UNIT REPORT
No. 5
From: 010001A Nov 1944
To : 302400A Nov 1944

103rd Medical Battalion, APO 28
1 December 1944
Location - Vic Wiltz, Luxembourg
(P706534, Sh No. 17)

Maps:
GSGS 4416, Sheets S-1, T-1, 13, 17. 1:100,000

1. OWN SITUATION:

a. Location of troops, command posts, and boundaries.

(1) At the close of the period, the three collecting companies of the battalion were in operation, each supporting its respective combat team. Their locations, as shown on the attached overlay, were at the following points:

Company A - Vic. Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P821399, Sh T-1)
Company B - Vic Kautenbach, Luxembourg (P765520, Sh T-1)
Company C - Vic Weiswampach, Luxembourg (P817717, Sh T-1)

(2) The clearing company had three stations in operation simultaneously, at the following points:
1st Platoon, Clearing Co. - Vic Wiltz, Luxembourg (P706534, Sh 17
One section, 2nd Platoon, Clr. Co. - Vic Clervaux, Luxembourg (P779630, Sh 17)
One section, 2nd Platoon, Clr. Co. - Vic Ettelbruck, Luxembourg (P825399, Sh 17)

(3) The Battalion CP, Division Medical Supply dump, and Battalion 2nd Echelon Motor Maintenance section were located in proximity to the 1st Platoon of Clr Co (Vic Wiltz, Luxembourg (P706534, Sh 17).

b. Location of adjacent medical units and supporting elements.

(1) At the close of the period the following medical units were adjacent:
Right flank - 308th Med Bn, 83rd Infantry Division.
Left flank - 2nd Med Bn, 2nd Infantry Division.

(2) During the period auxiliary litter bearers of the following unitw were attached to collecting companies of the battalion:
382nd Collecting Co., 53rd Medical Battalion
452nd Collecting Co., 179th Medical Battalion

(3) Supporting the evacuation of the Division Clearing station were the following units:
(a) Ambulances of the 580th Ambulance Co., 240th Med Bn. (CP at Trois Verges, Luxembourg P753704)
(b) Casualties were being evacuated to the 102nd Evacuation Hospital at Ettelbruck (P826400, Sh T-1), the 1st HU, 42nd Field Hospital (Vic Wiltz, Luxembourg (P708535) and the 635th Clearing Station vic Trois Verges (P763689) at the close of the period. During the month the following medical units also serviced this battalion:

Incl #5

The [illegible], 44t[illegible] [illegible]7th, 107th and 1[illegible] the Evacuation Hospitals; the 51st Field Hospital; the 684th, 618th and 622nd Clearing Stations.

c. Operations during the period covered by this report.

The medical battalion continued to carry out its normal function of supporting the 28th Infantry Division by evacuating, treating and disposing of the casualties suffered by the Division. During the first half of the period covered by this report, the Division was engaged in the most difficult and costly operations so far encountered. In the battalion, one (1) collecting company commander and four (4) enlisted men lost their lives by enemy action. The action took place mainly in hilly, dense forests. The lack of adequate roads, intense cold, rain, sleet, snow, and ever-present mud made medical service to the Division most difficult. Because of the adverse conditions which prohibited the usual use of ambulances and jeeps, long litter hauls were necessary. In one sector, it was necessary to carry patients approximately four (4) miles through the tangles of a pine forest which was shattered by artillery fire. During the night, evacuation through this area was accomplished only by following a telephone wire strung as a guide for the litter teams. Two infantry battalion aid stations were cut off and isolated by the enemy for a three day period. A mass evacuation was affected during a four (4) hour truce arranged for and supervised by 1st Lt Loyd C. Johnson of Company C. Additional litter bearers were obtained from Corps medical units during this month to aid in the evacuation of large numbers of casualties, and at one time it was found necessary to use all available personnel of one of the collecting companies, including cooks and station technicians, to relieve the exhausted litter bearers, and arrangements were made to evacuate to another nearby collecting station (Company B, 9th Medical Battalion).

Our collecting stations were regularly subjected to enemy artillery shell fire, and one man was killed and another seriously wounded by artillery fragments while entering one of the stations.

This battalion moved once during the month, to a new location in a relatively quiet sector supporting the Division in a defensive operation. The width of the front and concurrent wide separation of our medical units necessitated a split of the clearing company with sections so placed as to best support the collecting stations. Three separate clearing stations were established, each receiving the casualties of one collecting station. Ambulances attached to each clearing station evacuated casualties directly to the evacuation hospital. This resulted in an economy of time and supplies, as otherwise had one central clearing station been used, it would have been necessary to transport casualties a minimum of 15-20 miles from the outlying collecting stations to any such centrally located unit.

During the latter half of the month, the Division casualty rate greatly subsided, and with free time available, a training and re-equipping program was instituted to correct any deficiencies noted during the busy period, and to instruct the new replacements in their assigned jobs. The entire battalion was billeted in available buildings, and the recreational problem was minimized under the existing advantages of nearby facilities.

d. Estimate of Combat Efficiency of Command.

The general conduct and [illegible]rts of the men of the command were beyond reproach. In a [illegible]od of very [illegible]lement weather, the efficient

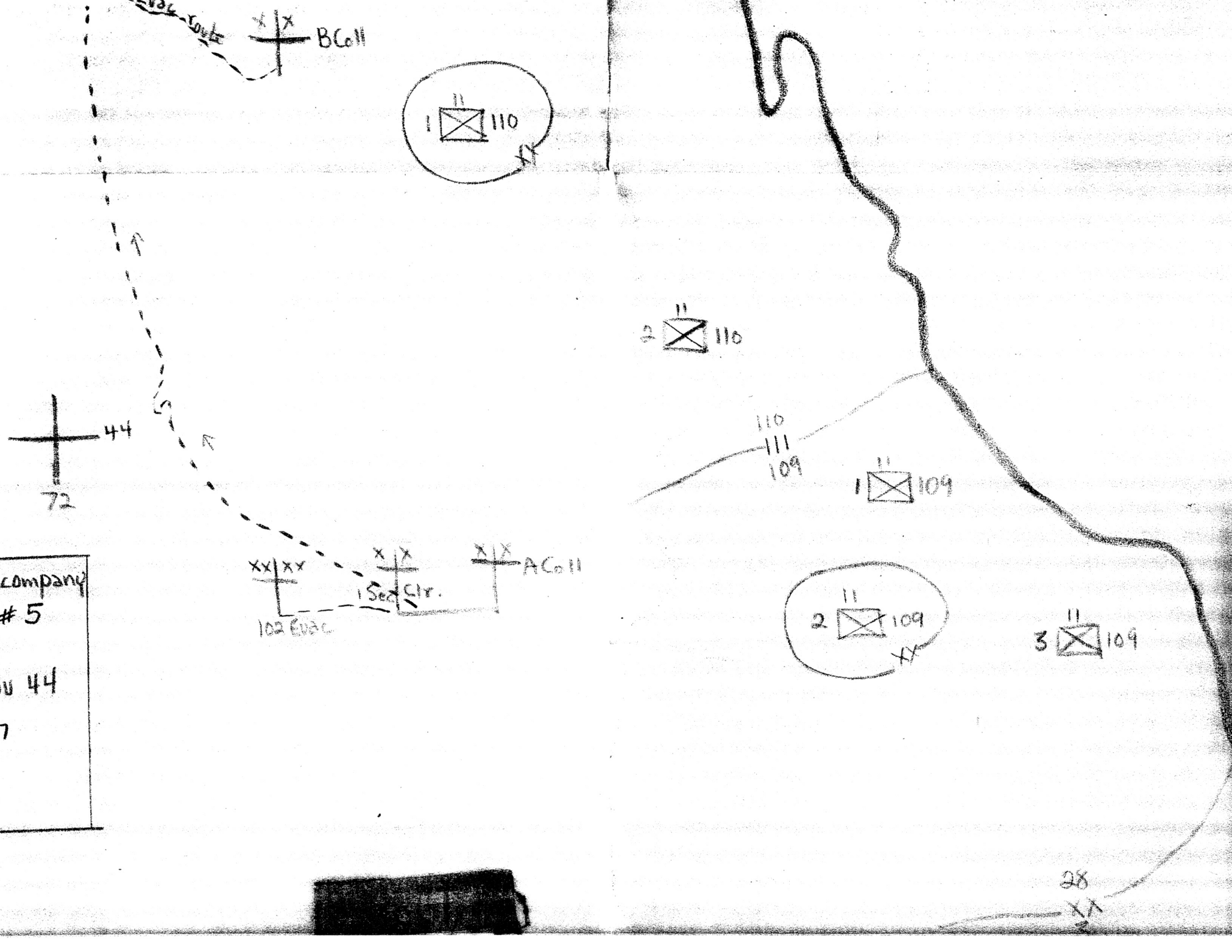
handling of casualties, which were greater than during any previous period, evidenced a sincere sense of duty and high state of discipline and morale.

Seventeen Bronze Star Medals for heroic achievement were awarded to personnel of the collecting companies, and six Purple Heart Awards also made during this period.

e. Results of Operations.

The following numbers of patients were treated during this month by the companies indicated:

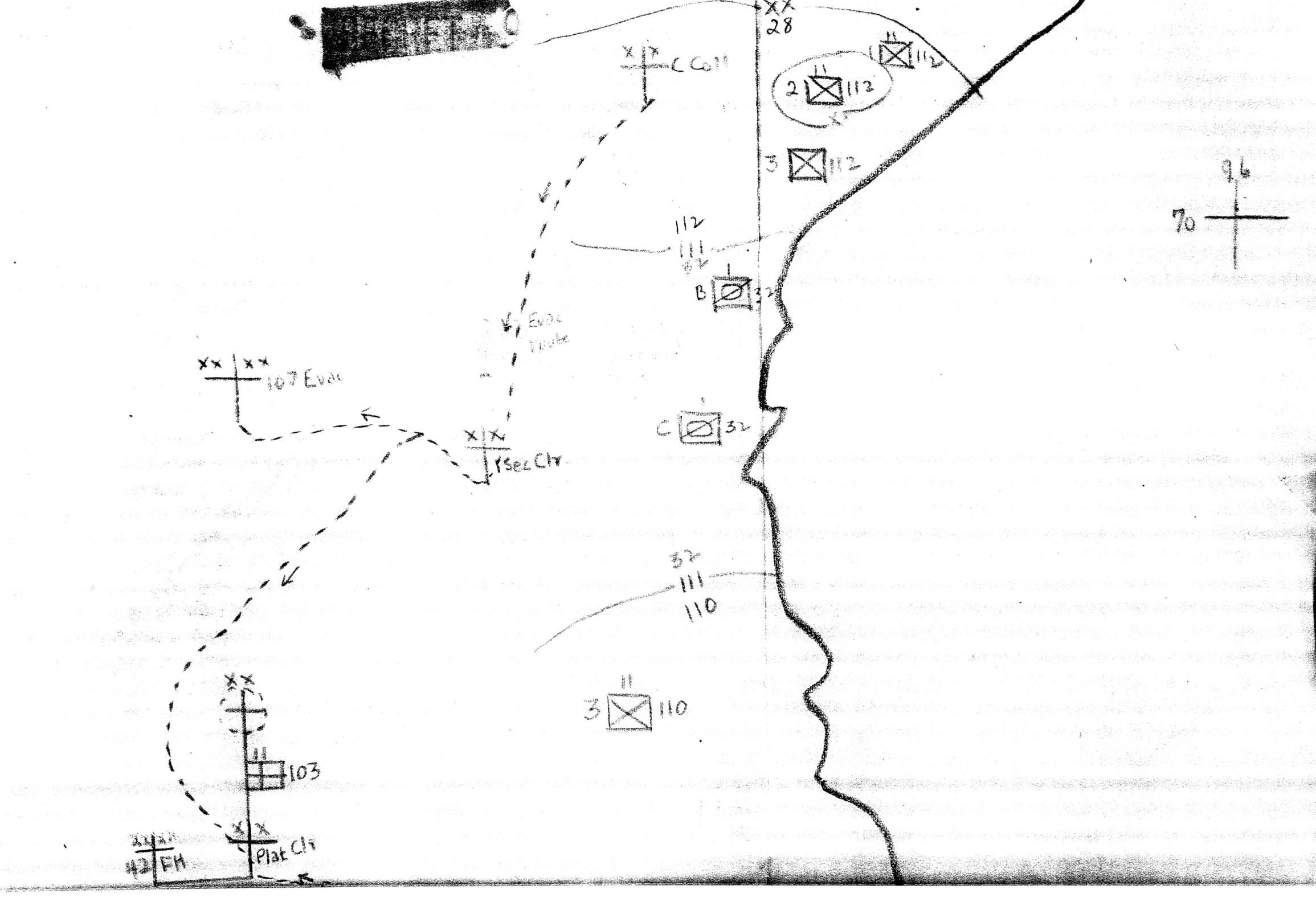
Company A - 1874 patients
Company B - 1463 patients
Company C - 1390 patients
Clearing Company - 5199 patients (including 117 enemy and 2 civilians)



OVERLAY to accompany
UNIT REPORT # 5

Situation as of
302400A Nov 44

Maps: Sh 13, 17
1:100,000



28
C Coll
1 112
2 112
3 112
112
32
B 32
Evac Route
107 Evac
C 32
1 Sec Clr
32
110
3 110
103
Plat Clr
42 FH
96
70