

TACTICAL VIGNETTE 98-3

“Attack in Brandenburg”

WHAT'S
YOUR
NEXT
MOVE??



Situation

Enemy.

Remnants of an enemy force are defending the town of Brandenburg to prevent the seizure of the ferry site. Enemy forces have been cleared from PL Dismount to PL Sniper and are making a final stand along the south bank of the Ohio River north of PL Sniper. The level of enemy resistance indicates that the enemy remnants have created effective antiarmor kill zones, armed with SAGER missiles, RPGs, antitank grenades, Molotov cocktails, and sniper fire. The enemy force in OBJ White is reported to have a T-80 and 2 BMPs in support of the dismounted effort.

The most probable and most dangerous course of action is for the enemy remnants to courageously attempt to hold their defensive positions. They will attempt to destroy friendly units piecemeal as they move down the bottleneck streets of Brandenburg.

Friendly.

TF 3-37 AR attacks OBJ Bridge (Red, White, and Blue), 071300__98, to seize crossing sites on the south bank of the Ohio River to enable follow-on forces to establish a bridge site at ET729065.

Scenario.

You are the commander of Delta Team (2 tank platoons and 1 mech platoon with 15 dismounts), TF 3-37. The TF consists of 2 tank-heavy teams and 2 mech-heavy teams. You are the TF reserve. The brigade commander wants the TF to seize OBJ Bridge in order to support an assault crossing of the Ohio River. TF 2-66 IN has already seized the southern half of Brandenburg (south of PL Sniper). Alpha Team, TF 3-37, has successfully seized OBJ Red and Charlie Team, TF 3-37, has successfully seized OBJ Blue. Both are currently set up in SBF positions oriented north.

In its haste to set up a SBF position, Bravo Team, TF 3-37, attacked its objective in column. A tank platoon was assigned to lead, and the attached infantry platoon was clearing buildings at the southern end of the team's column. While the infantry was clearing the first few buildings on Main Street (1, 2, 20, 21, 22), the team's column of vehicles continued down the street without the support of the infantry platoon. The column proceeded without incident until reaching the northern-most end of the town, where the vehicles were ambushed by antitank fire from the surrounding buildings. The attack destroyed the first two vehicles of the lead tank platoon and the second vehicle of the following mech platoon. Three other vehicles were trapped and eventually destroyed before any dismounted support could assist. Bravo Team recovered the majority of its wounded from Main Street. Bravo 6 reported sighting the following enemy positions: building 13, RPG team; buildings 10 and 16, SAPPER teams with small arms fire; building 4, a suspected sniper; a tank to the east of building 12; a BMP north of building 13. Bravo 6 believes there are other buildings that are occupied by enemy remnants armed with antitank and small arms weapons, but he cannot confirm this.



Looking north on Main Street from Broadway.

The TF commander has ordered Bravo Team to retain control of buildings it currently holds and to withdraw all remaining vehicles to CP 7 for consolidation. In addition, he has ordered you to assume the Bravo team mission (seize OBJ White) and has given you priority of artillery and mortar fires as soon as



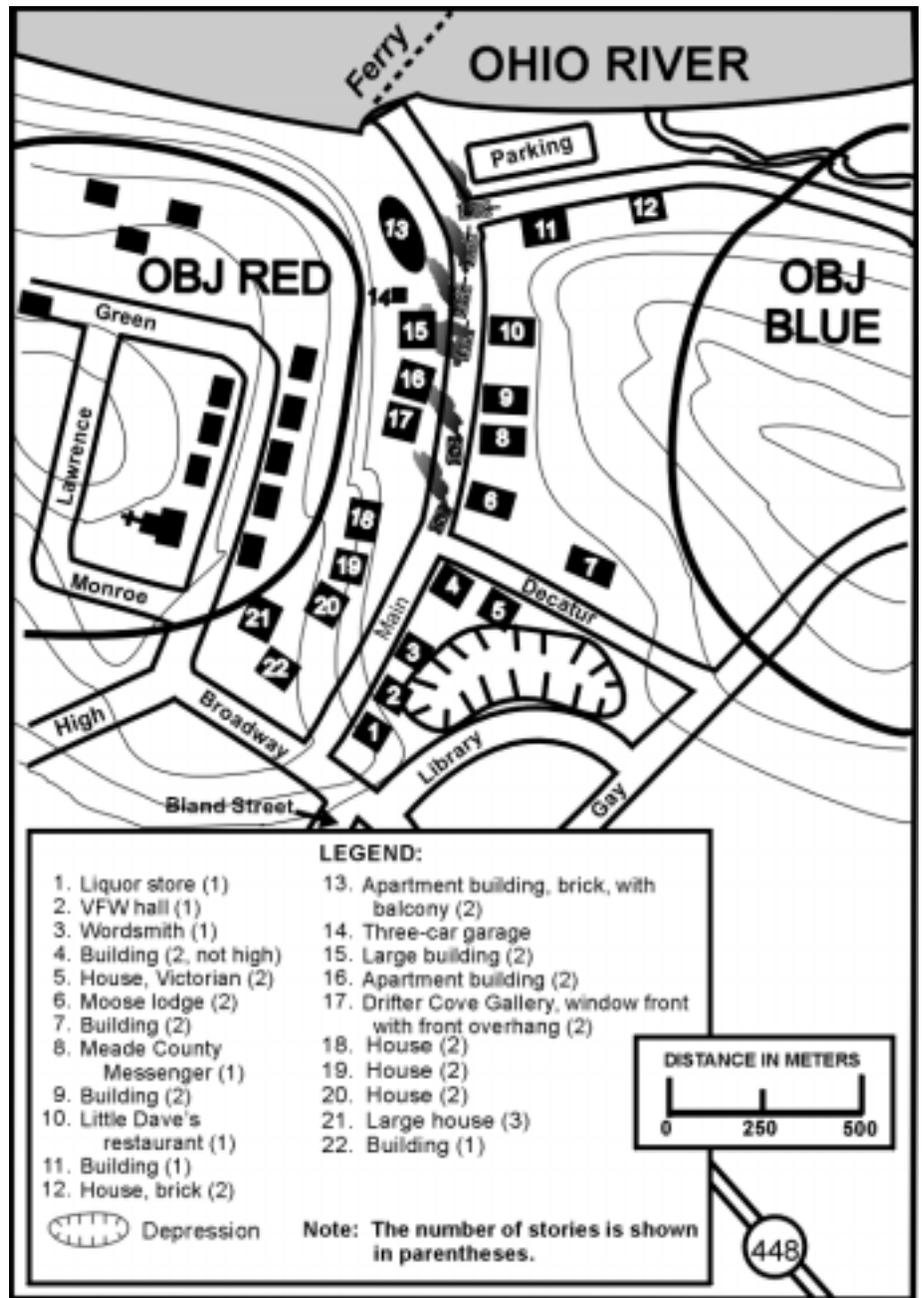


The ambush site near the ferry landing.

you cross PL Sniper. The TF commander has attached an engineer squad to your company team; the 1SG is moving to make linkup at CP 4 in the next five minutes. You also receive reports that some soldiers from Bravo Team are pinned down within the kill zone. Division follow-on forces are rapidly approaching and are expected to reach Brandenburg in one hour. In order for the division to maintain tempo and successfully continue the attack, Brandenburg must be seized and a bridge site established. Your team is currently at CP 5. You must act now! What do you do!

Requirement:

In 10 minutes or less, make your decision and issue your FRAGO and any other reports you would submit. Readers who submit their solutions to the scenario should provide the following: fragmentary order to the company team, the rationale behind your decision, and a sketch of your plan of action. E-mail your solution to ThompsonM@ftknox-dtdd-emh5.army.mil, or mail your solution to ARMOR, ATTN: ATZK-TDM, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5210.



SOLUTIONS

The author's solution, along with interesting alternative solutions, will appear in the September-October issue of ARMOR.

Several solutions to Tactical Vignette 98-1, "Screen at Croley Lake," which appeared in the January-February issue, are published in this issue on page 49.