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VI Corps - Historical Record - Southern FRANCE Campaign Sep 44

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HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

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SUBJECT: Historical Record, Headquarters VI Corps, September 1944.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (through channels).

SECTION I

1. As September opened, VI Corps troops in Southern France were at MEXIMIEUX, PONT D'AIN and AMBERIEU to the east and north of LYON as well as in the vicinity of BEAUREPAIRE and ST. RAMBERT on the RHONE River to the south of LYON. In the BRIANCON area Task Force BIBO was in the process of being relieved by the 2d DIM, while at GRENOBLE the 3d DIA relieved Corps troops in that area and was grouping preparatory to movement to the AIX-LES BAINS - ANNENCY sector. These two French colonial divisions with supporting troops composed French Army "B" which had taken control of the sector on the VI Corps right. Enemy units opposite VI Corps were withdrawing to the north and northeast though not in disorder. The German Nineteenth Army composed the bulk of these troops together with numerous service units from the BORDEAUX area.

2. In conjunction with the enemy's usual strong rear guard action, intended to ensure the complete evacuation of his troops from LYON and vicinity, counter-attacks by heavily armored combat patrols were launched on 1 September against the tightly held 45th Div road blocks at PONT D'AIN (T-3321), the road junction east of CHALAMONT (T-1915), MEXIMIEUX (T-2200), DAGNEUX (Y-1298) and north of LOYETTES (Y-2491), these attacks aimed mainly at the bridge crossings of the AIN River. Penetrations were made at PONT D'AIN and MEXIMIEUX. In the former town the 180th Inf strongly countered the enemy thrust and regained control of the town while elements of the 179th Inf and 117th Cav Rcn Sqn staged a severe though successful fight in a railroad station just to the west of the town. In MEXIMIEUX, enemy armor, artillery and infantry made four separate attacks to seize the 179th regimental CP but failed in all attempts, though one group of the enemy succeeded in reaching the east of the town where they destroyed the AIN River crossing at that point. Near the end of the period, the 179th Inf had control of the situation and was again in possession of the town. Although the road block at DAGNEUX was broken by the enemy, 117th Cav Rcn troops refused to give ground on this road (Route #84) which led northeast out of LYON. At the AIN crossing north of LOYETTES, the fighting was stiff but decisive in favor of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn and 179th Inf elements. The bridge near PONCIN (T-3725) just north of PONT D'AIN was intact which allowed the 180th Inf and "B" Troop of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn to advance virtually unopposed to the north and east of BOURG (T-2338) where "B" Troop established road blocks and a command post at TREFFORT (T-3346). 1/.

3. Attacking North on the East of the RHONE, the 36th Div cleared BEAUREPAIRE before noon and advanced steadily on LYON, eliminating scattered resistance along the way. By the end of the day, a line had been established from the RHONE River south of LYON, east through ST. SYMPHORIEN (Y-9874) - MIONS (Y-0477) - HEYRIQUX (Y-1374) and contact made with the 3d Div at the road junction Y-1577, southeast of ST. LAURENT (Y-1180) where 36th Div Cav Rcn patrols struck an enemy road block 2/.

1/. War Room Journal, 1 Sept, Entries #1, 69 and 106; G-2 Report No. 18-2 Sept.

2/. War Room Journal, 1 Sept, Entries #1, 101, 102, 104

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Robert Lyne 1/15
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4. During the day a field message was issued directing the 45th Div to attack as soon as possible along the PONT D'AIN - BOURG road and to maintain bridgeheads on the AIN River until relieved. The 3d Div was to assemble west of AMBERIEU (T-3311) and be prepared to pass through elements of the 45th Div east of the AIN River and attack in the direction of CHALAMONT (T-1915) - CHATILLON (T-2612) or to pass through the 45th Div, by-passing resistance to the north and east, and attack in the direction of BOURG and MACON. The 36th Div was to continue its advance North to the RHONE River, establish and maintain liaison with F.F.I. elements engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of LYON.

5. As the 7th and 15th Inf continued to assemble in the LAGNIEU - AMBERIEU area, the 2d Bn of the 30th Inf relieved the 3d Bn 179th Inf on their right in the vicinity of PONT DE CHERUY (Y-2187) where a fight developed that cost the enemy its position in this area as well as 150 prisoners. Recon elements of the 30th Inf headed west and occupied ST. LAURENT (Y-1179) and made contact with 36th Div elements east of LYON 3/.

SECTION II

1. The 36th Div with three regiments abreast pressed north towards LYON on 2 September. The 142d Inf on the left came up astride Route #7, the 1st Bn reaching FEYZIN (Y-9677) and the 3d Bn CORBAS (Y-0078). To their right, the 143d Inf advanced along the LYON - BOURGOIN road to ST. PRIEST (Y-0381) and MANICIEU (Y-0681). On the division right, the 141st Inf pushed along to the vicinity of MEYZIEUX (Y-0788), the 2d Bn establishing its command post at QUINCIEU (Y-0885) to the south. Officer patrols from the 142d Inf were sent into the city of LYON where it was found that all bridges had been blown except for one railroad span. The southern part of town was found clear and occupied by the Maquis. The only American unit to enter the city was this token patrol which had been requested by the French Patriots. Enemy elements were still lodged in the wedge formed by the junction of the SAONE and RHONE Rivers. This force was neutralized by the French forces and the American patrol. 4/.

2. To the North, VI Corps troops encountered their heaviest opposition. The 1st and 2d Bns 179th Inf maintained their strong grip in the MEXIMIEUX area and at the end of the day the regiment, less the 1st Bn had begun to entruck North to the vicinity of BOHAS (T-3433) and MEILLONNAS (T-3242). On the left of the main route from PONT D'AIN to BOURG, the 157th Inf made steady progress in the morning, despite opposition in the form of long range tank fire as the 2d Bn entered DONSONNAS (T-2726), and continued on to take LA TRANCLIERE (T-2627) by 1800 hours. To the right of this road, the 180th Inf met more resistance, small arms, mortar and artillery fire slowing the 1st Bn but this unit fought on to the outskirts of CEYZERLAT (T-3135). On the right, the 2d Bn reached JASSERON (T-3139) and occupied high ground to the East, sending patrols into the town where a short fight took place before the patrols withdrew 5/.

3. North of BOURG, Troops B and C of the 117th Cav Ron Sqn were halted in their drive west to encircle the town. At MARBOZ (T-2952) enemy convoys were running North and South on the BOURG road and recon units were stopped at the numerous crossings that were attempted. However, one unit reached MONTREVEL (T-1452), which the Corps Commander had ordered secured, and found 300 enemy in the town. With the capture of MARBOZ and MONTREVEL the enemy's two main escape routes north out of BOURG would be closed, thereby enabling the 157th and 180th Inf to enter from the East and South and trap enemy elements in this pocket 6/.

3/. War Room Journal, 2 Sept (MOLLANS CP), Entry #11; 3d Div G-3 Report No. 26 - 2 Sept.

4/. War Room Journal, 2 Sept, Entries #9, 30, 32, 28 and 54 (Bourgoin CP).

5/. 45th Div G-3 Reports Nos 18 & 19 - 2 & 3 Sept.

6/. War Room Journal, (Bourgoin CP), 2 Sept, Entries #1, 36, 40, 52 and 53.

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4. During the day, Task Force Butler had been completely relieved by the French and elements of this force returned to their parent units 7/. The VI Corps Command Post moved to a new location North of BOURGOIN at 1045B.

SECTION III

1. In accordance with previous instructions, Troop B 117th Cav Rcn Sqn attacked MONTREVEL on the morning of 3 September and before noon had cut all roads to the north, destroyed two Mk IV tanks, two self-propelled guns and had taken 65 prisoners. At this point, Troop A entered the town to aid Troop B. In the afternoon, enemy tanks and infantry coming from BOURG and the Southwest launched a heavy attack to break through the town. After a fierce battle the superior enemy forces captured almost all of Troop B and all but one platoon of Troop A, as well as their equipment. Troop C and the 2d Bn 179th Inf, sent to MONTREVEL as reinforcements, arrived to find the town in enemy hands. Troop F counterattacked from the outside of town in an effort to allow withdrawal, but the enemy had all routes well-guarded and drove off this unit. Further attack was not pressed on MONTREVEL at this time since the remainder of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn was ordered to protect the left flank of the 3d Div and reconnoiter the route North and West to LONS LE SAUNIER and BESANCON 8/.

2. During the day, severe fighting also took place on the approaches to BOURG from the East and Southeast where the 157th and 180th Inf sought to break through the enemy's defenses at CORTINES (T-2629) and CEYZERLAT (T-3135). By nightfall the German forces were overcome in both towns and had withdrawn towards BOURG, the 2d Bn of the 157th Inf capturing CORTINES and the 3d Bn securing CEYZERLAT while the remainder of the 180th Inf which had cleared JASSERON (T-3139) in the morning established road blocks on the routes leading Northeast out of BOURG. The 179th Inf occupied high ground to the North of JASSERON without opposition 9/.

3. As VI Corps changed its route of advance to the Northeast, the 3d Div assembled North of PONT D'AIN and as rapidly as pooled transportation facilities of their own and the 36th Div would allow, commenced movement North to LONS LE SAUNIER (T-4692) and BESANCON (G-7956) in accordance with a field message dated 031000B September. By the end of the day, the infantry leading the column had reached a point just south of ST. JULIEN (T-4059) 10/.

4. In the LYON sector, the 36th Div sent patrols to the city, which was completely in F.F.I. hands by noon. The 36th Div Rcn Troop struck northwest towards MACON (S-9248) as infantry which had encircled LYON on the East and South bank of the RHONE River turned over their positions to the French and prepared for movement by motor and marching North and West of BOURG. The 36th Div patrols found the enemy had evacuated the towns of ST. ANDRE DE CORCY (T-0307), MARLIEUX (T-1222) and ST. ANDRE DE BOUCHOUX (T-1228), and as the 141st Inf assembled at ST. MAURICE (Y-0396) the 142d Inf commenced movement on CHATILLON, and the 143d Inf headed for MARLIEUX 11/.

5. During the day the 1st Armored Division of French Army "B" had advanced up the west bank of the SACONE River, coordinating and keeping pace with VI Corps on the left flank while on the Corps right the 3d DIA extended vigorous reconnaissance North and Northeast ahead of the VI Corps advance with patrols of

7/. WRJ, 2 Sept, Entry #14

8/. WRJ, 3 Sept (Amberieu CP), Entries #11 and 32, 54; 117th Cav Rcn Sqn S-3 Report No. 19 - 3 Sept

9/. WRJ, 3 Sept, Entries #20, 71 and 83.

10/. WRJ, 3 Sept (Bourgoin CP) #40; 3d Div G-3 Report #28

11/. WRJ, 3 Sept (Bourgoin CP) Entry #26 and (Amberieu CP) #9 and 44; G-3 Report No. 21.

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the RSA extending to LONS LE SAUNIER 12/.

6. VI Corps CP moved to AMBERIEU (T-3412) at 1145B 13/.

SECTION IV

1. Before daylight of 4 September, the rapid strides of the 7th Inf had carried the foremost elements to VOITEUR (O-5000) approximately seven miles North of LONS LE SAUNIER. The 1st and 3d Bns attacked POLIGNY (O-5709) at dawn, but no enemy resistance was encountered and by 0830B the leading troops were twelve miles north of POLIGNY, having passed through ARBOIS (O-6217) to MOUCHARD (O-6326). Protecting the Corps right and the 7th Inf advance, the 15th Inf had advanced during the night through ARINTHOD (T-4859) and OREGELET (T-5274). In the morning, after consolidating in LONS LE SAUNIER, the 15th Inf continued East and North, the 2d Bn establishing road blocks outside of CHAMPANOLE (O-7199) and at CROTEMAY (O-6500) as the 1st Bn went North to VERS (O-7307) and MONTROND (O-6606), with patrols of the latter Bn heading for SALINES (O-6924). In the afternoon, the 3d Bn 7th Inf remained North and West of VOITEUR, the 2d Bn stayed in the ARBOIS area, both as a left flank protection force, while the 2d Bn (reinforced) pushed on up through QUINGEY (O-6840) to ARGUEL (O-7751), just South of BESANCON, where positions were organized for an assault on this town. Coming up from the rear, the 30th Inf consolidated in LONS LE SAUNIER preparatory to branching out North and Northeast through the 7th and 15th Inf to the area south of BESANCON. Protecting the advance of the 3d Div, Troops A and C 117th Cav Rcn Sqn pushed strong patrols to the West and Northwest without making enemy contact, though one battle patrol of the 7th Inf engaged in a short fire fight at MONT SOUS VAUDREY (O-4826) Northwest of ARBOIS 14/.

2. In the 45th Div area, the 157th Inf broke the enemy resistance southeast of BOURG in the early morning and by 1000B had entered and cleared the town of the enemy except for scattered snipers. A roving patrol neutralized these points while the bulk of the 157th Inf joined the 179th and 180th Inf in assembly areas east of BOURG, preparatory to the move North to LONS LE SAUNIER where they would relieve elements of the 3d Div maintaining a rearguard in and to the West of the town 15/.

3. On the Corps left flank, the 36th Div, meeting no enemy opposition, advanced North on a front from the east bank of the SAGNE River to BOURG. By 1130B the 141st Inf on the left had reached ST. LAURENT opposite MACON, the 143d Inf in the center was Northwest of BOURG near MONTREVEL and the 142d Inf on the right had passed through BOURG in the morning without seeing the enemy. By the end of the period, the 36th Div had reached its objective, approximately twenty miles northwest of BOURG on a line: PONT DE VAUX (T-0063), ST. TRIVIER (T-1166), VARENNES (T-2369), held by the 141st, 143d and 142d Inf, respectively 16/.

SECTION V

1. By way of SALINES (O-6921) and AMANCEY (O-8433) the 1st Bn 15th Inf advanced North on BESANCON early on 5 September securing the town of FONTAIN (O-7951) after a short fight and continuing North, with the 2d Bn 7th Inf attached, to occupy the high ground facing BESANCON from the South. Thus, the town was flanked on two sides, elements of the 7th Inf and Troop A 117th Cav

12/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 27 - 3 Sept.

13/. G-3 Rpt #20 - 3 Sept 1944.

14/. WRJ, 4 Sept, Entries #24, 26, 42, and 112.

15/. WRJ, 4 Sept, Entries #17, 44, 49.

16/. WRJ, 4 Sept, Entries #36, 46, 53 and 92.

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Recon Sqn having crossed the DOUBS River in the vicinity of BEURE (O-7762), out Highway #73 and set up a road block southwest of BESANCON. Enemy opposition consisted chiefly of tanks, self-propelled guns and scattered infantry action; one group of sixty enemy tanks coming South as reinforcements turned back to the North without having been committed. Coming up on the right of BESANCON, the 2d Bn 15th Inf cleared through ORNANS (O-8941) and reached TARCENAY (O-8646) and by the end of the day recon was pushing North and Northeast, making enemy contact in the latter direction at MAMIROLLE (O-8951). The 3d Bn 15th Inf at SALINES pushed the 3d Bn in the direction of ORNANS and L'HOPITAL (O-9448) where they aided the 4 RTT in overcoming a strong enemy rear guard 17/.

2. In conjunction with the 3d Div, the 117th Cav Recon Sqn continued aggressive combat patrolling on the division's left flank and covered the bridges crossing the DOUBS River from CHAUSSIN (O-3323) to the South of DOLE (O-3936). Troop C captured CHAUSSIN and secured intact the bridge to the West, and the bridge South of DOLE at O-4028 after clearing MONT SOUS VAUDREY (O-4826). Six other bridges over the DOUBS River in this left sector had been blown by the retreating Germans. Elements of Troop A had secured two LOUE River crossings north of ARBOIS and one over the DOUBS River just South of BESANCON. Patrols pushing to DOLE met considerable resistance while to the Northeast 117th Recon Sqn elements reached COURTEFONTAINE (O-6442) with little trouble 18/.

3. Maintaining the security of LONS LE SAUNIER area with the 157th Inf, the 45th Div moved northeast to PONTARLIER (P-0619), recently captured by the 3d DIA. From this town the 179th and 180th Inf drove north on BAUME LES DAMES (P-0570) where a recon troop and a Bn of the 3d DIA were out off by the enemy. The 179th Inf (-2d Bn) on the right, headed for VERCEL (P-0850), and reached ST. GORGON (P-0333) by the end of the day, while on the left the 3d Bn 180th Inf cleared through ORNANS and reached SAULES (O-9343). 180th Inf recon patrols pushed Northeast to GONSANS (P-0055) and L'HOPITAL (O-9448) and ETALANS (O-9846) to make contact with the French and found the area clear of the enemy, although some German elements were still in the vicinity of VALDAHON (P-0447). Two ME-109's strafed a column of the 180th Inf near SALINES, killing 24 and wounding 10 of our troops. The raiders were engaged by our AA with unknown results 19/.

4. On the Corps left flank, the 36th Div continued steadily North without contacting the enemy except at one point where the division recon troop engaged in a fire fight with a German delaying detachment south of the DOUBS River at NEUBLANS (O-2717). By the end of the period, the 141st Inf, passing through LOUHANS (O-2083) which had been evacuated by the enemy in the morning, was at ST. GERMAIN (T-2198), the 143d Inf in the vicinity of SENS (T-2798). The 142d Inf closed near BLETTERANS (T-3798) and sent the 3d Bn and 132d FA Bn to MOUCHARD (O-6325) to assist Troop C, 117th Cav in blocking the routes over the DOUBS River from the Northwest. To their left, the 1st Armd Div (Fr) had captured CHALON and continued its drive towards DIJON and the area north of the DOUBS River 20/.

5. In the morning of 6 September, the VI Corps Command Post opened at LONS LE SAUNIER 21/. In the afternoon a field message was issued directing the following: The 3d Div to concentrate in the BESANCON - TREPOT (O-8948)-ORNANS area, prepare to seize BESANCON or block any enemy movement South and move the division east; the 45th Div was to concentrate in the VERCEL (P-0750)-NAISEY (O-9553)-SAULES (O-9343) - MODS (O-0340) area, prepare to seize

17/. WRJ (Lons Le Saunier CP) 5 Sept, Entries #3, 13, 21, 27 and 99.

18/. WRJ, 5 Sept, Entries #5 and 63; 117th Cav Recon Sqn S-3 Report - 6 Sept.

19/. WRJ, 6 Sept, Entry #16; 45th Div G-3 Report No. 22 - 6 Sept.

20/. WRJ (Lons Le Saunier), 5 Sept, Entries #32, 68, 87 and 91.

21/. WRJ, 5 Sept, Entry #6.

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crossings over the DOUBS River near BAUME, prepare to advance on VILLERSEXEL (O-0891) or MONTELLIARD (P-3688); the 36th Div was to concentrate in the MOUCHARD area protecting the Corps left flank and prepare to follow the 3d and 45th divisions.

SECTION VI

1. In accordance with VI Corps Field Message, the 36th Div moved Northeast on 6 September, establishing the 141st Inf at FOLIGNY (O-5710), the 142d Inf at MOUCHARD (O-6325) and the 143d Inf in the vicinity of VAUDREY (O-4925). The 36th Div Recon Troop made vigorous reconnaissance to the North and Northwest of the 3d Div left sector finding the towns of LA LOYE (O-4431), BELMONT (O-4728), CRISSEY (O-6731), SANTANS (-5331) and CHATELAY (O-5532) between the LOUE River and the southern edge of the FORET DE CHAUX clear of the enemy. Going North, this unit reached RANS (O-5744) on the southern bank of the DOUBS River without enemy contact although enemy bicycle troops could be observed moving East from GRCHAMPS on the opposite bank 22/.

2. In the BESANCON sector, the 3d Div grouped their forces for a final assault on the city which was now surrounded on three sides, the enemy's remaining escape route being to the Northeast. To the West and Northwest, the 7th Inf, crossing the DOUBS River, set up a line FREJEUX (O-7654) - PIREY (O-7457) - ECOLE (O-7658). The 15th Inf, overcoming enemy resistance at SAONE (O-8654), GENNES (O-8656), MORRE (O-8254) MONTEAUCON (O-8355) and O-8558, established vantage points to the South and on the high ground to the East with the 1st Bn on the left and the 2d Bn on the right. Enemy opposition was sporadic in this area with delaying forces of infantry using small arms, mortars and machine guns and also a few tanks and self-propelled guns. Near the end of the day, the 1st Bn 30th Inf took up positions immediately South and Southeast of the approaches to BESANCON preparatory to an attack at 0030 hours 7 September. This move relieved the 2d & 3d Bns 15th Inf who crossed the DOUBS River at AVANNE (O-7451) in the 7th Inf sector and assembled preparatory to relief of the latter regiment 23/.

3. Troop "A", 117th Cav Recon Sqn conducted strong patrol action on the 3d Div left flank along the north bank of the DOUBS River on Highway #73 Southwest of BESANCON. Troop "C" operated in the FORET DE CHAUX area where contact was made with F.F.I. forces and the 36th Div Recon Troop. During the period, two officers, one the Commanding Officer of Troop B 117th Cav Recon Sqn, and two enlisted men among those captured at MONTREVEL returned to the Squadron after escaping from the enemy 24/.

4. On the Corps right flank, the 179th and 180th Inf pushed with all speed to BAUME LES DAMES, contacting the 3d DIA (Fr) and continuing on to L'ISLE (P-2080). Flanking VALDANON (P-0347) on the left where the French were engaged in mopping up, the 2d Bn 180th Inf reached the enemy blown bridge on the DOUBS River opposite BAUME in the afternoon of 6 September. French forces of the 3d DIA which had captured MAICHE near the SWISS border had swung northwest and were already meeting enemy small arms, mortar and tank fire from the outskirts of this town. All the bridges below BAUME had been blown which hampered the 1st & 3d Bns 180th Inf which had reached GONSANS (P-0056) in making a crossing to the south of the town. The 3d Bn 179th Inf came North on the right

22/. WRJ, 6 Sept, (Salines CP) Entries #10, 12 and 33.

23/. WRJ, 6 Sept, (Salines CP), Entries #15, 22, 24, 25, 49 and 60.

24/. WRJ, 6 Sept, (LONS LE SAUNIER CP), Entry #38; (Salines CP) Entry #6.

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of VALDAHON and through VERCEL (P-0851) where, with the assistance of the 4RTT, enemy resistance was overcome. Following this encounter the 3d Bn 179th Inf cleared through ORSANS (P-0757), reached VAUDRIVILLERS (P-0962) and prepared to move North on BAUME. The 1st Bn 179th Inf continued Northeast on the South of the DOUBS River towards CLERVAL (P-1474) and L'ISLE. At this time the 2d Bn was released from the 117th Cav Ren Sqn and was enroute to its parent unit, while the 157th Inf assembled in COTE-BRUNE (P-0158) 25/.

5. Though not in direct support, Allied planes were extremely active in front of VI Corps during the day. On the road nets to the Northeast over 100 motor transports were destroyed or damaged, and in the vicinity of BELFORT and MULHOUSE 30 locomotives were destroyed together with more than 100 railroad cars loaded with personnel and equipment. One grounded aircraft and an AA position were also knocked out 26/.

6. During the period VI Corps moved their command post west of SALINES at O-614308 27/.

SECTION VII

1. In the early morning of 7 September, the 1st Bn 30th Inf attacked the citadel in the southern part of BESANCON and was met by heavy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire while the 2d Bn entrucked, crossed the River at AVANNE, circled the city and attacked from the North. These moves were coordinated with 1st and 2d Bns 7th Inf which attacked the city from the west and 15th Inf elements swinging in from the East. During the day, the enemy put up heavy opposition from numerous strongpoints in BESANCON. 3d Div troops employed tanks, machine guns, grenades and small arms to good advantage in the main part of town which was taken by dark. In the southern part of BESANCON one 155mm howitzer of the 9th FA Bn fired over 60 shells at point blank range of 1000 yards before the German-held citadel surrendered. The citadel yielded some 200 prisoners, a few of which were from the newly identified 159th Reserve Division. Among those killed was a Major General SCHMIDT believed to have just taken command of the division. The 15th Inf, situated mostly north of BESANCON, was relieved in position by elements of the 141st Inf and then headed North and East in the direction of VESOUL while 7th and 30th Inf troops cleared out snipers and regrouped in BESANCON preparatory to their move North 28/.

2. With the 157th Inf in division reserve and operating road blocks and reconnaissance on the division flanks, the 180th Inf continued its attack on BAUME and the 179th Inf moving to the Northeast made crossings between BAUME and L'ISLE in the vicinity of CLERVAL (P-1474). The 2d Bn 180th Inf encountered resistance in BAUME from tanks and flakwagons during the afternoon. Later, the attack was resumed after an artillery preparation, but tank and heavy sniper fire forced them out of the town. To the Southwest, the 3d Bn 180th Inf made two ferry crossings in the vicinity of ROULANS (O-9565) and seized the high ground to the North of the town. As the 3d Bn 179th Inf neared CLERVAL for a crossing, they met small arms and mortar fire. This opposition was by-passed and the DOUBS River was bridged to the south of CLERVAL and at the end of the period the 3d Bn and elements of 1st Bn were on the north side of the River. The 2d Bn moved Northeast on the south side of the River towards L'ISLE against ever increasing enemy resistance 29/.

25/. WRJ, 6 Sept, (Lons le saunier CP) Entries #13 and 31; (Salines CP) Entries #11, 14, 38 and 40.

26/. WRJ, 6 Sept, (Lons le saunier CP) Entry #23; (Salines CP) Entry #54.

27/. G-3 Report No. 24

28/. WRJ, 7 Sept, Entries #7, 12, 13, 34, 40, 67, 86, 98 and 101.

29/. WRJ, 7 Sept, Entries #10, 39, 70, 84, 96 and 100.

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3. On the Corps left, the 36th Div moved up to the vicinity of BESANCON. The 142d Inf initiated a crossing over the DOUBS River, near OSELE (O-6744) where a partly demolished railroad bridge furnished access to the north bank for foot troops and light equipment. The 142d Inf followed by the 143d Inf crossed the river and occupied positions on high ground 9 kilometers to the North. The 141st Inf was attached to the 3d Div during the day, the 1st & 2d Bns moving up slowly as the crossing at AVANNE permitted only one lane of traffic. These Bns were enroute to relieve the 7th and 15th Inf elements on the highways leading Northwest out of BESANCON and with the 977th FA Bn, interdicted enemy traffic, while the 3d Bn took over the road blocks from 3d Div elements in the vicinity of AVANNE 30/.

4. During the period, the 117th Cav Ron Sqn had continued its screening and harassing operation against enemy movement north of the DOUBS River along the roads leading northeast from DOLE. Reorganization of Troop "B" as a component part of the Squadron took place during the period 31/.

SECTION VIII

1. Following the axis of the two main roads to the north, in the early part of 8 September the 3d Div continued its attack in the direction of VESOU (O-8798). The 1st Bn 7th Inf pushed northeast against light resistance and reached high ground (O-9171) between the L'OGNON River and CORCELLE-MIESLOT. The 3d Bn, following the 1st Bn, cleared the towns of BRAILLANS (O-8463) and BONNAY (O-8166). The 2d Bn remained on high ground north of the DOUBS River, northeast of BESANCON. The 15th Inf continued north towards RIOZ (O-8276) against strong opposition in the form of organized defenses as well as a number of fire fights with by-passed pockets of trapped enemy forces. As the 1st Bn protected the right, the 2d Bn fought North and by the end of the day had passed through MISEREY-SALINS (O-7561) and reached a point just south of the L'OGNON River. The 30th Inf cleared all remaining enemy resistance in BESANCON and prepared to move upon the left of the division advance. Of approximately 100 prisoners taken north of BESANCON during the day, the majority of them were from the newly identified 159th Reserve Division 32/.

2. While the 157th Inf continued in division reserve and protected the division right flank, the 2d Bn 179th Inf pressed their attack on CLERVAL and cleared the town of the enemy by 1500 after a short fire fight and advanced on L'ISLE to the Northeast. The 1st Bn 179th Inf crossed the DOUBS River south of CLERVAL and extended north toward L'HOPITAL (P-1074) and SOYE (P-1380) where they engaged rear guard enemy units which forestalled the capture of these towns by the close of the day. The 3d Bn came up from the rear of the 1st Bn, cleared the MONTEFORTE woods south of L'HOPITAL and prepared to assist the 1st Bn in the seizure of this town. As the 2d Bn 180th Inf resumed its assault on BAUME, the 1st Bn crossed the river and moved on BAUME with a small unit from the Northeast while the remainder of the Bn headed for AUTECHEAUX (P-0572). The 3d Bn 180th Inf crossed the DOUBS River at ROULANS and proceeded on to occupy the high ground north of BAUME with little opposition. In the town of ROCHE (O-8559), which had been by-passed and isolated between the advance of the 3d and 45th Divisions, the enemy had abandoned a fuel supply dump containing 100,000 litres of fuel oil and 700,000 litres of gasoline 33/.

30/. WRJ, 7 Sept, Entries #33, 66, 67, 88 and 90.

31/. 117th Cav Ron Sqn S-3 Report No 23.

32/. WRJ, 8 Sept (Besancon CP) Entries #1, 51, 65 and 90.

33/. WRJ, 8 Sept, (Besancon CP) Entries #11, 38, 47, 92 and 67.

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3. In the 36th Div sector, the 141st Inf relieved elements of the 3d Div in the BESANCON area and extended their lines north from the DOUBS River in this sector. In the afternoon of 8 September, they attacked and captured CHEMAUDIN (O-6953) and GRANDFONTAINE (O-7050) where they set up a road block which an enemy counterattack failed to penetrate. The 3d Bn met resistance at FRANCOIS (O-7254) to the North but overcame the enemy and regrouped for their advance north to the L'OGNON River, occupying the town by nightfall. While to the Southwest at ST. VIT (O-6347) the 142d Inf met German forces retreating up from DOLE. By the close of the period, stiff fighting was still in progress but the enemy opposition had been greatly reduced and patrols had skirted the town and set up a roadblock to the South. Southeast of ST. VIT Troop "A" 117th Cav Rcn Sqn engaged pockets of trapped Germans who tried to make an escape to the North. The 143d Inf assembled in the Besancon area as Corps reserve 34/.

4. During the day, several flights of low-flying enemy aircraft appeared over the BAUME and BESANCON area and strafed American road movements and bridge sites. Though friendly aircraft were not in evidence and AA defense was only scattered, damage was negligible. It was learned through the French, engaged in stiff fighting on the 45th Division right flank in the PONTE DE RAIDE - ST. HIPPOLYTE area, that 8000 troops of the 1st Panzer SS Division were in the BELFORT area and to the South. 35/.

5. The Corps command post moved south of BESANCON to O-845518 at 081100B. Field Order No. 2 was issued at 2000B directing the advance of VI Corps troops on VESOUL, VILLERSEXEL and to the North, the divisions to reduce the enemy and contain positions in their sectors. (See Annex #11).

SECTION IX

1. On 9 September, the 2d Bn 7th Inf moved west towards RIOZ, encountering enemy resistance east of the town which slowed their advance but by 2300B they were within 500 yards from RIOZ to the Northeast. The 3d Bn 7th Inf, on the division's right, entered LOULANS (O-9279) against light opposition and prepared to advance north and east. The 2d and 3d Bns 15th Inf moved up from the vicinity of VORAY (7866) where three strong enemy road blocks were broken and three 88mm guns were captured. Continuing north, these two units joined with the 7th Inf in the seizure of RIOZ. Patrols entering the town were forced to withdraw and the community was still in enemy hands at the end of the period. The 1st Bn 30th Inf crossed the L'OGNON River in the vicinity of CUSSEY (7266) and by nightfall had reached BOULOT (7268). There, after being relieved by the 141st Inf, they moved to the VORAY area. The 3d Bn cleared BUSSIERES and consolidated their positions pending relief by the 1st Bn. During the day, more than 600 prisoners were taken in the vicinity of VORAY and RIOZ, mostly from the 159th Reserve Division, a Navy Artillery Bn and a few from the remnants of the 198th Inf Div which had been nearly wiped out at MCNIELIMAR 36/.

2. As the 157th Inf crossed the DOUBS River in the vicinity of CLERVAL, and established road blocks to the Southeast, the 1st Bn 179th Inf working to the North cleared the enemy from SOYE (P-1880) after a short fight, and then sent patrols to L'ISLE. The 2d Bn 179th Inf continued along the south bank of the DOUBS River to a point just below L'ISLE where they secured positions for the night, and sent patrols to the town without contacting the enemy. On the

34/. WRJ, 8 Sept (Besancon CP) Entries #58, 64, 70 and 87, 69.

35/. WRJ, 8 Sept, (Salines CP) Entry #4; (Besancon CP) Entries #2 and 67.

36/. WRJ, 9 Sept, Entries #12, 122, 131 and 136; G-2 Report No. 26 - 10 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Report No. 34 - 10 Sept.

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45th Div left, the 180th Inf advanced north against light resistance. The 3d Bn occupied FONTENOTTE (P-0172) and continued on through LUXIOL (P-0372) and entered VEANE (P-0574) where they received enemy tank and small arms fire from high ground north of the town. One small enemy group infiltrated but was cleaned up without difficulty. The 1st Bn also drove north, clearing AUTECHAUX and occupying VERGRANNE (P-0676). The 2d Bn remained in BAUME which had been totally cleared of the enemy. More than 100 prisoners were taken during the day, the majority of them from 11th Panzer Division units and hurriedly formed grenadier battalions 37/.

3. On the Corps left flank, the 36th Div extended north and northwest, its Rcn Troop reaching MARNAY (6060) where a fire fight ensued and forcing withdrawal from the town. The 141st Inf on the right pushed towards the L'OGNON River and by nightfall had reached the south bank where they were halted by the blown bridge at EMAGNEY (O-6763). Relatively little resistance was encountered as they passed through AUDEX (O-6757), NOIRONTE (O-6758), RECOLOGNE (O-6358) and CHAUCENNE (O-6959). After clearing out the final resistance in the ST. VIT area, the 142d Inf drove north and seized VILLEBS-BUZON (O-6654) and the surrounding high ground as well as the high points at FRAMEY, south of RECOLOGNE. Moving southwest along the L'OGNON River, five crossings of which had been blown by the enemy, the 143d Inf reach CUGNEY (O-5254) without opposition. In the ST. VIT area, 300 prisoners were taken, mainly of the newly identified 195th Reserve Division. 38/.

4. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn continued to reconnoiter between the DOUBS and L'OGNON Rivers and located two enemy batteries firing on our crossings near ETUZ (O-7368) and VORAY (O-7868). In the 36th Div sector they captured intact two batteries of 40mm AA and one battery of 20mm AA. 39/.

5. During the period, Hq & Hq Btry 35th AAA Group, the 976th and 938th FA Bns were attached to the 45th Div. 40/.

SECTION X

1. The attack against enemy rear guard and delaying units south of VESOUL continued throughout 10 September. The 15th Inf astride the RIOZ - VESOUL road encountered machine gun, small arms and flakwagon fire; however, gains were made and the towns of QUENOCHÉ (O-8482) and PENNESIERES (O-8383) were in our hands by nightfall. On the right, the 2d and 3d Bns 7th Inf fought through AUBERTANS (O-8879) but were held up outside of AUTHOISON (O-8784) by heavy machine gun fire. On the division left, the 3d Bn 30th Inf made small advances and reached the enemy occupied town of FONDREMAND (O-7882) but did not enter although the town was heavily shelled and surrounded. This unit assembled in place, preparatory to relief by elements of the 36th Div. An additional 277 prisoners were taken by the 3d Div in their zone from the 159th Reserve Div and the 198th Inf Div. 41/.

2. In the 36th Div sector on the Corps left flank, substantial gains were made during the day. Relatively little resistance was encountered by 142d Inf except at BUCEY (O-6475) to the south of GY (O-6273). Using alternate

37/. WRJ, 9 Sept, Entries #8, 35 and 128; G-2 Report No. 26 - 10 Sept; 45th Div G-3 Report No. 26 - 10 Sept.

38/. WRJ, 9 Sept, Entries #11, 36, 66, 68, 106.

39/. WRJ, 9 Sept, Entries #7, 127 and 130; G-2 Report No 26 - 10 Sept; 36th Div G-3 Report No 367 - 9 Sept.

40/. G-3 Report No 26 - 9 Sept 1944.

41/. WRJ, 10 Sept (NE of Besancon CP), Entries #12, 89 and 90; G-2 Report No 27 - 11 Sept.

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Routes the 1st and 3d bns 142d Inf crossed the newly constructed bridge at EMAGNEY and went around this enemy strongpoint to capture GY, thereby closing off the enemy's withdrawal from this town towards GRAY (O-4677). On the division's right, the 143d Inf advanced north and captured OISELAY (O-7275) and continued the advance north on routes reconnoitered by Troops E and F 117th Cav Rcn Sqn, the former troop having reached a point about ten miles to the North near RCY (O-6394) without enemy contact. Coming up from the South, the 141st Inf prepared to take over the 143d Inf positions in the vicinity of OISELAY and aid in the 3d Division's advance on VESOUL. Prisoners captured by this division during the day were from a number of formerly identified enemy divisions including the 198th, 716th, 388th and 244th Inf Divisions and a TURKOMAN Labor Bn, a total of 589 being sent to the rear 42/.

3. Operating far to the left, Troop "A" of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn entered DOLE against no opposition and found the town in the hands of the F.F.I. Northwest of DOLE on the SAONE River, AUXONNE (O-3148) was also cleared of the enemy by Troop "A" after a short fire fight. Ranging north along the river, PONTALBER (O-3561) was occupied and a crossing made near APREMONT (O-4372) and patrols reached a point southwest of GRAY which was still strongly defended by the Germans 43/.

4. On the Corps right flank, the 45th Div also made steady gains against enemy rear guard action. On the right the 2d Bn 179th Inf gained positions south of L'ISLE without opposition while the 1st Bn circled to the North meeting small arms fire but did not enter the town. Further north, the 3d Bn cleared ACCOLANS (P-1686) and continued on. In the center, the 157th Inf captured UZELLE (P-0982) and pushed north to the outskirts of ABENANS (P-1086) and the high ground to the East. The 180th Inf advanced slowly on ROUGEMONT (P-0383) and MONTBOZON (O-9582), encountering only light resistance, and freed AVILLEY (O-9677), TOURNANS (P-0276), HUANNE (P-0378) and ROMAIN (P-0579) after eliminating enemy resistance and capturing several enemy mortars and machine guns at the latter town. A total of 625 prisoners passed through the 45th Div cage during the day, identifying numerous nondescript units hastily organized and placed in the line. These elements were generally supported by small groups of armor from more experienced Panzer regiments 44/.

5. Improved weather conditions aided our air support units in a day long assault on enemy rear communications and strongpoints in the MONTBELLARD, BELFORT and MULHOUSE areas 45/.

6. During the day, the VI Corps Command Post was moved to the Northwest of BESANCON at 1030B. A field message was issued in the evening announcing the change of the 3d and 36th Division boundaries and directing the 36th Div to seize the high ground west of VESOUL, assist the 3d Div in the capture of this town and to push reconnaissance to the SAONE River in their zone 46/.

SECTION XI

1. On 11 September, the 3d Div continued to meet strong resistance in front of VESOUL. The 15th Inf, advancing directly from the South met considerable fire from machine pistols, machine guns and flakwagons but broke through a heavily fortified road block and succeeded in pushing to the outskirts of the town. On the right, the 7th Inf advanced through FILAIN (O-8987)

42/. WRJ, 10 Sept, Entries #19, 73 and 85; G-2 Report No. 27 - 11 Sept.

43/. WRJ, 10 Sept, Entries #33, 56, and 66. 117th Cav Rcn Sq S-3 Rpts #25 and 26 of 10 & 11 Sept 1944.

44/. WRJ, 10 Sept, Entries #3, 21 and 22 and 86; G-2 Report No. 27 - 11 Sept 45th Div G-3 Rpt #27 of 11 Sept 1944.

45/. WRJ, 10 Sept, Entries #13, 14 and 15.

46/. See Annex #11

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and DAMPIERRE (O-9486) against light enemy delaying action. Later in the day, high ground was taken near NEUREY (O-9094) southeast of VESOUL as enemy rear guards increased their opposition. On the division right flank, the 30th Inf moved by motor transport to MONTBOZON (O-9682) and prepared to attack north and seize PRESLE (O-9687) 47/.

2. In conjunction with the 15th Inf attack on VESOUL, the 36th Div pushed rapidly north and seized the town of CHARIEZ (O-8297), west of VESOUL. The 141st Inf, overcoming resistance at GRANDVELLE (O-7585), continued to advance north and secured the high ground at CAMP ROMAIN (O-8397) and ANDELARROT (O-8394) south of VESOUL. Contact was made with the 15th Inf on the right and preparations were made to attack VESOUL with the 15th Inf at daylight. Paralleling their advances, the 143d Inf seized the high ground north of the 141st Inf with little opposition and organized positions for securing the SAONE River bridge at PORT SUR SAONE (J-7805), the town of PUSEY (J-8401) and the high ground north of VESOUL, thereby cutting the enemy's escape route in that direction. The 142d Inf, holding positions on the Corps left, sent patrols west to GRAY which was found evacuated by the enemy. 48/.

3. Working with the 36th Div, the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn sent patrols along the road nets between the Corps left flank and the SAONE River, extending from AUXONNE northeast through GRAY and to PORT SUR SAONE which Troop "C" entered in the late afternoon. All the main bridges over the SAONE River were found blown by the enemy as they retreated north from DIJON which had been captured by the French on the Corps left 49/.

4. As the 179th Inf closed in around L'ISLE (P-2082) against considerable machine gun and artillery fire which was counterbattered by 45th Div artillery, the 157th Inf drove north from UZELLE (P-0983) and also struck persistent small arms and machine gun fire as they advanced on and captured the towns of ABBENANS (P-0986) and BOURNOIS (P-1486) while patrols entered CUBRIAL (P-0685) and found the town evacuated by the enemy. On the division left, the 180th Inf seized and cleared the town of ROUGEMONT (P-0383) before noon. Resistance increased in the afternoon, the enemy employing machine gun, mortar, artillery and 20mm fire as the 2d Bn 180th Inf advanced on BONNEL (P-0287), but a heavy artillery preparation was laid on the Germans which forced them to withdraw, and by evening BONNEL was in the hands of the 180th Inf as well as CUBRIAL, and THIEFFRANS (P-0086). Considerable enemy equipment was taken in this action and contact was made with the 3d Div on the left 50/.

5. Contact was made during the day with the 3d U. S. Army at SOMBERNON (N-7959) when elements of the 1 DB of the II French Corps met elements of the 2 DB at 1500B 51/. The VI Corps command post moved to a new location at SORANS (O-8073) and opened at 1130B. During the period, 1300 prisoners were taken by Corps troops, over 500 each being captured by the 36th and 45th Divisions. Miscellaneous frontline and labor units continued to comprise the bulk of the prisoners.

SECTION XII

1. Striking from the high ground to the West on the morning of 12 September, the 141st Inf fought its way into VESOUL and cleared out the town by

47/. WRJ, 11 Sept, (Sorans CP), Entries #14 and 38; 3d Div G-3 Report No. 36 - 12 Sept.

48/. WRJ, 11 Sept, (Sorans CP), Entries #10, 24, 29, 32, 37 and 67.

49/. WRJ, 11 Sept, Entries #6, 28, 39 and 61.

50/. WRJ, 11 Sept, (Sorans CP), Entries #26, 27, 52 and 75.

51/. WRJ, 11 Sept, Entry #58, G-3 Report No. 28 - 11 Sept.

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noon except for scattered spots of resistance. To their left, the 143d Inf secured the main crossing at PORT SUR SAONE. Although there was only slight enemy activity in the town, a counterattack was launched from the northwest but this thrust on the enemy's part to regain the bridge was successfully repulsed. Coming up from the South through VESOUL, the 142d Inf advance units passed through AUXON (J-8705) and reached FLAGEY (J-8907) by the end of the period 52/.

2. In the Corps central sector, the 3d Div continued their attack north and northeast, pivoting the advance on the 30th Inf. The 15th Inf passed through VESOUL and encountered machine gun and small arms fire near QUINCEY (O-8997) which was outflanked and where road blocks were set up. (PROTE) (O-8999) was freed by the 1st Bn while the remainder of the regiment pushed through COLOMBE (O-9296) to the vicinity of NOROY LE BOURG (O-9898) which the 7th Inf had flanked and entered after a severe fire fight where they took approximately 150 prisoners. To the right, and in contact with the 45th Div, the 30th Inf established road blocks on the 3d Division's now open right flank, sending patrols to the east and northeast. Supporting tank and tank destroyer units knocked out eight machine gun nests, two trucks and three vehicles loaded with personnel in the 7th and 15th Inf sectors 53/.

3. On the Corps right flank, the 45th Div encountered strong opposition along their entire front. The 180th Inf early engaged the enemy and after overcoming small arms and mortar fire advanced and secured PORT SUR L'OGNON (P-0588) capturing one howitzer, anti-tank gun, flak gun and several small vehicles. In the center, the 157th Inf slowly gained ground astride the road to VILLERSEXEL (P-0892) from the South. Although an enemy counterattack split elements of the regiment in this area, the gap was closed and positions made secure for an assault on the town the next morning. In the L'ISLE area, the 179th Inf continued to exert pressure on the town though not entering as the enemy laid down a steady harassing fire throughout the day. During the period 250 prisoners were taken, mainly in the 157th and 180th Inf sectors. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn maintained constant armored patrols on the Corps left flank between GRAY and PORT SUR SAONE during the period 54/.

SECTION XIII

1. On 13 September, gains were made along the entire Corps front, particularly in the 3d and 36th Div sectors where enemy resistance weakened, and the rear guard was forced to fall back to the Northeast while a pivot on L'ISLE began to take form. In this latter 45th Div sector, the 179th Inf entered L'ISLE but did not encounter the enemy until they reached the eastern outskirts of the town. The 2d Bn remained on the south side of the river to protect the Corps right flank and maintain contact with the French. In the central division sector, the 157th Inf passed through VILLERS LA VILLE east of VILLERSEXEL (P-0893) where high ground was secured. Other elements heading for GRAMMONT (P-1587) placed artillery fire on enemy infantry and horse-drawn artillery and captured a large number of prisoners. After 3d Div troops had relieved elements of the 180th Inf in the MONTBOZON (O-9583) area, the main forces of this regiment pushed north from VILLERSEXEL towards the town of ST. SULFICE (P-0994) where enemy rear guards slowed the attack with machine gun, mortar and 88mm fire 55/

2. In the central sector, the 3d Div advanced slowly and occupied all immediate objectives prior to dark. The 7th Inf attacked through NOROY (J-9898)

52/. 36th Div G-3 Report No. 371 - 13 Sept.

53/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 37 - 13 Sept.

54/. 45th Div G-3 Report No. 29 - 13 Sept. 117th Cav S-3 Rpt #28 - 13 Sept.

55/. 45th Div G-3 Report No. 30 - 14 Sept.

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and gained high ground surrounding the town to the North and Northeast. The 3d Bn in securing the hill to the east encountered severe artillery and mortar fire. In the center, the 15th Inf occupied LIEVANS (K-0201) and continued towards POMOY (K-0204) on the right with the 1st Bn, and on the left the 3d Bn attacked and seized SAULX DE VESCOUL (J-9507) after neutralizing enemy small arms and machine gun fire. This Bn was relieved by elements of the 141st Inf and moved out in the direction of CHATENEY (J-9807) to the East of SAULX. Troops of the 30th Inf between NORCOY and VILLERSEXEL continued pressure to the Northeast. In the day's action, patrols of the 39th FA Bn and 441st AAA AW Bn accounted for 110 prisoners and also the capture of three enemy machine guns 56/

3. In the 36th Div sector, the 2d and 3d Bns 141st Inf pushed north from PLACEY (J-8907) breaking through an enemy road block in the vicinity of NEUREY (J-9013) to reach the outskirts of EQUEVILLEY (J-8815), while the 1st Bn struck east and occupied VELLEFRIE (J-9208) gaining contact with the 3d Div. As the 142d Inf detrucked in the SAULX area and commenced movement north towards LUXEUIL, the 143d Inf was relieved by elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn in the PORT SUR SAONE area and assembled east of the river preparatory to moving north. Forward units reached FAVERNAY (J-8314) but were forced to withdraw from the town till reinforced by troops coming up from the rear 57/.

4. Enemy artillery was active during the day in the 3d and 45th Div areas. However, our counterbattery fire dispersed horse-drawn guns south of LURE (K-1206). Heavy harassing fires fell on the whole Corps front as the enemy withdrew the less mobile and heavier pieces to the Northeast, leaving dual purpose 88's and assault guns to cover the movement. In the 45th Div zone, several rounds of rocket fire, believed to be about 320mm, were received. Total prisoners for the day were 1044, about equally divided among the three divisions. Miscellaneous battle groups were recognized, and almost a whole TURKMAN Labor Bn was captured as well as elements from the 9th and 16th Panzer Divs returning from the Normandy battleground 58/.

SECTION XIV

1. The VI Corps advance was slowed on the right during 14 September due to strong enemy delaying action in the 45th Div sector. In this area, the 179th Inf on the division right advanced northeast and were engaged by the enemy in the wooded area near BEVEUGE (P-1294). After overcoming heavy small arms and mortar fire with the aid of the 180th Inf, they finally entered ACCOLANS (P-1686) completing occupation by 1700 hours. The 157th Inf continued to attack northeast, and shortly after noon had cleared ST. FERJEUX (P-1491) without opposition and sent patrols towards COURCHATON (P-1788) where considerable enemy movement was observed coming from the East. More than 200 prisoners were taken in the day's action, mainly in ACCOLANS and ST. FERJEUX. Elements of the 179th Inf remained in their positions surrounding L'ISLE 59/.

2. In the central sector, the 3d Div resumed its steady pace northeast in the direction of LURE though meeting enemy resistance which increased noticeably in the afternoon. The 15th Inf fought into POMOY at noon and on clearing the town towards the Northeast were engaged by enemy artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. In spite of this heavy fire from well dug in enemy positions, the 1st Bn advanced to the outskirts of GENEVREVILLE

56/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 38 - 14 Sept.

57/. G-3 Report No. 31 - 14 Sept.

58/. G-2 Report No. 30 - 14 Sept.

59/. 45th Div G-3 Report No. 31 - 15 Sept.

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(K-0305) and were later drawn back while an artillery barrage was laid on the town. On the right, the 30th Inf entered AILLEVANS (P-0696) without opposition, then moved to the East and Northeast to clear the town of LONCEVELLE (P-0996) after reducing considerable sniper fire. Outgoing patrols made only slight contact with the enemy. The 7th Inf moved steadily forward and secured the high ground south of ARPENANS (P-0598); then continued to move ahead against increasing artillery fire. A total of 387 prisoners were taken during the day, identified mostly as hastily-formed battle groups 60/.

3. While the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn maintained vigorous patrols along the SAONE River and gained contact with the French between COMBEAUFONTAINE and PORT SUR SAONE, the 36th Div moved steadily towards LUXEUIL. Ranging north the 142d Inf encountered strong enemy delaying forces during the entire period. After breaking a road block north of SAULX (J-9607) where eleven enemy vehicles were destroyed and numerous prisoners taken, the 1st and 3d Bns reached BAUDONCOURT (K-0117) where they were held up by severe small arms fire. To the right, the 2d Bn, meeting less enemy fire, cleared DAMBENOIT (K-0411) and CITERS (K-0513) and headed north towards LUXEUIL. On the division left, the 143d Inf established road blocks to the West of their northward drive to clear BREUREY (J-8514). Continuing on against mortar and 20mm fire on their flanks, they reached LA VILLEDIEU (J-8916) and were pushing towards LUXEUIL to their right and FAVERNEY on their left. A number of German guns and vehicles were destroyed in this division's sector during the period, and the prisoner count was 319, bringing the total to over 700 for the day 61/.

SECTION XV

1. There was little change in the 45th Div front on 15 September. However, vigorous patrolling to L'ISLE and the Northeast produced a strong reaction from the enemy. In the afternoon, VILLAFANS (P-1195) was occupied by the 180th Inf as the 179th Inf probed north from L'ISLE towards GENEY (P-1985). Several supporting fires were fired into the French sector to the right by the 45th Div artillery during the period 62/.

2. In the Corps central or 3d Div sector, the advance continued towards LURE, moving toward the city from all sides. The 1st Bn 7th Inf entered LA GRANGE (K-0605), prepared defense positions and attacked, seizing the high ground in the vicinity of VY (K-0803) after a fight where the enemy had to be routed from their positions with grenades and bayonets. The 2d Bn secured two bridges at LES AYNANS (P-0998) and on advancing were halted by strong enemy fire outside of VY. Troops of the 15th Inf entered GENEVREVILLE (K-0304) shortly after noon and pushed on to capture AMBLANS (K-0506) in the face of moderate resistance. COURS (K-0713), north of LURE, was also taken by the 15th Inf against heavy machine gun, anti-tank and flakwagon fire. Forces of the 30th Inf maintained active patrolling on the division right and kept contact with the 45th Division 63/.

3. On the Corps left, 36th Div units pressed to the outskirts of LUXEUIL with the 142d Inf attacking from the South and Southeast while the 143d Inf came in from the West. The 142d Inf made steady progress as opposition was mainly from scattered enemy strongpoints. FROIDECOCHE was found clear and ST. SAUVEUR (K-0319) was cleared without difficulty. The 143d Inf advanced northeast on LUXEUIL, passing through MEURCOURT (J-9216), VELORCEY (J-9417)

60/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 39 - 15 Sept.

61/. 36th Div G-3 Report No. 373 - 15 Sept. G-2 Report No. 31 - 15 Sept

62/. 45th Div G-3 Report No 32 - 16 Sept.

63/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 40 - 16 Sept.

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and ABELCOURT (J-9616) against an enemy rear guard action of mortar and self-propelled gun fire and set up positions to continue the attack early 16 Sept. The 141st Inf, with the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn, protected the Corps left flank along the SAONE and LANTERNE Rivers 64/.

4. During the period, VI Corps Command Post was moved to COLOMBE DE VESOUL (O-9198) 65/.

5. VI Corps issued a field message on 15 September wherein Corps troops were to concentrate north of the line PORT SUR SAONE - VESOUL - LURE and prepare to continue the advance north and east. The 1 DB (Fr), passing through the Corps right flank in the vicinity of VILLERSEXEL, was to relieve the 45th Div and 3d Div elements south of LURE. The units relieved were to assemble north of the above line, the 45th Div to go into assembly in the FAVERNEY area on the Corps left flank 66/.

SECTION XVI

1. The 142d and 143d Inf, continuing their assault, entered LUXEUIL on 16 September. The 142d Inf, entering from the South, established road blocks to the North and then pushed northeast and came within a short distance from ESBOZ (K-0821) where they caught up with the German rear guard. Entering LUXEUIL from the Southwest, the 143d Inf consolidated their positions in the town preparatory to relief by the 141st Inf which headed due north towards FOUGEROLLES (K-0429) 67/.

2. In the early afternoon, elements of the 15th Inf entered LURE and, on being relieved by the 7th Inf, pushed northeast towards ST GERMAIN (K-1412), LINEXERT (K-1214) and LANTENOT (K-1216) with the remainder of the regiment. The 7th Inf, passing through LURE after the capture of VY, met heavy enemy artillery north of the town where stiff opposition was also encountered. Road blocks were established and the unit withdrew to organize an attack to reduce the enemy on their front 68/.

3. On the right, 45th Div elements maintained aggressive patrolling and found the enemy alert on all fronts. Units of the 179th Inf, striking towards GENEY (P-1985) were halted by extremely heavy German resistance.

4. On 16 September, Field Order No. 3 was issued wherein VI Corps was to continue the advance to the North on the axis VESOUL - ST. DIE - STRASBOURG, capture STRASBOURG, protect the left flank of Seventh Army, and establish and maintain contact with the 3d Army on the left 69/.

SECTION XVII

1. Attacking PLOMBIERES on 17 September, the 141st RCT met strong enemy delaying action after passing through the 143d Inf in the vicinity of LES GRANGES. The push continued up the FOUGEROLLES (K-0428) road with the 2d Bn moving west and north to relieve pressure. The 3d Bn went east to high ground south of the

64/. 36th Div G-3 Report No. 374 - 16 Sept.

65/. G-3 Report No. 32 - 16 Sept.

66/. See Annex No 11.

67/. 36th Div G-3 Report No. 375 - 17 Sept.

68/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 41 - 17 Sept.

69/. See Annex #11.

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town, meeting enemy fire. The resistance against the 1st Bn lessened, and in the evening they entered FOUGEROLIES while the 2d Bn moved west to within a short distance of CORBENAY (J-9829). The 142d RCT, with LE VAL D'AJOL (K-1033) as an objective, struck northeast from LUXEUIL via RADDON (K-0925) and advanced in a column of two battalions meeting strongly held road blocks on both routes. One of these obstacles was broken and the 3d Bn made gains to just short of CHAPENDU (K-0725). The 143d Inf on the division's left, holding the line while passed through by the 141st RCT, sent a reinforced company to ST. LOUP (J-9428). The town was entered and occupied without enemy contact 70/.

2. While the 7th Inf established road blocks and patrolled to the South and East of LURE, the 15th and 30th Inf continued the advance to the North and East. The 1st Bn 15th Inf advanced from FRANCHEVELLE (K-0914) and gained the high ground west of ST. GERMAIN (K-1411) as the 2d Bn reorganized and attacked from the LURE area. Despite heavy artillery, mortar, flakwagon and machine gun fire, this force moved ahead along the road and railroad and set up road blocks about four miles east of LURE. To the South, the 3d Bn took up positions in the ROYE (K-1505) area. The 30th RCT, pressing north, cleaned out and occupied LANTENOT (K-1214), BELMONT (K-1318) and RADDON (K-0925), establishing road blocks to the East of each town. The enemy launched a counter-attack in the afternoon against LANTENOT but was repelled by artillery, mortar and small arms fire. In the vicinity of RADDON, resistance consisted of approximately 200 enemy with bazooka teams, flakwagons and tank fire. This force developed a counterattack, but 30th Inf elements reduced the thrust with artillery, tank destroyer and mortar fire 71/.

3. On the Corps right flank, the 45th Div maintained defensive positions in their sector, operating strong patrols to the front and on the flanks. On the left, the 117th Cav Ron Sqn operated vigorous patrols towards VAUVILLERS (J-8132) and BAINS LES BAINS (J-9441).

4. A field message was issued by VI Corps suspending Field Order No. 3 of 16 September and directing the advance to be halted pending relief of the 45th Div by the II French Corps; other units to maintain vigorous reconnaissance to their front 72/.

SECTION XVIII

1. The 18th of September showed little change in front line positions. On the right, the 179th Inf in the vicinity of L'ISLE was relieved by elements of the 1st DMI and moved to an assembly point near ROUGEMONT. Pending relief, the 180th Inf operated patrols to the East, finding SEMARGENT (P-1594), MIGNAFANS (P-1753), and ATHEsans (P-1397) clear of the enemy. The 157th Inf, sending out reconnaissance, encountered some opposition east of VELLECHEVREUX (P-1691), the town itself being unoccupied 73/.

2. On the 3d Div sector, little enemy contact was made except for patrols as the 7th and 30th Inf regrouped and organized for offensive movement, while the 15th Inf secured strong positions from ST. GERMAIN (K-1511), east of LURE and south to the railroad at ROYE (K-1505) 74/.

70/. 36th Div G-3 Report No. 376 - 18 Sept.

71/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 42 - 18 Sept.

72/. See Annex #11.

73/. 45th Div G-3 Report No. 35 - 19 Sept.

74/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 43 - 19 Sept.

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3. In the 36th Div sector, positions were consolidated while the 36th Div Rcn Troop ranged northeast through PLOMBIERES to XERTIGNY (K-0346) which had been evacuated by the enemy. To their left, the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn pushed north through BAINS LES BAINS and then branched Northwest and Northeast to reach J-8644 near GRUEY and LA CHAPELLE (J-9746) respectively, with only delaying enemy rear guards being encountered as they continued towards DARNEY (Z-7444) and LERRAIN (Z-8250) 75/.

SECTION XIX

1. Going rapidly north and east on 19 September, the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn headed for EPINAL (V-0515). In the afternoon, their advance was slowed considerably by enemy opposition to the South and West of the town. Strongly armed road blocks at ST. LAURENT (V-0448) and CHANTRAINE (V-0354) guarded the entrances to EPINAL where, according to F.F.I. and civilian reports, the enemy was situated in some strength, but was moving to the east side of the MOSELLE River, having blown all crossings except one. One unit, reconnoitering northwest through DARNEY, reached VITTEL (Z-6757) where they contacted engineer elements of the THIRD U. S. ARMY 76/.

2. Relief of the 45th Div was completed during 19 September and the sector passed to the control of the 1st DMI at 192400B. The 45th Div moved its command post to ST. LOUP (J-9428) and prepared to advance on EPINAL in conjunction with the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn. The 179th Inf, on the move, had made contact with rear elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn before the end of the period. The 157th and 180th Inf prepared to move north from their assembly area in the vicinity of ROUGEMONT 77/.

3. In the 3d Div sector, the 1st Armd Div (Fr) relieved the 7th Inf on the division right flank as well as elements of the 15th Inf. These 3d Div troops regrouped and made preparations to attack northeast early 20 September with the mission of securing bridgeheads across the MOSELLE River. Similarly, in the 36th Div zone, the 142d Inf entrucked and started for REMIREMONT which recon patrols reported strongly held by the enemy. At the end of the day, 142d Inf elements had reached the outskirts of the town after striking many strongly held road blocks which were finally reduced by tank and tank destroyer fire supporting the advance. The 141st and 143d Inf prepared to follow, pass through, and establish crossings over the MOSELLE River north of the 3d Div sector 78/.

4. During the period, the VI Corps Command Post was moved to the town of LUXEUIL, closing at 1200 hours 79/. A field message was issued at the same time directing Corps troops to execute Field Order No. 3 commencing 200630A September 1944.

SECTION XX

1. Throughout 20 Sept VI Corps units continued to advance northeast towards the MOSELLE River against heavy opposition in some sectors. On the

75/. 117th Cav Rcn Sqn S-3 Report No. 34 - 19 Sept.

76/. 117th Cav Rcn Sqn S-3 Report No. 35 - 20 Sept.

77/. 45th Div G-3 Report No. 36 - 20 Sept; WRJ, 19 Sept, Entry #40.

78/. WRJ, 19 Sept, Entries #24, 31 and 39.

79/. WRJ, 19 Sept, Entry #3.

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Corps left flank in the 36th Div sector, the 141st RCT attacked north from the PLOMBIERES area at 0630A and advanced rapidly along Road 26. No contact was made with the enemy and the entire regiment assembled slightly east and northeast of RAON AUX BOIS (V-0939) by 1400A. By the close of the period, patrols had located a suitable crossing of the MOSELLE River in the vicinity of ELOYES (V-1545) and plans were made for the 141st RCT to cross the river at this point as soon as possible. On the division right flank, the 142d Inf had been given the mission of reducing and capturing REMIREMONT. The 3d Bn, approaching the town from the West, was held up in the early morning by a strong enemy road block at K-1343 but after reducing the road block, continued the advance to the fort on the western outskirts of the city where our troops were heavily engaged by artillery fire. At 0630A, the 142d RCT (-3d Bn) attacked towards REMIREMONT from the FOUGEROLLES area with the 2d Bn astride Roads 12 and 23, and the 1st Bn working along a parallel road net to the East. The advance progressed slowly against stiffening opposition, LE GIRMONT (K-2437) being captured before the close of the period, and positions organized in the vicinity K-1641 preparatory to resumption of the attack north in the morning. During the period, the 143d RCT, following behind the 141st RCT, moved from the LUXEUIL area to FORET DE HUMONT (K-1141) and then commenced movement to the RAON AUX BOIS area, with the mission of exploiting any crossings made by the 141st RCT over the Moselle River. At this time, a directive was issued to the CG 36th Inf Div changing the direction of advance towards ST. DIE 80/.

2. On the Corps right flank, two regiments of the 3d Div launched an attack at 0630A, 20 September, driving northeast towards the Moselle River. Due to fierce enemy resistance and the heavily wooded countryside, gains were slow but steady. On the division left the 7th Inf attacked northeast from assembly areas at K-130285 and K-142262, making slow progress against artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, and by the close of the period, had advanced to points generally along the line K-165325 - K-165275, in close contact with the enemy. On the right, the 30th Inf attacked northeast in the early morning from positions at K-145220 and K-170190. The advance pressed onward in the face of heavy opposition, especially in the sector west of MELAY (K-2020) where the 3d Bn encountered heavy artillery fire and minefields. At the close of the period, the 2d Bn was west of ESMOULIERES (K-2025), 1st Bn was approaching LA MER (K-1923) and the 3d Bn just west of MELAY engaged in heavy fighting. The 15th Inf remained in division reserve, with the 2d Bn and 3d Bn assembled southwest of LURE. The 1st Bn continued to hold positions along the line ST. GERMAIN - FROIDETERRE, until being relieved by elements of the 1st Armd Div (Fr) in the afternoon, whereupon the regiment completed movement to assembly areas at LA VOIVRE (K-145225), MAGNIVRAY (K-1017) and RIGNOVILLE (K-1115) 81/.

3. Upon being completely relieved by elements of the 1st DMI (Fr) the preceding evening, the 45th Div began movement to its new sector south of EPINAL. The 1st and 2d Bns 179th Inf, supported by tanks, tank destroyers and artillery, moved by motor to vicinity of K-025432 on the morning of 20 September, making contact with elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqdn with whom efforts were to be coordinated in locating and securing a suitable crossing over the MOSELLE River in the vicinity of EPINAL. The 179th Inf then continued to advance northeast, encountering only light small arms fire while enroute, and at the close of the period had reached V-052481 along Road 12, occupying all the high ground in the area. Elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sq, approaching EPINAL from the southwest encountered numerous road blocks and mines, but opposition on the whole was not too strong. The 3d Bn 179th Inf

80/. WRJ, 20 Sept, Entries #10, 33, 35, 40, 43, 47, 51, 57, 61, 68.

81/. WRJ, 20 Sept, Entries #15, 23, 29, 32, 37, 49, 63, 65 and 72.

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remained at J-9113. During the period the 157th Inf completed movement to assembly areas approximately three miles north of BAINS LES BAINS (J-9342) and the 2d Bn 180th Inf moved to a new area south of ST. LOUP (J-9528) with the balance of the regiment remaining south of VILLERSEXEL (K-1893) preparing to move the next day 82/.

4. A VI Corps Field Message was issued on the evening of 20 September, as follows: 3d Division to secure crossings over MOSELLE River, advance without delay and seize GERARDMER; maintain liaison with French on the right and protect Corps right flank; reconnoiter to the East and be prepared to move north or northwest on Corps order. 36th Div to secure crossings over MOSELLE River; advance without delay and seize ST. DIE, being prepared to continue the advance northwest on Corps order; and reconnoiter to the East and Southeast. 45th Div to seize EPINAL; secure crossings in the vicinity; advance to the Northeast without delay and seize RAMBERVILLERS and BACCARAT; protect Corps left flank; and maintain contact with XV Corps on the left at contact points designated in the field message. 117th Cav Rcn Sqn to assemble in vicinity of FAUCOGNEY, gain and maintain contact with the enemy; maintain contact between VI Corps right and II Corps (Fr) left flank; and protect Corps right flank 83/.

SECTION XXI

1. On the Corps left flank, the 45th Div elements continued to register local gains against moderate enemy resistance during 21 September, being concerned chiefly with the crossing of the MOSELLE River. The 157th Inf commenced shuttle movement to the BOCQUEGNEY (Z9458) - DARNIEULLES (Z-9756) area, traveling along the road net RASEY (Z-9342) - LONGEROYE (Z-8952) - DAMAS (Z-9058). The 1st Bn completed movement before noon without opposition and patrolled through FOMEREY (Z-9759), DOMEVRE (Z-9958) and UXEGNEY (Z-9856). A suitable crossing was located over the MOSELLE River at CHATEL (Z-9968) which was in the 2d DB (Fr) sector, and the 1st Bn crossed at this point by motor before the close of the period, with the mission of swinging south and attacking the high ground east of EPINAL the following morning. The remainder of the 157th Inf closed in the BOCQUEGNEY assembly area by 1400h, whereupon the 3d Bn advanced northeast to THAON (V-0363) and engaged in clearing the enemy from the town, planning to cross the River the next day. The 180th Inf completed movement to new assembly areas in the vicinity of NAIMONT (Z-9746) before evening. The 3d Bn then attacked northeast and by the close of the period, had advanced to within two kilometers of EPINAL. On the division right flank, the 179th Inf continued to send out patrols to locate a suitable location for crossing the MOSELLE River. ARCHES - ARCHETTES (Z-1047) was selected as the most suitable locality and recon troops infiltrated across the River at this point with the mission of occupying the hill at V-110488. Elements pushed north to occupy the ridge at V-0350, 0351 and 0352, while recon forces pushing towards EPINAL made no contact with the enemy. Movement to the ARCHES area was completed in the afternoon and preparations made for crossing the MOSELLE River upon order during the night. 84/.

2. 36th Div troops in the Corps central sector encountered fierce and determined enemy resistance, especially in the objective area of REMIREMONT, but succeeded in forcing a bridgehead over the MOSELLE River south of ELOYES where little opposition was encountered. On the left, elements of the 141st Inf advanced on ELOYES, occupying the portion of the town west of the MOSELLE

82/. WRJ, 20 Sept, Entries #34, 52, 67, 70, 74; G-3 Reports Nos. 37 and 38 - 20 and 21 Sept.

83/. Hq VI Corps, Field Message, 201900A Sept 1944 - See Annex #11.

84/. WRJ, 21 Sept, Entries #23, 31, 34, 36; (New CP) Entries #14, 22, 28 and 33; WRJ, 22 Sept, Entry #8; G-3 Reports Nos 38 and 39 - 21 & 22 Sept.

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River, against heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire from the east bank, while the bulk of the regiment waded across the river south of ELOYES at V-165414. By 1100A, the 141st was 1000 yards east of this crossing, meeting only scattered resistance, and had established a road block at V-175417, the 3d Bn from positions at V-170405, was preparing to launch an attack south towards REMIREMONT to assist the 142d RCT. The 143d RCT completed movement to the RAON AUX BOIX area by morning, and then proceeded east to cross the MOSELLE River at the 141st Inf crossing and by 1400A the foot troops of all three Bns were east of the MOSELLE. Two Bns of the 143d Inf then pushed north to occupy Hill 605 (V-1743) southeast of ELOYES, and Hill 783 (V-1844) east of ELOYES, and by the close of the period, were advancing on the town itself. On the right, 142d Inf elements closing in on REMIREMONT met fierce enemy resistance throughout the day and made only local gains in most sectors, the 3d Bn capturing the fortress west of REMIREMONT at K-1743 and pressing on against stiff resistance to reach the edge of town by evening where bitter street fighting took place. Gains by the other two battalions, attacking from the South, were negligible. 85/.

3. On the Corps right flank, 3d Div elements engaged in active patrolling throughout the previous night and maintained contact with the enemy. Fierce enemy resistance and repeated counterattacks were encountered throughout the day and our positions remained unchanged except in the 7th Inf sector where slight gains were made. On the left, the 3d Bn 7th Inf advanced slowly northeast to reach K-190348 and then turned southeast towards Fort de Rupt (K-7334) while the rest of the regiment advanced east to reach positions just west and north of LA LONGINE (K-1829). On the right, the 30th Inf successfully repelled 9 enemy counterattacks of platoon to company strength on the high ground west of ESMOULIERES, while maintaining positions west of LA MER and MELAY to the South. Heavy fighting took place in this sector, with enemy forces bitterly contesting our local advances. The 15th Inf remained assembled in division reserve in the area LA VOIVIE - MAGNIVRAY - RADDON 86/.

4. The 117th Cav Ren Sqn completed movement to vicinity of FAUCOGNEY by evening of 21 September, and prepared to execute its new mission of relieving elements of the 3d Div, protecting the 3d Div right flank and maintaining contact with the II Corps (Fr) 87/.

5. At 1300A, 2 enemy aircraft (ME-109's) made an unsuccessful attack on one of our cub air OP planes south of EPINAL, otherwise there was no enemy aerial activity along the VI Corps front. The XII TAC continued to support our advance with armed reconnaissance missions on road and rail movements in enemy rear areas 88/.

6. At 211400A September the VI Corps Command Post closed northwest of LUXEUIL (K-0321) and opened north of PLOMBIERES (K-091441).

SECTION XXII

1. Throughout 22 September VI Corps troops continued to advance slowly against heavy and determined enemy resistance. Bitter fighting took place on all sectors, especially in the heavily wooded areas where enemy troops stubbornly defended every strongpoint. On the left flank, in the 45th Div sector, the

86/. WRJ, 21 Sept, Entries #4, 13, 24, 35A, 35B; (New CP) Entries # 13, 26, 27, and 40; WRJ, 22 Sept, Entries #8 and 9; G-3 Reports Nos 38 and 39 - 21 and 22 Sept.

86/. WRJ, 21 Sept, Entries #7, 32 and 33; (New CP) Entries #16, 25 and 38; WRJ, 22 Sept, Entry #18; G-2 Report No. 38 - 22 Sept.

87/. G-3 Reports Nos 38 and 39 - 21 & 22 Sept; WRJ, 22 Sept, Entry #8.

88/. G-2 Report No. 38 - 22 Sept; G-3 Report No. 39 - 22 Sept.

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1st Bn 157th Inf, followed by the 2d Bn, swung south to occupy VAXONCOURT (V-0367) after crossing the Moselle River at CHATEL. At 0700A, these elements attacked south towards EPINAL and immediately encountered enemy opposition, the advance moving slowly through heavily wooded areas, as resistance grew stiffer and at the close of the period, had reached V-030653. The 3d Bn completed clearing all enemy elements from THAON on the west side of the canal, then moved north to IGNEY (V-0165) where troops crossed the MOSELLE River in the afternoon and had established positions in the general area V-020650 by nightfall. To the south, 180th Inf elements resumed their attack on EPINAL from the west and southwest. Elements moving east from LES FORGES (Z-9954), encountered heavy enemy resistance consisting of small arms, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire on the western outskirts of EPINAL, while the advance from the Southwest on Road 11, was halted by strong enemy road blocks, snipers and small arms fire, at V-033533. In the evening traffic was observed moving to the portion of EPINAL east of the river and the remaining bridge was blown. On the division right flank, the 179th Inf, led by the 2d Bn, began crossing the MOSELLE River approximately 1/2 mile northwest of ARCHES in the early morning against heavy machine gun and mortar fire. By noon the crossing was completed, whereupon the rest of the regiment followed across and by the close of the period had occupied Hill 504 (V-0949), ARCHETTES and occupied Hill 412 (V-1148) 89/.

2. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div troops continued their attacks on REMIREMONT and maneuvered to envelop the town from three sides. On the left, the 143d Inf advanced north from the area V-168412 against stiff resistance to reach the southern approaches to ELOYES, and by 2200A had occupied the town against moderate resistance, and were engaged in mopping up scattered snipers. Directly to the south, the 141st Inf (-2d Bn) launched an attack south towards REMIREMONT early in the morning, with the objective of assisting the 142d RCT in trapping and liquidating German forces in the vicinity. The advance progressed against moderate opposition, the 141st occupying Hill 807 (K-1946), mopping up snipers and proceeding south to cut the REMIREMONT - ST. AME road where a road block was established at K-200438 before nightfall. The 2d Bn remained in the western portion of ELOYES during the period, having been attached to the 143d Inf as of 0800A. With 142d Inf already street fighting in Western REMIREMONT, the 1st Bn attacked from positions three miles south of the town, and seized their initial objective at K-175425, despite bitter enemy resistance. By the close of the period, the 3d Bn had occupied approximately 2/3 of the town, while the 1st Bn had reached the southern outskirts and established a road block at K-187428. Engineers completed construction of an infantry support bridge, 3-ton capacity, at V-161414 by 0800A, while preparations were under way to install a bridge at ELOYES which could accommodate heavy equipment such as tanks 90/.

3. On the Corps right flank, 3d Division troops made slow gains against continued heavy enemy resistance which lessened considerably towards the end of the period. On the left, 7th Inf elements attacked southeast in the morning towards an old fort on high ground in the vicinity of K-215335 and promptly met determined resistance from well dug in enemy positions in heavily wooded areas, small arms fighting continuing throughout the day. Directly to the South, other elements met similar resistance in attempts to clear the area between K-185315 and K-190326, and were halted there at the end of the period. The 2d Bn on the right remained in position in contact with the enemy just west of LA LONGINE waiting for the 30th Inf to come up on the right. After relief in positions west of LA MER and MELAY by the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn early in the morning, the 30th Inf (-2d Bn) attacked north at 1200A from positions

89/. WRJ, 22 Sept, Entries #17, 32, 43, 51, 70, 83 and 86; G-3 Spot Report as of 230100A Sept.

90/. WRJ, 22 Sept, Entries #11, 27, 36, 44, 49, 53, 64, 71 and 90; G-3 Spot Report as of 230100A Sept; G-2 Report No. 39 - 23 Sept.

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along the secondary road running east from FAUCOGNEY in the vicinity of K-165253 following a 30-minute artillery preparation by four battalions of field artillery. Elements on the left advanced without resistance, but stiff resistance developed on the right of this line and our troops engaged the enemy at close range with hand grenades, small arms and machine gun fire. By the close of the period both Bns were receiving small arms, mortar and scattered artillery fire, as they reached the line K-187281 to K-188273. The 2d Bn 30th Inf remained in reserve west of ESMOULIERES, protecting the right flank of the attack and maintaining road blocks at K-190256 and K-190245, while the 15th Inf remained in division reserve during the entire period, with locations unchanged 91/.

4. On the right of the VI Corps front, elements of II Corps (Fr) captured the towns of MELISEY and ST. BARTHELEMY against stiff resistance 92/.

5. At 1615A, two ME-109's strafed troops along the road northeast of BAINS LES BAINS. The planes approached from the Southeast, flying extremely low, and were engaged by the 106th AAA AW Bn with unknown results. No damages or casualties were sustained 93/.

SECTION XXIII

1. Under the constant pressure and persistent attacks of VI Corps troops, enemy resistance lessened somewhat on 23 September and gains were made on all fronts by our forces. In the 45th Div sector, the 157th Inf, with two battalions abreast, renewed the attack south towards EPINAL on the east side of the MOSELLE River. Dense woods occupied by the enemy slowed the advance considerably and small arms fire fights were in progress throughout the morning, leading elements reaching V-036640 by the close of the period. The 2d Bn which had remained in regimental reserve at V-017666 during the morning, attacked to the east along Road 10 in the early afternoon with the mission of capturing DOMEVRE, forward elements reaching V-052660 by the close of the period. Further south, the 180th Inf attacked EPINAL from the West and Southwest after night patrols reported little activity west of the MOSELLE but considerable small arms resistance on the far bank. Elements battling their way into the northern part of the city crossed the river at V-039545 against small arms and mortar fire in mid-afternoon, and by evening after clearing the portion of EPINAL west of the Moselle River had advanced northeast on the road to JEUXEY (V-0757) and reached V-052559. Other elements entered EPINAL from the southwest against moderate resistance, crossing the river at K-044527 before 2000A and advancing to K-060519. On the division right flank, the 179th Inf (-1st Bn) attacked northeast at daylight the objective being MOSSOUX (V-1250), and captured the town by nightfall despite severe resistance in the form of small arms and mortar fire. The 1st Bn remained in reserve in the vicinity of ARCHETTES during the morning and moved to a new assembly area at V-106492 in the afternoon 94/.

2. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div elements continued to make steady progress. On the left, the 143d RCT attacked northeast from the ELOYES area with two battalions, their supporting armor having crossed the river during the hours of darkness. Attacking towards DOCELLES elements

91/. WRJ, 22 Sept, Entries #10, 16, 22, 24, 42, 47, 50, 63, 67 and 84; G-3 Spot Report as of 230100A Sept.

92/. WRJ, 22 Sept, Entries #30 and 38.

93/. WRJ, 23 Sept, Entry #18.

94/. WRJ, 23 Sept, Entries #7, 12, 38, 40, 41, 61 and 70; G-3 Reports Nos. 40 and 41 - 23 & 24 Sept.

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Captured JARMENIL and continued on to V-153483 where they were stopped by anti-tank and small arms fire. Elements on the right heading for the high ground in the vicinity of V-2050, reached V-186490 before being halted by small arms, mortar and artillery fire at nightfall. The 141st RCT (-2d Bn) continued to advance south and west to bottle up the remaining enemy forces in REMIREMONT. By 1100A they had reached the bridge site at REMIREMONT on the east side of the river and secured the northern end of the town, and to the southwest had cut the ST. AME - REMIREMONT road, set up a road block at K-200438 and pushed west to reach K-190451. Recon elements of the 636th TD Bn proceeded east to ST. AME where contact was made with the enemy. The 2d Bn 141st Inf was relieved of attachment to the 143d Inf at 0600A and moved from the western portion of ELOYES to positions at V-167407 across the MOSELLE River. With the 3d Bn as a spearhead, 142d Inf closed in on REMIREMONT, engaged the enemy in street fighting within the city, and had liquidated all resistance by noon. In the afternoon two battalions of the 142d Inf crossed the MOSELLE River at REMIREMONT and commenced the relief of 141st Inf elements just to the east while the 3d Bn garrisoned REMIREMONT and established road blocks at K-190425 and K-180395 to protect the right flank until 3d Div troops could be contacted. Although the bridge sites at ELOYES and POUXEUX were not practicable for the installation of a Bailey Bridge, two bridges, one for light vehicles up to three tons and another for tanks and heavy equipment had been constructed in the vicinity of V-163418 at REMIREMONT 95/.

3. On the Corps right flank, enemy resistance was broken at dusk the previous evening in the 3d Div sector, and during the night the enemy evacuated his positions and withdrew. Patrols reported no contact during the night, and during 23 September 3d Div troops advanced steadily towards the MOSELLE River against scattered resistance. On the left, the 7th Inf attacked northeast with three battalions abreast, at 0630A, driving all enemy forces out of FORT DE RUPT (K-2133) during the morning. Elements to the North reached the high ground overlooking the MOSELLE River at K-214342 before nightfall and sent patrols east to the river, while on the right, LA LONGINE (K-1729) was cleared and Hill 719 (K-215318) occupied before darkness. The 3d Bn 15th Inf commenced movement from assembly areas at RADDON (K-0925) to vicinity of K-213331, attached upon arrival to the 7th Inf, with the mission of protecting their right flank, during the regiment's crossing of the MOSELLE. The remainder of the 15th Inf remained at RADDON in division reserve. In the division central sector, two battalions of the 30th Inf resumed the attack northeast at daylight along high ground to the right of Road 6. The advance progressed steadily against light resistance, the Bns keeping nearly abreast, and by the close of the period had reached the general vicinity of K-202302 - K-210297. To the South, the remaining battalion attacked northeast from positions west of ESMOULIERES to close the gap between them and main force and had cleared through ESMOULIERES and EVOUHEY (K-1928), by nightfall and at the close of the period was enroute to the vicinity of K-209293 96/.

4. The 117th Cav Ron Sqn continued to protect the 3d Div right flank on a line from vicinity K-203275 to vicinity of MELAY. Contact was maintained with French elements on the right and patrols outposted the line FAUCOGNEY to MELAY. Elements of Troop B, which had moved into ESMOULIERES, were driven out by superior enemy forces late in the afternoon, whereupon a road block was established just to the west of town. Combat Command 1, 1st Armd Div (Fr) prepared to follow the 3d Div route of advance in preparation for attacking thru the right flank of 3d Div 97/.

95/. WRJ, 23 Sept, Entries #36, 37, 50, 53, and 73; WRJ, 24 Sept, Entry #4; G-3 Spot Report as of 240200A Sept; 36th Div G-3 Report No. 382 - 24 Sept.

96/. WRJ, 23 Sept, Entries #9, 22, 30, 32, 52, 71; G-3 Report No. 41 - 24 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Report No. 48 - 24 Sept.

97/. WRJ, 23 Sept Entries #45 and 48; 3d Div G-3 Report No. 48 - 24 Sept.

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5. During the period, the 120th Engr C Bn completed construction of a Class 40 trestle-treadway bridge at ARC ES (V-100470) by 0830A, and the bridge at REMIREMONT being constructed by the 36th Engr C Regt was expected to be completed by 240200A Sept 98/.

SECTION XXIV

1. VI Corps troops continued to advance steadily against stiff enemy resistance throughout 24 September. On the Corps left flank, considerable enemy activity was observed throughout the period on the COLBEY (V-035560) - BOGNEVILLE (V-035560) road and engaged by 45th Div Artillery. The 2d Bn 157th Inf continued east against stiff opposition to reach DOMEVRE by noon, but was kept from advancing farther by tenacious enemy action. The main body continued south, receiving considerable small arms and 20mm fire from GIRMONT and Hill 375 (V-054634) to the East. An intensive artillery barrage caused the enemy to evacuate GIRMONT, allowing the 157th to clear the town and take 150 prisoners, before continuing east towards Hill 375 (V-0563) and to the South. In the division central sector against moderate resistance, 180th Inf cleared the enemy from the eastern portion of EPINAL by noon except for isolated pockets. The advance continued east of the MOSELLE River elements reaching the high ground at V-0652 where stiff fighting took place with the enemy throughout the period, while to the Northeast another group reached the outskirts of JEUXEY before nightfall after overcoming determined enemy opposition. Completion of a Bailey Bridge in EPINAL during the period facilitated the passage of armor and artillery to the east bank of the MOSELLE River. On the right flank, the 179th Inf attacked northeast at daylight and advanced against moderate resistance to occupy LA BAFFE and Hill 474 (V-130525) by late afternoon, while maintaining road blocks in the vicinity of MOSSOUX. By the close of the period, forward elements were 500 yards northwest of CHARMOIS (V-1553) 99/.

2. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div Troops continued to register gains all along their front. On the left, the 143d Inf continued the attack on DOCELLES and by the close of the period, the town, although still in enemy hands, was almost completely surrounded. Elements held the high ground to the North and were within 500 yards of DOCELLES to the South, while on the east flank 143d units had pushed to the high ground south of FAUCOLPIERRE (V-2149) without contacting the enemy. After passing through the 141st Inf east of REMIREMONT, the 142d (-3d Bn) attacked north and northeast with the objective of seizing TENDON and high ground in the vicinity of V-2348. During the afternoon, increasing enemy resistance was encountered, and the advance hindered by densely wooded areas and continual rain. However, by nightfall elements had reached high ground overlooking TENDON and had cut the TENDON - LE THOLY road at V-233450, where road blocks and defensive positions were organized for the night. On the division right flank the 141st RCT (-3d Bn) attacked northeast at 1230A towards ST. ALE, and by evening had reached K-223445 on the right against small arms, mortar and 20mm fire from ST. ALE. Elements on the left progressed rapidly to capture PUTIERES (K-2347) but encountered strong enemy positions along the line K-227476 - K-228463 in the evening and remained in the general vicinity for the remainder of the period, receiving enemy self-propelled, mortar and artillery fire. The 3d Bn remained in reserve near ST. ETIENNE (V-1945) during the period, maintaining a road block at K-200438 100/.

98/. WRJ; 23 Sept, Entries #15 and 75.

99/. WRJ, 24 Sept, Entries #14, 22, 34, 38, 43, 63, 73, 78 and 79; G-3 Spot Report as of 242400A Sept.

100/. WRJ, 24 Sept, Entries #11, 15, 41, 47, 62, 72, 80 and 87; G-3 Spot Report as of 242400A Sept; 36th Div G-3 Report No. 383 - 25 Sept.

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3. In the 3d Div sector on the Corps right flank, the 7th Inf captured intact a bridge over the MOSELLE River at K-224338, despite enemy attempts to detonate the prepared high-explosive demolition charges. The entire 1st Bn had crossed before noon and after clearing RUPT of scattered enemy snipers had continued the advance northeast to capture Hill 827 at K-245343 before nightfall, being engaged in mopping up scattered groups of enemy forces at the close of the period. Gains were also made to the North as other elements seized a small bridge in the vicinity of K-208360 in the afternoon and crossed in the face of intense small arms and machine gun fire, to secure MAXONCHAMP (208365) by evening and organize defensive positions in the vicinity for the night. On the division right flank, the 30th Inf (-2d Bn) resumed the attack east during 24 September, making only minor gains against stiff resistance, reaching positions along the line K-229312 - K-229317 and occupying high ground at K-223306 by nightfall. In the afternoon, the 2d Bn moved northeast to the vicinity of K-209294 where defensive positions and road blocks were set up in the general area with the 2d Bn of the 15th Inf to protect the regimental right flank at K-200275, K-203259 and K-199235. The 3d Bn 15th Inf continued to protect the 7th Inf right flank by maintaining road blocks, holding high ground at K-2132 and protecting the bridge at K-224338.101/.

4. The 117th Cav Recon Sqdn continued to protect the VI Corps right flank, maintaining contact with 3d Div on the left and II Corps (Fr) on the right. Enemy forces withdrew from ESMOULIERES, and recon elements patrolled to the north and northeast in this sector 102/.

5. During the period, enemy aerial activity increased somewhat with two ME-109's strafing troops along the road south of the MOSELLE River in the 45th Div sector, and the bridges at ARCHETTES and REMIREMONT. Battery D 72d AAA Gun Bn engaged the enemy planes and destroyed one. One of our artillery cub planes was shot down by enemy AA 103/.

SECTION XXV

1. Throughout 25 September, VI Corps troops continued to advance steadily into the Vosges foothills despite cold, rainy weather, heavily wooded terrain and stiff enemy opposition. In the 45th Div sector, 157th Inf on the left continued to make substantial gains on its north flank. DOMEVRE was cleared of all enemy resistance by evening and Hill 375 at V-0563 captured and mopped up by mid-afternoon when the advance continued south to reach the line V-0663 - V-0761 just west of DIGNONVILLE by nightfall. Other elements resumed their advance south to capture DOGNEVILLE by 1200A, contacting 180th Inf patrols at JEUXEY, and then attacked northeast in the afternoon against light resistance to reach positions at V-098620, V-089622 and V-087608. In the division central sector, the 180th Inf resumed the attack northeast in the early morning, and advanced steadily against moderate opposition, the left column clearing JEUXEY without opposition, after eliminating heavy enemy resistance, and reaching LONGCHAMP while the right column secured DEYVILLERS after overcoming stiff resistance including heavy enemy artillery fire. On the division right flank, 179th Inf attacked north on Route 59-Bis in the early morning, encountering light resistance to reach V-138562 by the close of the period, and northeast to capture CHARMOIS before noon against light opposition, remaining in that vicinity the remainder of the period, holding road blocks and patrolling

101/. WRJ, 24 Sept, Entries #13, 26, 27, 28, 37, 40, 66, 83, 84 and 85; G-3 Spot Report as of 242400A Sept; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos. 48 and 49 - 24 and 25 Sept.

102/. WRJ, 24 Sept, Entry #23; G-3 Report No. 41 - 24 Sept.

103/. WRJ, 24 Sept, Entries #33, 38 and 41.

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throughout the sector. 104/.

2. On the 36th Div front in the Corps central sector, aided by extremely difficult terrain and thick woods, enemy forces continued to offer bitter resistance at road blocks and strongpoints along our axis of advance. Agents reported the movement of considerable enemy infantry and artillery west from GERARDMER (V-3642) on Route 417 during the afternoon, indicating the possible arrival of enemy reinforcements in the 36th Div sector. On the left, the 143d Inf continued to exert pressure on DOCELLES from all sides, with elements battering their way into the town by 1900A, but suspending the attack at that time due to darkness. Other elements continued to hold high ground north of DOCELLES, repulsing persistent enemy attempts to infiltrate, and maintained positions to the East on high ground south of FAUCOMPIERRE. To the Southeast, the 142d Inf advanced slowly towards TENDON against heavy resistance to reach the outskirts of the town by the close of the period; cut the TENDON - LE THOLY road at V-239448, held positions and established four road blocks in the vicinity, despite attacks in the afternoon by strong enemy forces; and secured the ground and road net in the vicinity V-185425 to the South. Towards the close of the period, orders were issued to disengage and move back to high ground at V-195466 - V-200445 in accordance with a regimental consolidation plan. On the division right flank, 141st Inf elements entered ST. AME against stiff resistance shortly after midnight under cover of an artillery preparation by the 131st and 141st FA Bns. Fierce fighting continued until noon before all enemy forces were cleared from the town, while other elements captured the road junction at V-238452 by 0930A after overcoming heavy resistance and blocked approaches to the North, East and South. 105/.

3. On the Corps right flank in the 3d Div sector, the 7th Inf made substantial gains east of the MOSELLE, advancing north from MAXONCHAMP (K-205365) at daylight, to capture VECOLX (K-2140) before noon and occupy Hill 722 (K-2241) and to reach DOMMARTIN (K-2142) by nightfall against light opposition. Other elements to the South cleared enemy resistance in the RUPT area, occupied Hill 867 (K-2423) and continued southeast towards LA ROCHE (K-235328), against heavy enemy opposition consisting of small arms, mortar and artillery fire which inflicted numerous casualties, to reach K-2433. On the right, the 30th Inf resumed the attack east at 0630A to reach positions in the vicinity of K-249315 and K-260295 after engaging the enemy in heavy fighting and attacked northeast in the late afternoon to reach positions southwest of LE CHIENE (K-2432) before nightfall. The 3d Bn 15th Inf, attached to 7th Inf, continued to protect the bridge crossing at RUPT, while the remainder of the regiment protected the division right flank from positions in the general vicinity of K-1825. 106/.

4. Rainy weather and poor visibility hampered our air corps operations, and no enemy aerial activity was reported throughout 25 September 107/.

SECTION XXVI

1. On the Corps left flank during 26 September, 45th Div troops made substantial advances on the extreme north flank against little opposition,

104/. G-3 Spot Reports as of 0800A, 1200A - 25 Sept; G-3 Spot Report as of 0200A - 26 Sept; 45th Div G-3 Rpts Nos. 41 & 42 - 25 & 26 Sept.

105/. WRJ, 25 Sept, Entry #79; 36th Div G-3 Rpts Nos. 383 & 384 - 25 & 26 Sept; G-3 Spot Rpts as of 0800A, 1800A - 25 Sept; 0200A - 26 Sept; G-2 Report No. 42 - 26 Sept.

106/. VIC G-3 Reports Nos. 42 and 43 - 25 and 26 Sept; WRJ, 25 Sept, Entry #69; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos 49 and 50 - 25 & 26 Sept; G-3 Spot Reports as of 0800A, 1200A and 1800A - 25 Sept; 0200A - 26 Sept.

107/. G-3 Report No. 42 - 25 Sept.

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enemy defenses consisting mainly of mined road blocks, many of which were not defended. The 157th Inf continued northeast towards SERCOMUR (V-105625) with two battalions, sending elements north from DIGNONVILLE which captured VILLONCOURT (V-090633) by mid-morning and turned east to assist in the reduction of SERCOEUR, which was cleared of the enemy by 1400A. The advance continued rapidly northeast to PADOUX (V-133654) which was occupied before nightfall despite stubborn resistance, while recon elements turning west from VILLONCOURT found BAYECOURT (V-073638) unoccupied but the road heavily mined. In the division central sector the 180th Inf continued the attack northeast at 0600A, being engaged by strong enemy forces on the western edge of VAUDEVILLE (V-113594). The town was cleared of the enemy by evening, and troops pressed on towards DOMPIERRE (V-1362) reaching V-120610 before being stopped by heavy artillery fire. Other elements mopped up the wooded areas south of DEYVILLERS (V-0956) during the morning and then proceeded northeast towards AYDOILLES (V-135575), reducing an enemy road block in the vicinity of V-116570 with tank support and placing a road block just beyond that point by nightfall. The 179th Inf resumed the attack north towards AYDOILLES at dawn against light resistance but a strong enemy road block delayed the advance, and positions were organized just south of AYDOILLES at nightfall. Other elements held positions in the vicinity of CHARMOIS, maintaining road blocks and protecting the division right flank during the period 108/.

2. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div troops were occupied mainly with regrouping and consolidating of positions during 26 September. However, gains were made on the left by the 143d Inf which attacked DOCELLES and had completely cleared and secured the town from all directions by noon. Patrols ranged north to LE ROULIER where enemy forces were contacted, while other elements headed east to XAMONTARUPT (V-193487) clearing the town and establishing positions east thereof on the hill at V-201484. Further south, 142d Inf elements withdrew under cover of darkness from previous positions in the TENDON area in accordance with a regimental consolidation plan to prevent enemy infiltration on the exposed right flank and established defensive positions in the vicinity of high ground at V-200445 and V-195466. The 3d Bn in defensive positions at V-185425 was relieved without incident shortly before midnight of 26-27 September by the 3d Bn 141st Inf. On the right, the remainder of the 141st RCT was relieved by elements of the 3d Div in the ST. AME area during the period and reverted to division reserve 109/.

3. On the Corps right flank, resistance lessened during the night in the 3d Div sector, and our troops advanced against light opposition except in the vicinity of FERDRUPT and northeast of DOMMARTIN where determined resistance was encountered. On the left, the 7th Inf occupied high ground below DOMMARTIN in the vicinity of K-3142 and continued northeast against heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire to reach K-245442 by 1600A. Other elements cleared scattered resistance in the RUPT area, seized Hill 867 to the East and attacked northeast towards THIEFOSSÉ (K-2839) against stubborn pockets of resistance, making substantial gains to reach K-267385. On the right the 30th Inf continued attacking east with two battalions in the direction of LE THILLOT and by noon had reached their objectives at K-2729 and K-270305 where positions were organized in anticipation of being relieved by elements of II Corps (Fr). Relief was accomplished by Combat Command 1, 1st Armd Div (Fr) on the afternoon and evening, and the 30th Inf moved to assembly areas near CORRAVILLERS (K-210305) before nightfall. The entire 15th Inf completed movement to the REMIREMONT area by noon and during the evening under cover of darkness relieved 141st Inf elements in position, and made preparations for two battalions to attack northeast from the ST. AME area the following

108/. WRJ, 26 Sept, Entry #81, G-3 Reports Nos. 43 & 44 - 26 & 27 Sept; G-2 Report No. 43 - 27 Sept; 45th Div G-3 Reports Nos 42 and 43 - 26 & 27 Sept.

109/. G-3 Reports Nos 43 and 44 - 26 & 27 Sept; 36th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 384 and 385 - 26 & 27 Sept.

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morning 110/.

4. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn continued to screen the Corps right flank and maintained contact with 3d Div and 1 DB (Fr). Aerial operations were nil on both sides due to cloudy weather and poor visibility during 26 September.

5. Effective this date, the following units were attached to VI Corps: 933d FA Bn and Hq & Hq Co 1st Armored Group, while Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Group was attached to VI Corps and 35th AAA Brigade as of 27 September 111/.

SECTION XXVII

1. Despite adverse weather conditions and poor visibility, VI Corps troops continued to advance throughout 27 September, with significant gains being made on the left flank against light opposition. In the 45th Division sector, after 157th Inf patrols from PADOUX (V-098675) to BADMENIL and Hill 353 (V-153647) found these localities unoccupied by the enemy, one column advanced northeast to occupy BULT (V-160667) by evening without opposition, while another column on the left resumed the advance northeast along Road 46 and by evening had occupied VOMEYCOURT (V-166683) against light resistance, established road blocks for the night and pushed patrols northeast endeavoring to contact the enemy. In the division central sector, the 180th Inf occupied DOMPIERRE at 0300A after combat patrols found the town clear of the enemy, and then attacked east at 0600A to capture GIRECOURT (V-155615) by mid-morning. One column then headed northeast to reach DESTORD (V-174644) which was secured by evening despite an enemy counterattack on the southern outskirts of town, while another column continued east from GIRECOURT to occupy GUGNECOURT (V-170613) in the evening against considerable opposition and capture 64 prisoners. The enemy counterattacked our positions in GUGNECOURT from three sides under cover of darkness and succeeded in forcing our troops to withdraw to the West where they reorganized for the night. On the right, the 179th Inf captured AYDOILLES after overcoming numerous obstacles and minefields and attacked towards MEMENIL (V-163585) during the afternoon, capturing FONTENAY (V-148580) and reaching the outskirts of MEMENIL where heavy resistance was encountered at the close of the period 112/.

2. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div troops progressed steadily against moderate enemy resistance. On the left, 143d Inf elements occupied positions north of DOCELLES on Hill 500 (V-1651) and established a road block at V-168508, with a patrol finding LE ROULLIER clear of the enemy. High ground north of the DOCELLES - FAUCOMPIERRE road in the vicinity of V-1950 was taken and positions and road blocks organized, while a patrol to LE BOULAY found the town unoccupied but the enemy defending road blocks north of the town. Elements on the right attacked north at 0800A and before noon had seized Hill 644 (V-204501) where positions were consolidated and a road block established at V-212490, contact being maintained with the 142d RCT on the right. The 142d attacked northeast at 0900A from previous defensive positions with the mission of clearing TENDON and the TENDON - LE THOLY road, and made substantial progress against heavy resistance, including artillery fire, entering TENDON in mid-afternoon and clearing the town shortly thereafter. Areas to the north and east were mopped up during the remainder of the period, with outposts reaching the vicinity of V-225483 and V-216453. The 141st RCT (-3d Bn) remained in assembly areas as division reserve during the period, while the 3d Bn held high ground in the vicinity of V-220415 to protect the right flank of the 142d RCT 113/.

110/. G-3 Reports Nos. 43 and 44 - 26 & 27 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos. 50 and 51 - 26 & 27 Sept; G-2 Report No. 43 - 27 Sept.

111/. G-3 Report No. 46 - 29 Sept.

112/. G-3 Reports Nos. 44 and 45 - 27 & 28 Sept; 45th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 43 and 44 - 27 & 28 Sept.

113/. G-3 Reports Nos. 44 and 45 - 27 & 28 Sept; 36th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 385 and 386 - 27 & 28 Sept.

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3. In the 3d Div sector on the Corps right flank, the 15th Inf attacked northeast with two battalions at 0600A from positions at K-205473 and K-215455 and advanced to vicinity of K-2348 and K-2547 against heavy resistance, repulsing an enemy counterattack at K-233481. South of ST. AME, the 7th Inf made slight advances on a broad front. Elements on the left progressed east to reach K-248438 before nightfall and fire artillery on enemy concentrations at VAGNEY, while in the center elements moved east of RUPT to vicinity of K-250340. On the right, the advance continued towards FERDRUPT at 0720A, against heavy small arms and machine gun fire, and positions were set up at K-2734. The 30th Inf completed movement from CORRAVILLERS to a new assembly area east of REMIREMONT by nightfall 114/.

4. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn continued to protect the Corps right flank and maintained contact with II Corps (Fr) on the right.

SECTION XXVIII

1. During 28 September, the enemy offered determined resistance to our advance across the entire Corps front except on the north flank where little contact was established but increasing numbers of mines and booby traps were discovered. The enemy's build up of artillery continued, and strong artillery opposition was encountered during the day.

2. In the 45th Div sector, the 157th Inf attacked northeast from VOME COURT at 0715A to capture ST. GORGON (V-1970) by mid-afternoon and continued on to secure high ground north of the town at V-197706. Combat patrols advanced to the outskirts of RAMBERVILLERS where the enemy was contacted, and to ST. HELENE (V-2066) to join 180th Inf elements in the evening. Other elements remained at VOME COURT and BULT operating road blocks and security patrols, and removing anti-tank mines and demolitions in that area.) To the right, the 180th Inf made substantial gains to the East. Elements attacking northeast from DESTORD at 0730A secured the town of ST. HELENE against light resistance and established road blocks on all approaches from the north and east and sent patrols towards AUTREY after dark to secure the high ground west of the town shortly after midnight. Elements on the right occupied NONZEVILLE (V-180635), PIERREPONT (V-192633) and GUGNECOURT (V-1761) in the early afternoon after overcoming stiff resistance and then advanced east towards GRAND-VILLERS against heavy artillery and mortar fire, reaching positions at V-181612 for the night. On the division right flank, the 179th Inf occupied MEMENIL (V-164585) without opposition, but was halted by strong enemy forces well-entrenched on high ground east of the town in the vicinity of V-165588 and V-165580, while elements to the Southeast made only slow progress through the Foret de Faite, reaching the vicinity of V-175565 by nightfall 115/.

3. In the Corps central sector, 36th Div troops encountered numerous road blocks supplemented by closely knit patrols operating both on our front and flanks. The 143d Inf continued to hold high ground northwest of DOCELLES and consolidated positions on the high ground north of the DOCELLES - FAUCOMPIERRE road, maintaining road blocks at V-180509 and V-194494. On the regimental right flank, elements holding the high ground along Ridge 644 (V-205495) advanced east to capture ST. JEAN DU MARCHE (V-215498) despite stiff resistance. The 142d Inf, in the TENDON area, attacked east with the objective of seizing Hill 827 at V-235463. Stiff resistance was encountered and by late afternoon elements had reached only the lower slopes of Hill 827

114/. G-3 Reports Nos. 44 and 45 - 27 & 28 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos. 51 and 52 - 27 & 28 Sept.

115/. WRJ, 28 Sept, Entry #94; 45th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 44 and 45 - 28 & 29 Sept; G-2 Report No. 45 - 29 Sept.

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from the North and the South, the latter column having cut the TENDON - LE THOLY road at V-240415. The 141st RCT (-3d Bn) moved to an assembly area near XAMONTARUPT and made preparations for attacking northeast through the 142d RCT early the following morning, while the 3d Bn, under division control, continued to hold positions in the vicinity of V-220415, protecting the right flank of the 142d RCT and repelled an enemy counterattack in the morning 116/.

4. In the 3d Division sector, enemy forces, aided by the terrain, continued to offer aggressive and determined resistance to our advances. On the left, the 15th Inf continued its advance north and east of ST. AME against well-defended enemy positions, heavy artillery, mortar and tank fire. By nightfall, elements had advanced to new positions west and southwest of CLEURIE at V-201401, K-229477 and K-235467, had retained the high ground northeast of ST. AME at K-252454 against strong enemy pressure during the period, and had reached the area K-244469 on the right.// On the division right flank, the 7th Inf remained in position west of the VAGNEY (K-265485) - THIEFOSSÉ (K-280395) road, pushing strong recon forces towards both towns and mopping up scattered groups of enemy forces in the vicinity during the day. Other elements continued to attack FERDRUPT and by mid-afternoon had secured the town which was held despite subsequent enemy counterattacks and heavy artillery fire. The 30th Inf remained in assembly areas in the vicinity of REMIREMONT, preparing to attack northeast on the left of 15th Inf the following morning 117/.

5. During 28 September, 425 prisoners were captured by VI Corps troops, the majority being taken by the 45th Div on the northern flank of the Corps front. Aerial operations were nil on both sides due to the continual rainy weather and poor visibility 118/.

SECTION XXIX

1. On the Corps left flank in the 45th Div sector during 29 September, the 157th Inf held the high ground south and southeast of RAMBERVILLERS in the vicinity of V-1872 and maintained a line to the South to VOMECOURT, while patrols ranging forward to maintain contact with the enemy engaged in a fire fight at V-197717 and directed fire on enemy mining the road between RAMBERVILLERS and JEANMENIL. | In the division central sector, the 180th Inf continued the advance eastward. After several fire fights, elements entered AUTREY (V-2267) in the late afternoon and shortly after dark repulsed a strong enemy counterattack by infantry with tank support without loss of ground. Other elements supported by tanks resumed the two-pronged attack on GRANDVILLERS from the vicinity of GUGNECOURT and PIERREFONT, and reached positions just west and north of the town by nightfall despite heavy small arms and mortar fire from enemy strongpoints. | On the division right flank, the 179th Inf (-1st Bn) with strong tank support resumed the attack on VIMENIL and occupied the town by 1730A after heavy fighting throughout the day, while the forces attacking northeast through the Forêt de Faite, retarded by a series of small arms fights throughout the day, reached V-205591 by nightfall. The 1st Bn moved from reserve at AYDOILLES through GUGNECOURT to the GRANDVILLERS area, relieving elements of the 180th Inf after dark 119/.

2. In the 36th Div sector, on the left, the 143d Inf, after relief in

116/. G-3 Reports Nos. 45 and 46 - 28 & 29 Sept; 36th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 386 and 387 - 28 & 29 Sept.

117/. WRJ, 28 Sept, Entry #93; G-3 Reports Nos. 45 and 46 - 28 & 29 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos. 52 and 53 - 28 & 29 Sept; G-2 Report No. 45 - 29 Sept.

118/. G-2 Report No. 45 - 29 Sept.

119/. G-3 Reports Nos. 46 and 47 - 29 & 30 Sept; 45th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 45 and 46 - 29 & 30 Sept.

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positions east of DOCELLES by 141st Inf elements before noon, attacked northeast towards BRUYERES, forward elements nearing DEYCIMONT and LEPANGES against moderate opposition by the close of the period. In the division central sector, just after midnight of 28-29 September the 141st Inf (-3d Bn) attacked through 142d Inf elements with the mission of seizing HOUX (V-227495). However, at 0330A, while crossing the stream just south of HOUX at V-231483, the RCT came under extremely heavy concentrations of enemy artillery fire which disorganized the attack and necessitated withdrawal for reorganization in the vicinity of TENDON. After relieving the 143d Inf in positions along the high ground north of the DOCELLES - FAUCOMPIERRE road during the morning with a view to shifting the weight of attack to the left in zone, the 141st (-3d Bn) again attacked northeast at 1430A, and leading elements were approaching high ground at V-215509 at the close of the period. The 3d Bn 141st Inf was relieved by 3d Div elements in the vicinity of V-2042 in the morning and moved to vicinity of XAMONTARUPT, attached to the 142d Inf. On the right, the 142d RCT resumed the attack on Hill 827 before daylight and secured the top of the hill by mid-morning against stubborn resistance. The remainder of the period was spent in combing the hill slopes and mopping up the scattered enemy detachments which continued to resist with small arms and mortar fire 120/.

3. On the Corps right flank, 3d Div troops continued their attack to the North and Northeast in the face of determined, well-organized enemy resistance. The 30th Inf attacked northeast with two battalions through the 3d Bn 15th Inf at 0700A, but by mid-morning the leading troops were held up by enemy small arms, machine gun and artillery fire at the edge of a clearing in the vicinity of V-205410 and further advances during the period were negligible, positions being established also at V-211405 and V-215408 during the afternoon under harassing mortar and artillery fire. The 1st Bn relieved 141st Inf elements at V-206418 and occupied high ground at V-2142, in regimental reserve. In the division central sector, the 15th Inf, while holding a defensive line, consolidated positions and reorganized in preparation for a continuation of the advance. The 3d Bn, after being passed through by 30th Inf elements at daybreak, attacked east towards an enemy strongpoint south of CLEURIE and made local gains in the sector to hold positions at K-233470 and K-241481 at the close of the period. The bulk of the RCT, holding high ground northeast of ST. AME against strong enemy resistance, repulsed several counterattacks during the hours of darkness and was holding positions at K-245476, K-254455 and K-254472, K-254464 and K-248456 by the close of the period. On the division right flank, the 7th Inf continued to clear the sector west of the VAGNEY - THIEFOSSE road of isolated groups of enemy forces and repulsed a counterattack at 1835A. At 2100A, the Bn was at K-248433 and was engaged in infiltrating off high ground towards VAGNEY. Elements on the right flank at FERDRUPT consolidated positions at K-270340 and K-276325 in preparation for relief by elements of the 1st Armd Div (Fr). 121/.

4. With the return of good weather on 29 September, the XII TAC carried out armed reconnaissance missions in the RHINE Valley between MULHOUSE and STRASBOURG, destroying locomotives and railway rolling stock, while enemy aerial activity was confined to one ME-109 which was observed flying low in the vicinity of VILLONCOURT apparently on a reconnaissance mission and was engaged by our AA with unknown results 122/.

120/. G-3 Reports Nos. 46 and 47 - 29 & 30 Sept; 36th Div G-3 Reports Nos. 387 and 388 - 29 & 30 Sept; WRJ, 29 Sept, Entry #70; G-3 Journal, 30 Sept, Entry #7.

121/. G-3 Reports Nos. 46 and 47 - 29 & 30 Sept; 3d Div G-3 Reports Nos. 53 and 54 - 29 & 30 Sept; WRJ, 29 Sept (New CP), Entry #66.

122/. G-3 Report No. 47 - 30 Sept; G-2 Report No. 46 - 30 Sept.

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5. The 117th Cav Rcn Squadron returned to VI Corps control at 1430A 29 September and completed movement to vicinity of LONGCHAMP (V-0959) in the 45th Div sector 123/.

6. At 291230A September 1944, the VI Corps Command Post closed north of PLOMBIERES (K-091441) and opened at POUKEUX, FRANCE (V-121460).

SECTION XXX

1. During 30 September moderate to stiff resistance continued across the entire VI Corps front and no change was noted in the enemy's attitude which remained defensive, but aggressive. On the Corps left flank in the 45th Div sector, the 157th Inf with the 1st Bn as a spearhead attacked RAMBERVILLERS at 0700A after a 15-minute artillery preparation and encountered strong resistance from within the city. By 1615A, all resistance was cleared though enemy mortar and artillery fire was received during the remainder of the day, as positions were organized to the east and southeast on roads leading out of RAMBERVILLERS. In the division central sector, the 180th Inf consolidated its positions. Elements in the vicinity of AUTREY directed artillery, mortar, tank and tank destroyer fire on enemy troops, vehicles, machine gun positions and strongpoints in the vicinity of HOUSSENAS during the afternoon and patrols encountered machine gun and sniper fire from north of FREMIFONTAINE. Elements at PIERREPONT, attacking east, were halted by a strong enemy force at V-214634, and subsequent attacks with tanks in support against the enemy positions were unsuccessful. On the division right flank, 179th Inf elements attacked GRANDVILLERS at daylight and were engaged in house-to-house fighting with the enemy throughout the day, holding the majority of the town by the close of the period. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn supported forward elements of the 45th Div during the period, operating patrols 124/.

2. In the 36th Div sector, the 143d RCT on the North advanced northeast against moderate opposition, reaching high ground in the vicinity of V-202544 and positions above FAYS (V-205557) on the left, while elements on the right cleared DEYCIMONT (V-1953) by noon without opposition and were approaching IEPANGES (V-2153) from the west and southwest against enemy small arms fire by nightfall. In the division central sector, the 141st RCT (-3d Bn) continued the advance east and northeast, but made slight gains against stiff resistance. The 1st Bn occupied high ground at V-215509 and pushed on to V-215519 by nightfall, while the 2d Bn occupied ST. JEAN DU MARCHE before daylight, and advance elements reached V-223499 before the close of the period. The 2d Bn, attached to 142d Inf, moved out from the XAMONTARUPT area and occupied high ground in the vicinity of V-224484. On the division right flank, the 142d RCT held positions in the vicinity of Hill 827 (V-2346) during the period. At noon, the enemy launched a strong counterattack preceded by a 200 round artillery preparation against Hill 827 but it was repulsed 125/.

3. In the 3d Div sector, bitter resistance opposed our advance over the entire front during the day. On the left, the 30th Inf launched a coordinated two-battalion attack to the northeast at 0700A from positions at V-205420 and V-205406. The attack progressed slowly over rugged and wooded terrain, meeting strong opposition from enemy snipers, mortar and artillery fire. By nightfall,

123/. 3d Div G-3 Report No. 54 - 30 Sept.

124/. G-3 Journal, 30 Sept, Entries #8, 19, 22, 39 and 40; 45th Div G-3 Report No. 46 - 30 Sept; G-2 Report No. 47 - 1 Oct.

125/. WRJ, 30 Sept, Entries #9, 47, 61 and 93; G-2 Report No. 47 - 1 Oct.

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advance elements had reached only V-215426 and V-213412, but were holding fast at the close of the period. In the division central sector, the 15th Inf continued to clear up scattered pockets of resistance, making local gains, and regrouped in preparation for a coordinated attack with the 30th Inf on the morning of 1 October. At the close of the period, all elements were holding fast in positions along the general line K-2448 - K-2646. On the right, the 7th Inf (-2d Bn) advanced slowly to the northeast, advance elements reaching new positions by nightfall at K-252440, K-256378, K-259368 and K-260374 against scattered resistance. The 2d Bn continued to hold positions in the vicinity of FERDRUPT awaiting relief by elements of II Corps (Fr), and repulsed a counterattack during the period 126/.

4. The 117th Cav Rcn Squadron was relieved of attachment to 3d Div, moved to the Corps left flank, and commenced its new mission of extending reconnaissance to the North, Northwest and Northeast of the VI Corps zone of advance.

5. At 1030A, 30 September, two ME-109's strafed the bridge at REMIREMONT and were engaged by our AA with undetermined results 127/.

6. A Field Message was issued to all divisions and the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn at 301200A September, outlining missions and objectives as follows: (a) 45th Inf Div: To complete capture of RAMBERVILLERS, block to the east and northeast thereof with one reinforced regiment, and protect the Corps left flank; seize objective line east of BROUVELIEURES and BRUYERES (as indicated on overlay) and prepare to assemble in the RAMBERVILLERS area on Corps order, (b) 36th Inf Div: To seize objective line as indicated on overlay and clear enemy from the zone; assist 45th Div in attack on BRUYERES, and prepare to take over area and missions of 45th Div on Corps order, (c) 3d Inf Div: To seize objective line and block to the south as indicated on overlay, protect Corps right flank and maintain contact with 1st Armd Div (Fr), (d) 117th Cav Rcn Sqn: To continue reconnaissance to the north and northeast of 45th Div and maintain contact with the 2d DB (Fr) to the left in the XV Corps zone 128/.

7. During the month of September the VI Corps had continued its spectacular advance which had started along the French Riviera on 15 August. Though progress had been slowed to a walk during the last ten days, after forward elements had crossed the MOSELLE River and reached the foothills of the VOSGES Mountains, VI Corps troops had pushed approximately 230 miles north on a broad front during the month and had captured 14,290 Prisoners of War. Opposing the advance at the close of September were elements of the 16th, 189th, 198th, 338th and 716th Infantry Divisions, all components of the 19th German Army.

Edward H. Brooks
EDWARD H. BROOKS

Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

126/. WRJ, 30 Sept, Entries #9, 47, 61 and 93; G-3 Report No. 47 - 30 Sept.

127/. G-2 Report No. 47 - 1 Oct.

128/. Field Message, Hq VI Corps, 301200A Sept 1944 - See Annex #11.

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ANNEX #1 - Combat Troop List

ANNEX #2 - Casualty Report of VI Corps Troops

ANNEX #3 - Roster of Officers

ANNEX #4 - Changes in Officer Personnel

**ANNEX #5 - Report of Strength, Battle Casualties, Decorations
and Awards - September 1944**

ANNEX #6 - Memorandum by Lt. Gen. Truscott to VI Corps Troops

ANNEX #7 - Congratulatory Message from Fifth Army

ANNEX #8 - Map of VI Corps Route of Advance

UNDER SEPARATE COVER: (1 copy only)

ANNEX #9 - G-2 Journals

ANNEX #10 - G-3 Journals

**ANNEX #11 - VI Corps G-3 Reports, Field Orders and Field
Messages - Sept 1944**

ANNEX #12 - War Room Journals

**ANNEX #13 - G-3 Reports, S-3 Reports and Field Messages of
VI Corps Troops**

ANNEX #14 - G-3 Air Journals

ANNEX #15 - G-4 Journal with Supporting Papers

S E C R E T

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO 46 U. S. ARMY

SECRET
By Authority of
CG VI Corps
Initials *[Signature]*
24 Sept 44

VI CORPS COMBAT TROOP LIST
241200A Sept 44

Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

3d Inf Div

7th Inf - 10th FA Bn (105mm How)
15th Inf - 39th FA Bn (105mm How)
30th Inf - 41st FA Bn (105mm How)
9th FA Bn (155mm How)
10th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

69th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
756th Tk Bn (75mm Gun)
601st TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
3d Cml Bn (Mtz)(4.2" Mort)

36th Inf Div

141st Inf - 131st FA Bn (105mm How)
142d Inf - 132d FA Bn (105mm How)
143d Inf - 133d FA Bn (105mm How)
155th FA Bn (155mm How)
111th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

93d Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
753d Tk Bn (75mm Gun)
636th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)

45th Inf Div

157th Inf - 158th FA Bn (105mm How)
179th Inf - 160th FA Bn (105mm How)
180th Inf - 171st FA Bn (105mm How)
189th FA Bn (155mm How)
120th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
191st Tk Bn (75mm Gun)
645th TD Bn (-Co B, 1 Ren Plat)(3" Gun SP)
83d Cml Bn (Mtz)(-Co D)(4.2" Mort)

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

2d FA Obsn Bn
Hq & Hq Btry 6th Armd FA Gp (Supporting
3d Inf Div)
36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
634th FA Bn (155mm How)
Hq & Hq Btry 17th FA Gp (Supporting
36th Inf Div)
977th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
141st FA Bn (155mm How)
17th FA Bn (155mm How)(Supporting 45th
Inf Div)

Hq & Hq Btry & AAAOD 35th AAA Brig

Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Gp
67th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
72d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
*108th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
*216th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
534th AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
433d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
Hq & Hq Btry 5th AAA Gp
441st AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 3d Inf Div)
443d AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 36th Inf Div)
106th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 45th Inf Div)

Engr

36th Engr C Regt
48th Engr C Bn

117th Cav Ren Sq

57th Sig Bn

VI Corps Units atchd to 1st A/B TF

Co B, 1 Ren Plat 645th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
Co D 83d Cml Bn (4.2" Mort)

* Atchd on arrival

Conway
CONWAY
G-3

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ANNEX #/

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S E C R E T

CASUALTY REPORT OF VI CORPS TROOPS

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Date for pd ending 2359	Killed and Missing	Wounded	Non-Battle Casualties	Returned To Units	Replacements
1 Sept	54	101	130	71	192
2 "	206	120	188	97	6
3 "	11	57	151	34	234
4 "	187	15	100	92	5
5 "	38	19	137	123	64
6 "	22	8	73	75	7
7 "	41	100	209	60	4
8 "	60	61	138	541	3
9 "	56	100	185	51	0
10 "	32	150	193	56	206
11 "	82	133	180	397	278
12 "	111	233	221	261	6
13 "	93	124	252	359	11
14 "	62	151	259	354	9
15 "	67	188	261	374	64
16 "	34	134	232	206	0
17 "	144	77	205	260	115
18 "	39	65	188	124	2
19 "	1	107	180	289	556
20 "	38	30	112	149	0
21 "	33	150	251	144	37
22 "	161	184	239	97	68
23 "	97	214	241	301	16
24 "	55	150	317	408	93
25 "	50	130	258	256	636
26 "	106	150	345	350	932
27 "	90	86	345	159	466
28 "	53	216	391	478	363
29 "	166	250	303	168	6
30 "	142	228	322	191	14
TOTALS	2331	3731	6606	6525	4393

ANNEX #2

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

SECTION I

ASSIGNED OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

14 September 1944

COMMANDING GENERAL

Major General Lucian K. Truscott Jr, 07096, U. S. A.
Capt Jack E. Bartash, 0454295, CAC (ADC)
Capt James M. Wilson Jr, 01166869, FA (ADC)

ASSISTANT TO CORPS COMMANDER

Brigadier General Frederic B. Butler, 012047, U. S. A.
1st Lt Alan E. Gould, 01295868, Inf, (ADC)

CHIEF OF STAFF SECTION

Col Don E. Carleton, 015415, GSC
Col John F. Cassidy, 012718, GSC
CWO John M. Jackson, W-2114227

G-1 SECTION

Maj John W. Wibel, 0339093, GSC
Capt Robert G. Perriello, 0389394, GSC
1st Lt Leo M. Armstrong, 0405177, Inf

G-2 SECTION

Col Joseph L. Langevin, 012640, GSC
Lt Col Edgar C. Doleman, 019131, Inf
Maj Don W. Dixon, 0343066, FA
Maj Dexter S. French, 0277582, GSC
Maj Sanford H. Webster, 023222, Inf (DS)
Capt Joseph Haines III, 01284699, Inf

G-3 SECTION

Lt Col Theodore J. Conway, 019015, GSC
Lt Col William B. Rosson, 023556, GSC
Maj Leonard C. Cooke, 0316938, CAC
Maj John L. Cooper, 0351994, Cav
Maj Marion W. Crouse, 0391054, Cav
Capt Rhoman E. Clem, 0320752, Inf
Capt William R. Rose, 0352042, CAC
Capt Rieder W. Schell, 0415566, Inf
Capt Edward M. Murray, 0452479, Inf
Capt. John Schadler Jr, 0383957, QMC

R E S T R I C T E D

G-4 SECTION

Col Edward J. O'Neill, 015952, GSC
Lt Col Burton E. Miles, 0347690, GSC
Maj Robert E. Clark, 0910354, QMC
Capt Ralph L. Harper, 0303227, Inf
Capt Edward L. Dobbins, 0452060, Inf

ADJUTANT GENERAL SECTION

Col Michael L. Connors, 0309882, AGD
Capt Harry S. Alcorn, 01000079, AGD
Capt Courtney L. Vallentine, 01000884, AGD
1st Lt William F. Rickett, 02055429, AGD
WOJG George T. Smith Jr, W-2108260

CHAPLAIN SECTION

Lt Col William E. King, 0268277, Ch Corps
Maj Jordan E. Brown, 0402849, Ch Corps
CWO Francis M. Mugavin, W-2109915

CHEMICAL SECTION

Lt Col Harrison S. Markham, 020073, CWS
1st Lt Orris R. Evers, 02046557, CWS

ENGINEER SECTION

Col William N. Thomas Jr, 07648, CE
Maj Robert H. Darling, 0316638, CE
Capt Joseph M. Devine, 0421809, CE
1st Lt Edgar D. Lee, 0456581, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Col Howard L. Leighton, 0124567, FD
Capt Frederick H. Dietz, 01280038, FD

INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION

Col Nyal L. Adams, 07471, IGD
Maj James M. Pennyquick, 0307472, IGD

JUDGE ADVOCATE SECTION

Lt Col Robert L. Lancefield, 018037, JAGD
Capt Jack M. Cotton, 0293310, JAGD

MEDICAL SECTION

Col Rollin L. Bauchspies, 017819, MC
Lt Col Walker Stamps, 0357847, MC
Capt Carlson B. Menkel, 0347838, MC
Capt Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, 0454084, MAC
Capt James L. Rounds, 0490026, MAC
WOJG Donald L. Sutliff, W-2108239

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ORDNANCE SECTION

Col Walter G. Jennings, 0174217, Ord Dept
Maj John P. Merrill, 0181405, Ord Dept
Maj Stanley M. Smolensky, 025333, Ord Dept
Capt Henry J. Egai, 01549932, Ord Dept
CWO Edward C. Kelly, W-2114233

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

Col Lawrence L. Skinner, 015325, QMC
Maj James G. Hattox, 0276850, QMC
Capt John A. Bradish, 0284157, QMC
1st Lt Clifford D. Anderson, 02055463, QMC

SIGNAL SECTION

Col Richard J. Meyer, 019147, Sig C
Capt Wilbur D. Vincent, 0378299, Sig C
Capt Willard W. Jonsen, 0454648, Sig C
1st Lt Luther D. Bridgman, 01635621, Sig C

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

Maj Gale A. Mathers, 0310331, Inf
1st Lt Daniel T. Fogarty, 01822550, FA

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT & PROVOST MARSHAL

Maj Albert Barkin, 0321172, Inf

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Capt Armstrong C. Swails, 0327127, Inf
Capt Robert M. Ferrell, 01697057, MC
Capt Isidore Nemerowsky, 01690212, DC
1st Lt Paul B. McGuire, 01285788, Inf
1st Lt Guy E. Norbury, 01031352, Cav
1st Lt Edmund A. Bogart, 01015527, Inf

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

1st Lt Sam F. Doering, 0409112, CMP
1st Lt John J. Mulhern, 01308680, Inf

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SECTION II

ATTACHED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS

G-2 SECTION

Capt P. R. Whiston, 254588 (Br)
Capt John F. Rieger, 01013512, Inf
Capt Kenneth F. Kauffman, 0423401, AC
1st Lt Lauren C. Kingman Jr, 0863398, AC
1st Lt William L. Kramer, 01895937, TC
1st Lt Charles F. Marshall, 01011422, AC
1st Lt Alfred G. Pundt, 01052530, CAC

G-3 SECTION

Lt Col Harold S. Bibo, 0309157, GSC

ENGINEER SECTION

Capt Harry A. Morris, 01285090, CE
Capt Matthew H. Gilbert, 0352947, CE

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION (BEACHHEAD NEWS)

Capt James C. Grimes, 0391443, FA

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Lt Aces M. Westerman, 01293686, Inf

LIAISON OFFICER

Capt J. William Arnold (French)

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Maj Campbell Dickson, 0521064, (Spec Res)
Maj Enrico Dell'Osso, 0257798, Inf
Maj Grady C. Durham, 0313390, Inf
1st Lt Charles J. Rohr, 0519483, (Spec Res)

ATTACHED FROM FIFTH ARMY

1st Lt Nicolas N. Bajenow, 01038511 (ADC)

R E S T R I C T E D

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CHANGES IN OFFICER PERSONNEL

SEPTEMBER 1944

I - ASSIGNMENTS; ATTACHMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
15	2nd Lt Richard Hall, CMP Maj Pierre Lantz (Fr)	Atchd as of 11 Sept Atchd as of 1 Sept
22	Lt Col William C. Hammond, Jr., CWS	Asgd & Jd fr Hq 45th Inf Div as of 24 Sept

II - RELIEF FROM ASSIGNMENT; DETACHMENTS

10	Lt Col Donald A. MacGrath, Cav Maj Kermit R. Hansen, Inf	Reld fr Asgnmt - Asgd 36th Inf Div as of 31 Aug " " "
11	Lt Col Leland R. Drake, CAC Maj George H. Walton, AC 1st Lt Herbert Ribner, Chap C 1st Lt William J. Stopple, Sig C	Reld fr atchmt (Absent) Reld fr atchmt as of 16 Aug Reld fr atchmt - Atchd 36th Inf Div as of 6 Sept Reld fr atchmt as of 31 Aug
15	1st Lt Charles J. Rohr, Spec Res	Reld fr atchmt as of 5 Sept
16	Lt Col Harrison S. Markham, CWS	Reld fr Asgnmt - Asgd CWS Training Div, War Dept
19	Brig Gen Frederic B. Butler, U.S.A.	Reld fr Asgnmt - Asgd 45th Inf Div as of 17 Sept
28	Maj Sanford H. Webster, Inf	Reld fr Asgnmt - Asgd 36th Inf Div
30	1st Lt Nicolas N. Bajenow	Reld fr atchmt as of 28 Sept

III - PROMOTIONS

12	Capt Grady C. Durham, Inf (atohd)	Promoted to Major, eff 12 Sept
19	Maj Gen Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., U.S.A. Col Don E. Carleton, GSC	Promoted to Lt Gen, eff 2 Sept Promoted to Brig Gen, eff 6 Sept
24	Lt Col Theodore J. Conway, Inf	Promoted to Col, eff 17 Sept
29	Maj James G. Hattox, QMC Maj James M. Pennyquick, IGD Maj John W. Wibel, GSC	Promoted to Lt Col, eff 27 Sept Promoted to Lt Col, eff 27 Sept Promoted to Lt Col, eff 27 Sept

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III - PROMOTIONS (Continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
29	Capt Jack E. Bartash, CAC (ADC)	Promoted to Major, eff 27 Sept
	Capt John A. Bradish, QMC	Promoted to Major, eff 27 Sept
	Capt Wilbur D. Vincent, Sig C	Promoted to Major, eff 27 Sept
	Capt James M. Wilson, Jr., FA (ADC)	Promoted to Major, eff 27 Sept
	1st Lt Luther D. Bridgman, Sig C	Promoted to Capt, eff 27 Sept
	1st Lt Edgar D. Lee, CE	Promoted to Capt, eff 27 Sept

IV - MISCELLANEOUS

11	Capt Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, MC	Missing in Action as of 25 Aug
12	Capt Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, MC	Returned to Duty
13	Capt Robert G. Perriello, QMC	Detailed in GSC as of 6 Sept
17	1st Lt Alan E. Gould, Inf	Rel'd fr Asgmt Hq VI Corps - Asgd Hq Co VI Corps

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

REPORT OF STRENGTH, BATTLE CASUALTIES, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 1944

I. STRENGTH:

Hq VI Corps:

			<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Officers	1 Sept 44	-	70	21	91	
	30 Sept 44	-	65	17	82	-9
Warrant O's	1 Sept 44	-	5	0	5	
	30 Sept 44	-	5	0	5	0

Hq Co VI Corps:

Officers	1 Sept 44	-	7	1	8	
	30 Sept 44	-	8	2	10	+2
Enlisted Men	1 Sept 44	-	348	40	388	
	30 Sept 44	-	360	27	387	-1

II. BATTLE CASUALTIES:

Hq VI Corps: NONE (Note: Capt SIGFRID G. KINKOPF, 0454084, MAC, previously reported Missing in Action as of 25 August 1944, returned to duty 12 Sept 1944 as escaped Prisoner of War.)

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE

III. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

Hq VI Corps:

Former Members -

AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT

LAURENCE B. KEISER, 05316, Brigadier General, United States Army (NATOUSA G.O. No. 85, 1 Sept 1944)
JARRETT M. HUDDLESTON, 05451, Colonel, Medical Corps, Hq VI Corps (Posthumous) (NATOUSA G.O. No. 86, 2 Sept 1944)
CHARLES P. WILLIAMSON, 0315153, Major, Field Artillery, Hq VI Corps Artillery (NATOUSA G.O. No. 95, 24 Sept 1944)

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

BEN HARRELL, 019277, Colonel, Infantry, 3d Infantry Division (VI Corps G.O. No. 28, 13 Sept 1944)
NICOLAS N. BAJENOW, 01038511, First Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp, Hq Fifth Army (Atchd to Hq VI Corps) Presented by the VI Corps Commander on 29 September in France. (VI Corps G.O. No. 31, 30 Sept 1944)

Present Members -

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

JAMES G. HATTOX, 0276850, Major, Quartermaster Corps, Hq VI Corps. Presented by the VI Corps Commander on 14 September in France. (VI Corps G.O. No. 29, 14 Sept 1944)

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE

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6 Incls:

- #1 - NATOUSA G.O. NO. 85, 1 Sept 1944
- #2 - NATOUSA G.O. No. 86, 2 Sept 1944
- #3 - NATOUSA G.O. No. 95, 24 Sept 1944
- #4 - Hq VI Corps G.O. No. 28, 13 Sept 1944
- #5 - Hq VI Corps G.O. No. 29, 14 Sept 1944
- #6 - Hq VI Corps G.O. No. 31, 30 Sept 1944

S E C R E T

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 534

1 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 85)

E X T R A C T

AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the Legion of Merit was awarded by the Theater Commander to the following named personnel for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

* * *
LAURENCE B. KEISER, 05316, Brigadier General, United States Army, for services in Italy from October 1943 to February 1944. Entered the United States Military Academy from Pennsylvania.

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

DAVID G. BARR,
Major General, GSC
Chief of Staff.

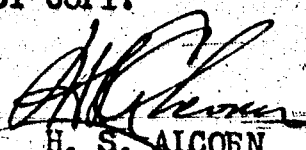
OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. H. Christie
R. H. CHRISTIE,
Colonel, AGD,
Acting Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

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A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:


H. S. ALCORN
Captain, A. G. D.
Asst Adjutant General

R E S T R I C T E D

46

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 534

2 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 86)

E X T R A C T

* * * * *
Award of Legion of Merit (Posthumous) II
* * * * *

II -- AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT (POSTHUMOUS)

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the Legion of Merit was posthumously awarded by the Theater Commander to the following named officer for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

JARRETT M. HUDDLESTON, 05451, Colonel, Medical Corps, Headquarters VI Corps, for services in Italy from September 1943 to February 1944. Next of kin: Helen M. Huddleston, 2236 Hall Place, Washington, D. C.

* * * * *

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

DAVID G. BARR,
Major General, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

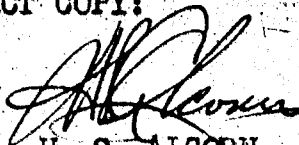
OFFICIAL:

/s/ R. H. Christie
R. H. CHRISTIE,
Colonel, AGD,
Acting Adjutant General.

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H. S. ALCORN
Captain, A. G. D.
Asst Adjutant General

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
NORTH AFRICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 534

24 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 95)

E X T R A C T

AWARD OF LEGION OF MERIT

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, as amended, the Legion of Merit was awarded by the Theater Commander to the following named personnel for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

* * *

WALTER G. RICHARD, 31111192, Technician Fourth Grade, Headquarters VI Corps, for services in Italy from 20 February to 5 June 1944. Entered service from Manchester, New Hampshire.

* * *

CHARLES P. WILLIAMSON, 0315153, Major, Field Artillery, Headquarters VI Corps Artillery, for services in Italy from 18 February to 6 June 1944. Entered service from Providence, Rhode Island.

* * *

MYRON P. RUDOLPH, 06430, Colonel, Medical Corps, Headquarters Eastern Base Section, North African Theater of Operations, for services in North Africa from 22 July 1943 to 1 March 1944. Entered service from Louisville, Kentucky.

By command of Lieutenant General DEVERS:

OFFICIAL:

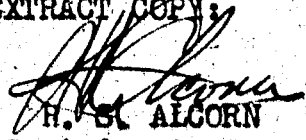
/s/ H. V. Roberts
H. V. ROBERTS,
Colonel, AGD,
Adjutant General.

GEORGE D. FENCE,
Brigadier General, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

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A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:


H. ST. ALCORN
Captain, A. G. D.
Asst Adjutant General

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D
HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

13 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)
:)
NUMBER 28)

AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named officers:

HEM HARNELL, 019277, Colonel, Infantry, 3d Infantry Division (then Colonel, General Staff Corps, Headquarters VI Corps) for meritorious service in action from 4 April to 27 August 1944 in Italy and France. Entered United States Military Academy from Medford, Oregon.

ANDREW P. SULLIVAN, 011396, Colonel, Coast Artillery Corps, Headquarters Fifth Army (then 9th AAA Group) for meritorious service in action from 26 February to 28 April 1944 in Italy. Entered military service from Norfolk, Virginia.

By command of Major General TRUSCOTT:

DON E. CARLETON,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Michael L. Connors

MICHAEL L. CONNORS,

Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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49

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

14 September 1944

CORRECTED COPY

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 29)

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to the following named officer:

JAMES G. HATTOX, 0276850, Major, Quartermaster Corps, Headquarters VI Corps, for meritorious service in action from 17 August 1944 to 2 September 1944 in France. Entered military service from Wellesley, Massachusetts.

By command of Major General TRUSCOTT:

DON E. CARLETON,
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Michael L. Connors

MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

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50

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

30 September 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 31)

AWARDS OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals:

NICOLAS N. BAJENOW, 01038511, First Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp, Headquarters Fifth Army, for meritorious service in action from 20 August to 28 September 1944 in France. Entered military service from Charlottesville, Virginia.

BEATTY G. BARNES, 37525251, Private, Headquarters Company VI Corps, for meritorious service in action from 22 August to 23 August 1944 in France. Entered military service from Kansas City, Missouri.

By command of Lieutenant General TRUSCOTT:

DON E. CARLETON,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:



C. L. VALLENTINE,
Captain, Adjutant General's Department,
Assistant Adjutant General.

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R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

27 September 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Officers and Men of VI Corps and Attached Troops.

Seven weeks ago the VI Corps landed on the beaches in Southern France. In these seven weeks, ably supported by Naval and Air Forces and by our French allies and French Forces of the Interior, you have cleared the enemy beach defenses, you have encircled and isolated the ports of Toulon and Marseilles and facilitated their capture by our French allies. You have cleared the Durance Valley, encircling and destroying a large portion of the German Nineteenth Army; you have opened the Rhone River Valley. You have pursued the fleeing remnants of the once proud German Army almost to the border of Germany itself. Your pursuit has covered almost five hundred miles from the beaches. It has involved hard fighting against a desperate enemy. It has involved two major river crossings. You have encountered and overcome every obstacle that German ingenuity could devise. You have been required, with less than organic transport, to move yourselves and your weapons and to supply yourselves over hundreds of miles, distances that few would have considered possible.

Your operations have been of great assistance to the Allied Armies in Northern France and a vital factor in clearing Southwestern, Southern, and Eastern France of enemy forces.

This campaign will stand a monument to the training, fighting spirit, boldness, aggressiveness, determination, and willingness to undergo hardship of the American soldier and to the leadership of American officers of all ranks. To all officers and men I express my sincere appreciation for your hard and untiring efforts and my deep admiration for your accomplishments during this period.

Our task is not yet done. Hard fighting remains. The enemy, reorganized and reinforced, is on the border of his own country. Difficult and rugged terrain confronts us. Rain, cold, and snow will increase the difficulty of our operations. However, I face the future with complete confidence that, surmounting every obstacle and taking every objective in your accustomed manner, you will destroy the enemy before you and will be a vital factor in the final defeat of the enemies of our Country.

L. K. Truscott, Jr.
L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

NOTE: This message will be read to all troops immediately upon receipt.

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

AG 201.2

13 September 1944

SUBJECT: Congratulatory Message.

TO : Commanders, All Units and Organizations.

The Corps Commander is pleased to transmit the following message received from the Commanding General, Fifth Army:

"Fifth Army today observes Salerno Day, first anniversary of Salerno landings. Our memories are brightened by brilliant success of VI Corps when it made history a year ago. Men of Salerno in your Corps today continue their successes in France, forging ahead as they did a year ago in landings that began a campaign which led to the fall of Rome. Fifth Army today thinks of your men in our first Salerno Day celebration. Best wishes for your continued success."

By command of Major General TRUFSCOTT:

Michael L. Connors
MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

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ANNEX # 7

53

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SECTION A



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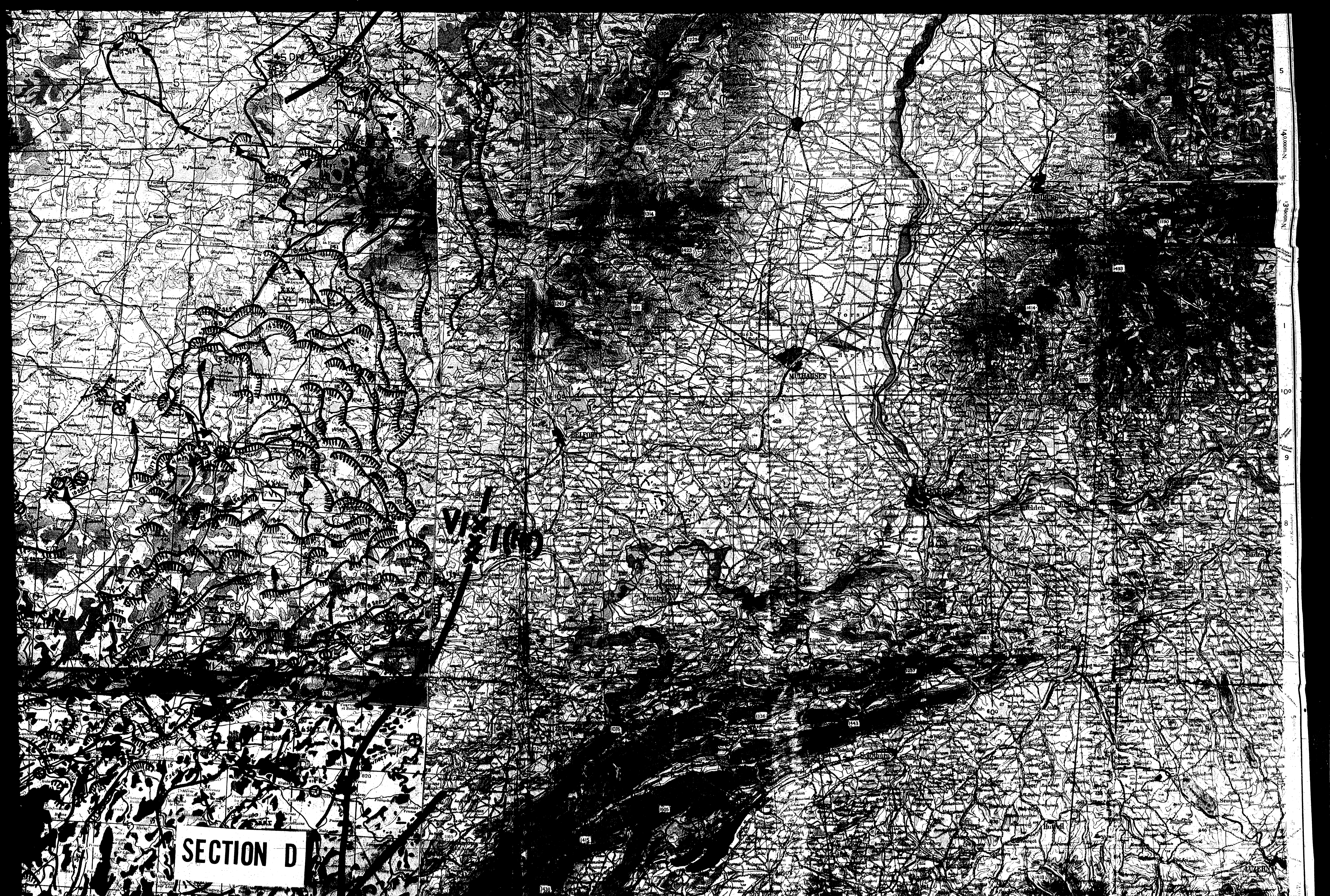
SECTION B

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CTION C

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 1943
 SWITZERLAND



SECTION D

NEW FOLDER BEGINS

TAG

L-1006

VI CORPS HISTORY

JANUARY - 1945

Index Page # 64

Unit Narrative
original

Annexes # 7, 9 & 11 under separate
cover.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: CANCELLED BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL <i>Charles E. Bowen Maj ASD</i> DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 14 MAR 46

1280

A

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

Auth. CG VI Corps

Initials *AK*

Date APR 23 1945

AG 314.7

APR 23 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Record, Headquarters VI Corps, January 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, 25, D. C. (Through Channels).

INTRODUCTION

L-1006

1. The month of January 1945 saw VI Corps on the defensive for the first time in almost a year - faced by the greatest concentration of German troops since the ANZIO Beachhead in Italy during the early months of 1944. During the course of their powerful attempts to break through the VI Corps line in three places and retake ALSACE and the political prize of STRASBOURG, the enemy forces of the XXXIX and the XXIX SS Corps - reputedly under the personal command of HEINRICH HIMMLER - employed twelve divisions including three units considered among the elite of the German Army - the 6 SS Mtn, 7 Paratroop and 10 SS Panzer Divisions.

2. As the month opened, VI Corps on the right flank of Seventh Army held most of the northern section of ALSACE above STRASBOURG. Along the northern flank, Task Force HUDELSON (117th and 94th Cav Ren Sqns and 62d AIB) and the 45th and 79th Infantry Divisions held the line running from a mile South of BITCHE, East to DAMBACH, Northeast across the German border to SCHONAU and NIEDERSCHLET-TENBACH, Southeast to the border about two miles East of WISSEMBOURG and then East along the border to the RHINE River. The RHINE front from the border to just South of STRASBOURG was held by Task Forces HERREN and LINDEN (infantry elements of the 70th and 42d Infantry Divisions). The XV U. S. Corps was on the left flank and II Corps of the First French Army on the right.

3. The New Year was hardly two hours old before the enemy 256 and 361 VG Divisions attacked Southeast from BITCHE to drive a salient into the Corps left flank. These forces were quickly supplemented by the 257 VG and the fanatical 6 SS Mtn Divisions and a wedge driven as far South as REIPERTSWILLER before it had been contained by the 45th Division. In view of the fluid situation along the entire Western Front and the increasing pressure in this sector, higher headquarters directed an immediate withdrawal by VI Corps to the eastern fringe of the VOSGES Mountains. However, after this retrograde movement had been superbly planned by the Corps Staff and the first step smoothly executed by the Corps' divisions in their withdrawal to the MAGINOT Line during the night 2-3 January, the withdrawal was halted and a holding action along this new MIR directed by higher headquarters.

4. By 7 January, the enemy build-up on the northeastern flank culminated in an offensive by the 21 Panzer Division which broke through the MIR between STUNDWILLER and BUHL and continued on to HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN. Both the 25 PG Division and elements of the 7 Paratroop Division joined this attack which had been contained and driven back by counterattacks by 16 January. However, after the 10 SS Panzer Division and the bulk of the 7 Paratroop Division appeared in the SESSENHEIM - ROHRWILLER area on 17-18 January to augment the hostile forces of the 553 VG Division which had made a bridgehead West of the RHINE in the GAMBSHEIM area on 5 January, and a powerful westward attack towards HAGUENAU appeared imminent, VI Corps effected a smooth withdrawal on 20-21 January to the MODER River Line where it could better regroup and organize a substantial reserve to repulse the continuing enemy offensive.

5. The expected all-out assault took place on 24-25 January when the 6 SS Mtn Division broke through the 103d Division MIR to reach SCHILLERSDORF, the 25 Panzer, 7 Paratroop and 47 VG Divisions crossed the MODER River West of HAGUENAU to penetrate 79th Division positions in the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN between NEUBOURG and SCHWEIGHAUSEN and the 10 SS Panzer Division attacked across the MODER at KALTENHAUSEN against the right flank of the 79th Division. By evening of 25 January, all these assaults had been contained and the hostile forces driven back across the MIR by our counterattacks which inflicted such heavy casualties that the enemy gave up his ideas of continuing the offensive.

[REDACTED]

1 January

1. The New Year had scarcely begun when the enemy launched a powerful attack against the Corps west flank positions in the BITCHE (Q-7750) - BANNSTEIN (Q-8345) sector and succeeded in overrunning Task Force HUDELSON positions, the momentum of their drive carrying them South to the vicinity of Q-8142 by the close of the period. The heavy fighting which developed in the area southeast of BITCHE by daylight had spread across the front as far East as OBERSTEINBACH (Q-9548), but attempts to infiltrate East of NEUNHOFFEN (Q-9146) were repulsed by elements of the 45th Division, thus confining the main force of the enemy effort West of the 92 Easting. The initial hostile successes were achieved by infiltration in force in this heavily wooded, mountainous area, the main effort being made by the 256 VG Division although there were indications that the 559 VG Division was operating along the boundary between VI and XV Corps. Considerable regrouping and shifting of units from other sectors of the Corps front to this threatened area took place during the day to block the apparently imminent major German offensive.

2. a. The gradual acceleration of enemy patrolling over the previous several days on the Corps left flank reached its climax in the early hours of the New Year when hostile attacks developed throughout the sector of Task Force HUDELSON at 0230A with the main pressure on the left flank against the 117th Cav Rcn Sqdn and the 94th Cav Rcn Sqdn in the MOUTERHOUSE (Q-7942) - BANNSTEIN (Q-8345) area. The enemy offensive took the form of a two pronged drive to the Southeast without mortar or artillery preparation, the main drive being made by the right column although constant heavy pressure was maintained to the East. Strong enemy infiltrations continued throughout the period in this area. Following the initial impact of this drive, the fighting subsided somewhat, but shortly after daybreak the enemy launched a strong attack in the vicinity of BANNSTEIN which ultimately breached positions in this area. An estimated two-company attack further East in the vicinity of Q-8904060 was repulsed at 0630A. The situation on the west flank became quite obscure and communications with the 117th Cav were maintained only with the greatest difficulty, the enemy having overrun their positions in the early stages of the offensive.

b. To meet this emergency, the 19th Armd Inf Bn and another medium Tk Co of the 25 Tk Bn - both of the 14th Armd Division - had been moved to this area before noon and attached to Task Force HUDELSON. By midday, enemy troops had reached the outskirts of BAERENTHAL (Q-8142) to place Task Force HUDELSON CP under small arms fire and necessitate a withdrawal under cover of a perimeter defense set up by elements of the 25th Tk Bn which repulsed the onslaught temporarily. The enemy continued to send strong infantry columns southward. Between 1100A and 1500A an estimated regiment was reported marching South along the road near Q-851455; at 1515A an air OP observed an estimated 500 enemy moving Southwest at Q-813427 and about the same time an enemy patrol was reported at Q-805405, about two miles North of REIPERTSWILLER (Q-8037) where the new Task Force CP was located. Before the close of the period a battalion of the 313th Inf (79th Div) had moved in North of REIPERTSWILLER to block further advances in that zone and a battalion of the 275th Inf (atcd to 45th Div) was in position Southeast of BAERENTHAL to block that axis, while the rest of the regiment was further to the Southeast in the NIEDERBRONN area 1/.

3. In view of the threatened breakthrough in the Task Force HUDELSON sector, Combat Command "B" 14th Armd Division - in reserve near BOUXWILLER -

1/. G-2 Rpt No. 140, G-3 Rpt No. 2 - 2 Jan; WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #5, 9, 10, 13, 17, 40, 104 and 139.

(Note - Daily G-2 and G-3 Rpts are used as references for periods they cover, and will not be indicated in future paragraphs).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

was preparing to stem the tide. In addition to those elements which had been attached to the Task Force, the 47th Tk Bn and the 25th Tk Bn (-), reinforced by the 125th Armd Engr Bn, established road blocks to the Northwest in the wooded mountain passes along the line NEUWILLER (Q-7525) - INGWILLER (Q-8130) - ROHNBACH (Q-8534) - ZINSWILLER (Q-8925) - NIEDERBRONN (Q-9338) behind the threatened zone. CC "A" assembled late in the period and started moving from the XV Corps sector to BOUXWILLER 2/.

4. a. The 45th Division forward positions remained static except on the left flank where the 157th Inf engaged the left hinge of the enemy attack which was overrunning the Task Force HUELSON positions. However, the rest of the division had a busy day regrouping its organic forces and the numerous newly-attached infantry elements to swing its power into the path of the German attack to the West. Following aggressive patrol activities in the NEUHOFFEN - DAMBACH (Q-9244) area, the enemy launched a battalion attack against positions of the 157th Inf at Q-9146 shortly before daybreak, but this assault was repulsed without loss of ground, artillery inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. Prisoners taken in this engagement indicated the attack was just a prelude to the main effort which was scheduled to begin at noon, and the subsequent build-up seemed to substantiate these claims. Shortly after 0800A, a column of 200 enemy infantry was observed moving Southeast at Q-912470 and at the same time seventeen horse-drawn carts entered the woods at Q-915467. However fighter bombers covered NEUHOFFEN with bombs and by 1430A, 300-400 hostile personnel were observed withdrawing to the Northwest from the town. Further attempts at infiltration in force between PHILIPPESBOURG (Q-875425) and OBERSTEINBACH (Q-960485) were repulsed with the enemy suffering heavy casualties.

b. Both the 179th and 180th Infs held their positions along the divisional front until the former was relieved by the 36th Engr C Regt and moved to LEIBACH (R-0445), preparatory to moving to a forward assembly area North of WINGEN (Q-7335) during the night to get into the path of the German effort. The 275th Inf (Task Force HERREN) had assembled near NIEDERBRONN early in the morning, attached to the division and by late afternoon, the 313th Inf (-3d Bn) and the 1st Bns 314th and 315th Infs (all of the 79th Div) had been attached to the 45th Division, and one battalion of the 313th committed against the hostile advance North of WEIPERTSWILLER 3/.

5. The 79th Division sector was generally quiet. The major activity taking place was the movement of certain divisional units necessitated by the enemy thrust Southeast of BITCHE. The 313th Inf (-3d Bn) plus the 1st Bns of 314th and 315th Infs passed to the control of the 45th Division. Task Force HERREN (-275th Inf) was attached to 79th Division in positions already held at 1800A; the 93d and 69th Armd PA Bns were also attached to the 79th Division during the day. Enemy activity was negligible except for occasional patrol contacts and sporadic artillery fire in various sectors of the Division zone, notably in the WISSEMBOURG (R-1543) area. Small groups of German troops were observed at R-210525 and R-226528 and fired upon by artillery with good results 4/.

6. There was very little activity in Task Force HERREN Zone. Efforts to locate the paratroopers who were reported in the area the previous evening were fruitless. The 275th Inf closed in the 45th Division zone at 0630A, attached on arrival. The 274th Inf completed relief of the 276th Inf which

2/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #155 and 211.

3/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #47, 75, 121, 128, 163, 186 and 213.

4/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #92, 128 and 186.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

closed in assembly area at CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN (R-0821) at 1530A in Corps reserve. At 1800A Task Force HERREN (-) was attached to the 79th Division 5/.

7. Task Force LINDEN area along the RHINE continued quiet throughout the period, except for small arms and machine gun fire during the afternoon from East of the RHINE. However, a man identified by the FFI as a German paratrooper was captured in GAMBSHEIM (R-1010). Along the RHINE, South of STRASBOURG (R-0198), the 222d Inf relieved the 242d Inf in position by 1900A 6/.

8. A total of eleven missions of 125 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by XII TAC, primarily directed against targets in the 45th Division and Task Force HUDELSON sectors. At 0858A, several Me-109s and one JU-88 entered the Corps area and strafed 79th Division front line units. These aircraft were engaged by heavy and light AA and the JU-88 was shot down, crashing in the vicinity of R-232360. At 1700A, two Me-109s were seen over MOUTERHOUSE on a reconnaissance mission and at 1530A, four FW-190s, also on reconnaissance were engaged in the vicinity of NIEDERSOULTZBACH (Q-8027) 7/.

9. In accordance with orders from higher authority, the Seventh Army Commander verbally directed the Corps Commander to effect an immediate withdrawal of his troops to positions along the eastern fringe of the VOSGES Mountains in sector, and the Corps Commander outlined the plan to his division commanders in an afternoon conference.

2 January

1. Strong enemy attacks were resumed throughout 2 January, the main effort continuing on the left flank of Corps zone in the Task Force HUDELSON sector which had come under the command of the 45th Division. These strong enemy attacks, supported by considerable armor, were brought under control and contained by the end of the period when counterattacks by the 179th Inf (-), the 313th Inf (-) and the 275th Inf made minor gains after heavy fighting. The enemy assault, although it lacked the coordination of a full scale offensive, appeared to be a major effort after identification of elements of the 6 SS Mtn Div. Enemy air activity for the period was quite heavy and consisted chiefly of strafing and reconnaissance missions. The withdrawal to the MAGINOT positions in the center and right of the Corps zone commenced as scheduled toward the close of the period. Enemy ground activity in the RHINE River area was negligible.

2. a. Enemy pressure continued strong throughout the day on the west flank of the 45th Division, in the former Task Force HUDELSON sector. On the center and the right flank there was no change in the positions of the 157th and 180th Infs or in the 36th Engr C Regt sector until after dark when elements of these three units started their withdrawal to the MAGINOT positions in accordance with Operations Instruction No. 1 which had been issued at 1100A. The 179th Inf moved by motor to the Corps left flank near WINGEN and at 1100A attacked Northwest and made some slight progress. By the close of the period the Regiment held a line just South of the road block at Road Junction Q-725398 - Northeast to Q-742420, one kilometer South of MEISENTHAL (Q-7241) to Q-755387. In the course of the afternoon the enemy maintained his pressure by launching a company-sized attack driving Southwest from Q-750425 towards SARREINSBERG (Q-7441). This attack gained no ground but the enemy succeeded in infiltrating to the vicinity of Q-725398 where he set up a strongly defended road block supported by two tanks which cut the road between two 179th battalions. In the REIPERTSWILLER - WILDENGUTH (Q-7938) area, the attached 313th Inf (-) engaged

5/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #42 and 102.

6/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entries #96 and 186.

7/. WRJ, 1 Jan - Entry #140.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

enemy troops and tanks moving into REIPERTSWILLER where heavy pressure developed during the course of the day. In the morning the enemy pushed a two-company attack from the North along two parallel roads leading into REIPERTSWILLER at Q-801371 and Q-739330. The attack was stopped by elements of the 313th pushing up the same road as far as the 39 Northing. At 1300A an estimated company of enemy attacked a road block of the 313th Inf at WILDENGUTH and were repulsed, but later in the period the enemy infiltrated back into the town and vicinity. Late in the period the 1st Bn 314th Inf, which had joined the 313th Inf (-), mopped up enemy resistance in the REIPERTSWILLER area.

b. Along the 275th Inf sector extending from BAERENTHAL - DAMBACH - NEUNHOFEN, the enemy continued to exert strong pressure during the night. Early in the morning, a small enemy group attempted to infiltrate vicinity Q-932461 and a 15-man enemy patrol was repulsed in the same area a short time later. In the course of the morning the enemy also launched a two-company attack from the vicinity Q-8744 which continued throughout the morning and forced some withdrawal. Southeast of BAERENTHAL the enemy exerted strong pressure along the road, launching two attacks by an estimated 200-300 enemy supported by armor. These attacks were contained but close contact and heavy pressure continued throughout the period. Only light resistance however, was offered to 275th Inf troops advancing along the road Northwest out of PHILIPPSBOURG. By 1630A the 275th Inf held a line from points just Southwest and Southeast of BAERENTHAL running Northeast to the vicinity of Q-896446. A battalion and a half were located astride the road leading from BANNSTEIN to NIEDERERONN 8/.

3. The 79th Division sector was generally quiet during this period except for occasional patrol activity and light artillery fire received in the WISSEMBOURG and BERG (R-0442) areas. There was a regrouping of troop units due to the departure of several battalions to the Corps left flank; the 1st Bn of 314th Inf and the 1st Bn of 315th Inf moved at 0055A by motor transport for attachment to 45th Division. At 0615A a 10-12 man enemy patrol which had crossed the river was contacted near BERG - a wounded PW from this group stating he was from the 435 VG Division. In the course of the afternoon there was little or no enemy activity in the 79th Division sector. The 315th Inf (-1st Bn), the 314th Inf (-1st Bn) and the 3d Bn 313th Inf started moving from present positions at 2000A to new positions on MAGNOT Line MIFs, leaving a rear guard at present positions to start movement at 030400A. Task Force LINDEN was attached to 79th Division at 1100A 9/.

4. The 11th Armad Division continued its reconnaissance missions in the west flank sector North and West of REIPERTSWILLER. At 1030A, 25 to 30 enemy tanks were reported in the vicinity of WILDENGUTH. Other elements of the 11th Armad Division were engaged in blocking pass roads leading South in the REIPERTSWILLER area. The 25th and 47th Tk Bns continued to block the passes in the IRWILLER - NIEDERERONN area. Component units of Task Force HUDNISON reverted to control of the Division and the 117th Cav Recon Sqdn was attached and then withdrawn later for reorganization. CC "A" closed in assembly area and reverted to control of the Division 10/.

5. The RHINE River sector under Task Force LINDEN remained quiet. No enemy activity was reported except for two unidentified planes which came in

8/. WRJ, 2 Jan - Entries #12 and 17 (MORSBRONN CP); #10, 13, 39 and 40 (DETWILLER CP); OI No. 1 - Annex No. 7.

9/. WRJ, 2 Jan - Entries #2 and 16 (MORSBRONN CP); VI Corps OI No. 1; Annex No. 9

10/. WRJ, 2 Jan - Entries #32 (MORSBRONN CP) and 59 (DETWILLER CP).

[REDACTED]

from the Southeast, circled over R-134056, then left. The 3d Bn of 232d Inf extended its line to relieve 1st Bn elements which moved to REICHSTETT (R-0105) as regimental reserve. The 222d Inf completed relief of 242d Inf and began movement to occupy defensive positions along the general line V-8592- V-8589- OBERNAI (V-8184) at the close of the period. Task Force LINDEN was attached to 79th Division at 1100A 11/.

6. A total of ten missions involving 108 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by the XII TAC with priority to the 45th Division targets. Thirty-six enemy aircraft were over VI Corps area between 1000A and 1200A on reconnaissance and strafing missions in support of hostile forward units. Four engagements were reported by the 35th Brig during the period, one hostile aircraft being destroyed and another probably destroyed.

7. At 1100A Operations Instruction No. 1 had been issued directing the 45th and 79th Divisions to withdraw to the MAGINOT Line positions by daylight of 3 January, and to withdraw to successive lines on Corps order and to continue organization of VOSGES positions with utmost speed; and also directing the 45th Division to attack early on this date to restore the BITCHE - NIEDERBRONN position 12/.

8. The VI Corps CP closed at MORSEBRONN (R-003332) and opened at DETTWILLER (Q-8017) at 1200A.

3 January

1. The strong threat to the Corps left flank positions remained throughout 3 January as the enemy continued to exert pressure in his salient through the SARREINSBERG (Q-740418) - BAERENTHAL line, towards REIPEPERSWILLER and WIMMENAU, and increased his build-up in the PHILIPPSBOURG area. Intelligence that the 21 Panzer Division had joined the 6 SS Mtn Division as another spearhead of this thrust in which elements of the 361 and 257 VG Divisions had already been identified indicated a major offensive was imminent. By late afternoon orders from Seventh Army still indicated a continuation of the withdrawal to the MODER River and VOSGES positions, but a telephone call from the Army Commander to the Corps Commander just before dark directed holding action on the MAGINOT positions presently held, and a cessation of the withdrawal 13/.

2. a. Despite the increased hostile pressure there were only minor changes on the left flank front of the 45th Division which continued to be the center of activity in the Corps zone. The brunt of the attack was borne by the 179th Inf on the left, holding the line from SARREINSBERG to points South, near WINGEN, by the 313th Inf (-) in the REIPEPERSWILLER area, and by the 275th Inf on the right in the vicinity of PHILIPPSBOURG. On the extreme left flank, one small group had infiltrated before daylight and set up a road block at Q-726398, South of MEISENTHAL (Q-71140), but the main enemy effort on the SARREINSBERG - MEISENTHAL axis did not develop until daylight when it met head-on the counter-attack of the 179th Inf. Only minor changes in the line were made during the day of heavy fighting in which elements of the 466 and 457 PGRs of the 21 Panzer Division were identified. According to prisoners taken from these units, they had

11/. WRJ, 2 Jan - Entry #32 (DETTWILLER CP).

12/. Annex No. 7.

13/. WRJ, 3 Jan - Entries #58 and 62.

[REDACTED]

the mission of seizing MEISENHAL and then flanking to the Northwest. Heaviest pressure employed in the salient continued in the center where the enemy continued to employ a considerable portion of the 361 VG Division against the 313th Inf (-) in an effort to capture REIPERTSWILLER. In this zone, one attack came along the road leading South into REIPERTSWILLER; another was launched from the Northwest; and a third was made due West in an attempt to dislodge 313th elements in WILDENGUTH (Q-737377). A small group of enemy managed to infiltrate South of the town and took up positions on the high ground Southwest of REIPERTSWILLER, but in general these attacks were contained and at the close of the period the enemy was observed digging in on the high ground North of REIPERTSWILLER.

b. The hostile offensive on the eastern shoulder of the salient - the BAERENHAI - PHILIPPSBOURG area - was led by the 476 PGR in the early afternoon. This attack overran some forward positions of the 275th Inf and a few snipers and two or three tanks had reached PHILIPPSBOURG late in the evening when this inexperienced regiment was heavily engaged in the northern end of the town. Meanwhile, only light contact had been maintained on the rest of the long Division front. The 157th and 130th Infs and the 36th Engr C Regt had completed withdrawals to MAGNOT Line positions without incident before daylight. The 157th held positions along the line Q-922445 - Q-940432 - Q-949433 - Q-974442 with one battalion assembled in reserve at NIEDERBROMM; the 130th Inf held the line Q-976441 - R-042450 until relieved by the 36th Engrs and 315th Inf elements; and the 36th Engr C Regt held the line R-043447 - R-100440. After completion of its relief, the 130th Inf began movement to an assembly area near WILDBENAU (Q-7634) in the threatened zone 14/.

3. Contact along the 79th Division front was slight during the period as a successful withdrawal was made to MAGNOT Line positions. The 315th Inf (-), 314th Inf (-) and the 3d Bn 313th Inf, less rear guard elements, had completed withdrawal to positions along the MAGNOT Line by 022400A and screening forces had also closed in MAGNOT Line positions by 1630A after blowing all bridges over the LAUTER River before 0530A. Task Force HEITEN, less a rear guard, closed on MIR No. 2 at 0330A while the 1st Bn 232d Inf (Task Force LINDEN) relieved the 2d and 3d Bns 274th Inf on MAGNOT Line and RHINE River positions. The remainder of the regiment maintained defensive positions along the RHINE River. The 242d Inf continued to maintain defensive positions along the general line V-8592 - V-8589 - OBERHAI (V-3134) and was alerted for movement to BROMMATH (R-9714) the next morning. The 79th Cav Ren Tr relieved remaining elements of 274th Inf along the RHINE River between SESSENHEIM (R-1322) and OFFENDORF (R-1312). The enemy followed up these withdrawals only with increased patrols. At 1000A, two enemy soldiers were seen in WISSEMBOURG in the vicinity of the bridge site at R-153436 and at 1500A a 12-man patrol was observed moving Northwest on the road from KORHEIM (R-3037) to REIPERTSWILLER (R-2039) and fired on by our TDs with good results. The Task Force LINDE sector continued very quiet but the civilian populace of STRASBOURG was reported showing grave concern over the possible withdrawal of Allied military personnel - some evacuation having already taken place 15/.

4. The 14th Armd Division continued its mission of blocking the mountain passes in the INGWILLER - WILDBENAU - WILDMEN area, with elements of the 25th and 47th Tc Bns. The 19th Armd Inf Bn (-), Cos A of the 25th and 47th Tc Bns

14/. WRJ, 3 Jan - Entries #35, 39, 41, 43, 52, 73 and 121.

15/. WRJ, 3 Jan - Entries #13 and 94.

[REDACTED]

and Tr C 117th Cav Rcn Sqdn were attached to the 45th Division as 94th Cav elements patrolled the IRGWIILLER - WILDEMAU road to MEISENTHAL. Late in the period the 117th Cav (-) was detached and moved to RINGENDORF (Q-8723) for reorganization and refitting 16/.

6. In accordance with the revised orders from higher authority which had directed cessation of the withdrawal to the VOSGES positions and holding action along the present line, Operations Instruction No. 3 was issued at 2100A directing that the Corps defend along the MAGINOT positions, although continued reconnaissance of the intermediate and revised VOSGES positions would be initiated without delay. O.I. No. 3 also attached Task Force HEFFEN, with supporting tank and artillery units, to the 45th Division, upon occupation of the line VOLKSBERG - RJ (Q-790335), and directed the 132d and 155th FA Bns, 753d Tk Bn and Co C 636th TD Bn to move without delay to the XV Corps zone 17/.

4 January

1. The principal activity along the Corps front continued in the BITCHE salient during 4 January, although enemy forces showed increased aggressiveness on the right flank as small groups reconnoitered the area just vacated by the 79th Division in its withdrawal to the MAGINOT Line positions. No major enemy offensive had developed in this salient which extended down to REIPERTSWILLER, but probing patrols continued their aggressive efforts to find soft spots in the front line positions of the 45th Division and one sizeable group had infiltrated to the Southwest into WINGEN. The enemy employed 15-20 tanks in the salient area in support of his several strong local attacks.

2. a. In this threatened area, the 45th Division continued its efforts to reduce the enemy salient. The 179th Inf retained its positions on the left flank near SAREINSBERG throughout the day, improving defenses and communications, and at 1310A attacked to the East to clear the enemy from the towns of MEISENTHAL and SOUCHT (Q-7140) against continued stiff resistance. To their immediate South, the 276th Inf, which had just moved into the WINGEN area, attacked the town from the West shortly before noon to clear the estimated 200 enemy troops who had infiltrated during the night. By 2130A, elements were on the outskirts of WINGEN and were still heavily engaged with the enemy at the close of the period.

b. After assembling at Q-7434 during the night, the 180th Inf attacked North across the WINGEN - WILDEMAU road at 1000A to clear the area West and Southwest of REIPERTSWILLER, and by the end of the period had established a line Q-760373 - Q-770370 - Q-780360 against strong resistance. Apparently as the result of this attack, the heavy pressure in the REIPERTSWILLER area decreased noticeably in the late afternoon enabling the 313th Inf (-) to straighten its lines and consolidate its positions in REIPERTSWILLER. With the 1st Bn 311th Inf attached, the 313th Inf remained in heavy contact throughout the day and suffered severe casualties but made considerable progress to clear the road between REIPERTSWILLER and WILDENGUTH. After several unsuccessful attempts to reestablish contact with elements cut off in the latter town, the 313th Inf finally reached the town to get supplies to those troops, but in the center the 1st Bn 311th was still heavily engaged in SAEGMUEHL (Q-7937) at the end of the

16/. O.I. No. 3 - Annex No. 7.

17/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

period. Small groups of enemy continued to hold the high ground North and West of REIPERTSWILLER, however, and were digging in.

c. On the east shoulder of the hostile salient, the 275th Inf made considerable progress in the PHILIPPSBOURG area in its efforts to reorganize and straighten its line. Elements had reached the southern outskirts of the town early in the morning, and by noon the entire town had been cleared of the enemy; positions and communications - so badly disorganized during the previous day - had been reestablished. However, efforts to extend the line to the Northwest met stubborn opposition and heavy fighting was going on in the outskirts of the town, forward elements receiving heavy concentrations of hostile mortar and artillery fire. Other 275th elements to the West poured strong fire on the enemy in BARENTHAL but made little progress towards the town. Heavy enemy infiltration continued in this area, one 30-man patrol being contacted in the vicinity of Q-345380.

d. There was little more than extensive patrol activity on the rest of the long 45th Division front, held by the 157th Inf (with 1st Bn 315th Inf atchd) and the 36th Engr C Regt, except in the vicinity of DAMBACH where a considerable hostile build-up continued. About 1130A elements of the 157th had a sharp fire fight with an enemy patrol North of DAMBACH and at 1700A armored vehicles were heard in the same vicinity. Later in the evening an estimated four tanks and 20mm weapons fired on positions of the 157th Inf from this same area to force a withdrawal from the town by 2240A 18/.

3. The 79th Division sector continued quiet during the period except for light enemy contact made by patrols working well forward of main positions. Along the RHINE River front the Task Force LINDEN regrouped its units to take over the defense of the river line. The 242d Inf began movement to the ENUMATH area but then continued North and began the relief of the 314th Inf (-1st Bn) in position on the right flank of the division zone. The 1st Bn of the 232d Inf extended its positions to the South to include those of the 79th Cav Recon Troop. The positions on the island at STRASBOURG in the vicinity of W-0497 were taken over by elements of the 222d Inf. Small enemy groups were reported active in the area South of WISSEMBOURG apparently feeling out the depth of our voluntary withdrawal to the MACHNOT line positions. During the morning, patrols of the 315th Inf (-) contacted enemy outposts at R-154457 and at R-160463 where artillery fire was subsequently concentrated. At 1427A, the 3d Bn 313th Inf engaged an enemy patrol in a fire fight West of WIEDERSBACH (R-153383) in which three PWs were captured. The speed of our withdrawal had evidently caught the enemy off guard and he was slow in coming back into the evacuated area in any strength inasmuch as night patrols made no contact. In the area patrolled by the Task Force LINDEN, the only contact made during this extremely quiet period was a 6-man enemy night patrol which withdrew toward the RHINE RIVER when fired upon 19/.

4. The 14th Armored Division (-) remained in Corps Reserve vicinity BOUXWILLER - Troop A 94th Cav Recon Sqdn maintained road patrols from ENUMATH toward WERZEN and REIPERTSWILLER.

5. Seven missions of 78 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps, attacking motor transport, troop concentrations and gun positions - particularly

18/. WBJ, 4 Jan - Entries #28, 30, 52, 55, 80, 82, 99 and 101.

19/. WBJ, 4 Jan - Entries #13, 43, 45, 57, 61, 81 and 91.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

in the 45th Division sector. Enemy air activity was negligible.

6. Corps artillery was concentrated in support of 45th Division operations; poor visibility failed to prevent the firing of many air and ground observed missions. Fire was placed on enemy guns, personnel and vehicles; harassing and interdictory fire was placed throughout the sector and intensified where movements were reported.

7. The 436th AAA AW Bn moved to XV Corps area, relieved from attachment to VI Corps on closing their destination. Co C (-1 Plat) 313th TD Bn was detached from the 79th Division and attached to the 45th Division at 1700A.

8. Operations Instruction No. 4, was issued at 2200A directing that: (a) the 79th Division relieve elements of the 45th Division and assume control of the 36th Engr C Regt and 1st Bn 315th Inf; initiate regrouping for employment of the division on a Southeast - Northwest axis; be prepared to counter-attack and be especially careful to furnish early warning of armored threat in the zone; (b) the 45th Division continue present mission; relieve the 313th Inf Regt (-) and 1st Bn 314th Inf by 070300A; (c) the 14th Armad Division continue present mission; Corps artillery reinforce organic Division artillery and support the reliefs 20/.

9. Operations Instruction No. 52, Hq Seventh Army, 4 Jan 1945 was received confirming previous instructions halting the withdrawal at the MAGINOT Line, and directing: that VI Corps defend along the MAGINOT Line in sector and hold STRASBOURG; continue to counterattack to restore DARBACH - BITCHE position and continue organization of secondary position 21/.

5 January

1. Hostile activity on the VI Corps front increased on 5 January as the enemy made crossings of the RHINE River on the right flank in the vicinity of GAMBSEHEIM (R-1110). Meanwhile the steady pressure continued in the BITCHE salient, the main action being localized in the REIPENSWILLER area where the enemy offered particularly stubborn resistance to the attacks by 45th Division troops trying to clear out the salient. Pressure relaxed somewhat on both the western and eastern shoulders of the salient, however, although the enemy continued his probing attempts to find a weak spot in our positions through which he could commit his armor.

2. a. While the 45th Division elements on the left flank continued to contain and reduce the BITCHE salient, the center and right of the Division sector - held by the 157th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt remained generally quiet throughout the day. However, considerable movement of personnel and vehicles was observed behind the lines, indicating that the enemy was regrouping his forces in the DARBACH (Q-9244) area facing the 157th Inf. and division artillery was adjusted to meet whatever threat the enemy might make in that vicinity. On the northwestern shoulder of the German salient, the 179th Inf exerted steady pressure on the enemy forces in the MEISENTHAL - SARREINSBERG area, maintaining road

20/. Annex No. 7.

21/. Annex No. 9.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

blocks on all highways in the sector and repulsing several small groups of enemy attempting to infiltrate. To the South, the 180th Inf resumed the attack to the North at 0800A with two battalions abreast and had reached a general line Q-763384 - Q-775382 by the end of the period, despite the stubborn resistance of small arms, mortar and machine gun fire. And to the West of the 180th zone, the 276th Inf continued its efforts to clear the town of WINGEN of the enemy forces and by the end of the period had cleared all but one small section in the eastern outskirts of the town, after overcoming stubborn resistance of heavy small arms fire.

b. The principal action around the rim of the BITCHE salient continued in the REIPERTSWILLER area where the 313th Inf (-) (with the 1st Bn, 314th Inf atchd) maintained close contact with the enemy throughout the period. Two light counterattacks during the afternoon on the left flank of this zone, at Q-768367 and Q-775375 (Southwest of WILDENCUTH), were repulsed without loss of ground, and 313th elements in the center advanced North from SAEGMUHL against heavy small arms and mortar fire from well dug-in positions to reach Q-796363. The 506 PG Bn SS was identified in this area and reported to be composed of excellent soldiers who fought until killed rather than surrender. Infiltration continued on the 313th right flank, however. A 30-man patrol cut the road between REIPERTSWILLER and ROTIBACH and at the same time a similar patrol was reported crossing the river at Q-324371. Southeast of REIPERTSWILLER, hostile forces were reported dug in near LICHTENBERG and an estimated 300 enemy were assembled in the woods to the East while other small groups armed with automatic weapons infiltrated the wooded hill further East (Q-8637).

c. To the Northeast in the PHILIPPSBOURG area, the 275th Inf (with 1st Bn 274th Inf atchd) made considerable progress on the eastern shoulder of the salient. After night patrols had found unoccupied positions capable of holding 150 men in the vicinity of Q-846384 and only small groups of enemy who withdrew on their approach, the 275th attacked West at daylight, clearing PHILIPPSBOURG quickly and pushing to positions Northwest of the town. At 1320A an enemy column of an estimated 500 men was observed moving toward PHILIPPSBOURG from the North and immediately attacked by close support planes which caused them to turn around and head back. The regimental left flank, was extended West to a general line Q-854420 - Q-854417 - Q-855395 while elements on the right pushed Northeast to reach positions at Q-900437 where contact was established with the 157th Inf holding the DAMBACH area 22/.

✓ 3. a. A considerable increase in activity occurred in the 79th Division sector - In the zone of Task Force LINDEN where a German bridgehead was established at GAMBSHEIM. Throughout the morning enemy patrols had been reported operating West of the RHINE River and a considerable build-up continued after an enemy crossing in strength between KIISTETT and DRUSENHEIM, particularly in the vicinity of GAMBSHEIM and OFFENDORF. At 1100A a 40-50 man enemy patrol was reported at R-060116 and at noon a company of Task Force LINDEN was surrounded at HEIRLISHEIM and another fire fight was taking place at OFFENDORF. The main enemy effort appeared to be in the ROHWILLER (R-125175) area where an estimated infantry company supported by two tanks approached the town at noon and forced a bridge-guarding detail to destroy the bridge and withdraw. An enemy patrol was reported as far West as WEYERSHEIM (R-0513) but it apparently pulled back as the town was found clear at 1300A.

b. To meet this threat, a two-pronged drive was immediately launched

22/. WRJ, 5 Jan - Entries #11, 70, 87, 119, 120, 127, 131 and 139.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

from WEINSTEIN and WARTZAU (R-0707) to destroy the enemy forces before they had the chance to reinforce and consolidate their positions. Elements of the 242d Inf attacked East from WEINSTEIN and reached the woods north of GAMBESHEIM where they were heavily engaged at the close of the period. From the South, elements of the 232d Inf pushed Northeast from WARTZAU to near KIRSCH (R-0909) and continue on towards GAMBESHEIM against heavy small arms fire. Meanwhile, the 311th Inf, which had assembled at SIEBZ (R-1037) at daybreak after having been relieved by the 242d Inf, was moved to GAMBESHEIM late in the afternoon to secure that area Northwest of the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead. To the South, fourteen enemy had crossed the RHINE at 2310A, vicinity of R-045990 and set up mortars and machine guns North of the island at STRASBOURG, but they withdrew at 1630A and there was no further activity in this sector as elements of the 3d DEA (First French Army) took over defense of the island. Throughout the rest of the Division sector, activity was essentially limited to occasional patrol contact beyond the MARETT bridge position, though many harassing missions were fired during the night by Division and Corps artillery on main road junctions, approaches and concentration areas 23/.

4. Hostile air activity was limited to the period around 2121A when nine planes were observed over the Corps area. Three FW-190s were seen flying East of GAMBESHEIM (R-8535) and two flights of two Me-109s each were observed flying Northeast near GAMBESHEIM (R-2435). At the same time two more Me-109s were engaged by AA as they straddled the road near WORMS but none was reported destroyed.

5. In view of the new threat in the GAMBESHEIM area, VI Corps Operation Instruction No. 5 was issued at 1900, reissuing so much of O.I. No. 4 which had extended the left boundary of the 77th Division to include that part of the 45th Division front held by the 35th Engr C Regt and 311th Inf, and directing the 77th Division to concentrate its efforts on the destruction of the enemy forces on the West bank of the RHINE. O.I. No. 5 also attached Troop D, 9th Cav Recon Sqdn and Co B 47th Tn to the 77th Division and directed the 45th Division to assemble one Infantry Regiment of Task Force HINDENBURG for movement to the MARETT area on Corps order 24/.

6. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 53 of this date was received - relieving VI Corps of responsibility of the STRASBOURG area at 0600GL and shifting the Corps right boundary to the North to run generally along the line OLMESHEIM (Q-9611) - HOFERDT (R-0311) - GAMBESHEIM (R-1110) - ASEM (R-2403) - all of these towns going to the First French Army 25/.

6 January

1. Activity increased along the entire Corps front during 6 January as the enemy continued his pressure in the WEINSTEIN and GAMBESHEIM salients and showed indications of building up his forces against the 77th Division front, South of WISSEMBOURG. The 45th Division continued to encounter bitter resistance in its efforts to reduce the salient Southeast of SIEBZ and Task Force HINDENBURG attacks to clean out the GAMBESHEIM - GAMBESHEIM bridgehead on the west bank of the RHINE encountered increasing resistance, indicating that the enemy had succeeded in reinforcing his troops in that sector. While there were no actual

23/. WJ, 5 Jan - Entries 14, 17, 26, 30, 53, 55, 62, 73, 93, 103 and 141.

24/. Annex No. 7.

25/. Annex No. 9.

[REDACTED]

major changes on the 79th Division's EASTROT Line positions South of
[REDACTED], there were indications that a major offensive might be develop-
ing there, after the 21. Panzer Ron in had been identified and it appeared that
the 21. Panzer Division might have been shifted from the BITCHE salient to this
area. VI Corps was reinforced by the attachment of the 12th Armad Division and
Combat Command "B" had commenced movement to the vicinity of HOCHWELDEN before
the end of the day.

2. a. The 15th Division attacks to the North to reduce the enemy salient
on the left flank met renewed stubborn resistance as the enemy resumed his
aggressive tactics, after a slight let down the previous day, and launched three
heavy counterattacks in the PHILIPPSBURG area. On the left and center of the
salient, a coordinated attack was launched against enemy positions by the 179th
150th and 313th Inf at 0900A. On the western shoulder, elements of the 179th
and 150th had succeeded in clearing the REISETHAL - WILDENGUTH road as far
west as the enemy road block (Q-72-395) which 179th elements driving Southeast
from REISETHAL were clearing at the close of the period. There was no change
in positions in the immediate areas of REISETHAL and SARRIENSBERG, although the
enemy remained in close contact throughout the period. Troops in the center
of the 150th Inf front repulsed two hostile counterattacks of company size
during the afternoon, at Q-761391 and Q-759339, and encountered particularly
strong enemy pressure on the right flank in the WILDENGUTH area.

b. In the center of the salient, the 313th Inf (with 1st Bn 314th
attd) continued to make progress, moving ahead beyond REISETHAL to the
high ground (Q-737304) to the Northwest against stiff resistance. Other
elements, after relief by the 150th Inf in WILDENGUTH, turned Southeast to
engage the enemy dug in at FICHELIE (Q-612360) and had cleared the town by
sundown. To the South, the 3d Bn 275th Inf was committed to clear LICHTENBERG
(Q-3135) of the hostile forces which had infiltrated the previous day, and by
2030A had freed the town and sent patrols through the heavily-wooded high
ground to the East to clean out small groups of infiltrating enemy. To the
Southwest the 216th Inf (-) (with the 2d Bn 274th Inf attd) continued to en-
gage the estimated 200-300 enemy of the 12 SS Regt who were holding out in the
town. Because of the U.S. prisoners held within the town, no artillery,
supported this attack, but by 1930A the town was cleared except for scattered
enclaves, after heavy house-to-house fighting throughout the day.

c. For the second successive day, the enemy made his principal effort
in the PHILIPPSBURG sector of the 275th Inf. During the course of the after-
noon three attacks were launched against the reorganized and improved positions
of the 275th Inf - each in estimated 2-3 company strength. The first which
began at 1530A was broken up by an artillery concentration; the second was dis-
organized and repulsed by a counterattack; the third and largest which began at
1630A and involved an estimated three infantry companies resulted in fierce
small arms fighting for several hours, but it had been contained by 2030A and
the 275th Inf retained possession of the town and the railroad junction. The
sectors of the 157th Inf and the 36th Regt C Regt on the division center and
right flank were generally quiet during the day - patrols penetrating far to
the front of their EASTROT Line positions before making contact 26/.

3. a. On the left and northern front of the 79th Division sector, active
patrols to the front of EASTROT Line positions found enemy activity South of

26/. M.J, 6 Jan - Entries #16, 29, 51, 55, 62, 74, 73, 80, 93, 106 and 115.

[REDACTED]

WISSELBOURG considerably increased by the presence of aggressive probing patrols. At 1750A, an outpost of the 222d Inf elements in INGOLSHEIM (R-1542) was forced to withdraw to the MIR when five enemy half-tracks appeared in the town. Shortly afterwards, two prisoners from the 21 Panzer Rcn Bn were captured near this same town, and interrogation revealed that their unit had moved into SCHWEIGHOFEN (R-1949) during the previous night and had elements operating out of RIEDSELTZ (R-1744). Although no tanks had yet been observed in the vicinity, measures were taken to meet the threat presented by the appearance of the 21 Panzer Division in this zone. CC "A" 11th Arm Div was attached to the 79th Division at 1815A and had begun movement to the SURBOURG (R-0834) area late in the period.

b. Elements of Task Force LINDEN and the 31st Inf continued to exert pressure on the hostile GAMBESHEIM bridgehead on the right of the Division sector. One company of the 232d Inf was surrounded in STATTHATTEN (R-1921) early in the day, but the 79th Cav Rcn Sqn reinforced by a platoon of medium tanks moved North through BIESCHWILLER to clear SESSENHEIM (R-1322) and STATTHATTEN to relieve the encircled group. Interrogation of the four officers and 56 enlisted men taken prisoner in this encounter revealed that they belonged to a hastily-formed battle group which had been sent across the RHINE before they had the chance to know each other. 31st Inf troops attacking East from BIESCHWILLER in the early morning had captured ROHWILLER by 1025A and had cleared DRUSENHEIM (R-1518) by mid-afternoon when they turned South towards HERBLESHEIM. Resistance stiffened at this point and forward positions had been extended only to the edge of the woods at R-143177 by the close of the period. Similar resistance stopped the columns trying to close in on GAMBESHEIM from the West and Southwest. Elements of the 222d and 242d Infs continued their attack East and reached the woods at R-105117 by 1130A but a counterattack forced them to withdraw West of the LANDGRABEN Canal (R-087120), about four kilometers East of WEITERSHEIM, where they reorganized for another attack. Elements of the 232d Inf attacking Northwest from KILSTETT reached the south edge of BETTELHOFEN (R-1009) where they were stopped by concentrated small arms fire. At the close of the period the enemy still held HERBLESHEIM, OFFENDORF and GAMBESHEIM 27/.

4. Except for Combat Command "A" which had been attached to the 79th Division, the 11th Arm Div remained in Corps Reserve near BOUXWILLER. The 25th Tk Bn was relieved of the blocking mission in the VOSGES passes, and 94th Cav Rcn Sqn elements maintained a screen in that zone, between WEITERSWILLER (Q-7628) and ZENSWILLER (Q-895355).

5. Corps Artillery fired a heavy program during the period, supporting the attacks in the REIPERTSWILLER and GAMBESHEIM areas. Low ceiling prevented any air OP adjustments but ground OPs were able to get many observed missions on enemy personnel, machine guns, mortars and vehicles - particularly on the three hostile counterattacks just North of PHILIPPSBOURG.

6. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 54 of this date was received - attaching the 12th Armored Division with all present attachments (327th TD Bn and the 522d AAA Av Bn SP) to VI Corps and authorizing the Corps Commander to move one combat command without delay. By the close of the period Combat Command "B" was enroute to assembly areas near HOCHFELDEN 28/.

7. Additional artillery support was added to VI Corps during the period

27/. WRJ, 6 Jan - Entries #26, 31, 34, 40, 57, 60, 63, 84, 85 and 86.

28/. Annex No. 9.

when the 17th FA Group with the 975th and 977th FA Bns were detached from IV Corps and directed to move immediately to NIEDERMODERN (Q-9227), attached on arrival.

7 January

1. The focal point of enemy activity on the VI Corps front shifted to the northern flank of the 79th Division where the enemy attacked MAGINOT Line positions South of WISSEMBOURG with infantry heavily supported by armor. To the South, on the RHINE River front, the enemy attacks to enlarge his bridge-head at GAMSHEIM also had tank support which drove back elements to DRUSENHEIM. 79th Division troops repulsed another hostile assault on ROHRWILLER, inflicting heavy personnel and materiel casualties on the enemy. In the BITCHE salient, the heaviest hostile pressure remained in the REIPERTSWILLER area after 45th Division elements had finally cleared the WINGEN and LICHTENBERG sectors of the fanatical soldiers of the 6 SS Mtn Division. In general, the enemy attitude on this left flank shifted from aggressive offense to passive, though stubborn, resistance.

2. a. The major activity on the 45th Division front took place as usual in and around the salient Southeast of BITCHE on the VI Corps left flank, where continued attacks on enemy units in the salient made very definite progress - particularly in the vicinity of WINGEN and LICHTENBERG. North of REIPERTSWILLER elements of the 313th Inf (1st Bn 314th Inf atchd) sustained the heaviest pressure from the enemy, but progress was made in the area North of the town. The isolated pocket of enemy resistance at WINGEN which was still fanatically held by SS of the 12th Mtn Regt was finally cleared by the 276th Inf (-). At the beginning of the period a large part of this enemy force in WINGEN had infiltrated from the town in groups of 20 to 40 men and some of these groups were engaged near Q-755381 as they attempted to pass through forward elements of the 179th and 180th Inf Regts and were subsequently mopped up. These SS troops were generally either killed or wounded before they were overcome - of the estimated 300-500 enemy troops originally in WINGEN only 63 prisoners were taken when the town was finally cleared about 1330A. Two officers among the 200 American PWs liberated in the town reported that the enemy received their orders to leave the town the previous night at 2400A. In the LICHTENBERG area to the East the 2d Bn 276th Inf cleared the town about 1330A and continued the attack to the high, wooded ground to the Northeast where the remnants of a battalion of the 952 CR were boxed in and eliminated, in conjunction with elements of the 313th and 274th Infs.

b. On the left flank of the Division front, elements of the 179th Inf and the 19th Armd Inf Bn attacked Southeast from SARREINSBERG and reached the vicinity of Q-743407 where the enemy remained in close contact and continued to defend the road block at Q-726397. The main attack of the 179th was delayed somewhat while units mopped up strong groups of SS Troops filtering North from WINGEN, but it got under way shortly after noon, the 1st Bn advancing to Q-750396. The left flank of the 180th Inf received a strong enemy attack which was repulsed by troops who immediately counterattacked and pushed the enemy back to a line generally along the road from Q-754387 to Q-774385. The remaining 180th Inf troops stayed in position West of WILDENGUTH and cleared up occasional enemy groups drifting North from WINGEN. The 313th Inf, with the 1st Bn 314th Inf atchd, continued to attack North from REIPERTSWILLER against strong enemy resistance from elements of the 506 Pz Bn SS intermingled with Volksgrenadiers. These assaults extended the 313th front to the high ground at Q-798386 - North of SAECMUHL. It was apparent that the enemy troops in the area were very definitely on the defensive and that the force of their attack had spent itself.

c. Hostile activity in the BAERENTHAL - PHILIPPSBOURG - DAMBACH area was negligible throughout the period. At PHILIPPSBOURG where the enemy had

launched his strong drives against the 275th Inf during the previous period, only one light attack was instituted in the course of the morning and that was summarily checked. However the area was made a target for medium guns firing 15 and 17 round missions from the North just before dusk. Four tanks and one SP gun were reported firing harassing missions throughout the night, especially in the DAMBACH area. Along the right of the Division front the 157th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt continued to improve defensive positions and maintain active patrols in an area that was generally quiet throughout the period 29/.

3. a. Along the 79th Division front extending from DRACHENBERG (R-1043) on the North to the vicinity of GAMBESHEIM on the RHINE River, considerable enemy activity took place in two separate zones - the ASCHBACH - STUNDWILLER - BUNL area and the ROHRWILLER - HEERLESHEIM - GAMBESHEIM area. The enemy launched strong infantry attacks supported by armor during the morning in both these areas. On the extreme left divisional boundary the enemy attempted to infiltrate troops into DRACHENBERG at the edge of the HOCHWALD forest. Further East, outposts of the 313th Inf in ASCHBACH (R-1337) were attacked at 0715A by enemy infantry, supported by 15 tanks and had knocked out or disabled five of the tanks before they were forced to withdraw to the Main Line of Resistance. At 0900A, 50 enemy dressed in white parkas took STUNDWILLER (R-1336) and continued on to occupy the town of BUNL (R-2035). However enemy efforts to breach our MLR were unsuccessful as the 313th Inf repulsed five strong enemy attacks on their positions. By mid-afternoon the enemy's aggressive program was considerably curtailed by mortar and artillery concentrations laid on these attacks. A column of infantry extending from ASCHBACH to OBERSEEBACH was observed moving South at 1525A and taken under artillery fire with good results. At 1700A, approximately 100 enemy were observed moving into WIGOLSHHEIM and at 2015A patrols located an estimated company of infantry dug in Southeast of GLEEBURG (R-1144). In the course of the period the 2d Bn 315th Inf reinforced by one company of medium tanks moved to KUHLENDORF (R-1335) to support the 3d Bn of the 313th Infantry.

b. In the southern sector of the 79th Division there was very little change in the overall picture although heavy contact was maintained throughout the day in the DRUSENHEIM, ROHRWILLER and GAMBESHEIM areas. Early in the period the 314th Inf launched an attack South from DRUSENHEIM but was forced back into the town by a strong enemy counterattack supported by tanks and at the close of the period the enemy held the southern part of the town while 314th Inf troops held the bridge and the northern end of the town. In the BOIS DE DRUSENHEIM area other 314th Inf elements advanced against heavy small arms and tank fire to Q-114178. The enemy was very aggressive in the vicinity of ROHRWILLER where an estimated company of enemy infantry supported by five tanks made several futile attempts to enter the town and penetrate Northeast into the wooded area but artillery broke up these attacks before contact was made and at 1500A the enemy was observed withdrawing toward HEERLESHEIM. An estimated ten tanks were used by the enemy in his operations in the vicinity of DRUSENHEIM and ROHRWILLER, of which four were knocked out near ROHRWILLER and one South of DRUSENHEIM. Ten SP guns supported enemy infantry in the GAMBESHEIM area throughout the day and considerable other tracked vehicular movement was heard in this area, indicating that a build-up of armor was taking place. Dispositions of tanks and SP Guns in the bridgehead area seemed to indicate offensive intentions to the Northwest and holding actions to the Southeast.

c. To the South of GAMBESHEIM, elements of the 3d DIA attacked from

29/. WTJ, 7 Jan - Entries #35, 36, 52, 55, 58, 63, 109 and 124.

[REDACTED]

the vicinity of KILSTETT and succeeded in entering GAMBESHEIM but were forced to withdraw to the starting point because of heavy enemy pressure - seven tanks being lost in this operation while two enemy tanks were destroyed. The 3d DIA had assumed command of the Task Force LINDEM area at 1015A. Prisoners taken in this enemy bridgehead were primarily from Bn HOPPE of the 553 VG Division. 30/.

4. At 0930A CC "B" 12th Armd Division closed in assembly areas at HOCHHELDEN and at 1200A had been attached to the 79th Division and directed to move to the general area BISCHWILLER - GRIES - WEYERSHEIM to be prepared to meet the threat in that area. By 1600A the Division OP had opened in HOCHHELDEN, after being released to VI Corps by Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 56 of this date. CC "A" 11th Armd Division remained attached to the 79th Division as reserve in area South of SCULTZ, while the bulk of the division remained in Corps Reserve at BOUXWILLER 31/.

5. Operations Instruction No. 7 was issued at 2200A directing in general the 12th Armd Division to be prepared to counterattack against any enemy penetrations in the 79th Division sector - from the North towards SELTZ or from the East towards BISCHWILLER 32/.

8 January

1. Enemy activity on the VI Corps front remained localized in the same three distinct areas during 8 January - the salient southeast of BITCHE, the drive of the 21 Panzer Division against 79th Division MAGNOT Line positions South of WISSEMBOURG, and the hostile GAMBESHEIM bridgehead. The 45th Division continued to make local gains on the western shoulder of the BITCHE salient but the rest of this sector was quiet although a heavy increase in vehicular and troop movements on the front facing PHILIPPSBOURG and DAMBACH suggested an enemy build-up on that eastern shoulder and there were indications that the 25 PG Division was moving in. On the northeastern sector of the Corps front, the 79th Division successfully repulsed all efforts of the 21 Panzer Division to break through their MAGNOT Line positions in the vicinity of ASCHBACH, inflicting heavy casualties to both personnel and materiel of the attacking forces. The armored attack to eliminate the enemy's GAMBESHEIM bridgehead, was nullified by the many blown bridges which halted progress of the tanks, and by the close of the day there had been no more than minor changes in front line dispositions. Enemy air activity was negligible but there was a decided increase in hostile artillery fire across the entire front.

2. a. The principal contact activity along the 45th Division front continued to take place in the salient Southeast of BITCHE. Within the salient proper, extending from the shoulders between SARRHEISSBERG on the West and PHILIPPSBOURG on the East, down to the high ground just North of REIPIERTSWILLER, the main enemy resistance continued in front of the 179th Inf, 180th Inf and 313th Inf dispositions tied in on a line extending between Q-758384 and Q-835374. These regiments launched a coordinated attack North of this line at 0800A. The 179th Inf got off as planned but made little progress against stubborn enemy resistance. However, elements driving Northwest cleared up the road block at Q-725397 which had been held by the enemy since the beginning of their initial advance. Other units of the 179th Inf plus the 19th Armd Inf Bn

30/. WRJ, 7 Jan - Entries #29, 33, 48, 56, 58, 62, 85, 93, 99 and 103.

31/. Annex No. 9.

32/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

(-) held the towns of SARNLESBERG and GOETZENBRUCK (Q-7442), on the Corps left flank. In the WILDENGUTH area Northwest of REIPERTSWILLER, elements of the 180th Inf received a strong enemy attack at 0800A, anticipating their own attack by a quarter hour - and were forced to withdraw to a line Q-788384 - Q-791387 along the LEISENTHAL - REIPERTSWILLER Road. However the regimental reserve counterattacked against heavy enemy resistance, restored the original positions and advanced the line to Q-786389. Tied in on the right of the 180th Inf, the 313th Inf (with 1st Bn 314th Inf attached), continued to attack to the North, above REIPERTSWILLER but encountered stiff enemy small arms resistance and made little or no advance. The enemy launched three light, but persistent counterattacks supported by artillery fire Northwest of REIPERTSWILLER in the course of the morning - all of which were repulsed. Elements of the 313th Inf worked around to the rear of Hill 336 (Q-809379) in an attempt to dislodge enemy forces from well organized positions where they were impeding the forward progress of the regiment but this maneuver failed and toward the close of the period they withdrew.

b. In the PHILIPPSBOURG - DAMBACH area the 275th Inf maintained and improved defensive positions. There was little evidence of a change in the enemy's dispositions or attitude here but considerable activity was observed in the area indicating a build up in this sector. An enemy column estimated at 200 men was seen marching Southeast from NEUMHOFEN toward PHILIPPSBOURG, while personnel and horse-drawn vehicles were observed North of the town. Northwest of the town at Q-854446 the enemy appeared to be assembling other additional troops and vehicles. Although no definite information or identification of the 25th PG Division was made, it was feared that this mobile unit might be assembling in the rear areas of the PHILIPPSBOURG zone, and the 275th Inf was warned to be especially watchful. At 1020A, three tanks were seen Southwest of NEUMHOFEN and at 1045A, three more tanks were observed moving West in the vicinity of Q-890475. On the 157th Inf and 36th Engr C Regt sectors there was very little activity but contact was maintained with the enemy by active patrols as far North as LEMBACH and WINGEN (R-0648) 33/.

3. a. Along the 79th Division front considerable fighting took place in the northern sector around the town of ASCHBACH (R-1837) where repeated attempts by the enemy to break through positions of the 313th Inf were repulsed with heavy losses in personnel and tanks. On the RHINE River front in the bridge-head sector to the South, fighting continued near ROHWILLER and DRUSENHEIM - neither side making any appreciable gains during the period. In the area South of the WISSELBOURG Gap, the 21 Panzer Division renewed its attacks against 313th Inf positions in the ASCHBACH area at 0700A, employing at least two Bns (II Bn 192 PG and II Bn 125 PG) supported by an estimated ten tanks. These unsuccessful attacks continued throughout the morning and according to PW's the enemy suffered heavy casualties to personnel from small arms and mortar fire and an estimated 2 - 4 tanks were knocked out by our artillery fire. At 1100A, thirty enemy had surrendered to the 313th Inf and at 1130A, the enemy withdrew to the vicinity of OBERSEEBACH (R-1841) where he was reported assembling tanks and personnel but at 1225A, twelve P-47's bombed an assembly area in the town with excellent results - a PW reporting about 100 wounded Germans around the ASCHBACH - STUNDWILLER (R-1836) area after this air attack. Except for heavy small arms fire on a patrol to GLEEBOURG (R-1144) and some mortar fire on forward elements during the early afternoon, hostile activity on this front quieted down as the enemy apparently began reorganizing and re-

33/. WRJ, 8 Jan 45 - Entries #13, 31, 30, 33, 39, 47, 50, 54, 63, 71 and 83.

grouping his forces. A total of 57 prisoners were taken during the day - from the 125 PGR, the 192 PGR, and the 220 Engr Bn. The 222d and 242d Inf Regts continued to maintain their positions to the West and East of the 313th Inf, along the MAGINOT Line with only light contact during the period.

b. In the RHINE River area infantry and armored elements made continued attempts to narrow the hostile bridgehead but were unsuccessful - the enemy apparently concentrating his attention at retaining what he already held. While the 232d Inf continued to improve positions across the WEYERSHEIM - GAMBESHEIM road on a line (R-083117) - (R-090126), and blocked to the East, the 314th Inf attacked South from DRUSENHEIM and ROHRWILLER but made little progress against stiff enemy resistance of small arms, mortar and heavy artillery. The enemy's successful repulsing of this attack made it impossible for engineer elements to construct bridges over the MODER River which seriously curtailed the tactical movement of armor against enemy positions Southeast of the River. The enemy assumed the aggressive momentarily and launched two small but unsuccessful counterattacks against infantry along the River East of ROHRWILLER. Although the 314th Inf was unable to establish a bridgehead over the canal South of DRUSENHEIM, elements reached the edge of the woods vicinity of R-147175 one mile Southwest of the town, where a local enemy counterattack was repulsed late in the period. After the right flank of the 314th advanced East from ROHRWILLER at 1000A to reach a line R-131163 - R-135166, CC "B" of the 12th Armd Division attacked to the East from ROHRWILLER at 1045A. Held up by blown bridges, they turned South toward HERRLISHEIM where their patrols penetrated to within 1 1/2 kilometers of the town without contacting the enemy. The 714th Tk Bn attacked South on the West side of the canal to reach a line (R-115150) - (R-120163), while the 50th Armd Inf Bn attacked South on the East side of the canal and reached positions on line (R-126161) - (R-130163). In the southern part of the bridgehead, at GAMBESHEIM, no activity was reported 34/.

9 January

1. The northeastern flank of the 79th Division sector saw the major activity during 9 January, as the enemy continued his heavy pressure in that area and unleashed a strong offensive, spear-headed by 25-30 tanks. PW identifications indicated that the 25 PG Division, which was thought to be in rear areas of the BITCHE salient only the day before, had joined the 21 Panzer Division in this attack against the MAGINOT Line positions South of WISSEMBOURG. One of these hostile attacks during the day penetrated the MIR and virtually surrounded the town of HATTEN (R-1833) but the 79th positions were being restored by the end of the period. In the two other critical areas - the BITCHE salient and the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead - stubborn enemy resistance continued, denying all attempts to eliminate them.

2. a. On the Corps left flank, 45th Division troops trying to eliminate the BITCHE salient met increasingly stubborn resistance from the 6 SS Mtn and the 361 VG Divisions and made only minor progress. On the northwestern shoulder the 179th Inf (with the 19th Armd Inf Bn (-) atchd) continued to mop up scattered groups of enemy in the SARREINSBERG area and cleared the vital SARREINSBERG - WINGEN road before resuming the attack Southeast. Progress was halted at the road junction (Q-758408) where 179th elements met heavy automatic

34/. WRJ, 8 Jan - Entries #20, 40, 41, 63, 65, 72 and 85.

[REDACTED]

weapons fire and were forced to take defensive positions at Q-755408, overlooking the road junction. To their right, the 180th Inf made only minor progress in its attack to the North against the 6 SS Rcn Bn and the 506 PG SS Bn and were forced to repulse a strong counterattack against their positions along the line Q-765336 - Q-783336, Northwest of REIPERTSWILLER. To the Northeast of REIPERTSWILLER, the 313th Inf made small gains to seize the hill at Q-810381 and another hill at Q-820381 where they took 46 prisoners, but the stubborn resistance by elements of the 952 and 953 Regts of the 361 VG Division prevented any substantial progress.

b. On the northeastern shoulder of the salient, the 276th Inf made considerable progress on its left flank, advancing to the town of OBENMUNLTHAL (Q-3439) against comparatively light small arms opposition, clearing the town and taking seventeen prisoners by 2130A. No advances were made by the rest of the 275th and 274th Inf elements and in the PHILIPPSBOURG areas, and there were indications that elements of the German 36 Inf Division had taken up positions in the vicinity of DARBACH (Q-372432) to counter any future thrust. Only minor contact was made on the long fronts of the 157th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt, extending from DARBACH to CLEIRBACH, during the day. However, a considerable increase in hostile activity behind the lines in the CLEIRBACH area seemed to substantiate reports that the 245 Division was moving up into the lines. After dark, patrols of the 157th Inf encountered an undetermined number of enemy in the DARBACH area 35/.

3. a. The enemy resumed his offensive against the northeastern front of the 79th Division early in the period with attacks in the STUNDWILLER (R-1836) and HATTEN (R-1833) areas, and continued to offer stubborn resistance to all efforts to eliminate his GUMSHEER bridgehead on the South, along the west banks of the MINE. Just before daylight the 313th Inf had stopped an early probing attack short of the MINE in the STUNDWILLER area, but at the same time the stronger enemy attack - an estimated two infantry battalions supported by seven tanks - was making progress at HATTEN. This assault forced the 242d Inf to withdraw temporarily from their positions, but by 0940A the line had been restored and the attack dispersed except for a few snipers left in the town. Identification of prisoners from the 35 and 119 PGRs indicated that the 25-PG Division had joined the 21 Panzer Division in this sector.

b. The enemy resumed his offensive against the 242d Inf positions at 1300A with 25-30 tanks spearheading an undetermined number of infantry, and by 1350A HATTEN was surrounded on three sides and tanks had by-passed the town and pushed on to points just South of BITTERSCHOPFEN (R-1633). A heavy concentration of artillery and tank destroyer fire broke the momentum of the attack and a counterattack by the 242d Inf at 1500A forced the enemy armor to withdraw to the East after an estimated 13-16 tanks had been knocked out. By 2145A, all but the eastern end of HATTEN had been cleared, and elements of the 242d Inf were fighting in that section to clean out the remaining small hostile groups and restore their MINE East of the town. When the enemy was observed withdrawing, the reinforced battalion of the 315th Inf, which had been held in reserve as a counterattack force, was not committed and took up positions in BITTERSCHOPFEN.

c. On the right flank of the 79th Division front, CC "B" 12th Armcd Division met continued stubborn resistance in their efforts to reduce the

35/. WJ, 9 Jan - Entries #29, 34, 45, 50, 63, 67, 68, 73 and 85.

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GAMBSHEIM bridgehead. The principal activity took place North of HERRLISHEIM where an hostile attack by infantry supported by SP guns forced elements of the 311th Inf and the 56th Armd Inf Bn to withdraw across the river at R-130168 by 0915A. Later as tanks of the 711th Tank Bn moved into position and sprayed the area with machine gun and SP weapons fire, the infantry elements moved back across the river and reached R-133166. Attacking South against small arms opposition, the 56th AIB reached the edge of HERRLISHEIM by 1130A and had occupied two-thirds of the town by 1130A, capturing approximately 100 prisoners in the operation. On the northern front of this bridgehead the right flank of the 311th Inf repulsed a small enemy infantry attack designed to take the bridge at R-132164 while elements in the North of DRUSENHEIM were subjected to heavy artillery fire. Except for these activities and the hostile artillery interdictions of bridging operations in ROHWILLER and DRUSENHEIM, the remainder of the bridgehead was relatively quiet, although increased enemy movement to the North, hinted the enemy intended an attack southward to join forces with his GAMBSHEIM bridgehead 36/.

10 January

1. Compared with the previous few days, the VI Corps front was quiet on 10 January. The enemy still clung tenaciously to his salient Southeast of BITCHE and his bridgehead in the HERRLISHEIM - GAMBSHEIM area, but throughout the Corps area his attitude had changed to one of passive resistance in lieu of the aggressiveness he had shown in previous days. In the HATTEN area he seemed to be bidding for time to reorganize and recuperate the 21 Panzer and the 25 PG Divisions for another strong attack on 79th Division elements in that sector. During the day minor gains were made by the 45th Division on the western shoulder of the BITCHE salient and some progress was made by 79th Division elements attacking HERRLISHEIM - but only after bitter house-to-house fighting in both those areas on the extreme flanks of the Corps.

2. a. In the 45th Division sector the main activity occurred on the western shoulder of the enemy salient, between SAREINSBERG and ALTHORN, and East along the high ground North of WEIDENRUTH. During the morning the 179th Inf, on the left flank, had secured the trail junction at Q-750393 and was clearing the ridge (Q-745403) South of SAREINSBERG of scattered groups of enemy. Attacking ALTHORN from the North and West, other 179th Inf troops advanced through heavy mortar and artillery fire to the outskirts and were heavily engaged in the town by the close of the period after repulsing one small hostile counterattack about 2200A. The right flank of this regimental attack reached the line Q-744395 - Q-752396, moving forward only slowly against an enemy defending stubbornly with small arms fire from well dug-in positions.

b. To the East in the valley North of WEIDENRUTH, the 180th Inf attack to the North had made only negligible progress after a day of heavy small arms fighting - PW identifications indicating the 11 SS Regt of the 6 SS Itn Division had moved into this area to reinforce the enemy defenses. However, the 180th Inf continued to send strong combat patrols to the North to find a suitable attack route. To the right, the 313th Inf made better progress in its attacks to the North and Northeast of ROHWILLER. The left column pushed North of SARBACH to the high ground at Q-795382 while the right flank had

36/. VRLJ, 9 Jan - Entries #24, 31, 46, 49, 61, 66 and 70.

advanced rapidly to the high ground to the Northeast at Q-818389 before being stopped by determined resistance from enemy infantry employing automatic weapons fire from well dug-in positions.

c. On the eastern shoulder of the salient, the 276th Inf attacked Northeast with three battalions abreast to clean out the heavily-wooded ridges Northeast of THONINGBERG and made rapid progress until increased opposition was encountered along the line Q-832375 - Q-837389 - Q-842388. The rest of Task Force HERRIN - the 274th and 275th Infs - continued to improve defensive positions in the BAEFERNAL - PHILIPPSBOURG area, their aggressive patrols finding little indication of strong enemy activity in that sector. To the East, the long fronts of the 157th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt remained quiet, activity limited to normal patrolling 37/.

3. a. Along the 79th Division front combat activity remained localized - in the vicinity of HATTEN on the North and HERRLESHEIM in the bridgehead area to the South. At 1030A the enemy had launched a small counterattack of infantry and tanks to bolster his troops still in the town of HATTEN and this reinforced group offered stubborn resistance throughout the day, to all attempts by the 242d Inf to restore its positions along the MAGNOT Line. During the afternoon the reserve battalion of the 315th Inf was finally committed to support the 242d Inf, and by the end of the period these troops had reached the eastern end of the town which they were clearing against heavy small arms opposition. Prisoners taken in HATTEN were restricted to elements of the 25 Pz Hon Bn and Battle Group Loewen, indicating that the major units of the 25 PG Division which had launched the heavy attacks in this area the previous day had been withdrawn for recuperation and reorganization.

b. On the RHINE River front to the South continued efforts were made to reduce the enemy bridgehead in the HERRLESHEIM - GAMBESHEIM area. After repulsing an enemy attack in the DRUSENHEIM area in the early morning hours, the 314th Inf made negligible progress in its advance to the South against heavy small arms and self-propelled gun fire. In the town of HERRLESHEIM, the 56th AIB was also heavily engaged throughout the period by enemy small arms fire supported by five tanks, and was almost surrounded before two companies of the 714th Tk Bn were sent in as reinforcements to restore the situation. By the end of the period, two thirds of the town had been cleared, but the enemy continued to resist with sporadic street fighting in the southern section of the town. It was apparent that the enemy had considerably reinforced his troops in this bridgehead when elements of the 1119, 1120 and 1121 Regts of the 553 VG Division were identified during the day 38/.

4. The 12th Armd Division, less elements of CG "B" who were operating on the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead with the 79th Division, remained in Corps reserve in the HOCHWELDEN area, as the 92d Cav Hon Sqn screened the Corps right flank. Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armd Division remained attached to the 79th Division, in reserve South of SOELTZ, and elements of the 94th Cav Hon Sqn screened the WALTERSWILLER - ZINSWILLER road while the remainder of the division remained in Corps reserve near BOUXWILLER.

5. There were no close support missions by XII TAC during the period, but enemy air activity was heavy. Twenty-six hostile planes, including ten jet-pro-

37/. WRJ, 10 Jan - Entries #16, 37, 45, 55, 63, 64 and 82.

38/. WRJ, 10 Jan - Entries #8, 15, 23, 26, 51 and 64.

[REDACTED]

elled Me-262s, appeared over the Corps area on bombing and strafing missions, particularly in the SOULTZ area, where one Me-109 was shot down. Corps artillery was heavy during the night, laying down heavy harassing fires in the area West of SELTZ where the 25 PG Division was believed to be regrouping. TOTs were fired during the day on assembly points, enemy occupied towns and crossing sites in the GAMBSHEIM area.

6. At 0001A the boundary between VI Corps and XV Corps on the left had been swung South on the VOLKSBERG (Q-6838) hinge and now ran Southwest to Northeast generally between MEISENTHAL and the lake at Q-8545 - in accordance with Seventh Army Directive X-155 dated 8 January 1945 39/.

11 January

1. Two heavy enemy attacks hit VI Corps positions during 11 January, as heavy fighting continued in the BITCHE salient and in the HATTEN - RITTERS-HOFFEN area. While the 45th Division made some local gains on the western shoulder of the hostile salient southeast of BITCHE, a renewed offensive by the 6 SS Mtn Division deepened the salient, North of REIPERTSWILLER, and night counterattacks had only partially restored positions in that area. The heaviest fighting of the day took place in HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN where the German 25 PG Division continued its heavy attacks to break through the 79th Division MTR positions along the MAGINOT Line, and had occupied the greater part of both towns by the end of the period after repulsing a counterattack by CC "A" 14th Armd Division. The GAMBSHEIM bridgehead area was comparatively quiet as CC "B" 12th Armd Division withdrew to defensive positions Southeast of BISCHWILLER.

2. a. Activity on the 45th Division front remained localized in the zone of the BITCHE salient. While some local gains were made on the western shoulder by the 179th Inf, the salient was deepened by a strong attack of the 6 SS Mtn Division against positions of the 180th Inf in the WILDENGUTH - SAEGMUHL area. During the morning, elements of the 179th Inf attacked ALTHORN and by mid-afternoon had cleared the town, after mopping up scattered small arms resistance, and occupied the high ground to the South. But down in the center of the salient, both the 180th Inf and the 313th Inf were forced to make withdrawals from their line on the high ground North of REIPERTSWILLER by the concerted attack of the 6 SS Mtn Division which had been reinforced by the arrival of the 11 SS Mtn Regt. The enemy attack of an estimated four battalions was launched at 0730 and forced withdrawals to a defensive line Q-770387 - Q-792377, just North of the WILDENGUTH - SAEGMUHL road. These positions were firmly held until late afternoon when a resumption of the hostile attack forced slight withdrawals until it was stopped along the 38 Northing. After moving from its positions on the Division right flank to assembly areas in REIPERTSWILLER, the 2d Bn 157th Inf attacked North at 2130A to restore these lost positions, but forward elements were halted at Q-795381 by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

b. On the right of the salient, the 276th Inf made only minor progress against small arms resistance in its attack to the Northeast over the heavily-wooded ridges East of REIPERTSWILLER, and had not come up abreast of the 313th Inf positions by nightfall. But after regrouping shortly before the end of the period, elements were moving ahead into more favorable positions for a continuation of the attack to the Northwest the next morning. The sectors of the rest

39/. Annex No. 10.

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of Task Force HERREN - from PHILIPPSBOURG to DAMBACH - and the 157th Inf and 36th Engr C Regt - from DAMBACH to CLIMBACH - remained generally quiet throughout the period, although strong patrols remained active and maintained contact generally along the 40 Northing 40/.

3. a. Continued heavy contact was maintained in the HATTEN area throughout the day as the enemy renewed his attacks on that northeastern flank of the 79th Division front. Elements of the 315th Inf in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area were subjected to sporadic enemy artillery fire during the night and considerable vehicular traffic was heard moving South from INGOLSHHEIM (R-1542) towards HATTEN before daylight, indicating another attack by elements of the 25 PG Division was imminent. Half an hour after an enemy artillery barrage had been concentrated in the western half of HATTEN - held by 2d Bn 315th Inf - a column of enemy infantry and tanks was seen moving towards the town at 0730A. By 0810A these troops had infiltrated through the heavy mist and snow, which restricted visibility to 150 yards, to the northern end of RITTERSHOFFEN. As the enemy continued to build up his forces by infiltration in that town, intense close-in fighting was going on in HATTEN where the reinforced hostile infantry were being supported by 15 tanks before noon. The fifty-percent increase in enemy artillery fire on both those towns indicated that the artillery of the 25th PG Division was moving into the area. While the 3d Bn 315th Inf managed to restrict the attacking force to the north end of RITTERSHOFFEN after a day of heavy fighting, the additional infantry and armored elements of the 25 PG Division, driving on HATTEN from the North and South, had succeeded in cutting off the 2d Bn in the southwest corner of the town.

b. To meet this threat, CC "A" 14th Armd Division jumped off at 1615A from a line R-144342 - R-144357, East of KUHLENDORF (R-1335), in an attempt to clear RITTERSHOFFEN and continue on to HATTEN but was stopped by heavy small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and tank fire about 400 yards West of the former town. During the evening, plans were made to employ the rest of the 14th Armd Division, which had moved up behind the threatened sector, in a counterattack the next morning to clear RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN, collect the remaining 315th Inf troops in both towns, restore the original MAGINOT Line positions and meet the threat of the hostile build-up of armor in BUHL (R-198353) to the Northeast.

c. Other MAGINOT Line positions along the 79th Division front - held by the 222d Inf to the Northwest of HATTEN and by the 242d and 232d Infs to the South of that critical area - remained quiet, with activity limited to patrolling. In the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead area, there was considerable regrouping. The 314th Inf maintained its line on the northern shoulder - R-132164 - R-146175 - R-160180, Southwest of DRUSENHEIM, but CC "B", 12th Armd Division withdrew from HERRLISHEIM at 0215A to reorganize after its heavy battles of the previous day. The 714th Tk Bn assembled at BISCHWILLER while the 56th Armd Inf Bn established a defensive line to the Southeast of the town, running generally R-096154 - R-120170. On the south flank, elements of the 232d Inf held their defensive positions on the bridge at R-087120, midway between WEYERSHEIM and GAMBESHEIM. Corps artillery fired a TOT on an enemy assembly point, enemy-occupied towns and river crossing sites in the bridgehead area, while hostile artillery was limited to sporadic concentrations on positions of the 314th Inf South of DRUSENHEIM 41/.

40/. WRJ, 11 Jan - Entries #18, 27, 38, 50, 56, 76, 84, 97 and 101.

41/. WRJ, 11 Jan - Entries #10, 24, 26, 32, 33, 37, 45, 49, 56, 60, 61, 67, 74, 77, 84, 96, 99 and 107.

S E C R E T

4. At 0800A, Operations Instruction No. 8 was issued to outline the plan of relief of 45th Division elements by the 36th Division of XV Corps to complete adjustment of the VI Corps left boundary in the BITCHE salient area 42/.

5. At 1730A, Operations Instruction No. 9 was issued directing: (a) the 14th Armd Division (-) to move without delay to the vicinity of WOERTH (R-0037), prepared to counterattack against enemy penetrations - South from LEMBACH (R-0445) or West from HATTEN (R-1733); (b) the 540th Engr C Regt to organize and occupy a defensive line WINGEN - WIMMENAU; and (c) confirming the relief of the 19th Armd Inf Bn and Cos A, 25th and 47th Tk Bns from attachment to the 45th Division and their reversion to control of the 14th Armd Division 43/.

6. At 2100A, Operations Instruction No. 10 was issued, directing in general: (a) the 14th Armd Division to pass through 79th Division positions and attack to capture the line STUNDWILLER - BUHL - FORET DE HATTEN (R-2034); and (b) the 79th Division to follow up the armored attack and reoccupy re-stored MAGINOT Line positions 44/.

12 January

1. Heavy fighting continued throughout 12 January in the two critical areas on the VI Corps front - the BITCHE salient which the enemy had driven into the left flank of the 45th Division sector, and the RITERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area where the enemy had broken through MAGINOT line positions of the 79th Division. After the enemy had shifted to defensive measures, the 45th Division made minor advances on both shoulders of the BITCHE salient and regained the high ground North of WILDENGUTH which had been lost the previous day to the 6 SS Mtn Division. The 14th Armd Division attack to restore the 79th Division MIR in the HATTEN area met only partial success after a day of heavy fighting. CC "A" succeeded in clearing all but one corner of RITERSHOFFEN to relieve the battalion of the 315th Inf which had been cut off in the town, but the attack of CC "B" developed heavy fighting 300 yards West of HATTEN and the infantry elements were still surrounded in the town at the end of the period.

2. a. Considerable local gains to restore previous positions in the rim of the BITCHE salient were made by left flank elements of the 45th Division as the enemy attitude changed from aggressive attack to stubborn defense. On the western shoulder, the 179th Inf jumped off from the ALTHORN area with three battalions abreast at 0730A against moderate resistance which was generally limited to small arms and machine gun fire. Elements in the center struck two enemy rifle companies well dug in on the ridge at Q-758389 and were halted there late in the morning until a platoon of tanks had come up to dislodge the hostile forces. Despite increased resistance of heavy mortar and artillery fire during the afternoon, the advance continued to a general line Q-752411 - Q-768387. On the nose of the salient, the 180th Inf attacked at 1430A to reoccupy the positions lost the previous day and had advanced to the high ground at Q-780389 by the close of the day, despite the intense enemy mortar and artillery fire. To their right, the 2d Bn 157th Inf, which had been moved into the area to provide a counter-attacking force to restore positions North of REIPERTSWILLER,

42/. Annex No. 7.

43/. Annex No. 7.

44/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

pushed North over the heavily-wooded ridges to gain a line Q-792383 - Q-799385 despite stubborn small arms opposition from elements of the 6 SS Mtn Division. To the East of REIPERISWILLER, the 313th Inf consolidated its positions and mopped up the area, a strong combat patrol capturing seventeen enemy who had been defending a road block near the bridge at Q-824371.

b. On the eastern shoulder of the salient, the 276th Inf stopped a company-sized enemy attack in the morning, and then continued its advance against scattered small arms fire to establish a new line running generally Q-827383 - Q-832390. To the Northeast, elements of the 275th Inf encountered heavy small arms fire Northwest of OBERMUEHLTHAL but made local gains to establish a line Q-833397 - Q-834404 while the main body of Task Force HERREN held the quiet front: OBERMUEHLTHAL - PHILIPPSBOURG - DAMBACH. The rest of the long Division front held by the 157th Inf (-) and the 36th Engr C Regt, from DAMBACH to CLIMBACH, was quiet, activity being limited to aggressive patrolling to maintain contact 45/.

3. a. Once again the heaviest fighting on the Corps front was centered in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area where fierce battles went on throughout the day, as the 14th Armd Division attacked East in an effort to relieve the encircled battalions of the 315th Inf in the two towns. CC "A" jumped off at 0900 and made rapid progress against slight initial resistance to reach the northern end of the town within an hour. Hostile opposition remained light throughout the morning except for strongpoints in the southeastern corner of the town - near the church and the cemetery. By noon, infantry had cleaned out all resistance near the church but the position in the cemetery had been strongly reinforced by seven tanks and artillery fire, and intense house-to-house fighting continued through the end of the period in that southeastern corner of RITTERSHOFFEN where the enemy employed small arms, mortar, tank, SP gun and heavy artillery fire to halt the advance of CC "A".

b. The attempt of CC "B" to relieve the encircled 2d Bn 315th Inf made very little progress. The attack which jumped off at 1115A was halted 500 yards West of the town when armored infantry was pinned down by heavy machine gun and small arms fire, and two supporting tanks were knocked out by 88mm fire. By 1620A, this infantry column had pushed ahead to within 300 yards of HATTEN, but then was forced to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties from the intense hostile artillery fire. Enemy tanks which had taken up positions on the western fringe of the town, between the encircled elements of the 315th Inf and the line of attack, prevented the heavy employment of the CC "B" armor. By the close of the period, the 2d Bn 315th Inf was still holding its positions in the southwestern corner of the town, although its strength had been considerably depleted by heavy casualties incurred after a day of heavy contact 46/.

4. There were no changes in the other MAGINOT Line positions of the 79th Division front, to the Northwest and Southeast of the critical HATTEN area, and the line remained quiet except in the HOFFEN area where the 3d Bn 313th Inf was subjected to heavy caliber artillery fire throughout the period. In the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead, 315th Inf elements holding the northern shoulder at DRUSENHEIM were subjected to harassing artillery fire and direct small arms fire during the afternoon and 56th Armd Infantry positions East of ROHRWILLER received a heavy mortar concentration about 1500A, but generally the area was quiet. Patrols of the 315th, probing to the North, reported enemy road blocks

45/. WRJ, 12 Jan - Entries #8, 15, 24, 31, 35, 60, 72 and 91.

46/. WRJ, 12 Jan - Entries #11, 14, 17, 19, 22, 26, 43, 51, 56, 58, 71, 76 and 85.

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between the HAGUENAU Forest and the RHINE. Patrols of the 56th AIB found the enemy dug in on the banks of the ZORN Canal as far West as R-104135 and noted increased activity in the vicinity of HERRLISHEIM where the enemy seemed to be improving his defenses 47/.

5. Bad weather prevented any close air support during the day, and there were no hostile planes reported over the area. Air OPs were grounded, but Corps artillery continued concentrations on the two threatened zones with ground observation. TOTs were fired on enemy assembly points at CAMP DE BITCHE (Q-8150), EQUELSHARDT (Q-8246) and MOUTERHOUSE (Q-7942); 240mm fire was directed against the communications center of WISSEMBOURG and on enemy assembly points in STUNDWILLER (R-1836) and ASCHBACH (R-1837); a heavy counterbattery program was fired against the guns supporting the enemy actions in the HATTEN area.

6. The 62d AA Gun Bn was relieved of attachment to VI Corps and commenced movement to the XXI Corps zone, while the 256th Engr C Bn closed in assembly areas at STEINBOURG (Q-7618), attached to VI Corps.

7. At 1100A Operations Instruction No. 11 was issued FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY, outlining a withdrawal to a new MIR along the line VOLKSEBERG (Q-6838) - WILDENAU (Q-7635) - HAGUENAU (R-0424) - BLSCHWILLER (R-0918) - if the increasing enemy pressure should necessitate such a withdrawal to those more favorable defensive positions 48/.

13 January

1. The RITERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area continued to be the center of activity on the Corps front throughout 13 January, as continued assaults by the 14th Armd Division to restore MIR positions of the 79th Division made considerable progress. After a day of heavy fighting, in which the 25 PG Division had counter-attacked three times, elements of the 14th Armored Division had cleared all but one corner of RITERSHOFFEN and had simultaneously driven the enemy from most of HATTEN and re-established contact with the isolated battalion of the 315th Inf. After forces of the German 6 SS Mtn Division reverted to the defensive, the 45th Division made some gains on the western shoulder of the BITCHE salient, but was limited to minor advances around the rest of the salient's rim. Action in the area of the enemy's GAMBSEHEIM bridgehead was limited to patrol clashes.

2. a. On the Corps left flank, continued aggressive thrusts by the 45th Division troops kept the enemy on the defensive in his salient Southeast of BITCHE, and some minor gains were made in the course of the period. Contact over the rest of the Division front remained light, as an intense regrouping program began to set the stage for the relief of Task Force HERREN which was to be replaced by the 103d Division. On the western shoulder of the enemy salient, the 179th Inf attacked East from the vicinity of ALTHORN at 0900A and made minor gains against stubborn small arms fire, meeting particularly bitter fighting in the vicinity of LE FORLENKOPF (Q-780388) before forcing the enemy to withdraw. The moderate mortar and light artillery fire was a considerable decrease over that of the previous day. By the end of the period a general line Q-760402 - Q-764386 had been established across the ridges Northwest of WILDEN-GUTH. North of WILDENGUTH, the left flank of the 180th Inf attack made no

47/. WRJ, 12 Jan - Entries #14, 19, 43 and 71.

48/. Annex. No. 7.

progress against intense small arms fire from well dug-in positions, but the center of the regimental front was pushed ahead to Q-786385 where progress was halted by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The 1st Bn 314th Inf, which had been attached to the 180th, remained in close contact on the regimental right flank, encountering moderate small arms and machine gun fire throughout the day.

b. The rest of the long Division front remained quiet, except for patrol activity, as regrouping of battalions began - preparatory to the relief of Task Force HERREN by the 103d Division in accordance with Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 59 of this date. The 157th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt began battalion movements to take over the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient from the 276th and 275th Infs of Task Force HERREN which simultaneously began battalion shifts to take over the division right flank running generally between DAMBACH and CLIMBACH, in addition to the line OBERMUEHLTHAL - DAMBACH already held by the 274th Inf. Except for these movements, activity along this part of the division front was limited to vigorous patrolling 49/.

3. a. The HATTEN - RITTERSHOFFEN area remained the hotspot of the northeastern Corps flank in the center of the 79th Division zone during the day. As the 14th Armd Division continued its counterattack to restore the MIR along the MAGINOT Line, considerable progress was made towards clearing the two critical towns and contact was re-established with the battalion which had been cut off in HATTEN, but the enemy still retained small footholds in both towns at the end of the period. CC "A", with the 3d Bn 315th Inf attached, continued its assault on RITTERSHOFFEN and elements of the 48th Tk Bn had cut the road running East to HATTEN early in the morning. Within the town, the 68th AIB and the 315th Inf elements pushed ahead against intense opposition from enemy infantry supported by flak wagons, flame throwers and tanks and cleared the town by late afternoon except for the strongpoints in the church and cemetery area. Two small hostile attacks about dusk were quickly repulsed, but CC "A" was heavily engaged towards the close of the period, when a strong enemy attack of infantry, supported by flame-throwing tanks, developed from the Northeast. The 68th AIB and elements of the 315th Inf were driven from their positions by the initial impact of this assault, but quickly reorganized behind positions of the 48th Tk Bn which had contained the counterattack 100 yards West of the church after inflicting heavy personnel casualties and knocking out eight tanks.

b. To the East, CC "B" attempted to outflank HATTEN to the Northeast, but was forced to withdraw after three attempts because of the intense artillery and anti-tank fire from BUHL, to the Northeast. Meanwhile, CC "R" attacked East from NIEDERBETSCHDORF (R-1333) at 0800A to make a frontal assault on HATTEN and made considerable progress despite the continued intense resistance. By late afternoon the 19th AIB had reached the western outskirts and established contact with the 2d Bn 315th Inf which had been isolated there for several days. Intense house-to-house fighting continued throughout the day, but by the close of the period, elements of the 47th Tk Bn had the town virtually surrounded and just before midnight a considerable portion of the enemy tanks and infantry were observed withdrawing to the Northeast. As in RITTERSHOFFEN, the continued savage resistance came from the 25 PG Division 50/.

4. The long 79th Division front was quiet throughout the period. Elements of the 222d Inf held MAGINOT Line positions Northwest of the HATTEN area, while the 242d and 232d Infs held the line running Southeast towards DRUSENHEIM. Except

49/. WRJ, 13 Jan - Entries #8, 13, 21, 24, 41, 44, 72, 80, 89 and 111;
Annex No. 9.

50/. WRJ, 13 Jan - Entries #17, 18, 28, 36, 40, 42, 60, 77, 88, 98, 106 and 112.

for patrol activity, the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead sector was quiet. Elements of the 314th Inf maintained their positions from DRUSENHEIM to the Southwest; the 56th AIB held the defensive line East of ROHRWILLER; and elements of the 94th Cav Ron Sqn and the 232d Inf maintained a screen along the rest of the bridgehead rim to the Corps right boundary. CC "B" (-) 12th Armd Division remained in the ROHRWILLER area, behind the line held by its 56th AIB, while the remainder of the 12th Armd Division continued in Corps reserve in the HOCHFELDEN area 51/.

5. Improved visibility made possible a decided increase in close air support for Corps operations. Three missions of 36 sorties bombed and strafed enemy assembly areas and transport in the BITCHE salient, and one mission of six sorties made a supply drop to the isolated battalion in HATTEN. Between 1209A and 1639A, 31 hostile planes (including 18 jet-propelled Me-262s) appeared over the Corps zone on bombing, strafing and reconnaissance missions - principally in the SOULTZ area. One of these enemy planes was destroyed by Corps AA.

6. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 59 of this date was received, directing the movement of the 103d Division from the XXI Corps zone and its attachment to VI Corps on arrival; and the movement of Task Force HERREN (as relieved by the 103d Division), one normal combat command, one FA Group and two light FA Bns from VI Corps to the XXI Corps 52/.

7. At 0800A VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 12 had been issued, directing (a) the 12th Armd Division to attack through elements of the 79th Division to destroy enemy forces in the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead, and (b) the 79th Division to assist the armored attack and be prepared to relieve 12th Armd Division elements along the line of the RHINE River 53/.

14 January

1. Activity on the VI Corps front during 14 January followed the pattern of the previous few days. Bitter fighting continued in both RITERSHOFFEN and HATTEN where the 14th Armd Division made some progress in their attacks to clear the two towns, despite the appearance of elements of the 7 Paratroop Division in that sector as reinforcements for the 21 Panzer and the 25 PG Divisions. One heavy counterattack by enemy infantry supported by flame-throwing tanks nullified some of the gains in HATTEN, but this assault had been contained by the close of the period. The 45th Division made local gains on the rim of the BITCHE salient while considerable regrouping took place on the right half of their front as the 103d Division commenced relief of the Task Force HERREN. Heavy patrol activity was the extent of contact in the enemy bridgehead North of GAMBESHEIM.

2. a. On its left flank the 45th Division continued the attack against the enemy salient Southeast of BITCHE and made some progress against stubborn resistance from the well dug-in elements of the 6 SS Mtn Division, while regrouping continued along the sector from DAMBACH to GLIMBACH in preparation for the relief of Task Force HERREN by the 103d Division. On the western shoulder of the salient, the 179th Inf advanced East to a line Q-761408 - Q-765400 despite stubborn small arms resistance supported by sporadic artillery fire and the numerous anti-personnel mines encountered. On the nose of the salient, the

51/. WRJ, 13 Jan - Entries #42 and 110.

52/. Annex No. 9.

53/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

180th Inf made little progress in its attack to the North of WILDENGUTH and REIPERTSWILLER against the determined resistance of the 12 SS Mtn Regt which launched an unsuccessful counterattack of an estimated 150 men across the road at Q-774386 shortly after dark. Heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire caused these SS troops to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties. The 1st Bn 314th Inf maintained its positions to the right of the 180th Inf while the 1st Bn 315th Inf relieved the 313th Inf (-3d Bn) which began movement to SURBOURG (R-0834) and reverted to control of the 79th Division.

b. On the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient, the 157th Inf jumped off on its attack to the Northwest at 0830A against stubborn resistance from elements of the 256 VG Division. Advancing slowly over the heavily-wooded ridges in the sector against resistance of small arms, mortar and artillery fire, the regiment reached the line Q-823384 - Q-828384 on the high ground overlooking the REIPERTSWILLER - OBERMUEHLTHAL road. To the right, the 36th Engr C Regt completed relief of the 275th Inf in the OBERMUEHLTHAL area, maintained contact with the 157th Inf, and improved its defensive positions. Contact with the enemy was made only by aggressive patrol activity.

c. Hostile activity along the rest of the long Division front, which extended west to points just South of CLIMBACH, was negligible. The 274th and 276th Infs maintained previous positions in the left and center of this Task Force HERREN zone, while on the extreme right flank the 409th Inf (103d Div) had closed in assembly areas at LAMPERTSLOCH (R-0640) and begun relief of the 275th Inf of Task Force HERREN 54/.

3. a. Bitter house-to-house fighting continued in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area as the 14th Armd Division renewed its assaults to clear these two towns and restore the MIR of the 79th Division along the MAGINOT Line. CC "A", (with the 3d Bn 315th Inf atchd) resumed the attack on RITTERSHOFFEN at 0900A and had made only minor gains by mid-afternoon after bitter house-to-house fighting against stubborn enemy infantry who were well supported by heavy artillery fire. After an intense concentration of artillery, mortar and automatic weapons fire which had begun at 1300A, the enemy launched another heavy counterattack from the Northeast - infantry supported by flame-throwing tanks jumping off from the strongpoint near the church again. Although the attack was contained with only minor progress, heavy close-in fighting raged in the town throughout the day, and there were indications that the enemy forces in the town had been reinforced by elements of the 7 Paratroop Division.

b. In the HATTEN area, CC "R" jumped off at 0800A and made good progress in clearing the town, after intense house-to-house fighting, until late afternoon. Forward infantry elements of the 62d AIB reached the line R-176339 - R-177335 on the northern outskirts of the town before they were pinned down by heavy small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire from an estimated battalion of enemy infantry well dug-in on the north bank of the SELZBACH RAU, to the Northeast, between R-171348 and R-179344. A strong counter-attack at 2200A by infantry supported by tanks forced a withdrawal from that northern end of the town and heavy fighting was still going on at the close of the period. It was apparent that the enemy had reinforced his infantry elements in this area when prisoners were taken from the 20 Para Regt of the 7 Paratroop Division which appeared to be supporting the 21 Panzer Division. CC "B" retained previous positions between the two zones of attack and supported the attacks of CC "A" and CC "R" by fire 55/.

54/. WRJ, 14 Jan - Entries #9, 16, 37, 49, 61, 71, 78, 86, 95 and 100.

55/. WRJ, 14 Jan - Entries #8, 15, 20, 29, 34, 52, 68, 80, 96 and 98.

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4. The sector of the 79th Division - to the left and right of the 14th Armd Division zone - remained quiet, although outpost positions were strongly held to counteract the vigorous hostile patrols. The 222d Inf and the 242d Inf held MAGINOT Line positions to the West and South of the 14th Armd Division zone, while the 232d Inf (-) extended its line slightly North to include the towns of KAUFFENHEIM (R-2128) and ROESCHWOOG (R-2225). The 314th Inf (-) and CC "B", 12th Armd Division held the line in the DRUSENHEIM and ROHRWILLER areas while the 2d Bn 232d Inf continued to block the WEYERSHEIM - GAMBSHEIM road on the Corps right flank. Enemy activity was limited to harassing artillery fire on the ROHRWILLER area and intense patrolling in the STATMATTEN (R-195215) area 56/.

5. At 0800A, Operations Instruction No. 13 was issued directing (a) the relief of Task Force HERREN by the 103d Infantry Division and the new boundary between the 45th and 103d Divisions upon completion of the relief; (b) relief of the 79th Division infantry battalions from attachment to the 45th Division and their return to parent unit control; (c) the movement of the 17th FA Gp and the 69th and 93d Armd FA Bns to XXI Corps in conjunction with the move of Task Force HERREN 57/.

6. Operations Instruction No. 14 was issued at 1800A to rescind O.I. No. 11 and to outline the new plan for the Corps withdrawal to the Moder River line - if such a withdrawal should become necessary 58/.

7. Three missions of 36 sorties were flown by XII TAC in close support of VI Corps operations - one mission bombing and strafing a suspected enemy headquarters in the BITCHE salient at Q-772410 while the other two bombed and strafed enemy assembly areas in BUHL (R-199351). Hostile air activity decreased slightly, although approximately fifteen Me-262s (jet-propelled) dropped HE and AP bombs in the WALBOURG (R-0332) - OBERBETSCHDORF (R-1333) area. Corps Artillery concentrated on a heavy counterbattery program to neutralize the intense enemy fire from BAERENTHAL in the BITCHE salient, and to repel the counterattacks in HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN.

15 January

1. The attack of the 14th Armd Division to clear the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area was once again the principal action in the VI Corps area during 15 January. After repulsing half a dozen serious hostile counterattacks, in a day of intense fighting, the 14th Armd Division had regained positions lost in HATTEN the day before and had all but cleared the enemy from the town. The 45th Division made some local gains on the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient, hostile pressure having decreased slightly as the enemy appeared to be regrouping his forces. The 12th Armd Division prepared to attack on the morning of 16 January to eliminate the hostile bridgehead North of GAMBSHEIM which had been quiet again throughout the day.

2. a. Following the enemy's futile attempt at infiltration in force across the road at Q-774386 just before the close of 14 January, the BITCHE salient remained generally quiet throughout the day. Definite signs that the German 36 Inf Division had moved Southwest and that the 361 VG Division had assumed command of a good bit of the 6 SS Mtn Division sector indicated that elements of this division, if not the entire division, had been relieved.

56/. WRJ, 14 Jan - Entries #17, 24, 26, 79 and 87.

57/. Annex No. 7.

58/. Annex No. 7.

The 179th Inf continued active patrolling with no changes in its positions on the western shoulder of the salient while the 180th Inf regrouped in its positions North of REIPERTSWILLER to accomplish the relief of the 1st Bn 314th Inf which moved to BISCHWILLER and reverted to control of the 79th Division. Considerably more activity took place on the eastern shoulder of the salient. The 1st Bn 315th Inf pushed North against moderate small arms, mortar and artillery fire to reach Q-809389 while to their right, elements of the 157th Inf attacked Northwest against moderate small arms and artillery fire to reach a line Q-813394 - Q-819393 where they repulsed a strong counterattack by troops of the 476 GR heavily supported by mortar and artillery fire. Northwest of OBERMUEHLTHAL, left flank elements of the 36th Engr C Regt mopped up scattered groups of enemy from the high ground at Q-843398 and had advanced their line to Q-838401.

b. In the course of the afternoon, the 274th Inf had repulsed two minor probing attacks by the enemy between PHILIPPSBOURG and DAMBACH at 1300A and 1600A after regimental elements had seized and consolidated new positions at Q-878434, directly North of PHILIPPSBOURG. The rest of the long fronts held by the 274th and 276th Infs remained generally quiet throughout the day as defensive positions were maintained and contact established with the enemy by patrols. On the extreme right flank of the 45th Division sector, the 409th Inf (103d Div) completed relief of the 275th Inf and 3d Bn 276th Inf in positions South of CLIMBACH without incident, and the 275th Inf commenced movement to the XXI Corps zone 59/.

3. a. On the Northeastern Corps front, the 14th Armd Division remained in heavy contact with the enemy in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area where intense fighting continued through another day. In RITTERSHOFFEN, CC "A" repulsed one small enemy attack from the South at 0800A, knocking out one hostile tank. In general, however, this town was comparatively quiet throughout the day, except for a small outburst of enemy small arms fire at 1730A which was followed by increased mortar and artillery fire from the Northeast.

b. The reinforced enemy in HATTEN continued his aggressive tactics throughout the period. After the heavy enemy attack of the previous night had been contained by 0120A, CC "R" was embroiled in intermittent fire fights during the remaining hours of darkness until 0545A when enemy infantry supported by tanks and flame-throwers launched another attack which was stopped by the 2d Bn 315th Inf by 0630A with the aid of artillery. As CC "R" was preparing to launch an attack at 1500A, an estimated battalion of enemy infantry supported by several tanks counterattacked at 1445A and heavy fighting continued throughout the afternoon as the enemy continued to reinforce his troops from the East with additional elements of the 20 Para Regt, 7 Paratroop Division. When the enemy threatened to overrun elements of the 315th Inf and the 19th AIB, at 1715A, the 47th Tk Bn counterattacked and succeeded in reaching the almost-surrounded infantry troops by 1755A despite hostile bazookas and flame-throwers. Fierce house-to-house fighting raged for several hours, before the armor of the 47th Tk Bn drove the enemy from the south and west ends of the town and finally secured the vital road junction at R-177339 in the east end of HATTEN. By 2100A hostile resistance had slackened and CC "R" was consolidating its positions 60/.

4. In general the sector of the 79th Division remained quiet throughout the period, with the 222d Inf holding defensive positions running Northwest from the 14th Armd Division zone, the 242d Inf holding defensive positions to the South of that same threatened area, while the 314th and 232d Infs and elements

59/. WRJ, 15 Jan - Entries #12, 20, 25, 31, 34, 43, 65, 72, 81, 82, 93 and 94.

60/. WRJ, 15 Jan - Entries #7, 11, 14, 18, 19, 32, 42, 64, 68, 69, 73, 87, 92 and 96.

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of CC "A" 12th Armd Division held the rim of the enemy bridgehead in the DRUSENHEIM - GAMBSHEIM area where minor patrol clashes took place. The remainder of the 12th Armd Division remained in Corps Reserve in the vicinity of HOCHFELDEN, preparing to attack on 16 January to eliminate the GAMBSHEIM bridgehead 61/.

5. Heavy overcast prevented any close air support, and there was no hostile air activity over the Corps Area during the day. However, Corps artillery fired many observed missions on enemy tanks and personnel and put on a heavy counter-battery program in the HATTEN area. Hostile artillery was moderate and scattered on forward elements, though a concentration of medium artillery fell on KUHLENDORF in the HATTEN area during the morning.

6. At 1700A, Operations Instruction No. 15 was issued, directing (a) the 12th Armd Division to attack on the night 15-16 to clear the hostile bridgehead in the GAMBSHEIM area in accordance with O.I. No. 12 of 13 January and (b) the 79th Division to continue present mission and assist the armored attack, prepared to move into new positions along the RHINE River after the bridgehead had been eliminated 62/.

16 January

1. Only minor changes occurred in the VI Corps front during 16 January after another day of heavy fighting in three separate and distinct sectors. In the 45th Division zone, heavy fighting raged on the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient before the 157th Inf successfully repulsed a strong counter-attack by elements of the 6 SS Mtn Division. Enemy pressure in RITTERSHOFFEN slackened slightly, but the 14th Armd Division remained in heavy contact throughout the day in HATTEN and was forced to withdraw slightly in the late afternoon before another heavy hostile assault. The attack of the 12th Armd Division to eliminate the GAMBSHEIM bridgehead got off to a good start in the morning, but blown bridges and heavy enemy AT fire necessitated withdrawals west of the ZORN River during the afternoon.

2. a. In the 45th Division zone, the western shoulder and the nose of the BITCHE salient remained comparatively quiet for another day. On the left flank, the 179th Inf consolidated and strengthened its positions East of ALTHORN and sent out strong combat patrols throughout the day to retain the initiative and keep the enemy on the defensive. At 1900A an hostile 25-man patrol, attempting to overrun the 179th road block at Q-763390, was repulsed and 20 of the enemy killed. In the center, the 180th maintained its line North of WILDENGUTH and REIPERTSWILIER and continued active patrolling to the North. While the 157th Inf was relieving the remaining 315th Inf elements and tying in its left flank with positions of the 180th Inf during the morning, the regimental right flank was pushed North against only moderate small arms resistance to the ridge at Q-825393. The passive enemy awoke at 1300A, however, with a heavy mortar and artillery concentration on the center of the regimental sector and at 1500A an estimated three-company attack by elements of the 11 SS Regt hit this area. After heavy fighting throughout the afternoon in which these fanatical mountain troops suffered heavy casualties, the 157th had contained the attack by sundown without loss of ground, although some of the enemy had infiltrated and dug in behind positions of the 3d Bn. To the Northeast, the 36th Engr C Regt line East of OBERMUEHLTHAL remained quiet as positions were consolidated.

61/. WRJ, 15 Jan - Entries #18, 44 and 95.

62/. Annex No. 7.

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b. The rest of the long division front which extended generally East from BAERENTHAL to LEMBACH remained quiet as the regrouping and relief program continued. From BAERENTHAL to DAMBACH, the 274th Inf repulsed minor local attacks and consolidated its positions in preparation for the coming relief by elements of the 103d Division. After closing in the NIEDERBRONN area early in the afternoon, the 410th Inf (103d Div) completed relief of the 276th Inf which had commenced movement to the XXI Corps zone. The 410th Inf front remained quiet through the rest of the period as did the line of the 409th Inf on the right extending to points just South of CLIMBACH 63/.

3. In the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area where the 14th Armd Division remained in heavy contact, there were additional indications that the enemy had intended to relieve the badly mauled 21 Panzer and 25 PG Divisions with the fresh 7 Paratroop Division so that he might hold his positions in this salient which he considered very important for a later drive towards HAGUENAU to the Southwest. But the continuing attacks of the 14th Armd Division had made such a relief difficult and costly. Bitter house-to-house fighting raged in RITTERSHOFFEN throughout the day as CC "A" and the 3d Bn 315th Inf continued efforts to clean out the remaining pocket of enemy infantry in the northwestern end of the town without success. Similar, intense close-in fighting took place in HATTEN and an attack at 1500A by CC "R" and the 2d Bn 315th failed to clean out the hostile infantry which had been further reinforced by elements of the 20 Para Regt. At 1710A, an enemy counter-attack of infantry supported by SP guns forced withdrawals to the western end of the town before it had been contained by 2130A. The absence of hostile tanks in these sectors substantiated reports of the heavy materiel casualties suffered by the enemy in previous days 64/.

4. In the 79th Division sector, the 222d and 242d Infs held their MAGINOT Line positions to the left and right of the 14th Armd Division on fronts that were quiet except for the slightly increased hostile patrol activity. However, on the RHINE River front of the 232d Inf there were indications that the enemy was reinforcing his narrow corridor along the west banks of the river, North of the GAMBESHEIM - HERRLISHEIM - DRUSENHEIM bridgehead area. Elements of the 232d Inf, supported by the 781st Tk Bn engaged an enemy group of 60-80 troops of Bn THOMAS moving North from DALHUNDEN (R-1819) to DENGOLSHEIM (R-1821) and killed an estimated half of them. The enemy became increasingly aggressive after dark with strong patrolling in the heavy woods West of FORSTFELD (R-2229) and considerable mortar and small arms fire was directed in the vicinity of ROESCHWOOG (R-2225). The 1st Bn 314th Inf closed in OBERHOFFEN (R-0920) at 0520A and the 1st Bn 315th Inf closed at R-1536, South of HOFFEN, at 1600A and reverted to control of the 79th Division 65/.

5. a. On the Corps right flank the coordinated attack of the 12th Armd Division to eliminate the hostile bridgehead in the GAMBESHEIM - HERRLISHEIM area jumped off on schedule, but was halted short of the objective by intense enemy resistance of AT guns and blown bridges. At 0200A, CC "B" attacked South from ROHRWILLER towards HERRLISHEIM and OFFENDORF and elements of the 56th AIB had reached the railroad junction at R-137159 against moderate opposition before they were stopped by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire of an hostile counterattack forming up at R-1416. Though this enemy attack was quickly dispersed by artillery fire, the 56th AIB withdrew to ROHRWILLER early in the afternoon to reorganize. Elements remained behind to outpost the bridge site over the ZORN River at R-130168, but continued heavy hostile artillery prevented con-

63/. WRJ, 16 Jan - Entries #16, 17, 41, 50, 76, 79, 80, 95, 106, 120, 122, 127 and 134.

64/. WRJ, 16 Jan - Entries #39, 49, 77, 86, 104, 117 and 123.

65/. WRJ, 16 Jan - Entries #15, 17, 21, 38, 45, 57, 78, 108 and 119.

struction of a heavy bridge which would enable the armor of the 71st Tk Bn to cross the river and support the attack, so no further progress was made.

b. To the South, CC "A" made considerably more progress, but was also stopped short of its objective. After assembling in WEYERSHEIM at 0603A, this second column attacked East towards GAMBSHEIM. The 17th AIB and the 43d Tk Bn crossed the ZORN River and reached the railroad at R-1213, about a mile West of OFFENDORF, before they were forced to withdraw for lack of protection on the left flank, hostile AT guns located just West of HERRLISHEIM having knocked out ten tanks. To the right, the 66th AIB had advanced along the road to GAMBSHEIM during the morning until halted by heavy enemy fire 400 yards West of STAINWALD (R-1011), to the Northwest of GAMBSHEIM. The attack was renewed at 1630A to clear the enemy from these woods, but continued stubborn resistance of heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire forced a withdrawal West of the ZORN River 66/.

6. Eight missions of 93 sorties were flown during the day in close support of VI Corps operations. Enemy concentrations and installations in OFFENDORF and the STAINWALD were bombed and strafed by 56 of these planes while the rest bombed and strafed EBERBACH (R-2436), TRIMBACH (R-2138) and NIEDERROEDERN (R-2334) where the enemy was building up to reinforce his troops in the HATTEN area. Hostile air activity was limited to three Me-262s bombing and strafing rear areas of the 11th Armd Division and two Me-109s on reconnaissance missions in the HAGUENAU area. Corps artillery concentrated its efforts on preparation and counter-battery fires in the zone of the attack by the 12th Armd Division.

17 January

1. While heavy fighting in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area continued throughout 17 January, there were indications that the enemy might be dissatisfied with his progress in that zone and be preparing for a breakthrough on the right flank of the 79th Division sector, when the remaining two regiments of the 7 Paratroop Division were identified in the SESSENHEIM - ROESCHWOO area. In view of this continued hostile build-up and the probability of another major enemy effort, the 36th Infantry Division was attached to VI Corps during the period and had begun movement from the XV Corps zone. Elsewhere on the VI Corps front, there was little change in dispositions; the 45th Division remained in close contact in the BITCHE salient, and the 12th Armd Division made only minor gains in its attack to eliminate the GAMBSHEIM bridgehead.

2. On the 45th Division front, the enemy continued to maintain his heaviest pressure on the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient, where he had made some successful infiltration of 157th Inf positions the previous day. This same area also received the bulk of the estimated 1000 rounds of mixed-caliber artillery fire which fell on division positions throughout the period. After the 36th Division had finally relieved elements of the 179th Inf still within the XV Corps boundary, that regiment continued to readjust and improve its line East of ALTHORN on the western shoulder of the enemy's salient and maintained contact by strong patrols. On the nose of the salient, the 180th Inf made several minor local attacks to improve positions, but forward elements were forced to make slight withdrawals during the afternoon when they were subjected to heavy artillery, mortar, small arms and automatic weapons fire. On the eastern shoulder of the salient, elements of the 157th Inf made little progress in their attack to extend the right flank in the face of heavy small arms, mortar and machine gun fire while the bulk of the regiment was engaged in mopping up troops of the 11 SS Mtn Regt who had infiltrated and dug in behind their positions the previous

66/. WRJ, 16 Jan - Entries #2, 4, 19, 22, 29, 34, 43, 47, 48, 69, 81 and 93.

day. To the right of the 157th, the 36th Engr C Regt continued to improve positions in the high ground Northwest of OBERMUEHLTHAL and pushed patrols to the ridges at Q-835397 and Q-835406 67/.

3. With the arrival of the 411th Inf in the NIEDERBRONN area, the movement of the 103d Division into the VI Corps area was completed and the Division Commander took over that part of the 45th Division sector, running east from BAERENTHAL to LEMBACH at 2030A. After the Corps Commander had obtained verbal authority from the Army Commander to retain the 274th Inf as a reserve, that regiment was attached to the 103d Division in position and its relief by the 411th Inf postponed. The division sector, held from West to East by the 274th, 410th and 409th Infs remained quiet throughout the period 68/.

4. The enemy continued to defend his holdings in RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN, with increased stubbornness, and supplemented his defense with limited aggressive infantry action supported by ten tanks, so the 14th Armd Division and attached 315th Inf remained locked in bitter fighting throughout the day. While CC "A" and the 3d Bn 315th Inf remained heavily engaged in RITTERSHOFFEN, the 1st Bn 315th Inf moved from reserve positions and attacked the town from the Northwest at 0630A, making some minor gains in that section of the town as a result of the surprise element of the assault. But after a day of heavy house-to-house fighting against an enemy employing small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire, there had been little change in the lines within the town. A mile to the East, CC "R" and the 2d Bn 315th renewed their heavy fighting in HATTEN where the enemy continued to employ considerable armor despite his recent heavy losses, and launched two strong counterattacks during the day by elements of the 20 Para Regt supported by ten tanks believed to be of the 21 Panzer Division. The first hostile attack came from the Northeast at 0730A and the second from the Southeast at 1130A, but by the end of the period both had been contained and CC "R" had well organized positions in the western half of HATTEN. Tanks of CC "B" supported fires of the other two combat commands 69/.

5. While the zone of the 222d Inf along the MAGINOT Line to the Northwest of RITTERSHOFFEN remained generally quiet, activity flared up along the rest of the 79th Division front extending generally South from HATTEN to DRUSENHEIM. Identification of the remainder of the 20 Para Regt and elements of both the 19 and 21 Para Regts of the 7 Paratroop Division in the enemy's narrow corridor along the west bank of the RHINE indicated that the enemy was dissatisfied with his progress in the HATTEN area and might be preparing to break through this flank. Shortly after dawn an estimated two companies of enemy crossed the MODER River at DAHLHUNDEN (R-1819) and attacked North to break through positions of the 232d Inf and capture DENGOLSHEIM (R-185212), STATMATTEN (R-1921) and the southern end of SESSENHEIM (R-180225) where they immediately began digging in at 1100A. The 1st Bn 314th Inf which had been alerted, attacked East from SCHIRRHOFFEN (R-1123) and by 1500A had driven this enemy force from SESSENHEIM and captured three officers and 24 men from the 21 Para Regt. A considerable increase in hostile movement and patrol activity near AUENHEIM (R-2024) and ROESCHWOOG (R-2225) was observed in the afternoon and the 1st Bn 314th Inf had closed in SOUFFLENHEIM (R-1725) to meet this threat by the end of the period 70/.

67/. WRJ, 17 Jan - Entries #16, 20, 56, 68, 92 and 116.

68/. WRJ, 17 Jan - Entries #30, 55, 88, 112, 118, 127 and 133.

69/. WRJ, 17 Jan - Entries #19, 26, 33, 51, 54, 57, 67, 73, 100 and 114.

70/. WRJ, 17 Jan - Entries #13, 18, 41, 51, 54, 65, 84, 91, 102 and 134.

6. The 12th Armd Division continued its attempts to eliminate the GAMBESHEIM - DRUSENHEIM bridgehead and made considerably more progress despite failing to take the objective. The 56th AIB attacked East from ROHRWILLER at 0115A and established a bridgehead East of the ZORN River, but hostile artillery continued to delay construction of a bridge to allow armor of the 714th Tk Bn to cross, so another withdrawal to positions just West of the river was made shortly after nightfall. The vital bridge was finally constructed and ready for use at 1800A, but no further attacks were made during the remainder of the period. Considerably more progress was made by the Division's southern prong. The 17th AIB and the 43d Tk Bn jumped off to the Northeast in the early hours and succeeded in entering the outskirts of HERRLISHEIM where approximately 200 prisoners were taken before noon after heavy street fighting. Meanwhile, the 66th AIB and the 23d Tk Bn had attacked towards OFFENDORF and met continued, heavy anti-tank fire from the STAINWALD - Northwest of GAMBESHEIM. Subsequently, this column turned to the North and had reached the southeastern outskirts of HERRLISHEIM where they were establishing positions just as the enemy launched a 200-man counterattack supported by 6-8 tanks and SP guns. Although this hostile assault had been halted by artillery fire before 1600A, stiff fighting continued in the town throughout the period and the enemy had infiltrated tanks and infantry behind the positions of these 12th Armd Division elements to leave the situation obscure at the close of the period. 71/.

7. The heavy overcast and light snowfall during the day prevented any air activity - either friendly or hostile. However, numerous missions observed by ground OPs were fired by Corps Artillery with good effect on hostile counterattacks, and many unobserved missions were fired on enemy batteries harassing front line positions - particularly those on the front of the 157th Inf. The 93d Armd FA Bn completed movement to the XXI Corps zone and was relieved of attachment to VI Corps.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 61 of this date was received to confirm previous verbal instructions - authorizing VI Corps to retain the one normal armored combat command which had been scheduled for movement to XXI Corps zone by O.I. No. 59. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 62 - also confirming verbal orders - authorized VI Corps to retain the 274th Inf (Task Force Herren) until further notice; and directed the movement of the 36th Division (-111st RCT) to the VI Corps sector 72/.

18 January

1. VI Corps troops remained in heavy contact in the same three vital areas during 18 January - the salient Southeast of BITCHE, the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN zone and the GAMBESHEIM bridgehead - but the heaviest enemy pressure of the day appeared in the SESSENHEIM area where the enemy seemed to be probing for a weak spot through which to launch a major attack. In view of his reversion to defensive tactics and his withdrawals in the HATTEN area; further identification of 7 Paratroop Division and initial identification of the 10 SS Panzer Division along the narrow corridor west of the RHINE; and increased aggressiveness in the SESSENHEIM - DRUSENHEIM area it appeared that the enemy was dissatisfied with his progress in his other salients and intended making

71/. WRJ, 17 Jan - Entries #8, 15, 42, 66, 76, 89, 94 and 120.

72/. Annex No. 9.

a major thrust from this new zone towards BISCHWILLER and HAGUENAU.

2. On the left half of the 45th Division sector, the 179th (-) and 180th Inf Regts maintained and improved their same positions on the western shoulder and nose of the BITCHE salient throughout a quiet day. Only by aggressive patrol activity did these two regiments maintain contact with elements of the 257 VG and 6 SS Mtn Division whose attitude was strictly defensive. However, on the eastern shoulder of the salient, the 157th Inf remained in heavy contact with the aggressive 11 SS Mtn Regt which had attacked in the early hours and cut off the greater part of the 3d Bn on the high ground at Q-815395. To relieve these encircled troops, the rest of the regiment attacked North in the morning, but made only little progress over the rough terrain against the heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy positions on the high ground at Q-823387. To the North, a diversionary movement by elements of the 36th Engr C Regt to distract hostile attention from the encircled battalion met similarly strong resistance of artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. To the South, the attached 2d Bn 179th Inf made better progress to reach a line Q-813387 - Q-823383 and mop up some of the infiltrating enemy, but had not relieved the surrounded troops. Hostile artillery and mortar fire was heavy in the entire regimental sector throughout the period. At 1300A, the 2d Bn 411th Inf (103d Div) had closed in assembly area at ROTHBACH (Q-836345), attached to the 45th Division as a reserve 73/.

3. For one more day, the long sector of the 103d Division, extending from the high ground North of PHILLIPSBURG to the ridges North of DRACHENBRONN (R-096430), remained quiet, with activity limited to strong patrolling. This line from West to East was held by the attached 274th Inf (TF HERREN), the 409th and the 410th (-) Inf Regts. In view of the absence of any threat in this divisional zone the 1st Bn 410th Inf had been moved to assembly area in BOIS DE SOUFFLENHEIM (R-1521) at 0830A and attached to the 79th Division. Later in the day, the reserve 411th Inf (-) had been attached to the 79th Division and had been assembled in SCHIRRHOFFEN (R-1322) by 1700A to provide a reserve and a counter-attacking force against the impending heavy enemy attack in that zone 74/.

4. While the 14th Armd Division and the attached 315th Inf remained in heavy contact in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area throughout the period, enemy aggressiveness decreased and there were indications that he was withdrawing his strength from this area for displacement to the South to support the attack in the SESSENHEIM area. In RITTERSHOFFEN, CC "A" with the two attached battalions of the 315th Inf made some progress, to clean out the enemy strongpoint in the church during the afternoon, but met continued resistance from the cemetery area. Sporadic outbursts of house-to-house fighting went on in the town throughout the day. In HATTEN, CC "R" and the 2d Bn 315th Inf held their previous positions, embroiled in similar sporadic close-in fighting, and repulsed one minor counter-attack of infantry supported by several tanks which were so cleverly camouflaged to blend with the snow-covered terrain that they were invisible beyond 150 yards. Both the 125 and 192 PGRs were identified in this area, but there were indications of a withdrawal of the bulk of this armor to the SESSENHEIM area to the South 75/.

73/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entries #9, 19, 23, 30, 36, 48, 58, 80, 85, 115 and 124.

74/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entries #12, 46, 55 and 88.

75/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entries #16, 18, 57, 101, 102, 108 and 119.

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5. While the 222d Inf continued to maintain MAGINOT Line positions of the 79th Division front West of HATTEN with no more than light patrol contact, activity flared up along the rest of the Division sector, particularly in the SESSENHEIM - DRUSENHEIM area where it appeared that the enemy was getting set to make a full-scale offensive. Further identification of 7 Paratroop Division troops indicated that the entire division was in this area and identification of prisoners taken in a minor attack on ROHRWILLER as being from the 22 PGR indicated that the 10 SS Panzer Division was moving into the hostile belt along the west bank of the RHINE. An enemy attack of an estimated two companies supported by two or three tanks succeeded in breaking through positions of the 232d Inf in the morning and taking the town of SESSENHEIM and two pillboxes to the South at R-179209 by 1000A. During the afternoon these same troops of the 19 Para Regt attacked South to capture most of the wooded area in the vicinity of R-1720, and a counterattack by the attached 1st Bn 410th Inf from SOUFFIENHEIM to restore these positions was stopped by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire along the line R-165205 - R-178209. Throughout the day increased hostile troop and vehicular movement was observed in ROPPENHEIM, ROESCHWOOG and DENGOLSHEIM. On the division's southern flank, held by the 314th Inf along the line ROHRWILLER - DRUSENHEIM, enemy patrol activity increased throughout the day and a two-platoon raid was made on ROHRWILLER at 2200A and repulsed only after a sharp fire fight. Shortly before midnight an estimated three companies had infiltrated the regimental right flank and were attacking ROHRWILLER from the Southwest 76/.

6. The HERRLISHEIM area remained the scene of heaviest activity throughout the day in the sector of the 12th Armd Division. The hostile pressure which had started in the closing hours of 17 January continued throughout the night and between 0200A and 0300A an estimated battalion of the 2 SS Police Regt, supported by several tanks, attacked HERRLISHEIM after a heavy artillery concentration and cut off the 43d Tk Bn East of the town. By dawn, the 17th AIB had been forced to withdraw from the corner of HERRLISHEIM they had held as the enemy increased his pressure with heavy small arms, mortar, and automatic weapons fire, supported by artillery. After its attack to the North to relieve the elements in HERRLISHEIM had been halted by heavy resistance, the 66th AIB withdrew to defensive positions along the ZORN River and held the line R-078111 - R-111150 with the 23d Tk Bn. CC "B" remained on the left flank, in defensive positions in the ROHRWILLER area, and at the close of the period the 56th AIB was heavily engaged with the same hostile force which was attacking the right flank of the 314th Inf in ROHRWILLER 77/.

7. By 1700A the 143d Inf had closed in the HAGUENAU area and one battalion had been immediately moved to BISCHWILLER to meet the threat developing in ROHRWILLER. The remainder of the 36th Division had begun movement to the VI Corps area late in the period, after the Army Commander had released the entire unit to Corps for movement as quickly as possible 78/.

8. Continued bad weather prevented any air activity in close support of VI Corps, but four Me-109s and five FW-190s appeared over the BISCHWILLER area in mid-afternoon on reconnaissance and strafing missions. Hostile artillery was light to moderate during the day, and Corps artillery concentrated on observed missions on enemy tanks, personnel and batteries, particularly in the HATTEN and GAMBSHEIM bridgehead areas.

76/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entries #16, 34, 44, 59, 81, 87, 101, 106, 112 and 131.

77/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entries #11, 17, 26, 32, 49, 51, 60, 67, 103 and 125.

78/. WRJ, 18 Jan - Entry #79.

[REDACTED]

19 January

1. From all indications, the long threatened all-out enemy offensive got underway during 19 January, and appeared to be directed towards HAGUENAU with a view to cutting off VI Corps elements in the Northeast corner of the Corps sector - the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area. The hostile build-up along the west banks of the RHINE from HERRLISHEIM North to ROESCHWOOG and ROPPENHEIM over the previous several days culminated in a heavy offensive by the 7 Paratroop and 10 SS Panzer Division on the right flank of the 79th Division and the main line of the 12th Armd Division. While pressure in the BITCHE salient and the HATTEN area remained heavy throughout the day, contact was considerably lighter than it had been in anytime during the previous week. Despite heavy materiel and personnel losses, the enemy forces made such considerable progress along the line GAMSHEIM - HERRLISHEIM - DRUSENHEIM - SESSENHEIM in his attack towards BISCHWILLER and HAGUENAU that tentative plans were made for the withdrawal of VI Corps to the MODER River line.

2. In the 45th Division sector, both the western shoulder and the nose of the enemy's BITCHE salient remained comparatively quiet. Both the 179th Inf (-) on the left and the 180th Inf in the center improved their positions while maintaining active patrols to their fronts, as divisional engineer elements laid minefields in front of these positions which remained generally quiet throughout the day. In contrast was the sector on the eastern shoulder of the salient where the 157th Inf remained in heavy contact. Though still isolated by the infiltrating 11 SS Mtn Regt, the 3d Bn maintained its positions on the high ground at Q-815395, about three miles Northeast of REIPERTSWILLER, while the rest of the regiment, with the 2d Bn 179th attached, continued its attack towards objectives at Q-825393 and Q-810390 in an effort to contact the isolated troops. Two hostile counterattacks - at 0800A and 1125A - were repulsed after heavy fighting, but the enemy continued to cover 157th positions with heavy mortar and artillery fire. Late in the afternoon, the distance between the isolated battalion and the main regimental positions had been lessened to 400 yards, but continued bitter resistance from the well dug-in mountain troops, employing small arms and automatic weapons, prevented a junction. To the North, the 36th Engr C Regt supported the attack of the 157th Inf by probing attacks towards Hill 403 (Q-835403) and reached Q-838408. The attached 2d Bn 411th Inf remained in reserve in the ROTHBACH area 79/.

3. The sector of the 103d Division remained the quietest part of the Corps front. Enemy activity was limited to a few scattered patrols with the apparent intention of taking some prisoners for interrogation, and only a few small arms fights occurred throughout the period along the line held by the 274th Inf, the 410th Inf and the 409th Inf 80/.

4. Although the 14th Armd Division remained in heavy contact in the RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN area, the situation in that critical area became less tense, as the enemy appeared to have shifted his interests to other sectors of the Corps front. RITTERSHOFFEN remained comparatively quiet, although the enemy remained alert and stubbornly defensive in holding an afternoon attack of CC "A" to only minor gains while continuing to hold the northern end of the town. However, heavy fighting continued in HATTEN where the 21 Panzer Division launched a three-pronged attack - from the Northeast, East and Southeast - at 0800A, employing infantry supported by mortar, artillery and tank fire. After this as-

79/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #20, 36, 56, 80, 85, 98, 120, 142, 163, 171 and 186.

80/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #141 and 185.

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sault had been contained by 0900A, the situation became quiet until almost noon when another strong counterattack of infantry supported by several tanks hit positions of CC "R", and made minor progress. By mid-afternoon this effort had died down without making any major inroads on defensive positions and the town remained relatively quiet throughout the remainder of the period, except for sniper fire and sporadic concentrations of mortar and artillery fire by which the enemy was trying to burn out the corner of the town held by the 14th Armd Division. Though the enemy had suffered severe personnel and materiel casualties in his effort to break through in this sector, the similarly weakened condition of the 14th Armd Division, and the absence of reinforcements forestalled a major attack to eliminate the hostile salient and restore original MAGINOT Line positions. In view of the more serious threat to the South, the 25th Tk Bn was moved from this sector late in the period and came under Corps control in the HOCHFELDEN area 81/.

5. The continued hostile build-up on the right flank of the 79th Division sector had brought about a critical situation as renewed attacks by the bulk of the 7 Paratroop Division and elements of the 10 SS Panzer Division in the SESSENHEIM - DRUSENHEIM area threatened to break through to HAGUENAU and cut off the 14th Armd Division and elements of the 79th Division to the Northeast. At 0530A the attached 3d Bn 411th Inf made good early progress in its eastward attack to reoccupy SESSENHEIM and had reached the northwestern outskirts in two hours against moderate opposition. However, when the advance to clear out the town continued, intense fighting developed as the 19 Para Regt defended from the eastern end, supported by Mark V and Mark VI tanks. This enemy armor knocked out the six tanks supporting the 411th Inf attack and forced a withdrawal to the BOIS DE SOUFFLENHEIM. Efforts of attached elements of the 410th Inf, attacking North in the BOIS DE SESSENHEIM, met similarly strong resistance from paratroopers supported by tank and artillery fire and made only minor gains. However, the more critical area developed to the South where the enemy had built up a large force in the southern part of DRUSENHEIM. An estimated two battalions of hostile infantry supported by six to eight tanks attacked the town from the Northeast, South and Southwest at 1830A, and by 2100A the town and the 2d Bn 314th Inf had been surrounded, as enemy armor cut exits to the Northwest of DRUSENHEIM. The thrust from the South had penetrated positions of the 3d Bn and forced a withdrawal to the West to block the DRUSENHEIM - ROHRWILLER road. Sixty members of the encircled battalion had managed to infiltrate through the enemy lines during the night as plans were being made to relieve this unit the next morning 82/.

6. An even more serious situation developed South of DRUSENHEIM in the sector of the 12th Armd Division where the 10 SS Panzer Division attacked in conjunction with the assault of the 7 Paratroop Division. After several small scale attacks in the morning and early afternoon had been repulsed, the aggressive enemy finally made substantial progress in the late afternoon. At 1630A hostile infantry supported by ten tanks secured and crossed the bridge at R-087120 on the GAMBSHEIM - WEYERSHEIM road, although artillery immediately knocked out eight of these tanks. Fifteen minutes later an estimated 200 infantry supported by 17 tanks crossed the ZORN River at HERRLISHEIM and attacked Northwest towards ROHRWILLER, and at 1715A, 400 infantry supported by another 17 tanks crossed the bridge at R-087120. Although TD and artillery fire knocked

81/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #21, 30, 32, 37, 42, 63, 77, 88 and 143.

82/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #27, 32, 44, 45, 61, 65, 76, 84, 110, 147, 150 and 168.

[REDACTED]

out 27 of these enemy tanks during the battle, the 12th Armd Division was forced to fall back to a general defensive line along the KESSELGRABEN and EICHGRABEN Rivers. No further contact had been made with the 43d Tk Bn which had been lost East of HERRLISHEIM the previous day 83/.

7. To meet this threat, the 36th Division (-141st RCT) which was just assembling within the Corps sector during the day was quickly moved to this zone to relieve the 12th Armd Division and had assumed command of the sector at 2100A. The 143d Inf established positions along the western banks of the KESSELGRABEN and EICHGRABEN Rivers, while the 142d Inf moved into reserve positions in the BISCHWILLER - KURTZENHAUSEN - GRIES area. The 636th TD Bn (-) was attached to the 36th Division and the 443d AAA AW Bn (-) was attached to the 35th AAA Brigade and put in support of this sector 84/.

8. Improved weather conditions made possible a heavy air program in close support of VI Corps - sixteen missions of 190 sorties dropping more than 100 tons of bombs, primarily on the hostile concentrations in the HERRLISHEIM - OFFENDORF area, with good results. Despite the good weather, hostile aviation did not support the enemy attack in this area, only three Me-109s on reconnaissance missions appearing over the Corps sector throughout the day. While enemy artillery was limited to harassing missions over the entire front and occasional concentrations in support of his attacks, Corps artillery concentrated generally against the attack from HERRLISHEIM and GAMBESHEIM with good results on hostile armor.

9. At 1200A, Operations Instruction No. 16 had been issued: (a) outlining divisional attachments; (b) directing the 45th and 79th Divisions to continue their present missions; (c) directing the 36th Division to assemble in Corps Reserve, prepared to attack on Corps order through positions of the 12th Armd Division to eliminate the hostile force in the DRUSENHEIM - HERRLISHEIM area; (d) directing the 12th Armd Division to defend along its present line and assemble in reserve after being relieved by the 36th Division, and (e) directing the 14th Armd Division (less one combat command to remain in RITTERSHOFFEN) to assemble in the WOERTH area 85/.

10. At 1800A, Operations Instruction No. 17 was issued directing generally: (a) the 36th Division to immediately relieve the 12th Armd Division and defend the line ROHRWILLER to bridge (R-087120); and (b) the 12th Armd Division to assemble in reserve at HOCHFELDEN, prepared to counterattack to the Southeast, East, or North 86/.

11. At 2200A, Operations Instruction No. 18 was issued FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY, outlining the proposed withdrawal of VI Corps to the line VOLKSBERG (Q-6838) - WIMMENAU (Q-7635) - HAGUENAU (R-0424) - BISCHWILLER (R-0918) - WEYERSHEIM (R-0513) 87/.

83/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #10, 12, 34, 43, 46, 53, 70, 76, 79, 83, 87, 97, 100, 108, 111, 134, 139, 147, 150, 159 and 182.

84/. WRJ, 19 Jan - Entries #14, 64, 112, 113, 119, 148, 167, 170 and 183.

85/. Annex No. 7.

86/. Annex No. 7.

87/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

20 January

1. After many days of heavy contact throughout the month, the Corps front became relatively quiet during 20 January as hostile activity in the three critical zones - (the BITCHE salient, HATTEN and the HERRLISHEIM - DRUSENHEIM area) declined sharply. Apparently the enemy forces were reorganizing and recuperating from their heavy personnel and materiel losses suffered during the heavy fighting of the previous few days. However, authority was received from the Army Commander for a withdrawal to the MODER River line at the discretion of the Corps Commander since the VI Corps divisions were lacking reinforcements, reserves were not available, and it was felt that the Corps could better defend against the renewed all-out enemy offensive for which the hostile forces appeared to be regrouping during this quiet day. Instructions were issued that the withdrawal would be completed by 0730A on 21 January and as this period ended the retrograde movement was proceeding on schedule despite the slick conditions of the snow-covered roads which made traffic of tracked vehicles particularly hazardous.

2. Activity in the 45th Division sector again centered on the zone of the 157th Inf where continued efforts were made to relieve the encircled 3d Bn. The remainder of the regiment, with the attached battalion of the 179th Inf, resumed the attack North at 0725A against the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient but made little progress over the rough terrain against heavy small arms and machine gun fire by the hostile troops dug in behind the 3d Bn positions. To the left of this attack, the attached 2d Bn 411th Inf met similarly stubborn resistance supported by moderate artillery fire and could make no progress in its efforts to join up with the isolated troops. Subsequently, the isolated 3d Bn was ordered to attack South after dark to regain contact with the main body - after it was decided to yield their positions along the ridges. There were no changes on the nose and western shoulder of the enemy salient as the 180th and 179th Infs continued to maintain heavy pressure on hostile troops by strong patrol activities. On the division right flank, the 36th Engr C Regt began withdrawal in accordance with O.I. No. 18, leaving only a small screen covering its previous positions, and as the period closed the 2d Bn 411th had commenced movement to an assembly area at KIRRWILLER (Q-8524) to revert to control of the 103d Division 88/.

3. For another day, the front of the 103d Division remained quiet with no hostile activity of any sort reported, as some regrouping of battalions took place. Late in the period, the division began its withdrawal movement to the line ROTHBACH - NIEDERMODERN in accordance with O.I. No. 18.

4. After the week of heavy fighting, an unusual lull existed over the fronts of the 79th and 14th Armd Divisions. There was no aggressive hostile activity throughout the day in the heretofore critical HATTEN area and activity in SESSENHEIM and DRUSENHEIM, on the 79th Division right flank, was negligible, although a battalion of the 314th Inf remained surrounded in the latter town. The enemy appeared to be regrouping and reorganizing after his heavy casualties of the few previous days. At 1800A, CC "A" of the 14th Armd Division was attached to the 79th Division to cover the withdrawal of the Division to the HAGUENAU position, and the remainder of the 14th Armd Division commenced movement to DETTWILLER to become Corps Reserve. Late in the period, the 79th Division began regrouping and commenced withdrawal to the new MIR NIEDERMODERN - BISCHWILLER in accordance with O.I. No. 18 and the 411th Inf (-) was relieved of attachment and began movement to the 103d Division sector 89/.

88/. WRJ, 20 Jan - Entries #23, 25, 36, 49, 54, 60, 66, 68, 90, 92, 101 and 132.

89/. WRJ, 20 Jan - Entries #4, 22, 24, 25, 43, 44, 67, 69, 72, 100, 101, 115 and 128.

[REDACTED]

5. After completion of its relief by the 36th Division, the 12th Arm'd Division (-) moved to assembly areas in NIEDERSCHAEFFOLSHEIM (R-0019), SCHWEIGHAUSEN (Q-9924), WINGERSHEIM (Q-9213) and WALTENHEIM (Q-9216) in Corps Reserve. The 23d and 74th Tk Bns remained in position, in support of the 36th Division 90/.

6. In sharp contrast with the previous few days, the enemy showed no aggressive inclinations on the GAMBSHEIM - HERRLISHEIM - DRUSENHEIM front which had been taken over by the 36th Division. Hostile activity was limited to one half-hearted attack by an estimated 150 infantry on positions of the 143d Inf West of HERRLISHEIM, and by several subsequent combat patrol raids. The 143d Inf held the Division front from ROHRWILLER to the Corps right boundary while the 142d RCT remained in reserve 91/.

7. At 1200A, Operations Instruction No. 19 was issued, to make some minor changes in O.I. No. 18, and directing the 36th and 103d Divisions to maintain mobile reserves of one infantry battalion each, prepared to move on two-hour notice on Corps order only. At 2200A, Operations Instruction No. 20 was issued to direct the 45th and 103d Divisions to defend along delaying position SARREINSBURG - ROTHBACH - NIEDERMODERN instead of continuing withdrawal to the HAGUENAU line 92/.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instructions Nos. 63 of 19 January and 64 and 65 of this date were received. No. 63 directed XV Corps to move the remaining RCT (141st) of the 36th Division to the VI Corps area, and directed VI Corps to assemble one armored division in the SAVERNE - WASSELONE area to revert to Army control. No. 64 directed the movement and attachment to VI Corps of the 939th and 693d FA Bns. No. 65 confirmed earlier verbal instructions, authorizing VI Corps to withdraw to the ROTHBACH - NIEDERMODERN - HAGUENAU - BISCHWILLER line at the discretion of the Corps Commander 93/.

21 January

1. The planned withdrawal to the new MLR along the line ALTHORN - ROTHBACH - NIEDERMODERN - HAGUENAU - BISCHWILLER was smoothly continued during the early hours of darkness on 21 January and completed by morning on schedule despite the icy conditions of the roads. CC "A", 14th Arm'd Division covered the movement of the 79th Division from the critical Northeast corner of the Corps zone, while the withdrawals from the rest of the front were screened by small infantry units who completed all demolitions as scheduled. The smoothness with which this movement was made was evidenced when contact was completely broken and only small hostile patrols appeared in the vacated areas throughout the day. By the close of the period, VI Corps divisions were well established along the ROTHBACH RAU and MODER River and substantial reserves had been assembled to meet the expected continuation of the enemy efforts to retake ALSACE. The only hostile activity took place on the right flank front where the 10 SS Panzer Division continued heavy probing attempts to find a weak spot in this sector which was now held by the 36th Division, from BISCHWILLER to the right boundary.

90/. WRJ, 20 Jan - Entries #2, 25, 58 and 117.

91/. WRJ, 20 Jan - Entries #1, 21, 25, 37, 62, 71 and 116.

92/. Annex No. 7.

93/. Annex No. 9.

S. E. C. R. E. T.
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2. Although scattered artillery fire continued to fall on the western and central sectors of the 45th Division front and the enemy remained sensitive to patrol activity, the withdrawal on this left flank of the Corps was effected without incident. While the 179th Inf maintained its previous positions, the 180th Inf pulled back slightly to establish a new line between Q-783382 and Q-814371 on the WILDENGUTH road. During the night the 157th Inf had relieved its encircled 3d Bn and the regiment had pulled back to the WILDENGUTH - ROTHBACH road while the 36th Engr C Regt withdrew on the right flank and had established positions on the line Q-833380 - Q-838374 during the day. After dark, the 36th Engrs completed withdrawal to the WILDENGUTH - ROTHBACH road and were digging in on the line Q-814371 - Q-842350 by 2000A. Late in the period, the 157th Inf was relieved in its positions along the new line by elements of the 179th and 180th Infs and had assembled in ZITTERSHEIM (Q-7133) for recuperation and reorganization. Enemy activity on the entire division front was limited to patrolling by 15-20 man groups which were particularly active in the 179th Inf zone 94/.

3. There was no contact with the enemy in the 103d Division sector as the main elements withdrew to the ROTHBACH - NIEDERMODERN line on schedule, although unconfirmed reports indicated hostile patrols had followed up the withdrawal to reach MITSCHDORF (R-0339) by 0800A, WOERTH (R-0037) by 0900A and REICHSHOFFEN (Q-9537) by 1400A. As the period closed, the 410th Inf was improving positions along the ROTHBACH RAU between Q-842348 and Q-883289 while the 409th Inf was digging in along the ROTHBACH RAU and MODER River between Q-883289 and Q-938270. The 411th Inf had reverted to control of the 103d Division and assembled in the BOUXWILLER - KIRRWILLER area as reserve, while the 274th Inf (TF HERREN) in NIEDERSOULTZBACH prepared to move to the 45th Division sector the following morning as a division reserve until the 157th Inf could be reorganized 95/.

4. Employing CC "A" 14th Armd Division as a screening force, the 79th Division made an equally smooth withdrawal from its hazardous corner on the Northeast flank of the VI Corps sector, despite the icy condition of the roads which caused the loss enroute of several tracked vehicles. After successfully breaking contact along the entire line, all organic elements and the attached regiments of Task Force LINDEN closed on the new MIR during the morning without hostile interference, and by 1420A, the screening force of CC "A" had cleared through HAGUENAU and continued movement to the 14th Armd Division assembly area. The new MIR along the MODER River between NIEDERMODERN and BISCHWILLER, being firmly established by the 222d Inf, the 313th Inf, the 242d Inf and the 314th Inf, from West to East with outposts 1-3 kilometers to the front, was quiet throughout the day except for one strong hostile patrol action which drove in the outposts on the boundary of the 242d and 314th Infs in the BISCHWILLER area. The attached battalions of the 410th and 411th Infs moved to the 103d Division sector and reverted to parent control as the 232d Inf (TF LINDEN) was relieved of attachment to the 79th Division and assembled at BOSSENDORF (Q-8720) in Corps Reserve 96/.

5. On the Corps right flank the 36th Division remained in heavy contact throughout the day, as the enemy continued his strong probing action to find a weak spot through which he could pour his 10 SS Panzer Division supported by an infantry Division. At noon, a concentration of 15 hostile tanks put on a demonstration between the woods at R-0815 and R-0914 and seven of them were knocked out by 36th Division tank destroyers and artillery, and the rest driven off to the Northeast. At the same time approximately 12 tanks were observed heading Northwest from the bridge at R-087120 and were driven off before their infantry could join them. An

94/. WRJ, 21 Jan - Entries #11, 15, 48, 61, 74, 89 and 107.

95/. WRJ, 21 Jan - Entries #15, 49, 55 and 79; VIC O.I. No. 21 - Annex No. 7.

96/. WRJ, 21 Jan - Entries #12, 17, 33, 46, 78, 104 and 106.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

estimated 100 infantry infiltrated positions near KURTZENHAUSEN but were surrounded and being mopped up towards the close of the period. These probing actions by the enemy which cost him approximately 150 prisoners from the 21 and 22 PGRs, an estimated 250 killed or wounded, and eight tanks destroyed had made no serious inroads on 36th Division positions. The 23d and 714th Tk Bns remained in positions supporting the division throughout the day, but late in the period began movement to the GOUGENHEIM area and reverted to control of the 12th Armd Division. The relief of the 143d Inf by the 142d Inf, which had commenced the previous night, was concluded by 2200A 97/.

6. After screening the withdrawal of the 79th Division CC "A" closed in the DETTWILLER area, to complete the assembly of the 14th Armd Division by late in the afternoon. Assembly of the 12th Armd Division in the HOCHFELDEN area was nearing completion late in the period when the 23d and 714th Tk Bns commenced movement to GOUGENHEIM 98/.

7. No enemy planes appeared over the Corps area during the day, and bad weather limited air activity in close support of VI Corps to one mission of eleven sorties which attacked the tank concentrations on the front of the 36th Division. Hostile artillery was extremely light during the period, apparently indicating the enemy's scanty knowledge of Corps positions on the left and center of the zone, although some fire fell in HAGUENAU and BISCHWILLER. Corps artillery was generally concentrated on the hostile activity on the 36th Division front.

8. At 2300A, Operations Instruction No. 21 was issued outlining the plans for defense along the new MIR by the three infantry divisions on the line, designating reserves to be prepared for quick movement to any threatened sector, and directing continued reconnaissance of positions and routes to the HAGUENAU Switch Position and the VOSGES Position 99/.

9. Seventh Army Operations Instructions Nos. 66 and 67 were received. No. 66 directed that movement of the 141st RCT (36th Div) to the VI Corps sector would begin prior to 230001A; No. 67 relieved the 12th Armd Division from attachment to VI Corps in position, but authorized the Corps Commander to employ its organic artillery until the division received orders to move to the II French Corps area to the Southeast 100/.

22 January

1. Contact along the entire VI Corps front was generally light throughout 22 January, although patrols and air OPs observed a fairly rapid and very heavy follow-up of our withdrawal on both flanks where the enemy had his more mobile forces concentrated. The bulk of the hostile movement appeared headed for the ZINSWILLER area, where a heavy build-up was taking place near the boundary of the 45th and 103d Divisions, and for the OBERHOFFEN - BISCHWILLER area on the right flank of the 79th Division. While patrols made some light contact in scattered areas, the main activity of Corps troops throughout the period was the continued improvement of defenses against the impending renewed offensive of the enemy.

2. With the withdrawal of the main forces of the 45th Division completed and the new MIR well established the previous day, the screening elements were drawn in during the early hours of 22 January. Heavy hostile movement was picked up by air

97/. WRJ, 21 Jan - Entries #10, 15, 28, 82, 86, 103, 109 and 110.

98/. WRJ, 21 Jan - Entries #25, 39, 66 and 111.

99/. Annex No. 7.

100/. Annex No. 9

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OPs on the BAERENTHAL - ZINSWILLER road indicating the enemy intended to follow up as quickly as his transportation would allow and continue his offensive action on this front, but contact remained light throughout this period. The brief lull gave the 45th Division a good opportunity to regroup and consolidate the new line running from ALTHORN to ROTHBACH along the high ground South of the WILDENGUTH - REIPERTSWILLER road. On the left flank, the 179th Inf maintained its new positions until relieved late in the period by the attached 274th Inf. The center and right flank were still held by the 180th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt, while the 157th Inf began rehabilitation and refitting in reserve at ZITTERSHEIM, to recuperate from the heavy losses suffered on the eastern shoulder of the BITCHE salient. Hostile artillery was limited to scattered mortar and light artillery fire on forward elements and contact was limited to occasional patrol clashes 101/.

3. A similar calm existed throughout daylight hours on the front of the 103d Division between ROTHBACH and NIEDERMODERN, held by the 410th Inf on the left and the 409th Inf on the right as the 411th Inf remained in reserve at BOUXWILLER. The new MLR was consolidated and patrols pushed to the front with little contact before nightfall. However, activity increased after dark and there were indications that the enemy had followed up in strength, particularly on the left flank of the 410th Inf. Enemy infantry infiltrated from the Northwest behind the OPL in OFFWILLER (Q-8634) at 2030A and forced a withdrawal to ROTHBACH after a sharp fire fight. And at 2130A an estimated battalion of enemy infantry attacked from OFFWILLER but were beaten off by a counterattack. During the morning the 274th Inf had been relieved of attachment to the 103d Division and had moved to the 45th Division sector 102/.

4. In the 79th Division sector the 222d, 313th, 242d and 314th Inf Regts continued to hold their respective zones, each with two battalions in line and one in reserve, and consolidated positions along the MODER River from NIEDERMODERN to BISCHWILLER, while maintaining heavy patrols to the front. Contact during the morning was negligible, but a heavy enemy build-up was observed during the afternoon and evening in the OBERHOFFEN - BISCHWILLER area. Air OPs picked up heavy movements of infantry, tanks and horse-drawn artillery coming Southwest towards BISCHWILLER - the largest group being an estimated 200 vehicles on the southern fringe of the woods at R-1020. Late in the afternoon one battalion of the reserve 315th Inf was moved to MARIENTHAL (R-0620) and Co "C", 25th Tk Bn was attached to the 79th Division to replace Co "A", 827th TD Bn, which reverted to control of the 12th Armd Division 103/.

5. Although interrogation of prisoners on the front of the 36th Division and in the II French Corps to the South continued to indicate that the enemy intended launching an all-out attack on the Corps right flank, the 36th Division sector between BISCHWILLER and WEYERSHEIM remained generally quiet. While the 142d Inf maintained the line and consolidated its defensive positions, the 143d Inf regrouped in the rear and then moved into reserve positions in the vicinity of GRIES (R-0617), GEURDERTHEIM (R-0114) and BIETLENHEIM (R-0313) while the 117th Cav Rcn Sq patrolled the road net on the right flank, along the VI Corps - II French Corps boundary. Heavy hostile road movements were observed along the HERRLISHEIM - WEYERSHEIM road but contact with the enemy was light 104/.

6. The 14th Armd Division remained in Corps Reserve in the DETTWILLER area, as its 94th Cav Rcn Sq relieved the 92d Cav Rcn Sq along the Corps right boundary.

101/. WRJ, 22 Jan - Entries #16, 18, 27, 32 and 42 (DETTWILLER CP); and #16, 46 and 65 (SAVERNE CP)

102/. WRJ, 22 Jan - Entries #1, 11, 21, 38 and 43 (DETTWILLER CP); and #13, 19, 48, 53 and 56 (SAVERNE CP).

103/. WRJ, 22 Jan - Entries #15, 20, 30, 33 and 40 (DETTWILLER CP) and #21, 29, 50 and 57 (SAVERNE CP).

104/. WRJ, 22 Jan - Entries #17, 19, 37 and 46 (DETTWILLER CP) and #8, 18, 49 and 61 (SAVERNE CP).

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and maintained a patrol screen between MARLENHEIM (Q-8103) and OLDWISHEIM (Q-9511). The 12th Armd Division, with the 827th TD Bn and the 572d AAA AW Bn attached, was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and reverted to Army control at 0700A.

7. With the improved weather, four missions of fifty sorties were flown by XII TAC in close support of VI Corps. Three of the missions bombed and strafed enemy concentrations and movements in the area between SCHIRRHAIN (R-125225) and OEBERHOFEN with good results, while the fourth bombed and strafed hostile concentrations in the BITCHE area. No hostile planes appeared over the Corps area during the period.

8. At 2100A, Operations Instruction No. 22 was issued, designating the Commanding General, 35th AAA Brigade as VI Corps Security Commander, and directing immediate organization of defenses by all units in rear of division sectors and continuous security patrols to guard against enemy infiltrations or parachute drops. At 2200A, Operations Instruction No. 23 was issued, directing the 14th Armd Division to relieve elements of the 12th Armd Division maintaining a reconnaissance screen along the Corps right (S) boundary, and to reinforce fires of the 36th Division with its artillery 105/.

9. The VI Corps CP closed in DETTWILLER (Q-802172) and opened in SAVERNE (Q-727157) at 1330A.

23 January

1. While the enemy appeared to be still closing up and regrouping for his threatened all-out offensive, and made no major attacks during 23 January his aggressive patrolling and heavier air activity seemed to indicate the time was getting closer. Definite identification of the 256 VG, 6 SS Mtn, 36 VG and 47 VG Divisions was made along the front between REIPERTSWILLER and HAGUENAU during the day and continued heavy road movements in rear areas indicated the build-up was continuing. While little hostile ground activity took place on the eastern flank in the BISCHWILLER - WEYERSHEIM area, strong air reconnaissance in that area indicated the importance the enemy placed in that sector. Throughout the day work continued on defensive positions along the south banks of ROTHBACH RAU and the MODER River in the sectors of all divisions in line.

2. The 45th Division sector remained generally quiet, although scattered enemy mortar and artillery fire fell on forward positions. Strong probing patrols into the enemy lines found that the 256 VG Division remained on this front, generally in the WILDENGUTH - REIPERTSWILLER area and that the 11 SS Mtn Regt was closing up on the right flank, indicating a southeastward shift of the 6 SS Mtn Division. After completing relief of the 179th Inf, the 274th Inf improved its defensive positions between Q-758401 and Q-779379. In the center and on the right flank of the Division sector, the 180th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt continued to improve their positions along the high ground West of the REIPERTSWILLER - ROTHBACH road and maintained contact by patrolling. In view of the heavy hostile build-up in the ROTHBACH area, the 179th Inf (-2d Bn) was moved from assembly areas at WEINBOURG (Q-7830) and PUEERG (Q-6934) late in the period and took up new positions on the wooded ridges Southwest of ROTHBACH along the line Q-939349 - Q-804325, blocking to the East and prepared to counterattack against any enemy penetration of the left flank of the 103d Division to the East. The 157th Inf remained in Division Reserve and continued its reorganization and refitting. While contact along this entire front was light, considerable movement in the enemy rear areas indicated a substantial build-up 106/.

105/. Annex No. 7.

106/. WRJ, 23 Jan - Entries #10, 18, 39, 43, 53, 75, 96 and 126.

3. Enemy penetrations were made on the left flank of the 103d Division in the early morning hours before daylight, and a continued build-up of hostile forces took place on the right flank where the 87 GR of the German 36 VG Division was identified indicating that the entire division was in this area since the 118 GR had been identified near ZINSWILLER the previous day. After infiltrating behind the OPL of the 410th Inf in OFFWILLER during the night, elements of the 11 SS Mtn Regt had continued the attack at 0300A and seized ROTHBACH during the early morning and the left flank of the 410th Inf remained in heavy contact on the southern outskirts of the town throughout the period. While no major hostile effort developed in the sector of the 409th Inf on the division's right flank, heavy pressure of strong patrols forced a slight withdrawal of the OPL West of LA WALCK and BITSCHHOFFEN (Q-914287) where the 87 GR had been identified. Air OPs observed heavy troop and vehicle movements from OBERERONN to ZINSWILLER and other troop concentrations were reported later in MEITERSHEIM (Q-9331) and BITSCHHOFFEN, on the front of the 409th Inf, and in OFFWILLER on the front of the 410th. Meanwhile the 411th Inf remained in Division Reserve in the general vicinity of BOUXWILLER 107/.

4. Strong hostile patrol activity flared up on the front of the 79th Division during the day as the enemy appeared to be probing for a spot through which to make a major armored thrust. Identification of both the 103 and 104 GRs in the area Northwest of HAGUENAU seemed to locate the entire 47 VG Division in that zone. On the left flank of the 79th Division sector, strong enemy patrol action had forced a withdrawal of the OPL by 0800A, but the 222d Inf continued to push aggressive patrols across the MODER River on its front, to the Northwest of HAGUENAU. The 313th Inf encountered several platoon sized enemy patrols in the HAGUENAU area and to the North of the town dispersed one 20-man patrol led by an officer. Similarly heavy patrol actions occurred on the fronts of both the 242d and 314th Infs between HAGUENAU and BISCHWILLER throughout the period. The main forces of all four regiments in line continued to improve their defenses along the south bank of the MODER as the 315th Inf remained in Division Reserve 108/.

5. Although the enemy continued his heavy build-up East of the Zorn River ground activity on the front of the 36th Division was limited to several sharp fire fights resulting from enemy patrol activities. At 1500A, 40 enemy infantry were dispersed when they attacked an outpost position of the 142d Inf at R-088166, and shortly after dark a 20-man patrol probing positions at R-104183 was driven off. However, the importance attached to this sector by the enemy seemed borne out when he concentrated his day's air effort in the triangle formed by BISCHWILLER, BRUMATH and WEYERSHEIM, where 21 planes bombed and strafed the 36th Division areas between 0930A and 1430A. The 142d Inf continued to hold this divisional front throughout the day, until elements of the 143d took over positions on the extreme right flank at 2120A 109/.

6. The 14th Armd Division remained in Corps Reserve in the DETTWILLER area, and the 94th Cav Ren Sq continued its screening mission along the Corps right boundary. The 232d Inf remained assembled as reserve in BOSSENDORF (Q-8720), and the 141st Inf (36th Inf Div) completed movement to this zone at 1000A and reverted to Corps control as additional reserve in MONSWILLER (Q-7317). The 36th Ren Tr, 131st FA Bn and Co A, 636th TD Bn were relieved of attachment to the 141st Inf and reverted to control of the 36th Division.

7. Before snowfall in the afternoon made visibility zero and grounded allied planes, three missions of 37 sorties had been flown by XII TAC in close support of

107/. WRJ, 23 Jan - Entries #19, 52, 63, 71, 98 and 112.

108/. WRJ, 23 Jan - Entries #11, 20, 38, 62, 67, 92, 107 and 127.

109/. WRJ, 23 Jan - Entries #13, 32, 50, 61, 72, 101, 108, 110 and 130.

VI Corps operations. The first mission bombed and strafed enemy concentrations in OBERHOFFEN with good results, while the other two bombed and strafed hostile concentrations and movements heading Southeast from BITCHE. Of the 21 hostile planes which concentrated on bombing, strafing and reconnaissance missions on the front of the 36th Division, an estimated half of them were Me-262s (jet-propelled), one of which was hit and probably destroyed by the 35th AAA Brigade. Hostile artillery was light, seeming to indicate that forward displacement had not been completed as yet. Corps artillery concentrated on heavy hostile movements on the MERTZWILLER - ESBACH and the BAERENTHAL - ZINSWILLER roads.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 69 of this date was received, shifting the boundary between XV Corps and VI Corps slightly to the Southeast. As changed, the new left boundary of VI Corps ran generally from WINGEN (Q-740355) to WILDENGUTH (Q-785378) and Northeast 110/.

9. At 1900A, Operations Instruction No. 24 was issued, directing (a) the 103d, 79th and 36th (-) Infantry Divisions to continue their present defensive missions; (b) the 14th Armd Division to prepare plans to counterattack against enemy penetrations in the sectors of the 79th, 36th, 103d Divisions or the 3d DIA (II Fr Corps); (c) the 232d Inf Regt to prepare plans for a counterattack against enemy penetrations in the sectors of the 103d or 79th Divisions, and (d) the 141st Inf Regt to prepare plans to counterattack against enemy penetrations in the sectors of the 36th Division, 3 DIA or the 79th Division 111/.

10. At 2200A, Operations Instruction No. 25 was issued, outlining the plan for relief of the 45th Division left flank elements by the 35th Division (XV Corps) and directing the 45th Division to relieve the 36th Engr C Regt which would then revert to Corps control 112/.

24 January

1. Although the threatened attack in the OBERHOFFEN - BISCHWILLER area had not yet developed, the enemy applied increasing pressure along other parts of the Corps front during 24 January, and succeeded in making some penetrations - on the left flank of the 103d Division, and on the left flank of the 79th Division. The offensive in that latter area appeared the more serious inasmuch as an estimated hostile regiment succeeded in crossing the MODER River and penetrating about a kilometer through the heavy woods North of OHLUNGEN, where heavy fighting was raging at the close of the period.

2. There was little activity and only minor changes in dispositions on the front of the 45th Division, as the enemy continued to send strong patrols into our line to determine the extent of the withdrawal on this flank. Hostile patrols of 15-20 men were particularly active on the front of the 274th Inf, Northwest of WILDENGUTH, where several sharp small arms clashes took place during the day before XV Corps elements relieved the 274th Inf, as the VI Corps left boundary was shifted to the Southeast in accordance with Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 69. In the center of the division sector, a group of 50-75 enemy forced a slight withdrawal of the 180th Inf OPL in the vicinity of SAEGMUHL at 0740A, but friendly patrols entered the same town in the evening without making contact. The 36th Engr C Regt continued to maintain the regimental right flank along the REIPERTSWILLER - ROTHBACH road without incident, while the 179th Inf remained in its blocking positions along the ridge Northwest of ROTHBACH, prepared to counter-

110/. Annex No. 9.

111/. Annex No. 7.

112/. Annex No. 7.

attack against any enemy penetrations of the 103d Division flank in that area. In reserve, the 157th Inf continued its reorganization and rehabilitation program near ZITERSHEIM 113/.

3. Increased hostile activity took place along the front of the 103d Division, and from the nature of the probing attacks, it appeared that the enemy was getting set to launch a strong offensive the next day. The 6 SS Mtn Division and the 36 VG Division continued to face the 410th and 409th Infs respectively and although no close-in contact with armor developed, the presence of tanks in ROTHBACH and PW statements indicated that elements of the 25 Panzer Division might be assembling on this front as well. Shortly after daybreak positions of the 410th Inf in BISCHOLTZ (Q-8532) and MUHLHAUSEN (Q-8631) were attacked by an estimated 50 and 100 men respectively. Both assaults were quickly dispersed but sniper activity continued in both towns where the enemy continued to build up his forces by infiltration in small groups. Artillery and tank destroyers concentrated their fires on a dozen armored vehicles in ROTHBACH and along the roads leading Northeast and Southeast of the town, and knocked out four of them. On the division right-flank no close-in contact developed on the front of the 409th Inf, but hostile concentrations forming up for attack in the woods East of BISCHHOFFEN were twice dispersed by artillery fire. The 411th Inf remained in Division Reserve 114/.

4. After a relatively quiet day during which the four regiments on line in the 79th Division sector continued to improve positions along the south banks of the MODER River, the enemy became sharply aggressive about 2000A. Elements of the 47 VG and the 25 Panzer Divisions launched what seemed to be the start of a major attack between NEUBOURG and SCHWEIGHAUSEN in the zone of the 222d Inf. During the morning, patrols of the 222d Inf had made contact at the NEUBOURG station, and during the afternoon, the regimental left flank, to the West of NEUBOURG was taken under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire by enemy infantry dug in along the railroad tracks across the MODER River. After dark, the enemy laid down a half-hour concentration of artillery, mortar and small arms fire in this same zone and then attacked across the MODER River at Q-959269 but made no serious penetrations, although heavy fighting was still in progress at the close of the period. A similar minor crossing at Q-990257 was quickly repulsed, but a simultaneous attack across the river at Q-976263 in estimated regimental strength broke through the MIR and penetrated through the woods North of OHLINGEN to Q-975245. The rest of the Division front - held by the 313th, 242d and 314th Infs - East along the MODER River to OBERHOFFEN remained quiet except for occasional small arms and long-range machine gun fire on front line positions during the evening - apparently intended to distract attention from the river crossings to the Northwest. During the evening, the 314th Inf was relieved by the 315th Inf on the right flank, and moved to reserve assembly areas in the WINTERSHOUSE - HOCHSTETT area 115/.

5. Except for occasional minor patrol clashes and scattered light artillery in the WEYERSHEIM area, the front of the 36th Division held by the 1st and 3d Bns 142d Inf and the 3d Bn 143d Inf, remained quiet. In his single bit of aggressive activity the enemy lost an entire nine-man patrol from the 21 Panzer Division when six were captured and three killed East of WEYERSHEIM. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq continued to maintain a screen along the right boundary of this sector.

6. There was no change in Corps reserve. The 14th Armd Division remained in the DETTWILLER area, the 141st Inf at MONSWILLER and the 232d Inf at BOSSENDORF.

113/. WRJ, 24 Jan - Entries #15, 22, 60, 66, 73, 85 and 97.

114/. WRJ, 24 Jan - Entries #19, 23, 28, 45, 47, 54, 61, 70, 72, 85, 93 and 96.

115/. WRJ, 24 Jan - Entries #24, 36, 53, 69, 86, 98, 101, 102, 107, 109 and 110.

7. Continued flurries of snow and poor visibility prevented any air activity in close support of Corps operations, and no hostile planes appeared over the area. Despite poor visibility which hampered observation, Corps artillery fired several successful shoots on hostile personnel concentrations, batteries, and armor in the ROTHBACH area. Hostile artillery was again limited to scattered harassing fires on frontline positions throughout the Corps area.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 70 of this date was received directing the movement of the 101st Airborne Division (with 807th TD Bn atchd) into the VI Corps area, commencing 25 January, and the movement of the 79th Division (with 813th TD Bn and 463d AAA AW Bn atchd) out of the Corps area prior to 28 January. Subsequently, at 2300A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 26 was issued outlining the relief of the 79th Division and its movement to Army area 116/.

25 January

1. The renewal of the enemy's all-out offensive to retake ALSACE was in full stride during the early morning hours of 25 January as the bulk of six hostile divisions were concentrated for three strong coordinated attacks against the VI Corps MODER River line. The 6 SS Mtn Division broke through positions of the 410th Inf to take SCHILLERSDORF while the 36 VG Division put heavy pressure on the rest of the 103d Division front, but this attack had been contained by the end of the period and heavy losses inflicted on the attacking SS troops. Simultaneously the hostile assault across the MODER River and into the MIR of the 79th Division between NEUBOURG and SCHWEIGHAUSEN had been renewed by elements of the 47 VG, 25 PG and 7 Paratroop Divisions. After making good early progress in BOIS DE OHLJUNGEN this attack had been halted and repulsed with heavy casualties to the enemy after CG "B" 14th Armd Division and the 232d Inf (Corps Reserve) had been committed to a counterattack. A third prong of the enemy offensive was the attack across the MODER at KALTENHAUSEN by the 10 SS Panzer Division. This drive was also halted and driven back by the right flank of the 79th Division after heavy casualties had been suffered by the attacking SS troops.

2. Except for his continued probing patrols, the enemy remained fairly quiet on the front of the 45th Division which was held by the 180th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt. On the left flank, shortly after the start of the period, 180th Inf elements were forced to withdraw from SAEGMUHL which they had entered unopposed the previous evening, but this line was held intact as several 10-15 man patrols were easily repulsed through the rest of the period. Similar patrol activity took place on positions of the 36th Engrs during the morning but hostile activity in the afternoon was limited to harassing mortar and light artillery fire. While the 157th continued its reorganization and training program in reserve, the 179th Inf improved its defensive positions on the ridges Northwest of ROTHBACH, clearing roads, supply trails and routes for a counterattack against enemy penetrations which might threaten the division right flank. After dark, elements of the 274th Inf moved in between the sectors of the 180th Inf and the 36th Engrs, relieving the 2d Bns of each, on the line 117/.

3. The left flank of the 410th Inf continued to bear the brunt of the enemy offensive, although troops along the entire front of the 103d Division remained in heavy contact throughout the period. After exerting increasing pressure in the MUHLHAUSEN area throughout the night, at least one battalion of the 12th SS Mtn

116/. Annexes Nos. 7 and 9.

117/. WRJ, 25 Jan - Entries #23, 26, 39, 61, 63, 66, 91, 100 and 113.

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Regt (6 SS Mtn Div) attacked Southwest with heavy automatic weapons fire and strong SP gun fire support to reach SCHILLERSDORF before daylight. Subsequent attacks by the estimated 200 hostile paratroopers who had reached the town were broken up by artillery concentrations at 0630A and 0955A, but a counter-attack at 1030A by 410th Inf elements supported by tanks made only fair progress in its attempts to clear the town. After heavy house-to-house fighting in SCHILLERSDORF throughout the day, the enemy force had been confined to the southeastern corner of the town, and elements of the 411th Inf had reestablished MLR positions of the 410th Inf between MUHLHAUSEN and SCHILLERSDORF and had set up road blocks to the South of the town to meet any more attacks of this SS Mtn force. At 0830A another estimated 100 enemy infantry had hit the right flank of the 410th Inf in NIEFFERN, and though halted by artillery fire remained in the town, harassing front line positions with small arms fire. Late in the period another battalion of the 12 SS Mtn Regt had seized the high ground West of MUHLHAUSEN. On the Division right flank, an estimated 200 enemy infantry of the 36 VG Division, supported by several tanks, attacked the 409th Inf OPL in the vicinity of KINDWILLER (Q-9029) at 0600A and, though repulsed after heavy fighting, maintained enough pressure throughout the day to force a withdrawal to the MLR 118/.

4. a. The heavy enemy pressure exerted on the 79th Division's left flank during the previous period increased, seeming to indicate that this attack over the MODER River between NEUBOURG and SCHWEIGHAUSEN was his long-expected major effort. Elements of both the 103 and 104 GRs of the 47 VG Division were identified at NEUBOURG, both the 119 and the 35 PGRs of 21 Panzer Division in the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN and 21 Para Regt of the 7 Paratroop Division in SCHWEIGHAUSEN. After heavy penetrations through the 222d Inf MLR and into the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN had been made during the night, principally by infantry troops of the 21 Panzer Division, both the 1st and 3d Bns 314th Inf joined the 222d Inf counterattack at 0530A to clear out this salient. And at 0830A both the 232d Inf (Corps Reserve) and CC "B" 14th Armd Division had been attached to the 79th Division to repulse and drive this hostile force back across the MODER. On the West, the 3d Bn 314th and the 1st Bn 222d Inf attacking East and Northeast through the woods, had cleared the area as far as Q-972255 after a day of heavy fighting. After assembling at Q-990249, CC "B" attacked Northwest to clear the hostile infantry from the woods before enemy armor could be brought across the river, and by the close of the period the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN had been cleared except for scattered pockets. Meanwhile, the 1st Bn 314th Inf and the 2d Bn 232d Inf had joined the 2d Bn 222d Inf near SCHWEIGHAUSEN and after a day of heavy fighting had cleared the town by 2130A except for a few scattered snipers left behind by the 21 Para Regt. More than 100 prisoners were taken from the three enemy divisions participating in this attack, and an estimated 200-300 were killed.

b. While the sectors of the 313th Inf in HAGUENAU and the 315th Inf on the division right flank near OBERHOFFEN and BISCHWILLER remained relatively quiet throughout the day, the enemy launched another heavy attack across the MODER, East of HAGUENAU against the 242d Inf in the KALTENHAUSEN area. This offensive, spearheaded by two battalions of both the 21 and 22 SS PGRs of the 10 SS Panzer Division, made some early progress in its apparent mission of seizing Hill 150 (R-060222), but a counterattack by the 242d Inf succeeded in clearing out this pocket before the reserve battalion of the 315th Inf had to be committed. Although statements by prisoners that the 10 SS Panzer Division had suffered 1000 casualties in this action appeared exaggerated the effort to establish a bridgehead across the MODER in this sector was extremely costly to the enemy, particularly to the II and III Bns 21 SS PGR 119/.

118/. WRJ, 25 Jan - Entries #12, 16, 40, 43, 56, 66, 71, 84, 94, 108, 110, 112, 114 and 120.

119/. WRJ, 25 Jan - Entries #8, 9, 10, 13, 32, 36, 41, 42, 48, 50, 53, 55, 62, 66, 67, 70, 99, 100, 115, 116, 118 and 121.

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5. The zone of the 36th Division on the Corps right flank, between BISCHWILLER and WEYERSHEIM, remained quiet throughout the period, the single bit of hostile activity being a ten-man patrol observed at R-098193, North of BISCHWILLER at 0900A. Late in the period, the 1st Bn 142d Inf relieved the 1st Bn 143d in the center of the front, while the 3d Bns, 142d and 143d Infs remained on the line to the North and South. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq continued to screen the Corps right boundary and maintain contact with elements of the II French Corps to the South 120/.

6. The 14th Armd Division (-CC "B") remained in Corps Reserve in the DETTWILLER area. The 101st Airborne Division began movement to the VI Corps sector and by the close of the period the 501st Pch Inf and the 327th Glider Regt had assembled in the HOCHFELDEN area.

7. Heavy snow prevented any close air support, and also grounded all hostile air activity. The ensuing poor visibility prevented the use of Air OPs, but Corps artillery fired several successful concentrations on close-in targets against the heavy attacks on the fronts of the 103d and 79th Divisions. While a short preparation was fired by enemy artillery before the attack on SCHILLERSDORF, and the NEUBOURG - SCHWEIGHAUSEN front was subjected to sporadic harassing fire, enemy artillery continued light throughout the period.

8. At 2300A, Operations Instruction No. 27 was issued (a) suspending so much of O.I. No. 26 which had directed the relief of the 79th Division by the 101st Airborne Division, (b) directing the 101st Airborne Division to relieve elements of the 79th Division along the MODER River between NIEDERMODERN and SCHWEIGHAUSEN, and (c) attaching the 232d Inf Regt and CC "B", 14th Armd Division to the 79th Division 121/.

26 January

1. The VI Corps front during 26 January was as quiet as it had been active the previous day. Apparently, our counterattacks against the enemy penetrations to SCHILLERSDORF on the 103d Division front and against his offensive which had carried across the MODER River into the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN on the front of the 79th Division had inflicted heavy casualties on the 6 SS Mtn, 36 VG, 47 VG, 25 RG, 7 Paratroop and 10 SS Panzer Divisions, for the MIR was easily restored during the morning and there was only minor hostile activity throughout the entire period. There were indications that the enemy might have abandoned his ideas of continuing an all-out offensive to retake ALSACE, and might be shifting to the defensive.

2. On the Corps left flank, the 45th Division sector remained extremely quiet as enemy activity was limited to occasional bursts of light artillery and mortar fire on front line positions. From West to East along the ridges South of the REIPERTSWILLER - ROTHBACH road, the 180th Inf, the 274th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt continued to improve their positions on the MIR while the 179th maintained its line blocking to the East on the Division right flank. The re-organization, refitting and training program of the 157th Inf continued in rear areas 122/.

3. In the sector of the 103d Division, the enemy salient which had been pushed into positions of the 410th Inf and taken SCHILLERSDORF was completely eliminated during the day. Some of the remaining 100 troops of the 12 SS Mtn

120/. WRJ, 25 Jan - Entries #31, 66 and 117.

121/. Annex No. 7.

122/. WRJ, 26 Jan - Entries #8, 35, 45, 60, 75 and 81.

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Regt who had been surrounded within the town the day before, had managed to infiltrate back to their own lines during the night, but the majority were either captured or killed and the town had been completely cleared by 1115A. An estimated 25-30 hostile paratroopers remained in BISCHHOLTZ and a few snipers harassed the 410th Inf front line elements near MUHLHAUSEN and NIEFFERN throughout the day, but the regimental MIR had been completely restored and remained comparatively inactive throughout the period. The right flank of the 103d Division, held by the 409th Inf, remained quiet and there were no further demonstrations by the German 36 VG Division in this zone 123/.

4. The heavy casualties inflicted by our counterattack on 25 January apparently had caused the enemy to withdraw what he could from his penetration in the BOIS DE OHLJUNGEN and back across the MODER River during the night. The mopping up operations by elements of the 314th and 232d Infs and the 68th AIB met only scattered resistance from isolated pockets of Germans left in the woods and scattered machine gun fire from North of the river. Approximately 300 enemy dead were found through these woods and more than 100 prisoners taken, the majority from the 20 and 21 Para Regts, and the 103 GR, and the MIR along the south banks of the MODER had been restored by 1030A. By noon the 68th AIB had been relieved in line, and CC "B" commenced movement back to the 14th Armd Division area, closing in WITERSHEIM at 1545A and reverting to parent unit control. The restored MIR was held by the 2d Bn 222d Inf, the 1st and 3d Bns 314th Inf and the 2d Bn 232d Inf until after dark when these battalions were completely relieved by the 501st Pch Inf and the 327th Glider Inf of the 101st Airborne Division. The rest of the 103d Division front from SCHWEIGHAUSEN to BISCHWILLER - held by the 313th, 242d and 315th Infs - became inactive once more 124/.

5. By 2100A the remaining elements of the 101st Airborne Division had closed in the general HOCHFELDEN area, attached to VI Corps on arrival. Although the 501st Pch Inf and the 327th Glider Inf, each with two battalions in line and one in reserve - had taken over the front from SCHWEIGHAUSEN to the left boundary of the 103d Division, control of this sector had not yet passed to the 101st Airborne Division Commander at the close of the period 125/.

6. A continued lull existed over the front of the 36th Division on the Corps right flank where enemy activity was limited to several small patrols and a few bursts of light and medium artillery fire on BISCHWILLER. Night patrols of the 142d Inf elements holding the left hinge in the BISCHWILLER area pushed out to the East to R-125178, R-126186 and R-115188 without making contact. The rest of the front was maintained by the 143d Inf, with the 117th Cav Rcn Sq still screening the Corps right boundary 126/.

7. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 72 of this date was received, rescinding so much of O.I. No. 70 which had directed the detachment and movement of the 79th Infantry Division from the VI Corps zone, and directing instead the movement of Task Force LINDEN (222d, 232d and 242d Inf Regts) from the VI Corps sector on 27 January 127/.

8. At 1700A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 28 was issued, directing (a) the 101st Airborne Division to relieve immediately elements of Task Force LINDEN and the 79th Division along the MODER River Line, generally between

123/. WRJ, 26 Jan - Entries #5, 8, 24, 32, 43, 45, 58 and 76.

124/. WRJ, 26 Jan - Entries #8, 23, 27, 38, 45, 61, 65, 77 and 82.

125/. WRJ, 26 Jan - Entries #54 and 89.

126/. WRJ, 26 Jan - Entries #4, 8, 45, 66 and 78.

127/. Annex No. 9.

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NIEDERMODERN and SCHWEIGHAUSEN, (b) the 79th Division to relieve elements of Task Force LINDEN in sector by 280800A, (c) the relief of the 59th Armd FA Bn and the 242d FA Bn from attachment to the 79th Division and their attachment to the 101st Airborne Division, (d) the 14th Armd Division and the 141st Inf to revise their counterattack plans to include sector of the 101st Airborne Division, and (e) all divisions to institute a vigorous program of night patrolling to determine enemy strength, dispositions and identifications 128/.

9. At 2100A, Operations Instruction No. 29 was issued FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY, directing (a) the 36th Division to attack and seize the line OBERHOFFEN - DRUSENHEIM and clear the enemy from the west bank of the RHINE to the South thereof, in sector, and (b) the other four infantry divisions to conduct limited objective attacks to restore OPIR in sector 129/.

27 January

1. Continued quiet characterized the VI Corps front during 27 January, indicating perhaps that the enemy was regrouping his forces after the heavy losses suffered by his five first class divisions in the heavy offensive of 24 - 25 January. Work continued on the improvement of the restored MIR positions on the Corps front, as patrols made only scattered contact in their probing attempts to determine whether the enemy intended withdrawals of the bulk of his crack divisions or was merely regrouping for another attack. Early in the period, the 101st Airborne Division had assumed control of its new sector, formerly the left half of the 79th Division zone.

2. On the Corps left flank, the 45th Division continued to maintain and improve its defensive positions between Q-790380 and Q-845346 with the 180th Inf, 274th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt holding the MIR and the 179th Inf on the right flank, blocking to the East from the high ground West of ROTHBACH. The few prisoners taken by patrols were from the 476 GR, indicating that the 256 VG Division was still holding this sector. However, the enemy remained inactive on this front and night patrols pushed more than a mile across the REIPERTSWILLER - ROTHBACH road and through the high ground to the Northeast without encountering wire, mines or occupied enemy positions. In Division Reserve, the 157th Inf continued its reorganization and training program 130/.

3. Except on the northwest flank, between ROTHBACH and MUHLHAUSEN, the enemy remained inactive on the front of the 103d Division, as defensive positions were improved by the 410th and 409th Infs holding the line, and strong patrols were pushed into hostile territory. A few brief small arms fights took place throughout the day in ROTHBACH where elements of the 12 SS Mtn Regt remained, and at dusk an enemy 20-man patrol attempting to infiltrate positions near BISCHHOLTZ was repulsed with heavy casualties. The approximate dozen prisoners - half of them holed up in SCHILLERSDORF - taken during the day were all from the 12 SS Mtn Regt 131/.

4. After completing the relief of 79th Division and Task Force LINDEN elements by the 501st Procht Inf and the 327th Glider Inf, the 101st Airborne Division Commander assumed control of the sector along the MODER River between Q-938272 and R-007246 at 0145A. While small enemy groups were observed digging in along the North bank of the MODER and some harassing light artillery was

128/. Annex No. 7.

129/. Annex No. 7.

130/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entries #14, 19, 30, 34, 46 and 60.

131/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entries #9, 19, 21, 34, 35, 49, 63 and 66.

received on forward positions, this NEUBOURG - SCHWEIGHAUSEN sector, which had been the scene of the heavy enemy attack on 24-25 January, remained generally quiet throughout the period. Both the 502d and the 506th Prcht Inf Regts remained assembled in Division Reserve - at SCHAFFHAUSEN (Q-8714) and ZOEHERSDORF (Q-8421) respectively 132/.

5. To allow more time for the 314th Inf to reorganize after its efforts in cleaning the hostile forces out of the BOIS DE OHLUNGEN, the Corps Commander gave the 79th Division Commander verbal authority to retain the 242d Inf in position, but the remainder of Task Force LINDEN had moved out of the division and Corps area during the day, the 222d and 232d Infs closing in the CHATEAU SALINS (Q-0925) area at 1630A and 1950A, and reverting to Army Reserve. The new 79th Division sector, which had been limited on the left by the movement of the 101st Airborne Division into the NEUBOURG - SCHWEIGHAUSEN area, remained quiet during the day, though some light patrol contact occurred after dark on the front of the 313th Inf in HAGUENAU. The 242d and 315th Infs in the center and on the right flank of the Division front, were subjected to occasional mortar and light artillery fire 133/.

6. A similar calm existed on the Corps right flank, in the sector of the 36th Division, between BISCHWILLER and WEYERSHEIM. While the enemy was alert and sensitive to our patrol activities, he showed no tendency toward any aggressive action on his own part. Elements of the 142d and 143d Infs continued to hold the division sector, while the attached 117th Cav Rcn Sq maintained screening patrols along the Corps right boundary 134/.

7. Both the 14th Armd Division at DETTWILLER and the 141st Inf at MONSWILLER remained in Corps Reserve, prepared to counterattack against any hostile penetrations of the Corps front lines. Co A 47th Tk Bn replaced Co C 25th Tk Bn in support of the 79th Division.

8. Continued snow and poor visibility prevented any air activity throughout the period, and restricted artillery fire, both friendly and hostile, to light harassing missions. In accordance with Seventh Army movement order of 26 January, the 575th FA Bn (-Btries A & C) commenced movement to the XXI Corps area and was relieved of attachment to VI Corps 135/.

9. At 1800A, Operations Instruction No. 30 was issued, directing: (a) the 45th Division to relieve the 274th Inf by 290800 and move it to the XV Corps sector; (b) the 14th Armd Division to relieve Co C, 25th Tk Bn with Co A 47th Tk Bn in support of the 79th Division; (c) the 101st Airborne Division to maintain one regiment in reserve to be committed only on Corps order, and authorizing the 79th Division to use the road through MINVERSHEIM in the rear of the 101st Division sector 136/.

28 January

1. When the enemy continued to remain inactive over the entire VI Corps front during 28 January, it appeared that his attitude had changed from the offensive to the defensive. Only scattered contact was made throughout the period, but increased movement in rear areas indicated a reshuffling of hostile

132/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entries #12, 19, 31 and 62.

133/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entries #13, 16, 19, 28, 34, 45 and 64.

134/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entries #10, 19, 34, 61 and 73.

135/. WRJ, 27 Jan - Entry #37.

136/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

troops, with the probability that one or more of his mobile divisions, probably the 25 PG and the 21 Panzer Divisions, might be withdrawing. Apparently the heavy losses suffered throughout the month, and particularly in his recent efforts to force a breakthrough of the VI Corps MODER River line, had forced abandonment of his plans to continue the all-out offensive to retake ALSACE.

2. On the Corps left flank, the front of the 45th Division remained quiet for another day, with activity limited to strong patrolling despite continued snow and cold weather. Late in the afternoon the 180th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt commenced relief of the 274th Inf by extending their fronts to the right and left respectively, and by 2345A the relief had been completed without incident and this remaining regiment of Task Force HERREN had assembled at WIMMENAU, prepared to move to the XV Corps zone. The 179th Inf continued to maintain its blocking positions in the heavily wooded high ground West of ROTHBACH, while the 157th maintained its reorganization and training program in Division Reserve 137/.

3. Despite PW rumors that the 6 SS Mtn Division was scheduled to pull back from the front of the 103d Division, elements of the 12 SS Mtn Regt were still identified in MUHLHAUSEN, and for the first time since our withdrawal on 21 January, the 11 SS Mtn Regt was also identified on this front - in the vicinity of ROTHBACH. However indications that the 36 VG Division had moved away from the right flank of the 103d Division were substantiated when the 937 Regt of the 245 Inf Division was identified in KINDWILLER. This sector again remained quiet as the 410th and 409th Infs improved MIR positions and patrolled aggressively to their front 138/.

4. Along the 101st Airborne Division front in the NEUBOURG - SCHWEIGHAUSEN area the 501st Pch Inf and the 327 Glider Inf patrolled actively ahead of MIR positions on the South bank of the MODER River without drawing any sharp reaction from the enemy. Two prisoners taken from a patrol at Q-983258 identified the 115 Regt (47 VG Div) and the Engr Bn (7 Para Div) indicating a regrouping of hostile forces in this area and the probable withdrawal of the 25 PG Division from this sector. In general, the enemy's attitude was defensive and numerous small groups were observed digging in North of the MODER River 139/.

5. Relief of the 242d Inf (Task Force LINDEN) in the center of the 79th Division front was commenced shortly after dark, and by 2155A the relief had been completed without incident and the 314th Inf had assumed control of this zone. To the West and East, the remainder of the Division front was held by the 313th and 315th Infs. While considerable enemy movement was observed in rear areas (particularly in CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN) and taken under artillery fire, hostile activity was at a minimum. The Division Commander was given a verbal directive by the Corps Commander to institute a vigorous patrolling program on this front to determine the nature and extent of the hostile withdrawals which seemed to be in progress 140/.

6. Except for an increase in hostile artillery fire in the late afternoon - one 200-round concentration of 75mm and 105mm fire falling on front line positions in the BISCHWILLER area at 1800A - the sector of the 36th Division on the Corps eastern flank remained quiet. Identification of the 19 Para Regt in a 15-man patrol raid on the OPL near BISCHWILLER shortly before daybreak indicated that these elements of the 7 Paratroop Division might be employed as a screen to

137/. WRJ, 28 Jan - Entries #10, 24, 32, 40, 50, 62, 74 and 83.

138/. WRJ, 28 Jan - Entries #19, 36, 40, 45, 62 and 72.

139/. WRJ, 28 Jan - Entries #15, 29, 33, 46, 62 and 73.

140/. WRJ, 28 Jan - Entries #15, 28, 40, 62 and 77.

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cover the withdrawal of the 21 Panzer Division from that area. Night patrols of the 142d and 143d Infs generally drew quick reaction of hostile small arms fire along the front, yet one patrol entered ROHRWILLER without making contact 141/.

7. The 14th Armd Division (-CG "B") and the 141st Inf remained in Corps Reserve in the vicinity of DETTWILLER and MONSWILLER respectively. CG "B" remained assembled near WITTERSHEIM - in the rear of the sectors of the 101st Airborne and 79th Infantry Divisions.

8. Continued snow prevented any air activity throughout the period, and the poor visibility limited observed artillery fires. However, Corps artillery conducted a heavy harassing program on hostile lines of communication, and there was a decided increase in enemy artillery, particularly on the Corps right flank where harassing fires were placed on towns in forward areas...

9. At 1200A, Operations Instruction No. 31 was issued, directing: (a) all echelons to prepare counterattack plans to restore battle positions by the employment of Corps Reserve; (b) the 45th Division to maintain one regiment in reserve, prepared on Corps order to counterattack enemy penetrations in the sector of the 103d Division under command of that division; (c) the 101st Airborne Division to maintain one regiment in reserve, prepared on Corps order to counterattack enemy penetrations in the sector of the 79th Division or the 103d Division, under the control of the respective commanders 142/.

29 January

1. The quiet lull which had prevailed over the Corps front since the heavy enemy offensive had been halted and driven back on 25 January continued throughout this day. The single bit of enemy aggressive activity took place in SAEGMUHL late in the afternoon, when hostile infantry drove in the OPL of the 45th Division in that area, but that line was quickly restored. Late in the period the Corps left boundary was extended to the Northwest to SARREINSBURG after relief of XV Corps elements in that zone by the 45th Division.

2. After another quiet day in which forward positions of the 45th Division were subjected to scattered mortar and light artillery fire, the 180th Inf was the butt of the first enemy aggressive action on the Corps front since 25 January - about dusk. An unestimated number of hostile infantry attacked the OPL in SAEGMUHL at 1830A and forced a slight withdrawal from the town, but an immediate counterattack had restored this position before the end of the period. Along the rest of the Division front the 180th Inf and the 36th Engr C Regt continued their aggressive patrolling and made only light contact with small groups of enemy. Leaving the 1st Bn to maintain the blocking positions on the Division right flank, the 179th Inf (-) moved to the other flank shortly after dark to relieve XV Corps elements along the line Northwest of WILDENGUTH. By 2400A the 45th Division had assumed command of this new sector and the Corps left boundary had been extended to the Northwest - to the SARREINSBURG - MOUTERHOUSE line in accordance with Seventh Army Operations Instructions No. 73 of this date. The 157th Inf remained in reserve, reorganizing and training 143/.

3. Except for the few scattered rounds of SP gun fire falling in the ROTHBACH area and sniper fire from BITSCHHOFFEN, the enemy remained quiet on the

141/. WRJ, 28 Jan - Entries #15, 37, 62 and 75.

142/. Annex No. 7.

143/. WRJ, 29 Jan - Entries #11, 30, 40, 44, 60 and 68; Annex No. 9.

[REDACTED]

front of the 103d Division. On the left flank, the 410th Inf resumed its heavy patrolling program and one strong patrol raid on HIEFFERN killed an estimated 20 enemy and brought back ten prisoners from the 87 VOR which indicated the 47 VI Division was still holding this sector. The front of the 409th Inf remained quiet 144/.

4. Hostile activity on the front of the 101st Airborne Division was limited to occasional bursts of light artillery, mortar and long-range machine gun fire on forward positions. Both the 501st Provt Inf and the 327th Glider Inf resumed their strong patrol activities throughout the day without drawing any sharp reaction from the enemy across the MODER River. The 502d and 506th Provt Infs remained in Division Reserve 145/.

5. While heavy vehicular movement continued in enemy rear areas, on the front of the 79th Division, there was little actual contact in this sector - held by the 313th, 314th and 315th Infs, each with two battalions in line and one in reserve. Light, sporadic artillery fell on frontline positions throughout the day and during the hours of darkness. The heavy patrol program planned for the closing hours of the period, had to be postponed because of the brightness of this moonlit night 146/.

6. Activity on the front of the 36th Division was equally light - limited to a few minor patrol clashes and the improvement of defensive positions. At 0930A, the 141st Inf had been released from Corps Reserve and began movement to the Division zone, and after dark the 2d Bn relieved the 2d Bn 142d Inf on the line 147/.

7. Improved weather conditions made possible a close support air program again. Four missions of 38 sorties dropped 24 tons of bombs and strafed vehicle movements and tank concentrations along the west bank of the RHINE between OFFENDORF and FT. LOUIS, reporting six tanks destroyed and another half dozen badly damaged. Hostile air activity was limited to reconnaissance flights by four Me-109s during the period. Increased visibility made possible many observed missions by Corps Artillery on enemy personnel, motor and tank concentrations in rear areas, and a strong harassing program was fired on hostile lines of communication. Enemy artillery showed a slight increase, but still remained light, being generally confined to scattered harassing fires on frontline positions.

8. At 1600A, Operations Instruction No. 32 was issued, outlining the extension of the Corps left boundary to the Northwest and the relief of XV Corps elements in that sector by the 45th Division 148/.

30 January

1. VI Corps front remained generally quiet throughout 30 January, activity limited to routine patrolling on the part of all divisions. The enemy remained inactive for the most part and very little contact was made in spite of our vigorous patrol program. Defensive positions were maintained along the Corps front and several local reliefs effected during the period. The 141st Inf (-2d Bn) closed in 36th Division sector at 1000A and reverted to parent control.

144/. WRJ, 29 Jan - Entries #34, 60, 70 and 79.

145/. WRJ, 29 Jan - Entries #11, 55 and 60.

146/. WRJ, 29 Jan - Entries #11, 19, 34, 46, and 60.

147/. WRJ, 29 Jan - Entries #11, 22, 34, 43 and 69.

148/. Annex No. 7.

[REDACTED]

2. Following the completion of relief of XV Corps elements between WILDENGUTH and SARREINSBERG by the 179th Inf, there were no further changes in dispositions in the 45th Division sector. In the process of improving defensive positions some adjustments were made while an aggressive patrol activity continued throughout the period. Scattered enemy artillery and mortar fire was received by forward elements, particularly in the WILDENGUTH - REIPERTSWILLER area in the course of the day 149/.

3. Although the 103d Division sector was quiet, there being very limited aggressive enemy activity, friendly patrols were particularly active. Toward the close of the period the 1st Bn 410th Inf began relief of the 2d Bn 410th Inf in position, but there were no other changes in positions throughout the day. 150/.

4. Three patrols sent out by the 101st A/B Division during the night failed to make contact with enemy troops. The divisional elements continued their patrol activity throughout the day and improved their positions by making minor local adjustments in positions held by the 501st Prcht Inf and the 327th Glider Inf. Intermittent artillery fire fell on forward positions with light harassing fire on towns in rear areas through the day 151/.

5. On the 79th Division front activity was limited to patrol contacts, with forward elements continuing to improve their positions. Some enemy were observed in the vicinity of OBERHOFFEN and light mortar and artillery fire were received in the HAGUENAU area. The 1st Bn 313th Inf relieved the 2d Bn 313th Inf in position at 2115A, the 2d Bn moving to an assembly area vicinity R-027231 upon completion of relief 152/.

6. 36th Division efforts to establish identification of enemy elements on the Corps right flank proved unsuccessful in spite of vigorous patrolling pushed well to the fronts of the 142d and 143d Infs. Local reliefs and regrouping were carried out as these units continued to improve defensive positions along the front. At 1000A, the 141st Inf (-2d Bn) closed in vicinity of WINGERSHEIM (Q-9213), and at 2115A the 117th Cav Rcn Sq completed the relief of the 143d RCT which moved to the vicinity of BISCHWILLER and KURTZENHAUSEN where it was placed on a two hour alert on Corps order 153/.

7. Operations Instruction No. 33 was issued at 1730A, directing: (a) the 36th Division to maintain one RCT on alert status, prepared to move on Corps order on two hours notice; and (b) the 256th Engr C Bn to move from present location to the XXI Corps zone, to be relieved from attachment to VI Corps on arrival 154/.

31 January

1. As the month of January came to an end, the continued quiet on the VI Corps front and the lack of any aggressive activity by the enemy for the sixth successive day seemed positive proof that he had given up all idea of continuing his offense. The heavy patrol program by the five Corps infantry divisions on the line was continued in an effort to determine the extent of the enemy's withdrawals from our front, and only small arms fight resulted. Just before the close of the period, the 36th Division had launched its attack over the MODER River on the OBERHOFFEN - DRUSENHEIM axis with the mission of clearing all hostile forces from the Corps east flank to the RHINE in the GAMBSHEIM - OFFENDORF - HERRLISHEIM - DRUSENHEIM area.

149/. WRJ, 30 Jan - Entries #2, 19, 36, 66 and 78.

150/. WRJ, 30 Jan - Entries #1, 23, 66 and 75.

151/. WRJ, 30 Jan - Entries #8, 9, 41, 56 and 66.

152/. WRJ, 30 Jan - Entries #18, 41, 51, 66 and 76.

153/. WRJ, 30 Jan - Entries #30, 31, 41, 42, 66 and 74.

154/. Annex No. 7.

2. The 45th Division continued to improve defensive positions and maintained contact with enemy forward units only by vigorous patrolling. The 180th Inf extended its positions to the West in order to relieve right flank elements of the 179th. Patrols operating North and East of WILDENGUTH penetrated hostile territory about 1000 yards but made little or no contact. There was a slight increase in enemy artillery and mortar fire during the afternoon and evening in the vicinity of WILDENGUTH and REIPERTSWILLER 155/.

3. Reliefs and patrols with continued improvement of positions characterized the 103d Division activity for the period. The 1st Bn 410th Inf relieved the 2d Bn early in the period and the 2d Bn moved to an assembly area at INGWILLER. Late in the period the 3d Bn 410th Inf extended its positions to the left to relieve the 2d Bn 411th Inf which assembled in SCHILLERSDORF and ZUTZENDORF upon completion of the relief. The 3d Bn 409th Inf moved to OBERMODERN (Q-8527) on being relieved by elements of the 101st A/B Division late in the period. Patrols which pushed aggressively to the North reported no contact with the enemy who remained exceptionally quiet in this area 156/.

4. In the sector of the 101st A/B Division, both the 501st Prcht Inf and the 327th Glider Inf continued to improve positions along the MODER River, and patrolled aggressively across the river. After dark, raiding parties to the railroad station in NEUBOURG and to another strongpoint North of SCHWEIGHAUSEN captured an estimated forty prisoners, including two officers, and all three regiments of the 47 VG Division were identified. Late in the period, the division sector was extended to the West to the vicinity of PFAFFENHOFFEN after the 506th Prcht Inf had relieved elements of the 409th Inf along that line, and the 101st A/B Division assumed control of this new zone at 2145A 157/.

5. There were no changes in the dispositions of the 313th, 314th and 315th Infs on the front of the 79th Division during the period. Except for scattered mortar and heavy artillery fire which fell on positions in HAGUENAU during the late afternoon, there was little activity in this sector throughout the day. However, the enemy proved very alert and reacted strongly to night raiding parties trying to capture prisoners for identification purposes in the HAGUENAU area. On the right flank the 315th Inf picked up one enemy deserter in the OBERHOFFEN area, who claimed to belong to the 22 PGR of the 10 SS Panzer Division, indicating that at least elements of that unit remained on the Corps front 158/.

6. Heavy patrol activity to determine the extent of the enemy withdrawal from the OFFENDORF - HERRLISHEIM - ROHRWILLER - DRUSENHEIM area characterized the front of the 36th Division during the early morning hours of darkness and throughout the day as preparations were made for a night attack on the ROHRWILLER - DRUSENHEIM axis. Although the enemy had pulled out of GAMBSHEIM, patrols to the STAINWALD drew heavy small arms fire and Air OPs reported a heavy concentration of hostile troops remaining in OFFENDORF. At 1400A, the 143d Inf was relieved from its two-hour alert status in Corps Reserve and was made available to the Division, and CC "B", 11th Armd Division was attached to the 36th Division to support the attack. At 2100A, the 2d Bn 142d Inf began the attack to the East and before the end of the period, the main body had successfully crossed the MODER River and was meeting heavy small arms resistance from the southern outskirts of OBERHOFFEN 159/.

155/. WRJ, 31 Jan - Entries #41, 64, 65, 71 and 80.

156/. WRJ, 31 Jan - Entries #8, 14, 21, 71 and 82.

157/. WRJ, 31 Jan - Entries #1, 48, 71 and 85.

158/. WRJ, 31 Jan - Entries #9, 17, 48, 71, 81 and 90.

159/. WRJ, 31 Jan - Entries #15, 23, 25, 29, 39, 55, 58, 71, 83 and 86.

7. The slight thaw during the period resulted in light showers instead of the flurries of snow that had been so common throughout the rest of the month, and prevented any air activity. Poor visibility limited Corps Artillery to a normal harassing program along the entire front, and except for one 100-round concentration in WILDENGUTH the enemy artillery was light and sporadic.

8. At 1100A, Operations Instruction No. 34 was issued, directing the extension of the 101st A/B Division sector to the West to include part of that area held by the 103d Division. At 1400A Operations Instruction No. 35 was issued, directing the 36th Division (with CC "B" 14th Armd Division atchd) to attack on the axis OBERHOFFEN - DRUSENHEIM on the night 31 January - 1 February and clear the enemy from the West of the RHINE to the South, in sector 160/.

CONCLUSION

1. The month of January saw some of the bitterest fighting and severest weather experienced by the VI Corps. The determination of the enemy to smash the front of the VI Corps and retake ALSACE in January is substantiated by the tabulations of the prisoners taken during a month of defensive action highlighted by many counterattacks by our troops. All the major components of no less than twelve German divisions were identified among the 3,937 enemy captured during the month - including five such crack outfits as the 6 SS Mtn, 7 Paratroop, 10 SS Panzer, 21 Panzer and the 25 PG Divisions. Less able units such as the 36, 47, 256, 257, 361 and 553 VG Divisions and the 245 Inf Division, though not involved in the heaviest fighting, actually yielded the bulk of the prisoners, but the better trained and sometimes fanatical troops of the firstline units were known to have suffered heavy casualties in killed and wounded, a very conservative estimate placing total losses at 12 to 15 thousand.

2. I cannot end this report without stating emphatically that the initial containing, and later complete frustration of the enemy attempts to break through to STRASBOURG and retake ALSACE were due in a very large part to the extremely complete and detailed advance planning by the VI Corps Staff and to the magnificent execution of those plans by the commanders and their troops on the ground.

3. It must be remembered that the change of orders to hold in place, many miles in advance of a line to which a retrograde movement was already under way, coupled with the extremely stormy weather of an unusually severe winter, and the fact that the Corps had to be supplied through a defile, presented logistical problems of the very first magnitude. To reverse all operations and at the same time administer a stinging defeat to the enemy required, by all ranks, that high degree of timing and teamwork which prevailed.

160/ Annex No. 7.

Edward H. Brooks
EDWARD H. BROOKS,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

ANNEXES TO VI CORPS HISTORY - JANUARY 1945

L-1006

- #1A- Combat Troop List, 8 Jan 1945
- 1B- Combat Troop List, 16 Jan 1945
- 1C- Combat Troop List, 23 Jan 1945
- #2 - Casualty Report of VI Corps Troops
- #3 - Roster of Officers
- #4 - Changes in Officer Personnel
- #5 - Report of Strength, Battle Casualties, Decorations and Awards - January 1945
- #6 - Distribution List, 24 Jan 1945
- #7 - VI Corps Operations Instructions Nos. 1 thru 35, inclusive - January 1945 (with orig only)
- #8 - VI Corps Field Order No. 10, 31 Dec 1944 (with orig only)
- #9 - 7th Army Operations Instructions Nos. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72 and 73 - January 1945 (with orig only)
- #10 - 7th Army Directive X-155, 8 Jan 1945 (with orig only)
- #11 - Photographs of G-2 and G-3 Situation Maps - January 1945 (with orig only)
- #12 - Map of VI Corps Route of Advance - January 1945

UNDER SEPARATE COVER: (1 copy only)

- #13 - G-1 Journal - Jan 1945
- #14 - G-2 Journals (Including G-2 Reports) - Jan 1945
- #15 - War Room Journals - Jan 1945
- #16 - VI Corps G-3 Reports - Jan 1945
- #17 - G-4 Journal with Supporting Papers - Jan 1945
- #18 - AG Journal - Jan 1945
- #19 - QM Journal - Jan 1945
- #20 - Ord Journal - Jan 1945
- #21 - IG Journal - Jan 1945
- #22 - SJA Journal - Jan 1945
- #23 - Fin Journal - Jan 1945
- #24 - SSO Journal - Jan 1945
- #25 - Chap Journal - Jan 1945
- #26 - CVS - LN Journal - Jan 1945
- #27 - Surgeon Journal - Jan 1945
- #28 - Signal Journal - Jan 1945
- #29 - Engr Journal - Jan 1945
- #30 - PM Journal - Jan 1945
- #31 - G-3 Reports, S-3 Reports, Field Orders, O.I.s, etc. of VI Corps Troops and Other Headquarters.

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
AFO 46

SECRET
By authority of
CG VI Corps
Initials. *g*
8 Jan 45

VI CORPS COMBAT TROOP LIST
081800A Jan 45

L-1006

Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

45th Inf Div

157th Inf - 158th FA Bn (105mm How)
179th Inf - 160th FA Bn (105mm How)
180th Inf - 171st FA Bn (105mm How)
189th FA Bn (155mm How)
120th Engr C Bn

Atchd;

313th Inf (-3d Bn)

1st Bn 314th Inf

1st Bn 315th Inf

TF HERREN

274th Inf

275th Inf

276th Inf

19th Armd Inf Bn (-2 Plats Co A, 1 Plat Co C)

93d Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

191st Tk Bn

781st Tk Bn (-Cos A, D)

Co A 25th Tk Bn

Co A 47th Tk Bn

645th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)

Co C 813th TD Bn (-1 Plat) (3" Gun SP)

83d Cml Mort Bn (-Co A) (4.2" Mort)

36th Engr C Regt

79th Inf Div

3d Bn 313th Inf - 310th FA Bn (105mm How)

314th Inf (-1st Bn) - 311th FA Bn (105mm How)

315th Inf (-1st Bn) - 904th FA Bn (105mm How)

312th FA Bn (155mm How)

304th Engr C Bn

Atchd;

TF LINDEN

222d Inf

232d Inf

242d Inf

CCA 14th Armd Div

68th Armd Inf Bn

48th Tk Bn

500th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

Tr C 94th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz)

Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn

CCB 12th Armd Div

56th Armd Inf Bn

714th Tk Bn

494th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

Tr D 92d Cav Ron Sq (Meoz)

Co B 119th Armd Engr Bn

Cos A, D 781st Tk Bn

Co B 47th Tk Bn

813th TD Bn (-Co C less 1 Plat) (3" Gun SP)

827th TD Bn (76mm Gun SP)

Tr D 94th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz)

94th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz) How SP) Cav

125th Armd Engr Bn

14th Armd Div (-)

2 Plats Co A, 1 Plat Co C 19th Armd
Inf Bn

62d Armd Inf Bn

25th (-Co A), 47th (-Cos A, B) Tk Bns

499th, 501st Armd FA Bns (105mm How SP)

94th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz) (-Trs C, D)

125th Armd Engr Bn (-Co C)

Atchd;

117th Cav Ron Sq

12th Armd Div (-)

17th, 66th Armd Inf Bns

23d, 43d Tk Bns

493d, 495th Armd FA Bns (105mm How SP)

92d Cav Ron Sq (-Tr D) (Meoz)

119th Armd Engr Bn (-Co B)

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

2d FA Obsn Bn

Hq & Hq Btry 33d FA Brig

59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

69th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

242d FA Bn (105mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp

634th FA Bn (155mm How)

36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

194th FA Bn (8" How)

575th FA Bn (-Btries A, C) (8" Gun)

698th FA Bn (-Btry C) (240mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry 17th FA Gp

975th FA Bn (155mm How)

977th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

Hq & Hq Btry 405th FA Gp

938th FA Bn (155mm How)

976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

Hq & Hq Btry 35th FA Gp

995th FA Bn (8" How)

Btry C 698th FA Bn (240mm How)

17th FA Bn (155mm How)

65

ANNEX No. 1A

117th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz)

* Atchd VI Corps on arrival

DISTRIBUTION
Special

Schadler
SCHADLER
Asst G-3

67

ANNEX No. 1B

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
AFO 46

VI CORPS COMBAT TROOP LIST
081800A Jan 45

SECRET
By authority of
CG VI Corps
Initials. *gjt*
8 Jan 45

L-1006

Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

45th Inf Div

157th Inf - 158th FA Bn (105mm How)
179th Inf - 160th FA Bn (105mm How)
180th Inf - 171st FA Bn (105mm How)
189th FA Bn (155mm How)
120th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

313th Inf (-3d Bn)

1st Bn 314th Inf

1st Bn 315th Inf

TF HERREN

274th Inf

275th Inf

276th Inf

19th Armd Inf Bn (-2 Plats Co A, 1 Plat Co C)

93d Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

191st Tk Bn

781st Tk Bn (-Cos A, D)

Co A 25th Tk Bn

Co A 47th Tk Bn

645th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)

Co C 813th TD Bn (-1 Plat)(3" Gun SP)

83d Cml Mort Bn (-Co A)(4.2" Mort)

36th Engr C Regt

79th Inf Div

3d Bn 313th Inf - 310th FA Bn (105mm How)

314th Inf (-1st Bn) - 311th FA Bn (105mm How)

315th Inf (-1st Bn) - 904th FA Bn (105mm How)

312th FA Bn (155mm How)

304th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

TF LINDEN

222d Inf

232d Inf

242d Inf

CCA 14th Armd Div

68th Armd Inf Bn

48th Tk Bn

500th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

Tr C 94th Cav Ren Sq (Mecz)

Co C 125th Armd Engr Bn

CCB 12th Armd Div

56th Armd Inf Bn

714th Tk Bn

494th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

Tr D 92d Cav Ren Sq (Mecz)

Co B 119th Armd Engr Bn

Cos A, D 781st Tk Bn

Co B 47th Tk Bn

813th TD Bn (-Co C less 1 Plat)(3" Gun SP)

827th TD Bn (76mm Gun SP)

Tr D 94th Cav Ren Sq (Mecz)

14th Armd Div (-)

2 Plats Co A, 1 Plat Co C 19th Armd
Inf Bn

62d Armd Inf Bn

25th (-Co A), 47th (-Cos A, B) Tk Bns

499th, 501st Armd FA Bns (105mm How SP)

94th Cav Ren Sq (Mecz) (-Trs C, D)

125th Armd Engr Bn (-Co C)

Atchd:

117th Cav Ren Sq

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17th, 66th Armd Inf Bns

23d, 43d Tk Bns

493d, 495th Armd FA Bns (105mm How SP)

92d Cav Ren Sq (-Tr D)(Mecz)

119th Armd Engr Bn (-Co B)

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

2d FA Obsn Bn

Hq & Hq Btry 33d FA Brig

59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

69th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)

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Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp

634th FA Bn (155mm How)

36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

194th FA Bn (8" How)

575th FA Bn (-Btries A, C)(8" Gun)

698th FA Bn (-Btry C)(240mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry 17th FA Gp

975th FA Bn (155mm How)

977th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

Hq & Hq Btry 405th FA Gp

938th FA Bn (155mm How)

976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

Hq & Hq Btry 35th FA Gp

995th FA Bn (8" How)

Btry C 698th FA Bn (240mm How)

17th FA Bn (155mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry & AAAOD 35th AAA Brig

Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Gp

62d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)

72d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)

216th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)

533d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)

353d AAA SL Bn (-Btry A, Det)

Hq & Hq Btry 5th AAA Gp

431st AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)

106th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Supporting 45th Inf Div)

398th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Supporting 14th Armd Div)

463d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun SP) (Supporting 79th Inf Div)

572d AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Supporting 12th Armd Div)

Hq & Hq Co 1st Armd Gp

Engr

40th Engr C Regt (-3d Bn)

343d Engr GS Regt

540th Engr C Regt

Sig

57th Sig Bn

72d Sig Co (Spec)

269th Sig Hvy Constr Co

Cml

Co A 83d Cml Mort Bn (4.2" Mort)

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Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

45th Inf Div

157th Inf - 158th FA Bn (105mm How)
179th Inf - 160th FA Bn (105mm How)
180th Inf - 171st FA Bn (105mm How)
189th FA Bn (155mm How)
120th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

191st Tk Bn
645th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
83d Cml Mort Bn (-Co A) (4.2" Mort)
36th Engr C Regt

79th Inf Div

313th Inf - 310th FA Bn (105mm How)
314th Inf - 311th FA Bn (105mm How)
315th Inf - 904th FA Bn (105mm How)
312th FA Bn (155mm How)
304th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

TF LINDEN

222d Inf
232d Inf
242d Inf
Cos A, D 781st Tk Bn
813th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
827th TD Bn (76mm Gun SP)

*103d Inf Div

409th Inf - 382d FA Bn (105mm How)
410th Inf - 383d FA Bn (105mm How)
411th Inf - 928th FA Bn (105mm How)
384th FA Bn (155mm How)
328th Engr C Bn

Atchd:

781st Tk Bn (-Cos A,D)
*614th TD Bn (3" Gun Towed)

12th Armd Div

17th, 56th, 66th Armd Inf Bns
23d, 43d, 714th Tk Bns
493d, 494th, 495th Armd FA Bns (105mm
92d Cav Ron Sq (Meoz) How SP)
119th Armd Engr Bn
Atchd:
Co A 83d Cml Mort Bn (4.2" Mort)

14th Armd Div

19th, 62d, 68th Armd Inf Bns
25th, 47th, 48th Tk Bns
499th, 500th, 501st Armd FA Bns (105mm
94th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz) How SP)
125th Armd Engr Bn

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

2d FA Ccan Bn

Hq & Hq Btry 33d FA Brig
59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
242d FA Bn (105mm How)
975th FA Bn (155mm How)
Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp
634th FA Bn (155mm How)
36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
194th FA Bn (8" How)
575th FA Bn (-Btries A,C) (8" Gun)
698th FA Bn (-Btry C) (240mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry 405th FA Gp

938th FA Bn (155mm How)
976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
977th FA Bn (155mm Gun)

Hq & Hq Btry 35th FA Gp

17th FA Bn (155mm How)
995th FA Bn (8" How)
Btry C 698th FA Bn (240mm How)

Hq & Hq Btry & AAAOD 35th AAA Brig

72d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
216th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
533d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
353d AAA SL Bn (-Btry A, Det)
Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Gp
431st AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
106th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Sup-
porting 45th Inf Div)
398th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Sup-
porting 14th Armd Div)
463d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun) (Sup-
porting 79th Inf Div)
*534th AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun) (Sup-
porting 103d Inf Div)
572d AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP) (Sup-
porting 12th Armd Div)

Hq & Hq Co 1st Armd Gp

Engr

40th Engr C Regt (-3d Bn)
540th Engr C Regt
31st Engr C Bn
256th Engr C Bn

Sig

57th Sig Bn
72d Sig Co (Spec)
269th Sig Hvy Constr Co

Cav

117th Cav Ron Sq (Meoz)

* Atchd VI Corps on arrival

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VI CORPS COMBAT TROOP LIST

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Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

36th Inf Div

142d Inf - 132d FA Bn (105mm How)
143d Inf - 133d FA Bn (105mm How)
131st FA Bn (105mm How)
155th FA Bn (155mm How)
111th Engr C Bn
Atchd:
753d Tk Bn (-Co C)
636th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
117th Cav Ron Sq
Co A 83d Cml Mort Bn (4.2" Mort)

45th Inf Div

157th Inf - 158th FA Bn (105mm How)
179th Inf - 160th FA Bn (105mm How)
180th Inf - 171st FA Bn (105mm How)
189th FA Bn (155mm How)
120th Engr C Bn
Atchd:
274th Inf
693d FA Bn (105mm How)
191st Tk Bn
Co C 25th Tk Bn
645th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)
83d Cml Mort Bn (-Co A) (4.2" Mort)
36th Engr C Regt

79th Inf Div

313th Inf - 310th FA Bn (105mm How)
314th Inf - 311th FA Bn (105mm How)
315th Inf - 904th FA Bn (105mm How)
312th FA Bn (155mm How)
304th Engr C Bn
Atchd:
TF LINDEN (-)
222d Inf
242d Inf
59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
242d FA Bn (105mm How)
Cos A, D 781st Tk Bn
813th TD Bn (3" Gun SP)

103d Inf Div

409th Inf - 382d FA Bn (105mm How)
410th Inf - 383d FA Bn (105mm How)
411th Inf - 928th FA Bn (105mm How)
384th FA Bn (155mm How)
328th Engr C Bn
Atchd:
781st Tk Bn (-Cos A, D)
614th TD Bn (3" Gun Towed)

14th Armd Div

19th, 62d, 68th Armd Inf Bns
25th (-Co C), 47th, 48th Tk Bns
499th, 500th, 501st Armd FA Bns (105mm)
94th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz) (-Tr C) How SP
125th Armd Engr Bn

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

2d FA Obsn Bn
Hq & Hq Btry 33d FA Brig
194th FA Bn (8" How)
575th FA Bn (-Btries A, C) (8" Gun)
698th FA Bn (240mm How)
Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp
36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
634th FA Bn (155mm How)
975th FA Bn (155mm How)
939th FA Bn (4.5" Gun)
Hq & Hq Btry 405th FA Gp
938th FA Bn (155mm How)
977th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
Hq & Hq Btry 35th FA Gp
17th FA Bn (155mm How)
976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
995th FA Bn (8" How)

Hq & Hq Btry & LAAOD 35th AAA Brig

Tr C 94th Cav Ron Sq (Mecz)
72d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
216th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
533d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
353d AAA SL Bn (-Btry A, Det)
Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Gp
431st AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
443d AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 36th Inf Div)
106th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 45th Inf Div)
398th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 14th Armd Div)
463d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
(Supporting 79th Inf Div)
534th AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
(Supporting 103d Inf Div)

Inf

141st Inf
Co C 753d Tk Bn
232d Inf

Hq & Hq Co 1st Armd Gp

Engr

40th Engr C Regt (-3d Bn)
540th Engr C Regt
31st Engr C Bn
256th Engr C Bn

Sig

57th Sig Bn
72d Sig Co (Spec)
269th Sig Hvy Constr Co

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CASUALTY REPORT OF VI CORPS TROOPS - JANUARY 1945

Date for pd Ending 2359	Killed	Captured, Missing and Interned	Wounded	Non-Battle Casualties	Reinforcements and RTUs	Enemy PWs Captured
1 Jan	1	2	24	72	89	71
2 "	8	164	84	65	28	160
3 "	7	33	68	103	260	216
4 "	9	28	70	90	204	249
5 "	24	157	95	152	428	210
6 "	31	23	146	128	289	237
7 "	68	52	191	126	273	319
8 "	40	48	248	190	197	346
9 "	49	107	239	175	111	190
10 "	30	47	202	160	159	225
11 "	39	66	223	217	459	197
12 "	45	301	416	258	274	223
13 "	27	127	363	213	331	334
14 "	33	119	340	295	509	109
15 "	31	55	196	236	221	50
16 "	43	42	305	258	150	195
17 "	41	5	318	191	408	317
18 "	20	191	232	221	266	143
19 "	24	969	146	247	531	24
20 "	11	194	127	197	344	18
21 "	20	529	113	178	910	181
22 "	30	51	161	248	1040	23
23 "	31	90	72	201	902	9
24 "	19	50	38	223	839	30
25 "	27	21	137	250	678	241
26 "	49	178	209	273	382	312
27 "	13	5	36	283	935	16
28 "	3	3	39	198	507	22
29 "	5	14	32	218	908	6
30 "	0	5	23	199	471	12
31 "	8	6	23	199	895	26
TOTALS	786	3682	4916	6064	13998	4711

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ANNEX No. 2

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

11 January 1945.

SECTION I

ASSIGNED OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

COMMANDING GENERAL

Major General Edward H. Brooks, 06657, U. S. A.
Capt Walter T. Wilson, 01010197, Inf (ADC)
Capt William W. Hersey, 01013799, Inf (ADC)

CHIEF OF STAFF

Col Charles D. Palmer, 015519, GSC

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt Col Paul A. Chalmers, 013239, GSC

G-1 SECTION

Lt Col John W. Wibel, 0339093, GSC
Maj Robert G. Perriello, 0389394, GSC

G-2 SECTION

Col Joseph L. Langevin, 012640, GSC
Lt Col Don W. Dixon, 0343066, GSC
Maj Dexter S. French, 0277532, Cav
Capt Edward L. Dobbins, 0452060, Inf
Capt Joseph Haines III, 01284699, Inf

G-3 SECTION

Col Albert O. Connor, 020699, GSC
Lt Col Michael S. Davison, 022051, GSC
Maj John L. Cooper, 0351994, Cav (DS, C & GS Sch)
Maj William R. Rose, 0352042, CAC
Maj John Schadler Jr, 0383957, QMC
Capt Rieder W. Schell, 0415566, Inf (In O)
Capt Edward M. Murray, 0452479, Inf (I & E O)
Capt Leo M. Armstrong, 0405177, Inf
Capt Daniel T. Fogarty, 01322550, FA (Ln O)
1st Lt Kenneth B. Floto, 01305228, Inf

G-4 SECTION

Lt Col Burton E. Miles, 0347690, GSC
Maj Robert E. Clark, 0910354, GSC
Maj Ralph L. Harper, 0303227, Inf
Capt William H. Ferguson, 01165013, FA
Capt Orris R. Evers, 02046557, CWS

ADJUTANT GENERAL SECTION

Col Michael L. Connors, 0309882, AGD
Maj Harry S. Alcorn, 01000079, AGD
Capt Courtney L. Vallentine, 01000884, AGD
1st Lt William F. Rickett, 02055429, AGD
1st Lt Robert P. Head, 01013165, Cav (Asst Historian)
WOJG George T. Smith Jr, W-2108260

CHAPLAIN SECTION

Lt Col William E. King, 0268277, Ch Corps
Lt Col Jordan E. Brown, 0402849, Ch Corps
CWO Francis M. Mugavin, W-2109915

CHEMICAL SECTION

Lt Col William C. Hammond Jr, 0270407, CWS
Capt Floyd B. Mitman, 025330, CWS

ENGINEER SECTION

Col William N. Thomas Jr, 07648, CE
Lt Col Robert H. Darling, 0316638, CE
Capt Joseph M. Devine, 0421809, CE
Capt Edgar D. Lee, 0456581, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Col Howard L. Leighton, 0124567, FD
Capt Frederick H. Dietz, 01280038, FD

INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION

Col Nyal L. Adams, 07471, IGD
Lt Col James H. Pennycuik, 0307472, IGD
Capt William L. Mosher, 0403368, IGD

JUDGE ADVOCATE SECTION

Col Robert L. Lancefield, 018037, JAGD
Maj Jack M. Cotton, 0293310, JAGD

MEDICAL SECTION

Col Rollin L. Bauchspies, 017819, MC
Lt Col Walker Stamps, 0357847, MC
Capt Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, 0454084, MAC
Capt James L. Rounds, 0490026, MAC
WOJG Donald L. Sutliff, W-2108239

-3-

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ORDNANCE SECTION

Col Walter G. Jennings, 0174217, Ord Dept
Maj John P. Merrill, 0181405, Ord Dept
Maj Stanley M. Smolensky, 025333, Ord Dept
Capt Benjamin F. Swank Jr, 0403163, Ord Dept
Capt Henry J. Egal, 01549932, Ord Dept
CWO Edward C. Kelly, W-2114233

PROVOST MARSHAL

Capt Mario T. Villanti, 0427369, CMP

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

Col Lawrence L. Skinner, 015325, QMC
Lt Col James G. Hattox, 0276850, QMC
Maj John A. Bradish, 0284157, QMC

SIGNAL SECTION

Maj Wilbur D. Vincent, 0378299, Sig C
Capt Willard W. Jensen, 0454648, Sig C
Capt Luther D. Bridgman, 01635621, Sig C

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

Maj Gale A. Mathers, 0310331, Inf
Capt James C. Grimes, 0391443, FA (Beachhead News)

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT

Maj Leonard C. Cooke, 0316938, CAC

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

1st Lt Paul B. McGuire, 01285788, Inf (Comdg)
Capt Robert M. Ferrell, 01697057, MC
Capt Isidore Nemerowsky, 01690212, DC
1st Lt Benjamin J. Pulley Jr, 01299470, Inf
1st Lt Guy E. Norbury, 01031352, Cav
1st Lt Edmund A. Bogart, 01015527, Inf

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

Capt Sam F. Doering, 0409112, CMP
1st Lt John J. Mulhern, 01308680, CMP

~~SECRET~~

SECTION II

ATTACHED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS

G-2 SECTION

Capt P. R. Whiston, 251588, (Br)
Capt John F. Rieger, 01013512, Inf
1st Lt Lauren C. Kingman Jr, 0863398, AC
1st Lt Charles F. Marshall, 01014422, AC
1st Lt Alfred G. Pundt, 01052530, CAC
1st Lt Arthur J. Petersen, 01103354, AC (Photo Int)

G-3 AIR

Capt William H. Davidson, 0427311, AC
Capt Joseph Barr, 0729304, AC
1st Lt John M. Frahn, 0577585, AC
1st Lt Roy E. Robertson, 0579027, AC
2d Lt George V. McClintic, 0704694, AC
2d Lt Donald A. Michela, 0822227, AC

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Maj Campbell Dickson, 0521064, (Spec Res)
Maj Enrico Dell'Osso, 0257798, Inf
Maj Pierre Lantz (French)
1st Lt Richard Hall, 01797639, CMP

LIAISON OFFICER

Capt J. William Arnold (French)
2d Lt Pierre-Etienne de Viel Castel (French)

SIGNAL SECTION

1st Lt William J. Stoppa, 0467394, Sig C

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

1st Lt William I. Jacobson, 01167042, FA

CHANGES IN OFFICER PERSONNEL

JANUARY 1945

2-1006

I - ASSIGNMENTS; ATTACHMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2	Capt Benjamin F. Swank, Jr., Ord Dept	Asgd & Jd fr 36th Inf Div
14	2d Lt Edward C. Lyon, AC	Atchd fr 50th Ftr Group as of 12 Jan
18	1st Lt Thomas A. McDonald, AC	Atchd fr 64th Ftr Wing
19	Capt Maurice Force (French)	Atchd fr French Army
24	2d Lt Rubin L. Karlsberg, AC	Atchd fr 12th Weather Sqn as of 10 Jan
28	2d Lt Joseph N. Hartel, FA	Atchd fr 939th FA Bn
30	Capt Ivan A. Reiner, CE	Atchd fr 31st Engr C Bn as of 28 Jan
31	Capt Albert R. Tryon, CE	Atchd fr 79th Inf Div as of 30 Jan

II - RELIEF FROM ASSIGNMENT; DETACHMENTS

5	Capt Harry A. Morris, Jr., CE	Reld fr Asgmt - Asgd 1175th Engr Group
9	Brig Gen John S. Winn, Jr., U.S.A. 1st Lt Kenneth J. Edwards, Jr., FA	Reld fr Asgmt - Asgd 79th Inf Div as of 8 Jan " " " " " "
14	1st Lt Roy E. Robertson, AC 2d Lt George V. McClintic, AC	Reld fr Atchmt - Atchd XXI Corps as of 12 Jan Reld fr Atchmt - Ret to 64th Ftr Wing as of 12 Jan
18	2d Lt Donald A. Michela, AC	Reld fr Atchmt - Ret to 64th Ftr Wing
19	Maj Pierre Lantz (French)	Reld fr Atchmt as of 18 Jan
20	Maj Enrico Dell'Osso, Inf	Dropped fr Atchmt - Atchd Det of Patients 7th Army
28	1st Lt William I. Jacobson, FA	Reld fr Atchmt - Ret to 2d FA Obsn Bn

III - PROMOTIONS

4	Capt Jack M. Cotton, JAGD	Prom to Major, eff 1 Jan
9	Lt Col Albert O. Connor, GSC	Prom to Colonel, eff 5 Jan
17	1st Lt Kenneth B. Floto, Inf	Prom to Captain, eff 16 Jan

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

L-1006

JANUARY 1945

REPORT OF STRENGTH, BATTLE CASUALTIES, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

I. STRENGTH:

Hq VI Corps:

			<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Officers	1 Jan 45 -		67	20	87	
	31 Jan 45 -		65	21	86	-1
Warrant O's	1 Jan 45 -		4	0	4	
	31 Jan 45 -		4	0	4	0

Hq Co VI Corps:

Officers	1 Jan 45 -		8	0	8	
	31 Jan 45 -		7	0	7	-1
EM	1 Jan 45 -		275	34	309	
	31 Jan 45 -		281	34	315	+6

II. BATTLE CASUALTIES:

Hq VI Corps: NONE.

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE.

III. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

Hq VI Corps: NONE.

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE.

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

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Date: 24 Jan 45

24 January 1945

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ASSIGNED

Hq & Hq Co VI Corps
Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty
MP Plat VI Corps
57th Sig Bn.

ATTACHED

14th Armd Div
Units atchd 14th Armd Div
*398th AAA AW Bn
*514th CIC Det

36th Inf Div
Units atchd 36th Inf Div
*636th TD Bn
*443d AAA AW Bn
*753d Tk Bn
*36th CIC Det.

45th Inf Div
Units atchd 45th Inf Div
*191st Tk Bn
*645th TD Bn
*106th AAA AW Bn
693d FA Bn
83d Cml Mort Bn
513th QM Pack Co
*45th CIC Det

79th Inf Div
Units atchd 79th Inf Div
813th TD Bn
463d AAA AW Bn
59th Armd FA Bn
242d FA Bn
*79th CIC Det

103d Inf Div
Units atchd 103d Inf Div
781st Tk Bn
*614th TD Bn
*534th AAA AW Bn
*103d CIC Det

ATTACHED (Cont'd)

Task Force Linden
Det Hq & Hq Co, 42d Inf Div
222d Inf Regt
232d Inf Regt
242d Inf Regt

Hq & Hq Btry, 35th AAA Brig
286th Sig RMU
72d AAA Gun Bn
216th AAA Gun Bn
353d AAA SL Bn (-Btry A & Det)
533d AAA AW Bn
Hq & Hq Btry, 91st AAA Gp
431st AAA AW Bn

ENGR

36th Engr C Regt
Units atchd 36th Engrs
1st Plat, 1514th Engr WS Co
Contact Plat, 469th Engr Maint Co
Survey Plat, 661st Engr Topo Co
Co C, 378th Engr Bn (Sep)(-Det)
Map Det, Co D, 378th Engr Bn (Sep)
40th Engr C Regt (-3d Bn)
540th Engr C Regt
31st Engr C Bn
256th Engr C Bn
Det, 6638th Engr Mine Clearance Co
196th Engr Dump Trk Co
2749th Engr Light Equip Co
Co A, 84th Engr Cam Bn
2896th Engr Tech Int Team

MED

Hq. & Hq Det, 166th Med Bn
431st Med Coll Co
619th Med Ctr Co
393d Med Coll Co

~~SECRET~~

ATTACHED (Cont'd)

SIG

72d Sig Co (Spec)
269th Sig Hq Const Co
Units atchd 57th Sig Bn
3260th Sig Serv Co
Det A, 209th Sig Pigeon Det

FA

Units atchd VI Corps Arty

2d FA Obsn Bn
Hq & Hq Btry, 33d FA Brig
194th FA Bn
575th FA Bn (-Btries A & C)
698th FA Bn
Hq & Hq Btry, 6th Armd FA Gp
36th FA Bn
634th FA Bn
939th FA Bn
975th FA Bn
Hq & Hq Btry, 35th FA Gp
17th FA Bn
976th FA Bn
995th FA Bn
Hq & Hq Btry, 405th FA Gp
938th FA Bn
977th FA Bn

* Administrative attachments.

ATTACHED (Cont'd)

MISC

206th CIC Det
206th MP Co
829th Amph Trk Co
3426th QM Trk Co
117th Cav Ren Sq
Hq & Hq Co, 1st Armd Gp
APU 539
11th Fin Disb Unit
34th Special Service Co

50th PWI Team (Not included in
55th PWI Team Distribution)
17th OB Unit
434th MII Team
39th PI Team
Det I5E2, 2d ECA Regt
Det I8E2, 2d ECA Regt
Det I2E2, MG
Det I9G3, MG

VI Corps
1 Km N of MORSBRONN,
FRANCE (R008342)
3117004 Dec 44

FO 10

Map: FRANCE 1/100,000

L-1006

1. a. See G-2 Estimate of the Situation, Inclosure No 1 to G-2 Periodic Report No 131, and current G-2 Periodic Reports.
b. (1) Seventh Army organizes and defends line of present positions; reconnoiters and organizes rearward positions.
(2) II Fr Corps on R defends line of RHINE R in sector and contains enemy in COLMAR area.
(3) XII TAC: Supports defense.
2. VI Corps defends and continues improvement of present positions; reconnoiters and organizes rearward defensive positions on MAGINOT Line and along VOSGES foothills.
3. a. 45th Inf Div, atchd:
275th Inf Regt
191st Tk Bn (-Co B)
645th TD Bn (-Co B)
Co A 83d Cml Mort Bn
(1) Defend present line in sector.
(2) Continue organization of MAGINOT Line position in sector.
(3) Initiate reconnaissance and commence organization of rearward positions indicated on overlay. Priority: 1st, VOSGES position; 2d, intermediate position; 3d, switch position #1; 4th, switch position #2; 5th, switch position #4.
(4) Task Force HERRIN will be atchd on Corps order for occupation of VOSGES position.
b. 79th Inf Div, atchd:
781st Tk Bn (-Co A)
819th TD Bn
(1) Defend present line in sector.
(2) Continue organization of MAGINOT Line position in sector and switch position #3.
(3) Initiate reconnaissance and commence organization of rearward positions indicated on overlay. Priority: 1st, VOSGES position; 2d, intermediate position; 3d, switch position #4.
(4) Be prepared to assemble one Bn atd on 4 hours notice for Corps reserve.
(5) Protect Corps right (N) flank.
(6) Task Force LINDEN will be atchd on Corps order for occupation of VOSGES position.
c. Task Force HURDISON, atchd:
Co B 645th TD Bn
Co B 83d Cml Mort Bn
(1) Defend line of present positions in sector.
(2) Reconnoiter and commence organization of rearward positions indicated on overlay. Priority: 1st, VOSGES position; 2d, switch position #1; 3d, switch position #2.
(3) Protect Corps L flank.
(4) Maintain contact with IV Corps on L.
d. Task Force HERRIN, atchd:
Co A 275th Inf Regt
Co B 191st Tk Bn
Co B 645th TD Bn
(1) Defend line of RHINE R in sector.
(2) Continue organization of MAGINOT Line in sector.
(3) Be prepared on Corps order to assemble one Inf Regt on six (6) hours notice via GISEL CHENOVEN (R0022) in Corps reserve. Regt designated will make terrain and route reconnaissance to the N, NE, E, W and S.

- (4) Be prepared on Corps order to assemble in area vic DEFWILLER (Q8012) for attachment to 45th Inf Div, withdrawal from present zone to be covered by 117th Cav Rcn Sq.
- (5) Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- c. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
 - (1) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (2) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (3) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
- d. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
 - (1) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (2) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (3) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
- e. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
 - (1) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (2) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (3) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
- f. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
 - (1) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (2) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (3) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
- g. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
 - (1) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (2) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
 - (3) Be prepared on Corps order to block to S on line FLOBSHEIM (Q9905) - for attachment to 79th Inf Div for occupation
- h. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- i. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- j. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- k. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- l. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- m. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- n. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- o. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- p. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- q. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- r. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- s. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- t. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- u. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- v. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- w. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- x. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- y. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.
- z. Task Force RHINE, until withdrawn.

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62

4 AMPLIES: 1-Operation Overlay
 2-Army

3-AAA
 4-Engr (To be issued separately)

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PRESENT POSITION

WISSENBURG

MAGINOT LINE

Q R 40

45 x 79

SWITCH POSITION #3

RHINE RIVER

79 x 79

TF HERRON

MOUSMAY

INTERMEDIATE POSITION

BITCHE

OPLR POSITION #2

XV
VI

SWITCH

M.R.

POSITION #4

INGWILLER

VOSGES

POSITION

SWITCH POSITION #1

TF HUGELSON

45

OPLR

BOUNDARY ON OCCUPATION OF VOSGES POSITION

OFFICIAL SHEET TOP 2 HQ VI CORPS FRANCE 1944 MAP REF: 311700A 100,000 BROOKS MAJ GEN CONNOR G-3

TF HERRON

TF LINDEN

TF HERRON

SAVERNE

45 x 79

WASSELONNE

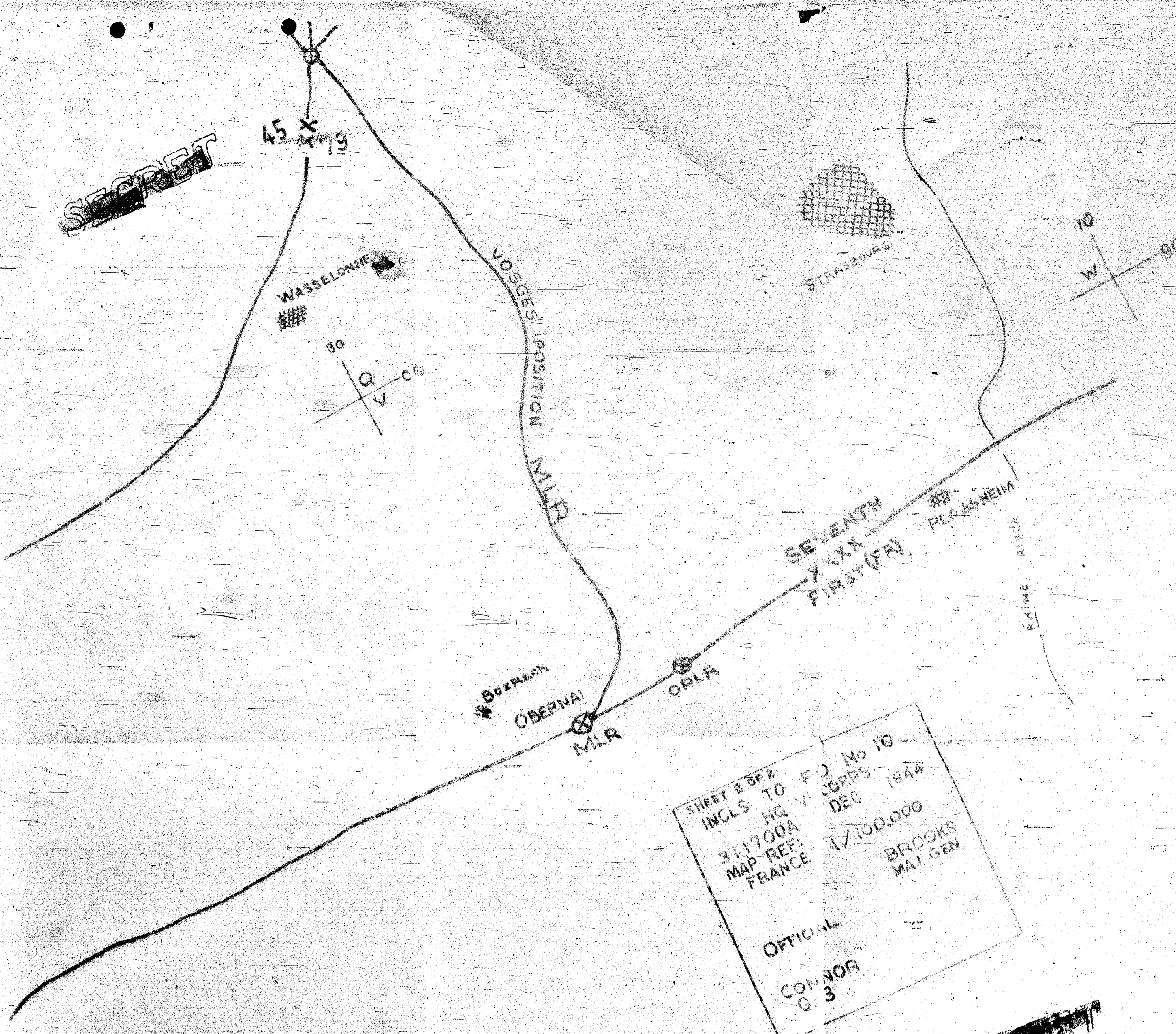
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SHEET 2 OF 2
 INCLS TO FO No 10
 HQ V CORPS
 DEC 1944
 MAP REF: FRANCE
 1/100,000
 BROOKS
 MAJ GEN
 OFFICIAL
 CONNOR
 G. 3

~~SECRET~~

VI Corps
1 Km N of MORSBRONN, FRANCE
(R008342)
311700A Dec 44

ANNEX NO 2
TO
FO 10

ARTILLERY

1. Organization for combat:

a. Division arty:

- (1) TF HUDELSON:
Organic: 500th AFA Bn (14th Armd Div)
- (2) 45th Inf Div:
Organic
Reinforcing: 499th AFA Bn (14th Armd Div)
- (3) 79th Inf Div:
Organic
Atchd: 93d AFA Bn (105mm How SP)
- (4) TF HERREN and TF LINDEN:
Direct Support: 33d FA Brig
935th FA Bn (4.5" Gun)
69th AFA Bn (105mm How SP)
59th AFA Bn (105mm How SP)
- (5) 14th Armd Div (-):
499th AFA Bn reinforces fires of 45th Inf Div Arty
500th AFA Bn atchd TF HUDELSON

b. Corps Arty:

- (1) 405th FA Gp:
Atchd: 976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
938th FA Bn (155mm How)
17th FA Bn (155mm How)
995th FA Bn (8" How)
Mission: General support; reinforce fires 45th Inf Div Arty with two 155mm How Bns (-1 Btry), TF HUDELSON with one 155mm How Btry.
- (2) 6th FA Gp:
Atchd: 36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
634th FA Bn (155mm How)
194th FA Bn (8" How)
Mission: General support; reinforce fires of 79th Inf Div Arty with one 155mm How Bn.
- (3) 35th FA Gp:
Atchd: 698th FA Bn (240mm How)
575th FA Bn (-Btries A, C) (8" Gun)
Mission: General support.

2. Changes in Missions:

- a. 14th Armd Div Arty reverts to direct support 14th Armd Div when Div is committed.
- b. 33d FA Brig reverts to direct support 79th Inf Div in VOSGES position.

3. x. (1) Div arty and Corps Bns will reconnoiter and prepare positions in support of each delaying position in order of priority: VOSGES position, intermediate position, switch positions in zone.
- (2) Corps Bns will survey and prepare data for interdicting all bridge sites demolished by engineers.

- (3) Ammunition stockage on position and in unit dumps will be reduced to following:

105mm Towed Bns	- 3000 rds
105mm How SP Bns	- 4000 rds
155mm How Bns	- 1500 rds
155mm Gun Bns	- 1200 rds
4.5" Gun Bns	- 1800 rds
8" How Bns	- 900 rds
240mm How Bns	- 600 rds

- (4) All guns in the Corps will be able to fire in support of each MLR as it is manned.

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VI Corps
1 Km N. of MORSEBRONN, FRANCE
(RO08342)
311700A Dec 44

ANNEX NO 3
TO
FO 10

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY

1. Organization of AAA for Combat:

a. 35th AAA Brig. atchd:

(1) 5th AAA Gp:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 106th AAA AW Bn (SP) | - support 45th Inf Div |
| 398th AAA AW Bn (SP) (-D Btry) | - support 14th Armd Div (-) |
| 463d AAA AW Bn | - support 79th Inf Div |
| 436th AAA AW Bn | - support TF LINDEN |
| 533d AAA LW Bn | - support TF HERREN |
| 431st AAA AW Bn | - protect Corps main routes |

(2) 91st AAA Gp:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 62d AAA Gun Bn | - protect main routes within the Corps area. |
| 72d AAA Gun Bn | - protect main routes within the Corps area. |
| 216th AAA Gun Bn | - protect main routes within the Corps area. |
| 353d AAA S/L Bn (-A Btry) | |

2. Missions:

a. Support Corps by:

- (1) Leap frogging 90mm batteries to provide continuous protection for all main routes within the Corps area.
- (2) Reinforcing FA fires with 90mm batteries as requested by Corps FA Commander, in cases of emergency.
- (3) Establishing orienting lines for friendly aircraft with 90mm time bursts.
- (4) Being prepared to engage enemy armored elements with HVY and LAA weapons in event of break through.
- (5) Providing LAA protection of main routes with 431st AAA AW Bn (See Overlay).
- (6) Providing LAA protection for all infantry or artillery convoys (Division or Corps) with SP units and M-51 mounts.
- (7) Providing continuous LAA protection of Division and Corps artillery.

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Maj Gen

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3. a. XXI Corps:

- (1) Assume command of troops listed in paragraph 1 b (1) above and supporting troops as attached by subsequent orders.
- (2) Continue organization of defensive positions, in sector, on lines directed in FO #9, and Operations Instruction #52.
- (3) Establish and maintain liaison with XI Corps (Third Army) on the left, and coordinate preparation of defenses along Seventh Army left boundary.

b. IV Corps:

- (1) Be prepared to attack on Army order to seize the remainder of MAGINOT Line in sector.

c. VI Corps:

- (1) Be prepared to attack in conjunction with IV Corps on Army order to seize remainder of MAGINOT Line in sector.

d. Date and hour of passage of command in new XXI Corps sector will be as agreed between CG IV Corps and CG XXI Corps, and will not be later than 1800A, 13 January 1945.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

A. A. WHITE,
Major General, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

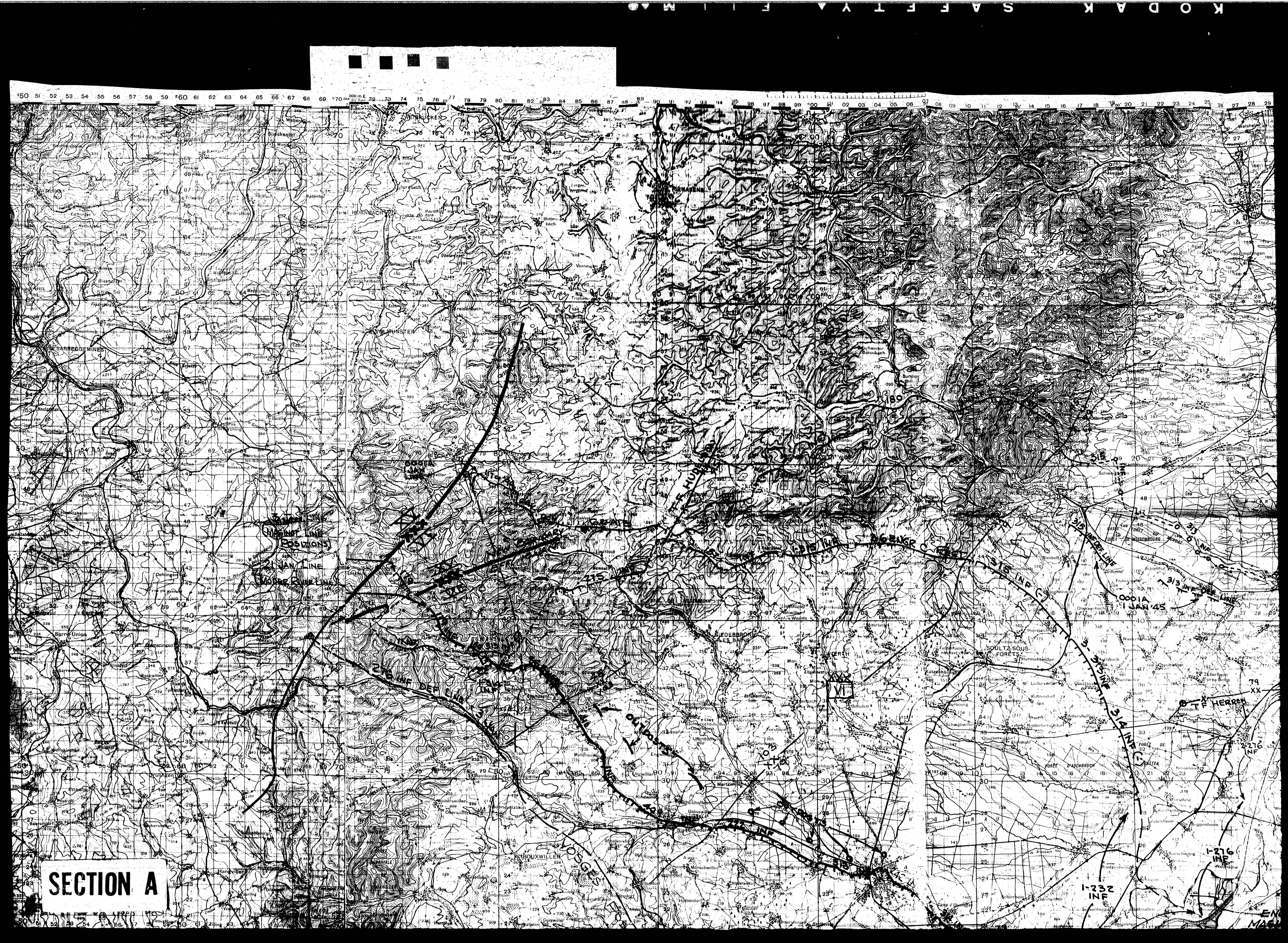
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John S. Guthrie
JOHN S. GUTHRIE,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
A. C. of S., G-3.

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SECTION A

1232
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NF

NEW FOLDER BEGINS

1170

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VI CORPS HISTORY

MARCH - 1945

NIR

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

ANNEX 1 1420 8

Index on page # 52

1280

S E C R E T

S E C R E T
Auth. CG VI Army Corps
Initials *AK*
Date MAY 17 1945

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

MAY 17 1945

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Record, Headquarters VI Corps, March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. (Through Channels).

INTRODUCTION

1. VI Corps Operations during the month of March 1945 were divided into two distinct phases: I a two-week continuation of February's static warfare along the MODER River Line as troops were rested, supplies built up and plans developed for the subsequent successful offensive operation of phase II which saw VI Corps advancing rapidly to the Northeast to clear a thirty-mile belt of ALSACE along the west bank of the RHINE River of all German forces, break through the SIEGFRIED Line in zone and then continue on to eliminate all hostile forces West of the RHINE and South of the general line running from points just South of PIRMASENS (Q-905665) East to LANDAU (R-275665) and then Northeast to the RHINE River just South of SPEYER (R-505805).

2. As the month opened VI Corps was firmly established along the south banks of the ROTHBACH and MODER Rivers in Upper ALSACE from SARREINSBERG (Q-740415) to OBERHOFFEN (R-0921), held by the 42d and 103d Infantry Divisions, the 14th Arm and the 36th Infantry Divisions from West to East, with the XXI U.S. Corps on the left and the II Corps of the First French Army on the right. Opposing the VI Corps on 1 March were the 16, 36, 47 and 257 VG Divisions.

3. PHASE I - covering the period 1-14 March - was a repetition of the quiet month of February as all four divisions maintained static fronts while continuing the extensive program of patrolling. Meanwhile, plans were being made for the subsequent attack on the right flank of the Seventh Army to clear out ALSACE, pierce the SIEGFRIED Line and continue on to the Northeast to clear all hostile opposition from the SAAR PALATINATE in zone. On 13 March the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (3 DIA) (reinforced) of II French Corps was attached for the offensive and the VI Corps sector consequently extended eastward to the RHINE just South of DRUSENHEIM.

4. PHASE II - covering the remainder of the month - saw another rapid VI Corps advance to the Northeast which culminated in the complete elimination of organized resistance West of the RHINE in the Corps zone and the capture of 18,764 prisoners. After achieving initial surprise and capturing more than 1000 prisoners on 15 March the VI Corps divisions pushed steadily ahead against organized enemy delaying action to clear ALSACE in zone and cross the GERMAN Frontier by 19 March. Progress was slowed as the SIEGFRIED Line was breached but by 23 March enemy resistance was disorganized and more than 9000 prisoners were captured during the three days prior to 25 March when all organized opposition West of the RHINE had been eliminated. The confusion and disorganization of the enemy in the SAAR PALATINATE as the result of the Third Army attack from the North, the attacks of the XV and XXI Corps of the Seventh Army from the West and the VI Corps attack from the South was emphasized when more than two dozen divisions were identified among the 9000 prisoners taken in that three-day period.

188-748-10

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Wright
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S E C R E T

PHASE I

1 March

1. The month of March was introduced by another extremely quiet day along the entire VI Corps front as activity was limited to aggressive patrolling of hostile positions by all divisions which resulted in several minor fire fights on the 36th and 42d Division sectors but very little contact along the rest of the front. Corps artillery completed successful shoots on enemy personnel, vehicles and artillery weapons, but hostile shelling was negligible and there was no air activity throughout the period.

2. On the Corps left flank, the sector of the 42d Infantry Division, extending through the rugged HARDT Mountains from SARREINSBERG (Q-7442) to just West of ROTHBACH (Q-845340), was held by the 222d Inf on the left and the 232d Inf on the right. In the zone of the 222d Inf occasional small arms fire was received throughout the night and a strong combat patrol engaged an enemy 20-man group at Q-773387 at 0630A, killing three and wounding several more, while suffering only two minor casualties. Five deserters from the 221 CR (16 VG Div) picked up by another patrol at Q-7937 confirmed the relief of the 11 SS Mtn Regt (6 SS Mtn Div) in this area the previous day. The rest of the division sector remained quiet 1/.

3. To the East the 103d Division front extended along the southern banks of the ROTHBACH River from ROTHBACH to just West of LA WALCK (Q-9128), held on the left by the 411th Inf and on the right by the 410th Inf. Patrols continued to probe hostile positions without making any sharp contact, although the enemy remained alert to any large movements. Hostile artillery was limited to one 20-round concentration of mortar fire in the MUHLHAUSEN (Q-862315) between 1800A and 1830A 2/.

4. The narrow sector of the 14th Armd Division, along the southern banks of the MODER River between Q-902276 and Q-942271, was held by the 19th Armd Inf Bn on the left and the 62d Armd Inf Bn on the right. Daylight patrols observed enemy groups digging in at Q-933281 and Q-928281 and some scattered personnel movements, but made no serious contact. Late in the period patrols of the 19th AIB encountered intermittent small arms and machine gun fire in the vicinity of BITSCHHOFFEN (Q-915288) and heard enemy digging near the same town 3/.

5. The remainder of the VI Corps front along the MODER River to a point just West of OBERHOFFEN (R-095202) was held by the 142d and 143d Infs of the 36th Division and the attached 117th Cav Recon Sq until completion of its relief by 143d Inf elements at 2235A. Continued aggressive patrolling found the enemy extremely alert and sensitive in the sector throughout the period, and particularly during the evening. A raiding party from the 142d Inf suffered twelve casualties in a fire fight at R-002254, West of HAGUENAU, and another patrol encountered heavy machine gun and small arms fire at Q-979268 at 2300A. Patrols of the 143d Inf, operating East of HAGUENAU, drew heavy hostile rifle fire as they probed enemy positions to determine the extent of the suspected change in dispositions on this front. Hostile artillery was limited to light and scattered harassing fires in the vicinities of HAGUENAU and DAUENDORF (Q-9425) 4/.

- 1/. G-2 Rpt No. 199 and G-3 Rpt No. 61 of 2 March; WRJ, 1 March - Entries #6, 22, 34 and 56.
- 2/. WRJ, 1 March - Entries #5 and 55.
- 3/. WRJ, 1 March - Entries #7, 33 and 57.
- 4/. WRJ, 1 March - Entries #20, 35, 58 and 66; WRJ, 2 March - Entries #5 and 8.

(Note: Daily G-2 and G-3 Rpts are used as references for periods they cover, and will not be indicated in future paragraphs).

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

2 March

1. The VI Corps sector remained quiet during 2 March as divisional patrols continued to penetrate enemy-held territory just North of the MODER River. Except for some minor local reliefs there were no general changes in dispositions during the period as the enemy remained passively defensive. A psychological warfare broadcast put on by the 14th Armd Division after dark, however, was met with machine gun fire and heavy flare activity, apparently intended to prevent desertions. Corps artillery fire was generally light, limited mainly to close-in registrations on enemy machine gun and mortar positions.

2. On the left half of the Corps sector, the fronts of both the 42d and 103d Divisions were quiet except for several small fire fights which resulted from the continued extensive patrol activities. A platoon-sized patrol of the 222d Inf was pinned down by enemy small arms fire at Q-771394 during the morning and at the same time another similar raiding party of this regiment drove a group of 20 enemy out of prepared positions near Q-754418, killing eight and wounding another three. In the afternoon a strong raiding party from the 232d Inf killed seven enemy and wounded another four after a sharp fire fight in the woods North of LICHTENBERG at Q-819376. Meanwhile daylight patrols of the 103d Division had made negligible contact but after dark a 411th Inf patrol east of ROTHBACH was fired on by small arms and machine gun fire near Q-855331 at 2000A and bursts of small arms fire were also encountered in BISCHHOLTZ and NIEFFERN between 2200A and midnight. Hostile artillery and mortar fire on both divisional fronts was limited to scattered rounds of harassing fire throughout the period 5/.

3. Activity on the right half of the Corps front, in the zones of the 14th Armd and 36th Infantry Divisions was similarly light, and limited generally to occasional small arms fights brought about by the continued extensive patrol programs of both divisions. During an evening psychological warfare broadcast by the 14th Armd Division, hostile flare activity broke out over BITSCHHOFFEN to discourage desertions, and intermittent machine gun fire fell in LA WALCK. Patrols of both divisions found the enemy particularly alert and quick to react to their movements with heavy bursts of small arms and automatic weapons fire, but enemy artillery fire remained only very scattered and harassing 6/.

4. Operations Instruction No. 43 was issued at 1800A, directing generally: (a) the attachment of Co A 83d Cml Bn to the 42d Division upon completion of the relief of Co C which would revert to control of the 83d Cml Bn; (b) the relief of the 242d FA Bn from the 36th Division and its subsequent attachment to the 103d Division at 1200A, and (c) the relief from attachment to VI Corps of the 40th and 540th Engr C Groups, Co A, 84th Engr Cm Bn (-2 Plats) and Co B 85th Engr Hv Pon Bn and their subsequent return to Seventh Army control 7/.

3 March

1. Continued aggressive patrolling by the four VI Corps divisions was the extent of activities during 3 March as the enemy continued to remain strictly on the defensive but extremely alert to these probing actions. Many minor fire

5/. WRJ, 2 March - Entries #8, 23, 36, 47 and 54; WRJ, 3 March - Entries #5 and 11.

6/. WRJ, 2 March - Entries #28, 29, 47 and 54; WRJ, 3 March - Entries #8 and 11.

7/. Annex No. 9

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

fight broke out as a result of our heavy patrol program - six platoon-sized raids being conducted by the 42d Division alone - but there were no general changes in unit dispositions. Corps artillery was light, a few observed missions being fired on miscellaneous targets and many unobserved missions directed against enemy batteries. Hostile artillery activity was again limited to light harassing fire on towns along the front. Rain showers and flurries of snow prevented any air activity.

2. The heaviest activity of the day occurred in the zone of the 42d Division where the 222d Inf sent out six strong combat patrols of platoon size during the period. Raids to Q-760405, Q-768389, Q-805373 and Q-828373 met strong small arms and machine gun fire and encountered extensive Schu minefields, but other raids to Q-785388 and Q-845364 made penetrations of 1000 yards without meeting resistance. Casualties for these operations were five killed and 27 wounded - the majority from the mines in the Q-828373 area - while ten enemy were killed, an unknown number wounded and three prisoners taken from the 221 GR which indicated that the 16 VG Division was still holding forth in that area. Positions of the 232d Inf along the rest of the 42d Division front remained generally quiet as did the entire front of the 103d Division to the East, except for some minor patrol skirmishes. Hostile artillery continued to be scattered and harassing in nature 8/.

3. There were no changes in dispositions of the 14th Armd or 36th Infantry Divisions on the right half of the Corps sector which was featured by an increase in hostile harassing artillery fire during the afternoon - particularly in the vicinity of HAGUENAU and KALTENHOUSE. Between 1700A and 1800A, CC "B" 14th Armd Division conducted an artillery demonstration on enemy positions, followed by a propaganda broadcast which yielded three deserters from the 104 GR, indicating the 47 VG Division was still in that zone. A platoon holding a 143d Inf outpost at R-045241, North of HAGUENAU, was subjected to small arms fire from the Northeast and frontline elements of the 142d Inf received harassing machine gun fire from the Northeast during the evening, but generally the enemy remained quiet, but alert to probing patrols 9/.

4. Operations Instruction No. 44 was issued at 1800A, directing generally: (a) the 42d Division to move the 191st Tk Bn and the 645th TD Bn on 4 March to the RAMBERVILLERS area (V-1872), units to be relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached to the 45th Division on arrival in their new area; (b) the 103d Division to move the 756th Tk Bn on 4 March to PONT-A-MOUSSON (V-7654), unit to be relieved of attachment to VI Corps and attached to the 3d Division on arrival in the new area; (c) the 14th Armd Division to Cos B and D 48th Tk Bn on 4 March to the 42d Division area, and the 48th Tk Bn (-Cos B & D) to the 103d Division area, units to be attached to those divisions on arrival 10/.

4 March

1. The VI Corps sector remained generally quiet during 4 March, as all four divisions continued their extensive patrol and raiding programs throughout the period and made only light contact. Minor local reliefs were effected in the zones of the 103d Infantry and 14th Armd Divisions and the 141st Inf relieved.

8/. WRJ, 3 March - Entries #35, 40 and 47; WRJ, 4 March - Entry #4.

9/. WRJ, 3 March - Entries #15, 25, 40 and 48; WRJ, 4 March - Entries #2 and 4.

10/. Annex No. 9.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

the 143d Inf on the right flank of the 36th Division without incident and took over the platoon outpost at R-045241 despite the continued strong hostile small arms fire. Flurries of snow and rain prevented any air activity and limited Corps artillery fire to unobserved missions on counterbattery targets and a few ground-observed fires on enemy personnel, vehicles and gun positions near the lines. A noticeable increase of medium hostile artillery fire fell all along the front during the afternoon.

2. Although there was no change in the attitude of the hostile infantry facing the left half of the Corps front where both the 42d and 103d Divisions continued to send strong patrols deep into hostile territory, there was a marked increase in enemy artillery fire throughout the period. Positions of the 232d Inf in the REIPERTSWILLER area were the target for a 100-round concentration of medium artillery in the afternoon, while positions of the 411th Inf received sixty rounds of hostile artillery fire in the MUHLHAUSEN (Q-8631) area. Identification of the three deserters taken by each division indicated that the 16 and 36 VG Divisions were still opposing the 42d and 103d Division respectively along this front. In accordance with Operations Instruction No. 44 which had been issued the previous day, the 191st and 756th Tk Bns and the 645th TD Bn moved out of the Corps area and the 48th Tk Bn moved into positions in this area, with two companies supporting each of these two infantry divisions 11/.

3. Except for a 40-50 round concentration of 75mm artillery fire on NIEDERMODERN in the early evening, following a propaganda broadcast by the 14th Armd Division, this sector remained quiet as Hq CC "A" relieved Hq CC "B" of responsibility for this narrow front which was still held by the 19th and 62d Armd Inf Bns. To the East however, the 36th Division front was subjected to a sharp increase in hostile artillery fire - harassing light artillery fire falling on 142d Inf positions in NEUBOURG and HAGUENAU during the morning, harassing fire of all calibers falling in the SCHWEIGHAUSEN - HAGUENAU area during the afternoon, and light artillery and mortar fire continuing to fall throughout the evening. The single bit of aggressive enemy infantry activity was the attempt of a 25-man group to cross the MODER River near KALTENHOUSE, but this patrol was quickly dispersed by division artillery fire. Late in the period, the 142d Inf extended its front to the East to relieve elements of the 143d Inf as far as R-021244 and the remainder of the 143d was relieved in position by the 141st Inf 12/.

4. Seventh Army Tentative Outline Plan Operation "CLEAVER" of this date was received outlining plans for future operations. VI Corps was directed to submit an outline plan for its operation by 1200A on 10 March, based on the following information; the Corps, with the 36th, 42d and 103d Infantry Divisions and the 14th Armd Division (initially) would (a) attack on D Day (not prior to 15 March) to seize MAGINOT positions in zone, secure the BITCHE - HAGUENAU road and uncover the SIEGFRIED positions; to be prepared to release the 14th Armd Division on Army order after D plus 4; (b) thereafter assist advance of XV Corps by attacking on the axis HAGUENAU - PIRMASENS to penetrate the SIEGFRIED defenses and capture the high ground East and Northeast of PIRMASENS, and (c) after penetrating the SIEGFRIED Line capture LANDAU and NEUSTADT and destroy enemy in zone 13/.

11/. WRJ, 4 March - Entries #4, 28, 37 and 43; WRJ, 5 March - Entries #1 and 4.

12/. WRJ, 4 March - Entries #18, 19, 28, 37, 43, 45 and 47; WRJ, 5 March - Entries #4 and 5.

13/. Annex No. 11.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

5 March

1. No more than continued patrol activity and scattered harassing artillery fire took place on the quiet VI Corps front during 5 March, as all four divisions continued their vigorous reconnaissance programs. Intermittent rain prevented any close support air missions and limited observation of Corps artillery shoots along the static front. Despite vigorous patrolling programs, only minor contact was made during the day and the eight prisoners captured were all deserters who walked into our lines.

2. Hostile artillery fire which had been fairly heavy on the left half of the Corps front the previous day slackened off considerably in the zones of the 42d and 103d Divisions. During the morning sporadic enemy light artillery and mortar fire fell in REIPERTSWILLER and WILDENGUTH and a six-round concentration of 210mm artillery fire fell in WIDMENAU but enemy activity through the rest of the day was limited to scattered mortar fire on both division fronts. Throughout the period, both divisions pushed strong combat and reconnaissance patrols into enemy positions without making contact 14/.

3. On the right half of the Corps front, the 36th Division sector drew most of the enemy's attention while the zone of the 14th Armd Division was extremely quiet, not even drawing any hostile mortar or artillery fire, although seven deserters from the 104 GR (47 VG Div) came into the lines near UEBERACH during the morning. Patrols of the 36th Division, however, continued to draw heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire, and the reinforced platoon holding the outpost on the right flank at R-045241 was subjected to heavy mortar fire throughout the period. Hostile artillery in this sector was scattered and principally on positions in the HAGUENAU area 15/.

6 March

1. Except for the relief of the 19th AIB by the 68th AIB in the zone of the 14th Armd Division, there were no changes in dispositions along the quiet VI Corps front during 6 March. However, continued aggressive patrolling brought a sharper reaction from the enemy and several sharp fire fights broke out. Poor visibility prevented any air activity and limited the activities of Corps artillery to a few observed shoots throughout the period.

2. The left half of the Corps front saw an increase in hostile activity as patrols of both the 42d and 103d Divisions ran into some opposition. A recon patrol of the 222d Inf encountered a group of twenty enemy near Q-762408 and killed eight of them in a brisk fire fight, while suffering only one minor casualty and later in the day 222d Inf outposts repulsed a 28-man enemy raid on SAEGMUHL (Q-7937). In the 103d Division sector, a 410th Inf patrol encountered dug-in enemy in the vicinity of Q-884291 and an enemy OP at Q-893293 and a 411th Inf patrol had a brief fire fight with a 6-8 man enemy group at Q-862322. Light harassing artillery and mortar fire were received across the front of the 42d Division and in PFAFFENHOFFEN on the right of the 103d Division front throughout the day. Five deserters from the 16 Fus Bn (16 VG Div) turned themselves in at Q-759405 as a result of the 42d Division propaganda broadcast of the previous day 16/.

3. Light enemy artillery fire fell in MORSCHWILLER (Q-9224) and RINGELDORF

14/. WRJ, 5 March - Entries #21 and 33.

15/. WRJ, 5 March - Entries #21, 33, 41 and 45; WRJ, 6 March - Entries #6 and 7.

16/. WRJ, 6 March - Entries #7, 13, 18, 25 and 29; WRJ, 7 March - Entries #5 and 9.

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(Q-9025) and 30-40 rounds of medium caliber fire fell in NIEDERMODERN during the morning, but the 14th Armd Division sector remained otherwise quiet as the 68th AIB completed relief of the 19th AIB which moved to reserve areas in SAESSOLSHEIM (Q-8312). Patrols of the 36th Division remained in close contact with the hostile forces on their front. A 142d Inf raiding party drew small arms, machine gun and light artillery fire at Q-959277 while 141st Inf patrols in the vicinity of R-046246 encountered machine gun fire and mortar barrages. Outposts of the 142d Inf drove off a two-man enemy patrol which had crossed the MODER River to reach R-015240 late in the evening, and at the same time a patrol heard an estimated 25 enemy along the railroad at Q-989261 17/.

7 March

1. While infantry action along the entire Corps front remained negligible during 7 March, increased visibility made possible an increase in Corps artillery fire - adjusted by air OPs - numerous missions being fired on targets of opportunity with good results. However, despite the improved weather conditions, the first week of the month ended without any close support or hostile air activity.

2. In the sector of the 42d Division, patrols of the 222d Inf met light resistance as they attempted to probe enemy positions and a patrol of the 232d Inf was ambushed at Q-813376, 14 men being wounded and another eight reported missing after a sharp fire fight. Light mortar and artillery fire were received along the entire front with small concentrations falling in REIPERTSWILLER and LICHTENBERG during the afternoon. Artillery of the 103d Division concentrated on the troop and vehicle movements observed on this front, firing on an estimated 200 enemy and accompanying vehicles moving South at Q-876366, on an enemy battery at Q-968334 and an OP at Q-865314 with good results. Contact was maintained by continued extensive patrolling, but no sharp actions resulted 18/.

3. The right half of the Corps front remained similarly quiet. Except for small concentrations of light mortar and artillery fire on frontline positions during the afternoon, enemy activity on the 14th Armd Division zone was negligible as patrols of the 68th and 62d AIBs continued to probe hostile positions across the MODER. In the 36th Division sector to the East, night patrols of the 142d and 141st Inf drew machine gun fire and heard enemy activity in the vicinity of Q-989257 and R-050246. Division artillery silenced an enemy gun at Q-994328 and a battery at Q-968334 while enemy artillery continued to concentrate its light fire in the HAGUENAU area 19/.

4. In accordance with Seventh Army letter dated 4 March (see Annex No. 11) VI Corps submitted a Tentative Outline Plan for Operation "CLEAVER" on this date, generally depicting the Corps plan of attack as follows: (a) the 42d Division to attack D day H hour on axis LICHTENBERG (Q-8135) - SCHONAU (R-0051) to capture high ground at SCHONAU and uncover SIEGFRIED Line; assist advance of 103d Division by capturing high ground North of NIEDERERONN (Q-9142) and clear BITCHE - HAGUENAU road in zone; thereafter attack to penetrate SIEGFRIED Line, cut PIRMASENS - LANDAU road and capture high ground at MUNCHWEILER (Q-9769) and be prepared on Corps order to attack Northeast on axis HINTERWEIDENTHAL (R-0166) - SPEYER (R-5080); maintain contact with XV Corps on the left; (b) the 103d Division to attack D day H hour on axis BISCHHOLTZ - BOBENTHAL (R-0951) to capture high ground in the vicinity of CLIMBACH and BOBENTHAL and uncover SIEGFRIED Line in

17/. WRJ, 6 March - Entries #7, 18, 29 and 36; WRJ, 7 March - Entries #3, 6 and 9.

18/. WRJ, 7 March - Entries #18, 22 and 35.

19/. WRJ, 7 March - Entries #18, 35 and 48; WRJ, 8 March - Entries #7 and 9.

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zone; thereafter attack to penetrate SIEGFRIED Line and capture high ground at DIMBACH (R-1163) and North of BERGZABERN (R-1956); be prepared to assist 36th Division in capture of BERGZABERN and on Corps order continue attack on axis ANNWEILER (R-1767) - GERMERSHEIM (R-4669), capturing LANDAU; (c) the 36th Division to attack D day H hour on axis LA WALCK (Q-9128) - SOULTZ (R-1138) - WISSENBURG (R-1548) to capture WISSENBURG and high ground to the North and to secure the line OBER OTTERBACH (R-1152) - KAPSWeyer (R-2149); clear HAGUENAU - SOULTZ road and protect Corps right (E) flank by maintaining contact with the II French Corps; thereafter to attack to penetrate SIEGFRIED Line West of OBER OTTERBACH and capture BERGZABERN and be prepared to attack on Corps order on axis BERGZABERN - RULTZHEIM (R-4062); (d) the 14th Armd Division to assemble in Corps reserve North of HOCHFELDEN on Corps order, prepared to pass through the 36th Division on Corps order on line SOULTZ - SCHWABWILLER (R-1033), moving via roads through MERTZWILLER and HAGUENAU; seize line of LAUTER River in zone and protect Corps right (E) flank by maintaining contact with II French Corps; after breaching of SIEGFRIED Line to be prepared to seize RHINE River crossings on Corps order; (e) "X" infantry division, upon passing to control of VI Corps in PIRMASENS area, to relieve elements of the 42d Division near MUNCHWEILER (Q-9769) and be prepared on Corps order to attack on axis PIRMASENS - NEUSTADT, capturing NEUSTADT and be prepared for further action to the East or Northeast; maintain contact with XV Corps on the left 20/.

8 March

1. Activity on the VI Corps front was again negligible throughout 8 March with the enemy remaining exceptionally quiet. From left to right, front-line units of the 42d Division, 103d Division, 14th Armd Division and 36th Division sent out patrols which found the enemy to be generally alert and engaged in several minor clashes. Enemy mortar and artillery fire was very light and scattered along the Corps front, the bulk falling in the PFATTENHOFFEN - LA WALCK area.

2. On the left flank, the 42d Division conducted a psychological warfare broadcast in the late afternoon but no results were obtained up to midnight. Corps artillery fired TOTs on enemy battery locations in support of the 42d Division propaganda broadcast. Poor visibility limited air and ground observed missions to a minimum 21/.

9 March

1. Raids and patrols kept close contact with the enemy along the VI Corps front on 9 March and local reliefs were effected on the left half of the Corps zone. Although his activity was generally light, the enemy remained alert to our day and night patrols. The attack of the U.S. 1st and 9th Armies further North had caused no enemy reaction to date on the VI Corps front. Corps artillery fired a program of counterbattery and harassing missions on enemy supply points, CPs and lines of communications, while improved visibility in the afternoon enabled air and ground observers to adjust fires on targets of opportunity.

2. On the Corps left flank, a platoon-sized raiding party from the 222d Inf engaged an enemy force in the vicinity of Q-776389 at 0900A. After a sharp fire fight, six prisoners from the 16 VG Division were taken and ten other enemy were killed. In the 103d Division sector another raiding party to the cemetery (Q-847399) at ROITHBACH encountered a minefield in the vicinity and was forced to withdraw. Patrols of the 14th Armd Division penetrated to the southern and

20/. Annex No. 12.

21/. WRJ, 8 March - Entries #7, 8, 9, 10, 33 and 45.

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western edges of HITSCHHOFFEN where a small arms and automatic weapons fire fight occurred with an estimated enemy platoon 22/.

3. On the Corps right flank, numerous 36th Division patrols probing enemy positions were quickly engaged with small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire. Artillery fire dispersed two small enemy groups observed at R-045254 and R-053263. The 117th Cav Ron Sqn continued training in the MARMOUTIER area. Scattered enemy artillery and mortar fire fell on frontline units along the Corps front intermittently during the period, with the heaviest mission being received in SCHWEIGHAUSEN 23/.

4. One mission of twelve sorties was flown by the XII TAC in close support of VI Corps, six tons of bombs being dropped on BAERENTHAL (Q-8442) - an enemy troop concentration and supply point. Twenty direct hits were made on the town which was also strafed. No hostile aircraft appeared over the Corps zone.

10 March

1. The VI Corps sector was generally quiet during 10 March, the principal activity consisting of patrolling and raiding against which the enemy maintained an alert defense. No changes in unit dispositions were made although local reliefs were completed in the 14th Armd and 36th Division sectors without incident. Poor visibility limited Corps artillery fire to unobserved harassing missions on enemy gun batteries, supply installations and lines of communications. There was no aerial activity, either friendly or hostile, although 20 missions of 202 sorties were flown by fighter bombers of the XII TAC in general support of the Seventh Army. Rail facilities and road movements were attacked with unknown results.

2. The outstanding action of the day occurred on the Corps West flank in the 42d Division sector where daylight raiding parties from the 222d and 232d Inf's killed twelve enemy at Q-763404 and six others at Q-833372 after sharp fire fights in which they suffered only one casualty. In the 103d Division sector, active patrols observed enemy movements and activity - one patrol drawing small arms fire from the mill at Q-862324. Recon patrols of the 62d and 68th AIBs (14th Armd Div) made no contact with the enemy and the sector remained very quiet. However, propaganda broadcasts in the evening drew heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire on LA WALCK and UEBERACH. During the period, the 68th AIB extended to the right and relieved the 62d AIB in position. On the Corps right flank, probing patrols of the 36th Division exchanged small arms and machine gun fire with an alert enemy; however, some patrols reconnoitered without contact. Enemy heavy caliber artillery and SP gun fire harassed front-line towns and forward positions along the Corps front, the largest concentration (60 rounds) of the latter type fire being received in HAGUENAU at daybreak 24/.

3. At 0800A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 45 was issued directing: (a) the 14th Armd Division to extend its front along the MODER to the right beyond SCHWEIGHAUSEN and relieve elements of the 36th Division prior to 120600A March, (b) the 103d Division to relieve 48th Tank Bn elements by 130600A, the latter unit reverting to 14th Armd Division control, (c) that the 761st Tank Bn be attached to the 103d Division effective 120800A March 25/.

22/. WRJ, 9 March - Entries #7, 24, 32 and 59.

23/. WRJ, 9 March - Entries #41 and 59

24/. WRJ, 10 March - Entries #4, 6 and 9; WRJ, 11 March - Entry #6.

25/. Annex No. 9.

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11 March

1. There was no change in the situation along the VI Corps front during 11 March. Patrols continued to maintain firm contact with the enemy in all sectors, finding him to be alert but generally inactive. In each division sector, reliefs varying from regimental to battalion size were commenced during the period, all being completed except the regimental relief on the 42d Division front. Improved visibility enabled the Corps artillery to fire numerous observed missions on enemy personnel and batteries while normal harassing counterbattery missions were fired during the night.

2. While vigorous patrols maintained firm contact with the enemy along the 42d Division front, the 242d Inf moved to forward assembly areas and commenced the relief of the 222d Inf in position on the division left after dark. The relief was still in progress as the period closed. To the right, the 103d Division sector was very quiet and a battalion relief within the 410th Inf was effected by 2345A. In the old 14th Armd Division sector, patrol contact was maintained with the principal action centering about a combat patrol of the 68th AIB which encountered heavy small arms, machine pistol and mortar fire from enemy emplaced along the ridge West of BITSCHHOFFEN 26/.

3. Under cover of darkness, CC "A" relieved elements of the 142d Inf in sector East to Q-974262, while CC "B" relieved the remainder of the 142d Inf from Q-974262 to R-021241. Reliefs were completed and command of the sector was assumed by the 14th Armd Division at 2300A. On the Corps right flank aggressive patrols were constantly dispatched by the 36th Division. Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were encountered at R-022244 while some patrols drew machine gun and small arms fire from numerous enemy positions. At 2100A, the 141st Inf employed artillery and mortar fire to repulse an enemy patrol attempting to cross the MODER River at R-046242. Upon being relieved in position along the division left flank by elements of the 14th Armd Division, the 142d Inf assembled in rear areas. A light volume of harassing mortar and artillery fire was received by forward units along the Corps front, particularly in the 14th Armored Division zone during mid-afternoon 27/.

4. One mission of eight sorties was flown by the XII TAC in close support of VI Corps. Four tons of 500-lb bombs were dropped on an ammunition dump in a building at Q-7943, the several direct hits resulting in a large explosion. Hostile aircraft were again absent over the VI Corps zone.

5. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 88 of this date directed the attachment of the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (Fr), with an attached Combat Command of the 5th French Armored Division, and supporting TD, AA and FA Bns, to VI Corps effective at 130600A March 28/.

6. Seventh Army Field Order No. 10 of this date, was received, directing VI Corps (consisting of 36th, 42d and 103d Infantry Divisions, 3d Algerian Infantry Division (Fr) (Reinf) and 14th Armored Division) to: (a) Attack on D Day at H Hour, seize and secure the BITCHE - HAGUENAU road and the MAGINOT positions in zone; (b) continue the attack on the general axis HAGUENAU - PIRMASENS, penetrate the SIEGFRIED Line and capture the high ground East and Northeast of PIRMASENS; (c) assist the advance of XV Corps, capture LANDAU and

26/. WRJ, 11 March - Entries #6, 23 and 38.

27/. WRJ, 11 March - Entries #6, 23, 49 and 53.

28/. Annex No. 10

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NEUSTADT, and destroy enemy in zone; (d) upon closing on the RHINE as far North as the LAUTER River, pass the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (Reinf) to control of 1st French Army at which time the following boundary between Seventh Army (VI Corps right flank) and 1st French Army becomes effective North of the MODER River and responsibility for the sector passes to First French Army: OBERHOFFEN - SUR-MODER (R-0920) - SCHIRRHAIN (R-1222) - SOUFFLENHEIM (R-1625) - KOENIGSERUCK (R-2029) - RJ at R-222303 - NIEDERROEDERN (R-2234) - WINTZENBACH (R-2737) - RJ at R-309417 - LAUTERBOURG (R-3242) - LAUTER River to confluence with RHINE River at R-382425 (all to 1st French Army) 29/.

7. Outline Plan Operation "UNDERTONE" was issued by VI Corps on 11 March, and with changes indicated in Operations Instruction No. 46 issued on 12 March finally designated as Field Order No. 11. This order outlining the VI Corps attack on D day H hour (15 March 0645A) in conformity with Seventh Army Field Order No. 10 directed: (a) the 103d Division to attack on axis BISCHHOLTZ (Q-8532) - BOBENTHAL (R-0951) to capture high ground in the vicinity of CLIMBACH (R-0846) and BOBENTHAL and uncover the SIEGFRIED Line in zone; thereafter, attack to penetrate the SIEGFRIED Line and capture high ground in the vicinity of DIMBACH (R-1163) and North of BERGZABERN (R-1956); be prepared to assist the 36th Division in capture of BERGZABERN and on Corps order to continue attack to the East or Northeast; (b) the 42d Division to attack on axis LICHTENBERG (Q-8135) - SCHONAU (R-0051) to capture high ground in the vicinity of SCHONAU and uncover the SIEGFRIED Line; assist advance of 103d Division by capturing high ground North of NIEDERBRONN (Q-9339) and clear BITCHE - HAGUENAU road in zone; thereafter attack to penetrate SIEGFRIED Line in zone, cut the FIRMASENS - LANDAU (R-2766) road, and capture high ground in the vicinity of MUNCHWEILER (Q-9769) maintain physical contact with XV Corps on the left and be prepared on Corps order to continue the attack to the East or Northeast; (c) the 36th Division to attack on axis LA WALCK (Q-9027) - SOULTZ (R-1037) - WISSEMBOURG (R-1548) to capture WISSEMBOURG and the high ground to the North, uncovering the SIEGFRIED Line in zone; clear the HAGUENAU - SOULTZ road and maintain physical contact with 3d DIA; thereafter attack to penetrate SIEGFRIED Line, capture BERGZABERN and be prepared on Corps order to continue the attack to the East or Northeast; (d) the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (DIA) (Reinf) to attack on axis BISCHWILLER (R-0919) - LAUTERBOURG (R-3241) to capture LAUTERBOURG and secure crossings over the LAUTER River in zone; protect the Corps right (E) flank along line of RHINE River in zone and maintain contact with II Fr Corps; (e) the 14th Armd Division (-Dets) to assemble on Corps order in Corps reserve North of HOCHFELDEN (Q-8717) prepared on Corps order to pass through the 36th Division moving via roads through MERTZWILLER (Q-9529) and HAGUENAU to seize crossings of LAUTER River in zone and protect Corps right (E) flank, maintaining physical contact with II Fr Corps; be prepared on Corps order to exploit through crossings of LAUTER River at WISSEMBOURG and LAUTERBOURG to seize road centers at LANDAU and NEUSTADT (R-2983), and RHINE River crossings in Corps zone 30/.

12 March

1. Vigorous and aggressive patrolling by all divisions continued to highlight activity along the VI Corps front on 12 March, as firm contact was maintained with the enemy. Hostile action continued on a minor scale although the enemy appeared more sensitive to our recon and combat patrols and was quick to engage them with all available fire power.

29/. Annex No. 13.

30/. Annex Nos 9 and 14.

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2. In the 42d Division sector on the Corps left flank, relief of the 222d Inf by the 242d Inf was completed at 0730A, while in the 103d Division zone the 761st Tank Bn relieved the 48th Tank Bn, the latter unit reverting to 14th Armd Division control. In the sector between NIEDERMODERN and SCHWEIGHAUSEN, patrols of the 14th Armored Division found the enemy inactive but very alert. One patrol to Q-998250 drew intense small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire. Positions were improved in the new division sector throughout the period. In the quiet 36th Division zone, the enemy fired shells containing propaganda into HAGUENAU during the afternoon. The entire Corps front remained very quiet except for scattered artillery and mortar fire which harassed forward units along the left half of the Corps front, particularly in the 14th Armd Division sector. Due to poor visibility, firing by the Corps artillery was reduced to a minimum 31/.

3. At 1700A Operations Instruction No. 47 was issued generally directing: (a) the attachment of the 48th Tk Bn (-Cos A & D), the 610th TD Bn, the 83d Cml Mortar Bn (-Co A) and the 117th Cav Rcn Sq to the 42d Division and (b) the attachment of the 257th, 514th and 752d FA Bns to VI Corps Artillery 32/.

13 March

1. During 13 March, all divisions maintained patrol contacts with the enemy along the VI Corps front -- the enemy continuing to be alert and sensitive. The principal action was in the northeastern edge of HAGUENAU where 36th Division troops succeeded in enlarging their bridgehead over the MODER River against light to moderate resistance. Improved visibility permitted observed missions by the Corps artillery, but restricted enemy activity limited targets to a minimum.

2. On the Corps left flank, the 42d Division continued its program of dispatching numerous recon and combat patrols. A combat patrol of the 232d Inf supported by mortar and artillery fire engaged the enemy in a one-hour fight in the area Q-803380 - Q-808378. In this action, five Americans were wounded by enemy mortar fire. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq was attached to the division effective 0800A and completed relief of the 3d Bn 242d Inf just before midnight. The 103d Division and 14th Armd Division sectors were generally quiet during daylight hours, although night patrols drew small arms, automatic weapons and machine gun fire 33/.

3. The outstanding action of the period occurred on the Corps right flank in the 36th Division sector where a local attack by the 141st Inf succeeded in enlarging the bridgehead North of the MODER River in the northeastern portion of HAGUENAU to include R-045245 - R-046244 - R-046239. Initial resistance was light, consisting of small arms, mortar and light artillery fire which caused approximately five casualties, some due to anti-personnel mines; however, 37 prisoners from the 257 VG Division were taken. After the bridgehead had been reinforced to two-company strength, the enemy launched two counterattacks after nightfall, each consisting of one tank accompanied by infantry and supported by SP gun fire, in the vicinity of R-049250 and R-051246 in attempts to dislodge our troops. These counterattacks were repulsed and succeeded only in knocking down a few houses occupied by elements of the 141st Inf. Patrols reached the HAGUENAU - CAMP D'OBERHOFEN road at R-046246 but were unable to establish a line at that point. Enemy artillery and SP gun activity increased considerably during the period, with the bulk of fire falling in the HAGUENAU

31/. WRJ, 12 March - Entries #29, 41, 50, 52 and 53.

32/. Annex No. 9.

33/. WRJ, 13 March - Entries #4 and 54.

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area, apparently as a result of the 36th Division's aggressiveness 34/.

14 March

1. Patrol contact was maintained across the Corps front on 14 March while enemy activity remained negligible except on the right flank where the 36th Division continued to hold its bridgehead North of the MODER River despite enemy pressure which weakened as the period drew to a close. Late in the period, under cover of darkness, elements of the infantry divisions moved to forward assembly areas and prepared to launch the coordinated attack on 15 March. Improved visibility after 1200A enabled air OPs to adjust Corps artillery fire on several targets of opportunity, while a light harassing program was carried out during the night on enemy batteries and communications.
2. On the Corps West flank, patrols of the 42d Division found enemy outposts alert and were engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire. Late in the period, elements of the 222d Inf commenced movement to forward assembly areas on the division right flank, prepared to launch a coordinated attack on 15 March. The 103d Division and 14th Armd Division sectors remained generally quiet although a slight increase in enemy activity was noted. Active patrols found the enemy alert and sensitive to all penetrations, especially in the 14th Armd Division sector where any movements over the MODER River drew heavy automatic weapons fire 35/.
3. In the 36th Division sector, the 141st Inf maintained its bridgehead North of the MODER in HAGUENAU despite attacks of enemy infantry supported by SP guns and moderate artillery fire. Considerable harassing mortar and artillery fire also fell on 141st Inf positions in the HAGUENAU area South of the River. However, all enemy attacks were repulsed and the sector became quiet towards evening. Elements of the 141st and 143d Infs closed in forward assembly areas late in the period and prepared to attack on 15 March. On the Corps right flank, the 3d DIA (Fr) (Reinf), which had been attached to VI Corps as of 13 March, held a line extending Southeast to the RHINE River. Forward positions were held by elements of the 4 RTT and 9 Zouaves. The 3 RTA moved to forward assembly areas during the period, preparing to augment the VI Corps attack on 15 March 36/.
4. Three missions of 24 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by the XII TAC. More than 14 tons of bombs were dropped on the RJ at Q-793425, and on roads at Q-817472 and Q-896480, causing numerous road blocks. No hostile aircraft appeared during the period.
5. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 90, dated 14 March, was received directing the VI Corps to release the 610th TD Bn to control of the 4th Infantry Division upon closing of the 630th TD Bn in the VI Corps area 37/.
6. At 1300A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 48 was issued to change the boundary between the 36th Division and 3d DIA (Fr) as follows: CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN - NIEDERROEDERN - LAUTERBOURG (all to 3d DIA), and make minor attachments of units within VI Corps 38/.

34/. WRJ, 13 March - Entries #4, 19, 26 and 57; WRJ, 14 March - Entry #12.

35/. WRJ, 14 March - Entries #12 and 57.

36/. WRJ, 14 March - Entries #12, 27 and 31.

37/. Annex No. 10.

38/. Annex No. 9

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7. Seventh Army letter dated 14 March was received directing VI Corps to make tentative plans to cross the RHEINE and secure a bridgehead in the general area MANNHEIM - KARLSRUHE. The code name for the operation was to be referred to as "UNDERTONE, ALTERNATE" and a plan in general outline form was to be submitted to Seventh Army Headquarters as early as practicable. For PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY, the following would be assumed: (a) that VI Corps would have four infantry and one armored division available for the crossing operation, with sufficient river crossing equipment and trained Engineer units available to support an assault by four regimental combat teams, (b) that after the initial bridgehead had been secured, it would be expanded to the NECKAR - ENZ Rivers, and further exploited towards the East 39/.

PHASE II

15 March

1. VI Corps attacked across the MODER and ROTHBACH Rivers early on 15 March with four infantry divisions abreast, secured local bridgeheads and continued the advance to the Northeast. Consolidated PW statements substantiated the fact that tactical surprise was achieved and that enemy communications were disrupted very early in the operation. The 42d Division advanced rapidly towards BAERENTHAL while the 103d and 36th Divisions made rapid initial progress, by-passing centers of resistance which were later mopped up by reserve elements. The 3 DIA (Fr) encountered stiff resistance in the CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN area but made local gains after heavy fighting. Along the entire Corps front, progress was greatly hampered by extensive minefields, particularly anti-personnel mines, which caused numerous casualties. The enemy offered light to strong but spotty resistance to our attack and yielded over 1000 prisoners which combined with his heavy casualties reduced the previously estimated combat strength on the VI Corps front by about 25 per cent. With minor exceptions, prisoners identified during the first day of the attack verified the previously known Order of Battle and dispositions of the enemy, from left to right, the 16, 36, 47 and 257 VG Divisions and elements of the 905 Mobilization Division. Hostile artillery reaction to the attack was light and no enemy aircraft appeared. Good visibility enabled the Corps artillery to support the attack by firing almost at will on enemy vehicles, guns, tanks and personnel with excellent results.

2. On the Corps left flank the 42d Division attacked at 0645A with the 242d Inf on the left and 222d Inf on the right. Attacking Northeast from the general area Southeast of ALTHORN, the 242d Inf was stopped 500 yards from the line of departure by anti-personnel minefields covered by small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire but after breaching this obstacle swept forward practically unopposed over heavily wooded and rugged mountainous terrain to reach high ground overlooking BAERENTHAL (Q-8442) and cut the MOU TERHOUSE - BAERENTHAL road. On the right, making the major effort, the 222d Inf attacked Northeast across the ROTHBACH River but was slowed by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy in prepared dug-in positions along the line of hill crests and anti-personnel minefields covered by fire in the vicinity of Q-848368. However, Hill 402 (Q-851368) which was the core of enemy resistance in the area was occupied by 1730A at which time elements were by-passing to the East to continue the attack. The 232d Inf occupied the former frontline positions while elements in the center of the division front cleared the enemy from Hills 302 (Q-804375), 336 (Q-809379) and 343 (Q-801380), all North of REIPERTSWILLER, but were unable to reduce the road block at Q-804380 by the end of the period. In this area, the enemy fought stubbornly from well-entrenched positions and inflicted quite a number of casualties, though yielding only 10-15 prisoners. At 2000A, a 50-70 man enemy counter-attack against Hill 336 was repulsed. On the left flank, the 117th Cav Ron Sq

39/. Annex No. 15

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maintained contact with the 100th Division (XV Corps) on the left and elements passed through a minefield at Q-7839 to reconnoiter the SARHEINSBERG (Q-7442) - MOUTERHOUSE (Q-7942) road 40/.

3. In the 103d Division sector, the 411th and 410th Infs attacking Northeast at 0645A met no initial resistance and three of the four attacking battalions had crossed the ROTHBACH River by 0800A. Although both sides of the river were found to be extensively mined, patrols had located favorable crossing sites where the area was only lightly mined. As the attack progressed, however, resistance increased and a profusion of Schu mines took a heavy toll of casualties. On the left, the two-pronged attack of the 411th Inf made good initial progress. The western column by-passed ROTHBACH and OFFWILLER, leaving elements to clear the towns and reached the general line Q-875349 - Q-894319, South of ZINSWILLER, where resistance increased to moderate as the enemy defended with small arms, automatic weapons and machine gun fire. While elements clearing MUHLHAUSEN seized a bridge over the ROTHBACH River intact and took 70-80 prisoners from the 165 GR and 268 Arty Regt (36 VG Div), the eastern column pressed the attack Northeast through the wooded area North of UHRWILLER (Q-8831) but struck a strong line of well-camouflaged bunkers along the upper part of the woods in the afternoon and the remainder of the period was spent in reducing these fortifications. On the right, the 410th Inf attacked Northeast with three columns and seized the lightly defended towns of NIEFFERN, UHRWILLER and KINDWILLER before noon. ENGWILLER (Q-9132) was by-passed to the left, and 410th Inf troops reached Q-910328 where automatic weapons, small arms and machine gun fire was received from the Northeast. Follow-up forces cleared ENGWILLER although a stubborn pocket of Germans in the town continued to hold out until 2300A before yielding. Another 410th Inf column advancing Northeast just to the left of the 103d - 36th Division boundary reached UTENHOFFEN by mid-afternoon, but heavy fire from five enemy SP Guns in the town together with heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from GUNDERSHOFFEN (Q-9434) forced a withdrawal to the West late in the afternoon. At about 2000A, the enemy launched a follow-up counterattack from UTENHOFFEN with an unknown number of infantry supported by four SP guns which forced a further withdrawal to the wooded area just Northwest of MIETESHEIM (Q-9331). An estimated 280 prisoners were taken during the period from elements of the 36 and 47 VG Divisions, many of whom stated the attack came as a complete surprise 41/.

4. The pre-dawn attack of the 36th Division encountered bitter initial resistance of heavy automatic weapons and machine gun fire and light artillery and SP gun fire, although prisoners said the enemy was taken by complete surprise. On the left, the 143d and 142d Infs attacked Northeast at 0100A from the LA WALCK-UEBERACH area. As the 143d Inf approached BITSCHHOFFEN supporting tanks bogged down in the soft terrain and enemy machine gun fire developed, but by 0645A elements were fighting in the town while the main body by-passed and pressed on to MIETESHEIM which was cleared by 1800A after light small arms fighting. An SP gun at Q-945304 was destroyed by rifle grenade fire during this advance. Continuing Northeast, attacking elements of the 143d Inf found the bridge at Q-949314 blown but swam across the ZINTZEL DU NORD River and established a bridgehead after capturing the far bridge at Q-950317 intact. BITSCHHOFFEN was cleared by early evening, after the virtual destruction of the I Bn 103 VGR and capture of a great number of prisoners from the 47 Arty Regt, 47 AT Bn and 47 Fus Bn (all from the 47 VG Division). Just to the right, the northeastward attack by the 142d

40/. WRJ, 15 March - Entries #42, 50, 61, 114 and 133.

41/. WRJ, 15 March - Entries #18, 24, 47, 49, 51, 56, 97, 101, 113, 125, 127, 146, 147, 148 and 157.

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Inf made good progress through the western edge of the HAGUENAU Forest although one company suffered considerable casualties from heavy artillery fire. By 1800A, the portion of MERTZWILLER (Q-9630) South of the River had been cleared despite small arms and SP gun fire and a profusion of anti-personnel mines, and the bridge site secured in the vicinity of Q-960295. At the close of the period, elements were attacking to reduce a small enemy pocket holding out in the southwestern portion of MERTZWILLER. On the right, the 111st Inf attacked across the MODER River in HAGUENAU at 0300A and quickly established a company-sized road block at R-043245. A Bailey bridge was started at R-045244 and its completion was delayed until 0900A by artillery and mortar fire. Shortly thereafter, the main elements of the 111st Inf crossed the river and heavy house to house fighting raged in the northeastern portion and northern suburbs of HAGUENAU throughout the day. Progress was slow with large numbers of anti-personnel mines being encountered and the enemy supplemented his resistance by employing five tanks or SP guns as roving artillery, one of which was destroyed by our artillery fire. By the close of the period, the eastern section of HAGUENAU to the general line RJ at R-040252 - R-050250 - R-057250 - R-058243 had been cleared, including the factory area in the vicinity of R-056244. The main enemy forces defending the HAGUENAU area were identified as the 457 GR and 257 Fus Co, all from the 257 VG Division. An estimated 550 prisoners were taken by the 36th Division during this first day of their offensive. 42/.

5. In the 3 DIA (Fr) sector on the Corps right flank, the 4 RTT attacked North from OBERHOFFEN at 0715A with two battalions abreast after a 30-minute artillery preparation and seized the factory area and railroad station in the vicinity of R-088211, encountering heavily mined areas and light initial resistance of mortar fire. However, advances towards CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN (R-0821) were stopped by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire supported by mortars and artillery. An enemy counterattack of estimated battalion strength launched from woods to the Northeast was broken up by artillery fire during the afternoon. On the right the 3 RTA attacked Northeast from OBERHOFFEN with two battalions at 1230A and reached the road junction at R-105210 after encountering many mines. At 2230A a vigorous enemy counterattack supported by artillery fire was repulsed without loss of ground. Along the line East of BISCHWILLER to the RHINE, enemy contact was maintained. The 3 DIA captured approximately 80 prisoners during the period from the 257 VG and 905 Mobilization Divisions, but sustained an approximate 250 casualties. Combat Command 6 of the 5 DB (Attached to 3 DIA) remained assembled in the vicinity of R-0009 43/.

6. The 11th Armored Division closed in an assembly area North of HOCHFELDEN (Q-8714) at 2100A, prepared to move on Corps order after three hours notice, while elements of the 19th Armd Inf Bn holding the MODER River line in the SCHWEIGHAUSEN area repulsed a 40-50 man counterattack which was apparently designed to relieve the pressure of the 36th Division offensive.

7. A heavy air program, 32 missions of 259 sorties, was flown in close support of the Corps attack by the XII TAC and more than 140 tons of bombs were dropped on a diversified number of enemy targets. In addition to bombing and strafing the towns of MOUTERHOUSE, BAERENTHAL, OBERBRONN, NIEDERBRONN, REICHSHOFFEN, GUNDERSHOFFEN, HEGENEY, WALBOURG, SOULTZ and SELTZ, railroad marshalling yards and rolling stock, troop concentration areas, ammunition and supply dumps, these planes attacked tanks, SP guns and pillboxes with overall excellent results being observed.

42/. WRJ, 15 March - Entries #6, 13, 17, 43, 48, 60, 98, 109, 128, 135, 153 and 156.

43/. WRJ, 15 March - Entries #39, 71, 110, 111, and 117; WRJ, 16 March - Entry #13.

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8. At 1800A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 49 was issued directing the 14th Armored Division (-): (a) to assemble in the HOCHFELDEN (Q-8817) area by 151900A March, prepared for movement on three hours notice and (b) to maintain a reinforced company in the vicinity of SCHWEIGHAUSEN until further orders 44/.

16 March

1. The VI Corps attack to the Northeast continued on 16 March with fair progress as the enemy continued to offer light to moderate resistance, principally from defended towns on the axis of advance. This opposition was supplemented by extensive minefields and demolitions which sharply curtailed our freedom of maneuver. The most rapid progress was made on the Corps left flank where organized resistance had collapsed in the 42d Division zone. Although enemy shelling continued light, Corps and Division artillery gave heavy fire support to the attack. Increased visibility together with appearance of numerous targets enabled Air OPs to conduct a large number of observed missions, while a very heavy harassing program was fired on enemy roads and battery locations during the night.

2. The 42d Division continued its attack to the Northeast with the 242d and 222d Infs advancing abreast. Organized enemy resistance was apparently broken as a result of the breakthrough to the BAERENTHAL area the preceding period and only weak resistance was encountered. The heavily-wooded and steeply-ridged terrain, together with considerable abatis over the already restricted road net in the area, comprised the principal obstacles to advancing columns. However, sufficient supplies to sustain the attack were transported forward by jeeps and pack mules. On the left, attacking elements of the 242d Inf crossed the ZINTZEL DU NORD River West of BAERENTHAL and advanced Northeast practically unopposed. The BITCHE - NIEDERERONN road at the 84 grid was cut by nightfall and the high ground to the North at Q-840445 was seized. Further to the North in this area, a concentration of 15 enemy tanks in the vicinity of Q-8447 was hit by fighter bombers which claimed eight destroyed. Follow-up elements of the 242d Inf cleared the road to Q-823432, occupied high ground at Q-785425 overlooking the SARREINSBERG - MOUTERHOUSE road and mopped up by-passed enemy elements in the area to the South, including MELCH (Q-789405) where more than 100 prisoners were taken. On the right, attacking elements of the 222d Inf, which had by-passed Hill 402 to the Southeast, made rapid progress against very light resistance. The BAERENTHAL - ZINSWILLER road was cut before dawn and by 1930A further advances to the Northeast over very difficult terrain had cut the BITCHE - NIEDERERONN road at the 89 grid, against only light mortar, artillery and small arms fire, although 50 enemy dug in at Q-831408 and supported by an SP gun delayed the advance. The bulk of the 222d Inf followed the advance and mopped up local resistance that had been by-passed. Task Force COLEMAN (2d Bn 232d Inf Reinf) attacked Northeast from ALTHORN and after reaching high ground in the vicinity of Q-766423 continued East towards MOUTERHOUSE. Elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn reached the southern edge of MOUTERHOUSE where considerable sniper fire delayed occupation of the town. The 232d Inf (-2d Bn) followed the advance of the 242d and 222d Infs and mopped up rear areas, meeting principal opposition in the area North of REIPERTSWILLER. However, by the close of the period, the area up to the general line Q-795405 - Q-820413 - Q-827401 - Q-839400 - Q-848389 - Q-855378 had been cleared. On the right flank, elements of the 42d Cav Rcn Troop entered ZINSWILLER and assisted the 411th Inf in clearing the town 45/.

44/. Annex No. 9.

45/. WRJ, 16 March - Entries #2, 20, 33, 46, 51, 56, 103 and 127.

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3. The 103d Division attack to the Northeast was renewed at 0655A with the 411th and 410th Infs advancing abreast. The enemy made a fairly determined stand from prepared dug-in positions along the ZINTZEL DU NORD River and from strongpoints in ZINSWILLER, GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN NIEDERBRONN (Q-9234) and UTTENHOFFEN, but after resistance was overcome in the afternoon, troops were able to strike out and make sizeable gains virtually unopposed. On the left, after receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire during the night, two columns of the 411th Inf continued the attack Northeast. One column with the assistance of 42d Division elements cleared ZINSWILLER of enemy resistance late in the afternoon, finding the bridge across the river blown, and continued on to seize OBERBRONN (Q-9038) after overcoming heavy small arms, machine gun and automatic weapons fire from enemy troops on the wooded high ground to the Northwest and Northeast of ZINSWILLER just before dark. An adjacent column followed by reserve elements forced a crossing of the river in the vicinity of Q-906347 and reached the outskirts of REICHSHOFFEN at Q-937355. Extensive Schu minefields and booby traps were encountered by the 411th Inf. On the right, the two-pronged attack of the 410th Inf scored gains up to three kilometers to the Northeast. Preceded by a rolling artillery barrage, one column attacked towards GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN OBERBRONN (Q-918338) from the patch of woods just Northwest of ENGWILLER and occupied the town by 1030A despite small arms, machine gun and flat trajectory artillery fire. As the bridge across the ZINTZEL DU NORD River was found blown, 410th Inf troops forced a crossing against heavy artillery fire and cleared GUMBRECHTSHOFFEN NIEDERBRONN (Q-9234) after being further hampered by mines and road blocks. At 1500A, an estimated 50 unsupported enemy infantry launched a counterattack on 410th Inf troops East of the River, but were dispersed by artillery fire before contact was made. Reserve elements passed through and carried the advance to GUNDERSHOFFEN (Q-9434) where heavy street fighting was in progress at the close of the period. After a heavy aerial bombardment of UTTENHOFFEN, the right column of the 410th Inf attacked and retook the town by mid-afternoon, after which the river was crossed and high ground at Q-955334 was occupied against only light resistance. The bulk of the 409th Inf displaced forward to an assembly area at ENGWILLER, while elements remained assembled at BOUXWILLER (Q-8125) in Division Reserve. Of a total of seven enemy tanks observed on the 103d Division front, all were taken under artillery fire and one was destroyed and three damaged. More than 400 prisoners were taken during the period, mostly from the 118 and 165 GRs (36 VG Div) 46/.

4. The 36th Division renewed the attack Northeast from the MERTZWILLER area and North from HAGUENAU but struck determined enemy groups resisting in towns along the axis of advance until late afternoon when troops were able to advance against lighter opposition on the left flank. After being harassed by SP gun fire during the night and repulsing a counterattack at 0430A, elements of the 143d Inf reinforced their bridgehead over the river at Q-951318 and attacked Northeast, seizing GRIESBACH (Q-9532) and FORSTHEIM (Q-9833) after overcoming moderate small arms fire. Upon the clearing of GRIESBACH, a motorized Task Force (consisting of the 1st Bn 143d Inf reinforced with tanks, TDs, FA, Engr and recon troops and a bridge train) jumped off to the Northeast at 1615A and progressed rapidly to R-013348 where a blown bridge halted the advance late in the period. To the right, elements of the 142d Inf launched an attack over the river at 0430A and by late afternoon had cleared the remaining portion of MERTZWILLER after stiff house to house fighting with an estimated 75 enemy. At the close of the period, elements had occupied Hill 193 (Q-9631) against light infantry resistance and established positions at Q-972299, while the remainder of the regiment assembled in the vicinity of MERTZWILLER as Division Reserve. Two essential bridges, at Q-950317 and Q-960295, were rushed to com-

46/. WRJ, 16 March - Entries #9, 34, 50, 52, 69, 78, 88 and 124.

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pletion by the Engineers despite artillery and mortar fire which hampered progress. On the division right flank, the 141st Inf mopped up the remaining portion of HAGUENAU and its suburbs North of the MODER River before noon as enemy resistance slackened, but further advances to the North and Northeast into the HAGUENAU Forest encountered heavy minefields and extensive mined abatis road blocks, some extending for 200 yards. Towards the close of the period, the bulk of the 141st Inf assembled on the northeastern edge of HAGUENAU with elements furnishing protection for Engineers engaged in clearing road blocks on the HAGUENAU - SURBOURG (R-0834) road 47/.

5. In the 3 DIA sector on the Corps right flank, the enemy broke contact under cover of darkness, after launching several local counterattacks, and fell back to the North and Northeast. Gains up to three kilometers were made before contact was reestablished. On the left, the 4 RTT seized CAMP D'OBERHOFFEN without resistance early in the period after which CC 6 of the 5 DB attacked Northwest through forward positions and reached the RJ at R-068241. Turning Northeast, the column pressed on to the RJ at R-086246 where effective road blocks covered by snipers and minefields halted forward movement. Late in the period the 1 GTM moved forward and took up positions in the woods along the general line R-067241 - R-087249. To the right, the 3 RTA with armored support attacked Northeast and proceeded unopposed to SCHIRRHEIN (R-1222) where resistance developed from elements of the 257 AT Bn, 2 SS Police Regt and 905 Fus Co. After brisk fighting, the town was occupied and advance elements were nearing the RJ at R-125225 by the close of the period. The 9 Zouaves maintained previous positions Southwest of DRUSENHEIM without incident 48/.

6. The XII TAC flew 20 missions or 161 sorties in close support of VI Corps, dropping more than 90 tons of bombs and firing 16 rockets on a variety of enemy targets. In addition to attacking marshalling yards, rail movements and troop concentration areas, almost half the missions struck enemy tanks and SP guns, which appeared in increasing numbers along the VI Corps front, destroying nine and damaging several more. No hostile aircraft appeared.

17 March

1. Good progress was made along the entire VI Corps front during 17 March as troops advanced with relatively little contact with the enemy who fought only a light rear guard action while apparently executing a planned withdrawal to his SIEGFRIED Line positions. Progress was slowed chiefly by mines, obstacles and blown bridges, and the only determined stand made by the enemy rear guard was in the vicinity of GUNSTETT where tank supported infantry fought stubbornly against 36th Division troops in an attempt to deny our use of a bridge site. Despite limited visibility, Corps artillery was again very active, firing numerous observed missions in support of the attack and displacing to forward positions during the period while enemy shelling continued very light and scattered.

2. Advancing with three regiments abreast, the 42d Division made rapid progress to the Northeast against only very light resistance from snipers and small by-passed groups as the enemy instituted withdrawals to successive defense lines. The difficult terrain and extensive mines, road blocks, abatis, craters and demolitions on routes of advance continued to constitute the major obstacles to the advance. Engineers worked day and night to make roads passable in the division zone. On the left, advance elements of the 242d Inf consolidated positions and regrouped in the Q-8444 grid square, having received orders not to

47/. WRJ, 16 March - Entries #11, 40, 48, 66, 70, 91 and 130.

48/. WRJ, 16 March - Entries #73, 77, 101 and 107.

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move out until the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn came up on the left flank, the latter unit being delayed by road blocks and mines. The attack jumped off in the afternoon and after BANNSTEIN (Q-8345) and WALDECK (Q-847465) were cleared, the enemy offering only light and unorganized resistance, the 242d Inf sped Northeast in the direction of STURZELBRONN (Q-8951) without contact. At BANNSTEIN, 16 prisoners from the 87, 221 and 223 GIs were taken. Elements mopped up resistance East of MOUTERHOUSE and followed behind the advancing main body. In the center of the division zone, the 232d Inf (-2d Bn) attacked Northeast and captured BAERENTHAL and PHILIPPSBOURG (Q-874427) without opposition. Continuing Northeast over heavily wooded and rugged mountainous terrain, the 232d Inf seized DAMBACH (Q-9245) and NEUNHOFFEN (Q-915464) after overcoming only negligible resistance. On the right flank, the 222d Inf pressed the attack Northeast over rugged terrain and seized the regimental objective (high ground at Q-9142). Only small enemy delaying detachments were encountered -- these being quickly liquidated. Thereafter, troops continued on towards NIEDERSTEINBACH (Q-9848). The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn followed by Task Force COLEMAN cleared MOUTERHOUSE after overcoming mortar and small arms fire, and displaced Northeast towards EGUELSHARDT (Q-8247), while elements reconnoitered the roads from MOUTERHOUSE - BAERENTHAL, PHILIPPSBOURG - NEUNHOFFEN, and to points at Q-878474, Q-866489 and Q-850485 49/.

3. The 103d Division continued to push forward against scattered rear guard action, as the enemy broke contact during the night, and advanced rapidly to the northeast. The main obstacles impeding the advance were numerous road blocks, mines and road craters. On the left, two columns of the 411th Inf converged on NIEDERBRONN (Q-9339) from the Southwest and cleared the town after a light engagement. Thereafter, contact was lost with the enemy and rapid advances were made to the Northeast. JAEGERTHAL (Q-9642) was quickly cleared after which troops cut back Southeast to NEHWILLER and Northeast to reach the vicinity of LANGENSOULTZBACH (Q-998407). After clearing REICHSHOFFEN, the right column of the 411th Inf lost contact with the enemy and also sped Northeast, passing through NEHWILLER (Q-975403) unopposed, and reached R-010424 just Southwest of MATTSTALL by the close of the period; LANGENSOULTZBACH was by-passed to the West. On the right, elements of the 410th Inf attacked and occupied GUNDERSHOFFEN early in the period after a short small arms and automatic weapons fight, and was passed through by the 409th Inf which carried the attack Northeast against practically no opposition. FROESCHWILLER (Q-9938) was cleared after a brief fight in which 15 prisoners were taken and WOERTH (R-005378) was also occupied after a small rear guard force was cleared from adjacent high ground. Follow-up elements attacked Southeast from FROESCHWILLER, seizing OBERDORF SPACHBACH (R-015363), and established a bridgehead over the SAUER River against negligible opposition. The 1st Bn 410th Inf (attached to 409th Inf) skirted the division right boundary and occupied EBERBACH (Q-985347) without a fight, thereafter remaining in the vicinity as regimental reserve. The 410th Inf (-) assembled in the vicinity of Q-9735 as Division Reserve. Of the 140 prisoners processed during the period, all but one were from component elements of the 36 VG Division 50/.

4. On the 36th Division front, enemy contact was light to negligible except in the GUNSTETT area where the enemy fought stubbornly to prevent our securing the bridge site and building a bridge there, and advances up to seven kilometers were made. On the left, elements of the 143d Inf swam across the ZINTZEL DU NORD River in the vicinity of R-013348 and attacked GUNSTETT (R-0235) and organized positions on high ground to the North where enemy forces consisting principally of 47 Fus Bn elements supported by five tanks fought a

49/. WRJ, 17 March - Entries #10, 41, 42, 49, 52, 58, 75, 80, 102, 106, 126 and 136.

50/. WRJ, 17 March - Entries #10, 74, 76, 101, 117 and 120; WRJ, 18 March - Entries #11 and 19.

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stubborn rear guard action to delay bridging operations at R-014349. By the close of the period, GUNSTETT and Hill 224 (R-020355) had been occupied after a day-long fight and the bridge was completed despite harassing artillery fire. Follow-up elements of the 143d Inf had renewed the attack Southeast from GUNSTETT, occupying BIBLISHEIM (R-0433) and were reported to be entering woods at R-048345 by the close of the period. Recon patrols entered MORSBRONN (R-0033), HEGENEY (R-0032), LAUBACH (Q-9831) and ESCHBACH (Q-9930) against negligible opposition and took a few straggler prisoners. To the right, a column of the 141st Inf moved through the former 142d Inf sector and attacked East, quickly clearing DURLENBACH (R-0233) and WALBOURG (R-0432), and reached the railroad tracks at R-052316 where the column swung North at the close of the period. On the division right flank, in the HAGUENAU area, the enemy broke contact during the night and 141st Inf elements worked with Engineer troops to clear the HAGUENAU - SURBOURG road of mines and abatis, progressing to the blown bridge at R-067300. The 142d Inf remained in Division Reserve, assembled in the vicinity of MERTZWILLER. With the capture of an additional 230 prisoners during the period, resulting in the identification of the previously uncontacted 7 Panther Bn, 653 Heavy Tank Bn and Assault Gun Co KUSCHER, the 3-day total for the 36th Division since the start of the offensive was raised to over 1000 51/.

5. On the Corps right flank a renewal of the offensive by the 3 DIA with attached CC 6 5 DB found the enemy withdrawing to the Northeast, and substantial gains were made against little or no resistance. Progress was impeded principally by numerous road blocks, minefields and road demolitions at vital crossings. On the left, elements of the 1 GTM reached the RJ at R-0926 and proceeded East on the HAGUENAU - SOUFFLENHEIM road. A mined abatis and road demolition at R-122263 delayed progress but it was by-passed and contact was established with elements of CC 6 at R-150260. In the central sector, elements of CC 6 5 DB with the 3 RTA cleared SCHIRRHHEIN and proceeded Northeast to occupy SCHIRRHOFFEN (R-1322) and SOUFFLENHEIM (R-1625) without resistance. By the close of the period, advance elements of the 3 RTA had reached R-198288. Moving East from SOUFFLENHEIM, other units of CC 6 occupied RUNTZENHEIM (R-1924) and half of ROESCHWOOG (R-2225), making only slight contact at the latter town, while on the right flank the 9 Zouaves found SESSENHEIM (R-1822) and DALHUNDEN (R-1819) unoccupied. The enemy also had withdrawn from DRUSENHEIM (R-1518) but left numerous mines to impede progress 52/.

6. Eleven missions of 88 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by the XII TAC. More than 37 tons of bombs and 16 750-lb fire bombs were dropped on enemy tank, motor transport and troop concentrations and the towns of WISSEMBOURG and SELTZ. Four tanks were claimed destroyed but results were generally unobserved due to the overcast. Enemy aircraft were again absent over the VI Corps zone.

7. At 1600A, Operations Instruction No. 50 was issued, directing: (a) the attachment of the 692d TD Bn to the 42d Division in place of the 610th TD Bn, and (b) the relief of Troop D, 94th Cav Rcn Sq from attachment to the 35th AAA Brig and its return to control of the 14th Armd Division 53/.

18 March

1. All Divisions of the VI Corps made rapid advances to the North and

51/. WRJ, 17 March - Entries #11, 13, 33, 34, 48, 55, 100 and 108; WRJ, 18 March - Entry #14.

52/. WRJ, 17 March - Entries #65, 73, 90, 93, 96 and 107; WRJ, 18 March - Entries #4 and 5.

53/. Annex No. 9.

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Northeast during 18 March as remnants of the badly mauled enemy force broke contact behind a very extensive and thorough engineering job. By the close of the day the 42d and 103d Divisions had crossed the GERMAN border, meeting increased resistance as SIEGFRIED Line positions were developed, while the 36th Division, 14th Armd Division and 3 DIA had elements close to the frontier. With the Corps attack gaining momentum, artillery was principally engaged in displacing forward and firing observed missions on enemy pockets of resistance. Harassing fire during the night was placed on enemy lines of communications and principal supply routes.

2. On the Corps left flank, the 42d Division advanced rapidly Northeast, moving into GERMANY and reaching the SIEGFRIED Line before making firm contact with the enemy. The advance was retarded principally by extensive demolitions and road blocks in addition to difficult terrain. On the left, a two-Bn force of the 242d Inf pressed Northeast without contact through STURZELBRONN, crossed the GERMAN border and reached the EPPENBRUNN - FISCHBACH road in the vicinity of Q-925547 and Q-940540 after engaging in a fire fight with enemy forces at Q-939538 where small arms, machine gun and mortar fire was exchanged. Resistance generally stiffened as outer defenses of the SIEGFRIED Line were uncovered in this area. In the center of the division front, the 232d Inf (-2d Bn) pushed Northeast from NEUNHOFFEN to capture OBERSTEINBACH (Q-960486) without opposition and then advanced North towards FISCHBACH (Q-9854), crossing the GERMAN border in the vicinity of Q-946500 and reaching positions at Q-958528 and Q-970520 where resistance developed in the form of small arms, mortar and artillery fire. Task Force COLEMAN was designated as Division Reserve and moved to an assembly area at PHILIPPSBOURG. On the right, advancing cross-country over precipitous mountains, the 222d Inf attacked Northeast from the DAMBACH - WINDSTEIN road and made outstanding progress against negligible opposition. NIEDERSTEINBACH was easily overrun after which the regiment swung North to cross the GERMAN border in the vicinity of WENGELSBACH (Q-985499) and then seized the regimental objective, SCHONAU (R-007513) and high ground to the Northeast and East, against scattered artillery fire. Positions were held along the general line R-020534 - R-025525 - R-037515 at the close of the period. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq performed contact missions within the division zone and established contact with XV Corps elements on the left flank, while a recon force moved Northwest from EGUELSHARDT to a point East of BITCHE where a road block was encountered 54/.

3. The 103d Division raced approximately 15 kilometers Northeast with two regiments abreast and crossed the GERMAN border before making contact with the fleeing enemy. The advance was mainly impeded by road craters, blown bridges, abatis and mines along roads. On the left, the 411th Inf drove rapidly through MATTSTALL (R-0143), LEMBACH (R-0445) and WINGEN (R-0547). The GERMAN border was crossed in the vicinity of R-0850 at 1535A after which BOBENTHAL (R-0851) was seized against light small arms resistance. Two American-constructed bridges (built in mid-December 1944) over the LAUTER River at BOBENTHAL were captured intact although prepared for demolition. Just before dark, contact was re-established South of NIEDERSCHLETENBACH (R-0854) where the enemy engaged advance 411th Inf elements with small arms fire from pillboxes at R-084539 and R-085544 and trenches at R-085537. On the right, a similar rapid advance by the 409th Inf (with 1st Bn 410th Inf attached) carried through METSCHDORF (R-0339) and CLIMBACH (R-0846) and by the close of the period positions were held at R-100490 and R-105495 along the GERMAN border. The 410th Inf (-) followed the

54/. WRJ, 18 March - Entries #23, 38, 50, 89, 96, 99, 109, 135, 151 and 152.

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advance of the other regiments and displaced forward to WINGEN 55/.

4. Along the 36th Division front, the enemy completely broke contact and troops advanced rapidly Northeast to the general line CLEEBOURG (R-1145) - RIEDESELTZ (R-1644) before resistance was again encountered. On the left, the 142d RCT moved to forward assembly areas East of GUNSTETT and attacked Northeast early in the day. Preceded by the 36th Cav Rcn Troop which reconnoitered roads in advance of foot elements, the 142d RCT with tank support swept unopposed through PREUSCHDORF (R-0438), MERKWILLER (R-0637), KUTZENHAUSEN (R-0837), LAMPERTSLOCH (R-0539), LOBSAMM (R-0840), BIRLENBACH (R-1041), DRACHENBRONN (R-1043), BREMELBACH (R-1143) and CLEEBOURG (R-1144). However in the vicinity of CLEEBOURG, minefields and abatis on roads were encountered and SP gun fire was received from woods to the Northwest. Leading elements reached R-11456 while patrol contact with the enemy was established at STEINSELTZ (R-1446). On the right, two columns of the 141st Inf converged on SURBOURG, finding that town and nearby SCHWABWILLER unoccupied. The regiment then assembled and moved Northeast through SOULTZ (R-1137), INCOLSHEIM (R-1441) and occupied RIEDESELTZ (R-1644), maintaining contact with CC "A" 14th Armd Division on the right. Just North of RIEDESELTZ an estimated enemy company employing small arms and artillery fire held up further advances late in the period. The 143d Inf nopped up in the GUNSTETT - MERKWILLER area and made no further advances 56/.

5. Having remained assembled North of HOCHFELDEN during 16 and 17 March, the 14th Armored Division jumped off to the attack before daylight, progressed East through the 36th Division sector and moved rapidly North on the right of the 36th Division, reaching points within sight of the GERMAN border without opposition. At 0340A, the lead column of Combat Command "A" (68th Armd Inf Bn with tank support) crossed the IP at RINGELDORF (Q-9025) and, moving via NERTZWILLER and GUNSTETT, advanced rapidly to the East through SURBOURG and NIEDERBETSCHDORF (R-1333) to NIEDERROEDERN (R-2234) where a bridge was installed and contact was made with the 3 DIA. Resuming its advance to the North, the column reached SALMBACH (R-2542) and patrols were sent East towards NIEDERLAUTERBACH (R-2641). The follow-up column of the 25th Tank Bn with infantry support was diverted to the North to provide a broader front and by the end of the day was reported at the outskirts of ALTENSTADT (R-1748). Although no resistance was encountered, the advance was occasionally delayed by blown bridges and road craters. After the 141st Inf had cleared the HAGUENAU - SURBOURG road, Combat Command "B" moved North and closed in a forward assembly area in the vicinity of REIMERSWILLER (R-1035) by 1800A 57/.

6. On the Corps right flank, the enemy completely disengaged and withdrew as the 3 DIA and attached CC 6, 5 DB raced North on the west side of the RHINE to within a mile of the GERMAN frontier before re-establishing contact, the advance being mainly impeded by mines and blown bridges. On the left, the 1 GIM moved North through the HAGUENAU Forest to NIEDERBETSCHDORF (R-1333) and HATTEN (R-1733), while on the right the main driving force, consisting of the 3 RTA and CC 6, advanced unopposed rapidly to the Northeast along the axis FORSTFELD (R-2229) - BEINHEIM (R-2529) - SELTZ (R-2733) - WINTZENBACH (R-2737). From WINTZENBACH the column fanned out and reached the southern edges of SALMBACH (R-2542), NIEDERLAUTERBACH (R-2641) and LAUTERBOURG (R-3242) where resistance developed from an apparent enemy outpost line. The most violent contact was made on the southern edge of LAUTERBOURG where heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire was received late in the period. Considerable resistance

55/. WRJ, 18 March - Entries #72, 80, 100, 111 and 141; WRJ, 19 March - Entry #2

56/. WRJ, 18 March - Entries #6, 7, 14, 21, 60, 78, 111, 128, 131, 139 and 146.

57/. WRJ, 18 March - Entries #66, 79 and 94.

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at OBERLAUTERBACH (R-2439) was overcome prior to the advance on SAIMBACH. The 4 RTT, 49 RI and 9 Zouaves took up defensive positions along the RHINE from a point Southeast of LAUTERBOURG to the VI Corps - II Corps (Fr) boundary in the vicinity of OFFENDORF (R-1312) 58/.

7. All close air support missions handled by the Corps Forward Controller were sent to alternate targets with the exception of one flight of 8 sorties which bombed the enemy-held town of FISCHBACH opposite the 42d Division zone. No enemy air action occurred during the period.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 94, 18 March, relieved the 72d AAA Gun Bn from VI Corps control effective 0001A 19 March 59/.

9. At 1100A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 51 was issued directing the 14th Armd Division to: (a) pass one CC and recon through elements of the 36th Division in the vicinity of SURBOURG and attack to seize LAUTERBOURG and crossings of the LAUTER River in that area (avoiding interference with 3 DIA); (b) Reconnoiter line of LAUTER River from WISSEMBOURG to LAUTERBOURG for crossing sites, prepared to exploit to the North in accordance with VI Corps Field Order No. 11, 11 March 1945; (c) move remainder of division via the HAGUENAU - SURBOURG road. Effective immediately, an operational boundary between the 36th Division and 14th Armd Division was established generally along the main railroad from SOULTZ to ALTENSTADT 60/.

19 March

1. Progress was slower along the VI Corps front on 19 March as units reached the SIEGFRIED Line defenses generally along the line LUDWIGSWINKEL to KAPSWEYER. By the close of the day, all divisions of VI Corps were fighting in GERMANY and all of ALSACE was in Allied hands. In view of the threat posed to the enemy's routes of withdrawal across the RHINE by the rapid advance of the Third U. S. Army South from the MOSELLE River, it was expected that the enemy would attempt to make a determined stand from SIEGFRIED Line positions along the VI Corps front in order to gain time to extricate his forces further West facing the U. S. XXI and XV Corps. Corps artillery fire increased during the period and several successful Air OP adjusted missions were executed on enemy personnel, vehicles, tanks and strongpoints. Most of the Corps artillery was displaced forward, making it possible for all battalions to fire well into GERMANY.

2. On the Corps west flank, the 42d Division continued to push Northeast against stiffening resistance which kept advances to a minimum. Forward installations of the SIEGFRIED Line were uncovered and appeared to be manned, supplemented by supporting mortar and artillery fire. On the left, the 242d Inf held high ground at Q-924547 and Q-936537 South of the FISCHBACH - EPPENBRUNN road throughout the period, and had only light contact with the enemy. In the center, elements of the 232d Inf seized two bridges over the SAAR River at Q-954541 and Q-965539, Northeast of LUDWIGSWINKEL (Q-9553), before daylight, the latter bridge being seized at 0500A after a sharp fight in which the enemy resisted stubbornly with automatic weapons and small arms fire. Company sized bridgeheads were quickly established and high ground 500 yards to the North was initially seized. However, SIEGFRIED Line defenses were immediately developed and heavy fighting occurred -- the enemy resisting fiercely

58/. WRJ, 18 March - Entries #14, 27, 70, 86, 125 and 150.

59/. Annex No. 10.

60/. Annex No. 9.

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with heavy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire from the bunkers, pillboxes and dug in positions on high ground generally North of LUDWIGSWINKEL to pin down the bridgehead force of the 232d Inf. An estimated company of enemy tanks operating along the draw between Hills 349 and 368 further harassed the bridgehead forces with heavy tank fire and limited counterattacks. Artillery fire directed by a cub Air OP succeeded in destroying two tanks in the vicinity of Q-955575 and dispersing the remainder. The enemy succeeded in destroying the bridge at Q-965539 with mortar fire after which the bridgehead force in that area withdrew South of the river to reorganize, having suffered considerable casualties. At the close of the period, one company remained North of the river in the vicinity of Q-954543. Other 232d Inf elements cleared PETERSBACHEL (Q-9752) and made a demonstration towards FISCHBACH, employing tanks, tank destroyers and smoke, in an effort to relieve the pressure on bridgehead elements, afterwards withdrawing to a general line Q-958528 - Q-978531. On the right, elements of the 222d Inf continued to hold positions along the valley Southeast from FISCHBACH to and including SCHONAU while the bulk of the regiment began assembling in NIEDERSTEINBACH. Considerable enemy artillery fire harassed troops in SCHONAU throughout the entire period. Elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sqn established contact with the 71st Division (XV Corps) on the left flank at Q-840501 late in the evening 61/.

3. Continuing to attack North, the 103d Division gained up to five kilometers against increasing resistance as troops encountered and attacked SIEGFRIED Line positions. Heavy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire from well camouflaged bunkers, pillboxes and dug in positions in the NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH - REISDORF (R-119547) area together with the rugged mountainous terrain made all advances costly and difficult. Heavy fighting raged throughout the period as the two attacking regiments probed for a weak spot in the vaunted SIEGFRIED Line. On the left, the 411th Inf attacked North at 0630A on the axis BOENTHAL - ERLINBACH (R-0957). Advancing against stiff resistance, elements reached the outskirts of NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH and then by-passed it to the Northwest and reached R-073542, while another force pushed up on high ground East of the Valley to R-090548. Unidentified aircraft bombed and strafed NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH, causing 14 Germans to abandon a nearby pillbox and surrender. Heavy fighting raged throughout the day, during which elements of the 4047 Volksturm Bn were identified, and numerous casualties were suffered by the 411th Inf, including two battalion commanders. On the right, the 409th Inf continued its attack on the axis R-1050 - REISDORF and progressed against heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire to a point just South of the latter town where resistance became so intense that the effort was turned to critical high ground East of REISDORF towards the close of the period. From the small prisoner take, the 52 GAF Bn was identified as once again opposing VI Corps. The 410th Inf remained in Division Reserve in the WINGEN area 62/.

4. The 36th Division with elements of two regiments pushed the attack hard to reach the SIEGFRIED defenses in the WISSEMBOURG Gap. Gains up to eight kilometers were made against light opposition but further advances met with considerably stiffened resistance as main SIEGFRIED Line positions were developed. On the division left flank, the 142d Inf attacked North on the axis CLEEBOURG - WISSEMBOURG (R-1547) - BERGZABERN (R-1956) and occupied ROTT (R-1247), OBERHOFEN (R-1346) and WISSEMBOURG without resistance, taking prisoners which identified the 58 Fortress MG Bn. Although all bridges over the LAUTER River were blown by the retreating enemy, infantry and light recon vehicles were able to cross with little difficulty and after four tanks or SP guns in the vicinity of R-159493 were dispersed by artillery fire, the advance progressed rapidly North to OBER

61/. WRJ, 19 March (Saverne CP) - Entries #12, 16, 17 and 31; (Morsbronn CP) - Entries #12, 19, 20, 28, 57, 70 and 71; WRJ, 20 March - Entry #3.

62/. WRJ, 19 March (Saverne CP) - Entries #11 and 32; (Morsbronn CP) - Entries #28, 46, 57 and 62.

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OTTENBACH (R-1752) where heavy small arms resistance supported by light and medium caliber artillery fire was encountered -- the town being finally cleared before midnight. Another column of the 142d Inf which had been deployed in the woods to the West of the main attacking force advanced without opposition to R-164527. On the right, the 141st RCT attacked North from RIEDESELTZ at 0630A, passed through ALTENSTADT and SCHWEIGHOFFEN which had been seized by the 14th Armd Division, and reached the points R-195515 and R-207517 where heavy small arms fire supported by SP gun fire was received from SIEGFRIED pillboxes and bunkers. The 143d Inf began assembling in WISSEMBOURG during the period 63/.

5. To the right of the 36th Division, in the 14th Armd Division sector, elements of CC "A" reached and crossed the LAUTER River in the vicinity of ALTENSTADT and Northeast of SCHLEITHAL against moderate opposition, but resistance stiffened towards the close of the period even though SIEGFRIED fortifications had not yet been developed. On the left, the 25th Tk Bn (Reinf) continued the attack on ALTENSTADT and cleared the town by 1100A after overcoming small arms, automatic weapons, bazooka, mortar and artillery fire and destroying one enemy SP gun. Four prisoners taken in this engagement were identified as being from the 405 AT Bn. The bridge over the LAUTER River in ALTENSTADT was found blown, but a nearby ford was located and filled in to allow tanks and infantry to cross until the main bridge could be reconstructed. After destroying two enemy AT guns in the vicinity, the 25th Tk Bn continued Northeast and entered SCHWEIGHOFEN (R-1949) against light resistance. In the division central sector, Task Force BLUE (1 Inf Co and 1 Tk Plat) cleared SCHLEITHAL (R-2243) and proceeded Northeast to establish a bridgehead over the LAUTER at R-238453 in mid-afternoon against no resistance and patrols ranged forward to R-250477 and R-229469. On the right, the 68th Armd Inf Bn (Reinf) cleared SALMBACH but attempts to cross the LAUTER to the Northeast were unsuccessful as the bridge at R-259435 was blown and the area heavily mined. Upon extension of the French scope of control West to include SALMBACH, effective at 1200A, the 68th Armd Inf Bn and 94th Cav Rcn Sqn moved to SCHWEIGHOFEN. CC "R" commenced movement from DETTWILLER (Q-8017) to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of ASCHBACH (R-1837) late in the period 64/.

6. On the Corps right flank in the 3 DIA sector, the enemy had withdrawn North of the LAUTER River and only light contact was made, although the advance was held up by blown bridges over the river. After clearing SALMBACH and NIEDERLAUTERBACH, elements of the 3 RTA attacked North over the Lauter River and seized the RJ at R-261438 in Germany against no opposition. On the right, elements of the 4 RTT and CC 6 5 DB seized and cleared SCHEIBENHARD (R-293423) and LAUTERBOURG without opposition, although some artillery and mortar fire was received. Late in the period, a small force of the 4 RTT crossed the river and occupied the GERMAN town of SCHEIBENHARDT (R-295426) without contacting the enemy. The 49 RI and 9 Zouaves continued to hold the west bank of the RHINE. Effective at 1800A, Groupement MONSABERT, consisting of the 3 DIA and 5 DB reinforced, was attached to VI Corps for operations only and began relief of 14th Armd Division elements in zone as the French sector had been extended West to include SALMBACH at 1200A 65/.

7. The 102d Cavalry Group, with 38th Cav Rcn Sq attached, closed in a forward assembly area in the vicinity of NIEDERBRONN at 2000A.

8. The VI Corps Command Post closed in SAVERNE (Q-7215) and opened at

63/. WRJ, 19 March (Saverne CP) - Entries #15 and 16; (Morsbronn CP) - Entries #8, 28, 49, 58 and 69; WRJ, 20 March - Entry #2.

64/. WRJ, 19 March (Saverne CP) - Entry #24; (Morsbronn CP) - Entries #3, 7, 15, 18, 19, 52, 57 and 61.

65/. WRJ, 19 March (Saverne CP) - Entries #18 and 19; (Morsbronn CP) - Entries 50 and 84.

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R-009341, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometer North of MORSENON LES BAINS (R-005335) at 1100A 19 March.

9. The XII TAC flew 13 missions of 99 sorties in close support of VI Corps. 47 tons of bombs were dropped on a number of towns, tank concentrations, motor transport and a trainload of tanks with good results; all targets were also strafed. Hostile air activity was again non-existent.

10. In accordance with Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 97 of this date Groupement MONSABERT (comprised of the 3d Algerian Infantry Division (Fr) (DIA) and 5th French Armored Division (DB) reinforced with TD, FA and AAA AW Bns and necessary Engrs and supporting troops) was attached to VI Corps at 1800A. This attachment would continue in effect until Seventh Army advanced as far as the ERIEN River at which time the Groupement would revert to First French Army control. The O.I. also directed that VI Corps would be responsible for the defense of the RHINE North of DRUSENHEIM (excl) until Groupement MONSABERT reverted to control of the First French Army 66/.

11. At 1500A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 52 was issued directing: (a) the 42d Division to continue attack in the direction ANNWEILER (R-1667) - SPEYER (R-5280), prepared to capture NEUSTADT (R-2983) and secure RHINE River crossings in the SPEYER area; (b) the 103d Division to continue attack on axis BOBENTHAL - LANDAU, capturing LANDAU and securing RHINE River crossings in the vicinity of GERMERSHEIM (R-4669); (c) the 36th Division, after capturing BERGZABERN (R-1956), to continue attack on axis BERGZABERN - RULZHEIM (R-4062), turning SIEGFRIED Line positions, and securing RHINE River crossings in the LEIMERSHEIM (R-4458) area; (d) the 14th Armd Division (-) to reconnoiter aggressively for breaches in the SIEGFRIED Line in zone; maintain contact with 36th Division on the left and Groupement MONSABERT on the right; be prepared on Corps order to pass through SIEGFRIED Line and attack North and Northeast, prepared to seize RHINE River crossings as directed, particularly in the GERMERSHEIM area; (e) Groupement MONSABERT to relieve 14th Armd Division elements in sector; attack in direction of KANDEL (R-3353), destroying enemy South of the ERIEN River and seizing RHINE River crossings in zone; protect the Corps right (E) flank along the RHINE River; (f) the 102d Cav Gp to be prepared on Corps order to operate on the Corps front with attachments to be announced; (g) "X" Division (4th Infantry Division) to be prepared on Corps order to attack in direction NEUSTADT - LUDWIGSHAFEN (R-5098), or as Corps reserve to pass through any division for exploitation 67/.

20 March

1. With the exception of the 42d Division which regrouped South of the SAAR River during the period, VI Corps troops continued to press forward in the SIEGFRIED positions throughout 20 March and made only limited gains, as determined enemy forces resisted with heavy fire from all weapons. Corps artillery continued to support the attack and fired numerous observed and unobserved missions.

2. On the Corps left flank, the 42d Division temporarily halted its offensive action and paused to regroup before continuing the attack -- enemy resistance decreasing proportionately -- and the division front was relatively quiet throughout the period. In the center, the company-sized 232d Inf bridgehead over the SAAR River was subjected to a counterattack at 0430A. After heavy

66/. Annex No. 10.

67/. Annex No. 9

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fighting, the enemy was repulsed although two of the three pillboxes held by our forces were relinquished. Shortly after this engagement, the bridgehead force withdrew to areas South of the river where the regiment reorganized and took over the outpost line in the vicinity of Q-935535 from elements of the 242d Inf on the left, and relieved 222d Inf elements holding positions in the vicinity of Q-960532 on the right. After all reliefs were completed, the 232d Inf was outposting the general line Q-933542 - Q-970538 - Q-975533 - Q-990536 - R-008528 - R-030537, while the 242d and 222d Infs assembled and reorganized in the vicinity of Q-9153 and Q-9552, respectively. After dark, aggressive combat and recon patrols were dispatched by the 232d Inf to determine whether the enemy had intentions of counterattacking or withdrawing. Patrols drew fire from alert outposts and found the enemy line strongly held. There were no indications of an enemy withdrawal except at FISCHBACH where a bridge was blown and considerable vehicular movement heard. Three enemy patrols of 5, 11 and 25 men infiltrated 232d Inf positions in the area South of FISCHBACH before they were forced to withdraw. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq maintained contact with elements of XV Corps on the left and found EPPENERUNN (Q-8757) clear of the enemy 68/.

3. The 103d Division remained heavily engaged in the NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH - REISDORF area and made only limited gains as the enemy defended stubbornly with small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire from SIEGFRIED line pillboxes and bunkers supported by artillery fire. On the left, the 411th Inf attacked and seized NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH in the morning after bitter fighting in which six pillboxes were destroyed and 17 prisoners from the 87 GR and Festungs AT Group XVIII taken. However, the enemy continued to engage any observed movement with small arms and automatic weapons fire from dug in positions on commanding high ground to the North. Following a heavy air and artillery bombardment on Hill 372 (R-075549), elements of the 411th Inf renewed the attack and reached positions at R-078547 after encountering mines, barbed wire entanglements and more pillboxes. Another 411th Inf column pressed the attack vigorously throughout the day and secured positions in the vicinity of R-112558. Contact was made with the 42d Division on the left at NOTHWEILER (R-045523). On the right, the 409th Inf pressed the attack North to encounter particularly stubborn opposition at the outskirts of REISDORF which prevented troops from entering the town. However, high ground to the West and East of REISDORF was seized despite strong resistance from pillboxes and dug in positions supported by artillery fire, three pillboxes being destroyed during the day, and by the close of the period the advance had been carried to R-114553 and R-125545 with combat patrols penetrating 200 yards North of the REISDORF - BOLLENBORN (R-146555) road. During the day's heavy fighting, the 409th Inf suffered approximately 75 casualties. The 410th Inf remained assembled in Division Reserve 69/.

4. The 36th Division remained in heavy contact with SIEGFRIED line defenses in the WISSEMBOURG Gap and made little progress against stubborn opposition. On the division left flank, the 142d Inf attacked North from OBER OTTERBACH but heavy mortar, machine gun and small arms fire from SIEGFRIED pillboxes and bunkers supported by intense artillery and nebelwerfer fire prevented progress. However, elements which had been committed further West advanced over the hilly wooded terrain without contact until striking entrenched positions in the vicinity of R-149534 where the enemy offered moderate opposition before being overrun. By the close of the period, high ground in the vicinity of R-154537 had been occupied and secured. On the right, the 141st Inf continued to

68/. WRJ, 20 March - Entries #5, 39, 45, 84 and 93; WRJ, 21 March - Entries #13 and 18.

69/. WRJ, 20 March - Entries #31, 34, 35, 37, 54, 56, 88 and 101.

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probe the SIEGFRIED Line defenses in the general area North of KAPSWEYER but encountered heavy machine gun fire from pillboxes and made only limited local gains. After dark, the enemy reacted to a simulated attack with flares and small arms fire from the vicinity of R-193528. At the close of the period, the most advanced positions were held at R-195515, R-211518, R-207514 and R-210503, with all elements being in heavy contact with the enemy. The 143d Inf remained assembled in the WISSELBOURG area as Division Reserve 70/.

5. In the 14th Armd Division sector elements of CC "A" attacked Northeast from SCHWEIGHOFEN, finding KAPSWEYER (R-21149) clear of the enemy but further advances towards STEINFELD (R-2250) made contact with SIEGFRIED Line pillboxes and defenses and drew intense small arms, automatic weapons, machine gun, mortar, mixed artillery and nebelwerfer fire which halted forward movement. One tank was lost to enemy AT fire. Preceded by a heavy and accurate artillery preparation on STEINFELD at 1430A, elements of CC "A" renewed the attack and after several pillboxes in the vicinity were destroyed by tank fire and a 10-12 foot gap blown in the dragons teeth at R-216503, secured a hold on the western portion of the town. No further progress could be made due to heavy fire from a revolving turret in a large steel pillbox which artillery and tank fire was unable to reduce. The 68th Armd Inf Bn continued to probe SIEGFRIED defenses inside the first band of dragons teeth, while on the right patrols operating in the BIEN WALD South of STEINFELD encountered extensive engineer obstacles on all roads and some of them were covered by fire. CC "R" closed in the ASCHBACH area during the period and was attached to CC "A" at 2000A, while CC "B" closed in the SIEGEN (R-2239) area 71/.

6. On the Corps right flank, Groupement MONSABERT pushed additional elements over the LAUTER River into GERMANY and gained up to three kilometers to the North against stiffening resistance. On the left, an armored column of CC 6 5 DB followed by elements of the 3 RTA passed through positions of the 4 RTT North of SCHEIBENHARDT and attacked through the BIEN WALD towards BUCHELBERG (R-3247). The advance progressed to the edge of the woods at R-317462 where obstacles and heavy artillery fire restricted further gains. On the right, elements of the 4 RTT and the main column of CC 6 attacked across the river, occupied NEU LAUTERBURG (R-327425) without opposition and continued Northeast to BERG (R-3443) which was captured by late afternoon after several hours of heavy street fighting. Night patrols operating towards NEUBURG (R-3743) found the area flooded and drew heavy enemy fire. Elements of the 9 Zouaves, after being relieved South of DRUSENHEIM by the 9 DIC, moved North and took up positions along the RHINE River between SELTZ and LAUTERBOURG 72/.

7. In accordance with Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 98 of 19 March, the 4th Infantry Division (with attached 70th Tank Bn, 610th TD Bn and 377th AAA AW Bn) was attached to VI Corps at 0600A 20 March and closed in the HAGUENAU - PFAFFENHOFFEN - HOCHFELDEN area at approximately 2100A 73/.

8. Seventeen missions of 136 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by the XII TAC. 68 tons of bombs were dropped on enemy troop concentrations, gun positions, rail movements, pillboxes and motor transport. Heavy damage was inflicted, more than 40 vehicles being destroyed in the LANDAU area alone; in addition, all targets were strafed. No enemy aircraft were observed over the VI Corps zone during the period.

70/. WRJ, 20 March - Entries #15, 33, 42, 54, 73, 88 and 101.

71/. WRJ, 20 March - Entries #22, 33, 44, 54, 55, 69, 82 and 101.

72/. WRJ, 20 March - Entries #29, 67, 70 and 101

73/. Annex No. 10.

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9. At 1200A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 54 was issued, designating the HAGUENAU - HOCHFELDEN - PFAFFENHOFEN area for assembly of the 4th Infantry Division 74/.

21 March

1. VI Corps troops continued to maintain heavy pressure along the front on 21 March and made only local gains in the SIEGFRIED Line. The enemy resisted stubbornly from his fortified positions and heavy fighting raged undiminished throughout the day except on the Corps left flank where the 42d Division attacked North at 1915A after a heavy air and artillery preparation and met only light opposition indicating the enemy had apparently initiated his withdrawal from this area. The activity of the Corps artillery increased sharply with the slowing of our advance on encountering the SIEGFRIED Line. Very active counterbattery and harassing programs were carried out. During the afternoon, a harassing program was initiated on the KARLSRUHE bridge (R-4148), interdicting the approaches to the bridge with 300 rounds per hour.

2. The 42d Division sector remained generally quiet as preparations were made to continue the offensive which jumped off later in the period. The 117th Cav Rcn Sqn and 232d Inf continued to outpost the line South of the SAAR River while the 222d and 242d Infs regrouped preparatory to renewing the attack to the North. Forward elements of the 232d Inf received sporadic artillery, mortar and small arms fire throughout the day while patrols contacted the enemy at several places Northwest and Northeast of LUDWIGSWINKEL generally along the main East - West road. A 200-yard long column of enemy infantry was observed moving Northeast out of FISCHBACH at 0945A and dispersed by artillery fire. A deserter taken by the 117th Cav at Q-9056 on the left flank stated that infantry forces were to withdraw back across the RHINE commencing 1200A and his unit (Fortress Bn) was to follow at night. Following an aerial bombardment and artillery preparation, the 222d Inf attacked North from the LUDWIGSWINKEL area with two battalions abreast at 1945A. Finding the first line of pillboxes unoccupied, the 222d Inf pressed North against very little resistance consisting only of light small arms and machine gun fire from rear guards and seized Hills 349 (Q-945555), 368 (Q-965558) and 342 (Q-973548). Late in the period, the reserve battalion passed through and occupied Hill 387 (Q-963567), meeting only light small arms fire. From all indications, it was apparent that the enemy had instituted a withdrawal in this zone; only three prisoners were taken during the period 75/.

3. For the third consecutive day, the 103d Division remained heavily engaged in the NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH - REISDORF area as efforts to breach the SIEGFRIED Line met exceptionally stubborn opposition and unusually heavy mortar concentrations which inflicted severe casualties and limited gains to a bare minimum. On the left, elements of the 411th Inf with tank support continued attacking North from NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH despite heavy fire from enemy in defiladed positions on wooded high ground to the West and East of the road and reached a line R-083555 - R-087557. The enemy exacted a heavy toll of casualties throughout this advance, one company being cut down to 41 men after striking machine gun fire from the front, both flanks and rear. Other elements of the 411th Inf cleared and held positions on the wooded high ground to the East and West of NIEDERSCHLETTENBACH, the latter area yielding 47 prisoners and three medium caliber artillery pieces. On the right, elements of the 409th Inf (with

74/. Annex No. 9.

75/. WRJ, 21 March - Entries #30, 58, 69, 92, 96, 109 and 110.

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3d Bn 411th Inf attached) attacked REISDORF from the East and West. Forces that emerged from woods to the East were met with a withering concentration of mortar and artillery fire that inflicted heavy casualties and caused a withdrawal back into the woods while the column attacking from the West encountered an overturned tank, road blocks and mines -- all covered by AT and machine gun fire -- which stopped the advance. Part of this force then assembled in the vicinity of R-1153 and was motorized to exploit any breakthrough towards BERGZABERN (R-1955), while the 3d Bn 411th Inf took up positions at R-107543 to protect the regimental left flank. By the close of the period, elements of the 409th Inf and attached 761st Tank Bn had entered the edge of REISDORF and were in heavy contact with the enemy. Another attacking force of the 409th Inf advanced North with the mission of cutting the REISDORF - BOLLENBORN road in the vicinity of R-125548 but was stopped short of the objective by intense mortar concentrations and automatic weapons fire. The 410th Inf moved forward to an assembly area at BOBENTHAL, prepared to relieve the 411th Inf and continue the attack on 22 March. An estimated 50-55 enemy vehicles, moving in separate groups, were observed moving East from VORD WEIDENHAL (R-1059) by an Air OP which directed artillery fire on the column; at least 15 vehicles were destroyed and many more were probably damaged 76/.

4. The 36th Division maintained pressure on SIEGFRIED Line defenses in the WISSEMBOURG Gap as attempts were renewed to breach the line against stubborn opposition. On the left, elements of the 142d Inf were relieved in OBER OTTERBACH by the AT Co (Reinf) and sideslipped to the West to join the remainder of the regiment attacking towards DORRENBACH (R-1654). The 1st Bn 143d Inf moved up from WISSEMBOURG to add additional weight to the attack and heavy fighting raged throughout the day as the advance progressed slowly Northeast over difficult and roadless mountain terrain, with supplies being brought forward by hand carry methods. As DORRENBACH was neared, considerable small arms and heavy nebelwerfer fire was received, but the town was entered and cleared by the close of the period. In the general area West and Northwest of OBER OTTERBACH 14 pillboxes were reduced (4 being taken intact without crews) against stiff opposition from small arms and pre-registered mortar fire and 60 prisoners were taken. On the right, the 141st Inf continued to probe the SIEGFRIED Line positions against very stiff resistance and with little change in positions being reported during the day. In the morning, light SP gun and rocket fire was received, supplanted in the afternoon by a substantial amount of artillery fire. Patrols to the front found all pillboxes manned in this area. The 143d Inf (-1st Bn) remained assembled in WISSEMBOURG but late in the period elements commenced movement to DORRENBACH 77/.

5. In the 14th Arm Division zone, further attempts to breach the SIEGFRIED Line met with heavy and stubborn opposition which limited gains to a bare minimum. CC "A" together with CC "R" which had moved up during the night renewed the attack on STEINFELD at 0500A after Engineers blew a new 12-foot gap in the dragons teeth through which the attacking columns poured. The enemy employed intense artillery and nebelwerfer fire from 0600A to 0900A in a vain attempt to disorganize the attack. After two-thirds of the town had been occupied in the course of heavy fighting, the enemy launched three counterattacks of estimated company strength from the North and Northeast, all of which were contained by evening. Thereafter, small arms and automatic weapons fire continued to be encountered from several pillboxes on the eastern edge of town. Prisoners taken in STEINFELD identified the Fortress Bn XVIII and Bn WAGNER. On the right, CC "B" maintained a recon screen in the BIEN WALD after moving forward from the SIEGEN area, while patrols of the 94th Cav Recon Sqn pressed towards SCHAIDT (R-2551) from the South along a general line

76/. WRJ, 21 March - Entries #48, 65, 90, 94 and 101.

77/. WRJ, 21 March - Entries #24, 39, 41, 58, 67, 90 and 106.

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R-240492 - R-256485, encountering considerable abatis and mines on the roads.
78/.

6. In the Groupement MONSABERT sector on the Corps right flank, the 3 DIA with elements of CC 6 5 DB renewed the attack to the North through the BIEN WALD and made firm contact with SIEGFRIED positions along the entire front. Probing actions encountered very stiff resistance, especially in the area West of BUCHELBERG, where heavy automatic weapons, mortar, AT and SP gun fire in addition to numerous defended road blocks and minefields, limited gains. In one engagement in the vicinity of Hill 136 (R-256485) approximately 40 casualties were sustained by elements of the 1 GDM from mines, mortar and infantry fire. At the close of the period, elements of the 1 GDM, 3 RTA and 4 RTT held the forward positions along a general line R-256485 - R-280487 - R-292448 - R-316454 - R-329456 - BERG, being in firm contact with the enemy, and repulsed a small counterattack Southwest of BUCHELBERG. The 5 RIM closed in the area and took up defensive positions along the RHINE River from MOTHEREN (R-3037) to ROESCHWOOG (R-2125), while the 49 RI relieved the 9 Zouaves in zone and held the remainder of the RHINE front extending South to the VI Corps - II Corps (Fr) boundary in the vicinity of DALHUNDEN 79/.

7. Seven missions of 64 sorties were flown in close support of VI Corps by the XII TAC. More than 24 tons of bombs and 16 750-lb fire bombs were dropped on enemy strongpoints, motor transport, rail movements, barge traffic and the bridge at SPEYER. Results were generally unobserved, but it was believed that heavy damage was inflicted and the bridge at SPEYER received two hits with 500-lb bombs. There was no hostile air activity.

8. In accordance with instructions from Hq Seventh Army to formulate and submit a plan for crossing the RHINE in the MANNHEIM - KARLSRUHE area (FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY), Outline Plan Operation UNDERTONE ALTERNATE was submitted on 21 March. The general scope was as follows: VI Corps crosses the RHINE River with two infantry divisions abreast on D day H hour at SPEYER and GERMERSHEIM, establishes initial bridgehead, expands bridgehead to NECKAR and ENZ Rivers, and prepares to continue advance to East or to be passed through by other elements of the 7th Army. (Note: The above plan was never placed into operation - the XV U.S. Corps subsequently making the assault crossing of the RHINE River). 80/.

9. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 101, dated 21 March, was received directing the VI Corps to continue to exert maximum pressure on the enemy in zone 81/.

10. At 1400A, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 55 was issued directing: (a) the 14th Armd Division to continue present mission; be prepared on Corps order to move one normal Combat Command on 3 hours notice via WISSEMBOURG - REISDORF - BERGZABERN or WISSEMBOURG - BERGZABERN, to attack North and Northeast to seize RHINE River crossings in the vicinity of GERMERSHEIM (R-4669); (b) the 4th Division to be prepared on Corps order to move one RCT (mtz) on 3 hours notice to the North or Northeast of WISSEMBOURG to exploit a breach in the SIEGFRIED Line, with the remainder of the Division being prepared to follow immediately 82/.

78/. WRJ, 21 March - Entries #9, 17, 38, 43, 46 and 58.

79/. WRJ, 21 March - Entries #68, 89 and 105.

80/. Annex No. 16.

81/. Annex No. 10.

82/. Annex No. 9.

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11. Later in the period, VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 56 was issued directing: (a) the 103d Division to continue present mission, having a new left boundary running to the left of the main highway generally from BORNHEIM (R-1169) - WEINGARTEN (R-4073) thence to the RHINE River in the vicinity of R-4872, effective 22 March; (b) the 42d Division to continue present mission and destroy enemy in zone, maintaining contact with XXI Corps on the left; upon being pinched out, be prepared on Corps order to assemble Southwest of LANDAU in Corps Reserve, prepared on Corps order to pass the following troops to control of the 102d Cav Group: 117th Cav Recon Sq, 69th Armd PA Bn, 1 Inf Bn (Mtz) and 1 Co 692d TD Bn; (c) the 102d Cav Group, with units attached from the 42d Division, to be prepared on Corps order to relieve units along the RHINE River in zone (from vicinity of R-4872 North to and including SPEYER). The O.I. also directed that VI Corps units would not pass North of Line "X" (an East - West line generally along the 66 Northing from WERNERSBERG (R-1466) - LANDAU - RHINE River) until further orders 83/.

22 March

1. The initial penetration of the SIEGFRIED Line completed, VI Corps units along the Left half of the Corps sector drove through the wooded areas generally North of the SAAR and LAUTER Rivers during 22 March against diminishing resistance as enemy forces continued their withdrawal northward. Secondary SIEGFRIED defenses were relatively lightly held in the 42d Division sector, and elements advanced against scattered enemy resistance to the high ground North of DAWN (R-0861) by the close of the period. Strong resistance North of NIEDER SCHLETTENBACH (R-0854) and WEISDORF (R-1154) was overcome by the 103d Division and the enemy escape route at BIRKENHOFDT (R-1457) was cut with the capture of the town. Considerable resistance continued in SIEGFRIED positions on the high ground Northwest of OBER OTTERBACH (R-1852) but steady pressure by the 36th Division forced enemy troops to withdraw to BEROZABERN where 143d Inf elements were heavily engaged on the outskirts of the town at the close of the period. The 14th Armd Division cleared STEINFELD during the morning but was halted by road blocks and pillboxes Northeast of the town. On the Corps right flank only local gains were made as French units of Groupement MONSABERT encountered extensive mine fields and strongly defended enemy SIEGFRIED positions in the BIEN WALD area. Engineer units constructed ten bridges during the period while Corps Artillery continued to fire steady missions in support of division operations. 374 PWs were captured by VI Corps units during the period, majority coming from the 16 VG, 36 VG and 905 Inf Divisions although five other divisions and numerous smaller separate units were identified.

2. In the 42d Division sector the 222d Inf continued its attack Northeast from positions North of the SAAR River against slight hostile small arms fire, clearing out the valleys in its line of advance. By 1730A regimental elements had reached a line between Q-955575 and Q-955586 and as the period ended this advance had reached the vicinity of Q-9960. The 242d Jumped off from positions South of the SAAR River at 0430A moving North and by noon had reached the first line of SIEGFRIED fortifications against light enemy resistance and scattered machine gun fire from pillboxes. Progress over the hills was greatly impeded by passive defenses in the way of heavily mined roads and road blocks. However by mid-afternoon elements of the 242d and 222d Infs occupied pillboxes on the secondary SIEGFRIED defense line vicinity of Q-940585 - Q-970585; these particular pillboxes were empty and appeared to have been unoccupied for some time. Engineers who had been moving up with infantry troops, de-mining roads and destroying road blocks, proceeded to blow up these pillboxes. Roads to the right

83/. Annex No. 9.

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of the main line of defense at Q-9558 were heavily mined but finally cleared and recon elements of the 48th Tk Bn (-) reached SALZWOOG (Q-990635) by 1730A when main armored elements were able to break loose into strong offensive action. The bridge at R-009641 was seized intact and then the armored column turned South towards DAHN (R-0361) and took another bridge at R-010632 before proceeding South to capture DAHN and BUSENBERG (R-0659), encountering only light resistance. A total of 350 prisoners were taken in SALZWOOG and DAHN, the majority from the 719 Inf Division which was three miles behind the tail of the main column that was withdrawing toward LANDAU and the RHINE River. Units of the 242d followed along in the wake of the 48th Tk Bn's dash and closed on the regimental objective at R-030630 by 2130A and consolidated positions for the night. The 232d Inf assembled early in the period after having outposted the SAAR River line. The 1st Bn cleared and occupied RUMBACH (R-0355) while the remainder of the regiment continued North against scattered opposition to reach positions South of DAHN in the vicinity of R-030606 and R-035596. The 1st Bn closed on its objective R-038553, having cleared BRUCHWEILER and SCHINDHARD on its northerly drive; by the end of the period battalion elements had closed on their objectives vicinity of R-048608 and R-060601. Division progress was hindered more from passive defenses such as mines and roadblocks than from enemy infantry resistance. 500 PWs were taken in the 242d Inf and 48th Tk Bn (-) zone during the period 84/.

3. The 103d Division continued to meet organized enemy resistance which retarded the progress of 410th and 409th Infs during the day until mid-afternoon. The 410th Inf relieved the 411th Inf less one battalion by 0510A and proceeded to attack North along the left side of the division sector against stiff resistance from SIEGFRIED positions. 410th elements encountered heavy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire from pillboxes. By noon elements were reported one kilometer North of NIEDER SCHLIETTENBACH (R-0854) but these same troops had advanced barely a quarter of a mile by 1630A to R-088563 where eight pillboxes were knocked out on the level ground just South of ERLLENBACH. One column bypassed ERLLENBACH to the West and before dark had established a road block across an enemy escape route North of the town at R-095575. By evening enemy defenses collapsed and only small isolated groups opposed the attack to the North and Northeast and ERLLENBACH was cleared by dark. By the end of the period the enemy resistance was limited to small arms, automatic weapons and machine gun fire from scattered and disorganized groups. 409th Inf elements on the right of the division sector jumped off at 0615A moving North against REISDORF. In the initial phases of the advance enemy forces offered strong resistance but withdrew under pressure of our troops. The main column moving on REISDORF was reported a mile North of the town by 1100A and working straight North on an improved road toward BIRKENHORDT. At R-125562 the forward movement of the regiment was temporarily halted by an anti-tank ditch covered by small arms fire while other elements were held up on the outskirts of BOLLENBORN by a roadblock on the west side of town about 1455A. By 1630A the regiment was fighting in BIRKENHORDT and by 1715A had taken the town; and pushed Northwest on the BIRKENHORDT (R-1457) - VORD WALDENTHAL (R-1058) road to the Road Junction at R-124585, then proceeded Northeast and entered SILZ (R-1560). At the close of the period our troops encountered decreasing resistance as they advanced East toward KLINGENMUNSTER (R-2060) in an effort to contact the 10th Armd Division and cut off one of the enemy's main escape routes to LANDAU and the RHINE 85/.

4. The 36th Division continued to attack Northeast, against stubborn re-

84/. WRJ, 22 March - Entries #9, 10, 11, 26, 47, 51, 55, 99, 101, 121 and 125;
WRJ, 23 March - Entries #13 and 16.

85/. WRJ, 22 March - Entries #11, 20, 37, 47, 56, 67, 73, 82, 97, 99, 103, 107,
112, 120 and 127.

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sistance from SIEGFRIED positions on the high ground Northwest of OBER OTTERBACH, in the direction of BERGZABERN. The 142d and 143d Infs cleaned out the town of DORRENBACH early in the period and elements of the 143d continued to mop up enemy groups North of the town against mortar and sniper fire during the rest of the morning. The 3d Bn 143d Inf on the division left flank attacked pillboxes at R-138545 against heavy automatic weapons and artillery fire and on clearing out these obstacles the column proceeded along the road South of BOLLENBORN and by 1630A was moving on BERGZABERN at R-170559 where they were engaged and halted at an enemy road block (R-174560). Remaining elements of the 143d attacked Northeast from DORRENBACH and R-179559 about mid-afternoon and had cut the West highway into BERGZABERN at R-179559 by 1630A and had reached the Southwest edge of the town by dusk. At the close of the period heavy fighting was still going on in the outskirts of the town. 142d Inf elements continued to clear up pillboxes in SIEGFRIED line positions at R-158531 and R-144540 on Hills 412 and 489, South and West of DORRENBACH until late in the afternoon when the regiment regrouped on a line from R-154538 along the road, to R-169527 and the vicinity of DORRENBACH proper. 141st Inf units in the vicinity of SCHWEIGHOFEN moved westward to take up positions in SCHWEIGEN and RECHTENBACH on the main WISSEMBOURG - BERGZABERN highway by noon. 141st Inf elements Northwest of OBER OTTERBACH overran enemy troops in a camp at R-168539 during the afternoon taking 50 PWs and at the same time other elements continued to mop up enemy pillboxes at R-168532. By 1430A this column took positions paralleling the highway along the edge of the woods between the 53d and 54th Northings on the 17th Easting. By 2130A the regrouping followed a line R-169539 - R-172533 and the high ground immediately West of this line preparatory to advancing Northeast in support of the 143d Inf attack on BERGZABERN. 200 pill boxes were destroyed by 36th Division in the course of the period 86/.

5. Elements of CC "A" 14th Armd Division remained in heavy contact with SIEGFRIED defenses as they continued to drive Northeast to STEINFELD (R-2250). Following the repair of a road bridge and demolition of dragons teeth on the attack route during the night, the 68 AIB jumped off at 0530A and attacked through the 62d AIB to clear STEINFELD by 1045A after eliminating stubborn resistance from pillboxes on the east end of town and heavy artillery fire. While infantry elements reorganized in STEINFELD preliminary to continuing the attack Northeast to SCHAIDT with the 25th Tk Bn later in the day, patrols proceeded to reconnoiter the approaches to SCHAIDT through the BIEN WALD area. Many road blocks and extensive minefields were encountered, usually covered by small arms and machine gun fire. One patrol reached the crossroad at R-255484 and was halted by small arms, automatic weapons and artillery fire at a formidable road block (R-255488) just North of the crossroads consisting of a large crater reinforced by a steel cable stretched between I-beams on either side of the road backed up by felled trees. During the afternoon, the 25th Tk Bn (-) proceeded to attack Northeast from STEINFELD but was stopped short by dragons teeth and anti-tank ditches under covering fire from pillboxes. The former had to be destroyed and the latter filled to clear a way for armored operations Northeast. Tanks of the 25th Bn neutralized pillboxes by direct fire as they advanced against heavy self-propelled gun and artillery fire losing two tanks in the course of these operations. By the close of the period forward elements had reached the western outskirts of SCHAIDT and points in the woods at the edge of the clearing South of town. Preparations were completed by CC "A" at the close of the period for a co-ordinated attack against SCHAIDT at 0500A the next morning, while CC "B" was on a one-hour alert status prepared to move via WISSEMBOURG, REISDORF, BIRKENHORDT, SILZ and KLINGENMUNSTER to exploit a

86/. WRJ, 22 March - Entries #11, 28, 47, 52, 64, 80, 81, 99, 108 and 126.

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breakthrough to the RHINE in the 103d Division sector. CC "R" remained assembled in SCHWEIGHOFEN as the period closed. 72 enemy prisoners were taken during the period by 14th Armd Division units 87/.

6. Activity of Groupement MONSABERT was limited to minor local gains in the BIEN WALD while close contact was maintained across the division fronts throughout the period along a line generally from R-255489 - R-296466 - R-327456 - R-347436 to the RHINE. Numerous enemy patrols were encountered during the night in the Southwest edges of BUCHELBERG clearing while the heavy enemy artillery fire of the night tapered off to harassing missions on outposts at scattered points along the division front during the day. Advancing elements of the 1 GTM, 3 RTA and the 4 RTT met heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy patrols and pillboxes in the SIEGFRIED Line area as well as extensive minefields and booby traps. The 49th Inf and 5 RTM continued to maintain positions along the RHINE River from DRUSENHEIM (R-170180) to LAUTERBOURG (R-3340) on the Corps right flank. Enemy patrols made several unsuccessful attempts to infiltrate French lines during the period 88/.

7. The 4th Division remained in its assembly area Southwest of HAGUENAU, carrying on training and maintenance programs, in Corps reserve. The 102d Cav Group remained assembled at NIEDERBRONN (Q-9338).

8. Twenty two missions of 189 sorties were flown by XII TAC in close support of VI Corps, bombing and strafing towns, barges, motor and rail transport, fortified positions and a bridge at SPEYER with good results. No engagements with enemy aircraft were reported during the period.

9. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 103 was received indicating that the VI Corps left boundary was changed to a line East of SIEBELDINGEN - LANDAU - SCHWEGENHELM and SPEYER and that the 4th Division in VI Corps reserve was to be committed only on authority of Hq Seventh Army 89/.

10. Operations Instruction No. 57 was issued at 1300A, directing: (a) Corps Artillery move the 630th TD Bn to SAVERNE on 23 March unit to revert to Seventh Army control; (b) that the 72d AAA Gun Bn be relieved of attachment to 35th AAA Brig and VI Corps and revert to control of Seventh Army effective at 190001A March, and the 377th AAA AF Bn be attached for operations in support of the 4th Division; (c) that the 1st Platoon Co B 692d TD Bn be relieved from the 42d Division and attached to 14th Armd Division for operations 90/.

23 March

1. Organized resistance ceased on 23 March except on the Corps right flank in the BIEN WALD area where close contact still continued between French and enemy forces. However during the afternoon there were evidences that the enemy was disengaging even in this area, particularly in the vicinity of BUCHELBERG. Principal resistance occurred along the 14th Armd Division line of advance in SCHAIDT and FRECKENFELD where the enemy offered a stubborn delaying action with tanks and AT gun fire until late in the afternoon. Enemy resistance elsewhere was limited to scattered groups which were mopped up in the

87/. WRJ, 22 March - Entries #11, 32, 38, 44, 54, 72, 110, 113 and 128; WRJ, 23 March - Entries #12 and 16.

88/. WRJ, 22 March - Entries #18, 27, 45, 77, 99 and 129.

89/. Annex No. 10.

90/. Annex No. 9.

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separate division sectors. Approximately 4400 PWs and considerable materiel were captured as advancing VI Corps units sealed off highway escape routes to the RHINE. The 103d and 36th Division with CC "B" of 14th Armd Division stood poised for the final drive to the RHINE as the period closed.

2. No organized enemy resistance was encountered by the 42d Division during the period as mopping up operations continued. Isolated pockets of enemy infantry continued to surrender throughout the day. Division units completed clearing their sectors and then proceeded to assembly areas in the small towns around DAHN. The 222d Inf closed on its objective vicinity of DAHN early in the period and moved to ERFWEILER (R-0562); the 232d completed clearing out the RUMBACH, BRUCHWEILER, SCHINDHARD areas and assembled vicinity of OBER SCHLETTENBACH (R-1060). Bridges taken by the 48th Tk Bn the previous day at R-008642 and R-011632 were secured by the 242d Inf which closed in areas at SCHWANHEIM (R-1063), DIMBACH (R-1163) and LUG (R-1164). The 48th Tk Bn (-) assembled at BUSENBERG (R-0659) while elements of the 117th Cav Rcn Sq maintained road patrols between DAHN and ERLENERUNN (Q-9163) throughout the period. At 1300A the I and R platoon of the 42d Division made contact with 10th Armd Division units on the division east boundary at SCHWANHEIM. Approximately 2000 PWs were taken during the period, the majority being VOLKSTURM and FORTRESS Troops taken in the vicinity of DAHN. 91/.

3. Organized resistance on the 103d Division front collapsed early in the period and elements continued to mop up scattered enemy pockets during the day. TF RHINE which had moved East from SILZ the previous night and had reached the outskirts of KLINGENMUNSTER early in the period then proceeded to shell the town preliminary to the assault. By 0420A the town was cleared of enemy troops who fled after the brief engagement, leaving quantities of supplies behind them. Its objective taken the Task Force was ordered to proceed East toward the RHINE until passed through by the 14th Armd Division. The 409th Inf following up the armored thrust mopped up scattered groups of hostile troops vicinity of KLINGENMUNSTER. During the remainder of the morning scattered resistance was encountered by forward elements from several by-passed towns and at roadblocks but by noon the enemy was in full disorderly retreat. Mopping up operations continued throughout the afternoon as large groups of enemy troops continued to surrender en masse. A total of 1285 prisoners were taken during the period and the melange of enemy units represented, reflected the disorganized enemy situation. The 409th Inf assembled in the KLINGENMUNSTER area late in the day while the 410th Inf (with 3d Bn 411th Inf attached) moved to assembly areas vicinity GOCKLINGEN (R-2262), LEINSWEILER (R-2063) and KLINGENMUNSTER. The 411th Inf (-3d Bn) commenced motorized movement to the KLINGENMUNSTER area but bivouacked for the night at R-132576. 92/.

4. 36th Division units continued to receive small arms and mortar fire in their advance through the SIEGFRIED Line positions early in the period while considerable harassing artillery fire fell on forward elements, roads and towns in the division zone during the night. The 143d Inf continued its assault on BERGZABERN and completed the capture of the town after clearing the barricades on the main North-South highway leading into the town. Mopping up operations continued throughout the night hours, on completion of which elements of the 143d Inf, with the 36th Cav Rcn Tr spearheading the drive, moved East against slight resistance, through KAPPELLEN (R-2156) OBERHAUSEN (R-2355), WINDEN (R-2755), MINFELD (R-2952) to RHEINZABERN (R-2957) toward the close of the period. Elements

91/. WRJ, 23 March - Entries #49, 61, 67 and 139; WRJ, 24 March - Entries #13 and 15.

92/. WRJ, 23 March - Entries #3, 5, 14, 19, 32, 61, 80, 116 and 136; WRJ, 24 March - Entries #15 and 17.

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of the 143d Inf then deployed to the North to seize RULZHEIM (R-6061) and attacked at 2300A toward LEDMERSHEIM (R-4458) and the ferry site at R-460575. Resistance to our rapid advance was scattered and light in these towns and at road blocks; however numerous craters, dragon's teeth and blown bridges impeded the progress along the main road East to the RHINE River. Points of resistance were by-passed whenever possible by forward units and left for rear elements to mop up. The object was to reach the RHINE and trap the enemy troops moving North from the French sector and to secure intact all floating equipment - barges and tugs etc., located in the zone along the River. At the close of the period our troops were mopping up enemy groups on the West bank towns of the RHINE. The 142d Inf moved to BERGZABERN early in the period and then proceeded to advance Northeast through BILLIGHEIM (R-2660), ROHRBACH (R-2860) and STEINWEILER (R-2958) where fighting was going on at 2150A. By 2230A leading elements of the 142d Inf were beyond HAYNA (R-3458) before the end of the period. The 141st Inf which had taken up positions vicinity OBER OTTERBACH and the wooded high ground immediately west proceeded to clean up the remaining hostile resistance in pillboxes along the high ground North to the highway running generally West along the 53d Northing. Shortly after noon the 141st moved North along a traffic jammed highway to BERGZABERN to take up positions in DURBACH (R-2453), WINDEN (R-2755) and ERLBACH (R-3257). A total of 788 PWs were taken during the period by the Division 93/.

5. Elements of CC "A", 14th Armd Division launched a coordinated attack at 0400A to seize SCHAIDT and exploit to the East. In spite of intense artillery and nebelwerfer fire on STEINFELD during the night, the 25th Tk Bn and the 68th AIB resumed their attack Northeast to SCHAIDT and by 0650A held half the town. Moderate resistance from SIEGFRIED Line positions was received along the route as tanks of the 25th Tk Bn knocked out 41 pillboxes, two tanks and five AT guns in their drive on SCHAIDT, which was cleared at 1100A. Recon elements proceeded to reconnoiter the vicinity of FRECKENFELD, MINFELD and MINDERSLACHEN by mid-afternoon. Advance elements of CC "A", infantry riding tanks, pushed toward FRECKENFELD against strong AT gun fire, entered the town at 1637A and cleared it by 1840A. Toward the close of the period recon elements and the main body of CC "A" were moving East and Northeast of FRECKENFELD toward their tentative objective at RHEINZABERN. Little infantry action was reported except for a small counterattack in the vicinity of R-253484 at 0640A, South of SCHAIDT, which was quickly repulsed; small arms and mortar fire were received at a road block vicinity of R-255486 just North of the crossroads in the same area. Elements of CC "B" which had cleared the 14th Armd Division zone early in the period moved East from KLINGENMUNSTER to exploit the breakthrough in the 103d Division area, and encountered only scattered resistance until they reached HERXHEIM (R-3460) where the 19th AIB met considerable small arms and automatic weapons fire from bunkers. The 47th Tk Bn by-passed the town and proceeded on its mission toward the RHINE; by the close of the period the 19th AIB had cleared the town and were following up the advance of the 47th Tk Bn. CC "R" remained assembled vicinity SCHWEIGHOFEN during the period. A total of 278 Prisoners were taken by 14th Armd Division units during the period 94/.

6. The I GIM supported by elements of CC 6, 5 DB, launched an attack on the left of the Groupement MONSABERT front through the BIEN.WALD while steady pressure was maintained against enemy positions on the right of this sector. Goumiers supported by armor jumped off early in the morning and had advanced slightly beyond Hill 136, (R-256486) to a line, R-255495, R-260488, R-278478 where they were held up by strong automatic weapons fire from pillboxes in the

93/. WRJ, 23 March - Entries #16, 17, 33, 37, 58, 60, 75, 86, 89, 97, 124 and 140.

94/. WRJ, 23 March - Entries #12, 16, 24, 39, 43, 62, 63, 71, 81, 83, 95, 116, 125, 126 and 137.

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SIEGFRIED Line, having suffered considerable losses in their advance from heavy artillery and mortar fire. Strong infantry resistance continued throughout the afternoon but by late afternoon the enemy was disengaging before I GFM units who had resumed their progress, and by the close of the period had reached the intersection of LANGENSEE (R-268495). Elements of CC "6" advanced along the trail from Hill 136 to R-256497 in support of I GFM left flank units. Main units of CC "6" were following the American route via KAPSWEYER and SCHAIDT to KANDEL (R-335535) by the close of the period. Close contact was maintained with enemy forces by 3 RTA and 4 RTT on the right of the sector, particularly before BERG (R-343927) and in the clearing of BUCHELBERG (R-319470). Harassing artillery fire fell on SCHEIBENHARDT, LAUTERBOURG, BERG and the crossroads at R-296437 and along the LAUTERBOURG - SCHEIBENHARD road during the morning, while concentrations of SP gun fire fell on LAUTERBOURG and BERG during the afternoon. The 49th Inf and the 5 RIM continued to maintain positions along the Groupement MONSABERT RHINE River Line in zone. At 1700A General Monsabert was directed to establish road blocks on all roads crossing the LAUTER River into Germany and to prevent all civilian traffic across the border unless officially authorized by SHAEF 95/.

7. Eight missions of 66 sorties were flown by XII TAC in close support of VI Corps, bombing and strafing guns, strong points, motor and horse drawn vehicles on highways in the vicinity of KANDEL, a ferry and motor transport near LEUNERSHEIM and vehicles at GERMERSHEIM. Results for the most part were unobserved but two tanks and two guns were destroyed at GERMERSHEIM. No engagements with enemy aircraft occurred during the period.

8. Seventh Army Instructions No. 104, was received directing VI Corps to complete the destruction of the enemy in Corps zone 96/.

9. Operations Instruction No. 58, was issued at 1450A, directing: (a) the 42d Division to move the 48th Tk Bn (-Cos A, D) to 14th Armd Division area and to move the 117th Cav Rcn Sq to 102d Cav Gp area, to be attached on arrival; (b) that previous instructions alerting the 4th Division for quick movement to exploit a breach in the SIEGFRIED Line were rescinded 97/.

24 March 1945

1. The SIEGFRIED Line behind them VI Corps units drove on to clear the west bank of the RHINE on 24 March, an objective largely realized by the close of the period except for resistance of a delaying nature vicinity of WORTH and GERMERSHEIM. Organized resistance was a thing of the past except for the bridge-head areas which were effectively blocked to further evacuation of enemy troops the last of four ferries was neutralized by our artillery at 1330A thus shutting off enemy troops West of the RHINE from participation in further organized military operations East of the River. Scattered pockets of enemy resistance were mopped up by Corps units in their sectors as large groups of enemy surrendered en masse swelling the total PW totals since 15 March to 14,500. Ten enemy divisions as well as miscellaneous artillery and other supporting units have been identified since the beginning of the present offensive.

2. No changes in 42d Division positions took place during the period as scattered groups of enemy were mopped up and the demolition of SIEGFRIED Line pillboxes in the area continued. Groups of German troops continued to surrender

95/. WRJ, 23 March - Entries #26, 27, 41, 52, 61, 65, 93, 116, 121 and 138.

96/. Annex No. 10.

97/. Annex No. 9

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en masse, approximately 676 being taken during the period. The 48th Tlc Bn (- Cos A and D) was relieved from attachment to the 42d Division and moved to the 14th Armd Division assembly area, reverting to the control of the parent unit. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq was relieved of attachment to the 42d Division and attached to the 102d Cav Gp 98/.

3. The 103d Division continued mopping-up operations of isolated groups of enemy scattered throughout the division zone. By mid-morning two regiments had been assembled in strategic locations North and South of KLINGENMUNSTER (East of the mountains) to pick up enemy troops moving Rhineward from the mountain passes through the division area. The 409th Inf was assembled South-east and Southwest of KLINGENMUNSTER and in the town itself, while the 410th Inf was assembled at ESCHBACH, LEINSWELLER and COCKLINGEN. The 411th Inf moved from the vicinity of R-132576 and proceeded East to OFFENBACH (R-3366) where contact was established with 10th Armd Division by 0945A. Only minor resistance was encountered in the wooded area West of GERMERSHEIM as the 411th continued mopping up operations. By the close of the period the 411th was located in towns astride the LANDAU (R-2866) - GERMERSHEIM (R-4669) Highway, at MORLHEIM (R-3366), AFFENBACH (R-3666) and OTTERSHEIM (R-3166). Numerous stragglers continued to surrender and a total of 2230 PWs were taken by the Division during the period 99/.

4. Following the considerable advances of the 36th Division during the previous period, the 143d Inf with the 36th Cav Rcn Tp continued to mop up scattered groups of enemy resistance in towns near the RHINE River in the division zone. Early in the period LEIMERSHEIM, KUHARDT (R-422607), JOCKGRIM (R-393550), HORDT and NEUPFOTZ (R-425576) were cleared against light resistance. Snipers continued to harass troops in NEUPFOTZ during the morning but only token resistance was offered as the 143d mopped up the West bank of the RHINE East of that town, and outposted the river between R-449618 to R-455588. The 142d Inf moved from vicinity of HAYNA to clear RULZHEIM and HORDT and then took up positions with regimental forward units in HORDT and the wooded area two kilometers to the North of the town, West of SONDERNHEIM. Other 142d elements outposted the river in division zone from R-440660 to R-458641. The 141st Inf moved East and closed in assembly areas vicinity of ERIENBACH, HERXHEIM and MATZENBUHL (R-3757) by 1630A. The last enemy ferry in the division zone was neutralized by division artillery at 1330A and no enemy activity took place after dark except for light harassing artillery on forward elements West of the RHINE. At 1530A the 36th Division began preparations to relieve units along the RHINE River Line in Corps zone between R-522796 - R-456567; subsequent orders specified that the relief would be completed by 251200A. Approximately 2500 PWs were taken during the period 100/.

5. CC "B" 14th Armored Division, having cleared HERXHEIM at the close of the previous period, continued its advance East to RULZHEIM which was captured by 0500A. Less than an hour later elements of CC "B" were moving Northeast toward GERMERSHEIM in an effort to capture intact the RHINE River bridge at that town and establish a bridgehead, but the enemy frustrated this attempt by blowing the bridge at 1020A. At 1445A, this advance was temporarily halted at a road block at R-448657, defended by small arms, anti-tank and heavy artillery fire, but shortly thereafter the advance was continued toward the objective. Infantry and tanks of CC "B" were in the southern edge of GERMERSHEIM by 1540A and approaching the bridge site against small arms, automatic weapons, mortar

98/. WRJ, 24 March - Entries #44, 66 and 85; WRJ, 25 Mar - Entry #9 (WISSEMBOURG CP).

99/. WRJ, 24 March - Entries #5, 15, 19, 55 and 61 (WISSEMBOURG CP).

100/. WRJ, 24 March - Entries #4, 7, 15, 25 and 27 (MORSBRONN CP); 41, 65 and 74; WRJ, 25 March - Entry #9 (WISSEMBOURG CP).

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and artillery fire, having knocked out one Mark IV, two Mark IIIs and six 88mm guns in their advance from RULZHEIM. Good progress was made in cleaning up the town by the close of the period in spite of intense artillery fire from East of the river. Elements of CC "A" assembled in the vicinity of MINFELD early in the period and at 0900A were alerted to move to GERMERSHEIM to exploit a possible RHINE River crossing but were later relieved when the bridge was blown at 1020A. The 14th Arm Division (-CC "B") completed assembling in the STEINFELD area at 2230A. 718 PWs were taken by the Division during the period 101/.

6. Groupement MONSABERT continued the general advance against slight resistance, but progress through the BIEN WALD was slow due to numerous obstacles. CC "6" continued its attack East during the early hours of the period to clear KANDEL where elements turned South and established contact with units of I GTM at R-3452. The main drive continued West and cleared RHEINZABERN and NEUPFOTZ; from RHEINZABERN a column headed South toward JOCKGRIM which was taken by 1130A. Late in the afternoon elements of CC "6" were reported enroute to WORTH in co-ordination with a northward attack to reduce the enemy bridgehead at MAXIMILLIANSAU. I GTM continued to clear out the BIEN WALD area and by 0800A elements had advanced beyond LANGENBERG (R-340506); by 1715A, HAGENBACK was taken by other elements of the I GTM. The 4 RTT on the right of this sector had reached the crossroad at Hill 122 (R-339474) by 0800A while other elements moving East from BERG took NEUBURG by 1600A. At the close of the period the mopping up of the BIEN WALD was practically completed except for scattered wooded points at R-390450, R-380490 and R-400460 covering the southern route to the enemy bridgehead at MAXIMILLIANSAU. Enemy resistance still continued North of WORTH on RHEIN at the end of the period. The 3 RTA maintained positions in division reserve while the 49th Inf and 5 RTM held positions along the RHINE River line in the Groupement MONSABERT zone. 432 PWs were captured during the period 102/.

7. The 4th Division continued its training and maintenance programs in assembly areas Southwest of HAGUENAU in Corps reserve. The 102d Cav Group, with the 117th Cav Ren Sq and 38th Cav Ren Sq attached, began its mission of patrolling the Franco-German border in the Corps zone.

8. Five missions of 40 sorties were flown by XII TAC in close support of VI Corps, bombing and strafing gun positions and railroad transport with good results. Six flat cars and 12 motor transport were destroyed in the first two missions while the last three missions were on ferry sights at R-480685 and R-450545. No claims were made for these although two barges were damaged at R-480685. No engagements with enemy aircraft were reported during the period.

9. VI Corps CP closed at MORSEBRONN (R-0033) and opened at WISSEMBOURG (R-155487) at 1020A.

10. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 107 of this date was received, directing: (a) that VI Corps pass the 42d and 4th Divisions (with present attachments) to control of XXI Corps at 1200A, 25 March; (b) that VI Corps assume control of the 71st Division (with present attachments less 749th Tk Bn) and 100th Division (with present attachments) at the same time and assume responsi-

101/. WRJ, 24 March - Entries #1, 13, 24, 28 and 30, (MORSEBRONN CP) 23, 31, 36 43, 61, 63 and 90; WRJ, 25 March - Entries #4 and 45 (WISSEMBOURG CP).

102/. WRJ, 24 March - Entries #20 and 35 (MORSEBRONN CP); 37, 42, 67, 70, 83 and 88 (WISSEMBOURG CP).

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bility for the West bank of the RHINE between R-495052 and R-523798 and (c) that VI Corps assist the RHINE crossing of XV Corps by a demonstration in the SPEYER -GERMERSHEIM area in conjunction with the XV Corps crossing and maintain one infantry division in Corps reserve on a 24-hour alert status subject to Army order 103/.

11. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 108 of this date was received indicating that the new boundary between Seventh Army and First French Army (also the new VI Corps right boundary) follow a line SOULTZ to ALTENSTADT along the railroad to R-284560 on the ERIEN River, then along the ERIEN River to its junction with the RHINE at R-4658, effective at 261200A, at which time Groupement MONSABERT would be relieved of attachment to VI Corps and Seventh Army 104/.

12. VI Corps Operations Instruction No. 60 was issued at 2100A, directing: (a) that the 14th Armd Division (-CC "B") assemble in area Southeast of BERGZABERN and CC "B" continue present mission of clearing GERMERSHEIM; (b) that the 103d Division assemble at IMPFLINGEN on 25 March in Corps reserve (c) that the 36th Division relieve elements of the XXI and VI Corps on the West bank of the RHINE between R-522798 and R-456567 and initiate vigorous recon of East bank of RHINE River without delay; (d) that the 42d and 44th Divisions be prepared to pass to control of XXI Corps at 251200A and new boundaries to be effective upon completion of relief of XXI Corps and VI Corps units by 36th Division 105/.

25 March

1. The last few areas of enemy resistance along the RHINE in the VI Corps zone were cleared by the end of 25 March as CC "B" 14th Armd Division cleared up resistance in GERMERSHEIM and French units completed the clearing of WORTH and MAXIMILIANSAU. The Corps RHINE River Line, following the attachment of the 100th and 71st Divisions at 1200A, extended from R-496051 North of LUDWIGSHAFEN to DRUSENHEIM (R-157182). The 42d and 103d Divisions were assembled in Corps reserve at DAHN and South of LANDAU respectively while the 36th Division outposted the RHINE South of SPEYER from R-522798 to LEIMERSHEIM. Corps units continued to mop up scattered groups of enemy resistance in rear areas throughout the period with snipers still resisting in LUDWIGSHAFEN. By the close of the period the west bank of the RHINE was virtually cleared of hostile forces except for a few minor groups. Artillery action was light except for a demonstration along the RHINE in the 71st and 36th Division zones near GERMERSHEIM and SPEYER in support of the XV Corps river crossing early in the next period. 2038 PWs were taken during the period and 22 different divisions were identified.

2. The 36th Division regrouped its forces along the RHINE River line, extending South of SPEYER from R-522796 to a point South of LEIMERSHEIM at R-456567. The 141st Inf began movement into outpost positions North of GERMERSHEIM but was unable to close in the town as it was still occupied by CC "B" 14th Armd Division. However relief of CC "B" was begun before the period closed. The 143d Inf completed the relief of the 142d Inf in its sector South of GERMERSHEIM by 2030A and the 142d Inf assembled at BELLHEIM (R-4066), RULZHEIM and RHEINZABERN by 2100A. A diversionary attack, simulating a river

103/. Annex No. 10.

104/. Annex No. 10.

105/. Annex No. 9.

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crossing supported by artillery and smoke demonstrations was staged by division elements at GERMERSHEIM at 2330A preliminary to a subsequent XV Corps crossing further up the river. 239 PWs were taken during the period by the division 106/.

3. CC "B" 14th Armd Division continued mopping up operations in GERMERSHEIM throughout the early hours of the period. Intense artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the night from East of the RHINE and enemy snipers who had infiltrated into the town during the night had to be cleared out building by building. This continued throughout the morning and early part of the afternoon until 1300A when the town was finally reported cleared. Artillery fire was received from across the RHINE during the early morning hours while heavy mortar fire fell on the town until noon. During the afternoon intermittent small arms and light scattered artillery fire were received from East of the River. CC "B" was being relieved by elements of the 36th Division as the period closed. 14th Armd Division artillery was attached to VI Corps Artillery at 1200A. The Division (-CC "B") remained assembled North-east of WISSEMBOURG. PWs taken during the period totaled 1037 which was an all time high for the 14th Armd Division since it began operations 107/.

4. The Groupement MONSABERT front was unusually quiet except for harassing fire on HAGENBACH as enemy units in the BIEN WALD area broke contact during the night. CC "6" relieved 36th Division elements in NEUFOTZ by 0600A while other elements on the North edge of WORTH had cleared the town by 0850A against small arms fire and proceeded toward MAXIMILIANSAU which was taken by the 3 RTA at 1300A. The clearing of WORTH and MAXIMILIANSAU gave the Groupement MONSABERT complete control of the RHINE River in their zone. 134 PWs were taken by Groupement MONSABERT units during the period 108/.

5. 103d Division units remained in assembly areas generally East and Southwest of LANDAU except for a 411th Inf unit which moved from vicinity of OTTERSHEIM to ARZHEIM (R-2466) two kilometers directly West of LANDAU. No combat activity took place during the period, but stragglers continued to surrender to Division units throughout the period, prisoners taken during the day totalling 257. The 242d FA Bn and the 69th Armd FA Bns were relieved of attachment to the 103d Division and attached to the 71st Division while organic division artillery was attached to VI Corps artillery at 1200A 109/.

6. The 42d and 4th Divisions with attached units were detached from VI Corps and attached to XXI Corps at 1200A. The 42d Division remained in assembly areas near DAHN and the 4th Division in assembly areas Southwest of HAGUENAU. The 102d Cav Group continued to patrol the FRANCO-GERMAN frontier in Corps zone 110/.

7. The 100th Division, with the 898th AAA AW Bn, the 824th TD Bn and the 781st Tk Bn attached, was attached to VI Corps at 1200A. Elements of the 397th and the 399th Infs maintained positions along the RHINE River line and continued to mop up isolated pockets of enemy resistance in the Division sector. Snipers continued to resist in LUDWIGSHAFEN where our troops were subjected to mortar fire and scattered light caliber artillery fire throughout the day. 175 PWs were taken by division units in the course of the period. The 398th Inf remained in division reserve near DANNSTADT (R-4292) 111/.

106/. WRJ, 25 March - Entries #34 (WISSEMBOURG CP); #30 and 33 (LANDAU CP).

107/. WRJ, 25 March - Entries #19, 25, 31, 33, 45 and 49 (WISSEMBOURG CP) #3, 25 and 31 (LANDAU CP).

108/. WRJ, 25 March - Entries #18, 20, 21, 37, 43 and 52 (WISSEMBOURG CP); Entries #8 and 16 (LANDAU CP).

109/. WRJ, 25 March - Entries #48, (WISSEMBOURG CP); 15 (LANDAU CP); WRJ, 26 March - Entry #8 (LANDAU CP).

110/. WRJ, 25 March - Entry #1 (LANDAU CP).

111/. WRJ, 25 March - Entry #26 (LANDAU CP).

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8. The 71st Division, with the 530th AAA AW Bn and the 635th TD Bn attached, was attached to VI Corps at 1200A. 14th Inf cleared isolated pockets of enemy resistance in the division sector and maintained positions along the RHINE River Line approximately between R-551896 South of LUDWIGSHAFEN to R-523798 South of SPEYER. At 2200A, 14th Inf elements staged a diversionary action on the RHINE River to distract enemy attention from a XV Corps bridgehead undertaking in the WORMS area early in the next period. A total of 241 PWs were taken by the Division during the period 112/.

9. VI Corps CP closed at WISSEMBOURG (R-155407) and opened at LANDAU (R-2766) at 1630A.

10. Operations Instruction No. 61, was issued at 2230A, directing: (a) the 71st Division to defend the RHINE River Line in zone between R-551896 and R-522798 and initiate vigorous recon of the East bank of the RHINE River without delay and relieve 100th Division elements in zone by 262400A; (b) the 100th Division to assemble in Corps reserve at MUTTERSTADT; (c) that the 103d Division artillery be attached to VI Corps Artillery and the 242d FA Bn and 69th Armd FA Bn be relieved of attachment to 103d Division and attached to 71st Division at 251200; and (d) that 14th Armd Division artillery be attached to VI Corps and CC "B" be moved to assembly area Southeast of BERGZABERN 113/.

26 March

1. VI Corps units continued to mop up scattered enemy pockets of resistance in the sector while enemy activity was limited to minor patrolling on the West bank of the RHINE and sniper fire in rear areas. Our outposts along the RHINE observed enemy activity on the East bank of the river during the day while patrols attempting to cross the River after dark were repulsed by hostile machine gun fire. On the North of the Corps zone along the River elements of the 71st Division relieved 100th Division units by 2115A and the 141st Inf relieved CC "B", 14th Armd Division in GERMERSHEIM during the morning as other 36th Division units maintained positions in their sector South to GERMERSHEIM. CC "B" closed in 14th Armd Division assembly area near WISSEMBOURG and the 103d Division remained in assembly area South of LANDAU. At 1200A, Groupement Monsabert passed to control of the 1st French Army as the Seventh Army - 1st French Army boundary shifted to a line SOULTZ - ALTENSTADT - R-284560 on the ELLEN River, along the river to its junction with the RHINE at R-4658. Prisoners captured by VI Corps during the period numbered 751.

2. The 397th and 399th Infs continued to hold positions along the RHINE in the 100th Division sector until relief was completed by 71st Division units at 2115A. On completion of relief the 397th Inf assembled in the EPPSTEIN (R-4301) area and the 399th Inf assembled in the MUTTERSTADT (R-4594) - MANDACH (R-4695) area. Enemy activity was limited to one small patrol East of the River and scattered artillery fire. 246 PWs were taken by 100th Division units during the period 114/.

3. The 14th Inf continued to maintain positions along the RHINE River Line in the 71st Division sector. During the morning elements of the 5th and 66th Infs began moving to forward assembly areas in the 100th Division sector and completed relief of 100th Division units along the RHINE by 1945A and command

112/. WRJ, 25 March - Entry #2 (LANDAU CP).

113/. Annex No. 9.

114/. WRJ, 26 March - Entries #35 and 45; WRJ, 27 March - Entry #4

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of the sector passed to control of the 71st Division at 2115A. Division activity was limited to a 14th Inf raid which was successfully completed at 0225A against considerable small arms and mortar fire. Sniper fire was reported in LINGENFELD (R-444725) early in the period, while scattered enemy machine gun and intermittent mortar and artillery fire were received from East of the RHINE throughout most of the period. During the morning a group of 30 enemy were taken under artillery fire at R-553804 with unknown results; and at 1030A, an estimated 200 enemy troops were reported near KETSCH (R-5785). An enemy patrol was observed Northeast of SPYER (R-531823) at 1355A and after dark a 20-man enemy patrol advanced to R-551884. Intermittent small arms fire continued from enemy positions East of the RHINE until the close of the period. 134 PWs were captured by 71st Division units during the period 115/.

4. Minor changes in dispositions of 36th Division along their RHINE River line occurred during the period. Activity was limited to one abortive patrol attempt to cross the river at R-455585 at 0430A which drew flares and fire from three enemy machine guns, forcing the patrol to withdraw. Our artillery scored several direct hits on rail cars at R-499704 and R-524704 during the afternoon. The 141st Inf completed the relief of CC "B", 14th Armd Division in the GEDERSHEIM area during the morning while the 141st and 143d Infs continued to hold positions along the RHINE River line. The 142d Inf assembled in division reserve at BELLHEIM (R-3966). Hostile contact was limited to the taking of PWs which totaled 223 for the period 116/.

5. Groupement MONSABERT units consolidated their positions along the RHINE River from a point R-570455 South of LEILERSHEIM on the North, to DRUSENHEIM on the South following the capture of MAGILLIANSAU and NORTH the previous period. Enemy activity was limited to light artillery fire from East of the RHINE. At 261200A Groupement MONSABERT was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and reverted to control of the First French Army 117/.

6. No changes occurred in 103d Division dispositions during the period as units continued to occupy assembly areas East and Southwest of LAJDAU. Although in Corps reserve, division units took 122 PWs during the period.

7. The 14th Armd Division continued to patrol and police their area and maintain roads in their assembly area Northeast of WISSEMBOURG. CC "B" moved from the GEDERSHEIM area and closed in Division assembly area at R-2555 at 1245A. 29 PWs were picked up by 14th Armd Division units in the course of the period 118/.

8. Operations Instruction No. 62 was issued at 1300A, directing that: (a) the 14th Armd Division Artillery and 103d Division Artillery (-384th FA Bn) be relieved from attachment to VI Corps Art and revert to control of parent units at 260800A March; (b) the 530th and 898th AAA AW Bns be relieved from attachment to the 71st and 100th Divisions and attached to the 35th AAA Brig for operations at 251200A March for employment in direct support of these two divisions 119/.

27 March

1. The VI Corps front remained quiet during 27 March as the 71st and 36th 115/. WRJ, 26 March - Entries #8, 9, 27, 33, 45 and 55; WRJ, 27 March - Entries #10 and 20.
- 116/. WRJ, 26 March - Entries #8, 33 and 45.
- 117/. WRJ, 26 March - Entries #19 and 31.
- 118/. WRJ, 26 March - Entries #9, 36 and 43.
- 119/. Annex No. 9.

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Divisions maintained positions along the RHINE while the 100th, 103d (-) and 14th Armd Divisions remained in assembly areas in Corps reserve. Division units along the RHINE River Line continued to send patrols across the river after dark but found the enemy alert to these efforts to probe his positions. Of five such attempts, three were repulsed with small arms and machine gun fire and two others managed to cross but made no contact with enemy troops. One of our outposts was driven in by an enemy patrol just before dawn but the position was reestablished by 0600A. Outposts along the RHINE were harassed throughout the day and after dark by small arms and machine gun fire from across the RHINE. The number of PWs taken during the day totalled 545, reflecting the gradual cessation of hostile resistance West of the RHINE in VI Corps zone.

2. The 71st Division continued to maintain defensive positions along the RHINE River Line generally between R-495048 and R-521798, held by the 66th, 5th and 14th Infs respectively. Patrols crossed the RHINE at R-549842 and R-551844 during the night but failed to contact enemy personnel. The sector was generally quiet with a slight increase in small arms, mortar and artillery fire as elements of the 14th Inf in SPEYER continued to clear the town of snipers. The 212 Inf Division Commander, Major General SENSFUSS and his G-3, Lt Col Von Rosenthal were among the 216 PWs taken during the period by the 71st Division 120/.

3. The 36th Division improved and consolidated positions along the RHINE River Line during the period as activity was limited to patrol operations during the early hours. A 141st Inf patrol attempted a crossing at R-517748 at 0130A but was fired on in mid-stream and forced to turn back. Further South at R-471653 a 143d Inf patrol attempted to cross the river at 0200A and got within 30 yards of the far bank when enemy small arms and three machine guns fired on them, forcing a withdrawal. At 0500A, a 143d Inf outpost at R-469657 was driven in by an enemy patrol but had been reestablished at 0600A and 21 PWs taken. In this action, however, the enemy succeeded in making five wire cuts. The division sector was generally quiet throughout the remainder of the period except for light mortar and artillery fire which was negligible. The PW total for the period was 112 121/.

4. There were no changes in dispositions of 100th Division units during the period as they remained assembled in the vicinity of OGGERSHEIM (R-4699). 54 PWs were taken during the period by division units.

5. The 103d Division remained in assembly areas East and Southwest of LANDAU in Corps reserve except for the 1st Bn 410th Inf which was attached to the 35th AAA Brig for employment on rear area security missions. Enemy stragglers continued to give themselves up to division elements, 118 PWs being taken during the period.

6. The 14th Armd Division remained assembled Northeast of WISSEMBOURG at R-2555 except for troops "A" and "D", 94th Cav Rcn Sq. Tr "A" commenced clearing small enemy groups in the vicinity of R-1856 while Tr "D", was attached to the 35th AAA Brig at 0900A for employment on rear area security missions. PWs taken during the period by 14th Armd Division units totalled 45 122/.

7. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 113 was received directing VI

120/. WRJ, 27 March - Entries #8, 11, 45 and 59.

121/. WRJ, 27 March - Entries #14, 20, 39 and 59.

122/. WRJ, 26 March - Entry #40; WRJ, 27 March - Entry #5.

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Corps to continue present mission and support with all available means the attack on MANNHEIM 123/.

8. Operations Instruction No. 63, was issued at 1600A, directing: (a) the movement of the 83d Cml Mort Bn (-Co C) to an assembly area at ROHRBACH, relieved of attachment to 36th Division and passing to Corps control; the relief of Co "C" attachment to the 71st Division and return to control of parent unit; (b) the attachment of 1st Bn 410th Inf and Tr "D" 94th Cav Rcn Sq to the 35th AAA Brig for rear area security missions effective 27 March 45 124/.

28 March

1. The 71st and 36th Division units continued to maintain positions in VI Corps zone along the RHINE River Line during 28 March until 1900A when 103d Division units commenced relief of the 71st Division. Patrols of the 71st and 36th Divisions managed to cross the RHINE under cover of darkness but were forced to return when engaged by enemy rifle and 20mm fire, indicating that mortar and artillery defensive fires were either lacking or had not been tied in as yet due to the enemy's present state of disorganization. The 100th and 14th Armd Division units remained assembled in the SCHIFFERSTADT and WISSEMBOURG areas respectively. 389 PWs were captured by VI Corps units in the course of the period.

2. The 71st Division operations were limited to patrol activities by the 14th Inf during the early hours of the period. No patrols were sent out by 66th and 5th Infs as the 44th Inf Division's drive on MANNHEIM cut across their sectors on the East bank of the RHINE. One patrol landed at R-533823 and proceeded inland until it ran into rifle and 20mm fire at R-532822, withdrawing after a short engagement. A second patrol reached the eastern shore opposite R-556883 but ran into small arms fire and returned while another found fox holes and prepared positions unoccupied at R-520813. Another patrol had its boat sunk from under it by long range machine gun fire. The enemy made several unsuccessful attempts during the night to land barges containing 20 to 40 men in the vicinity of R-550852. Small arms, machine gun and mortar fire fell intermittently throughout the night across the division zone with a 32-round concentration of light artillery falling in the 66th Inf sector at R-514868. At the close of the period the 103d Division began the relief of 71st Division in position along the RHINE River line 125/.

3. 36th Division units continued to maintain outpost positions in their sector along the RHINE River. No enemy contact was made during the period while activity was limited to patrolling and light artillery fire. A 143d Inf patrol got within 100 feet of the East bank of the RHINE in the vicinity of R-466612 during the early hours but was forced to return when machine gun fire was poured on them from R-466416 and R-465615. The sector was quiet except for a light artillery concentration shortly after midnight and before dawn. Fifteen rounds of light caliber artillery fell in the south central part of the sector during the morning. 77 PWs were taken during the day 126/.

4. The 103d Division collected 79 PWs in spite of their positions in Corps Reserve. By 1710A, 103d Division units had cleared their assembly areas South

123/. Annex No. 10.

124/. Annex No. 10.

125/. WRJ, 28 March - Entries #16, 17, 24 and 63.

126/. WRJ, 28 March - Entries #3, 18 and 54.

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and East of LANDAU and had begun the relief of 71st Division units in the vicinity of LUDWIGSHAFEN. The 409th Inf completed relief of the 66th Inf by the close of the period and the 410th and 411th Infs were still in the process of relieving the 5th and 14th Infs at the end of the period. The 761st Tk Bn was relieved of attachment to the 103d Division and attached in its present location to the 71st Division at 1200A 127/.

5. 100th Division moved from OGGERSHEIM to assemble in the SCHIFFERSTADT (R-4687) area in Corps reserve. 106 PWs were taken by division units during the period.

6. No changes in 14th Armd Division dispositions occurred during the period as "A" Tr - 94th Cav Rcn Sq continued to investigate roads and the hilly wooded area Northwest of BERGZABERN. No enemy troops were found but numerous weapons and considerable ammunition were discovered and one undefended road block cleared. 14th Armd Division units took 27 PWs during the period 128/.

7. Operations Instruction No. 64, was issued at 1800A, directing: (a) the 103d Division to relieve the 71st Division in zone along the RHINE River between R-496052 and R-522798 by 291200A March and to initiate vigorous reconnaissance of the east bank of the River without delay; (b) the 71st Division with attached units to move to assembly area in the vicinity of ROCKENHAUSEN, relieved of attachment to Seventh Army and VI Corps and attached to Third Army upon arrival; (c) the 36th Division to be prepared to be relieved in zone by First French Army elements on 29 March, and move to assembly areas at IMPFLINGEN (R-2762) 129/.

29 March

1. The VI Corps sector remained quiet during 29 March with activity limited to a night patrol which crossed the river at R-525943 but failed to establish contact or draw any reaction from the enemy. The 103d Division completed relief of the 71st Division which began movement from the VI Corps area while relief of the 36th Division was begun by elements of the 3 DIA toward the close of the period. The 103d and 36th Divisions reverted to Seventh Army control in their present positions. The 14th Armd Division and the 100th Division remained in assembly areas near WISSEMBOURG and SCHIFFERSTADT. VI Corps units captured a total of 154 PWs during the period.

2. The 71st Division was completely relieved by 103d Division elements by 0200A and assembled in the vicinity of SCHIFFERSTADT (R-4687), SPEYER (R-5080) and LUDWIGSHAFEN (R-4998). The Division, with 761st Tk Bn, 635th TD Bn and 530th AAA AW Bn attached, was relieved of attachment to VI Corps on clearing the Corps area 130/.

3. The 103d Division completed relief of 71st Division at 0200A and assumed command of the sector at 1003A. At 1200A the division, with 443d AAA AW Bn and the 614th TD Attached, passed to Seventh Army control. The 409th and 411th Inf with one battalion of the 410th maintained their positions along the RHINE River with no change in their mission of defending the line of the RHINE River in zone and initiating vigorous reconnaissance of the East bank of

127/. WRJ, 28 March - Entries #24 and 63.

128/. WRJ, 28 Mar - Entries #33, 35 and 52.

129/. Annex No. 9.

130/. WRJ, 29 March - Entries #7 and 27.

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the RHINE River to determine enemy strength, dispositions and identifications. The division sector was quiet during the period with 84 PWs taken 131/.

4. The 36th Division sector continued quiet with no enemy contact during the period. A 143d Inf patrol attempted to cross the RHINE at R-456567 but was forced to return when the swift current threatened to capsize their craft. Small enemy groups were observed near a pillbox (R-477666) at noon. First French Army units commenced relief of the 36th Division in position during the morning when 3 DIA elements began relief of 141st Inf in position. By the end of the period the 2d Bn 141st Inf had been relieved in position; the relieved Bn and Regimental reserve elements of 141st and 143d Infs moved to division assembly area west of LANDAU. 142d Inf units moved to their new assembly area in the vicinity of R-2470 and closed at 1300A. The 36th Division, with 534th AAA AW Bn attached, was relieved of attachment to VI Corps and passed to control of Seventh Army in present position, at 1200A. Control of the division sector did not pass to French hands until completion of relief during the next period 132/.

5. The 14th Armd Division remained assembled at SCHWEIGHOFEN in Corps reserve except for Tr "A" of 94th Cav Rcn Sq which continued its mission of policing and patrolling the area Northwest of BERGZABERN. Three PWs were taken during the period.

6. No change in 100th Division dispositions took place during the period as units remained assembled at SCHIFFERSTADT in Corps reserve. Fifteen PWs were taken by division units during the period.

7. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq was relieved of attachment to the 102d Cav Gp and reverted to VI Corps at 0900A, assembling in the vicinity of WISSEMBOURG (R-1548). The 102d Cav Group was relieved of its patrol mission along the FRANCO - GERMAN border and began movement with the 38th Cav Rcn Sq (Mecz) to NEUWIED (R-8003) at 1200A, relieved of attachment to VI Corps on clearing the Corps sector.

8. Seventh Army Operations Instruction No. 115, was received, directing that the 36th Division (143d AAA AW Bn (SP) attached) and the 103d Division (534th AAA AW Bn (M) attached) be relieved from attachment to VI Corps effective 1200A and revert to Army control, the 103d Inf Division to remain in present mission until relieved by Army order 133/.

9. Operations Instruction No. 65, was issued at 1400A, directing: (a) that the 117th Cav Rcn Sq be relieved of attachment to the 102d Cav Gp and revert to control VI Corps at 0900A and move to assembly area at EDENKOBEN (R-2876); (b) that 102d Cav Gp with attached 38th Cav Rcn Sq move to V Corps area at NEUWIED relieved of attachment to Seventh Army and VI Corps on arrival destination and passing to control of CG 12th Army Group 134/.

10. Operations Instruction No. 66 was issued at 1900A, directing: (a) that the 753d Tk Bn, 636th TD Bn and 59th Armd FA Bn be relieved from attachment to the 36th Division and revert to Corps control; (b) that the 614th TD Bn, 69th Armd FA Bn and the 242d FA Bn be relieved from attachment to the 103d Division and revert to Corps control; (c) that the 753d Tk Bn and 636th TD Bn be attached to the 14th Armd Division; (d) that the 59th and 69th Armd FA Bns and the 242d

131/. WRJ, 29 March - Entry #6; VIC OI Nos 64 and 66.

132/. WRJ, 29 March - Entries #5, 6, 20, 23, 39 and 40.

133/. Annex No. 10.

134/. Annex No. 9.

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FA Bn be attached to VI Corps Artillery; (e) that the 443d and 534th AAA AW Bns be relieved of attachment to the 35th AAA Brig and attached respectively to the 36th and 103d Divisions. All attachments and detachments were to take effect at 1200A this date 135/.

11. Seventh Army Field Order of this date directed VI Corps (with the 100th Division attached): (a) to cross the RHINE River at WORMS and MANNHEIM and assume control of a new sector at 010001A April upon being augmented by the attachment of the 10th Armd Division and another infantry division; (b) to secure the east bank as far South as the Army right boundary which ran generally West from SPEYER to just North of HEILLERONN; (c) to attack Southeast to seize the high ground North of HEILLERONN and reconnoiter to the East to ROTHENBURG and GRALLSHEIM; (d) to move the 14th Armd Division (with 636th TD Bn, 398th AAA AW Bn and 4380th QM Trk Co attached) to an area designated by the Commanding General XV Corps. This new Corps sector which was bounded on the South by the Army right boundary was limited on the North by the XXI Corps right boundary which ran generally East from MANNHEIM, passing through points just North of ROTHENBURG, BOXBURG, BAD MERGENTHAL and ROTTINGEN 136/.

30 March

1. VI Corps had another extremely quiet day along its narrow RHINE front during 30 March as regrouping continued in preparation for movement across the RHINE River. Active operations were limited to the zone of the 103d Division which, though relieved from attachment the previous day, still maintained its positions along all that remained of the Corps front along the RHINE -- that sector extending from SPEYER to just North of LUDWIGSHAFEN.

2. While the 71st Division was completing movement from the Corps area and was relieved of attachment at 1000A, the 100th Infantry and the 14th Armd Divisions remained assembled in reserve areas, the latter making preparations to move to the XV Corps sector across the RHINE the next day. At 0900A the 117th Cav Rcn Sq began movement to the vicinity of EDENKOBEN (R-2875) and at 1830A the squadron crossed the RHINE at LUDWIGSHAFEN and proceeded to patrol and outpost the general area of MANNHEIM and to establish road blocks to the South and East.

3. Operations Instruction No. 67 was issued at 1400A, outlining the Traffic Control Plan for the movement of VI Corps troops across the RHINE on the LUDWIGSHAFEN - MANNHEIM bridge 137/.

4. Two Seventh Army Operations Instructions of this date were received, Nos. 117 and 118. No. 117 directed the relief of the 3d Bn 398th Inf from attachment to the Sixth Army Group "T" Force and its return to control of the 100th Division. No. 118 designated the 63d Infantry Division (with 436th AAA AW Bn and 822d TD Bn attached) as the infantry division referred to in Field Order No. 11 for attachment to VI Corps at 010001A April 138/.

31 March

1. A large portion of Corps troops, including the 100th Division crossed

135/. Annex No. 9.

136/. Annex No. 17.

137/. Annex No. 9

138/. Annex No. 10.

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the RHINE at MANNHEIM during the period and closed in assembly areas East of the river, prepared to continue the attack South and Southeast. Liaison was established with the 63d Division and the 10th Armored Division operating in Corps zone and scheduled to come under Corps control at 010001 April. The 11th Armored Division began movement to the XV Corps sector at 1800A. A mere 59 PWs were taken by VI Corps units during the period, however the total prisoners captured since the beginning of the offensive on 15 March numbered 18,647.

2. The 100th Division began movement at 0715A across the heavy pontoon bridge at MANNHEIM to assembly areas in the vicinity of FRIEDRICHSFELD (R-6194) and SCHWETZINGEN (R-6187), closing by 2330A. No enemy activity was reported although 59 PWs were picked up during the period 139/.

3. The 117th Cav Rcn Sq continued to maintain security patrols in MANNHEIM and SECKENHEIM (R-5997) and outposted the general area 140/.

4. The 11th Armored Division (with the 636th TD Bn and 398th AAA AW Bn (SP) attached) commenced movement to the XV Corps sector at 1600A. On closing at destination the division was relieved of attachment to VI Corps and attached to XV Corps.

5. The VI Corps command post closed at LANDAU (R-2766) and opened at SECKENHEIM R-5996 at 311000A March 1945.

6. Operations Instruction No. 68 was issued at 0900A, directing: (a) the 100th Division to move immediately via the MANNHEIM bridge to assembly areas at FRIEDRICHSFELD (R-6194) and relieve elements of the 63d Division in that area by 010600A April and then attack in zone to seize the HOCKENHEIM (R-5980) - MINGOLSHEIM (R-6769) - WALLDORF (R-6678) area and reconnoiter in force to GAREN (R-5562), BRUCHSAL (R-6359) and EPPINGEN (R-8560); (b) the 63d Division to attack in zone to seize the BITTELBERG (S-1584) - BAD WIMPFEN (S-0372) area and then reconnoiter in force to FORCHTENBERG (S-3378) and OSTERBURKEN (S-2494), prepared to continue the advance East in support of the 10th Armored Division attack and to relieve the 10th Armored Division in HEILERONN (S-0863); (c) the 10th Armored Division to continue the attack to the South and Southeast, capturing HEILERONN, and reconnoiter in force to line SWABISCH HALL (S-4660) - GRALLSHEIM (S-7063) - ROTHEBURG (S-7889); (d) that the 436th and 796th AAA AW Bns be relieved from attachment to the 63d Infantry and the 10th Armored Division respectively and be attached to the 35th AAA Brig in direct support of these divisions 141/.

CONCLUSION

When VI Corps joined the attack on 15 March to clear its zone of Upper ALSACE and destroy the enemy forces in the SAAR-PALATINATE, there were immediate indications that the enemy had been taken by surprise and resistance was only light to moderate. However, with the delay gained by previously planted demolitions, minefields and by blown bridges, the enemy executed a planned withdrawal to the SIEGFRIED Line where he offered stubborn resistance for several days until VI Corps troops broke his West flank, at which time resistance deteriorated rapidly. While the bulk of the 18,647 prisoners of war taken during the two-week offensive came from the five divisions which had been on our front when the attack was launched - the 16 and 36 VG Divisions contributing approximately 2000 each and the 47 and 257 VG and 905 Mob Divisions contributing approximately 1000 each - remnants of another score of divisions were identified from the badly battered First and Seventh German Armies which were crushed in the SAAR PALATINATE by the coordinated attack of the U.S. Third and Seventh Armies.

139/. WRJ, 31 March - Entries #28 and 45; WRJ, 1 April - Entries #10 and 17.

140/. WRJ, 31 March - Entry #43.

141/. Annex No. 9.

Edward H. Brooks
EDWARD H. BROOKS,
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

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ANNEXES TO VI CORPS HISTORY - MARCH 1945

- #1 - Casualty Report of VI Corps Troops
- #2A- Roster of Officers, Hq VI Corps, 4 March 1945
- #2B- Roster of Officers, Hq VI Corps, 11 March 1945
- 2C- Changes in Officer Personnel, Hq VI Corps
- #3 - Report of Strength, Battle Casualties, Decorations and Awards, Hq & Hq Co and MP Plat, VI Corps - March 1945
- #4 - Combat Troop List
- #5 - Changes in Troop Attachments and Detachments, Hq VI Corps - March 1945
- #6 - Commendation from CG 6th Army Group, 27 March 1945
- #7A- VI Corps General Order No. 20, 16 March 1945, Reorganization of Hq and Hq Co and MP Plat, VI Corps
- 7B- VI Corps General Order No. 15, 5 March 1945, Reorganization of Hq and Hq Btry VI Corps Artillery
- #8 - Map of VI Corps Route of Advance - March 1945
- #9 - VI Corps Operations Instructions Nos. 43 thru 68, inclusive - March 1945 (with orig only)
- #10 - 7th Army Operations Instructions Nos. 88, 90, 94, 95, 97, 98, 101, 103, 104, 107, 108, 113, 114 and 115 - March 1945 (with orig only)
- #11 - Seventh Army Tentative Outline Plan "CLEAVER", 4 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #12 - VI Corps Tentative Outline Plan "CLEAVER", 7 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #13 - Seventh Army Field Order No. 10, 11 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #14 - VI Corps Field Order No. 11, 11 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #15 - Seventh Army Ltr, Operation "UNDERTONE" Alternate, 14 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #16 - VI Corps Outline Plan "UNDERTONE" Alternate, 21 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #17 - Seventh Army Field Order No. 11, 29 March 1945 (with orig only)
- #18 - Photographs of G-2 and G-3 Daily Situation Maps - March 1945 (with orig only)

UNDER SEPARATE COVER: (1 copy only)

- #19 - G-1 Journal - March 1945
- #20 - G-2 Journals (including G-2 Reports) - March 1945
- #21 - War Room Journals - March 1945
- #22 - VI Corps G-3 Reports - March 1945
- #23 - G-4 Journal with Supporting Papers - March 1945
- #24 - AG Journal - March 1945
- #25 - QM Journal - March 1945
- #26 - Ord Journal - March 1945
- #27 - IG Journal - March 1945
- #28 - SJA Journal - March 1945
- #29 - Fin Journal - March 1945
- #30 - SSO Journal - March 1945
- #31 - Chap Journal - March 1945
- #32 - CWB - Ln Journal - March 1945
- #33 - Surgeon Journal - March 1945
- #34 - Signal Journal - March 1945
- #35 - Engineer Journal - March 1945
- #36 - PM Journal - March 1945
- #37 - G-5 Journal - March 1945
- #38 - G-3 Reports, S-3 Reports, Field Orders, O.I.s, etc. of VI Corps Troops and Other Headquarters

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CASUALTY REPORT OF VI CORPS TROOPS - MARCH 1945

Date for pd ending 2359	Killed	Captured, Missing and Interned	Wounded	Non-Battle Casualties	Reinforcements and RTUs	Enemy PWs Captured
1 Mar	2	2	29	119	129	10
2 "	7	4	26	106	86	9
3 "	0	2	21	138	76	5
4 "	0	2	16	108	165	6
5 "	3	6	22	144	49	10
6 "	1	0	9	124	158	13
7 "	0	16	33	128	62	1
8 "	0	0	13	162	294	5
9 "	2	0	19	95	193	11
10 "	3	0	13	127	76	3
11 "	2	3	17	91	149	0
12 "	2	4	12	99	100	3
13 "	2	8	26	126	132	42
14 "	4	2	44	152	123	0
15 "	49	19	571	82	56	524
16 "	52	68	264	124	79	1074
17 "	32	12	184	106	90	473
18 "	25	41	99	69	113	503
19 "	28	16	207	219	402	241
20 "	33	90	269	182	119	117
21 "	36	22	230	229	210	209
22 "	36	4	295	216	39	699
23 "	34	13	143	181	46	4091
24 "	28	23	140	145	429	6127
25 "	53	25	87	179	61	1574
26 "	13	10	36	161	424	834
27 "	6	4	30	169	175	610
28 "	2	6	4	145	94	341
29 "	0	1	3	65	23	34
30 "	0	0	0	51	24	30
31 "	14	3	61	79	95	949
	469	406	2923	4121	4271	18548

S E C R E T

ANNEX #1

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

4 March 1945

SECTION I

ASSIGNED OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

COMMANDING GENERAL

Major General Edward H. Brooks, 06657, U. S. A.
Capt Walter T. Wilson, 01010197, Inf (ADC)
Capt William W. Hersey, 01018799, Inf (ADC)

CHIEF OF STAFF

Brigadier General Charles D. Palmer, 015519, GSC

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt Col Paul A. Chalmers, 018239, GSC

G-1 SECTION

Lt Col John W. Wibel, 0339093, GSC
Maj Robert G. Perriello, 0389394, GSC

G-2 SECTION

Col Joseph L. Langevin, 012640, GSC
Lt Col Don W. Dixon, 0343066, GSC
Maj Dexter S. French, 0277582, Cav
Maj Edward L. Dobbins, 0452060, Inf
Capt Joseph Haines III, 01284699, Inf

G-3 SECTION

Col Albert O. Connor, 020699, GSC (TD US)
Lt Col Michael S. Davison, 022051, GSC
Maj John L. Cooper, 0351994, Cav
Maj William R. Rose, 0352042, CAC
Maj John Schadler Jr, 0383957, QMC
Maj Edward M. Murray, 0452479, Inf (I & E O)
Capt Albert R. Tryon, 01100368, CE
Capt Leo M. Armstrong, 0405177, Inf
Capt Daniel T. Fogarty, 01822550, FA (Ln O)
Capt Kenneth B. Floto, 01305228, Inf

G-4 SECTION

Lt Col Burton E. Miles, 0347690, GSC
Maj Robert E. Clark, 0910354, GSC
Maj Ralph L. Harper, 0303227, Inf
Capt William H. Ferguson, 01165013, FA
Capt Orris R. Evers, 02046557, CWS (TD US)

R E S T R I C T E D

ANNEX #2A

R E S T R I C T E D

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G-5 SECTION

Maj Campbell Dickson, 0521064, GSC
1st Lt Richard Hall, 01797639, CMP

ADJUTANT GENERAL SECTION

Col Michael L. Connors, 0309882, AGD
Maj Harry S. Alcorn, 01000079, AGD
Maj Courtney L. Vallentine, 01000884, AGD
1st Lt William F. Rickett, 02055429, AGD
1st Lt Robert P. Head, 01013165, Cav
WOJG George T. Smith Jr, W-2108260

CHAPLAIN SECTION

Lt Col William E. King, 0268277, Ch Corps
Lt Col Jordan E. Brown, 0402849, Ch Corps
CWO Francis M. Mugavin, W-2109915

CHEMICAL SECTION

Lt Col William C. Hammond Jr, 0270407, CWS
Capt Floyd B. Mitman Jr, 025330, CWS

ENGINEER SECTION

Col William N. Thomas Jr, 07648, CE
Lt Col Robert H. Darling, 0316638, CE
Capt Joseph M. Devine, 0421809, CE
Capt Edgar D. Lee, 0456581, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Col Howard L. Leighton, 0124567, FD
Capt Frederick H. Dietz, 01280038, FD

INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION

Col Nyal L. Adams, 07471, IGD
Lt Col James M. Pennycuik, 0307472, IGD
Capt William L. Mosher, 0409568, IGD

JUDGE ADVOCATE SECTION

Col Robert L. Lancefield, 018037, JAGD
Maj Jack M. Cotton, 0293310, JAGD

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

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MEDICAL SECTION

Col Rollin L. Sauchspies, 017819, MC
Lt Col Walker Stamps, 0357847, MC
Maj Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, 0454084, MAC
Maj James L. Rounds, 0490026, MAC
WOJG Donald L. Sutliff, W-2108239

ORDNANCE SECTION.

Col Walter G. Jennings, 0174217, Ord Dept
Maj John P. Merrill, 0181405, Ord Dept
Maj Stanley M. Smolensky, 025333, Ord Dept (TD US)
Capt Benjamin F. Swank Jr, 0403163, Ord Dept
Capt Henry J. Egal, 01549932, Ord Dept
CWO Edward C. Kelly, W-2114233

PROVOST MARSHAL

Maj Mario T. Villanti, 0427369, CMP

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

Col Lawrence L. Skinner, 015325, QMC
Lt Col James G. Hattox, 0276860, QMC
Maj John A. Bradish, 0284157, QMC

SIGNAL SECTION

Lt Col Carmon L. Clay, 0367907, Sig C
Maj Wilbur D. Vincent, 0378299, Sig C
Capt Willard W. Jensen, 0454648, Sig C
Capt Luther D. Bridgman, 01635621, Sig C

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

Maj Gale A. Mathers, 0310331, Inf
Capt James C. Grimes, 0391443, FA (Beachhead News)

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT

Maj Leonard C. Cooke, 0316938, CAC

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Capt Paul B. McGuire, 01285788, Inf
Capt Robert M. Ferrell, 01697057, MC
Capt Isidore Nemerowsky, 01690212, DC
1st Lt Benjamin J. Pulley Jr, 01299470, Inf
1st Lt Guy E. Norbury, 01031352, Cav
1st Lt Edmund A. Bogart, 01015527, Inf

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

Capt Sam F. Doering, 0409112, CMP
1st Lt John J. Pulhorn, 01308680, CMP

R E S T R I C T E D

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SECTION II

ATTACHED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS

G-2 SECTION

Capt P. R. Whiston, 254588 (Br)
Capt John F. Rieger, 01013512, Inf
Capt Lauren C. Kingman Jr, 0863398, AC
Capt Alfred G. Fundt, 01052530, CAC
1st Lt Charles F. Marshall, 01014422, AC
1st Lt Arthur J. Petersen, 01103354, AC (Photo Int)

G-3 AIR

Capt William H. Davidson, 0427311, AC
1st Lt John M. Frahm, 0577585, AC
1st Lt Thomas A. McDonald, 0704698, AC
1st Lt Baddia J. Rashid, 01595113, AC
2d Lt Edward C. Lyon, 0805647, AC
2d Lt Burt H. McIntosh, 01588157, AC

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Capt Maurice Force (French)

ENGINEER SECTION

Capt Ivan A. Reiner, 01100297, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Capt Emil F. Freiburg, 0506326, FD

LIAISON SECTION

1st Lt Pierre M. de Pilatsky (French)
2d Lt Pierre-Etienne de Viel Castel (French)

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

1st Lt John H. Shumaker Jr, 01310514, Inf
2d Lt Joseph N. Hartel, 01683457, FA

ETOUSA OBSERVER

Col Pete T. Heffner Jr, 010319, Inf

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

11 March 1945.

SECTION I

ASSIGNED OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

COMMANDING GENERAL

Major General Edward H. Brooks, 06657, U. S. A.
Capt Walter T. Wilson, 01010197, Inf (ADC)
Capt William W. Hersey, 01018799, Inf (ADC)

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Brigadier General Charles D. Palmer, 015519, GSC

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt Col Paul A. Chalmers, 018239, GSC

LIAISON OFFICERS

Maj William R. Rose, 0352042, CAC (G-3 Air)
Capt James C. Grimes, 0391443, FA (Beachhead News)
Capt Leo M. Armstrong, 0405177, Inf
Capt Daniel T. Fogarty, 01822550, FA

G-1 SECTION

Lt Col John W. Wibel, 0339093, GSC
Maj Robert G. Ferriello, 0389394, GSC
Maj Mario T. Villanti, 0427369, CMP (PM)

G-2 SECTION

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Lt Col Don W. Dixon, 0343066, GSC
Maj Dexter S. French, 0277582, Cav
Maj Edward L. Dobbins, 0452080, Inf
Capt Joseph Haines III, 01284699, Inf

G-3 SECTION

Col Albert O. Connor, 020699, GSC (TD US)
Lt Col Michael S. Davison, 022051, GSC
Maj John L. Cooper, 0351994, Cav
Maj John Schadler Jr, 0383957, QMC
Maj Edward M. Murray, 0452479, Inf (I & E O)
Capt Albert R. Tryon, 01100368, CE
Capt Kenneth B. Floto, 01305228, Inf

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

-2-

G-4 SECTION

Col Burton E. Miles, 0347690, GSC
Maj Robert E. Clark, 0910354, GSC
Maj Ralph L. Harper, 0303227, Inf
Capt William H. Ferguson, 01165013, FA
Capt Orris R. Evers, 02046557, CWS (TD US)

G-5 SECTION

Maj Campbell Dickson, 0521064, GSC
1st Lt Richard Hall, 01797639, CMP

ADJUTANT GENERAL SECTION

Col Michael L. Connors, 0309882, AGD
Maj Harry S. Alcorn, 01000079, AGD
Maj Courtney L. Vallentine, 01000884, AGD
1st Lt William F. Rickett, 02055429, AGD
1st Lt Robert P. Head, 01013165, Cav
WOJG George T. Smith Jr, W-2108260

CHAPLAIN SECTION

Col William E. King, 0268277, Ch Corps
Lt Col Jordon E. Brown, 0402849, Ch Corps
CWO Francis M. Mugavin, W-2109915

CHEMICAL SECTION

Lt Col William C. Hammond Jr, 0270407, CWS
Capt Floyd B. Mitman Jr, 025330, CWS

ENGINEER SECTION

Col William N. Thomas Jr, 07648, CE
Lt Col Robert H. Darling, 0316638, CE
Capt Joseph M. Devine, 0421809, CE
Capt Edgar D. Lee, 0456581, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Col Howard L. Leighton, 0124567, FD
Capt Frederick H. Dietz, 01280038, FD

INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION

Col Nyal L. Adams, 07471, IGD
Lt Col James M. Pennycuik, 0307472, IGD
Capt William L. Mosher, 0409568, IGD

JUDGE ADVOCATE SECTION

Col Robert L. Lancefield, 018037, JAGD
Maj Jack M. Cotton, 0293310, JAGD

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

-3-

MEDICAL SECTION

Col Rollin L. Bauchspies, 017819, MC
Lt Col Walker Stamps, 0357847, MC
Maj Sigfrid G. Kinkopf, 0454084, MAC
Maj James L. Rounds, 0490026, MAC
WOJG Donald L. Sutliff, W-2108239

ORDNANCE SECTION

Col Walter G. Jennings, 0174217, Ord Dept
Maj John P. Merrill, 0181406, Ord Dept
Maj Stanley M. Smolensky, 025333, Ord Dept (TD US)
Capt Benjamin F. Swank Jr, 0403163, Ord Dept
Capt Henry J. Egal, 01549932, Ord Dept
CWO Edward C. Kelly, W-2114233

QUARTERMASTER SECTION

Col Lawrence L. Skinner, 015325, QMC
Lt Col James G. Hattox, 0276850, QMC
Maj John A. Bradish, 0284157, QMC

SIGNAL SECTION

Lt Col Carmon L. Clay, 0367907, Sig C
Maj Wilbur D. Vincent, 0378299, Sig C
Capt Willard W. Jensen, 0454648, Sig C
Capt Luther D. Bridgman, 01635621, Sig C

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

Maj Gale A. Mathers, 0310331, Inf

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT

Maj Leonard C. Cooke, 0316938, CAC

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Capt Paul B. McGuire, 01285788, Inf
Capt Robert M. Ferrell, 01697057, MC
Capt Isidore Nemerowsky, 01690212, DC
1st Lt Benjamin J. Pulley Jr, 01299470, Inf
1st Lt Guy E. Norbury, 01031352, Cav
1st Lt Edmund A. Bogart, 01015527, Inf

MILITARY POLICE PLATOON

Capt Sam F. Doering, 0409112, CMP
1st Lt John J. Mulhern, 01308680, CMP

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

SECTION II

ATTACHED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS

G-2 SECTION

Capt John F. Rieger, 01013512, Inf
Capt Lauren C. Kingman Jr, 0863398, AC
Capt Charles B. Metcalfe, 0913249, AC
Capt Arthur J. Petersen, 01103354, AC (Photo Int)
Capt Alfred G. Pundt, 01052530, CAC
1st Lt Charles Marshall, 01014422, Inf

G-3 AIR

Capt William H. Davidson, 0427311, AC
1st Lt John M. Frahm, 0577585, AC
1st Lt Baddia J. Rashid, 01595113, AC
2d Lt Edward C. Lyon, 0805647, AC
2d Lt Gordon S. Curry, 0831385, AC

CIVIL AFFAIRS

Capt Maurice Force (French)

ENGINEER SECTION

Capt Ivan A. Reiner, 01100297, CE

FINANCE SECTION

Capt Emil F. Freiburg, 0506326, FD

LIAISON SECTION

1st Lt Pierre M. de Pilatzky (French)
2d Lt Pierre-Etienne de Viel Castel (French)

SPECIAL SERVICE SECTION

1st Lt John H. Shumaker Jr, 01310514, Inf
2d Lt Joseph N. Hartel, 01683457, FA

ETOUZA OBSERVER

Col Pete T. Heffner Jr, 010319, Inf

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Mr Don N. Allen (Asst Field Director)

R E S T R I C T E D

S E C R E T

CHANGES IN OFFICER PERSONNEL

I - ASSIGNMENTS; ATTACHMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4	Capt Charles B. Metcalf, AC	Atchd fr Hq MIS ETOUSA as of 3 March.
8	Don N. Allen (ARC)	Atchd as Asst Field Director as of 6 Mar.
9	2d Lt Gordon S. Curry, AC	Atchd fr 315th Ftr Sqn as of 23 Feb - Not previously reported.
14	1st Lt William H. Scott, CMP	Asgd & Jd fr 217th MP Co.
17	1st Lt Herbert R. Southworth, QMC	Asgd & Jd fr 48th QM GR Co.
18	2d Lt Frank C. Little, CE	Ordered to EAD & asgd eff 14 Mar.
19	Capt James J. Harrington Jr, Inf	Asgd & Jd fr 45th Inf Div.
20	1st Lt Arthur J. Foley, Cav	Asgd & Jd fr 117th Cav Ren Sq.
26	1st Lt Philip W. Marsh, CMP	Asgd & Jd fr 100th Inf Div.
29	Col Oliver W. Greer, MC	Asgd & Jd fr Hq 341st Med Gp, 15th Army.
31	Harold F. Pachor, Inf	Asgd & Jd fr 103d Inf Div.

II - RELIEF FROM ASSIGNMENT; DETACHMENTS

5	Capt P. R. Whiston (Br)	Reld fr atchmt - no written orders received.
9	1st Lt Thomas A. McDonald, AC	Reld fr atchmt as of 23 Feb - not previously reported.
	2d Lt Burt H. McIntosh, AC	Reld fr atchmt as of 19 Feb - not previously reported.
15	2d Lt Joseph M. Hartel, FA	Reld fr atchmt - returned to 939th FA Bn.
18	Col Rollin L. Bauchspies, MC	Reld fr asgmt - asgd Hq Normandy Base Section.
20	Capt Emil F. Freiburg, FD	Reld fr atchmt - asgd Hq US Gp Control Council.
25	Col Pete T. Heffner Jr, Inf	Reld fr atchmt
27	Capt Maurice Force (Fr Army)	Reld fr atchmt G-5 Sec as of 24 Mar.
28	Maj Campbell Dickson, GSC	Dropped fr rolls to Seventh Army Det of Patients as of 23 Mar.
	2d Lt Gordon S. Curry, AC	Reld fr atchmt - returned to 64th Ftr Wing

S E C R E T

SECRET

III - PROMOTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
3	Capt Courtney L. Vallentine, AGD Capt Sigfried G. Kinkopf, MAC Capt James L. Rounds, MAC	Prom to Major, eff 1 Mar " " " " " "
6	1st Lt Arthur J. Petersen, AC	Prom to Capt, eff 16 Jan
8	Lt Col Burton E. Miles, GSC Lt Col William E. King, Ch Corps	Prom to Col, eff 5 Mar " " "
18	Capt William H. Ferguson, FA Capt Floyd B. Mitman Jr, CWS	Prom to Major, eff 16 Mar " " "
31	Lt Col Paul A. Chalmers, GSC	Prom to Col, eff 29 Mar

IV - MISCELLANEOUS

23	Capt William L. Mosher, IGD	Duty to TD in US for approx 30 days
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HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

MARCH 1945

REPORT OF STRENGTH, BATTLE CASUALTIES, DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

I. STRENGTH:

Hq VI Corps:

		<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Officers	1 Mar 45 -	68	20	88	
	31 Mar 45 -	75	12	87	- 1
Warrant O's	1 Mar 45 -	4	0	4	
	31 Mar 45 -	4	0	4	0

Hq Co VI Corps:

Officers	1 Mar 45 -	7	0	7	
	31 Mar 45 -	7	0	7	0
EM-	1 Mar 45 -	288	24	312	
	31 Mar 45 -	300	26	326	+14

MP Plat VI Corps:

Officers	1 Mar 45 -	2	0	2	
	31 Mar 45 -	2	0	2	0
EM	1 Mar 45 -	86	0	86	
	31 Mar 45 -	80	0	80	-6

II. BATTLE CASUALTIES:

Hq VI Corps: NONE

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE

MP Plat VI Corps: NONE

III. DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

Hq VI Corps: NONE

Hq Co VI Corps: NONE

MP Plat VI Corps:

AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART

SAM F. DOERING, 0409112, Captain, Corps of Military Police, for wounds received in action on 1 March 1945 in France. (VI Corps GO No. 16, 6 March 1945).

1 Incl.

VI Corps GO No. 16, 6 March 1945.

SECRET

ANNEX #3

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

6 March 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 16)

AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE SILVER STAR.....I
AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.....II
AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....III
AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL.....IV
AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART.....V
AMMENDMENT OF GENERAL ORDERS.....VI

I AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE SILVER STAR.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, the Silver Star is awarded, posthumously, to the following named individual:

PHILIP CHIECUTO, 32145368, Corporal; 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for gallantry in action on 1 January 1945 in France. As Corporal CHIECUTO'S platoon was moving into position, it was ambushed and subjected to heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar, grenade and bazooka fire. Without stopping to find a position offering cover, he set up his machine gun in the open and brought heavy fire to bear on the hostile force, permitting the balance of his platoon to take cover. Although wounded in the head, Corporal CHIECUTO continued to fire his weapon until weakened by loss of blood and forced to withdraw to a ditch for medical aid. When the superior enemy force attacked again and forced the platoon's withdrawal, Corporal CHIECUTO seized a discarded carbine and again brought fire to bear on the enemy. He was last seen lying in the ditch, firing steadily at the enemy. His courage and tenacity in the face of the enemy reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Hoboken, New Jersey. Next of kin: Mrs. Jennie Chiecuto (Mother), 723 Adams Street, Hoboken, New Jersey.

II AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, a Bronze Star Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals:

HARVEY M. LUCE, 0452278, Major, Field Artillery, 405th Field Artillery Group, for meritorious service in action from 28 September 1944 to 5 February 1945 in France. Entered military service from Collyer, Kansas.

HAROLD D. OWEN, 02006381, Second Lieutenant, Cavalry, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Verona, New Jersey.

WILLIAM A. KIRK, 20243878, Staff Sergeant, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Weehawken, New Jersey.

INCL #1

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

6 March 1945.

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 16)

AWARD, POSTHUMOUS, OF THE SILVER STAR.....I
AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.....II
AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.....III
AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL.....IV
AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART.....V
AMENDMENT OF GENERAL ORDERS.....VI

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PHILIP CHIECUTO, 32145368, Corporal, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for gallantry in action on 1 January 1945 in France. As Corporal CHIECUTO'S platoon was moving into position, it was ambushed and subjected to heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar, grenade and bazooka fire. Without stopping to find a position offering cover, he set up his machine gun in the open and brought heavy fire to bear on the hostile force, permitting the balance of his platoon to take cover. Although wounded in the head, Corporal CHIECUTO continued to fire his weapon until weakened by loss of blood and forced to withdraw to a ditch for medical aid. When the superior enemy force attacked again and forced the platoon's withdrawal, Corporal CHIECUTO seized a discarded carbine and again brought fire to bear on the enemy. He was last seen lying in the ditch, firing steadily at the enemy. His courage and tenacity in the face of the enemy reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered military service from Hoboken, New Jersey. Next of kin: Mrs. Jennie Chiecuto (Mother), 723 Adams Street, Hoboken, New Jersey.

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HAROLD D. OWEN, 02006381, Second Lieutenant, Cavalry, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Verona, New Jersey.

WILLIAM A. KIRK, 20243878, Staff Sergeant, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Weehawken, New Jersey.

INCL #1

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

-2-

CALVIN L. IFILL, 20244777, Sergeant, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Rahway, New Jersey.

ADAM J. LEWANDOWSKI, 32104137, Technician Fourth Grade, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 25 August 1944 in France. Entered military service from Schenectady, New York.

CORNELIUS P. MORRIS, 37043790, Technician Fifth Grade, 196th Engineer Dump Truck Company, for meritorious service in action on 20 November 1944 in France. Entered military service from Portsmouth, Iowa.

JOHN D. OVERSTREET, 38561780, Private First Class, 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), for heroic achievement in action on 1 January 1945 in France. Entered military service from Llano, Texas.

III AWARD OF THE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE AIR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights:

FIFTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER

J. D. HOOD, 01691894, Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 194th Field Artillery Battalion, from 5 September 1944 to 1 January 1945 in France. Home address: Utica, Mississippi.

FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER

ROBERT H. FARNHAM, 01170359, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, from 19 September to 7 December 1944 in France. Entered military service from Freeport, Illinois.

IV AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, the Air Medal is awarded to each of the following named individuals for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights:

CLYDE C. COLWELL, 0128274, Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery, 194th Field Artillery Battalion, from 7 February 1944 to 29 January 1945 in Italy and France. Entered military service from St. Paul, Minnesota.

ROBERT H. FARNHAM, 01170359, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 17th Field Artillery Battalion, from 19 September to 7 December 1944 in France. Entered military service from Freeport, Illinois.

WALLACE H. SWILLEY JR, 01173480, First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, 111st Field Artillery Battalion, from 21 November 1944 to 14 February 1945 in France. Entered military service from High Springs, Florida.

R E S T R I C T E D

R E S T R I C T E D

-3-

V AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART.

Under the provisions of AR 600-45, the Purple Heart is awarded to the following named individual for wounds received in action:

SAM F. DOERING, 0409112, Captain, Corps of Military Police, Military Police Platoon VI Corps, on 1 March 1945 in France. Entered military service from Bryant, South Dakota.

VI AMENDMENT OF GENERAL ORDERS.

So much of Section II, General Orders No. 13, this headquarters, dated 27 February 1945 pertaining to Lieutenant Colonel CHALMERS as reads "in direct support of combat operations from 15 August 1942 to 3 December 1944" is amended to read "in connection with military operations from 15 August 1942 to 9 March 1944".

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS:

CHARLES D. PALMER,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Michael L. Connors

MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"B"

R E S T R I C T E D

S E C R E T

SECRET
By Authority of
CG VI Corps
Initials
4 March 45

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO 46 U. S. ARMY

VI CORPS COMBAT TROOP LIST
041800A Mar 45

Hq & Hq Co VI Corps

36th Inf Div

- 141st Inf - 131st FA Bn (105mm How)
- 142d Inf - 132d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 143d Inf - 133d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 155th FA Bn (155mm How)
- 111th Engr C Bn
- Atchd:
- 59th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
- 753d Tk Bn
- 636th TD Bn (3" & 90mm Guns SP)
- Co B 83d Cml Mort Bn (4.2" Mort)

2d Inf Div

- 222d Inf - 392d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 232d Inf - 232d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 242d Inf - 402d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 542d FA Bn (155mm How)
- 142d Engr C Bn
- Atchd:
- 69th Armd FA Bn (105mm How SP)
- Cos B, D 48th Tk Bn
- Co A 645th TD Bn (90mm Gun SP)
- Co A 83d Cml Mort Bn (4.2" Mort)

103d Inf Div

- 409th Inf - 382d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 410th Inf - 383d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 411th Inf - 928th FA Bn (105mm How)
- 384th FA Bn (155mm How)
- 328th Engr C Bn
- Atchd:
- 242d FA Bn (105mm How)
- 48th Tk Bn (-Cos B, D)
- 614th TD Bn (3" Gun Towed)

14th Armd Div (-)

- 19th, 62d, 66th Armd Inf Bns
- 25th, 47th Tk Bns
- 499th, 500th, 501st Armd FA Bns (105mm How SP)
- 94th Cav Ren Sq (Meos) (-Tr A)
- 225th Armd Engr Bn

Cav

- 117th Cav Ren Sq

Sig

- 67th Sig Bn
- 72d Sig Co (Spec)
- 269th Sig Hvy Constr Co

Cml

- 83d Cml Mort Bn (-Cos A, B) (4.2" Mort)
- 168th Cml SG Co

*Atchd VI Corps on arrival.

DISTRIBUTION:
Special

Hq & Hq Btry VI Corps Arty

- 2d FA Obsn Bn
- Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp
- 634th FA Bn (155mm How)
- 36th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
- 698th FA Bn (-Btry C) (240mm How)
- 575th FA Bn (-Btries A, C) (8" Gun)
- Hq & Hq Btry 405th FA Gp
- 141st FA Bn (155mm How)
- 995th FA Bn (8" How)
- Hq & Hq Btry 35th FA Gp
- 17th FA Bn (155mm How)
- 976th FA Bn (155mm Gun)
- Btry C 698th FA Bn (240mm How)
- Hq & Hq Btry 46th FA Gp
- 938th FA Bn (155mm How)
- 939th FA Bn (4.5" Gun)
- 194th FA Bn (8" How)

Hq & Hq Btry & AAAOD 35th AAA Brig

- Hq & Hq Co 1st Armd Gp
- Tr A 94th Cav Ren Sq (Meos)
- Btry A 533d AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
- 72d AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
- 216th AAA Gun Bn (90mm Gun)
- 910th AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
- Btry C 553d AAA SL Bn
- Hq & Hq Btry 91st AAA Gp
- 443d AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 36th Inf Div)
- 431st AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 42d Inf Div)
- 398th AAA AW Bn (37mm Gun SP)
(Supporting 14th Armd Div)
- 534th AAA AW Bn (40mm Gun)
(Supporting 103d Inf Div)
- 533d AAA AW Bn (-Btry A) (40mm Gun)

Engr

- Hq & Hq Co 36th Engr C Gp
- 2826th Engr C Bn
- *2827th Engr C Bn
- 2828th Engr C Bn
- *31st Engr C Bn
- 1271st Engr C Bn
- 2829th Engr C Bn
- 196th Engr DT Co (-Det) (Trdwy Br Train)
- Surv Plat 661st Engr Topo Co

Schadler
SCHADLER
Asst G-3

S E C R E T

ANNEX # 4

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

CHANGES IN TROOP ATTACHMENTS AND DETACHMENTS - MARCH 1945

<u>Eff Date</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Detached</u>
2 Mar		Hq & Hq Co 40th Engr C Gp 2830th Engr C Bn 2831st Engr C Bn Hq & Hq Co 540th Engr C Gp 2832d Engr C Bn 2833d Engr C Bn Co A 84th Engr Cam Bn (-2 Plat) Co B 85th Engr Hv Pon Bn
3 Mar	Hq & Hq Co 36th Engr C Gp 2826th Engr C Bn 2828th Engr C Bn	829th Amph Trk Co (TC)
4 Mar	513th QM Pack Co	191st Tk Bn 645th TD Bn (-Co A)
6 Mar	72d Sig Co (Spec)	69th Cml SG Co
7 Mar	1st FA Obsn Bn	
11 Mar	752d FA Bn 761st Tk Bn	
12 Mar	488th Engr Light Pon Co Btry C, 991st FA Bn	
13 Mar	3 DIA (Fr) w/CC 6 5 DB atohd Hq & Hq Btry 13th FA Brig	Co A 645th TD Bn
14 Mar	630th TD Bn	
15 Mar	Hq & Hq Troop 102d Cav Gp 38th Cav Ron Sqn	
16 Mar	692d TD Bn Det 196th Engr DT Co	
17 Mar		610th TD Bn
19 Mar	Groupement MONSABERT (3 DIA & 5 DB Reinf)	72d AAA Gun Bn
20 Mar	4th Inf Div 610th TD Bn 70th Tk Bn 377th AAA AW Bn 163d Cml SG Co	
23 Mar		630th TD Bn
24 Mar		196th Engr DT Co (-1 Det)

S E C R E T

ANNEX # 5

S E C R E T

<u>Eff Date</u>	<u>Attached</u>	<u>Detached</u>
25 Mar	100th Inf Div 898th AAA AW Bn 824th TD Bn 781st Tk Bn 71st Inf Div 530th AAA AW Bn 635th TD Bn	42d Inf Div 431st AAA AW Bn 692d TD Bn 4th Inf Div 610th TD Bn 70th Tk Bn 377th AAA AW Bn Hq & Hq Btry 6th FA Gp 257th FA Bn 514th FA Bn 575th FA Bn (-Btrys A & C) 752d FA Bn 995th FA Bn Btry C 991st FA Bn 910th AAA AW Bn Btry C 353d AAA S/L Bn
26 Mar		Groupement MONSABERT
29 Mar	196th Engr DT Co (Trdwy Br) 4380th QM Trk Co Hq & 1st Plat 4223d QM Car Co 753d Tk Bn 2d Plat Btry B 353d AAA S/L Bn	103d Inf Div 534th AAA AW Bn 614th TD Bn 36th Inf Div 443d AAA AW Bn 2829th Engr C Bn 102d Cav Group 38th Cav Ron Sqn 168th Cml SQ Co 1st Plat 1514th Engr WS Co
30 Mar		71st Inf Div 761st Tk Bn 635th TD Bn 530th AAA AW Bn Hq & Hq Btry 13th FA Brig 1st FA Oban Bn
31 Mar	602d FA Bn	69th Armd FA Bn 14th Armd Div 636th TD Bn 398th AAA AW Bn 4380th QM Trk Co 442d QM Trk Co 448th QM Trk Co

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No C-13

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: gik
Date: 1 March 45
.....

Det

AG 370.5 - C

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding Officer, 36th Engr C Gp.

1. Move without delay the 36th Engr C Gp (-Dets) from present location to a destination designated by the CG, VI Corps, in accordance with the following details:

a. Advance Det will report immediately to the CG, VI Corps, for instructions.

b. Coordinate movement with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LIREVILLE (Telephone Cadet Bear 467).

c. Radio silence will be maintained throughout movement.

2. Effective upon arrival destination the 36th Engr C Gp (-Dets) is attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this Headquarters, Attention: A. C of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ C. I. Keelan
t/ C. I. KEILLAN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"Special"

A TRUE COPY:

C. L. Valentine

C. L. VALENTINE

Capt AGD

Asst AO

S E C R E T

SECRET

② → *Hick*

Ref No 1-10

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: GAH
Date: 1 March '45

AG 370.5 - C

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the 540th Engr Combat Group, the 40th Engr Combat Group (less 282nd C Bn), Co A, 84th Engr Cam Co (-2 Plato), and Co B, 85th Engr Bv Pont Bn from present location to the vicinity of BURNS (1411) in accordance with the following details:

a. Advance Det of each unit will report immediately to Engineer Seventh Army, for instructions.

b. Coordinate movement with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LONEVILLE (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Radio silence will be maintained throughout movement. All movements will be by infiltration.

2. Effective upon arrival destination, units are relieved from present attachments to VI Corps and revert to army control, (Co B, 85th Engr Bv Pont Bn, reverts to control of parent unit).

3. Report time and date of departure and MFA destination to this Headquarters, Attention A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

DISTRIBUTION:

"Special"

/s/ Glenn A. Henry
/s/ GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

A. J. VALENTINE
A. J. Valentine
Capt AGD
Asst AG

SECRET

SECRET

Ref No C-21

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET

Auth: CG-7 Army

Init: JEP

Date: 2 March 1945

2 March 1945

AG 370.5 - C

SUBJECT: Assignment and Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. PAC in Letter Order, Hq Sixth Army Group, file AG 370.5/U CD-0, Subject: Unit Assignment Order No 39, dated 28 February 1945, the following changes in status of units are as indicated below:

a. Effective 13 February 1945, the 838th AAA AW Bn (M), assigned to Seventh Army, is relieved from attachment to 12th Army Group and reverts to control of Seventh Army. Present attachment to XV Corps for operations remains unchanged. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

b. Effective 17 February 1945, Hq & Hq Btry, 46th FA Group, assigned to Seventh Army, is relieved from attachment to DELTA BASE SECTION and reverts to control of Seventh Army. Present attachment to VI Corps for operations remains unchanged. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

c. The units listed below are relieved from assignment to Advance Section and are assigned to Continental Advance Section, effective 23 February 1945. Present attachment to Seventh Army remains unchanged.

268th Signal Construction Co
269th Signal Construction Co

d. Effective 21 February 1945, the 3454th Ord MM Co is assigned to Seventh Army.

e. Effective 21 February the units listed below are relieved from assignment to 12th Army Group and present attachment to Seventh Army and are assigned to Seventh Army.

66th Field Hosp
112th Evac Hosp

587th Amb Co
606th Clearing Co

f. Effective upon arrival in this theater the units listed below are assigned to Seventh Army.

Hq & Hq Det, 81st Ord Bn
435th Engr Dump Truck Co

-1-

(over)

SECRET

(cont'd)

S E C R E T

Assig and Atchmt Order, Hq 7th Army,
File AG 370.5 - C dated 2 Mar 45

Cher
g. The units listed below, assigned to 12th Army Group, are relieved from attachment to Seventh Army on dates indicated.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
283rd FA Bn (105mm How)	18 February 1945
773rd FA Bn (4.5" Gun)	21 February 1945
998th Engr Treadway Br Co	21 February 1945
Hq & Hq Btry, 40th FA Gp	18 February 1945

2. Having arrived Seventh Army area on 1 March 1945, and having reported to the Commanding General, Seventh Army, for duty, the 858th Ord HAM Co is attached to the 54th Ord Gp for operations only. Assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ John E. Pederson
/t/ JOHN E. PEDERSON,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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C. L. VALLENTINE
Capt AGD
Asst AG

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S E C R E T

SECRET

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Ref No C-25

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: GLK
Date: 3 Mar 45
.....

3 March 1945

AG 370.5 - 0

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move on 3 March 1945 the 829th Amphibian Truck Co from present location to vicinity BURNS (Q-1511) in accordance with the following instructions:

a. Advance detachment report to Engineer, Seventh Army, for instructions.

b. Coordinate movement with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone CADET REAR 467).

2. Effective upon arrival destination unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and reverts to control of the 147th QM Bn (Dukv). Administration and supply remain with the 147th QM Bn (Dukv).

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this Headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ C. I. Keelan,
/t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major, AOD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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C. I. VALLENTINE
Maj AOD
Asst AG

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Ref No C-28

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 789 US ARMY

.....
SECRET
Auth: CO 7 Army
Init: JSP
Date: 3 March '45
.....

AG 370.5 - 0

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the units listed below to vicinity of LUNEVILLE in accordance with the following instructions:

1st Tc Bn
645th TD Bn (less Co A)

- a. Advance detachments report to CO, 45th Infantry Division at LUNEVILLE for instructions.
- b. Coordinate movements with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).
- c. Radio silence will be maintained during move.

2. Effective upon arrival destination units are relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and are attached to 45th Infantry Division for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

3. Report time and date of departure and MTA destination to this Headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATON:

/s/ John E. Pederson
/t/ JOHN E. PEDERSON,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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Ref No C-27

.....
SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: JEP
Date: 3 March '45
.....

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

AG 370.5 - 0

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the 756th Tank Bn from present location to vicinity PONT-A-MOUSSON (U-7935) in accordance with the following instructions:

- a. Advance detachment report to CG, 3rd Infantry Division at PONT-A-MOUSSON for instructions.
- b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE, (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).
- c. Radio silence will be maintained during move.

2. Effective upon arrival destination unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and is attached to the 3rd Infantry Division for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this Hq. Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ John E. Pederson
/t/ JOHN E. PEDERSON
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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REF NO: C-28

S E C R E T

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CO 7 Army
Init: JEP
Date: 3 March '45
.....

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

AG 370.5 - C

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the 69th Cnl (SG) Co from present location to vicinity BURES (C-1511) in accordance with the following instructions:

- a. Advance detachment report to Commanding Officer, 540th Engr C Gp at BURES for instructions.
- b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).
- c. Radio silence will be maintained during move.

2. Effective upon arrival destination, unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and is attached to the 540th Engr C Gp for operations.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this Headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ John E. Pederson
/c/ JOHN E. PEDERSON
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General.

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Maj AGD
Asst AG

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1st Lt

Ref No C-37

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: CTR
Date: 4 Mar '45

AG 370.5 - C

4 March 1945

SUBJECT: Assignment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. PAC in letter Order, Hq Sixth Army Group, file AG 370.5/U C-0, Subject: Unit Assignment Number 41, dated 2 March 1945, changes in status of units are as indicated below:

a. Effective 20 February 1945, the 292nd FA Obsn Bn, assigned to Seventh Army, is relieved from attachment to 12th Army Group and reverts to control of Seventh Army. Present attachment to XII Corps for operations remains unchanged.

b. Effective 20 February 1945, the 910th AAA Bn (H), assigned to Seventh Army, is relieved from attachment to 12th Army Group and reverts to control of Seventh Army. Present attachment to VI Corps for operations remains unchanged.

c. Effective 1 March 1945, the 2nd Bn, 65th Inf Regt is relieved from attachment to the First Military Railroad Service, is assigned to Seventh Army and reverts to control of 65th Inf Regt.

d. Effective 2 March 1945, the 65th Inf Regt (less 1st and 2nd Bns) is relieved from attachment to 4th AAA Bri-
gade and is assigned to Seventh Army.

e. The 72nd Liaison Squadron, assigned to United States Strategic Air Force in Europe, is relieved from present attachment to Seventh Army, and is attached to Seventh Army, effective 25 February 1945, for operations, quarters, rations, and supply. United States Strategic Air Force in Europe will retain the responsibility for administration and supply of

- 1 -
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S E C R E T

Let, HQ Seventh Army, dtd 4 Mar '45, subj: assignment Order,
cont'd.

par 1 e cont'd.

such equipment as is peculiar to the Air Force. Technical reports required by United States Strategic Air Forces in Europe will be submitted direct to that headquarters.

2. Effective this date, the 513th AF Truck Co is attached to VI Corps for operations. Present attachment to 501st AF GP for administration remains unchanged.

By command of Lieutenant General PATON:

s/ C. I. Keelan
t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major, AGO,
Asst Adjutant General.

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C. L. Volz

US Lt. Volz

MAJ AGO

ASST AG

- 2 -

S E C R E T

SECRET

Ref No C-46

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: GJK
Date: 5 Mar 45
.....

5 March 1945

AG 370.5 - C

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. PAC in radio, Hq Sixth Army Group, Ref No BK 10155, dated 4 March 1945, effective upon arrival in VI Corps area on or about 6 March 1945, the 1st FA Oban Bn is released from operational control of First French Army, reverts to control of Seventh Army and is attached to VI Corps for operations.

2. PAC in Letter Order, Hq Sixth Army Group, file AG 370.5/U B-O, Subject: Attachment of Unit, dated 3 March 1945, effective 3 March 1945, Co "A", 2nd ECA Regt is attached to Seventh Army for supply.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ C. I. Keelan
/t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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Asst AG

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Ref No 0-61

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

S.E.O.R.E.2
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: OIK
Date: 6 Mar '45

AG 370.5 - 0

7 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective this date, the 461st Engr Depot Co (less Spare Parts Platoon and 3rd Depot Platoon) is attached to 114th Engr C Gp for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

2. Effective 6 March 1945, the 72nd Signal Company, Special is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and reverts to control of Seventh Army.

3. Effective this date, the units listed below are relieved from present attachment to the 54th Field Hospital and are attached to the 7th Medical Depot Co for operations, administration and supply:

- 466th Dental Prosthetic Det (M)
- 468th Dental Prosthetic Det (M)

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ C. I. Keelan,
/s/ C. I. KERRIAN,
Major, AGD.
Asst Adjutant General

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Maj AGD
Asst AG

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S E C R E T

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Ref No C-89

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: K F K ac
Date: 11 March 45.

AG 370.5 - C

11 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective upon arrival in VI Corps area, on or about 10 March, the 761st Tank Bn is attached to VI Corps for operations. Further assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.

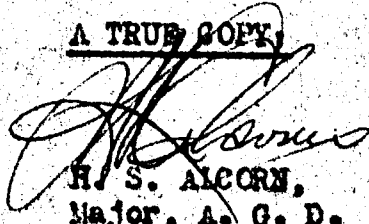
By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ C. I. Keelan
/t/ C. I. KEELAN
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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H. S. ALCORN,
Major, A. G. D.
Asst. Adjutant General.

S E C R E T

SECRET

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Ref No C-94

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET

Auth: CG 7 Army

Init: kgf

Date: 12 March '45

AG 370.5 - G

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective upon arrival in Seventh Army area, on or about 11 March 1945, the units as listed below are attached for operations as indicated. Further assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Attached to</u>
283 FA Bn (105mm How)	AV Corps
953 FA Bn (155mm How)	XXI Corps
635 FA Bn (155mm Gun)	XXI Corps
752 FA Bn (155mm How)	VI Corps
642 M Trk Co	XV Corps
488 Engr L Pon Co	VI Corps

2. Having arrived in Seventh Army area on or about 10 March 1945 and having reported to the CG, Seventh Army, for duty, the 3803 M Trk Co is attached to Seventh Army for operations. Commanding Officer, 3803 M Trk Co, will report to Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, for instructions. Further assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ C. I. Keolan
t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General

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Ref No C-28

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET

Auth: CG 7 Army

Init: *Ch*

Date: 12 March '45

AO 370.5 - C

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

PAC in radiogram, Hq Sixth Army Group, Ref No BL 10483, dated 10 March 1945, effective 1800 hours, 12 March 1945 the units as listed below are relieved from operational control of First French Army and revert to control of Seventh Army. Concurrent with above relief the units are attached for operations as indicated. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Attached to:</u>
Hq & Hq Btry, 13th FA Brig	VI Corps
Hq & Hq Btry, 36th FA Group	XXI Corps
933rd FA Bn (155mm How)	XV Corps
630th FA Bn (8" How)	XXI Corps

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ C. I. Keelan
t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major (CD)
Asst Adjutant General

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C. L. VALLENTINI
Maj AGC
Asst AG

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Ref No C-95

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

dist
SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: s/CIK
Date: 12 March '45

AG 370.5 - C

12 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective upon arrival in XV Corps area, on or about 12 March 1945, the 991st FA Bn (155mm Gun) (SP) (less Btry C) is attached to XV Corps for operations. Further assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.


2. Effective upon arrival in VI Corps area, on or about 12 March 1945, Btry C, 991st FA Bn (155mm Gun) (SP), is attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with parent unit.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ C. I. Keelan
t/ C. I. KEELAN,
Major, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.

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Asst AG

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Ref No C-118

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: 1/TK
Date: 15 March '45
15 March 1945

AG 370.5-C

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

FROM: DIRECTOR, COMUSMACV, COMUSMACV/OPS

1. Effective upon arrival in XII Corps area on or about 13 March 1945, the 519th Coll Co is attached to XII Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

2. Effective 1200A, 13 March 1945, Det A, 72nd Signal Company, consisting of one (1) officer and sixteen (16) enlisted men is placed on temporary duty with the 2832nd Engr C Bn.

3. Effective 1 March 1945, the following units are attached to 1st CG Group for administration:

- 307th GM Rdn Co
- 943rd GM Pet Products Lab (M)

a. So much of Par 1, letter order this headquarters, Subject: Movement Order, Ref No. C-110, dated 14 March 1945 as reads, "HEER, HOLLAND (K-5850)" is amended to read "KRELELENZ, GERMANY (F-0076)."

b. So much of Par 1 a, letter order this headquarters, Subject: Movement Order, Ref No C-110, dated 14 March 1945 as reads, "MAASTRICHT, HOLLAND (K-5653)" is amended to read "MUSCHEN GLADBACH, GERMANY (F-0990)."

4. Effective on or about 18 March 1945, the 496th Signal Heavy Construction Company is attached to the 28th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion for training only.

5. PAB in Letter Order, HQ Sixth Army Group, file AG 370.5/E K-O, Subject: Attachment of Unit, dated 13 March 1945 the following units are assigned and/or attached as indicated:

a. Effective 0001A hours, 15 March 1945, Det 1A2, Co A, 2nd RCA Regt is attached to Seventh Army for operations. Administration remains with Co A, 2nd RCA Regt.

b. Effective 0001A hours, 14 March 1945, Det HOA2, Co A, 2nd RCA Regt is attached to Seventh Army for operations and supply. Administration remains with Co A, 2nd RCA Regt.

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Ltr: Attachment Order, dated 15 March '45, AG file 370.5-C, Hq 7th Army cont'd.

7. Effective 1200A, 16 March 1945, 2nd Bn, 65th Inf Regt is attached to 68th AAA Gp for operations only. Liaison officer from the 2nd Bn, 65th Inf Regt will report to the Commanding Officer of the 68th AAA Gp at BACCARAT immediately for instructions. Administration and supply remain with parent unit.

8. Effective 14 March 1945, Det of 21st Cal Recon Co is attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with parent unit.

9. Paragraph 2, Attachment Order, this headquarters, Ref No C-94, dated 12 March 1945 is rescinded.

10. Effective upon arrival in Seventh Army area, on or about 11 March 1945, the 3803 CM Trk Co is attached to XV Corps for operations. Further assignment and/or attachment orders will be issued upon receipt of orders from higher headquarters.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGO
Asst Adjutant General

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H. S. ALCORN
Major, A. G. D.
Asst Adjutant General

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- 2 -

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Ref No C-141

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

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SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: efk
Date: 17 Mar 45
.....

AO 370.5 - C

EXTRACT

17 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Orders.

TO : See Distribution.

* * *
3. So much of Par 8, letter Order this Headquarters, Subject: Attachment Order, Ref C-118, dated 15 March 1945 as reads, "Det of 21st Cml Decon Co is attached to VI Corps for operations", is amended to read, "Det of 21st Cml Decon Co is attached to XXI Corps for operations."
* * *

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ C. I. Keelan
t/ C. I. KEILAN,
Major, AGO,
Asst Adjutant General

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A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

Michael L. Connors
MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Colonel, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

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Hust

S E C R E T

Ref No C-150

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: GAH
Date: 19 Mar '45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding Officer, 68th AAA Group.

1. Move without delay the 163rd Chemical SG Co from present location to MORSBRONN (R-0033) in accordance with the following instructions:

a. Advance detachment report to CHEMICAL OFFICER, VI Corps at MORSBRONN for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone CADET REAR 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon arrival in VI Corps area unit is relieved from present attachment to the 68th AAA Group and is attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with the 22nd Chemical SG Bn.

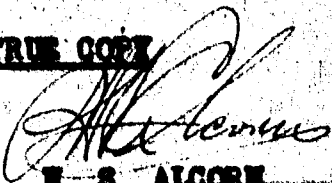
3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S, G-3.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ Glenn A. Henry
/t/ GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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Ref No Q-175

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: OAH
Date: 22 Mar '45

370.5-0

22 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay 630th TD Bn (3" Gun Towed) from present location to the vicinity of SARRBOURG in accordance with the following details:

a. Advance detachment will report immediately to Commanding General, Seventh Army, for instructions.

b. Coordinate movement with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone CADET REAR 467).

2. Effective upon arrival at SARRBOURG the 630th TD Bn is held from present attachment to VI Corps and reverts to control of Seventh Army.

3. Report time and date of departure and FTA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ Glenn A. Henry
/b/ GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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G. L. VALLENTINE
Maj AGD
Asst IG

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Ref No G-169

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

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SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: JHP
Date: 23 Mar 45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

23 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the units listed below to area designated by Commanding General, XV Corps in accordance with the following instructions:

910th AAA AW Bn (less Btry C)
Btry C, 353rd AAA S/L Bn

a. Advance detachment report to Commanding General, XV Corps at BIRMINGHAM (M2A07) for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon arrival XV Corps area units are relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and are attached to XV Corps for operations.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A.C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

/s/ John E. Pederson
/v/ JOHN E. PEDERSON,
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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H. S. Alcorn
H. S. ALCORN
Major, A. G. D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

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Ref No G-193

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

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SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: JEP
Date: 23 March 1945

AM 370.5 - C

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps

1. Move immediately the 196th Engr DT Co (Trdwy Br) (less one section) from present location to vicinity BADDARKHEIM (R-3196) in accordance with the following instructions:

a. Advance detachment report to CG, XV Corps at EISENERG (M-2407) for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, LUNEVILLE, (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon arrival XV Corps area unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and is attached to XV Corps for operations.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

DISTRIBUTION:
"Special"

/s/ John E. Pederson
/c/ JOHN E. PEDERSON
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

A TRUE COPY

[Signature]
W. S. ALCORN
Major, A. G. D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

SECRET

- 1 -

S E C R E T

Ref No X-1684

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T

Auth: CG 7 Add

Init: *[Handwritten]*

Date: 28 March '45

AG 370.5 - C

28 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the units listed below to vicinity NEUWIED, GERMANY (F-8003) in accordance with the following instructions:

Hq & Hq Tr, 102 Cav Gp.
38th Cav Ren Sq (Mez)

a. Advance detachments report to Commanding General, V Corps at NEUWIED, GERMANY for instructions.

b. Coordinate moves with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon departure Seventh Army area units are relieved from present attachments to VI Corps and Seventh Army and pass to control of 12th Army Group. Morning reports and allied records will be submitted to the 26 MHU effective 1 April 1945.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention; A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

DISTRIBUTION:

"Special"

[Handwritten Signature]
GLEN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

S E C R E T

SECRET

Ref No I-1694

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

AG ch /dist
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SECRET
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: [Signature]
Date: 28 Mar 45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

28 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the units listed below to ROCKENHAUSEN (M-0614) in accordance with the following instructions:

71st Infantry Division
530th AAA bn (M)
635th TD bn (T)
761st Tank Bn

a. Advance Detachment report to Commanding General XX Corps at WEIHERHOF (M-2215) for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Radio silence will be maintained during move.

2. Effective upon departure Seventh Army area units are relieved from attachment to VI Corps and control of Seventh Army and pass to control of 12th Army Group.

3. Morning reports and allied records of units will be submitted to the 38th MRU effective 1 April 1945.

4. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this Headquarters, Attention: A.C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

Glenn A. Henry
GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
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SECRET

S E C R E T

Ref No X-1621

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T

Auth: CG 7 Army

Init: *[Signature]*

Date: 29 March 1945
.....

AG 370.5 - C

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the 168th Cml SG Co from present location to an area designated by Commanding General, XV Corps in accordance with the following instructions:

a. Advance Detachment report to Commanding General, XV Corps at BENSHEIM (M 6421) for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon arrival XV Corps area unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and is attached to XV Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

[Signature]
GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No 0-224

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T

Auth: CG 7 Army

Init: JK

Date: 29 March '45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective 1200A hours, 29 March 1945 the units as listed below are relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and revert to control of Seventh Army:

36th Infantry Division
443rd AAA AW Bn(SP)

103rd Infantry Division
534th AAA AW Bn (M)
614th TD Bn(T)

2. Concurrent with above relief, 534th AAA AW Bn(M) and the 614th TD Bn (T) are attached to the 103rd Infantry Division for operations only. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:



C. I. KEELAN
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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S E C R E T

SECRET

Ref No C229

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
SECRET
Auth: CG-7 Army
Init:
Date: 30 Mar '45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective 29 March 1945, the units listed below are attached to the 2nd QM Group for administration and supply.

Hq/Hq Det, 54th QM Bn (M)
Hq/Hq Det, 55th QM Bn (M)

2. Having arrived in Seventh Army area and reported to Commanding General, Seventh Army, the 522nd QM Group is attached to Seventh Army for operations.

3. Effective 29 March 1945, the units listed below are relieved from present attachment to the 2nd QM Group for administration and supply only, and are attached to the 522nd QM Group for administration and supply only.

Hq/Hq Det, 144th QM Bn (M)
Hq/Hq Det, 284th QM Bn (M)

4. Effective 29 March 1945, the units listed below are attached to the 522nd QM Group for administration and supply.

Hq/Hq Det, 91st QM Bn (M)
Hq/Hq Det, 180th QM Bn (M)
Hq/Hq Det, 285th QM Bn (M)

5. Effective 29 March 1945, the units listed below are relieved from present attachment and are attached as indicated.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Relieved From</u>	<u>Attached To</u>
401st QM Trk Co	180th QM Bn (M)	184th QM Bn (M)
3359th QM Trk Co		XV Corps for opns only
3457th QM Trk Co	180th QM Bn (M)	184th QM Bn (M)
3513th QM Trk Co	284th QM Bn (M)	144th QM Bn (M)
3514th QM Trk Co	285th QM Bn (M)	315th QM Bn (M)
3987th QM Trk Co	105th QM Bn (M)	XV Corps for opns only
4270th QM Trk Co	105th QM Bn (M)	91st QM Bn (M)
4380th QM Trk Co	285th QM Bn (M)	VI Corps for opns only

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL PATCH:

John E. Pederson
JOHN E. PEDERSON
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
"Special"

SECRET

S E C R E T

Ref No X-1616

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: 7
Date: 29 March 45

AG 370.5 - C

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945 the 1st Plat, 1363rd Engr DT Co is relieved from present attachment to the 40th Engr C Gp and is attached to the 540th Engr C Gp for operations and reverts to control of parent unit.
2. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945 the 1553rd Engr Hv Pon Bn is relieved from present attachment to the 40th Engr C Gp and is attached to the 540th Engr C Gp for operations.
3. a. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945, Co B (less 2 Plats), 84th Engr Cam Bn is relieved from present attachment to 40th Engr C Gp and is attached to XV Corps for operations.
b. Concurrent with above attachment, two (2) Plats, Co B, 84th Engr Cam Bn presently attached to XV Corps for operations revert to control of parent unit.
4. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945 Det B, 72nd Sig Co (Special) is relieved from present attachment to 40th Engr C Gp and reverts to control of Seventh Army and parent unit.
5. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945 the 2829th Engr C Bn is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and reverts to control of Seventh Army and parent unit (40th Engr C Gp).
6. Effective 0001A hours, 29 March 1945 the 1st Plat, 1514 Engr Water Supply Co is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and reverts to control of Seventh Army and parent unit.
7. Effective this date the 196th Engr DT Co (Trdwy Br) is relieved from present attachment to XV Corps and is attached to VI Corps for operations only.
8. Effective this date the 1019th Engr Trdwy Br Co is relieved from present attachment to XV Corps and is attached to XXI Corps for operations only.

S E C R E T

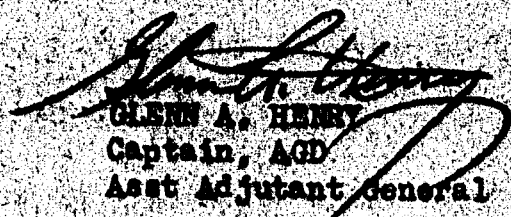
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S E C R E T

Ltr: Hq 7th Army, Attachment Order, File AG 370.5 - C, dated
29 March 1945 cont'd.

9. Effective this date the 555th Engr Hq Pbn Bn is
relieved from present attachment to XV Corps and reverts to
control of Seventh Army.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:


GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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S E C R E T

VI Corps
5

S E C R E T

Ref No C-226

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 755 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T

Auth: CG 7 Army

Init: *28*

Date: 29 March 1945
.....

AG 370.5 # C

29 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. PAC in Sixth Army Group letter order, subject: Troop Assignment, AG file 370.5/U D-0, dated 27 March 1945, effective 25 March 1945, the 3rd Platoon, 45th Veterinary Co is relieved from present attachment to Seventh Army and is placed under operational control of the Army Detachment of the Alps.

2. PAC in Sixth Army Group letter order, subject: Attachment of Units, AG file 370.5/E E-0, dated 27 March 1945, effective 25 March 1945, the detachments listed below are relieved from present attachment to Sixth Army Group and are attached to Seventh Army for operations and supply. Administration remains with 3rd ECA Regiment.

Det H1B2
Det G1B2
Det F1E2
Det I18G3

3. PAC in Sixth Army Group letter order, subject: Attachment of Units, AG file 370.5/E E-0, dated 27 March 1945, effective 26 March 1945, Det I7E2 is relieved from attachment to First French Army and is attached to Seventh Army for operations and supply. Administration remains with 3rd ECA Regiment.

4. Effective 1200A hours, 29 March 1945, the 569th AAA AW Bn (M) is relieved from present attachment to XV Corps and is attached to XXI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

5. Effective this date the Hq and 1st Plat, 4223rd QM Car Co, are attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

6. Effective this date, 2nd Platoon, Btry B, 353rd AAA S/L Bn is relieved from present attachment to the 44th AAA Brigade and operational control of parent unit and is attached to VI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with parent unit.

(OVER)

S E C R E T

MAR 31 1945 6 48 PM

S E C R E T

Ltr, AG file 370.5 - C, Hq 7th Army, dtd 29 March '45, subject: Attachment Order, cont'd.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:



C. I. KEELAN
Major, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

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Ref No C-227

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: *7*
Date: 30 March '45

AG 370.5 - C

30 March 1945

SUBJECT: Movement Order.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps.

1. Move without delay the 69th Armd FA Bn(105mm How) from present location to OBLERNAU (N-0049) in accordance with the following instructions:

a. Advance Detachment report to Commanding General, XV Corps at BENSHEIM (M-6420) for instructions.

b. Coordinate move with Transportation Officer, Seventh Army, (Telephone Cadet Rear 467).

c. Maintain radio silence during move.

2. Effective upon arrival XV Corps area unit is relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and is attached to XV Corps for operations.

3. Report time and date of departure and ETA destination to this headquarters, Attention: A. C. of S., G-3.

By Command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

DISTRIBUTION:

"Special"

Glenn A. Henry
GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

1/11/45

Ref No Q-230

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init: QAH
Date: 30 Mar 1945

AG 370.5 - 0

30 March 1945

SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

1. PAC in 7th Army Field Order #11, the following listed units are attached as indicated:

a. Effective 0001A hours, 31 March 1945, the following units are relieved from present attachment to XV Corps and are attached to XXI Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army:

12th Armored Division
572nd AAA AW Bn (SP)
3659th QM Truck Co.

b. Effective upon arrival in the XV Corps area, on or about 31 March 1945, the following units are relieved from present attachment to VI Corps and are attached to XV Corps for operations. Administration and supply remain with Seventh Army.

14th Armored Division
636th TD Bn (SP)
395th AAA AW Bn (SP)
4380th QM Truck Co.

c. Effective 0001A, 1 April 1945, the following units are relieved from present attachment to XXI Corps and are attached to VI Corps for operations:

10th Armored Division
796th AAA AW Bn (SP)
? 609th TD Bn (SP)
442nd QM Truck Co
448th QM Truck Co.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

s/ Glenn A. Henry
t/ GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

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A TRUE COPY:

C. L. Valentine
C. L. VALLENTINE
Maj AGD
Asst AG

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Ref No D-5

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758 US ARMY

.....
S E C R E T
Auth: CG 7 Army
Init:
Date: 31 Mar '45
.....

AG 370.5 - C

31 March 1945

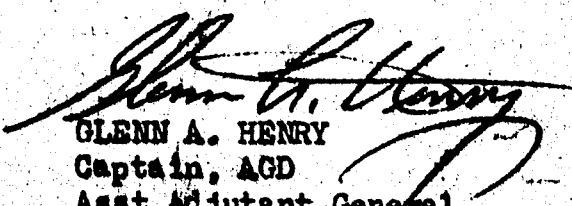
SUBJECT: Attachment Order.

TO : See Distribution.

Effective this date, the units listed below are relieved from present attachments and are attached for operations as indicated:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Relieved From:</u>	<u>Attached for Operations:</u>
442nd QM Truck Co	VI Corps	10th Armored Div ✓
448th QM Truck Co	VI Corps	10th Armored Div ✓
3659th QM Truck Co	XXI Corps	12th Armored Div
3359th QM Truck Co	XV Corps	12th Armored Div
4380th QM Truck Co	XV Corps	14th Armored Div
395th QM Truck Co	XV Corps	14th Armored Div.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL PATCH:


GLENN A. HENRY
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
6TH ARMY GROUP
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 23

27 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, VI Corps, APO 46, U. S. Army.

THRU: Commanding General, Seventh Army, APO 758, U. S. Army.

In reviewing the operations of the Seventh Army for the past 12 days, I once again wish to express to you and your gallant troops my appreciation for the outstanding job which they have done. As one of the tried and proven veteran Corps of our Army you have again demonstrated your superiority over the enemy. You have added another victory to your already well know campaigns of Salerno, Anzio and Southern France.

On 15 March you were ordered to attack the German defensive positions along the Moder River and, continuing that attack, breach the Siegfried Line. With the 3 DIA and CC6 of the 5 DB attached, you soon cleared the city of Haguenau and by 18 March had captured Lauterbourg. Wissembourg fell to your forces on 19 March. Task Force Monsabert, including the Allied forces already attached to you, was formed on the 19th. The VI Corps continued its attack and by 22 March had breached the Siegfried Line. In cooperation with the other Corps of the Seventh Army and the Third Army you then completed the mopping up of the Saar pocket and closed to the Rhine River.

No such difficult operation could have been completed in so short a time had it not been for the brilliant leadership and sound application of tactical principles by you and your commanders and the efficient execution of orders by your troops.

I desire that you express to every officer and man in the VI Corps, including the attached Allied troops and attached supporting troops, my sincere appreciation for your past deeds and my complete confidence in you in the battles to come. I will always be proud to have the VI Corps as part of my command.

/s/ Jacob L. Devers
/t/ JACOB L. DEVERS,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

B/L Hq Sixth Army Group 27 March 1945 Re: Commendation.

AG 200.6-A 1st Ind AMP/gwb

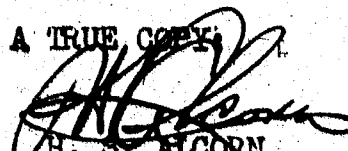
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY, APO 758, U. S. Army, 31 March 1945.

TO: Commanding General, VI Corps, APO 46, U. S. Army.

I wish to add my commendation to that of the Commanding General, Sixth Army Group, and to express my congratulations and admiration for the magnificent achievement of the VI Corps.

/s/ A. M. Patch
/t/ A. M. PATCH,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY


H. S. ELCORN,
Major, A. G. D.,
Asst Adjutant General.

ANNEX # 6

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Auth: CG VI Corps

Init: M 26

Date: 16 March 1945

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

GENERAL ORDERS)

16 March 1945.

NUMBER 20)

REORGANIZATION OF HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS.....I
REORGANIZATION OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY VI CORPS.....II
REORGANIZATION OF MILITARY POLICE PLATOON VI CORPS.....III

I REORGANIZATION OF HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS.

1. Effective 16 March 1945, Headquarters VI Corps is reorganized at Saverne, France in accordance with T/O & E 100-1, 19 January 1945, with an authorized strength of sixty nine (69) officers, seven (7) warrant officers, and one hundred nine (109) enlisted men.
2. Administrative instructions contained in Paragraph 3c, Circular 9, Headquarters Seventh Army, 13 March 1945, will apply.
3. Unit will be serviced by the 20th Machine Records Unit.
4. Authority: Letter, file AG 322-C, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 8 March 1945, subject: "Reorganization of Units".

II REORGANIZATION OF HEADQUARTERS COMPANY VI CORPS.

1. Effective 16 March 1945, Headquarters Company VI Corps is reorganized at Saverne, France in accordance with T/O & E 100-2, 19 January 1945, with an authorized strength of five (5) officers, ninety (90) enlisted men, and attached Medical Detachment of two (2) officers and seven (7) enlisted men.
2. Administrative instructions contained in Paragraph 3c, Circular 9, Headquarters Seventh Army, 13 March 1945, will apply.
3. Unit will be serviced by the 20th Machine Records Unit.
4. Authority: Letter, file AG 322-C, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 8 March 1945, subject: "Reorganization of Units".

III REORGANIZATION OF MILITARY POLICE PLATOON VI CORPS.

1. Effective 16 March 1945, Military Police Platoon VI Corps is reorganized at Saverne, France in accordance with T/O & E 19-77, 1 August 1944 as amended by Changes Number 1, 19 January 1945, with an authorized strength of three (3) officers and forty two (42) enlisted men.
2. Administrative instructions contained in Paragraph 3c, Circular 9, Headquarters Seventh Army, 13 March 1945, will apply.

ANNEX #7A

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

-2-

3. Unit will be serviced by the 20th Machine Records Unit.

4. Authority: "Letter, file AG 322-C, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 8 March 1946, subject: "Reorganization of Units".

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS:

CHARLES D. PALMER,
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Michael L. Connors

MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"

31 CG Seventh Army
2 CO Hq Co VI Corps
2 CO MP Platoon VI Corps

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO #46, U. S. Army

SECRET

By Auth: CG VI Corps
Init: *WHL*
Date: 5 Mar 45

GENERAL ORDERS)

5 March 1945

NUMBER 15)

REORGANIZATION OF HEADQUARTERS
AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY VI CORPS ARTILLERY

1. Effective 10 March 1945, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery VI Corps Artillery will be reorganized in accordance with T/O & E 6-50-1, 20 October 1944, with an authorized strength of twenty-two (22) officers, one (1) warrant officer, and eighty-nine (89) enlisted men.

2. The Commanding General VI Corps Artillery will comply with par 3, Section I, Circular No. 31 Hq. Seventh Army dated 20 November 1944 and Section II, Circular No. 35 Hq. Seventh Army dated 8 December 1944, and will submit a report upon reorganization to this headquarters showing the date, place, specific T/O & E and its date.

3. Authority: Letter, file AG 322-C, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 28 February 1945, subject "Reorganization of Units".

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BROOKS:

CHARLES D. PALMER
Brigadier General, General Staff Corps
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

Michael L. Connors
MICHAEL L. CONNORS
Colonel, Adjutant General's Department,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

"A"
Seventh Army - 31
VI Corps Arty - 10

ANNEX # 7B

S E C R E T