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 Authority *MWDN-29940/19*
 By *09* NARA Date *7/16/09*

 HEADQUARTERS 43D INFANTRY DIVISION
 A. P. O. #43, c/o Postmaster
 San Francisco, California

23 September, 1943.

SUBJECT: Employment of Tanks in ARUNDEL Operation.

TO : A.C. of S., G-3, Headquarters XIV Corps.

1. a. One platoon of tanks were moved to EAST BOMBOE BEACH on 15 September in LCMs. In addition to the tanks themselves, 15 barrels of gasoline, 2 barrels of lube oil (special), 24 cases of 37mm cannister and HE shot, jungle rations, water and miscellaneous supplies were taken. All tanks carried their organic loads of ammunition which included 9,000 rounds of armor-piercing tracer in addition to 37mm cannister and HE shot. The water trip consumed approximately four (4) hours. The tide was high at the time of arrival at BOMBOE LAGOON and tanks were landed at 57.4 - 69.2 without incident.

b. Seven additional tanks were moved to EAST BOMBOE BEACH on the following day (16 September) in the same manner.

c. These tanks were moved via a previously prepared trail to an assembly area in the general vicinity of 62.9 - 69.2 preparatory to their employment in connection with the coordinated attack of the 27th Infantry.

2. a. The initial employment was use of five (5) of the tanks against the enemy's main strong point at 64.0 - 68.8 on morning 17 September. Taking the enemy completely by surprise, the tanks advanced in two waves; penetrated and split the enemy position in two; then proceeded to mop up the enemy in front of our left. Although infantry was unable to properly support tanks due to volume of fire, there were no tank losses. Our front lines were advanced some five hundred yards.

b. 18 September, an attempt by four tanks to continue the advance, still without close infantry support, failed and two tanks were lost to enemy Anti-tank gun action.

c. 19 September, the attack was resumed with eleven tanks, this time with close infantry support, resulting in complete route of the enemy. No serious casualties were suffered by any tank personnel.

3. a. The tanks were employed in all cases in two waves, the second wave covering the rear of the first. Best results were obtained when infantry furnished close support.

Bn Comm

Bn Ex.

Bn 1

Bn 3

Bn 4

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b. The use of these tanks eliminated the necessity of reducing the enemy strong point with infantry which would have undoubtedly been accompanied with heavy losses in personnel. The effect on the enemy was demoralizing and evacuation of ARONDEL ISLAND by the enemy was undoubtedly hastened by their employment.

For the Commanding General;

s/ S.P. Marland Jr
t/ S.P. MARLAND, JR.,
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
A.C. of S., G-3

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