

Action at Quibou 27 July 1944

View (S) toward RR embankment.



View (N) to remainder of CCA.



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M3 Halftrack
M4 Sherman Tank

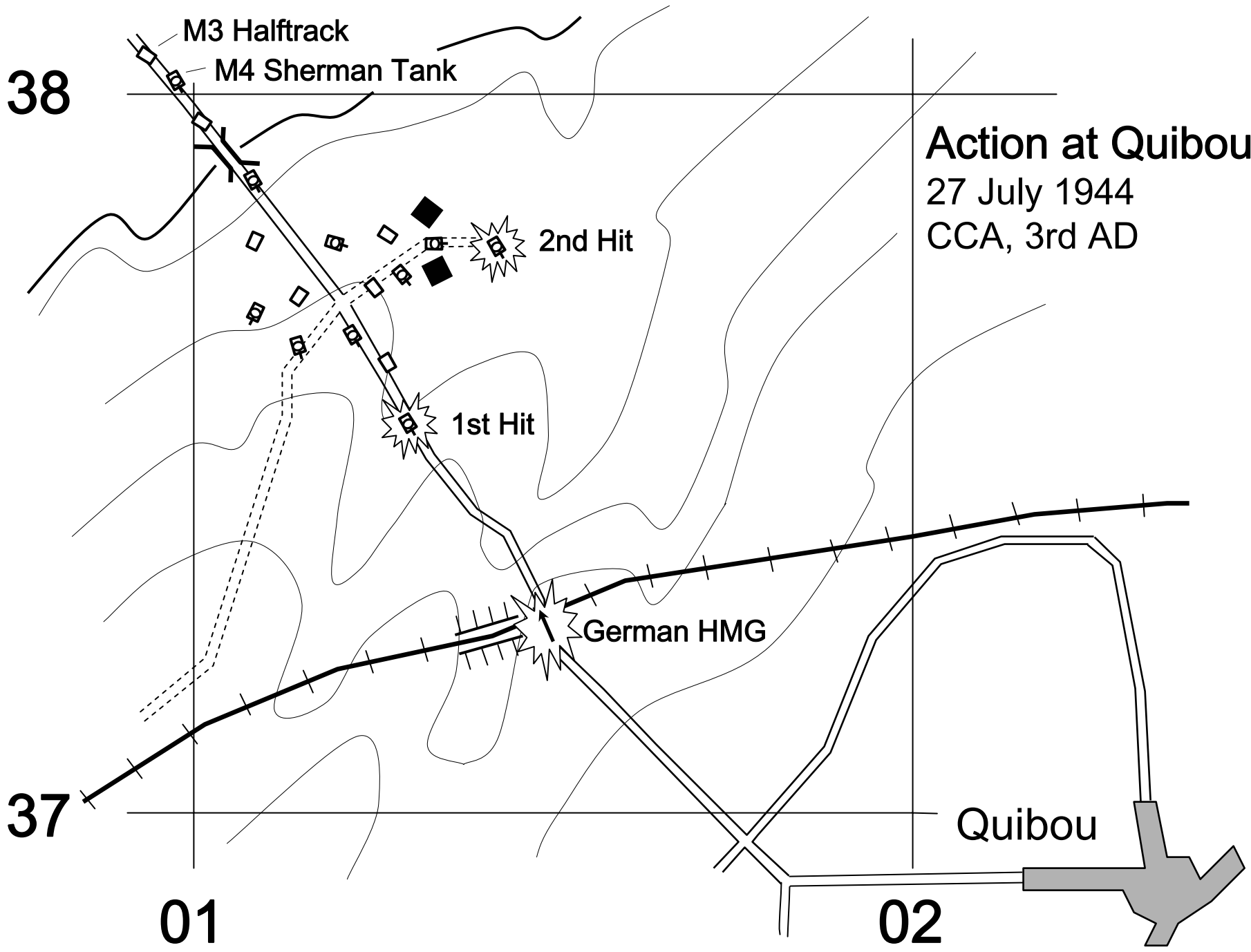
Action at Quibou
27 July 1944
CCA, 3rd AD

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01

02

Quibou



Action at Quibou

27 July 1944

You are the intelligence officer for 3rd Battalion, 36th Infantry.

History. It is July 27, 1944, (7) weeks after D-Day. Operation COBRA, the breakout (S) from the coast, is underway.

Unit. Your infantry battalion, integrated with the Sherman tanks of 1st Battalion 32nd Armor, is the lead element of Combat Command "A" (CCA) of 3rd Armored Division (3rd AD).

Mission. CCA is advancing (SW) to establish a block at Cerisy-la-Salle IOT repel any German CATK from the (S).

Geography. The countryside is rolling farmlands, with treelines and vegetation between farms and along lowlands and streambeds. Other than a few modern roads, access is primarily single lane sunken roads.

Today. CCA was late this morning due to traffic control problems. At noon, you were halted by a German delaying position. It took almost an hour to clear the position, and twice as long to clear wrecked vehicles, fill craters, and straighten out congestion. Four Sherman tanks were lost. The tank battalion commander is enraged at the loss and the delay. The column is now over ten miles long on a single narrow dirt road.

Situation. (8) minutes ago, your lead Sherman exploded in flames and jerked to a stop blocking the road. As the crew bailed out, a German HMG opened fire from the railroad crossing on the embankment directly ahead. U.S. soldiers and vehicles immediately returned fire as they deployed left and right along a muddy farm road. A second Sherman on the left flank then exploded. Someone yelled, "Mines!" The railroad embankment became invisible, blurred with smoke.

Courage. You and your battalion commander join the tank battalion commander who is shouting orders. "There's German tanks and probably a company of infantry behind that railroad crossing! We're going to flank left as we suppress the intersection with artillery and air support. Your infantry needs to clear the road forward!"

"Sir!" you respond. "I recommend you don't flank left! Cancel the fire missions on the embankment!" Your boss winces. You continue, "There's only one gun, and no more than a dozen infantry!" The tank battalion commander thrusts his map at you impatiently and says, "Show me!"

Questions: What is the location and orientation of the AT gun? Why? What is the location and orientation of the infantry? Why? How did you make this estimation?

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How do you
Delay an
Armored
Column?

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