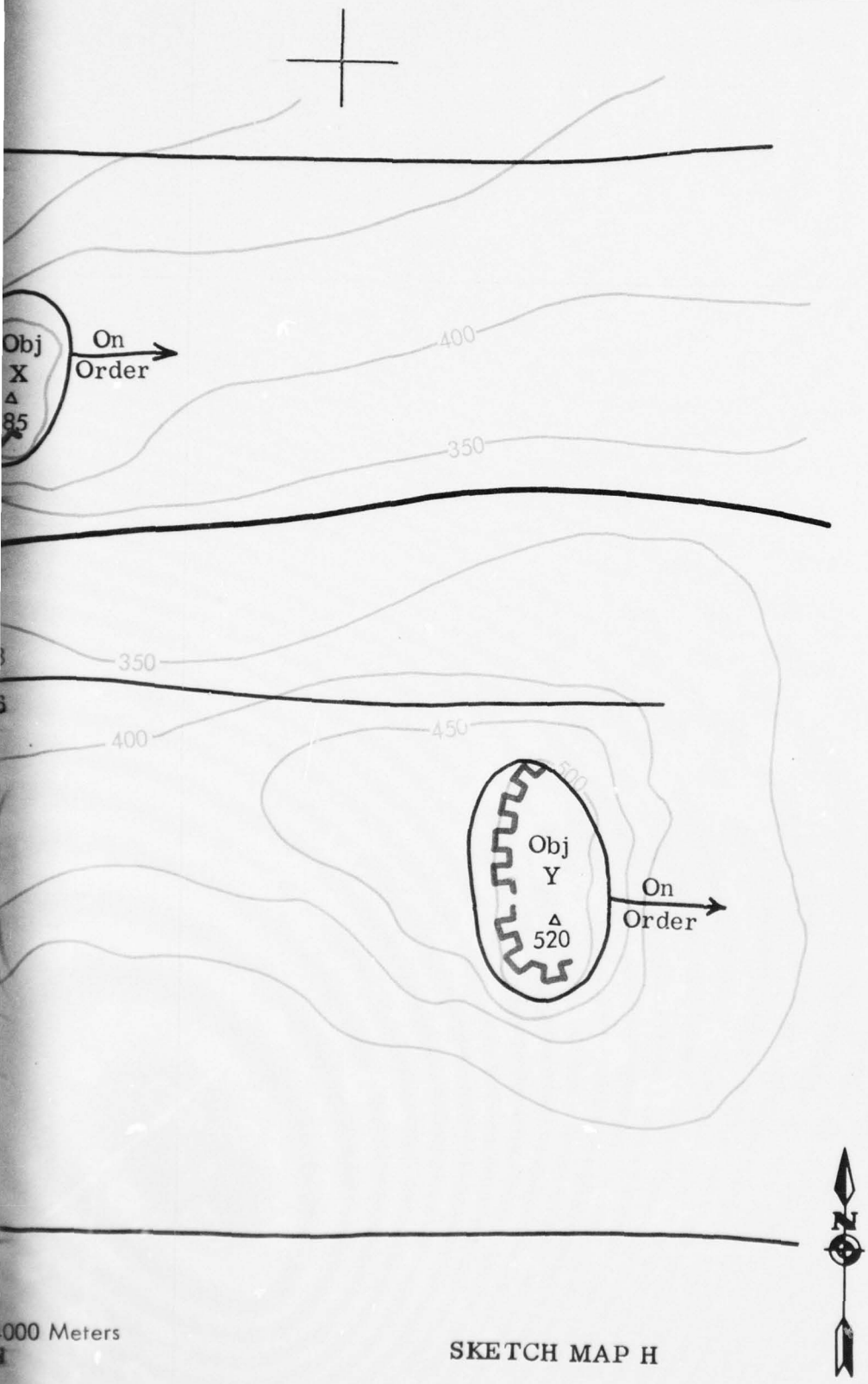
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SKETCH MAP H

Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

6135
FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT 6136
6137
PRACTICAL EXERCISE 6170

Section XX
(Sketch Map H1)

52. SOLUTION TO NINTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Scheme of Maneuver: TF 2/76 attacks 150545 Oct to seize objective Y, continues attack east, on order. A2/76 attacks dismounted initially to seize objective 1, be prepared to assist seizure of objectives 2 and 3, on order. TF B2/4 Armor, followed by TF B2/76, mounted, attack on Axis BROWN to seize objectives 2 and 3 respectively. TF B2/4 and TF B2/76 make the main attack. Upon seizure of objectives 2 and 3, TF 2/76 continues the attack on order along Axis GREEN to seize objective Y. Co C, reserve, follow TF B2/76.

b. Priority of fires to TF B2/4 Armor, leading main attack.

c. Task organization, (See page 64).

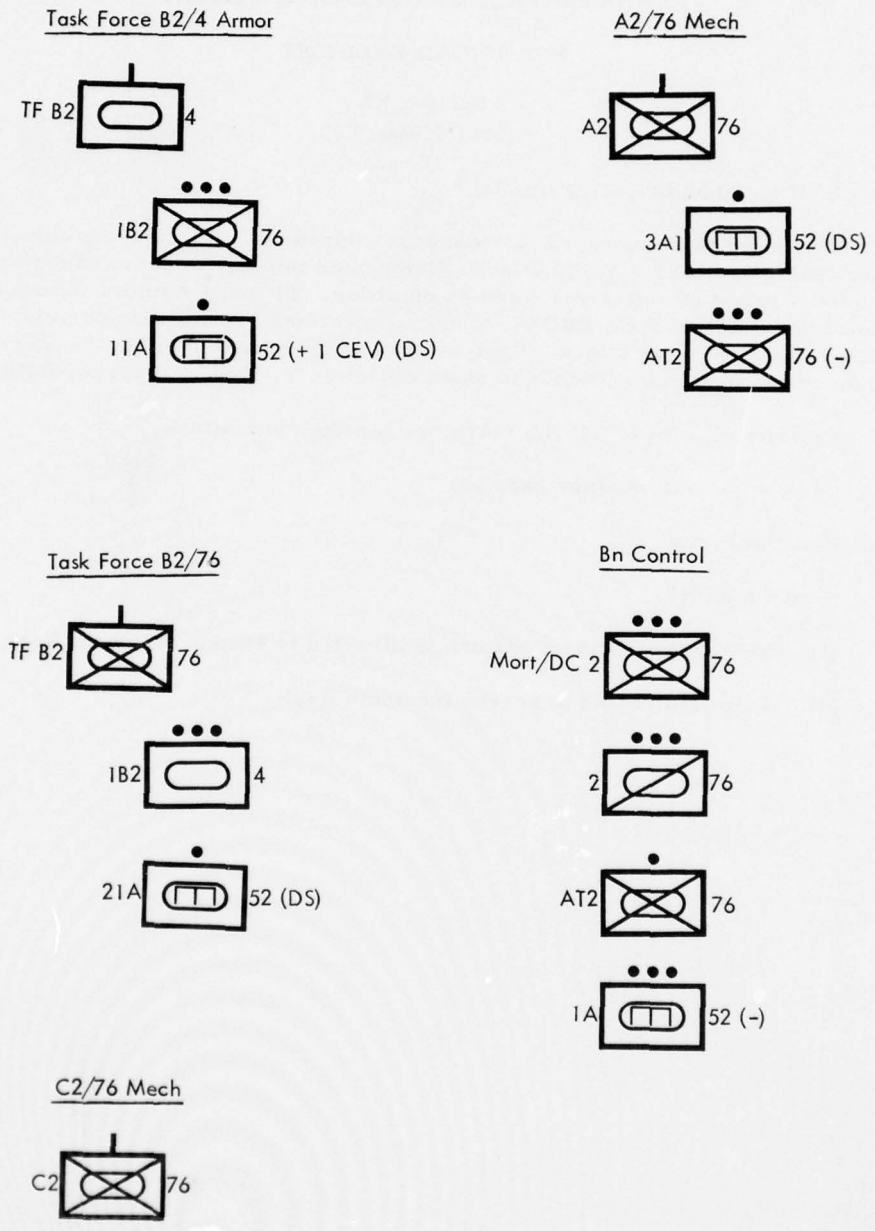
d. Flank security.

e. Sketch Map H1.

(1) The armored cavalry platoon is directed to screen the north flank.

(2) A2/76 is directed to screen the south flank.

Task Organization



53. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO NINTH REQUIREMENT:

a. The battalion commander decides to envelop Obj 1 seizing Obj 2 and 3 from the north flank. Thereafter to exploit to seize Obj Y, a frontal attack against Obj 1 will be conducted to support the main attack. The enveloping force, attacking the enemy's north (assailable) flank in column, with a tank heavy company task force leading will have the capability of rapid movement to objective areas. Two company task forces will provide sufficient combat power for the enveloping force to quickly seize assigned objectives. The frontal attack by one company will engage the enemy in position during the movement of the enveloping force. Company C, the battalion reserve will move behind TF B2/76 prepared for commitment to support the main attack. Factors resulting in the commander's decision to include:

(1) the relatively detailed enemy information.

(2) an existing assailable enemy flank.

(3) terrain adequate for maneuver.

(4) availability of sufficient fire support.

b. In this situation preparatory fires are fired by all available artillery. In addition to the direct support and the reinforcing battalion fires, this may include general support artillery available and within range. As the attack progresses, the direct support battalion may displace forward by battery along Axis BROWN to provide support to leading elements making the main attack. The organic battalion mortar section will be located well forward in the column to add to this support for the leading element. By displacing the direct support artillery forward, continuous fire support is provided for the attack and proper support for the reorganization of the objective is ensured.

c. The task organization is determined after a consideration of the mission, mission assigned to subordinate units, the terrain and enemy strength in each company area, and the combat power available. The battalion commander tailors organic and attached units to fit the mission and the situation. The terrain is suitable for tank employment in the north portion and great shock effect and speed are desired by the main attack force; therefore, the battalion commander organizes a tank heavy company task force to lead the main attack. To ensure decisive action two task forces will attack simultaneously to seize obj 2 and 3. Due to the obstacles and prepared defensive positions, and relatively unfavorable terrain in the center and south portion of the battalion zone, the commander orders a dismounted frontal attack in this area with an Infantry company (A2/76).

(1) The commander's decision to envelop is based partially on information that an assailable enemy flank exists along the north portion of the battalion zone. Should the enveloping force meet enemy resistance, it may bypass providing, in the commander's opinion, the force will not threaten the accomplishment of the mission. If the enemy is bypassed, the battalion commander will promptly be notified. Enemy resistance that must be reduced will be engaged immediately by the leading tanks. If an assault is required against enemy positions, it will be accomplished by tanks and infantry with supporting fires. The assault may take one of two forms: tanks and dismounted infantry assaulting in coordination or when terrain restricts maneuver, dismounted infantry assaulting the defended position, while tanks support by fire. In the coordinated effort as the tanks and mounted infantry forces approach the objective, heavy supporting fires are placed on the enemy position. Tanks maintain their rate of advance and increase their volume of fire by saturating the objective with machineguns and by use of their main guns. At this time the mounted infantry increases their speed in moving to dismount positions in order to overcome the loss of time in assuming the assault formation.

The mounted mechanized infantry, behind the tanks, stop in the closest tactically feasible position in defilade short of the objective, dismount, and join the tanks in the assault. Dismounting by the infantry must be accomplished at such a time and in such a manner as to ensure a coordinated assault. To remain mounted too long may expose vehicles and squads to needless destruction by short range weapons. The armored personnel carriers must be placed or remain in a protected or defilade position after squads dismount. Once the assault has cleared the position the tanks and infantry prepare to continue the attack. The armored personnel carriers are brought forward to rejoin their units, troops are loaded and the task force resumes the mounted attack. Should a deteriorating enemy situation indicate a lack of organized resistance, it may be feasible for mounted infantry to move onto an objective prior to dismounting.

(2) The dismounted attack by A2/76 will fix the enemy in position and deceive him for some time as to the location of the main attack. In this situation the armored personnel carriers may be positioned to fire in support of the dismounted attack. The vehicles are not employed initially in the attack, but are retained in protected or defilade positions prepared to displace forward and join the troops on order. Considerations concerning the dismounted attack in Section X and those concerning the mounted attack in Section XVIII are applicable to the situation.

(3) The command group will move well forward in the column on Axis BROWN behind TF B2/4 Armor where it can best control and influence the action of the main attack.

(4) The battalion mortar and davy crockett platoon in general support will follow the command group well forward to support the main attack.

(5) One engineer squad is placed in direct support of each attacking unit. These squads will be located well forward with the leading platoons to facilitate the forward progress of the attacking units. Engineer platoon headquarters will move on Axis BROWN well forward where it can support the engineer squads with AVLB, scoop loader or other equipment and supervise their activities.

(6) To provide additional antitank and fire support capability the antitank platoon (-) is attached to A2/76. One squad is placed in general support on Axis BROWN positioned to provide antitank protection to the flanks and rear of the main column.

(7) To increase the surveillance capability of the armored cavalry platoon screening the north flank, a short range radar team is attached from Company C. The medium range radar section is placed in general support of the main attack force, and will move on Axis BROWN.

(8) The reserve, C2/76, will move on Axis BROWN and behind TF B2/76 prepared for commitment to influence the action.

d. Considerations for flank security include screening the north and south flanks. The commander assigns the armored cavalry platoon the mission of screening the north flank, which is considered the most vulnerable. The commander directs A2/76 to screen the south flank and maintain contact with the 2d Bde. This is feasible since the mechanized company has sufficient transportation and adequate communication. Further, it is anticipated that A2/76 will be relieved of this flank security mission beyond Phase Line OHIO by forces attacking objective 2 or 3. Aircraft available to the commander will be used effectively to assist in screening flanks and between units.

e. The battalion commander employs those control measures necessary to ensure that the attack progresses according to his concept.

(1) The line of contact is designated as the line of departure.

(2) The time of attack is not changed since the line of departure is the same as assigned by brigade.

(3) Attack position(s) are not selected by the battalion commander.

(4) In this situation, because of the heavy enemy resistance expected initially, the necessity for overcoming a second line of enemy resistance which may exist and the possibility of subsequent enemy defenses the brigade commander designated a boundary thus assigning a zone of action to TF 2/76 and TF 2/78. Commander TF 2/76 designated a boundary to define a zone of responsibility to both the mounted main attack force (TF B2/4 Armor and TF B2/76) and the dismounted supporting attack force (A2/76). A boundary is also established between objectives 2 and 3 to delineate areas of responsibility in seizing those objectives.

(5) Conditions favor the use of axes by the enveloping force. This control will permit rapid seizure of objectives 2 and 3 and facilitate the cut-off and destruction of enemy forces in the battalion zone. Attacking along a single axis initially will expose the enveloping force to fewer enemy obstacles and provide for a rapid, uninterrupted move to the vicinity HILLS 479 and 467. Adopting two axes short of the objective area will bring both company task forces forward and rapidly concentrate a maximum of combat forces against the enemy to ensure the seizure of objectives 2 and 3. Upon seizure of objectives 2 and 3 the battalion will be positioned to block the withdrawal of bypassed enemy and to continue the attack along Axis GREEN to seize objective Y.

(6) Directions of attack are not prescribed because they unnecessarily restrict the maneuver of attacking units and are not required in this situation.

(7) The battalion commander determines the HILLS 479 and 467 are dominating terrain. Control of this key terrain is required to seize the final objective (Obj Y). Seizure of this hill complex will destroy the continuity of the enemy defense position and gain control of the key road junction in the battalion zone. If the enemy controls these hills, he can jeopardize the accomplishment of the battalion mission. Control of the road net is also essential to support future operations. Because of the size of this objective area, the enemy strength situated there, and the necessity for its rapid seizure, the commander divides HILLS 479 and 467 into two company objectives (Obj 2 and 3). The dismounted attack of A2/76 to seize HILL 367 (Obj 1) will engage the enemy in position during the movement of the enveloping force.

(8) Phase Line OHIO is designated by battalion to assist control of the forward movement of the units. Check points may also be adopted to facilitate control throughout the zone of action or along the axes.

54. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. In a ground envelopment the main attack passes around the enemy's main defense position to facilitate the destruction of enemy in position.

b. To conduct a ground envelopment an assailable enemy flank must exist or be created.

c. The main attack is given the combat power to seize the decisive area; this may require the employment of more than one company.

68 + 69 BLANK

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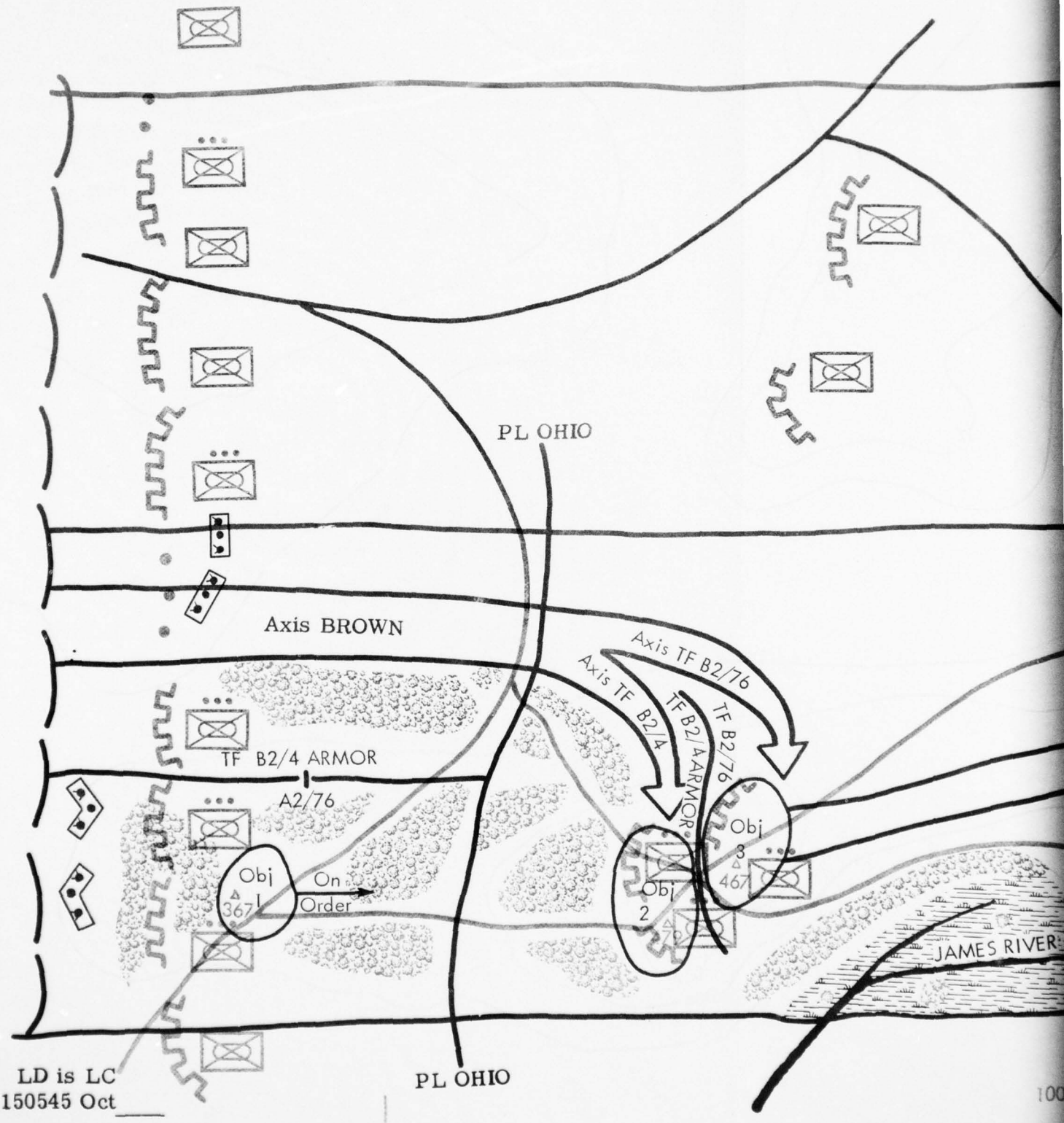
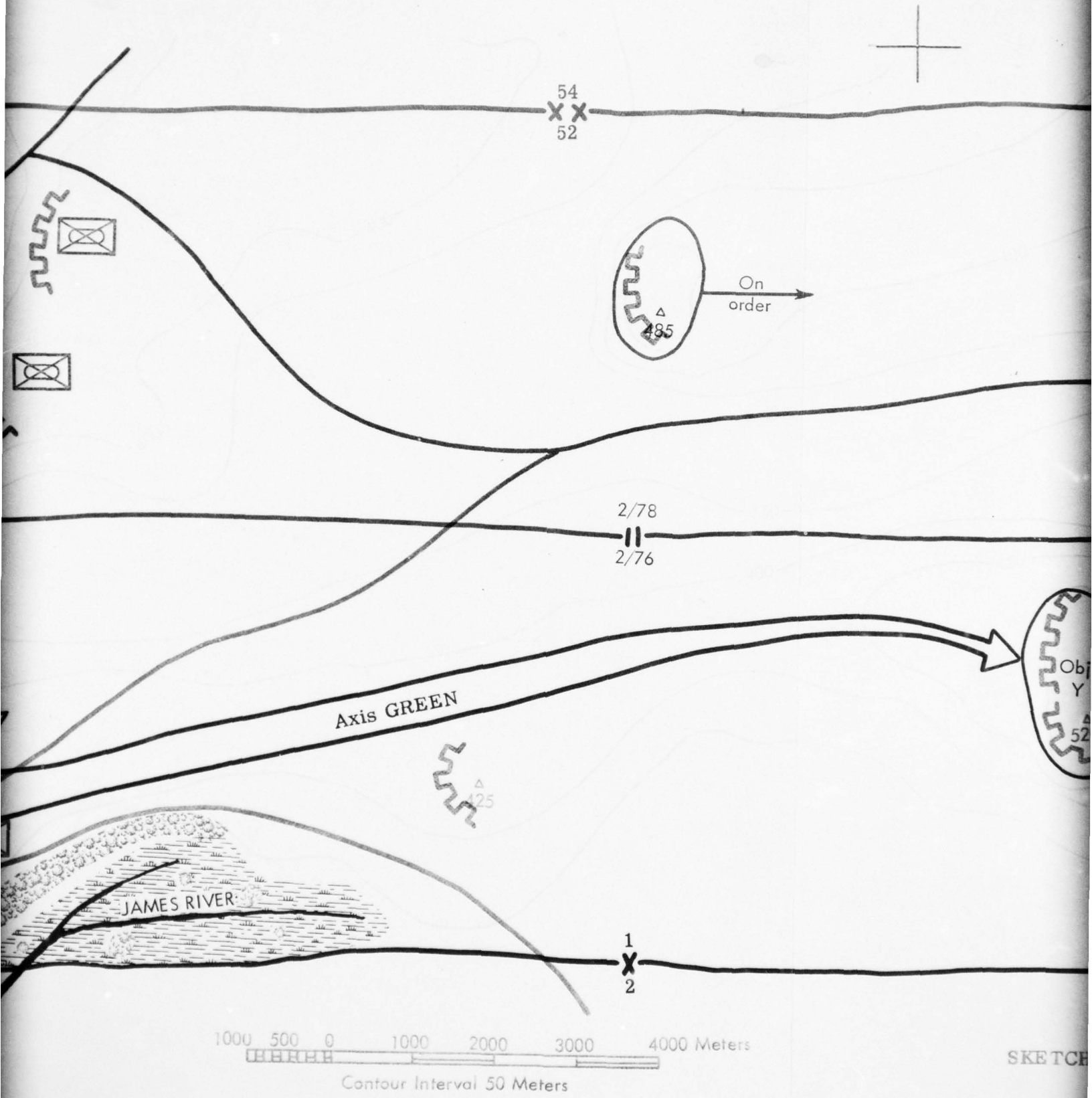

PL OHIO
Axis BROWN
Axis TF B2/76
Axis TF B2/4
TF B2/4 ARMOR
TF B2/76
TF B2/4 ARMOR
A2/76
Obj 1
367
On Order
Obj 2
Obj 3
467
JAMES RIVER
LD is LC
150545 Oct___
PL OHIO

1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SKETCH

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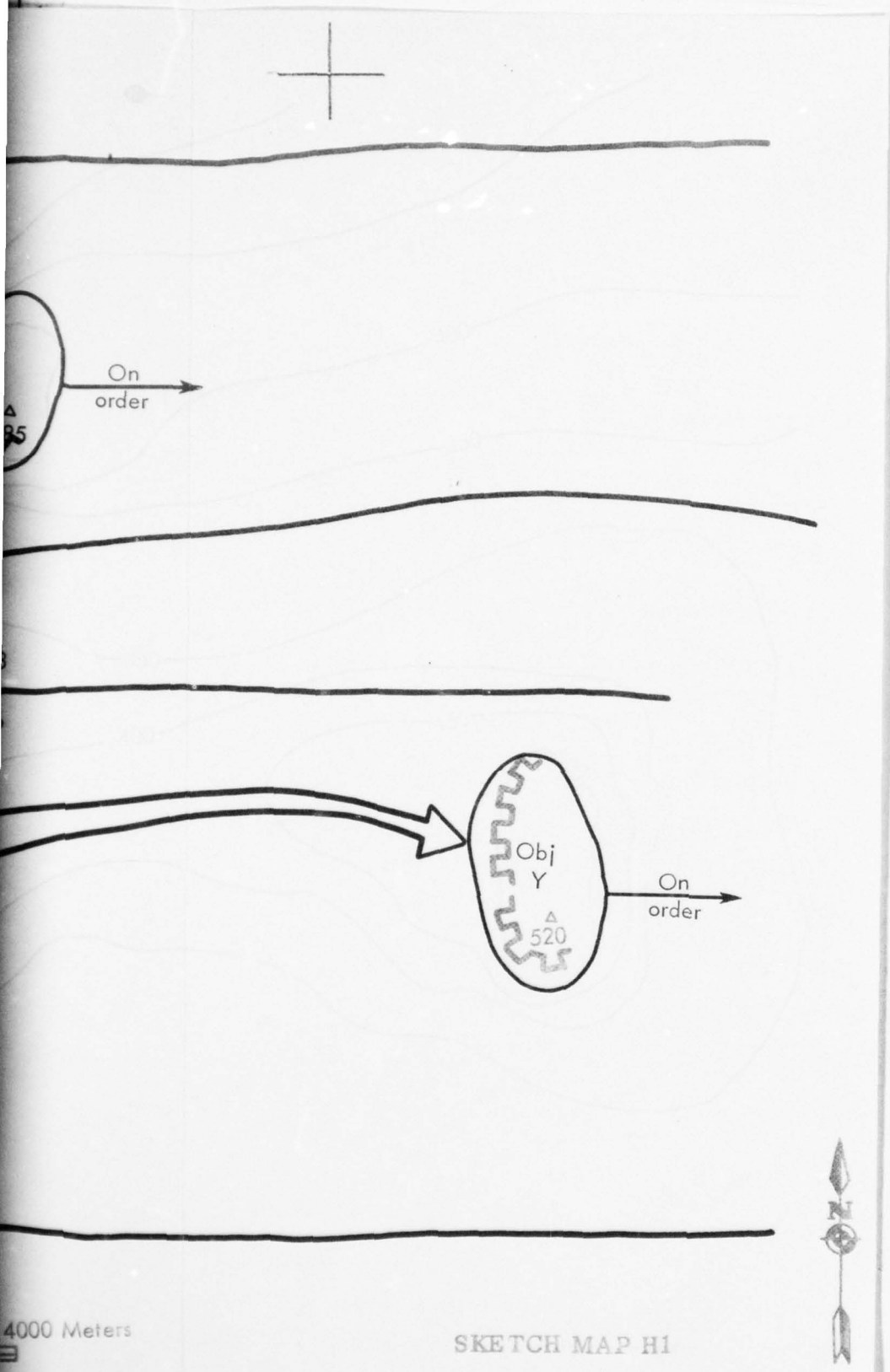

SKETCH MAP H1

3

FUNDAMENTALS OF OFFENSIVE COMBAT

Command and Staff Dept., USAIS

Inst.Mat.for Problems 6135, 6136, 6137 & 6170

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DATE	ISSUED TO
15 Jun 62	Col Kelly
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