

Video 4

The German Attack



1. Why was the American army so surprised by the German attack on December 16th ?

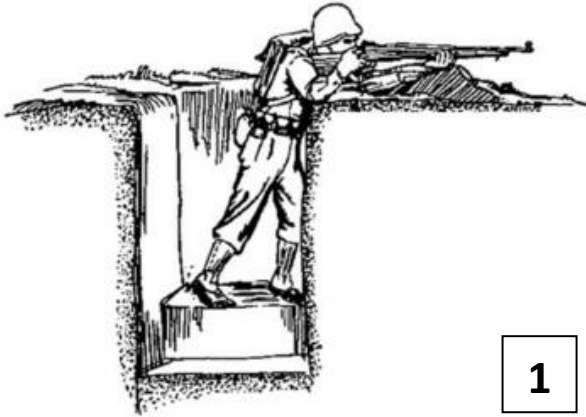
Choose the correct answer.

- ☐ At that time, the Americans didn't have any planes available for reconnaissance flights over Germany, so they didn't notice the German preparations.
- ☐ The Americans had not intercepted any coded transmissions from the German "Enigma" machine.
- ☐ The Americans had been deceived by the Germans, who had assembled a "Ghost Army" near Strasbourg, so that they believed the attack would be in France.
- ☐ The Germans had electric vehicles and tanks which made very little noise.
- ☐ The Germans took all precautions to keep their preparations for the offensive secret. (No radio communication, troop movements only at night, ...)



2. The American emplacements in the field.

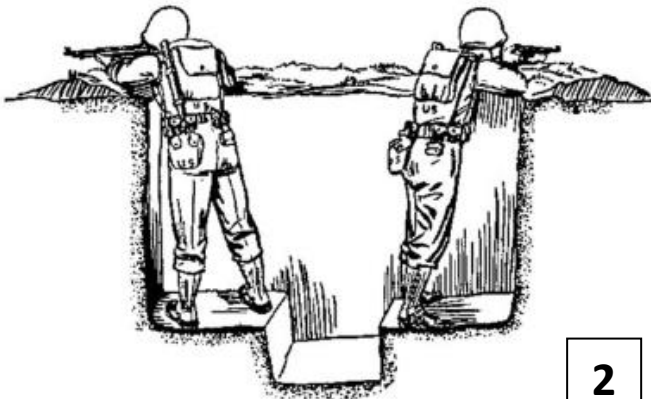
Match the pictures to the descriptions.



1

☐

The foxholes were usually covered.
This offered additional protection
against shrapnel from grenades and
helped soldiers stay warm and dry. It
also improved the camouflage of the
position.



2

☐

Machine gun emplacements were
similarly constructed. They could also
be either open or covered.

*MG = Maschinengewehr



3

☐

To protect themselves from enemy
fire and shrapnel, soldiers dug holes
for themselves. These were called
“foxholes”.



4

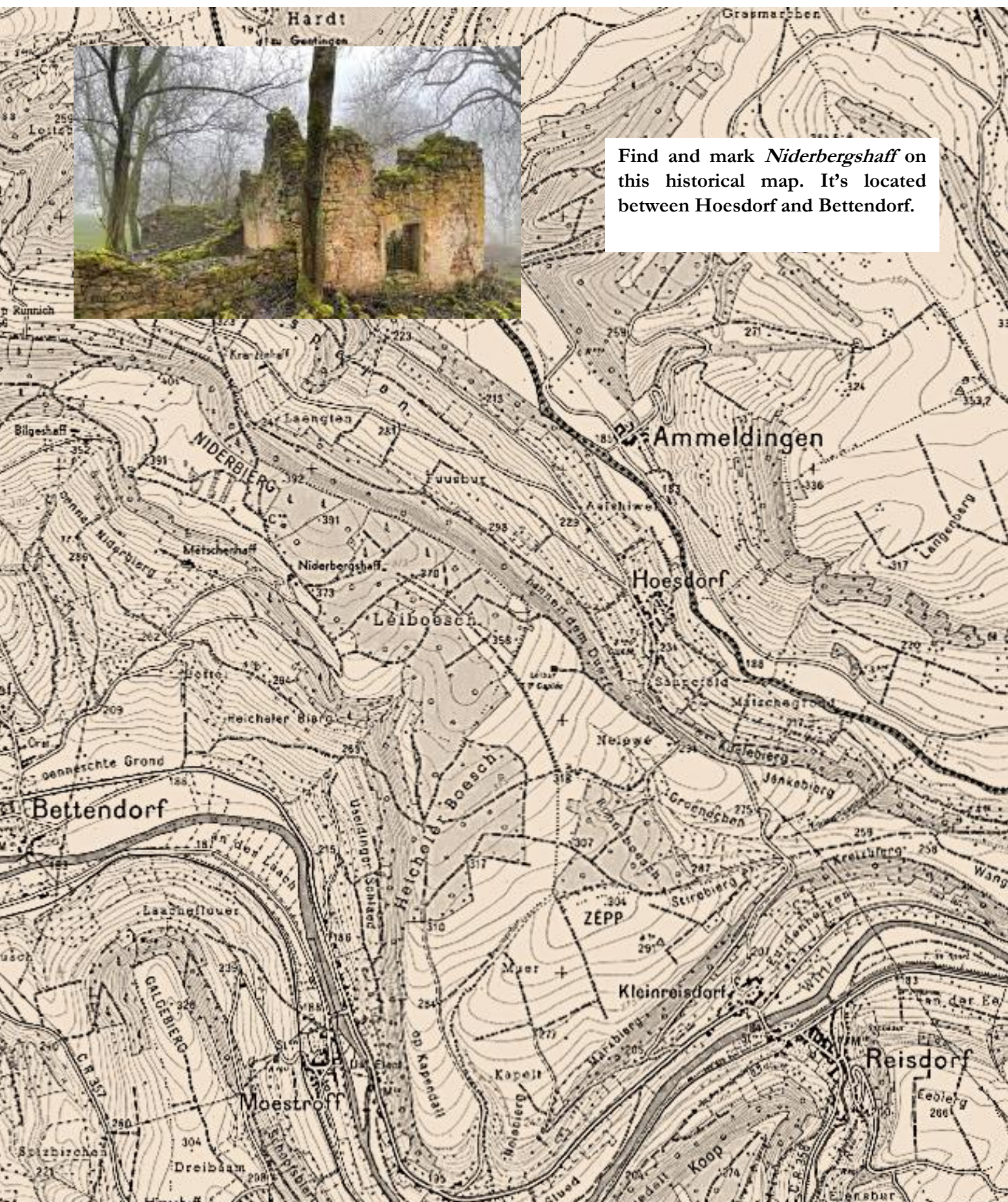
☐

Foxholes were usually manned by two
soldiers at the same time. That way,
they could help each other, and one
soldier could rest, while the other
kept watch.

3. The old farm called *Niederbergshaff* on the Hoesdorf-Plateau was used as a command post by the commander of an American company.



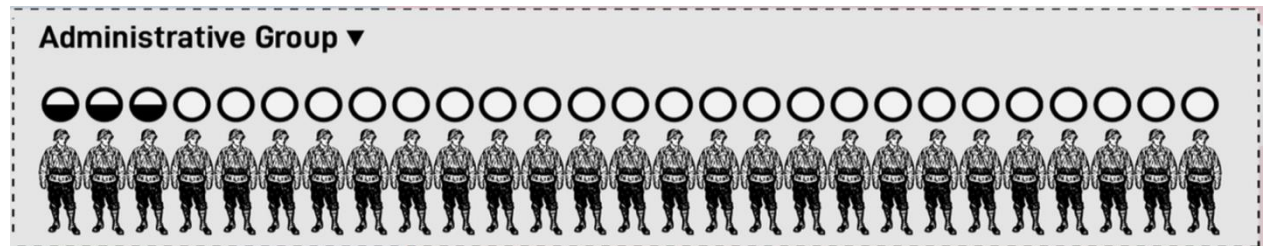
Find and mark *Niederbergshaff* on this historical map. It's located between Hoesdorf and Bettendorf.



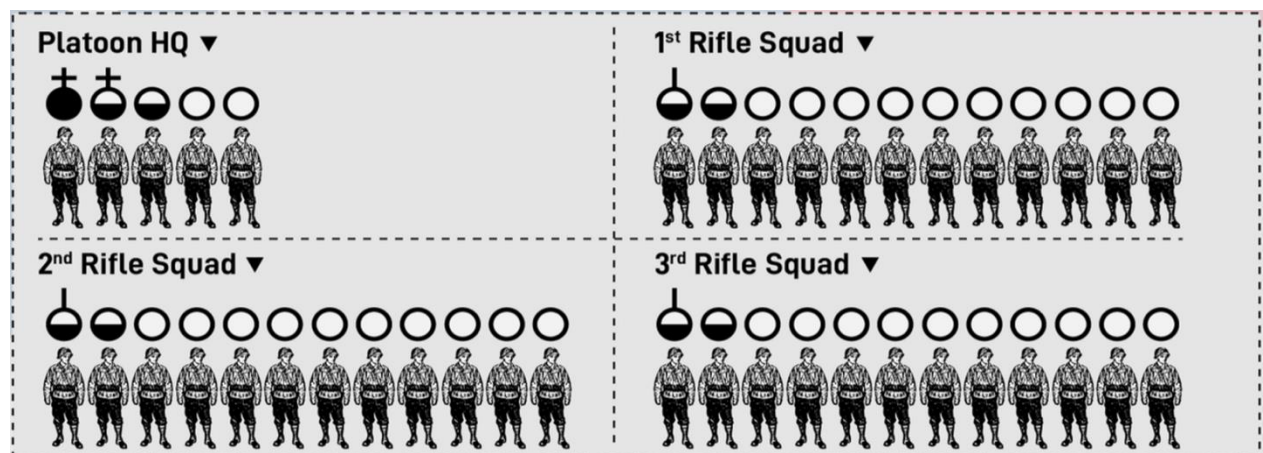
4. Aufbau einer US-Infanteriekompanie



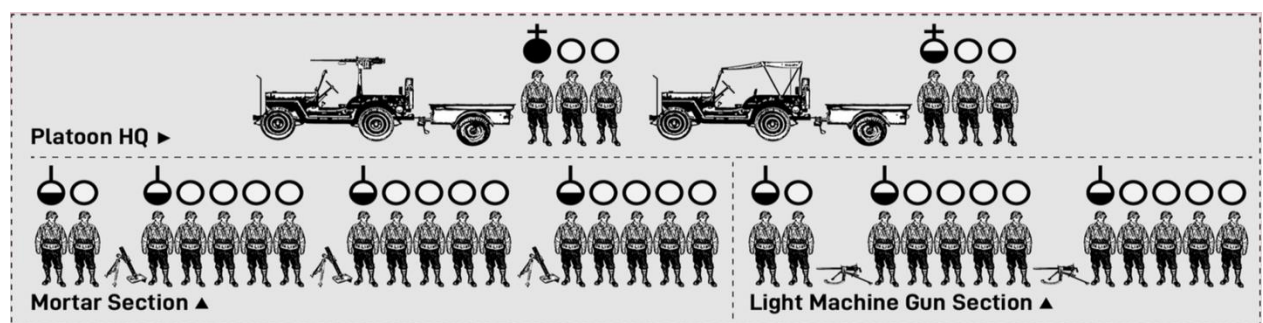
A U.S.-Infantry Company consisted of a Command Group and an Administrative Group.



Additionally, there were three squads of riflemen (rifle platoons).



The company was reinforced by a weapons platoon.



Different ranks within a company:	Officer		First Sergeant	
	Non-commissioned officer		Platoon leader	
	Soldier		Platoon sergeant	
	Commanding officer		Squad leader	

How many soldiers did an American Rifle Company consist of during the Second World War?

- ☐ 119
 ☐ 139
 ☐ 156
 ☐ 172
 ☐ 187
 ☐ 193
 ☐ 201

5. Answer the following questions.

The Ardennes Offensive

16th – 25th of december



a. Why was the German army able to advance so quickly during the first week?

b. How did the U.S.-Army stop the German advance?

c. Which regions in Luxembourg were affected by the Ardennes Offensive?

d. Which name did the Americans give to the Ardennes Offensive due to the shape of the frontline ?
