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Report date: 1945

Title: After Action Reports: United States Army 15th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division, 10th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 11th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, 60th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division Artillery, 117th Infantry Regiment, 119th Infantry Regiment, 120th Infantry Regiment in Rhineland

Abstract: **Item 3043:** Report of operations and journal, January 1945 Rhineland; Part A: Summary of enemy operations, lessons, S-3 journal, 2 reports, overlays, IPW reports, operations instructions; Part B: Report of operations and journal, February 1945 Rhineland. Summary of enemy operations, lessons, S-2 reports, overlays, S-3 reports, operations instructions; Part C: Report of operations and journal, March 1945 Rhineland. Training memos, S-3 reports, operations instructions, overlays, S-2 reports. Lesson overlays; **Item 3044:** Operations report, February 1945 Rhineland. Lessons overlays; Part C: Operations report, March 1945 Rhineland. Lesson overlays; **Item 3045:** U.S. Army 5th Infantry Division, Part A: After action against the enemy report, February 1945, Rhineland; **Item 3046:** U.S. Army 5th Infantry Division Artillery, Part A: After action against the enemy report, February 1945 Rhineland; Part B: Operations report, March 1945 Rhineland. Lesson overlays; **Item 3047:** U.S. Army 10th Infantry Regiment, Part A: After action report, January 1945 Rhineland; Part B: After action report, February 1945 Rhineland; Part C: After action report, March 1945 Rhineland; Part D: After action report, April 1945 Rhineland; Part E: After action report, May 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3048:** U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Regiment, Part A: After action report, January 1945 Rhineland; Part B: After action report, February 1945 Rhineland; Part C: After action report, March 1945 Rhineland; Part D: After action report, April 1945 Rhineland; Part E: After action report, May 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3049:** U.S. Army 11th Infantry Regiment, Part A: After action report, February 1945 Rhineland; Part B: After action report, March 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3050:** U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division, Report of operations, March 1945 Rhineland, overlays, supply, evacuation report, casualties, operations instructions, FO lessons; **Item 3051:** U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division, AC of S, G-2, G-2 periodic report, March 1945 Rhineland and overlays; **Item 3052:** U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division Artillery, After action report, March 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3053:** U.S. Army 60th Infantry Regiment, After action report, March 1945 Rhineland, FOs overlays, S-3 reports, and overlays; **Item 3054:** U.S. Army 30th Infantry Division, ACoS, G-3, G-3

after battle report, March 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3055:** U.S. Army 30th Infantry Division Artillery, Part A: After action report, April 1945 Rhineland; Part B: After action report, March 1945, Rhineland; Part C: Report after action report against the enemy, February 1945 Rhineland; Part D: After action report, January 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3056:** U.S. Army 117th Infantry Regiment, Part A: Resume of operations, April 1945, Rhineland; Part B: Resume of operations, March 1945 Rhineland; Part C: Resume of operations Rhineland, February 1945; Part D: Resume of operations and journal, January 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3057:** U.S. Army 119th Infantry Regiment, Part A: Report after action against the enemy, April 1945 Rhineland; Part B: Report after action against the enemy, March 1945 Rhineland; Part C: Report after action against the enemy, February 1945; Part D: Report after action against the enemy, January 1945 Rhineland; **Item 3058:** U.S. Army 120th Infantry Regiment; Part A: After action report, January 1945 Rhineland; Part B: After action report, February 1945 Rhineland; Part C: After action report, March 1945; and Part D: After action report, April 1945 Rhineland.

Number of pages: 1379

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM

ITEM NO. *3043*

8-103
ENV 19
AIA of 15th Regt
Jan 45

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

L-1037
*ka

4 February 1946

SUBJECT : Transmittal of the Unit Journal and Operations Report
TO : Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division, APO 1

1. Transmitted herewith Unit Journal and Operations Report of this organization for the month of January 1946.
2. Request acknowledgement of receipt by indorsement hereon.

For the Regimental Commander:

[Signature]
Capt. 15th
Adjutant

2 Incls:
Unit Journal
Ops Rpt (quint)

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF
DOMC
DOWNGRADING COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1 January 1944

THE 15th INFANTRY

IN THE SECTOR OF

1 JANUARY 1944

14007

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
II SUMMARY OF BATTALION OPERATIONS
III SUMMARY OF COMPANY OPERATIONS
IV SUMMARY OF PLATOON OPERATIONS
V COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Following the occupation of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ by the 15th Infantry, the 1st Division assumed the defense and reorganized its positions. At the opening of the period, the 15th Infantry was holding a defensive line from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ northwest through ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, along the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ River to the east of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and improving these positions by laying mines and erecting barbed wire. The 1st Bn, 254th Inf was attached to the regiment and relieved the 2d Bn, 15th Inf, on 1 Jan. Then the 1st Bn staged a battalion raid to a reserve position in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ clear enemy pocket from the eastern slopes of hill 216, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, and to extend the MGR to some formidable positions. Due to a superior number of enemy, the proposed mission was not accomplished and the battalion was withdrawn.

The 15th Infantry remained in the sector south of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ until they were relieved by 30th Infantry and the latter, the regiment moved to the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ occupation of the division right flank and relieved the French there in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the 3d Bn 254th Inf were attached to the 15th Infantry and aided in the defense of the regimental sector. On the night of 8-9 January, the 3d Bn 254th was released from attachment to the 15th Infantry.

USE OF OFFICER (January 1943) - cont'd:

Objectives were taken against stubborn resistance from enemy infantry and armor, and were held against a counter-attack launched by 100 infantry and six pieces of armor at 1400 on the 26th from HILTZHEIM. Heavy units encountered us to this time came from a profusion of elements of 15th and 150th Divisions supported chiefly by the 64th Panzer Jäger Bn. except for the counterattack on the 26th which was made by 6/116 Regiment of the 2d Mtn Div.

On the night of 29/30 January the Regt attacked across the COGNAC Canal via 7790451 to take the towns of MUNTZENHEIM and FORTSCHWEHR against very light opposition. The operation was light due to surprise and speed of the attack for 150 PW and a substantial amount of material was captured. These PW were almost exclusively from elements of the 2d Mtn Division who had apparently assumed responsibility for defense of the COGNAC Bend in our sector; this gave the enemy unity of command in place of the hedge-hedge of elements which had previously held the line.

The close of the period found the regiment assembled in MUNTZENHEIM and URSCHENHEIM preparing to attack to the east to clear the sector to the RHINE - RHONE Canal. Total PW taken by the regiment during the period: 709.

III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

The close of the period found the regiment occupying FORTSCHWEHR, MUNTZENHEIM, and the woods SW of URSCHENHEIM with I and L Co's furnishing infantry support for the French Armored Force in MUEHLENHEIM and URSCHENHEIM; prepared to resume the offensive east to the RHINE-RHONE Canal.

IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL

Status of Personnel:

	OFFICERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN	TOTAL
Present :	112	5	2196	2313
Assigned:	126	5	2478	2609

Status of Material:

Good - with the exception that there was a shortage of certain types of ammunition, and winter clothing.

V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. By substituting the panoramic sight M-1 for the 105 mm Howitzer M-3, greater accuracy and less breakage is obtained than with the model which is issued for the Howitzer.

Unit

L-1137

Journal

15th Infantry

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER TO
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Journal

75

1 JANUARY 1945

L-1037

- 0225 3d Bn to DO: 3d Bn contacted I Co. Smoke shells landing on other side of River.
- 0400 2d Bn S-2 to DO: All Co's closed in except H Co which should close in within an hour.
- 0430 3d Bn reports M Co closed in new area.
- 0431 1st reports all quiet.
- 0450 2d Bn to DO: G Co completely subdued in new area.
- 0230 Report to Div War Room.
- 0250 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0300 1st & 3d Bn's reports all quiet.
- 0310 3d Bn to DO: At 0215A, K Co outpost heard sound of tank estimated to be vic of 72600. At 0235A, I Co was contacted by patrol from G Co, 30th Inf.
- 0315 3d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0350 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- For patrol action during night see patrol reports.
- 0432 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0500 Report to Division War Room.
- 0510 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, reports all quiet.
- 0510 to 0645: Negative reports from all units.
- 0645 3d Bn to DO: SP gun fired 8-10 rds on BENWIER from approx vic 722495 at 2230A.
- 0720 1st Bn DO to DO: 3d Bn patrol checked in - negative report.
- 0720 to 0900A: Negative reports.
- 0900 I & R OP # 3 (in ZELLENBERG) to DO: Friendly arty barrage on town of HOUSSEN, vic 73 4475. Observation excellent.
- 0920 I & R OP # 1 (in KINTZHEIM) to DO: At 0910A, 3 enemy shells landed at 84623.
- 0940 G-3 to Ex O: Your south boundary will change slightly. Town of RIQUEWIER will be in 30th Inf sector. OI will be out soon.
- 1005 OP # 3 in ZELLENBERG to DO: 8 HE and one smoke shell landed in HODSSEN, vic 734475. 4 more smoke shells landed to south of town. Have good observation but have seen very little activity.
- 1010 1st Bn CO to CO: A Co will relieve B Co on OPLR.
- 1014 I & R OP # 1 in KINTZHEIM to DO: At 1010A, observed one horse drawn vehicle towing something vic 864525.
- 1111 OP in BERTHEM to DO: At 0840A, one enemy smoke shell landed in OSTHEIM. One bldg in town is burning.
- 1117 CO left for 3d Bn.
- 1122 OP in KINTZHEIM to DO: At 1110A, 2 enemy were walking in woods at 843607. Gun position picked up by flash in that vic last night - azimuth of 100 degrees. (Mag given to 39th FA.)
- 1142 OP in ZELLENBERG to DO: Around 1135A, 6 shells (RE) landed in church in town of ZELLENBERG. At 1115A could observe enemy walking around at RR crossing near OSTHEIM.
- 1215 OP in KINTZHEIM to DO: At 1155A, 3 hvy cal shells landed vic 825623.
- 1228 OP in BERTHEM to DO: At 1145A, four enemy shells landed vic 733528.
- 1300 OP in KINTZHEIM gives negative reports.
- 1340 2d Bn to S-3: Will establish AT guns in position according to OI but only have two men per gun to man them.
- 1427 OP in ZELLENBERG to DO: Our Arty threw a couple of smoke shells vic HOUSSEN, 734475, starting fire.
- 1450 OP in BERTHEM to DO: At 1445A, 3 enemy air bursts over OSTHEIM.
- 1520 DO to Div: Cav's situation report. Hq Co, 254th Inf Regt, is at 718563.
- 1530 OP in ZELLENBERG to DO: At 1450A, column of black smoke observed at 742444. 6 enemy air bursts over OSTHEIM. At 1505A, one rd enemy smoke fell vic 713496.
- 1620 OP in BERTHEM to DO: S/A fire 40 degree azimuth from OP. Estimated vic 795596. Heard flak w again firing in that same vicinity.

1 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1700 OP in BERGHEIM to DC: S/A fire via OSTHEIM.
- 1703 OP's # 1 and 3 report negatively.
- 1732 CQ to Ex O: Use all possible strength that can be mustered from both battalions to knock out the enemy. I have agreed to postpone this operation until tomorrow night to permit extensive reconnaissance by both recon and combat patrols to seek any information and to insure no further build-up. Company that is now holding line should edge forward and make contact with enemy. Regtl CO & S-2 and Bn CO'S & S-2's will help brief patrols and take reports. Hill # 216 must be cleared. Tomorrow at 1000A, Regtl CO & S-2, and 2d & 3d Bn CO's & S-2's will attend meeting at Div Hqs and present plans to knock out enemy via hill 216. 1st Bn, 30th Inf, will move to RIQUENHUR in Div reserve and their CO will also attend meeting.
- 1755 Ex O gave above msg to 2d & 3d Bn's.
- 1800 CQ to 3d Bn Ex O: I, K, & M Co's will each move 4 fox holes fwd as outposts. When this completed move more up and build up line.
- 1820 OP in ZELLENBERG to DC: Observed 2 gun flashes at 100 degrees azimuth from OP. Quiet until 1717A, then 1 WP landed on NE slope of hill 216. From 1755-1805A, a very heavy concentration of friendly mortar and arty fire landed S & E of hill 216. From 1810-15A, approx 30 rds of friendly mortar fire landed same vic. From 1806-15A, approx 10 O rds of tank fire (friendly) and approx 100 rds of friendly mortar fire landed same vic.
- 1820 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DC: 2 friendly tanks via BUREAUVILLE fired 15 rds in 1 1/2 minutes. Could not observe strike of shell.
- 1855 OP in ZELLENBERG to DC: 1820-35A, approx 70 rds of friendly mortar fire landing via 707486.
- 1940 S-3 to 3d Bn, 254th Inf: Engr's will report to you tomorrow around 0800A to lay wire in your sector.
- 2020 OP in ZELLENBERG to DC: Around 1940A, 10-15 arty shells landed vic 669482. Around 1955A, 50 rds of heavy enemy arty landed vic 691495.
- 2025 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: K Co believes they are getting a counterattack. Resisting MG fire from across river and men report seeing enemy trying to cross the river. We are firing 4,2 mortars and directing arty.
- 2027 Above msg given to all Bn's, separate units, and Division War Room.
- 2036 MTO to S-3: 2d bn has 6 trucks. S-3 to MTO: Check to see if they need any more.
- 2055 3d bn S-3 to Ex O: Enemy reaction has ceased. This was a fire at tack and not a counter atta ck.
- 2059 Above relayed to G-3, Div War Room.
- 2158 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O: Resume of fire fight in K Co's sector. 5-6 enemy MG's fired toward K Co vic of town of OSTHEIM. Our men returned fire. More enemy weapons opened fire. Enemy fired several grenades. As far as we can determine no enemy crossed river.
- 2200 OP in ZELLENBERG to DC: At 2145A, 30 enemy shells landed vic 685485 - 3 were WP, 20 rds of arty landed south end of BERGWIER and seemed to come from direction of COLMAR.
- 2300 Report to Div War Room.
- 2300 to 2400: Sporadic arty fire in sector. Otherwise all quiet.

PATROL SUMMARY NIGHT 1ST JANUARY 1945

1st Bn ran nine 2 man patrols in their sector between the main line of resistance to the outpost line of resistance. No enemy contact was made on any of the patrols, nothing unusual was reported. 3 patrols over each route: # 1 - left from 766629 to 763623 to 759616 to 759613 and returned; # 2 left from 759613 to contact 3d Bn and returned; # 3 - From 732569 to 752568 and returned. Bn Nighthawks was a reconnaissance for possible stream crossings discovered the bridges at 774596 was intact and in patrol's opinion could support tanks. Patrol crossed stream to 783595, found canal to be (estimated) 20 ft wide, 5 ft deep, running water (not frozen) a definite barrier to patrol action for 500 yds N & S of bridge. No enemy contact reported.

3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, ran nine 5 man patrols in their sector between the MLR and the OELR. No enemy contact was reported. 3 patrols were made over each route. # 1. from 725560, SE along road to GUEMAR, check in at L Co CP, 746544, OP 745542, E to RJ 730543, N on road to starting point. # 2 from 701545, N to road 707548, E to GUEMAR checking in at OP 745542, S to OP 738534, W along road to starting point. # 3 - From 702545, SE on main rd to RJ 728517, up to K Co 725512, N to RJ 730520, NW across country to starting point.

Patrols 10 and 10A made no contact, and observed FECHT River along their route to be waist to 5 ft deep, rapidly running, banks estimated to be 10% gradient, a definite patrol obstacle. The routes of these patrols were, from GUEMAR S to CP 738535 to OSTHEIM OP, 729529, E to FECHT River, N to OSTHEIM again.

Patrol # 11, with mission to check banks of stream E-W from GUEMAR and ILLHAUSEN observing enemy activity and installations en route, proceeded E from GUEMAR along road, went about 900 yds observing blown bridge 753542, saw 5 American helmets along road believed to be booby trapped. Ran into many trip wires, heard German voices and sounds of stakes driving from S across river. On way back between road and stream nothing unusual was observed.

3d Bn ran patrols over 4 different routes with results as follows: # 1 (3 patrols) from 702509, S to 702895, E to 718493, contact K Co CP in OSTHEIM, W on main road to L Co CP, 693510. No contact was made except with friendly units en route. # 2 (one patrol) to establish OP at RJ 714489, 714489 leaving from L Co CP, 693510, to K Co CP in OSTHEIM, S along river to "RE". An enemy SP gun fired 8 rds in direction of BENNWIER from 722495. OP established at 2330A. # 3, a 10 man combat patrol went S from BENNWIER to bridge 688479 and contacted 30th Inf outpost there. Then went S along tree lined road, then to 693478, where an enemy MG opened up on them. In the following fire fight 2 enemy were killed. The patrol receiving fire from 2 MG's in woods along stream returned by same route to starting point. # 4 - a patrol to and around hill 216, 699485 on reconnaissance mission spent the night around area E of hill 216 and to base of the hill along road W out of SIGOLSHEIM, to 714489 and S to within 100 yds of the creek. Many enemy voices were heard coming from woods near the stream, much activity, normal to a group of men in the woods. The night was relatively quiet in 15th Inf sector otherwise.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 311200A to 011200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : REICHENBERG Chateau
Date : 1 January 1945

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR and SELESTAT Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: No change.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt CP in REICHENBERG Chateau, via V705673; 1st Bn CP in KIEFFERSHIM; A Co via V747593 to V767633, B Co CP via V783679 with outposts on SELESTAT - GUMMAR highway; 2d Bn assembled in reserve position in RIBRAUVILLE; 3d Bn CP in ZELLENBERG; 1 Co on Hill #216 with outposts on WEISS River; K Co via OSTREIM; L Co via BERLEHEIM; G Co CP in HUNAWIR; 4th Co in position on left flank of I Co on Hill #216 with OP in BERNWIR; 5th Co in THANNKIRCH.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

Mq and Mq Co, plus 3d Bn 254 Inf, 65d Div, attached to 15th Inf. 3d Bn, 254 Inf, relieved 2d Bn, 15th Inf, on 31 December and occupied defensive positions in center of regimental sector.

TD Attachments (601st TD Bn); B Co, 2 TD's in GUMMAR, 2 TD's in OSTREIM, 2 TD's in MITTELWIR, 2 TD's in BERNWIR; A Co, 1 sect of TD's at V743605, 1 sect at V748617; plat in RIBRAUVILLE.

Tank Attachments (756 Tank Bn); B Co, 2 tanks in ROESCHWIR, 2 tanks in ST HIPPOLYTE; A Co, 5 tanks in BERLEHEIM, 4 tanks in RIBRAUVILLE in reserve; 4 tanks from D Co in reserve at BERGHEIM.

3d Bn attached to 1st Bn, 15th Inf, patrolling division left flank and maintaining liaison with French in SELESTAT.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First and third battalions and AT Co remained in defensive positions and continued laying tactical wire and mine fields. 2d Bn was relieved on defensive positions by 3d Bn, 254th Inf on 31 December. L Co 254th relieved E Co, 15th Inf; K Co relieved G Co, and I Co relieved F Co. Upon relief, 2d Bn moved to reserve position in RIBRAUVILLE. Reconnaissance and contact patrols were maintained.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 31 December)

Officers: 71%

WO: 100%

EM: 71%

Personnel Strength:

Officers: 81

EM: 61%

7. Results of Operations:

A. 1st and 3d Bn's maintained and improved defensive positions.

B. 2d Bn relieved by 3d Bn, 254th Inf and moved to RIBRAUVILLE.

C. Patrols maintained.

COMIN
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 REPORT

FROM: S10800A
TO: S10800A
UNIT: 1ST INFANTRY
DATE: 01 JANUARY 1945

No 1

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR & SELSTAT sheets.

1-1037

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: Generally along the Weiss River.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. The only enemy activity reported was as follows:

- (1) 1 armored vehicle observed via V715475 moving E toward RR at 1510A. TD and Arty fire placed on it.
- (2) 20 HE shells fell via GUMMAR at 1405A.
- (3) 4 HE shells fell via V726544 at 1840A.
- (4) 20 rds HE shells fell on GUMMAR at 1700A.
- (5) 5 rds of HE shells fell via V720555 at 1640A.
- (6) Tanks heard via V728500 by outpost at CE15A.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PWs: See attached IPW Report.

b. Our Patrols: 1st Bn ran nine 3 man patrols in their sector between the main line of resistance to the outpost line of resistance. No enemy contact was made on any of the patrols, nothing unusual was reported. 3 patrols over each route; #1 - leave from 788629 to 785-623 to 789618 and return. #2 - leave from 789618 to Combat White, contact there and return. #3 - from 782800 to 782868 contact and return. The Bn Nightteams on a reconnaissance for possible stream crossings discovered the bridge at 774596 was intact and in patrol's opinion could support tanks, erected by 785595, found canal to be (estimated) 20 feet wide, 8 feet deep, running water (not frozen), a definite barrier to patrol action for 500 yards N and S of bridge. No enemy contact reported.

Coak Black Bn ran nine 3 man patrols in their sector between the M.R. and the O.P.R. No enemy contact was reported. 3 patrols were made over each route. #1 - Leave 725450, SE along road to GUMMAR, check in at L Co CP 748544, CP 748542, E to M 750543, E on road to starting point. #2 - Leave from 701545 N to road 707548, E to GUMMAR checking in at CP 748542, S to CP 788654, W along road to starting point. #3 - Leave 708545, SE on main road to M 782817 up to K Co 728512, N to M 730520, NE across country to startingpoint.

Patrols 10 and 10A made no contact, and observed Fecht river along their route to be moist to 5 feet deep, rapidly running, banks estimated to be 10% gradient, a definite patrol obstacle. The routes of these patrols were: Patrol 10 - from GUMMAR via CP 788629 to 785629, S to 785649, E to Fecht River, N to OTHHEIM again.

Patrol #11, with mission to check back of stream E-W from GUMMAR and ILLHAUSEN observing enemy activity and installations on route, proceeded E from GUMMAR along road, went about 900 yards observing blown bridge 733548, saw 3 American helmets along road believed to be those trapped. Ran into many trip wires, heard German voices and sounds of stake driving from S across river. On way back between road and stream nothing unusual was observed.

3d Bn ran patrols over 3 different routes with results as follows: #1 (3 patrols) leave 708509, turn S to 708495, E to 715493, contact K Co CP in OTHHEIM, W on main road to L Co CP 692510 - no contact was made except with friendly units en route. #2 - (1 patrol) to establish CP at M 714483 leaving from L Co CP 692510 to K Co CP in OTHHEIM, S along river to KE. an enemy CP gun fired 8 rounds in direction of BENWIER from 722485. CP established at 2220A.

#5 - a 10 man combat patrol went S from BENDWIR to bridge 688479 and contacted 30th Inf outpost there. S along tree-lined road then to 693476 where an enemy MG opened up on them. In the following fire fight 2 enemy were killed. The patrol receiving fire from 2 MGs in woods along stream; the patrol returned to its starting point with no further activity along going - out route. #4 - a patrol to and around Hill #18 699485 on reconnaissance mission spent the night around area E of Hill #16 and to base of the hill along road E out of SIGOLSHIN, to 714485 and S to within 100 yards of the creek. Many enemy voices were heard coming from woods near the stream, such activity normal to a group of men in the woods. The night was relatively quiet in 15th Inf sector otherwise.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 15th Infantry
S - S

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

1 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 310800 Dec - 010800A Jan 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
1	1/748 VGR, 708 VG Div	V751564	1600A	1st Bn
1	TOTAL			
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4392.				

UNITS, MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH:

1/748 VGR: PW is Hungarian and deserted while returning from picking up rations. According to his statements 2 Bns of 748 VGR with 2 Cos in each Bn were located, as of 29 Dec, in ILLHAUSERN V7753. Average strength of Cos PW estimates 40 men, his Co having this number of men. Co CP, according to him, is located at V778559, with 1 MG. According to PW 2 other MGs are located at V779567 and V775565. The latter was PW's position and he states that road going from N to S through the forest is mined 100 m to the S from the MG position. There is a small strip in the center of the road which is not mined. "Teller"-and Anti-personnel mines are used. He states that he heard that area around V779567 is mined on both sides of road. Another MG is located at V782566 and PW states that trip wires may be found in vic V778568. Bridge at V778559 is reportedly out. PW states that the 2 men lost on our patrol on night 30/31 Dec were evacuated to the rear. One man was KIA, the other WIA. Latter was caused by a mine. MG positions have telephone communication with Co and Regt. According to PW there is no barbed wire or any other prepared positions in area and he states, that 748 VGR sector runs N from ILLHAUSERN.

PW was in a P.S.A. (punitive Co) up to 14 days ago, when 60-70 men were released and sent to line units. Info given by him may be assumed as reliable, since he picked up rations and was in that way in the disposition of his Co.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

2 JANUARY 1945

- 0040 34 Bn DO to DO: Bn battle patrol returned at 0630A. Proceeded south and occupied 30th Inf outpost at 687470. Received enemy rifle fire on hill 216.
- 0110 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0121 I & R OP # 3 (at ZILLMERS) to DO: At 1221A shells landed vic 731506. At 0108A, 2 shells landed vic ZILLMERS.
- 0125 34 Bn (254th Inf Regt) to DO: All quiet.
- 0130 I & R OP # 1 reports all quiet.
- 0210 I & R OP # 3 to DO: At 0144A 3 rds of arty landed vic 712466.
- 0215 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0220 1st Bn and 3d Bn (254th Inf Regt) report all quiet.
- 0225 OP # 2 reports a fire vic OSKELM.
- 0230 1st, 2d, 3d Bns, and 3d Bn of 254th Inf Regt reports all quiet.
- 0337 I & R OP # 3 (in ZILLMERS) to DO: At 0232A, 8 arty shells landed vic OSKELM.
- 0406 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0410 DO 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DO: 3d Bn patrol checked in here. All is quiet.
- 0415 I & R OP # 3 to DO: Around 0350A, 12 to 15 rds of arty fire landed vic OSKELM.
- 0430 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DO: All quiet.
- 0455 I & R OP # 2 (at HINZHEIM) to DO: 2 fires of an ar of 145 degree, 20 rds of arty in same area. Unable to hear guns.
- 0500 DO: Same situation report to Div War Room. Div to HQ: 1st Bn, 30th Inf, has been relieved in position by elements of 254th Inf.
- 0505 1st Bn DO to DO: Trip flares set off in 3d Bn Troop area apparently by enemy.
- 0530 1st & 2d Bns report all quiet.
- 0535 34 Bn DO to DO: No report from AF Co of enemy activity in HINZHEIM. An outgoing patrol to investigate.
- 0545 3d Bn, 254th Inf, reports all quiet.
- 0600 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0605 I & R OP # 3 to DO: 3 HE shells landed 180 degree azimuth from CP about 1500 yds away.
- 0615 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0655 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0700 I & R OP # 2 (at HINZHEIM) to DO: Observed gun flashes at 185 degree azimuth approx 5 miles away.
- 0706 1st Bn, 15th Inf and 3d Bn, 254th Inf reports all quiet.
- 0710 Periodic report to Div War Room.
- 0737 1st Bn CO to HQ: Our outpost at 755565 reported 15 men patrol in front of them. Then they split up into 2 groups. We are preparing to fire mortars and arty in that vic. Will fire arty on roads to east of above coordinate.
- 0741 Above relayed to 3d Bn, 254th Inf.
- 0756 I & R OP # 1 to HQ: Friendly arty fire landing at 90 degree azimuth from our CP in HINZHEIM. Can't determine exactly where it is coming from or where it is landing.
- 0817 1st Bn CO to HQ: Have no further information on enemy patrol wearing white caps and carrying rifles. Have observed some activity on roads east of point where we were observed.
- 0822 1st Bn CO to HQ: 1st Bn reports no activity in HINZHEIM. No activity observed today for any elements of 254th Inf.
- 0850 I & R OP # 2 (726562) to DO: At 0824A, an enemy flak wagon opened fire from 70 degree azimuth. Couldn't determine location. At 0850A, same flak wagon opened up again. At same time fire started at 763575 and burned for five minutes.
- 0903 HQ to 3d Bn Troop CO: Send officer to Branch unit to our left to get late information on change of positions, defenses, etc.
- 0907 Div Chief of Staff requested more information on reported counter attack last night. HQ to C of B: HQ to HQ: Reported on any C/A on OSKELM. About the same time 3 JPV were taken by the Bn on the left. This later proved to be a fire attack rather than a counter attack. Div C of B to HQ: Warn your commanders to qualify their statements when in doubt.
- 0915 Above relayed to the Bn's.

2 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 0910 3d Bn 8-3 to CO: I Co advanced 2 men to within 100 yds of road almost to 70 grid line. AT Co advanced: one two man outpost 50 yds over hill 216.
- 0917 1st Bn CO to HQ: Suggest that any in moving out and occupying positions vis of our OPLR. Have planned daylight patrol to check area where any patrol was spotted. Will set up MG outpost tonight at 75865.
- 0930 Div Ia O to 8-3: Dispositions of troops:
7th Inf: CP at 594502; A Co via 619470 and 617482; B Co from 608475 to 615-478; C Co from 619482 to 628482; E Co via 592453 and 600455; F Co from 592-458 to 598458; G Co via 599463. I Co via 606473; K Co via 603469; L Co via 599469; M Co via 597459. F Co, 254th Inf via 592494; F Co via 598492; G Co via 600482. (last mentions d F & G Co's are of 254th Inf).
- 30th Inf Regt, 1st Bn via RIGHEIMER, 673519. H Co, 670480, 678482, 668484. F Co 680489, 685480, 689489; G Co via 685488; I Co, 650487, 659479; H Co at 677482 with one platoon at 642480; L Co via 666480.
- 254th Inf, 1st Bn: A Co via 655480; B Co via 662473; C Co via 666475. I & R CP # 2 to DO: At 0915A-0930A, arty fell on hill 216 via 701485, smoke and HE.
- 0950 G.M.F. to HQ Co 3d Bn, 254th Inf, objected to French observation post using lights and balloons. I believe this is necessary in their work. Inform that Bn of this matter, and notify me who made the objection.
- 1000 Above given to 3d Bn, 254th Inf. Answer: I Co did not understand their purpose as they made the objection. This will not happen again.
- 1010 Above msg given to G of B.
- 1011 I & R CP # 1 (at KIFFHEIM): 2 HE shells landed via 829624 at 0930A. At 0955A heavy shells landed at 170 degree azimuth in friendly sector possibly 3 miles away.
- 1015 I & R CP # 1 to DO: Heard any tank firing for last 15 minutes at 120 degree azimuth. Fire falling around OEFFHEIM.
- 1105 I & R CP # 1 to DO: At 1030A six min of Muhlenerfer fire landed NE part of OEFFHEIM. Could not determine where fire is from.
- 1110 L Co CP reports enemy MG's firing from via 754525. CP locate d at 752542.
- 1113 I & R CP # 2 (in HENKHEIM) to DO: At 1030A, one enemy personnel observed via 775554.
- 1220 I & R CP # 1 to DO: At 1145A, 12 rds of MUELNERFER fire landed via 829672.
- 1245 DO to 3d Bn: Schedule patrol tonight with mission of taking a PW.
- 1300 I & R CP # 2 (in HENKHEIM) to DO: Enemy tank at azimuth of 135 degrees fired 2-3 rds. Could not observe tank.
- 1340 CO to CO: Try to work a TD into position this afternoon and fire direct fire on pill box at 704492. Destroy it before tonight's attack.
- 1345 CO to Co B, 601st TD Bn: Give above msg. Suggest that you use 697504 or 704492 as firing position.
- 1350 CO to Co B, 601st TD Bn: Give above msg. Suggest that you use 697504 or 704492 as firing position. Answer: We fired on that point yesterday scoring several direct hits. Will try to knock it down this afternoon.
- 1355 3d Bn to DO: 50 round mortar concentration fell on HJ "CO" at 0650A this morning.
- 1415 CO to I & R platoon: Next night CP's established for attack tonight. Have an
- 1420 I & R CP # 2 (in HENKHEIM) to DO: At 1420A planes bombed area at 110 de-
grees azimuth from our CP. 1 plane was destroyed. Arty fire at 1420A
arty set 2 large fires in houses in HENKHEIM. Observed 3 direct hits on church.
- 1455 3d Bn HQ to DO: 5 min of medium arty landed on town of BIELEHEIM from SE.
- 1515 I & R CP # 2 to DO: Planes bombed SE of here (HENKHEIM). Need medium AA fire. Unable to observe bombing.
- 1525 I & R CP # 1 (in KIFFHEIM) to DO: At 1420A, 6 shells landed in via 848627. At 1440A, 4 shells landed at 042613. Observed 3 men at 752579. At 1445A, 4 shells landed in via 834649. Saw 12 planes bomb on east side of RHINE River, 130-135 degree azimuth from our CP.
- 1533 G-2 DO to HQ: Have you planned patrols for tonight to forests NE of OEF-
HEIM. Answer: Will have two reconnaissance patrols in that area tonight.

2 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1559 I & R CP # 1 to DO: 3 HE shells landed via 795637 at 1540A.
 1609 3d Bn. Bn. O to B-3: TD's fired 28 rds of AMG at pill box. 23 rds penetrated.
 1625 1st Bn B-3 reports they have laid around 12,000 yds of single concertina wire, equivalent to one strand over entire front.
 1627 3d Bn reports they have laid around 6,000 yds of double-concertina wire. Will finish with triple wire.
 1690 2d Bn, 254th Inf, reports they have laid around 3,375 yds of concertina wire.
 1659 I & R CP # 1 (in KINZHEM) to DO: Friendly smoke screen near village via 754579.
 1706 CO gave above to 1st Bn. 1st Bn DO to CO: Smoke screen was demonstration for Div Chief of Staff on inspection with 1st Bn CO.
 1730 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, to DO: Our L Co has just located enemy MG c - t 756544. Will direct fire on it.
 1740 I & R CP # 3 to DO: Red mortar flare from KOUSSIN landed at 160 degree azimuth from my here in KINZHEM, approx 1/2 mile away. 2 fires burning in KOUSSIN.
 1755 3d Bn DO to DO: 5 rds of mortar fire landed on I Co's, 2nd platoon position at 727519. Came from an az of 110 degrees from that point, estimated 1,000 yds to front.
 1900 1st Bn reports all quiet.
 1902 3d Bn, 254th Inf, reports all quiet.
 1930 1st Bn B-3 to DO: The exchange of positions of A & B Co's completed except for movement of kitchen. A Co's former positions via 759644; B Co's former positions via 754579.
 1935 Above msg relayed to Div War Room.
 2100 I & R CP # 1 reports: At 2030A, 6 planes flew NE and then to NW and circled around. Altitude seemed to be half minute interval apart. Heard bombs to N of our CP. Location and distance undetermined.
 2150 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, to DO: Our L Co outpost via 728542 reports enemy arty landing Ely of outpost. Coming from 182 degree azimuth.
 2230 Bn O to 4th Co CO: Did you move any of your forward tonight. Answer: 2 groups moved out short distance but heard enemy digging emplacements - didn't go further in order to keep out of engagement before scheduled attack begins tonight.
 2252 3d Bn B-3 to Bn O: 1 Co established outpost at point # 5 (769340) and point # 6 (769402). I Co reports much activity heard across river.
 2255 Regt HQ advised at 3d Bn.
 2300 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, reports all quiet.
 2306 to 2300: Negative reports from the Bn.

PATROL SUMMARY NIGHT 1-2 JANUARY 1945

Area patrols carried on by each battalion between the main line of resistance and the outpost line of resistance, checked terrain features in their areas for infiltrated enemy personnel. All patrols were carried out as scheduled (continuously) and no enemy activity or personnel was observed.

1st Bn's patrol # 10, a forward patrol, was to check the stream to the front of their positions for possible crossings. They left 3d Ron Plat. (V766597), went south to 742589, crossed the ditch then southeast to the junction of ditched, 769585, then try to cross bridge, 773585. They were going to reconnoiter the stream north from the t point, but they were forced to return after a stiff fight with 3 Machine pistols firing from approx 772587.

3d Bn 254th's patrol # 11, had the mission of going south along the east bank of the FICHT River, was to investigate via 742524, which was a suspected enemy outpost. They were also to observe for possible crossings on the river. On their last trip out they turned back after observing two enemy patrols going north near a point at 748536. The second trip was more successful, they crossed the river at 752552, found the bridge at 748538 to be destroyed, and the banks of the stream to be a 45 degree slope and about 6 to 10 ft high. They continued south for 900 yds where they heard enemy talking and digging and some vehicular traffic. They returned over the same route after observing around that point. No indication of mines along the river bank was seen.

3d Bn patrol 9-D from 703499 to investigate pillbox at 705491, was stopped by flares followed by automatic small arms fire. Patrol # 12 on way to RJ 715483 received rifle fire from hill 216, returned to CP, sent out again for more complete information. Checking in at 30th Inf CP, 687478, they found it deserted of all personnel with all equipment still there. This was reported to I Co CP, 689482. Patrol continued on route and received rifle and machine pistol fire from hill 216, approx via 698485. Patrol # 13 on its route to KE, 715483, received MG fire from woods along creek about 718493, and on return drew MG fire from the pillbox via 705491. Patrol # 21, to establish a radio equipped CP at 709489 to remain till daylight, lost its way, but the observation mission was fulfilled since the revolving station (CP) maintained radio contact enroute till its return at 020530A. Patrol # 22 established CP during night at 708484. Patrol # 23 in crossing hill 216 from point 701485 reported that on the E slope of hill was located an estimated 50-100 foxholes of German and American origin. Patrol # 24 on same mission as above gave a similar report.

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S-S Periodic Report

Period: 011200A to 021200A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: REICHERBERG Chateau,
vic BERGHEIM, FRANCE
Date: 2 January 1945

No. 2
Map: FRANCE; 1/50,000; COLMAR & SELESTAT Sheet.

1. Our Front-Line: No change.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt. CP in REICHERBERG Chateau, vic V708578; 1st Bn CP in KIRCHHEIM; A Co via V747592 to V767532; F Co CP via V763579 with outposts on SELESTAT-GUEMAR highway; G Co via V728567 to V747585; H Co assembled in RIBBAUVILLE; 3d Bn CP in SELLENBERG; I Co on hill # 216 with outposts on WEISS River; K Co via OSTHEIM; L Co via BERGHEIM; M Co CP in HUNAU; AT Co in position on left flank of I Co on hill # 216 with CP in BERGHEIM; Sv Co in THANNENKIRCH.

3. Weather & Visibility: Clear; good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

Hq & Bn CP, 254th Infantry attached, CP established with 15th Inf CP in REICHERBERG Chateau. 2d Bn, 254th Infantry attached to 15th Infantry, occupying defensive positions in center of regt. sector.

3d Bn, 254th Inf, CP in BERGHEIM; E Co (-) in GUEMAR, platoon of L Co at RIBBAUVILLE Station; K Co, 254th Inf, from via V707527 to V714545; L Co from via V710542 to V717544.

TD Attachment (COLT TD Bn): B Co, 8 tanks in GUEMAR, 2 TD's in OSTHEIM, 2 TD's in RIBBAUVILLE, 2 TD's in BERGHEIM; A Co, sect via V745605, sect V745617, platoon in RIBBAUVILLE.

Tank Attachments (764 Td Bn): A Co, 5 tanks in BERGHEIM, 4 tanks in RIBBAUVILLE; B Co, 2d platoon moving to CHATEAUX, 2 tanks in BERGHEIM; D Co, 4 tanks in BERGHEIM.

3d Man patrolling left flank of Division sector, maintaining liaison with the French in SELESTAT.

5. Our Operations for the Period: 1st & 3d Bn's and AT Co remained in defensive positions throughout the period. 2d Bn remained in reserve position in RIBBAUVILLE. Defensive positions were improved. Patrols were maintained throughout the night, checking the area between the NEK & OPLE to prevent enemy infiltration. Four forward patrols were sent out on reconnaissance missions.

6. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel For Duty (As of 1 Jan):

Officers: 75%

EN: 100%

EM: 75%

Mile trench strength:

Officers: 24

7. Results of Operations:

- a. Defensive positions held and improved.
- b. Patrols maintained.

COMBIE
S-5

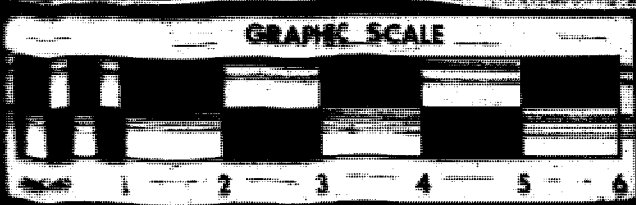
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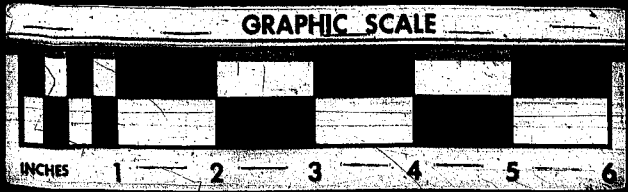
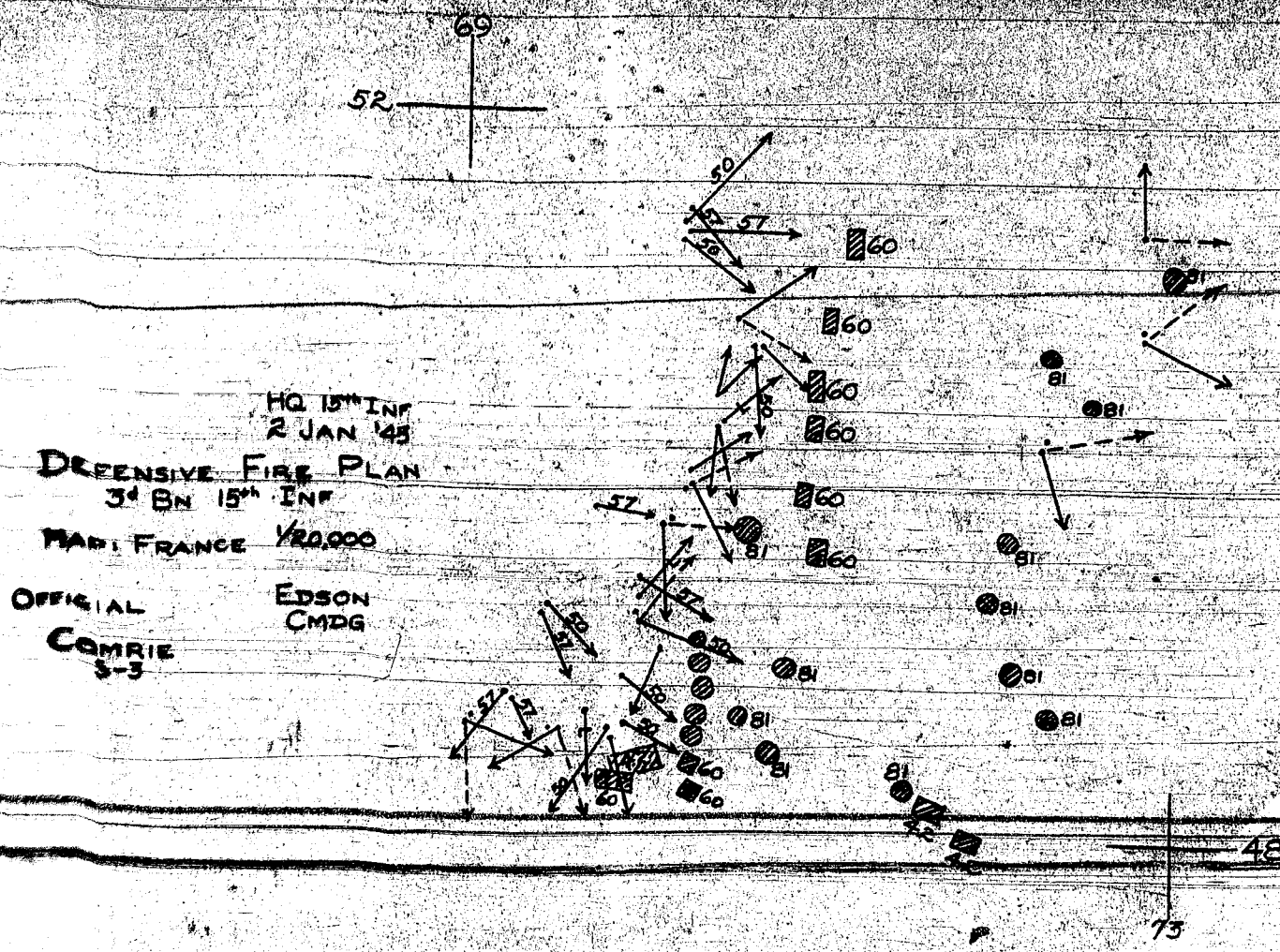


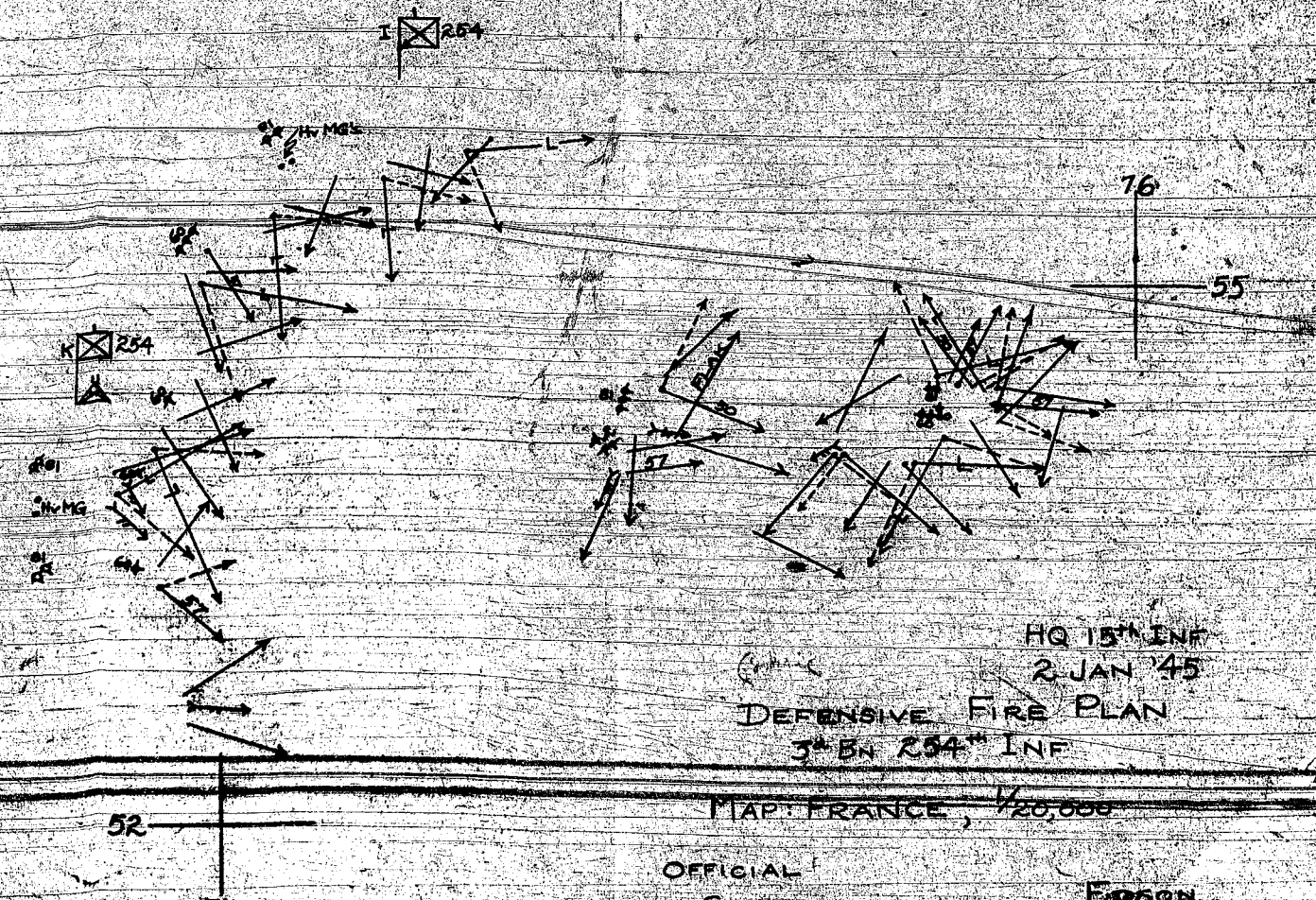
NO 15th INF
1 JAN 45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
32 REPORT No. 2
WEST FRANCE, 100,000

ORIGINAL
CNDG





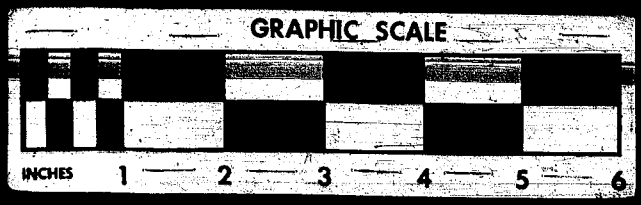


HQ 15th INF
 2 JAN '45
 DEFENSIVE FIRE PLAN
 3rd BN 254th INF

MAP: FRANCE, 1/20,000

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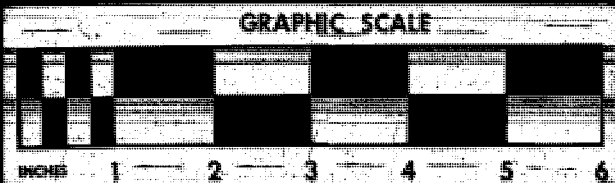
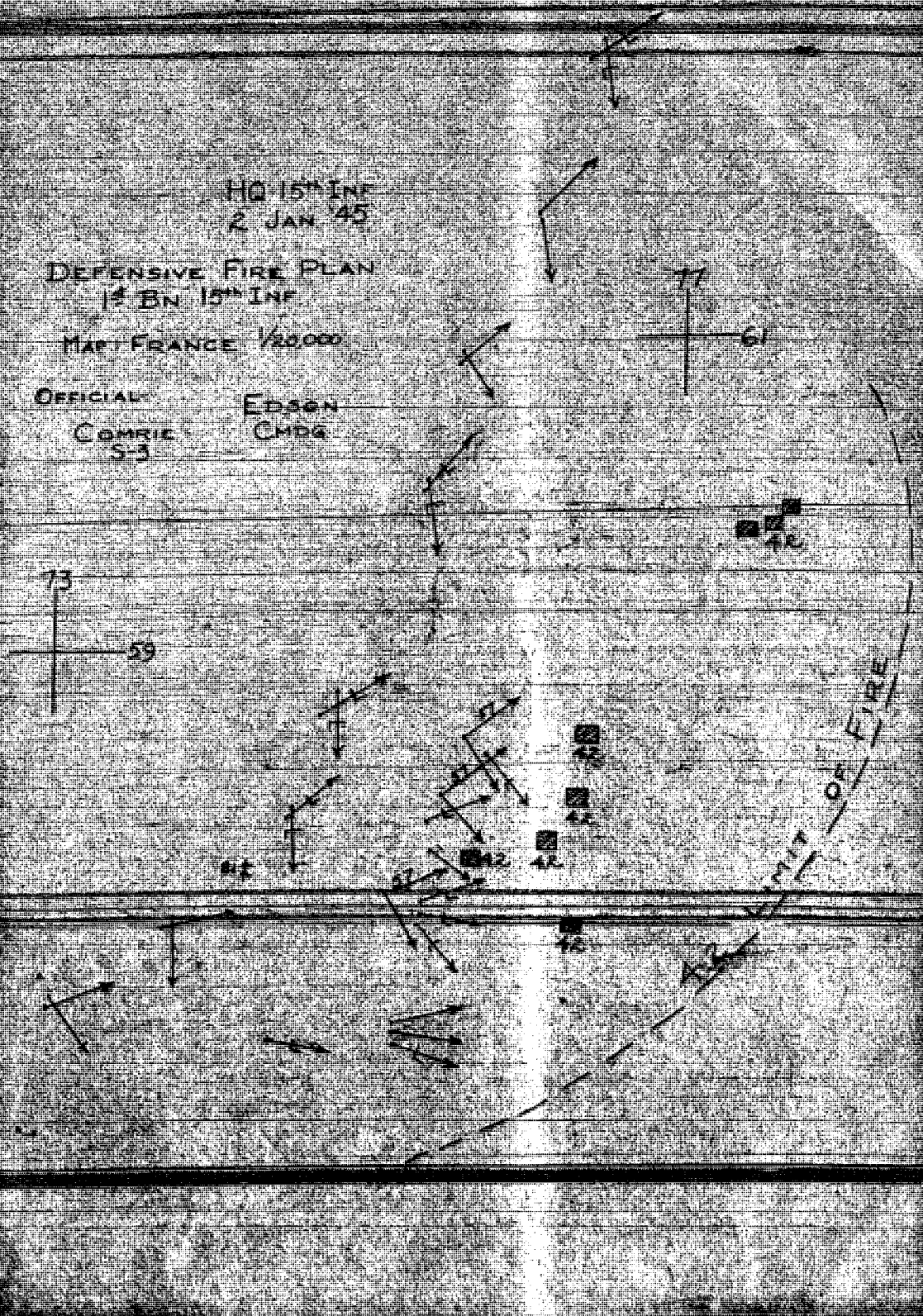
HQ 15th INF
2 JAN '45

DEFENSIVE FIRE PLAN
1st BN 15th INF

MAP FRANCE 1/20000

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CMDG



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S-2 Report

From: O10600A
To : O20800A
Date: 15th Inf
Place: vic BERGHEIM

No. 2

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COLMAR and SELESTAT Sheets. L-1037

1. Enemy Dispositions:

a. Enemy Front Lines: Generally along the FROCHT River south to bridge vic 718482 then west to vic 890480.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. The only enemy information reported was as follows:

- (1) 4 rds of arty fell in vic of V735638 at 1145A.
- (2) 2 rds of air bursts over OSTHEIM at 1530A.
- (3) 15 rds of arty fell vic V899482 at 1945A.
- (4) 50 rds of arty fell vic V891498 at 1955A.
- (5) Two MG's firing from vic of V729532 at 2035A.
- (6) 30 rds arty fell vic V885485 at 2145A.
- (7) 20 rds of arty fell vic V895495 at 2210A.
- (8) Enemy patrol seen vic of V748858 - mortar and arty fire placed on them.
- (9) MG firing from vic V718495 at 2250A.
- (10) 35 rds arty vic V885485 at 2256A coming from an of 198 degrees.
- (11) A 15 man enemy patrol seen vic V789582 at 0700A - mortar and arty fire placed on the patrol.
- (12) Enemy personnel seen vic of V720511 at 1140A.

3. Miscellaneous:

a. Patrols: See attached IPW Report.

b. Our Patrols: Area patrols carried on by each battalion checked the main line of resistance and the outpost line of resistance, checked terrain features in their areas for infiltrated enemy personnel. All patrols were carried out as scheduled (continuously) and no enemy activity or personnel was observed.

1st Bn's patrol #10, a forward patrol, was to check the stream to the front of their positions for possible crossings. They left 3d Recon Plat, (776597), went south to 767589, east to the ditch then southeast to the junction of ditches, 768585, then try to cross bridge, 773585. They were going to reconnoiter the stream north from that point, but they were forced to return after a stiff fight with three machine pistols firing from approximately 772587.

3d Bn 284th's patrol #11, had the mission of going south along the east bank of the FROCHT River; was to investigate vic 742524, which was a suspected enemy outpost. They were also to observe for possible crossing on the river. On their first trip out they turned back after observing two enemy patrols going north near a point at 748535. The second trip was more successful; they crossed the stream at 748535, found the bridge at 748535 to be destroyed, and the banks of the stream to be 45 degree slope about 6-10 feet high. They continued south for 900 yds where they heard enemy talking and digging and some vehicular traffic. They returned over the same route after observing around that point. No indication of mines along the river bank was seen.

3d Bn patrol #12 from 705499 to investigate pillbox at 705491, was stopped by flames followed by automatic small arms fire. Patrol #12 on way to E7 718483 received rifle fire from Hill #216, returned to OP, sent out again for more complete information. Checking in at 30-th Inf OP, 687478, they found it deserted of all personnel with all equipment still there.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

(S-2 Report, Para 3.b, Cont'd)

Reported this to I Co OP, 688482, went on route, received rifle and machine pistol fire from Hill #216, located it by sound to be at 688485 approx. Patrol #13 on its route to "EE", 716483, received MG fire from woods along creek about 718493, and on return drew MG fire from the pill box 708491. Patrol #21, to establish a radio equipped OP at 709489 to remain till daylight lost its way, but the observation mission was fulfilled since the roving station (OP) maintained radio contact en-route till its return at 020630A. Patrol #22 with same mission as #21 with OP to be established at 708484 established OP in similar manner. Patrol #23 in crossing Hill #216 from point 701485 reported that on the E slope of hill was located an estimated 50-100 foxholes of German and American origin. Patrol #24 on same mission found the same report to be true, showing evidence of not being occupied for several days, since snow covered all the equipment remaining there and the snow was undisturbed. Sector generally quiet as lack of enemy activity indicates.

DONALD H. LIEB
Maj, 16th Infantry
S-2

HEADQUARTERS
 SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 A. P. O. # 3

2 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 010800A - 020800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
2	4/461 Regt, 251 Div	} Deserters. V734525	2030A	"Black" Bn
1	8/1146 " 562 "		"	" "

3. TOTAL
 GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4395.

UNITS:

PWs were in hospital in FULDA, Germany, and had recuperating fur-
 loughs. Both, 251 and 562 Div are, according to PWs, fighting in Rus-
 sia. PWs gave up and state that they crossed the RECHT river in vic-
 of V739521. River in that vicinity is, according to their statements,
 ankle deep, and PWs took off shoes and socks and waded across. PWs
 left COLMAR on night 29/30 December and observed the following

INSTALLATIONS:

WIRT-Street, COLMAR... 5x10.5cm howitzers
 V721436 5x15cm guns
 V723483 Undetermined number of troops
 V729513 (East-OSTHEIM). 35 men and MGs on both sides of street
 V732512 AT roadblock, wooden /running W to E
 V739523 Undetermined number of troops, dug in

MINES:

~~V739522~~ Road is mined from this point 150 m E.
 Mines have glass top and are laid in tri-
 angle pattern.
 V739523 Undetermined number of mines on E bank of
 river.

Warner B. Frohman
 Warner B. Frohman
 1st Lt. Inf

Journal

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Reg 19th Inf
2 Jan 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 1)

OPERATION "PURE WHITE" - 572^c

1. On 2 January, 2d Bn will drive enemy from pocket B and SE of Hill #115, crossing LD at 2400A, and attacking south. 2d Bn will then establish blocks as shown to protect the occupation of new MLR by I Co and AT Co.
2. During the afternoon of 2 January 1945, Co B, 601st TD Bn, will conduct direct and indirect fire to destroy concrete house, V706690; believed to be enemy strong-point. They will report to this Headquarters by 1750A the results believed obtained, and any observed activity.
3. OP's will be established and named as follows:
#1 by 2d Bn on Hill #194, V687488, named by CO 2d Bn.
#2 by 2d Bn at AT Co OP in HENSHIRE, V688498, named by CO 2d Bn.
#3 by IAR plat at V701804, named by CO 18th Inf.
Wire and SCR 300 radio communications will be installed in each OP.
4. Regt¹ IAR plat will establish a block by 2200A, 2 January 1945 at Ed #4, V714498, to protect flank and rear of 2d Bn. This block will remain until 0830A, 2d January 1945, unless sooner relieved by this Headquarters. They will be equipped with a SCR 300 radio on channel 20, and will string a sound-power telephone line from OP #3.
5. Patrolling during the night 2-3 January will be as prescribed by this Headquarters north of 80 horizontal grid. Patrolling south of this line will be under control of 2d Bn.
6. By 2200A, I Co will establish outposts at approximately: - Point #5, V683482, and point #6, V688482, to protect right flank of 2d Bn attack. These outposts will later form the MLR of I Co. Each outpost will consist of at least 2 two-man fighting holes.
7. At dark tonight, AT Co will infiltrate men forward to new MLR, notifying this Headquarters as soon as any part of the new MLR is established.
8. Artillery, 4.2 mortar, and 81-mm mortar concentrations will be prepared to cover woods and creek from "ES" to "EK" to "EM" and will be controlled by 2d Bn CO.
9. Upon clearing of enemy pocket, 2d Bn will notify CO at HQ #6 and also CO 2d Bn. CO 2d Bn will then move I Co and AT Co forward to establish new MLR.
10. 2d Bn will remain in blocking positions until new MLR is established.
11. 2d Bn will prepare to occupy area now held by AT Co, with one Co when AT Co moves to new MLR.
12. Upon completion of occupation of new MLR by 2d Bn, the 2d Bn blocks will be relieved and 2d Bn (-1 Co) will return to HENSHIRE and then to Regt¹ reserve position at RIBBAUVILLE. Upon relief of 2d Bn from blocking positions, CO 2d Bn will assume command of the sector.

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13. In the event 3d Bn has not fully taken over the new MIA by 0600A, 3 January, the 3d Bn will commence return, as stated above, to avoid unnecessary movement in daylight.

14. Immediately after dark tonight, all men in Command AF Co will be briefed on this operation so as to affect the occupation of the new MIA as quickly as possible.

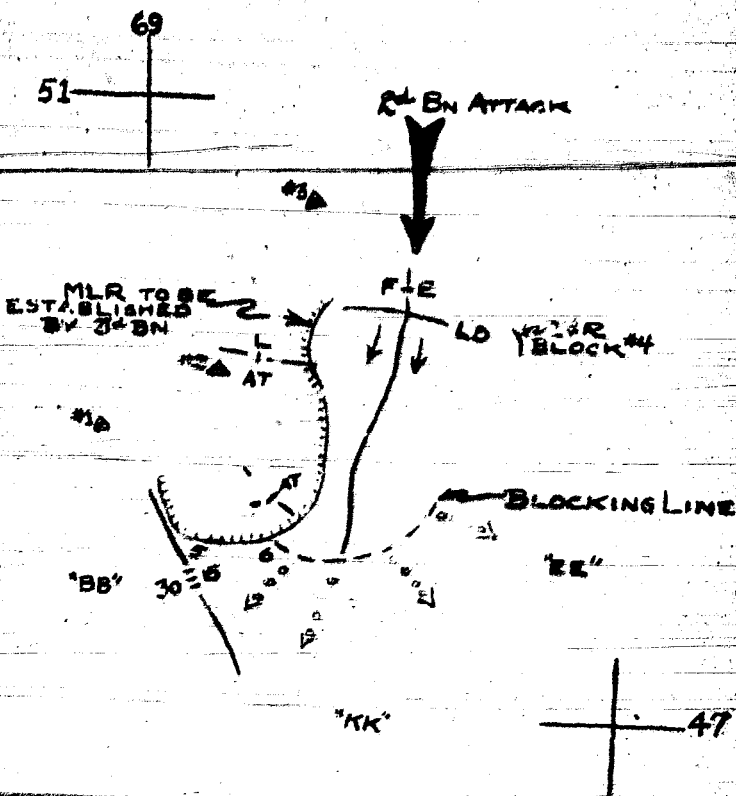
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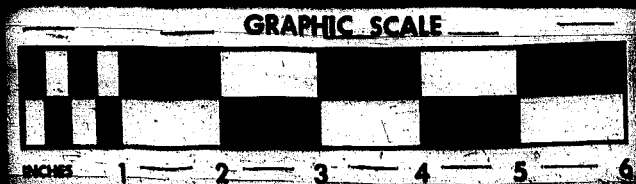
2-8



HQ 15" INCH
 2 JAN 1945
 OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
 OPERATION I. INSTRUCTIONS #1
 MAP: FRANCE, 1/25,000

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3 JANUARY 1945

- 0000 2d Bn Bn O to DO: Bn moved out on schedule.
- 0101 2d Bn S-3 to DO: Both Bn's are moving. Engaged in small fire fight.
- 0109 1st Bn DO to DO: 2 Co rec'd shelling in town of CHATEAUX. Approx 8 rds. 3 rds landed south of Bn CP. Observed no gun flashes.
- 0106 2d Bn DO to DO: Line is out to CP # 3 where Regt CO is observing the attack. Squad fireman out. We have captured two POW. No'd some arty fire.
- 0108 2d Bn wireman pts rtd working on line to CP # 3 20 minutes ago.
- 0111 Situation Report to Div War Room.
- 0115 2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, to DO: All quiet.
- 0120 2d Bn to DO: Pick up 2 PW's at 3d Bn forward.
- 0127 Above msg given to MP's and PW.
- 0130 CP # 3 (in KIMBERLY) to DO: At 0110, 15 enemy shells landed at 40 degree azimuth, approx 2 miles from CP.
- 0153 2d Bn Bn O to DO: I & L Co's reported all quiet. Received no enemy reaction to 2d Bn attack.
- 0200 1st Bn DO to DO: At 0100A, 8 rds of 105 mm landed in D Co area, coming from 155 degree azimuth. At 0145A, 4 Co patrol contacted 3d Bn plnt.
- 0210 CP # 3 (located at vic 70150A) reports that at 0115A, 15 rds of arty landed approx 4,000 yds away at 150 to 170 de azim.
- 0310 2d Bn Bn O to DO: F Co is still moving along. E Co, at present, is reorganizing on 120. 2 Co ran into 3 MP's, bazooka, and hand grenades via V708-409 along north-south. Co was disorganized and Cmdr either wounded or captured. 2d Bn S-3 is down checking on progress now. Receiving some mortar fire, leading to west of E Co and north of F Co.
- 03 30 2d Bn to DO: Have 6 more PW's captured by F Co (DO notified MP's)
- 0334 2d Bn to DO: All Co's reported all quiet as of 0300A.
- 0405 2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, reports all quiet.
- 0410 CP # 3 to DO: At 0320A, 5 shells landed via hill 216. At 0330-0340A, S/A fire via hill 216.
- 0437 2d Bn, 254th Inf reports arty fire landing via L Co's positions.
- 0512 DO gives situation report to Div War Room.
- 0555 1st Bn and 2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, report all quiet.
- 0625 CP # 3 to S-3: At 0610A, several rds of hvy mortar fire landed on hill 216. At 0618A, hvy arty landed via OSTERM. From 0630-0640A, arty fell on hill 216 and via OSTERM. 0645A, 10 rds of hvy mortar fire landed via hill 216. 0655A, 60 rds of hvy arty fire, possibly friendly, falling at azimuth of 110 degrees.
- 0705 2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, to DO: L Co reports that in their southern sector lights were seen and wood chopping and digging heard approx 800 yds to the front.
- 0730 2d Bn DO to DO: F Co is progressing slowly. Remainder of E Co is now with F Co. E Co CO still missing.
- 0750 S-3 to Div War Room: F Co now at 702485, fwd slope of hill 216. Remainder of E Co with them. AF Co on flank of F Co. Will hold today and res umc attack tonight. E Co will probably be pulled out and reorganized. Have 16 PW's reported to us, possibly more now that have not been reported.
- 0800 2d Bn Bn O to S-3: Block at 'HK' was pulled back last night for the operation.
- 0825 2d Bn CO to Bn CP: F Co has 2 Co on left flank. AF Co on right with I Co on 120. E Co started over fwd base of hill 216 toward road, ran in to 2 enemy tanks and 50-75 enemy moving up hill toward them. F Co pulled back on phase line AV (road SE from BISHWIK. Part of AF Co's on fwd part of hill 216. Will bring tanks up to combat enemy armor. We are digging in.
- 0845 G-3 to S-3: 2d Bn will be pulled back to RIBRAUVILLE tonight. Wire in the ground they now hold and consider a mine plan. One plnt of Engrs will be available for the work.
- 0950 CP # 1 reports: At 0920A, 3 rds of HE landed east of SELESTAT. At 0945A, saw two unidentified planes receiving some AA fire moving E of SELESTAT.
- 1055 S-3 to 2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt: Establish a 4 man outpost via 705520. 3d Bn, 254th to S-3: Have 50 col MO outpost via RJ 185 at 709519.

3 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1140 OP # 3 reports: 1015 to 1040A Arty landed vic east side of hill 216. At 1105A, 15 to 20 air bursts landed just east of hill 216. Around 1110A, enemy friendly MG fire from same vic.
- 1215 OP # 3 to DO: Around 1115A, arty concentration landed at an azimuth of 170 degrees from OP. At 1130A arty concentration of 10-12 rds landed at 185 degree azimuth.
- 1225 OP # 2 to DO: Visibility poor. Nothing else to report.
- 1227 CG to 3d Bn Ex O: Get a road block back out to 'ERG. Any armor may be crossing in that vicinity. 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Plan to have I Co move further to S & E and to move another AT outpost fwd.
- 1245 CG to CG & Ex O: I am attaching to 15th Inf, a Co of Engrs from 10th Engr Bn, div battle patrol (30 men), I & R plat of 254th Inf Regt (30 men). They will report at ZELLENBERG as soon as possible. Offer this as a suggested plan: Use 60 men from battle patrol and I & R plat in a consolidated group to occupy OSTHEIM and plat outpost south of OSTHEIM. The Engrs can relieve L Co and might also be used for installing AT obstacles, etc. That will leave remainder of bn free to attack any pocket SE of Hill 216. Suggest that you hold one company in reserve. Hope you are considering replacing 3d Bn on line soon. I am considering assigning all RTU's for entire Div to your Regt. CG to CG: Have no one to replace 3d Bn now but will have them relieved as soon as possible. Recommend that RTU's be assigned back to their original unit. Past experience has proven that they work better as a cohesive force in their original unit.
- 1305 DO to 10th Engrs S-3: The Engr Co to be attached to us will be used as relief of L Co in a defensive position. 10th Engrs to DO: That Co will probably be R Co.
- 1345 S-3 to 3d Bn CG: Gave 1245A entry concerning attachment of Bn battle patrol to 15th Inf.
- 1425 3d Bn Ex O to S-2: F Co's left flank at 705491. Co's that were counter attacked at daylight this morning state enemy force was 2 tanks and approx 100 men. Have 2 more PW's.
- 1510 2d Bn Ex O to DO: Much arty and mortar fire (enemy) has been landing vic hill 216 all day.
- 1515 Div to S-2: French report considerable enemy infantry activity between SELESSTAT and QUEMAR, across the river (FECHE River).
- 1610 OP # 1 (in KINTZHEIM) to DO: 4 HE shells landed vic SELESSTAT around 1600A.
- 1650 OP # 2 reports negatively.
- 1655 S-3 to 3d Bn CG: Do not establish outpost at 'EE' tonight. Deterdict it with arty.
- 1730 3d Bn CG to Ex O: Engrs making reconnaissance now. Ex O to 3d Bn CG: CG brought out the following points: lay tactical wire in front of positions; each man lay an AT mine in front of his position; interdiction 'ERG' vic 701473 (point where PW's reported crossing river) with arty fire all night long.
- 1845 OP # 1 to DO: At 1835A observed gun flash at 100 degree azimuth. Flash-bang, 24 seconds.
- 1850 ~~Arty reports to DO: 3d Bn to 3d Bn 15th Inf established at 1700A.~~
- 1900 Direct line from 30th Inf 3d Bn to 3d Bn 15th Inf established at 1700A.
- 1930 S-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: Bull dozer will be out tomorrow to dig positions for TD's and tanks.
- 1950 Report to Division War Room.
- 1952 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: Defensive positions are fairly well laid in now. Will tie in better and improve positions considerably tomorrow.
- 2005 3d Bn CG to S-3: Relief of L Co almost complete. I Co moved out an hour ago to establish positions SE of hill 216.
- 2010 CG to S-2: AT Co reports having fire fight, killing 3 enemy and capturing 2 PW's taken vic 700498.
- 2015 AT Co to S-2: Had a patrol scrap, killing 3 enemy. 3 enemy escaped. At 1500A took 3 PW's who were walking down road vic 703493 with a white flag.
- 2030 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, to DO: Our L Co has been receiving arty fire at rate of 3 shells for every five minutes during the past hour and half.

3 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 2035 CO to Ex O: 3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt say they need more MG's and telephones. Redistributes these among battalions.
- 2040 2d Bn CO to Ex O: We have sent 6 MG's to 3d Bn, 254th, and have signed receipts for them.
- 2040 S-2 to duty clerk: OP report: From 2015-40A, 4 concentrations of 5 rds each from high velocity guns firing from azimuth of 160 degrees. Impact area extends from 718549 NR for 1,000 rds.
- 2100 Ex O to 3d Bn, 254th, and CO 2d Bn: 2d Bn will send three ground mounts for MG's to 3d Bn, 254th.
- 2105 I & R OP # 9 to DO: At 2030A, 10 HE and one smoke landed in OSTHEIM. At 2050A, fire burning in HAUSEN.
- 2110 Ex O gave situation to CO, CO to Ex O: Put in a road block between STRANDVILLE & OSTHEIM and use mines.
- 2119 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Have 3 ground mounts and 2 - 50 cal's on way to 3d Bn, 254th Inf. Regt CO is here.
- 2123 CO to Ex O: Give 3d Bn, 254th Inf, orders to put in position all MG's with ammo tonight. They will submit sketch to Regt Hq not later than 0700A tomorrow showing locations of all MG's.
- 2128 Gave last two rags to 3d Bn, 254th Inf.
- 2132 Report to DIV War Room.
- 2135 Div to Ex O: We received report from Div Arty which stated that K Co, 15th Inf heard vehicular movement, including tract vehicles, moving from OSTHEIM to COLMAR. 3d Bn Ex O: That report is correct. Lines were tied up on fire missions is reason that it was not reported sooner. Fired on convey twice with arty and 4.2 mortars, each time movement stopped. Unable to observe results.
- 2154 I & R OP # 1 to DO: At 2115A, observed any gun flash at az of 135 degrees, flash-bang, 18 seconds. At 2120A gun flash at 105 degrees, flash-bang 14 sec. At 2130, gun flash at 160 degree az, 19 sec flash-bang.
- 2156 Above relayed to 39th FA.
- 2204 1st Bn to DO: All quiet in sector except for firing of Tanks and TD's in GUEMAR.
- 2225 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DO: 5 rds of arty landed at 715540 at 2100A.
- 2228 3d Bn S-3 to DO: Observed gun flash at 115 degrees, 8 seconds flash-bang. Another flash at 135 degrees and 8 seconds flash-bang. Relief of K Co not completed.
- 2254 I & R OP # 1 (- in KIEWZHEIM) to DO: Nebelwerfer firing from azimuth of 95 degrees, 6 rds, 25 seconds, flash-bang.
- 2255 Periodic report to Division War Room.
- 2255 to 2400A: Bn's report all quiet in sector except for sporadic and interdictory fire in area.

PATROL SUMMARY NIGHT 2-3 JANUARY 1945

Area patrols by the three forward battalions were run continuously all night checking specific terrain features in each area. found nothing unusual with the following exceptions. Area # 6 patrol run by 254th Bn checking 737533 saw an enemy patrol of about 12-14 men at approx 722522 heading toward OSTHEIM. Another patrol checking on the above situation found nothing unusual in their sector.

Forward patrols were run as follows. 1st Bn ran a daylight patrol # 12 looking for 6 enemy. (one dressed in white clothing reported to be in their area). Patrol left from 753578 east on road 1000 yds; turned south and searched woods W of RJ, 768570, and roads 300 yds immediately there; turned SW and returned to OHLR. En route they saw foot prints in the snow but no other fresh evidence of enemy.

~~2d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, ran two forward patrols. #13 was a reconnaissance which went out and returned after an unsatisfactory performance. Sent out immediately again they went SE from GUEMAR crossing river 754543, south to 753535 where they received fire from 5 enemy rifles - went south 1000 yds further where they heard digging sounds in the woods. From 752525 they received more SA's fire, returned to CP via same route, along E edge of woods. Patrol # 14 out of GUEMAR went south along east bank of YECT River till they reached a point about 743530, returned after finding no crossing of river. This patrol set off a trip flare via 754543.~~

3d Bn, 15th Inf, ran ambush patrol # 15, on cross YECT River vic of 724509 and lie along N-S road from OSTHEIM for prospective ambushes. Searched bank of river for about 700 yds south looking for a crossing point with no success. On their way they heard an estimated 3-4 tanks, 10-15 trucks, several house-drawn vehicles moving, estimated to be in vicinity of 728487; also saw black smoke at about 725494.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 021200A to 051200A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: REICHERBERG Chateau
vic BERGHEIM, FRANCE
Date: 3 January 1945

No. 3

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COLMAR and SELBSTAT Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: See overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt'1 CP in REICHERBERG Chateau, vic V705575; 1st Bn Bn CP in KIMZEMIN; A Co CP via V788679, with outposts on SELBSTAT - GUEMAR highway; B Co via V747593 to V767833; C Co via V728567 to V747893; 2d Bn forward CP in BERNWIHR; G Co in MITTLERWALD; H Co via V705490 to V709489; F Co via V705461 to V705490; 3d Bn CP in SELLEBERG; I Co on Hill #216; K Co via OSTHEIM, with platoon outpost on FEGEL River via V719499; L Co via BELLENHEIM; Cn Co CP in BUNAWIHR; AT Co in position to left of I Co on Hill #216; AT Co CP in BERNWIHR; Sv Co in TRAMENKIRCH.

3. Weather and Visibility: Hazy, limited visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

Hq and Hq Co, 254th Inf attached; CP established with 15th Inf in REICHERBERG Chateau. 3d Bn, 254th Inf, attached to 15th Inf, occupying defensive positions in center of regt'1 sector. 3d Bn, 254th CP in BERGHEIM; K Co (-) in GUEMAR, platoon of L Co at RIBEAUVILLE Station. K Co, 254th Inf from V707517 to V712543; I Co from V710245 to V717554.

TD Attachments (501st TD Bn): B Co, 3 TD's in GUEMAR, 2 TD's in OSTHEIM, 2 TD's in MITTLERWALD, 2 TD's in BERNWIHR; A Co sent TD's at V743903, sent TD's at V749317; platoon of TD's in RIBEAUVILLE.

Tank Attachments: (756 Tn Bn): A Co, 5 tanks in BELLENHEIM, 4 tanks in RIBEAUVILLE; B Co 4 tanks in CHATEAUX; 3 tanks in BERGHEIM; D Co, 4 tanks in BERGHEIM.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

A and B Companies exchanged positions on 2 January 1945. Exchange was completed by 021900A. Patrols were maintained throughout the sector, checking the area between MLR and OPLR for enemy infiltration; and reconnoitering to the front.

At 022400A, 2d Bn attacked south with 2 companies, E Co on the left and F Co on the right, to clear enemy from vic of Hill #216 south to the WEISS River. E Co encountered enemy MG, "Panzerfaust", S/A, mortar fire and hand grenades via V709489 and was badly disorganized. F Co, meeting lighter resistance, continued advancing over forward slopes of Hill #216. At 030730A, E Co to enemy infantry who was being counterattacked and F Co was forced to withdraw to SW road from BERNWIHR where they established line on E Co's right flank. They dug in and held positions during the day.

Enemy positions were improved throughout the period and continued improving positions.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 2 Jan)

Officers: 73%
NCO: 100%
EM: 70%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 25
EM: 572

7. Results of Operations:

- 2d Bn attacked and established line along SW road from BERNWIHR.
- A and B Co's exchanged positions.
- Defensive line held.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

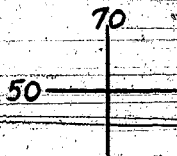
(S-3 Report #3, Para 7. d, Cont'd)

d. Patrols maintained.

COMBIZ
8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

4 TKS



SECT TDS



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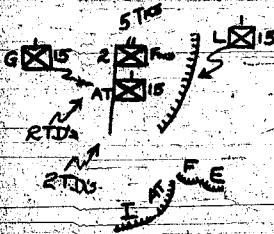
PLAT TDS
4 TKS



3 JAN
OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT #3
1/50,000



RTDS



GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

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S-2 Report

Form 000000
To: 000000
Unit: 15th Inf
Date: 3 Jan 45
Place: Vic BERGHEIM

No. 5
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR and SELESTAT Sheets.

1. Enemy Dispositions:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: Generally along the FROCH River SW to and along the WEISS River.
b. Enemy Defenses: Enemy strong point vic of V700494 to 708459. MG located vic V754535 and V756544.

2. Enemy Operations:

- a. General: Enemy resisted our attack on Hill #16 vic V899454 with MGs, bazookas, machine pistols, mortar fire and 2 tanks. Enemy was well dug in and repulsed our attack.

(1) The only other enemy activity reported was as follows:

- (a) 3 rds of arty fell vic V854624 at 0630A.
(b) Mob mortar fire fell vic of SELESTAT at 1030A.
(c) 12 rds of Mob mortar fire vic of V726272 at 1144A.
(d) S/P fire on vic of V725512 at 1250A.
(e) Sniper vic of V748558 at 1642A.
(f) 6 rds of arty fell on BERGHEIM, at 1455A, came from the SW.
(g) 8 rds of mortar fire fell vic V727512 at 1758A, came from an of 110 degrees.
(h) 8 rds of arty fire on CHATEAUX at 0100A, came from an of 155 degrees.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a. IPW: See attached IPW Report.

b. Our Patrols: Area patrols by the three forward battalions were run continuously all night checking specific terrain features in each area. Found nothing unusual with the following exceptions: Area #6 patrol run by 284 Bn checking 737533 saw an enemy patrol of about 12-14 men at approx 728522 heading toward OSTHEIM. Another patrol checking on the above situation found nothing unusual in their sector.

Forward patrols were run as follows: 1st Bn ran a daylight patrol #12 looking for enemy (one dressed in white clothing reported to be in their area). Patrol left from 733676 east on road 1000 yds, turned south and searched woods W of R3, 738870, and roads 300 yds; immediately there; turned SW and returned to OP. Reports they saw foot prints in the snow but no signs from 731224 of enemy.

254th Bn ran two forward patrols: #13 was a reconnaissance which went out and returned after an unsatisfactory performance. Sent out immediately again they went SE from GURMAR crossing river 734543, south to 735222 where they received fire from 5 enemy rifles - went south 1000 yds further where they heard digging sounds in the woods. From 738825 they received more SA's fire, returned to CP via same route, along E edge of woods. #14 out of GURMAR went south along east bank of FROCH River, set off a trip flare 200 yds from bridge, 754545; returned to starting point. Sent out again, they went south on west bank of the FROCH River till they reached a point about 743650, returned after finding no crossing of river. This patrol will have the same mission for night of Jan 2-4th till PW's are obtained.

3d Bn ran patrol #15, an ambush patrol to cross FROCH River vic of 724503 and lie along N-S road from OSTHEIM for prospective ambushes. Searched bank of river for about 700 yds south looking for a crossing point with no success. On their way they heard an estimated 3-4 tanks, 16-15 trucks, several horse-drawn vehicles moving, estimated to be in vicinity of 728487; also saw black smoke at about 728494

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HEADQUARTERS
SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 5

3 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 020800A - 030800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
2	3/708 "Pfeiler" Bn, 708 VG Div	V705488	0030A	2nd Bn
14	3/708 " " " " "	" " " "	0200A	2nd "

16 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4411.

UNITS, MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH:

3/708 "Pfeiler" Bn:

Movements: PWs state that they left ILLWALD-woods, S of SELLESTE on 27 December. Originally they were supposed to go to MUSSIG V838, but after arriving at MUSSIG they received orders to move to JEBSEHEIM V8046. On night 30/31 Dec orders were received for bn to move to COLMAR, where unit stayed up to 1 January at which time 3rd Co only moved to HOUSSEN V7347. On night of 1 January, around 2200A Hours, bn went into position at V705488, leaving the 3rd platoon as reserve in ROSENKRANZ V7247. Co took road leading NW out of ROSENKRANZ, and crossed blown bridge at V718493. PWs state that the stones of the blown bridge were their means of the crossing.

Strength: Bn consists of 3 Cos and PWs give the following strength figures: 1st Co-60 men, 2nd Co-40 and 3rd Co-75. The 3rd Co had 4 LMG, models 34 and 42. PWs are from different units of 708 VG Div and state that Bn was formed about 3 weeks ago in the area from they came.

Disposition of Units: According to PWs' statements the 3rd Co relieved an "SS" unit that formerly occupied sector. Mentioning "SS" unit may be assumed to be March Bn ELLWANGEN "SS", previously encountered in the BENNWILHR sector. The 1st and 2nd Cos of Bn were left in COLMAR and PWs state that troops are quartered in private homes, located in the V7341-square. Intelligent NCO-PW states, that the "Pionier-Sturm Bn" (EMGR Assault Bn) relieved them in the ILLWALD-sector. He was unable to give identification of latter mentioned unit. 3rd Co-00 is Lt. WERTENS.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

Journal

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Reg 16th Inf
3 January 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

NUMBER 2)

Map: FRANCE, 1/30,000; COLMAR and SLESTAT Sheets.

1. a. See current G-2 Periodic Report.
- b. 30th Inf on the right and Brigade Alsace Lorraine (PFI) with elements of 1st DIA (Fr) on the left.

2. a. The 16th Inf regroups and continues the defense preliminary to resumption of the offense at a later date.
- b. Relief necessary to effect regrouping will commence at darkness 3 Jan 45.

3. a. 1st Bn, attached:
 - Sd Bn Trp (SBP)
 - 1 Plat Co A, 89th Cml Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 756th Tr Bn
 - 1 Plat Co A, 601st TD Bn
 - 1 Plat AT Co, 16th Inf
 - Det 441st AAA AW Bn
 Remains in present defensive position.
- b. 2d Bn, attached:
 - 1 Plat Co A, 601st TD Bn
 - 1 Plat Co A, 756th Tr Bn
 - (1) Will be relieved of present positions, 3 Jan 45.
 - (2) Assemble in vic of RIBEAUVILLE and revert to Regt'l reserve.
 - (3) Leave one company in MITTELWIDER as Bn reserve for 3d Bn until daylight 4 Jan 45. The tactical situation permitting them move to rejoin Bn in RIBEAUVILLE.
- c. 3d Bn, 16th Inf, attached:
 - Sd Div BP
 - IAR Plat, 254th Inf.
 - B Co, 10th Hag Bn
 - 1 Plat, Co B, 601st TD Bn
 - 1 Plat, Co A, 756th Tr Bn
 - Det 441st AA AW Bn
 - 1 Plat Co A, 99th Cml Bn
 - 1 Plat AT Co, 16th Inf
 - (1) Relieve elements 2d Bn, occupying position within 3d Bn sector commencing at darkness, 3 Jan 45.
 - (2) Relieve CO K on position with 3d Div BP and IAR Plat 254 Inf. CO 3d Div BP will be in command of this sector; the IAR 254th Inf will be attached to 3d Div BP.
 - (3) Relieve Co B from position with Co B 10th Hag Bn.
 - (4) Relieve AT Co, 16th Inf commencing at darkness, 3 Jan 45.
 - (5) Maintain one company in Bn reserve in vicinity of RIBEAUVILLE.
 - (6) Re-establish outpost "E" and lay anti-personnel minefield in vicinity of foot crossing, night of 4 Jan 45.
 - (7) Maintain contact with 30th Inf via Ed 789042.
 - (8) Continue wiring in of defensive position.
 - (9) Outpost at K will establish listening post 500 yds to its south.
 - (10) IAR Co's will continue infiltrating forward & occupying area found empty.
- d. AT Co, 16th Inf, on completion of relief by 3d Bn 16th Inf, will occupy and maintain 87-mm AT guns positions as directed by this Headquarters.
- e. Co G, 16th Inf, from present positions, remains in support of 39th Pz.

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(OI, Para 3.3 - Cont'd)

- f. 3d Bn, 254th Inf (Ated)
- 1 Sec, Co B 801st TD
- 1 Plat, Co A 29th Cml Bn
- Det 441st AAA AF

Remain in present defense positions.

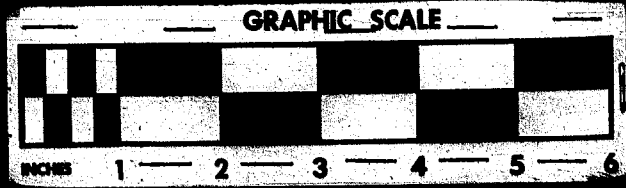
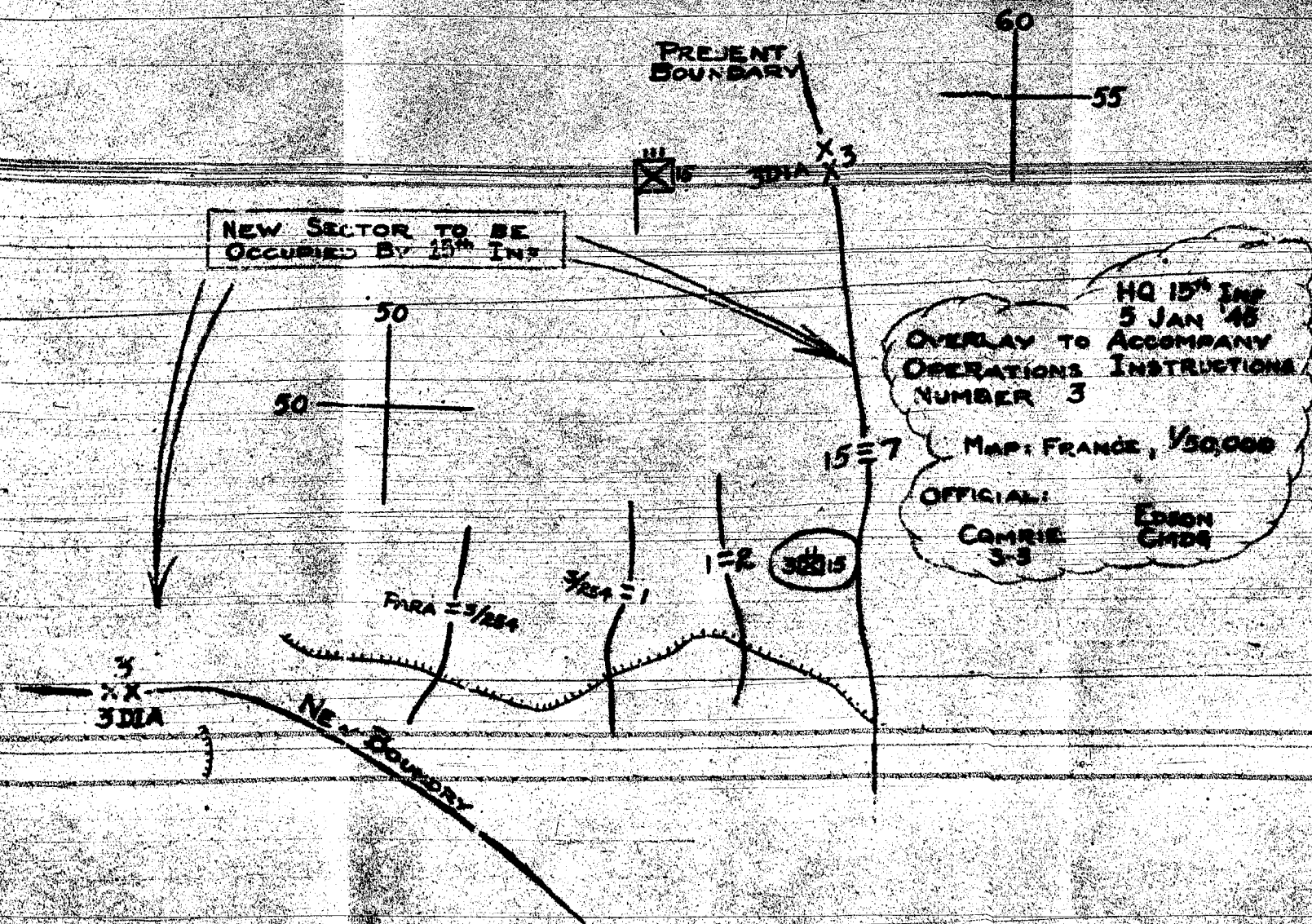
- m. (2) 84 Bn will lay a direct line from ~~SILVERHORN~~ to 1st Bn 30th Inf at ~~REQUIVIER~~
- (3) Each man occupying position on the OPLE or MLE will place a AF mine to the front of his foxhole.
- (3) Automatic weapons above TBA will be left on position for relieving unit.
- (4) Continued work on all defensive positions will be maintained. Emphasis to be placed on wiring in of positions and providing overhead cover.

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4 JANUARY 1945

- 0019 Periodic report to Div War Room.
0030 3d Bn DO to DO: 2 Plato of K Co relieved.
0120 3d Bn DO to DO: L Co relief complete.
~~0140 OP #1 from 0120: 2 enemy shells landed near 0120.~~
0303 OP #3 - Between 0230A to 0235A, 3 AP's landed vic of church in ZELLENBERG. Our TD's fired back approx 80 rds - TD's firing due south.
0320 Periodic report to Div War Room.
0355 3d Bn DO to DO: Last of K Co on way to new position. Div Battle Patrol relieved K Co and have taken over positions. K Co taking over AT positions.
0445 DO, 1st Bn to DO: At 0408, A Co outpost #1 fired comy guns at what they thought was enemy.
0450 DO 3d Bn 254th Inf to DO: 6 large cal shells fell in vic of RIBBAUVILLE - came from SE.
0455 Dy Ck, 3d Bn to DO: Relief of AT Co almost complete.
0508 DO, 3d Bn to DO: AT Co relief completed as of 0500A, Relieved by K Co.
0510 Periodic report to Div War Room.
0530 DO, 3d Bn, 254th Inf to Dy Ck: Enemy interdicting main road between RIBBAUVILLE and BERGHEIM with arty.
0545 Dy Ck 3d Bn to Dy Ck: Contact patrols from G Co contacted I Co at 0536. Arty and mortar fire landing near BERNWIHR - few rds landed near K Co CP.
0550 AT Co to DO: Closed in one plot in position - remainder of company in the town.
0550 OP #2 (BERGHEIM) to DO: At 0515 3 He enemy shells landed in GUMMAR. At 0530 four gun flashes due south of BERGHEIM approx 10 miles away. Three enemy shells landed vic ZELLENBERG.
0600 to 0655 Negative reports.
0700 TD's vic ZELLENBERG fired 20 rds vic Hill #216
0732 I&R OP #1 (742619) Enemy gun at 100 degree azimuth, determined by sound.
0748 3d Bn S-2 to Ex O: K Co relieved by 3d Div BP and I&R, 254th Inf. L Co in BERGHEIM. Ex O to 3d Bn S-2: G Co will go back to 2d Bn today.
0835 Conference call to Bn's: Hereafter Bn's will establish listening posts in area to replace interior patrols between CPLR and MLR. Equip these posts with a sound power telephone. A minimum of one patrol will be run each night to contact listening posts.
0910 C of S to CO: You will go immediately to town BONHOMME, 540530, west of COLMAR and report to Hq of Col Bonjour. Take with you, your S-3, CO's of 1st and 2d Bn and 3d Bn 254th Inf. Your Regt will be relieved tonight by unit on your left; your 3d Bn will be relieved by 1st Bn 30th Inf. When physically relieved, you will move back to towns in rear areas. Hq 254th Inf will also move with you.
1020 All Bn's notified to be prepared to house troops for relief.
1130 3d Bn 254th 3d Bn 2: At 1115, our L Co reported one yellow flare to the east of GUMMAR fired toward the north - distance undetermined.
1205 OP #3 (ZELLENBERG) to Dy Ck: At 1110, 40 enemy shells landed near BERGHEIM. At 1115, 20 rds landed near SIGOLSHEIM. 10 more rds landed.
1215 OP: 20 enemy shells vic SIGOLSHEIM. 12 rifle shots vic HIT #216.
1315 G-3 DO to Ex O: G-3 directs that 2 plato of TD's and one plat of light tanks attached to you will move out today and relieve proportionate amount of armor in French sector before dark tonight. One plat of TD's will report Fr Maj at ORBY (575475) one plat of light tanks and one of TD's will report Fr Col at Le BONHOMME (539628). G-3 expects to move 15th tomorrow, the other the following day. 2 of your attachments will move one day and 2 the next day. Armor leaving today will revert to you in new area.
1340 S-3, 3d Bn to DO: Five man enemy patrol reported vic of old K Co CP 1/2 hour ago by 3d Rcn BP. Investigated but could not find any trace of them.
1346 S-3, 766th Tk Bn to Ex O: We have been ordered by Division to send plat of R Co to relieve French armor today.
1355 S-3, 10th Engrs to DO: We are laying mines at 721619 tonight.
1400 DO to DO, 2d Bn. Gave last msg. 2d Bn will establish barrier at 700545, and erect a sign warning of mines.

4 JANUARY 1945, CONT'D

- 1420 Ex O to Asst CG; 2 plats of B Co, light tanks will affect relief of French armor tonight. Plat of A Co will relieve plat of the vic-
MUTTELWIER - BENNWIER to free them for relief.
- ~~1445 Ex O to 3d Bn, 30th Inf; Light tanks are moving out now for Le BOHOMME.~~
- ~~1500 Ex O to 3d Bn, 30th Inf; Light tanks are moving out now for Le BOHOMME.~~
- 1614 G-3 to Ex O; Leave all extra, light MG's and Hvy MG's in 3d Bn sector for the 1st Bn, 30th Inf
(Above msg relayed to 3d Bn CO)
- 1616 Ex O to 3d Bn, 30th Inf; Officers from French unit that will relieve you will be down to your CP soon. Leave no MG's in position. Alright to leave MG ammo on position but don't leave any mortar ammo.
- 1620 Ex O to 3d Bn CO & 2d Bn Ex O; Representatives of French unit to relieve you will be at your CP's soon. One Co will relieve DIV SF and IAR plat, 254th Inf, vic of OSTHEIM. The remainder of this French Bn will relieve 2d Bn. 1st Bn, 30th Inf will relieve 3d Bn.
- 1638 IAR OP #1 to Dy Ck; At 1620, planes bombed and strafed SALESSTAT. At 1635 5 HE, south end of GUEMAR.
- 1616 Div TCP to Ex O; Tentative plan for convoy movement tomorrow:
3d Bn, 254th Inf Regt, leave at 0830A; 3d Bn, 16th Inf, leave IP at 0900 - should clear RIBEAUVILLE by 0930; Cn Co, AT Co, and part of Regt'l Hq's can move between 0930A and 1000A. On the 6th Ja, 2d and 1st Bn's and other remaining units will move.
- 1622 Ex O to 3d Bn CO; Above msg. You will assemble at RIQUWIER upon completion of relief.
- 1648 IAR OP #1 to S-2; Vehicle vic 787609 - French directed arty fire on it and believe a direct hit. Observed civilians leaving SALESSTAT and moving toward KINTZHEIM.
- 1700 Above reported to Div War Room.
- 1730 Ex O to S-4; Will probably need 25 trucks for 254th Inf 3d Bn; 15 trucks for our 3d Bn and Regt'l Hq, 8 trucks.
- 1755 Ex O to CG; Have enough trucks to complete relief (50 trucks from Div) soon to take over B Co, 10th Engrs positions.
- 1806 3d Bn DO to DO; Screening patrols are out.
- 1845 2d Bn S to Ex O; French are here to relieve us at outpost.
- 1920 3d Bn CO to Ex O; One plat of Engrs relieved by 30th Inf. Ex O; - Mortar platoon will go with you tomorrow.
- 1935 S-2 to Div War Room; Relief of 3d Bn is underway. L Co has pulled their phone.
- 1946 CG; 2d Bn to Ex O; Will have another run to new area tomorrow 0800. 2d Bn will be in ORREY. Ex O; - 3d Bn, 16th and 3d Bn, 254th Inf will leave for new area tomorrow AM. 1st and 2d Bns will leave here the next day.
- 2000 to 2100 Negative reports.
- 2115 Ex O, 3d Bn to DO; Relief is half completed. Will be finished within an hour. I Co weapons have been relieved by C Co, 30th Inf. Rest of Co in process of relief. K Co same status - being relieved by B Co, 30th Inf.
- 2120 Ex O to G-3; Sending a staff officer to ZWILBERG to take charge of I Plat of Engrs and AT group. French will relieve Engrs at 0730. Other will be relieved during night.
- 2165 G-3 to CG; 3d Bn 254th will leave for new area tomorrow 1300. 3d Bn, 16th, will leave at 1200.
- ~~2230 Ex O to 3d Bn CO; All quiet. K Co patrol contacted 3d Bn, 254th. C Co patrol contacted A Co. No enemy activity.~~
- 2230 Ex O to 3d Bn S; Your IP time is changed to 1200 AM. Your route is RIQUWIER, KINTZHEIM, KAYSERSBERG, ORREY. The regimental CP will be opened at noon in Le BOHOMME. IAR of the 254th will be attached to you. Battle Patrol and 10th Engrs is going with the 2d Bn.
- 2245 CG to 254th Ex O; Your movement is changed to 1300.
- 2325 Ex O to Dy Ck; 3d Bn left three 50 caliber MG's and three LMG's in position. Turned over to 1st Bn, 30th Inf.
- 2330 CW CO to CG; Will move CW Co at 0800.
- 2345 Ex O to DO; IAR of 254th Inf is going to RIQUWIER with 3d Bn.
- 2345 3d Bn CO to Ex O; Am closing out. Responsibility has passed to 1st Bn, 30th Inf.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report 48

Period: 002200Z-040000
Place: REICHENBERG Station,
via REICHENBERG, FRANCE
Date: 4 January 1946

No. 4
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR and SULEWZAL Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: See overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt II OP via V706578; 1st Bn OP in KIESENHEIM; A Co OP via V713378 with outposts on GUMMAR road; B Co via V747593 to V707633; C Co via V723467 to V747593. 2d Bn in REICHENBERG; 3d Bn OP in KIELENBERG; I and K Co's occupying Hill 2112; L Co in REICHENBERG.

3. Weather and Visibility: Easy; limited visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

2d Bn, 284th Inf, 8th and 9th Co, 284th Inf attached, occupying defensive positions throughout the period. 2d Bn, 284th Inf, OP in REICHENBERG; 3 Co (C) in GUMMAR; platoon of 2 Co at REICHENBERG Station; 4 Co, 284th from V707633 to V713343; I Co from V710545 to V727524, 2d Platoon occupying positions at OSTHEIM.

2d Div Recon 2 Bn: 2d Bn attached to 1st Bn, 10th Inf, patrolling division left flank and maintaining liaison with French in REICHENBERG. 2d Division SF was attached to 2d Bn, 10th Inf to occupy positions via of OSTHEIM. 2 Co, 10th Bn SF, relieved 2 Co, 10th Inf and occupied defensive position from V701228 to V704603.

TD Attachments (Collet 2d Bn): Co 5, sect at V748917, platoon in REICHENBERG; Co 6, 2 TD's in GUMMAR, 2 TD's in OSTHEIM, 2 TD's in MITTELHEIM, 3 TD's in REICHENBERG. Co A, sect at V743603.

Tank Attachments (756 Tank Bn): Bn, six M-7's in REICHENBERG; 1 Co 3 tanks in REICHENBERG, 4 tanks in REICHENBERG; 2 Co 4 tanks in OSTHEIM, 2 tanks in REICHENBERG; 3 Co 4 tanks in REICHENBERG.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

1st Bn remained in defensive positions throughout the period. B Co, 10th Bn SF, was attached and relieved K Co, 10th Inf, in defensive positions. Relief of L Co was completed at 040125A and L Co moved to a reserve position in REICHENBERG. 2d Division SF was attached to 10th Inf and with the 284th Inf platoon relieved K Co in OSTHEIM. K Co then moved to relieve AF Co on Hill 2112. Relief of AF Co was completed at 040600A. 2d Bn moved to REICHENBERG position in REICHENBERG.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 3 Jan)

WO: 1006
EM: 715
Rifle trench strength:
Officers: 24
EM: 598

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

1. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were interviewed on 10/10/57.

2. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were interviewed on 10/11/57.

3. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were interviewed on 10/12/57.

10/10/57

6-1057

CONFIDENTIAL

1944. 10th Inf
Regt. 1st Div
1944. 1st Div

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION



... were being using terrain features in their
... to the ground. The patrol returned, reporting the
... terrain consisted of a large open field with scattered trees and
... mallow plants.

RONALD H LIEB
Maj, 10th Inf
A-2

CONFIDENTIAL

4 January 1948,

040600A January 1948.

Class of Capt. Bism Capt. Unit

1st MG Div V705488 1000A 2nd Co
V 5948 1400A 2nd *

entry Cage in FRANCE: 4414.

Men state that they left CGMAA on night
1/28/48. All men in group were convalescents.
They left along with 25 others by vehicle to forest house at V703470.
They state that they were caught by a battle group and army units have CP. After
leaving the forest house they were taken to V701481 which according to them is
in good condition, and to a halftrack mounting a 4-barrel AA gun.
While in this area they observed a halftrack around the CP area. One of the PWs
carried food to the 2nd Cos of KILWANGEN "BS" and located
troops at the following coordinates:

- 1/March Co, KILWANGEN "BS" N-side of highway running
W to E from approx V696484 to
V701483;
- 2/March Co, KILWANGEN "BS" line N to S from V701484 to
V704487;
- 3/March Co, KILWANGEN "BS" reported to be N of highway
leading SE out of BERNWILR
from approx V708408 to V708401.

Army unit, according to them, is between 1st and 2nd March Co.
EW estimates strength of 2nd Cos, according to food delivered, but
they state they observed no signs of life in 20148.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

134 1st Lt. ... relieved

135 1st Lt. ... relieved

136 1st Lt. ... relieved

137 1st Lt. ... relieved

138 1st Lt. ... relieved

139 1st Lt. ... relieved

140 1st Lt. ... relieved

141 1st Lt. ... relieved

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146 1st Lt. ... relieved

147 1st Lt. ... relieved

148 1st Lt. ... relieved

149 1st Lt. ... relieved

150 1st Lt. ... relieved

151 1st Lt. ... relieved

152 1st Lt. ... relieved

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200 1st Lt. ... relieved

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Parcel: 04200A, 051200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BONHOMME, FRANCE
Date : 6 January 1945

No. 5
Maps: FRANCE; 1/50,000; COLMAR, SELESTAT, & GERARDMER Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Inf relieved of front line positions.
2. Description of IFGODs: Regt'l fwd CP established in BONHOMME; regt'l rear CP at REICHENBERG Chateau; 1st Bn assembled in CHATEMOIS, KINTZHEIM, and ORSCHWILLER; 2d Bn assembled in RIBEAUVILLE; 3d Bn moving from RIQUEWIHR to IP; 3d Bn, 264th assembled in BERGHEIM.
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.
4. Our Operations for the Period:
During the night of 4th and 5th January, 3d Bn was relieved by 1st Bn, 30th Inf. The remainder of the regiment was relieved by French units and moved to assembly areas. (See paragraph #2).
The forward regimental CP displaced from REICHENBERG Chateau, via BERGHEIM to BONHOMME. The new CP was established at 051200A.
At the close of the period, 3d Bn 15th Infantry was moving from assembly area, in, vic of RIQUEWIHR, to IP enroute to reserve position in ORBEY.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty: (As of 4 Jan)
Officers: 74%
WO: 100%
EM: 71%
Rifle trench strength:
Officers: 27
EM: 605
6. Results of Operations:
 - a. Regt relieved and moved to assembly area.
 - b. 3d Bn moving to ORBEY.
 - c. Regt'l fwd CP established in BONHOMME.

COMBIM
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

8 JANUARY 1945 (Rear CP at REICHERNBERG Chateau)

- 0017 to 0805 Negative reports from all units.
0018 G-3 to S-3: You will get 100 miles for your batt
1138 Div. H. G. All messages will be changed to a
through RIBBAUVILLE - FRELAND - AUBURE - LA POUTROIE. The route has already
been posted with MP's.
1127 Ex O to 1st and 2d Bn: Relays above message. 2d Bn will have Engrs.
come up to RIBBAUVILLE and meet us there. They at at RIQUENIHER now.
1145 Div to Ex O: 1st Bn will leave at 1300 and go by the way of CHATENOIS -
LIEPUBE - ST MARIE. 2d Bn will leave at 1430 and go via RIBBAUVILLE -
FRELAND - AUBURE - LA POUTROIE.

8 JANUARY 1945 (Rear CP at BONHOMME)

- 0010 3d Bn reports all quiet.
0100 Dy Clk to War Room: all quiet.
0110 to 0310 Negative reports.
0315 S-3, 254th Inf to DO: Relief by our 3d Bn completed at 2355A. Our L Co
was last Co to go in. All quiet with the exception of 4 rds mortar fire
in I Co sector between 0110 and 0215. Have no patrols out - listening
posts to our front established.
0320 Above msg relayed to Div War Room.
0325 to 0850 Negative reports.
0845 DO to DO Rear CP: French are moving out of LE BONHOMME. Have CP group
move up on schedule. 254th Inf will move up tomorrow - their bldgs will
not be vacated until then.
1230 Co B, 756th Tk Bn closed in vic 656623.
1230 G-3 to S-3: Have one officer from 15th and one officer from French para-
troopers in ORBEY at 0800 tomorrow to pick up 10 trucks to transport para-
troopers attached to 15th Inf to our sector. Remainder of para regt is
moving to another town. Corps is providing trucks for the remainder of the
regt. Will be unable to motorize French para regt. G-3 due to truck
shortage. They will have to set reserves up close enough to move by foot.
1230 Relay Msg from rear: 1st and 2d Bns moving out, but will be later in
closing due to change of route.
1315 GO to Rear CP: REINTZHEIM Road is under shell fire. Do not let anyone
use it all day.
1320 Ex O 3d Bn to S-3: We are drawing shell fire every time we move. Trucks
have not arrived for L Co.
1425 G-3 to S-3: Have no troops enter ORBEY on vehicles - have them dismount at
HAMBOUT. Same applies to paratroopers - have them walk to HAMBOUT before
entrucking.
1530 G-3 to S-3: G-3 okayed plan to move 3d Bn out of ORBEY before daylight
tomorrow, after 2d Bn completes their relief. We will try to get additional
flak wagons by tomorrow.
1433 3d Bn Ex O notified of above msg by S-3.
1436 S-3 to 1st Bn S-3: IAR platoon of 254th Inf will be detached from 3d Bn and
attached to 1st Bn at 1445, at LA POUTROIE.
1445 Div CP opened at 1445, at LA POUTROIE.
1446 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: Plan to move the battalion to town of RIBBAUGOUTTE.
S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Start moving at 0510 in order
position by daylight.
1408 1st Bn Ex O to S-3: We have arrived in convoy at Hotel DU LAC BLANC and
will move out into position.
1415 Paratroopers to CO: Have requested 15 trucks from Corp Hq to move our
2d Bn to ST MARIE. (350 men). Now I need 15 more trucks to move our 1st Bn
from right side of sector HACHIMOTTE over to left side of sector HASBAURPT.
1420 3d Bn, 254th Inf to S-3: I am in the
1430 2d Bn, 254th Inf to S-3: I am in the

6 JANUARY 1946 CONT'D

- 1840 3d Bn, 264th Inf to S-3. Everything was quiet until 10 minutes ago; then enemy fired smoke in direction of S-3. Some 2000 yards away from S-3.
- 1850 Asst G-3 to S-3. Div will furnish 15 truck, instead of 10 previously scheduled, to move paratroopers.
- 1718 3d Bn, 264th Inf to S-3. I Co is in a fire fight.
- 1730 2d Bn CO to S-3. 2d Bn convoy has arrived. Will put 3d Div BP in reserve.
- 1826 CO, 1st Bn to S-3. Our Co's are on way to effect the relief of the GOUMS. From left to right order on the line will be A, B and C Co's.
- 1915 CO 3d Bn 264th to S-3. Enemy activity in our sector has quieted down. Received mortar fire on 80-mm mortar positions. French paratroopers contacted us at our rear CP.
- 1920 Hq Co, 3d Bn to S-3. Still receiving intermittent arty. L Co on way to LE BONHOMME. Hq Co and part of M Co moving out. L Co will assemble in RIBEAUCOUTTE - forward CP will be there.
- 2005 1st Bn CO to S-3. OP C Co via 536455; CP A Co 543464; OP B Co via 549472. Bn CP via 540479.
- 2020 S-3 to 801st TD. Move 2 guns from Hotel LAC BLANC to 1st Bn sector. Move one section TD's from BONHOMME to Hotel DU LAC BLANC
- 2055 S-3 to War Room. 2d Bn has passed thru ORBEY and will take up dispositions as follows: E Co via 565469; F Co via 567462; G Co via 563467; Engrs via 578455; Bn CP in ORBEY. 3d Bn will be in via 578523 by tomorrow morning. L Co (motorized Ca) in Le BONHOMME.
- 2140 (oral) M Co, Hq Co, and L Co closed new areas at 2100A. M Co and Hq via RIBEAUCOUTTE; L Co at eastern edge of Le BONHOMME.
- 2145 to 2400 Negative reports.

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 0612001 to 0612004
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: BONHOMME, FRANCE
Date: 6 January 1945

No. 6

Map: FRANCE; 1/50,000; COLMAR, SELESTAT, & GERARDMER Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: V529456 - V529455 - V529453 - V529455. L-1057

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt'l CP in BONHOMME, 3d Bn in reserve position in ORBEY, 2d Bn assembled in RIBRAUVILLE; 1st Bn assembled in CHATENOIS, KINTZHEIM, and ORSCHWILM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

3d Bn, 254th Inf moved from assembly area vic of BERGHEIM and on the night of 5-6 January relieved French elements on front line positions in new regimental sector. (See overlay).

Disposition of Tanks: (766 Tk Bn): Co B, assembled vic V556623. Co D, one plat of light tanks vic V520486.

Disposition of TD's (601st TD Bn): One sect TD's at AUBGE, vic 525451; one sect TD's at Hotel Du LAU BLANC, vic V520486; one sect TD's vic V499487; one sect TD's vic V512519; one plat TD's in ORBEY.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

3d Bn moved from assembly area, vic RIQUENIHER, to regt'l reserve area in ORBEY, closing in new area at 061300A. Bn CP located at V575474.

1st and 2d Bn's remained in assembly areas prepared to move on the afternoon of 6 Jan to relieve French units in new regimental sector.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 5 Jan)

Officers: 75%

WO: 100%

EM: 89%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 29

EM: 575

7. Results of Operations:

a. French units relieved by 3d Bn 254th Inf in front line positions.

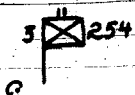
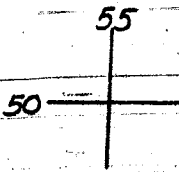
b. 3d Bn, 15th Inf, moved to reserve position in ORBEY.

c. 1st and 2d Bn's assembled prepared to move to new sector.

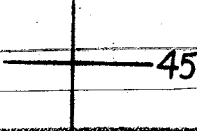
COMBAT

8-3

CONFIDENTIAL



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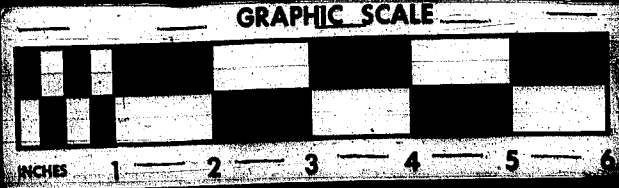


HQ 15th INF
6 JAN '45 57

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT No 6
MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000
GERARDMER SHEET

OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG



7 JANUARY 1945

- 0010 1st Bn, 15th Inf, and 3d Bn, 254th Inf, report all quiet.
0020 2d Bn DO to DO: Relief completed, except for E Co. Comm wire is out at present with 3000.
- ~~0030 3d Bn DO to DO: All quiet.~~
0100 1st & 3d Bn's report all quiet.
0103 Report to Division War Room.
0135 2d Bn Ex O to DO: E Co is in position. Just got comm with them by telephone.
0137 DO to Div War Room: Relief is completed. All Companies are in position.
0205 All Bns' report all quiet.
0206 Report to Division.
0206 to 0500A: 1st, 2d, & 3d Bn's, 15th Inf, and 3d Bn 254th Inf and French Paratroopers report all quiet. Periodic Reports made to Div.
0300 2d Bn DO reports all quiet. Communications to all Co's (including B Co, 10th Engr Bn).
0515 3d Bn reports that I Co is moving to new area.
0530 3d Bn rear CP at RIBEADGOUTTE, reports all quiet.
0540 3d Bn, 254th Inf, DO to DO: All quiet. Sev en man patrol (officer-led) from our K Co went out through mine field to GAZON DU FAING, vic 510457. They were gone three hours. Report no enemy activity.
0600 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
0605 2d Bn reports a 11 quiet. French are starting to move out.
0610 1st Bn reports all quiet.
0615 3d Bn DO to DO: K Co is moving to new area.
0615 to 0730A: All quiet in regtl sector.
0730 Situation report to Division War Room.
0732 3d Bn CO to DO: I & K Co's are still on the road. Moving up by foot. L, M, Hq, & Medics are all in.
0800 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
0815 DO to 10th Engr Bn: Need bulldozer on road running thru 500487 and east thru Hotel du le BLANC to our 3d Bn, 254th Inf.
0900 G-3 to S-3: There are 7 bridges, prepared for demolitions, which the French were guarding. It is not necessary to have a permanent guard on each one but have 2d Bn patrol to each one and check twice a day. Will send overlay to you covering this. Make preparations to defend BONHOMME.
0905 S-3 gave above to 2d Bn S-3:
0920 B Co to S-3: We have recd instructions to police up our concertina wire in the rear area. We are sending back for it as soon as we can arrange for a truck.
- 1130 2d Bn to DO: Enemy fired 5 rifle grenades on F Co from houses vic 564458. We returned fire with grenades, will fire mortars also.
1320 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DO: Enemy laying time fire on road at 529462 every 3 or 4 minutes, since 1230A. At 1300A found booby traps in woods at 519488.
1325 2d Bn CO to DO: Ray in front of F Co shouted at our troops wishing them happy new year. F Co fired mortars and grenades at them. We do not want any vehicles coming up to our fwd area because of enemy observation.
1330 CG arrived at regtl CP. Left at 1337.
1345 S-3 to 2d Bn CO: Suggest that you use smoke generators to cut off enemy observation of our front area. CG, 2d Bn, & S-3, are doing this. Also, you are to give in more arty vic our 4-2 mortars.
1400 3d Bn, 254th Inf, to DO: A & P plat is working on booby traps. 2 air bursts at 522486 at 1340A.
1418 S-3 to Cn Co CO: 756th Tk Bn has 3 gas sult guns and 18 men to man them that are available if you can use them. Answer: Can use them.
1450 G-5 to S-3: Have CO, 254th Inf Regt, CO, 3d Bn, 254th Inf, and CO, 3d Bn, 15th Inf, report to Div CP at 1530A today.
(Above relayed to respective parties by S-3)
1545 CO, 756th Tk Bn to S-3: Plat of med tks with your L Co will move back to GELLENBERG area. Please notify plat ldr to be ready to move in 30 minutes.
1550 S-3 gave above msg to CO, Co B, 756th Tk Bn.

7 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1730 Div to S-3: You will relieve 254th Inf's 3d Bn with your 3d Bn by tomorrow night. 3d Bn, 254th Inf, will get 35 trucks to use in moving. I & R plat, ~~254th Inf's 3d Bn~~ ~~attached to your 1st Bn and attached to Co. Co. 1st Bn.~~
I & R plat will move with you.
- 1740 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Send I & R plat, 254th Inf, to Regtl CP. They will be sent to 7th Infantry.
- 1900 601st TD Bn to S-3: One section of TD's at 499488; another, at HAREAUPT.
- 1940 Asst G-2 to DO: Planes reported overhead. Alert your units.
(All Bn's alerted by DO).
- 2025 I & R plat ldr, 254th Inf Regt, reported to S-2 with his plat on trucks preparatory to moving to 7th Inf.
(S-2 gave above to 7th Inf.)
- 2055 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2147 2d Bn S-2 to DO: Have Frenchman here with enemy information. Send MP's after him.
(MP's and Div notified of above)
- 2150 CO to CO: Have made plans to have Co of French Paratroopers attached to you motorized. It is desirable whenever possible to have only observation posts out fwd and pull bulk of force back. CO to CG: Did that with 3d Bn, 254th Inf, and my 1st Bn. My reserve consists of MP Co, I & R plat, and local reserves from Bn's and Co's. Working on plans to use sleds for carrying litters.
- 2155 CO to Div Traffic Control Officer: Most of movement tomorrow will be at night. Desire clearance from 1600A.
- 2158 Conference Call, CO to CO, 3d Bn, 15th Inf & Co, 3d Bn, 254th Inf: Gave information concerning relief of Bn's tomorrow. Offer following suggestions: (1) Co officers make reconnaissance of new areas tomorrow. (2) Establish position on hill between the two lakes. (3) Move motor park and rear installations during daylight. Infiltra to few vehicles on road at a time. (4) Make arrangements for trucks with Regtl Motor Officer.
- 2203 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2207 to 2304A: All quiet in Regtl sector.
- 2304 1st Bn CO to Ex O: My patrol of 3 or 4 men infiltrated thru our positions and came in behind B Co CP, where they got into a fire fight. One enemy wounded, still lying vic of patrol action. B & C Co's lines to Bn were cut, but B's line is now back in. Wiremen checking lines to see if they were cut.
(Above relayed to the battalions).
- 2325 Report to Division War Room.
- 2335 1st Bn DO to DO: My patrol (see 2304A entry) came in vicinity of 2d Bn dressed in white at 2300A. Still some S/A fire in B Co's area, wounded say is still there.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 061200A to 071200A

Date: 15th Infantry

Date: 7 January 1945

No. 7

Maps: FRANCE, 1/20,000, GERARDMER 3-4 & 7-8, FRANCE, 1/50,000, GERARDMER & COLMAR sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: See ovsPlay.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt'1 CP in BONHOMME; 1st Bn CP at V640479; A Co via V643464; B Co via V649472; C Co via V638455; 2d Bn CP in ORBEY; E Co via V658469; F Co via V667462; G Co via V663467; 3d Bn (-) in RIBBAUGOUTTE, via V677522; Co L via V648625.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

3d Bn, 264th Infantry attached, occupying defensive positions. Bn CP on Lake NOIR, via V623465; I Co(-) via V633455 with 2 squads in vicinity V630457; K Co via V623453; L Co via V626456.

3d Division Battle Patrol: Attached to 2d Battalion.
B Co, 10th Engineers: attached to 2d Bn. On the night of 6-7 January, they relieved elements of the GOUMS in front-line positions on regimental left flank, via V678468.

One battalion of French Paratroopers attached to the regiment, occupying defensive positions on regt'1 right flank. Remainder of paratrooper Bn entrucked via RJ at V690498 at 070800A and moved to positions on the regt'1 right flank.

Tank Attachments: D Co, 2 light tanks at Hotel DU LAC BLANC; B CO, 76th tank Bn via BONHOMME, one platoon attached to Co L.

TD Attachments: (B Co, 601st TD Bn); 1st plat(-) at AUDON; 2d plat via ORBEY; 3d plat 2TD's COL DU BOUCBACH, 2TD's Hotel DU LAC BLANC.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: On the afternoon of 6 January, 1st Bn moved from assembly areas in CHATENOIS, KINTZHEIM, and ORSCWILLER and closed in via V620486 at 061800A. 1st Bn relieved Goums on defensive positions. Relief was completed at 062100A.

Second Battalion: Moved from assembly area in RIBBAUVILLE to new regt'1 sector and relieved French on regt'1 left flank. E Co was the last element of the battalion to complete the relief at 070135A.

Third Battalion: On the evening of 6 January L, M, and 3d Bn HQ Co's moved from ORBEY. L Co, with a platoon of tanks attached, moved to BONHOMME via V648625, as motorized regimental reserve. M and HQ Co's moved to reserve position in RIBBAUGOUTTE, closing in assembly area at 062100A. At 070615A, L Co moved out of ORBEY followed by B Co at 070615A. They moved by foot to battalion area in RIBBAUGOUTTE.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 6 January)

Officers: 76%

WO: 100%

EM: 68%

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 30

EM: 588

~~Special Operations:~~

- a. 1st and 2d Bns relieved Goums and French on front lines in regimental sector.
- b. 3d Bn moved from ORBET to RIBEAUGOUTTE with L Co motorized in BONHOMME.

COMRIS

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

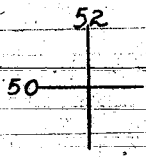
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File



L ⊠ 15
(MTZD)

J ⊠ 15 (-)



3 ⊠ 254

B ⊠ 15

E ⊠ 15

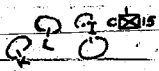
A ⊠ 15

G ⊠ 15

F ⊠ 15

B ⊠ 10

PARA (FR)

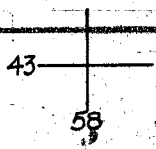


HQ 15th INF
7 JAN 45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY

S-3 REPORT NO. 7

MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000



OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

GRAPHIC SCALE



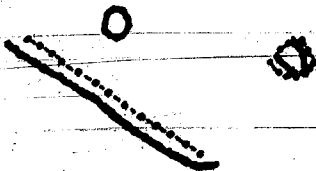
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48

52

47

46



HQ 15th INFANTRY
7 JANUARY '45

OVERLAY SHOWING
MINES & WIRE LAID BY FRENCH
(REPRODUCED FROM FRENCH OVERLAY)

MAP: FRANCE, 1/20,000
GERARDMER 3-4, 7-8

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES

1

2

3

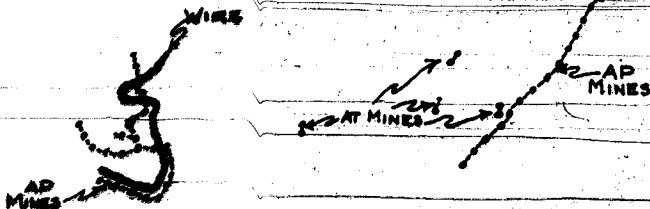
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6

47

56



HQ 15th INF.
7 JAN '45

OVERLAY SHOWING
MINES & WIRE Laid BY FRENCH
(REPRODUCED FROM FRENCH OVERLAY)

MAP: FRANCE ; 1/20,000.
GERARDMER 3-4, 7-8

51

44



C O N F I D E N T I A L

Hq 15th Inf
BONHOMME, FRANCE
7 January 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 4)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMEER Sheet.

1. The 3d Bn, 15th Inf, will relieve 3d Bn, 254th Inf commencing on the afternoon of 8 January 1945.
2. a. CO 3d Bn, 15th Inf and CO 3d Bn, 254th Inf will report to 3d Div CP at 071830A to receive instructions.
b. Bn commander, S-3, one officer per company, and one NCO per platoon of the 3d Bn, 15th Inf, will report to CP of 3d Bn, 254th Inf on the morning of 8 January to conduct a reconnaissance of the sector.
3. Attachments to 3d Bn, 15th Inf:
a. One section TD's 601st TD Bn.
b. 2d Plat, Co A, 99th Cal Bn.
4. Thirty 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks will report to CP of 3d Bn, 15th Inf, prior to 081830A to transport the battalion and will be turned over to the reg'l MTO upon completion of the relief.
5. a. IP: LA-BONHOMME.
b. Time: Cross IP at 081700A.
c. Detrucking Point: Hotel DU LAC BLANC.
6. a. 3d Bn, 254th Inf, will leave an adequate number of communications personnel behind to show the network of communication to the relieving battalion.
b. All automatic weapons that were borrowed by the 3d Bn, 254th Inf will be left on position.
c. 3d Bn, 254th Inf will screen the relief.
7. Co B(-), 756th Tank Bn, will remain in regimental reserve.

EDSON
Cmdg

OFFICIAL

COMRIE
8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

8 JANUARY 1946

- 0012 1st Bn DO to DO: All quiet - wounded German still there, we will get him first opportunity.
- 0030 to 0210. Negative reports.
- 0213 2d Bn DO to DO: 3 Co of Engrs now has outpost at 561469. Output saw 3 enemy dressed in white capes approach the outpost, looked around and returned.
- 0230 2d Bn S to DO: 3 man patrol to 1st Bn did not make contact with 1st Bn. They went to a house vic of 564469 where they heard enemy shouting in valley south of the house at approx 0200A.
- 0235 to 0820 Negative reports.
- 0830 1st Bn DO to DO: Our medics picked up the one German wounded and are bringing him in. One GI was wounded in the first fight.
- 0930 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Have evacuated wounded enemy captured this morning. Snow plow is working up to our rear CP. Plan to stock up two days ration in advance in case we become snow-bound.
- 0937 Ex to Div TCP: 3d Bn 254th Inf will move by Co groups as they are relieved beginning around 2200A.
- 1023 2d Bn S-2 to S-2: E-Co troops found telephone, built in a stall vic 561469; apparently phone has been there a long time.
- 1041 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: Wounded enemy has been evacuated from our aid station to D-Co, 3d Clearing Station. He was seriously wounded in stomach and legs. Unable to interrogate him because he is under influence of morphine.
- 1046 S-2 gave above to Div G-2 DO.
- 1110 I&R plat reports that OP #1 is set up at 543475.
- 1200 S-3 (at 3d Bn, 254th Inf), to DO: 3d Bn Co cmdrs are in the area looking over positions.
- 1210 OP #2 to Dy Clk: Our OP has been established since 0930A at vic 563487. At 1110, four smoke rds landed vic 569462.
- 1255 French Paratroopers report negatively.
- 1300 S-3 to DO: Get 10th Engrs to furnish bulldozer to work for 3d Bn tomorrow morning. Have them report to their CP at Hotel DU LAC BLANC.
- 1302 DO to 10th Engrs: The above msg. Ans:- Will send bulldozer up by 0900 tomorrow to 3d Bn rear CP. Will send up snow plow up this afternoon.
- 1327 OP #2 to Dy Clk: At 1247, two WP and HE shells landed vic 565480. At 1309, twelve foot troops observed walking west on road vic 560426 and vanish from sight behind mountain. Men wore dark overcoats.
- 1355 CO 3d Bn to CO: Have made reconnaissance of 3d Bn 254th area; have mules and supplies ready. CO:- Area between two lakes should be patrolled and outposted.
- 1420 OP #1 to Dy Clk: At 1330, observed one enemy jeep vic 560426. At 1348, three enemy HE landed vic 564467. At 1400, our HE landed vic 566480.
- 1430 Asst G-3 to S-3: Check with your Bas to see if they have their air panels. Might have to use them on Div notice tomorrow.
(Above msg r-layed to all Bn's)
- 1515 OP #2 to S-2: One enemy observed at 560486; four mortar shells (ours) landed at 560482.
- 1540 S-3 to Motor Officer: 3d Bn will detruck at Hotel du LAC BLANC.
- 1616 CO 3d Bn to CO: Two CP will be at LAC NOIR. Main CP group will be at LAC BLANC. Convoy will move out at 1730.
- 1640 OP #2 to DO: 4 enemy shells landed vic ORBEY. Enemy vehicle observed on road northward at 0600A.
- 1730 3d Bn CP in RIBEAUGOUTTE is closing out.
- 1806 2d Bn 2 to DO: Fire fight in 1st Bn area. Fire fight in Co C's area on nose of hill.
- 1823 1st Bn Ex O to DO: C Co fired on 3 wagons on road vic 541465. K'd the wagons and dispersed the personnel. Believe they were loaded with rations or ammunition.
- 1860 3d Bn CO to Ex O: 3d Bn convoy was held up when truck ran into snow plow. Bn now at Hotel LAC BLANC where they will detruck and go into position.

8 JANUARY 1946

- 1910 French Paratroop to DO: Received Nebelwerfer fire via 497463 which appears to be coming from SE.
- 1917 Periodic report to Div War Room.
- 1930 ~~3d Bn to DO: All elements of 3d Bn have been repositioned at new area.~~
- K Co
- 2000 3d Bn Ex O to DO: All of 3d Bn closed in new area - now going into position.
- 2003 Div War Room notified of above msg.
- 2100 French paratroops report negatively.
- 2106 to 2236 Negative reports.
- 2240 Ex O 3d Bn to DO: L Co completed relief of elements of 254th 3d Bn at 2205.
- 2326 French Paratroopers report negatively.
- 2236 CO, 3d Bn to DO: Relief of 3d Bn, 254th Inf is completed except for one platoon of K Co. Their I and L Co's are moving to unloading point now on foot.
- 2340 Above msg relayed to Div War Room.

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 071200Z 24 JAN 1945
Unit: 28th Infantry
Place: BONHOMME, FRANCE
Date: 8 January 1945

No. 8
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER Sheet.

L-1037

1. Our Front Lines: No change.

2. Disposition of Troops: Regt'l CP in BONHOMME; 1st Bn CP at V549579, A Co via V543484; B Co via V549472; C Co via V555488; 2d Bn CP in ORBEY; E Co via V555489; F Co via V567482; G Co via V563487; 3d Bn (-) in RIBRAUGOUTTE; L Co via V549525.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cold and clear, snowfall during the night. Good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

284th Infantry: 3d Bn attached occupying defensive positions. On the night of 7 January, IAR Plat, 284th Inf, was released from attachment and moved to 7th Inf.

5d Division Battle Patrol: Attached to 2d Bn. Located in battalion reserve position via of ORBEY.

B Co, 10th Mgrs: Attached to 2d Bn and employed as infantry occupying defensive positions on regt'l left flank.

French Paratroopers: One battalion of French paratroopers attached, remaining in defensive positions on regt'l right flank.

Tank Attachments (756th Tn Bn): B Co, 5 tanks via of BONHOMME; 3d Plat released from attachment to Co L and moved to ELLENBERG. D Co, 5 tanks at Hotel DU LAC BLANC.

TD Attachments: (Co B, 501st TD Bn) Sect in ANDON; 2d Plat via ORBEY; 2 TD's: RUDOLPH; 2 TD's: COL DU LOCHBACH, via V499489; 2 TD's at Hotel DU LAC BLANC.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment and attachments held defensive line throughout the period and continued improvement of positions. Patrols were maintained. At the close of the period, 3d Bn, 16th Inf, was making reconnaissance of 3d Bn 284th Inf sector and making preparations for relieving 3d Bn 284th Inf on the night of 8 Jan.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty, (As of 7 Jan)

Officers: 77

WO: 100

SM: 562

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 30

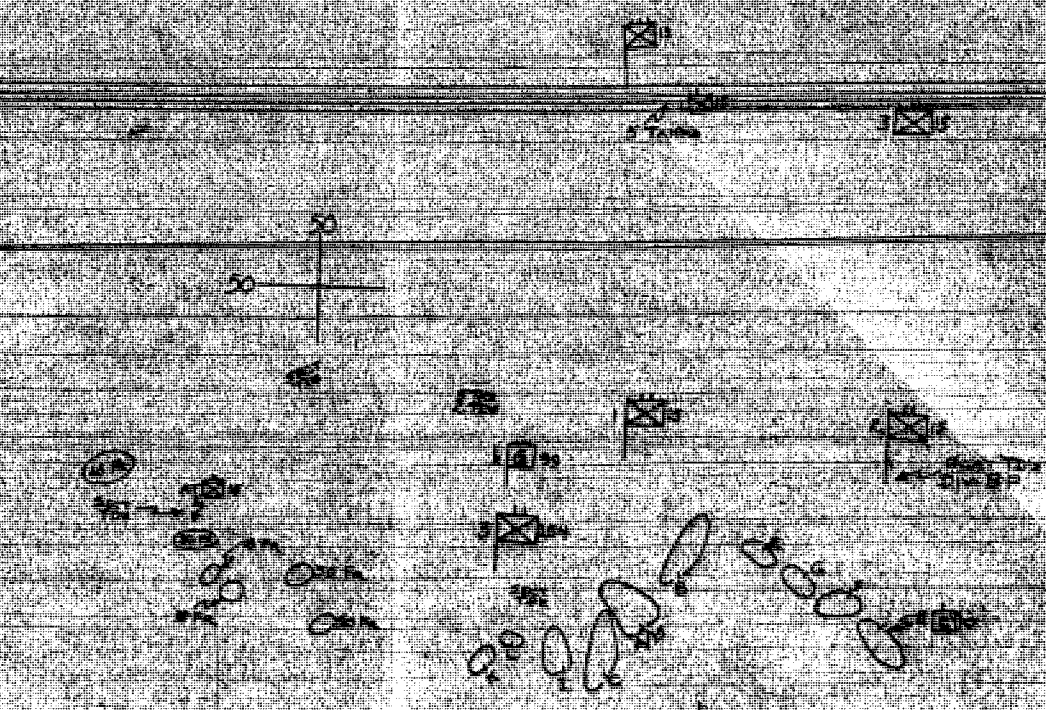
SM: 562

6. Results of Operations:

- Defensive positions held and improved.
- Patrols maintained.
- Preparations made for the relief of 3d Bn, 284th Inf.

COMRIE
S-3

CONFIDENTIAL

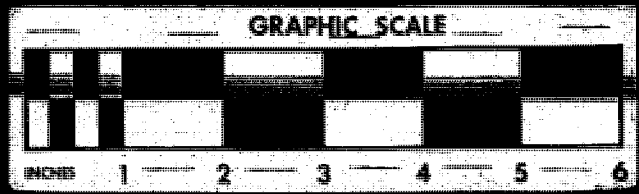


HQ 15th INF
8 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 RECORD NO 8
MAP FRANCE 1/50,000

OFFICIAL
COMBIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG



Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

[REDACTED]

No. 8

NAME: [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

9 JANUARY 1945

- 0025 1st Bn DO to DO: Mine laying detail drew fire on road at 542455. My fired machine pistols and bazookas. Our men returned fire, then they threw in mortar fire. Believe it was enemy patrol checking on wagons we shot up today.
- 0040 3d Bn S-2 to DO: All quiet now. My fired MG's, there is a few mortar rds and fired flares seen. CO was going into position. No casualties. 400 yds line is out but their relief should be complete by now.
- 0045 2d Bn S-2 to DO: 3d Bn battle patrol went to B Co. Received fire from their outpost but no one was wounded. One man from C Co, 10th Engr. Bn killed while laying mines.
- 0105 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0110 Report to Div.
- 0148 2d Bn to DO: B Co, 10th Engr. fired on enemy patrol via 576452. Div battle patrol has checked in.
- 0151 2d Bn to DO: No damage done to enemy patrol when fired on by B Co, 10th Engr. Patrol of 3 Or 4 men pulled back. Patrol came in approx 0154 and was fired on by outpost.
- 0205 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0230 3d Bn, 25th Inf. to DO: Our L Co moved out far new area at 0223A.
- 0230 to 0450A: All quiet in regtl sector. Reports made to Div.
- 0450 3d Bn, 15th Inf. to DO: I & B Co's, 25th Inf. cleared our rear CP at 0440A.
- 0510 Report to Div.
- 0510 to 0610A: All quiet in regtl sector.
- 0610 3d Bn DO to DO: All quiet. M & B Co's, 25th Inf. now at our rear CP. All is quiet.
- 0708 3d Bn rear CP to DO: M & B Co's, 25th Inf. moved out at 0655A. All is quiet.
- 0727 Report to Div War Room.
- 0740 2d Bn DO to DO: B Co, 10th Engr. report 5 enemy moved into house at 571-450A. We fired 25 rds each of 4.2 and 81 mm mortars.
- 0747 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 0813 3d Bn reports all quiet
- 0905 G-3 to S-3: We are trucking the 290th Engr Combat Bn to the town of BOUHEMME. You will be responsible for housing these troops. Establish contact on your right flank with the 9th ZOUAVES. Suggest that you set up mutual outpost on top of the mountain with communication. Will send French speaking officer from Div to join one of your staff officers to make necessary arrangements. Div will furnish comm wire.
- 0915 Div DO to S-3: Have screen panels laid out along MLR this morning by 1030A. The CG will fly over in a cub plane to see the front lines.
- 0925 S-3 gave above to all Bn's. Lay panel on friendly side of emplacement.
- 0945 G-3 to S-3: (1) Wire will be laid from French Paratroopers to ZOUAVES. (2) Patrol contact point will be made; (3) Mutual strong points on route of wire will be manned by units on both sides. Also establish outpost.
- 1120 3d Bn to DO: Will establish TCP at 524474. Ball dozer reported to us 20 minutes ago.
- 1210 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO: At 1020A, observed 4 men walking from house at 541-454 to house at 522539. At 1030A, DO in concentration beyond my line at 42 of 185 degrees and approx 4000 yds out. At 1107A, one burst of approx 8 rds MG fire vic of 5547.
- 1225 3d Bn to DO: B Co, CG has picked a place for Engr Bn in town of FLAHEATH.
- 1235 OP # 1 at 544475 to DO: From 1055A to 1115A, friendly arty fire landed vic 543466. At 1110A, one and friendly S/A fire for a few minutes general vic 555462.
- 1320 2d Bn S-2 to S-3: One of our outposts spotted med tank parked vic 566458. Arty notified but position too close to our troops to fire upon.
- 1324 Above relayed to 1st Bn.
- 1435 Comm O to S-3: Will lay wire in to French Paratroopers by mail. Show too deep for wire jeep.

9 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1440 S-3 to AT Co CO: Will mov e your two gun squad out from RUDLIN to 2d Bn in
 CHERY. The 3 AT guns in BOMHOMME will be manne d by Hq Co personnel.
- 1445 S-3 to 2d Bn: Battle Patrol (Div) will be detached from you and will move to
 LA POUTRE and will be used for patrolling. You will get AT guns and
 personnel for reserve.
- 1740 2d Bn S-3 to 2d Bn S-2: ~~Can take 4000 m. from vic 56346. 2d Bn S-3 will~~
 spotted this morning. Asst S-2 to 2d Bn S-2: Is planning patrols lay em-
 phasis on ambushing enemy.
- 1745 French LA O reports that the 9th ZOUAVES (previously on the right flank of
 the French Bannaise) have been relieved by the 5th Inf Regt of the 10th
 Inf Div.
- 1759 French 1st Paratrooper Regt to French LA O: At 1730A, 6 rds of direct fire
 landed 400 meters south of LOUCKACK PASS -- reported by 1st Co, 4th Bn.
 Daily the following towns receive mortar fire: BOCHES DES FERES, GAZON DU
 FAING.
- 1825 S-3 to 3d Bn Battle Patrol Ldr: You are detached from 2d Bn and will move
 in the morning before daylight to LA POUTRE. You will be used mainly for
 patrolling (not routine) which will be scheduled by our S-2. You will also
 serve as a net reserve supported by light tanks. Tonight you can remain
 in CHERY and carry out patrols scheduled by 2d Bn. 2d Bn will arrange trans-
 portation for you to move in the morning.
- 1830 S-3 gave above to 2d Bn S-3.
- 1850 2d Bn S-2 to S-2: OIG are here to investigate a few cases. They are coop-
 erating fine.
- 1920 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Pull your TD's back and replace them with 57 mm AT guns.
 Warnings avoid getting armor snow bound. A section of TD's will be available
 to you back at Hotel du LAC BLANC.
- 1924 S-3 to 601st TD Bn: Plan to substitute AT guns for armor to avoid getting
 armor snow bound. TD's will be located as follows: One section at Hotel
 du LAC BLANC; one section at RUDLIN and one plst at COLLE DU BOMHOMME.
- 2005 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2115 3d Bn to S-3: K & I Co's are moving. I Co had a screening patrol out how
 to screen move. I Co will move 2 plato tomorrow and one tomorrow night.
- 2245 2d Bn to DO: Enemy reported in front of H Co firing MG and coughing. G Co
 reports enemy infiltrating in G Co area. no estimate on number. Relief is
 still in process. AT Co checked through 1 hour ago enroute to relieve B Co
 10th Regt.
- 2250 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: 2d plst of I Co is on the way to relieve A Co. They need
 a couple rds of enemy fire and scattered. No casualties. I Co is relieving
 A & C Co's. K Co relieved one plst of I Co. Fire and mine laying details
 are going out. I will take I Co's position and I Co will move to reserve
 positions.
- 2255 S-3 giv es report to Div.
- 2310 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2330 2d Bn CO to S-3: Plst CP in vic 56346, (L and 4 ME) captured. Position
 was wired in and booty trapped. Wire from plst CP found it deserted. I
 suspect head in distance and heard the same engine the AT engine. They
 reported in the house, vic 56466. They have not been in there before.
- 2335 3d Bn S-3 to DO: A & C Co's relieved at 2245A; K Co plst relieved I Co plst
 at 2130A. Comm is not yet in; A Co will remain until comm is completed.
- 2345 1st Bn reports all quiet. Relief expected to be completed in approx 45 min.
- 2945 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Patrol of 5 men from A & P plst, left CP, vic 520487, at
 1600A. Their mission was to run far mule trails. They went NW to RJ, vic
 519487, turned left followed trail up mountain to vic 514 467 and returned at
 2230A. Reported no enemy activity. Snow was very deep -- in some drifts
 waist deep. Don't believe trails could be used.

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-S Periodic Report

Period: 091500 to 091800

091500
091800
091500
091800

No. 5
Map: FRANCE, 1/30,000; **OSEROM** Sheet.

1. **Our Front Line:** See above.
2. **Disposition of Troops:** 2nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 1st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 3 Co via **OSEROM**; 2 Co via **OSEROM**; 1st Lt. in **OSEROM**; 2 Co via **OSEROM**; 3 Co via **OSEROM**; 1 Co via **OSEROM**; 2 Co via **OSEROM**; 1 Co via **OSEROM**.
3. **Weather and Visibility:** Clear to hazy and overcast; wind; visibility varied from good to limited.
4. **Information of Attached Units:**
10th Infantry: 1st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 2nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 3rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 4th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 5th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 6th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 7th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 8th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 9th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 10th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 11th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 12th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 13th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 14th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 15th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 16th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 17th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 18th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 19th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 20th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 21st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 22nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 23rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 24th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 25th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 26th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 27th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 28th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 29th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 30th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 31st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 32nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 33rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 34th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 35th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 36th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 37th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 38th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 39th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 40th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 41st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 42nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 43rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 44th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 45th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 46th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 47th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 48th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 49th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 50th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 51st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 52nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 53rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 54th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 55th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 56th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 57th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 58th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 59th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 60th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 61st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 62nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 63rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 64th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 65th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 66th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 67th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 68th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 69th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 70th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 71st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 72nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 73rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 74th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 75th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 76th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 77th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 78th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 79th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 80th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 81st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 82nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 83rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 84th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 85th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 86th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 87th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 88th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 89th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 90th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 91st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 92nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 93rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 94th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 95th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 96th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 97th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 98th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 99th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 100th Lt. in **OSEROM**.
5. **Our Operations for the Period:**
1st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 2nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 3rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 4th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 5th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 6th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 7th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 8th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 9th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 10th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 11th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 12th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 13th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 14th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 15th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 16th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 17th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 18th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 19th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 20th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 21st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 22nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 23rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 24th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 25th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 26th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 27th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 28th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 29th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 30th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 31st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 32nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 33rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 34th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 35th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 36th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 37th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 38th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 39th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 40th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 41st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 42nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 43rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 44th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 45th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 46th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 47th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 48th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 49th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 50th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 51st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 52nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 53rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 54th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 55th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 56th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 57th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 58th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 59th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 60th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 61st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 62nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 63rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 64th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 65th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 66th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 67th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 68th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 69th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 70th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 71st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 72nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 73rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 74th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 75th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 76th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 77th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 78th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 79th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 80th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 81st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 82nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 83rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 84th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 85th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 86th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 87th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 88th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 89th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 90th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 91st Lt. in **OSEROM**, 92nd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 93rd Lt. in **OSEROM**, 94th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 95th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 96th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 97th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 98th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 99th Lt. in **OSEROM**, 100th Lt. in **OSEROM**.
6. **Combat Efficiency:**
Officers: 77%
WO: 100%
EM: 77%
Rifle trench strength:
Officers: 30
EM: 587

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7. Results of Operations

a. Defenses line held and positions improved;

b. Patrols well conducted;

c. No. 10000 captured as mentioned by Lt. Colonel and returned from captivity.

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PLAT'DX
DIV BP

OVERLAY TO ~~ADDITIONAL~~
S-3 REPORT

MAP: FRANCE 1:50,000

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GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Report

Area: [REDACTED]
Location: [REDACTED]
Country: [REDACTED]

No. 6
Name: [REDACTED]

1. **[REDACTED]**
 a. **[REDACTED]**
 b. **[REDACTED]**

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DONALD H LIND
Maj, 18th Inf
S-1

SECRET

Hq. 15th Inf.
BOMBESSEY, FRANCE
3 January 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 6)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, GERARDMER Sheet.

1. a. See current G-2 Periodic Reports.
b. 7th Inf, on the left, regroups in present sector and prepares for a series of limited objective attacks within sector. Groupement NEGARD on the right.
2. 15th Infantry, attached: Co B, 755th Tn Bn (-3 Plats)
Co B, 601st TD Bn
2d Plat, Co B, 755th Tn Bn
2 Plats 441st AAA AW Bn
Co A, 99th Cal Bn
1st Bn, 1st Para Regt (Pr)
2 Bn, 20th Mule Co (Pr)
2d Div Battle Patrol
 - a. Regroups in present sector to obtain more favorable defensive coverage of principle avenues of hostile penetration; to obtain additional depth to the defense, and to constitute additional reserves. For new boundaries, location of reserves, and alternate lines of defense, see attached overlay.
 - b. The regiment holds the present MLR (Blue Line) at all costs and improves this line by offensive action at a later date.
3. a. 1st Bn, 15th Inf, attached: Five Sg-ton trucks, Serv Co, 15th Inf
1 Plat Co B, 755th Tn Bn
Det 441st AAA AW Bn.
 - (1) Occupy regt'l reserve area.
 - (2) Motorize one reinforced rifle company.
 - (3) Reconnoiter and plan defense for Red & White Lines as directed by regiment.
 - (4) Prepare plans for a limited objective attack on Hill 560, 7560455. Plans to be submitted to this Hq prior to 11200A.
- b. 2d Bn, 15th Inf, attached: 2d Plat, Co A, 99th Cal Bn
AT Co, 15th Inf
2d Plat, Co B, 601st TD Bn
Det 441st AAA AW Bn.
 - (1) Occupies and defends left regt'l sector. See overlay.
 - (2) Relieves Co B, 10th Mgrs nights of 9-10 January 1945.
 - (3) Relieves elements of 1st Bn within sector during night of 10-11 January 1945. Complete relief prior to daylight.
 - (4) Push OPLR forward of present positions to minimum depth of 300 yds.
 - (5) Establish reserves as prescribed on overlay.
 - (6) Protect regt'l left flank.
 - (7) Maintain contact with 7th Inf on the left.
 - (8) Reconnoiter routes to areas on Red and White Lines.
- c. 3d Bn, 15th Inf, attached: 2d Plat, Co A, 99th Cal Bn
1st & 2d Plats, Co B, 601st TD Bn
Det 441st AAA AW Bn

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(OX #6, Para 3.0, Cont'd)

- (2) Groups and elements fight in reg'l sector.
- (2) Believe elements 1st Bn within sector night, 9-10 January 1946.
- (3) Night 10-11 January 1946; complete relief of 1st Bn within sector.
- (4) Push OPLR forward of present positions to minimum depth of 300 yds.
- (5) Establish reserves as prescribed on overlay.
- x. (1) Throughout the reg'l front, defensive dispositions will be based on the principle of "two up and one back".
- (2) Strong terrain will be held lightly.
- (3) Shoulders of corridors leading into our positions will be occupied and the corridor itself covered by mines, landmines, wire and fire.
- (4) ~~INF's and BAR's will habitually be employed in forward positions. At least 1/4 of all MG's, 30 Cal MG's and all anti-aircraft will be distributed in depth to serve as break-through guns. (See Operations Memorandum, dated 27 Dec, dated 2 Jan 46 on IA railroads).~~
- (5) Each new reserve weapon will be on the position as up to date range cards which will include data for final protective line fires and for defensive concentrations.
- (6) Bn's will conduct reconnaissance to include platoon leaders, of routes to positions in rear of the areas.
- (7) Each position will have a night observation post, as well as observe lights and flares, for movement in the snow.
- (8) Locations of night outposts will be changed frequently at irregular intervals.
- (9) Platoon positions will be wired in all around. Positions will be defended against attack from any direction. These positions must be held until battalions or company reserves may counterattack and drive the enemy out.
- (10) Every infantry platoon, except those in reserve battalions, will establish a COMBAT post as its equivalent forward of the main platoon position by at least 300 yds. In certain instances, this post will serve as one of the installations of the OPLR.
- (11) Bn battalions will prepare counterattack plans, in written form, immediately for completion and execution within their sector. Plans will include the restoration of established defensive positions. Battalions will conduct rehearsals for counterattacking units. Reports made by those units whose rehearsal is to be conducted.
- (12) Reg'l staff and Bn commanders' staffs will make daily inspection of platoon positions in the field as summary commanders, according to prepared schedules. Schedules will be arranged to inspect positions, where possible, in daylight and other positions.
- (13) At least 1/4 of all units in forward positions will remain in position to cover the withdrawal, and will continue to man the forward positions until ordered back by reg'l authority. In effecting withdrawal, forward units will establish all prepared positions, and will mine and booby-trap forward positions and routes to new positions. Provision will be made for maximum fire coverage and patrol action to accompany the movement program.
- (14) Enemy patrols are usually sent into our positions to locate positions or to capture prisoners. Every effort will be made to ambush enemy patrols rather than to drive them from our front by fire. Fire will be held unless you are located and fired upon by the enemy patrol or unless the patrol gets in rear of our lines where he can be killed or captured.

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(OI 46, Para 3. x, Cont'd)

- (14) Daylight activity will be held to a minimum to prevent the enemy from locating and plotting our positions for future use should he decide to attack.
- (15) Extensive reconnaissance patrols will be conducted to the front during the hours of darkness to determine what the enemy is doing. Patrols will be replaced by OP's during daylight.
- (17) All known enemy activity will be reported to this Hq immediately.
- (18) Contact, ambush, and rear patrolling will be extensive and continuous. Daily patrol plans will be submitted to this Hq's prior to 1400G. Each patrol must be given a specific mission or objective.
- (19) Alternate positions will be dug for all positions on the OPLR. OPLR posts will be changed at irregular intervals.
- (20) A program of relief or ~~unit~~ ~~units~~ within Hq's will be instituted without delay. Except for certain exposed areas, small unit reliefs will be so devised as to require men to be on post for no longer than two hours at one time.
- (21) Maximum use will be made of white camouflage material for individuals and defensive works in exposed areas.
- (22) Bunkers will be disposed in depth to cover principal roads and trails.
- (23) 57-mm AT guns, used for the defense of road blocks or other approaches, will be sighted at a right angle to the approach and will be manned at all times.
- (24) Boundaries between battalions and companies must be strongly welded together by wire, patrols, and covered by MG fire, flank wagon fire, mortar or artillery concentrations.
- (25) Company commander, or Co Hq C, will personally contact each platoon leader each 24 hours and spot-check several of his positions to insure:
 - (a) That men are alert and know the location and direction of the enemy.
 - (b) That they have sufficient ammunition.
 - (c) That rifles, MG's etc are clean, well oiled and free from rust, dirt or ice.
 - (d) That men have overhead cover consisting of logs and at least six inches of dirt.
 - (e) That they have sufficient warm clothing, dry socks, shoe-pacs, and blankets.
 - (f) That the men take off their shoes (when possible) at least each 24 hours to change socks and rub their feet.

- a. Use of drying-tests will be continued.
- b. To the maximum degree possible, troops will be served hot food for the morning and evening meals. Where this is not practicable, troops will be furnished heat tablets for heating the ration.
- c. ~~These items will be dumped and maintained in the rear quarters.~~
- d. Measures to insure increased attention to the care of the feet will be exercised to prevent trenchfoot and frozen feet.

6. a. Wire communication, including sound-power telephones, will be established between ~~all OPLR and OPLR positions~~ ~~OP's~~ and listening posts will be linked to the headquarters concerned by wire. To the maximum degree possible, vertical and lateral communication between defensive positions and Hq's throughout the sector will be established.

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Cndg

OFFICIAL: *Conroy*

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40 RED LINE 270

52

WHITE LINE

15E7

3
XX
GRPHOARD

352

MLR
BLUE LINE

OPLR

HQ 15TH INF
9 JAN. 45
OVERLAY TO OI 45
MAP. FRANCE, 1:50,000

OFFICIALS
COMBAT
COMBAT
9-3

EDSON
CMDC

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GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

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HQ 15th Infantry
9 January 1945

ANNEX #1 TO OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS # 5:

Ref: France, 1/20,500; GERARMOR 3-4, 7-8.

FIRE PLAN

The accompanying overlay shows the manner in which company and platoon positions are encircled by mortar and artillery concentrations.

The entire perimeter of platoon and company positions are prepared with registered concentrations. In addition to the artillery and mortar fires shown on the overlay, the automatic weapons of the company and platoon are so disposed as to cover the front and flanks of the defensive positions.

A platoon leader is able, by means of a code name or pyrotechnic signal, to call for fire that will encircle his position. In a similar manner, the company commander is able to bring down fire which will encircle the entire company position.

The company position is given a simple code name by which the entire company position is known. The platoon positions are given a number designation, which together with the company code name, identifies the platoon position.

It must be remembered that calling for this type of fire necessitates that all positions have overhead cover. This type of fire is to be called for only at the last resort.

To receive this type defensive fire around a company position it is only necessary for the company commander to transmit the code name of the position. The platoon leader may receive encircling fire for his position by transmitting the company code name along with the platoon position number.

EXAMPLE: An attack against the first platoon, Company K has necessitated the calling for defensive fires.

The 1st Company position is known as the "DELAWARE" position. The platoon leader or position commander calls or signals "DELAWARE #1". The necessary action is taken and the defensive fires for the position are brought down.

Should the attack be of such strength that it is considered necessary to encircle the entire company position, the company commander will call, "DELAWARE".

Action on such type fires will be taken only on call placed through Battalion Headquarters by sector requesting fire.

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HQ 15th INF
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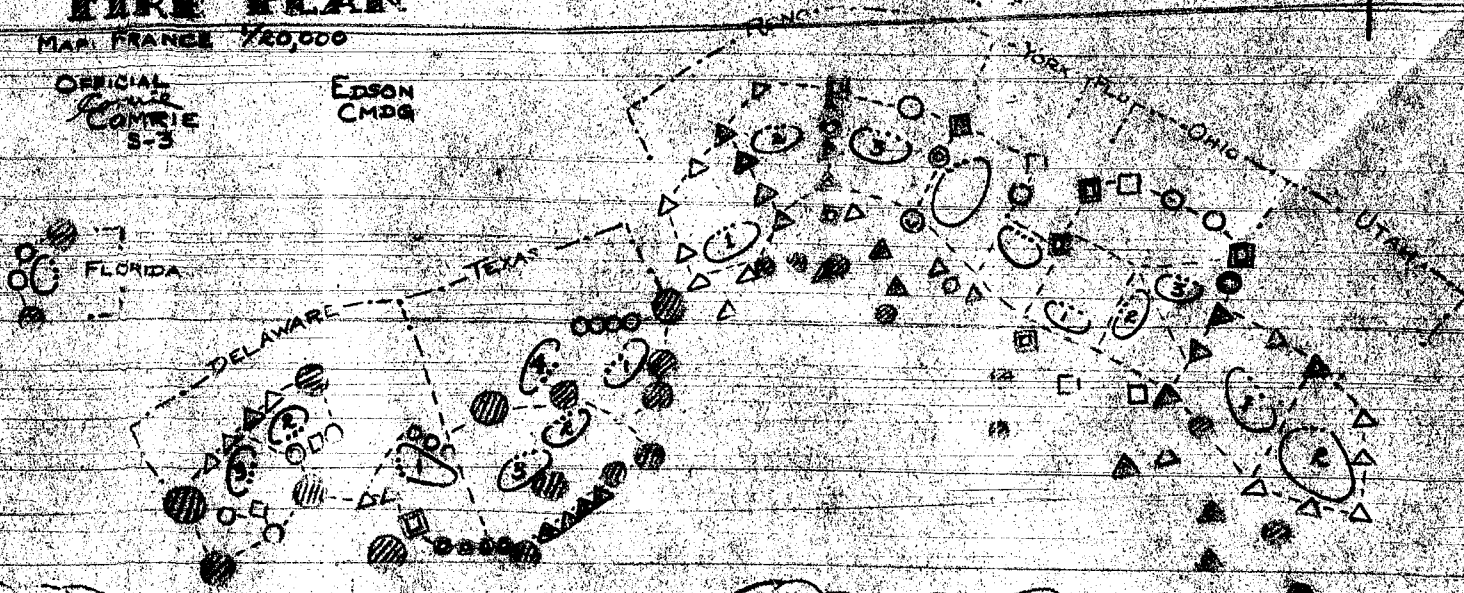
58
48

FIRE PLAN

MAP FRANCE 1:20,000

OFFICIAL
COMBAT
S-3

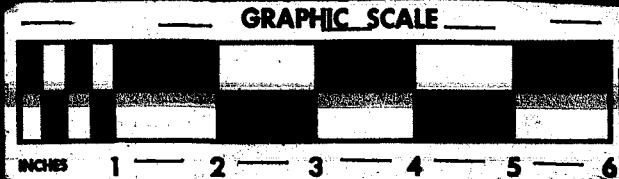
EDSON
CMDR



▲ 4.2 MORTAR
 ○ 81 mm
 □ ARTY
 ● CPT CO
 • 60mm

Confidential

60mm REGISTERED TO FIRE
 WITHIN NEXT POSITIONS
 & COLOR WITHIN ANOTHER COLOR
 INDICATES FIRE IS COMMON
 TO 2 ADJACENT POSITIONS



10 JANUARY 1945

- 0007 Periodic report to Div War Room.
- 0010 2d Bn DO to DO: Patrol from E Co to E Co left at 2300. Four men. No enemy activity reported by contact patrol. BP checked in 2300. E Co at 2300.
- 0040 2d Bn DO to DO: BP () has been sent out to investigate about 200 yds. where some were believed captured. 4-5 mortar are firing to rear of house via 860444. Arty is working up and some road toward FAIRIE. My estimate on number of enemy involved in capture of CP group. First one covered by CP group stringing wire, who found no one in the house; 3 GI helmets in the snow and evidence where rifle grenades had been fired.
- 0030 1st Bn DO to DO: Group from Div BP left E Co at 2400 to set up an ambush between E and E Co's. Main group just left for E Co.
- 0180 3d Bn DO to DO: 1 Co attacking patrol No. 7 left at 2100 and just returned. Covered points 880444 to 880444 next to 2100. No enemy activity.
- 0150 2d Bn DO to DO: Div BP investigated house where G Co men were captured and found a Frenchman and his wife there. The civilians reported many Germans (no definite number) took our men prisoner. BP still investigating.
- 0240 2d Bn DO to DO: Div BP reported enemy captured one officer and 7 men. Enemy fired 20 minute mortar barrage and 15 minutes after barrage, enemy assaulted house, firing bazookas and rifle grenades. Our SO and MG's and mortars fired on house. The enemy left behind a SCR 300 radio and one telephone. Route of enemy approach undetermined - believe they were snow suits. 2 rds of enemy mortar fire at 2250, landed vic of Bn CP in street, wounding one soldier and shell-shocking another.
- 0284 Periodic report to Div War Room.
- 0310 1st Bn DO to DO: A and C Co's completed relief and are now in new positions.
- 0400 2d Bn DO to DO: Have two civilians at CP picked up at E Co outpost. Nags are completely relieved.
- 0402 1st Bn 3 to DO: 2 man enemy patrol spotted approaching E Co via 864444. Troops alerted.
- 0415 2d Bn 2-1 to DO: We are evacuating French family who lives in house where G Co platoon was captured. This is the third time the enemy has raided that house. Head MP's down.
- 0440 2d Bn DO to DO: Family evacuated from house tell the following story. They were hiding down in the basement. Report during the raid when enemy started using bazookas on the house our men went to the basement. Raid was preceded by 15 minute mortar concentration and the enemy's withdrawal was covered by arty and mortar fire. Enemy used flare to signal for arty and mortar fire and to cover their withdrawal. In shifting positions tonight, F Co will take over this area and will put in strong outposts.
- 0445 to 0880 Negative reports.
- 0935 Bn O to Div War Room: Keeping our motorized company in Hotel du LAC BLANC and the trucks in PLAINFAINS.
- 0940 1st Bn to DO: We have 17 mines (AT mines) laid in form of a W (As one faces north) on road. Laid in pattern 5-4-3-6.
- 1015 OP #1: At 0855, two persons were seen coming from woods and enter house at 847433 - could not determine if enemy - wore no coats or helmets.
- 1110 2d Bn DO to DO: Will try to use traps for mine laying in front of CP outpost - will lay AT mines for distance of 300 yds.
- 1125 IAR OP's #1 - 544475
#2 - 553487
#3 - 484470
- 1148 OP #1: New OP established at 542474.
- 1160 French Paratroop report negatively.
- 1185 3d Bn 3 to 2-3: Going to establish outpost at point 812465.
- 1210 IAR OP #2 (via 883487) to Arty Lm O: From 1030 to 1100 arty (WP) landed vic 559466. Tank fire sound from OP is approx 200 degree az, possibly vic 553448.

10 JANUARY 1945

- 1214 Ex O to CO (at 2d Ba): CO wants all platoons to have all-around defense and arty and mortar defensive fires all-around area; wise in all positions. CO to Ex O: Will prepare to use arty on front of positions and mortars on the flank and rear.
- 1280 3d Ba Ex O to DO: Detail from 10th Engrs to prepare bridge at 524414 for demolition, has arrived. 3 men from Bn A&P plat will go on mission with Engrs.
- 1245 S-3 to CO 2d Ba: Engrs will report to you to lay anti-personnel mine.
- 1300 G-3 to Ex O: (Concerning enemy raid this morning and capture of CP) Plan a retaliatory raid tonight.
- 1310 Ex O to CO 2d Ba: ~~Give above msg.~~ Will give this mission to you to plan and execute with Div BP. Plan supporting fires, flare signals, etc. If unable to capture PW's, destroy an enemy position.
- 1320 IAR OP #1 (at 542474) to Asst S-3: At 1215, 2 smoke rds landed via 567434; at 1230, 1 smoke round landed via 544453.
- 1337 Fr La O to Ex O: Received confirmation from Hqs at GERARDMER that unit on right of French Paratroopers will establish mutual post (with paratroopers) of 10-12 men at SERICHAMP by 1600, tomorrow.
- 1345 3d Ba S-2 to Asst S-2: Communication wire from L Co to L Co OP via 528480 was cut last night at via 525451. Tracks of 3 men leading up to cut.
- 1380 OP #2 (563487) to Arty La O: At 1215A, 8 of our mortar shells landed via 555460. 14 IR364, 3 WP landed same vicinity.
- 1410 IAR OP #5 (494470) to CO: At 1230A, 2 mortar rds, 8M and one WP rd, enemy, landed via 494468. From 1230A - 1230A, 3 M's, same vicinity.
- 1445 G-4 to S-3: You will deliver to French paratroopers four 50 Cal MG's with ground mounts and ammo. 7th Inf will deliver to you four 57 AT guns which you will give to French Paratroopers.
- 1500 S-3 to 1st Ba CO and CO 15th Inf: 3d Ba will make raid tonight on left flank near AT center. Div BP will be used. Will cover their withdrawal with arty and mortar fire. Time not set as yet.
- 1515 S-3 - Conference call to let 2d and 3d Ba CO's: Have concertina and tactical wire on MLB. Plats to be wired in. Co's to be wired in. In front of wired positions there will be booby traps, tin cans etc. Company mortars will be able to shoot in first line positions. Bn mortars into company positions. Give code name for area (goose egg) to be fired on. Be sure to let 1st Ba CO know of your areas and code name for areas.
- 1535 S-3 to 10th Engr 3: Paratroops want road block established on road leading from LA RUMBLE to LA VALTIN. Amags will have 3 Co Engrs check in with French paratroops Hqs at HAREBAUBERT tomorrow morning.
- 1555 2d Ba G to Ex O: Raid will be pulled off to the right of F Co's center. Send four light tanks back to LA POUTROIE tonight and establish quarters there.
- 1610 OP #6: At 1500 to 1630; 8 enemy shells landed via ORBENY. At 1620-1640; four enemy shells landed via 563467.
- 1635 CO 1st Ba to S-3: One enemy on edge of RTIL via 5624636, shipped at house of 3 CP CP at GERSHOFF. Fired incendiary shells at house and caught it afire - now have no communications with them.
- 1724 1st Ba Ex O to S-3: We can release another AT gun to be used with you in place east of ST MARIE. 1st and 3d Ba will set up a TGP north of our rear CP. Only medical vehicles will be allowed beyond that point.
- 1740 1st Co, 1st Paratrooper Bn to Fr La O: 3 rds of 86-mm has just fallen 75 yds from where our CP is located.
- 1810 3d Ba Arty La O to DO: We have adjusted one arty concentration in front of each plat.
- 1820 OP #1: Negative report.

CONFIDENTIAL

by a combat patrol from E Co.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (as of 2 Jan)

Officers: 775

WO: 1000

WO: 1000

Rifle Branch Strength:

Officers: 20

WO: 275

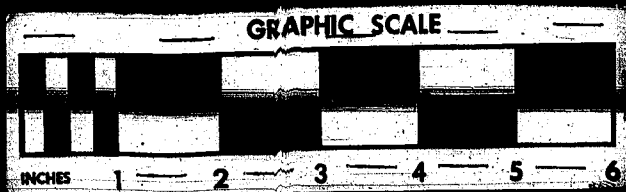
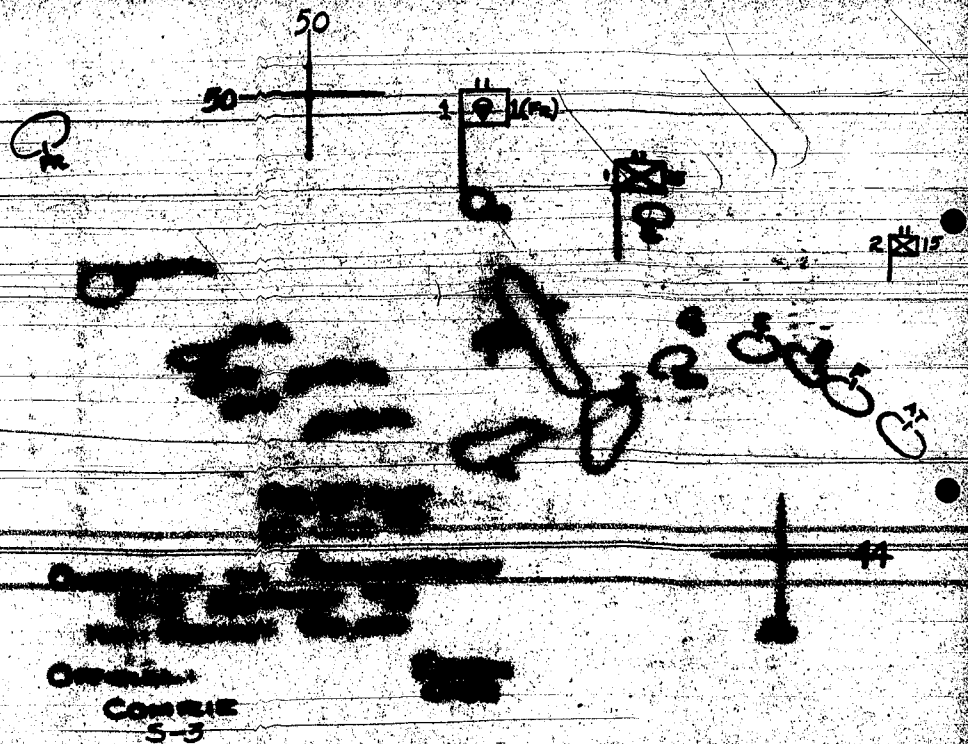
7. Results of Operations:

a. Disposition of captured items:

b. Maintenance of logs:

c. Patrols maintained:

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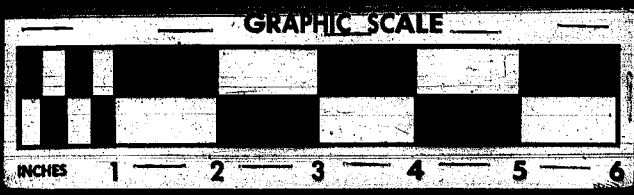




OFFICIAL:

COMRIE
8-3

EDSON
CMDG



SECRET
1950
1951
1952

ANNEX TO OVERLAY OF MINES

MAP - FRANCE, 1:50,000

1. 9 mines, AT, 2 groups of 3 mines each, 300000.
2. 10 mines, AT, (various type mines), one line with distance of 2 meters between individual mines, one line of 10 mines lined 2 meters in line with a distance of 2 meters between individual mines, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000, 300000.
3. 27 AT mines, M4 and M4d, interspersed in an irregular double line 2 meters long. This field is perpendicular to the road and extends northwest and southeast, but no mines have been placed on the road between 300000 and 300000.
4. 15 mines, AT M-4, placed on shoulder of the road running east from 300000, V602466 for a distance of 50 yards. 3 mines, AT M-4, placed in shoulder of trail running northwest from 300000, V602466, about trail width the 300000.
5. 23 mines, AT M4, in a single line east of wire extending 200 yards of 5 meters. This line extends 40 meters beyond north and south. Part of the wire extending at 300000, V602466.
6. 20 mines, AT M4, arranged in a double row 2 meters apart with 2 meters between individual mines. Some mines are on the east side of unimproved road running southeast out of 300000 at 300000.
7. 25 mines, AT M4, in a double row 2 meters apart with a distance of 2 meters between individual mines. One AT mine with tripwire east of first row of mines. One AT mine with tripwire between rows of mines. These mines extend north from 300000, V6000466 to streambed.
8. 5 mines, AT M4, with tripwires extending 20 meters east and west along southern edge of woods at 300000.
9. 35 mines, AT M4, in double row 2 meters apart. One mine southeast for 100 yards from 300000, V6000466. One AT mine with tripwire 100 yards east of R.
10. 15 mines, AT M4, in a single row to south of 300000, V6000466 extending from north-south road east to stream. There are 15 mines, AT M4, between 300000 and 300000 road.
11. One row 122 AT mines, M4, with tripwires extending 60 meters long in a solid front extending across the road to 300000, V6000466, across stream and across trail, via 300000, V6000466.
12. 5 mines, AT, across road at 300000, V6000466 and 4 AT mines across the road and in field for 50 yards to east and west of road at 300000.
13. 5 mines, AT M4, at 300000, V601446 with 3 AT mines and tripwires across road coming into 300000.
14. 15 mines, AT, in 2 rows 5 meters apart extending southeast from small patch of woods to trail, via 300000, V6000466.
15. 15 mines, AT M4, in woods in a single row AT M4. Mines extend east to west across whole woods. Bridge across stream lined with 2 AT M4, one on each end of bridge and one in middle. 3 mines AT M4 along trail at 300000.

NOTE: Other locations of mine fields indicated on this map are accurate, but data as to number, type, and size are unreliable.
Bridge A is a steel Broadway bridge with 4 tons of explosives and 2000 cratering charges in house in vicinity of bridge.
Bridge B has 1800 lbs of explosives plus 400 lbs of cratering charges located in building near the bridge.

Journal

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Form 2000
Date: 1/30/50
Place: 18th Inf
Place: 18th Inf

No. 7
Map: FRANCE, 1/30,000; COORDINATE SHEETS.

1. Enemy Dispositions

a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.

2. Enemy Operations

a. Enemy information reported during the period was as follows:

- (1) At 1800H, one tank observed via VESPER and one tank via VESPER.
- (2) At 2100H, one mortar and three tanks were reported in a trench east of VESPER. The enemy shelled the area with mortars and tanks for 30 minutes and 20 minutes after shelling stopped they assaulted the house firing hand grenades and rifle grenades. Two enemy vehicles, a flare and a flare, followed by an APC and mortar ammunition landed in their vicinity.
- (3) A B tank enemy patrol was seen via of VESPER at 0400H. No action reported.

3. Miscellaneous

a. Patrols

b. Patrols for period 0-10 Jan 50:

At 0000H, the 1st Recon platoon was alerted until relieved with no enemy contact reported. Patrol patrol went from B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) along the line of forward positions. It started via road B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to C Co CP (26407) along the line of forward positions. It started via the path near C Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407).

At 0600H, a combat patrol between B Co CP (26407) and B Co CP (26407) at position (26407). No enemy was reported for patrol. A lateral patrol went from B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) then to B Co CP along the forward positions; no enemy activity.

At 0800H, a patrol went from right flank from the rear CP (26407) to B Co CP outpost (26407). No enemy contact was made. Another patrol ran from B Co CP position (26407) to (26407) then to B Co CP (26407) and returned. Mine trails and wire kept them off the path but good progress was made with no enemy activity reported.

From 1800H to 0600H, the 1st Recon platoon was alerted until relieved with no enemy contact reported. A combat patrol went from B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) to B Co CP (26407) then to B Co CP (26407) back to B Co CP (26407), also combat patrol, and saw no signs of enemy activity.

DONALD N LIES
Maj, 18th Inf
B-2

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Journal

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SECRET

The accompanying drawing shall be placed in the fire plan and will be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.

Fire plan, (attached) is attached against the general drawing of the fire plan necessitated the calling for immediate action.

The I Co position to stand on the right position. The position of the fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.

As shown on drawing in this position, the fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.

A fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.

MEMO:

1. All plans, positions, and drawings of the fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
2. These positions shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
3. Detailed drawings shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
4. All drawings shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
5. Plans shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
6. A fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
7. The copies of the fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
8. These positions shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
9. These positions shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
10. Detailed drawings shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
11. If necessary, the fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.
12. The fire plan shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared and the necessary copies shall be prepared and the copies of which positions will be prepared.

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Only

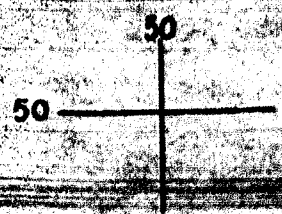
OFFICIAL:

COMMIE
S-3

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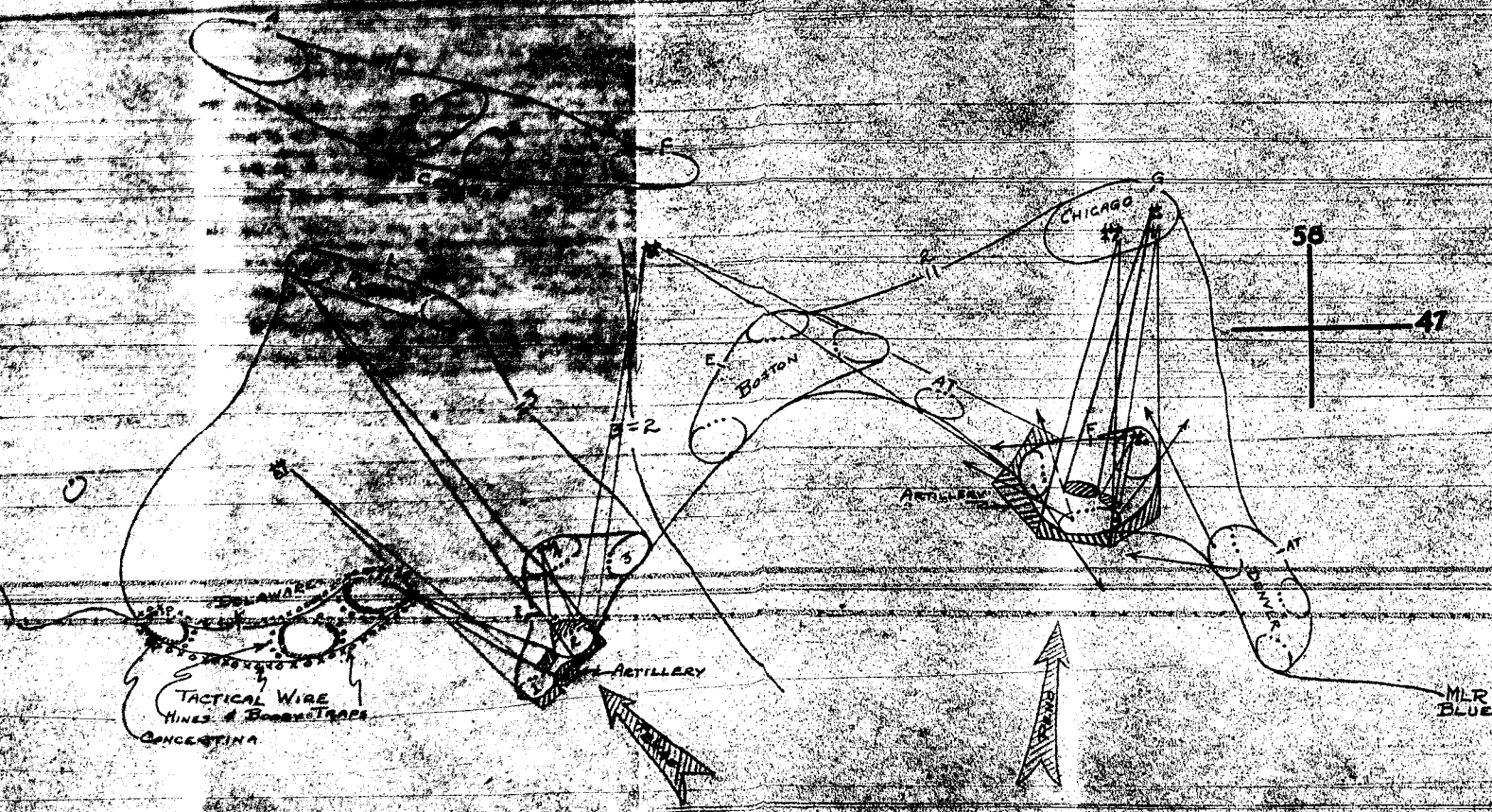
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HQ 15th INF
10 JAN '45

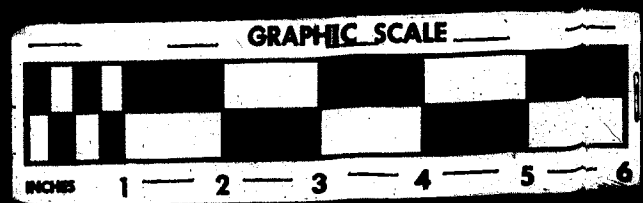


OPER PLAN
MAG FRANCE 1/20,000
OFFICIAL

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CMDG



CONFIDENTIAL



Jan 10

HEADQUARTERS 17TH INFANTRY
APO 3

10 January 1945

MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 1

PYROTECHNIC CODE

1. The following flare signals will be used in this Regiment until further notice from this headquarters:

- a. By patrols here - White Parachute - White Cluster
- b. By attack here - Amber " - Amber "
- c. Fire defensive concentrations- Red " - Red "
- d. Need assistance - Green " - Green "
- e. All single flare signals are available for local use --
(to include countering of EY flare activity).

2. Because of great possibility for confusion and misinterpretation, flare signals will be used only when other suitable means of communication (telephone) fail.

For the Regimental Commander:

[Signature]
Capt, 17th Inf
Adjutant

11 JANUARY 1945

- 0012 1st & 3d Bn's report all quiet.
0019 OP # 2 at 569487 to DO: At 2320A, two say HE rds landed 115 degrees and approx 3000 yds out. At 2335A, one friendly HE shell landed 195 degrees and approx 6000 yds out. At 2345A, four say HE rds landed on or off 125 degrees approx 1800 yds out.
- 0022 2d Bn Ex O to DO: K Co is en way to relieve M Co. Left Co position at 1118A, but had to pick up mortars, guide and ammunition which delayed them until after midnight.
- 0026 DO gave above to 1st Bn.
0054 OP # 3 reports all quiet.
0056 Report to Div War Room.
0110 1st Bn CO to DO: Patrol reports started from 597457, went S to triangle of RY 769 at 536453, contacted I Co outpost, then went north to 536444 where they saw my outpost and MG in defilade. Cirled to SW and came back at road. Road impassable. Saw my squad effecting relief in woods. Patrol returned to RY 769, went east 200 yds from I Co position, then returned to Bn CP.
- 0155 OP # 2 to DO: At 0115A, 10 rds of my mortars landed via 559467. In last hour much enemy arty fire via OWNEY.
- 0200 2d Bn reports all quiet.
0212 2d Bn Ex O to DO: One of our outposts fired on my patrol trying to infiltrate our positions. Believe we wounded several say. Will please report tails later when we get a complete report.
- 0225 3d Bn reports all quiet.
0255 601st TD anti-paraglate patrol checked in Regt'1 CP. Negative report.
0300 3d Bn S-2 to DO: Outpost established at 510458.
0315 1st Bn, 3d Bn, and OP # 1 report all quiet.
0405 1st Bn reports B Co is completely relieved.
0410 3d Bn reports all quiet.
0450 2d Bn PO to DO: 1 say killed and 4 wounded in fire fight with my patrol by G Co.
0510 Report to Division War Room.
0520 All Bn's report all quiet.
0520 to CB40A, Bn's and OP's report all quiet.
0540 Asst S-2 to 3d Bn S-2, gave I Co outpost to rear approx 200 yds and to the NW. Booby trap wire at abandoned position.
- 0645 2d Bn DO to DO: In last night's fire fight in front of G Co's outpost, one say Ptd killed and one wounded. A German medic carried away the wounded and. We are covering by fire the body of the German. I & K Co's machine screen laid via 546460 at 0855A.
- 0910 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
1000 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: We are laying barbed wire and 15 AP mines that are being trapped in front of K Co from 530451 to 532451. S-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: Have someone establish a high bridge that is prepared for a demolition if necessary unless.
- 1012 OP # 1 at 542474 to DO: Observation poor, fog and smoke.
1025 OP # 3 at 104470 to DO: 2 rds of my mortar fire landed via 484468.
1125 2d Bn CO to S-3: Would like to get 200 yds mine laying detail for tonight.
1130 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: Have 2 men strong point located at 512463. Note 12 more men going there to carry additional rations and to get comm wire in. They are using sleds.
1215 3d Div CP opened at ST MARIE AUX MINES at 1100A.
1259 OP # 1 to DO: From 1130A to 1210A, arty and mortar fire landed via 557465.
1300 OP's # 2 and # 3 give negative report.
1410 S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: Have squad of 8agre to work for you tonight. You will supply mines.
1411 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
1430 OP # 2 gives negative report.
1450 OP # 3 gives negative report. Observa stion is good.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Periods: 102300Z to 112300Z
Unit: 1st Infantry
Place: BORMUNG, FRANCE
Date: 11 JANUARY 1950

No. 11

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; SWARDNER Sheet FRANCE, 1/50,000, SWARDNER E-4 & 7-6.

1. Our Front Lines: See overlay.

2. Disposition of Enemy Regt'1 CP in BORMUNG: 1st Bn CP at VE40479; 2 Co via Hotel du LAC BLANC, 2 Co via VE32422; 3 Co via VE32422, 4 Co via VE32422, 5 Co via VE32422, 6 Co via VE32422, 7 Co via VE32422, 8 Co via VE32422, 9 Co via VE32422, 10 Co via VE32422, 11 Co via VE32422, 12 Co via VE32422, 13 Co via VE32422, 14 Co via VE32422, 15 Co via VE32422, 16 Co via VE32422, 17 Co via VE32422, 18 Co via VE32422, 19 Co via VE32422, 20 Co via VE32422, 21 Co via VE32422, 22 Co via VE32422, 23 Co via VE32422, 24 Co via VE32422, 25 Co via VE32422, 26 Co via VE32422, 27 Co via VE32422, 28 Co via VE32422, 29 Co via VE32422, 30 Co via VE32422, 31 Co via VE32422, 32 Co via VE32422, 33 Co via VE32422, 34 Co via VE32422, 35 Co via VE32422, 36 Co via VE32422, 37 Co via VE32422, 38 Co via VE32422, 39 Co via VE32422, 40 Co via VE32422, 41 Co via VE32422, 42 Co via VE32422, 43 Co via VE32422, 44 Co via VE32422, 45 Co via VE32422, 46 Co via VE32422, 47 Co via VE32422, 48 Co via VE32422, 49 Co via VE32422, 50 Co via VE32422, 51 Co via VE32422, 52 Co via VE32422, 53 Co via VE32422, 54 Co via VE32422, 55 Co via VE32422, 56 Co via VE32422, 57 Co via VE32422, 58 Co via VE32422, 59 Co via VE32422, 60 Co via VE32422, 61 Co via VE32422, 62 Co via VE32422, 63 Co via VE32422, 64 Co via VE32422, 65 Co via VE32422, 66 Co via VE32422, 67 Co via VE32422, 68 Co via VE32422, 69 Co via VE32422, 70 Co via VE32422, 71 Co via VE32422, 72 Co via VE32422, 73 Co via VE32422, 74 Co via VE32422, 75 Co via VE32422, 76 Co via VE32422, 77 Co via VE32422, 78 Co via VE32422, 79 Co via VE32422, 80 Co via VE32422, 81 Co via VE32422, 82 Co via VE32422, 83 Co via VE32422, 84 Co via VE32422, 85 Co via VE32422, 86 Co via VE32422, 87 Co via VE32422, 88 Co via VE32422, 89 Co via VE32422, 90 Co via VE32422, 91 Co via VE32422, 92 Co via VE32422, 93 Co via VE32422, 94 Co via VE32422, 95 Co via VE32422, 96 Co via VE32422, 97 Co via VE32422, 98 Co via VE32422, 99 Co via VE32422, 100 Co via VE32422.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cold and clear. Visibility, good.

4. Information of Attached Units:

1st Bn: Located in LA FORTIN, supported by 1 Platoon light tanks, as regt'1 reserve. On the night of 10-11 January, 12 men from the Battle Patrol went to an enemy position in 2d Bn sector via VE44464 and located an enemy tank and considerable activity in that vicinity.
Tank Attachments: (756 Tank Bn) Co B, 2d Platoon in BORMUNG, 2 Co, 2 tanks in LA FORTIN.
TD Attachments: (Co B, color TD Bn) 2nd Platoon, COB, DU BORMUNG, 2d Platoon via (Color) 2 TD's at LE HUBAIN, 2 TD's via Hotel du LAC BLANC.
1st Bn, 1st Parachute Regt (Bn): Occupying defensive positions on regt'1 right flank. Bn CP at VE32422 via Hotel du LAC BLANC.
See overlay.
Other Attachments: 2 Platoons 441st AAA Bn Co B, 30th Cal Bn, 5.500, 20th Sigs Co (P).

5. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment continued reorganizing within assigned sector during the night of 10-11 January. Defensive positions were improved and patrols were maintained.
First Battalion: 2 Co was relieved on the night of 10-11 Jan. of front line positions by 3 Co and moved to reserve position via VE32422. 4 and 5 Co's remained in defensive positions. 17 AP mine, 1000, were laid in a trench across the road, via VE40457.
Second Battalion: 2 Co relieved 3 Co on front line positions. Relief was completed at 110400Z. 2d Bn AT Platoon established block via of 2d at VE32422. 3 Co moved to reserve in 2d reserve position. 12 AP mines were laid across the road, via VE32422, across stream via VE32422. 7 AP mine were laid across the gully at VE32422.
Third Battalion: Remained in defensive positions throughout the period and maintained patrols. Positions were improved by laying of wire and mine. Supply support wire was here from VE32422 to VE32422. A bridge east of Lake BLANC, via VE32474 was prepared for demolitions.
AT Company: Remained in defensive positions formerly occupied by 2 Co, 10th Sigs on regt'1 left flank.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 10 Jan)

Officers: 278

WO: 100%

EM: 78%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 20

EM: 242

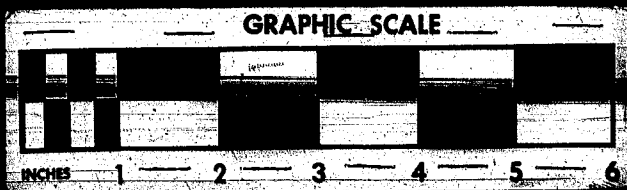
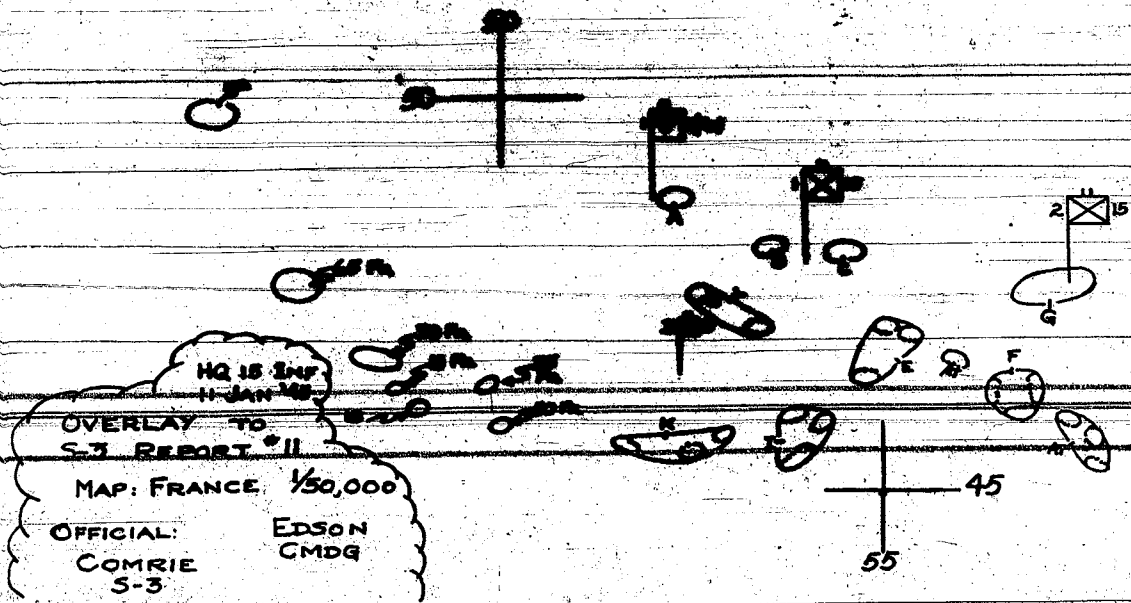
7. Results of Operations:

- a. Defensive positions held and improved by laying of mines and wire (See overlay attached).
- b. Regrouping within sector continued.
- c. Patrols maintained.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL



18 AP
MINES

59

46

56

45

STAP
MINES

HQ 15th INF
11 JAN 43

MINRE OVERLAY

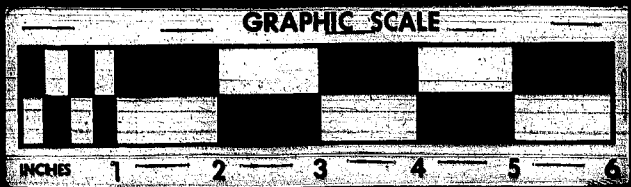
MAP: 1/20,000

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
CMDG

COMRIE
S-3

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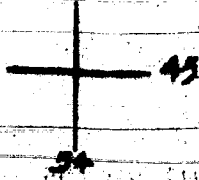
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STAMPED
FOR DEMO.

STAMPED

BERRY-TAPPED
BARBED
WIRE, 17AD



HQ 15th INF
11 JAN '45

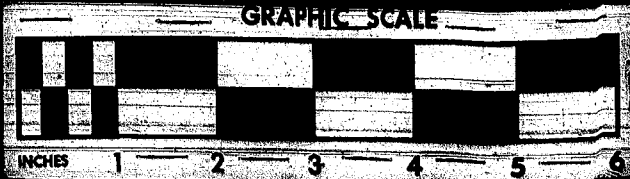
MINE OVERLAY

MAP: 1/20,000

OFFICIAL
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

GRAPHIC SCALE

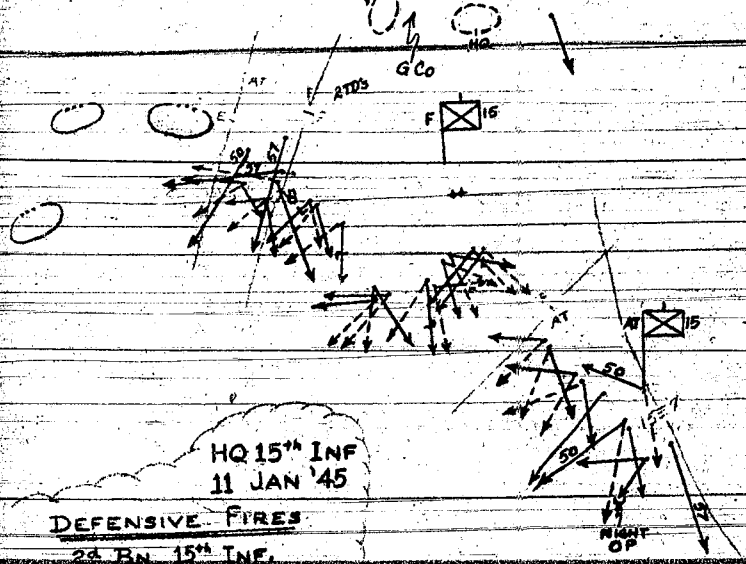


Journal

55

48

PREPARED BN FRES
Pos. 6
MORTARS
R 15
ATDS
GCO
F 15



HQ 15th INF
11 JAN '45

DEFENSIVE FIRES

2d BN, 15th INF.

MAP: FRANCE, 120,000
GERARDMER 7-8

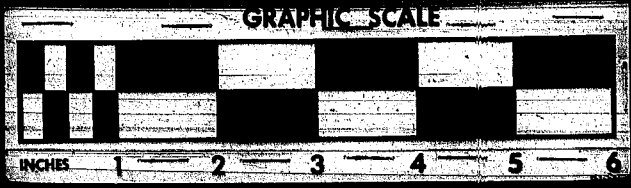
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5-3

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CMDG

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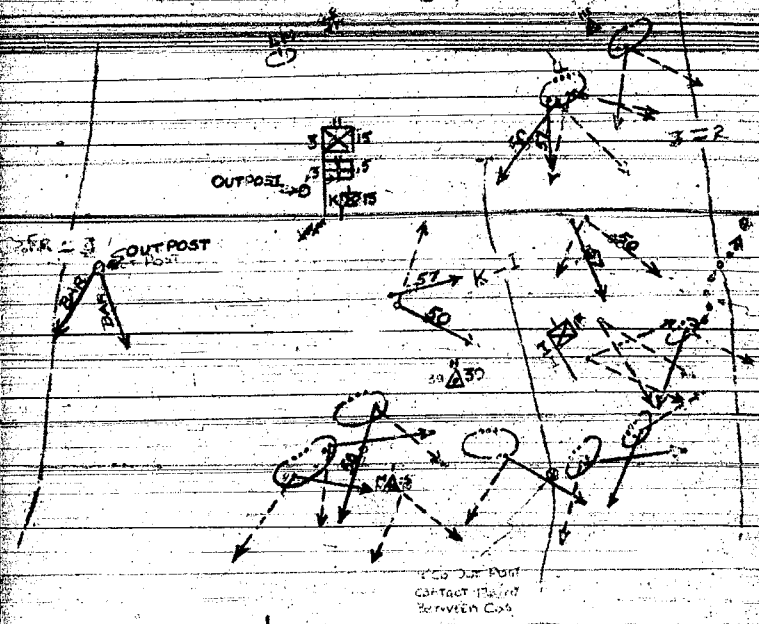
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Journal

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44

HQ 15th INF
11 JAN 45

DEFENSIVE FIDES

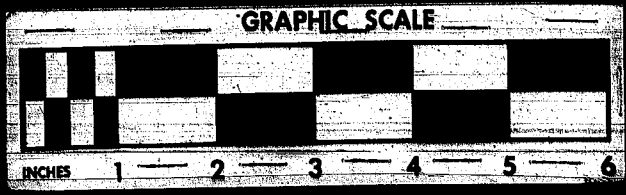
3d BN, 15th INF

MAP: 1/20,000

OFFICIAL
COMRIE
3-3

EDSON
CMDC

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: 100800A
TO : 110900A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 11 JANUARY 1964
PAGE: 12-000000, 000001

No. 5

MAPS: FRANCIS, 1/50,000; CHARADONN, SHIRT.

1. BATTERY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Snow VMSB Lines; No change.

2. BATTERY OPERATIONS:

a. Enemy information reported was as follows:

- (1) Enemy arty shelled via V88448 from 1800h to 1800h.
- (2) Enemy tank believed to be located tie of V88448 fired 3 rds of direct fire from 1800h to 1800h.
- (3) 5 rds of mortar fire fell via of V48448 at 1800h.
- (4) 4 rds of arty fell in vic of V88447 at 1800h.
- (5) Sniper at V88448 fired approximately 20 rds at house via V88448 at 1855h and got in on fire with incendiary rounds.
- (6) OP observed 15 - 20 enemy personnel via of V88448 at 2000h. They were dispersed by our mortar fire.
- (7) 20 rds. 82 mm fell in FAIRIE via V84748 at 2107h starting a fire.
- (8) Mortar fire fell via of V48448 at 2100h.
- (9) 10 rds of mortar fire fell via of V88447 at 0130h.
- (10) Enemy attempted to attack house via V88448 at 0230h as they did the previous night. The attack was unsuccessful and the enemy had 1 killed and 4 wounded.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Patrols:

b. Patrols for period 10 - 11 January 45: Detector contact patrols in each battalion were run continuously during the night between company forward positions, and none had enemy activity to report.

1st Bn: Bn a 7 man forward patrol with the following results: started from 84747 and went south to Rf at 82448 where they contacted I Co OP. They went south to within 40 yards of the Rf at 82448 where one enemy and MW was seen pointing in a general NW direction covering the road. The patrol tried to bypass the gun with little success and returned to I Co OP from where they went E to 82448 with no enemy activity to report except they received mortar fire believed to come from 84747. Even sounds of activity heard, the patrol was of the opinion that approximately a squad of enemy is located in a patch of trees in the vic of 84747.

2d Bn: Bn a patrol forward from 8 Co OP at 80348 which went forward about 200 yards. Further progress along the road was not feasible due to wind and heavy trapped areas. The patrol returned without observing any activity and no enemy activity to report.

3d Bn: Bn a combined ambush patrol and strong point group which had great difficulty getting to its destination. An 8 man patrol with rations for one day went from Bn rear OP at 82048 NW to trail at 81847 then S to 81848 where the 4 men were to be left as a strong observation point. From there the other 4 men were to push S along the ridge to ambush point approximately 80348 looking for enemy patrols. The first attempt the two supply mules bogged down in the snow and had to be pulled out. A second attempt by the patrol on 3 different routes failed also due to deep snow. A third attempt using sleighs proceeded further using an SCR 300 for communications - it is now at 81848 and wire is being strung to them. The ambush

C O N F I D E N T I A L

patrol never got started due to the fact the establishment of the strong point took them until daylight.

The French Paratroop Co ran a patrol from LE RUDLIN (40440) to LE VULFIN (40744) along the road and return, and had no indications of enemy activity along the way or in LE VULFIN.

DOMINIC M. LIND
Major, 18th Infantry
S - 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

12 JANUARY 1945

- 0005 1st Bn reports all quiet.
0050 3d Bn reports all quiet.
0108 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
0145 2nd Bn reports all quiet.
0145 to 0235A: Negative report from 2nd and French Paratroopers. Report made to Div War Room.
0235 3d Bn DO to DO: Patrol # 3 left at 2400A. They went between houses at 541-455 and 541456, observed no enemy activity but lights were showing through blackout. Went within 100 yds of RF at 544454, no red block there. Heard tank from south, moving a few. Observed a mortar flash at 563450. MG fire via 543455 firing toward I Co. Found no wire or mines.
0235 to 0930A: Negative reports. Report to Division.
0330 2d Bn DO to DO: 3d Div Battle Patrol's patrol left F Co (565460) at 1030A. Went south thru gap in minefield, cut to ER at 565456, down to E side of woods. Saw cigarette burning on edge of woods and moved up to it. They received fire from 2 MG's, 1 machine pistol, 3 SP's or AT guns located via 563457 to 565-457. Our 3 bazooka teams were each assigned a target to fire upon. Results not known but guns stopped firing. In moving back to our lines raked suspected Outpost via 565456. Mortar and arty fire laid on positions as pre-arranged.
0330 to 0420A: Negative reports from units.
0420 2d Bn S-2 to DO: Patrol # 2 went to 559467 and checked out thru AT Co outpost. Prior to leaving outpost 5 French civilians walked through the beehive-trapped wire into 2d Bn's position wanting to be evacuated. Patrol followed their path thru the wire defense, went SE along edge of woods to house via 554466, but saw or heard no activity. Patrol went on to check house reported via 555466, but reported no house at that location. Patrol checked house at 556465 and saw no evidence of enemy. Patrol returned by same route. Patrol left at 2400A and returned at 0400A.
0420 to 0930A: All quiet in Regt sec area. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.
0930 Ex O to 1st Bn S-3: Have one man report to Regt Hq's: assault instructor for French Paratroopers.
1005 OP # 1 gives negative report.
1015 Ex O to Division War Room: French Paratroopers have four 57 mm AT guns, that belong to 67th RAA, 3d DIA. Will pull guns and crews back tomorrow morning. Waiting for Div to tell us where to send them.
1020 OP # 3 to DO: At 0805A, 7 rds of arty fell vic of 3d Bn OP.
1045 S-2 to 2d Bn Ex O: Want you to send raid patrol tonight to 3 enemy pill boxes in front of I Co sector.
1055 S-2 to 2d Bn: Send patrol # 1 thru woods via 557447 and investigate houses via 556464, 557463, and 559463. Send patrol # 2 to woods via 555464 and check houses via 553466 and 554467.
1105 S-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: Engrs will report to you at 1700A for mine laying and wire laying detail.
1125 OP # 2 to DO: 12 rds of arty fell in town of ORBEY.
1135 2d Bn S-2 to Asst S-3: 12-20 rds of mortar fire landed vic 563465 only a few minutes ago. Rate of 2 or 3 rds per minute. Fire coming from approx N or 170 degrees, approx 800 yds away. Arty has been identified.
1135 Div to S-3: Turn guns into French GP at MALSERAT vic STRASBOURG.
2200 2d Bn S-2 to 3d Bn Ex O: Have new patrol from ORBEY to LA ROCHETTE. Get in contact with platoon of light tanks there and get comm by wire with this Hq's.
1250 S-2 to 3d Bn Ex O: In planning patrols place emphasis on capturing a prisoner.
1304 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO: Visibility poor. 8 rds of arty landed vic 563473. At 1146A, 15 rds of arty landed east of ORBEY. 1215A, 15 rds of arty landed east of hill 772.

12 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1335 1st Bn CO to CO: What houses am I directed to raid tonight? Answer: Will not designate any particular houses but the sector will be in front of and SE of I Co.
- 1344 2d Bn Ex O to S-2: Need two squads of Engrs for wire laying detail. Engr detail from A Co, 10th Engrs, laying mine for E Co. A 2nd Engr (last night) they were under my fire when he was hit, but he was wounded. S-2 to be on Ex O. Engrs for you tonight have been planned. Check houses to your front to see if they are still unoccupied by enemy.
- 1411 OP # 1 at 543475 to DO: Visibility poor. Heard no arty fire during past hour but occasional rd of BA fire.
- 1420 OP # 2 to DO: Visibility poor. Heard 3000 yds of arty landed on Hill 862. Could not observe. At 1410A, friendly arty fire landing south of ORBEY.
- 1552 S-2 to 3d Bn S-2: CO directs that your reserve company be prepared to send out patrol upon call.
- 1555 S-2 to 1st and 2d Bn S-2's: Each battalion will have a reserve combat patrol ready on a moment's call to get a prisoner if our patrol has failed. When our patrols return they will have probable locations of where enemy was seen or heard.
- 1600 OP # 2 to DO: At 1530A, 15 HE landed vic of ORBEY. Visibility poor.
- 1701 French Paratroopers report all is quiet.
- 1730 CO to CO, 1st Bn: Inspected you bn AT platoon located vic HURST. One gun was guarded by a soldier from 290th Engr Bn who did not know how to fire it. Have a staff officer inspect that position tomorrow at daylight.
- 1755 OP # 2 reports: By arty landing in ORBEY; 3 bursts MG fire vic PAIRIS.
- 1900 OP # 2 reports: 3 rds of friendly arty landed on E slope of Hill 862.
- 1907 601st TD anti-parachute patrol reported in at 1905 - All is quiet.
- 1910 S-2 to Cobra - same of the above.
- 1915 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 1920 OP # 3 to DO, 1800A, 6 enemy mortar shells landed 300 yards in front of OP. OP # 1 to DO, 1800A, 10 enemy HE shells landed at 180 degrees, 1800 yards. At 1800A, 3 MG bursts, 180 degrees, 3,000 yds away. At 1836A, 1 mortar shell, 130 degrees, 4000 yds away. 1716A, 2 enemy HE shells landed on ORBEY. At 1740A, 1 burst of friendly MG fire from vic 545484. At 1805A, 3 HE arty shells landed 3,000 yards away (possibly friendly), 155 degrees. At 1845A, 3 enemy HE vic ORBEY.
- 1930 3d Bn patrol # 3 has moved out. Ex O to Duty Clark.
- 1935 1st Bn to S-2: Patrol tonight are practically in same area that division wants us to run raid into tomorrow night, thus the enemy will become alert, could we modify patrol into that area tonight or have raid postponed. Check with CO.
- 1937 2d Bn OP to DO. At 1922 to 1927, area shelled around AT platoon at 2d Bn, 12 rounds, 120 mm Mortar, direction of 250 degrees.
- 2000 OP # 1 to DO. At 1925, approximately 40 rounds enemy artillery landed vic ORBEY, direction of 240 degrees from our OP. At 1945, our MG's were heard firing, 600 yards east of our position.
- 2005 OP # 2 to CO: In reference to above, no artillery landed here but some at BL vic 558463 and in 7th Inf area. Believe enemy mortars located on Hill vic 558463 and light mortars on 553458.
- 2026 OP # 2. At 2010A, enemy mortars fired 15 rounds. Thought to be coming from vic 558463.
- 2030 S-2 to 1st Bn: Be ready to run raid tomorrow night if Division directs but I do not believe it should.
- 2045 OP # 3 - Negative Report.
- 2105 OP # 3. Between 2000 to 2100, 40 rounds of artillery fell east of ORBEY. At 2035, (one concentration of mortar lasting for 20 minutes followed by insidious fire) fell vic of PAING. At 2040, mortars fell vic PAIRIS.

- 2110 OP # 1 ...
- 215A OP # 2 ...
- 2200 ...
- 2210 ...
- 2230 ...
- 2235 ...
- 2255 ...
- 2300 ...
- 2304: OP # 2 ...
- 2308 ...
- 2330 ...
- 2348 ...

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7. Results of Operations:

a. Defensive line held.

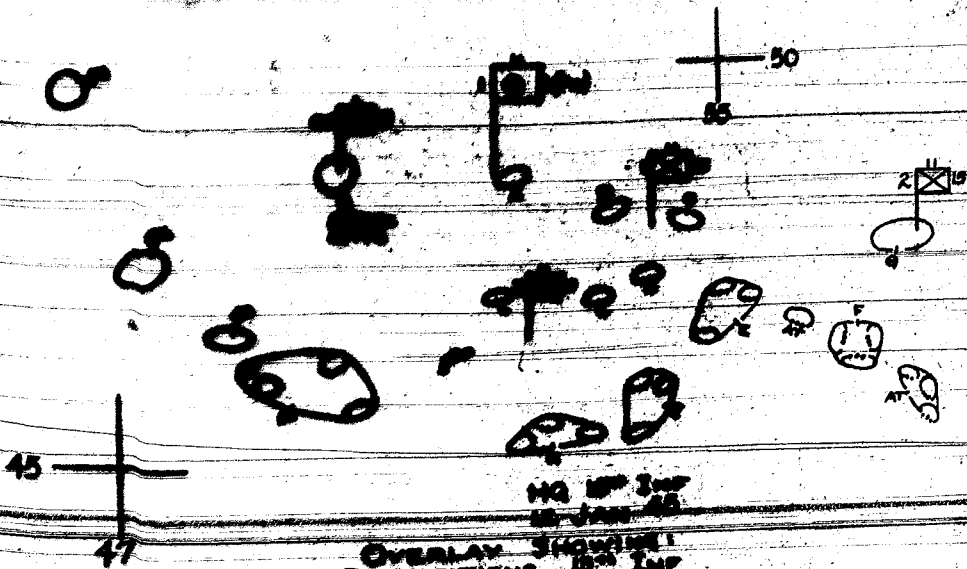
b. Positions improved.

c. Casualties minimized.

CONFIDENTIAL

8-8

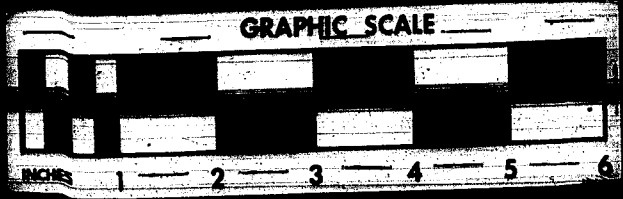
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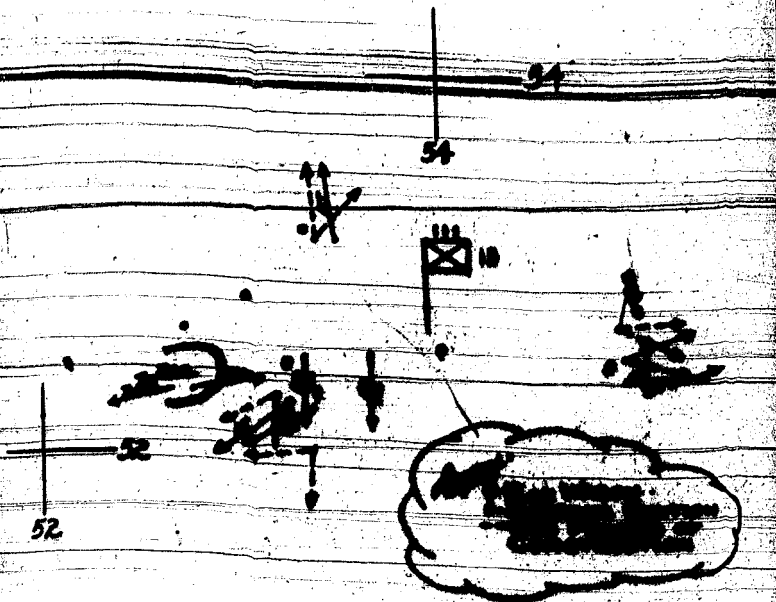
HQ 1st Inf
 15 JAN 45
 OVERLAY SHOWING
 DISPOSITIONS, 15th INF
 MAP: FRANCE, 1:50,000

OFFICIAL:
 COMBIE
 S-3

EDSON
 CMDR



Journal



HQ 1st INF
12 JAN 45

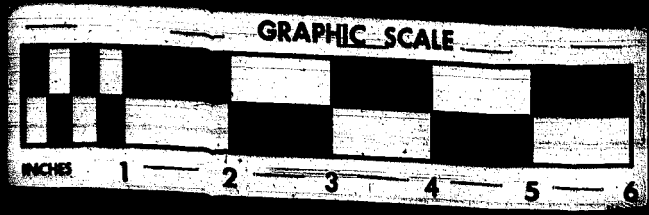
OVERLAY SHOWING
DEFENSIVE INSTALLATIONS
(LE BOURGNEUF, FRANCE)

FRANCE, 1/60,000

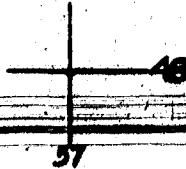
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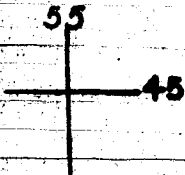
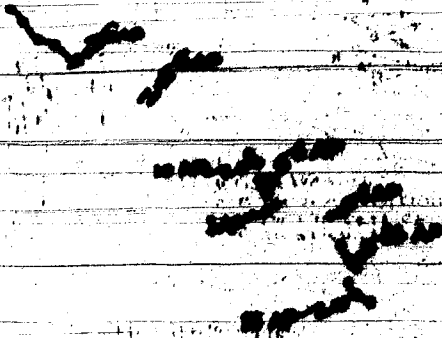
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AP INDEX



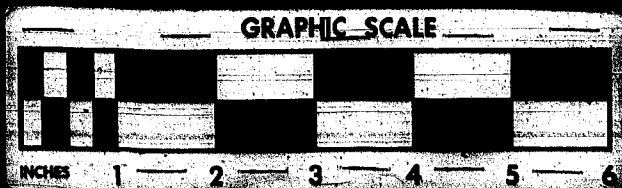
NO 120 120
12 JAN 78

ENGINEER OVERLAY
MAP FRANCE 1/20,000

OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

CONFIDENTIAL



Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: 110800A
TO : 120800A
INFO: 14TH INFANTRY
DATE: 15 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: LA FORTUNE, FRANCE

No. 9

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- A. Enemy Front Lines: No change.
- B. Enemy Defenses: MG located via of V84645 and 1 MG located via V83648, covering the north - south road.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

- A. Enemy information reported was as follows:
 - (1) 2 rds of mortar fire via V42648 at 1022A.
 - (2) 2 enemy seen via of V81648.
 - (3) 15 rds mortar fire fell on 1 Co via V42648 at 1915A, also MG fire received from the south.
 - (4) 2 enemy seen via of house at V82648.
 - (5) Civilian reports 40 enemy, 6-8 MG's and 6 rocket launchers in house via V87641. 1 Gun located via V82648.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

A. Patrols:

- B. Patrols for Period 11-12 January 1945: Seven forward patrols were run during the period; in addition, lateral contact patrols with no enemy activity to report were run.

Patrol #1 was run in front of the 2d Bn by the Big Battle Patrol in the following manner: The 10 man officer led patrol left F Co OP, 588400, worked to SN about 200 yards looking for a tank reported behind a house the night of 10 Jan 45. The house had been burned down by accurate mortar fire and no tank was found. Going then toward a suspected enemy OP they reached a point where they received much S/A fire from 2 MG's, a MP, and 303 rifles plus fire from 3 AT or self propelled guns fired probably to scare the patrol (the range was too short for direct fire). Lt PARSONS directed the fire of each of his 2 bazookas at each gun and took up the fire fight with the 5 BAR's and 1 sub machine gun and M-1 in his command. The AT guns were silenced and the patrol withdrew to F Co under cover of a previously arranged arty and mortar fire, which landed right where the enemy was located (583487) to (584487).

Patrol #2 left from an AT Co outpost, 589488, and went W along the road to check for enemy presence in house at 544484. No indication of enemy presence was seen as the patrol continued to via 588485 checking the woods to the south on their way. The 5 man patrol from 2d Bn returned after no enemy indications of occupancy were seen.

Patrol #3 by the 2d Bn was a contact patrol which left via 540455 and went SN between the houses at 541455 and 541456. No enemy activity was observed and the patrol continued to within 100 yds. of the RJ at 544454 where they saw no signs of a road block as was suspected to be there. While observing they heard a tracked vehicle (possibly a tank) along road from south going toward the RJ. Also a mortar flash at 551450 and MG fire coming from via 543455 were observed. No mines or wire were encountered enroute.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 151200A to 151200A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: BONGHOM, FRANCE
Date: 15 January 1945

11. FRANCE, 1/30,000; GERMANY Sheet; FRANCE, 1/30,000; GERMANY 2-4, 7-8.

Our Front Lines: No change.

Disposition of Troops: Regt'l CP in BONGHOM; 1st Bn CP at V640479, A Co via Hotel du LAC BLANC; B Co via V636462; C Co via V646490; 2d Bn CP in GEMME; 2 Co via V624464, V650471, V650470; F Co via V674466, V684466; V684464; G Co in GEMME; 3d Bn CP via V624464, I Co via V674463, V684466, V684466; K Co via V624463, V624466, V624464; L Co via V680472, V684471, V684473; AF Co via V674466, V677466, V677463; 2d Bn AF Plat via V684467.

Weather and Visibility: Cold; limited visibility.

Information of Attached Units:

Tank Attachments: (V68th Tank Bn) Co, B 2d Plat at S Co CP via V684463;

Co B, 1 light tank in LA FOURNOISE.

Artillery Attachments: (Co E, COLLET 2d Bn); 1st Plat, CCL on BONGHOM; 2d Plat via COLLET 2d Bn at LA FOURNOISE, 2 TPs via Hotel du LAC BLANC.

3d Division Battle Patrol: Attached to 15th Infantry as regimental reserve.

1st Bn 1st Para Regt (P): Attached to 15th Infantry, occupying defensive positions on regt'l right flank and maintaining patrols.

Other Attachments: Co A, 20th Inf Bn; S Plat, COLLET 2d Bn; S Co, 20th Inf Co, Pz.

Our Operations for the Period:

The Regiment remained in defensive positions throughout the period.

2d Bn, with AF Co attached and G Co in battalion reserve held line on left flank; 3d Bn, with L Co in battalion reserve, held center of sector; and

the 1st Bn, 1st Para Regt (P) held the regimental right flank. 1st Bn,

15th Infantry, remained in reserve position. Patrols were maintained.

Defensive positions were improved by laying of mines and wire.

Combat Effectiveness

Personnel for Duty: (As of 12 Jan)

Officers: 700
NCOs: 2000
Men: 700

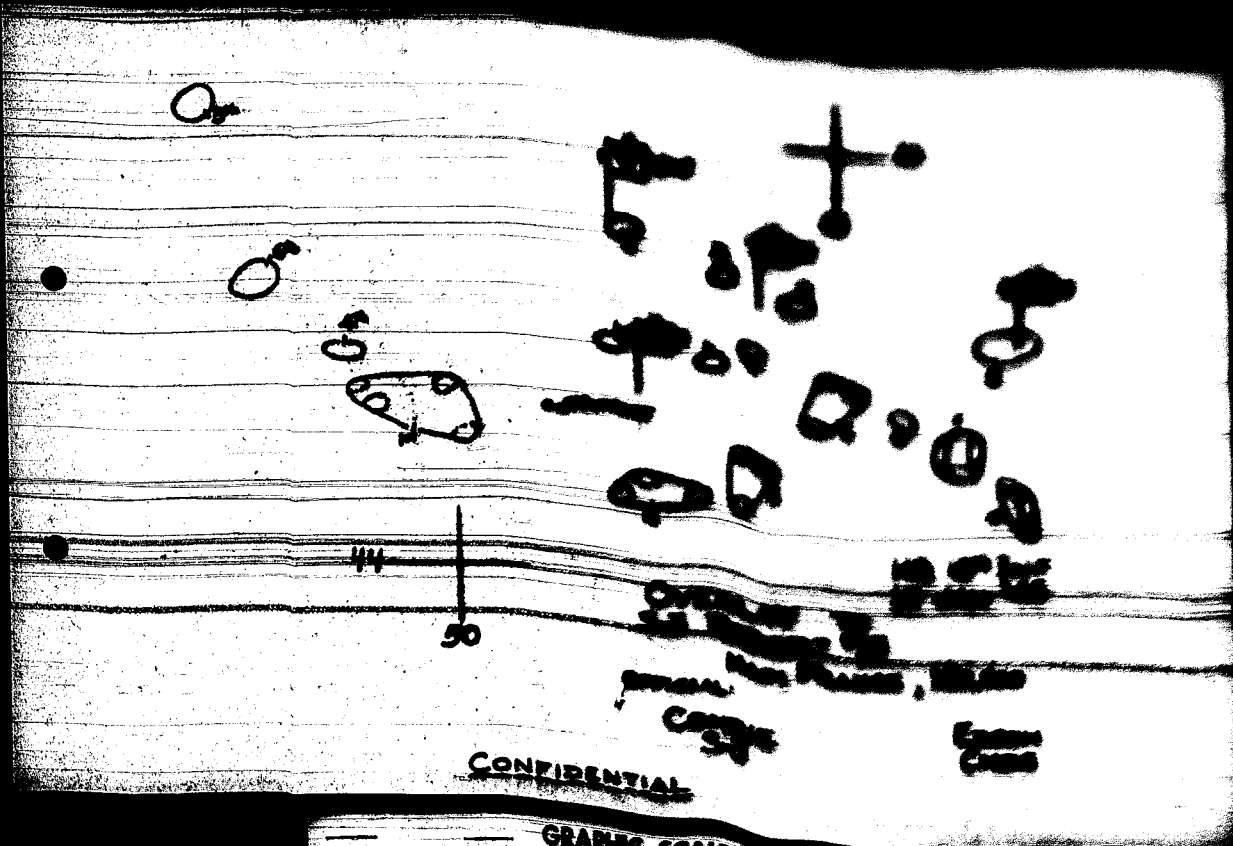
Rifle trench strengths

Officers: 200
NCOs: 200

Results of Operations:

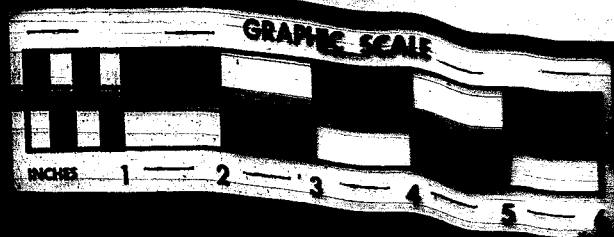
- a. Positions unchanged.
- b. Positions improved.
- c. Patrols maintained.

COMBIE
S-3



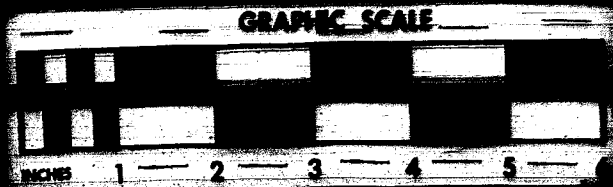
COVERED
 BY
 SMALL
 GROUP
 IN
 AREA
 OF
 INTEREST

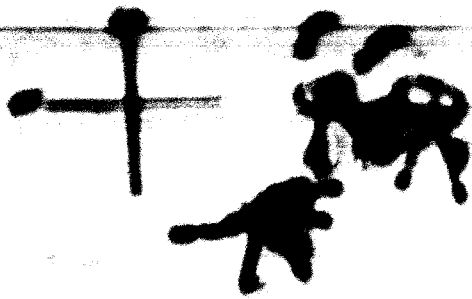
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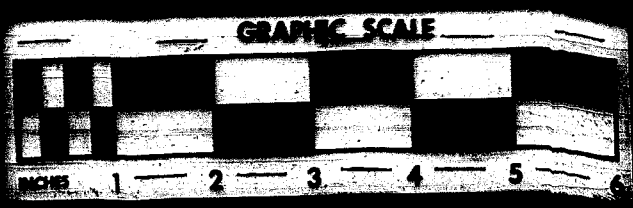


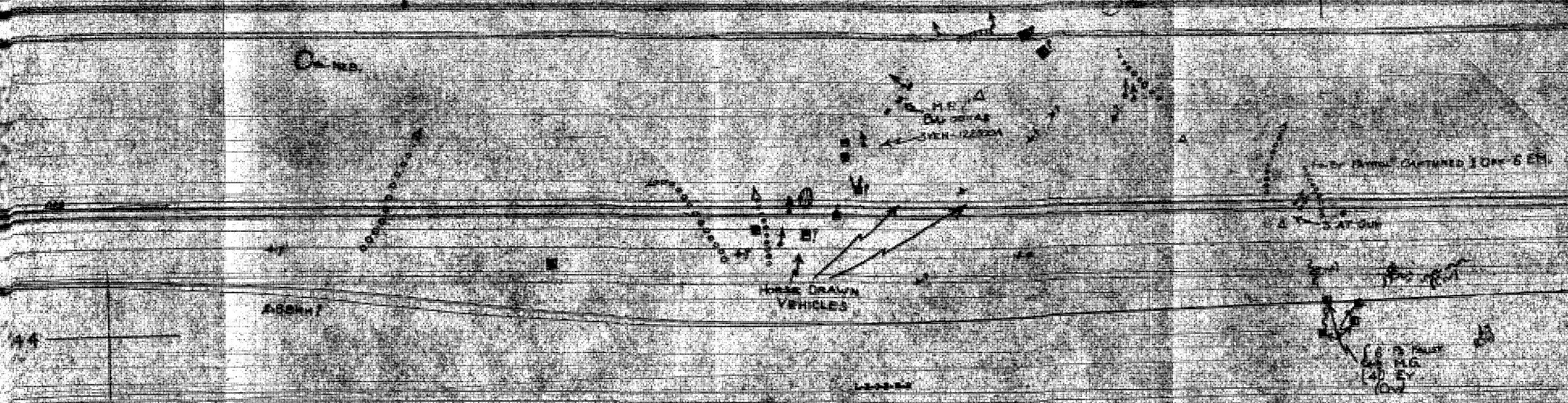
GENERALIZATION





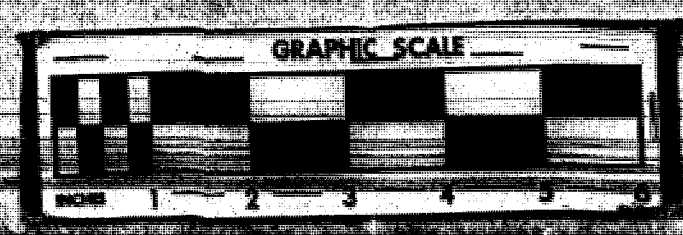
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MAP SHOWING ENEMY POSITION
 AND HORSE DRAWN VEHICLES
 CAPTURED 3 JAN - 5 PM
 MAP SCALE: 1:50,000

- LEGEND
- ENEMY POSITION
 - HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE
 - ▲ ENEMY POSITION CAPTURED
 - ENEMY POSITION CAPTURED
 - ▲ ENEMY POSITION CAPTURED
 - ▲ ENEMY POSITION CAPTURED



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Reg 18th Inf
LE BOURGONNE, FRANCE
18 January 1946

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

NUMBER..... 6)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, GERARDMER Sheet.

C-1037

1. See current G-2 Periodic Reports.
b. 7th Infantry Regiment on the left; 10th RI, French, on the right.

2. 18th Infantry, attached: 290th Combat Bngr Bn
1st Bn, 1st Para Regt, Fr
Co B, 601st TD Bn
Co B (-), 750th Tr Bn
Co A, 90th Cml Bn
Plat, 441st AAA AW Bn
2d Plat, Co D, 750th Tr Bn.
2d Div Battle Patrol
3 Sect's, 80th Mils Co, Fr

a. Regroups in present sector to improve defensive coverage of principal avenues of hostile penetration, to obtain additional depth to the defense, and to constitute additional reserves.

b. The regiment holds the present MEX (Blue Line) at all costs and improves it by offensive actions, to be prescribed later.

c. For AF Plan see Annex # 1.

d. For regimental counterattack plan see Annex # 2 (to be published later)

e. Reliefs necessary to effect the readjustment indicated on overlay will commence at 1030A, 14 Jan '46.

f. Program of Reliefs:

(1) During day, 13-14 Jan, commanders will conduct reconnaissance of positions to be relieved.

(2) 290th Combat Bngr Bn relieves 1st Bn, 18th Inf, in present sector during daylight, 14th Jan '46.

(3) 1st Bn, 18th Inf, moves by motor to vic ST CROIX and assumes present mission of 290th Combat Bngr Bn, leaving one company in LE BOURGONNE.

(4) 1st Bn, Fr Para relieves Co K, 18th Inf, during night of 14th Jan prior to 2400A.

(5) Co K, upon relief by Fr Para, moves to Hotel du LAC BLANC and assumes responsibility of reg'tl reserve company.

(6) During days 15th & 16th January, reconnaissance of positions by 290th Combat Bngr Bn, down to and including reconnaissance of MS positions, to be occupied, by machine-guns. 290th Bngr Bn will send one man per patrol conducted by 18th Inf on nights of 15th & 16th January.

(7) Night of 15th January, one company relief, 290th Bngrs, will relieve Co B and Co I on position.

(8) Upon relief, Co I will move to present area occupied by Co B.

(9) Upon relief, Co B will move to MACHIMETTE, setting up a road-block MACHIMETTE-CRENY Bn.

(10) Day of 16th January, company of 1st Bn in LE BOURGONNE join 2nd Bn via ST CROIX.

(11) During the night, 16th January, relief Co 290th Bngrs will relieve Co F and AF Co on position. Upon relief, Co F will move to LAFOURCHES and AF Co will move to CRENY.

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(OI # 6, Para 2 f Cont'd)

(12) During the night, 18 January, 2d Bn (-) moves to LA FOURTOILE.

(13) During the night, 18 January, AT Co. relieves AT Platoon within sector of 290th Engrs.

5. a. 1st Bn, 15th Infantry, Attached; Det 441st AAA AF Bn:

- (1) Moves by motor (less one company in LE BOMHOMME) on the 14th January.
- (2) Occupy and defend ST CROIX with Bn (-Co).
- (3) Occupy and defend LIEPVER with one company.
- (4) Cover SELESTAT-ST MARIE Road with AT guns.
- (5) Install and cover by fire all prepared barriers via ST CROIX and LIEPVER.
- (6) Maintain under arty fire any hostile elements operating in the SELESTAT-ST MARIE corridor.
- (7) Maintain continuous motor patrols between ST CROIX and SELESTAT.
- (8) Turn over to CO 3d Bn 15th Inf plans for limited objective attacks.
- (9) 1st Bn will use transportation for movement, released by 290th Engrs on completion of their move (via Hotel du LAC BLANC).
- (10) Transportation for moving Co from LE BOMHOMME to ST CROIX, on 18th Jan, available through regt'l MTO.
- (11) 1st Bn will have guides at Hotel du LAC BLANC, 140900Z, to guide 290th Engr Bn to company positions.
- (12) Be prepared to cover minefields from VO Basting to ST CROIX.

b. 2d Bn, 15th Infantry, Attached; 1 platoon, Co B, 786 T; Bn:

- (1) Upon relief by 290th Engr Bn, assemble Bn (-) in LAFOURTOILE.
- (2) Establish road block via MACHONVILLE with one company.
- (3) Contact CO 7th Inf for coordination of area to be occupied by Co.
- (4) Motorize one company, reinforced with armor, as regt'l reserve in LE BOMHOMME, to be kept on one-half hour alert for movement to any threatened area in regt'l sector.
- (5) Prepare counterattack plans for any enemy penetration in regt'l sector, and be prepared to move to any sectors of Div front for counter-attack mission.
- (6) Reconnoiter and plan defenses for Red and White Lines in sector, including routes to these lines. Establishment of defense on either of these lines will be on regt'l order.
- (7) Establish and prepare defensive positions in LE BOMHOMME area.
- (8) AT gun crews will remain on position until relieved by AT Co.
- (9) All overlays showing disposition of minefields, wire, fields of fire for automatic weapons, and armor displacement to be turned over to CO 290th Engr Bn.
- (10) Bn CO, 2d Bn, company Bn CO's, and one HQ per platoon will remain with relieving unit for 24 hrs after completion of relief.
- (11) 81 mm mortar crews and guns will remain in position until relieved by regt'l order. (Attached to 290th Engr Bn)

c. 3d Bn, 15th Infantry:

- (1) Upon relief by 290th Engr Bn, move Bn to present position occupied by 1st Bn, 15th Inf.
- (2) Maintain one motorized company via Hotel du LAC BLANC as reserve force.
- (3) Establish defensive positions in sector of responsibility.
- (4) Prepare counterattack plans for any enemy penetration in regt'l sector.
- (5) Reconnoiter and plan defense of Red & White Lines in sector, including routes to these lines. Establishment of defense on these lines will be undertaken on regt'l order.
- (6) AT gun crews to remain on position until relieved by AT Co, 15th Inf.
- (7) 81 mm mortar crews & guns to remain in position until relieved by regt'l order. (Attached 290th Engr Bn)

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(GR # 3, Para 3 & Cont'd)

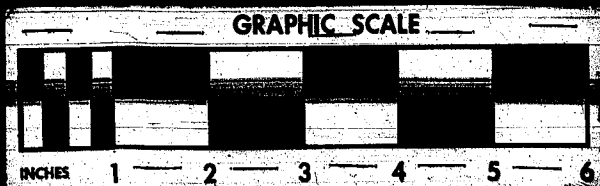
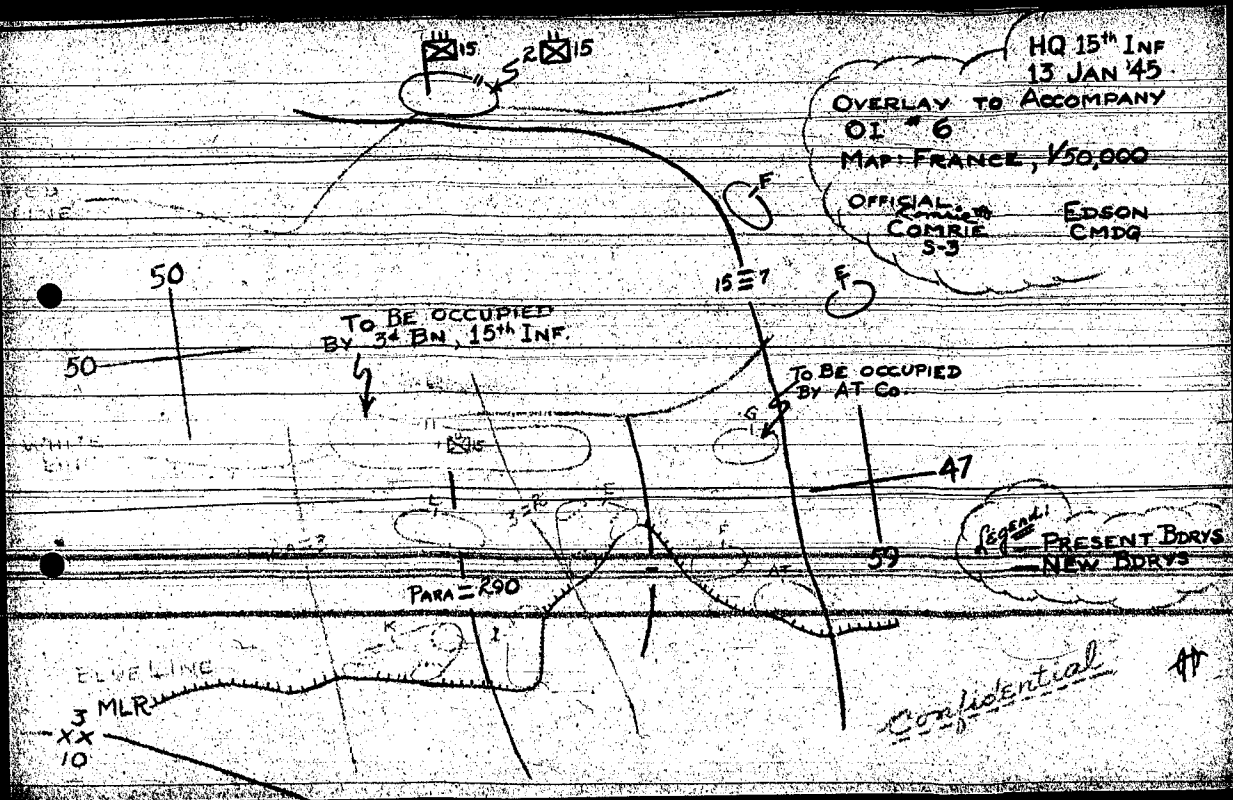
- (a) All supplies showing dispositions of essentials, etc. shall be filed in accordance with the order issued on 12/11/50, HQ 100th Regt. Sg. Co.
 - (b) Co C 2d Bn, Co Bn Co's, and one HQ per platoon to remain with relieving unit for 24 hrs after completion of relief.
 - (c) Prepare plans for limited objective attack as enemy strong point, via 100th Regt.
- W.
- (1) Existing communication lines will be turned over to 100th Regt. Co. intact.
 - (2) MG's in position, over and above those not relieved by 100th Regt., will be left in position.
 - (3) White ropes will be turned over to 100th Regt.
 - (4) Reserve units will prepare all-around defensive positions.
 - (5) All armor & flank weapons, with exception of that with 1st Bn, will remain in position.
 - (6) All mortars will remain in position and support relieving unit.
 - (7) Artillery, Co Co, & Col mortar Co's & Co's will remain with 100th Regt. Co.
- X. a. Recon pattern & assignment of position will be turned over to relieving unit.
- N. Transportation for movement of units will be available through reg't HHC.

100th
Sg. Co.

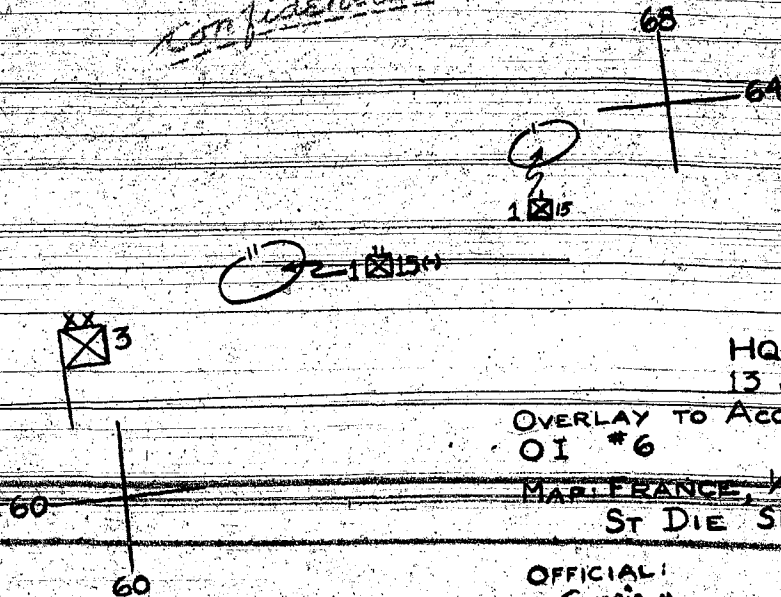
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[Signature]
100th
Sg. Co.

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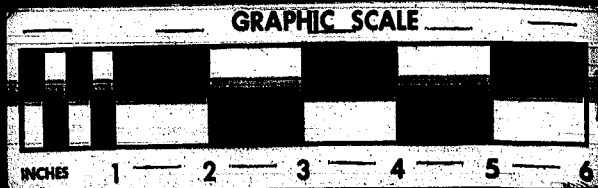
HQ 15th INF
13 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI #6

MAP FRANCE, 1/50,000
ST DIE SHEET

OFFICIAL:
Comie #
COMRIE
9-3

EDSON
CMDG



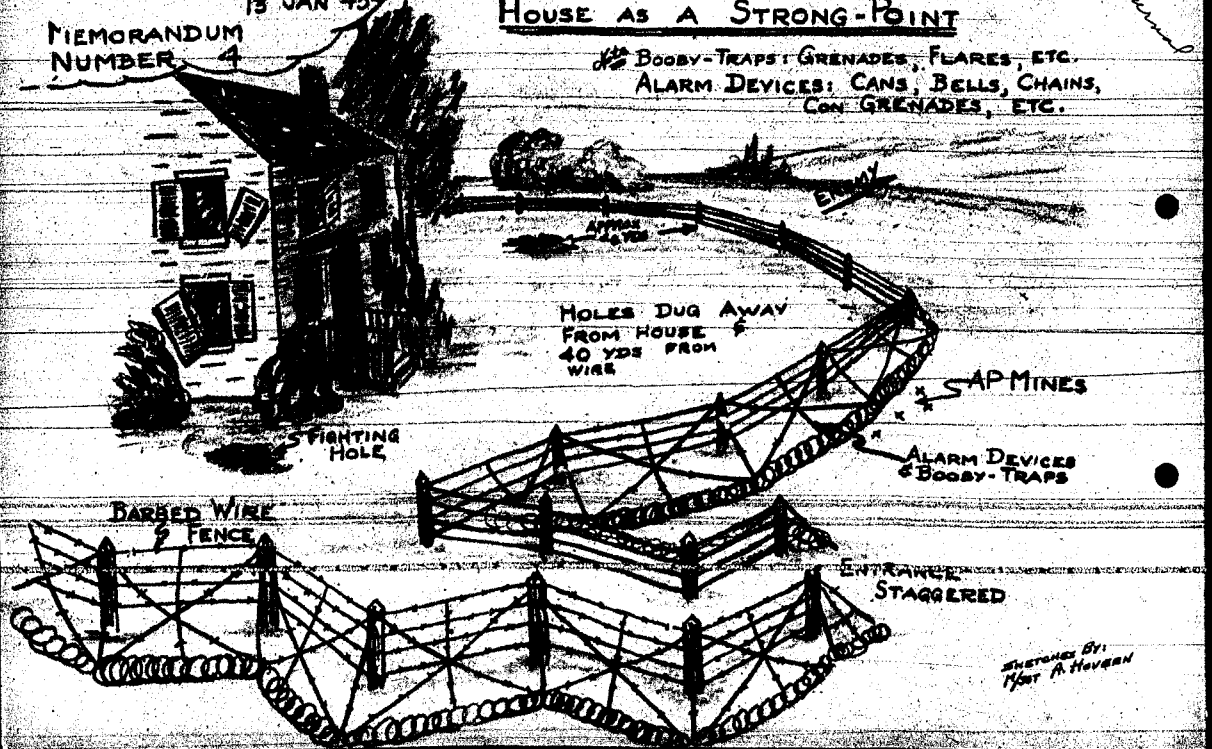
HQ 15th INF
13 JAN '45

MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 4

HOUSE AS A STRONG-POINT

Journal

~~Use~~ BOOBY-TRAPS; GRENADES, FLARES, ETC.
ALARM DEVICES: CANS, BELLS, CHAINS,
CON GRENADES, ETC.



BARBED WIRE
FENCE

FIGHTING
HOLE

HOLES DUG AWAY
FROM HOUSE
40 YDS FROM
WIRE

APPROX
20 YDS

ENEMY

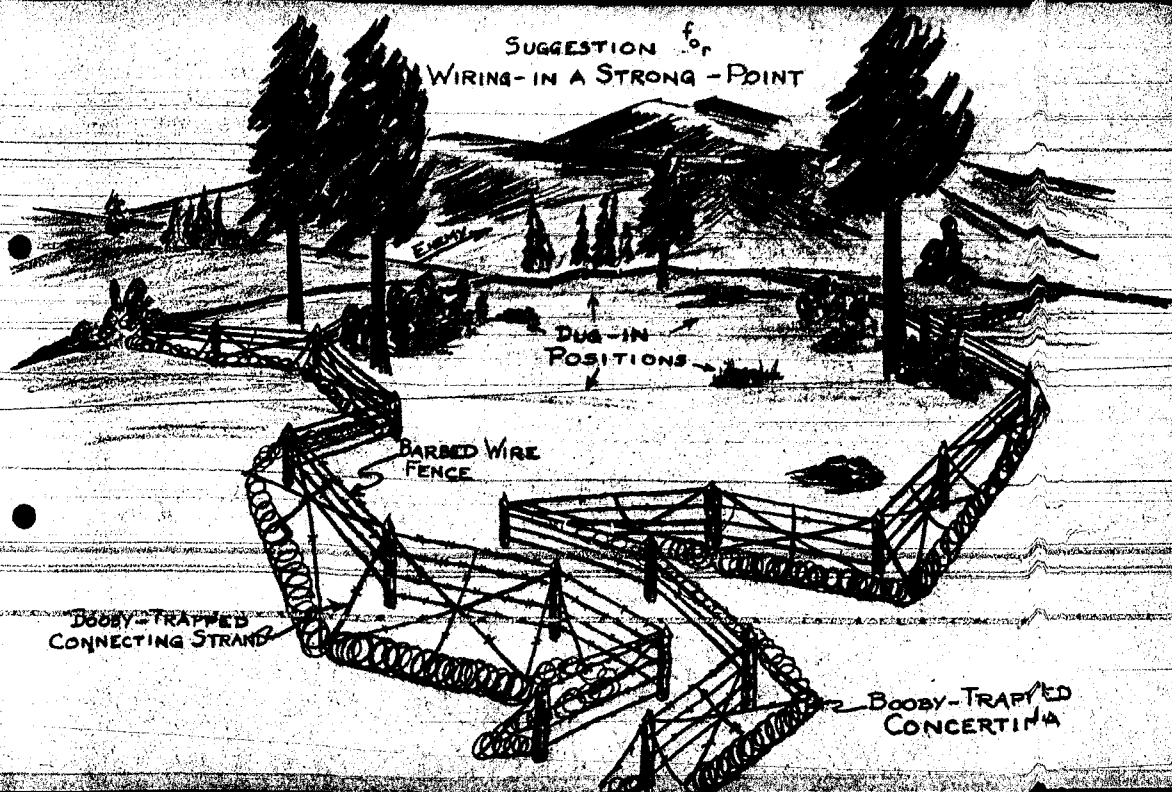
SAP MINES

ALARM DEVICES
& BOOBY-TRAPS

ENTRANCE
STAGGERED

SKETCHES BY:
HOYT A. HOVERN

SUGGESTION for
WIRING-IN A STRONG-POINT



ENEMY

DUG-IN
POSITIONS

BARBED WIRE
FENCE

BOOBY-TRAPPED
CONNECTING STRAND

BOOBY-TRAPPED
CONCERTINA

14 JANUARY 1945

- 0001 Division Battle Patrol Ldr to CO: Believe it would be worthless to send another patrol out because enemy is stirred up and would be difficult to approach. CO to BP Ldr: Call the patrol off for tonight. We will discuss these points later.
- 0005 Above msg given to 2d Bn.
- 0010 Periodic Report to Div War Room.
- 0015 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0025 2d Bn S-2 to DO: Mortar and SA fire reported by Regt OP # 1, was, we believe our Div Battle Patrol exchanging fire with enemy.
- 0100 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0113 Report to Div War Room.
- 0130 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Bay fired 50 & 120 mm mortar preparation on I Co, then move in with an estimated platoon size force as combat patrol or counter attack. About the same time a K Co outpost was hit by bay group with three bazookas and three automatic pistols. The OUTPOST consisted of 5 EM & 1 Officer. We are laying defensive fires now. Will phone you details and progress as information comes in.
- 0140 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0145 3d Bn to DO: We have comm with I Co now by radio. All quiet at present, enemy apparently had to withdraw because of our heavy defensive preparation. Attack started at 0045A. Sector of attack was from 534449 to 536453.
- 0210 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 0220 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0225 Report to Div War Room.
- 0245 2d Bn to DO: One WP shell landed in AT area, wounding one man. Otherwise all is quiet.
- 0246 Report to Division War Room.
- 0246 OP # 2 to Duty Clerk: At 0215A, observed flash from large gun, az of 220 degrees.
- 0250 Above relayed to 39th FA.
- 0305 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Have accounted for all men since attack except K Co outpost in house vic 536451. A patrol is on way there now. Have comm wire in to I & K Co's but now to K Co outpost.
- 0320 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0330 3d Bn to DO: Attack came from due south. 30 to 40 enemy made the attack with MG's, MP's, rifles, and bazookas, and grenades. The I Co flank was hit more by fire than by personnel. Three bazooka shells were fired at K Co outpost.
- 0340 Report to Division.
- 0347 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0405 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 0805 3d Bn Ex O to CO: We have reestablished hed outpost at 536449 with 3 men patrol with radio. The 5 EM at outpost were slightly wounded but not captured. 4 men have been evacuated and the fifth is missing, but believed not captured. Bay surrounded house but did not enter. MG there was KO'd by bazooka. Bay threw 700-1000 rds of mortar fire on left and right flank of I Co before attack. Our arty defensive fires were very effective, wounding several men. Continued arty fire for long time to discourage any trying to evacuate any wounded. CO to 3d Bn CO: Put in another Bn at K Co outpost. Question men as to tactics used by any in raid.
- 0850 1st Bn CO to DO: My Bn is waiting on trucks scheduled to arrive at 0800A. DO to 1st Bn CO: Trucks are on the way.
- 0920 Chief of Staff inquired about hydro-electric plant in Regt's sector. S-2 to C of S: Plant is located vic 523463. CIC have investigated personnel working at plant and have no reason to suspicious them. Power lines run as far as STRASBOURG but no lines are running into any territory.
- 0930 S-2 gave situation report to Division.
- 1015 C-3 to S-3: Concerning 1st Bn, 15th Inf, mission in new area, everything is the same, according to the OI, with one change. Where the valley which the ST MARIE-SELESTAT road runs thru crosses the 70 Easting, is ideal defensive ground. 1st Bn will establish a point of resistance there in depth which will

14 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- INCLUDE dug in 57 mm gun positions. The Bn's first mission will be to occupy those positions in the event of a C A in that area. AT mines will be laid along the road and ahead of the 70 Easting. Bn will also establish outposts and OPs on the high hills surrounding that area.
- 1385 OP # 1 at 54245 to S-3; Constant mortar fire to S & H.
- 1235 OP # 2 to DO; At 1230A, heard much enemy and friendly MG fire via 545453.
- 1327 OP # 2 to DO; At 1235A, friendly arty fell via 556463. At 1255A, 5 arty rds landed in ORBEY.
- 1405 OP # 2 to DO; Heavy Arty landing in 7th Inf sector at 160 degrees. 5 or 6 rd concentration fell on road via 586470.
- 1420 C-3 to S-3; Proceed with K Co relief as planned. You will be notified of any changes this afternoon.
- 1440 S-3 to CO, Co B, 10th Engr Bn; Need plat of Engrs to work with 2d Bn tonight.
- 1505 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO; At 1408A, 5 arty HE rds landed via 568484. At 1412A, 10 friendly rds landed along edge of woods via 556463. During past hour 30 or 40 rds of arty landed via latter coördinate. During past hour 50 hvy shells landed in 7th Inf sector, az. of 130 degree S.
- 1506 2d Bn S-2 to S-2; Civil Affairs are scheduled to deliver food to civilians at ORBEY tonight. The mayor says that civilians can get flour in KAYERSBERG and furnish their own transportation if they can get travel passes, etc.
- 1515 S-2 gave above to Civil Affairs. Civil Affairs to S-2; Red Cross will deliver the food tonight directly to the mayor. Will send representative down to ORBEY tonight or tomorrow.
- 1520 Above relayed to 2d Bn S-2.
- 1538 S-2 to 2d Bn S-2; Div is planning propaganda program of music, talks, etc. for 10 minutes each run. Program will be broadcast over PA system. 3/4 ton truck will be approx 1500 yds from any lines and speakers not more than 1000 yds from any lines. Pick some locations for trucks and speakers; that can be evacuated quickly in case of any fire in return. PW's picked up with propaganda leaflets will be evacuated to Div with leaflets or notation made of same so Div can study effect of propaganda campaign.
- 1545 S-2 gave above to 3d Bn S-2.
- 1550 Division to S-3; Mag from 2d French Corps. Examine very carefully identity of all individuals dressed in skin clothes -- from Chief of Military Security. PW's will give considerable thought of possibility of any use of Cal Warfare. PW will be interrogated on increase of Cal warfare training and issue of gas masks, etc.
- 1600 S-2 gave above to IFW, MP Plat Ldr, 2d Bn Ex O and 3d Bn S-2.
- 1605 OP # 2 to S-2; At 1520A, our mortars threw WP shells from 563460 and to east 1000 yds. Lasted for half hour. During the hour, arty and SA fire at 120 degree az, and approx 2000 yds away.
- 1610 OP # 3 to S-3; At 1550A, 6 friendly air crafts overhead flying NE. At 1555A, 5 arty shells fell via 485435. At 1605A, arty landed 180 degrees and 3,000 yds away.
- 1700 OP # 2 to S-3; Friendly arty and mortar fire on hill 862 during past half hour. Eny mortar and arty fire on ORBEY during past hour.
- 1810 OP # 2 to DO; During past hour, 75-80 arty rds via hill # 862.
- 1850 S-3 to Div transportation Clerk; Request traffic clearance on BOMBARDIER MARIE road for southward movement. Our convoy will pass IP at 539528 at 1500A tomorrow. 20 vehicles. Answer; All right unless we notify you otherwise.
- 1885 OP # 2 to S-3; During past hour, friendly arty and mortar fire on hill 862. Eny arty fire via ORBEY; 80 rds of arty via hill 862; house set on fire at 564458, observed 3er 4 eny and one vehicle there.
- 1910 2d Bn S-2 to DO; Have 2 suspicious civilians and one person claiming to be a German deserter. Would like for C IG to investigate them.
- 1935 CO to G-5; Send civil Affairs to ORBEY to help the 2d Bn take care of civilians in that town.
- 1950 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O; French Paratroopers have arrived to relieve K Co. Ex O to 3d Bn Ex O; French are not attached to you. Send your M Co interpreter to the French to handle mortar fires.

14 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 2010 A sat S-2 to all Bn S-2's: (1) See that each platoon and strongpoint has the correct number of the required number and kind of flares and the means to fire them. (2) See that each platoon and strongpoint has a copy of the Pyrotechnic code, contained in Memo # 1, Hq 15th Inf, dated 10 Jan '45. (3) See that each plat. and strongpoint understands that they are to call their OP when they observe fires from another plat. or strongpoint.
- 2050 OP # 1 to DO: At 1900A observed fire in house at 53489. Three eny got into a jeep and headed south. Fire was started around 1730A by our arty. At 2020A observed 4 gun flashes at 180 degree az. No flush bang. At same time 15 rds of eny arty landed at 53487.
- 2104 DO gave above to 39th FA.
- 2107 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2110 2d Bn S-2 to DO: Some civilians came out of burning house that was previously reported. Some came thru our lines and others went in opposite direction.
- 2130 3d Bn DO to DO: K Co's 2d plat is in process of being relieved now. The other plat's have been relieved.
- 2200 Negative reports from OP # 1 & 3.
- 2210 1st Bn and French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2211 2d Bn Ex O to DO: Bath F Co outpost and AT Co report S/A activity in 7th Inf sector.
- 2225 3d Bn DO to DO: K Co relief completed at 2155A. Co on road now and marching to new area vic Hotel LIG BLANC. Patrol that stayed out all day has returned after re-establishing outpost shot up by eny last night.
- 2235 601st TP anti-parachute patrol checked in at Regti OP. Report that all is quiet.
- 2305 DO gave Periodic Situation Report to Division War Room.
- 2310 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Complete details on eny activity against K Co outpost last night. Outpost was in front of K Co's left plat, in house at 53604505. A LMG was set up in window with field of fire to S & SW. Between 1245A & 0100A the eny barrage began on the house and on I Co positions. 500 rds of 120 mm and 50 mm mortar fire fell on I Co alone. Bay force formed behind house at 534448, then split into 2 groups; one moved behind house at 534449, and the other behind house at 535449. When barrage lifted, eny groups moved up to either side of outpost house, firing everything -- bazookas, automatic pistols, etc. Of the 5 man outpost, 3 were wounded and one was a concussion case. Bay then demanded in perfect English, that the group surrender. Our arty then laid in and eny dispersed. 2 eny bodies were observed 75-100 yds south of house. French have now relieved the outpost with 6 men.
- 2315 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 2400 3d Bn Ex O to DO: I Co outpost at 512463 is not being relieved by French. Do not know if we are to keep it there. DO to 3d Bn Ex O: Will check and phone you back.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 151000Z to 141000Z

Unit: 10th Infantry

Place: BONHOMME, FRANCE

Date: 14 January '45

No. 14

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER Sheet. FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER 5-d & 7-S.

1. Our Front Lines: No change. See attached overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops: (See overlay)

Regt'l CP in BONHOMME;

1st Bn (-) vic of ST CROIX AUE-MINES.

A Co in BONHOMME.

2d Bn CP in OREBY.

H Co via V847464, V850471, V853470;

F Co via V854464, V854488, V854484.

G Co in OREBY.

2d Bn AF plat via V859467.

AT Co via V874488, V877488, V877488.

3d Bn CP at V853464.

I Co via V853488, V853488, V853488.

K Co via V853488, V853488, V853488.

L Co via V853471, V853471, V853471.

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold and clear, good visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

1st Bn, 10th Inf. On the night of 13-14 January, 8 AF mines were laid from 7000Z to 0100Z via V8504488; 7 AF mines were laid from vic of 2d AF at V8504488 to trail via V8504700. Troops were prepared for demolitions via of LE HUBLIN. (See attached Map Overlay)

2d Bn, 10th Inf. Attached to 18th Infantry and held in LA SOUE-ROUX reinforced by a platoon of light tanks, as regimental reserve.

3d Bn, 10th Inf. (700th Co Bn) Co B; 2d plat at S-Co CP via V853488;

Co B & light tanks with Division Battle Patrol in LA FOUSSOIX.

4th Bn, 10th Inf. Co B, 500th SB Bn; 1 sect at Col. du BOURGAIN; 2d plat via OREBY; 3 TD's at Le HUBLIN; 2 TD's via Hotel du LAS BLANC. 1 sect en route to vic of ST CROIX.

1st Bn, 1st Para Regt (Fr): Occupying defensive positions on regt'l right flank and maintaining patrols.

Other Attachments: Co A, 89th Cal Bn; 3 plat's 441st AAA AB Bn; 3 sect's 30th Hqs Co, Fr.

5. Our Conditions for the Period:

2d and 3d Bns, AF Co, and 1st Bn, 1st Fr Para Regt, remained in front-line defensive positions throughout the period. Patrols were maintained between units and to the front. On 13 January and the morning of 14 January, reconnaissance was made of defensive positions by representatives of 100th Bn, preparatory to relieving 18th Infantry and line.

On the morning of 14 January, 1st Bn moved from regimental reserve positions to vic ST CROIX AUE-MINES to assume present mission of 100th Bn, leaving A Co in BONHOMME as regt'l reserve.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 18 Jan):

Officers: 755

EM : 1007

EM : 725

Rifle Trench Strengths:

Officers: 51

EM : 639

7. Results of Operations:

a. Defensive line held.

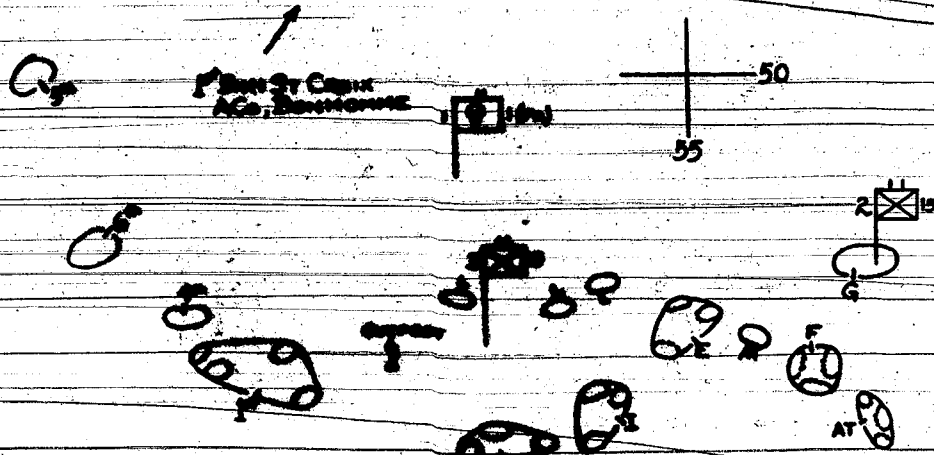
b. Patrols maintained.

c. Positions improved.

d. 1st Bn (-) moved to ST CROIX AUX-MINES, A Co moved to LE BOEUBONN.

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2-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L



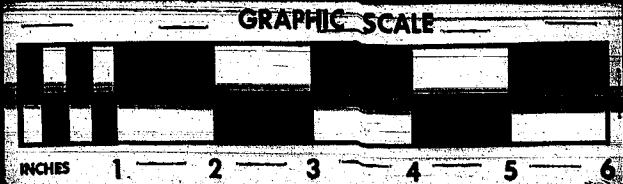
HQ 15th INF
14 JAN 45

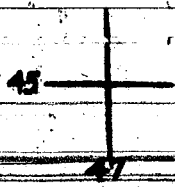
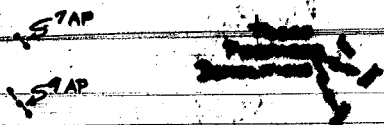
OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT #14

MAP SCALE 1:50,000
OFFICIAL
COMSEC
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

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HQ 15th INF
14 JAN 43

ENGINEER OVERLAY

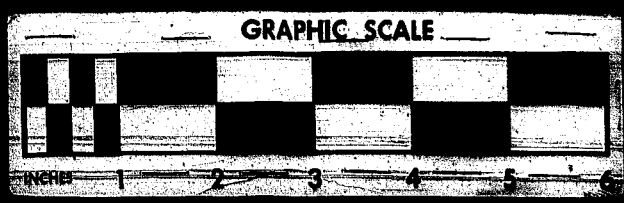
MAP: FRANCE, 1/20,000

OFFICIAL:

COMBIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDR

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Report

From 120800A
To 120800A
Date: 12-14-44
Order: 12-14-44
Priority: 12-14-44

No. 11
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; Sheet OBRANDEN.

1. Enemy Dispositions:
a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. Enemy information reported was as follows:

- (1) Orders of enemy VII SS PANZ at 120800.
- (2) 8 rds of mortar fell via of W06467 at 120800.
- (3) 80mm mortar fire fell via of W06467 at 120800.
- (4) Enemy reported digging via of W06468 at 120800. Mortars fired on them.
- (5) At 0044A, I Co via of W06468 to W06468, received concentration of 120mm and 80mm mortar fire followed by an attack of 50-60 enemy wearing MG's, MP's, bazookas and rifle grenades. Attack was broken up by arty, mortar and M/A defensive fire before enemy penetrated our positions. The attack first hit our outpost via W06468 at about 0100A; the fight reached its peak at 0200A and had died out completely by 0300A. From 0044A to 0300A it is estimated that the enemy fired about 500 rounds of mortar in front line positions in that vic and the road not immediately to the NE of these positions.

3. MISC. INCIDENTS:

a. 120800

b. Patrols for night of 12-14 Jan 44. Contact patrols between front line

with no contact with no enemy contact to report.

Patrol #1 by 2d Bn, a 3 man recon patrol to house at 575455 approached the house from an AI Co outpost at 575455. They approached the house and heard the noise of a machine gun belt, lay in position observing for 30 minutes, heard activity which made them believe there were 5 enemy in house which was thought to be an outpost. Patrol returned over same route to AI Co outpost.

Patrol #2, a 3 man combat patrol from the Div Battle Patrol to secure prisoners moved W along the road from RJ at 559467 and heard coughing from woods via 558468. They went within 50 yds of house at 558468 when an enemy guard yelled and opened fire. Patrol received fire from 2 automatic weapons and 1 rifle; the fire was returned with four rifle rounds being fired into house. Patrol withdrew when fire fight closed up.

Patrol #3, a 3 man recon patrol from 1st Bn, 1st K Co (524454), went S along the edge of woods to RJ at 522451, then to 522449. From there by an amount of 140 yds. they saw nothing. 50 yds. of house at 522449. From there coughing and movement was heard from the house, estimated as 5 men. While there 3 tanks were heard in the vic of 522440. Patrol returned via same route.

Patrol #4, a 3 man recon patrol from 3d Bn 1st K Co (522452) and went NW along woods to 516455. An unidentified 12 man group believed to be enemy crossed their route and patrol returned to report the incident. Patrol went out again along the same route but could go no further than 500 yds due to deep snow. A two man group from OP at 518454 who were to meet

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the three man group at 800487 and proceed together to a point at 800488 to establish a listening post for 30 min. The 3 man group went on alone and established the outpost alone. No any activity was observed.

NEWSY 90, a 12 man ambush group, left from 800488 (800488) and proceeded to LN VALTIN (468444) by the road, investigated any positions known to be occupied occasionally at 473447 and 473448. From there they returned to LN VALTIN and lay in ambush for 3 hours with no any patrols appearing to be ambushed. Patrol returned to LN RIELIN with no any messages to report.

a. Patrol intentions for night of 14-15 January. See coverlay.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 18th Inf
S-2

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- 1492 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1493 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1494 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1495 601st TD anti-parachute patrol check in. All quiet. French Paratrooper CP moved from HARBELBESS to LEPASSE.
- 1496 2d Bn 3-2 to 3d Bn CP. 2 undesirable people being held at 3d Bn CP. Suspecting of cutting wire.
- 1497 Asst 3-2 to IPW. Sgt Franklin, pick up 2 men at 2d Bn CP.
- 1498 Cook 3 to 10th Engr Const Co - Examining bridge at 527461 for possible demolition.
- 1499 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1500 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1501 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1502 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1503 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1504 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1505 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1506 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1507 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1508 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1509 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1510 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1511 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1512 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1513 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1514 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1515 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1516 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1517 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1518 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.
- 1519 3d Bn 3-2 to 2d Bn CP. The 2d Bn CP will move down tonight to relieve a platoon of 2d Bn CP.
- 1520 601st TD, CG, to 3d Bn, to Asst 3-2. Services of TD's that were at ST NEGIA are now at LA BERTHAISE. One platoon from G Company will join 3d Bn of 254th Inf tomorrow night.

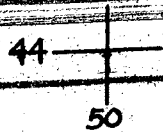
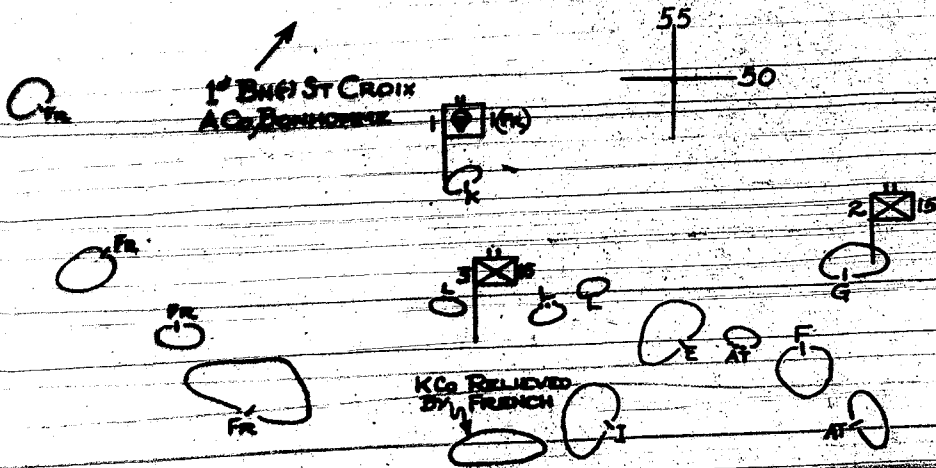
1955

The following information was obtained from the records of the
 Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, on the
 subject of the above-captioned tract. The tract is located in
 the State of California, County of [redacted], and is
 situated in the [redacted] Section, Township of [redacted],
 Range of [redacted]. The tract is bounded on the north by
 the [redacted] and on the south by the [redacted]. The
 area of the tract is approximately [redacted] acres. The
 tract is owned by [redacted] and is being offered for sale
 by the Department of the Interior. The tract is being offered
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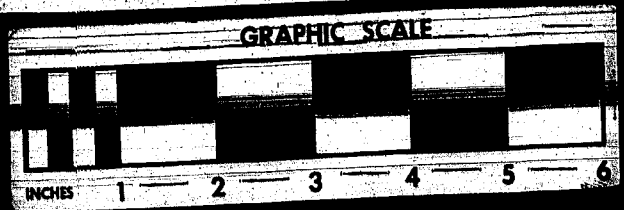
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955



HQ 15th INF
15 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT # 15
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000
OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3
EDSON
CMDG

Confidential



58

48

TRIPLE CONCERTINA

9 AP MINES

14 AP MINES

2 BOOBY-TRAPPED
HAND GRENADES
2 AP MINES

45

56

HQ 15th INF
15 JAN 45

ENGINEER OVERLAY

MAP: FRANCE 1/20,000

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
CMDG

COMRIE
S-3

CONFIDENTIAL

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 Report

From: 140800A
To : 180800A
Unit: 18th Infantry
Place: LE MONSIEUR, FR.

NO. 12
MAP: France, 1/60,000; GERARDMER Sheet.

1. Enemy Dispositions:

a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. Enemy information reported was as follows:

- (1) 6 rds of arty fell on ORBEY at 1256A.
- (2) Enemy MG fire heard in vic of V844453 at 1236A.
- (3) 6 rds of arty fell in vic of V844470 at 1405A.
- (4) 5 rds HE fell in vic of V868464 at 1408A.
- (5) Arty and mortar fire rec'd in ORBEY from 1600A to 1700A.
- (6) 3 enemy and one vehicle observed vic of house at V844453. Our arty fired and set the house on fire.
- (7) 15 rds of arty vic V873487 at 2020A.
- (8) 6 rds of arty fell vic of ORBEY at 0210A.
- (9) A 20 mm. gun observed firing from vic of V871461 at 0211A. Our mortars & TD's fired on the gun, silencing it.
- (10) 20 rds of arty fire on ORBEY at 0408A.

3. Miscellaneous:

a. PW's: None.

b. Patrols for period 14-15 January, 1945:

Contact patrols between forward company positions were run without any enemy activity reported.

Patrol #1, a 10 man combat patrol from the Div Battle Patrol with the mission of capturing prisoners, left the F Co area via 566461 and went south to 100 yards from enemy CP via 567457 where they slid a sled prepared with dynamite into the outpost. The charge failed to go off, even after the enemy tried to detonate it with rifle grenades as it approached their position. The BP cleared in on the CP and found 6 empty foxholes, sethcy searched the woods there with no results. The patrol went 200 yards further S to 567457 where they drew fire from vic 566456 from machine pistols, an undetermined amount of rifles and hand grenades. After a sustained fire fight the BP returned over the same route it went out on.

Patrol #2, a 5 man patrol from 2d Bn with the mission to lie in ambush for an hour in the vic 566456 with the mission of capturing a PW, checked out at AF platoon position via 566467, went west along the road to the bridge at 567448 and on the edge of woods about 566455. There they heard noises made by a group of enemy and the patrol opened fire on them figuring to make the enemy seek cover. Instead a fire fight ensued with enemy weapons observed being 2 machine pistols and 3 rifles. After 5 minutes the patrol withdrew under fire, the terrain being uphill to the enemy position where they were under fire.

Patrol #3, a 3 man recon and listening patrol, left L Co outpost 523463 moved S to 510465 then E to 514456. No sign of enemy movement or usage of the ground was seen enroute. The patrol then went W 600 yards after establishing a listening post for 30 minutes and established a second listening post for 30 minutes; there were no signs of enemy or enemy footprints. The patrol returned to the L Co CP by the same route.

DONALD E. LIES
Major, 18th Inf
S - 2

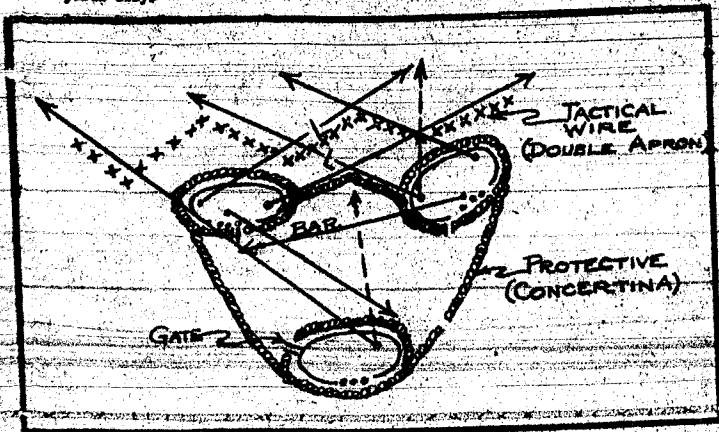
HEAD-QUARTERS 15th INFANTRY
A.P.O. 3

15 January 1945

MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER 6)

WIRING OF DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

2. All platoon positions and detached posts must be surrounded with protective wire. Initially, this wire may consist of but one strand of concertina. As time goes on, this wire must be increased into double and into triple concertina. Further, as time becomes available, this should be reinforced by the addition of double-apron fence in front. The apron fence may be installed immediately in front of the concertina or several yards away.



SCHEMATIC WIRE PLAN

2. Where the position is situated in trees it may be advisable to wire in the position with single strand wire (saddle fence), interlaced among the trees in an irregular pattern. This type barrier may be improved into an apron fence as time develops or concertina may be added.

3. Regardless of the situation, first priority for wiring will be the installation of protective wire.

4. Once the protective wire has been installed, wire-laying priority shifts immediately to the installation of tactical wire in front of the position. Work on the tactical wire should continue without interruption until at least three strands of concertina, a single apron fence, or a three-strand barbed or ordinary fence, laid between trees, has been developed.

5. Tactical wire must always be covered by fire. Where fields of fire are limited because of the terrain, the wire barrier should conform to the sectors of fire of the automatic weapons. In all cases, the wire must be laid so that fire can be placed in front of it.

6. To provide entrance into and exit from the position, it is necessary to leave gaps in the wire. These gaps must be filled when not in use by inserts such as concertina balls, or "hedgehogs".

7. In order to provide warning of hostile activity, it is necessary that warning devices be installed on tactical and protective wire. The type of devices installed and the method of installation depends on the ingenuity of the platoon leader. Suggested devices which will serve the purpose are: cans filled with stones, cans with improvised "ball hammers" hung upside down on the wire, trips illuminating flares, and booby trapped grenades, both fragmentary and WP.

By Order of Lt. Colonel Mason:

Mason
H.C. AULD, Jr.
Capt. 15th Infantry
Adjutant

Distribution:
to platoon ldrs.

16 JANUARY 1945

- 0050 I & R OP# 3 to DO: At 0050A, 6 rounds of artillery landed vic PAIRIS. At 0040A, 4 more rounds landed vic PAIRIS.
- 0089 OP# 2 to DO: In last hour continuous mortar and ary fire on hill 862. Also quite a bit of arty and mortar fire in 7th Inf sector, but no S/A's.
- 0102 3d Bn DO to DO. AT 0040, I Co left flank platoon reports enemy tank (1) movement 600-800 yards to front (noise very bright). OP reports 3 rounds (100mm ?) landed on Hill to front, approx 180 degrees azimuth.
- 0118 601st TD patrol reports all quiet.
- 0123 2d Bn DO to DO. All quiet.
- 0147 CO AT Co to DO. Inquiry re civilian, Joseph Wandler, Tannach, picked up with a pass, permitting him to travel from CREBY to TANNACH. Had been seen on previous occasions. Pass signed by Lt Durand, CO asked for verification by Cobra.
- 0150 DO to Cobra DO - See 0147 Thought Lt Durand might be from Civil Affairs. Suggested S-2 contact CTC. Added notes: Old passes expire 16 January so CTC could check him and if found OK, could issue new pass.
- 0151 OP #1 - At 543476. 0100 - 2 artillery rounds landed vic east of PAIRIS. At 0115, 3 HE shells landed, azimuth 180 degrees. 0135 - 2 rounds of mortar fire landed vic PAIRIS. At 0145, 3 HE rounds landed, azimuth 140 degrees.
- 0155 DO to CO AT Co - See 0147, 0150. CO AT Co now thinks civilian is bona fide.
- 0200 3d Bn DO to DO - 1 large artillery shell landed 500 yards due south of our position azimuth 90 degrees. All quiet otherwise.
- 0210 DO to Cobra DO - All quiet. Our patrols have not reported.
- 0220 2d Bn to DO - F Co reports yellow flare in AT Co sector. A few mortar shells landed in vic G Co CP.
- 0300 601st TD patrol # 4 - All quiet.
- 0301 OP # 2, 565487. Between 0100 to 0300, slight enemy artillery fire vic of ORREY, total of approximately 40 rounds, azimuth 140-145 degrees. Our own artillery observed to be landing on hill 882 and to the right of it.
- 0302 OP # 3 to DO. All quiet.
- 0326 2d Bn DO to DO. All quiet.
- 0327 3d Bn DO to DO. 3d Bn BP left I Co OP (535452) and went south, setting up ambush along the sunken (tree lined) road to St Barbe (536447). They remained there for 2 1/2 hours but no kraut came along. Then went south to road junction 535447 at 08 5354180. The patrol lay in ambush 100 yards from house. Sparks were seen coming from chimney and heard Krauts talking. They lay there for 1 hour, but decided not to attack the house because the patrol leader believed the enemy strength too great. The patrol then went north to a house at 56454486 which they found vacant. The patrol returned at 0250A. No PW's.
- 0400 OP # 3 to DO. All quiet.
- 0403 OP # 2 to DO. Intermittent shelling of Hill 862, estimated 35 rounds of our artillery. At 0335, 1 gunflash on 190 degrees, 12 seconds between flash and report. At 0347, 1 gunflash on 180 degrees, 13 seconds between flash and report. 8 Enemy HE landed vic 556470.
- 0406 DO to Division DO. Reported on patrol. See 0327. Two patrols still out.
- 0422 3d Bn DO to DO - All quiet.
- 0440 3d Bn Duty Clerk to DO - 1 round mortar ammunition fell on house of Co #7, 1st platoon at 0335. Gunman from this position by flash, mortar is located 110 degrees.
- 0445 Duty Officer to 39th Field Arty. Relayed the above message.
- 0455 2d Bn Dy Clerk to DO. All quiet. Patrol just reported in to G Co.
- 0458 OP # 2 to DO. At 4014 gunflash was seen at azimuth of 205 degrees
- 0500 DO to 39th Field Arty. Relayed the above message.
- 0504 OP # 3 - Negative report.
- 0529 2d Bn Dy Clerk to Duty Clerk. F Co reports 10 rounds of heavy caliber mortar from 3d Bn 61 area.

16 JANUARY 1945 (Contd)

- 0530 3d Bn DC to DO. All quiet.
- 0600 OP #2 to DO - Enemy gun flashes at 185 degrees. 6 seconds between flash and report.
- ~~0603 3d Bn DC to DO. All quiet. AT reports artillery calling short and missing.~~
- ~~OP #2 in area of 288.~~
- 0805 DC to AT. In re the above, OP should call 7th Inf CP.
- 0815 OP #3 to DO. Negative report.
- 0620 OP #1 to DO. At 0425, observed gunflash on azimuth of 185 degrees.
- 0825 DO to 39th Field Artillery. Relayed message of 0600A and 0620A.
- 0840 3d Bn DC to DO. Y Co reports that 20 rounds of medium and heavy mortar fall in area of Co CP. No more information.
- 0650 2d Bn S-3 to DO - A 10 man patrol left at 0300 and took the same route as previous reconnaissance patrol. They checked the house at 560465 where an earlier patrol had heard activity at but found or heard nothing. Checked house at 569483, but found nothing. Our AT platoon was involved in a little action along the stream at 561487. They opened fire with a BAR and threw a hand grenade at someone running away on the other side of the stream.
- 0855 OP #2 to DO. Heavy firing in 7th Infantry sector. At 0815, 8 enemy shells landed in ORBEY. 0830, enemy machine gun on azimuth of 165 degrees, approx 2,000 yards.
- 0708 OP #3. All quiet.
- 0722 DO to Div DO. Reported patrol action. See 0650.
- 0800 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0809 OP #2 at 563487 to S-3. At 0745A, friendly artillery of 40 to 60 rounds landed in 7th Infantry sector, 110 degrees azimuth, approx 3,500 yards away. Also scattered rifle shots in vic of our OP.
- 0845 OP #1 at 543475 to Asst S-2. Visibility is very poor. No further report.
- 0858 S-3 to 3d Bn CO. Make reconnaissance in the RIQUEWIHR area for your bn. Get communication in and signs posted. For date of movement, see Div OI
- 0901 OP #2 at 563487 to S-3. Visibility is very poor. In 7th Infantry sector, there has been much mortar and artillery fire for past hour. Also MG bursts. At 0835A, 8 or 9 rounds of enemy artillery landed vic ORBEY.
- 0907 OP #3 reports everything very quiet.
- 1000 OP #1 to DO - 8/A fire, both friendly and enemy, at 560460. Enemy fired 5 rounds of HE at that point. 20 rounds friendly artillery at 578466.
- 1020 S-2 to S-2 3d Bn. You will stage one raid each night with primary mission of getting a PW.
- 1045 Div War Room to S-2. 7th Infantry is attacking Hill 806 (593447), heavy fighting. 254th Infantry had enemy counterattack against OSTHEIM last night. Repulsed it but lost 13 captured.
- 1100 Div War Room to S-2. 30th Infantry took 1 PW just South of Sigolsheim. 7th Infantry PW's were taken at 607468.
- 1100 OP #2 to S-2. At 1105A, enemy artillery in ORBEY. 1132A, 3 more rounds landed there. At 1125A, unidentified aircraft overhead. Flying SW to E.
- 1220 Asst G-2. Re 1 PW taken from South of SIGOLSHEIM by 30th has been identified as from 13-IX.
- ~~1000 OP #2 to S-2. At 0900, enemy artillery in ORBEY. HE shot landed north at 1880.~~
- ~~1305 Div to S-2. 1st French Army wants 1 PW to question prisoners to see if they have knowledge of our dispositions and how obtained. S-2 believes civilians have this knowledge from French soldiers.~~
- ~~1025 AT support to S-2. Former French bandits march toward 1615 Spess (630445).~~
- 1355 CO K Co to S-3 requests engineer platoon for laying mines.
- 1355 OP #3 to S-3. All quiet. Visibility is good.
- 1356 OP #2. From 1315 to 1340, 5 rounds of enemy HE landed at base of Black Mountain, azimuth 210 degrees.

16 JANUARY 1946 (Contd)

- 1855 Op # 2 reports that 4 mortar shells landed in ORBEY. There is mortar fire and artillery fire in 7th Infantry sector. "HE landed at 558456.
- 1930 2d Bn S-2 to DO. 7 rounds of light mortar fire at 581458. Gun on azimuth 200 degrees. Checked position about 2,000 yards distant.
- 1931 501st Pn Recon Patrol reports all quiet from VEROSSE to LE BONHOMME.
- 1932 Asst S-3 to Div War Room. Reported above.
- 1953 French Paratroopers report Okay.
- 1957 OP # 2 to Asst S-3. At 1910, 1 round of enemy artillery landed approx 1,500 yards distant on azimuth of 260 degrees. At 1925, 11 rounds of enemy mortar landed approx 2,000 yards distant on an azimuth of 170 degrees. At 1942, 2 rounds of artillery landed 3,000 yards distant, on azimuth of 190 degrees.
- 2007 OP # 2 to Asst S-3. French mortar fire landing on azimuth of 210 to 220 degrees.
- 2100 OP # 2 at 563437. 3 enemy shells landed east of Black Mountain at about 220 degrees at 2010A. At 2028, 2 enemy gun flashes were observed on an azimuth of 195 degrees with 11 seconds elapsing between gun flash and report. At 2030, 2 gun flashes from the same gun with 12 seconds elapsing between flash and report. Also 12 friendly artillery shells landed South of Black Mountain.
- 2200 OP # 3 reports all quiet.
- 2208 OP # 2 via 563487 reports six round of friendly artillery landed at 220 degrees, approx 2,500 yards distant, at 2110. At 2115, MG fire at 230 degrees. Gun flash observed at 200 degrees, 12 seconds elapsed between flash and report.
- 2300 2d Bn to DO. 10 man patrol from G Co left A1 Co outpost; observed enemy patrol via 559467. G Co patrol waited for 8 man enemy patrol to come closer so they could capture them, but the enemy (evidently seeing our patrol) withdrew. G Co patrol returned to report and has gone back out on original mission.
- 2305 OP reports from 2210 to 2210 to 2220, 6 rounds of enemy artillery landed via ORBEY.
- 2315 7th Inf S-3 to DO. 7th Inf Cn Co is remaining in position until change-over is completed.
- 2350 3d Bn to DO. Patrol returned at 2260. Went out through I Co Outpost, 536452 through French Outpost, 53604605, up hill to house via 53454485. Checked house and found it unoccupied. Patrol split into two groups; one group with 3 tommy guns and a grenade launcher and the other group with two tommy guns, one grenade launcher and one BAR. One group went to the east of the house, via 53354480. Got within 40 yards of house and heard MG bolt click. Took up firing position and fired one WP grenade into the house. Enemy MG fired back from NW corner of house. Patrol fired 3 more grenades at the MG. One half of the patrol, which went around to the west of house, observed movement from shed SE of house, at V.53304493. Fired WP grenade at shed, and 2 enemy took off to SE. BAR opened up on MG which fired at other one-half of patrol. Empty 5 magazines. Enemy mortar (60mm) drops in on patrol. No casualties. Received no fire of WP or mortar fire.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 151200A to 161200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Area : 2070000, France

Date : 16 January 1945

Map: 16

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER Sheet. FRANCE, 1/20,000; GERARDMER 3-4, 7-8.

1. Our Front Lines: See overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in BONHOMME, vic V539527.

1st Bn CP in BERGHEIM.

A Co CP in BERGHEIM, one plat in Bergheim, one plat at RIBEAUVILLE STAT-
ION, one plat vic V748555.

B Co in GUEMAR with one plat HMG's and sect 81 mm mortars.

C Co defensive positions around BERGHEIM.

2d Bn CP in ORSEY.

F Co vic V547464, V550471, V553470.

F Co vic V564464, V568459, V569464.

G Co in ORSEY.

AT plat vic V559467.

AT Co vic V574458, V577456, V577453.

3d Bn CP at V523464.

I Co vic V537453, V542458, V538459.

K Co vic Hotel du LAC BLANC.

L Co vic V520472, V533471, V539473.

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold, poor visibility.

A. Information of Attached Units:

3d Division Battle Patrol: Attached to 15th Infantry as regt'l reserve unit.
Located in LAPOTROIE with one plat of light tanks.

Tank Attachments: (756th Tank Bn) Co B, 2d plat vic V555523; Co D, 5 light
tanks in LAPOTROIE.

TD Attachments: (Co B, 601st TD Bn) 11sect at Cal du BONHOMME; 2d plat vic
ORSEY; 2 TD's at Le RUDLIN; 2 TD's vic Hotel du LAC BLANC; sect with 1st Bn.

1st Bn, 1st Para Regt, French: Co occupying defensive positions on regt'l right
flank. Maintaining patrols.

Other Attachments: Co A, 99th Cal Bn; 3 plat's 441st AAA Av Bn; 3 sect's
20th Anti-Co, French.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: moved from vic of ST CROIX AUX MINES and BONHOMME on the
afternoon of 15 January and relieved 3d Bn, 15th Inf. in positions at BERGHEIM and
GUEMAR. 1st Bn, 15th Inf. attached to 354th Inf.

Second Battalion: with AT Co attached, remained in defensive positions on
the regt'l left flank and maintained patrols.

Third Battalion: I Co remained in front line positions throughout the period.
K & L Co's in reserve position. On the morning of 16 January, representatives
of 3d Bn made reconnaissance of NIQUEMUND area.

Service Company: continued preparing defensive positions vic MAINFALM.
Work was done on rock bunker, vic V464527, and factory area, vic V462534, was
reconnoitered for a strong point.

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6. **Combat Efficiency:**

Personnel for Duty (As of 15 Jan)

Officers: 774

EM : 754

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 31

EM : 692

7. **Results of Operations:**

a. 1st Bn. attached to 254th Inf. relieved 3d Bn. 254th Inf.

b. Defensive positions held and improved.

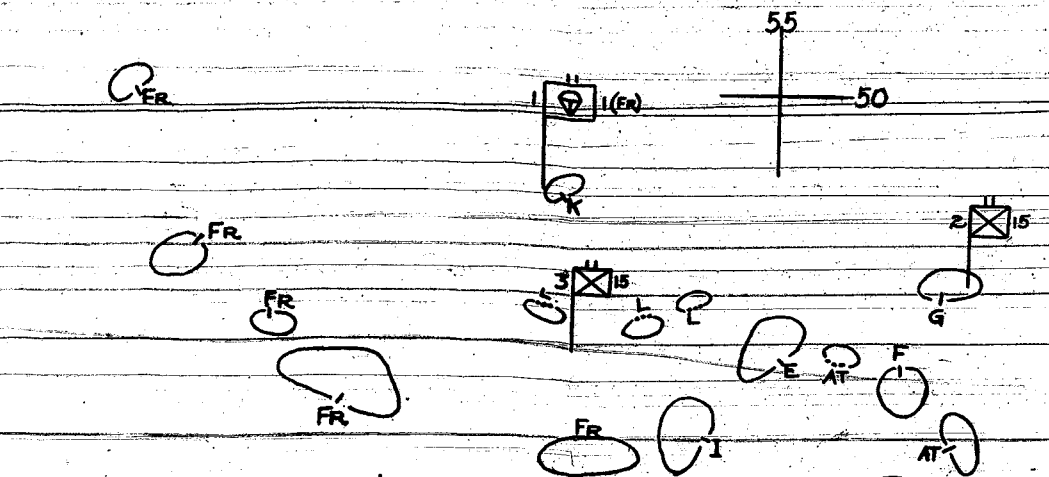
c. Patrols maintained.

d. 3d Bn made reconnaissance of RIQUENHUR.

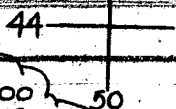
COMRIE

8-3

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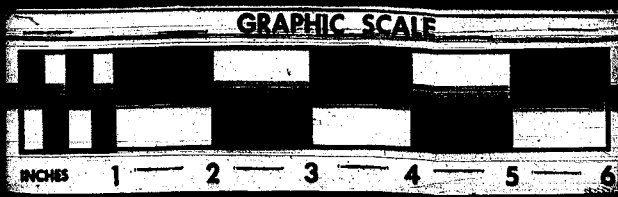


FRANCE 1/50,000
GERARDMER SHEET

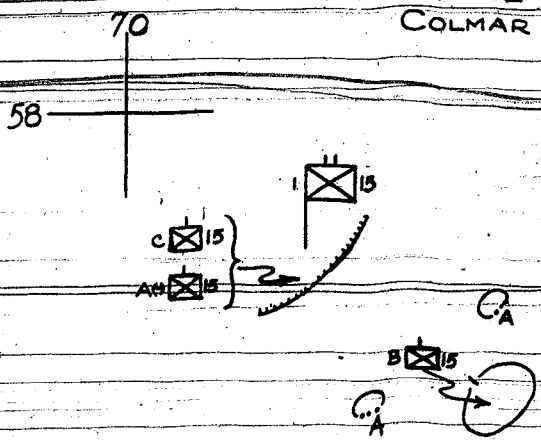


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HQ 19th INF
16 JAN '45
OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT #16
OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3
EDSON
CMDG

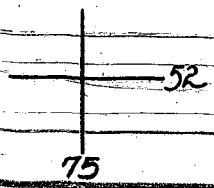


MAP: FRANCE 1:50,000
COLMAR SHEET



HQ 15th INF
16 JAN '45

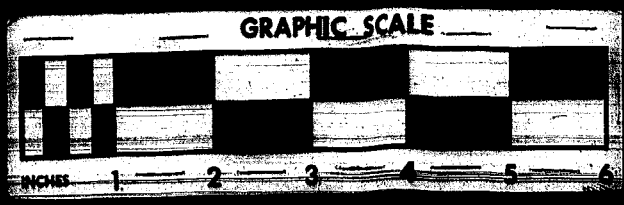
DISPOSITION OF
1st BN, 15th INF
(ATTACHED TO 254th INF)



OFFICIAL
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

Confidential



52

47

18 AP MINES



HQ 15th INF
16 JAN '45

ENGINEER OVERLAY

MAP: FRANCE 1/20,000

44

54

OFFICIAL:

COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

Confidential

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES

1

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3

4

5

6

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 Report

FROM: 150800A
TO : 160800A
GRUP: 1016 (22222)
DATE: 16 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: LE BOMHOMME, FRANCE.

No. 15

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. Enemy information reported was as follows:

- (1) RJ at 7828489 was shelled intermittently by 120mm mortar at 0948A.
- (2) At 1010A, 7 rds of arty fell via ORBEY.
- (3) A friendly plane was reported shot down over enemy territory at 1222A by AA.
- (4) 8 rds of arty fell via of V882472 - came from azimuth of 180 degrees from V881468 at 1352A.
- (5) OP observed 8 enemy personnel via of V882441 at 1500A. Our arty shelled the area and scattered the personnel.
- (6) Mortar firing from via of V883486 during the day.
- (7) From 1800A to 2700A enemy arty shelled via SW ORBEY intermittently.
- (8) At 2150A, 14 rds of arty fell via ORBEY.
- (9) At 0815A, 8 rds of arty fell via ORBEY.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Msgs: None for the period.

b. Patrols for night of 15/16 January 1945: Interior contact patrols between front line units were run with no enemy contact to report.

Patrol #1, a 10 man patrol, with the mission of capturing PW's followed the route of a recon patrol which left earlier and returned before the combat patrol left. The 3 man recon patrol left AF Co at 589467, reached house at 589464, found it empty after investigation, proceeded to house at 589463 where enemy presence was determined. The recon patrol returned and the combat patrol followed its route out, checking the house at 589464 again. When they got to the house at 589466 nothing was there except footprints, the patrol returned at 0400A with no prisoners.

Patrol #2 left I Co OP via 535482 and went S where they set up an 8 man ambush along the sunken road to ST-BARBE at 538447. Remained in position for 2 1/2 hours with no enemy using the road. Went S to RJ at 538446 but encountered no enemy so the patrol returned to I Co OP. The point of the ambush was 534446, 100 yards from the house. Remained there but did not attack because the leader thought the garrison was too large and well outposted. Patrol moved N to a house 50 yards away which they found unoccupied and returned at 0250A with no PW's.

Patrol #3, a 12 man ambush party left from LE RUBLIN at 484468 and went S to LEVALTIN 487444 and N to positions at 474448 and 474445 known to be occupied sporadically by enemy according to civilian reports. They used the road both going and returning to their starting point.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 16th Infantry
S - 2

17 JANUARY 1945

- 0005 OP # 3 reports all quiet for past hour.
- 0010 OP # 2 reports burst of SA fire NW of hill # 860 at 2330A. Otherwise all quiet for past hr.
- 0025 Situation Report to Division War Room.
- 0055 to 0215A: Negative reports from CP's and units.
- 0215 OP # 2 reports: At 0120A, 4 rds of mortar fire landed in ORBEY.
- 0242 3d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0300 Periodic Report to Division War Room.
- 0305 OP # 2 reports: 12 rds of arty landed in ORBEY. Tracers and MG fire via 562484.
- 0305 to 0505A: Negative reports from all units.
- 0505 OP # 2 reports: At 0410A, 2 arty shells landed at 190 degrees, approx 4,000 yds away. At 0415A, 8 arty shells landed in ORBEY.
- For detailed report of patrols see S-2 report of this date.
- 0505 to 0811A: Negative reports. Reports made to Division War Room.
- 0811 OP # 2 at 563467 to S-3; At 0730A, 12 rds friendly arty fell on E side of hill # 862. At 0735A, 12 rds arty fell via 540462.
- 0815 OP # 3 at 480473 to S-3; All is quiet. Visibility is good.
- 0930 OP # 2 at 563467 to S-2; At 0815A heard three short bursts of arty S/A fire on fwd and rt base of hill 862, az 210 degrees. At 0850A, tank or SP gun heard firing from left of hill 860.
- 1018 Div DC to Ex O: Unit (109th Inf) which will relieve 16th Inf will have to be billeted in EG BONHOMME. Quarters parties will arrive today and motors are scheduled to arrive tonight. Do not know when troops will arrive.
- 1025 OP # 2 to S-2; Automatic weapons fired a few bursts in vic PAIRIS. 10 rifle shots heard on fwd slope of Black Mountain. 16 friendly rds arty landed at 535446.
- 1105 OP # 3 gives negative report.
- 1135 GO to DC 1st Inf: Make sure that none of your people get captured. We must not let any know where we are.
- 1200 OP # 2 to S-3; At 1010A, 10 rds of friendly arty landed at 542464; one burst of arty MG fire via 563464. 12 rds of mortar fire at latter location. 6 rds of arty at 548463. At 1115A, 4 more shells landed at 516463.
- 1215 OP # 5 reports all is quiet. Visibility is good.
- 1322 OP # 1 to S-3; At 1115A, 5 arty HE rds landed vic PAIRIS. At 1130A, 10 rds of friendly HE landed via 545454.
- 1323 OP # 3 to Ex O: 6 rds of arty mortar fire landed at 447472.
- 1324 OP # 2 gives negative report.
- 1336 French Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 1352 2d Bn Ex O to S-3: Need 2 squads of Engrs--one for wire detail and the other for laying booby traps.
- 1353 S-3 gave above to 10th Engr Bn. Ans: will comply with request.
- 1410 S-3 to S-4: Check on availability of skis and snowshoes.
- 1430 OP # 2 to Asst S-2; At 1300A, 4 mortar rds landed vic ORBEY. At 1305A, 28 rds of mortars landed vic ORBEY. 1300-10A, 12 rds mortar fire, 220 degrees, may be above to be landing between western slope of Black Mountain (hill # 862) at 1346A, some mortar dropping in P's area.
- 1432 OP # 3 to S-3; All quiet.
- 1436 Advanced elements of 28th Inf Div stopped at Regtl CP to check disposition of our troops and installations.
- 1500 OP # 2 to Asst S-2; Around 1450A, 8 rds of arty mortar fire landed vic ORBEY.
- 1515 OP # 3 reports all is quiet.
- 1525 French Paratroopers report all is quiet.
- 1530 GO (at Sv Co) to Ex O: Sv Co is sending trucks for 40 more reinforcements. Notify 2d & 3d Bn's that I highly recommend that patrols tonight be led by officers. Patrols should be of sufficient force to carry out mission.
- 1540 Ex O gave above msg to 2d & 3d Bn's.
- 1550 OP # 1 at 543476 to S-3; From 1300-1400A, our arty falling on Rd at 545463. Otherwise all is quiet. Visibility: hazy. Weather: snowing.

17 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1610 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO: At 1515A, 7 rds hvy arty landed 215 degree azimuth and approx 3,000 yds out. At 1545A, 5 rds of our HE arty landed via 569464. At 1548A heard 5 rifle shots, 205 degree azimuth.
- ~~1620 CP # 3 reports all is quiet. Visibility is fair.~~
- 1630 S-2 to 2d Bn S-2: Men will be down soon to give propoganda broadcast. Have your 4 man detail ready.
- 1705 OP # 2 reports 4 rifle shots to east of OP (563487); 4 HE shells landed via 565469. 9 arty shells landed in ORBEY. 2 bursts of any MG fire via 565466.
- 1720 CP # 3 gives negative report.
- 1750 3d Bn Bn C to DO: ~~Any tank located at 544453. Fired on it 3 times and observer says 3 hits were scored. One each with mortar, 106mm, and 155 mm. Tank moved after mortar hit it but hasn't moved since then. No personnel observed. Sending bazooka team to investigate tonight and KO tank if it can't already knocked out. Heavy CG drifting in from SB. 1 Co has been alerted. Bridge at 627461 has been prepared for demolition with 800 lbs of TNT. Can is at nearby AT gun and runner knows how to set it off.~~
- 1905 CP # 2 reports arty landing at 548424.
- 1930 CP # 3 gives negative report.
- 1938 G-3 to CO: Recon elements of 109th Inf will report to your reg'l CP tomorrow morning. CO to G-3: I will orient them at CP, then send them up to the Bn's. They will lock the ground over between 1800A and 2000A and their respective units will start moving in after 2030A.
- 2000 CP # 2 to DO: At 1940A, spotted gun flash on az 195 degrees. Flash-bang, 18 seconds.
- 2110 3d Co, Fr Para Regt to S-3: Received report that any patrol is in vic LAC BLANC. We will send out 6 man patrol to check on this.
- 2120 CP # 3 gives negative report.
- 2130 S-2 (at 2d Bn) to Asst S-3: Propaganda broadcast is canceled because machine is out of order due to mine explosion.
- 2152 Above msg relayed to Div War Room.
- 2207 Fr Paratroopers report all quiet.
- 2225 S-2 to G-2: Our group hit a mine as we were running the loudspeaker out. Three men were wounded and have been evacuated. The mine was one of our "Bouncing Babies". The speaker was damaged and the show (broadcast) was postponed.
- 2232 CP # 3 reports all is quiet.
- 2305 OP # 2 reports all is quiet.
- 2305 to 2400: All quiet in regl sector.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 161200A to 171200A

Place: BOMHOMME, FRANCE

Date: 17th January 1945

No. 17

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GERARDMER Sheet. FRANCE, 1/20,000; COLMAR 1-2 & 3-A.

1. Our Front Lines: See overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt 1 CP in BOMHOMME, via V539527.

1st Bn CP in BERGHEIM.

A Co CP in BERGHEIM, one plat in BERGHEIM, one plat at RIBRAUVILLE Station, one plat via V748555.

B Co in GUERMAR with one plat HMO's and sect 81 mm mortars.

C Co defensive posit ions around BERGHEIM.

2d Bn CP in ORBEY.

E Co via V54746A, V550471, V553470.

F Co via V56446A, V568469, V56946A.

G Co in ORBEY.

3d Bn CP at V523464.

I Co via V597453, V542458, V598459.

K Co via Hotel du LAC BLANC.

L Co via V520472, V533471, V539473.

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold and heavy; limited visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

3d Div Battle Pztral remained in LAPOUTROIX as regt 1 reserve, supported by a platoon of light tanks.

Tank Attachments: (Co D, 756th Tank Bn) 5 light tanks in LAPOUTROIX.

TD Attachments: (Co B, 601st TD Bn) 2d plat via ORBEY; 2 TD's at LE RUD-LIN; 2 TD's via Hotel du LAC BLANC.

1st Bn 1st Para Regt, French: Attached to 15th Infantry, occupying defensive positions on regt 1 right flank and maintaining patrols.

Other Attachments: Co A, 99th Cal Bn; 3 plat's 441st AAA AW Bn; 3 sect's 20th Mail Co, French.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

1st Bn, attached to 25th Infantry, maintained defensive positions in 25th Inf sector, via BERGHEIM. See attached overlay of 1st Bn fire plan.

2d & 3d Bn's remained in defensive positions in regt 1 sector throughout

the period maintaining contact patrols between units and reconnaissance and combat patrols to the front. 2d Bn making reconnaissance via HUNAUHRE.

AT Company, attached to 2d Bn, held defensive positions on regt 1 left flank.

6. Combat Efficiency: Personnel for Duty (As of 16 Jan);

Personnel for Duty (As of 16 January):

Officers: 70%

WO : 100%

EM : 76%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 34

EM : 694

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7. Results of Operations:
a. Defensive positions held and improved.
b. Patrols maintained.

COMMIE
8-3

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-2-

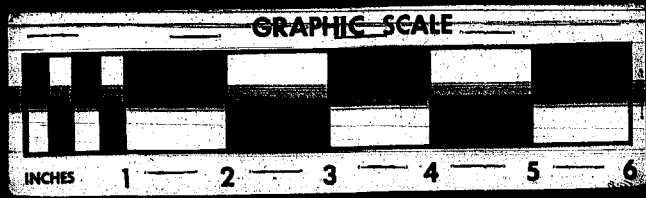
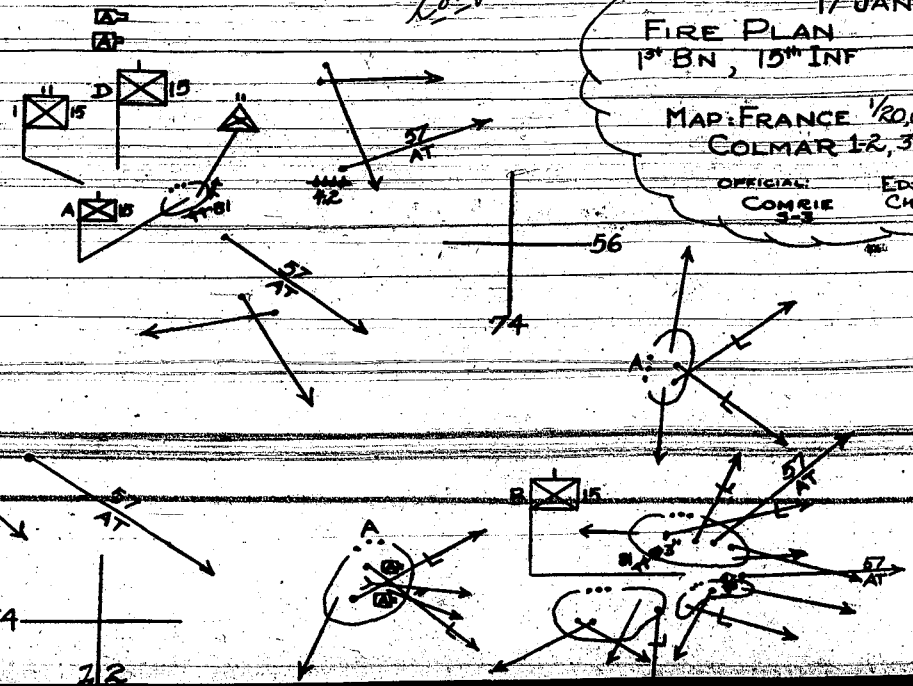
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HQ 15th INF
17 JAN '45

FIRE PLAN
1st BN, 15th INF

MAP: FRANCE 1/20,000
COLMAR 1-2, 3-4

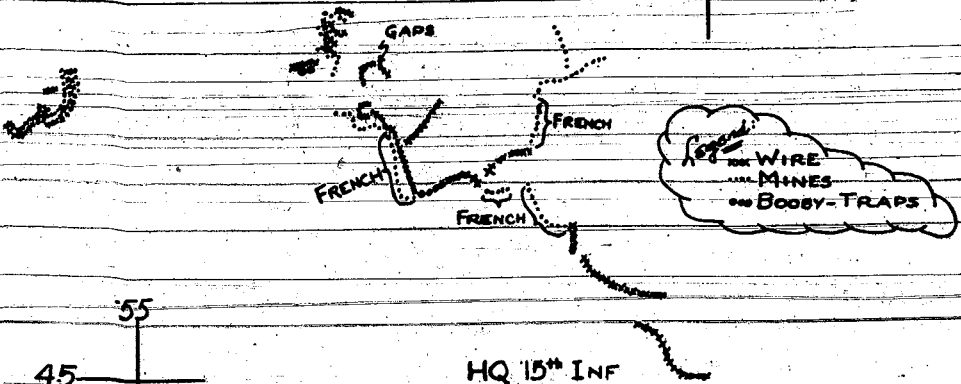
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HQ 15th INF

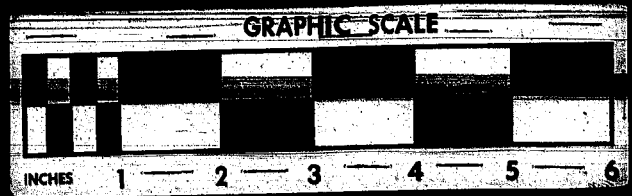
17 JAN '45

ENGINEER OVERLAY

MAP: FRANCE 1/20,000

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S-2 Report

FROM: 160800A
TO : 170800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 17 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: LE BONHOMME, FRANCE.

NO. 14

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GRANDMER SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.
b. Enemy Weapons: 2-81mm mortars located via of V557438. 1 light mortar located via of V550449. 1 MG located in house via of V533448.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. Enemy information was reported as follows:

- (1) At 0815A, 8 rds arty fell on ORBY.
- (2) At 1410A, 6 rds of mortar fell via of PAIRIS.
- (3) At 1415A, 8 rds of mortar fell via of ORBY.
- (4) At 1430A, 10 rds of mortar fell via of PAIRIS.
- (5) At 1539A, enemy placed 3 smoke pots(?) via of V562452. The area was shelled by our artillery.
- (6) At 1855A, 4 mortar rds fell via of ORBY.
- (7) Enemy patrol observed in via of V59467 at approx. 2200A.
- (8) 6 rds arty fell via of ORBY at 2210A.
- (9) At 0020A, 4 rds arty fell via ORBY.
- (10) At 0415, 8 rds arty fell via ORBY.
- (11) From 2200A throughout the night the enemy interdicted the road from FAING through ORBY with 2 to 4 rds of 105mm at approx every 10 to 15 minutes.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Hqs: None.

b. Our patrols for period 16-17 January 1945: Three combat raid patrols were made during the period with each patrol having the mission of capturing a PW.

A patrol from the 3d Recon Battle Patrol moved out at 0330A from via V567459, proceeded to check the house at V567458; the house was unoccupied, but a path was found leading to the house from enemy territory. The patrol continued on to check the north edge of the woods from 566457 west to via 564457; then encountered no enemy but reported sound of metal which appeared to come from via 563455. Patrol returned at 0620A with no further activity encountered.

A patrol from 1st Cav checked through outpost at 559467 at 1930A at 2100A an enemy patrol was spotted moving N via of woods at 556465; the patrol lay quietly in white trap the enemy patrol but the enemy apparently became aware of their presence as they began to withdraw. The patrol opened fire on the enemy but without apparent effect. The patrol then proceeded to check the house at 560465, 560463 and 559462 but found all houses unoccupied. At about 2400A the patrol drew 2 rifle shots from via woods at 555466. No other activity was encountered. The patrol returned through the outpost at 559467 at 0930A.

The 3d Recon Battle patrol moved out at 1930A to house at 534448 which they found unoccupied. The patrol then split into two groups and moved in on the house via 533448. One group when about 40 yards from the house heard a MG belt slide and fired a WP grenade at the house; an MG opened up from a shed to the NW of the house and a brisk fire fight ensued.

The other group spotted movement in another shed and fired a WP
grenade. The enemy took off over the hill to the SE. The entire patrol
engaged in a brisk fire fight. The enemy began to drop 50mm mortar
fire on the patrol and followed along to the N as the patrol withdrew.
Patrol returned at 2250A.

DONALD H. LINS
Major, 15th Infantry
3-2

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RE 15TH INFANTRY
IN BOURGNEIN, FRANCE
17 JANUARY 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

SUMMARY

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; OVERLANDER and SOLMAN Sheets.

1. a. See current G-3 Periodic Reports.
- b. 1 BNY has contained the enemy attack and maintains a firm line at SHERSTAT along the Ill River. 10th French Division continues entry into line on regimental right flank.
2. a. 15th Infantry undergoes relief by 109th Infantry and assemblies in Division sector to establish reserves available for offensive action at a later date.
3. a. Program of movement and reliefs.

Day 15 January 1945

- (A). A Company, 15th Infantry, moved from LE BOURGNEIN to SHERSTAT (728545)
- (B). 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry (C) moves from 80, 0425 to BOURGNEIN
- (3). Reconnaissance by CO 1st Bn, 15th Infantry, of sector 8rd Bn, 154th Infantry (-Co L).

Night 15 January 1945

- (a). 1st Bn, 10th Infantry, relieves 8rd Bn, 154th Infantry (-Co L)
- (b). Upon completion of relieving 8d Bn, 154th Infantry, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry, will be attached to 154th Infantry.

Day 16 January 1945

- (a). Reconnaissance by 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, will be made in vic BOURGNEIN prior to occupying regimental reserve area.

Day 17 January 1945

- (a). Reconnaissance will be made by 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, of an area in vic BOURGNEIN.

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Day 18 January 1945

- (a). Reconnaissance will be made by 1st Bn, 109th Infantry, of sector now occupied by 2d Bn, 18th Infantry. Also, reconnaissance will be made by 2d Bn, 109th Infantry, of sector now occupied by 2d Bn, 18th Infantry and of that occupied by 5th Co., French Paratroopers.

Night 18 January 1945

- (c). 1d and 2d Bns, 18th Infantry, will be relieved by 109th Infantry. 1d and 2d Bns will move into designated areas.
- b. **1d Bn, 18th Infantry**
- (1). Upon completion of relief by 1st Bn, 109th Infantry, assembly in preparation for motor movement to BREUNNER.
- (2). Co G will remain in Bn. reserve area until MIA co's have been rel'd.
- c. **2d Bn, 18th Infantry**
- (1). Upon completion of relief by 2d Bn, 109th Infantry, assembly in preparation for motor movement to BREUNNER.
- (2). Co K will remain in Reg't Reserve Area until the day 19 January, 1945.
- d. **1st Bn, French Paratroopers**
- (1). Will be relieved by 290th Bn on the night of 18 January, 1945.
- E. (1). Armer will remain in position until the night of 19 January, 1945.
- (2). Flak wagons to remain in position until night of 19 January, 1945.
- (3). 1d Bn and 2d Bn S.I.M. member will remain in position to support relieving elements until relieving units have registered concentrations.
- (4). 6-8 workers will remain in position until night of 19 January, 1945.
- (5). One (1) officer per Battalion Headquarters, one (1) officer per company and one (1) NCO per platoon will remain on post for twenty-four (24) hours to assist in the orientation of the relieving units.
- (6). Units being relieved, will conduct screening patrols until relief has been completed.
- (7). Existing wire lines will be taken over intact by relieving units.
- (8). Complete and detailed data on mines, wire, barbed wire, and obstacles. Signs and enemy dispositions will be turned over to relieving units.
- (9). Units being relieved will turn over to relieving units all maps and aerial photos of this area.
- (10). Battalions will render maximum assistance to relieving units in the provision of guides and the detailed planning of reliefs.
- (11). Movement of Battalions will be conducted by G.I.s they are relieved.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- a. Of same-grade assignment will be exchanged between units on position and relieving units.
- b. Materiel on position will be turned over to relieving units.
- c. Transportation for movement to assembly areas will be initially dispatched to Battalions and thereafter will be as will be contacting Regimental HQ at Cook's, LA 908800000.
- d. Company kitchens will be moved to new areas during day 18 January 1964.

OFFICIAL:

Smith
C-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY
AFPO # 3

17 January 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 1)

TRAINING DIRECTIVE

1. The 15th Infantry, when relieved from present mission, will conduct a five (5) day training program in accordance with the following instructions.
2. **Objective:** Battalion and Company Commanders will schedule and conduct their training during this five-day period to comply with principles outlined in Training Memorandum # 3, Headquarters Third Infantry Division, 17 January, 1945.
3. Training will be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:
 - 1st Day:**
 - 2 hr March
 - 15 min punitive Article of War
 - 15 min Close Order Drill
 - 2 1/2 hrs Small Unit Problems
 - 2d Day:**
 - 2 hr Ceremony, Award presentation (2d Bn Ceremony will be held at 1000h)
 - 2d Bn Ceremony, 1400h
 - 15 min Close Order Drill
 - 2 1/2 hrs Small Unit Problems
 - 3d Day:**
 - 2 hr March
 - 15 min Close Order Drill
 - 15 min Conference on punitive Article of War
 - 2 1/2 hrs Response training
 - 4th Day:**
 - 2 hr March
 - 15 min Close Order Drill
 - 2 1/2 hrs Small Unit Problems

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31A Day:

2 hr March

15 min Conference on punitive Articles of War.

15 min Check Order Drill

2 1/2 hrs Weapons training

In addition to the above subjects, battalions and separate Co's will schedule the following:

1/2 hr (Daily) Weapons Inspection

1/2 hr (Daily) Combat Instruction

1 hr (Daily) Release to unit CO's to include briefing on forthcoming operation.

4. Training Notes:

a. **Physical Conditioning.** A minimum of five miles of marching, with weapons and normal equipment, will be performed daily. Rate of march, 3 to 5 MPH. This may be accomplished by marching to a training or firing area and returning to the bivouac area after the completion of training. **Platoon leaders must require that their men remove their shoes daily, change socks as often as available, and shove up, to sleep with their shoes off.**

b. **Weapons Instruction and Firing** will be conducted by platoons and will be closely supervised by the unit and Co commanders. Squads and platoons should fire at group targets using all weapons, and particularly rifle grenades and hosebombs. As far as ammunition allowances permits, all men will be taught to fire, and will fire, at least one round of each. All men will be given instructions and a demonstration in the operation of the German "Panzerfaust". When time permits, riflemen will be taught to fire the MP and mortar; and those gunners will be taught to fire the rifle grenade, hosebombs, and the "Panzerfaust". Weapons training will include firing, mechanical training, and winter care. Range firing will be conducted concurrently with other training for those individuals in need of marksmanship training.

c. All bayonets will be sharpened.

d. **Disciplinary & Moral Training** must be continuous.

(1) All Co commanders, platoon leaders, and squad leaders must be impressed with the fact that all orders must be obeyed promptly and completely. Keep this slogan in mind, "If you cannot control your unit in bivouac and training area, how do you expect to control it in battle?"

(2) Men must be required to wash and shave daily--to keep their bivouac areas, buildings, and tents clean--to keep their blankets, packs and equipment neatly folded and stacked at all times--to keep weapons clean and well oiled--to carry gas masks complete with gas cups, goggles, and protective clothing.

(3) The gas mask is an important piece of equipment and must be taken care of by the man to whom it is issued. Each man will put his name on the outside cover of the carrier. Company commanders and platoon leaders will conduct frequent checks of gas masks and any man not having the prescribed equipment will be charged for the missing article.

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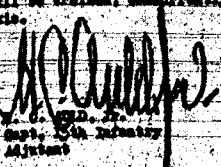
(4) Disciplinary drill to include 15 minutes of sleep order drill
daily and three 15 minute conferences on punitive articles of war.
(5) An awards ceremony will be conducted while battalions are in re-
serve area.

(6) As conditions permit, Co commanders will assemble all men in
the company each day to orient them on the general situation, to give current
training talks, and psychological preparation for combat. Training talks should
include: (a) What to say if captured (name, rank, and serial number), and what
not to say. (b) The importance of being alert at all times, especially at night
and during times when fog arrives, or when it snows or rains. (c) How to pro-
tect weapons against ice and snow. (d) The importance of guarding against trench
feet and the fact that it is very serious, frequently resulting in the amputation
of the feet. (e) What is a "shell bust" and how do you report one and why.

e. Small unit problems will be carefully planned in advance and written
up by a qualified officer designated for the purpose. Small unit problems will
emphasize squad, platoon, and company units, stressing control.

f. Selected groups in each company will be trained, concurrently with
other training, in the use of snowshoes and skis.

By Order of Lt Colonel BROWN


W. G. BROWN, Jr.
Capt, 8th Infantry
Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL

19 JANUARY 1946

- 0007 OP # 2 to DO: At 2345A, enemy MG firing white tracers, az of 210 degrees. At 2340A, 10 rds of arty landed az of 217 degrees. At 2345A, 3 HE shells landed at 210 degrees az, near MG firing, reported above.
- 0010 OP # 3 reports all quiet.
- 0012 2d Bn to DO: An OP at 557468 located enemy gun at 207 degrees az. Flash-bang, 11 seconds.
- 0015 Arty Ln O gave shell reports to 38th FA.
- 0018 French Ln Officer reports: Patrol from 1st Co, 1st French Paratrooper Regt, had fire fight with enemy patrol in general vic of 515463 tonight. Enemy was dispersed and put to flight. The telephone line was cut with scissors and repaired. Patrol reconnoitered the territory around the CP.
- 0040 3d Bn S-2 to DO: A baroque patrol from I Co has checked back in. They had mission of investigating enemy tank and knocking it out. Patrol went out 200 yds and were fired on by enemy MG vic of 543454. Patrol returned. Will send Bn battle patrol out on same mission.
- 0050 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 0105 OP # 2 reports all is quiet except for friendly arty.
- 0112 1st Co, 1st French Paratrooper Bn to French Ln O: Patrol returned but captured no prisoner.
- 0115 OP # 3 reports all is quiet.
- 0200 2d Bn reports F Co outpost hears sound of enemy chopping wood to front. Otherwise all is quiet.
- 0206 3d Bn DO to DO: Our battle patrol has checked out on patrol mission. All is quiet.
- 0210 OP # 2 at 563487 reports one enemy arty shell landed to west of OP.
- 0230 OP # 3 gives negative report.
- 0230 to 0600: All quiet in regt's sector.
- 0500 OP # 3 reports 6 rds of arty landed at an az of 220 degrees, approx 2,000 yds out. At 0430A, 3 more rds landed same vicinity.
- 0545 2d Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0650 3d Bn S-2 to DO: Patrol reports: Patrol left from French outpost, 53504505, at 0100A. Went in a SW direction, which was only known route through French wire and mines. Patrol advanced to within 150 yds of house at 53354490. Here patrol leader and 2 men went forth to scout out the house. Remainder of patrol covered their advance. Within 25 or 30 yds of house, they received one rifle shot from west of house. The three men took cover behind a three foot stone wall and returned fire with 3 TSMG's. Remainder of patrol concentrated fire on house. 4 or 5 enemy were heard trying to flank patrol from right flank (advancing down a draw). Patrol ldr tried to call his remaining 5 men fwd. With no response, he went back and brought them fwd and set up BAR and rifle grenades to cover next advance forward. The four or five enemy working down flank were sighted. Patrol opened fire. Enemy returned fire with 2 MG's. Also a MG at NW corner of house (53354473) opened fire. After a couple of minutes only two of our TSMG's and one BAR was working. The other three TSMG's were jammed and the 2 rifle grenades found that only one out of three grenade cartridges fired. Total grenades fired were five. Losing fire superiority the patrol withdrew. Casualties inflicted on enemy undetermined. Patrol returned at 0600.
- 0600A OP # 2 at 563487 to DO: At 0620A, one shot and one long burst of enemy MG firing firing to west from az of 210 degrees, estimated to be 2500 yds away. At same time, two rds of friendly arty landed rear of hill 862.
- 0650 REPORT to Div War Room.
- 0660 2d & 3d Bn rpts all quiet.
- 0705 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO: At 0620A, one shot and one long burst enemy MG fire firing NE at 210 degrees az about 3000 yds away. A few minutes later, six rds of friendly mortar fire landed in same vicinity. During past hour, approx 10 rds of friendly arty landed back of hill 362, az of 220 degrees.
- 0745 2d Bn reports all is quiet.

18 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 0846 Div battle patrol ldr's report to DO: At 2400A, left AT Co position at 578451. We at SW toward edge of woods at 577449. Heard men coughing in edge of woods. Also noise as though they were dragging something. Decided to skirt around edge of woods and headed west toward houses at 575451. Saw three different groups of men of four or five each around houses as shown to be picking mines. Started to go with patrol SW between woods and houses and heard noises in vic of 574448. Heard wagon moving and people moving around. As we withdrew to return, my throw up a white flare. Came back through AT Co position and checked in BA CP at 0300A.
- 0800 CP # 2 to DO: 12 rds of friendly arty landed behind Black Mountain, az of 220 degrees.
- 0890 3d Ba reports all is quiet.
- 0945 CP # 3 gives negative report.
- 1000 Ex O to MFO: 2d & 3d Ba's will move tonight to RIBEAUVILLE area, around midnight. Route uncertain.
- 1080 Div DO to DO: 15th Inf will have all flak wagons detached from them except 2 per battalion.
- 1090 Conference Call, CO to 2d Ba CO & 3d Ba Ex O: Give msg of 1000A entry. Keep mortars in until relief has their's in and registered. Also leave flak wagons in until tomorrow night.
- 1055 3d Ba Ex O to S-2: Have rec eived orders not to fire any more 4.2 HE mortars under any circumstances because of faulty instruments which cause a short round. We will leave 81 mm mortars in position tonight and take our 4.2 mortars out.
- 1110 CP # 2 to S-3: MG firing via 556467. 3 concentrations of arty landed 567450.
- 1115 10 friendly HE and 4 smoke shells via 556463. 4 arty shells landed in OBERY. Regt'l MFO to S-3: Have 15 trucks for tonight's movement. Hauling kitchens, and other rear installations during daylight, today.
- 1120 CP # 3 to DO: 3 rds of arty landed 477472.
- 1145 S-3 to 3d Ba DO: 1 Co will have to stay in positions tonight; I & L Co's will be relieved and move to new area.
- 1200 CP # 3 reports 6 smoke shells at 556463.
- 1215 Let G, 1st Para Regt, French, to French Lia O: Men made this morning to the outpost which was attacked last night gave the following results: One spy body found near outpost--had possession papers and photographs which were only tested and are at your disposal. 75 Lx O to 1st Co: Send your's and photographs in to Regt'l CP.
- 1220 G-3 to CO: 1st Ba will be relieved tonight and will assemble via ZELLENEBO. French will relieve the company on left flank; 2d Ba, 2d Inf, will relieve remainder of your 1st Ba. 1st Ba has been notified. Plans for future operations have been changed--we are will attack N of OSTHEIM. One Ba will attack generally SE. Make plan for reconnaissance of that area, soon.
- 1300 S-3 to 2d Ba S-3: Will send you a limited number of trucks to start moving your units. Thereafter you can then from truck pool as needed. Leave your mortar ammunition in position and exchange same with relieving unit. Your 4.2 mortar, flak wagons, 4.2 mortars and 81 mm mortars will stay in position tonight. Leave officer or NCO with each unit, down to plat size, for 24 hrs after relief is effected.
- 1315 CP # 2 to S-3: At 1210A, observed large white smoke, 145 degrees az and approx elev of 556456, believed to be mortar pots. lasted for 15 min. At 1255A, 2 smoke shells landed same vic.
- 1340 Ex O to S-3: Head 2d Ba's movement to new area. 1000A and down to their new positions. Should be available around 1500A, troops will entruck around 1600A. All right to use the 5 alert trucks, S-4 to Ex O: Doubt if I can have over 10 trucks total but can shuttle troops.
- 1350 Div DO to S-3: 40 pr of skis with harness will be available through G-4 to your regt.
- 1353 S-2 to 2d Ba S-2 and 3d Ba Ex O: Men screening patrols tonight to the front while effecting relief.
- 1405 S-3 to Regt'l Amm Officer: All ammunition will be left in position and exchange will be made from supply on the 81 mm mortar ammo.

18 JANUARY 1945 COM # 1

- 1410 OIC to S-2; Investigated two suspected civilians who possessed a German battery and voltage transformer. We have no reason to suspect them.
- 1420 OP # 2 to DO; (OP at 563487) At 1315, 2 smoke shells az 200 degrees vic 557462. At 1320A, observed house burning az 180 degrees, vic 564455, started by arty. At 1330A, 2 smoke shells, az 200 degrees vic 554457. At 1345A, 2 smoke shells, az 200 degrees vic 554457.
- 1427 DIV DO to S-3; 30th Inf wants to know when you will relieve their 1st Bn in RIQUEWIHR. S-3 to Div; Not before midnight. Will notify you when our first company is on the way.
- 1433 Ex O to MP Officer; Want both daylight and night routes marked with signs & guides on road.
- 1436 S-3 to MFO; For trucks and route to be used for movement. Battalion of 109th Inf. will detruck at HACHINGHE in the am. Move to relieve 2d Bn, 15th Inf. Trucks will be available on call at Le BONGHOM to move our 2d Bn when the y are ready. M Co will not be ready to move until 191000A as the 4 trucks allocated for them can be utilized until then.
- 1445 Ex O to Div; Div battle patrol will return to 3d Reg Troops.
- 1545 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O; For L Co's tents when we leave them to relieving unit? Ex O to 3d Bn S-3; Get receipt for tents and have your S-4 get them later.
- 1630 Field Mag from CG, 3d Inf Div to CG 15th Inf; Tomorrow, 19 Jan, 1400A, there will be a meeting at the War Room. You may bring one (1) Staff Officer.
- 1712 OP # 2 to DO; From 1615-20A, smoke shells landed 185 degree azimuth, approx 564456. 12 HE landed same vicinity.
- 1730 Asst S-2 reports; 1st Bn, after being relieved tonight will be located as follows: Hq and A Co's in RIQUEWIHR, B Co in HACHINGHE, C & D Co's in HUNNA WIHR. Relief will be started at 2030A and upon completion 1st Bn will revert to 15th Inf control.
- 1814 OP # 2 at 563487 to DO; At 1705A, I heard any MG fire az 170 degrees approx 1500 yds away. At 1730A, heard one HE land vic ORBEY.
- 1840 3d Bn S-2 to S-3; Will have 3 screen patrols out tonight, one in front of each platoon to cover relief.
- 1900 G-1 to S-3; CG would like to schedule a decorations ceremony for 15th Inf on 21 January.
- 1905 Asst Com G to S-2; Switchboard established at new CP and lines almost in to Bn's.
- 1910 CO to S-4; 1st Bn coming out of line tonight. Their area will be same as 3d Bn.
- 1915 OP # 2 reports; 2 very HE shells landed vic ORBEY. 39 friendly HE shells landed 135 degree az from 563487.
- 1955 3d Bn to S-3; I Co is on move. K Co will be relieved by noon. L Co will be relieved in about an hour.
- 2007 OP # 3 to DO; All is quiet. Stiff wind but visibility is good.
- 2010 G-3 to S-3; The CG wants you to be especially alert during the relief of units.
- 2015 Above relayed to the battalions.
- 2045 1st Bn CO to CO; 2 of my Co's are in process of moving. Motor Pool and flak wagon will move tomorrow.
- 2105 Com O to S-3; Have communication wires in at new area.
- 2144 3d Bn CO to CO; M Co is completely relieved and I Co is practically relieved.
- 2150 3d Bn CO to CO; All is quiet. A recon platoon was sent by CG but troops have not yet arrived.
- 2200 3d Bn Ex O to S-3; L Co is completely relieved.
- 2250 3d Bn CO to S-3; 7th Inf is receiving small counter attack in sector next to AF Co. We are firing arty defensive fires to assist them.
- 2311 Mag Center Clerk to S-2; 4 trees across road vic 508510, about 700 yds south of RI.
- 2312 S-2 reported above to 10th Reg Bn.
- 2314 Fr Para to S-3; Where does our Bn move tomorrow? Answer: To PLAINFANG.
- 2320 3d Bn CO to DO; Rear CP, L, M, & HQ Co moving out. I Co still in process of being relieved.
- 2320 to 2400A; All quiet in regt'l sector.

C O N F I D E N T I A L
S-S Periodic Report

Period: 171200A to 181200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BORNHAIN, FRANCE
Date : 12 January 1945

No. 18
Maps: FRANCE 1/50,000; GERARDMER & COLMAR Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: No change.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP in BORNHAIN, via V880527.

1st Bn CP in BORNHAIN

A Co CP in BORNHAIN, one plat in BORNHAIN, one plat at BERNANVILLE

Station, one plat via V748444.

B Co in GUMMAR with one plat MG's and one sect 81mm mortar.

C Co defensive positions around BORNHAIN.

2d Bn CP in ORNEY

H Co via V847444, V880471, V882470.

F Co via V844444, V882442, V882444.

G Co via ORNEY.

3d Bn CP at V882444.

I Co via V887444, V843444, V880440.

K Co via Hotel Du LAC BLANC.

L Co via V880472, V882471, V882473.

3. Weather and Visibility: Fair, light snowfall, limited visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

2d Division Battle Bn's: remained in LA FOURTOIS as regimental reserve supported by a platoon of light tanks.

Tank Attachments: (Co B, 750th Tank Bn) 5 light tanks in LA FOURTOIS.

TD Attachments: (Co B, 601 TD Bn) 2d plat via ORNEY; 2 TD's at LE HULLIN; 2 TD's via Hotel Du LAC BLANC.

1st Bn, 1st Para Regt (Fr): Attached to the 15th Infantry, occupying defensive positions on the regimental right flank, and maintaining patrols.

Other Attachments: Co A 90th Cal Bn, 3 plato 42nd AAA AW Bn, 3 sect's 200th Mule Company (Fr).

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: Remained in defensive positions throughout the period in vicinity of BORNHAIN, attached to the 250th Infantry.

Second Battalion: The 2d Battalion, with AF Co attached, held defensive positions on the regimental left flank throughout the period. Patrols were maintained. Reconnaissance of the BORNHAIN area was completed in preparation for movement upon relief by the 109th Infantry.

Third Battalion: 1 Company remained in front line positions and maintained patrols to the front and between units. 1 Company remained in battalion reserve position and K Co was assembled in vicinity of Hotel du LAC BLANC.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 17 January)

Officers: 705

NO: 1005

EM: 705

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 84

EM: 604

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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3. Results of Operations:

- a. REVENUE operations held.
- b. Funds maintained.
- c. REVENUE operations completed by 28 Dec.
- d. RIBEAUVILLE Departmental headquarters for new OP.

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8-5

CONFIDENTIAL

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: 170800A
TO: 170800Z
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 18 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: LE BOURGOMME, FRANCE

No. 18

MAPS, FRANCE, 1/50,000 GERARDMER SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: No change.
- b. Enemy Defenses: MG located vic of V843454 and another MG located in house vic of V833447.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

- a. Enemy information reported was as follows:
 - (1) At 1115A, 5 rds of arty fell vic of PARIS.
 - (2) At 1235A, 6 rds of mortar fire fell vic V847472.
 - (3) At 1305A, 28 rds of mortar fire fell vic GREY.
 - (4) At 1450A, 4 rds of light mortar fire fell vic GREY.
 - (5) 2 bursts of enemy MG fire heard vic of V833455 at 1705A.
 - (6) Enemy tank observed vic of V844455 at 1750A. Arty and mortar fire placed on it and made at least one direct hit.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. POs: None
- b. Our patrols for period 17-18 January 1945: Contact patrols were run between forward unit positions with no enemy contact reported.
 - Ed Bn ran a 12 man combat patrol to raid a house at (855487) advancing under cover of an intensive artillery and mortar barrage. The patrol arrived to a point about (863489) when they were approached by a 5 man cy group. The patrol deployed to ambush the cy group and approached the point where the cy was seen. No cy was found after a thorough search. The preparation fire was already concluded so the patrol returned without continuing to its objective.
 - Ed Bn 8 man combat patrol went SW from a French OP (835480), got within 150 yards of a house (835448). The patrol leader with two men advanced to within 30 yards from house with rest of the patrol covering their advance when they received rifle fire from the W end of the house. The patrol advanced and took up the fire fight, also firing at a 5 man cy group sighted trying to flank the patrol from the W. Fire from 2 automatic weapons (MG) opened up on them, also a MG at the NW corner of the house (833447). Fire superiority was gained by the cy when 3 Thompson submachine guns had stopped so the patrol withdrew.
 - Ed Bn Battle Patrol, 8 men, went SW to edge of woods at (847448) where they heard cy coughing and moving around. Bypassing this they went W to the house (875481) where they saw 3 groups of 5 men each working - 1 group of 5 firing rifles. Going toward the groups, a white flare was shot off alerting the working party, so the BP withdrew to its starting point.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 16th Infantry
S-2

19 JANUARY 1945

- 0005 2d Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0015 OP # 2 to DIR: At 2305A, 3 air bursts vic hill # 862, az 210 degrees. At 2310A, 25 rds of arty landed vic ORBEY. At 2345A, 4 more shells landed vic ORBEY.
- 0023 10th Bnrs to DO: Bngr detail left 15 minutes ago to remove tree road block.
- 0027 Advance Party to DO: 3d Bn.
- 0135 1st Bn DO to DO: 1st Bn will be ready to move as soon as one section of D Co is relieved.
- 0150 3d Bn CO to DO: All of 3d Bn is relieved except one AT gun and 3 or 4 men on an outpost.
- 0200 OP # 2 reports that for past two hours all has been exceptionally quiet.
- 0235 2d Bn reports relief is almost complete.
- 0300 2d Bn DO to DO: E Co is relieved.
- 0305 OP # 2 reports: In the last hour approx 50 rds enemy fire landed in ORBEY. 6 white flares in same vic.
- 0308 Report to Div.
- 0325 1st Bn closed in at 0300A, complete with kitchens; communications with all Co's.
- 0342 L, M, & Hq closed in at 0300A.
- 0345 OP # 2 to DO: Arty landing in ORBEY.
- 0445 2d Bn DO to DO: E Co relieved and moved to trucks. Hq Co, one platoon of F Co, and one platoon of AT Co is relieved.
- 0446 3d Bn DO to DO: 3d Bn (-) completely relieved at 0330A. One AT road block not relieved yet. I Co on road.
- 0550 2d Bn DO to DO: 2d Bn completely relieved and on way back to trucks.
- 0553 2d Bn CO to DO: G Co moving, also AT Co. I will stay here most of the day. Completion of relief was at 0530A.
- 0647 3d Bn CO to DO: Completely relieved except for K Co.
- 0712 Report to Div.
- 0715 OP # 2 at 563487 to Asst S-2: At 0615A, 10 rds of arty, 145 degree az, approx 2500 yds out. At 0650A, 5 rds of arty by arty landed vic ORBEY. Visibility is poor. Wind is blowing snow.
- 0815 S-3 to 10 Bngr Bn: Road block with logs and snow bank vic Col du BOMHOMME, vic 511519. Need bull dozer and snow plow.
- 0930 Advance party left for FORWARD CP.
- 1150 Advance CP opened in RIBEAUVILLE at 1150A.
- 1225 S-2 to Div War Room: New Regt'l CP opened at RIBEAUVILLE at 1150A. 1st Bn closed in new area at 0330A, less 2 AT guns at GUEMAR, which are to be relieved by 2d Bn, 254th Inf. 2d Bn closed in new area at 1000A, less some K Co mortars. 3d Bn closed in new area at 0800A, (-) K Co & one AT gun.
- 1400 AT Co CO to S-2: AT Co has closed in new area in RIQUENHUR, as of 1345A. One officer and two NCO's are back with relieving unit and will come back to Co tonight.
- 1415 Div Traffic Control Officer to S-2: Have convoy scheduled from old area to leave IP at 1400A. That convoy will go by way of KAYSERSBERG and KIENZHEIM. S-2 to Div: Have been unable to get phone call through to rear. Wish you would notify them.
- 1510 DO to All Bn's: Bn CO's and S-3's will attend meeting at Regt'l CP at 1900A. Plans for future operations will be discussed at this meeting.
- 1527 254th Inf S-3 to S-3: Will relieve your 2 AT guns at GUEMAR.
- 1530 3d Bn DO to DO: K-Co (-) one AT vehicle and two 1/2 ton trucks closed in new area at 1520A.
- 1550 S-1 to CO: 207 reinforcements have been assigned to the Regt. US to 2-11. Advise Bn S-1's and as soon as possible inform them when and how many they can have.
- 1558 Chief of Staff to CO: Limit Rom movement to help prevent increased shelling by enemy. Use vehicles as little as possible in front line areas. Regt should be assembled as one unit for awards ceremony.
- 1605 Div to Asst S-3: Do not use RIBEAUVILLE-GUEMAR road during day.
- 1608 Above relayed to all Bn's.
- 1730 Co Co to Asst S-3: Six M-3's closed in at 1645A.

19 JANUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1845 Div to Ex O: You will get 15 phones to replace ones left with 109th Inf, 28th Div. Replacements should be in tonight or tomorrow.
- 1853 Div DG to S-3: Has all your units cleared in new area? S-3 to Div: All except some 57 mm AT guns and some armor.
- ~~1940 G-3 to 1st Bn: Replacements for tanks closed in new area.~~
- 2110 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2215 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2240 G-3 to S-3: There has been some alterations of future plans. Revised order will be out tomorrow. Time unchanged.
- 2315 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2315 to 2400A: All quiet in regt'l sector.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 181200A to 191200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : RIBBAUVILLE, FRANCE
Date : 19 JANUARY 1945

No. 18
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR and GERARDMER Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry relieved of front line positions

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP (adv) in RIBBAUVILLE; Rear CP in LE BONHOMME.
1st Bn CP in RIQUWIER
A Co in RIQUWIER
B Co in KELLEHBERG
C and D Co's in HUNAWIER
2d Bn in HUNAWIER
3d Bn in RIQUWIER

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold, snow flurries; visibility limited.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: 1st Bn (-) relieved of defensive positions via BERGHEIN by 2d Bn, 15th Infantry and French units on left flank relieved one company. Relief was begun at 180500A. Upon relief, A Co and E Co moved to RIQUWIER, B Co moved to KELLEHBERG, and C & D Co's moved to HUNAWIER. The Battalion closed in new areas at 190500A and was released from attachment to 254th Infantry.
Second Battalion: During the night of 18-19 January, 2d Bn and AF Co, 15th Infantry were relieved by elements of 109th Infantry, via ORNEY. The relief was completed at 190500A, and 2d Bn moved to reserve position in HUNAWIER, closing in new area at 191000A.

Third Battalion: At 190400A, 3d Bn, less E Co, had been relieved by 109th Infantry. Upon relief, 3d Bn moved to RIQUWIER. At 190800A, 3d Bn (less E Co and one AF gun) had closed in new area.

Regimental CP: On the morning of 19 January, the Regt'l CP displaced from BONHOMME to RIBBAUVILLE. Advance CP opened at 191100A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 18 Jan),
Officers: 785
WO : 1000

Rich: French Strength:
Officers: 34
EM : 713

6. Result of Operations:

- The Regiment was relieved of defensive positions and moved to reserve areas.
- CP displaced to RIBBAUVILLE.
- 1st Bn, 15th Inf, reverted to Regt'l control.

COMB
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

20 JANUARY 1945

- 0001 to 0840A: All quiet in regt'l sector. Periodic Reports to Div War Room.
- 0840 S-2 to the Bn S-2's: Check on the number of maps that you will need and let me know.
- 0945 G-2 to S-3: How is the weather in your sector? Answer: It has stopped raining now.
- 0990 Div War Room to S-3: Wait. S-3 to be at Division at 1100A.
- 1125 S-1 to Ex Op: Showers will be set up in BERGHEM this afternoon.
- 1325 Regt'l Transportation Officer to DO: Day is shelling RU at 694537, constantly. Approx one rd per minute. Suggest that traffic be routed on back road from RIBEAUVILLE to HUNAWIHR (From 686550 to 683535).
- 1335 Above relayed to Div Traffic Control Officer, All battalions, Cn & AT Co.
- 1446 S-2 to 3d Bn S-2: Continue patrols for next few nights as originally planned.
- 1453 S-2 to 1st Bn S-2: Same as above.
- 1515 CG to All Bn's: Demonstration in area between RIQUEWIHR and HUNAWIHR between 1530A and 1545A on Marching Fire. Suggest that an officer from your AT platoon or Hq Co and either your S-3 or S-5 be present. Block roads on either flank of demonstration.
- 1630 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Keep working on old plan of Reconnaissance patrols in area of next operations.
- 1650 3d Bn to S-3: Will fire bazookas and AT grenades tomorrow in training program. On the following day will demonstrate Marching fire.
- 1730 DO to all Units: CO directs that tire chains will be used on all vehicles.
- 1800 Chief of Staff to DQ: Formation scheduled for 1030A tomorrow is called off. CG would like for you to find new area and schedule review day after tomorrow.
- 2100 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2135 3d Bn reports that direct road from RIBEAUVILLE to RIQUEWIHR is open now. Prime Mover is off road.
- 2200 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2201 Radio Msg from CG to CO 15th Inf: You will attend a meeting with the Division Commander, 211500A, Jan 45 at the DIV CP in ST MARIE AUX MINES. Regt'l Cmdrs will be accompanied by one staff officer and En Cmdr.
- 2210 Ex O gave above to Bn CO's. 3d Bn CO will travel with 1st Bn CO. 2d Bn CO will go in his jeep.
- 2210 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt'l sector. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 101500Z to 001500Z
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KIMBOLVILLE, FRANCE
Date : 00 JANUARY 1968

No. 00
Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, ANZLAR Sheet.

1. Company Lines: 15th Infantry assembled in reserve positions.

2. Distribution of Troops

Company CP in KIMBOLVILLE, via 7804551
22 Co in BOURGAIN
02 Co in BOURGAIN
1st Bn CP in BOURGAIN
3 Co in BOURGAIN
2 Co in BOURGAIN
1 & 2 Co's in BOURGAIN
24 Co in BOURGAIN
24 Co in BOURGAIN

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold with occasional snow flurries; limited visibility.

4. Company Operations for the Period

15th Infantry remained in reserve positions throughout the period and engaged in a rehabilitation and limited training program.

5. Combat Effectiveness

Formal for duty (as of 10 Jan):

Officers: 700
EM : 1000
EM : 700

Rifle Troop Strength:

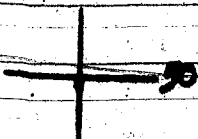
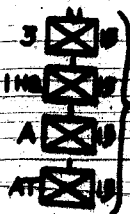
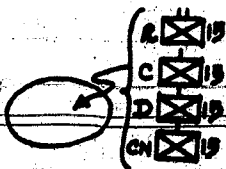
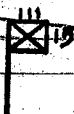
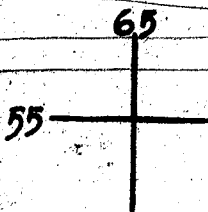
Officers: 00
EM : 700

6. Results of Operations

- The unit remained in reserve positions.
- Rehabilitation and training program begun.

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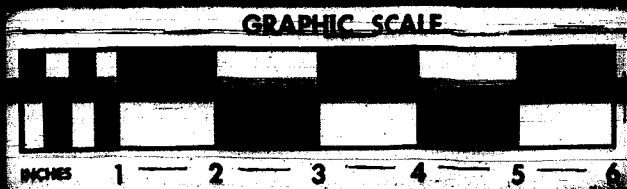
HQ 15th INF
20 JAN '45 70

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT 'RO
MAP, FRANCE 1:50,000

OFFICIAL:
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CMDS



21 JANUARY 1945

- 0001 to 0300A: All quiet in Regt'l sector. Periodic Reports to Div War Room.
- 0300 3d Bn DO to DO: Patrol Report; Bn battle patrol of 4 men armed with TSMG's Mission: To reconnoiter the bank of the FEGHT River from 741524 to 78522 and find out: Condition of banks of the river; site for a possible bridge; type of river-bottom; grade of banks; enemy activity; nature of terrain. Patrol left E Co, 254th Inf. CP (724515) then NW to 2d plat of E Co (734527), east and south to river bank (741524), then south along river to a point 738-522 where there was a break in the dyke. The dyke was about 5 ft high. Patrol went through breaks down to the river's edge. The grade was slight. There was ice along the shore. One man broke through the ice three feet from the shore and ate three ft of water. The bottom was soft and the current medium. Six feet from shore a tree 10 inches in diameter was laying in the water, parallel to the course of the river. Here, the water was four feet deep. One man tried to pull himself over the tree but was unsuccessful. The river at this point was estimated at 20 ft wide. On the enemy side of the river there was an old bridge site made from logs 4 inches in diameter. It was four ft high from the water and 10 ft wide. The river bank, up and down stream from the bridge site, were about 5 ft high and almost straight up. A man standing in the water would find it tough if not impossible to climb out. After the EM came out of the water, the patrol went straight west to the road and back to E Co CE. The patrol heard and saw no enemy. They left at 2200A and returned at 0045A.
- 0400 to 1000A: All quiet in Regt'l sector. Periodic Reports to Div War Room.
- 1000 Div DO to DO: French Liaison officer with your regt will report to Div as soon as possible.
- 1002 Conference Call, DO to the battalions S-3's. Arrange your schedules among yourselves, to include 2 hr period that I can visit and inspect each battalion area during training period. Our plans have been changed--will not have patrols tonight that were previously planned.
- 1530 3d Bn S-3 to Asst S-3: Request that back road between RIGBY BR & HUNAWIHR be cleared of snow by Engrs.
- 1616 Above given to 10th Engr Bn.
- 1645 3d Bn S-3 to Asst S-3: Time arranged among Bn S-3's for Regt'l CO to visit and inspect our training areas and give talks: 1st Bn--0830 to 1030A; 2d Bn--1030 to 1200A; 3d Bn--1300 to 1500A.
- 1753 S-2 to 10th Engrs: Would like to get an overlay from you showing information on all friendly mine fields in Div sector, particularly in area north of OSTHEIM. Answer: Can have this available for your liaison officer in an hr.
- 1756 Above relayed to Div Lia clerk to notify Regt'l Lia officer.
- 1808 Div DO to DO: We have no time in our records on K Co's relief from our old sector. DO to Div DO: K Co was relieved at 0900A, 19th Jan. The Co closed in new area in HUNAWIHR at 1500A, 19th Jan.
- 1930 K Co notified attachments to send representative to briefing to be held at Regt'l Hqs at 0930A tomorrow morning. Future operations will be discussed.
- 2005 1st Bn Ex O to DO: Tell the CO that I have made the following arrangements for his talks to the troops: B Co at ZELLENDERS at their CP at 0830A; A Co at [unclear] at 0900A; C Co at [unclear] at 0930A; D Co at [unclear] at 1000A.
- 2005 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt'l sector. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.

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S-2 Periodic Report

Period: 20000 to 21000
Date: 20th February
Place: KIMBERVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
Date: 21 January 1952

No. 21
Type: PLANS 1,00,000, COLMAR Sheet

1. Top Front Line 15th Infantry in reserve position.

2. Locations of Troops
1st Co in KIMBERVILLE, via 7004501.
2d Co in KIMBERVILLE
3d Co in KIMBERVILLE
1st Co in KIMBERVILLE
2d Co in KIMBERVILLE
3d Co in KIMBERVILLE
4th Co in KIMBERVILLE
5th Co in KIMBERVILLE
6th Co in KIMBERVILLE

L-1037

3. Strength and Composition Units heavy armaments limited visibility.

4. Topography of the Region

The region consists of various positions and excellent communication and training program. Details for the period covered the following subjects: Class order drill, marches, extended order drill, gas mask training, drill with machine and weapons including (to include instruction on the "Panofort").

A few men were observed patrol left in position with machine in front of the bank of the river from 700450 to 700455 in KIMBERVILLE. The conditions of the river bank, possibly bridge girders and remaining along bank of the river and any signs of enemy activity. No patrol observed at KIMBERVILLE.

5. Signal Equipment
1st Co in KIMBERVILLE (As of 20 Jan)

1st Co in KIMBERVILLE
2d Co in KIMBERVILLE
3d Co in KIMBERVILLE
4th Co in KIMBERVILLE
5th Co in KIMBERVILLE
6th Co in KIMBERVILLE

6. Locations of Troops
1st Co in KIMBERVILLE in reserve position.
2d Co in KIMBERVILLE in reserve position.
3d Co in KIMBERVILLE in reserve position.

SECRET

1st Infantry
REHEARSALS, FRANCE
22 January 1948

FIELD ORDER

NUMBER 1)

OPERATION GRANDISLAM

Map: FRANCE, 1:50,000, Sheets XXVII, 18 & 19

1. **Details:** See annex # 1 (PO # 1, 2A-1st Div)

- b. (1) **Friendlies:**
- (a) 1st French Army attacks with all available force from S & W, converging on NEUF-BRIGAC to completely eliminate by ALBON bridgehead.
 - (b) 2d Inf Div attacks D-Day, H-Hour, forcing successive crossings of the La FROGE & LILL Rivers to the south, seizing crossings over the SAUMER Canal, SAUMER and CAPRESA COLMAR, and important terrain features to S & SE of COLMAR, preliminary to continued attack to S & SE.
 - (c) For additional details of the scheme of maneuver of units, see Operation Overlay.

2. **1st Infantry, attached:** Co B, 750th Tk Bn one platoon
Co B, 601st TD Bn one platoon
Co A, 29th Inf Bn one platoon
Three Sect's 441st AAA AW Bn (75)
4d Platoon, Co D, 750th Tk Bn

Will be prepared on D-Day to assemble in the Selmer Forest (see map) to execute the mission of either the 7th or 30th Infantry, will be prepared from area # 1 to continue the attack of the Div on NEUF-BRIGAC, capture COLMAR or to isolate COLMAR on the S; capture WINTZENHEIM & FROSTHEIM on the SW.

b. **D-Day, H-Hour to be announced.**

c. **Plan of Attack:**

(1) **Plan # 1:**

On receipt of orders across the La FROGE River to assemble in Selmer Forest in indicated area # 1 to continue the attack of the Div on NEUF-BRIGAC, capture COLMAR or to isolate COLMAR on the S; capture WINTZENHEIM & FROSTHEIM on the SW.

(2) **Plan # 2:**

On receipt of orders across the La FROGE River & LILL River to assemble in area # 1 (see overlay).

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SECRET

(5) Plan # 5:
On reg'l order from present area be prepared from phase line A-B to continue the attack of the 90th Inf along axis indicated.

(6) Plan # 6:
On reg'l order from assembly areas in Colmar Forest be prepared to execute Plan # 5.

(7) Plan # 7:
From present assembly area be prepared on reg'l order to continue the attack in the 7th Inf sector.

(8) Plan # 8:
From assembly area in the Colmar Forest be prepared to continue the attack of the 7th Inf along axis indicated.

(9) Plan # 9:
Be prepared on reg'l order, from the assembly area in area # 1, to attack from phase line G-H along the axis BISCHEWER, FORTHOEHE, WINDSOLLEN on phase lines G-H & H-I in conjunction with the 7th Inf on the right.

(10) Plan # 10:
Be prepared on reg'l order, from an assembly area in area # 1, to attack from phase line G-H along the indicated boundary shown in previous plan between the 7th & 18th Inf and capture objectives G-H, HUF-BRIGADE & K-L in conjunction with 904.

(11) Plan # 11:
To execute maneuver # 1 and capture COLMAR.

(12) Plan # 12:
To execute maneuver # 1 & 2, isolate COLMAR on the S, capture WILDEN, HOF, FUSCHWIL, & block to S and to the SW as indicated.

3. a. 1st Bn, 15th Infantry, attached: One Platoon, Co B, 786th Tr Bn.
One Platoon, Co B, 601st Tr Bn.
One Platoon, Co A, 99th Cal Bn.
1 Sect, 441st AAA AW Bn (SP)

(1) On reg'l order:

(a) Execute Plan # 1.

(b) Execute Plan # 2.

(c) Execute Plan # 3, seizing objectives H, J, K, L, N, & block to S & SW.

(d) Execute Plan # 4.

(e) Execute Plan # 5, seizing objectives M, N, & P.

(f) Execute Plan # 6.

(g) Execute Plan # 7, seizing objective G-H, HUF-BRIGADE, & phase line K-L within sector of advance.

(h) Be prepared on reg'l order to execute Plans 8, 9, & 10.

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b. 2d Bn, 15th Infantry; Attached: 2d Plat, Co D, 766th Tr Bn.

1 Sect, 441st AAA AN Bn.

20 1/2" 2-ton Trucks, 24 1/2-ton DPs.

- (1) On regt'l order be prepared to move by motor to exploit a break through resulting from action of the 7th or 80th Infantry.
- (2) Be prepared on regt'l order to execute one or all regt'l plans of attack.
- (3) Be prepared on regt'l order to assist by envelopment the attack of 1st or 2d Bn's and to continue the attack on objectives indicated.

c. 2d Bn, 15th Infantry; Attached: One plat, Co B, 766th Tr Bn.

One plat, Co B, 601st TD Bn.

One plat, Co A, 99th Cnl Bn.

One sect, 441st AAA AN Bn.

- (1) On regt'l order:
 - (a) Execute Plan # 1.
 - (b) Execute Plan # 2.
 - (c) Execute Plan # 3, seizing objectives G, I, & M.
 - (d) Execute Plan # 4.
 - (e) Execute Plan # 5, seizing objectives C, T, & S.
 - (f) Execute Plan # 6.
 - (g) Execute Plan # 7, seizing objectives U, V, W, HNUY-BRISACH & K-L with an asterisk of advance.

(2) Be prepared on regt'l order to execute plan 8, 9, & 10.

d. AT Company, 15th Infantry will be prepared to provide reinforcement as a rifle company, provide OP protection, provide AT defenses of assembly areas or be prepared to relieve established road blocks.

e. Co Company, 15th Infantry:

- (1) Will be prepared from present position to provide supporting fires in conjunction with 89th FA Bn.
- (2) Displace forward as directed by CO, 89th FA Bn.
- (3) Provide direct support missions as directed by CO, 15th Infantry.

f. I & B Platoon will make reconnaissance of established bridge sites and be prepared to guide Bn's in crossing sites.

g. Reference Lines: For purpose of simplifying ground location reports and instructions, the following reference lines are established.

- (a) Little River - Red Line
- (b) COLMAR Canal - White Line
- (c) COLMAR-NEUY BRISACH Railroad Line - Blue Line
- (d) HENRY-BRISACH Canal - Green Line

(2) The attack will be conducted with a unified vigor. All enemy encountered will be destroyed.

(3) Contact between Bn's will be mutual.

(4) On receipt of message, "Alert Plan # ___", Bn COs will immediately alert their Bn's for indicated movement.

(5) On receipt of message, "Execute Plan # ___", Bn's will immediately take necessary steps to place operation indicated in action.

(6) Permission for vehicles to cross bridges will come through this Bn. No vehicle will be allowed to cross bridge without priority.

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- (1) All personnel will be briefed concerning the operation at once.
Necessary discipline regarding plans is directed.
- (2) AT night carried, as directed by RA CO, for contemplated roadblock.
- (3) Bridges contemplated to be built:
- (a) Two Infantry assault bridges over the LA VENT River and two Infantry assault bridges over the L'ILL River in the 30th Infantry zone.
 - (b) Two Infantry assault bridges in the 30th Infantry zone.
 - (c) One armored force roadway bridge or light assault bridge over the LA VENT River and one light assault bridge over the L'ILL River at either end of the E/W road through the SOLMAR Forest.
 - (d) One class 40 ton bridge at GORRE.
 - (e) One armored force roadway bridge at the crossing of the road running S from GORRE over the L'ILL River.
 - (f) Two armored force roadway or Rafted Bridges over the SOLMAR Canal E and W of WINDSCHWEN.
- (4) Contemplated bridges at:
- a. Over the L'ILL River S of BOURGAIN, 7847.
 - b. Over the LA VENT River E of BOURGAIN, 7847.

- a. Gas masks will be carried.
 - b. "White Duck" suits will be worn by all troops. One blanket.
 - c. One ration will be carried on the individual.
 - d. Two bandoliers will be carried per rifleman.
 - e. Minimum of two fragmentation hand grenades per man will be carried.
 - f. Minimum of four M2 grenades per squad.
 - g. M1 property, normal.
 - h. Survival, normal.
 - i. Skis and snow shovels will be carried in regimental train.
- b. a. Current SOI in effect. All units will familiarize themselves with current flare signals.
- b. CFX to be announced.

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22 JANUARY 1945

0006 1st Bn. All quiet.
0055 2d Bn. All quiet.
0108 1st Bn. All quiet.
0200 3d Bn. All quiet.
0208 1st Bn. All quiet.
0240 1st Bn. All quiet.
0255 2d Bn. All quiet.
0300 3d Bn. All quiet.
0312 1st Bn. All quiet.
0358 to 0715, All units report no activity.
0928 1st Bn S-2 to S-1. ~~Re aerial photos. You will get 8 copies of 8 different photos should reach you today.~~
1050 S-2 to CO 1st Bn. The I & K will be available for guides to bridge sites.
1416 RMTG to Ex O. We are receiving 20 trucks from Division for 2d Bn. Ex O said to add 4 trucks if sure to make total of 24.
1506 G-4 to Ex O. Have 1,508 bayonets for issue, 1,250 bayonets of which do not have scabbards. Ordnance says that it is Division order for every man to carry bayonets. Ex O said to issue bayonets with scabbard. Hold the others.
1624 CG arrived at CP, CG to Ex O. Be prepared to move regiment anytime after midnight tonight.
1634 CG left CP.
1603 CG returned to CP.
1624 1st Bn S-3 to S-2. Plat ldrs of tanks and TDs have not reported to us yet. Are we required to continue firing 4.2 mortars without lanyard? S-3. Use lanyard at 4.2 mortar fire. No smoke rounds for 4.2 are to be fired.
1651 DO to CO, Co B, 786th Tk Bn. Have plat ldrs report to the bat's that they are attached to. Will have them report before dark.
1655 S-6 to Ex O. Painted 16 jeeps and 6 trailers white, today. Will paint Co C's trucks tomorrow.
1736 S-4 to RMTG. Call 1st Bn S-4's and tell them we have some white cloth for helmets if they are short of same.
1741 Dy Clerk recorded following written message. "Command Post Opened at BIRBAHILL at 213000. CG."
1748 Co C to Asst Com Co. Need a technician for radio check. Will send one immediately.
1803 CG AT Co says that Asst S-4 to trade AT guns with other unit. Asst S-4 will talk to G-4.
1816 CO 1st Bn to Asst S-2. Anything for us. Nothing new to report.
1846 Asst S-3 to S-5, 1st Bn. Has Co or TD liaison arrived yet? The Co liaison has arrived but not the TD liaison.
2030 CO to COs of all bns. Be prepared to execute Plan #1 by 0800A tomorrow. I will call at that time to give you any available information. Have your Co CO's present along with CO, AT Co at 1st Bn CP and Co C, CO, at 2d Bn CP. Brief your officers once more on information pertaining to areas, prospective routes, roads, and bridges. Trucks for 2d Bn will be held at Service Co.
2130 G-2 to S-6. 7th Infantry has 2 Bn's crossing La FROCHT River; 30th Infantry has 2 Co's across the river. All 6 bridges are still in. No reaction yet.
2231 G-2 to S-6, 7th Inf. (at 203000) reports MG's and mortars, BN of OSTHEIM, CP at 692881 reports 2 amber flares at azimuth of 267 degrees. Also MG tracers.
2205 MTG to DO. Have 22 trucks ready for 2d Bn. Can get 4 more.
2255 1st Bn S-2 to S-3. ~~Have 4 more trucks. One of our trucks is being used~~ they know of any soldiers that were going into the big woods (COLMAR Forest) across the river. Might be spies.
2255 S-2 to G-2. Relays the above msg. G-2: 7th Infantry hit mine field at 764536. No report of casualties. There is a report of strong A/A fire on the 7th's right. The 30th Infantry contacted one enemy MG at GUEMAR and reports. SP fire from due south of that town.
2311 3d Bn reports all quiet.
2316 1st Bn reports all quiet.

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

**By 15th Infantry
RIEBAUVILLE, FRANCE
22 January 1945**

Annex # 1, to FO # 1, 15th Infantry

**TERRAIN INFORMATION
(Source: French Forest Guards)**

1. There are ford sites at the following points:
 - a. V7788495 -- waist deep. Similar Ford 250 yds North
 - b. V7800635.
 - c. V788551 -- about 1 meter deep. Hard bottom; banks 3 to 4 ft high, fairly steep in East, easy approach on West.
 - d. V77708435 -- less than 1 meter deep. Hard bottom. East bank steep, West bank sloping, banks about 3-4 feet high.
 - e. V74188298 -- 1 meter deep. Solid bottom. West bank steep, east bank sloping. Banks 3-6 ft high.
 - f. V73985220 -- same as above, but water not quite so deep. Harder to get to.
 - g. V74405515 -- same as e. Possibly a footbridge at ford location.
 - h. Vic V770818 -- about 1 meter deep in spots, banks 4-5 feet. Solid bottom. West slope gradual, east bank steep.

2. Miscellaneous Terrain Information:
 - a. By closing dams along the ILL River, and dams on the FRECHT River via V747-553 and V76185420, enemy might be able to flood considerable areas in vic of the dams.
 - b. Closing dams on the COLMAR canal WOULD NOT flood any surrounding country.
 - c. Woods east of the FRECHT River consists chiefly of good-sized oak trees with fairly thick undergrowth, but not sufficient to stop foot movement.
 - d. Soil in forest of ROTHEBIELE south of OSTHEIM is sandy and firm. North of V7853, the terrain is poor for vehicular movement due to roughness and would have to be frozen solid to insure passage.
 - e. East-West road through BIERENHALL V760818 is a good 2-way road. It crosses several small watercourses over bridges which are too small to present much of an obstacle even if blown, as the gaps could be quickly filled in. The road is ditched on both sides.
 - f. The dike east of HOUSSER is 4 to 5 feet high and 10 to 12 ft wide. It should not present an obstacle to tanks.
 - g. The GRUBACH River immediately east of the ILL has many deep spots in it and might be as hard to cross, in places as the ILL itself.

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8-3

CONFIDENTIAL

23 January 1945

- 0006: 1st Bn: All quiet.
- 0007: DO reports all quiet to Division DO. Div DO to DO: The 30th Infantry attack is progressing. The last two companies to cross the river were ~~the 1st and 2nd companies of the 1st Battalion~~ through objective B and is headed for objective C. The right battalion passed D line. The right battalion of the 7th Infantry is to take D line. Initially, it remains wire and mines. The left battalion of the 7th Infantry is at 750515. They are encountering S/A fire.
- 0030: G-3 to DO: If the attack of the 7th and 30th Infantry progresses as well as it has been the CG may want to send the 15th Infantry into the COLMAR Forest, before daylight. You will move around 0400 or 0500. You will be notified later and put on a 30 minute alert if it is decided to go through with the plan.
- 0035: Above messages relayed to battalions by DO.
- 0036 to 0230: Battalions reported all quiet.
- 0230: 30th Infantry Ex C to DO: One battalion is on the way to ROUSSEN, 1st Bn is on L'ILL River, 3d battalion is SW of Rjea the way to 766507.
- 0230 to 0420: Periodic reports from battalions indicate no enemy activity.
- 0420: Division DO reports: 7th Infantry 3d battalion is on objective Z going up the road to OSTHEIM. 1st battalion is on the outskirts of OSTHEIM, receiving S/A and MG fire. 2d Bn is going south through the woods, vic 749532.
- 0420 to 0730: Battalions reported all quiet.
- 0730: 7th Infantry to DO: 2d Bn just short of 730495 and will move on the Chateau at 721488. 1st Battalion has practically cleared OSTHEIM. 1st Battalion encountered many mine fields. 3d Bn moving from 768488 to NW.
- 0810: S-3 gave situation report to all three battalions.
- 0830: 7th Infantry S-2 to S-3: Enemy blew bridge at OSTHEIM. Engineers are working on new bridge now. (Mag relayed to Bn's).
- 1007: Division reports: 3d Bn 7th Infantry located at 740485. Counterattack was forming to S of ILLHOUSEN estimated 300-500 infantry with tanks. Broken up by artillery. 2d Bn 7th Infantry is at northern edge of woods ready to go into the woods. Still fighting south of OSTHEIM. 30th Inf has a Bn at approx 765516 and a Bn in woods NW of RJ 767501. Fighter bombers have attacked GUEMAR artillery.
- 1016: CG 30th Infantry to CG: The CG wants a battalion moved immediately to relieve 2d Bn 30th Infantry in vic 765525. Have Bn CG and party stop at CP for guide. Mission will be to block and protect left and rear of the 30th. BnI is assisting ILLHOUSEN. They have not crossed the river.
- 1020: CG to 3d Bn S-3: Ordered move as above. Suggest you take AT guns with you. Plat of TD's is GUEMAR, call us if you need them. Move as far as the RIBEAUVILLE Station by truck then by foot to GUEMAR.
- 1032: S-2 to Div War Room: War Room says 264th Inf fighting hard on hill 216. They attacked from NW and found enemy on SE slope. Cub plane has observed French DBI 200 yds N and 200 yds west of ILLHOUSEN.
- 1036: S-2 to CG, 1st Bn: 3d Bn moving. Gives situation as to bridges, arty and IAR platoon leader.
- 1037: IAR Plat led to S-3. Bailey bridge is in N of OSTHEIM 1200 yds NE of RJ 182 (735535). SE part of OSTHEIM not cleared.
- 1045: S-2 to CG 1st Bn: Between DEBLENSHEIM and OSTHEIM vic of 715515, there is and arty concentration.
- 1157: CG to Ex C: Have regiment prepared to move lat area. Get 1st Bn to make PACE. Don't move until we get clearance from 30th.
- 1159: Ex C to CG's 1st and 2d Bn's: Ron should be made for foot or truck movement. CG wants movement before dark. A plat of tks will be attached to 1st Bn and a plat of TDs to 2d Bn. Ex C will tell the plat leaders to report to you. 1st Bn use OSTHEIM Bridge (not in as yet) or half-way bridge (in).
- 1230: Ex C, 3d Bn to DO: L Co left 30 minutes ago; I Co left 15 minutes ago; K Co has cleared town and M Co will leave in five minutes.

23 January 1945, Cont'd

- 1235 G-2 to S-2: OSTHEIM Bridge has not been completed yet.
- 1245 Div War Room to Ex O: Fwd elements of 30th Inf now at 775485 northing. 7th Inf leading elements at 735485.
- 1255 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-2: All elements have cleared old area. Fwd CP established at 760518.
- 1300 ~~WAR Plan Lds to S-2: Broadway bridge at 768518 is being used. Foot troops are using it and armor is preparing to cross on it. Road blocks and mines on that road.~~
- 1316 Div War Room to S-2: French report they have taken ILLHAUSEN with all bridges intact.
- 1325 CO to Ex O: (As JOER Inf CP) Foot elements of 3d Bn, 10th Inf are passing thru here now. Road is swept of mines but we must take care to stay on roads. Have been all the way to objective "B". Paths thru mine fields.
- 1345 MP officer to S-3: 3d Bn now crossing GUMMAR bridge.
- 1400 DO 30th Inf to S-2: E-W road south of COLMAR Woods are road blocks on it. E-W road thru woods is clear all the way to NIEDERWALD. Two Mark VI tanks near X-road, SW of GUMMAR. Have one company moving on HALTZWIHR and RIEDWIHR each.
- 1415 Div War Room to S-2: Road running E thru COLMAR woods has been swept as far as NIEDERWALD.
- 1425 G-3 to CO: CG directs that remainder of 15th Inf move to SE part of COLMAR Forest by foot. You will move only minimum battalion tactical vehicles, command and communication vehicles plus one platoon of tanks and TD's. You will have mission tonite for one battalion; one company will guard bridge E of E-W road thru COLMAR Woods. One company will guard bridge via LA MAISON ROUGE (768502). Bn will carry this out until released on Div order. Remainder of regt (less the one Bn) will be prepared to proceed to area #1 on Div order by midnight. Foot elements will cross on bridge via E-W rd thru COLMAR Forest. Armor on LA MAISON ROUGE Bridge. 30th Inf is in the process of entering RIEDWIHR.
- 1440 Conference call: CO to CO's, 1st and 2d Bns. Give above msg. 3d Bn will guard bridges (See above msg). 1st Bn will move to area E of road running S of NIEDERWALD, between town and edge of woods. 2d Bn will move to same area but west side of road. Spread out and be prepared to continue south down road. Above movement to start at once, on foot. Move no vehicles across without priority from us. Close in woods by dark. Tanks will be attached to 1st Bn. 1st Bn will lead.
- 1500 7th Inf S-2 to S-2: Road from OSTHEIM to GUMMAR is swept. Road is being swept from OSTHEIM to the SE. Enemy infiltrated thru 3d Bn this AM - they were in woods NE and SE of OSTHEIM. Were unable to see enemy because of snow fall. We broke up C/A forming HOUHSEN with arty.
- 1504 Div DO to S-3: You are not to send re-inforcing trucks across bridges until further notice.
- 1510 Ex O to Comm O: Set up tent CP south of NIEDERWALD, RJ at 760518. 1st Bn will be on east side of that south road 2d Bn will be on west side of that south road 3d Bn will be on east side of that south road. Guarding bridge via LA MAISON ROUGE.
- 1520 S-3 to 3d Bn: Prepare list of 17 vehicles including your flak wagons to get priority on crossing bridge.
- 1542 1st Bn CO to Ex O: B Co moved out by foot around 1530. Other companies will be moving out soon.
- 1611 G-3 to Ex O: Change in plans: One of your Bns will move to bridge at 768518 and proceed generally to a position 1000 yds NE with mission to in vic of 776530 and right flank via 787620. Patrol south from latter coordinate and contact 30th Inf. Contact point will be determined later. Patrol N and contact French in ILLHAUSEN. Woods east of L'ILL River not closed of enemy. Be prepared to move entire Regt or Regt (-2 Bns) on our order to Area "One (1)". Patrol east of easternmost creek and along east bank of L'ILL River and also patrol to front.

23 January 1945, Cont'd

1612 Mission in 1611 msg given to 1st Bn.

1658 Div Lt O to S-2: Location of 30th Inf; A Co - 773484, B Co - 780488; C Co - 772501; 3d Bn vic 787502. 7th Inf has practically cleared OSTHEIM.

2015 CO, 3d Bn to S-3: I and K Co's are in position and 2 platoons of L Co patrolling in between.

2020 Ex O, 3d Bn to CO: L Co is at south edge of COLMAR Forest. Have one platoon behind MAISON ROUGE Bridge with I Co to North of that. 2 Bn's of 30th Inf are at bridge "3", our K Co is in position at 771515.

2025 CO to HQ, 30th Inf: Have approx 75 of your men here. Send officers to organize them. DO NOT send tank to CO. Tank fell thru MAISON ROUGE bridge and we could not get our armor across to support attack.

2030 CO to CO: Have companies beyond bridge "C", but not across MAISON ROUGE have L Co behind it; 1st Bn in vicinity N bridge (770620) with one Co across. AT guns are on the way to them.

CO to CO: Do not send anymore men across river. Make plans to take over 30th Inf - attack with same objectives, but 30th Inf will continue if men are physically and mentally fit. Plan now is to hold bridgehead, and line along ILL River. We will get bridge that tank fell through back in, send armor across and attack again. Get AT guns to 1st Bn at once. CO, 30th Inf to CO: When tank went through MAISON ROUGE Bridge, we could not get our armor across. Enemy counterattacked with armor force and we could not hold with out armor. Men scattered and took off for rear. Have about 600 rounded up and expect a good number more.

2115 CO to CO, 1st Bn: Hold your bridge block. Use a section of tanks and put them in firing positions west of river vic 770515. 30th Inf is reorganizing, if you find any of their men, group them and hold them.

2205 3d Bn CO to CO: CO of 30th Inf would like for us to contact his B Co between L'ILL and L'ORCHBACH Rivers.

2215 Ex O to 30th Inf CO: A Plat Sgt with 24 men from your B Co reported in to B Co, 3d Med Bn. They fired all ammo and destroyed mortars before they retreated.

2252 Ex 30th Inf, 1st Bn to Ex O: Bridge at 772501 was prepared for demolition by enemy, but we have cut igniter cord. That bridge will support armor.

2255 3d Bn CO to Ex O: We sent patrol across bridge site at 788502 to house near stream. No report from patrol.

2305 Div Lt O to Ex O: 20th Inf, 2d Bn will relieve your 1st Bn prior to daylight. Reiz Co of 801st TD will be detached from 30th Inf and will be ahead to you.

2345 Ex O to Asst G-3: TD's are in RIREAUVILLE and will move out at 0030A. Tanks are in ZELLENBERG and will move at 0045A. They will move from town they are in to RJ 183 and across center bridge vicinity 737520. (Above msg relayed to Tanks and TD's)

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 221200A to 231200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : RIBEDEVILLE, FRANCE.
Date : 22 January, 1946

No. 23

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Line: 15th Infantry in reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt 1 CP in RIBEDEVILLE; 1st Bn CP in RIQUEWIHR; A Co in RIQUEWIHR; B Co in RIQUEWIHR; C and D Cos in RIQUEWIHR; 3d Bn in HUNAWIHR; 3d Bn in RIQUEWIHR prepared to move to vic GUEMAR.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cold, foggy, light snow flurries; visibility limited.

4. Information of Adjacent and Attached Units:

7th and 30th Infantry: Attacked at 222100A to clear OSTHEIM and the COLMAR Forest and to continue the advance south toward COLMAR. Generally, enemy resistance was light, but elements of 7th Infantry encountered heavier resistance in OSTHEIM.

Tank Attachments: Co B, 756th Tk Bn (-one platoon) attached to 15th Infantry. One platoon prepared, at close of the period, to move with 3d Bn to area SE of GUEMAR. Platoon, Co D, 756th Tk Bn attached to 15th Infantry.

TD Attachments: Co B, 601st TD Bn (-one platoon) attached to 15th Infantry. At the close of the period one section, attached to 3d Bn, was prepared to move to area SE of GUEMAR.

Other Attachments: Co A 99th Cml Bn, Elnac sections 441st AAA AW Bn.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in Division reserve positions while the 7th and 30th attacked. At approx 231015A, 3d Bn was ordered to move to assembly area SE of GUEMAR, via V765625 to relieve 2d Bn, 30th Infantry and block to the north and east as the 30th Infantry continued the attack to the south. At the close of the period, 1 Co was beginning to move from RIQUEWIHR area.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 22 Jan)

Officers: 84%

RM: 84%

WO: 100%

Rifle trench Strength:

Officers: 40

RM: 26

7. Results of Operations:

a. 15th Inf (-) remained in assembly areas.

b. 3d Bn beginning to move from RIQUEWIHR to assembly area SE of GUEMAR.

COMRIS
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Hq 15th Infantry
COLMAR Forest
23 January 1945

NUMBER 8

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet

1. The 15th Infantry attacks at H hour, 24 January 1945 to clear the woods north of HOLTZWIER, capture RIEDWIER, and the streamline at V798489.
2. a. First Battalion, attached: 1 Plat, Co C 601st TD Bn
1 Plat, Co B 756th Tk Bn.
 - (1) Will attack at H hour from an assembly area in the SE corner of the COLMAR Forest, SE seizing objective F and clearing the woods adjoining the road running N out of HOLTZWIER.b. Second Battalion, attached: 1 Plat, Co D 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat, Co C 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat, Co B 601st TD Bn
 - (1) Will attack from present positions at an hour to be designated by this headquarters.
 - (2) Seize and hold RIEDWIER (Objective G), blocking along the stream line to the E and S.
 - (3) Maintain contact with the 1st Bn on the right by patrols.c. Third Battalion, attached: 1 Plat Co B 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat Co R 601st TD Bn
 - (1) Will be prepared to attack from bridgehead to seize RJ, V798499 and streamline 500 yds to the E.
 - (2) Extend line 400 yds N of this point.
 - (3) Establish contact with 2d Bn by patrols.d. 3d Ron Troop, attached: 1 Plat Co D, 766th Tk Bn.
 - (1) Will protect the regimental left flank and maintain contact with the French.e. One plat Co C, 756th Tk Bn and one plat Co C 601st TD Bn report to Bn CO, 30th Infantry in OSTHEIM as Division reserve.
- x. (1) 4.2 mortars will be prepared to lay a smoke screen at V780608, extending south 1,000 yards.
 - (2) Time of attack dependent upon completion of bridges.
 - (3) One plat Co C, 601st TD Bn will remain in position on S edge of COLMAR Forest, blocking to the S.
 - (4) Tanks will precede foot troops in the attack.

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
Cdr.

COLMAR

8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

24 January 1945

- 0007 1st Bn reports all quiet.
- 0016 1st Bn CO to Bx Co: One tank attached to us is in ditch with thrown track, ~~at 255000~~
- 0050 G-2 to S-2: There is not much change in 7th Inf situation. Bn on objective "L".
- 0116 G-3 to CO: Tomorrow, after bridge is in, seize AB. 3d Bn will have covering mission. Western most objective is "P" woods, not the town. Woods east of CR, vicinity 796490. 3d Ron and B.P., C Co 756th Tks; C Co 601st TD Bn are attached to 16th Inf. They have been notified and will send liaison. Attack plan is based upon at least one bridge being in. Armor is to lead the Inf in the assault. You may have to smoke east flank. You may have clearance to move up Cml mortars. Put a platoon of TD's tomorrow AM along south edge of woods, vic 753498 sighted south. French are attacking tonight with 2 Bn's. Objective is GRUSSENHEIM. No report on progress. Arty has been notified of 16th mission for tomorrow. Since there has been no strong resistance from enemy infantry, we believe if we hit them with armor first, attack will be successful. Take all the time you need to prepare for the attack. Will not put it on until you are ready (sometime in the morning). 7th Inf 3d Bn is in woods NE of ROUSSEN with plat of tanks and TD's. 2d Bn, 7th Inf, is in the woods to the west with armor. 1st Bn is attacking Chataeu, running into enemy dug-in on both sides of the road. Will resume the attack in the AM on ROUSSEN and ROZEBERANZ.
- 0145 CO to CO 1st Bn: Upon relief by 264th Inf, move Bn to vic 760505. CO 1st Bn to CO: 264th said they will leave GUEMAR at 0200.
- 0145 CO, Co C, 601st TD Bn reported to CO: (Co C with 12 TD's attached to 15th Inf)
- 0200 CO to 2d Bn S-3: Send a patrol from CR, 753498 SW to woods vic 740488 and contact Bn of 7th Infantry in that woods. Run the patrol twice tonight. Your objective for tomorrow will probably be REINWIR - 1st Bn objective, woods "P", NW of REINWIR.
- 0215 S-3 to CO 1st Bn: Change in your armor attachments. 8 TD's from C Co will be attached to you. 4 TD's from G Co will block to the South. The TD's are already in position in areas where you will assemble. You will keep the 3 tanks you have. Have your attachments notified.
- 0220 S-3 to 2d Bn S-3: Armor attachments for 2d Bn: 2 plats Co C, 756; one plat TD's, 1 plat light tanks.
- 0225 CO 3d Bn to CO: 41 FA has concentration on house vic "E". Enemy tank is reported at house. Co's will jump off at 0300; I on left, K on the right, L in reserve.
- 0260 Cml Lia Off to S-6: Art attached to you for the attack. Have 2 Plats at 769523 and one plat in support at 755632.
- 0311 CO to All Bns: Give attack order for AM. I Co is across bridge and K Co moving across now. Reported 3 enemy tanks KO'd in "P" woods.
- 0436 3d Div SO to DO: Your AT and CN Co's now crossing bridge at TCP #6
- 0440 DO to Div War Room: Want smoke posts to cover bridge sites. Anti-smoke generators are in operation by bridges.
- 0515 S-2 to CO: Tanks are in position. Breakway bridge is not in yet.
- 0630 Asst CG to CG: Patrol contacted 7th Inf and report no enemy. Sent officer to investigate progress of bridge.
- 0641 CO to 1st Bn CO: Are you in yet? One company in position but rest on way. Came in about one hour ago.
- 0610 1st Bn DO to CO: two Germans turned into B Co. Are sending them up.
- 0615 Div War Room to CO: One Plat of TD's and tanks of C Co are to go to 3d Bn of 30th Inf in OSTHEIM as Div reserve.
- 0620 CO to 2d Bn S-3: One plat of Co C of 766th tanks are relieved from you for Div reserve.
(1st Bn notified of same).

24 JANUARY 1945 (Contd)

- 0660 Div S-3 to CO - You will have 4.2 mortars to help for your advance. Won't be much help until generators get here.
- 0626 CO 1st Bn to Asst S-3. What is the enemy situation. 2d Bn has contacted the 7th Infantry and ran into no enemy. I Co has received some fire from north side of bridge.
- 0713 CO 1st Bn to CG. Bridge is in. 264th Infantry has not relieved A & B Co's.
- 0727 CO to 4.2 mortars. Am informed of delay because of ammo on road. Fire as soon as possible. Cover 1200 yards area from 775516 to 780500.
- 0728 Asst S-3 to G-3. Both of bridges are in north of Wilson Rouge. One across LILL River located via 770616; the other across ORCHBACH River is also in.
- 0730 CO to 3d Bn S-3. Get armor across bridge for support. K Company is still getting fire from woods. K Company is 1,000 yards south of edge of woods.
- 0750 3d Bn S-3 to DC. K Company is 500 yards south of main bridge. I Company is 400 yards east of bridge. Armor is not across as yet. Platoon of tanks are going down to join K Company.
- 0752 Asst S-3 to French Lia Officer. Go to Berghelm and contact 5th Brigade to find out what the French are doing and report to us.
- 0807 CO to CO 1st Bn. Company C of tanks will be available to you. Platoon leader coming down to see you now. Give him 3d Bn dispositions.
- 0835 Ex O, 3d Bn to Ex O. Our troops are drawing considerable artillery and mortar fire on positions. Platoon of tanks left about fifteen minutes ago to join K Company. We cannot march on MAISON ROUGE bridge until it is smoked. Quite a bit of enemy artillery in there. We are firing counter-battery on woods beyond and it is helping some.
- 0840 CO 1st Bn to CG. We will jump off at 1000A from E-W road, running through MAISON ROUGE bridge. Leading company will move out at 0915A for LD.
- 0845 CO to G-3. Gave last message. We are continuing to patrol OSTHEIM Road. CG advises that you set up your own traffic control on bridge.
- 0910 Ex O to S-3, 40th Engrs. No more small arms fire on bridge at 767602. Bridgehead secure. Start work on bridge as soon as possible.
- 0915 G-3 to Ex O. Use bn of 264th Infantry to cover both bridges after your attacks start. When 3d Bn moves out from their bridge site, put battalion less 1 company at upper bridge and one company at lower bridge. Dispose AT guns so that both will have AT guns for support.
- 0920 Ex O to 2d Bn, 264th Infantry. When our 3d Bn moves out, put one company at MAISON ROUGE bridge and hold bridgehead on east side. When we begin to smoke area (about 1000A) run patrols into smoke to see nobody infiltrates into it. We are attaching another platoon of AT guns for use there. 264th Infantry said they have 3 AT guns.
- 0925 CO 1st Bn to CO. Tanks have not arrived yet.
- 0935 Field Message. To 3d Ron Troop. Friendly tanks at 782536 awaiting bridge.
- 0940 Asst CG to CG. 1st Bn will jump off at 1000A with armor followed by 3d Bn.
- 0955 7th Inf to DC. Enemy counterattack at 734478; we are throwing artillery and tanks in.
- 1000 S-2 to Ex O 3d Bn. PWs say there is a th bn of 3 cos, 12 ths each in this sector. Report of counterattack yesterday - came from MARCKOLSHEIM.
- 1010 CO 1st Bn to S-3. We are moving north to LD.
- 1025 CO 1st Bn to S-3. Still moving to LD. Estimate we will attack at 1045A. Laying wire as we go - will be out of telephone communication for awhile.
- 1040 DC 2d Bn, 264th Inf to S-2. Enemy S/A fire coming from 775505.
- 1041 601st Ron reports enemy counterattack coming at HUSSEN. Enemy tanks are at 740481 (as of 1000A).
- 1045 Field Message from 1st Platoon, 3d Ron, to CP. "Enemy troops leaving forest at 743486. Also can see 3 tanks. Believe they are curs."
- 1050 CO to Ex O 3d Bn. Elements of I & K Co's coming back toward Regt CP. Ex O, 3d Bn: Enemy tanks attacking I & K Co's. K Co still out there with groups of infantry and 2 tanks.
- 1100 Oral from CO. Enemy came in with 3 tanks and overran I Co positions, men swimming back across both rivers.

24 JANUARY 1945 (Contd)

- 1100 CO to Ex O, 3d Bn. Get a section of TDs across both rivers and meet enemy tanks. If you can use 1st Bn TDs, they are attached to you.
- 1110 CO 2d Bn to Ex O, 2d Bn. Gave situation. Have our tanks on alert and do any shooting they can. Alert E & F Co's outposts.
- 1116 Ex O, 3d Bn to Ex O. Have TDs firing at enemy armor now. They have good fields of fire. Details of counterattack - enemy with 4 tanks overran I Co positions, 500 yards east of MIRON HOUSE bridge, part of I Co still in position but I Co broke up. Enemy moved up along edge of woods, west of RIEDWIHR and set up 2 sections of mortars. Then enemy came down road with 4 tanks and a platoon and a half of infantry and overran I Co. 1 enemy tank was knocked out. Have rounded up elements of all bas. 1st Bn was badly scattered, F Co reports enemy on run now. We plan to cross river and retake I Co positions. Have 2 tanks across river. TDs firing from west side of it. Ex O. Send officer to pick up men we have rounded up.
- 1125 Ex O to Div War Room. Gave last message. We still hold bridgehead across L'ILL River but not across 2d stream. Div War Room: 59th FA reports 3 enemy tanks moving east on road and 4 moving southeast on road.
- ~~1144 CG 1st Bn to Ex O. We were crossing bridge when enemy counterattacked in 3d Bn sector. Some 30th Infantry and some of our 3d Bn infiltrated back to us. Some men reported 10 tanks in counterattack, possibly most of them stayed back giving supporting fire. We have 7 tanks west of river with my Bn. One of our TDs knocked out one enemy TD. Part of 264th Infantry, 2d Bn, was disorganized but now they are back in position.~~
- 1149 2d Bn, 264th Inf to Ex O. F Co is on other side of 2d River, E Co between the two rivers, G is on west side of L'ILL River. We received small arms fire but it was not fired at us. Men laid low in foxholes. G Co will soon move to southern bridge. Ex O. Hold G Co until further notice.
- 1168 S-2 to G-2. Report on enemy armor ko'd. 2 enemy tanks ko'd vic 745489. 3 enemy tanks ko'd by our TDs that are now burning vic 766488. G-2 to S-2. 7th Infantry received counterattack from town of HOUSEN up to woods north of town. 7th Infantry still holds woods however. 1st Bn 7th Infantry in CHATEAU. Enemy is in woods south of CHATEAU. OSTHEIM Bailey bridge was completed last night.
- 1208 CO to Ex O. I spotted enemy tanks, 210 degree azimuth, but couldn't get armor in position to fire without being detected by enemy. Enemy is too close to our lines to fire artillery on it; Enemy has probably picked up our positions here at 2d Bn, 264th Infantry. Dropping some rounds in but can't spot locations of any guns. 1st Bn TDs did not KO an enemy TD, but hit some object very similar.
- 1216 3d Bn Ex O to S-3. 3d tank that crossed river is unaccounted for - probably KO'd. K Co with 35 or 40 men is across first river. Spotted enemy tank at 773497, firing artillery on it now. Unable to maneuver TDs without exposing them to too much enemy fire. I Co swam back across river. Have 75 men from that company. We are getting dry clothes and equipment up to them. Another section of HMGs is going over to K Co.
- 1235 CO to S-3. Start putting down a smoke screen. Tell Ex O to start 1st Bn on their original mission.
- 1243 CO Co B, 601st TD Bn Reports enemy counterattack forming at 770480, two tanks and infantry.
- ~~1246 3d Bn Arty In O to Ex O. We are firing mission on 50 enemy personnel vic 773500.~~
- 1260 Asst CG to Ex O. Do not delay 1st Bn's attack.
- 1300 Written message. French tanks moving southeast thru 784536.
- 1300 766 Tk Bn CO to Ex O. Highly recommend that we build up armor on bridgehead even if it involves momentarily separating infantry and armor. Ex O to 766th Tk Bn CO. 1st Bn will cross with 7 tanks and 4 TDs. Have 2 TDs over I'LL River.

24 JANUARY 1946, Cont'd

- 1336 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: 2d Bn south of road. 1st Bn getting ready to go. I Co has 36 men and K Co has 35 men at 3d Bn CP being re-equipped.
- 1366 Asst Div Cndr to CO: 11 tanks and 4 TD's supporting 1st Bn attack. They are proceeding infantry and crossed river. Armor crossed fifteen minutes ago. CnI - Get 2d Bn to edge of woods and shoot across river. Bn objective is "P". Use four TD's attached to 2d Bn to follow 1st Bn and join rest of armor across the river. Get 2d Bn to edge of woods and shoot across river if enemy is seen.
- 1415 CO 1st Bn to Ex O: Co is in vic of 773606. There is a enemy tank 200 yds south of the position. Arty forced tanks to withdraw to bend of road. Ex O: Get armor from north bridge.
- 1435 Ex O to 3d Bn S-3: Get one Co from 264th to relieve 30th Inf group.
- 1447 Engrs to Ex O: How about bridge site. Asas- No position to put bridge in.
- 1456 S-2 to Div W. Rooms: 1st Bn approaching 1st bridge.
- 1503 Sx O to CO: 1st Bn is between stream and river now. 8 tanks and four TD's out in front. 5 tanks which were missing are at bridge. Plan to use them with 2d Bn. When 1st Bn reaches woods, 2d Bn will move.
- 1530 Ex O to CO, 2d Bn: 1st Bn has reached MAISON ROUTE Ford. Three tanks which they did not take, are available to you.
- 1540 DO, 2d Bn to S-2: Our units can observe smoke along woods SW of BRIDGE. Enemy tank firing into our positions from that direction.
- 1545 CO to Asst CnI: Have 1st Bn stop at edge of woods with right flank at 770490. TD's should be in position there ready to shoot along stream in back of woods. Bn will extend from there to 179 and bend up to hit stream at 178. Have armor all set and when 2d Bn moves up, the two Bns will move out together. At Co, 30th Inf will relieve 2d Bn. 2d Bn will move out soon as possible (-) one company, which will be left there until relieved.
- 1610 Ex O to Ex O, 3d Bn: If attack goes well, 3d Bn will have mission of blocking at RJ 786490. 3d Bn Ex O: K Co SO observed 1st Bn entering woods "P".
- 1620 Asst CO to C of S: 1st Bn is well into woods on way to objective opposite RIEDWIHR.
- 1630 Fr Ia O to S-3: DB is prepared to attack when you reach RJ at 788490.
- 1635 Entire div ready to go. CO to CO, 2d Bn: 1st Bn has entered objective "P". Get your plans laid and be ready to move soon as possible. You will have a platoon of medium tanks, light tanks and a platoon of TD's. CO, 2d Bn to CO: Road 1st Bn took will be LD for attack on RIEDWIHR. Plan to take rd north of town, then scoure east road, sending G Co to block south road. Will fire heavy preparation on town with tanks and infantry moving in fast firing everything. Preparation will gradually lift to woods east of town.
- 1700 G-2 to S-3: Get a platoon of SB's at OSHURIN for your use.
- 1700 G-2 to CO: 2d Bn will move with armor along road east from MAISON ROUTE Bridge and establish blocking positions centering on 786600. 3d Bn will push flank to stream line vic 787515, patrol SE to next road and in direction of MAISON ROUTE. 1st Bn will hold and block, patrol N to L'ILL River and to contact 2d Bn. This will establish a firm bridge head for tonight. Dispose armor so you will be ready to continue attack on original objectives by mortar or later tonight.
- 1715 1st Bn Ex O to CO: Our S-3 reports that B and C Cos are on N edge of woods (Objective "P"). A Co blocking at MAISON ROUTE. Have only two tanks left - last two. 4 TD's are in position. CO to 1st Bn Ex O: Change of plans - hold and block where you are and be prepared to move out on short notice. 2d Bn will block vic of 780600. You will patrol to 2d Bn and west to L'ILL River. 3d Bn will block vic 787515 and will patrol along river.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 231200A to 241200A

Unit: 15th Infantry

Place: COLMAR Forest

Date: 24 January 1945

No. 24

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Line: ~~Our Front Line extends generally along edge of COLMAR Forest with bridgehead secured across LA MAISON ROUGE Bridge.~~
2. Disposition of Troops: Regt 1 CP vic V769513; K Co vic V769502; L Co vic V764504; I Co reorganizing; F Co on Bn left flank on southern edge of COLMAR Forest; E Co on Bn right flank; G Co to rear of E and F Co's; 1st Bn moving up to attack through 3d Bn bridgehead.
3. Weather and visibility: Hazy, limited visibility.

4. Information of Attached Units:

One platoon C Co 601st TD Bn and one platoon C Co 756 Tk Bn in OSTHEIM in Division reserve. Two platoons of tanks and one platoon of TD's attached to 1st Bn; one platoon of tanks and one platoon of TD's attached to 2d Bn; one platoon of tanks and one platoon of TD's attached to 3d Bn. One platoon of TD's in position on southern edge of COLMAR Forest sighted to the south.

Co A, 98th Cml Br, two platoons located vic V769523, 1 platoon in an overcast position vic V765532.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment was moved from assembly areas to the COLMAR Forest on the afternoon of 23 January as Division reserve. Elements of the 30th Infantry were counterattacked north of RIEDWIHR, badly disorganized, and forced to withdraw. The 3d Bn was ordered to move to vic LA MAISON ROUGE bridge and contain the bridgehead. The 3d Bn attacked at approx 240300A with I Co on left and E Co on the right to enlarge the bridgehead so the engineers could replace the bridge. On the morning of 24 Jan, enemy infantry, with 4 tanks counterattacked and overran I Co. At the close of the period, I Co was reorganizing and re-equipping their personnel, K Co was in vic V769502, and L Co was in vic V764504.

Upon relief by a Bn of the 264th Inf the 1st Bn moved to assembly area in the woods NW of RIEDWIHR. 1st Bn began moving to LD at 241000A. They were crossing the bridge when the enemy counterattacked the 3d Bn, and their advance was temporarily halted. At the close of the period, 1st Bn was prepared to attack through the 3d Bn, reinforced by 2 platoons of tanks and one platoon of TD's.

2nd Bn moved to southern edge of COLMAR Forest and held line, with G and F Co's, generally along the southern edge of the woods prepared to attack RIEDWIHR.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Rifle Troop Strength: (As of 22 Jan)

Officers: 40

EM: 975

No accurate report of strength after commitment but losses were heavy.

7. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment moved to COLMAR Forest.

b. Regiment assumed missions of 30th Infantry

c. Counterattacks repulsed.

CCM:IS

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

25 JANUARY 1945

- 0007 S-3, 30th Inf to S-2: We will have 1st Co's at MAISON ROUGE Bridge and 1st Co's at treadyway bridge by 1030A tomorrow.
- 0019 3d Bn DO to Ex O: 2 Co's in position and one is 400 yds from position.
- 0140 CO 1st Bn to Ex O: Do not believe any of the Bns will be ready to move out by 0200H. We have only one tank missing.
- 0240 DK, 3d Bn to Ex O: 10 man patrol to our objective reports no opposition.
- 0255 1st Bn 3 to Asst CG: Sent patrol to woods to south of use to retrieve wounded encountered enemy patrol on left side of stream running thru woods. At least two enemy tanks in woods. Shot C Co up badly and knocked out four of our tanks. TD's have been firing but cannot spot them. Enemy tanks have not fired in the past 4-5 hours however. A Co will be in lead, followed by C Co; B Co blocking on right side of woods. Bn CP in house at MAISON Rouge. Treadyway bridge is in and armor is moving across.
- 0305 CO, 3d Bn to Ex O: All set to move out. 2d Bn and our units are at LD.
- 0310 Asst CG to Ex O: French armor has just started moving east here (3d Bn rear CP) 3d Bn 10 man patrol is on Bn objective - 798490.
- 0312 1st Bn S-3 to Ex O: A Co is all ready to go and is getting tanks lined up.
- 0325 2d Bn Ex O to DO: The battalion jumped off at 0300. They are moving east but we have no report of their progress.
- 0330 Ex O to Div. Gave the above to War Room. Objectives: 1st Bn, woods west of RIEDWIHR; 2d Bn, RIEDWIHR, 3d Bn, 798490.
- 0400 Ex O, 2d Bn to DO: E & P Cole now at 798490.
- 0405 CO to Asst CG. 1st Bn received some resistance initially.
- 0425 CO 1st Bn to CO. A Co has advanced 600 yards south of LD (maison rouge RJ). They are now moving south of it on east side of Orbach stream. One tank in trouble via R Co position. C Co moving. We jumped off at 0315A.
- 0430 S-3 3d Bn to DO. We have radio communication with L Co. K Co has advanced 1,200 yards toward objective with no resistance. I Co moving into reserve.
- 0450 DO 2d Bn to DO. We're receiving flak and MG fire from edge of woods.
- 0512 CO 2d Bn to CO. We're not advancing now. We're receiving fire from all directions and from N & W edge of RIEDWIHR. Firing artillery now. A Co is receiving flak and MG fire from N edge RIEDWIHR woods. SO: Have A Co contact. 2d Bn and maintain it.
- 0525 CO 3d Bn to CO. Estimate K Co now at 798490. L Co left. No resistance as yet.
- 0555 DO Div to DO. Send someone down to bridge #6 and check on passage of French CC6 and instruct them to move east across both bridges and not mill around in there.
- 0605 CO 2d Bn to DO. Receiving a lot of fire from RIEDWIHR woods. Cannot pin-point it as yet. Leading elements still at phase line A - line running through N edge of woods. 2 tanks have left. Cannot locate them.
- 0615 CO 3d Bn to DO. K Co is in quite a fight at RJ 796491. Enemy tanks came in there from RIEDWIHR. L Co is still moving SE on left side of road. Part of K Company came back from RJ. I am reorganizing the men and sending them back up.
- 0650 CO to Asst CG and CG. Situation reported. CG: Got troops in wooded area and the town before daylight. You can't be caught in the open.
- 0700 CO to CO 3d Bn. Drive your men upstream and east of RJ and take cover in trees. We have 2 platoons, not 200 yards from RJ (obj). We received fire from both flanks from 150 yards north of RJ and from tanks at RJ. Patrol that reached there earlier was sent to investigate stream to east. We have had no contact with them for two hours. We are moving again. 2 platoons of E Co reported 250 yards from RIEDWIHR.
- 0705 S-3 to Div. Relayed the above.

-26-JANUARY 1945 Contd

- 0710 Co 3d Bn to DG. L Co on move again. K Cobadly disorganized. Will take some time to reorganize it. I Company is at 765609. CO 2d Bn. Getting quite a few stragglers from A & C Co's.
- 0720 CO 1st Bn to CO. Tanks took off for rear. I stopped them here. Having trouble keeping them up there. Need ammunition at once. Have joined A & C Co's. One platoon in woods. Holding now. CO. Get your men in woods for cover.
- 0730 I & R patrol reports 3d Bn 7th Infantry contacted. Enemy sprayed woods vic 740495 with MG fire and dropping white phosphorus in open ground just north of that.
- 0731 CO to S-3: French vehicles and tanks are lined up in the open across the second stream. If 254th Infantry has men in that area, pull them back as I'm afraid they will attract fire.
- 0736 S-3 to 2nd Inf. Relayed the above.
- 0735 CO 1st Bn to S-3. Have cleaned out 200 yards of woods (obj "P"). S-3: Getting tank support and ammunition up to you now.
- 0745 CO to S-3. Have someone from 1st Bn rear CP pick up men coming back between "C-1 & C-2". Have someone from tks and TDs to stop armor from coming back. 2d Bn reports that 2 TDs left for no reason at all.
0752. Above relayed to 1st Bn rear CP; B Co 766th Tk Bn; B Co 601st TD Bn.
0822. CO to S-3. L Co is up to RJ at 795490 with 2 TDs. Enemy strong point in houses beyond RJ. Group is flanking to north of houses with infantry and another section of TDs. K Co back with 40 men. Believe K Co CO is up ford with only few men left. I Co back in reserve position. Will send them up to assist L Co. C Co observer reports that 2d Bn got within 300 yards of town of RIEDWIHR and had to withdraw approximately 1,000 yards because of enemy fire from town. Mostly MG, mortars and tank fire.
- 0856 S-2 to S-3. A Co pulled back to woods in vic 771493. 1st Bn has 4 TDs and 2 tks left. G Co is in position along 490 grid.
- 0900 CO 1st Bn to S-3. We had to move back to woods. 6 tanks were firing at us.
- 0905 CG to S-3: 1st Bn must go in and clear the woods. Let the 3d Bn hold the road junction they are on.
- 0910 Fr Lm O to DO: French DMI has just started to move.
- 0935 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: We had a TD knocked out by fire which we believe to have come from the direction of RIEDWIHR.
- 0954 CG to Asst CG: Smoke woods NW and W of RIEDWIHR - also smoke RIEDWIHR. Plan a coordinated attack in about an hour's time with two or three battalions abreast and all armor accompanying infantry. Use arty heavily on woods and town of RIEDWIHR.
- 1015 Asst CG to CO: As soon as French take over RJ, use 3d Bn to assist 1st and 2d Bns, also available armor in a coordinated attack on RIEDWIHR and woods behind town. Use mortar and artillery.
- 1016 CO to S-3: Send reserve armor to 2d Bn. Have town and woods behind town smoked. Tanks can operate as a platoon.
- 1035 CO 2d Bn to S-3: Two TD's with E Co, one with F Co. Counterattack of two enemy tanks plus 35-40 men dispersed with arty at 780484.
- 1205 CO of 254th to S-3: Being relieved by 30th Inf.
- 1245 Ex O to CO: There will be 8 tanks from B Co and 8 TD's from C Co, 601st TD. Will assemble in 7751 grid east of both streams. Arty preparation will start as armor moves. Artillery units will have 10 minutes preparation on woods between 48-49 grids and town of woods between 26-27 grid and on RIEDWIHR. Will have a TOT on woods SE of RIEDWIHR. CO to Ex O: Moting I and K Co's up with L Co on road block soon as possible so they can move out as a battalion. 1st Bn will attack on right thru woods and 2d Bn on left, on E edge of woods.
- 1315 Ex O to CG: Tanks will move out from assembly area between 1400 and 1600.
- 1350 DG, 1st Bn to S-3: H-hour set for 1600A.
- 1355 CO, 2d Bn to Ex O: Both Bns (1st and 2d) will attack "P" woods. H-hour set for 1600A.

25 JANUARY 1945, Cont'd

- 1410 CO, 3d Bn to Ex O: French have contacted us and report they will move down to RJ to relieve us.
- 1443 CO 1st Bn to Ex O: Suggest that we delay H-hour for a half hour.
- 1504 CG to Ex O: French are now in process of following 3d Bn in the direction of paratroopers and four tanks. CG directs that 3d Bn attack RIEDWIHR at 1630A in conjunction with 254th Inf attack on JESSHEIM. 3d Bn will be on right of 254th Inf. I and G Co's will be in assault; L Co in reserve. Will move out at 1530A.
- 1510 Ex O to CG: Attack delayed until 1630A.
- 1522 S-3 made arrangements for attachment of one platoon of light tanks to 3d Bn.
- 1630 CO to Ex O: Cut off smoke generators around bridge and MAISON ROUGE.
- 1636 Asst CG to S-3: 3d Bn attacks on both sides of a line running from 780500 to RIEDWIHR at 1700A.
- 1636 1st Bn jumped off at 1630A.
- 1650 Ld O with 1st DMI reports: No further progress. German tanks in woods shooting up armor - also heavy infantry losses. 2-DB armor unable to move up because of fire.
- 1700 CO to Ex O: Have troops in woods now, 600 yds in.
- 1720 CO to S-3: 1000 yds in woods. Everything coming along all right. S-3:- 7th Inf has been having counterattacks. Our 3d Bn will be ready to move out in 15 minutes.
- 1805 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: Have not jumped off yet. Enemy created diversion with 20 infantry - our TD's opened up on them and enemy tanks shot up one of our TD's and two French tanks.
- 1830 CO, 3d Bn to S-3: Situation clearing at RJ and we are forming along main road for attack. Not sure now how many TD's we had knocked out. Will attack as soon as possible.
- 1900 S-3 to Asst CG: Arty reports 254th Inf at 785486. Will send contact patrols to 7th Inf tonight.
- 1915 3d Bn to Ex O: L Co in back now - rear of former position. They are about ready to push out again.
- 1930 CO to S-3: A and G Co's are working together as one Co now. Have an outpost in house via 772481. Have three tanks along lateral road above 48 grid line. 1st Bn has about 60 riflemen; 2d Bn on left of 1st Bn. G Co is protecting the rear - approx coord. 776488. We are getting ammo and supplies up to continue attack tonight. Start 3d Bn moving immediately.
- 1955 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: We have I Co and the tanks at LD via 774486. Will move out as soon as we get K Co up to LD.
- 2005 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: Will move out soon. Strength of Co's: L Co - 31 men; K Co - 43; I Co - 56. Have 6 tanks but no TD's. Two TD's were KO'd.
- 2012 2d Br Ex O to S-2: Enemy 8/P gun firing on us from RIEDWIHR.
- 2105 3d Bn has jumped off in the attack.
- 2142 254th to S-3: 2 Bns have left LD via 794487.
- 2200 Ex O to 3d Bn S-3: I and K Co's 900 yds from LD.
- 2225 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: I and K Co's 2000 yds down - have armor with them.
- 2310 G-3 to Ex O: Put 3d Bn patrols out on right flank.
- 2320 DIV HQ to Maj Koenig: French have been counterattacked and pulled back to JESSHEIM.
- 2335 Ex O to CO: I and K Co's are at edge of town.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 241200A to 251200A

Unit: 18th INFANTRY

Place: COLMAR Forest

Date: 25 JANUARY 1945

No. 26

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: Regt'l front line extends from northern edge of BOIS DE RIEDWIER Forest SE to approximately 1,000 yards northwest of RIEDWIER to RJ and stream bed via V797490.
2. Disposition of Troops: Regt'l CP in COLMAR Forest via 789513
1st Bn along northern edge of BOIS DE RIEDWIER Forest.
2d Bn approximately 1,000 yards NW of RIEDWIER.
K Co via V773507; I Co via V785499
L Co holding block via of RJ and stream bed via V799489
AF Co via 783501
Cn Co via V784823
3. Weather and Visibility: Cold, light snow fall during the night. Visibility limited by the haze.
4. Our operations for the Period:
At the opening of the period, 1st Bn was beginning the attack through the 3d Bn at LA MAISON ROUGE bridge, on the woods NW of RIEDWIER. The advance progressed rapidly to the edge of the woods where enemy tanks and infantry were encountered. Elements of the 1st Bn entered the woods, but were forced to withdraw.
Second Battalion launched an attack, at 250300A, on RIEDWIER. They encountered enemy S/A, MG, 20mm, tank and mortar fire approximately 200 yards NW of RIEDWIER. Two tanks and a TD became stuck in the mud and the Bn withdrew about 700 yards.
The 3d Battalion attacked at 250300A with L & K Co's in the assault and encountered enemy via V799489. K Co was badly disorganized and withdrew. L Co succeeded in driving the enemy from the buildings and establishing block in via of RJ.
At the close of the period, 3d Bn was awaiting relief by the French at the RJ, preparatory to attacking RIEDWIER.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Rifle Troop Strength: No accurate report of troop strength since commitment. Heavy losses, both battle and non-battle casualties.
6. Results of Operations:
a. Advance to RJ continued.

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

From: 240800A
To : 250800A
Subject: 240800A
Date: 28 January 1948
Place: COLMAR Forest

No. 16
Map: FRANCE, 1,50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Enemy Dispositions:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At the close of the period the enemy held a line running generally from NJ via 788490 to 778490 SW to via ROUSSE.
- b. Enemy Defense: The enemy resisted our advance with S/A's, MG's, mortar arty and tanks. Most of resistance encountered came from enemy tanks and limited amount of infantry.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General

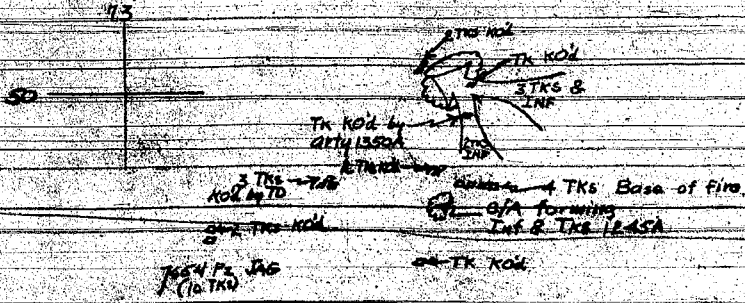
- (1) 1st Bn: Bn was in defensive position along east side of Ill. River near vic of the 7781 grid square from where the Bn attacked to the south toward woods via 778488. The Bn moved without opposition through LA MAISON ROUGE, but resistance stiffened perceptibly between that point and the woods via 778490, from which S/A, tank and mortar fire were received. At the close of the period, one company had entered the north end of the woods and were being counterattacked by infantry and one or two tks. In the attack between LA MAISON ROUGE and the woods, 49 PW were taken.
- (2) 2d Bn: The Bn attacked SE from vic bridge at 778805 toward RIEDWINE during the latter part of the period. When the Bn reached a point approximately 778488 considerable fire was received from MG and Plak weapons firing from woods west of the town, from the north part of town and from the east of their position. Tank fire was also received from vic of RIEDWINE. At end of period the Bn was approximately 1,000 yards NW of RIEDWINE.
- (3) 3d Bn: At the beginning of the period, the Bn was in position near the bridge vic of 778805 where it received a S/A from the SE and SE by enemy tanks and by a limited number of infantry. The infantry attacked from east edge of woods via 777488 and the moved in from the SE along road leading from RIEDWINE overcoming our positions. TD, tank and arty fire forced the co to withdraw, but not until after two of our tks had been KO'd. By last one tk. At 0200A the Bn attacked to the SE with objective of capturing NJ via 778490. No resistance was encountered until the NJ was reached and then fire was received from both flanks and from a tank that had moved up from vic of RIEDWINE. At close of period, the Bn had not captured the NJ.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Artillery: S/A fire received from vic of 778805 at 1000A; 80% percent fired on by our arty via of 777800 at 1245A. MG and Plak fire received from woods via 777488 at 0450A.
- (2) Armor: 6 cy tanks reported via 7740481 at 1000A; 4 tks attacking vic of 778805 at approx 1000A. One of them via 777800 at 1200A; 2 tks reported via of 7770490 at 1245A; 2 tks in woods via 777488 at 0255A. 6 of the were KO'd during the period (see attached overlay).
- (3) No report of enemy air, engineer or M/T activity.
- (4) Arty: My arty was inadequate, harassing and interdiction only; he shelled the bridge at 778805 with 2 high velocity guns for 20 minutes at 0700A.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a. PW: See attached IPW Report.

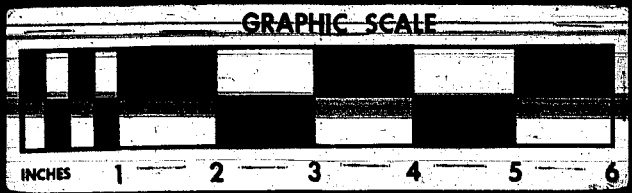
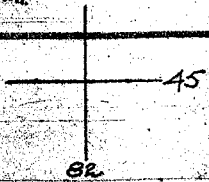


HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
 Intelligence Overlay to Accompany S.R. Report #15
 MAP: FRANCE, 1:50,000; COLMAR sheet

OFFICIAL

EDSON
 CMR

LIEB
 SR



HEADQUARTERS
THIRTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

25 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 240800A - 250800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt. Time	Capt. Unit
2	1/225 GR, 16 Div		
2	3/225 " 16 "	V772515	0800A 1st Bn
1	Hq/654 "Panzerjäger" (AT) Bn	V768501	1700A " "
3	13/748 VGR, 708 VG Div	V772515	0800A " "
14	BG DIEMER	V754536	0800A Canon Co
1	2/235 Engr Bn, 198 Div	V768501	1600A 1st Bn
10	5/308 GR, " "	V768501	1600A " "
26	6/308 " " "	V768501	1700A " "
3	4/medium Mortar Bn 21	V768501	1500A " "
1	1/1316 "Füsilier" Bn	V 7849	1600A " "
		V768501	1600A " "

63 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4477.

TROOP-DISPOSITION, STRENGTH:

1/225 GR: PWs state they left MARCKOLSHHEIM V8551 on 23 January. Co strength was 40 men, 5 LMG and 4 "Panzerfausts". According to their statements 10 "Panther" tanks were to help them gain the LA MAISON ROUGE-bridge V768502.

3/225 GR: PWs estimate Co strength 35 men and state that they left from vic TURCKHEIM V6543. Co had 4 LMG and rifles. CoCO is Lt. HOFMAN.

Hq 654 AT Bn: PW is medic and attached to 3rd Co of Bn. He states that the entire Bn was pulled out of the Black-Forest area and came to this area. Unit consists of 3 Cos and, according to PW, each Co has 10-12 "Panther" tanks. As of 240300A 3rd Co was located in HOLTZWIHR V7646. Bn CO is Maj NOAK.

13/748 VGR: PWs were forward observers and were out of communication with Co since 21 Jan. They state they remained behind to take care of wounded NCO. Area covered by 13th Co was GUEMAR V7554.

BG DIEMER: PWs state that they were in east in the VOSSZES mountains on 23 Jan. They were committed. They estimate strength of unit 67 men. Weapons in unit were LMGs 42 and "Panzerfausts".

2/235 Engr Bn: PW states that he left OENHEIM V9673 along with 37 others. Their mission, according to him, was to build a footbridge somewhere in vic W774492. He states, that they came to RIEDWIHR V7847

on night 23/24 Jan. He states that 200 battery mines with glass top were dropped on the W side of the road between VICKERSCHWIER V7745 and RIEDWIHR V7847. PW states that he saw a large number of horse-drawn arty and inf, moving from N to S and that, according to what he heard, all able-bodied men of 198 Div will be sent to GOLMAR sector. He also claims to have seen arty at V7646. 198 Div CP is, according to PW, located at BOMBERHEIM V9870.

5/308 GR: Pws state that Co was pulled out of line at SOHOENAU V9358 and was sent to this sector on night 23/24 Jan. They state that no other unit came in to relieve them in their old sector. Co strength was 40 men, 4 LMG and 6-8 "Panzerfausts". Mission was to attack to take bridge at V768502, which was being supported by 10 "Panther" tanks. 6th Co of 308GR had same mission as above and PWs claim that no one filled their position in the former area. Majority of PWs in both Cos just recently joined units and were ill-informed as to names of places.

4/medium Mortar Bn 21: PWs state that they left BOEHEMSE SEN V8758 on 23 Jan. They state that entire Bn consisting of 4 Cos was sent to this area. 4th Co has 150 men and 12x80mm mortars and according to PWs other three Cos are organized in the same manner. Their mortars, according to PWs from 4th Co, are located in woods V7847. PWs believe that at present time entire Bn is attached to 305 GR of 198 Inf Div.

MISCELLANEOUS:

German winter uniform (spock-suits) are distinguished from ours by two 1" blue stripes on both ~~at~~ upper sleeves. Stripes run half-way across the arm.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

26 JANUARY 1945 Contd

- 1052 CG to S-3. Fire artillery constantly on towns of HOLTZWIER and WICKERSCHWIHR.
- 1110 3d Ron to S-3. We have a plat vic 762472.
- 1148 CG to S-3. Notify S-4 that we will probably need more squad tents, coffee, dry clothes, socks. Have 3d Bn place a flak platoon so they can interdict road from WICKERSCHWIHR to HOLTZWIER.
- 1219 CG to CG. 3d Bn, 30th Inf will push through 3d Bn in RIEDWIHR and clear woods SE of RIEDWIHR and then attack JERSHEIM from the south. Remainder of 254th Inf will attack latter town from the west. At 1630A, 30th Infantry and CG4 will attack simultaneously. One force from CG4 will move around right flank of woods and if possible to cross COLMAR Canal will move on to WICKERSCHWIHR. Another column of CG4 will move around left of woods to WICKERSCHWIHR and if possible cross canal and move on to BISCHWIHR. Change of armor plans. Bulk of Tks and TDs in wooded area will go to 30th Infantry. CG wants following carried out. When attacking forces have passed through on west edge of woods above HOLTZWIER, to fill gap over to L'ILL River, you can use 1st Bn and I & R plat. Enemy must not infiltrate through that area. 3d Ron troops and Div BP will go to 30th Inf. 3d Bn 15th Inf will stay in RIEDWIHR. CG to G-3. I have my S-2 checking Bn flanks this morning. Will put I & R plat and .50 cal MGs along river. AT Co(-) one plat will go to 1st Bn.
- 1235 S-3 relayed the above to 2d Bn CO.
- 1237 S-3 to Comm O. Relay message to 3d Bn, 15th Inf that they will let 3d Bn, 254th Inf have two tanks when they pass through RIEDWIHR. Pick advance CP site in RIEDWIHR.
- 1243 S-3 to 254th Inf. Two of our 3d Bn tanks will be available to your 3d Bn when they push through RIEDWIHR.
- 1244 7th Inf to S-3. We will attack this afternoon from grid square 7648 between dike and river and then swing south to vic 736466.
- 1300 CG to S-3. 7th Inf will attack at 1300.
- 1305 Asst S-3 to 30th Inf S-2. Recon patrol reported 3 tks, one at 777445 which was stationary and two others that pulled up and went into position under trees vic 776463. Believe tanks came across canal bridge.
- 1310 S-3 to CG 1st Bn. Gave him location of 3 enemy tks.
- 1315 3d Ron to CG. Our patrol from 762472 to 760466 reached objective. No enemy activity. Good observation.
- 1413 2d Bn reports C/A forming vic of 763464.
- 1422 3d Ron to Asst S-2. Am sending a patrol from strong point at 760466 to RJ at RJ at 749464. We have some armor at 763476 that can be brought up. Forward infantry elements are at 776471.
- 1445 Asst S-3 to Air Corps. Targets will be Bischwihr and Wickerschwihr.
- 1500 CG to CG. Hold that line. Need if for LD. CG: C/A against 3d Bn, 2 tks and supporting infantry.
- 1505 3d Ron to Ex O. 2 enemy tks and infantry are in vic of 763476.
- 1520 Ex O to 1st Bn. From 1st Bn: 2d Bn has no C/A. Just 1st Bn. 1 friendly tank knocked out.
- 1521 G-3 reported Air Corps bombed HOLTZWIER. 15th Inf: Work over WICKERSCHWIHR.
- 1537 ASST CG to Ex O. Does 3d Bn, 15th Inf know that 254th Infantry is going to attack through RIEDWIHR at 1430. Yes. Reply I will contact 3d Bn to move away from roads around RIEDWIHR. In re C/A. Air support scored enemy from C/A 2d Bn, but 1st Bn received a C/A. 1 friendly TD KO'd and B Co was overrun by infantry supported by two tanks. Does the French know we hold RIEDWIHR.
- 1548 CG 1st Bn to Ex O. Report of situation. 2 enemy tank from the south, near our forward positions. Our TDs fired at them but missed. One of our TDs was knocked out immediately. We then KO'd 1 enemy tank. B Co was overrun and forced to retire. An officer from B Co is reorganizing B Co at CP. CG took two tanks from CP to vic 770481 for support, and reorganized forward elements in that vic. 1 tank still remains at 770481 and other is covering it at 769481. We need armor. 30th Infantry is trying to get French to help.

26 JANUARY 1945 Cont'd

- 1614 1st Bn S to S-5: Radio relay from 3d Bn report tanks and infantry at 761471. Arty firing on them now.
- 1620 3d Bn radio to DO: Message received reads: Enemy attack at 765478. Have two platoons of 30th Inf on our left side of woods.
- 1620 Regt'l Radio to S-2: Msg from 3d Bn: French and 254th Inf passing thru.
- 1635 Ex O: 1st Bn to Ex O: Road east of RIEDWIHR woods full of French armor. Head of column pos't 48 grid.
- 1640 39th PA to Ex O: 2d Bn 30th Inf calling for arty on enemy tanks at 761471.
- 1645 1st Bn S-2 to Ex O: French C6-4 is helping us now. They have disposed some of their tanks near stream. They have two tanks blocking along road. Two tanks near L'ILL River about 49 grid line. Two tanks blocking along 494 grid line. They have also put some 81-mm mortars in position.
- 1710 CO to Ex O: "H" woods are cleared now. 1st Bn is checking "H" woods and trying to re-establish line.
- 1720 Ex O to Div War Room: Reference - Enemy attack on 1st and 2d Bn's. Enemy attacked west woods and over-ran B Co position. Knocked out one tank and one TD. Part of force drove into center woods, between east and west woods, behind 2d Bn and continued on to thru west woods, then hit 2d Bn 30th Inf and platoons of 3d Bn. We organized a Task Force consisting of Plak tracks and infantry at 1st - 2d Bn CP. Moved south on road thru east woods to clear out enemy between CP and 2d Bn position. 1st Bn with 2 tanks and all available men is moving now east on line of 47 grid from east woods to west woods to clean out enemy. B Co has just entered west woods and is 200 yds north of 47 grid. 2d Bn is now in south part of east woods and 100 yds from edge. Edge of woods under fire from stream and is not advisable to establish daylight position there. Enemy were at SW corner of east woods at about 1330A - organized tank and one platoon of infantry to attack them - then enemy hit west woods. Have 4 TD's, one tank in East woods now.
- 1730 CO to Ex O: 2d Bn OK now - situation clearing. 1st Bn line will run along 47 grid from west woods to center. Armor reported moving to HILTZWIER - putting TOF on town.
- 1745 G-3 to Ex O: Have 3d Bn be on alert and dispose tanks to cover open ground between woods and town and to SE.
- 1830 Ex C, 3d Bn to Ex O: 254th Inf jumped off at 1700A. Supported them with heavy MG. Lot of fire in woods to east.
- 1845 G-3 to Ex O: 254th Inf has been directed to send two T's to RIEDWIHR to establish a block on the east road. 30th Inf counterattack force is now between west woods and L'ILL River. 30th Inf will attack HILTZWIER by tomorrow AM.
- 1937 S-2 Bn 50, 3d Inf Troops: Want you to establish 3 strong points as originally planned - one along river, along edge of road, and one in clearing between river and woods. When 30th Inf passes thru you, you will be attached to them and we will take over these positions.
- 2005 254th Inf S-3 to S-3: Being held up now by enemy tank via 7947. Will bring up another 2d before moving thru.
- 2030 CO 1st Bn to S-2: Enemy attack on west woods RIEDWIHR. No silenced them by firing arty concentration. B Co has an outpost via 761467.
- 2238 Ex O to S-2 30th Inf: Attack will be at 0200A.
- 2330 CO 1st Bn to S-2: 2 AT trucks located at Rd at 779455.
- 2346 3d Bn S-2 to S-2: Five tanks were spotted this afternoon at 776453.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 251200A to 261200A

Unit: 1. 15th Infantry

Place: COLMAR Sector

Date: 26 JANUARY 1945

No. 26

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet

1. Our Front Lines: V759467 - V763467 - V769463 - V774464 - RIEDWIHR.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt^l CP in COLMAR Forest, vic V759513.

1st Bn along southern edge of LE SCHMALHOLTZ woods, vic V759467 to V763467.

2d Bn along southern edge of LE MOHNSCHWALD woods, vic V769463 to V774464.

3d Bn in RIEDWIHR holding bridge to east of town and outposting edge of woods to the SE.

3. Weather & Visibility: Cold, heavy snowfall during the night; visibility limited by haze.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: At the beginning of the period, 1st Bn was holding positions along the northern edge of BOIS DE RIEDWIHR woods, reorganizing, resupplying tanks, armor, and preparing for a coordinated attack. At 251600A, 1st Bn attacked with 2d Bn on their flank and by 251700A, troops had advanced approx 600 yds into the woods. At 251930A, 1st Bn reported that, because of heavy losses, A & C Co's were working as one company and were outposting in a house vic V773481. The battalion was holding up to resupply with ammunition. The attack was resumed at 260300A and at 260430A the battalion was consolidating, vic V761470. The advance continued and at 260800A the battalion reported that they had reached their objective on the southern edge of the woods, where they remained until the close of the period.

Second Battalion: At 251800A, the 2d Bn attacked the woods on the left flank of the 1st Bn from positions NW of RIEDWIHR. They advanced into the woods and at 251930A, reported that G Co was in vic V776488 protecting the rear of the battalion. A resupply of ammunition was brought up and the attack was resumed. At 260600A, they were reported in vic V772475. They were advancing near the 47 grid line against MG fire at 260730A. By 260930A, 2d Bn had reached their objective along the southern edge of the woods.

Third Battalion: At the beginning of the period, L Co was blocking at E3 vic V768490, awaiting relief by the French to release the 3d Bn for attack on the town of RIEDWIHR. At 251800A, the French began relieving L Co with a company of paratroopers reinforced by four tanks. At 251930A, 3d Bn reported that I Co was at LD, vic V774498, with armor, waiting for E Co to reach the LD. The battalion attacked at 252100A with I & K Co's in the assault and had advanced approx 2,000 yds by 252230A. The edge of town was reached at 252330A and at 260300A, 3d Bn reported that they had entered the town without armor. The town of RIEDWIHR was completely cleared at 260130A and 80 PW's had been taken, 5-100m guns and 2 M 77's had been captured and destroyed. The bridge to the east of town was cleared and the main entrance to the town was destroyed. The woods to the east of the woods S and E of RIEDWIHR and patrols were sent out toward WICKERSCHWIHR.

5. Combat Efficiency: Reduced by loss of front-line personnel. No accurate report on rifle trench strength. E Co estimated to be 25, F Co estimated at 57. Rifle trench strength of 1st Bn estimated to be 80.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

6. Results of Operations:

a. Advance continued.

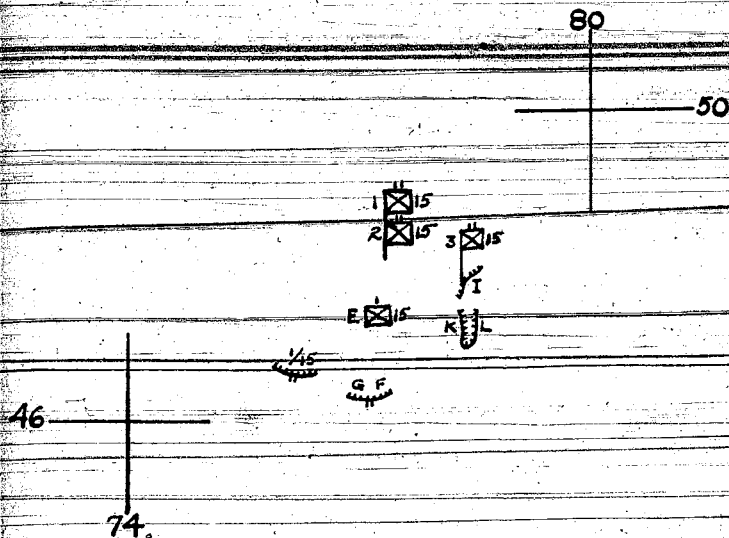
b. RIEDWIER cleared.

c. Needs to NW and W of RIEDWIER cleared.

COMRIE

8-3

CONFIDENTIAL



HQ 15th INF
26 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT No. 26

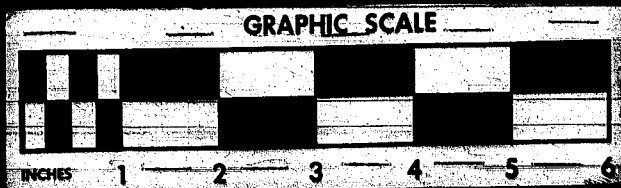
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000

OFFICIAL:

COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

Confidential



CONFIDENTIAL
S-2 Periodic Report

From : 260800A
 260800A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Date : 26 January 1946
Place : COLMAR Forest

No 17
Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, COLMAR Sheet

1. Enemy Dispositions:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At close of the period enemy line ran generally from
vic V749470 to HOLTZWIER to JBSSEM.
b. Enemy Defense: Enemy continued to resist our advance by using S/A, MG,
Arty, mortars, and tanks.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General

- (1) 1st Bn: Bn in conjunction with 2d Bn attacked woods directly west of
RIEDWIER at 1630A and met resistance from S/A & tank fire. At end of
period the Bn was on the southern edge of the woods and were meeting no
opposition.
(2) 2d Bn: At 1035A, the Bn was in vic of V780484 when they were attacked
by two tanks and approx 40 men. The attack was broken up by our arty.
The Bn in conjunction with 1st Bn attacked woods west of RIEDWIER at
1630A, meeting resistance from S/A's, tanks, & S/P fire. At the close
of the period the Bn was in position in the southern part of the woods
overlooking HOLTZWIER.
(3) 3d Bn: The Bn was in position at RJ vic V795460 where they made a small
attack with 20 infantry. When our TD's began firing MG's the enemy fired
back with four tanks from another position and KO'd one of our TD's and
two French tanks. The Bn was relieved from the RJ and jumped off from
vic 780490 to attack RIEDWIER, capturing the town with little resistance.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a. WIA's: See attached IPR Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Maj Gen, 15th Infantry
S-2

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
 SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 A. P. O. # 3

26 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 250800A - 260800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

EM	Off	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
2	3	BG DIEMER	V775488	1700A	1st Bn
12		2/235 Engr Bn, 198 Inf Div	(V7747 and in)	2400A	1st "
1		First Aid Station	" " (RIEDWIHR)	2400A	1st "
15		4/medium Mortar Bn 21	V7747-RIEDWIHR	2400A	1st "
6		" " " " 21	" " "	0300A	3rd "
2		1/225 VGR, 16 VG Div	V775488	1700A	1st "
5		3/225 " " " "	" " "	1700A	1st "
2		4/225 " " " "	V7747-RIEDWIHR	0500A	3rd "
4		1/Pfeilier Bn 1316, 16 VGD	" " "	2400A	1st "
1		" " " 1089, 189 Div	V775488	1700A	1st "
3		1/797 Constr Engr Bn (Russians)	V 7747	2400A	1st "
2		1/heavy "Pa. Jäger" (AT) Bn 93	V804479	0800A	3rd "
1		ex-2/Fortress Arty Bn 1523	V803502	0900A	3rd "
1		3/AA Bn notes 707	V7747-RIEDWIHR	2400A	1st "

57 3 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4537.

UNITS, MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, WEAPONS:

BG DIEMER: CO states that battle group consisting of 3 COs left the VOBGES on 23 January. Adjutant estimates strength of Co upon arrival here at 130 men. Unit made a counterattack to secure LA MAISON ROUGE-bridge on 24 Jan. 5 tanks mounting 8.8's were spearhead with inf following same. PW states that 2 of above tanks returned going in a southerly direction. Capt. DIEMER states that BG comes under control of Regt VONALT, whose CP was located at RIEDWIHR. CO of 3/BG DIEMER, also PW, states that his trains never arrived in present area, thereby leaving his men without food for 2 days. BG DIEMER was responsible for northern tip of woods at V7748.

2/235 Engr Bn: PWs state that they left GRENHEIM V9693 with the mission to construct a footbridge in vic V774492. This mission was never accomplished because of our heavy arty fire. All 35 men, who came here, were used as infantry in woods V7748.

4/medium Mortar Bn 21: PWs state that Co had an approx strength of 150 men and 12x8cm mortars. Mortars were set up in vic V773484. PWs believe that due to our heavy arty fire the greater majority of mortars were put out of action. PWs in general confirm information given in IPW report 25 Jan.

1/225 VGR: PWs state that Bn was located along the western edge of

1/797 Constr Engr Bn: PW states that they came from the VOSGES mountains and no unit took them to place to their knowledge. They further state that every squad had 3 "Panzerfausta" and Cos had an average of 4 M's. PW could give no info as to units to their right and they did know nothing about any relief.

1/"Fusilier" Bn 1089: According to PW's statement Bn consisting of 2 Cos left area S of WERTENHEIM V4739 on 22 Jan. Estimated strength of unit was 90 men and according to PW, it was his unit that counter-attacked RIEDWIHR V7847, capturing approx 50 Americans. The 4th Co, which was the second Co in this area, is reported to have had 6x12cm mortars. At time of our attack unit was located in vic of blockhouse V773481. According to PW, 189 Div is reported to be reforming in the area he left.

1/797 Constr Engr Bn: All PWs were Russians, who had the mission to guard the bridge E of RIEDWIHR at V786475. They report that the bridge was turned over intact to our troops.

1/heavy "Panzer-Jäger"(AT) Bn 93: PWs state that their Co had 5 SP 8.8's. Their gun was located at V798489 and according to them it was captured intact. They state that another gun, located to their right, took off to the SE, but they could not follow because of motor trouble. According to their statement the other 3 guns are at present in repair at ARTZENHEIM V8546.

Fortress Arty Bn 1523: PW states that he, along with 13 others, was sent to GRUSSENHEIM V8149 from where they were taken to place of capture. PW states that the rest of his Bn is located in barracks in KUNHEIM V8542. Approx strength 400 men. Bn has no guns and PW states that men will be used as infantry.

3/AA Bn 507: PW states that Co has 6x20cm AA guns of which 3 were located in northern part of RIEDWIHR V7847. He believes that other 3 guns were located to their right.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

27 JANUARY 1945

- 0030 2d Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0043 254th to DO: Our 3d Bn vic of 799460. Could your 2d Bn send contact patrol. 1st and 2d Bn are at outskirts of JEBSHEIM and preparing to attack.
- 0046 to 0025: No reply received.
- 0025 30th Inf S-2 to DO: We will jump off at 0400. 254th is in vic 799460.
- 0028 3d Bn DO to DO: Reports a high velocity weapon firing 2 to 3 rds per minute for near hour. Firing from the South; estimated to be from WICKERSHWEIR.
- 0032 DO to 254th Inf: Bn to be in vic 799460. Planning to send patrol to canal. Haven't heard from Bn going to town for last hour.
- 0035 DO to Div: Does French jump off with 30th Inf. Div to DO: Yes; CC-4 and 30th Inf attack at 0400.
(Bn notified of the above msg.)
- 0050 Div DO to DO: 254th Inf has taken 2/3 of town of JEBSHEIM.
- 0010 I&R Plat Ldr to DO: 3d Ron all set to move out. We have been running contact patrols between 1st Bn and 3d Ron troops.
- 0055 1st Bn S-2 to DO: 30th Inf has troops almost in town of HOLTZWIER advancing very slowly against determined opposition.
- 0007 3d Bn DO to DO: I Co reports S/P fire coming from right flank approx 400 yds away. L Co reports S/A fire in front of them. 1st Plat of K Co, 254th Inf is dispersed and is at 1st Plat position of L Co.
- 0045 1st Bn CO to CO: 30th Inf has all of our armor - their attack apparently not progressing too well. French CG-4 has not moved out yet.
CG-4 to 1st Bn CO: We will have to rely on bazookas and AT guns.
- 0700 S-3 to Asst G-3: When 3d Ron reports to 30th Inf control we will relieve them with Regt AT Co (-1st), 1st Bn AT Plat and 1st Bn AT Plat, all under control of 1st Bn CO.
- 0745 C of S to CO: 30th Inf and CG-4 receiving heavy tank fire, possibly from south and SW of HOLTZWIER. CG directs that you get a strong patrol, possibly Plat size, with arty observed with radio to go west from woods 1st Bn occupy to LILLI River (about 755400) and south on bank of LILLI River to spot tanks, S/P's, etc. To dir arty on them. As targets are destroyed or neutralized, continue on to 7744.
(Above msg relayed to 1st Bn)
- 0813 Divwar Room to CO: 30th Inf has entered HOLTZWIER. CG-4 will attack from south.
- 0845 7th Inf has been relieved and is assembled in COLMAR Forest. CG-4 is attacking HOLTZWIER from S and SW. At one point have reached 704450. Have 40 PW's. Getting S/P fire from BISCHWIER. Mark VI Tank at 762447. North part of JEBSHEIM clear.
- 1020 1st Bn DO to DO: Patrol reached the river, is now moving south.
- 1025 S-2 to Division: We will need our AT Co to establish strong points between HOLTZWIER and LILLI River. Suggest that 7th Infantry, assembled in the COLMAR Forest, relieve our guns at the south end of the woods.
- 1030 S-2 to CO AT Co: You are relieved from block at S edge of COLMAR Forest. Be sure that the outpost on the river is right at the bank.
- 1045 1st Bn DO to DO: Patrol is now between 751474 and 748488. Still moving S.
- 1100 30th Inf S-2 to DO: French armor is now due south of WICKERSCHWIER and 800 meters west of it. A Co, 30th Infantry will establish blocks at bridge south of WICKERSCHWIER and at the next bridge west. The EW road South of HOLTZWIER has been crossed.

27 January 1946 (Continued)

- 1145 CGC is now moving through JESSHEM TO attack south.
- 1235 2d Bn to S-2: Estimate 250 civilians crossing through our lines. Have started them back to the rear with guide.
- 1366 S-2 to G-2. Relayed above message to Division. 15th Inf. is to set up a collecting point. Division will take over as soon as possible at this collecting point.
- 1400 Ex C 1st Bn to EXO. Combat patrol (15 men and FA group) reports: Dug in infantry around the bridge. Mortars in vic 735460. Patrol reached 763476. Artillery has fired in the vicinity of the enemy positions.
- 1410 MP Sgt to Asst S-3. I have 2 men with 100 civilians (refugees) around bridge area. My other men are posted to guide any other stragglers to a collecting point until Division picks them up.
- 1411 Ex C to Div. Gave report on patrol. Div says that artillery destroyed bridge at 740453. If patrol can't advance any further, they can come back in.
- 1412 Ex O to Ex C 1st Bn. Relayed the above re returning to CP. Added information: 4 French Tanks were spotted going south off road in open vic 746456 with half tracks following (ammo carriers) but they were not fired upon.
- 1414 CG to Ex C. Recheck Chief of Staff whether patrol should come in.
- 1425 Ex O to G-2. Relayed patrol report again. Re French Tanks, they're on blocking mission.
- 1432 Ex O to 30th Inf. Reported MGs at 743 & 741459. Also gave information on French Tanks blocking.
- 1435 S-2 to 1st Bn. AT Co will be under your command. Gave positions where AT Co will set up strong points. 30th Infantry is attacking from 48 grid and will push toward bridge at 474438, along east side of river.
- 1515 3d Bn 254th Inf to DC. One company of our 3d Bn is along stream line 7847; one company is in wood east of REBZWHR and north of road; one company is south of road 7846 grid square.
- 1528 CO to Ex C. 2d Bn CO will start putting up squad tents. Want them 100 yards apart. Assign responsibility of gap between 2d and 3d Bn to the 3d Bn. Have them establish 2 MGs outpost in gap and to patrol between them.
1529. Ex C relayed the above to CO 3d Bn.
- 1542 CG to Ex C. Traffic is jammed vic crossroads 772481. Get Regt MP platoon to clear it. Have vehicles park off road about 100 yards from crossroads. Ask Division to establish a TCP there.
- 1550 Ex C relayed above to Div and to Regt MP officer.
- 1610 30th Inf to S-3. We have not moved out to attack yet. One Company will go along L'ILL River from N to S to clear area down to COLMAR Canal, supported by 6 tanks and 2 Tds. One company will move south from HOLTZWHR. 1st Bn will remain at WICKERSCHWHR. Bridge at 741453 is blown.
- 1617 G-2 to S-3. Notify your S-2 that we got civilians off road vic HOLTZWHR.
- 1627 CO to S-3. Notify 10th Sigs to let us know when they run bulldozer over the road so we can police telephone lines.
- 1735 Ex O to CG. New Division CI calls for 15th Infantry attack south of present 3d Bn 254th Inf positions. We are to send patrols out tonight.
- 1830 Ex C to CG. New Division CI calls for 15th Infantry attack south of present 3d Bn 254th Inf positions. We are to send patrols out tonight.
- 1908 3d Bn S-2 to S-3. Men have just left to establish 2 outposts between 2d and 3d Bn. 770460 and 475466. Each outpost will have 2 squads and MG.
- 1920 S-3 to 7th Inf S-3. Our patrols leaving at approx 2100 and 0100. 7th Inf: 5 man patrols leaving at 1000 and 0300.
1925. Ex O to CO 3d Bn. Send your S-3 over to 254th to get exact information on woods.

27 January 1945 (Continued)

- 2110 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O re 254th positions. K Co is in reserve in RIEDWIHR. L Co is in BOIS DE JESSHEIM along 463 grid. I Co is in woods in vic of 796473. 1 Bn in JESSHEIM and the other Bn NW of JESSHEIM. They will not move further tonite. Sending out a patrol as far as bridge vic of 796473. ~~Will not enter bridge vic of 796473 in the morning and report to CP.~~
- 2145 1st Bn quiet. Established contact with AT Co.
- 2225 CO 30th Inf to DC. Would like to have CO of your AT Co report to 2d Bn, 30th Inf CP at HOLTZWIRH to coordinate defense of L'ILL River with CC4.
- 2230 DC 3d Bn to DC. Our patrol has been stopped by enemy S/A fire. However they are still trying to continue and cross the canal.
- 2235 DC 3d Bn to DC. Considerable S/A and artillery fire 300 to 400 yards NE of RIEDWIHR.
- 2300 Div to DC. Activity is in vic of Grusseheim. Div artillery is reported to say French are attacking the town tonight and they are firing preparation.
- 2305 G-3 to DC. Armor for next operation will be by 6 tanks from C Company, 756th Tk Bn and 6 TDs.
- 2315 DC relayed message of 2230A to Division.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-S Periodic Report

Period: 261200A to 271200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : COLMAR Forest

Date : 27 January 1946

No. 27

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: No Change.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in COLMAR Forest, vic V759515.

1st Bn holding line along southern edge of Le SCHMALHOLTZ Forest.

2d Bn holding line along southern edge of Le MOENCHWALD Forest.

3d Bn in RIEDWIHR.

AT Co, as infantry, establishing strong points between forest and L'ILL River vic V780466, V748466 and V755468.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cold; visibility limited.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

At the beginning of the period, 1st and 2d Bns were holding a line in the southern edge of the Le SCHMALHOLTZ and Le MOENCHWALD woods. At approx 261430A enemy infantry reinforced by two tanks counterattacked 1st Bn positions on the west side of the woods, knocked out one of our TDs and one tank overran B Co positions. B Co after withdrawing, reorganized and the First Battalion supported by two tanks, cleared the east woods and established their former positions.

Enemy coming from HOLTZWIER attacked 2d Bn positions at the same time that 1st Bn was attacked. They were dispersed by artillery and strafing by the air corps which was bombing HOLTZWIER. Some of the enemy entered the woods from the east and got behind the 2d Bn positions. A task force of infantry and a flak wagon was organized and moved south through the eastern half of the woods to clear it of enemy.

3d Battalion remained in RIEDWIHR throughout the period.

On the morning of 27 January, 1st Bn patrolled the area to their south and east between the woods and the L'ILL River to establish a forward OP. At the close of the period, Regt'l AT Co, as infantry, was in the process of establishing three strong points between the woods and the river. One strong point to be established at the SW corner of the woods vic V780466, another to be established on the river vic V748466 and a third vic V755468.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Rifle trench strength (As reported on Morning Reports of 26 January):

Officers: 26

EM : 605

6. Results of Operations:

a. Counterattack repulsed and former line regained.

b. RIEDWIHR held.

COMBIE

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

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S-2 Periodic Report

From: 280800A
To: 270800A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Date: 27 January 1948
Place: COLMAR Forest

No. 18

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, COLMAR Sheet

1. Enemy Disposition:

a. Enemy Front Lines: No contact at end of the period.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: Bn had advanced to line running generally from V768470 to V762472. At approx 1430A, they received a C/A coming from the south through the SW edge of the woods. C/A was made by about 100 Infantry and 6 tanks and S/P's. The C/A was repulsed after reaching a point vbc of V767475. At end of the period the Bn positions had been restored.
- (2) 2d Bn: The Bn had advanced to a line running around the SE tip of woods directly west of RIEDWIHR where they remained during the entire period. At 1400A the Bn reported a C/A forming of Inf and 2 tanks SE of HOLTZWIER. The C/A was broken up by the bombing of HOLTZWIER by friendly planes and by arty fire; one tank was reported KO'd. The Bn remained in position without further contact during the remainder of the period. Enemy activity (to include track movement) was heard in HOLTZWIER during the night. Arty fire started a number of fires in HOLTZWIER during the afternoon's C/A.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn remained in RIEDWIHR during the entire period without enemy contact. Their positions were harassed throughout the period by S/A fire from enemy patrols and isolated groups vis ar woods V768480 and V787478, from a high velocity gun firing from vic WICKERSCHWIER, and from enemy arty.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Enemy personnel vic of V767471 fired on by our arty at 1647A. Enemy reported to be in woods directly east of RIEDWIHR at 1700A. 100 Inf C/A from HOLTZWIER through woods vic V762466 at 1430A.
- (2) Arty: S/P gun fired from vic of S of RIEDWIHR during the night. Arty fired on it and silenced it.
- (3) Armer: 5 enemy tanks reported vic of V776455 during afternoon. Tanks fired on by arty vic of V767471 at 1647A. PW's report 6 pieces of armor supported the C/A at 1430A only 4 of which returned.
- (4) No report of enemy air, engineer or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IIR Report.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 16th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

Journal

HEADQUARTERS
FIRST INFANTRY REGIMENT

27 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 250800A - 270800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Place of Capt.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt. Unit</u>
1		3/225 VOR, 16 WG Div	V778469	0900A	3rd Recon.
1		4/medium Mortar Bn 21	V 7747	1000A	1st Bn
6		6/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2nd Ltn Div	V765467	1800A	1st "
7	1	TOTAL			
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in BRANCO					4545.

NOTES, COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS:

3/225 VOR Off PW states that he was assigned just recently to 225 VOR, his former unit being the 1089 "Fusilier" Bn. He states that he was in the counterattack made on 23 Jan, at which time his Co was took 60 American PWs. He further states that total IPW-count after attack was 200. After retreating to the woods his sector was the eastern part of the Northern tip of woods at V7745.

6/136 Mtn Inf Regt: All PWs were deserters, of which 2 were intelligent NCOs, who gave the following information: Co left on morning of 26 Jan from BISCHWHR V7744 to occupy small woods E of WICKERSCHAHR V7745. They state that on night 24/25 Jan entire 3rd Bn left for the HOLTZWIHR area V7646. One platoon of 6th Co was committed along with the 13th and 15th Cos at HOLTZWIHR. Strength and weapons: PWs state that Co strength of the regt was in average 120 men. Units had all new weapons, including 9 MGs per Co and a new German automatic rifles with a 30 rds magazine. PWs state that they were completely new equipped before being sent to this area. Armor and Assault Guns: On afternoon of 26 Jan 3 tanks passed through HOLTZWIHR heading SE. On morning of 26 Jan PWs saw 3 assault guns going S at BISCHWHR V7744. They further claim to have seen 3 or 4 tanks in BISCHWHR at time of departure. Bridge over RHODEN CANAL S of WICKERSCHAHR used for vehicular traffic as of morning 26 Jan. Gun Locations: 1x7.5cm AA gun at V779453
1x7.5cm " " " V779456
1x12 cm Mortar " V779455.

They state that they suffered heavy losses on 26 Jan due to heavy arty fire and air attack. They further state that they saw men at BISCHWHR who claimed to belong to the 5th Mtn Div and men at WICKERSCHAHR who claimed to belong to 225 VOR.

PWs state that there would be more deserters from their regt, which is composed of Austrians, but men fear retaliation against their families.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman

28 JANUARY 1945

- 0020 DO, 3d Bn to DO. Patrol reached canal but have run into trouble.
- 0130 2d Bn S-3 to DO. Patrol left for 2d Bn at 0105.
- 0225 3d Bn to DO. Patrol followed road to RJ north of WICKERSWIHR, then east on road to bridge at 780452 which was blown, then to canal, then east to within 40 yards of bridge at 782453 when they saw MG and SP firing from east of the bridge. There were empty emplacements on the north side of the canal and manned emplacements on south side. The emplacements have no overhead cover. Stream at 780452 has a lock and also on opposite side. No other locks in sector. The stream at 790452 is 6" deep and 1' wide; The canal bank is 12' high with steep side, 8' wide at top and 15 to 17 feet wide at bottom. There is a 3 to 4 feet step on inside of bank about 2' from water. Canal is 60' wide and estimate 5' deep, slow current and not frozen. MG and SP could fire direct fire over the bank. There are a few trees on the bank itself. Patrol did not cross canal. Engineer had grenade thrown at him.
- 0300-0400 All Bns report all quiet.
- 0426 3rd Bn reports all quiet.
- 0435 DO, 2d Bn to DO: Patrol report: Patrol checked out through 3rd Bn CP, proceeded to the N of RIEDWIHR to RJ via 779456, then E to 788452 and found the bridge at that coordinate out. Patrol then waded stream, moved down to the COLMAR CANAL, observed then moved E and saw three helmeted figures on the opposite bank, vic 788451. Patrol then moved E 50-75 yards. Bank of canal found to be 12-15 feet high, 40-45 feet in width, constructed of earth, steeper on the inside than outside. Depth of water not determined. Patrol returned by same route and checked in at 0350A. Only one round of 50 mm mortar fire hit near them while in the canal area.
- 0530 DO to DIV War Room: Relays 2d Bn patrol. Requested information on action near GRUBENHEIM at about 272300A; found out it was a counterattack successfully beaten back in the area of the bridge at 806506 where the French are building a bridge across the stream. The attack was composed of armor and infantry and seemed to come from the SE.
- 0600 to 0800 Negative reports.
- 0806 Advance group left for new CP in RIEDWIHR.
- 0830 CP opened in RIEDWIHR.
- 0930 G-3 to Ex O: CG directs that you will get some flame throwers for tonight's operation. If needed use them to throw flames to bank on other side of canal. Also consider using flak wagons to cover your flanks during the crossing.
- 0935 Ex O to S-4: Get some flame throwers to 2d and 3d Bn today.
- 0937 2d Bn S-5 to S-3: Need boats for initial bridge laying party to cross canal.
- 0938 S-3 to B Co, 10th Engrs. Send up two boats to 2d and 3d Bns.
- 0945 254th Inf S-3 to DO: We have a company of our 3d Bn in southern most part of BOIS DE JEBENSHEIM (woods) south and southeast of RIEDWIHR. One company is located in eastern end of those woods and another company in woods in reserve.
- 1032 3d Bn S-2 to S-2: Civilians in RIEDWIHR are waiting for transportation to be evacuated. Told them to wait in their basements. S-2 to 3d Bn S-2. Will have representative from civil affairs down to report to you today. If civilians are not cooperating with military operations, it is better to have them in town. S-2 gave name to G-2 DO.
- 1048 7th Inf Ex O to Ex O: My Bn COs are out on Rca now. As soon as they return, will coordinate plans with you on use of roads.
- 1242 S-3 to Div: CG is relieving our block of SE sector of woods of LILL River via 780466. Div: Yes.
- 1262 S-2 254th Inf to S-2: French are still fighting in south of JEBENSHEIM. Believe enemy has tks and a SP gun. The BOIS DE JEBENSHEIM is cleared with outposts with outposts almost to canal.
- 1458 CG 2d Bn to Ex O: Will I have tks attached to my Bn. CO: No. We have 1 only a platoon of tanks (6) available, where necessary, for use by all Bns. No enemy in JEBENSHEIM.
- 1600 Ex O to 3d Bn: Your assembly area is east of little trail and north of clearing. 2d Bn will assemble south of clearing. There is no enemy in JEBENSHEIM woods. Trail is usable for vehicles. We have an outpost in southern tip of woods.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Army Periodic Report

Period: 271200A to 281200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : RIEDWIHR, FRANCE
Date : 28 January 1945

No. 28

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: No change.
2. Disposition of Troops:
Regimental CP in RIEDWIHR, vic V784474; 1st Bn in position along southern edge of LE SCHMAELER Forest; 2d Bn in southern edge of LE MOESCHWALD Forest; 3d Bn in RIEDWIHR; AT Co holding strong points between L'ILL River and the woods, vic V760466, V748468, V765468.
3. Weather and Visibility: Cold; limited visibility.
4. Our Observations for the Period:
The regiment remained in position in RIEDWIHR and in the woods to the SW throughout the period, with AT Co strong-points between the woods and the river. On the night of 27-28 Jan, 3d Bn sent a reconnaissance patrol to the COLMAR Canal. The patrol reported bridges at V788462, and V792462 were blown. Unoccupied emplacements were found on the north side of the canal. The patrol reported that the emplacements south of the canal were masked. The patrol did not cross the canal, but described it as being 50 feet wide and approx 5 feet deep. The canal bank is 12 feet high with steep sides, 8 feet wide at the top and 15-17 feet wide at the bottom. There is a 5 ft step on inside of bank about 2 ft from the water. The current is slow and the water is not frozen. The stream, vic V790462, was reported to be 6 ft deep and approx one ft wide. There is a lock vic V790462.
A reconnaissance patrol left 2d Bn and checked through RIEDWIHR to Rd vic V779464, east to V788462, crossed the stream and went to the canal. Returned by the same route at 280350A.
The regimental CP displaced from the COLMAR Forest to RIEDWIHR, vic V784474 on the morning of 28 January. New CP opened at 280850A.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Rifle trench strength (As shown on morning reports of 26 JAN)
Officers: 26
RMs: 605
6. Results of Operations:
 - a. Regiment held positions.
 - b. Reconnaissance patrols sent to COLMAR Canal.
 - c. Regt'l CP displaced to RIEDWIHR.

COMRIE
8-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S - 2 Report

FROM: 270800A
TO : 280800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 28 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: RIEDWIHR, FRANCE

No 19

MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS: No enemy contact during the period other than patrols.
2. ENEMY OPERATIONS: The only enemy information reported during the period was as follows:
 - a. Patrol went to vic of V745465 and reported dug in infantry and mortar vic of V743460 from which they drew S.A fire at 1150A.
 - b. Patrol to north bank of canal vic V790451 observed enemy machine emplacements on opposite side of canal. The patrol was fired on by MG and a hand grenade from these positions. An SP or tank was also reported at bridge at V792461. Bridge is out. The canal is 40-50 feet wide, 6 feet deep and banks in that vic appear to be 10-12 feet high.
3. MISCELLANEOUS:
 - a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD W. LISB
Major, 16th Infantry
S-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

No 15th Inf
BIEHWIN, FRANCE
28 January 1944

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

NUMBER 2)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. 15th Infantry, attached:
- Co B, 501st TD Bn (-one plnt)
 - Co A, 590th Cml Bn
 - Co C, 750th Tr Bn (-one plnt)
 - 3 BATT'ns 441st AAA AW Bn (SP)
- a. Cross COLMAR Canal by stealth in zone at 2-hour on D-day, advance with
snipe and hold objectives indicated along south bank of COLMAR Canal within zone, and
- b. Patrol vigorously to east and south.

2. a. First Battalion, attached: 1 sect 441st AAA AW Bn (SP)
1 plnt AF Co, 15th Inf.
- (1) Initially, in regimental reserves.
 - (2) Assemble in woods east of BIEHWIN under cover of darkness on D-day,
leaving present area at 2300.
 - (3) Be prepared to cross COLMAR Canal immediately behind 2d and 3d Bn's
snipe objectives indicated, maintain contact between 2d and 3d Bn's
and be prepared to assist either Bn in their mission.
 - (4) Will provide one section of MG's to each of 2d and 3d Bn's. Sections
to revert to 1st Bn upon their crossing canal.
 - (5) Provide assembly area south of COLMAR Canal for Co C, 750th Tr Bn.

- b. Second Battalion, attached: 2B plnt Co B, 501st TD Bn
1 plnt AF Co, 15th Inf
1 sect 441 AAA AW Bn (SP)

- (1) In the assault, establish one assault platoon at each of vicinity
of bridge-site, 7780451.

a. Assault platoon to cross COLMAR Canal in zone at 2300, secure
bridge-head, and maintain contact with assault platoon of 1st Bn
on the left.

b. Screen construction of foot-bridge across COLMAR Canal by Co B
10th Mgr Bn.

- (2) Upon completion of foot-bridge in zone, cross COLMAR Canal, rear bridge
in bridge-head, and clear zone with snipe objectives indicated and clearing enemy from south bank of the COLMAR Canal.
- (3) Maintain contact with 7th Inf on the right.
- (4) Upon closure of line CD, patrol vigorously to the front along routes
indicated.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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- (1) Bn CO's will provide AF protection by placing basecra teams at road blocks. AF mines to be carried in quantities as directed by Bn CO (minimum of 12 per platoon). Road blocks will be covered by fire with basecra team well forward and so placed as to fire at flank of enemy armor.
- (2) All units attached to Bn's will make definite arrangements for contact points on south side of COLMAR Canal to avoid delay in joining Bn's once canal bridge is completed.
- (3) Units will take precaution against enemy infiltration and will report enemy G/A activity to Hqst at once.
- (4) In the event stealth and surprise are lost, artillery and other prearranged fires will be employed to the maximum.
- (5) Bridgehead platoons will cross canal by stealth using boats or fording and will cover the installation of the footbridges.
- (6) Signal equipment will be water-proofed prior to E-Hour.
- (7) Radios and other signal equipment will be checked immediately.
- (8) All units will take definite steps to prevent freezing of weapons and ammunition. Machine guns will be checked for anti-freeze.
- (9) Regts will place directional signs, indicating assault Bn's, on near shore of COLMAR Canal at crossing sites. (Example: 8-24).
- (10) Assault troops will not carry blanket rolls or sleeping bags during crossing. Rolls will be brought over later, on transportation.
- (11) A maximum number of basecra and basecra ammunition will be carried.

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CONFIDENTIAL

48

80



28 JAN 45

OVERLAY TO:
OI # 9

MAP FRANCE 1:50,000

OFFICIAL
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COMRE
3-3

EDSON
CMDG

78

46

3^d
BN

7E15

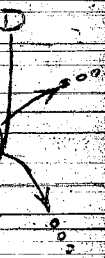
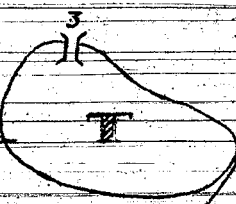
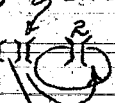
2^d
BN

1st BN ASSEMBLY
AREA

2^d BN
FOOT BRIDGE

3^d BN FOOT
BRIDGE

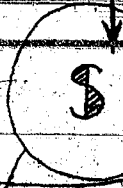
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2E3

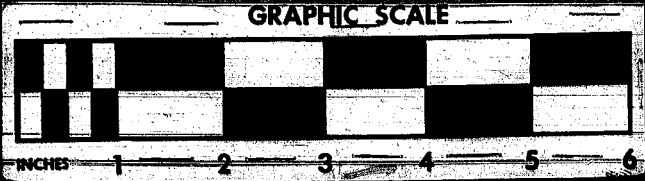


7E15



INITIAL BN
BOUNDARY
1st BN - 1 CO ON
EACH - U, V, W.

C



29 JANUARY 1945, Cont'd

- 1745 OP to FA La O: Btry of enemy guns spotted via 753409. Would like air mission on target.
(Above msg relayed to 39th FA)
- 1842 Ex O, 254th to S-3: Town of JEBENSHEIM cleared of enemy. Enemy south of the town. I Co dug in position at 820455. K Co in reserve. Captured 400 PW's out of JEBENSHEIM today - all from 137th Ba.
- 1935 OP to CO: 2 rds HB landed via 777460 at 1830.
- 2000 CO 254th to CO: Have cleared southern end of JEBENSHEIM. Have taken 454 prisoners. L Co is at 802459 and is moving to 807465. K Co is moving down road and located via 805 in 45 grid. I Co is at 821452.
- 2027 CP #2 reports arty barrage has started.
- 2042 2d Ba 3 to S-3: Engrs are not at canal.
- 2046 S-3 to Engrs: Your men are not at canal. Check immediately.
- 2101 (Oral) Asst CG: H-hour moved up to 2230 due to Engrs missing with bridging.
- 2102 Ex O to 1st and 2d Bns - Relayed above. Bns stopped.
- 2103 Asst CG to 7th Inf: H-hour moved up to 2230 due to Engrs missing with bridging.
- 2106 7th Inf called back, Telephone out. Ex O has gone to OP to try and contact forward elements by radio.
- 2120 Engrs arrived at 2d Ba.
- 2122 Ex O to CO's of 2d and 3d Bns: Any fire. Ans: Some MG but only a little. Engrs have now arrived at 2d Ba. CO: Bns alerted to move again - will contact CG for further orders.
- 2130 CG to Ex O: Two companies of 7th Inf across. Take off.
(Above msg relayed to Bns)
- 2140 254th Ex O to S-3: Our K Co is at 485453 (about 300 yds from canal). Intend to move to canal when artillery lifts.
- 2200 CO to Ex O: 3d Ba has started to move.
- 2216 CG to Ex O: Bridge at JEBENSHEIM is in - use it. Have amm ready to move over first bridge that is ready.
- 2236 S-3 to 1st Ba CO: Start moving - 7th Inf is well across canal.
- 2238 CO to Co 2d Bn: Get troops moving.
- 2247 7th Inf Co to S-3: Our 1st Ba ran into fire fight; 3d Ba moving along with no opposition.
- 2252 Ex O to CO: TOF going to be fired on JEBENSHEIM at 2300A. Check and make sure armor and TD's are all ready to go. 7th Inf is approaching first objective.
- 2300 2d Ba 3 to S-3: Our bridge is almost in.
- 2305 3d Ba 3 to S-3: I and L Co's are across and K Co under way.
- 2307 CO 2d Ba to Ex O: What is condition of Kuntzheim Bridge. Ex O: Noword yet. Have everything ready if OK.
- 2309 S-3 to Div: Will smoke machines be ready in the morning. Div: Yes. S-3. I & L Co's are across and K Co is going over.
- 2318 Ex O to CO 1st Ba: 5d Ba bridge is in. 2d Ba is probably in by now. You can use both bridges.
- 2325 Ex O to Div: Will you contact 254th Inf on that bridge. Div: 5DB is ready to go right away. Will contact 254th Inf.
- 2240 30th Inf to S-2: 1st Ba has taken objective; 3d Ba on objective but still in middle of town but still having a MG trouble at "1". S-2: Relayed our situation.
- 2242 S-3 to 2d Ba: Verified that 7th Inf has 2 Bns across via 820455. 3d Ba is south of JEBENSHEIM.
- 2243 Ex O to 7th Inf: Relayed information on 254th Inf and JEBENSHEIM Road and bridge.
- 2352 Ex O to 1st Ba: Relayed situation. 2 Bns each have 2 companies across.

29 JANUARY 1946, Contd.

- 2355 TD CO. to S-3. Bridge at MUNZENHEIM is definitely cut but engineers can span it quickly. The break is only about 15'. It still has good abutments.
- 2356 S-3 to Div. Relayed the above.
- 2356 Ex. O to 264th Inf. Relayed the above situation on bridge.
- 2400 S-3 3d Bn to S-3. All companies across.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 281200A to 291200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Regt : 28th Infantry

Date : 29 January 1945

No. 29

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: No change.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in RIEDWIHR

1st Bn in S edge of LE SCHMALHOLTZ Forest

2d Bn in S edge of LE MOESCHWALD Forest

3d Bn assembled in RIEDWIHR prepared to move to woods SE of RIEDWIHR.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in position throughout the period and continued reconnaissance, preparations and plans for crossing the COLMAR Canal. On the morning of 29 January 3d Bn made reconnaissance of woods to SE of RIEDWIHR. At the close of the period, 3d Bn was assembled in RIEDWIHR prepared to move and occupy woods vacated by elements of 256th Inf which attacked south part of JESSHEIM.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 28 January)

Officers: 73%

WO: 100%

EM: 73%

Rifle trench Strength:

Officers: 25

EM: 540

6. Results of Operations:

a. Positions held.

b. Preparations continued for crossing COLMAR Canal.

c. 3d Bn prepared to move to woods SE of RIEDWIHR.

COMR-IR

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

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S-2 REPORT

FROM: 280800A
TO : 290800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 29 JANUARY 1945
PLACE: RIEDWIER FRANCE.

No 20

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR SERIES.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS: No enemy contact during the period.
2. ENEMY OPERATIONS: The only enemy information reported was as follows:
 - a. MG firing from vic of V772451 during the afternoon. Our mortars fired on it but did not knock it out.
 - b. OP reported hearing vehicular track movement vic of BISCHWIER at 1915A. TK or SP fire was reported coming from BISCHWIER at about 2400A.
 - c. OP reported hearing enemy movement vic V762446 at 2150A.
 - d. Vehicle movement was heard from vic of Woods at V787446.
 - e. Patrols reports enemy personnel movement and digging south side of canal from vic bridge at V782451 west through bridge at V772451. Our patrols saw very little fire from the enemy.
3. MISCELLANEOUS:
 - a. PWs: None for the period.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 15th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

30 JANUARY 1945

- 0005 Ex O to G-2. 2d and 3d Bns are all across. The 1st Bn is moving across with small arms and light artillery. 2d Bn has laid down their preliminary fire.
- 0018 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3. K Co is 200 yards east of town.
- 0020 CO 2d Bn to Ex O. We are several hundred yards west of town.
- 0037 30th Inf to Ex O. We are within 500 yards of town.
- 0042 1st Bn to S-3. A & B Co's are across and have checked through woods 142 and are swinging to left and putting in roadblocks.
- 0048 S-3 3d Bn to S-3. Stop artillery fire as K Co control town.
- 0052 G-3 to Ex O. Smoke set up for 4.2's. Ex O: We have a company in MUNTZENHIRM and 1st Bn is all across.
- 0055 CO 2d Bn to S-3. I have one company moving into town, two companies abreast. G Co is moving into their position. E woods went through woods 142. S-3: Bailey bridges will be in before daylight.
- 0100 1st Bn to Ex O. C Co is across and through woods #2 on way to south woods and clearing.
- 0101 CO to S-3. 2d Bn sending back 50 PWs.
- 0105 S-3 to I & R Plat Ldr. Get hold of 2 1/2 ton to haul PWs.
- 0120 CO to Ex O. Believed we have picked up and SP at 783437. Arty is laying on it now. Bas are laying wire across the canal now. Have Commo Officer put in switch.
- 0125 CO to Ex O. What is the status of Bailey Bridge. Bridge is moving to the river.
- 0133 Ex O to OP #2. Send a man to check bridge site to see if bridge is in a vat.
- 0140 EMERS estimate that it will take 2 to 3 hours to install bridge.
- 0142 3d Bn to DO. K Co is on objective. E Co is being held up by grazing MG fire.
- 0145 CG to Ex O. Have LC area cleaned out immediately. Need it for a bridge site badly.
- 0200 CO to S-2. B Company took 85 prisoners about 0130.
- 0205 DO to Div. Gave situation.
- 0215 CO to S-3. 3d Bn has #3 bridge. Our side is clear but don't know about the north side. The bridge is blown.
- 0220 CG to S-3. Situation report given including bridge status.
- 0221 Ex O to 254th Inf. The 254th side not clear as they have run into 5 or 6 MGs.
- 0222 2d Bn to Ex O. All of our companies are in town. Mopping up now. More prisoners have been taken.
- 0225 DO to 3d Bn. Friendly troops are on both side of bridge.
- 0305 3d Bn to DO. Have you arranged to pick up prisoners. We have captured a 106mm gun intact with crew.
- 0330 I & R Plat Ldr to DO. DO wants information from PWs as soon as possible.
- 0345 CO to DO. Need TD to do some blasting. Dynamite caught on fire. Holding up construction of bridge.
- 0400 DO to Div. Situation reported.
- 0405 3d Bn to DO. K Co has knocked out a couple of vehicles.
- 0410 2d Bn CO to DO. Taking off for next town. Need smoke from 794250 north and east to B10440.
- 0510 1st Bn to S-3: Will jump off at 0520. B Co is on right and C Company in on left. Will have a TOT on objective. S-2 to 1st Bn. Regt has captured 167 PWs so far. We are receiving SP from MUNTZENHIRM.
- 0525 2d Bn to S-3. Have our objectives and have taken over 100 PWs. One company is going for objective 5.
- 0532 CO to S-2. Have TDs and Tks lined up on road ready to cross bridge.
- 0535 1st Bn to S-3. We are ready to cross bridge.
- FOPTSCWIHR.
- 0540 S-3 to DO. Want to move TDs and Tks down to bridge. Alright.
- 0546 CO to S-3. Line up TDs, Tks, AT guns, radio jeeps medical jeeps and ammunition jeeps ready to cross bridge.
- 0552 S-3 to 1st Bn. Relayed the above.
- 0555 Div to S-3. Have everything over bridge by 0800A. Then CCo will cross.

30 January 1946, Cont'd

- 0602 2d Bn 6 to S-3: E Co on edge of town. No resistance.
- 0612 2d Bn 6 to S-3: C Co in fight in town of FORTSCHWEIER
- 0702 Arty Ln O to 39th FA: 1st and 2d Bn are in FORTSCHWEIER cleaning it out. E Co in town and G Co on outskirts. Light resistance.
- 0745 S-3 to CG: Our next mission. Take Pt at 806418 with one Bn attack using our own armor. Then one Co will support French armor in attack on URSCHENHEIM when FORTSCHWEIER is cleared and proceed with French to attack DURRENENTZEN. One Co will be put on COLMAR canal via 820451 leaving Bn and one Co at MUNTZENHEIM.
- 0750 Ex O to Div War Room: FORTSCHWEIER not clear - have elements of 2 Bns there
- 0800 S-3 to All Bns: Send your vehicles across canal. Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: Two tanks in enemy counterattack. Too early for further details. Hold tactical vehicles until counterattack is over.
- 0830 CG to Ex O: Get your armor across canal at once and be prepared for armor counterattack. When we attack, take tanks along, with infantry. Enemy is disorganized - his communications have been blasted out. Does not have much power for counterattack. We will attack all day or until we reach final objective. - MEUF - BRISACH.
- 0840 CO, 2d Bn to Ex O: Armor starting across bridge now. Have not contacted B Co yet.
- 0850 S-2 to CG: Counterattack against 3d Bn has quieted down. Enemy infantry came up from south. Two enemy tanks were moving from South to North, 800 yds west of MUNTZENHEIM. All our armor has crossed canal now and tactical vehicles are crossing now.
- 0855 S-3 to CG: FORTSCHWEIER nearly cleared only a few snipers. Armor on way to join Bns.
- 0910 Div War Room to DO: 16th Inf has 1 1/2 hours to clear tactical transportation across bridge #2.
- 0915 Ex O to Ex O, 1st Bn: Send rack'll AT guns across at once. We must get everything over bridge so French can move.
- 0930 S-3 to G-3: All of our armor and tactical vehicles have crossed. We can cut off our traffic any time and open roads and bridges for French. G-3: Cut your traffic off, will start CG-5 attack in less than one hour. 7th Inf will attack woods west of FORTSCHWEIER at noon.
- 0935 Ex O, 3d Bn to DO: Have following captured from MUNTZENHEIM: 2 halftracks, one 105-mm How; two ambulances, KO'd three 75-mm AT Guns; two 120-mm mortars and ammo for all types of weapons; two arty radios; one motorcycle.
- 0945 2d Bn to DO: Have approx 42 PWs here at our CP in FORTSCHWEIER. Send MP's to pick them up.
- 0955 Ex O: Conference call to all 3 Bn CO's. As soon as French 5-DB push off, 1st Bn will attack in coordination with their armor from FORTSCHWEIER to woods vicinity 806420 and 806418. Will move out at 1100A on order. 3d Bn will follow 5-DB with one Co of infantry to URSCHENHEIM, another company to follow French to DURRENENTZEN. P Co will block at bridge via 820452.
- 1055 G of S to Ex O: French will be in command of their two objectives (the two towns) with French infantry objectives.
- 1137 Ex O, 3d Bn to DO: P Co (1 platoon) will move into new position within 30 minutes.
- 1150 1st Bn 6 to Ex O: Will push out with A and B Co's abreast with one Co (C Co) in the rear. A Co will occupy east part of woods, B Co the north part of woods and C Co the southern sector. Will push TD's and tanks out ahead.
- 1238 Div to Ex O: Can put four smoke generators in FORTSCHWEIER, four in MUNTZENHEIM and two in between the towns.
- 1305 CO 2d Bn to Ex O: F Co in pipe fight with enemy who is in edge of woods via 822452 about 500 yds south of bridge.
- 1325 Ex O to Div: F Co in vic 820452. Enemy around bridge, under control now.

30 JANUARY 1945, Cont'd

- 1350 Div to Ex O: Report of counterattack vic 831452. You might alert F Co.
1352 Ex O to 1st Bn: French has started across bridge - should be ready about 1630.
1353 Ex O to 1st Bn: French has started across bridge - should be ready about 1630.
1400 Ex O to 3d Bn: CC-5 is crossing now and should be ready about 1630.
1412 Ex O to CO: (The above msg)
1605 DO, 7th Inf to Ex O: Our French units are crossing can't now. One Bn will head for NIEDERWALD woods. HORBOURG not cleared yet and we still do not hold any part of NIEDER-BN-PLAINE - enemy infiltrated back in there.
1510 OP #1 to Ex O: OP now established at 806446.
1600 Ex O to 1st Bn: French will be ready at 1645A. Attack will start at that time.
1605 Ex O gave last msg to CO, 3d Bn and DO, 2d Bn.
1630 S-3, 7th Inf to Ex O: French armor and our 2d Bn will attack HORBOURG as soon as possible. When HORBOURG is clear, we attack ANDOLSHHEIM and NIEDERWALD Woods.
1640 CO, 1st Bn to Ex O: Plan for attack: C Co will jump off first; other Co's will ride tanks but will not start until C Co moves out some distance. Then we can start arty according to schedule. Moving out now for assembly area.
1745 French jumped off from MUNTZENHEIM at 1700A for URSCHENHEIM. Will send back half track to URSCHENHEIM for 3d Bn troops after they take next objective.
1750 1st Bn S to S-3: Fired preparation. 7th Inf moved thru and is attacking.
1800 OP to DO: French started attacking URSCHENHEIM. Can see large fires in the town.
1820 1st Bn S to S-3: B Co is on its objective but not A Co. (B Co objective is northern tip of woods, vic 806426)
1830 3d Bn S to S-3: French have lost 3 tanks and have six left. Still waiting to be committed by French to take URSCHENHEIM.
1835 1st Bn to DO: A Co is on objective.
1835 7th Inf S-3 to S-3: Our 1st Bn passed thru your 1st Bn. Jumped off at 1700A and followed 79 grid to objective "LE NIEDERWALD Woods".
1840 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: French are in URSCHENHEIM. Lost one more tank. We captured there reports two companies of enemy in the town - infiltrated there during the early morning. Also report two S.F. guns in the town. French will occupy town with their own infantry and will call on us to hold town after it is cleared out.
1850 S-3 to 264th: What are your dispositions? Right flank of one Co at 825433; right flank of one Co at 846453. Center of reserve Co at 818483.
1852 Bn to S-3: Will try to put in footbridge at 821463.
1945 2d Bn to S-2: A and B Co's on objective in woods; French in 1st town.
1954 1st Bn to S-3: C Co going into position.
2000 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: French have cleared WICKERSCHWILF. I Co leaving to take over town. French lost all their tanks (9) in attack and arrived with 3 TDs.
2005 Div to 1st Bn: S-3 to 1st Bn: French lost 9 tanks, each made opposite ANDOLSHHEIM and control road to south.
2014 S-3 to 2d Bn DO: Get patrol out to contact 1st Bn 7th Inf.
2030 S-3 to G-2: From PWs the French encountered two infantry Co's, one Ron Co, nine mortars, two tank 75's and three panzer tanks in URSCHENHEIM.
2038 Ex O to CO: French lost four tanks in URSCHENHEIM, perhaps more. One lost from mine, two from flat trajectory fire and one from panzerfaust.
2137 to 2255 Negative reports.
2300 3d Bn DO to DO: I Co in position (URSCHENHEIM) for approx an hour. The town is cleared.
2305 C of S to Ex O: The CC-5 is going to attack prior to daylight to take town of DURRENENTZEN. Your Co will follow closely behind and take over town. Will fire arty preparation prior to attack.

30 JANUARY 1945, Cont'd

2315 E and O Co's report all quiet - no communication with F Co.

2345 Cmf mortar to DC. Will smoke edge of woods starting at 44 easting grid
down to 41 easting.

~~2350 Cmf mortar to DC. Will smoke edge of woods starting at 44 easting grid
down to 41 easting. because of the difficulty of carrying them across the canal.~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S - 3 Periodic Report

Period: 291200A to 301200A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: RIEDWIHR, FRANCE
Date: 30 January 1950

No 80

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet

1. Our Front Lines: Regt'l front line extends from FORTSCHWIHR TO MUNTZENHEIM to bridge via V82145Z.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in RIEDWIHR
1st Bn (-) in FORTSCHWIHR
A Co via V786445
2d Bn (-) in FORTSCHWIHR
F Co at bridge via V82145Z
3d Bn in MUNTZENHEIM

3. Weather and Visibility: The afternoon of 29 January was clear, affording good air support. The morning of 30 January was hazy, limited visibility.

4. Information of Adjacent Units:

254th Infantry continued to clear the southern sector of JESSHEIM on the afternoon of 29 January. At 291840A, the 254th Infantry reported the town cleared and a total of 460 PWs captured.

7th Infantry crossed the COLMAR Canal on the right flank of the 15th Infantry, night of 29-30 January, and cleared BISCHWIHR and WIER-EN-PLAINS.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

On the afternoon of 29 January, the 3d Bn, 15th Infantry moved to the woods SE of RIEDWIHR which had been vacated by units of the 254th Infantry to assault the southern part of JESSHEIM. 3d Bn closed in the new area at 291830A.

The regiment crossed the COLMAR Canal during the night of 29-30 January with two battalions in the assault. E-hour was delayed because of bridging supplies being held up in traffic jam, but 2d and 3d Bn's began crossing at 292145A with 1st Bn in regt'l reserve. I and L Co's were reported across the canal at 292305A and were moving toward MUNTZENHEIM. 2d and 3d Bns completed crossing by 292400A and 1st Bn crossed behind them, moved to assembly areas and protected the flank of the regiment.

Upon crossing the canal, the 2d and 3d Bn's reorganized and attacked MUNTZENHEIM from the west with the 3d Bn on the left, Co I and E remaining in position in front of the bridgehead. E Company was reported on objective at 300140A and the first elements of 2d Bn were reported in the town at 300130A.

After clearing MUNTZENHEIM, 3d Bn remained in the town and 2d Bn attacked FORTSCHWIHR from the NE in conjunction with the 1st Bn (-) which attacked south to the town from assembly areas.

During the attack on FORTSCHWIHR and MUNTZENHEIM, approx 200 PWs were taken, a 105 mm gun with crew, an 88 mm gun with crew and 2 120mm mortars were captured intact.

At the close of the period the regt was reorganizing on objectives prepared to continue the attack in conjunction with CCS (Pr)

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (as of 29 Jan)

Officers: 75%

WO : 100%

EM : 75%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 88%

EM : 67%

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

7. Results of Operations:

a. COLMAR Canal crossed and bridges constructed.

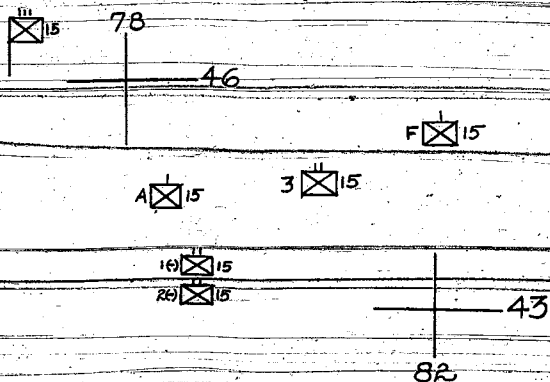
b. FORTSCHWIR and MONTZENHEIM cleared.

c. Approximately 200 PWs, 100000 lbs of supplies and 20000 lbs of equipment captured during the period.

COMBIE

8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L



HQ 15th INF
30 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT #30

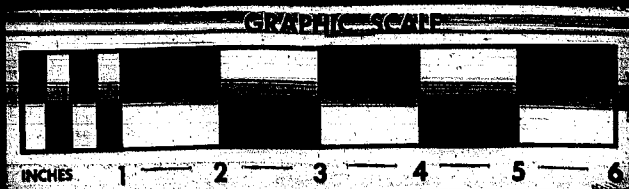
Net FRANCE 1/50,000

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CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 REPORT

FROM: 290800A

TO: 300800A

UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY

DATE: 30 JANUARY 1945

PLACE: RIEDWIER, FRANCE.

No 21

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: No definite front line exists.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS: Enemy activity reported was as follows:

a. At 1455, OP reported flat trajectory fire landing vic of V792457.

b. Enemy MG located vic of V778450 at 1255A.

c. 4 gun btry firing from vic of V753409 at 0120A.

d. Enemy arty shelled vic V794485 at 1710A.

e. SP believed firing from vic of V788457 arty fired on it.

f. 1st and 2d Bns in fire fight in town of FORTSCHWIER at 0612A.

g. SP gun firing from vic of V775425 at 0600A.

h. At 2130 the Regt attacked S to force a crossing of the Colmar

Canal vic V760451 practically without opposition. The 2d Bn and 3d Bn

moved S to take MUNTZENHEIM and the bridge site at V802452; this was

accomplished against S/A's resistance only in spite of the fact the ex

had both mortar and AT guns in the vic. Throughout the night the 1st Bn

fired from woods at V787458 and V790441 reported mortar and high-velocity

gun fire coming from FORTSCHWIER. At 0600A 1st Bn and 2d Bn attacked

FORTSCHWIER meeting light resistances, again chiefly S/A's in spite of the

presence of other weapons. At the end of the period the town was clear

except for a small amount of scattered sniper fire. About 250 PW's,

chiefly from the 2d Mountain Division (see IPW Report, attached) were

taken from MUNTZENHEIM, FORTSCHWIER and vic. The following equipment

was captured at MUNTZENHEIM: 4- 120mm Mortars, 2-80mm Mortars, 3-77mm

AT guns, 1-75mm gun, 2-75mm guns, 2-75mm how, 1-105mm how, 75 Pz Faust

and MG's, 1/2 tracks (damaged), 2 ambulances. Also ammunition for

above weapons. All weapons listed above are in good condition. Enemy

material captured at FORTSCHWIER: 4 motorcycles and sidecars, 1 Volkswagen,

1-31/8 ton truck - all in good condition. 80mm ammunition, 120mm ammuni-

tion and Panzer Fausta.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB

Major, 15th Infantry

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
 SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 A. P. O. # 3

30 January 1945.

IPV REPORT: Period 290800A - 300800A January 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
3	Hq/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2nd Mtn Div (vic MUNTZENHEIM)			0100A 2nd Bn
12	1/ " " " " " " " "	2nd	"	" 3rd "
21	Hq Co/II/136 " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 3rd "
1	" " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Detached-Sv	"	" 3rd "
X6	16/138 Mtn Inf " " " " " " " "	2nd Mtn Div	"	" 2nd "
2	Hq/137 " " " " " " " "	2nd	"	" 2nd "
2	Hq/I/137 " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
5	1/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
1	2/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
7	5/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
2	4/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
77	5/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
7	8/111 Arty " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 3rd "
1	1/ 85 Inf " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
4	4/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 2nd "
13	4/K V Regt, 905 VG Div (?)	"	"	" 3rd "
1	Hq/BG HURST	"	"	" 3rd "
1	2/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	" 3rd "
4	1/293 OHQ Arty Regt	V790451	2230A	10th Bn
1	1/748 VGR, 708 VG Div	(vic MUNTZENHEIM)	0100A	2nd Bn
7	1/1516 AR BH,	V 8044	0100A	3rd "
1	Medics Co, 716 Inf Div	"	0100A	2nd "

177 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCON: 4723.

UNITS, MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, WEAPONS:

1/136 Mtn Inf Regt: Pws left Denmark in middle of January along with 600 men. They are ill-informed about the Regt. Co strength estimated 100 men.

Hq Co/II/136 Mtn Inf Regt: Pws estimate Co's strength 120 men. However only 30 men were in this area, the rest of the Co remaining in NEUP-BRISACH.

3/137 Mtn Inf Regt: Co came to this area from BITTENHEIM near MUEL-HOUSE with 120 men and 9 LMGs. Pws claim Co suffered heavy losses.

5/137 Mtn Inf Regt: Co's strength before attack was estimated 100 men. 77 Pws were taken and Co may be considered completely wiped out.

1/31/45 1st Army Regt. PWs state that they left COLMAR 22 on 27 Jan. They was the 2nd strong and PWs state they had 4x10.5cm howitzers, which were located 2 km S of MUNTZENHAIN.

4/28 1st Inf Regt. PWs state that they came from Italy on 24 Jan. Only one platoon of the Co was committed in this sector. They had orders to hold the position.

1/28 1st Army PW states that his Co left MONTENAPPEL 5 days ago; Co strength was then 150 men. Co was broken up, and only 2nd Platoon with 40 men and 4 MG were committed in this area.

1/28 1st Army Regt. The 4 PWs were manning an OP for artillery in MONTENAPPEL. They state that they had 4x15cm howitzers in their battery, which were located at V842437. PWs claim to have seen 4 tanks at 200000 moving towards MONTENAPPEL going on road W to E.

INSTALLATIONS:

Facilities of 716 Inf 1st worked in evacuation hospital in FESSENHAIN (S of LAUF BILLAGH) and reports a Division ammo dump at V842425. PW claims to be a deserter.

IP - 15th Inf Regt.

CONFIDENTIAL

Hq 15th Inf
BIEBWIER, FRANCE
30 January 1945

Operations Instructions)

Number 10)

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, COLMAR Sheet.

1. 15th Infantry reorganizes in present sector, prepared to continue the attack in conjunction with CG5 (Fr).

2. a. First Battalion, attached: 1 plat AF Co, 15th Inf
1 plat Co G, 756 Tr Bn
1 plat Co B, 601 TD Bn

- (1) Will attack along indicated axis, seize and hold objective Y.
- (2) Establish road block indicated.
- (3) Block to the south and southeast.
- (4) Send patrols along routes indicated.

b. Second Battalion, attached: 1 plat AF Co, 15th Inf
1 plat Co B, 601 TD Bn

- (1) Will assemble and be prepared to move from present positions on passage of CG4.
- (2) On regt'l order, move to regt'l reserve, vic of MUNTZHEIM.
- (3) Send one reinforced rifle company to bridge at V820452 immediately.

c. Third Battalion, attached: 1 plat AF Co, 15th Inf
1 plat Co B, 601 TD Bn

- (1) Will be prepared to follow CG5 along axis indicated with one rifle company.
- (2) Hold and block to the south upon seizure of objective Y by CG5.
- (3) Be prepared to assist CG5 in the capture of objective Y.
- (4) Be prepared, upon seizure of objective Y, to follow CG5 with one rifle company to assist and hold objective Z and block to the south and southwest.

EDSON
CMDG

OFFICIAL:

Comdr
CUMMIS
S-5

CONFIDENTIAL

31 JANUARY 1945

- 0015 2d Bn. All quiet. F Co has one PW.
- 0020 IPW to DO. PW from 6th Co reports 8th and 9th Co's of 136th Regt in woods vic 8342.
- 0030 OP #1 to DO. Enemy artillery coming from 170 degrees azimuth from DURRENENTZEN. 15 enemy rounds of artillery landed in MUNTZENHEIM since 2000. Fire burning in DURRENENTZEN.
- 0045 DO to 3d Bn. French attacked DO DURRENENTZEN at 0600 supported by armor. After they get the town you occupy the town.
- 0055 Periodic report to Div War Room. (The above message confirmed). You will not send troops to occupy DURRENENTZEN. Be prepared to advance to East 2 Bns abreast about suppertime.
- 0066 DO to 3d Bn S-3. Call off company laid on to occupy DURRENENTZEN. Will do.
- 0067 DO to DO 1st Bn. Establish contact point with 7th Infantry at AT mine block at cross roads vic 805477.
- 0130 DO to G-2. Have 50 PWs from URSCHENHEIM taken by French by French all from 8th Co, 136th Regt. Say 9th Co about 100 strong. 8th Co practically wiped out. Also 10 PWs from 4th Co, 67th Rcn of 2d Mountain Division.
- 0225 DO 3d Bn to DO. All set for tomorrow's operation.
- 0240 2d Bn to DO. All quiet.
- 0405 OP #1 in MUNTZENHEIM to DO. Interdictory fire landed near CP. Enemy arty coming from 185 degree azimuth, approximately five miles away.
- 0420 3d Bn. All quiet.
- 0430 1st Bn. No contact with French on either side of us. All quiet here except for a little artillery. 2d Bn. No communications with "F" Co.
- 0500 2d Bn. Still out of contact with "G" and "F" and "G" Co's report all quiet.
- 0520 3d Bn. All quiet.
- 0535 OP #1. 3 flares on 120 degree azimuth, 4,000 yds. Can hear some armor travelling on road fast.
- 0600 OP #1. Our armor on either side of DURRENENTZEN and somewhat beyond.
- 0625 to 0635 reports all quiet.
- 0650 DO to 865th Cnl. S-3 wants you to be prepared to smoke the edge of woods from east of DURRENENTZEN to a point east of WIDENSCHEN.
- 0655 3d Bn Dy Cpl to DO. The French attack is progressing. They entered the outskirts of DURRENENTZEN on the western and southern edges with tanks. 2 PWs have been taken.
- 0658 French Officer to DO. Tanks are in the southern part of DURRENENTZEN with Infantry, and are in the first houses. Resistance consists of FMG fire. PWs report that there were 3 tanks but we haven't contacted them yet. They may have left. None of our armor is deep in town, only on the edges.
- 0730 OP #1 to DO. On 120 degree azimuth, there is both friendly and enemy S/A and MG fire. Coming from flank of DURRENENTZEN and fine fight seems to be taking place between Durrenzentzen and URSCHENHEIM.
- 0758 CO to CO. Send a company to help French in DURRENENTZEN. What company have you nearby? L Co is in MUNTZENHEIM. I'll have them underway in an hour.
- 0810 CO to 3d Bn. Move L Co to DURRENENTZEN. Your mission is to take over that part of town cleared by French. It is half cleared now. You're to block and protect flanks and contact me upon completion. I'll have to get a Division order to relieve you.
- 0818 1st Bn to CO. Can we move half tracks across bridge. CO: Yes.
- 0825 CO to CO. Have you any tanks in SE corner of woods vic 88824. CO: Yes. Roads are cleared and blocked. CO: Send tank to Widenbusche. Fuel out by.
- 0843 S-3 3d Bn to CO. I'm with the French in vic DURRENENTZEN. They want L Co to attack with 5 French tanks. CO. No, it's not your mission. You're only to block.
- 0848 CO to CG. Reported above. CG. Hold to original mission.
- 0852 CO to 3d Bn. Reported the above.
- 0912 3d Bn to CO. L Co is on the way. French control 3 RJs in NW end of town.

31 JANUARY 1945, Cont'd

- 0945 1st Bn CO to S-3: Will maintain contact patrols with 7th Inf tonight. Will run patrols starting at 1800A. 7th Inf will run patrols on the uneven hour and we on the even hours.
- 1055 ~~1st Bn CO to S-3: Will maintain contact patrols with 7th Inf tonight. Will run patrols starting at 1800A. 7th Inf will run patrols on the uneven hour and we on the even hours.~~
No contact made. One patrol found enemy abandoned equipment in NIEDERWALD woods. A Co patrol went 200 yds beyond road block in WOODERWALD woods where two men were captured by the enemy via 804415. Snow bank at north end of WIDENSOLEN fire covers roads leading to IRSCHENHEIM and FORTSCHWIHR.
- 1065 7th Inf to S-3: Our 3d Bn pushing south - having fire fight vic 775422. 1st Bn with French, out road at 788403. One of our Co's at 789406 and two Co's at 780409. The latter two companies are pushing toward ANDOLSHAIM.
- 1120 3d Bn 3 to DO: All of 1 Co in DURRENTZEN. Hold small portion of the town. Getting S/P fire in MUNTZENHEIM from WIDENSOLEN.
- 1145 CO - Conference call to all 3 Bn's: - Want recon of new area. Boundary of RHINE and southern boundary extending from DURRENTZEN south east along road to junction and then directly east to RHFN - RHONE canal. 1st Bn's southern boundary along 41 Easting. 3d Bn in reserve in FORTSCHWIHR with one company in DURRENTZEN.
- 1205 DO to Div War Room: 1 Co is on the outskirts of DURRENTZEN and French are in the town cleaning up. Our 4th patrol to 7th Inf went to vic 797418 - Found enemy equipment and emplacements but no Americans. 7th Inf now wants contact point at 796408.
- 1300 S-2 to CO, 1st Bn: Have your men check houses on photos against maps. 7th Inf has plat at 791418 - sending patrol to edge of woods to contact your patrol and will move north on east edge of woods until they meet your patrol. Co, 1st Bn: Enemy emplacements have been observed at 795418, 797417, 807418, 804419; strong point located along WIDENSOLEN stream.
- 1320 Ex O to CO, 30th FA: Request check on 844424. PW reports large ammo dump there.
- 1335 DO, 2d Bn to S-3: Both enemy and friendly arty falling at 785418.
- 1360 Communications O to DO: New CP located at 80364475 - MUNTZENHEIM.
- 1415 S-3 to S-3, 2d Bn: 30th Inf will relieve 1st Bn.
- 1415 G-2 to S-2: French are getting S/P fire in DURRENTZEN from woods east of town. 254th will attack street on north side of canal in conjunction with your attack.
- 1425 DO, 3d Bn to Ex O: French are getting a counterattack at DURRENTZEN. Saw a Bn of American infantry was to join them at 1100A. G-3 (Re. above): French were to get a Bn of Shock troops. We are giving a Co of Cml mortars 76th Div, and must send one plat of yours to 30th Inf. (Ex O gave above msg to fwd CP) Contact Cml Mortars and arrange this)
- 1435 CO to Cg: L Company is in DURRENTZEN.
- 1440 DO to S-3 2d Bn: 7th Infantry and French are moving in HURGOURG. They have not reached the woods and were counterattacked by 254th. No contact has been made yet.
- 1455 S-3 left for new CP.
- 1600 ~~ear of closed in RIEDWIHR.~~
New CP opened in MUNTZENHEIM.
- 1555 1st Bn CO to Ex O: French have 26 PW's in FORTSCHWIHR and have no way of taking care of them. Ex O: We will take them over.
- 1600 G-2 to S-2: 7th Infantry control the RJ vic of HURGOURG. The French are still having trouble in DURRENTZEN. Three enemy tanks still in the town supporting the infantry. There has been no attack on ANDOLSHAIM as yet.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 301200A to 311200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place: RIEDWIHR, FRANCE

Date : 31 January 1945

No 3

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: Regt'l front line extends from FORTSCHWIHR SE to woods via V807418 NE to URSCHENHEIM thence NE to DURRENTZEN, NW to bridge via V821452.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in RIEDWIHR

1st Bn CP via V806425

A Co via V807418

B Co via V806424

C Co via V808423

2d Bn (-F Co) in FORTSCHWIHR

F Co at bridge on COLMAR Canal, via V821452

3d Bn (-) in MUNTZENHEIM

I Co in URSCHENHEIM

L Co in DURRENTZEN

3. Weather and Visibility: Easy; limited visibility.

4. Our operations for the Period:

First Battalion: began assembling via of FORTSCHWIHR at 301640A and attacked the woods to the SE. Little or no enemy resistance was encountered by the battalion. B Co was reported on objective, via V806424 at 301830A. A Company was on objective, via V807418, at 301836A. C Co was going into position, via V808423, at 301960A. 1st Bn remained in position in the woods until the end of the period.

Second Battalion: F Company held positions at the bridge across the COLMAR Canal, via V821452. The remainder of the 2d Bn remained in FORTSCHWIHR awaiting relief.

Third Battalion: Elements of French armored CCG attacked URSCHENHEIM from MUNTZENHEIM at 301700A. The town was reported clear of enemy at 302000A and I Company was ordered to move and take over the town. I Company on position at 302200A. At 310900A, the French attacked DURRENTZEN entering the town from the west and south with tanks. L Company was then moved to take over the defense of the portions of DURRENTZEN which had been cleared. L Company was in the town at approximately 310900A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 29 Jan)

Officers: 75%

EN: 70%

SM: 75%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 25

6. Results of Operations:

- 1st Bn attacked and occupied woods SW of URSCHENHEIM
- I Co moved to URSCHENHEIM.
- L Company moved to DURRENTZEN.

COMBIE

8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

80

50



77

45

F 15

36 15

L 15

26 15

I 15

1 15

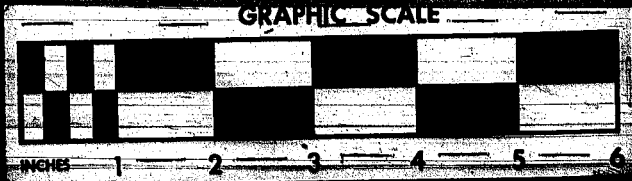
HQ 15th INF
31 JAN '45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT # 31
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000

OFFICIAL:
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S-3

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CMDG

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S-2 REPORT

FROM: 300800A

TO: 310800A

PLACE: BIRNBER, FRANCE

No. 22

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; CCLMAR Sheet.

1. Enemy Disposition:

a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period there was no definite line of resistance however enemy held all ground to the east and south of place, pushing generally from DURRENHEITZEN to WIDENSOLEN to V780400 in this sector.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn was in FORTSCHWIHR from where they jumped off in attack at about 1800A on woods vic of V806420. The woods was taken with little or no resistance and the Bn remained in position in the woods during rest of the period blocking to the south at V806416.
- (2) 2d Bn: Bn was in FORTSCHWIHR at beginning of the period where it remained. F Co was sent to secure the bridge site vic V821452 reaching it at approximately 1300A. Enemy had personnel in position vic of the bridge and 7 PWs were captured after a fire fight. At end of the period F Co was still in position vic of the bridge.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn was in MUNTZENHEIM at beginning of the period. After the French had entered URSCHNEIM 1 Co was sent to occupy the town and block to the south and east. The positions were occupied after meeting little resistance and Co remained there for rest of the period. At end of the period L Co was enroute to DURRENHEITZEN to occupy town after capture by the French.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Enemy troops in position vic of bridge at V821452 at 1300A. After short fire fight 7 PWs were taken and the position secured by F Co.
- (2) Artillery: Enemy artillery was light during the entire period. Only incendiary being fire reported.
- (3) No report of enemy armor, air, engineers or M/T activity.

3. Miscellaneous:

a. PWs: See attached IFF Report.

DONALD R. LEE

Major, 15th Inf

S-2

CONFIDENTIAL

**HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3**

31 January 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 300800A - 310800 January 1945.

TABULATION:

<u>EM Off</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Place of Capt.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt. Unit</u>
2	64th A.C. Ambulance Drivers Plat. sic V 8044	300500A		3rd Bn
3	1 Hq/II/1316 Arty Regt, 16 VG Div sic V 7843	300600A		1st "
6	6/1316 " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
12	Hq Co/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2nd " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
5	" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	1000A	3rd "
2	" /1/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	V 8245	1400A	2nd "
9	2/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	V82451	1000A	3rd "
1	2/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	V 8245	1400A	2nd "
8	4/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	2nd "
1	Hq/II/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	3rd "
50	8/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	French
2	Hq Co/137 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	1800A	2nd Bn
1	3/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
4	3/82 Engr Bn, 2nd Mtn Div " " " " " " " " " "	"	0900A	2nd "
13	4/Ron Bn 67, " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	300600A	1st "
35	4/ " " 67, " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	0900A	2nd "
19	4/ " " 67, " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	V814428	1800A	French
1	2/Sign Mtn Bn 67, " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	V 7842	1800A	1st Bn
1	Hq/III Mtn Arty Regt, 2nd Mtn Div FORTSCHWIHR	"	1000A	3rd "
1	10/ " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	1000A	3rd "
1	1 Div Hq, 2nd Mtn Inf Div " " " " " " " " " "	"	0900A	2nd "
1	1/High Mtn Bn 4 " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	0900A	2nd "
4	Hq/223 VGR, 16 VG Div " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	300600A	1st "
1	" /II/223 VGR, 16 VG Div " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
1	BG DIEMER, attached to 223 VGR " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
1	I/X V Regt, VG Div "OBERRHEIN" (?) " " " " " " " " " "	"	"	1st "
1	Hq/K-V " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	"	0800A	3rd "

183 3 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 4909.

UNITS, MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, WEAPONS:

9/136 was wiped out. PWs estimate its strength before was about 80 men. With 50 men taken PW this Co may be considered as nearly wiped out. PWs state to have seen 9/136 Mtn Inf Regt in KUNHEIM V8542 as of 300600A. They believe that 9/136 is about 90 men strong. Co was marching from KUNHEIM in NW direction towards woods.

INSTALLATIONS:

One PW reports the following Gun positions: 2x7.5cm guns and 1x10.8cm gun in forest V8042. Also 1x7.5cm and 1x10.8cm in forest V795413.

IPW - 15th Inf

Co. 15th Infantry
MONTSEHEIN,
31 January 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

SUMMER 11)

Map: FRANCE, 1/20,000; COLMAR Sheets.

1. The 15th Infantry attacks at 0100A, 1st February 1945 with two Bn's abreast; sweeps to east in zone south of COLMAR Canal; clears woods within zone; seizes REINE - RHONE Canal crossings at V849440 and at V849422; and seizes successive objectives indicated with all possible speed destroying or capturing all enemy in zone of advance.

2. a. 1st Battalion, attached: 1 Plat TD's
1 Plat Tanks
1 Plat AF Co

- (1) Will attack within sector indicated at H-hour, capturing REINE - RHONE Canal crossing at V849422 (South)
- (2) Clear woods within sector, seizing successive objectives indicated.

b. 2d Battalion, attached: 1 Plat TD's.
1 Plat AF Co.

- (1) Will attack within sector indicated at H-hour capturing REINE - RHONE Canal crossing site at V849440.
- (2) Establish indicated blocks on COLMAR Canal.
- (3) Clear enemy from woods within zone and seize successive objectives indicated.

c. 3d Battalion, attached: 1 Plat TD's.
1 Plat AF Co.

- (1) From present positions, be prepared to continue the mission of either 1st or 2d Bn.
- (2) On regt'l order, be prepared to assemble Bn for further action to the east.
- (3) On regt'l order, be prepared to reinforce bridgehead across REINE - RHONE Canal at either objective "North" or "South".
- (4) Be prepared to move one rifle company and attached armor to either 1st or 2d Bn sectors for reinforcing missions.

RESON
Cndg

OFFICIAL:

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COMRIE

S-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM NB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM
ITEM NO: <u>3043</u>
<u>(Cont.)</u>

8-1558-ENV
AIA Dept - 15th Regt
Feb 1958

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

1-1088 806
20V 13

5 March 1945

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Unit Journal and Operations Report.

TO : Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division, APO 3.

1. Transmitted herewith Unit Journal and Operations Report of this organization for the month of February 1945.

2. Request acknowledgement of receipt by indorsement hereon.

For the Regimental Commanders:

2 Incls -
Unit Journal
Spec Report (quint)

J. P. Miller
CWO, 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

L-1088

3 March 1945

REPORT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY 1945

- I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
- II SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS
- III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD
- IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL
- V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the period the regiment was engaged in the offensive which began on the 22d of January to clear the enemy from the "COUMAR Pocket." The 1st and 2d Bns launched an attack on 1 February 1945 from MUNTZENHEIM to secure bridgeheads across the RHINE-ROONE Canal in vicinity of KUNHEIM. The 3d Bn supported the French in the attack on DURRENTZEN and URSCHENHEIM and then attacked through the woods to clear the area west of the canal. The regiment remained in defensive positions along the canal as the 7th Infantry attacked south from ARTZENHEIM along the east side of the canal occupying BAUTZENHEIM and KUNHEIM. On 3 February the regiment was assembled in KUNHEIM prepared to resume the offensive to the south. The 1st Bn was committed on 4 February to eliminate enemy forces remaining in rear of the 7th Infantry elements which were engaged in the town of BIESHEIM. In conjunction with the 7th Infantry, the area north of BIESHEIM was cleared. The 2d and 3d Bns passed through the 254th Infantry and attacked across difficult terrain and against a stubborn enemy to secure the area east and northeast of BIESHEIM. A stream crossing was forced by the 2d Bn on 5 February to clear the area between the stream and the secondary canal. The attack continued ceaselessly until the enemy was routed and the bridgehead across the SELME River at Tieux Brisch was secured by the 3d Bn. On 8 February, the 3d Bn was relieved in defensive positions along the RHINE River by elements of the 30th Infantry, and the 15th Infantry assembled as division reserve. The regiment remained in reserve and engaged in a rehabilitation and limited training program until 18 February, when the regiment was moved to bivouac area in vicinity of PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE, France. A training program

was initiated for the remainder of the period with a view to preparing the regiment for future combat. Training stressed military discipline, firing of weapons, small unit actions, and the development of leaders.

On 20 February, the regiment was represented at a ceremony held in COIMAR at which the 3d Division was presented the Fourragere by General de Latrue de Tassigny. The regimental commander, Lt Col HALBERT D. KESON, was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm. The Croix de Guerre was also presented to three enlisted men from the 15th Infantry.

II SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS

During the attack on the 1st & 2d of February to the RHINE-RHONE Canal, the 15th Infantry encountered units of the 2d Mountain Division and the 198th Infantry Division supported by armor. The enemy was persistent in his attempts to prevent the regiment from reaching the Canal and especially so in his defense of the bridge at KUNHEIM. In spite of our heavy artillery and tank fire and our infantry assaults on the buildings along the approaches to the bridge, the enemy managed to get reinforcements across the canal and maintain a strongpoint west of the bridge until the night of 2d February when he blew the bridge. The 3d February found the west side of the canal cleared. The enemy had been routed, except for a small group which was soon eliminated. Heavy casualties had been inflicted on the defenders, including at least four enemy tanks definitely knocked out in vicinity of KUNHEIM. On 4 February the 1st Bn resumed the offensive to clear the area north of BIESHEIM, and once again, encountered stubborn resistance from enemy armor as well as fanatical infantry. The 2d & 3d Bns attacked south over a flat terrain cut by numerous streams and canals which afforded a definite advantage to the enemy occupying well dug in positions and pill boxes. By 6 February, all resistance west of the RHINE River had been destroyed within the sector and the only enemy activity was fire from across the river. During the time the regiment remained in division reserve, harassing artillery fire was received, especially by the 2d Bn in BIESHEIM and the 3d Bn in ARZENHEIM. Interrogation reports show that in less than six days of contact, six officers and over 300 enlisted men had been captured and processed in the regimental PW cage.

III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

At the close of the period, the 15th Infantry was in bivouac in vicinity of PAGNY-SUR-MOSSELLE, France, engaged in a program of rehabilitation and training.

IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL

Personnel:

	OFFICERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
Duty	134	5	2 814
Absent	16	0	360
Assigned	150	5	3 174

Materials:

Good.

V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

(1) AA searchlights were used for battlefield illumination in the 3d Division sector on the nights of 3, 4, & 5 February. Questionnaires were sent to the attacking units after the action to determine the results of the artificial moonlight. Everyone agreed that the illumination was a great help in bringing out terrain features and in maintaining control within and between units. Activities in rear areas, such as movement to an assembly area or a line of departure, and bringing up of rations and supplies were greatly facilitated. It is believed that the artificial light is most effective if units are operating in hilly terrain since the light tends to sky-line troops on flat ground. In a defensive situation, the "moonlight" would be of great advantage to guards and outposts, enabling them to pick up enemy movements, cutting down the possibilities of infiltration. The consensus of opinion is that the advantages of improved control, speed of movement, facilitated rear area operations, increased efficiency of outposts and guards, decided aid to night driving, visibility of targets and landmarks, plus the natural assistance produced by the increased visibility far outweigh the disadvantages. It is recommended that this method of illumination be used whenever possible on moonless nights.

(2) It has been proven that, when putting a mortar into position, a blackened out flashlight with a small pin hole in the center will enable you to see sufficiently well to set up a mortar accurately. The light can only be seen for a few yards.

(3) Personnel accounting is often a difficult problem in front-line units under combat conditions. If every man (including the squad leader) is required to carry a roster of the men under him, a check against such rosters will cut mistakes to a minimum. In one occasion when the 1st Sgt became casualty and his company rosters were lost, the rosters of the platoon and squad leaders enabled the CO to account for every man in his company.

Hallert D. Edson
 HALLERT D. EDSON
 Lt Col., 15th Inf
 Commanding

1 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0701 OP#2 (IAR Plat Leader) reported set up in N end of MUMTZENHEIM.
- 0035 1st Bn CO to CO: B Co will lead off on tanks; C and A Co's following. A Co will attack final objective from west with B Co blocking to the North. B Co was hit by S/P fire in assembly area.
- 0050 2d Bn S-5 to CO: Everything is going according to schedule. Will jump off at 0100.
- 0055 Div DO to S-2: 30th Is ready to go at 0100A.
- 0100 CO to G-3: If we get objectives - what are possibilities to cut across the canal? G-3 to CO: Initially, it will be whatever the 15th Inf puts across. Will collect the 7th Inf as fast as possible. 75th Div has a regt in Corps reserve in COLMAR Forest which may be pushed across in event of canal break through. If bridge is in, CG directs to secure it by pushing a bridgehead across. Initially, not to exceed one Co of Bn across (until armor can get up) with other 2 Cn's blocking to the flanks on a friendly side.
- 0110 2d Bn S-5 to DO: 2d Bn jumped off at exactly 0100 and at present are receiving some S/A, and mortar fire. Are still moving. DO to 2d Bn: 254th jumped off on time (0100)
- 0135 2d Bn Ex C to DO: E, F, and G Co's have reached 446 or 449 grid and are encountering some S/A and MG fire along canal.
- 0186 1st Bn CO to S-2: No opposition nor contact as yet. Some MG fire from edge of woods vic 833421.
- 0226 OP to DO: S/A fire west of DURRENENTZEN
- 0230 2d Bn CO to DO: We are having S/A fight with enemy.
- 0259 2d Bn CO to DO: MG fire from woods, to the front from town and from right flank.
- 0328 1st Bn to DO: A Co has reached EE phase line (cross road). C Co on left to PJ at 187 grid - B Co on right, still moving.
- 0335 S-2 to Div: Reported situation.
- 0337 Div to S-2: 30th Infantry has entered woods at contact point. Have some mortar; Bn into S/A at contact points with enemy but no determined small arms opposition. A Co is along EE existing along 41 northern. 2 Co's of 3d Bn up to 83 existing and getting mortar fire. French have bottled up the town and infantry is mopping up. There is an unconfirmed French report that they have crossed canal to WAPKOLSHEIM.
- 0350 Commo O to DO: 3d Bn 30th Inf is receiving S/A and mortar in woods. 1st Bn 30th Inf reports that French are clearing out southern tip of WEDENSOLHEIM. Enemy just fired a large concentration of artillery on WRSCHENHEIM. WEDENSOLHEIM Road.
- 0400 DO to 2d Bn: Relayed situation of 1st Bn. The 254th Inf on your left is pinned down by MG fire. 2 Bn to DO: We are receiving S/A fire from front and MG fire from bridge and 836444.
- 0405 DO to 3d Bn: What is the situation in DURRENENTZEN. 3d Bn: Still fighting. Enemy has 5 tanks supported by infantry.
- 0410 DO to Div: Reported above. Div: French have alleged to have cleared town.
- 0412 3d Bn to S-2: 15 PWs have been taken in DURRENENTZEN. Still fighting hard in DURRENENTZEN. S-2 Relayed situation of 1st and 2d Bns and 30th Inf.
- 0426 I & R OP #2 (via radio wand wire): At 0320 there was some enemy S/A on east side of canal. At 0300 dugout, mortar fire, and enemy artillery landing in this area.
- 0433 1st Bn to DO: DURRENENTZEN is clear from 825437 in the northerly side to the east to 828437 (most resistance at this point from S/A). The northerly side of the rectangle is clear between the above two cautioned coordinates.
- 0440 DO to Div: Relayed the above. Div: L Co, 254th Inf is at 833453 on north side of crossroads.
- 0442 1st Bn to DO: We have out in a road block 1,000 yards north at PJ 841427. From PW: Bridge is protected on the east side by flak wagon and 20mm gun. Pussed warehouse that contains enemy ammunition. PW says enemy has withdrawn.
- 0456 CP #1: S/A is coming from az 160 depress, approx 2,000 yards away (frndly & sy). 10 enemy HE rounds landed vic WRSCHENHEIM. 1bds of frndly arty landed south of WRSCHENHEIM.

1-1038

1 FEBRUARY 1945 Contd

- 0502 Div to DO, 30th Inf is at 840412
- 0506 CO to S-2, 1st Bn is 800 yds from bridge. S-2: 2d Bn is being held up. They are sending TDs to try and help. 2d Bn CO believes they have tanks.
- 0515 CP #2. Enemy artillery falling in area. S/A can be heard at 45 degree azimuth at a distance of 400 yards.
- 0522 S-2 to I & R Plt Ldr. Have 3 mm patrol contact "L" Co CP to find out just where "L" Co is in DURRENTZEN. Then report to me what the situation is in that town.
- 0523 S-2 S-2 to L Co. Sending 3 mm patrol to DURRENTZEN. Can you furnish guide to "L" Co?
- 0550 CO 3d Bn to DO. DO relayed situation.
- 0555 CO to Asst S-3. Sender I PW to you. Have him questioned immediately and relay any information to 1st Bn.
- 0600 CO 2d Bn to CO. E & F Co's moving slowly. Being held up by MG fire at edge of woods. G Co is disorganized. We have 20 PWs. Don't believe I can go for bridge. I have to protect my flanks.
- 0607 CO to 1st Bn. Relayed 2d Bn situation and plan for 3d Bn to go for bridge. 1st Bn reports that they are down to south bridge and receiving harassing fire and firing artillery on KUNHEIM since there seems to be considerable noise (armor?) from there. 30th Infantry has reached the canal (B & C Co's) are in vic of 848406 at lock of canal and will try to cross canal into east woods.
- 0615 OP #1. DURRENTZEN is still burning. Enemy artillery is interdicting road between DURRENTZEN and CP.
- 0635 24th Infantry to S-2. We're about 400 yards into woods.
- 0640 S-2 to CO 2d Bn. Relayed the above. 2d Bn: Moving along canal on 300 yard front with 2 Co's and should be at edge of woods now. I have a block at the bridge with my mortar platoon. 1st Bn is at bridge. A Co is north of it with C Co on the south side. Enemy is at the bridge. Artillery is being fired on KUNHEIM.
- 0645 CO to Div. I'm committing 3d Bn (-L Co). Will follow route of 1st Bn into woods to RJ845423, then to next Rd then east through woods to canal then north to bridge. Can we get L Co released from French control? Div: will let you know.
- 0650 Div to CO. I'm contacting CG of CC5. In meantime you contact CC5 to coordinate return.
- 0652 CO to CO 3d Bn. I'm getting clearance from CG of CC5 for L Co and it will probably be returned to you. Are you ready to go. CO 3d Bn: Taking off now. CO to 3d Bn. Ask French if they can get along without L Co in vic of DURRENTZEN.
- 0655 Div to CO. CG doesn't want 3d Bn committed until he orders it.
- 0657 CO to 3d Bn. L Co is released to your control. Relayed the above. However, keep him alert to move.
- 0710 2d Bn to Asst S-3. Moving along canal and have reached 840453. KO'd 2 MGs at bridge. Don't know about MGs to our south. S-2 relayed 24th positions and 1st Bn positions.
- 0715 Div to S-2. DURRENTZEN is cleared at 0525 and 16 PWs were taken from WIDENSOLEN. 3 mm was observed at 0430.
- 0730 Div to S-3. DURRENTZEN was not cleared at 0600. 3 mm was observed. French are trying to get a report on it now to see if L Co can be released.
- 0745 Div to S-3. 3d Bn 24th Inf has reached objective E on edge of woods. Their K Co is getting C/A. Your reserve Bn is released to you.
- 0750 Div to S-3. Relayed the above. French were assigned mission. 3d Bn: French have released L Co to us. Situation in DURRENTZEN is better. DO 1st Bn to DO. Have 10 PWs at CP at WIDENSOLEN. French is getting organized and A & B Co's. Bring TDs up to fire on it.
- 0800 DO 2d Bn to S-3. P Co is on objective at 845452. E Co is on its way to objective south of F Co in vic 847447. G Co is getting organized and is following E Co. Not much resistance now but we had received a lot of MG fire. S-3. We are committing 3d Bn now. Will go through 1st Bn to N bridge.

1 FEBRUARY 1945 10451

- 0820 S-3, 1st Bn to Ex O: Knocked out two enemy tanks. B Co is completely scattered. North bridge is in. Get 3d Bn up and we can take it. A Co is near bridge but can't locate them. Ex O: K Co is on way to N bridge.
- 0822 S-3 to S-2, 30th: enemy tanks on road vic 833415. 1st Bn RO'd two of them after they infiltrated B Co position vic 838416.
- 0845 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: French believe DURRENHEIM is clear. Have sent an officer to investigate. If it is cleared, we will move our rear CP there. Just received word that 2d DB have occupied MARCKOLSHEIM.
- 0850 DO, 1st Bn to Ex O: Have 20 more PWs including one officer at HRSCHENHEIM. When enemy tanks infiltrated B Co, enemy infantry were coming in to B Co positions with their hands up. Enemy tanks then opened up on both the Germans and us. The above 20 PW's were taken then.
- 0900 Ex O to CG: Would like air mission over BIESHEIM and BALTZENHEIM and defenses around BALTZENHEIM Bridge.
- 0905 DO, 2d Bn to S-3: We are working now to clear out enemy behind us before we push toward canal.
- 1005 MP to DO: Picked up 20 PWs from 1st Bn. Total of PWs taken since last night is 41.
- 1020 1st Bn DO to Ex O: Have 40 or 50 more PWs.
- 1030 Ex O to G-2: Our A Co fight around houses vic 847421 on west side of canal. They report bridge intact.
- 1035 Ex O to 1st Bn: Try to get flak wagons up to support A Co.
- 1045 3d Bn CO to Ex O: Will start pushing out soon. Have 4 1/2" lay more smoke.
- 1046 Ex O to 99th Cml: Lay smoke on RJ vic 838434.
- 1047 Ex O to S-2: Would like air mission on bridge vic 848441. G-2: Sending air mission over tin of wood next to bridge. Ex O: TD's report enemy armor and personnel vic of bridge. G-2: Enemy sent reinforcements to woods opposite 30th Inf, across canal vic 848406.
- 1055 IPW to Ex O: Officer from German mountain division came from a company equipped with 12 HMG's. Reported bridge intact last night at BALTZENHEIM. He said he saw no prepared defenses but had to dig in.
- 1105 2d Bn DO to S-3: F Co vic 845451 and E Co vic 839449 in edge of woods. S-3: Get flak wagons up soon as possible.
- 1124 3d Bn CO to S-3: We are moving out in small groups. Keep smoke on RJ vic 838434.
- 1130 French report DURRENHEIM clear. Enemy have 88's zeroed on center of town. Sending arm'd recon patrol to RJ vic 838434.
- 1135 S-3 to CG: Our 3d Bn is infiltrating across opening between URSCHENHEIM and DURRENHEIM and will swing north to BALTZENHEIM bridge. CG: Have reserve Bn of 3d Bn of 7th Inf at 808420, so push ahead.
- 1145 S-3 to 3d Bn CO and 2d Bn CO: Relayed 1130A Msg.
- 1147 (FM) CG to CG: 3d Div CP closed FIBRAUVILLE - opened RIEDWIHR vic 783475. (Time signal 311964h)
- 1148 2d Bn CO to S-3: Firing TD's on bridge leading to BALTZENHEIM - about 100 enemy vic of bridge - going both ways - killing them as they cross. F Co at 843453. E Co south of F Co on edge of woods between clearing. 3d Bn CO to Ex O: Been fighting with TD's at this bridge, knocking out vehicles and personnel as they cross bridge - have guns trained on bridge. Estimate 200 enemy was on this side of canal - believe they are trying to get out.
- 1200 CG 3d Bn to S-3: I Co moving through B Co now. Will smoke be kept up.
- S-3: Yes. Relayed 2d Bn report. Also relayed information on bridge.
- 1215 CO to CO 2d Bn. 2d Bn: F Co (plat reinforced) is going south into woods and coming up inside of west side of road, clearing the woods. E Co is forming a strong patrol to go along to bridge and back through center of woods. Quite a few enemy in front of E Co between objectives 2 and 3. 2 enemy tanks were observed going south on other side of canal. G Co is now reorganized with one officer in charge. Artillery is firing at milling enemy.

- 1229 CG 2d Bn to Ex O: Quite a few enemy at 854447. F Co firing MGs now and CN Co is laying down fire.
- 1233 CG 2d Bn to Ex O: Could we get 254th Inf to clear their side of canal. Receiving some fire from across canal.
- 1237 Ex O to Div: 3d Bn is in woods. Approx at following positions: K Co at 839427 with I Co just behind them. They are passing B Co now via 835420. 1st Bn is in 8442 grid square.
- 1240 S-3 to 254th Inf: Can you send a combat patrol to clean out your side of canal. We are receiving some fire on our side.
- 1300 I&P to CG: 30 enemy dead in DURRNEWITZ. A American mortar, 61 mm, on north side of road via 429436. No enemy tanks KO'd in the town.
- 1316 1st Bn to S-3: A Co is around bridge but enemy still holds one house on our side. C Co is dug in north of bridge, along canal.
- 1345 CG to Div: I and K Co's moving north on road; head of column at 845436. Div French have taken MARKOLSHEIM and are preparing to attack ARTZENHEIM, at 1400. Div arty is shooting at BALTZENHEIM bridge at 850440.
- 1357 Div to CG: Try and take bridge and defend bridge from this side and outpost the other side.
- 1400 CG to CG 2d Bn: Relayed the above. Push from north and 3d Bn will push from south with one company. Other company of 3d Bn will work behind.
- 1406 CG 2d Bn to Ex O: B Co has run into a fire fight. Ex O: Relayed French taking MARKOLSHEIM and attack on ARTZENHEIM.
- 1416 S-3 to 1st Bn: (Reference) Two KO'd tanks. They were Mark IV's with their guns out of order. A third tank's gun was KO'd but the tank managed to get back across the bridge. Enemy has cut brush down on this side of the canal, making it more difficult to get to bridge. We are firing and laying on houses protecting bridge but enemy keeps reinforcing his position on our side by utilizing a crossing on the lock below the bridge.
- 1440 Enemy has two tanks covering bridge from their side.
DO, 30th Inf to S-3: Have captured enemy 11th FA battery with guns intact. We are still receiving fire from 828395. S-3: Our I Co on way to north bridge. C Co on bank of canal, B Co 100 yds from this side of South bridge but cannot clean enemy from houses on approach to bridge.
- 1450 CG, 2d Bn to Ex O: There are 70 enemy this side of North bridge and 60 on other side. Enemy fired flare and can see troops going under bridge to prepare demolitions - shooting arty on their again. Enemy are streaming across flats to BALTZENHEIM in groups of 5's and 10's. Request air mission on BALTZENHEIM bridge and bridge there. Arty of enemy guns in BALTZENHEIM - will fire arty on town. F Co holds lots of enemy in woods, will take some time to clean them out.
- 1510 Ex O to Div: Air Support: Request air mission on BALTZENHEIM. Ans: Planes unable to get off ground.
- 1512 CG to CG: Concentrate on pushing up to canal, holding line along it and clearing everything behind you in woods. Establish good defensive line with well coordinated fire. Contact 254th on left and 30th Inf on right. Want to secure area between BALTZENHEIM - DURRNEWITZ and KUNHEIM - DURRNEWITZ.
- 1520 CG to CG, 1st Bn: Gave last message. Your mission will be to hold your sector and maintain physical contact with 30th Inf on our right. Make sure no enemy troops infiltrate. Blast enemy out of houses on this side of canal.
- 1530 CG to CG, 2d Bn: Gave msg from CG. Your mission - extend sector from COLMAR canal to BALTZENHEIM bridge. Bridge your responsibility. Establish outposts up on bank. Keep one full Co back in reserve. Ans: Will use B Co to block off bridge.
- 1540 CG to CG, 3d Bn: Fill in gap between 1st and 2d Bn with two Co's on canal and reserve CG at RJ-837434. You will be responsible for cleaning out that triangle.

- 1540 CO, 1st Bn to S-3: Two tanks and infantry on other side of south bridge. Request arty. A and C Co's will be on canal. Have not contacted 3d Bn yet - they are not in position. 700 yd gap between us and 30th Inf. B Co will be in reserve - only 21 men in B Co now.
- 1555 CO, 3d Bn to S-3: I and L Co's will be on canal with K Co in reserve. L Co on way now.
- 1635 DO, Div War Room to S-3: Enemy blew ARTZENHEIM bridge at 1450A. 30th Inf dispositions: A Co 840411, C Co 845401, F Co 829399, I Co 833396, G Co 839391. 30th Inf had two counterattacks today.
- 1640 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: I Co on way to move into new position on canal. B Co will be at 837435.
- 1745 1st Bn S to Ex O: Our A Co covers KUNHEIM bridge. Canal banks approximately 4 ft high around bridge and to the north of it. Bridge is large and made of concrete. Ex O: Advise putting in flak wagon via 843421 and TD and tank in addition to protect against any threat coming thru 30th Inf sector. 1st Bn S: C Co blocking road leading to north via 845429. CP at 837424; part of A Co via 847424 and at 842424.
- 1800 254th Inf S to DO: Our patrol to bridge site west of ARTZENHEIM reported bridge out.
- 1805 254th Inf S to S-2: We have outpost at junction of CCLMAR - RHINE-RHONE canal, who report activity of men south across canal. S-2: That is one of our outposts from our 2d Bn.
- 1835 2d Bn S to S-3: B Co via 846442 ties in with I Co across road. Bridge reported to have a hole in the center of it however passable.
- 1856 Div War Room to Ex O: Have your Bn be alert for enemy patrol infiltration; put under fire any enemy movement. Be on alert for counterattack tomorrow morning.
- 1915 G-2 to S-2: Enemy holds woods below WIDENSOLEN - BIESHEIM road. French only held first few buildings in north part of ARTZENHEIM.
- 1926 1st Bn S to Ex O: Will underbid bridge leading to KUNHEIM all during night. Will have AT guns and tanks in position against possible enemy counter-attack from south - NEUF-BRISACH.
- 1930 3d Bn S to S-3: Have TD and AT gun covering BALTZENHEIM Bridge. Sending three men to inspect bridge. Have outpost in little house in bank of canal by bridge.
- 1950 1st Bn S to S-2: Killed two enemy Mark IV's via of KUNHEIM Bridge.
- 2000 3d Bn S to S-3: Four ft hole in middle of bridge #5.
- 2010 2d Bn S to S-3: Footbridge in via 820453.
- 2015 S-3 to Div War Room: Relayed above Msg. Div: 7th Inf will use this bridge. Be prepared to assist them with fire and possibly cross over to help. Attack will take place about dawn.
- 2028 S-3 to All Bns: Relayed above Msg.
- 2135 Div to DO: 7th Inf will cross footbridge at 0300A.
- 2205 CO, 3d Bn to S-3: Reg to north bridge returned. Report bridge of concrete construction, might take armor. Hole in bridge four ft wide on left side. I&R patrol got 3/4 way across it and drew fire.
- 2210 DO, 1st Bn to DO: A Co reports one enemy tank on east bank of canal.
- 2245 DO, Div War Room to DO: Enemy will bank at north bridge. 7th Inf jumps at 0500A. Arty preparation from 0630 to 0645 on KUNHEIM. Maintain close liaison with 7th Inf and support them with fire at every opportunity.
- 2250 Ex O, 7th Inf to Ex O: BALTZENHEIM and KUNHEIM our 1st objectives.
- 2345 DO, 1st Bn to DO: Received radio msg from A Co stating that they believe one of the two bridges to their front has been blown. Heard large explosion.
- 2350 DO, 1st Bn to DO: Vehicular traffic on road south across canal from C Co. B Co patrol contacted 30th Inf and has returned.
- 2357 DO, 1st Bn to DO: B Co reports two or three armored (track) vehicles moving south across canal.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 011200A to 011200A
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : MUNTZENHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 1 February 1945

No. 32

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000, COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: V844455 - V846447 - V847423 - V847420.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in MUNTZENHEIM

1st Bn west of RHINE - RHONE Canal, via KUNHEIM

A Co via V847420

B Co via V840419

C Co via V847423

2d Bn in edge of woods SW of junction of COLMAR and RHINE-RHONE Canals.

E Co via V846447

F Co via V844455

G Co via V859449

3d Bn moving from URSCHENHEIM to assembly area via V835425.

3. Weather and Visibility: Hazy; limited visibility.

4. Information of Adjacent Units:

254th Infantry: Attacked to the east on regt'l left flank, north of COLMAR Canal at 010100A. At the close of the period, 3d Bn 254th was reported in vic V842454.

30th Infantry: Attacked on regt'l right flank at 010100A. By the close of the period, they had reached the RHINE-RHONE Canal, via V847406.

2DB (French): Crossed the RHINE-RHONE Canal and captured MARCKOLSEHEIM, moved south, prepared to attack ARTZENHEIM.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: One company of the 30th Infantry arrived at 311700A to relieve 1st Bn in the woods SW of URSCHENHEIM. The 1st Bn began moving to assembly area north of URSCHENHEIM at approx 313000A. At 010100A the 1st Bn attacked on the regt'l right flank, east from URSCHENHEIM to clear the woods and secure bridge across the RHINE-RHONE Canal via of KUNHEIM. B Co lead the attack with armor. At the close of the period, B Co was in via V840419 and A & G Co's were covering the bridge by fire. Enemy occupying house immediately west of bridge. During the advance, 1st Bn knocked out 2 enemy tanks and damaged one.

Second Battalion: Attacked at 010100A on the regt'l left flank, and advanced to the east along the COLMAR Canal. At the close of the period the battalion had reached the edge of the woods and was covering the bridge, via V846447, with fire. SF and artillery fire were effectively adjusted on enemy crossing the bridge and to the east of the canal.

Third Battalion: At the beginning of the period 3d Bn (-) was in MUNTZENHEIM, I Co in URSCHENHEIM and L Co was in the outskirts of DURBENNTZEN. The French were encountering resistance in DURBENNTZEN and were having difficulty in clearing the town. L Co was pulled back to MUNTZENHEIM at 312345A, the French pulled out of town at 010016A, and artillery concentrations were fired on the town from 010025A to 010035A. The French reentered the town after the artillery ceased and continued clearing it. L Co prepared to move back to occupy the town as it was cleared. At the close of the period the 3d Bn was moving to assembly

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

area in the woods, vic V835425 preparatory to attacking to the NE to clear the woods between the 1st and 2d Bn's and to secure the bridge, vic V849441.

The regimental CP displaced from RIEDWIHR to MUNTZENHEIM on the afternoon of 31 January.

6. Combat Efficiency

Personnel for Duty (as shown on M/R of 31 January):

Officers: 73%

WO : 100%

EM : 72%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 28

EM : 686

7. Results of Operations:

- a. Advance to the East continued.
- b. Regt'l CP displaced to MUNTZENHEIM.

COMRIE

8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

80

47



F
G F

3^d BN
ASSEMBLY AREA →

C
B A

HQ 15th INF
1 FEB '45

40

OVERLAY TO
S-3 REPORT # 32

85

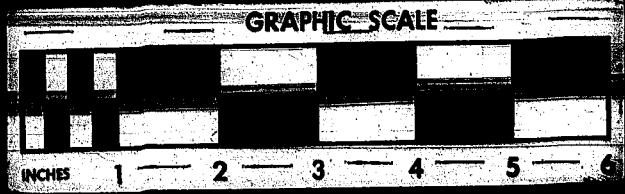
MAP: 1/50,000

OFFICIAL:

COMRIE
S-3

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CMDG

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Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S - 2 Report

FROM: 310800A
TO : 010800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 1 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACE: MONTZENHEIM, FRANCE.

No 23

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GOMPAR SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: Enemy holds ground on east side of Rhone Canal.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn moved to an assembly area in woods directly north of URSCHENHEIM in preparation for an attack toward bridge at V487422. While in the assembly area the Bn received considerable SP and arty fire inflicting casualties. The Bn jumped off in attack at approximately 0100A and met resistance from S/A, MG, MP and tanks. 2 enemy tanks were KO'd. At end of period the Bn held positions in woods directly west of Canal opposite KUNHEIM.
- (2) 2d Bn: Assembled in an area vic of bridge at V820462 from where it jumped off on attack east along south side of the canal. Bn met resistance from MG's, S/A and arty and end of period the Rhone-Colmar canal junction was captured.
- (3) 3d Bn: Bn occupied towns of MONTZENHEIM & URSCHENHEIM during entire period. L Co was in west edge of BIRKENHEIM with division of occupying town after its capture by the French. At end of the period the town was not yet cleared and L Co returned to 3d Bn.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: 2 of our men captured vic of V804415 by enemy infantry at 1030A. Enemy emplacements in vic of V795415, V797417, V807418 & V804419. Enemy fired on one of our patrols from vic of bridge at V831461 at 2000A. MG fire received from vic of V833427 at 0130A. 2 enemy MG's KO'd vic V832463 at 0500A.
- (2) Artillery: Considerable arty and SP fire was received in this sector during entire period. Arty concentration fell vic of V785418 at 1435A. 30 rds of SP fire fell vic of FORTSCHWIR at 2000A. SP fire fell in woods vic V813433 at 0035A. 10 rds of arty fell vic of URSCHENHEIM at 1455A.
- (3) Arser: Enemy tank firing from north end of WIDENSCLEN at 1030A. 2 enemy tanks KO'd vic V835415 during the night.
- (4) M/T: Enemy vehicular traffic reported on BALTZENHEIM - KUNHEIM road during period.
- (5) No report on enemy air or engineer activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. Encl. See attached IAW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry
S - 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

1 February 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 310800A Jan - 010800A Feb 1945.

TABULATION:

No	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt.	Unit
2	Hq/1/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn Div				
6	1/ " " " " " " " "				
1	4/ " " " " " " " "				
4	Hq/1/ " " " " " " " "				
1	8/136 " " " " " " " "				
2	9/ " " " " " " " "				
6	Hq /137 " " " " " " " "				
1	4/ " " " " " " " "				
1	8/111 " " Arty G " " " "				
1	11/ " " " " " " " "				
2	3/Mtn Engr Bn 82, " " " "				
1	10/100 Mtn Inf Regt (attached to 1/136)				
2	2/"Fz. Jäger"(AT) Bn 32				
1	3/708 medium Mortar Bn (lost from unit)				
2	BG DUEMER				
30	3/"Bewährungs"(Parole-Trustee) Bn 292				
1	4/BG HURST				
66	captured by French and turned over to our Cage			
1	1/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn Div	V 8243	0400A		2nd Bn
26	2/ " " " " " " " "	V 8243	0500A		" "
5	9/ " " " " " " " "	V 8243	"		Candn Co
1	3/137 " " " " " " " "	V8-243	"		1st Bn
92	TOTAL				
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5001.					

Majority of IPWs have been in combat in this area for the past three days and confirm information given in previous reports. PWs state that the bridge at V84944 was in perfect condition as of 30 Jan. One PW states that his Co (1/136 Mtn Inf) was unable to find space in KUNHEIM V8642 because, according to him, large number of troops were there. Another PW states that a section of "Sturm" (Home Guard) Bn was located in DURRENTZEN V8243 as of 29 Jan.

3/"Bewährungs" (Parole-) Bn 292: PWs of this unit violated the Articles of War at one or another and are now given a chance to do their part for "Führer and Country". According to their statements their mission was to attack woods at V8042. Line of departure was ANDOLSHHEIM V7640. 1 PW states he saw 10x7.5cm or 8.8 cm SP guns there.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt.

FEBRUARY 1945

- 0030 CO, 1st Bn to DO: Am moving the two tanks from tip of woods up to canal.
- 0037 OP #2 to DO: S/A fire in front of F Co. CN Co fired on it.
- 0045 DO to S-3, 2d Bn Engr party will check thru K Co tonight and move out to inspect north bridge. Advise your people of this.
- 0060 DO, 3d Bn to DO: L Co reports considerable motor movement - possible 2-3 tanks across canal.
- 0115 3d Bn DO to DO: Can hear vehicles and armor moving south on road to KUNHEIM. Will put arty on it.
- 0120 1st Bn S to DO: Just fired arty on vic of bridge. Heard vehicles in that vicinity. We have 2 tanks and one AT gun at 837422.
- 0205 3d Bn DO to DO: 1 Co reports lot of vehicle traffic to their front.
- 0315 3d Bn DO to DO: Patrol from 264th crossed north bridge and report it in good condition except for one hole. Also report enemy to north of the bridge.
- 0337 3d Bn DO to DO: Heavy S/A fire in vic of south bridge. Also large explosion.
- 0343 1st Bn DO to DO: S/A fire near canal. Also explosion believed to be armor dump. Don't think it was the bridge.
- 0405 Conference call to 1st, 2d, 3d Bns and CM Co CO's: 7th Inf attacks at 0600A and want supporting fire from us as follows: - H-15 to H-hour, from canal to 87 Easting and 46 Northing to 44 Northing. H plus 20 on BALTZENHEIM. From H plus 20 to H plus 35 in area from BALTZENHEIM to canal to KUNHEIM. At H plus 30 to H plus 45 on KUNHEIM and to woods east of KUNHEIM. H 60 to H 70 fire on SE of woods east of KUNHEIM.
- 0410 to 0800 Negative reports.
- 0606 OP #1: An enemy tank at 853421 firing into A Co. Arty fire was adjusted on tank. Results not observed.
- 0830 Div War Recn to DO: Elements of 2d Bn, 7th Inf reported at 860430, 3d Bn at 850439. Bridge at 850440 intact but mined.
- (The above information given to Bns)
- 0737 7th Inf 3 to S-3: (Our 3d Bn occupies KUNHEIM; our 2d Bn occupies BALTZENHEIM. 1st Bn is reserve Bn and is working toward RJ south of BALTZENHEIM.
- 0750 Div to S-3: Assemble your 2d and 3d Bns, prepared to move them toward WILHOUSE. Have your 1st and 2d Bns send contact patrols over bridges to 7th Inf. Have your 1st Bn alert to any enemy action from the south.
- (The above two msg's relayed to all Bns)
- 0757 DO to 10th Engrs: CO wants you to check north and south bridges for mines and demolitions for repair, and for what weight traffic the bridge will bear. Need bridge for next move - see.
- 0805 7th Inf 3 to S-3: Want you to fire on each of these points: - 863371, 870369 and 873387 - fifty rds each - on call; then interdict for a hour. Still fighting for southern part of KUNHEIM.
- 0810 1st Bn S to S-3: Sent patrol to southern bridge and they drew fire before getting to it. Fire fights in southern part of KUNHEIM.
- 0811 S-3 to CN Co CO: Relayed 0806 Msg: CN Co CO: Targets out of my range, as traced thru me to 30th PA.
- 0866 Engr O to S-3: Bridge at 850440 okay. Can carry any type of traffic. Bridge is of concrete supported by girders. Is 27 ft wide. The hole in bridge is to the left center of bridge as one faces east, but traffic can pass on both sides. Bridge had two 20 lb mines on each approach and two 100 lb mines to its approaches.
- 0900 1st Bn CO to S-3: Organizing a little task force to clear out enemy opposition in house on this side of canal by KUNHEIM Bridge. The bridge is blown up and is completely demolished. Was blown up this morning around 0500-0600A.
- (Above report relayed to Div)
- 0916 Ex O to 2d Bn CO: Outpost BALTZENHEIM Bridge at both ends.
- 0943 CO, 1st Bn to Ex O: Have cleared enemy from bridge area on our side. Five enemy killed. Will send patrols to contact 30th Inf along canal.

- 1000 OP #1: Some enemy arty has been landing in KUNHEIM. A Co has sent two squads across canal.
- 1029 Engrs Report:- Roads have been swept in following areas: Road running parallel to canal from 845439 to 845423 and from 837434 to 841222.
- 1033 S-2 to G-2: Reported that 3 Co patrol couldn't contact 7th Inf across canal from their position because of fighting. G-2: 75th Div is in AMMERSCHWIHR. 28th Div in outskirts of COLMAR, regrouping to push into city.
- 1145 30th Inf 3 to Ex C: 7th Inf has Bn SE of KUNHEIM. 1st Bn is at 868413, 2d Bn behind 1st. KUNHEIM clear except for snipers. Bulldozer now working to get armor to 1st Bn.
- 1215 DC, 1st Bn to S-2: Enemy tanks we knocked out yesterday, are at 852413 and 845420.
- 1345 S-3 to CC, 3d Bn: Keep your men together and in hand as much as possible Run cautious patrol along COLMAR Canal.
- 1510 Div Ia O to S-3: We report that CC-4 is clear thru COLMAR and up to CITE-DES-VOGES (70-41).
- 1520 OP #1 to CO: CP established in KUNHEIM via 851413. BIESSHEIM quiet.
- 1545 CG to Div 5: Get Bailey bridge across canal to KUNHEIM soon as possible.
- 1550 CG to CO: Have one Bn ready by 2100A to assemble in KUNHEIM as division reserve so as to follow 7th Inf on their march south. Be ready to go thru them if held up. 254th Inf will screen along RHINE River and 7th Inf pushes down.
- 1600 CG to 3d Bn CC: Assigned mission in 1500 Msg.
- 1605 S-3 to S-1: Find a spot for Reg'l CP in KUNHEIM.
- 1838 S-8 to CO 1st Bn: 254th Inf covering banks of RHINE river from ARTZENHEIM to BALTZENHEIM. 75th Div has cleared COLMAR Woods and area on edge of WOLGARTZEN.
- 2015 DC, 7th Inf to S-3: Will attack some time after midnight.
- 2020 to 2312 Bn's report negatively.
- 2345 G-3 to S-3: 2d and 3d Bns will be on one hour alert effective at daylight, to move across the canal to KUNHEIM to either cross the canal SE of KUNHEIM or go between 7th Inf and RHINE River. 1st Bn to assemble at daylight and then go on one hour alert. No movement until you receive Div order.
- 2352 S-3 to All Bns: Relayed the above Msg. 0700A give an hour of daylight. Plan on 2d Bn crossing at north bridge and 3d Bn at south bridge.
- 2400 DC to AT and CN Co CO's: Relayed the above.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Period: 011200A to 021200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : MUNTZENHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 2 February 1945

No. 33

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR sheet.

1. Our Front Line: The regimental front line extends along the west side of the RHINE - RHINE Canal from the COLMAR Canal on the north to vicinity of KUMHEIM on the south.

2. Disposition of Troops:
Regimental CP in MUNTZENHEIM.

1st Bn. CP at V837433.

A Co vic V847420.

B Co vic V832417 along edge of woods to V841421.

C Co vic V845423 to V847424.

2d Bn. on regimental left flank, south of the COLMAR Canal.

E Co vic V845447.

F Co vic V844462.

G Co vic V839449.

3d Bn. CP at V836434.

I Co vic V840440 to V848437.

K Co vic V843438.

L Co vic V842432 to V842436.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Information of Adjacent Units:

On the night of 1 - 2 February, the 5th Infantry crossed the RHINE - RHINE Canal vic of MUNTZENHEIM and advanced to the south, occupying MUNTZENHEIM and KUMHEIM.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

1st and 2d Battalions remained in position on the west side of the RHINE - RHINE Canal throughout the period. The 3d Battalion advanced from assembly area in rear of the 1st Battalion to the west clearing the woods between the 1st and 2d Bns. taking up positions along the canal between the two bridges. K Company remained in battalion reserve.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 1 February 1945)

Officers: 72%

WO: 100%

EM: 69%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 26

EM: 583

C O N F I D E N T I A L

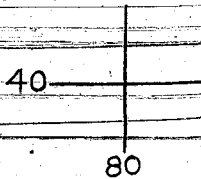
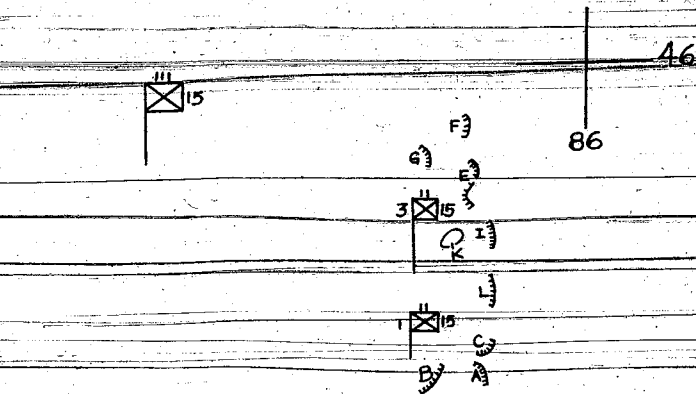
7. Results of Operations:

- a. Positions west of the RHINE - RHINE Canal held.
- b. 3d Battalion advanced to the canal between the 1st and 2d Battalions.

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L



HQ 15th INF
2 FEB '45

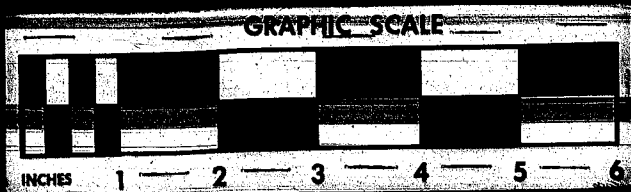
OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT # 33
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000

OFFICIAL:

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S-3

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Journal

S - 2 REPORT

FROM: O10800A
TO : O20800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACE: MUNTZENHEIM, FRANCE.

No 24

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COLMAR SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: No enemy contact at end of the period with the exception of 2 houses held by enemy at V846422.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: Remained in position vic of KUNHEIM bridge and south of the bridge. A Co had fire fight with enemy in houses vic of V847422 but failed to drive them out. At end of the period the Bn held the same positions. Enemy was persistent in his attempts to hold the KUNHEIM bridge. He blew the bridge during the night. The bridge is gapped.
- (2) 2d Bn: Remained in position at and south of the Colmar - Rhine Rhine canal junction with no physical enemy contact. The Bn did considerable firing vic of bridge at V846440 as enemy personnel attempting to cross it and also on east side of the canal at personnel and vehicles. At end of the period the Bn remained in same positions.
- (3) Bn remained in position along west side of canal between bridge at V846422 and V846441 during the period with no physical enemy contact.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: A Co in fire fight with enemy in houses vic V847421 at 1030A. Estimated 100 enemy infantry vic of bridge at V846441 fired on by Tns and Cn Co at 1145A. Enemy personnel vic of V846447 fired on by MG and Cn Co at 1229A. I & R patrol attempting to cross bridge vic V846441 drew S/A fire at 2206A.
- (2) Artillery: Enemy artillery shelled area between URSCHENHEIM and DURRMENTZEN at 0918A. Battery of 4 guns fired from vic of BALTZENHEIM at 1450A. 12 rds of SP fire on vic V846412 at 0855A. Enemy harassed the woods west of KUNHEIM constantly throughout the night interdicting principally the RJ at V841428 and V833415 and the road between these points.
- (3) Armor: 2 tanks observed moving south vic of KUNHEIM at 1215A. 2 enemy tanks RD'd vic of bridge at V846420 at 1545A. Enemy tank firing from vic V846421 at 0800A. 2 rds fired from it. There were enemy tanks RD'd, one vic V860415, the other at the KUNHEIM bridge V847421. Another tank was damaged and may be destroyed; it escaped east over the KUNHEIM bridge and was smoking badly & its gun was out of commission as it disappeared.
- (4) Engineer: Bridge at V846422 destroyed by demolition between 0500A and 0600A. Demolition charges found on bridge vic V846441.
- (5) M/T: Considerable vehicular traffic heard on east side of Rhine canal during the night. Most of traffic was moving south.
- (6) No report of enemy air activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry

S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
172ND INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. C. # 3

2 February 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 010000A - 020000 Feb 1945.

TABULATION:

HM	Off	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
2		Hq /136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn Div	V846425	0800A	1st Bn
3		1/ " " " " " " " "	V821423	010600A	1st "
1		1/ " " " " " " " "	V 8443	1130A	2nd "
2		2/ " " " " " " " "	V 8443	1130A	2nd "
1		Hq /11/ " " " " " " " "	V821423	010600A	1st "
8		8/ " " " " " " " "	V846425	1800A	1st "
1		9/ " " " " " " " "	V812446	0800A	I. & R.
1		9/ " " " " " " " "	V 8442	1100A	3rd Bn
2		9/ " " " " " " " "	V 8244	1700A	Regt'l Co
1		11/ " " " " " " " "	V821423	010600A	1st Bn
3		Hq /137 " " " " " " " "	V846425	1400A	3rd "
2		2/ " " " " " " " "	V844425	0800A	1st "
1		5/ " " " " " " " "	V821423	010600A	1st "
1		11/ " " " " " " " "	V 8442	010700A	1st "
28		12/ " " " " " " " "	V846425	0800A	1st "
6		13/ " " " " " " " "	V846425	1000A	3rd "
4		13/ " " " " " " " "	V 8443	0800A	1st "
24	1	14/ " " " " " " " "	V846425	0800A	1st "
2		14/ " " " " " " " "	V 8442	1000A	3rd "
1	1	111/ " " " " " " " "	V844423	010400A	1st "
11		16/ " " " " " " " "	V 8443	0800A	1st "
4		4/ Rem Bn 67, now attach to 8/136	V 8542	1700A	3rd "
1		11/100 Mtn Inf Regt	V821423	010600A	1st "
5		2/308 GR, 198 Inf Div	V846425	1000A	3rd "
3		3/ " " " " " " " "	V846425	0800A	3rd "
2		11/Arty Regt 235, 198 Inf Div	V821423	010600A	1st "
1		3/"Grenadier" Bn 17, "Oberrhein"	V821423	010600A	1st "

118 2

TOTAL in present sector (since 24 January 1945): 707

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cgo in FRANCE: 5121.

MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, WEAPONS:

111/137 Mtn Inf Regt: PWs state that Bn was committed N of OHRENHEIM V8285. On 31 Jan unit left for present sector, arriving at BALTZENHEIM V8643 at 311700A. Approx strength of Bn upon arrival in woods at V8442 was 250-300 men. Bn-messenger states that Bn had three fighting-units in this sector, namely the 11th, 12th and 14th Cos. Men from the 13th and 15th Cos were assigned to these units. Officer PW states that 14th Co had 12 HMG and that his sector

was in vic V845424 to approx vic V825429. According to his statements Bn had a large number of all types of automatic weapons when they arrived in this area. All PWs state that there were no prepared positions in the area occupied by them and that before they could start digging in in the usual manner, our attack was already on its way. Armer: Some PW state that on morning 1 Feb they saw 3 "Jagd-Panthers", mounting 88's, going over the canal bridge towards KUNHEIM V8442. Officer PW, who is Bn Surgeon, reports that he had 45 WIA and 16 KIA going through his station in the period 311700A to 010400A.

308 GR: PWs state that Regt was sent from GMRSTHEIM S to vic WIDEN-SOLEN V8140 on or about 26 Jan. According to their statements the Regt was Corps-reserve until committed in the COLMAR sector. PWs estimate regt-strength 200 men.

11/Arty Regt 236: PWs were forward observers for btry, which, they state, was located at V861421 as of 010230A. Btry had 228 2nd5cm howitzers. According to PW's statements Regt at the present time has 3 light Bns and 1 heavy, which he believes are located in vic of KUNHEIM V8442. Btrys are all horse-drawn and units came to this area a few days ago along with elms of 308 GR.

3/"Gren."-Bn 17, "Oberrhein" (BG HURST): PW belongs to train of unit and states that they moved from KUNHEIM V8442 to IHRINGEN V9238 on 31 Jan. He states that in IHRINGEN are a number of trains of various AA units. He left on night 31 Jan/1 Feb to return to this area with supplies and observed the following:
RR bridge at V885359 used for vehicular traffic;
Bridge at V883363 usable, but has been hit and repaired;
Trop activity in BIESHEIM V8537; type of units there reported to be engrs.

PW states that pillboxes along RHINE are manned by "Volkssturm" and that he saw a few men wearing "Volkssturm"-uniform, E of NEUF-BRISACH V8536. Ferry across RHINE is operated by "Volkssturm". Traffic on night 31 Jan/1 Feb was normal.

Warner B. Fronman
Warner B. Fronman
1st Lt. Inf

- 0010 CP #1 to Dy Ckr: At 1845 observed bombing of BIESHEIM and fires still burning in the town. At 2000, enemy MG fire from vic of BIESHEIM.
- 0032 7th Inf to DO: 1st Bn in fire fight vic 866392. 3d Bn in KUNHEIM. 2d Bn in SALTZENHEIM. Plat reinforced with TD's at bridge at 850412. H hour will be 0200 or 0230 with 2d Bn on right and 3d Bn on left.
(The above information relayed to Bns)
- 0052 7th Inf to DO: H-hour at 0230.
(The above information relayed to Bns)
- 0055 to 0300: Bns report negatively.
- 0308 CP #1 to Dy Ckr: The 7th Inf pushed off at 0100A but lack of any S/A fire indicates that no contact has been established yet.
- 0340 7th Inf DO to DO: No definite location of troops but both battalions are pushing fast without too much opposition. Two PW's report about 50 enemy are dug in along the road to BIESHEIM at the 395 grid line.
- 0340 to 0502: All quiet in Regt'l sector.
- 0502 1st Bn DO to DO: All is quiet except for a few rds of sporadic arty in general area.
- 0508 2d & 3d Bns report all is quiet.
- 0525 Situation Report to Div War Room.
- 0550 CO to Bns: 1st Bn will assemble beyond wooded buildings in KUNHEIM and will be in Regt'l reserve. Have men clean up and to get weapons in good working condition. Men will stay in area. 2d & 3d Bns will move to KUNHEIM and stay in assembly area. 3d Bn can use area already blocked. 2d Bn will have to get one of the Bn areas vacated by the 7th Inf. For communication run temporary lines through 7th Inf switch boards. Regt'l CP will be displaced to town of KUNHEIM.
- 0620 G-3 to CO: You are to maintain close contact with 7th Inf on left. Your regt may be used to drive between canal and river; there may be any between BIESHEIM and RHINE River. 3d Bn, 7th Inf has cleared 2/3 of town of BIESHEIM. G-3 to CO: One battalion of 254th Inf has taken over sector next to river. Their leading elements vic 865385. Your regt will be on the left and as you move up drop off battalions and block river to East. Limit of your leading battalion will be about 305 grid line. Each battalion will keep a motorized company in reserve. Get 12 volunteers to be used as flame throwers.
- 0635 CO to Comm C: Want CP set up immediately in KUNHEIM, with communication facilities etc.
- 0645 R80 to Ex O: 6 pole charges have been sent to each Bn.
(Above msg given to Division War Room.)
- 0645 3-3 to Bn's: Get volunteers to be used as flame thrower detail.
- 0650 3d Bn Ex O to 3-3: Our first company is now moving. Bn in order: L, I, & K.
- 0655 CH to CO: Want you to be prepared to push through 7th Inf in case they are stopped, isolate NEUF-BRISACH and block to the river. Also have plans made for smoking area.
- 0720 3d Bn S-1 to DO: All Co's have now moved out except Hq Co.
- 0747 7th Inf to S-3: 2d & 3d Bns are 2/3 way through BIESHEIM, capturing S/A and submachine guns. 1st Bn moving toward a decision vic 863380. One platoon of K Co at 868385. We are smoking bridge around KUNHEIM.
- 0845 3d Bn CO to Ex O: 7th Inf has two companies held up at 852384. 1st Bn was held up for a while at 870389 and is now held up at 873389.
- 0845 Fwd Regt'l CP set up at KUNHEIM, at 0815A.
- 0846 2d Bn closed in row assembly area in KUNHEIM.
- 0933 Rear Regt'l CP closed out of town of MONTZENHEIM and moved to KUNHEIM.
- 1025 Ex O to 1st Bn 3-3: Your seven tanks will be attached to 2d and 3d Bn's. You will keep your TD's.
- 1030 2d Bn CO to Ex O: 1st Bn, 7th Inf, has hit resistance at 866388. Ex O to 2d Bn CO: One battalion of 254th Inf will clean out woods along RHINE River down to 36 grid line.

L-1038

- 1200 Conference Call, CO to 2d & 3d Bn's. Post your troops as much as possible while in this area. A platoon of Cml will be attached to each battalion squad. 2d Bn to CO. We have 4 tanks, 2 TD's, and 1 flak wagon. 3d Bn to CO. We have 4 tanks, 3 TD'S, and 2 flak wagons. S-2 to 2d & 3d Bn's: 2d Bn, 7th Inf at SE edge of BIESHEIM; 3d Bn, 7th Inf, at SW edge of same town. 1st Bn, 7th Inf, via 862363. Elements of 254th Inf at 876380 and bulk of Bn at SE edge. Will move south to clean up area between RHINE River and canal. Enemy tank located at 874370. Condition of bridges at 862363, 866387, and 871377 is unknown. E Co of 7th Inf was fired upon by enemy strong point via 861384 which was bypassed by rest of 7th Infantry.
- 1310 2d Bn S-2 to DC: Made contact with 7th Inf by means of 3rd Bn patrol via 862363.
- 1410 S-2 to Div War Room: One of our recon patrols contacted 30th Inf around 1200A via of bridge at 846380. Forward elements of 254th Inf at 862363.
- 1411 Ex C to 2d Bn: You will get 36 replacements and one or two officers. Ex C gave same msg to 3d Bn.
- 1420 S-3 to 2d Bn: 30th Inf A Co task force composed of one flak wagon and two tanks were last reported at bridge on canal via 880 grid. 7th Inf had a TD and tank knocked out at north end of BIESHEIM.
- 1445 7th Inf S-2 to S-2: Still fighting in BIESHEIM have taken 104 PW's in that town. S-2 to 7th Inf S-2: Bridges across RHINE Canal are blown at 880 & 885 grid lines.
- 1504 CP # 1 (southern end of KUNHEIM) to S-3: Visibility is very poor. Hear no fire via of BIESHEIM.
- 1520 S-3 to S-3: Your report will attack tonight at 2100A, along side and to the left of 7th Inf. Your left flank will be on the RHINE River. This is departure will be forward line of 7th Inf via of BIESHEIM. 30th Inf will patrol aggressively along RHINE-RHINE Canal and send patrols to northern edge of NEUF-BRISACH. If able to get a foothold on the edge of town, the entire town will move in.
- 1526 S-3 gave above to CO 16th Inf.
- 1527 S-3 to Div: We have sent 12 men to 7th Inf CP to receive instructions in use of flame throwers.
- 1528 S-2 gave resume of situation to 1st Bn CO.
- 1536 S-3 to 2d Bn CO and 1st Bn CO: Same as 1622A entry. 1st Bn will send recon parties to look for assembly area east of canal via of 40 grid line.
- 1540 G-2 to S-2: 30th Inf has sent patrols as far south as bridge at 834367 today. 30th Inf task force has reached point via 843376.
- 1550 7th Inf to Ex C: Asst G-2 directs that your CO come over to 7th Inf CP to see him.
- 1552 S-3 to 3d Bn Ex C: Same as 1522A entry.
- 1604 CO & S-3 left for 7th Inf CP.
- 1606 CP # 1 (in KUNHEIM) to S-2: 8 rds. of arty landed via of our snake generators. Otherwise all quiet for past hour.
- 1620 G-3 to Asst S-3: Boundary between 16th & 7th Inf will be read inclusive, landing south from BIESHEIM thru VOLGELSHEIM, ALGOLSHEIM, OBERSAASHEIM. These towns will also be inclusive to 16th Inf.
- 1640 Asst S-3 to CO: Gave 1622A entry. CO to Asst S-3: Patrol following map to town of 1st Bn will initially attack east side via 87380 moving generally from NE to SE. 1st Bn CO & necessary Co Cdr's & Staff Officers (Party should be small group) will take recon of this area immediately. Party can ride to via 860413, from there walk to via 864400 where they can observe ground from a hill top. After they take recon they will report to Regt CP for further orders.
- 1660 Asst S-3 left for 1st Bn to deliver above msg.
- 1630 Ex C to 2d & 3d Bn: Send staff officer to meeting at Regt CP at 1600A.
- 1905 7th Inf to Ex C: Bay has a portion of town of BIESHEIM, western end. Bay also holds a ditch running east to west via of cemetery. Our 1st Bn is at 862384. Tried to walk south but was stopped by fire from cemetery and mill-houses (868385). Division reports that a Mark VI tank has broken loose and has headed in direction of KUNHEIM.

6 FEBRUARY 1945 CONT'D

- 1910 S-2 to 2d & 3d Bn's: Gave above msg concerning tank. Get your TD's in position.
- 1933 7th Inf CO to CO: There is a problem in communication trench via 853386.
- 2000 Asst CG to CO: 7th Inf has cleared all but one house in BIESHEIM.
- 2020 7th Inf Ex O to CO: My tank reported moving north has stopped by rock quarry near a platoon of our K Co. We plan to attack Jewish cemetery at 2100A. Hope to have it all cleared out by the time you attack. CO to 7th Inf Ex O: Our 3d Bn will attack down PHINE-PHONE Canal to bridge at 847385, then swing due east to trenches and continue along them to the end, then E to canal. Patrols will be sent SE to BIESHEIM and trenches will be held to prevent enemy withdrawal.
- 2065 CG to Asst CG: L & K Co's, 7th Inf have made contact. BIESHEIM is apparently cleared.
- 2106 7th Inf DO to S-3: Our 1st Bn will attack at same time as your attack. Our 3d Bn has 275 PW's--205 of them in the town.
- 2110 3d Bn DO to S-3: OP reports SP gun firing from W of BIESHEIM. Shells are landing vicinity of our CP.
- 2115 OP #1 to S-3: Occasional S/A fire via BIESHEIM; tank fire from just behind the town.
- 2130 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Our troops are moving out now.
- 2135 S-2 to S-3: 7th Inf jeep drew fire from SE when it reached 853387.
- 2155 30th Inf DO to S-3: 30th Inf now has outposts at 848404 and 848383.
- 2215 S-3 to 30th Inf: Our 1st Bn will move south on east side of canal to a point at 847385 and then clear south end of BIESHEIM.
- 2252 Asst CG to Ex O: Want the attack of 1st Bn to start by 0300A. Ex O to Asst CG: 1st Bn crossing on foot bridge now.
- 2306 1st Bn reports all of B Co has crossed bridge.
- 2311 3d Bn DO to DO: All is quiet. SP gun has stopped firing.
- 2312 Div to Ex O: CG directs that a lot of smoke be placed along canal. Screen should be laid by 0630A.
- 2335 Radio msg from 1st Bn: "A & D Co's are moving out".
- 2335 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt's sector.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 021200A to 031200
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 3 February 1945

No. 34

Maps : FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in assembly areas.
2. Disposition of Troops: Reg'tl. CP in KUNHEIM. 1st Bn assembled in barracks area, vic V843423; 2d and 3d Bns assembled in KUNHEIM.
3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy; limited visibility.
4. Information of Adjacent Units: 7th Infantry continued the attack South to BIESHEIM, encountering little enemy resistance. At 030745A, 7th Inf reported that their 2d and 3d Bns were two-thirds of the way through BIESHEIM and encountering S/A and sniper fire.
5. Our Operations for the Period: During the afternoon of 2 February, the regiment remained in position in the woods along the west side of the RHINE-RHONE Canal. On the morning of 3 February, the regiment assembled preparatory to resuming the offensive to the south. The 1st Battalion assembled in the barracks buildings, vic V843423. 2d and 3d Bns assembled in KUNHEIM. The 3d Bn began moving to new area at 030850A. 2d Bn closed in assembly area at 030845A. The Reg'tl. CP displaced on the morning of 3 February, from MUNSZENHEIM to KUNHEIM. New CP opened at 030815A.
6. Combat Efficiency: Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 2 Feb.)

Officers: 72%
WO: 100%
EM: 68%

Rifle Trench Strengths:

Officers: 26
EM: 552

7. Results of Operations:
 - a. Regiment assembled prepared to continue the offensive to the South.
 - b. Regimental CP displaced to KUNHEIM.

COMRAE
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S - 2 REPORT

FROM: 020800A
TO : 030800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACE: MUNTZENHEIM, FRANCE

No 25

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: No enemy contact during the entire period.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: Remained in position along west bank of RHONE - RHINE Canal opposite KUNHEIM. No enemy contact was reported other than the clearing out of a small group of enemy on west side of the canal.
- (2) 2d Bn: Remained in position along west side of RHONE - RHINE canal from bridge vic of V848441 to junction of the COLMAR and RHONE - RHINE Canals. No enemy contact reported.
- (3) 3d Bn: Remained in position along west banks of RHONE - RHINE Canal from bridge vic V848421 to bridge vic V848441. No enemy contact during the period.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Patrol attempting to cross bridge vic of V848421 drew enemy S/A fire at 0810A.
- (2) Artillery: Enemy artillery confined itself to intermittent shelling of front line positions and towns.
- (3) Armor: Enemy tank fired 4 rds vic of KUNHEIM at 1800A.
- (4) Air: Several enemy planes observed over MUNTZENHEIM during the late afternoon. No damage reported.
- (5) No report of enemy engineer or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IEM Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry
S - 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
TENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

3 February 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 020800A - 030800 Feb 1945.

TABULATION:

<u>No</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Place of Capt.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt. Unit</u>
2	Hq Co/137 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn Div	V 8243	1800A	3rd Signal
		(stragglers)		
2	TOTAL			
TOTAL in present sector (since 24 January 1945):				709
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cgo in FRANCE:				2125

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt: Inf

4 FEBRUARY 1948

- 0020 Ex C to Asst CG: C Co is 300 yds from Line of Departure.
- 0045 DO to 7th Inf S-3: 1st Bn is on LD and will jump off in a few minutes.
- 0050 1st Bn reports that they have crossed the LD.
- 0058 7th Inf Ex C to CG: Cur tactical vehicles are in BIESHEIM. Expect to jump off in attack at 0300A.
- 0105 CG to 2d & 3d Bn's CG: 1st Bn has jumped off. Situation is apparently clearing up. 3d Bn, 7th Inf, has gotten their supplies through and TD has moved up from the town. 1st Bn, 7th Inf is moving down along canal. Time for attack is set at 0300A. Get your people alerted, but await orders from this Hq to move.
- 0107 Ex C to 7th Inf DO: Relay msg to Asst CG that our Co's are crossing the BIESHEIM-KUNHEIM road via 853386 (LL phase).
- 0113 Radio Msg from 1st Bn: "Are past 'LL'. No contact."
- 0125 Radio Msg from 1st Bn: A & C Co's are past "LL". A Co has encountered resistance approx 35 yds past the road.
- 0126 DO to Div DC: Gave report on 1st Bn's situation.
- 0130 DO to CP #1: Easy MG fire at approx 60 degrees.
- 0140 Radio Msg from 1st Bn: Co's are approx 125 yds past road, receiving fire from N end of BIESHEIM.
- 0145 CG to CO: CO gave 1st Bn situation. CG will see if 7th can clear N of town. Nothing definite on 254th Inf Regt's situation. Do not start Bn's yet.
- 0148 DO to 7th Inf DO: Relayed msg regarding S/A fire from N end of BIESHEIM. Check to see if 7th Inf is firing at us. 7th Inf DO reported that enemy holds N sect of town.
- 0155 DO to 1st Bn rear: Just received radio msg from 1st Bn CO inquiring about TD's. Answer: TD's and tactical vehicles are on the way.
- 0200 7th Inf Ex C to Ex C: There are enemy about 600 yds N of BIESHEIM but the town is cleared. Have been getting vehicles by on the road. Bn's of 7th Inf were notified of 155th Inf operations and are not firing.
- 0210 CP #1 reported: 1 white and 1 red flare at 180 degree az. Concentration of our army falling to left of BIESHEIM in woods. S/A fire from left of town. CP #2 also reported S/A fire, 106 degree azimuth, approx 2500 yds away.
- 0215 2d Bn CO to Ex C: Wire team laying line by jeep was fired on by 2 machine pistols approx 1 mile south of town on W of road.
- 0218 CG to CG 1st Bn: Use B Co on the fire. Answer: Will get them started. There is small arm fire in vic of cemetery (where 1st Bn 7th Inf is attacking).
- 0220 Div reports disposition of 254th Inf: A Co, 870405 to 875415; B Co, 870415 north to river at 423; C Co, from 872428 north along stream to 880450; F Co via 871463; G Co in BALTZENHEIM; 3d Bn (-) at 888463; L Co 874395.
- 0230 CG 1st Bn to CG: 3 enemy MGs firing from right flank. Can we get tanks? CG: It will take too much time to brief tankers and get them down there. Try using TDs.
- 0233 Asst CG to CG: I have recommended a delay in attack to the CG. CG says we must clear rear area before the attack can come off - south of BIESHEIM. Clear by daylight. Be prepared to commit another Bn to clear area if necessary. 7th Inf, 1st Bn, is nearing their objective.
- 0235 Ex C to 2d & 3d Bn Cmdrs: Give 1st Bn situation. (Attack attack attack) rear is cleared.
- 0248 Ex C to 2d Bn CO: Alert your tanks and send them to 1st Bn. They will be attached to 1st Bn. (Attack attack attack) (Attack attack attack)
- 0300 CG to Asst CG: Informed Asst CG regarding tanks to 1st Bn. Asst CG: Your big job for tonight is to get rear area cleared. 7th Inf has cleared the cemetery. Captured 8 PWs. The cemetery is occupied. The Co that cleared the cemetery, swung east toward canal, moving to via 867386. Will not cross the canal. After 1st Bn, 15th Inf contacts 1st Bn 7th, we will pull Bn of 7th Inf back to KUNHEIM to reorganize (badly disorganized, CG). After our 1st Bn completes their mission, I had planned to put them in BIESHEIM (by dawn) to organize defense against C/A. Asst CG: Fine. Have them prepared to move out tomorrow if necessary to clear out any enemy by-passed tonight. Check to be sure you have 2 TDs at least 600 yards south of the Railway bridge in KUNHEIM. CG: Will check on TDs. Will have infantry with them and during the daylight will pull them off to the right of the road in the woods, via 884047.

1 FEBRUARY 1945 Contd

- 0512 1st Bn advance is extending their line.
- 0520 Ex O to S-3. Notified to place 2 TDs (with inf) south of KUNHEIM.
- 0540 Ex C notified Asst CG that TDs were south of KUNHEIM, but are being moved further out with a platoon of infantry. Asst Cg, 1st Bn 7th Inf has a total of 18 PWs taken from the cemetery and plants to the east.
- 0563 1st Bn Ex O to Ex C. Tanks have gone on toward BIESHEIM.
- 0440 Ex O to 1st Bn. Tanks coming up to overrun MGs and will follow, B Co will provide flank protection.
- 0455 3d Bn to DO. Platoon of I Co and TDs are in position.
- 0512 Asst CG to Ex C. 1st Bn of the 7th Inf moving back to KUNHEIM. Our 1st Bn should have BIESHEIM by 0730. Give attention to rear area. Have FO where the FO can observe for tanks in the morning. Alert TDs also.
- 0517 Ex C to 3d Bn. Have FO out to try and spot German tanks at daylight.
- 0520 Ex O to CO 1st Bn. Relayed the above.
- 0522 7th Inf to DOMMering. Two TDs on south edge of town to inside the town.
- 0525 7th Inf to DO. Smoke S63376 and S69379 if you remain in KUNHEIM. Smoke S75348 and S63349 if mortars move to BIESHEIM.
- 0600 Asst CG to Ex C. Trucks taking out PWs fired on by MGs. Have 1st Bn clean them out. Do you need another bn to help? No.
- 0605 Ex O to 1st Bn. Get tanks moving with infantry.
- 0607 CP #1. At 0510 small arms fire around BIESHEIM, 3 rounds of artillery that is front of CP 200-300 yards. Artillery landing around BIESHEIM, also small bursts of MG fire.
- 0610 1st Bn to Ex C. Receiving heavier fire from MGs. Had one tank KO'd, other three took off.
- 0625 3d Bn to DO. All quiet.
- 0645 Periodic report to Division.
- 0655 Asst CG to Ex C. Situation report on 1st Bn given. 1st Bn will attack south and north from BIESHEIM. Keep me informed of your situation. Alert 3d Bn.
- 0657 Ex O to DO. Have one company along canal to defend town. Have others ready to take positions if needed.
- 0700 2d Bn to Ex C. One tank was hit by bazooka, one in ditch. Other two have returned.
- 0745 1st Bn CO to S-3. Last night we crossed canal via S45385, proceeded east, crossed road, went a few hundred yards and swung south toward BIESHEIM and encountered 3 or 4 MGs, 200 yards from town. A & C Co's were pinned down. Had to pull them back to town at daylight. B Co is in cemetery north of town. One tank was KO'd by enemy bazooka. Tank went too far to left and lost his infantry protection; one tank ran into AT ditch. The remaining two tanks pulled back. Now I have no tanks. S-3: Will send you a plat of tanks.
- 0742 Above reported to Tank Ln Officer.
- 0806 S-3 to Asst CG. Reported situation. Am sending tanks to 1st Bn. Asst CG: Get 1st Bn moving as soon as possible.
- 0812 S-3 to 1st Bn Ex C. Your FO reported that approx 12 enemy were seen moving to west down communication ditch along 386 and crossed N-S south.
- 0519 1st Bn Ex O to S-3. Regal wirecrew just checked in at our Bn CP and reported that around 40 enemy have cut N-5 road via 396 grid. 2 of our troops were captured.
- 0828 S-2 to I & R Plat. Alert two (2) patrols to be ready to move out immediately. One will be a six (6) man combat patrol to include a light MG. Patrol will cross canal via S46485 and proceed west along communication ditch to clear enemy from that area. The second patrol will be a jeep patrol (3 jeeps with .50 Calibres; 3 man per jeep) to proceed south on N-5 road from KUNHEIM to BIESHEIM and investigate communication ditches along 385 grid line. Enemy reported in that vic.

- 143E CO 1st Bn to CO. 9 men returned from patrol to SE of BIESHEIM. 6 men known to be KIA. Remainder of patrol is unaccounted for. Patrol reports fort bridge at 866375. Enemy MGs at 860376. 3 enemy MGs located via 867874. Our patrol received cross fire from these two strong points. Patrol to the NS reports all three bridges are definitely out. There has never been more than a foot bridge at these sites. Stream is 25 to 30 yards across. Stream flows slowly but is deep. Wading would be difficult. Vic of bridge #3 are some prefabricated houses. Patrol reports 15 Infantry and a tank via 867386.
- 144Z CO to 1st Bn CO. H hour will be at 1830A. Plans have been changed in that all three battalions will be involved. Will give you details later.
- 1444 3d Bn CO to CO. 28th Inf reports enemy at V887390, 4 enemy MG's via of RJ at V860387 and a SP gun confirmed by patrol from 2d Bn at the latter coordinate.
- 1448 CO to 2d Bn CO. Do not delay in pushing forward if we are to be prepared to launch Regt 1 attack at 1830A. (CO 2d Bn to CO) We had to change course over to stream because of SP fire, believed to be coming from vic of 363 northing. Have 55 men in the two patrols forward.
- 1505 7th Inf S2 to CO. We observed 40 enemy at V874376 also enemy digging in via V856373. As soon as friendly smoke screen is lifted we will use arty on the latter coordinate. (CO to 7th Inf S2) Suggest that you use flank weapons and tanks in BIESHEIM to fire on enemy MG's SE of BIESHEIM.
- 1510 S-3 gave report of situation to Div War Room.
- 1515 OP #1 to DO. At 1455H there was an enemy arty barrage of 80 rds in SE corner of BIESHEIM. Observed enemy vehicle via 8756387 moving east on road. Enemy observed on sky line at V887367. (CO gave the above msg to 38th FA Lw Off).
- 1537 CO to 2d Bn DO & 3d Bn Ex C. Give your S-3, 6 or 8 report to Regt CP immediately to get plans for operations tonight. Detailed plans will be out later.
- 1552 Div Chief of Staff to CO. Have three searchlights to use in tonight's operations. 7th Inf CO suggests that they be used initially at H-hour. CO to Div C of S. OK with me. Radio message from I & R OP #2 to CO 15th Inf: At 1215A, 15 rounds of enemy artillery of medium caliber fell at woods 816383. From 1310A to 1330A, S/A and automatic weapons, both friendly and enemy landed at 140 degrees of our positions at 2,500 yards. At 1410A, 6 rounds enemy mortars landed at woods 816383.
- 1625 OP#1 to S-2. At 1537A, observed one enemy via 866354 near house and one man on motorcycle going east from same coordinate. Have observed much movement going east on that road. S-2 gave above to 38th FA Lw C.
- 1640 Div to CO. 3 tanks from 254th Infantry will be attached to you. These are not included on OI that will come out. CO to Div. These will be assigned to my 2d Bn.
- 1650 2d Bn CO reports that his patrol have advanced to 868388 and are now receiving MG, SP and mortar fire.
- 1652 1st Bn CO to S-2. Enemy miller around via 868381. Request clearance to fire artillery there. 5th Bn CO to 1st Bn CO. Clearance given. 2d Bn CO. State his attack on other side of stream. 3d Bn CO to S-2. My contact at 864386.
- 1705 CO to Div. Don't attack at 1830. Too much stuff other side of river at 868388. 7th Inf S-2 reports that his company was engaged with enemy at 866381.
- 1710 Div to S-2. From interrogation of civilians in KUNHEIM - Fort Mortier has been reinforced. There is a system of trenches and passages in vic of Fort. Artillery trains have moved to CBERBAASHHEIM. Mine fields from 868387 beyond bridge extending to RHINE River and another at 871383 to RHINE River.
- 1814 S-3 to 2d Bn. You are not going to get extra TDs but you will get a platoon of tanks instead.

- 1826 2d Bn CO to G-2. MGs and 6 pillboxes in vic 870385. Also MG and SP fire from woods to the east of the above coordinate. Relayd enemy information from 1st Bn.
- 1940 CO to Ex O. How is the 2d Bn progressing. Ex O: We dont know, the lines are cut. CO: Did they get the boats. Ex O: I don't know. CO: How's the 3d Bn getting along? Ex O: I was just trying to contact them, I dont know yet. CO: Keep me informed.
- 1955 2d Bn CO to Ex O. Am putting forward CP in BIEGHEIN. No tanks have yet. Ex O: You aren't getting any tanks. 2d Bn CO: I have the boats but no bridge yet. I'll cross when they come.
- 2000 CO to Ex O. Ex O: CG wants to know what's doing. CO: Tell him plans are made and troops are moving to LD. Boats are holding us up. Other delays are the darkness, some enemy shelling and our lines are out, necessitating messenger service which is slow.
- 2005 S-3 to Div (G-3). How do we get lights tonight, and how long does it take to get them. G-3: Call advance CP and ask for Moonbeam. If they cant get them ask rear CP. Lights will be on two minutes after you ask for them.
- 2010 Ex O to G-3. The 3d Bn is moving to the LD and getting the guns in position. It will be 45 minutes before they cross. The 2d Bn is getting rubber boats. The delay is due to lines being cut. Sending messengers takes longer. The bridge we need is at the engr dump in RIEDWIHR. They didnt have floats.
- 2035 3d Bn Ex O to S-3. Two enemy companies have been on the way for 45 minutes. The platoon leader of "A" company patrol was killed by rifle and machine gun fire at the bridge 870397. There is an enemy defensive line running east and west from the canal to the river at grid line 377. There are 3 or 4 SP guns across the RHINE there. Will move forward with 2 companies and leave one company here in the area for reserve. Tanks are in area and TD Lt Col is scouting for a place for his TDs.
- 2050 G-3 to Ex O. How are things? Ex O: Haven't called recently. G-3: CG wants to know if we can start crossing with boats.
- 2055 2d Bn CO to Ex O. The bridge is here and on the way down. Boats are going down with the bridge. The companies are starting to move now. Will cross first with boats, then the bridge.
- 2058 Ex O to G-3. Relayd the above message. G-3: CG wants to know the moment they get the bridge to the site. Will figure "H" hour as the time you get the bridge completed and pass it on to concerned units. Lights will go on at "H" hour.
- 2100 Ex O to 2d Bn CO. A civilian gives the following information. 6 MG positions along road at 869371 cover the road. Also on the west bank of the canal from the bridge at 871378 to the south every 50 or 100 yards there are machine gun emplacements, not necessarily manned. There are stacks of AP mines along there too.
- 2115 2d Bn CO to Ex O. Have put out guides for the bridge gang. When they arrive S-3 will be notified and will call you.
- 2135 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O. One company is on the LD.
- 2145 S-3 to G-2. A radio with sliding code and other papers were lost on a patrol.
- 2160 G-3 to CO. We will take off together.
- 2165 Ex O to 3d Bn CO. Hold it and jump off with 2d Bn and the 7th Infantry.
- 2180 G-3 to G-2. A radio with sliding code and other papers were lost on a patrol.
- 2200 S-3 to 2d Bn CO. Have bridges arrived at site yet. CO: Not yet, expect word at any minute. Radio man at site ready to let me know the minute they arrive.
- 2235 Ex O to Ex O 1st Bn. Relay to your people. Fort Mottier will be 1st Bn's 1st Objective. You will jump off for it after 2d Bn takes their objective. You will pass to right of 2d Bn. H-hour for 2d and 3d Bns will be approx 2230k; you will move about 0100a.

1-1038

- 2305 DC 1st Bn to S-3. All quiet. Engr party is approaching B Co outpost at cemetery. They were at B Co CP.
- 2315 S-3 to G-3. Engr material has arrived at bridge site 862380. H-hour will be 0016A.
- 2320 Relayed the above to 3d Bn 254th Inf, S-3, 3d Bn 16th Inf, CO 7th Inf, CO 1st Bn and DC 2d Bn.
- 2330 CO 7th Inf to CO. We will go down as far as RJ at 862372.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-5 Periodic Report

Period: 031200A to 041200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 4 February 1945

No. 35
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 1st Bn in BIESHEIM.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Reg'l CP in KUNHEIM.

A and C Co's in BIESHEIM.

B Co in cemetery, via V667382.

2d and 3d Bn's assembled in KUNHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy, limited visibility.

4. Information of adjacent Units:

7th Infantry continued clearing the town of BIESHEIM and engaging enemy in the cemetery to the NW. The cemetery was reported clear at 040300A, with a total of 18 PW's captured in the cemetery and the area to the east.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

The 1st Bn was committed to clear the enemy from rear area N of BIESHEIM in conjunction with the 7th Inf. The 1st Bn left assembly area in KUNHEIM at 032130A and moved south along the east side of the canal to via V647385. They crossed the LD at 040000A and attacked to the east. At 040107A, the 1st Bn was reported crossing the BIESHEIM - KUNHEIM road and, as yet, had made no enemy contact. They continued across the road and A Co was fired upon by three enemy MG's from the right flank approx 200 yds N of town. B Co was taken from battalion reserve and committed to the right of the battalion to protect the flank as C Co advanced with armor to eliminate the MG's. One of our tanks was knocked out. Prior to daylight A and C Co's were moved into BIESHEIM and B Co occupied the cemetery N of town, via V667382. On the morning of 4th Jan a task force with armor attacked N from BIESHEIM, capturing 35 PW's. By the close of the period, the area N of town and west of the canal was cleared.

The 2d and 3d Bn's remained in KUNHEIM throughout the period prepared to continue the attack to the south, after the rear areas were cleared of enemy. At the close of the period, 2d and 3d Bn's were alerted and beginning to move from assembly area to the 254th Inf sector to push through them and continue the advance to south along RHINE River.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As of 3 Jan 45)

Officers: 73%

WO: 100%

EM: 69%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 27

EM: 57%

7. Results of Operations:

a. Area north of BIESHEIM cleared.

b. 2d and 3d Bn prepared to move through 254th sector.

COMRIE

S-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Jones

S-2 Report

FROM: 080800A
TO : 040800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 1948
PLACE: KUNHEIM, FRANCE.

No 26

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH SHEETS.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: No definite line existed at the end of the period. A small pocket of enemy was still holding out about 300 yds north of BEISHHEIM.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn moved from west side of RHONE-RHINE Canal opposite KUNHEIM to the east side of the canal and during the night moved south along the east side of canal to vic of V848388. From V848388 it jumped off in attack to the east at 0060A. About 125 yds east of road the Bn encountered resistance in form of I/A and MG fire from the south, believed to be coming from about 300 yds north of BEISHHEIM. At end of the period the Bn was still in attack vic of V855587.
- (2) 2d Bn: Moved from positions vic of COLMAR & RHONE-RHINE Canal to assembly area vic of KUNHEIM. At end of the period the bn was still in the assembly area with no enemy contact.
- (3) 5d Bn: The Bn moved from positions along west bank of RHONE-RHINE Canal vic of V847428 to V847439 as assembly area vic of KUNHEIM. At end of the period the bn was in assembly area with no enemy contact.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: MG fire from vic of V855585 at 0140A. Wire jeep fired on by 2 M/P's vic of V863402 at 0216A.
- (2) Artillery: S/P fire from vic of BEISHHEIM at 2110A. Enemy artillery limited to intermittent shellings during the period in this sector.
- (3) No report of enemy air, armor, engineer or M/I activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: None for the period.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 16th Infantry

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Reg. 16th Inf.
FUNKHIN, FRANCE
4 February 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 18)

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR & NEW-HEISACH Sheets.

1. 16th Infantry, attached: Co B, 601st TD Bn
2 Flat Co C, 756th Tk Bn
3 Sect's 441st AAA AW Bn
1 Flat Co A, 60th Cal Bn
1 Plat 3d Rom Troop

a. On completion of present mopping up mission, will continue the attack to the S and SE, seize and hold bridge-crossings across the RHINE River and block to the south.

2. a. First Battalion, attached: Flat Co B, 601st TD Bn
Flat Co C, 756th Tk Bn
Sect 441st AAA AW Bn

- (1) Will, upon engagement of the 3d Bn vicinity Pt MERTHE, pass around the right of the 3d Bn attack, seize and hold objective 1-C.
- (2) On regimental order, be prepared to continue the attack to the SW by passing through 3d Bn, seize and hold objective B.
- (3) Be prepared, on regimental order, to continue the attack on indicated objective, clearing all enemy from sector; establish outposts along the RHINE River.
- (4) Be prepared to continue the mission of either the 3d or 3d Bn's.

- b. Second Battalion, attached: Flat Co B, 601st TD Bn
Sect 441st AAA AW Bn

- (1) Will be prepared, on regimental order, to attack to the southeast, seize and hold objective 2.
- (2) Will be prepared to assist the attack of the 1st Bn on objective E.
- (3) On regimental order, be prepared to continue the attack along indicated axis to clear all enemy from bank of the RHINE River.

- c. Third Battalion, attached: Flat Co B, 601st TD Bn
Flat Co C, 756th Tk Bn
Sect 441st AAA AW Bn

- (1) Will attack at H-hour, 4 Feb '45, seize and hold objectives 1-A and 1-B.
- (2) Be prepared to receive 1st Bn on completion of holding objective 1-A; hold and block along RHINE River from 57 Northing to Line 51.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Anti-Tank Company:

- (1) Will assemble under regimental control, via **LINKS**.
- (2) Be prepared to provide reinforcement as a rifle company.
- (3) Be prepared to relieve established road blocks within regimental sector.

SECRET
Only

OFFICIAL:

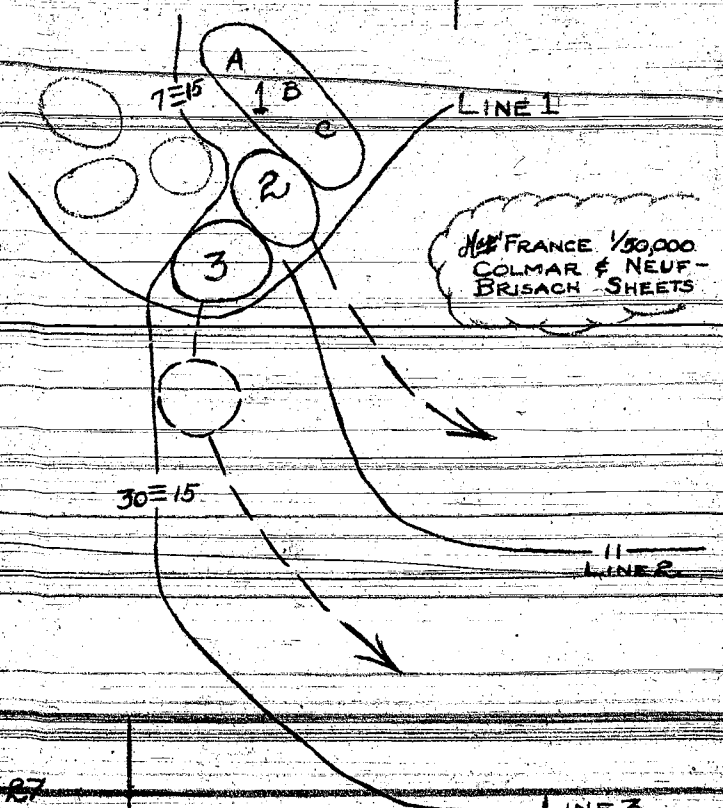
Comick
COMICK
S-3

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential

90°

38



FRANCE 1/50,000
COLMAR & NEUF-
BRISACH SHEETS

30 ≡ 15

LINE 2

LINE 3

HQ 15th INF 4 FEB '45
OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI # 12
OFFICIAL: *Comiles*
COMPLE S-3 EDSON
CMDG

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

5 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0011 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: "Moonbeam" goes on at 0015A.
- 0012 DC, Div War Rm to S-3: "Moonbeam" goes on at 0015A.
- 0017 Ex O, 3d Bn to DO: Our two companies have jumped off. L Co. on left, clearing dyke, and F Co. on right, clearing canal.
- 0045 S-3 to G-3: Gave last message.
- 0045 S-2 to S-3: K Co., 254th Inf. will put one platoon at 873380 and platoons at strong points at 867387 and 873386. Outposts will be established at 389387 and 382376.
- 0100 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: Our companies are moving under mortar barrage falling vic 381 northward, between dyke and canal.
- 0116 (Radio) E Co on initial objective. G Co has some trouble. F Co following G Co.
- 0125 (Radio) I Co still moving.
- 0125 S-3, 3d Bn to S-3: Companies moving very little appreciable. L Co held up by automatic fire. Search lights not strong enough to help.
- 0130 S-3 to Div War Rm: Gave last message. Believe 3rd Bn is in vic of 862330.
- 0135 (Radio) E Co at Phase Line "C"; I Co moving. L Co ran into G and S/A fire.
- 0140 Ex O to S-3: E Co is all across stream and on island - also part of F Co. G Co on way down - get S/A fire from the left. (Island in 86-37 grid sq.).
- 0145 Ex O, 3d Bn to DC: L Co held up temporarily vic 38.2 grid, engaging arty with S/A's and hand grenades. I Co still moving slowly on L Co's left.
- 0155 DC, 2d Bn to DO: E Co in small arm's fight on island. G Co getting S/A's on flank and F Co receiving some arty et mortar fire. C Co's of both G & F Co's wounded.
- 0200 (Oral) 2d Bn, 7th Inf reported at RJ and canal vic 84-36.
- 0215 DC, 2d Bn to S-3: Our 1st Bn in VOLGELSHHEIM with tanks and TD's. 2d Bn at 849360
- 0252 CC to CO: Push down to RJ at 863372 and attack 7th Infantry at 849360. Then advance and secure bridge and fort.
- 0253 CO to CO, 1st Bn: Secure CR at 863372 and bridge, and send a force to NE to E Co on island vic 866380, relieving pressure on E Co.
- 0315 CO to DC, 2d Bn: Gave above message. Reorganize B and F Co's.
- 0320 DC, 7th Inf to S-3: MG and bazooka fire at 867374. Lost two TD's.
- 0325 Ex O, 3d Bn to CO: Pulling back I and L Co's. to 38.1 and will lay down arty.
- 0326 Div War Rm to CO: Get a force in FORT MOUTIER by daylight.
- 0330 Above message relayed to CO, 1st Bn.
- 0345 CO, 3d Bn to CO: I & L Co's moving back 150 yds. - then we will lay arty in and move forward. (CO) Don't let them get too far back. Just report that part of G Co (35 men and no officer) became separated from rest of company and returned to KUNHEIM - they are now being sent back by truck.
- 0350 CO, 1st Bn to CO: Will spray island with flak wagon and also road junction.
- 0415 CO, 3d Bn to CO: Any mortars and bazookas vic 867387. Any MG at 873387. No chance to get medium tanks to support us because of marshy ground. (CO) Use arty support.
- 0420 G-3 to S-3: 7th Infantry lost a TD in the area your 1st Bn is entering. 3d Bn, 7th Inf has taken tobacco mfr. plant Bief NEUB BHTSACK. 2d Bn, 7th Inf has taken VOLGELSHHEIM. 1st Bn is west of latter town. (S-3) Our E Co is only unit of 2d Bn to cross canal. Other two companies were somewhat disorganized.
- 0430 G-3 to S-3: Suggest that after 1st Bn takes their first objective, they move F and G Co's. to that vic and work back toward E Co.
- 0440 Ex O, 2d Bn to S-3: Have small force of G Co. at bridge end another small force nearby to the right. E Co is holding on the other side of the canal. Think that 1st Bn is holding ed up now.
- 0445 CO, 1st Bn to CO: A Co Cndr. wounded. A Co ready to move out.
- 0508 Ex O, 2d Bn to Ex C: Will lay arty on S/P min firing from vic of E Co. No contact with F Co.
- 0530 Ex O, 2d Bn to S-3: E Co receiving fire from across canal. Believe that is where fire on 3d Bn is coming from.
- 0635 S-3 gave last msg. to CB, 3d Bn.
- 0539 Ex O, 1st Bn reports that A Co is moving out.
- 0540 Ex O, 1st Bn to DC: A Co receiving arty from both flanks and the front.
- 0555 S-3, 2d Bn to CO: All units across canal except part of G Co. By auto. fire is holding us up. (CO) Try to get a flak wagon into firing position. Will give 3d Bn clearance to fire at 867387.

5 February (Cont'd)

- 0600 CO gave last message to Ex C, 3d Bn.
- 0612 CO gave resume of situation to CG. (CG to CO) Keep 1st Bn moving.
- 0618 Ex C, 1st Bn to CO: A Co has passed houses at 860376. Have tics and TDAS out. Flak wagons are on edge of town.
- 0625 CO to S-3, 2d Bn: Advise 2d Bn move out immediately.
- 0635 Ex C, 1st Bn to Ex O: B Co moved out at 0625A with C Co following. A Co has elements on CP at 863372. Have 24 men from F Co in BIESHEIM.
- 0700 Div War Rm to DO: X1 Corps has made contact with French from South at ROUFFACH, 8729. (Relayed to all bns.)
- 0705 Ex C, 1st Bn to DO: Preparing to move B and C Co's thru A Co at 063372.
- 0710 DO gave Situation Report to Div War Rm.
- 0730 CG to S-3: B Co has driven down to 863375.
- 0735 CG, 2d Bn to S-3: We are still moving. Situation quiet at moment. (S-3) Am starting smoke screen along river in front of 3rd Battalion and bringing it S.
- 0756 DO, 1st Bn to S-2: 2 TK's knocked out by mines - blew tracks. Advance elements of bn vic 862372. Bridge out. Have taken quite a few POW.
- 0835 S-3 to Div War Rm: Gave situation. Possible nice field at 868374. B Co has STROSTADT FARM. 1st Bn is in vic of 864373 - 3d Bn on 39 grid and moving out again. Will try to use same bridges that 2d Bn used.
- 0815 DO gave Situation Report to Div War Rm.
- 0920 CO, 3d Bn to CG: K Co will attack from BIESHEIM. Will work two tanks on either side of dyke to fire direct on av gun at range of 500-600 yds.
- 0922 DO, 1st Bn to S-3: Have 14 POW. Receiving MG fire from 870365.
- 0945 CO, 1st Bn to S-3: Both 2d Bn companies are pinned down by AT and S/P gun at 870364. We are not laying smoke far enough south to cover other side of RHINE RIVER and we must block off these guns. Suggest generators be moved to 873365. Ey is knocking houses we occupy down, one by one. Kraut still holds house at 865371. Would like to have 2d Bn attack south as we go across to FORT MONTEP. (CG) We are laying construction of 8 inch and 155's on the fort now and will shoot another when you get in to attack.
- 1000 CO to CG: Island is one-half cleared. 3d Bn is moving tanks and TDAS up to both sides of dyke to fire. Sending one company to BIESHEIM to attack point SW of town and clean it out. Gave situation of 1st and 2d Bns.
- 1025 Ex O, 2d Bn to S-3: E & G Co's are together - down to about 40-50 men each. F Co has 25. Have 7th group of 50 ey moving towards us - we are firing artillery on them.
- 1055 DO to DO, 1st Bn: 7th Inf is on all of their objectives. Thier 3d Bn will attack 868368. (1st Bn) B Co has houses on E side of rd junction SE of BIESHEIM. By tank reported at 870365 and 867370.
- 1150 S-3, 1st Bn to Ex O: B Co has all of the houses on rd leading to VOELGRUN. Ey MG's located all around town near FORT MONTEP.
- 1200 Ex O, 3d Bn to Ex O: Our co's have jumped off. (I & L Co's) - moving S. Bridge at 867387 is blown.
- 1210 DO to Div War Rm: Bunkers cleaned out at 867387. Bridge vic bunker is blown & K Co is near the bridge. I & L Co's are moving south on E side of canal - have reached 872380. (Div War Rm) Patrol from 7th Inf reports 6 ey tanks dug in in canal bank vic 828374. Send another patrol there with an FO to direct attack on them.
- 1315 DO, 1st Bn to Ex O: Will send C Co in front of G, I & L Co's at 867374. S3 also read to right of fort.
- 1320 DO, 3d Bn to Ex O: I Co vic 871376; L Co vic 874374; F Co vic bridge 867387; heading of L Co at bridge 875369 - receiving S/P fire from SW.
- 1355 Ex O to Div War Rm: Have you company at 867377 and elements at 867377. Have your company take over bridge at 873377.
- 1410 Ex O to DO, 1st Bn: 2d Bn has patrols out combing island to see if they missed any scattered ey last night.
- 1442 Ex O to G-2: 3d Bn has cleared between canal and river as far as 368 grid. (G-2) We will lay smoke SE of where FR bridge hits canal and along banks to NW and cover E of road bridge across RHINE RIVER.
- 1537 CO, 2d Bn to Ex O: Have contacted L Co at 876369. Foot bridge at 863368 is in.
- 1540 DO, 3d Bn to Ex O: K Co is passing through L Co crossing river. Need some more smoke.
- 1550 DO to CO, 2d Bn: K Co is 150 yds. from their objective.
- 1600 CO to CO, 2d Bn: Your objective is VOELGRUN.

5 FEBRUARY (Cont'd)

- 1640 CO, 1st Bn to CO: Attack VOLGELSHIM with 2 Bns. Then have 30th Infantry responsibility extends from railroad bench to HASSLINE Nordwall (South to Angolsheim to ferry site on RHINE RIVER).
- 1615 CO to CO, 3d Bn: Your objectives are the two bridges. 30th Infantry has taken over our objectives # 2 & #3. You will run contact patrols to VOLGELSHIM and VOLGELSHIM as they are cleared.
- 1635 CO to CO, 2d Bn: 30th Infantry will attack at 2030A tonight - objectives are VOLGELSHIM and ALGOSHEIM and that line. Our 3d Bn will have Objectives "1B" & "1C" - they are now 150 yards from "1B" and working on it now. 1st Bn objective is "1A" and 2d Bn will assist them on it, moving from SE from STROHSDAT. Upon capture of "1A", 2d Bn will revert to Regt'l reserve in BIESHEIM.
- 1640 CO gave above to Ex O, 1st Bn.
- 1650 CO, 1st Bn to CO: 7 Co will attack and occupy trenches at 867369. C Co will take trenches at 867370. We will occupy trenches at 867371. Do not believe my is there.
- 1655 CO to G-3: Gave msg. of 1635A. 2d Bn will block fort from 100 yds NE of it but will not actually attack it.
- 1720 S-3, 2d Bn to CO: Patrol N along canal found it all clear of any. Bridge at 868371 is in but the one at 868370 is damaged.
- 1725 CO, 1st Bn to CO: Our advance elements are at 867365.
- 1735 Ex O, 3d Bn to CO: 7 Co is on objective. Both highway bridge and RR bridge across RHINE RIVER are blown. (OO) Send one company to Objective "C" and patrol to your rear checking houses at 877357 and 873350. Maintain contact with 1st Bn and run contact patrol to 3d Bn, 254th Infantry.
- 1740 3d Bn, 254th Infantry to CO: Our K Co is as far S as 388 grid. (OO) Our 3d Bn will be below 37 grid line, holding bridge site. You should establish contact on 37 grid, patrol down to us and we will patrol up to your units.
- 1800 Command Group left for New CP at BIESHEIM.
- 1816 New CP opened in BIESHEIM.
- 1818 CO, 2d Bn to S-2: We have patrolled S of fort and out to within 100 yards of it. No activity or entrenchments observed. One platoon now moving between RHINE RIVER and fort.
- 1820 CO, 1st Bn to S-2: F Co is in trenches. C Co sent patrol to woods vic of fort at 870370 and took 12 BAW there. Spectator from 30th Inf. at 867369. G Co at 868369.
- 1822 CO, 3d Bn to S-2: Bridge at 875369 will take armor. I Co there with 3 TD's & in contact with 2d Bn. K Co, tank, with 4 tanks and 1 plat. of 15 Canadians. Along with "unidentified", are at road bridge over RHINE RIVER. I Co at bridge 871376 - bridge is wadded. In good shape, will take armor. Will leave one plat. of I Co there - remainder of co. will move to RR bridge over RHINE with two tanks. Sending patrol to K Co and then along RR tracks with VOLGELSHIM to contact 2th Inf.
- 1900 CP #1 established at 860375.
- 1900 Ex O to DC 1st Bn: Send a contact patrol to K Co, vic 860360 from your A Co, vic 864379.
- 1950 CO, 1st Bn to Ex O: C Co is in position around Fort Moutier awaiting any indication of presence of any before entering. B Co at Capt S & G Co, 1st Bn will block SW and SE roads leading from RJ 864373. Another patrol reports as by S/P gun near fort - we will enter it.
- 2000 CO, 2d Bn to S-3: Will send contact patrol to 3d Bn, vic 867369. (OO) Bridge at 864376 is out.
- 2020 S-3 to CO, 2d Bn: Do not pull your bn back to reserve position until 3d Bn is completely in position.
- 2050 S-2, 3d Bn to Ex O: Contact patrol from K Co went along line back to VOLGELSHIM where they reloaded a 75 mm. in position at 867355. Patrol returned tonight N to BIESHEIM. No eye contacted: I Co is on the move towards ER bridge across the RHINE RIVER.
- 2105 S-3, 1st Bn to Ex O: FORT MOUTIER is completely cleared of any now. Have wire into C Co there now. Getting ready to send out patrols now. (Ex O) Send contact patrols to L Co at 874368 and to I Co at 872368.
- 2125 S-3 to S-3, 2d Bn: You can assemble your bn in Regt'l Reserve in BIESHEIM now. (Msg. given to S-3, 1st Bn).
- 2135 Ex O, 3d Bn to S-3: Bridge at 871376 is in good condition - will support armor. Platoon of I Co is still guarding it.
- 2136 7th Inf to S-3: We are sending patrol down main roads to NEUF BRISACH and from BIESHEIM to VOLGELSHIM.
- 2340 CO, 3d Bn to S-3: I Co getting into their positions. May be 30th Inf nearby. Please check.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 041200A to 061200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 5 February 1945

No 26

Maps: FRANCE 1/60,000; COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: V864360 V867374 - V872391 - V877391.

2. Disposition of Troops:
Regt 1 CP in KUNHEIM
A Co vic of RJ, V862372
B Co vic V863369
C Co vic V861374
E & G Co's vic V867374
F Co in BIESHEIM
I Co vic V877391
L Co vic V872391

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy; limited visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:
The 2d and 3d Bn's passed through the 254th Infantry to clear the area west of the RHINE River, east and northeast of BIESHEIM. The 3d Bn cleared the BOULAY woods with L and I Companies and K Co was moved by truck to attack the enemy strong point at the junction of the creek and the canal, vic V867386, from the west. The 2d Bn forced a stream crossing to clear the area between the canal and the stream, generally in the V8637 grid square. At the close of the period E Co and part of G Co were in vic V867372. 1st Bn attacked to secure crossroad vic V862372. At the close of the period, A Co was in vic V867374, and C Co was to the rear of A Co. B Co advanced to V863369.

5. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty (As of 4 Feb):
Officers: 75%
NCO : 100%
EM : 50%
Rifle Troop Strength:
Officers: 31
EM : 614

6. Results of Operations:
a. Clearing of area E and NE of BIESHEIM continued.

COMRIF
S-3

General

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: O40800A
TO: O60800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 6 FEBRUARY 1946
PLACE: KUNHEIM, FRANCE.

No. 37

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; GOMME & BRUY-BRISACH 50000

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: Enemy holds ground south of the 37 warthing and east of the 68 easting at end of the period.
- b. Enemy Defenses: Heavy resistance was encountered by our troops from enemy well dug in using MG's, S/A's, M/P's and grenades. Considerable mortar, arty and SP fire was also received from east and west sides of the Rhine River. Enemy occupied pill boxes vic of V868587. Enemy MG reported vic of V875387. Enemy bazookas located vic of V867387.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn was in BIESHEIM after clearing the ground to the north of the town. The Bn sent patrols SE of town along canal and considerable enemy S/A and MG fire was drawn from island vic of V868374 and east of the island and from MG vic V858373. At end of the period the Bn had occupied positions vic of RJ and bridge at V868373.
- (2) 2d Bn: At beginning of period the Bn was in assembly area vic of KUNHEIM from where elements moved to vic of V866395 in preparation of attacking to the south. Patrols encountered considerable resistance from S/A, MG, M/P and arty fire from a strong point at V867387. At 0015A the Bn attacked from the right line running NE from BRISHEIM, at the close of the period the Bn had advanced to a line generally along the 375 warthing between BIESHEIM and the canal. At the jump off the Bn received heavy arty and mortar concentrations which scattered one Coy.
- (3) 3d Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn was in assembly area vic of KUNHEIM from where it moved to vic of V870595 to attack to the south on the left flank of 2d Bn to clear out the woods. The Bn met strong resistance from small peaks of enemy and at end of the period the Bn had reached approximately the 382 warthing.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: 12 enemy moving west in trenches vic V860587 at 0812A. Patrol to vic V861374 drew fire from MG's vic of V862374 at 1255A. Enemy personnel observed along sky line vic of V862447 at 1515A. Patrol to bridge vic of V867387 fired on by MG's from strong point of dugouts at V868387.
- (2) Artillery: 20 rds of arty fell vic of BRISHEIM at 1515A. 15 rds of arty fell vic of V862080 at 1615A. Enemy observed to shell rearward elements and front line towns with arty, mortars and SP fire.
- (3) Armor: Enemy tank observed vic V868386 at 1400A. 2 of our tanks killed by mines along Hwy south of BIESHEIM.
- (4) No report of enemy air or M/T activity.
- (5) Engineer: Bridges blown at V861378, V862379, 864382, 865372, 868371, the Rhine bridge at 882362, and the Rhine RR bridge at 886369. Bridges are in at 871376 and 874368; both are reported suitable for tanks.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IFW Report.

DONALD H. LIES
Major, 16th Infantry

CONFIDENTIAL

**HEADQUARTERS
15th INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3**

5 February 1945.

REF. REPORT: Period 040800A - 080800A Feb 1945.

TABULATION:

<u>RM</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Place of Capt.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt. Unit</u>
1		Hq/1/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn Div	V863387	1000A	1st Bn
11	1	2/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	"
1		3/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	"
7	1	6/ " " " " " " " "	"	"	"
7		10/GAF Brigade "OBER-RHEIN"	"	"	"
27	2	TOTAL			
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE:					5152.

MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, & APONS:

1/136 Mtn Inf Regt: Majority of PWs taken from this Bn state, that they were former member of trains of same. According to their statements they were, what they call, formed into an "Alarm-Platoon" and put into line with remainder of 1st Bn. Strength of platoon was 35 men, 2 LMGs and 6 "Panzerfausts". According to Officer, PW 1st Bn had sector running W to E V866388 to V867387. Officer estimates strength of unit, including alarm-platoon, 100-120 men. PW states that they manned prepared position in this sector. The W-flank, according to PWs' statements, was held by an Air Corps unit, while the E flank was held by Maj. VESPER (Bn-CO/136 Mtn Inf, II Bn).

10/GAF Brigade "OBER-RHEIN": PWs from this Co state, that they have been in vic BISSHEIM V78637 for the past 6-7 weeks. While undergoing basic infantry training they were also preparing positions, which are now occupied by them and by elements of 2d Mtn Div. According to their statements they are at the present time fighting under the command of the 2d Mtn Div. Co strength-120 men, weapons, 6 LMG. WCO, PW states that the 9th and 11th Cos are on line between the RHODNE-RHEINE Canal to the Western outskirts of BISSHEIM. Depth of this line could not be given by PW.

Warren B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

6 FEBRUARY (Cont'd)

- 1445 CO, 3d Bn to S-2: Receiving some tank and mortar fire from across RHINE River. Request more smoke for late E of RHINE in front of K Co.
- 1610 CO #1 to S-3: By S/P driving from across river, via VIEUX-BRISACH. Around 200 prisoners taken by French moving up rd. into BIESHEIM.
- 1635 264th Infantry to S-3: Have one platoon of L Co. and one plat. of I Co. on 36 grid which will relieve your L Co soon. (S-3 gave last msg. to 3d Bn.)
- 1645 G-2 to S-3: Town of NEUP-PPISACH has been cleared.
- 1705 S-2 to G-2: At SE end of WESMWIN, 2-120 mm. mortars with ammo., another 120 mm. mortar in same place, knocked out; 40 mm tanks, also. Considerable av equipment in FORT MOUTIER.
- 1740 Division War Rm to S-3: 264th Infantry will take over as far as 673365.
- 1810 264th Infantry to S-3: Will have contact with contact team K Co.
- 1815 S-3 to S-3, 3d Bn: Gave above msg. 264th Infantry will relieve L Co. (3d Bn) Will move L Co to 873360.
- 1900 Conference (Call): To All Bn Spt. Majors: Be careful when investigating houses for quarters. A Sgt. Major of the 264th Infantry was killed by a booby trap today.
- 1910 Division War Rm to DC: Division has all of its objectives.
- 1915 G-2 to S-2: Obergansheim was taken late this afternoon. 75th Division has taken DFB992000.
- 2035 I & R OP to S-2: Five or six fires still burning in VIEUX BRISACH.
- 2110 I & R OP to S-2: 20 rds. HE landed in VIEUX BRISACH starting another fire.
- 2155 DC, 2d Bn reports all quiet.
- 2200 1st Bn, reports all quiet.
- 2205 I & R OP reports artillery falling on VIEUX BRISACH.
- 2205 to 2400: All bns report all quiet.

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 051200A to 061200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BIESHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 6 February 1945

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; NEUF-BRISACH Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: Regt'l front line extends along the west bank of the RHINE River from railroad bridge via V864357 to via V871376.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in BIESHEIM

A Co via V863372

B Co to front of FORT MORTIER

C Co in FORT MORTIER

2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM

I Co (-) at RR bridge across RHINE River, via V864357. Plat of I

Co at bridge across the canal, via V871376.

K Co at road bridge across the RHINE River, via V881362.

L Co at bridge, via V875368.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy, limited visibility.

4. Information of Adjacent Units:

7th Infantry: Cleared and occupied the town of VOLGELSHEIM.

30th Infantry: Cleared ALGOLSHEIM and VOGELORUN. French armored force moved through 30th Infantry in ALGOLSHEIM and attacked OBERSAASEHEIM.

5. Our Operations for the Period:

First Battalion: At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was in vic of the CR, V862370 continuing the advance toward FORT MORTIER. At 061800A, 1st Bn reported that a C Co patrol to the Fort had captured 12 PWs in the vicinity. The fort was completely cleared by 062100A. At the close of the period A Co was at the crossroad, V864373 blocking to the SW and SE; B Co was in position around the fort and C Co was occupying the fort.

Second Battalion: At the beginning of the period, 2d Bn elements were in the vic of STROBSTADT farm, V868373, clearing the area between the creek and the canal. Upon completion of mission, the 2d Bn was assembled in BIESHEIM as regimental reserve.

Third Battalion: After clearing the BOULAY woods, the 3d Bn continued the advance to the south along the RHINE River. At 061830A, I Co was in vic V871376, K Co via V867387 and L Co via V874374. At 061730A, K Co, with 4 tanks and a plat of AF, had reached the road bridge across the RHINE River and reported that both bridges were blown. I Co left one platoon at the bridge via V871376 and the remainder of the company reinforced by 2 tanks advanced to the RR bridge across the RHINE River. I Co reached via V878344 at 061800A with 3 TDs.

The regimental CP displaced from KUNHEIM to BIESHEIM on the afternoon of 5 February. New CP opened at 061730A.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 5 February)

Officers:	74%	Rifle Trench Strength:	
WO :	100%	Officers:	29
EM :	71%	EM :	628

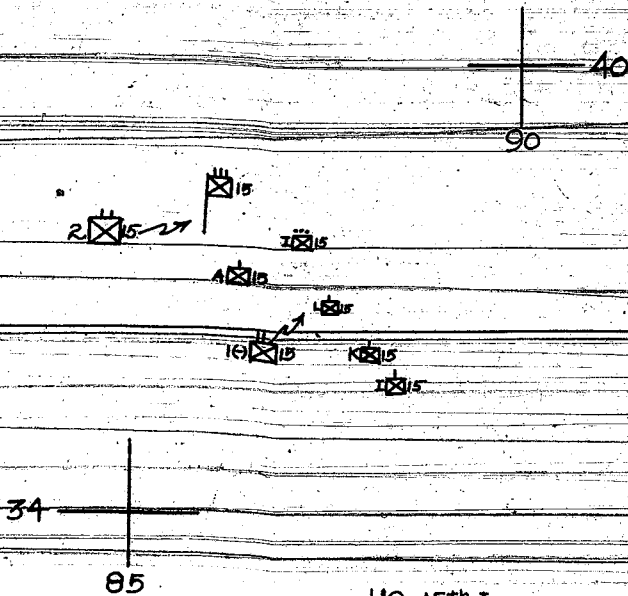
7. Results of Operations:

a. Advance continued.

b. Bridge sites across RHINE River secured.

COMSIN
S-3

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HQ 15th INF
6 FEB '45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT #37

MAP FRANCE 1/50,000
NEUF-BRISACH

OFFICIAL:
COMRIE
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

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Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

B-2 Report

FROM: 060800A
TO: 060800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
PLACE: BIESHEIM, FRANCE.

No 27

MAPS: FRANCE; 1/60,000; MSUP-BRISACH SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

a. Enemy Front Lines: At the end of the period there was no enemy contact; all resistance having been cleaned out on west side of the Rhine River in this sector.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: Bn held positions around bridge vic of V863373 at beginning of the period from where it attacked SE with the Fert at V872367 as its objective. The Fert was occupied at end of the period with little resistance from enemy in positions around the Fert.
- (2) 2d Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn had finished cleaning up island vic of V862876 and during the afternoon the Bn moved to clear the area between BRISHEIM and the Canal to the east. They moved south to block Fert MORTIER on the east as it was attacked by the 1st Bn. After the Fert was cleared the 2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM as Rgt'l Reserve.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn was attacking SE along west side of Rhine River clearing out pockets of enemy resistance. Light resistance was met and at end of the period the Bn occupied positions vic of the two main bridges across the Rhine River and at V875368. The Bn sent contact patrols to the 7th Inf at VOGELSHEIM and to the 30th Inf at VOGELORUN during the night. A patrol from the RR bridge moved south along the Hwy until they received S/A fire from an enemy group in buildings at V888348 at 0800A.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: MG firing from vic of V870365 at 0922A. Heavy fire received from vic of V870364 at 1800A.
- (2) Artillery: Only enemy arty reported was intermittent and interdictory fire on roads and towns; fire came chiefly from east of the Rhine. SP fire from vic of V869369 harassed BIESHEIM and the area to the SE throughout the day of the 5th.
- (3) Armor: Enemy tank reported vic of V870365 and V867370 at 1130A.
- (4) No report of enemy air, engineer or M/T activity. VIEUX BRISACH Hwy bridge is reported blown leaving only very small abutments on either bank. The RR bridge is blown near the west bank and gaps from the east. It is reported that the bridge will readily facilitate personnel crossing.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached LPN Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 15th Infantry
B - 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
 FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 A. P. O. # 3

6 February 1946.

IPW REPORT: Period 050800A - 060800A Feb 1946.

TABULATION:

EM	Off	Unit	Place of Capt.	Time	Capt. Unit
3		Hq/ 759 GR, 358 Inf Div	V879362	2400A	3rd Bn
3		Hq/I/ " " " " "	V864373	1000A	1st "
18	1	1/ " " " " "	V864373	1000A	" "
5	1	2/ " " " " "	V 8637	1400A	2nd "
4		3/ " " " " "	V864373	1000A	1st "
4		4/ " " " " "	V 8637	1400A	2nd "
1		5/136 Mtn Inf Regt, 2d Mtn D.	V 8637	1800A	3rd "
2		8/ " " " " "	V 8637	1730A	1st "
2		10/ " " " " "	V879362	2400A	3rd "
2		Hq /137 " " " " "	V864373	1000A	1st "
1		3/ " " " " "	V-8637	1800A	3rd "
1		4/ " " " " "	V 8637	1730A	1st "
1		3/111 " Arty " " "	V-879362	2400A	3rd "
1		BQ FOERSCHE (11/136 Mtn Inf)	V-8637	1400A	2nd "
1		BQ WOLFF	V 8637	1730A	1st "
1		B/BQ KRUSE	V 8637	1730A	1st "
16		BQ SCHLICHTLE	V 8637	1400A	2nd "
5		" " " " "	V 8637	1730A	1st "
1		March Bn TESCHAUER	V879362	2400A	3rd "
2		3/1509 Fortress Arty Bn	V864373	1000A	1st "
2		Div Hq/895 Div	V864373	1000A	1st "

68 2 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5223.

MOVEMENTS, STRENGTH, WEAPONS:

I/759 GR: PWs state that Bn left via MUNSTER (NORRENBERG, VOEGELSMOUNTAINS) on or about 1 February. Passing through ROUFFACH V6728 on 3 Feb they arrived in NEUE BRIGACH VR436 the same day. Officer PW states that unit was supposed to make counterattacks in case of a breakthrough by our forces; however the 2d Mtn Div committed unit on night 3/4 Feb. When unit went on line they relieved another unit and from PW's statements it was a regiment that had been committed in the BIESHEIL-V8637-sector. Officer-IPW further states that on afternoon of 4 Feb Regt fought under its own commander again, namely under Maj. GEIGER.

Strength: According to PWs statements 2 Bns left at the same time for this sector (I and II Bns). One PW, who worked in the kitchen, estimates regt combat strength 400-500 men. Each Co left 20 men ~~xxxxxx~~ as reserve in the MUNSTER area.

Weapons: I Bn had 4x8cm mortars and Cos had 4-6 LMG. Each squad in Cos, according to PWs statements, had a "Panzerfaust". PWs state,

that baseco-platoon remained in old area.
Armor: PWs state that they saw 2 tanks at ALGOLSHEIM V8633 on
afternoon of 3 Feb.
Artillery: 1x7.5cm Mtn Gun located at V876339;
8x8.5cm 500 m S of FORT MORTIER V872568.

Officer-PW states that they had orders not to evacuate this
bridgehead and that it was to be held under all circumstances. Ac-
cording to him condition of troops was fair since they have been
in the mountains for some time, suffering from cold and exposure.

2d Mountain Div: PWs state that were reorganized again and again,
assigned to various battle group and ordered to hold the bridge-
head under all circumstances. Only one PW from this div claims,
that his Co received orders to evacuate across the RHINE. He claims
that 60 men crossed the RHINE on morning of 5 Feb.

BG KRUSE: PW states that an Alarm-Platoon composed of 38 men left
NEUF BRISACH V8435 on 3 Feb to man positions 3 of RJ V864569. Wea-
pons in platoon: 3 IMG 42 and 3 "Panzerfausts".

PW states that this BG comes under the command of Regt LANGEN-
SHE (748 VGR, 708 VG Div). According to him, at time of his depar-
ture, 3 Cos of this unit were located in NEUF BRISACH in the fol-
lowing areas: 2d Co in Southern part of NEUF BRISACH, 7th Co in
Northern part of NEUF BRISACH and 1st Co in the bunkers S of town.
1st Co, according to PW, had mortars set up in mentioned area. He
states that the Bakery and Butcher Cos evacuated NEUF BRISACH on
2 Feb. Hospitals in town were evacuated starting 29 Jan.

BG SCHLICHTERLE: PWs interregated came from various Field Replace-
ment Bns and were formed into a BG under a 1st Lt. SCHLICHTERLE.
Strength of unit was 50-60 men composed of Service troops, such
as cooks, drivers, etc. One NCO-PW states that they were under
the command of Regt LANGENSEN. For majority of PWs their day of
capture was their first day of combat also.

March Bn TESCHAUER: PW was part of a group which was sent from
5th Mtn Div in ITALY to this area to fight with the 2d Mtn Div.
He states that original strength of his Co was 80 men.

1609 Fortress Arty Bn: The 2 PWs from this unit were forward ob-
servers with the mission to pick out targets for their btry. They
state that Btry was located at FREISTADT, BADEN, Germany, and unit
had 4x16.5cm Russian howitzers. They state that on the way here
they saw the German soldiers in the forests near the Rhine, Germany,
Germany, according to them there is no unusual activity. All ci-
vilians had to be evacuated from the town by 031800A to IRRINGEN
V8238.

Div Hq/805 Div: PWs from this unit were radio operators assigned
to 1609 Fortress Arty. They state that they division is in the
state of being activated in ULKIRCH in vic FREIBURG I/BR, GERMANY.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman

FEBRUARY 1945, CONT'D

- 1812 Ex O to CH Co CO: 1st Bn will move tonight to vic KUNHEIM; 2d and 3d Bn will move tomorrow to same vicinity. Make reconnaissance for area for your company.
- 1820 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: 3d Bn will be relieved by 30th Inf tomorrow and will assemble vicinity KUNHEIM. Have a billeting party to report to Regt at 0800A tomorrow.
- 1840 ~~JAR OP #1 (in BIESHEIM) to Dy. Clk: Fire started at 1800A at 110° az, 1000 yds out.~~
- 1844 S-3 to CH Co CO: Send billeting party to Regt'1 CP tomorrow at 0800A.
- 1904 Ex O to 10th Engr Bn S-3: Have orders to assemble our Bn vic KUNHEIM. ~~Would like to use barracks, now occupied by your A Co, to house our troops.~~
- 2100 10th Engr Bn S-3: Will move company out tomorrow.
- 2100 1st Bn to DO: Hq moving tonight. Rest of Bn moving tomorrow. Moving A, B, C and D in that order, with 15 minute intervals between movement, starting at 0645A.
- 2106 to 2400 Negative reports.

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 061200A to 071200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BIESHEIM, FRANCE.
DATE : 7 February 1945

No. 38
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; NEUF-BRISACH Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: Regt's front line extends along the west bank of the RHINE River from vic of RR bridge NW to FORT MORTIER.
2. Disposition of Troops:
Hq'tl. CP in BIESHEIM
A Co via V863372
B Co to front of FORT MORTIER
E Co in FORT MORTIER
2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM
I Co at RR bridge across RHINE River, via V863367
K Co at road bridge across RHINE River, via V861362
L Co via V873360.
3. Weather & Visibility: Cloudy; limited visibility.
4. Information of Adjacent Units:
50th Infantry: completed clearing NEUF-BRISACH, capturing a total of 65 PW's in the city. One Bn, 50th Infantry occupied the city.
OBERSAASHEIM was taken by the French.
DESSENHEIM was cleared by elements of the 76th Division.
5. Our Operations for the Period:
The regiment remained in defensive positions along the west bank of the RHINE River throughout the period. The 1st Bn occupied FORT MORTIER and blocked at CR via V863372. The 2d Bn remained in Regt's reserve in BIESHEIM. I Co secured RR bridge-site across the RHINE River and K Co. remained in position in vic of the road bridge site across the river. L Co. was relieved by the 264th Infantry and moved to vic V873360.
6. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 6 February 1945) :
Officers: 71%
NCOs: 100%
EM: 88%
Rifle Troop Strength:
Officers: 28
EM: 515
7. Details of Operations:
a. Positions held along RHINE River.
b. L Co. relieved and moved to vic. V873360.

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8-3

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S-2 Report

FROM: 060800A
TO : 070800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACE: BIESHEIM, FRANCE.

No. 28

MAPS: FRANCE, 1/50,000; NEUF-BRISACH-SR-ET.

1. **ENEMY DISPOSITION:**
 - a. **Enemy Front Lines:** No enemy contact during the entire period. Enemy is cleared from west side of the Rhine River in this sector.
2. **ENEMY OPERATIONS:**
 - a. The only enemy information reported was as follows:
 - (1) OP observed enemy personnel via of V853367 at 1030A.
 - (2) Gun position believed to be vicinity of V881371. Our arty fired on the target.
 - (3) Armer heard in VIEUX-BRISACH at 1610A.
 - (4) Mortars shelled road from V861374 to V863372 during the morning.
 - (5) SF gun firing from VIEUX-BRISACH at 1610A.
 - (6) 10 rds arty fell via of NEUF-BRISACH at 2350A.
3. **MISCELLANEOUS:**
 - a. PW's: None for the period.
 - b. **Captured Material:** There are 3x120mm mortars and ammunition located via of V889378 - 1 mortar KO'd.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 15th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

8 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0006 to 0400 Negative reports.
- 0600 1st Bn DO to DO: Few arty shells landing in town near our area.
- 0410 3d Bn DO to DO: Co's report all quiet. 30th Inf patrol checked thru L Co. Shells landing in BIESHEIM
- 0415 OP #1 (in southern end of BIESHEIM) To DO: At 0300A, 5 shells landed 1000 yds south of here. At 0345 an S/P firing from az of 140° as shelled area 100 to 500 yds south of here. Approx 50 shells in 15 minutes. (Above reported to Arty Lm G)
- 0508 OP #1 to DO: At 0415, 7 shells landed in BIESHEIM.
- 0627 DO gave situation report to Div War Room.
- 0600 to 0730 Negative reports.
- 0738 3d Bn to DO: Pillaging party has left CP. Co's report all quiet.
- 0822 Asst CG to S-3: Have your Bns disposed as follows: One Bn in vicinity of KUNHEIM; one Bn in vicinity of BIESHEIM and another Bn in ARTZENHEIM. Also reconnoiter routes of approach to help either the 30th or 7th Inf, in case you're needed for a blocking mission or possible reinforcement.
- 0850 S-3 to G-3: Can we move our CN Co from WIDERSOLEN? G-3: Yes. S-3:- Our 1st Bn will be in KUNHEIM, 2d Bn in BIESHEIM and 3d Bn in ARTZENHEIM.
- 0907 S-3 to 3d Bn: Relayed information on move to ARTZENHEIM.
- 0916 OP #1 to S-2: Bombing and strafing by friendly planes on 128 degree az at 0850A. Believed target was VIEUX BRISACH across the RHINE River.
- 1125 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: G Co, 30th Inf will relieve I & K Co's.
- 1130 I & R OP to S-3: Mortar fire falling via FORT MORTIER and a few bursts of 50 cal MG fire heard near there.
- 1145 I & R OP to S-3: German jet-propelled plane flew over Fort. Bomb was dropped in that vic shortly after 12 P-47's flew over.
- 1206 S-2 to G-3: Civilians here in BIESHEIM have been grouping around our IPW Cage inquiring about assistance. Evidently Civil Affairs has not devoted proper attention to this problem.
- 1215 3d Bn S-3 to DO: Res: Bombs dropped by plane. Troops observed one plane high in the air. 2 bombs were dropped via VOGELORUN. 6 American planes were seen about the same time. Single plane hastily flew back toward Germany. Troops believe that plane dropped its bombs as soon as the six American planes was spotted. (Above relayed to Division War Room).
- 1228 3d Bn DO to DO: 6 American planes bombed area east of RHINE River, at an az of 120 degrees from I Co's right flank plat. They rained light and heavy AA fire.
- 1300 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Take your tanks with you in next move. 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: We have 12 trucks to move battalion.
- 1310 Advance elements of CP group left for new CP.
- 1330 Fwd OP set up in KUNHEIM.
- 1346 S-3 (At Fwd CP) to Ex O (At rear): G Co of 30th Inf will relieve I & K Co's as soon after dusk as possible. Ex O to S-3: After troops have been relieved have our armor revert back to their Co.
- 1354 3d Bn CO to Ex O: 30th Inf has 4 trucks on road missing, recalled to RHINE River. Trucks should stay away from area that near to any lines. Foot troops have received rifle & MG fire from across River.
- 1355 CO to 30th Inf CO: Gave above. Our armor will stay in until your G Co, relieves our I & K Co's.
- 1455 DIV to S-2: Will bomb hill in VIEUX-BRISACH in 8 minutes. Smoke has been set off but will be put on in 10 minutes.
- 1457 S-3 to 3d Bn: Relayed above. Give report on what you observe.
- 1558 3d Bn to S-2: Res: Bombing. 2 hits on knoll opposite railroad bridge. Bombs also dropped east of NEUF-BRISACH. Arty also falling east of town. Personnel of 30th Inf were exposed and moving around west side of RR bridge but didn't draw any fire.
- 1600 S-2 reported above to Division War Room.

8 FEBRUARY 1946 CONT'D

- 1610 FM Prov Marshal, 3d Inf Div to CO, 16th Inf; "Div PWs opened at WICKER-SCHWIER 1600A. Fms signed 1635A. Received 1610A.
- 1645 S-3 to G-4 Office: We have 844 bayonets with seabards and 1200 without seabards. Desire supply of seabards to enable issue of one bayonet with seabard per rifleman.
- 1850 3d Bn CO to S-3: L Co is on way to new area.
- 1810 Asst G-3 to S-3: Your Clak wagons will be detached from you. After they have received maintenance they will be employed in 7th & 50th Inf sectors.
- 1935 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: Gave above. 3d Bn CO to S-3: I Co is on road moving to new area.
- 2020 3d Bn GO to CO: Our 3d Bn is completely relieved. Will serve troops hot B-rations tomorrow. Tanks and TD's are on the way back to their units.
- 2025 CO relayed above to Div War Room.
- 2045 3d Bn DO to CO: Closing out CP in BIRSHEIM and opening new CP in ARTZENHEIM.
- 2055 3d Bn Ex C to CB: L Co has closed in new area. I & K Co's are still on the road.
- 2135 3d Bn S-1 to DO: All of our units have closed in new area.
- 2135 to 2400A: Units reports all is quiet.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 071200A to 081200A
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : BIESHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 8 February 1945

No. 39

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry occupying defensive positions west of RHINE River vicinity of RR and road bridge sites.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in BIESHEIM, prepared to displace to KUNHEIM.

1st Bn assembled in barracks area west of KUNHEIM, via V845422.

2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM.

3d Bn occupying defensive positions west of RHINE River.

I Co via V884367

K Co via V881362

L Co via V873360

3. Weather and Visibility: Warm and clear; good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

1st Battalion: moved on the morning of 8 February from positions in and around Fort MORTIER and the CR to the NW, to assembly area west of KUNHEIM in the barracks vicinity V845422.

2d Battalion: remained in KUNHEIM throughout the period, where they had been assembled as regimental reserve.

3d Battalion: remained in position in vic of the bridge sites across the RHINE River awaiting relief by 30th Infantry.

4. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R) of 7 February)

Officers: 70%

WO: 100%

EM: 70%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 25

EM: 580

6. Results of Operations:

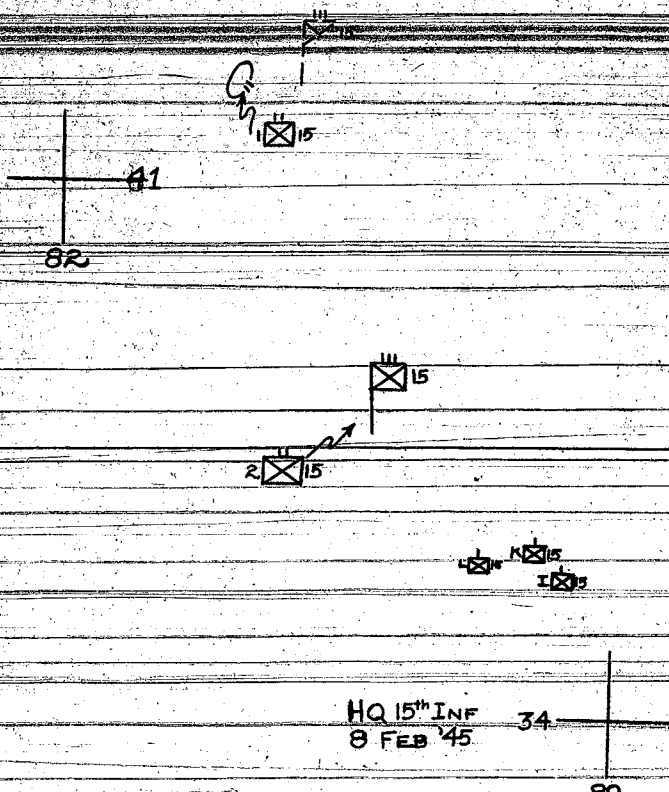
a. 1st Bn assembled via KUNHEIM.

b. 2d and 3d Bn remained in position.

COMRIN

3-3

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~



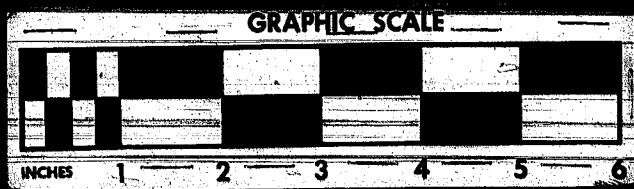
OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
S-3 REPORT # 39

MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

8 February 1945.

IPW REPORT: Period 070800A - 080800A Feb 1945.

TABULATION:

<u>EM</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Place of Capt.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt. Unit</u>
2		1/223 VGR, 16 VG Div (stragglers)	vic V8636	1400A	AT Co
2		5/137 Mtn Inf Regt	"	"	HEITEREN 0900A French
2		7/326 GR, 198 Inf Div	"	"	"
1		2/s.b.V. 292 (straggler)	"	"	"
7	0	TOTAL			
GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5250.					

All PWs coming through the cage in this period have been separated from their units for 2 days or more. No tactical information could be obtained therefore.

Warner B. Frohman
Warner B. Frohman
1st Lt. Inf

9 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0927 to 0701. All units reported all quiet.
- 1010 8-5 to 8-5 lat, 2d Bn and Ex. C 3d Bn. CO advises that this period be used mainly for rest and rehabilitation, not training. Co's will be reorganized and set up with 3 rifle platoons and a weapons platoon (platoons organized into 3 squads) even though there is not enough equipment and men. Special care will be taken in prevention of trench foot. Roll call by platoons will be held each morning. All men will be instructed in the chain of command and Regimental Staff Officers on inspection will quiz your personnel on this particularly. 3d Bn will lay plans to act as a C/A force in this area or a new area in event of an enemy threat.
- 1425 2d Bn to S-2. 2 enemy shells landed in BIESHEIM at EJ at NW end of town. Report of 3 casualties, 1 officer and 2 EM.
- 1455 2d Bn to S-2. In re the above, 2 shells landed vis OR at north end of BIESHEIM AT884680. 6 casualties, one killed. Enemy gun fired from east, big gun. Shell hit in F Co area.
- 1458 Above relayed to Div and 39FA
- 1500 CO 2d Bn to CO. In re above, enemy shells hit F Co kitchen, cooks were not in tent. Two civilians were also wounded.
- 1808 CO to G-2. In re above. Possibility of moving 2d Bn. Road to KUNHEIM from BIESHEIM under observation.
- 2042 2d Bn to DO. F Co received more enemy artillery fire in same area as this afternoon. Approx 6 shells landed, seemed to come in fast, probably more than one gun fired, light caliber, but no casualties this time.
- 2230 ME reported 8 rounds of enemy artillery (AP or Duds) landed between war room and S-1 office.
- 2245 DO checked with 1st Bn to see if they were receiving any artillery fire. No.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 081200A to 091200A

Unit : 16th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 9 February 1945

No. 40

Map: FRANCE 1/60,000; COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in KUNHEIM, via V861424.

1st Bn assembled in barracks west of KUNHEIM, via V843423.

2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM.

3d Bn assembled in ARTZENHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear; good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

1st Bn remained in assembly area west of KUNHEIM, via V843423. 2d Bn remained assembled in BIESHEIM. 3d Bn was relieved on position vis of the bridge sites across the RHINE River by elements of the 30th Infantry. Relief was completed at 082015A, and the 3d Bn moved to assembly area in ARTZENHEIM. The battalion closed in new area at 082135A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 8 February 1945)

Officers: 71%

WO : 100%

EM : 78%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 27

EM : 73%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regt in Division reserve.

b. 3d Bn relieved and moved to ARTZENHEIM.

COMRIE

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

10 FEBRUARY 1946

- 0100 Periodic Report to Division War Room.
- 0100 to 0906A: All quiet in Regt'l Sector.
- 0906 Conference Call, CO to the three battalions: Each battalion will contact Cmdrs of following front line units: 1st Bn will contact Bn of 7th Inf with CP in BALTZENHEIM. 2d Bn will contact Bn CP that is one-half mile east of KUNHEIM. Their front extends along river to point opposite BIESHEIM. 2d Bn will also contact 30th Inf and get dispositions and plans for their units. 3d Bn has already contacted unit on left of Division sector. These contact parties will get overlay of positions; plans for commitment of reserve companies; and routes to these areas. Then send information of plans to Regt'l Hq. 7th Inf plans to immediately commit their reserve Co in area of any contact even if only patrol action. All units will have daily roll calls conducted by platoon leaders. 2d Bn will not assemble as platoons unless under cover. Give troops proper instruction on trench foot. Have used socks exchanged for clean socks.
- 0925 99th Cml Bn Ex O to S-2: Our B Co is in assembly area and will be available to you at any desired time. If possible would prefer to attach A Co to you and release B Co to their original unit.
- 0935 1st Bn S-3 to DO: Will have inspection on drill field starting at 1000A.
- 1040 G-2 to S-2: Mayors of all towns in the vicinity have been authorized and instructed to control civilian traffic. Only passes honored are issued by French 1st Army and Corp Hq.
- 1250 2d Bn to DO: Have a PW picked up in civilian clothes. DO to 2d Bn. Will have MP's go down to get him.
- 1300 Above relayed to MP's, and to Div War Room.
- 1558 2d Bn DO to DO: 6 rds of arty landed in F Co area via 853379, 5 minutes ago, approx 100 degree az. Heavy arty. No damage.
- 1608 Above relayed to 39th FA Bn.
- 2029 2d Bn to S-3: 4 rds of 105 mm shells just fell in our area. No casualties. However at 1715A, 12 rds of 80 mm mortar fell, 4 rds of which fell in E Co area. One casualty and one jeep knocked out.
- 2029 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt'l sector.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

From: 091200A to 101200A

Unit: 15th Infantry

Place: KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date: 10 Feb 1945

No. 41

Map: FRANCE, 1/60,000, COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry assembled as division reserve.
2. Disposition of Troops: Regimental CP in KUNHEIM; 1st Bn assembled in barracks vicinity of KUNHEIM; 2d Bn assembled in BIESHEIM; 3d Bn assembled in ARTZENHEIM; CM Co, AT Co, Service Co assembled in KUNHEIM.
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good-visibility.
4. Our Operations for the Period: 15th Infantry remained in division reserve through out the period. A program of rest, rehabilitation and reorganization was conducted.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Personal for Duty: (As of 9 Feb 45)
Officers: 77%
WO: 100%
EM: 81%
Rifle Trench Strength:
Officers: 38
EM: 926
6. Results of Operations:
 - a. Rest, rehabilitation and reorganization begun
 - b. Regiment in division reserve.

COMBIE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

10 February 1946

MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER 18)

1. During this present period the regiment constitutes the Division Reserve. Each battalion will conduct reconnaissance, make plans and be prepared for employment in the adjacent sectors of the 7th and 20th Infantry.

2. In addition to the tactical situation, it is desired that the following two points be thoroughly emphasized during this period:

- a. Instruction to all officers and men in the prevention of trench foot.
- b. Reorganization of the units.

3. Trench Foot:

a. Battalion and separate unit commanders will conduct a school for officers and NCO's. In this school, have demonstrations to actually show a man removing his shoes, taking out the pads from his shoe pads, rubbing and washing his feet, and changing his socks. Platoon leaders and company commanders will conduct the same type of school within their units. Due to the lack of intimate knowledge of trench foot by some of our personnel, both officers and men, it is absolutely essential that simple basic instruction be given. Both the commander and the surgeon will conduct part of the instruction. It is believed a minimum of 1/2 hour per day for at least 3 days is necessary.

b. The Regimental and battalion surgeons will establish "clinics" to care for the borderline cases - those who, if sent to the hospital, would only require about a weeks hospitalization, before reoperating. (These men if sent to the hospital would take about 2 to 3 weeks to return to duty thru replacement sector channels.)

4. Reorganization: Once each day, each platoon leader will assemble his platoon, call the roll, and discuss with his men the tactical situation and then give them what instructions he believes pertinent at the time. When the roll is called, each man's name should be called clearly so that all men know they are being called. This person's knowledge will develop confidence and should reduce the petty AWOL's during operations. Some men will desert a stranger, whereas, they would never leave a buddy.

By Order of Lt Col HEDSON;

[Signature]
E. C. HULL, JR
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

11 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0001 to 0850: Negative reports from all units. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.
- 0860 to 1000: Negative reports from all units on search of lost vehicle as directed by Division Headquarters.
- 1000 S-2 gave above to G-2.
- 1035 CO to 3d Bn CO: Have a meeting of your Co Cmdrs, Bn S-4, Co Supply Sgts, Bn Motor Officer, and Special Service Officer, to discuss supply problems. Have your supply and motor situation such as to make a 200 mile motor march with essential equipment needed. On Feb 13, we will have a complete supply check-up.
- 1040 Above msg relayed to 1st & 2d Bn's.
- 1055 G-3 to S-2: Your Co Co can use all ammo needed to fire across the RHINE River on targets of opportunity. However, none can be used for training purposes.
- 1057 Above relayed to Co Co CO.
- 1125 2d Bn to S-2: Sending a German PW to Regt--he was found in civilian clothes. The CIC has not yet shown up in this town of BIESHEIM.
- 1128 S-2 gave above to Div War Room.
- 1320 Asst S-3 left to inspect 1st Bn.
- 1410 S-2 to SSO: Would it be possible to shower men from 39th PA Bn? SSO to S-2: Can shower 100 of their men per hour.
- 1415 S-2 gave above to Arty liaison officer.
- 1450 S-3 to S-4: How many trucks can we have on 1 hr alert to move a bn for defensive purposes? S-4: 20
- 1514 AT Co CO to S-2: One of my men reports seeing six civilians putting something in a pill box on the canal via bridge just outside town of KUNHEIM.
- 1515 S-2 to MP's: Relayed the above. Send MP's to investigate and report.
- 1555 MP's to S-2: Re: above msg, civilians seen were children who were playing in the vicinity.
- 1755 S-4 to DO: Have 18 trucks available for you upon call.
- 1825 G-3 to CO: You can move your 2d Bn to WOLFGANTZEN (825365) tomorrow, if you desire.
- 1835 CO to 2d Bn: Gave the above msg. 2d Bn CO to CO: Will send rex parties out tonight.
- 1835 to 2400A: Negative reports from all units during this period.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 101200A to 111200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 11 February 1945

No. 42

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Current Front Lines: 15th Infantry in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP in KUNHEIM

1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Bn assembled in BERSHEIM.

3d Bn assembled in ARTZENHEIM.

Sv. AT. and Co Co's in KUNHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy to rainy, limited visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in division reserve positions throughout the period. A program of rest, rehabilitation, and reorganization was conducted. Plans were prepared for the employment of the regiment or separate battalions as counterattacking forces in case of enemy counter-attack on either the 7th Infantry or 50th Infantry. Reconnaissance was made for routes to areas of the other two regiments.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 10 February 1945)

Officers: 77%

WO: 100%

EM: 78%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 32

EM: 860

6. Results of Operations:

a. ~~Regiment remained in Division reserve.~~

b. ~~Rest, rehabilitation, and reorganization program continued.~~

c. ~~Plans made for counterattacking in either the 7th Infantry or the 30th Infantry sector.~~

LIEB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

Maj 15th Inf
KUNHEIM, FRANCE
11 February 1945

NUMBER 15)

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

15TH INFANTRY COUNTER-ATTACK PLAN

1. The 15th Infantry from present positions will be prepared, on division order, to counterattack in the division sector to eliminate any enemy elements from the West bank of the RHINE.
2. On regimental order, battalions will be prepared to block, or counter-attack to eliminate all enemy resistance in assigned sectors.
3. In event of a threat in one sector the other two battalions will be alerted for immediate movement to the threatened sector; movement will be made only on order from this headquarters.
4. All attacks will be launched quickly and vigorously to prevent the enemy securing any foothold in this sector.
5. Battalions will keep constantly informed of the situation of elements of the 7th and 50th Infantrys in their respective sectors.
6. Battalions will make complete reconnaissance of present def. lines, routes, and terrain conditions in their respective sectors.
7. Battalions will complete detailed plans for blocking and counterattack missions in their respective sectors. All battalion units will be familiar with routes from battalion assembly position to areas of most likely enemy attack within the battalion sector.
8. AF Company will complete reconnaissance of routes to all sectors, and from assembly position in KUNHEIM, will be prepared to move on one-hour notice to any designated position in any of the three battalion sectors.
9. Cannon Company, from present positions, will be prepared to deliver fires on call.
10. Battalions will be prepared to move on one hour notice.
11. ~~...~~ on one hour alert in the Service Company area.
12. Attachments:
Co 501st Tn attached to regiment. This unit is prepared to move from assembly position, on one hour alert, to any designated position in any one of the battalion sectors.

EDSON
Cndg

OFFICIAL:

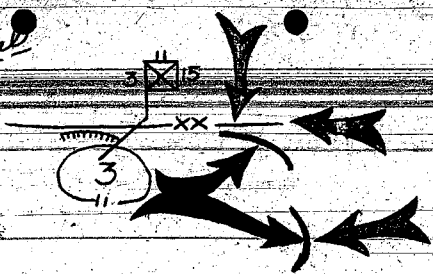
Lieb

LIEB

Actg S-1

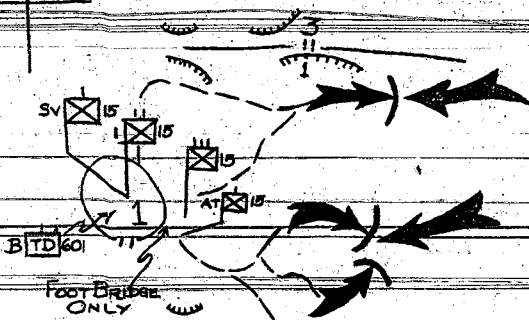
CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential



83

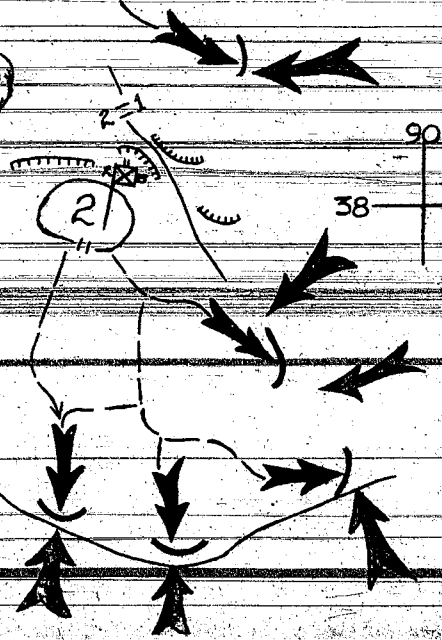
45



BTD 601

Foot Bridge ONLY

OVERLAY TO
OI # 13
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000
OFFICIAL:
LIEB
ACTING SV
EDSON
CMDG

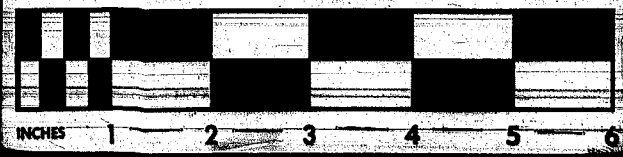


90

38

Legend:
BLOCK
ROUTE

GRAPHIC SCALE



12 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0001 to 0810A: Negative Reports from all units. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.
- 0810 DO to Co Co CO: You will be in charge of training the new group of reinforcements. Besides scheduled training they will be given instruction on the German barooks. They will be given talks by the Regt CO, Surgeon, and Chaplain.
- 0900 G-3 to S-2: You can move your 2d Bn to NECKOLSHEIM if you desire.
- 0902 S-2 to 2d Bn CO: Gave above msg. 2d Bn CO to S-2: Have found suitable accommodations in WOLFSANTZEN. Will move this afternoon.
- 1040 G-1 to CO: Send an officer to Division tomorrow at 1000A to meet representative from War Department. Discussion will be held on new weapons.
- 1042 CO to S-2: Gave above. Ex C will attend meeting.
- 1112 7th Inf DO to Asst S-3: Are your Cml mortars firing east of RHINE River. Asst S-3 to 7th Inf DO: At present, we have no Cml mortars attached to our regt.
- 1515 Asst S-3 to S-2: Have 77 EM and 14 Officers as reinforcements. Another group of 84 reinforcements expected in tonight. We are processing the first group now.
- 1400 S-2 to 2d Bn: Regt's want to work on bridge on route to your new area. Notify this Hq when your bn clears in new area.
- 1517 XXI Corp Commander arrived at CP. Left at 1526A.
- 1528 DO gave above to Div War Room.
- 1605 1st Bn Ex C to S-2: Would like to get my reinforcements tonight to start training them with the units. S-2 to 1st Bn Ex C: Reinforcements will go through orientation and training period at Service Co before being assigned to their respective companies.
- 1608 S-2 to 10th Regt Bn S-3: BULK of our 2d Bn has crossed bridge via NEUFBRISACH. Remainder of Bn will go different route to enable your bn to work on bridge.
- 1700 2d Bn closed in new area, WOLFSANTZEN, 833537, and in communications with all units at 1700A.
- 1705 Above msg relayed to Div War Room.
- 1845 Div IPW to S-2: CIC have not investigated woman civilian sent to this cage by your Regt.
- 1850 S-2 to G-2 DO: Gave above. Answer: Will check with CIC.
- 2030 Ex C gave report to Division War Room.
- 2105 1st Bn to DO: All quiet except for one amber flare seen over vicinity of KUNHEIM.
- 2200 1st Bn DO to DO: Four light calibre shells fell between KUNHEIM and GURNHEIM during the past hour. No damage.
- 2257 3d Bn to DO: Have four patrols working through the town of ARTZENHEIM.
- 2257 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt sector. Report to Div War Room.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Period: 111200A to 121200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 12 February 1945

No. 43

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets

1. Our Front Lines; 15th Infantry assembled as Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP located in KUNHEIM.

1st Battalion assembled in barracks area, vic KUNHEIM.

2d Battalion assembled in BIESHEIM.

3d Battalion assembled in ARTZENHEIM.

Cm, AT, and Sv Co's in KUNHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy, Limited visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in division reserve throughout the period and continued a program of rehabilitation, rest, and reorganization. Limited training, including hikes, calisthenics and close order drill was conducted. Reconnaissance was made of the WOLFGANTZEN area preparatory to movement of the second battalion from BIESHEIM.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 11 February 1945)

Officers: 75%

WO: 100%

EM: 70%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 34

EM: 891

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment remained in division reserve.

b. Rehabilitation program continued.

c. Reconnaissance of WOLFGANTZEN Area completed.

LIEB

Attch 2, 3, 4, 5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

13 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0030 3d Bn DO to DO: Patrols all back. Found nothing. A patrol will be run around through town once each hour.
- 0035 to 1100 Negative reports.
- 1105 G-1 to DO: Asst CG is on way to your CP. The CG directs that Asst CG phone him as soon as he arrives.
- 1715 G-1 to Ex O: The CG directs that your regiment select one platoon leader and one platoon Sgt to report to him at division at 1000A, Thur, Feb 16. These men may be put on DS to train a platoon of negro soldiers who may be assigned to your regiment upon completion. The CG is particularly interested in selecting the best men available for this work. Only one officer and one EM will be selected from entire regiment.
- 1800 to 2400 All Bns report negatively.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 121200A to 131200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 18 February 1946

No. 44

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:
Regimental CP in KUNHEIM.

1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Bn assembled in WOLFGANTZEN.

3d Bn assembled in ARTZENHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear to Hazy, visibility varied from good to limited.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in division reserve throughout the period. A program of rehabilitation, rest, reorganization and limited training was conducted.

The second battalion moved from BIESHEIM to WOLFGANTZEN on the afternoon of 12 February, closing in new area at 121700A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 12 February 1946)

Officers: 79%

WO: 100%

EM: 79%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 34

EM: 892

6. Results of Operations:

a. Rehabilitation program continued.

a. 2d Battalion moved from Biesheim to Wolfgantzen.

LIEB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

14 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0130 Dy Ck: Five rounds of SP landed in area of blown bridge in KUNHEIM.
- 0180 3d Ba DO to DO: Co M reports four rounds of enemy artillery, large caliber, from 120°, falling in company area.
- 0220 3d Ba DO to DO: Co M received four rounds enemy artillery at 120°.
- 0235 3d Ba DO to DO: Called 7th Inf on fire being received east part of ARTZENHEIM. Reported as being tank fire. 7th Inf trying to get registered in on them.
- 0300 to 0800 Negative reports.
- 0830 1st Ba Ex O to Ex O: Request that engineers put in foot bridge across canal west of KUNHEIM.
(Above message relayed to 105th Eng Co)
- 1245 DO to All Bns: Each battalion will send two NCO's from their A&P platoons to watch engineers build a foot bridge across canal west of KUNHEIM.
- 1315 3d Ba DO to DO: Five minutes ago three rounds of flat trajectory fire coming from az of 130° landed vicinity 852463 - two minute interval between shells - possibly 75-mm.
- 1355 3d Ba Ex O to S-2: Six rounds of enemy tank fire just landed in town of ARTZENHEIM. One landed in aid station wounding four. Tank fire came from almost directly east. Smoke screen is not effective. Suggest that we move battalion further west from RHINE River.
- 1400 S-2 to Asst G-3: Gave above message to Asst G-3.
- 1425 Ex O to Asst G-3: Will make reconnaissance in JEBSEHEIM area for place for our 3d Ba, while waiting for approval from division to move.
- 1600 S-2 to S-4: Keep traffic down to a minimum on highway parallel to canal.
- 1605 3d Ba DO to S-2: Some more enemy shells landed in our area. No damage done.
- 1615 G-3 to S-2: Your 3d Ba can move to JEBSEHEIM under cover of darkness.
- 1618 S-2 to 3d Ba 3: You will move to new area tonight. 3d Bn 3: Two more shells just came over L Co's area.
- 1840 3d Ba Ex O to S-2: 3d Ba is on the road moving to new area vicinity JEBSEHEIM. CP will be at first house on left on E-W road at outskirts of JEBSEHEIM.
- 1900 2d Ba Ex O to DO: Would like to get two tanks for training purposes tomorrow at 1000A.
- 1905 DO to 758th Tank Bn: The above message. Ans: will send two tanks to 2d Ba at WOLFGANTZEN tomorrow at 1000A.
- 2117 CO, 3d Ba to DO: All troops closed in new area at 1930A. (Div War Room notified of the above message).
- 2200 to 2400 Negative reports.

L-1038

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Period: 131200A to 141200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 14 February 1946

No. 45

Map; FRANCE 1/60,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP in KUNHEIM.

1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Bn assembled in WOLEGANTZEN.

3d Bn assembled in ARTZHEHHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear. Good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The Regiment remained in division reserve throughout the period and continued the program of rehabilitation and reorganization. Limited training was conducted, including a program of orientation and training for reinforcements.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel For Duty (As shown on M/R of 13 February)

Officers: 80%

WO: 100%

EM: 80%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 36

EM: 80%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment remained in Division reserve.

b. Rehabilitation program continued.

LIEB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

15 FEBRUARY 1946

0001 to 0900A: Negative reports from all units.

0916 3d Bn CO to S-2: We are getting set up in new area. Most of our men are in tents.

0931 Div DO to S-2: Will inspect your 1st Bn today.

0933 S-2 to 1st Bn Ex O: Gave above msg.

0940 CO to C of S, Div: CG previously stated that we could remove helmet nets while off front line. Now written order is issued to the contrary. C of S to CO: It is permissible to leave nets off until your regt is committed.

0956 S-2 to Div: Approx 19 shells have been reported as landing in regt area during past 24 hrs. 6 rds fell in ARTZENHEIM yesterday, appeared to be high velocity shells, one of which landed in 3d Bn Aid Station, killing one and wounding three.

1012 3d Bn to DO: Asst CG, DIV, is in Bn area.

1038 Div to S-3: There will be available for showing all day, Feb 17, a film entitled, "Treatment of German People inside Germany. You will contact SSO in RIBEAUVILLE and supply a guide to your designated location. Also, accommodate your attached units.

1150 CO to 1st Bn CO: Keep account of shells landing in your area. Post your men on availability of tunnels. Make check of towns to the rear in view of possible need to move.

1315 S-3 gave 1938A entry to 880 and to the three battalions. Arrange place in each battalion to show movie.

1330 S-3 to SSO: 1st Bn will show movie at 0800A, 3d Bn, 1230A; 2d Bn, 1600A.

1435 CO left CP to go to 3d Bn and then to Div.

1456 CO (at 3d Bn) to S-3: Notify S-2 to plan 15 min talk concerning treatment of German PW's to supplement movie along same line to be shown on 17 Feb.

1625 Asst S-3 to Civil Affairs: Need official stamp on travel pass for Frenchman in KUNHEIM to get a midwife. CIG has investigated and approved pass. CA to Asst S-3: Will phone you back on this matter.

2000 S-3 to CO's of 1st & 2d Bns, AT & Cn Cos CO's: Bns have 2 jeeps with rear party standing by with sleeping equipment and 3 days rations and one jeep from AT & Cn Co's for billeting in new area by 0830A, 16 Feb 1946.

2010 S-3 to 3d Bn S-2: Same msg as above.

2016 S-3 to Sv Co CO: Same as above, one jeep and RMTQ.

2143 1st Bn CO to S-2: 3 flares reported due east of us during past 15 min.

2145 S-2 to Div War Room: Reported above.

2205 3d Bn to DO: All quiet in Bn area.

2205 to 2359: All quiet in Regt sector. Reports made to Div War Room.

2400 1st Bn CO to DO: White flare seen due east of our positions at 2353A. Otherwise all is quiet.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 141200A to 151200A
Unit: 16th Infantry
Place: KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date: 15 February 1945

No. 46

Map: FRANCE 1/60,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental Cp in KUNHEIM.

1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Bn assembled in WOLFGANTZEN.

3d Bn assembled in JEBBSHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in division reserve throughout the period and continued a program of rehabilitation, reorganization, and training. On the afternoon of 14 February, the 3d Bn moved from assembly area in ARTZENHEIM to JEBBSHEIM, closing in new area at 141850A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 14 February 1945)

Officers: 82%

MO: 100%

EM: 79%

Rifle Trench Strengths:

Officers: 37

EM: 94%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment remained in Division reserve.

b. ~~Disposition of troops in barracks area continued.~~

c. 3d Bn moved from ARTZENHEIM to JEBBSHEIM.

COMRIE

S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 Periodic Report

From: 1408COA
To : 1608COA
Unit: 16th Infantry
Date: 15 February 1945
Place: KUNHEIM, FRANCE

No. 29

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000, COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

Only activity reported during the period was as follows:

- (1) A marked or "AP" mine field was reported via V815387.
- (2) At 1310A 3 rds of high velocity fire were reported in ARTZENHEIM; fire appeared to come from an az of 130 degrees.
- (3) At 1350A 6 more rds of high velocity fire were reported in ARTZENHEIM; one round struck the 3d Bn Aid Station killing one and wounding three.
- (4) From 1400A to 1600A 10 more rds of high velocity fire were reported in ARTZENHEIM.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry
S-2

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 2

15 February 1945

MEMORANDUM

PUNIER 15)

1. Helmet will be painted and the 3d Division Insignia neatly painted thereon. Helmet must be kept clean during this period.

2. Helmet nets, one (1) for each man, will be kept in company supply and company commanders will be prepared to issue nets to all men before the unit returns to combat. Only the issue type shrimp net (as being used now) is to be used as camouflage. The above will be accomplished by 1200, 17 February 1945.

3. Training effective 16 February will include the following (exclusive of Sundays):

- a. At least six (6) hours total per day.
- b. Two (2) hours of marching daily, by platoons. All men in company, including men in company headquarters such as radio operators, messengers, orderlies, etc., will attend with one of the platoons (this includes company commanders, executive officers and 1st Sergeants). Marching may be cut to one (1) hour for essential men in battalion and regimental headquarters. All equipment will be properly worn. Men will keep in step unless actually on rough terrain-country ground.
- c. Firing of all weapons including bazooka and rifle grenades by all men as far as practicable. Don't just demonstrate to the men - let them fire the weapons and correct them.
- d. Demonstration, instruction and firing of the "Panzerfaust" against Kraut tanks.
- e. Demonstration, instruction and firing of Kraut weapons especially the machine gun and machine pistol to emphasize difference in sound from American automatic weapons. New men will be placed in fox holes or trenches and the weapons (American & Kraut) will be fired over their heads. .50 calibre guns will also be used. Whenever possible a Kraut 80mm flak gun will be fired.
- f. Orientation daily by platoon leaders and company commanders - world situation - looting and pillaging - new weapons - new type with 80mm gun - new American rule with wide trench.

4. All vehicle traffic will be held to the absolute minimum. It is essential that vehicle traffic on the North-South road through Kunheis be held down, not to road in under snow observation from the high ground (Kaiserstuhl) on the east side of the Rhine River. It is also desired that night driving in the "blackout" areas be only that actually necessary, as the number of vehicle accidents during blackout is very high and the replacement of vehicles is extremely difficult.

The Training film, "Treatment of German Prisoners in Germany", (Time showing, 16 minutes), will be shown to all troops on 17 February 1945.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Regimental Theater	0800, 0845, 0930, 1015	1st Bn
	1230 - 1430	2d Bn
	1800 - 1900	3d Bn
	1 Co at 0800 - 1 Co at 0930	Co
	2 Co at 0845 - 2 Co at 1015	AT
	3 Co at 0800, 0845, 0930, 1015	B & Sv

All platoon, section, squad leaders must monitor the names of all men in their units. This will be accomplished by 1800, 17 February 1945 and spot checks will be made by CO's and battalion commanders and sergeants.

Company commanders will make every effort to improve the appearance of the men. Field jackets should be washed either by civilians or the men themselves - holes and tears sewed-up; buttons sewed on; dirty wash equipment will be washed.

In view of the large number of reinforcements recently received, special attention will be taken to indoctrinate these new men with regard to looting, pillaging, and the seriousness of these offenses. The following recommendations pertain: (1) Ltr, Hq 7th Army, 16 Dec 44, Subj: "Looting", and (2) Ltr, Hq 3d Inf Div, 25 Dec 44. (3) Unnumbered memorandum, Hq 3d Inf Div, 10 Oct 1944, and unnumbered memorandum, Hq 3d Inf Div, 12 Oct 1944.

By Order of Lt. Col. BURCH:

[Handwritten Signature]
 Lt. Col. M. J. BURCH
 Capt, 15th Infantry
 Adjutant

16 FEBRUARY 1946

- 0001 to 0815A: All quiet in Regt'l sector. Periodic Reports made to Div War Room.
- 0815 CO to the Bns: Be ready to have billeting party assembled on E-W road between RIEDWIHR and JBSHSHIM at 0830A. Vis 786474.
- 0825 CO to AT & Cn & Sv Companies: Gave the above msg. Cn Co will pick-up AT Co members for party.
- 0830 Div DO to CO: Quartering party will move at 0900A. Regiment will probably move the 18th or 19th.
- 0850 1st Bn CO to S-2: No shells landed in our area last night.
- 0855 2d Bn & 3d Bn to S-2: Same as above.
- 1020 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: We are carrying out our training schedule today. Ex O to 3d Bn Ex O: Representative from Div will visit your Bn today.
- 1112 Div PRO to S-2: Film on "Treatment of Germans Inside Germany," can be picked up at RIBEAUVILLE theatre after 1930A today.
- 1118 S-2 relayed above to Regt'l SSO. After showing return film to Div PRO.
- 1150 S-2 to S-2: In next move tanks and TD's will move by battalions. AA attachments will remain with you for protection during move. We will put out complete general training schedule for 14 day period. This may be distributed before we leave this area. This will give time for Regt'l CO's to include training they especially desire.
- 1155 Regt'l CO to Duty Clerks: I am at 2d Bn now.
- 1205 S-2 to the three battalions: Gave 1150A entry. Send informal notes of special subjects you would like to include in schedule to reach this Hq by 1500A today.
- 1500 CG arrived at CP. Left at 1503A.
- 1540 Asst CG and Regt'l CO now at 1st Bn.
- 1630 Asst CG and Regt'l CO left 1st Bn.
- 1635 CO returned to Regt'l CP.
- 1725 S-2 to 1st Bn Sgt Maj: A Lt from Army publications will interview 35 of your men with long service beginning at 1730A.
- 2030 CO to S-4: Give all M-3 sub-machine guns to one battalion exclusively.
- 2045 Div C of S to CO: Your new area is 10 or 15 miles north of NANCY on route N 57. You will contact a party at PONT A MOUSSON who will guide you. Your Regt'l Ex O will be column commander. Column will move at 1700A on the 18th. Send extra vehicles by infiltration as it is not on the movement order. Army will provide 100 trucks for your movement. Plans will be discussed at a meeting tomorrow.
- 2045 to 2400A: All quiet in Regt'l sector.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 161200A to 161200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 16 February 1945

No. 47.

Map: FRANCE 1/60,000; COLMAR AND NEUP-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry assembled in Division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

~~Regimental CP in KUNHEIM.~~

1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Bn assembled in WOLFGARTZEN.

3d Bn assembled in JERSHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Cloudy, limited visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The 15th Infantry remained in division reserve throughout the period. A program of rehabilitation, reorganization and training was continued. On the morning of 16 February, a quartering party left from the regiment for new area. Party left at 160900A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 15 February 1945)

Officers: 87%

WO: 100%

EM: 88%

Rifle Troop Strengths:

Officers: 47

EM: 1102

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment remained in division reserve.

b. Training and rehabilitation program continued.

c. Quartering party left for new area.

LieB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

16 February 1955

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER

2)

1. In order to take maximum advantage of the forthcoming training period, the separate company commanders will designate officers and/or enlisted personnel who will begin immediately to prepare themselves to conduct training in the following:
 - a. Nomenclature, handling and firing of special weapons (Rockets, Panzerfaust, Rifle grenades, Hand Grenades, etc).
 - b. Enemy weapons (recognition of sounds, their characteristics, etc).
 - c. Use of mines and booby traps (enemy and our own; arming and disarming. Passage through mine fields).
 - d. Use of demolitions (pole charges, antech and beehive charges, plastic explosives, etc. Use of light explosives as individual weapons).
 - e. Assault group training (squad, platoon).
 - (1) Assault of a pill-box.
 - (2) Assault of a fortified house.
 - (3) Assault of a fortified position.
 - (4) Assault of a village.
 - f. Village fighting (cooperation of artillery and armor).
 - g. Infantry-tank team (close support of tanks; tank-busting teams; training and demonstration to overcome tank fear; infantry to ride in tanks).
 - h. Aggressive combat patrolling.
2. Personnel selected as instructors will conduct training, supervise training and prepare demonstrations.
3. A limited number of field manuals are available for use, through the regimental S-3.
4. Engineer assistance will be requested through this headquarters.

By Order of Lt Col BUCH:

17 FEBRUARY 1945

- 0001 to 0835A: All quiet in Regt'l sector.
- 0835 Conference call, Ex C to all Bn's, Cn & AT Co's. Div rear boundary now is the I'ILL River. You will form police details with organic transportation to go over all areas we occupied back to the river.
- 0838 Ex C to 1st Br S-3: There will be no training schedule for tomorrow. Church services have been scheduled.
- 0845 Asst S-3 to THE BR'S: Will visit Bn's to look at captured equipment to use in a mobile demonstration to the units.
- 1320 Div to DC: You can burn all maps of the area.
(Above relayed to 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions.
- 1340 Div to Ex C: Div Arty will have 10 vehicles instead of two. Div Hq will form in RIENWIHR. S-2 to Div Hq: Notified of above msg, and to attend meeting at 15th Inf CP at 1500A.
- 1400 DO to 1st, 2d, & 3d Bns: There will be a meeting at the Regt'l CP at 1500A. The CO's and the S-3's of each battalion will attend.
- 1405 DO to Cn, AT, Sv, Hq, S-4, 3d Medics: Representatives will attend meeting at Regt'l CP at 1500A.
- 1440 Asst G-2 to S-2: Would like to have penciled notes before 20 Feb on impressions and high lights of your operations since 22 Dec to include the use of weasels. Give difficulties in crossing river and canal obstacles and other information. C of Staff is especially desirous to get this information for 3rd USA. Also for my information in writing History of COL-MAR operations desire information on friendly and enemy action during campaign.
- 1850 I J R Plat Sgt to S-2: Road from WILFGANTZEN to COLMAR is all right.
- 1650 to 2400A: Negative reports from all units.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 161200A to 171200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE
Date : 17 February 1945

No. 48

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR & NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in division reserve.
2. Disposition of Troops:
Regimental CP in KUNHEIM.
1st Bn assembled in barracks area vicinity KUNHEIM.
2d Bn assembled in WOLFGANTZEN.
3d Bn assembled in JESSHEIM.
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.
4. Our Operations for the Period:
The regiment remained in division reserve throughout the period and continued a program of rehabilitation, reorganization and limited training.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty (as shown on M/R of 16 February 1945)
Officers: 86%
NO. 100%
EM: 86%
Rifle trench strength:
Officers: 45
EM: 1134
6. Results of Operations:
a. Regiment remained in division reserve, training and rehabilitation continued.

LIES
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Hq 15th Inf
KUNHEIM, FRANCE
17 February 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 14)

Map: FRANCE, 1/200,000, Road Map, Sheets #67 A #62.

M O V E M E N T I N S T R U C T I O N S

1. 15th Infantry plus elements (attached for movement only) will move by motor from present area to vicinity PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE (16 miles north of NANCY).
2. Units will entruck in battalion and company areas.
3. IP: RJ southwest edge of MUNTZENHEIM (V801447); 2d Battalion IP: RJ west edge MOLENTZEN (V823266); move northwest through ANDOLSHEIM to hit route at east edge of HIRBOURG (V760423). 2d Battalion will be responsible for taking proper place in column at RJ east of HORBOURG (V760423).
4. Route: MUNTZENHEIM - HORBOURG - COLMAR - N-415 - KAISERSBURG - FFAIZEN - ST DIE - N-59 - PAGON L'ETAP - SACCAT - N-435 - MONTIGNY - N-392 - N-4 - LUNEVILLE - N-4 - NANCY - N-57 - North to Destination (vicinity PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE, 16 miles north of NANCY).
5. Battalions and separate companies will infiltrate groups (not more than two vehicles in one group) during the day of 18 February for purpose of establishing communications and unit areas in preparation for arrival of units. Kitchens will move after breakfast, 18 February 1945.
6. Time of movement 1700A, 18 February 1945.
7. Column Commander: Lt Col. 15th Inf.
 - a. Serial and M/U commanders will be senior officer in respective serials and M/U's.
 - b. A truck commander (officer or NCO) will be designated for each truck; assistant drivers will ride in the rear.
8. March Table: (See Annex "A")

N O T E S

1. Interval between serials, 30 minutes (tail to head).
2. Interval between M/U's, 10 minutes (head to head).
3. There will be 10 minute halts at 10 minutes of each odd hour.
4. Minimum speed of lead vehicle - 20 MPH.
5. Maximum speed within company 35 MPH.
6. Interval between vehicles - 60 yds.
7. Vehicles will not close up at halts.
8. Each vehicle will have a white mark "S-1000" painted on inside of windshield. Windshields will be used inside windshield. Windshields will be used.
9. All vehicles will be clean.
10. Tarpaulins and equipment will be orderly.
11. Cargo vehicles will be closed with tarps and rear curtains; trailer tarps will be lashed down.
12. Personnel will ride inside the vehicle only.
13. A refuse container will be placed in each personnel truck; refuse will not be strewn along highway. Refuse will be removed from trucks and burned or buried at destination.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(OI #16, Notes Cont'd)

14. At halts, personnel will dismount and remain to the right of the road only. Trucks commanders will stand on themselves on the left of the road opposite their trucks to direct passing traffic and supervise personnel.
15. All broken down vehicles will pull to the shoulder and following elements of the convoy will be directed to pass.
16. There will be no precocious firing of weapons enroute.
17. All AF guns in the column will be manned.
18. Air aeries will be designated on each vehicle.
19. In event of air attack, all vehicles will halt, maintaining interval; fire will be opened on attacking air craft with all available weapons.
20. Serial and M/U commanders will move at the head of their columns except when checking. Commanders vehicles will not bear convoy signs.
21. Heavy vehicles will be placed at the head of M/U's.
22. Convoy signs will be picked up by serial and march unit commanders from the regimental motor officer by 181200A.
23. There will be no doubling in the convoy.
24. All vehicle gas tanks and extra gas cans will be full prior to departure. Serial and M/U commanders will check this carefully.
25. Normal supply will be resumed in new area 19 February.
26. Regimental surgeon will be responsible for placement of one ambulance at the tail of each serial.

EDSON
CmDg

OFFICIAL:

Edson
CmDg

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

(ANNEX "A" to OI #14)

MARCH TABLE

UNIT	SERIAL	M/U	No. VEH	REACH IP	REMARKS
AF Co	1	1	17	1700A	
1st Bn (organic)	1	2	26	1710A	
3d Bn (organic)	1	3	26	1720A	
2d Bn (organic)	1	4	26	1730A	IP at WOLFGANGZEN; Join convoy at HOB- BOURG
1st Bn	2	5	26	1800A	
3d Bn	2	6	26	1810A	
2d Bn	2	7	26	1820A	IP at WOLFGANGZEN; Join convoy at HOB- BOURG
Hq Co	3	8	16	1880	
Co B, 3d Med	3	9	19	1910	
Div Hq Det	3	10	20	1920	IP at BIESENWIER; Join convoy at BIESENWIER.
Div Arty Det	3	11	12	1930	IP at BIESENWIER; Join convoy at BIESENWIER
CH Co 2441 AA	3	12	25	1940	
Det					

(Para 9 to OI #14)

9. Personnel to participate in ceremony at COLMAR, 201100A, will be attached to 1st Bn 30th Inf (NEUF BRISACH) and will report to CO 1st Bn 30th Inf not later than 1800A, 18 February. This personnel will remain attached for movement to new area; upon arrival of 1st Bn, 30th Inf in new area (afternoon 21 February) S-1, 16th Inf will be responsible for return of this personnel to their respective units.
10. All unit commanders will synchronize their time with regiment at 181600A.
11. Lights will be used West of the HOBBOURG Bridge (V759424); black out lights only may be used east of HOBBOURG Bridge.
12. Advance parties will guide units into respective areas upon arrival of convoy at destination.
13. All drivers and vehicle commanders will be briefed on route prior to departure.
14. All attachments cease upon arrival at new area. Attachments: Co B, 3d Med Bn - 19 vehicles; 441 AAA - 6 trucks; Div Hqs and Div Arty detachments - 32 vehicles.
15. Trucks will be released to Regt'l Motor officer immediately upon arrival in new area. Regt'l M/U will be responsible for proper release of attached transportation.
16. Personnel carriers for move will be made available to Bn Commanders by Regt'l transportation officer at 181500A.
17. Troops will wear combat boots and will carry with them their shoe leeks, sleeping bags, and combat rucks. Canteens will be filled.

CONFIDENTIAL

18 and 19 February 1946

- 181445: S-4 to S-2; 49 trucks have arrived.
- 181450: Division MPs to S-2; 34 trucks for the 15th Infantry are at the rendezvous area in COLMAR, on STRASSTAT-COLMAR Road. (Msg. relayed to S-4.
- 181600: Msg received from CG 3d Inf Division; Division CP closed at RIEDWIHR and opened at RIBEAUVILLE, via 689551, at 181420A.
- 181545: S-4 to BnO; All trucks have arrived. Have 49 2 1/2 T trucks with long wheel base and 55 others.
- 181632: Smb to Dy Cik; AT Company, 1st Bn, and Sv Company have pulled their phones to move out.
- 181700: Head of regimental convoy crossed the IP.
- 181725: 3d Bn all loaded. Organic transportation has left to join AT Company convoy.
- 181750: 3d Bn pulled out phone.
- 181750, Smb to Dy Cik; 2d Bn has pulled phone and moved out.
- 190415: Last elements of the regiment closed in new area. Regimental CP located in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE, 1st Battalion in VANDIERES, 2d and 3d Battalions in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE, Cannon Company in FRESY, AT Co in VILLERS-sous-FRESY, Service Company in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 171200A to 181200A

Unit : 15th Infantry

Place : KUNHEIM, FRANCE

Date : 18 February 1945

No. 49

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; COLMAR and NEUF-BRISACH Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in division reserve.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP located in KUNHEIM.

1st Battalion assembled in barracks area vicinity of KUNHEIM.

2d Battalion assembled in WOLFGANTZEN.

3d Battalion assembled in JESSHEIM.

3. Weather and Visibility: Easy, limited visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The 15th Infantry remained assembled as division reserve through out the period. A program of rehabilitation and limited training was conducted. Plans and preparations were made for movement of the regiment to new area vicinity of NANCY.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel For Duty (As shown on M/R of 17 February 1945).

Officers: 86%

WO: 100%

EM: 86%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 45

EM: 145

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment remained in division reserve.

b. Rehabilitation and limited training program continued.

c. Plans and preparations made for moving the regiment to new area vicinity of NANCY.

LIEB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 181200A to 191200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE,
FRANCE
Date : 19 February 1945

No. 50.

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MOUSSON Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in bivouac areas.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE, vic U745441.
1st Bn in VANDIERRES.
2d and 3d Bns in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
AT Co in VILLERS-SOUS-PRENY
CN Co in PRENY
Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE, vic U751441.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear to hazy; visibility good to limited.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The 15th Infantry moved by truck from division reserve positions in KUNHEIM, WOLFGANTZEN, and JESSEIM on the 18 February. Head of the regimental convoy crossed the IP at 181700A, and moved to vicinity of PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE (approx 22 miles north of NANCY) by way of MUSTZENHEIM - HORBOURG - COLMAR - KAYSERSBURG - PRAIZE - ST DIS - RAON L' ETAPE - BAOGARAT - MONTIGNY - LUNEVILLE and NANCY. Order of march was: AT Co, 1st Bn, 3d Bn, 2d Bn, HQ Co, Co B 3d Med Bn, Div Hq Det, Div Arty Det, CN Co and 441st AAA Det. Last elements of the regiment closed in new area at 190415A. Upon arrival, units attached for the movement were detached.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As shown on M/R of 18 Feb 1945)

Officers: 86%
NCO: 100%
EM: 86%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 48%
EM: 116%

6. Results of Operations:

1. Regiment moved to vicinity of Pagny-sur-Moselle.

COMRIE
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

19 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN }
NUMBER 2 }

1. SHOWERS - Showers for all personnel of the regiment are available in two areas as stated below, and quotas are as indicated:

Service Co Showers (Sv Co area) - 0800 to 1700 daily:

2d Bn - 175 men per hr from 0800 to 1200
3d Bn - 175 men per hr from 1300 to 1700
Hq Co & Med Det - 25 men per hr from 1100 to 1200
" " " " - 25 men per hr from 1300 to 1700
Cn Co - 25 men per hr from 0800 to 1100
Sv Co - 25 men per hr from 1400 to 1700

1st Bn Area Schedule for 1st Bn and Antitank Co to be arranged by Commanding Officer, 1st Bn (S-1)-

2. DISPATCH TICKETS - All vehicles, not in convoy, used in the present area must - at ALL times carry dispatch tickets. Vehicles will be stopped and checked for proper dispatch by the Regimental Military Police. (S-1).

3. MOVIE SCHEDULE - Movies will be shown daily - on the following schedule:

At the Theatre in PAGNY - For units as indicated - 1300, 1500, 1800, and 2000.

2d Bn - 120 men per show
3d Bn - 120 men per show
Cn Co - 20 men per show
Hq Co & Med Det - 20 men per show
Sv Co - 20 men per show

Schedule will be issued later for Movies to be attended by 1st Bn and Antitank Co - in the 1st Bn area.

Officers and Selected Men may escort one (1) civilian each to the 2000 show each evening. However, each battalion quota must be reduced accordingly, as available seats in the theatre have been allotted to the maximum in the above quotas. Each battalion and separate unit will control the men of their respective units attending the shows in order to eliminate congestion. (SSO).

(over)

-3-

(over)

OB No 2 (contd) :

The foregoing Movie schedule is changed for the movie "KINGS TO THE KINGDOM" to be shown at 900 - 1300 - 1800 tomorrow (20 Feb 45). This production, featuring Thomas Mitchell, and written by Lloyd Douglas, is of three hours duration, necessitating the change in schedule. There will be no change in unit quotes, (S-1).

4. OFFICERS MEETING: There will be an Officers Meeting in the Faggy Theatre at 1600 tomorrow (20 Feb 45). All officers of the regiment will attend. (S-1).

5. REAL ESTATE - Attention is directed to Memorandum No 75, this Headquarters, dated 28 November 1944; all units will submit to this Headquarters, Real Estate Form No 1 - (Notification of Occupancy of Real Estate) in triplicate, together with a complete inventory of all movable property on the premises in each duplicate. (S-1).

6. UNIFORMS - Unless otherwise prescribed for formations, Gas Masks and Arms will NOT be carried, and the helmet liner may be worn. Helmet liners will have the Division Insignia painted in the proper place on each side prior to 22 Feb 45. Arms - when prescribed - will be carried unloaded, unless it is otherwise specified. (S-1).

7. CURFEW - All personnel will be off the streets, and in their quarters by 2200 hours, unless returning from the movies, in which case they will be off the streets by 2300. (S-1).

8. ATTENTION HEE-GATS !! - Stand by for announcement of a jive dancing session every night from 8 till 11 at the local school. Drag your own chicks - or come a-wolfing. Warn up those aching speech feet - and get hep to the jive !! (S-1). PS...The SCHOOL is in FAGGY.

By Order of Lt Col HUGHES:


Lt Col HUGHES,
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

PERIOD 20-28 February 1946

LOCATION: The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period.
Regimental CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSSELLE, vic U745441.
1st Bn in VANDIERES
2d and 3d Battalions in PAGNY-SUR-MOSSELLE
AT Company in VILLERS-SOUS-PRENY
Cn Company in PRENY
Service Company in PAGNY-SUR-MOSSELLE.

TRAINING:

Rifle marksmanship	Range firing
Conditioning marches	Close order drill
Callisthenics	Use of the compass
Map reading	Rifle grenades
Enemy weapons	Extended order drill
Reduction of HQ positions	Universal school
NCO's and Officers' school	Squad problems
Night patrols	Handling of PW's
Mines and Demolitions	Air drill
Orientation	Specialist training

RECREATION:

Movies shown daily
Dances held
Unit clubs established
Passes issued for NANCY
Supervised athletics

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ski net area set up
Ordnance inspections held
Religious services

MESSAGERS RECEIVED:

251500: Msg to S-3 from G-3: Until further notice, S-3 reports will be submitted for weekly periods from Monday to Sunday inclusive. First weekly report to cover the period commencing with 26 February 1946.
251620: Msg from G-3: Searchlights will be allotted to the 18th Infantry for use in night training on 1 and 2 March.
261400: Msg from CG to CO: Continued strict radio silence will be maintained until further notice from this headquarters.

Jan 21

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY

APO # 3

20 February 1946

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

NUMBER3

1. Training for the 16th Infantry for the period 23 February and 24 February will be conducted in accordance with the following schedules:

- 40 min - Close order drill
- 1 hr - Inspection
- 2 hrs - Marching
 - Weapons training
- 6 hrs - Preparatory marksmanship
- 2 hrs - Mechanical functioning
- 1 1/2 hrs - Squad in the attack
- 1 hr - Battle drill
- 1/2 hr - Calisthenics
- 1 hr - Map reading

2. Training Notes:

- a. All instruction will conform with the steps of military training; i.e., preparation, explanation, demonstration, application, critique, and/or examination.
- b. Commanders will make every possible effort to assist junior officers and NCOs in preparation of problems by rendering suggestions in way of training aids, methods of instruction, etc.
- c. Specialist training, concurrently with other training.
- d. Marches:
 - (1) Physical hardening during this period will be stressed, not speed marching.
 - (2) Marches will be conducted off main traffic routes.
 - (3) Troops will march on the right side of roads.
- e. Every effort will be made to indoctrinate new reinforcements to battle.

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:

H. C. Auld, Jr.
H. C. AULD, JR.
Capt, 16th Infantry
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

20 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 3)

1. SHOWERS - The allotment on the shower schedule for 2d & 3d Bns is changed to read: "100 men per hr (instead of 175 as published in DB Sq 2, dtd 19 Feb 45). (S-1).

2. Report of Location on M/R - The letter indicating the 500-K square is not. The letter indicating the 300 K square may be found in the index of map, (S-1).

3. Film Processing Service & Army Exchange Gift Orders may now be obtained through Cpl Stone at the Special Service Office. (SSO).

4. DANCE - J-I-V-E Session - from 8 till 1100 (2000-2300):
= At The Schoolhouse in Pagny.
Bring your own drinks
or come a-wolfin! (SSO).

5. WASHING VEHICLES - Drivers will refrain from driving vehicles into river when washing them, as water getting into wheel bearings necessitates having them repacked. All MTOs will see to it that any driver found guilty of this practice is grounded. (Regtl MTO).

6. GERMAN EQUIPMENT - The following items of German equipment are available for demonstration purposes to all Bns & Sq Units:

- 2 MGs 34
- 2 MGs 42
- 1 MG 43
- 2 HMG Kounts
- 1 MG 15
- 1 Bvy Mortar (120 mm)
- 2 Machine Pistols (Burr Guns)
- 3 Machine Pistols 44 (Auto-carbines)
- 1 Brevet (Machette Automatique)
- 1 Star MG 2
- 2 Rifle grenade launchers
- 1 Pistol grenade launcher - with adapter for shoulder firing

Ammunition for the above weapons is available in limited quantities for demonstration only. (S-3).

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:


Lt Col
Capt 15th Inf
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

20 February 1945

MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 16)

AREA INSPECTION

1. The area recently evacuated by the regiment was inspected by a staff officer of this regiment following the departure of all units.

2. In general the areas were well policed and except for unburned trash and abandoned property, upheld the 15th Infantry standards.

3. The following abandoned property and comments for each unit's area are published for whatever action unit commanders may desire to take:

1st Bn Area

(1) Recovered in command post building and building across the road -

- 1 towel, face, OD
- 1 wool knit cap
- 1 pair wool gloves
- 1 German brief case with papers and personal effects of Pvt Clarence J. Beard.

2d Bn Area

(1) Recovered in command post building -

- 1 government mail sack
- 1 gas mask complete
- 1 5-gal gas can

(2) Building which housed message center was very clean and neat.

(3) Remainder of area well policed, but several piles of trash were observed.

3d Bn Area

(1) Recovered in motor pool area at Kuhnheim - eight (8) 5-gal gas cans (empty).

(2) Recovered in motor pool area at Jebelheim, 9 - 5-gal gas cans (empty), 1 sign with words "Reserved for 3d Bn motor pool."

(3) Trash was observed in other areas, neatly stacked, but not buried.

(4) Areas of tents very well policed and no signs other than the one on the motor pool observed.

(over)

-1-

(over)

Memo No 16 - Area Inspection (cont):

Sv Co & Ca Co Areas

(1) Barracks fairly cleaned and no government property in them.

(2) Removed in trash pile north of theatre building -
1 pack with meat can carrier
1 shelter half

(3) Found in building occupied by Service-Maintenance -
4 - 5-gal cans
1 - large tarpaulin in salvageable condition

(4) Seven (7) more gas cans, 5-gal, were observed in area of Service Company. Regimental supply sergeant was directed to pick up the 5-gal cans.

(5) Two signs were picked up in Service Company area; one read "Reserved for Sv Maint" and the other read "These barracks reserved for Service Company."

Hq Co and AT Co Areas

(1) The French soldiers had moved in in strength in all buildings formerly occupied in Lunheim. It was impossible to conduct a thorough inspection.

By Order of Lt Col ELSON:


H. C. Mumford, Jr.
Capt., 15th Inf
Adjutant

Journal

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 191200A to 211200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE,
FRANCE
Date : 21 February 1945

No. 51
Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MOUSSON sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in bivouac.
2. Disposition of Troops:
Reg't I CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
1st Bn in VANDIERES.
2d & 3d Bn's in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
Cn Co in PRENY
AT Co in VILLES-BOUS-PRENY
Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Our operations for the Period:
The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period. A program of rehabilitation and rest was conducted. Time was devoted to care and cleaning of personal and organizational equipment. Shower units were set up and units were showered according to regimental schedule. Movies were shown daily.

5. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty (as shown on M/R of 20 February 1945)
Officers: 86%
WO : 100%
EM : 88%

Rifle trench strength:
Officers: 45
EM : 1146

6. Results of Operations:
a. Rehabilitation and rest continued.

COMRIE
8-3

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APC #5

21 February 1945

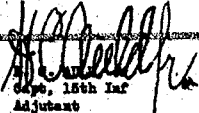
TRAINING MEMORANDUM

NUMBER.....4)

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

1. a. Wire message will commence 23 February 1945 by each Bn. Co., AT and Eqs Companies.
b. A limited number of drums DR 4 and DR 5 may be drawn from regimental signal supply. All personnel will be on the lookout for empty drums and the location of all drums not recovered will be reported to the Regimental Communication Officer.
c. All salvaged wire in excess of that which can be carried by units will be turned in to signal supply.
2. A practice CW net will be operated each day from 0900A to 1200A and from 1800A to 1700A, commencing 27 February and continuing until further notice, to include each Bn, Eqs and AT Companies. Message Centers will provide drill messages. Messages and field logs will be checked by the Bn Communication Officers and then turned in to the Regimental Communication Officer. Speed and accuracy in encoding, decoding and transmitting messages will be emphasized.
3. Each Bn will conduct instruction in voice radio procedure and operation for company radio operators, commencing 27 February 1945. A minimum of 6 (six) operators per company will be trained. Operation and CARE of the SCR 300 and the SCR 536 will be stressed.
4. Each Bn will conduct a wire school for company wiremen, commencing 27 February 1945. A minimum of 4 wiremen per company will attend. Training will continue until wiremen are proficient in laying wire properly along roads, trails, and other places where vehicles may travel; proper selection of wire routes; making wire ties and splices correctly; and in finding and removing short-circuits from wirelines.

By order of Lt. Colonel EDSON


Lt. Colonel
Capt., 15th Inf
Adjutant

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 231200A to 231200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE,
FRANCE
Date : 22 February 1945

No. 52

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MOUSSON Sheet.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Infantry in bivouac.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
1st Bn in VANDIERES
2d and 3d Bn's in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
Cn Co in PRENY
AT Co in VILLERS-SOUS-PRENY
Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear; good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period. A program of rehabilitation, recreation, and rest was conducted. Officers' school was held on the afternoon of 21 February, covering "Methods of Instruction".

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As of 21 February)

Officers: 86%
WO: 100%
EM: 86%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 45
EM: 1143

6. Results of Operations:

a. Rehabilitation program continued.

COMRIS
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO # 5

12 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

NUMBER 5

1. Training for the 15th Infantry for the period 26 February to 1 March (inclusive) will be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. 3 hrs - Small unit attack problems
- b. 4 hrs - Regimental parade
- c. 3 hrs - Conditioning marching
- d. 1 1/3 hrs - Close order and extended order drill.
- e. 3 hrs - Reduction of MG positions.
- f. 3 hrs - Rifle marksmanship
- g. 2 hrs - Map reading
- h. 1 hr - Inspections
- i. 2 hrs - Enemy weapons (Functioning and tactical use).

2. Range Schedules:

- 1st Bn - 27 February
- 2d Bn - 28 February
- 3d Bn - 1 March
- Special Troops - 28 February

3. Training Notes:

- a. Subjects b, c, d, e, h, and i paragraph 1., and hours for instructional period will be complied with by all special units.
- b. Special unit CO's will submit the balance of their schedule to this Headquarters by 241800A.
- c. Battalion schedules for period indicated will be submitted to this Headquarters by 241800A.
- d. A minimum of 4 hours on subject fl. a., will be conducted at night.
- e. Battalion Officer and NCO schools will run concurrently - a minimum of 2 hours for the period.
- f. Specialized training for battalion intelligence sections and communication sections will be coordinated with and approved by Sgt'l S-2 and Sgt'l Communication Officer.
- g. Conditioning marches may be conducted to and from training areas.
- h. Problems and overlays for subject fl. a., will be submitted to this Headquarters 48 hours prior to time of execution.
- i. A regimental review will be held. Details later.
- j. Special attention will be given to the training of battalion AAF platoons in mine activities, demolitions, etc.
- k. Each battalion will be responsible for the proper application of all safety regulations when on the range. Battalions will appoint a range officer by 24 February who will coordinate firing.
- l. Firing will be conducted only in training areas on approval from this Headquarters through the Range Officer, Lt. Col. ...
- m. The greatest effort in this training period will be devoted towards development of junior officer and NCO leadership. These leaders must be given responsibility, and taught how to assume that responsibility.

By order of Lt Col. ...


E. O. ... Jr.
Capt, 15th Infantry
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

22 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 3)

1. RANGE OFFICERS - 1st Lt Arthur T. Mc Cabe, HQ Co, is appointed regimental Range Officer. Each battalion will appoint a range officer. Names of officers selected will be submitted to this headquarters by 230800. Regimental and battalion Range Officers will meet at regimental headquarters 211400. (S-3).

2. NAME PLATES - A white cloth name plate, 5 inches in length by 1 inch in width will be worn over the left pocket of the field jacket or similar garment with the name and rank of the individual printed in 1/8 inch letters thereon. Cloth may be adhesive tape but will be securely sewed to the garment. All officers and enlisted men will comply with this directive prior to 240800.

3. MOVIES - The regular movie schedule will maintain -- new showing. "The Animal Kingdom," an all star musical !!

By Order of Lt Col EDSON :


H. C. AULD, JR
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 221200A to 231200A
Unit: 16th Infantry
Place: PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE,
FRANCE
Date: 23 February 1946

No. 63

Map: France 1:50,000. CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MOUSSON Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in bivouac.
2. Disposition of Troops:
 Regimental CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
 1st Bn in VANVIERES.
 2d & 3d Bn's in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
 Cn Co in PRENY.
 AT Co in VILLERS-SOUR-PRENY.
 Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear, good visibility.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period and continued a rehabilitation and training program. Training for the period covered the following subjects: Close order drill, callisthenics, preliminary marksmanship, battle drill, squad in the attack, map reading, and specialized training. Wire salvage was begun by communications personnel.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M.R.'s of 22 February 1946)

Officers: 86%

WO: 100%

EM: 86%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 45

EM: 1133

6. Results of Operations:

a. Rehabilitation and training program continued.

LIRB
Acting S-3

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY
APO 8

22 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER.....5)

INTELLIGENCE TRAINING DIRECTIVE

1. General: Battalion intelligence sections and the Regimental I & R platoons will conduct a fourteen (14) day training program in accordance with the following instructions.
2. Training Day: The training day will be an average of eight (8) hours per day each day except Sunday during the training period. At least one third (1/3) of the training time will be devoted to night training.
3. Training Program:

Subject	Hours	Remarks
a. Weapons training	8	Functioning, preliminary marksmanship and range firing (to include special weapons). To include at least 2 hours practical work.
b. Use of maps and aerial photos	8	
c. Use of compass and field glasses	3	
d. Disciplinary drill	2	(with parent unit)
e. Scouting and patrolling	24	To include both foot and motor patrols and day and night patrols; conduct at least (2) problem maneuvers (to be completely planned in advance).
f. Operation of OP's	4	Class instruction only, to include use of logs, overlays, reports, improvised aiming circles etc.
g. Communications, listening, demonstration, and practical work to be conducted by Regt. Com. Section	4	Intelligence section and regimental I&R platoons will be assembled as one class (Time: 22 February, all day).
h. Handling of PWs, Identification of enemy equipment, enemy tactics and organization	5	Intelligence section and regimental I&R will be assembled as one class. Instructor - Sgt'1 IFF. (Time: 27 February 0600 to 1100).

Subject	Hours	Remarks
i. Shell reports and adjustment of artillery fire	1	Re intelligence section and regimental IAR will be assembled as one class. (Time: To be announced). Instruction furnished by 38th FA Bn.
j. Heavy use of mines and booby traps	4	Re intelligence section and regimental IAR will be assembled as one class. (Time: 1 March, 1800A to 1700A) Instruction furnished by 10th Regt Bn.
k. Free time	24	For scheduled instruction in subjects to be selected by the unit CO.

4. Training Notes:

- Instruction will conform with accepted military training principles; explanation, demonstration, application, and examination or criticism.
- All training will be carefully planned and conducted. Where practicable, demonstrations will be prepared, rehearsed, and presented as a training aid.
- One-half of the night operations training time will be in conjunction with "artificial moonlight", and one-half will be without this aid.
- Sundays will be used for rest and recreation.
- Mistakes and deficiencies noted during the past operation will be studied and rectified.
- A short, snappy inspection will initiate each day's training period.

5. The fourteen (14) day training period begins 26 February 1946.

6. Training schedules: Training schedules will be submitted for four (4) day periods, forty-eight (48) hours prior to commencement of scheduled training.

By order of Lt. Col. EDSON

H. C. Auld, Jr.
 H. C. AULD, Jr.
 Capt, 15th Inf
 44 March

23 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER.....7)

Training Schedule for 24 February

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Area</u>
<u>First Battalion</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co Area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Co Area
0900-1000	Map reading	Co Area
1000-1200	Rapid fire exercises; sight & windage adjustment.	Trng area east of Canal route.
1300-1400	March to training area	
1400-1530	Squad in the attack	Trng area west of Junction.
1530-1800	Calisthenics	Trng area west of Junction.
1800-1700	Return march (Specialist trng. Eq Co. Drivers & maintenance school at Bu water pool).	
<u>Second Battalion</u>		
0800-0830	Calisthenics (B)	Co Area
	Inspection (P. N. Comn Plat)	Co Area
	Close Order Drill (Int Sect)	
0800-0900	Inspection (G)	Co Area
0830-0900	Inspection (B)	Co Area
	Close Order Drill (B)	Co Area
	Calisthenics (AT Plat)	
0830-0845	Calisthenics (F)	Area B
0900-1030	Squad in Attack (B)	Area B
0845-1145	Preparatory Marksmanship (F)	Area B
0900-1100	Mines & Wire (A & P plat)	Area B
	March (AT Plat)	
0900-1000	Preparatory marksmanship (G)	Area B
0900-1200	Gun Drill (B)	Co Area
1000-1200	Road march (G)	March route
1000-1200	Specialist training (Comn)	Flat area
1030-1130	Extended order drill (B)	Area B
1100-1130	Close order drill (A & P plat)	Area B
1100-1200	Identification of armor (AT Plat)	Flat area
1130-1200	Close order drill (B)	Area B
1145-1200	Close order drill (F)	Area B
1200-1400	Mechanical functioning (B)	Area B
	Preparatory Marksmanship (F)	Area B
	Booby traps (A & P Plat)	Flat area
1300-1600	Preparatory Marksmanship (G)	Area B
	March (B)	
	Gun Drill (AT Plat)	Flat area
1400-1530	Squad in Attack (F)	Area B
1400-1700	Preparatory Marksmanship (B)	Area B
1500-1700	Road march (A & P and Comn Platoons)	Area B
	Preparation of position (AT Plat)	Flat area
1500-1600	Sight Adjustment (G)	Area B
	100 & 81 mm (B)	Co area
1530-1630	Battle drill (F)	Area B

<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Area</u>
1600-1700	Review of 1st Co. (P)	Co Area
1650-1700	Map reading (H) Manual of Arms (P) (Wire section will salvage wire).	Area B
<u>Third Battalion</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co Area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Area # 4
0900-1000	Map reading	Co Area
1000-1200	Preliminary Marksmanship (I, K, L) Evj Wpm Instruction (M)	Drill Areas # 1-2-3 Drill Areas # 1-2-3
1500-1500	March	March Route
1500-1600	Foot Inspection (Specialist trng for Eq Co; wire salvage, AT trng, demolitions wrng, Maintenance & drivers school at Bn motor pool.)	Co Area
<u>Headquarters Company</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection (I & R, Comm)	Co Area
0800-1700	Guard Duty, motor patrols, foot patrols, TOP's (MP plat)	
0830-0845	Calisthenics (I & R, Comm, Co Hq)	Co Area
0845-0900	Close order drill (I & R)	Co Area
0845-0915	Close order drill (Comm)	Co Area
0900-1000	Map & Compass reading (I & R)	Flat Area
0915-1015	Conditioning March (Comm, Co Hq)	
1000-1200	Preliminary marksmanship (I & R)	
1015-1115	Map & Compass reading (Comm)	Flat area
1115-1200	Orientation Period (Comm)	Co Area
1300-1400	Conditioning March (Staff Clerks)	
1300-1400	OP Operation (I & R)	Co Area
1500-1700	Specialist trng (Comm)	Co Area
1400-1500	Conditioning March (I & R)	
1500-1700	Mounted patrolling (I & R)	
<u>Anti-tank Company</u>		
0800-0815	Calisthenics	Co Area
0815-0835	Close order drill	Co Area
0835-0900	Map reading	Co Area
0900-1000	Snaffle drill	Flat areas
1000-1200	Preparatory marksmanship	Co Area
1300-1400	March	Roads in vic of Co.
1400-1430	Test for preparatory marksmanship	Co Area
1430-1600	Squad in Attack	Flat areas
1600-1610	Test on Map reading	Co area
1610-1630	Orientation	Co area
1630-1700	Inspection	Co Area
<u>Cannon Company</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Calisthenics	Co area
0900-1000	Conditioning of SO and MG	Co area
1000-1100	Military courtesy and interior guard duty	Co area
1100-1200	Conditioning march	
1500-1500	Gun drill, displacement and fire commands	
1500-1700	Maintenance & drivers school.	Co area
1500-1600	Duties of personnel, and function of a com- plete rare mission.	Co area
1600-1700	Care & cleaning of Howitzer WCO school	Co area

By Order of Lt Col HEDSON

H. Auld, Jr.
H. AULD, JR.
Captain, 15th Infantry
Adjutant

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-S Periodic Report

Period: 231200A to 241200A
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE,
FRANCE
Date : 24 February 1945

No. 54

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PORT-A-MOUSSON Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in bivouac.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regimental CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.

1st Bn in VANDIERES.

2d & 3d Bn's in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.

Cn Co in PRENY.

AT Co in VILLENS-SOUS-PRENY.

Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE.

3. Weather & Visibility: Hazy to clear, visibility limited to good.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period and continued with rehabilitation and training program. Training for the period covered the following subjects: close order drill, calisthenics, map reading, rapid fire exercises, preparatory marksmanship, squad in attack, extended order drill, heavy weapons instruction, conditioning marches, battle-drill, and specialist training.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (AS of 23 Feb)

Officers: 86%

NO: 100%

EM: 90%

Rifle trench strength

Officers: 46

EM: 120%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Training program continued.

LIEB
Acting S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

24 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 8)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 25 FEBRUARY 1945

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-0845	Inspection and close order drill	
0900-1000	Conditioning march	
1000-1100	Marching by compass (B, C)	
1000-1200	Preliminary marksmanship (A)	
1100-1200	LMS and 60-mm instruction (B)	
	Map reading (C)	
1300-1600	Reduction of MG positions (A)	
1300-1600	Preliminary marksmanship (B)	
1300-1400	60-mm and LMS instruction (C)	
1400-1600	Wps instruction, AT grenade (C)	
1600-1700	Marching by compass (A)	
	Released to Co Cdr (B, C)	
SECOND BATTALION		
2 hours	Extended order drill and combat formations for fighting through wooded terrain (B, F, G)	Area B
1 hour	Rifle grenades; nomenclature, functioning (B, F, G)	Area B
2 hours	Preliminary marksmanship	Area B
1 hour	Close order drill	Area B
1 hour	Orientation	Area B
4 hours	Gun drill (B, Wps plats)	Area B
1 hour	Map reading	Area B
1 hour	Reduction MG positions (B, F, G)	Area B
1900	Officers and NCO school; "Troop Leadership"	PACNY Play-house
THIRD BATTALION		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Drill area
0900-0930	NCO school, responsibility of an NCO (10 NCO's per Co)	Bn CP
0900-1000	Map reading	R-3-2-4
0930-1000	NCO school, close order drill (10 NCO's per Co)	Drill field
1000-1200	Heavy weapons	Bn
	NCO school, BREWSTER - SIGCISEM Attack (10 NCO's per Co)	Bn CP
1300-1600	Platoon in defense	R-3-4
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill (IAR)	Co area
	Gymnastics (Comm)	Co area
0900-1200	Range firing (IAR)	Rifle Range
0930-1030	Conditioning march (Comm)	
1030-1700	Specialist trng (Comm)	Co area
1300-1600	50 cal MG .MG, stripping & tactical employment (IAR); Plat area	Plat area
1500-1600	Mounted patrolling (IAR)	Plat area
1600-1700	OP procedure (IAR)	Plat area

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
	<u>CANNON COMPANY</u>	
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Co area
0900-1000	Conditioning march	
1000-1100	Map reading	Co area
1100-1200	Use of panzerfaust	Co area
1200-1700	Drivers school	
1300-1400	Radio procedure (Comm)	Co area
1300-1500	Marksmanship, rifle	Co area
1400-1500	Laying of wire (Comm)	Co area
1500-1700	Assembly, disassembly, and care of Howitzers	Co area
	Nomenclature of SCR-510	Co area
	<u>ANTI-TANK COMPANY</u>	
0800-1200	Range firing	Reg't range
1300-1700	Range firing	Reg't range

By order of Lt Col EDSON:



H. C. AULD, Jr., Lt. Col.
Capt., 15th Infantry
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

24 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER7)

1. ORDNANCE INSPECTION - Ordnance will inspect and repair individual arms, and instruments requiring repair of any nature. All machine guns and mortars will be inspected. A Sheltered space for inspection and repair will be provided by each Company Supply. The schedule of inspection and repair will be as follows:

1st Bn - 0800	26 Feb 45	
2d Bn - 1300	26 Feb 45	
3d Bn - 0800	27 Feb 45	
Sp Units - 1300	27 Feb 45	(8-4)

2. OVERSEA SERVICE BAR - a. The device consists of a horizontal bar 1/4 inch in width and 1 3/8 inch in length on a cloth background forming a border 1/8 inch around the bar. For wear on the service coat the bar will be of gold lace or bullion on an olive-drab background. For wear on the shirt the bar will be of golden yellow cloth on a khaki background.

b. One overseas service bar is authorized for wear for each period of 6 months service as a member of the Army of the United States outside the continental limits of the United States from 7 December 1941 until a date subsequent to the termination of the present war. Time is computed between the dates of departure from and arrival at a port in the United States. Periods during which military personnel are AWOL or in desertion will not be included in computing length of service required.

c. The overseas service bar will be worn centered on the outside half and parallel to the end of the left sleeve of the garments mentioned above, with the lower edge of the bar 4 inches above the end of the sleeve. Additional bars will be worn parallel to and above the first bar with 3/16 inch space between bars, the space being formed of the background.

d. Only bars of gold lace or bullion will be worn on the service coat. Only bars of golden yellow cloth will be worn on the shirt. (S-1).

3. MOVIES - New movie schedule - At the Theatre in Pagny: shows at 1300 - 1500 - 1800. There will be no show at 2000. 1st Bn Area - show every nite at 2030.

(OVER)

-1-

(OVER)

DB 7 (Rev. 14)

4. GAS MASKS - Unit commanders will take measures to insure that all issues incurred during the recent operation have been replaced and that all individuals are provided with a serviceable, well-fitted gas mask. (S-4).

5. KIT, CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR, M3 - Chemical agent detector, M-9 will be issued to all companies. Every effort will be made by unit commanders to insure that all gas personnel within their commands are thoroughly familiar with the purpose of and procedure for use of this kit. The lack of replacement detector tubes necessitates that the tubes be expended for training purposes only to the minimum extent. (S-4).

6. AMMUNITION - 1. The following is a list of ammunition available to each battalion for training:

2. Ammunition will be on hand at the Regt. Ammo Dump 1800 - 25 Feb 45, to be picked up by Co. Sigs.

3. Artillery ammo will be drawn on a 24 hour advance request.

Type	Quantity	Regt. Battalion
Carbine, Cal 30		100
Cal 30 M1		28
Cal 30 M1A1		100
Cal 30 M1A2		1000
Cal 30 M1A3		100
Cal 30 M1A4		100
Cal 30 M1A5		100
Cal 30 M1A6		100
Cal 30 M1A7		100
Cal 30 M1A8		100
Cal 30 M1A9		100
Cal 30 M1A10		100
Cal 30 M1A11		100
Cal 30 M1A12		100
Cal 30 M1A13		100
Cal 30 M1A14		100
Cal 30 M1A15		100
Cal 30 M1A16		100
Cal 30 M1A17		100
Cal 30 M1A18		100
Cal 30 M1A19		100
Cal 30 M1A20		100
Cal 30 M1A21		100
Cal 30 M1A22		100
Cal 30 M1A23		100
Cal 30 M1A24		100
Cal 30 M1A25		100
Cal 30 M1A26		100
Cal 30 M1A27		100
Cal 30 M1A28		100
Cal 30 M1A29		100
Cal 30 M1A30		100
Cal 30 M1A31		100
Cal 30 M1A32		100
Cal 30 M1A33		100
Cal 30 M1A34		100
Cal 30 M1A35		100
Cal 30 M1A36		100
Cal 30 M1A37		100
Cal 30 M1A38		100
Cal 30 M1A39		100
Cal 30 M1A40		100
Cal 30 M1A41		100
Cal 30 M1A42		100
Cal 30 M1A43		100
Cal 30 M1A44		100
Cal 30 M1A45		100
Cal 30 M1A46		100
Cal 30 M1A47		100
Cal 30 M1A48		100
Cal 30 M1A49		100
Cal 30 M1A50		100
Cal 30 M1A51		100
Cal 30 M1A52		100
Cal 30 M1A53		100
Cal 30 M1A54		100
Cal 30 M1A55		100
Cal 30 M1A56		100
Cal 30 M1A57		100
Cal 30 M1A58		100
Cal 30 M1A59		100
Cal 30 M1A60		100
Cal 30 M1A61		100
Cal 30 M1A62		100
Cal 30 M1A63		100
Cal 30 M1A64		100
Cal 30 M1A65		100
Cal 30 M1A66		100
Cal 30 M1A67		100
Cal 30 M1A68		100
Cal 30 M1A69		100
Cal 30 M1A70		100
Cal 30 M1A71		100
Cal 30 M1A72		100
Cal 30 M1A73		100
Cal 30 M1A74		100
Cal 30 M1A75		100
Cal 30 M1A76		100
Cal 30 M1A77		100
Cal 30 M1A78		100
Cal 30 M1A79		100
Cal 30 M1A80		100
Cal 30 M1A81		100
Cal 30 M1A82		100
Cal 30 M1A83		100
Cal 30 M1A84		100
Cal 30 M1A85		100
Cal 30 M1A86		100
Cal 30 M1A87		100
Cal 30 M1A88		100
Cal 30 M1A89		100
Cal 30 M1A90		100
Cal 30 M1A91		100
Cal 30 M1A92		100
Cal 30 M1A93		100
Cal 30 M1A94		100
Cal 30 M1A95		100
Cal 30 M1A96		100
Cal 30 M1A97		100
Cal 30 M1A98		100
Cal 30 M1A99		100
Cal 30 M1A100		100

Special Units will draw ammunition, as requested by verbal requisition of 24 Feb 45, from Regt. Ammo Dump. (S-4).

By Order of Lt Col HEGON:

H. H. H.
Regt. Sigs.

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY

AFG-3

25 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
 ()
 NUMBER:)

1. BATTALION RECREATION OFFICERS - Each battalion will appoint a recreation officer to coordinate the recreation and entertainment effort of the respective battalions with the Regimental SSO Officer. This duty will be in addition to normal duties. Duties of recreation officer will be to inform and advise the respective Battalion CO's in recreation effort and to coordinate with the Regimental SSO Officer to obtain and utilize the maximum facilities obtainable. Names of officers selected will be forwarded to this headquarters prior to 260800. (S-1)

2. MECHANICS - One (1) mechanic from each battalion and one from each special unit will report to Regimental Maintenance at Service Company at 0900, 25 February 1945. (Maint O)

3. SHOE PADS & OVERSHOES - SSO has on hand a supply of shoe pads and overshoes. Unit commanders will submit requisitions showing size and number required to equip all members of their command. Shoe pads are available in sizes 7 through 13 only, necessitating the substitution of overshoes where a smaller size is needed. (S-4)

4. MOVIE - "Lost In A Harem" with Abbott & Costello will be shown today and tomorrow. Revised schedule is as follows: (SSO)

24, 24 Bn's, Reg. Sv.	-	FRANK	-	1900 - Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri
Cs Co's and Hd Det	-		-	2000 - Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri
1st Bn & AF Co	-	Wardens	-	1900 - Wed, Sat, Sun
				2000 - Wed, Sat, Sun

5. MUSICAL BROADCASTS - The musical broadcasts, through the public address system set up in the Regimental Area, are scheduled as follows:

Training Days	-	1145	-	1245
	-	1445	-	2100
Parade & Rest Days	-	1200	-	2300

Any person who has some adaptable special talent may contact P/O Taylor at Regimental Headquarters Company for interview with a view to going on the air. (S-1)

By order of Lt Col HESON:

H. C. Auld
 H. C. AULD, JR.
 Captain, 15th Infantry
 Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO #6

26 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER.....9)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 27 FEBRUARY 1945

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>AREA</u>
FIRST BATTALION		
0700-1200	Rifle marksmanship and range firing (A,B)	Range
0800-0845	Inspection and close order drill (D,Hq)	Co area
0800-0900	Maintenance school (all drivers)	Motor pool
0800-1000	Preliminary marksmanship & preparation for range firing (G)	
1000-1400	Range firing (G)	Range
1300-1400	Care & cleaning of arms (A,B)	Co area
1400-1700	Rifle marksmanship & range firing (D,Hq)	
1400-1430	Weapons inspection (A,B)	Co area
1400-1530	Care & cleaning of arms (G)	Co area
1430-1530	Map reading (A,B)	Co area
1530-1600	Inspection (G)	Co area
1630-1700	Supervised Athletics	Bn area
1800-2000	Drivers school, "Night driving" (all motor pool personnel)	
SECOND BATTALION		
0740-0800	Disciplinary drill (G)	Co area
0800-1000	Enemy Weapons (H)	
	Reduction of MG Position (F)	Area #2,3
	Squad problems (G)	Area B
	Marksmanship, HMG & mortar (H)	Co area
0830-1130	Handling of PW's, Enemy Ident (Int Sect)	
1000-1030	Close order drill (H)	Area B
1000-1100	Drivers school (Drivers)	Bn motor pool
1000-1200	Enemy Weapons (F)	Area #2,3
	Reduction of MG Positions (G)	Area B
	Technique of fire (H)	Co area
1030-1200	Reduction of MG positions (H)	Area B
1130-1200	Close order drill (Int Sect)	Co area
1300-1400	Map reading (Int Sect)	Quarters
1300-1500	Marksmanship (H-F-H)	Area B
	Enemy Weapons (G)	
1500-1700	Squad in attack (H-F)	Area B
	Marksmanship (G)	
	Enemy Weapons (H)	
1100-2400	Night Patrols (Int Sect)	Drill area
THIRD BATTALION		
0800-0830	Close order drill (Int Sect)	Co area
	Inspection (Comm)	Co area
0830-0900	Calisthenics (Comm)	Co area
0830-1130	Handling of PW's; Enemy identification (Int Sect)	
0900-0930	Inspection (I-K-L-M)	Co area
	MG school (10 MGO's per Co)	Co area
0900-1200	Specialist training & wire salvage (Comm)	
0930-1000	Close order drill (I-K-L-M)	Drill area
0930-1200	MG school, "Mines & Demolitions" (10 MGO's per Co)	Bn OP
1000-1200	Reduction of MG Positions (I-K-L-M)	#1-2-3-4

1-1038

		AREA
1300-1330	Manual of arms (I-K-L-M)	Plat area
1300-1400	Scouting & Patrolling (Int Sect)	Area #1
1300-1700	Specialist training & wire salvage (Comm)	
1330-1800	Scram in attack (I-K-L-M)	#2-3-4
1400-1500	Men for night patrol (Int Sect)	Area #1
1900-2100	Squad in attack (I-K-L-M)	#2-3-4
1900-2300	Night recon patrol (Int Sect)	Area #1
<u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Formation & Inspection	Co area
0830-1230	Identification of enemy equipment; handling of PW's (I&R)	Co area
0830-0900	Callisthenics (Comm)	Co area
0900-1000	Conditioning March (Comm)	Plat area
1000-1100	Map reading (Comm)	
1100-1200	Orientation Period (Comm)	
1130-1200	Conditioning march (I&R)	Co area
1300-1700	Specialist training (Comm)	Plat area
1500-1600	Maps & Aerial Photos (I&R)	Plat area
1600-1700	Compass & field glasses (I&R)	
1900-2100	Scouting & Patrolling (I&R)	
<u>ARTILLERY COMPANY</u>		
0800-0815	Callisthenics	Plat areas
0815-0835	Close order drill	Plat areas
0835-0900	Orientation & current events	Plat areas
0900-1000	Road march	Co area
1000-1100	Nomenclature & handling of special weapons	Plat areas
1100-1200	Map reading	Co area
1300-1500	Nomenclature & functioning of German 75mm AT gun	Plat areas
1600-1630	Battle drill	Co area
1630-1700	Inspection	Co area
<u>CANNON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Co area
0900-1000	Conditioning march	
1000-1100	Map reading	Co area
1100-1200	Enemy arty & tactical use	Co area
1300-1400	Bore sighting	Co area
1400-1600	Codes (Comm Personnel)	
1400-1600	Use of Aiming Circle	Co area
1600-1600	Radio procedure (Comm personnel)	Co area
1600-1700	Fire commands and gun drill	
1600-1700	Nomenclature, care, cleaning of telephones (Comm personnel)	
1600-1700	Disassembly, functioning & cleaning of the piece	Co area
<u>MEDICAL DETACHMENT</u>		
0800-0900	Inspection	Det area
0900-1000	Bandaging, all types	Det area
1000-1100	Treatment of shock patients	
1100-1200	Administration of morphine syrette, care of dosage used	
1300-1600	Road-march	
1600-1700	Sick Call	

By order of Lt. Col EDSON

H. C. Adams, Jr.
 H. C. Adams, Jr.
 Capt, 1st Inf
 Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
AFG 48

28 February 1948

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

NUMBER.....10)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 28 FEBRUARY 1948

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-0830	: Close order drill (B,G)	:
	: Inspection (B,Eq)	:
0800-1000	: Army weapons (A)	:
0830-0900	: Rifle drill (B,C)	:
	: Close order drill (D,Eq)	:
0900-1000	: Map reading (B,D)	:
0900-1200	: Reduction of MG positions (G)	:
1000-1030	: Close order drill (A)	:
1000-1200	: Army weapons (B)	:
1030-1100	: Battle drill (A)	:
1100-1200	: Map reading (A)	:
1200-1700	: Small unit problems	:
2000-2400	: Small unit problems	:
SECOND BATTALION		
0740-0800	: Disciplinary drill (G)	:
0800-0900	: Marksmanship (B)	: Area 22 & 3
	: Map reading (F)	: Area 4 & 5
0800-1000	: Marksmanship (G)	:
	: Range firing (H)	: Rifle Range
0900-0930	: Close order drill (B)	: Area 22 & 3
0900-1000	: Compass (F)	: Area 4 & 5
0930-1000	: Marksmanship (B)	: Area 22 & 3
1000-1200	: Range firing (B)	: Rifle Range
	: Marksmanship (F)	: Area 4 & 5
	: Squad problem (G)	:
	: Gunners Rule, Map firing (H)	: Co area
1200-1400	: Compass (B,G)	: Area 2
	: Compass (H)	: Co area
1200-1500	: Range firing (F)	: Rifle Range
1400-1500	: Map reading (B,H)	:
1400-1700	: Squad in the approach march (B)	: Area 22 & 3
1500-1700	: 100' inch range practice (H)	: Co area
	: Squad problems (F)	: Area 4 & 5
	: Range firing (G)	: Rifle range
2000-2400	: Platoon problem (B,F,G)	: Area 2
2000-2200	: Night laying (H)	: Co area
2200-2400	: Compass course (H)	: Area 2
THIRD BATTALION		
0800-0830	: Inspection (Comm)	: Co area
0830-0900	: Close order drill (Comm)	: Co area
0900-0930	: Inspection (I,K,L,M)	: Co area
	: 100' school (10' 100's per Co)	:
0900-1200	: Range firing (M)	: Area 2
	: Specialist trng & wire salvage (Comm)	:
0930-1030	: Extended order drill (I,K,L)	: Area 2-3-4
0830-1200	: 100's school, "Squad in attack & defense" (10' 100's per Co)	:
1030-1200	: Platoon in attack (I,K,L)	: Area 2-3-4
1200-1330	: Manual of arms (I,K,L)	: Drill area
	: Close order drill (M)	: Drill area
1300-1700	: Specialist training (Comm)	:
1330-1600	: Platoon & squad in defense (I,K,L,M)	: Area 2-3-4

TIME	TITLE	AREA
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY		
0800-0830	: Formation & Inspection	: Co area
0830-0845	: Calisthenics (IAR)	:
0850-0900	: Close order drill (Comm)	:
0845-1200	: Communications training (IAR)	:
0900-1200	: Specialist training (Comm)	:
1200-1700	: Communications training (IAR)	:
	: Specialist training (Comm)	:
AMFTRAK COMPANY		
0800-0815	: Calisthenics	: Flat areas
0815-0835	: Close order drill	: Flat areas
0835-0860	: Orientation & current events	: Flat areas
0900-1000	: Road march	:
1000-1100	: Use of mines & booby-traps	: Co area
1100-1200	: Identification of enemy & friendly armor	: Flat areas
1200-1400	: Sun drill	: Flat areas
1400-1500	: Nomenclature of the BAR	: Flat areas
1500-1600	: Characteristics of enemy weapons	: Flat areas
1600-1700	: Care & cleaning and inspection of all weapons	: Co area
GARRON COMPANY		
0800-0830	: Inspection	: Co area
0830-0900	: Close order drill	:
0900-1000	: Marksmanship	:
1000-1100	: Ammunition, types and care	:
1100-1200	: Characteristics of good gun positions (Cover and concealment)	:
1200-1400	: Radio procedure (Comm personnel)	:
1400-1600	: Problem with prime movers. (ren, prep, movement, prey for firing)	:
1400-1500	: Duties of comm personnel when moving into position (comm personnel)	:
1500-1700	: Wire training (Comm personnel)	:
1600-1700	: Functioning & cleaning of mortars	:
MEDICAL DETACHMENT		
0800-0900	: Inspection	: Med Det area
0900-1000	: General briefing of Co aid men	:
1000-1200	: Bandaging & improvised splinting	:
1200-1400	: Calisthenics and foot drill	:
1400-1500	: Preparation & administration of plasma	:
1500-1600	: Application of Thomas leg splint	:
1600-1700	: Sick Call	:

By order of Lt. Col. EDSON

[Handwritten Signature]
 Lt. Col. EDSON
 Adjutant

TO BE POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARD FOR 24 HOURS STARTING AT 1200

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

26 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 9)

1. OFF LIMITS AREA - All towns are off limits to all personnel of this regiment except those towns actually occupied by the regiment (Fagny, Vandiere, Frey and Villers). The only exception to the above restriction is for those on authorized pass and in possession of a properly authenticated pass. On 25 Feb, 3 soldiers of this regiment were apprehended - one in Nancy, the others in Font & Bussal, in houses of prostitution. None of them were on authorized pass nor in possession of a pass form. All will be tried by summary court martial. This policy will apply to all visitors.

The privileges now enjoyed depend entirely upon the actions of all members of this regiment. The violations of existing regulations by the thoughtless few which threaten these privileges will not be tolerated. This information will be immediately explained and suitably impressed on all personnel. (S-1)

2. DISTRIBUTION - Battalion Message Center will immediately upon receipt, distribute Daily Bulletin to all companies so that it can be posted on the company bulletin board prior to noon in order to make the contents available for perusal by the men during the next hour. (S-1)

3. GUIDONS - All companies will check their guidons in preparation for a Regimental review within the next 10 days. Any requests for replacements must be made S-4 prior to 1700 this date. (S-1)

4. MOVIE SHOWS - The time of shows has been changed to 1800 and 2000 for the evening shows (instead of 1700 and 2000 as previously published). (NSO)

5. OFFICERS GUN CLEANING - All officers desiring any cleaning will submit such cleaning to the regimental NSO prior to 27/200. Service requires eight (8) days. (NSO)

6. GAS MASKS - All units will submit to S-4 the number of gas masks having black face pieces by 2000 - 26 Feb 1945. Negative reports desired. (S-4)

(over)

(p 2) Daily Bulletin - 26 Feb 45 contd:

7. RETURN TRIPS FROM NANCY - For the convenience of personnel on pass, trucks will be spotted in NANCY at the following times daily -

4 trucks at 1800

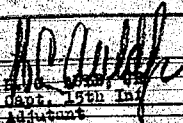
4 trucks at 2000

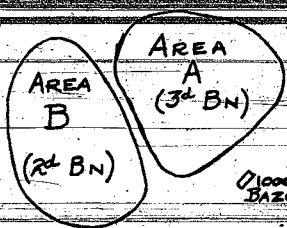
4 trucks at 2200

(S-1)

Trucks will leave NANCY as soon as fully loaded.
Trucks spotted at 2200 will leave NANCY at 2300. (S-1).

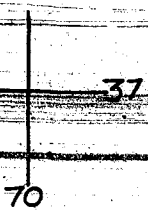
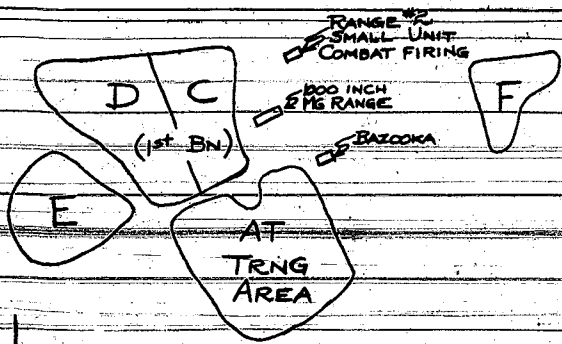
By Order of Lt Col EDSON:


H. P. Anderson
Capt. 15th Inf
Adjutant



1000 INCH MG & BAZOOKA RANGE

RANGE #1
KNOWN DISTANCE



HEADQUARTERS 15th INFANTRY

27 February 1945

OVERLAY SHOWING TRAINING AREAS 15th INFANTRY

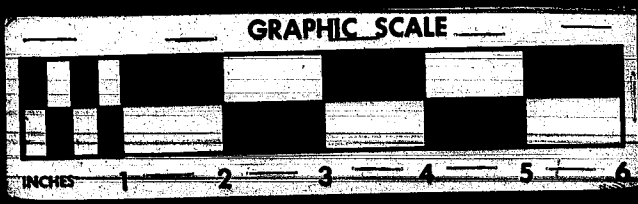
Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PORT-A-MOUSSEON

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
Commanding

LIEB
Acting S-3

Note: Each battalion has, within its training area, ranges for all special weapons to care for its own needs.



Journal

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO # 3

17 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER.....11)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 1 MARCH 1945

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-1200	Free time; Care of equipment	
1300-1400	Weapons instruction (A)	
1500-1600	Heavy weapons (D)	
1600-1800	Reduction of MG positions (B)	
1400-1500	Conditioning march (A)	
	Map reading (D)	
1500-1600	Conditioning march (C)	
1600-1700	Heavy weapons (D)	
	Open to Co Cdr (A)	
1600-1700	Conditioning march (B)	
	Map reading (C)	
SECOND BATTALION		
0800-1200	Mark (G, F, E, H)	Co area
0800-0830	Close order drill (Int sect)	Drill area
0830-0900	Calisthenics (Int sect)	
0900-1000	Use of Compass & field glasses (Int sect)	Quarters
1000-1200	Compass Course (Int sect)	Drill area
	Officers & NCO school, "Map Reading"	Fagney Play-house
		house
1300-1700	Platoon in-attack (G, F, E)	Area B
	Heavy use of Booby traps & mines (Int sect)	
	1,000 in range firing (H Co, HMG's)	1,000 in range
	Gun Drill (H Co, 81 mm's)	Co area
1700-1720	Disciplinary Drill (G)	
THIRD BATTALION		
0800-0830	Inspection (Int sect, Comm)	Co area
0800-1600	Marksmanship (I, K, L)	Range
	Range firing (M)	
0830-0900	Close order drill (Int sect)	Drill area
	Calisthenics (Comm)	Co area
0900-1100	Map reading (Int sect)	Co area
0900-1200	Specialist trap & wire salvage (Comm)	Co area & Bayonville
		Area 1
1100-1200	Use of compass & field glasses (Int sect)	
1300-1700	Heavy use of Mines & Booby traps (Int sect)	
	Specialist training (Comm)	Co area
	Wire salvage (Int sect)	Bayonville
CANNON COMPANY		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Informal calisthenics	Co area
0900-1100	Preparatory marksmanship	
1100-1200	Conditioning march	
1200-1300	Preparatory marksmanship	
1600-1800	Functioning, care and cleaning of 50 cal MG	Co area
	Duties of OP personnel (Comm personnel)	Co area
1800-1700	Functioning, care and cleaning of Howitzers	Co area
	Switchboard training (Comm personnel)	Co area

	SUBJECT	AREA
ASSAULT COMPANY		
0800-0830	: Close order drill	: Co area
0830-0900	: Nomenclature & use of compass	: Flat areas
0900-1000	: Infantry-tank teams	: Flat areas
1000-1100	: 50 cal MG training	: Flat areas
1100-1130	: Arming & disarming of M-1 A-1 AT mines	: Flat areas
1130-1200	: Gun drill	: Flat areas
1300-1400	: Road march	: Flat areas
1400-1500	: 75 mm German AT gun	: Flat areas
1500-1600	: 30 cal MG training	: Flat areas
1600-1700	: Care & cleaning of weapons; inspection	: Co area
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY		
0800-0830	: Formation & inspection	: Co area
0830-0900	: Calisthenics (Comm)	: Co area
0930-0930	: Conditioning march (I & R)	:
0900-1700	: Specialist training and wire salvage (Comm)	:
0930-1030	: CP operation (I & R)	:
1030-1130	: Maps & Aerial photos (I & R)	:
1130-1200	: 50 cal MG trng (I & R)	:
1300-2000	: Compass routes (I & R)	:
2000-2300	: Patrolling (I & R)	:

By order of Lt. Col. EDSON

H. G. Auld, Jr.
 H. G. AULD, Jr.
 Capt, 18th Infantry
 Adjutant

27 February 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER.....13)

TRAINING DIRECTIVE

1. General: Training for the 15th Infantry Regiment for the period 8 March through 10 March will be conducted in accordance with the following instructions.
2. Training Day: The training day will be an average of eight (8) hours per day each day except Sunday during the training period.
 - a. Approximately 1/3 of the training time will be devoted to night training.
 - b. Searchlights: Searchlights to produce artificial moonlight will operate in the regimental area on nights of 1, 2, & 3 March and possibly later in the period.

3. Training Program:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
a. <u>Conditioning marches</u>	7	To include one 10 mile march near end of period. May be employed in movement to and from areas; March rate 3-5 MPH. Include night compass marches.
b. <u>Combat indoctrination</u>	2 1/2	Three 1/2 hour periods of orientation & psychological preparation for combat.
c. <u>Disciplinary drill</u>	2 1/2	20 minute period daily of close or extended order drill.
d. <u>Regimental Review and Presentation of Awards</u>	4	Afternoon of 8 March (details to be published)
e. <u>Tank indoctrination</u>	2	1 Plat TD's Co B, 601 TD Bn will be attached to each Bn all day 7 March.
f. <u>Infantry tank team training</u>	4	Co B, 601 TD Bn attached as follows: 2d Bn - 8 March AM; 1st Bn - 9 March AM; 3d Bn - 8 March PM.
g. <u>Battalion in attack</u>	6	Stress control, communications, and leadership in small units (Co, platoon, and squad) to emphasize execution of assault in event of leader casualty. (See Para g)
h. <u>Battalion in defense</u>	2	Emphasis on control and execution.
i. <u>Woods fighting</u>	2	Stress detailed planning, preparation, and speed of execution.
j. <u>Street fighting</u>	6	Each Co will plan and execute a problem stressing speed of execution.
k. <u>Marching fire problem (Co)</u>	2	Separate directive will be published (this time to be reserved near the end of the period)
l. <u>Objective training</u>	12	Separate directive will be published (this time to be reserved near the end of the period)

L-1038

NOTES

REMARKS

- a. **Training Notes:**
 - a. (See Para 3a) At Co will attach a platoon to each of the three Bns for this training (OO AF Co will make arrangements with Bn CO's); Each man will ride in a TD buttoned up; armor will be driven over foxholes, slit trenches, and weapons emplacements. Every opportunity will be taken to point up capabilities and weaknesses of armor. (TD's only are available for training at this time).
 - b. (See Para 3c) Each Bn will plan and execute an infantry - tank attack (TD's will be employed both as Tk's and TD's). Emphasize use of armor as an armored force not as a small attachment for armored support; CO of Co B, 601 TD will contact Bns for coordination of plans and check of terrain within each Bn training area.
 - c. (See Para 3j) An area for training in street fighting will be designated; facilities will be available as follows: 1st Bn - 8 March; 2d Bn - 9 March; 3d Bn - 6 March.
 - d. Special Units will conform to training as outlined in Para 3a, b, c, and d.
 - e. Moonbeams: Searchlights to produce artificial moonlight will be available on nights of 1, 2, and 3 March. Units will tentatively schedule cross country compass marches for small units to check effects of moonbeam (possible conditions clear or cloudy moon); Further and final instructions will be issued.
- b. Cannon Co will coordinate their range firing with Div Arty; Balance of time other than scheduled above will be devoted to gun drill, fire direction, and care of equipment.
- c. Special unit CO's will prepare balance of their schedules.
- d. **Arty PO School:** The 59th FA Bn will present schools in PO work on 1, 2, 3, and 4 March at the school house in FAGNY. There will be 6 classes of 1/2 day each with a maximum attendance of 30 students per class. 2 classes per Bn of 20 men each (officers and/or NCO's) will attend as follows: 1st Bn - 1 March; 2d Bn - 2 March; 3d Bn - 3 March. Equipment: Notebook and pencil.
- e. **Training Schedules:** Train J schedules will be submitted for 4 day periods, 24 hours prior to commencement of scheduled training.

By order of Lt. Col. HESCH

H. G. Smith
 H. G. Smith
 Capt., 12th Infantry
 Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

27 February 1945


DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 10)

1. Inspection of Vehicles - Bn Vehicles will be inspected in their respective Bn motor pools. Vehicles from Sp Units will be inspected in their respective company motor pools. The inspection schedule will be as follows:

Date	Time	Unit	Number
28 Feb	0800-1200	1st Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	Sp Units	3 vehicles per Co
1 Mar	0800-1200	2d Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	3d Bn	10 vehicles
2 Mar	0800-1200	1st Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	Sp Units	3 vehicles per Co
3 Mar	0800-1200	2d Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	3d Bn	10 vehicles
4 Mar	0800-1200	1st Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	Sp Units	3 vehicles per Co
5 Mar	0800-1200	2d Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	3d Bn	10 vehicles
6 Mar	0800-1200	1st Bn	10 vehicles
	1300-1600	Regtl Hq	10 vehicles
7 Mar	0800-1200	Remainder of vehicles in regiment (MFO)	

2. COMBAT CLOTHING - Trousers, cotton, field, OD, are now on hand at regimental supply in sufficient quantity to cover all shortages now existing. This item will be only issued prior to reentering combat. (S-4).

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:


H. C. AULD, JR
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

28 February 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 11)

1. WEARING OF UNIFORM - a. Camouflage nets will be removed from all helmets, but held by individual or unit for future combat.

b. The wearing of the helmet is mandatory only during training periods, at ceremonies, or while on guard.

c. Weapons will be carried ONLY during training periods, ceremonies, or when on guard. No weapons will be carried by troops when off duty.

d. The HELMET LINER or GARRISON CAP will be the authorized headgear when off duty and when not participating in training, ceremonies, or guard duty. Helmet liners will have Division Insignia, and Officer's rank. Garrison caps will be clean, pressed, and have the proper insignia. (S-1).

2. MINE SCHOOL - A mine school will be conducted by Lt. Young, Co "B", 10th Engineers, on 1 March 1945 - PLACE: Road west from VANDIERES via 747405. TIME and PERSONNEL attending: 0800-1200 - Each Bn A & P Platoon and AT Co Mine personnel; 1300-1700 - Each Bn Intelligence Section & Regt I & R Platoon. Men will bring shelter halves; 1 per each three men. (S-2).

3. ENTERTAINERS - All musicians, singers, and entertainers - report to Capt Pannella at 1800 tonite. (SSO).

4. THE FOLLOWING CITATION WILL BE PLACED ON ALL COMPANY BULLETIN BOARDS

++++BATTLE HONORS+++++CITATION OF UNIT+++++By direction of the President, under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department, 1943, the following named organization is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action:

THE 1ST BATTALION, 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, is cited for outstanding performance in combat; On 27 August 1944, the 1st Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Paulick, approached the town of Montelimar, France; by shuttle and forced march, to come to grips with the major part of the German 338th Infantry Division and elements of four or five other enemy divisions. Marching and fighting in unbearable heat, weary from the twelve days of strenuous offensive combat which followed the Division's landing, the 1st Battalion drove relentlessly forward, compressing the numerically superior hostile force into an ever smaller space. Caught in the Montelimar-Orange-Nyon triangle, its left flank pinned against the Rhone River and its escape routes to the north and northeast dominated by other units of the Seventh Army, the German force resorted to violent and incessant counterattacks to break through the Allied cordon that was suffocating it. Constricting the major part of the enemy force within the immediate vicinity of

(over)

Montelimar, the 1st Battalion drove forward in three days of continuous battle and smashed every German counterattack, including an assault by an entire enemy regiment. Pounding the enemy force with concentrations of artillery and mortar fire, withstanding frenzied German efforts to break out from the trap, the 1st Battalion penetrated into Montelimar and completed the annihilation of the German force. During this action the battalion took eight hundred and four prisoners, killed and wounded four hundred and eighty-five others, captured or destroyed at least five hundred vehicles and an estimated one thousand horses. Inflicting the most disastrous blow of the Southern France Campaign on the German Nineteenth Army, the 1st Battalion was mainly responsible for destroying German resistance south of the Drome and east of the Rhone Rivers and for annihilating a major portion of the mechanized and motorized equipment available to the enemy.

By command of Lieutenant General PATCH:

b. Individuals who are assigned or attached to the 1st Bn on this occasion for which citation was awarded are entitled to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge as a permanent part of the uniform.

c. Individuals who are subsequently assigned or attached to the 1st Bn, but only so long as they remain with the unit, are entitled to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge as a temporary part of the uniform.

d. The Distinguished Unit Badge may be worn on the service coat or on the shirt when not equipped for combat or simulated combat. The badge will be worn on the right breast centered immediately above the pocket. (S-1).

5. SHOWERS - During training hours, showers will not be taken by groups smaller than a platoon. Men will be marched to the showers and the training period or periods missed will be conducted for them later. (S-1).

6. OFFICERS MEETING - There will be a meeting of all officers and warrant officers at 1700 (Thursday) 1 March 1945, at the Pagan Theater. No officer will be excused, except by the regimental commander. (S-1).

7. GUIDONS & STAFFS - All guidons and staffs will be turned into the S-4 prior to 1800 today. Salvage guidons and staffs will be included. Negative certificates will be furnished if no guidon and/or staff can be located with company equipment. (S-4).

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:


Capt, 15th Lt
Adjutant

2-1059-ENN-1-
A1000-157000-2

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION**

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM
ITEM NO: 3043 (Cont)

3043

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO 3

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

REPORT OF OPERATIONS
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

FOR THE MONTH OF

MARCH 1945

- I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
II SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS
III SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD
IV STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL
V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

L-1039
#17

I SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

The operations for the 16th Infantry Regiment for the month of March 1945 can be divided into two distinct phases; first, a period of training and rehabilitation, and second a period of offensive combat. At the beginning of the month the 16th Infantry was bivouaced in the vicinity of PAGNY-sur-MOSELLE, FRANCE. The training program was directed to prepare the troops, both physically and mentally, for future combat. Particular attention was paid to weapons training, street and woods fighting, pill box reduction, river crossing, and the development of leaders. In conjunction with the training, a program of rehabilitation was initiated. The command was sheltered in buildings; shower units were set up; and recreation was provided (including movies, day rooms, enlisted men's clubs, and liberty passes to the city of NANCY). During the training period a regimental ceremony was held at which a presentation of awards was made by the Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division.

The second phase of operations was the aggressive offensive which took the regiment through the SIEGFRIED Line, across the RHINE and MAIN Rivers, and deep into GERMANY in pursuit of the fast retreating enemy. The 3d Division assumed the offensive on 15 March 1945 with the 16th Infantry initially in division reserve. The regiment was first committed in the vicinity of ONSERSVILLER and VOLKRESTER, FRANCE, and advanced through MAUSBAUGH, GERMANY north to vicinity of the SIEGFRIED Line. The attack to breach the "Dragons' teeth" and reduce the well fortified pill boxes within the sector, was commenced on 16 March. The operation of battalions supported by artillery and engineers with dozers and demolitions. The 1st Bn lead the attack with 2d Bn prepared to pass through them on regimental order and the 3d Bn performing blocking missions to the right flank of the division and regiment. After encountering considerable artillery and small arms fire, the 1st Bn breached the line of "Dragons' teeth" and occupied the first three pill boxes in its sector and then assumed the mission of blocking to the east and west while the 2d Bn passed through to continue the attack. During the approach to the line, the battalion received intensive enemy fire, but succeeded in moving through the line

at approximately 0830A on 20 March after the enemy had withdrawn his main holding forces. The regiment continued the attack toward COENIG, GERMANY securing the bridges leading to the town and mopping up the pill boxes within the sector. Compelled to abandon his SIEGFRIED defenses, the enemy retreated rapidly ahead of the drive which routed him from the area west of the RHINE River. On 26 March, a crossing of the RHINE River was forced in vicinity of WORMS against a badly disorganized enemy offering negligible resistance to our advance. Once across the RHINE, pressure on the enemy was ceaseless and his retreat continued to be a rout until he had been driven eastward across the MAIN River. The regiment crossed the MAIN River near WORTH, GERMANY, on 31 March to expand the bridgehead established by another regiment of the division.

II - SUMMARY OF ENEMY OPERATIONS.

In fighting through the approaches to the SIEGFRIED Line a great number of anti-tank and personnel minefields were encountered, affording perhaps the greatest hazard of all to our advance. As the line was neared, the enemy resisted with larger numbers of infantry and increased S/P and artillery fire. Additional obstacles to slow our offensive were created as the enemy blew the bridges on all routes of approach. Little need be said of the defenses of the SIEGFRIED Line itself - a line which represented, in concrete, almost ten years of preparation for our attack. The line was made up of a great number of reinforced pill boxes with interlocking fields of fire, barbed wire entanglements, entrenchments, anti tank ditches, and "Dragon's teeth" obstacles. PW identifications disclosed that the pill boxes in the 16th Infantry sector were manned and outposted by choice German troops - the 37th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment. Resistance from enemy S/A and MGs, flak wagons, mortars, and heavy artillery slowed but did not stop the advance. The ceaseless pounding of the defenses by our artillery and air corps and the persistent attacks of our infantry broke the back of the enemy line. The enemy abandoned their positions and withdrew early in the morning of 20 March 1945, breaking contact and leaving behind only snipers and scattered elements of stragglers who offered light resistance but surrendered easily after short fire fights. Further evidence of the complete disorganization of the enemy in his retreat was afforded by the hodge-podge of identifications revealed through the interrogation of the large numbers of PWs who streamed through the inclosures. After the penetration of the SIEGFRIED Line, only a few prisoners were picked up from the 37th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment which had fought to hold it. The bulk of the PWs came from such units as 17 AA Bn, 4th Cavalry Brigade, 245th Fusilier Bn, 112th Fortification Bn, 17th Rom Bn, 246th Engr Bn, and the VOLKSTURM. The only enemy air activity reported in the regimental sector during the period was the two attempts to bomb the bridge across the MAIN River shortly after the bridgehead had been forced. At the close of the month the Germans were still retreating rapidly and resistance was light and scattered. PWs were captured in large numbers and returned for approximately 1800 EM and 42 Officers captured.

III SITUATION AT THE END OF THE PERIOD.

At the close of the period the 16th Infantry had established a foothold on the east side of the MAIN River and was continuing the advance rapidly with little or no resistance from the enemy.

IV. STATUS OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL:

Personnel

	OFFICERS	WARRANT OFFICERS	ENLISTED MEN
Duty	109	8	2608
Absent	25	2	381
Assigned	134	5	3111

Material

Good.

V COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

(1) Two river crossings were made during the period, first, the RHINE, then the MAIN. Although the 15th Infantry was the reserve regiment on both crossings and was not committed in either assault, certain lessons were obvious. As in any other offensive action, speed and surprise are important factors. The RHINE River was crossed immediately "on the tail" of the German retreat from the crumbled SIEGFRIED Line while the enemy was still disorganized. Due chiefly to the speed of the pursuit and of the crossing, the bridgehead was established with a minimum of casualties. For the first time in a river crossing operation, the regiment prepared in advance a priority list for bringing vehicles across the river. It was found that the use of this list avoided confusion, expedited the crossing, and resulted in having the most necessary vehicles across first.

(2) The offensive of the past month has brought the regiment across the German border. During the period, it has experienced the change from being "liberators," to becoming "conquerors," and has been faced with the problem of dealing with the German civilian. So far, the most efficient method of establishing an early military control in the villages has been to contact the local Burgomeister upon entry and to place with him the responsibility of the initial control. Orders issued through him, first of all require civilians to remain indoors, display their white flags, turn in all weapons, and to report the presence of any known military personnel. The Burgomeister is also made responsible to provide the command with necessary buildings for the installations and to see that they are cleared. It has been found that in towns where artillery has been fired prior to entry the civilians are more cooperative than in towns which have been entered with no resistance.

Hallett D. Edson
 HALLETT D. EDSON
 Colonel, 15th Infantry
 Commanding

1st General

L-1039

1st Infantry

March 1945

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 10th INFANTRY
APO # 3

1 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 15)

L-1039

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2 MARCH 1945

Time	Type of Training	Area
<u>THIRD BATTALION</u>		
0800-0850	Close order drill	Drill area
0850-0900	Combat indoctrination	Drill area
0900-0930	WCO's School	Drill area
0900-1200	Woods fighting (I)	Area # 4
	Company in attack (K,M)	AF Range
	Marching fire problem (L)	Area #1 & 2
0930-1200	WCO's school, Map reading and Arty support	
1300-1330	Manual of arms (I,K,L)	Drill area
	Calisthenics (A)	Drill area
1330-1600	Battalion in defense	Area #1,2,3,4
1900-2300	Night compass marches (I,K,L,M)	Area #1,2,3,4
<u>SECOND BATTALION</u>		
30 min	Disciplinary drill	
1/2 hr	Combat indoctrination	
4 hrs	Woods fighting (M,F,G)	
1 hr	Gas mask drill	
1 hr	Bascock training (M,F,G)	
1 hr	Map reading	
1700-1900	Cross-country march by compass	
<u>FIFTH BATTALION</u>		
0800-1000	Open time	Co area
1000-1100	Close order drill, practice for reg't review	
1100-1200	Fighting in woods, correct formations (A,B,C)	Area N of canal
	Support of rifle units in woods (D)	
1300-1500	Organization and preparation of battalion defense positions.	Vic 788408
1800-2400	Battalion in attack exercise	
<u>ARTIFAI COMPANY</u>		
0800-0815	Calisthenics	Flat areas
0815-0835	Close order drill	Flat areas
0835-1000	Gun drill	Flat areas
1000-1100	Assembly and disassembly of the BAR	Flat areas
1100-1130	Combat indoctrination	Flat areas
1130-1200	Military courtesy	Flat areas
1200-1500	Selecting gun positions	Flat areas
1500-1600	Inspection of all weapons (Field stripped)	Flat areas
1600-1830	WCO's and officers' school	Co area
1800-1900	Compass march	Vic Co area

Time	Type of Training	Area
	<u>FIELD COMBAT</u>	
0600-1700	Range firing of small arms (Conditioning march to and from range)	

By order of Lt. Col. BROWN

H. P. Clutter
 Captain, 18th Infantry
 Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15th INFANTRY
APO # 8

1 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 14)

1. Change in Artillery FO School Schedule: (See TM# 12, HQ 15th Inf., dated 27 February, paragraph #77).
 - a. All classes will be conducted at the PAGNY theater, not the Pagny schoolhouse.
 - b. Schedule for classes:
 - 1st Battalion - 0830A and 1300A, 2 March
 - 2d Battalion - 0830A, 5 March; 1300A, 7 March
 - 3d Battalion - 0830A and 1300A, 5 March
2. Artillery FO School for Intelligence Units: (See TM #6, HQ 15th Inf., dated 25 February, paragraph #51).
 - a. Class will be conducted at the PAGNY theater.
 - b. Time: 0830A to 1300A, 7 March.
3. Security:
 - a. A school on security will be given to the regimental intelligence units (1st, 2d, 3d Bn Int sections and reg'l IAR platoons) at the PAGNY theater.
 - Time: 0830A to 0930A, 8 March
 - Instruction: CIC
4. Enemy Weapons: A variety of enemy weapons are available to units of the regiment for instructional purposes. Arrangements for their use will be made through the reg'l S-3.
5. Known-distance Range: The KD range will be open to all units of the regt after 2 March; call regimental S-3 for arrangements.
6. Moonbeam: All training areas will be illuminated with artificial moonlight from 1900A to 2400A March 1st and 2d. Additional time on these two nights may be requested through regt'l S-3. All units will conduct training in conjunction with "moonbeam". All battalions and separate companies will submit informal written reports to this headquarters covering the effect of "moonbeam" under existing conditions and recommendations on employment of "moonbeam".

By Order of Lt. Col. EDSON

[Signature]
M. J. ALLEN
Captain 15th Infantry
Adjutant.

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO # 3

1 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER.....15)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 3 MARCH 1945

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TYPE OF TRAINING</u>	<u>AREA</u>
<u>FIRST BATTALION</u>		
0800-1200	Open time from night problem; care and cleaning of equipment	Bn area
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground
<u>SECOND BATTALION</u>		
0800-1000	Open time from night problem	Bn area
1000-1020	Disciplinary drill	
1020-1100	Preparation for inspection. Inspection in ranks and quarters	Co area
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground
<u>THIRD BATTALION</u>		
0800-0830	Close order drill	Drill area
0830-0900	Combat indoctrination	Drill area
0900-1100	Map reading	Area #1, 3, 4
1100-1200	Preparation for review	Co area
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground
<u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Co formation & inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Calisthenics	Co area
0900-1000	Map reading (I & R)	
0900-1100	Specialist training (Comm)	
1000-1100	Weapons training (I & R)	
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground
<u>GARCON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Co area
0900-1000	Use of gunners quadrant	Co area
1000-1100	Instruction on bascocks	Co area
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground

ITEM	TITLE OF TRAINING	DEPT.
	<u>ARTICLER COMPANY</u>	
0800-0818	Calisthenics	Fish areas
0818-0836	Floor under drill	Fish areas
0836-1000	30 x 30 and 30 training	Fish areas
1000-1030	Combat indoctrination	Fish areas
1030-1100	Tracking exercises	Fish areas
PM	Regimental review	Parade ground

Note: Wesley, & Harsh, will be devoted to rest, recreation, and church services.

By order of Lt Col EMERSON


 W. A. GALT, JR.
 Captain, 10th Infantry
 Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 9

1 March 1945

MEMORANDUM
NUMBER...18

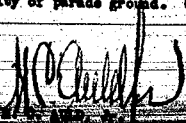
L-1039

ORDER FOR PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

1. All units of the 15th Infantry will participate in a Regimental ceremonial parade for presentation of awards to members of the 15th Infantry Regiment.
2. Time: 1400A, Saturday 3 March 1945. All units will be in position on the field for rehearsal. See march schedule.
3. Place: Parade ground, immediately west of Hq between PAGNY and VANDIERES (vic 75242E)
4. Attendance:
 - a. All Bn personnel, less necessary details only.
 - b. Separate units (AF, Co, Eq, Sv, & Med Det) Bn, commanded by Capt KING, L.
 - c. Personnel to be decorated (separate group).
 - d. Colors.
 - e. 2 staff officers per Bn.
5. Uniform:
 - a. OD's, steel helmets, combat boots, field jacket 1943, under arms.
 - b. All company officers will carry carbines along on left shoulder, musalet will be up.
 - c. Bayonets will not be fixed.
 - d. Canteens and gas masks will not be worn.
 - e. Strip packs (with shelter half) will be carried by all enlisted personnel.
 - f. All arms will be slung with musalet up on right shoulder (exception, see para 5 b); right thumb will be placed in sling at the butt of the rifle to maintain correct position and uniformity of appearance.
 - g. All equipment will be clean, neat, and uniform.
 - h. Unit commanders will personally check the appearance of their units prior to movement to the review field.
 - i. Scarfs will not be worn.
 - j. Division patches will appear as prescribed on all field jackets and helmets.
 - k. Helmets will be clean.
 - l. Officers to receive awards will carry pistols; BN to receive awards will wear pistol or rifle butt. Personnel to be decorated will not carry packs or arms other than pistols.
6. Formation:
 - a. Battalions will be formed in position in Bn mass formation (15 files abreast at close interval), immediately upon arrival at the parade ground.
 - b. Weapons will be slung from front to rear as follows:
 - (1) Front rank: Company officers carrying carbines.
 - (2) Mating ranks in order as follows: M-1 and '03, M19's, carbines, Tommy guns, pistols.
7. Persons to be Decorated will move to the review field with their respective units; they will be formed as a special group at the tail of their units. Immediately upon arrival at the field they will report to the adjutant in position as designated on the field. (See attached sketch).
8. Movement to Review Field:
 - a. All troops will move to the review field by marching; there will be no unauthorized transportation in the vicinity of the field.

- b. All Company may move to VANDIERES and C Company to FAHRY by motor if desired.
- c. Commander (for the parade) of special units battalion will form his group on the field in accordance with above instructions immediately upon arrival of special units.
- d. CO's of special units will report immediately after arrival upon the field to Captain KIMBALL at position designated for special units. (See attached sketch)
- e. Battalions and special unit, will move to the field individually in column of three.
- f. March schedule for Movement to Review Field:
- (1) IP for 1st Bn and AT Co: X intersection at VANDIERES (756410).
IP for 2d Bn, 3d Bn, Cn Co, Hq Co, Sv Co, & Med Det: S intersection at FAHRY (747439)
 - (2) Units will cross IP's as follows:
Hq Co and Med Det - 1225A
Sv Co - 1228A
Cn Co - 1230A
AT Co - 1230A
2d Bn - 1235A
1st Bn - 1237A
3d Bn - 1240A
 - (3) Training for S March will terminate at 1100A to permit all units to feed an early noon meal and prepare for the Regimental review.
- g. After passing in review, units will return to new position as shown on sketch and remain in position until the Commanding General has departed from the field. After departure of the General, units will break mass formation and return to unit areas in reverse order of arrival.
10. Colors and Guidons:
- a. The 1st Battalion will be the color battalion and will furnish the color guard.
 - (1) Colors will be picked up by the color guard at regimental headquarters at 1240A.
 - (2) Colors will be received by the First Battalion on the review field.
 - (3) Colors will take position for the review as indicated on attached sketch.
 - b. No guidons will be carried, except for all guidons of 1st Bn which will report to the adjutant on the drill field as indicated for persons to be decorated.
11. Regimental MP officer will arrange for guides at the parade ground and for traffic control along the main highway vicinity of parade ground. Check with S-3 for instructions.

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:


Captain, 14th Infantry
Adjutant

REVIEWING STAND

AWARDS AFTER PRESENTATION



"EYES FRONT"

GUIDE

20 PACES

"EYES RIGHT"

GUIDE

LINE OF MARCH

36 PACES
12 → BN → 12

DISTANCES PASSING IN REVIEW

HQ 15th INF
1 MARCH '45

SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY MEMORANDUM #18

APPROX 80 PACES

REG'TL CO STAFF

18 PACES

1st BN CO STAFF

0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
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100
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1000

SP UNITS BN

← 12 PACES →

3^d BN

← 10 PACES →

TO BE DECORATED FILES

1st BN

← 12 PACES →

2^d BN
← 15 FILES →

← 12 PACES →

BAND

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY

AGO 3

1 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 12)

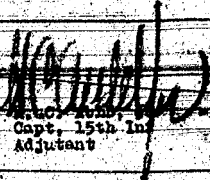
L-1039

1. JEWISH SERVICES - A Rabbi Chaplain will conduct Jewish services in the Nancy Synagogue FRIDAY 2 March at 1900 hours. Jewish personnel of this command are authorized to secure a pass from the company commander concerned and meet in front of the Regt 3d office at 1730 hours Friday. Men from the 1st Bn and AT Co will be picked up in front of the 1st Bn Headquarters at 1745 hours en route. Since opportunities for Jewish services are few please avail yourselves of this arrangement. T/Sgt Fogelman of the 3d Bn will be in charge of the convey. (REGT CHAP).

2. MOVIES - for 1 & 2 Mar, the picture showing is "Rainbow Island," with Dorothy Lamour.

3. FIRST SERGEANTS MEETING - There will be a meeting of all First Sergeants in the Regt Theatre at 1100, 2-March 45.

BY ORDER OF Lt Col ROSON:


Lt Col Roson,
Capt, 15th In
Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO # 2

2 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:.....16)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 5 MARCH 1945

Time	Type of Training	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-0900	Inspection & close order drill	Co area
0900-1000	Intersections & resection (Int sect)	Co area
0900-1100	Street fighting (A,B,C)	Range
1000-1200	Basooca & AI grenade firing (D)	Co area
1100-1200	Operation of OP (Int sect)	Range
1200-1700	Combat indoctrination	Co area
1300-1700	Patrols (Int sect)	Co area
1300-1800	Basooca & grenade firing (A)	Range
	Marching fire problem (B)	Vic 750415
	Woods fighting (C)	Area B
1600-1700	Care of equipment	Co area
2000-2400	Night reconnaissance patrol (Int sect)	Co area
SECOND BATTALION		
0800-0830	Disciplinary drill (H)	Co area
0800-0900	Chemical Warfare (H)	Area B-1
	Close order drill & callisthenics (Int sect)	Area 1
0800-0930	Demolitions, Conference & demonstration (F)	
0900-1000	Marching fire (G)	Area B
0930-0930	Chemical warfare (H)	Co area
0900-1200	Woods fighting (H)	Area B-1
	Preparatory marksmanship (Int sect)	Area 1
0930-1200	MM stoppages & immediate action; GI mm gunners	Co area
	test (H)	
0930-1000	Discouraged drill (F)	Area B
1000-1130	Demolitions, conference & demonstration (G)	Area B
1000-1200	Marching fire (F)	
1200-1400	Chemical warfare (G)	Area B
1200-1200	Marching fire (H)	Area B-1
	Gun drill & gunners test (H)	Co Area
	Patrolling (Int sect)	Area 1
1400-1600	Woods fighting (F)	Area B
1400-1700	Woods fighting (G)	Area B
1600-1630	Demolitions, conference & demonstration (H)	Area B-1
1600-1700	Technique of fire, gunners test (H)	Co area
	Stalking & scouting (Int sect)	
1800-1900	Chemical warfare (F)	Area B
1830-1830	Disciplinary drill (H)	Area B-1

Time	Type of Training	Area
<u>BATTALION</u>		
0800-0830	Close order drill	Drill field
	Inspection (Int sect)	Co area
0830-0900	Combat indoctrination	Drill field
	Calisthenics (Int sect)	Drill field
0900-1000	Map reading (Int sect)	Co area
0900-1200	Woods fighting (L)	Area # 4
	Company in attack (I, M)	AT Range
	Warding fire (R)	Areas # 1, 2
1000-1200	Operation of GP's (Int sect)	Co area
1300-1330	Manual of arms (I, K, L)	Drill field
	Calisthenics (M)	Drill field
1330-1600	Battalion in attack	Areas 1, 2, 3, 4
1600-2300	Night patrol (Int sect)	Area # 1
<u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Company formation & inspection	Co area
0830-1700	Guard duties, TOP's, foot & motor patrols (MP's)	
0830-0900	Close order drill (I & R)	
0830-0930	Conditioning march (Comm)	
0900-1000	Shell reports (I & R)	
0930-1000	Orientation (Comm)	
1000-1200	Scouting & patrolling (I & R)	
1000-1700	Specialist training (Comm)	
1300-1400	Map-reading (I & R)	
1600-2200	Scouting & patrolling (I & R)	
<u>ARTIFERY COMPANY</u>		
0800-0815	Calisthenics	Flat areas
0815-0835	Close order drill	Flat areas
0835-1000	Gun drill	Flat areas
1000-1100	Nomenclature of the pistol	Flat areas
1100-1200	Assembly & disassembly of 30 cal MG	Flat areas
1300-1400	Road march	
1400-1415	Foot inspection	Flat areas
1415-1500	Inspection of arms, personnel, & quarters	Flat areas
1500-1630	Officers' & NCO's school	Co area
1630-2030	Selecting gun positions	Vic of Co area
<u>CANNON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection of howitzers	Co area
0830-0900	Group games	Co area
0900-1000	Road march	
1000-1100	Woods fighting with aiming circles, PERSTANIS sights	Co area
1100-1200	Firing exercises	Range
1300-1800	Woods drill	Co area
1800-1900	Ammunition handling	Co area
1900-1700	Assembly & disassembly of howitzers	Co area

By order of Lt Col HUGHES:

H. C. Auld, Jr.
 H. C. AULD, Jr., ^{SMC}
 Capt., 18th Infantry
 Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO #

2 March 1948

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER.....17)

CHEMICAL WARFARE TRAINING

1. A training program in defense against chemical attack will be conducted by Bn's and Separate Units during the training period March 5-8 Inclusive in accordance with TM #6, Hq 84 Inf Div; technical manuals 8-288, 5-290 and FM 21-40.

2. Purpose:

- a. To insure that all individuals are thoroughly familiarized with the prescribed manner of wearing the gas mask and are fully acquainted with the purpose of all items of chemical protective equipment carried in the gas mask carrier.
- b. To insure that a high standard of chemical training is realized in all organizations.

3. Conduct of Training:

- a. A minimum of Four (4) hours will be scheduled on chemical warfare.
- b. Training will be conducted by the unit gas Officers and WGO's.
- c. Charts and diagrams will be used when practicable.
- d. Instruction to be given on the following subjects:
 - (1) Use and Care of the gas mask and individual protective equipment.
 - (2) Discussion of Known Chemical Agents which may be used by the enemy.
 - (3) First aid measures suitable for field application by the individual.
 - (4) Decontamination measures suitable for arms and equipment which should be used to minimize casualties.

4. Training aids listed below will be available to Bn's and Separate Units at this Hq on the days specified.

- a. Set Instructional, CWS: Sectionalized models of chemical warfare munitions, gas mask carrier.
- b. Unit Instructional, CWS, Portable: Contains illustrated instructional charts, manuals and lesson plan.
- c. Set Gas Identification, Instructional MI (Sniff Set).
- d. Schedule of training aids listed above and dates available:

1st Bn	March 5-8
2d Bn	7
3d Bn	8
Separate Units	8
Hq Co	0800-1000
Sv Co	1000-1200
AT Co	1200-1500
Cm Co	1500-1700

5. A limited supply of Tear gas canisters, Smoke Grenades etc. are available at Regimental S-4.
6. Unit Gas Officers and NCO's will coordinate training and requests for training aids through Regimental Gas Officer, Lt. McGEE.

By order of Lt. Col. HENCO


W. C. ALLEN, JR.
Capt, 18th Infantry
Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO #5

3 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER..... 18)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 3 MARCH 1945

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-0900	Inspection & Close order drill	
0900-1200	Marching fire problem (A)	vio 780415
	Woods fighting (B)	En area B
	Basooka & rifle grenade firing (C)	Range
1300-1400	Functioning & nomenclature of the carbine (Int sect)	100 area
1300-1600	Woods fighting (A)	En area B
	Basooka & rifle grenade firing (B)	Range
	Marching fire problem (C)	vio 780415
1400-1500	Functioning & nomenclature of Tommy gun (Int sect)	100 area
1500-1600	Military courtesy (Int sect)	100 area
1600-1700	1/2 hour care of equipment & 1/2 hour inspection	100 area
2000-2400	Night patrol (Int sect)	
SECOND BATTALION		
0800-0820	Disciplinary drill (H)	100 area
0800-0900	Gas chamber (H)	1Area B-1
	Map reading (F)	1Area B
	Wire obstacles (G)	1Area B
0920-0900	Orientation (H)	100 area
0900-0920	Disciplinary drill (G)	1Area B
0900-1000	Gas chamber (F)	
	Chemical warfare (H)	100 area
0900-1200	Scouting & patrolling (H)	1Area B-1
0920-0950	Orientation (G)	1Area B
1000-1100	Gas chamber (G)	1Area B
	Wire obstacles (F)	1Area B
	Map reading (H)	100 area
1100-1150	Dismounted drill (Y)	1Area B
1100-1200	Chemical warfare (G)	
	Gas chamber (H)	100 area
1130-1220	Orientation (F)	1Area B-1
1200-1250	Orientation (H)	1Area B
1200-1400	Map reading (G)	1Area B
	Wire obstacles (H)	100 area
1300-1600	Scouting & patrolling (F)	1Area B
1330-1350	Disciplinary drill (H)	1Area B-1
1400-1700	Gun drill & gunners test (H)	100 area
	Scouting & patrolling (G)	1Area B

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
SECOND BATTALION (CONT'D)		
1400-1500	Chemical warfare (B)	
1500-1600	Map reading (B)	Area B-1
1600-1700	Chemical warfare (F)	Area B-1
	Wire obstacles (B)	Area S
		Area B-1
THIRD BATTALION		
0800-0830	Close order drill (I,K,L,M)	Drill field
	Inspection (Int sect)	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill (Int sect)	Drill field
0930-1200	Woods fighting (K)	Area #4
	Company in attack (L,M)	AT range
	Marching fire (I)	Area #1
0900-1200	Weapons training (Int sect)	TSSB range
1300-1800	Street fighting (I,K,L,M)	
1900-2300	Scouting & patrolling (Int sect)	Area #1
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY		
0800-0830	Formation & inspection	
0830-1700	Guard duty, TOP's, patrols (NS plat)	
0830-0900	Close order drill (IAR)	
	Calisthenics (Comm)	
0900-1100	Shell reports (IAR)	
0900-1700	Specialist training (Comm)	
1100-1200	March (IAR)	
1300-1400	50 cal NS (IAR)	
1400-1500	Orientation (IAR)	
1500-1700	Scouting & patrolling (IAR)	
ARTILLERY COMPANY		
0800-0830	Calisthenics	Flat areas
0835-0855	Close order drill	Flat areas
0855-0930	Test on IAR Det.	Flat areas
0930-1000	Use of grenade sight	Flat areas
1000-1200	Gun drill	Flat areas
1300-1400	Firing 30 50 cal NS's	Range
1400-1700	Cleaning & inspection of weapons	Flat areas
1800-1830	Officers & NCO's school	Co area
ENGINEER COMPANY		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill	Co area
0900-1000	Arty principles	Co area
1000-1100	Laying gun btry by use of orienting line	Co area
1100-1200	Map reading	Co area
1200-1400	Test of compasses	Co area
1400-1500	Gun drill & fire commands	Co area
1500-1800	Use of field expedients for broken instruments	Co area

By order of Lt. Col. HUDSON

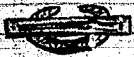
M. C. Auld, Jr.
M. C. AULD, JR. *etc.*
Capt. 15th Infantry
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

3 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 14)

1. WEARING OF RIBBONS AND BADGES - The following shows the proper way of wearing ribbons and Combat and Expert Infantry Badge. The ribbons are worn in a straight line just above the left pocket and centered. Ribbons may be either sewn in place or attached by means of a bar. If more than one line is necessary, succeeding lines will be placed below and parallel to the first line, with a space of 1/8" inch between lines. Ribbons are worn in order of precedence from right (wearer's right) to left. The SAME ribbon is worn with the German colors to the wearer's right side. The Combat and Expert Infantryman's Badge is worn directly above the ribbons and centered.



COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE



- A - Bronze Star
- B - Good Conduct
- C - American Defense
- D - SAME Ribbon

2. OFFICERS MEETING - There will be a meeting of all officers at 1700 Monday 5 March 1945 - Place: Fagny Theatre. (S-2).

3. EX OFFICERS CLOTHING - First Comd First Batted: at

SSO		1st Lt		1st Lt		1st Lt	
1	Shirts green	15	x 34	300	"	1	pr Trousers Green
1	"	16	x 33	300	"	1	"
1	"	14 1/2	x 32	300	"	1	"
1	"	15	x 32	300	"	1	"
1	pr Socks (low)	8E	22 1/2	"	"	1	"
							Pink 34L 575

Overseas Stripes. Limited amount of shoe polish; 1 can per Officer - 4 Francs. 2d Lt bars...15 Fr US's.....10 Fr.

(over)

-1-

(over)

Daily Bulletin No 14 contd -

Special Services maintains Army Gift Exchange - and Film Developing & Printing Service. (SSO).

3. **MOVIES** - Sat & Sun at VANDIEREN for 1 Bn & AF Co.

4. **OFFICERS' DANCE** - There will be a 15th Inf Officers Dance at Cafe Windsor, Place Stanislas, NANCY, 2000 Friday evening 9 March 1945. Refreshments at 2230. All Officers are authorized to attend except for one duty officer per Co and Bn headquarters. (SSO).

5. **SOCKS** - The practice of wearing socks on the outside of trousers legs and the tops turned down over the combat boot will not be tolerated. Socks will be worn under the trousers, excluded from view. Unit Commanders will take immediate corrective measures. (S-1).

6. **FILM SERVICE** - SSO is now operating a film service for all personnel. Film will be turned in to Cpl Stone, SSO, who will execute a receipt for the film. The cost of developing, per roll is 24 francs. The cost of printing each negative is 12 francs. The developed film will be mailed direct to the owner. (SSO).

By Order of Lt Col. BROWN:


H. C. Cull
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 26 February to
4 March (Incl)
Unit: 16th Infantry
Place: PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE
Date: 4 March 1945

No 55

Maps: FRANCE 1/50,000; CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MOUSSON Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in bivouac.
2. Disposition of Troops:
Regt'l CP in PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE
1st Bn in VANDIERES
2d & 3d Bns in PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE
Co in PRHW
AT Co in VILLERS-SOUS-PRENY
Sv Co in PAGOY-SUR-MOSELLE
3. Weather and Visibility: The weather for the period varied from clear and warm to cloudy and cold with occasional snow flurries and rain. Visibility, good to limited.
4. Our Operations for the Period:
The regiment remained in bivouac throughout the period and continued a training program covering the following subjects: close order drill, calisthenics, woods fighting, Co in attack, marching fire problems, range firing, weapons training, compass work, map reading, combat indoctrination, extended order drill, enemy weapons, reduction of positions, and scouting & patrolling. Officers & NCO schools were held. A school was conducted for drivers. Sunday was reserved for rest, recreation, and church services. On 3 March 1945, a regimental review was held at which awards were presented by the Commanding General.
5. Combat Efficiency:
Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 3 March 1945)
Officers: 90%
WO: 100%
EM: 95%
~~Officers: 44~~
~~EM: 1275~~
6. Results of Operations:
 - a. Training program continued.
 - b. Regimental review held.

LXEB
4-3

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

4 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 15)

1. WEARING OF RIBBONS AND BADGES: So much of par 1, N3 No 14, this headquarters, dtd 3 Mar 45, that reads "The SAME ribbon is worn with the German colors to the wearer's right side," is amended to read "The SAME ribbon is worn with the German colors to the wearer's left side." (S-1).

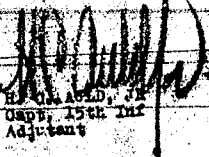
2. TRAINING AREAS FOR STREET FIGHTING - (see TM No. 12, 27 February 1945, Par 3-j and Par 4-a).

Town of FRY (803490)
" " ARMY (774424)
RR STATION (870460)

above areas are available to units as scheduled. (S-3).

3. MOVIES - Tonight at 1st Bn - Tomorrow nite in PACTY: Picture - "Devotion," featuring Olivia De Havilland & Yda Marino. (SRO).

Order of Lt Col EDSON:


Lt Col EDSON, Jr
Capt, 15th Inf
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO # 3

5 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER19)

BASOOKA TRAINING

1. Schedule for 6 March 1945:

- 1- Organization of basooka sections and platoons.
- 2- Basooka gun drill, showing duties of gunner and assistant gunner.
- 3- Sighting and aiming, at ranges of 100-400 yds.

a. Units will fire the basooka in accordance with the following:

- 1500-1545 - AT Company
- 1545-1630 - 2d Battalion
- 1630-1515 - 2d Battalion
- 1515-1600 - 1st Battalion

b. Units not firing will carry out training behind the firing line on the following subjects:

- (1) Formations and control.
- (2) Methods of engaging targets.

c. Units will furnish their own transportation to training area, located vicinity U745405

2. Schedule for 7 March 1945:

- a. Basooka squad, section, and platoon problems using live ammunition.
 - (1) Area: Town of ARA, vicinity U774455.

By order of Lt Col MASON,

J.P. Fisher
J.P. FISHER
Capt, 15th Infantry
Asst. Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

5 March 1945.

DAILEY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 16)

1. SPEED LIMITS: The following speed limits will be complied with,

	<u>In Town</u>	<u>On Open Road</u>
PASSENGER CARS & 1/4 Tons	25 MPH	40 MPH
3/4 Tons & Motorcycles	25 MPH	40 MPH
1 1/2 Ton to 2 1/2 Ton	20 MPH	30 MPH
4 Ton and over	15 MPH	25 MPH
Track Vehicles	15 MPH	20 MPH (MTO)

2. PAPER CONSERVATION: All communications, unless called for in additional copies, will be forwarded to this headquarters in single copies. The custom of submitting recommendations for promotions and other data in multiple copies is a waste of paper and unnecessary. (S-1).

3. OFFICERS ET: Officers' Insignia, Clothing, Dress Shoes, etc, may be ordered thru SSO, by placing order before 0800 - 6 Mar 45. (SSO).

4. BEER CONTAINERS: All companies having beer barrels will return them to SSO by 1600. (SSO).

5. MOVIES: Tonite - at PAGNY Theatre. Picture - "Devotion", featuring Olivia de Havilland and Ida Lupino. The following schedule, in effect since 25 Feb 45 still maintains:

2d, 3d Bns, Hq, Sv,	PAGNY	1830	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
On Cos and Med Det.		2030	
1st Bn & AT Co	VANDIERES	1830	Wed, Sat, Sun
		2030	(SSO)

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:

James P. Frank
JAMES P. FRANK
CWO - 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant.

General

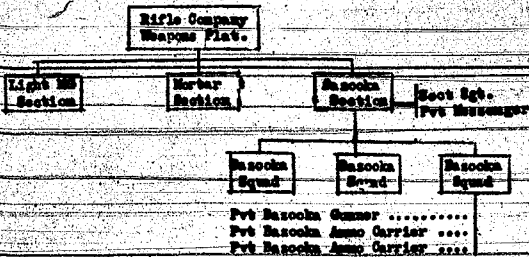
HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO # 8

8 March 1946

MEMORANDUM
NUMBER...19

ORGANIZATION OF BASOOKA SECTIONS & PLATOONS

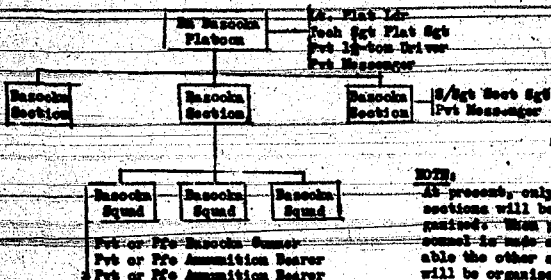
1. Rifle Company Basooka section will be organized in accordance with the following:



- a. Three basooka squads will compose the section which will be a part of the rifle company's weapons platoon. This is necessary in order that the basooka section will have a higher command to issue orders and to see that they are carried out.
- b. Armament of basooka squads:
 - (1) Gunner armed with basooka and pistol.
 - (2) Ammunition bearers armed with M-1 rifles.
- c. Reasons for changes in present basooka teams:
 - (1) The reason for having the gunner armed with a pistol is because one man can not fire two shoulder weapons. Therefore, he often throws one of them away in combat and most generally it is the basooka.
 - (2) The squads will be composed of three men rather than two so that one man can fire the rifle while the other two are firing the basooka, affording some rifle protection to the basooka team. In event of a casualty in the squad, there would still be two men to carry out the section's mission in the event of a casualty resulting in the basooka ineffective, as one man usually does not have the confidence to act alone.

- (3) The reason for placing an NCO in charge of the bazooka section is obvious, to maintain control as a team and get maximum results.
- (4) The company commander can use this section much in the same way he uses his mortar or MG section. He may attach it to a platoon or use it as a unit, if the range is less than 600 yards, to fire in battery at a MG nest as he would use his mortars. Also, with the WP rocket shell available, bazookas can be used for setting houses on fire or for laying down a smoke screen.
- (5) The psychological advantage of a three man team over a lone gunner will many times keep the team gun in action where a lone gunner will not stay.

2. Battalion AF platoons will be changed over to bazooka platoons in accordance with the following:



a. Reasons for change of Mn AF platoon to Mn bazooka platoons

- (1) It is seldom the 57-mm gun can be put into position where it can be used efficiently. Bazooka squads can always be placed in position for use against tanks or personnel.

3. AF Company will change one platoon to a bazooka platoon using the same organization as the battalion bazooka platoon.

By order of Lt. Col. EDSON:

J.P. Miller
J. P. MILLER #4
CWO, 15th Infantry
Asst Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 16th INFANTRY
APO # 3

6 March 1946

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER 21)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 7th MARCH 1946

Time	Type of Training	Area
<u>First Battalion</u>		
0800-0900	Inspection and close order drill (A,D,HQ)	Co Area
0900-1000	Tank indoctrination (B plus one platoon AT Co)	Hill 368
	Training film and march to tank training area (C plus AA-P Platoon)	Theatre
0900-1100	Chemical warfare training (A,D,HQ)	Parade ground
1000-1030	Orientation (B)	
1000-1200	Tank indoctrination (C AAP Platoon)	Hill 368
1100-1200	March to training area (A)	
	Training film (D,HQ)	Theatre
1200-1400	Return to company area (C)	
1200-1600	Tank indoctrination (A)	
1200-1300	Chemical warfare training (B,C)	Parade ground
1400-1500	March to training area (D, Int Sect)	
1500-1700	Tank indoctrination (D, Int Sect)	Hill 368
1600-1800	Return to company area (A)	
1800-1700	Training film (A)	Theatre
	Cleaning of equipment and inspection (B,C)	Co Area
1900-2200	Conditioning march (all companies)	
<u>Second Battalion</u>		
0800-0900	Training film (H, platoon HQ)	Theatre
0900-1000	Tank indoctrination (H & AT Platoon)	Tank frag area
	Showers (G, platoon HQ)	
0900-1000	Training film (F, platoon HQ)	Theatre
1000-1100	Training film (G, platoon HQ)	Theatre
1000-1200	Tank indoctrination (B)	Tank frag area
1100-1200	Training film (H, platoon HQ)	Theatre
1200-1300	Tank indoctrination (F)	
1300-1500	Tank indoctrination (G)	
1500-1700	Tank indoctrination (E)	
	Note: In addition to the above, all companies will observe	
2 hrs	March	
2 hrs	Weapons familiarization	
1 hr	Orientation, "Armed Offensive"	
1900-1700	Observers School (2 men per company)	

<u>Third Battalion</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection (Int Sect)	Co Ar--
0830-1200	FO School (Int Sect)	Theatre
1000-1100	Close order drill (All companies)	Drill field
	Officers' and NCO's school, (All officers except one per company; all NCO's except one per plat)	BM Club
1200-1600	Battalion in the attack (All companies)	AT Range
1900-2300	Night patrol (Int Sect)	Area # 3
<u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Formation and inspection	Co Area
0830-1700	Guard duty, TCF's, and patrols (MP's)	Regt'l area
0830-1200	Artillery FO School (IAR)	
0830-0930	March (Comm)	
0930-1200	Specialist training (Comm)	Co Area
1300-1700	Heavy Weapons	
<u>ASST TANK COMPANY</u>		
0800-1000	Tank indoctrination (One platoon attached to each Battalion)	
1000-1100	Use and care of the gas mask	Co Area
1100-1130	Combat indoctrination	Plat Area
1130-1200	Close order drill	Co Area
1200-1400	March	To MS Range
1400-1600	Firing .50 cal MG	MS Range
1630-1600	Inspection	Plat Areas
1600-1630	Officers' and NCO's School	Co Area
1800-2000	Selecting positions at night and use of flares	Vic Co Area
<u>CAVWON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Close order drill	Co Area
0830-0900	Gun Books	
0900-1000	March	
1000-1200	Gun Drill	Co Area
1200-1400	Gunner's Quadrant	
1400-1500	Sight training	
1600-1600	Communications training	
1600-1700	Care of equipment	

By Order of Lt Col EDSON.

J. P. [Signature]
 Capt, 10th Infantry
 Asst. Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

6 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 17)

1. OFFICERS PARTY - 15th Inf Officers Party is scheduled over two nights as follows:

one half of Off nite Fri 9 March
" " " " " Mon 12 "

MEMO: To all Officers -

All officers, who plan to attend the "Can-Do" officers brawl on 9th March or 12th March, and who are in good enough physical shape yet to appreciate smooth liquor and rough women, are invited to contribute 250 francs to the S.S.O. by 1200, 7 March. Collections and payments will be made by battalions and separate companies and turned in by roster (SSO).

2. MESSAGE CENTERS: The message center Chiefs, Chief Code Clerk, and Asst Code Clerk, will report to the Regtl M/C 070900A for instructions and practical work. (COM O).

3. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - All empty fire extinguishers will be turned into Regtl Maint before 10 March. (Regtl Maint O).

4. ORIENTATION FILMS - The following is a schedule for the film "Battle for Russia,"

6 MAR - 0930 to 1030 Cannon Company
1300 to 1400 Regimental Headquarters

7 MAR - 1515 to 1615 Antitank Company

8 MAR - 0800 to 1200 2d Battalion

9 MAR - 0800 to 1200 1st Battalion
1300 to 1700 3d Battalion

(S-2).

By Order of Lt Col EDSON:

J. P. TILGH
CWO, 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO #8

7 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

SUBJECT..... 22)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 8 MARCH 1945

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
<u>FIRST BATTALION</u>		
0800-0900	Move by motor to village & street fighting area	
0900-1200	Bn problem - attack of a village	AREY
1200-1600	Bn problem - attack of a village	(773484)
1600-1700	Return to Bn area	
1700-1800	NIGHT CONDUCTING MARCH	
<u>SECOND BATTALION</u>		
0800-0900	Extended order drill (P)	Area B
0900-1000	March (R)	
0900-0900	Orientation film (G)	Theater
0800-0900	MS action and out of action (K)	Co area
	Slam gunners test	Co area
0900-1000	Training film (P)	Theater
0900-1100	March (R)	
1000-1100	Training film (S)	Theater
1000-1200	March (G)	
1000-1200	March (P)	
1100-1200	Extended order drill (R)	Area B-1
1100-1200	Training film (d)	Theater
1200-1700	Company attack problem (G)	Area 2
1200-1700	Company attack problem (R)	
1200-1700	Company attack problem (P)	Area B
1200-1700	Slam mortar gunners test	Co area
<u>THIRD BATTALION</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	Co area
0900-0930	Security (Int test)	Theater
0900-0930	Calisthenics & close order drill	Co area
	Officers & NCO school	EM club
0930-1000	Gas mask drill (All Co's)	Drill field
0830-1200	Weapons training (Int test)	EMM range
1000-1200	Weapons training (I, K, L, N)	Area 1, 2, 3, 4
1200-1600	Squad & platoon in defense (I, K, L, N)	Area 1, 2, 3, 4
1600-1800	Weapons training (Int test)	EMM range
<u>GARRISON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection of rifles & quarters	
0830-0900	Close order drill	
0900-1000	Int aid measure against chemical agents	
1000-1100	March	

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AREA</u>
	<u>GENERAL COURSE (COMMON)</u>	
1100-1150	Orientation	
1150-1200	Military courtesy & discipline	
1200-1250	Gun drill	
1250-1300	Range instruction	
1300-1350	Decontaminating measures for arms & equipment	
1350-1400	Disassembly & assembly of breach block, care and cleaning of bowtie	
	<u>ARTILLERY COURSE</u>	
1400-1450	Close order drill	Co Area
1450-1500	Firing RAR	Regt's range
1500-1550	Chemical warfare training	Co Area
1550-1600	Officers & NCO school	Co Area
1600-1650	12 mile march	
1650-1700	Inspection of Post	Co Area
	<u>ENGINEERING COURSE</u>	
1700-1750	Inspection and inspection	Co Area
1750-1800	Short MRP, fuel & motor controls & EIP maintenance	
1800-1850	Calisthenics (Comm)	Co Area
1850-1900	Security school (1st)	Co Area
1900-1950	Conditioning march (Co)	
1950-2000	Calisthenics (TAR)	Co Area
2000-2050	Chemical warfare training	Co Area
2050-2100	Swimming course (1st)	
	Technical training (Comm)	Co Area
2100-	Swimming course (1st)	

By order of Lt. Col. REDACTED

J. P. Taylor
 J. P. Taylor
 CW, 10th Infantry
 Asst. Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO #5

7 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER..... 25)

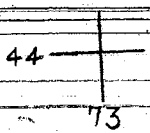
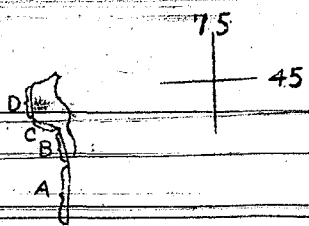
PATROL EXERCISE

1. Enemy holds the high ground extending from COTE (708442) to ARNAVILLE (780468). Very little information concerning the enemy MG is available but civilian reports indicate the presence of wire and mines along the forward slope. The enemy has been very active along the entire front and has continuously used numerous flares.
2. Bn, 15th Infantry will initiate advance of a minimum of 4 reconnaissance patrols commencing at 1900A, 7 March 1945 to determine:
 - a. Location of enemy wire and mines.
 - b. Type of defensive installations:
 - (1) Pill boxes.
 - (2) Bunkers.
 - (3) Hasty entrenchments.
 - c. Terrain:
 - (1) Suitable for tanks.
 - (2) Suitable for vehicles.
3. All patrols will follow exactly the routes as shown on attached overlay.
4. All reconnaissance patrols will be checked by the Bn S-1 to assure that:
 - a. No identification of any value is carried by any members of the patrol.
 - b. That any noise-making equipment is to be discarded prior to departure.
 - c. That all orders have been thoroughly understood and memorized.

By order of Lt. Col, EDSON

J.P. Tyler

J. P. TYLER
CWO, 15th INF
ASST. ADJUTANT



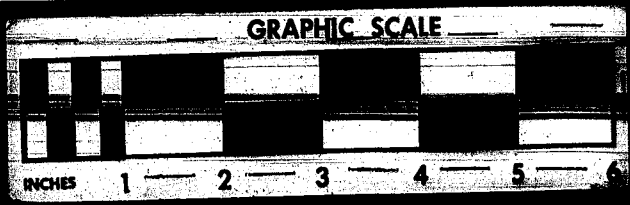
- A - 15° - 555 YD's
- B - 350° - 250 YD's
- C - 285° - 130 YD's
- D - 360° - 275 YD's

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
 CORRECTED OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
 TM # 23

MAP: FRANCE; 1/25,000 - CHAMBLEY SE

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 S-2

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 CMDG



Journal

HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY
APO #4

7 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)
NUMBER.....24)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 8 MARCH 1945

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
FIRST BATTALION		
0800-0900	Training film (A)	Theater
	1/2 hour orientation (M, S)	Dr area
0900-1000	Training film (B)	Theater
	1/2 hour orientation (A,C)	Co area
1000-1100	Training film (D, Comm plab)	Theater
	1/2 hour orientation (D)	Co area
1100-1200	Training film (D, Int sect)	Theater
1200-1700	Rifle platoon in attack (All Co's)	Area A,B,C
	1/2 Hour gas mask drill & review of chemical warfare training	
SECOND BATTALION		
0900-1700	Reinforced Bn in attack (All Co's)	AREA
THIRD BATTALION		
0600-0800	Inspection	Co areas
0800-0900	Close order drill (Int sect)	Co area
0900-1000	Classification & discussion of Cml agents (I,K)	Drill area
	Training film (Int sect)	Theater
	Gaithronics & close order drill (I)	Drill area
	Weapons instruction (M)	Drill area
1000-1100	Weapons instruction (I,K)	Drill area
	Classification & discussion of Cml agents (L,M)	Drill area
	Gaithronics & close order drill (M)	Drill area
	Combat indoctrination (Int sect)	Co area
1100-1130	First aid against Cml agents (I)	Drill area
1100-1200	Individual protective measures (K,M)	Drill area
	Weapons instruction (I)	Drill area
	Classification & discussion of Cml agents (N, Int sect)	Drill area
1230-1330	Gas mask drill (I)	Drill area
1300-1330	Gas chamber (I)	Drill area
	Gas mask drill (K)	Drill area
1300-1400	Training film (L,M)	Theater
	Cml warfare (Int sect)	Co area
	Individual protective measures (M)	Drill area
1430-1400	Gas chamber (K)	Drill area
1430-1450	Individual protective measures (I)	Drill area

TIME	SUBJECT	AREA
<u>THIRD BATTALION (CONT'D)</u>		
1400-1450	First aid against Cml agents (K, Hq. Int sect)	Drill area
	Gas chamber (L)	Drill area
	Gas drill (M)	Drill area
1430-1500	Gas chamber (M)	Drill area
	Gas mask drill (Hq. Int sect)	Drill area
1450-1530	Individual protective measures (L)	Drill area
1500-1600	Care & cleaning of equipment (M)	Co-area
1500-1530	Gas chamber (Int sect)	Drill area
1530-1600	Care & cleaning of equipment (Int sect)	Co-area
<u>ARTIFAK COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Close order drill	Flat areas
0930-1200	Firing AP ammunition on enemy tank	743403
1300-1400	Road march	
1400-1450	Decontamination measures suitable for arms and equipment	Co area
1450-1500	Review & test on previous Cml warfare instructions	Co-area
1500-1600	Tracking with 57mm & 75mm AT guns	Co area
1600-1700	Care & cleaning of AT guns & inspection	Flat areas
1730-1800	Officers & NCO school	Co area
<u>CARRON COMPANY</u>		
0800-0830	Inspection	
0830-0900	Close order drill	
0900-1000	March to theater	
1000-1100	Orientation film	Theater
1100-1200	Bore sighting with aiming circle	
1300-1400	Operation of FDC	
1400-1500	Gun drill	
1500-1600	Discussion of Cml agents	
1600-1700	Use and care of gas mask	
<u>HEADQUARTERS COMPANY</u>		
0600-0830	Formation	Co area
0830-0900	Close order drill (IAR)	Co area
	Preparation for march (Comm)	Co area
0830-1700	Guard duty, foot & motor patrols, TCF maintenance	
0900-1200	10 mile march	
1300-1700	Technical training (Comm)	Co area
1800-1800	Map reading and range estimation (IAR)	Co area
1900-2000	Scouting and patrolling (IAR)	

By order of Lt. Col. EDSON

J. P. TILER
 CWO, 16TH INFANTRY
 Asst Adjutant

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 1

7 March 1945

ATTN: (SPECIAL)

ATTN: (SPECIAL)

1. OFFICERS & TROOP MEMBERS - There will be a meeting of all officers of the three Bns and all Platoon Sergeants or all Rifle and Heavy Weapons Companies.

PLACE: Foggy Theater.

DATE: Thursday & Friday - 8 & 9 MARCH 1945.

TIME: 1700 Hours.

2. MOVIES - Tickets: at 1st Bn - Picture: "Ministry of Fear," featuring Ray Milland and Majorie Reynolds.

By Order of Lt Col. HUGHES:

J. F. TILSON

J. F. TILSON
CWO, 15th INF
Asst Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO-3

8 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 19)

1. OFFICERS & NCO MEETING - There will be a meeting of all Officers of the three Bns and all Platoon Sergeants of all Rifle and Heavy Weapons Companies:

PLACE: Pagay Theater.

DATE: Thursday & Friday - 8 & 9 March 1945.

TIME: 1700 Hours.

Officers and NCOs of Special Units will not attend. (S-2).

2. GARBAGE & RUBBISH DISPOSAL - The practice of dumping tin cans and other rubbish in the Mosella River will cease IMMEDIATELY. Units will dig a pit in which to burn trash and tin cans. Tin cans will be smashed flat before being thrown into pit. (S-4).

3. FLAME THROWER SCHOOL - There will be a school in the use of the new M2-2 Flame Thrower to be conducted by the Division Chemical Warfare Officer on 9 March 1945.

TO ATTEND : 12 men from each Bn A & P Platoon
2 Flame Thrower mechanics - Regt Ammo Section

TIME : 1500A to 1630A - 9 March 1945

PLACE : CWS Dump (QM area) - Pont-a-Mousson

INSTRUCTOR : Division Chemical Warfare Officer

EQUIPMENT : Notebook and Pe cil.

Regt MTC will furnish two 2 1/2 ton trucks to transport personnel to and from the school. The trucks will pick up 2d & 3d Bn personnel and mechanics at 1430A at the 2d Bn CP, and then will pick up 1st Bn personnel at 1st Bn CP. Trucks will remain at the school area to return personnel at conclusion of the school. (S-3).

4. MOVIES - Tonight at PALM: "New Fronts - The Map On Half Moon Street." (S20).

By Order of Lt Col. BROWN:

J. P. [Signature]
CWO, 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant

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**HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO # 3**

9 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM)

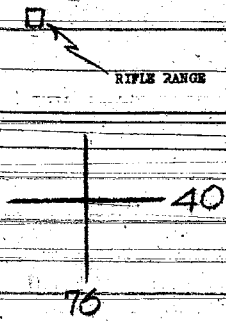
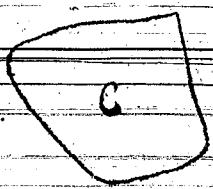
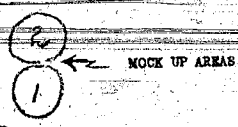
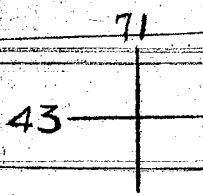
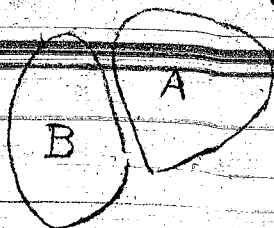
NUMBER.....25)

1. 15th Infantry will conduct preliminary river crossing training in the regimental area March 10-11.
2. Areas: See overlay (Annex #1).
3. Facilities:
 - a. Two (2) mock-up areas each sufficient in size to land a complete assault battalion.
 - b. Twelve (12) storm boats and twelve (12) Engineer assault boats will be available on Sunday, 11 March 45 to the battalions scheduled for boat operation.
 - c. Twelve (12) DUKWs are available on Sunday, 11 March 45 and will be divided six (6) each to Cannon and Antitank Companies.
4. Attendance: Only necessary administrative personnel will be excused from the training.
5.
 - a. Cannon Co & Antitank Co will each furnish seventy-two (72) men in teams of 3 men each to assist the assault battalions in moving the boats from the boat assembly area to the river.
 - b. During the training period Cannon Co teams will train with the 1st & 2d Bns. Antitank Co teams will train with the 3d Bn.
6. Schedule: See Annex # 3.

By order of Colonel EDSON:

J. P. Tyler
J. P. TYLER
CDR, 15th Infantry
Asst Adjutant

- Dial:**
1. Annex #1 (Overlay)
 2. Annex #2 (Training exercises 1, 2, & 3)
 3. Schedule



L-1034

ANNEX #1 TO ACCOMPANY TM #28

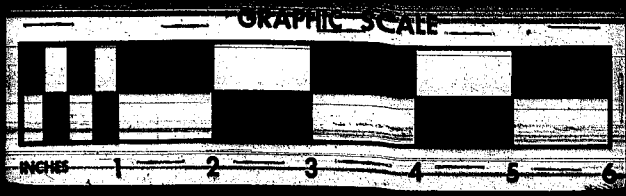
HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY

Overlay showing Training Areas

MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000; Sheet - CHAMBLEY

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CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEX # 2 (Exercise A, 2, & 3) to accompany Training Memorandum # 25.

1. Exercise #1: This exercise will include all the mechanics of a river crossing operation.
 - a. Each boat team will practice until they perfect the move from a battalions assembly area to a boat assembly area. Engineer guides will be simulated by battalion personnel.
 - b. The exercise will include a distance on the ground over which the boat team will simulate the river crossing. Then each boat team will launch an attack for a key area objective using live ammunition whenever possible. Upon capture of the initial objective the boat teams will reorganize into platoons and companies.
 - c. Exercise #1 is the basis for all problems to be conducted in the next future and therefore must be repeated sufficiently so that every boat team can operate as an independent unit during the initial stages of the river crossing.
2. Exercise #2: This exercise will follow the same plan as exercise #1, except that it will be conducted during the hours of darkness. During the problem emphasis will be placed on communications and control necessary to dispatch the remaining boat teams after the second wave boats return.
3. Exercise #3: This exercise involves the use of steam boats and Engineer assault boats in a crossing of the MISSISSIPPI River. Again the plan as outlined in Exercise #1 will be considered in this problem. The boats will be used to a maximum during this training period.

SATURDAY 10 MARCH

UNIT	TIME	PLACE	SUBJECT
1st Bn	0830-1200	Rifle Range	Demonstration of enemy weapons
		(Moon meal in field)	and uniform.
	1200-1500	Mock-up-area #1	Organisation of boat team
	1530-1700	Area G	Exercise 1. (See Annex # 2)
	1900-2100	Area C	Exercise 2. (See Annex # 2)
2d Bn	0800-1000	Mock-up-area #2	Organisation of boat team
	1030-1200	Area B	Exercise 1.
	1300-1700	Area B	Exercise 1.
	1900-2100	Area B	Exercise 2.
3d Bn	0800-1000	Mock-up-area #1	Organisation of boat team
	1030-1200	Area A	Exercise 1.
	1300-1700	Area A	Exercise 1.
	1900-2100	Area A	Exercise 2.
Special Units	0800-1200	Company Area	Normal unit training
	1330-1630	Rifle Range	Demonstration of enemy weapons
			and uniform.

SUNDAY 11 MARCH

1st Bn	0800-1000	Area C	Exercise 1.
	1030-1400	Mock-up-area #2	Exercise 2. (See Annex # 2)
		(Moon meal in field)	
2d Bn	0800-1000	Mock-up-area #2	Exercise 2. (See Annex # 2)
	1330-1630	Rifle Range	Demonstration of enemy weapons
			and uniform.
3d Bn	0830-1130	Rifle Range	Demonstration of enemy weapons
			and uniform.
	1400-1630	Mock-up-area #2	Exercise 3. (See Annex # 2)
Antitank Co	1000-1600	Mock-up-area #1	Dark training - loading and un-
Canon Co	1000-1600	Mock-up-area #1	loading of necessary equipment
			Dark training - loading and un-
			loading of necessary equipment

Journal

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO #8

9 March 1945

MEMORANDUM)

NUMBER...20)

CONTROL OF VEHICLES

1. During the past operation there were several cases of vehicles and vehicular equipment being stolen. This points to negligence on the part of guards, drivers and all transportation personnel.

2. The following examples are cited:

a. Loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trailer by the MP platoon. The driver was instructed by his platoon leader to deliver some FOUR's to the Division PW Cage. He dropped his trailer and proceeded on his mission. Neither the driver, the transportation NCO, nor the platoon leader arranged for a guard for the trailer. The trailer was stolen during the driver's absence. All three individuals mentioned above can be credited with contributory negligence resulting in the loss of the trailer.

b. Loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 4 X 4, from the First Battalion motor pool. This $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton was in the motor pool without a driver and presumably under the motor pool guard. An enemy shelling occurred and the guard took cover in a building. The shelling continued for a short time, after which the guard returned to his post and discovered the loss of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton. It is not the intention of this Headquarters to order men out of cover and, necessarily, had someone else was able to withstand the shelling and drive away unobserved in the vehicle. This shows negligence on the part of the guard and all other motor pool personnel in that there was no check made on the guard. In this case the guard, the Transportation NCO's and the Transportation Officer concerned can be credited with contributory negligence.

3. Henceforth, all vehicles will be driven only by drivers assigned to the particular vehicle. Transportation Officers and non-commissioned officers will check at all times to see that assigned drivers take proper care of equipment assigned to them and that guards are properly posted and alert when equipment is not under personal control of assigned drivers. Inattention to duty or to responsibility for valuable motor equipment resulting in loss or destruction thereof will be paid for by the responsible party or parties.

4. The contents of this memorandum will be brought to the attention of and explained to all transportation personnel, including FOUR's.

By order of Colonel EDSON

J. P. Tyler
J. P. TYLER
CWO, 15th Infantry
Asst. Adjutant.

General

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

9 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN }
NUMBER 19 }

L-1039

1. OFFICERS PARTY - Due to necessary changes in the Training Schedule the "Can Do" Officers' Party will be for one nite only - TONITE !! at CAFE GLACIER - PLACE DE STAN- ISLAUS - NANCY !! (SSO).

2. DEMONSTRATION - There will be a demonstration of Enemy Uniforms and Equipment conducted for all units on 10 and 11 March in accordance with the following schedule:

- 1st Bn - 0830A to 1130A - 10 March
- 2d Bn - 1130A to 1630A - 10 March
- 3d Bn - 0830A to 1130A - 11 March
- Sp Units - 1130A to 1630A - 11 March

Place - KD Range (U 750 42)

Equipment - None

The demonstration is to be given by a mobile Intelligence Training Unit from ETOWSA. The demonstration includes actual firing of weapons and is reported to be well worth while by those who have seen it. (S-2).

3. OFFICERS & NCO MEETING - There will be a meeting of all officers of the three Bns and all Platoon Sergeants of all Rifle and Heavy Weapons Companies.

PLACE: Army Theatre DATE: Thu & Fri 8 & 9 Mar TIME: 1700 hrs
Platoon and NCOs of Special Units will not attend. (S-2).

4. MOVIES - TONITE - at Pagny "The Man on Half Moon St." (SSO).

There is a limited supply of playing cards at SSO - Price 2.00 per pack. (SSO).

By Order of Colonel EDSON:

J. P. Miller
J. P. MILLER
CWO, 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

10 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)
NUMBER 21)

1. RADIO REPAIRS - All radios in need of repairs will be turned in to SSO by 1200 - 11 March 45. Radios will be tagged to insure proper identification. (SSO).

2. VEHICLE FOR WELDING - All vehicles and trailers reporting for welding will be prepared for same in Battalion or Special Unit motor pools before turning them into Regimental Maintenance to be welded. (MAINT O).

3. RELIGIOUS SERVICES - FOR SUNDAY 11 MARCH - - - -

PROTESTANT SERVICES	+ 1100	2d Bn, Sp Units	Peguy Theatre K Co Area
	+ 1300	3d Bn	
	+ 1600	1st Bn	Vandiere School
CATHOLIC MASS	1300	2d & 3d Bns, Sp Units	Peguy Church

Time / Place to be announced later for 1st Bn

* There will be Lutheran Communion after each Protestant Service.

By Order of Colonel EDSON:

J. B. WELSH
CWO, 15th Inf
ASST Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 5 March to 11
March (Incl)
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
Date : 11 March 1945

No. 56

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000, CHAMBLEY & PONT-A-MCUSSON Sheets.

1. Our Front Lines: 16th Infantry in bivouac.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
1st Bn in VANDIERRES
2d & 3d Bn's in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE
Cn Co in PRENY
AT Co in VILLERS-SOUS-PRENY
Sv Co in PAGNY-SUR-MOSELLE

3. Weather and Visibility: The weather for the period varied from clear and warm to cloudy and cold with occasional rain. Visibility, good to limited.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

The regiment from the 5th of March to the 11th, continued training program covering the following subjects: Close order drill, calisthenics, marches, range firing, weapons training, Co-in-attack, street fighting, use of flares, flame thrower school, combat indoctrination, patrol exercises, Bn-in-attack, CO school, training and orientation films, firing on tanks, chemical warfare training, bazooka training, preliminary river crossing training. Officer and NCO schools were held.

Reorganization of battalion AT platoons into bazooka platoons was made, also one platoon of AT Co changed over into a bazooka platoon.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 10 March 1945)

Officers: 83%
WO: 100%
SM: 94%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Training program continued.

Reorganization of battalion platoons into bazooka platoons was made, also one platoon of AT Co changed over into a bazooka platoon.

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11 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 26

Map: Road Map, 1,400,000, Sheets 487 & 488.

MOVEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. ROT 15 will move to vicinity of FAREBY to participate in training for river crossing operations; movement will be made in accordance with the following instructions.
2. ROT 15 Assignments:
 - 9th FA (-Sv)
 - Co B, 24 Med Bn (Taken Op)
 - Co B, 10th Regt Bn (1 Plat)
 - Co B, 601st TD Bn (Taken Op)
 - 9th FA Bn (Taken Op)
 - 2d Rec Troop (Taken Op)
3. Route: POST-A-MOUSON - IS - MORNEY - H15 - 104 - AUBOIS - 601st - THERMOPOY - 601st - H88 - CHATRAU SALINS - MOTYVIC - H114 - ARMACOURT - 1028 - Destination (Vicinity FAREBY).
4. Regimental MP Officer will post the necessary guides to assure the arrival and dispersal of all elements of the convoy at the bivouac area. Personnel of the Regt's IAN Platoon will be available to the Regt's MP Officer.
5. March Table: (See Annex "A")
6. Time of Movement: 1515A, 12 March 1945.
7. Column Commanders: CO, 16th Inf.
 - a. Serial and M/U commanders will be senior officer in respective serials or M/U's.
 - b. A truck commander (officer or NCO) will be designated for each truck; assistant drivers will ride in the rear.
8. Advance parties will guide units into their respective areas upon arrival of convoy at bivouac.
9. Personnel carriers for the move will be made available to Battalion Commanders by Regt's Transportation Officer at 151100A.
10. Personnel trucks will be released to Regt's Motor Officer immediately upon arrival of convoy at bivouac.

- 1 -

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S E C R E T

11. Troops will wear abco-pacs (training area is very wet) and will carry sleeping bags, shelter half, rain coat, and combat rolls.
12. All drivers and vehicle commanders will be thoroughly briefed on route prior to departure.
13. Battery C, 441st AAA Bn will provide AA protection for the motor column moving to the bivouac area, on the return trip, and at the training area throughout the training period.
 - a. Flak tracks will move in the column as follows:
 - One track at the tail of each March Unit.
 - One track at the head of SERIALS #2 and #6.
 - b. CO, Battery C, 441 AAA Bn will be responsible for AA defense of ROT 18 bivouac area at PAREMY.
 - c. Flak tracks will report to units as follows:
 - 1st Bn - 3 tracks at VANDIERENS (1st Bn CP)
 - 2d Bn - 3 tracks at PIGNY (2d Bn CP)
 - 3d Bn - 3 tracks at PIGNY (3d Bn CP)
 - 10th FA - 4 tracks at 10th FA CP
 - SO1st TD - 1 track at Motor Pool (SO1st TD) PONT-A-MOUSSONTracks will be reported to unit commanders in accordance with above, not later than 1246A, 12 March.Serial and M/U commanders will be responsible for proper placement of the flak tracks in their serials or M/U's in accordance with Para 13 a. (above).
14. Regimental surgeon will be responsible for placement of one ambulance at the tail of each serial.
15. Regimental Maintenance Officer will be responsible for VEHICLE MAINTENANCE of the convoy.
16. Convoy commander will proceed convoy to report convoy into 7th Army TOP's at junction N55 and N74 (just north of CHATEAU SALINE), and at junction N55 and S055 (just north of MOYENVIC).

By Order of Col HEDON,

J. P. SWINE
CWO, 15th Infantry
2nd Lieutenant.

S E C R E T

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(APPROX "A" to 01 00G)

MARCH TABLE

UNIT	SERIAL	M/U No.	VERM	BRANCH	IP	IP	REMARKS
AT Co & 1st Bn Org	1	1	25		1816	VANDIERES	Commander of
						S. RJ	Serial #1
CH Co & 2d Bn Org	1	2	25		1830	PAWNY	Capt FRCK
						S. RJ	
Hq Co & 3d Bn Org	1	3	25		1830	PAWNY	
						S. RJ	
1st Bn		4	25		1400	VANDIERES	
						S. RJ	Commander of
2d Bn		5	25		1410	PAWNY	Serial #2
						S. RJ	Lt Col WARR
3d Bn		6	25		1420	PAWNY	
						S. RJ	
30th PA		7	25		1800	EJ West of	
						PONT-A-MOUSSEON	Commander of
						Bridge	Serial #3
Do		8	25		1810	Do	CO, 30th PA Bn
Do		9	25		1820	Do	
Co B, 10th Regt		10	4		1830	Do	
1 Plat							Commander of M/U
Co B, 601st TD	-	-	3		-	-	#10 - LA BELLE
Co C, 601st AAA	-	-	3		-	-	These taken elements
Remarks							(M/U #10) will report to
2d Bn	-	-	2		-	-	M/U Commander at 601st
							TD Motor Pool (PONT-
							A-MOUSSEON) ready to
							Move at 1445A.

NOTES TO MARCH TABLE

- There will be 10 minute halts at 10 minutes of each odd hour.
- Maximum speed of lead vehicle - 20 MPH.
- Maximum speed within convoy - 25 MPH.
- Interval between vehicles - 60 yds (Maintained at halt also).
- Convoy signs will be picked up by serial and M/U commanders from the Regt's Motor Officer by 121000A.
- Each vehicle will bear the convoy number #1000.
- Other instructions - Convoy SOP.

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**HEADQUARTERS 16TH INFANTRY
APO #8**

11 March 1948

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

FORMER SUBJECT: 24

1. 19th BCT in conjunction with the 28334 Regt Combat Bn will conduct river crossing training in the Lake PARROT area (Vicinity 154103, Map - FRANCE, 1/100,000, LUSHEVILLE-EPINAL Sheet, 150) on 13 and 14 March, 1948.
2. Training Area: See Sketch, Annex #1.
3. Facilities:
 - a. 28334 Regt Combat Bn will furnish twenty-four (24) stern boats and twenty (20) Regt Assault boats to each Bn at the time scheduled for boat training. (See Annex #2).
 - b. One (1) light infantry support raft for all type wheeled vehicles (See Annex #3 for schedule).
 - c. One (1) heavy pontoon raft to be used for truck vehicles. (See Annex #3 for schedule).
 - d. Fourteen (14) DUNK's with "A" Frames to be used in loading the 105-mm Howitzers and 87-mm AT guns. (See Annex #4 for schedule).
4. When the Bns are not scheduled for boat training, then the emphasis will be placed on pill box reduction using flame throwers and demolition. Normal tactical formations will be used in this work.
5. One platoon, Co B, 10th Regt will construct, upon arrival in the lake area, log pill boxes adjacent to each Bn bivouac area, and be responsible for their maintenance.

By order of Col EDNEY,

J. P. Tyler
J. P. TYLER
CWO, 16th Infantry
Asst. Adjutant

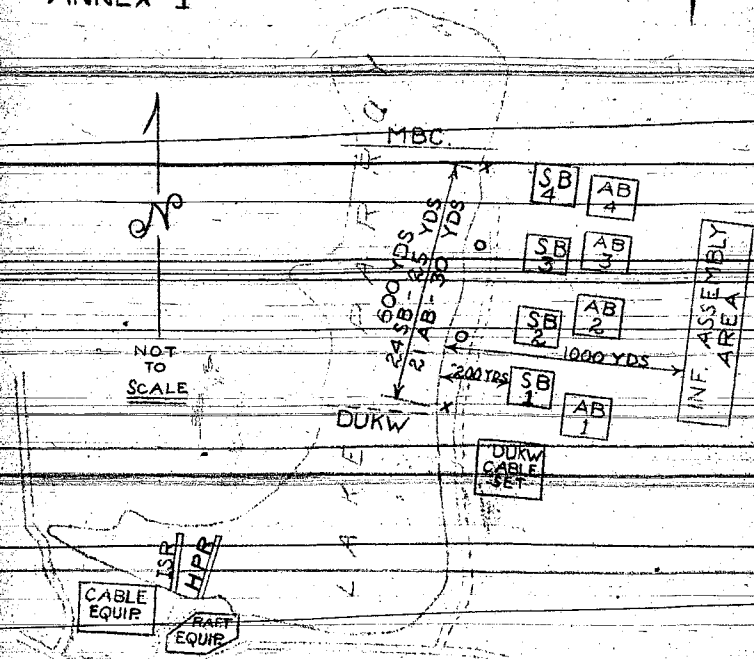
- Annex #1: Training Area - Sketch.
Annex #2: Schedule.
Annex #3: Training Exercises.
Annex #4: Sketch of Near-shore installations.

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HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
 SKETCH TO ACCOMPANY TM 26
 TRAINING SITE DIAGRAM
 LAKE PARRY, FRANCE

L-1039

ANNEX # 1



Legend

TO
BAUZEMONT

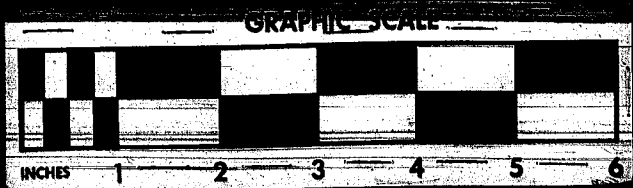
- ISR - INF SUPPORT RAFT
- HPR - Hvy PONTON RAFT
- MBC - MINE BARRIER CABLE
- SB - STORM BOAT
- AB - ASSAULT BOAT
- X - FLANK MARKER
- O - AREA LIGHT

TO
PARRY

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(ANNEX #2 To TM #26)

SCHEDULE

Boat Training and Pill Box Reduction

TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 1945

UNIT	TIME	PLACE	EXERCISE
1st Bn	0750-1030	Lake Area	Exercise #1
	1037-1700	Bivouac Area	Pill Box Reduction
2d Bn	0750-1000	Bivouac Area	Pill Box Reduction
	1030-1400	Lake Area	Exercise #1
	1430-1700	Bivouac Area	Pill Box Reduction
3d Bn	0750-1330	Bivouac Area	Pill Box Reduction
	1400-1700	Lake Area	Exercise #1

SCHEDULE FOR RAFTS & DUNK'S

1st Bn	0750-0930	Lake Area	Use of light infantry support rafts
2d Bn	0830-1130	Lake Area	Use of light infantry support rafts
3d Bn	1500-1600	Lake Area	Use of light infantry support rafts
Cannon Co	0800-1200	Lake Area	Loading and landing equipment in DUNK's
AT Co	1300-1700	Lake Area	Loading and landing equipment in DUNK's
Co B, 601st TD Bn	0800-1100	Lake Area	Use of heavy pontoon rafts
Co B, 789th Tn Bn	1100-1400	Lake Area	Use of heavy pontoon rafts
Det, 441 AA	1400-1600	Lake Area	Use of heavy pontoon rafts

WEDNESDAY

SCHEDULE FOR ASSAULT LANDING EXERCISE

1st Bn	0607-0800	Lake Area	Exercise #1
2d Bn	0800-0900	Lake Area	Exercise #1
3d Bn	0800-1100	Lake Area	Exercise #1

NOTES:

1. Time scheduled above for movement from Bivouac Area to Assembly Area can be reduced by 20 minutes after reconnaissance of the Lake Area.
2. All separate and attached units will be in assembly areas by 0600A prepared to cross river either on rafts or DUNK's. Further instructions will be issued at the Lake Area.

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(ANNEX #5 TO TM #26)

TRAINING EXERCISES

1. Exercise #1 will include the movement from the Bn assembly area to the Boat Assembly Area. Guides will be furnished by the 2853 Eagr Bn. Cannon Co to furnish the additional boat carrying parties.
The three waves will be loaded and landed on a time schedule:

H-Hr - 1st Wave
H/5 - 2d Wave
H/20 - 3d Wave

Upon reaching the far shore, the Bn will execute a attack to the initial beaching or objective. The beaches of the Bn will be landed and landed on a prearranged priority schedule. Three vehicles of the Bn will be landed from the light infantry support part. The emphasis will be placed on the technique of boat handling and loading. A near-shore installation will be set up as shown on the attached sketch - Annex #4.

2. Exercise #2 will be published in the Lake Area. It will, however, include a full dress-rehearsal for the Bn. In addition, a Regimental CP will be set up initially on the near shore and messages will be sent from the Bn to the Regt. Separate companies and attached units will be sent over on Regt'l order.
3. Pill box reduction: This is a normal training activity. Assault squads, equipped with flame throwers, demolitions, and bazooka squads will be organized. Demolitions will be furnished to the Bn in the bivouac area.

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ANNEX #4

NEAR-SHORE INSTALLATIONS

DUNK
CROSSING

LEFT FLANK
MARKER BN

400-500 yds

LIGHT PONTOON
RAFT

Hvy Pontoons
RAFT

DISPATCHER
AL

DISPATCHER
AL

RIGHT FLANK
MARKER BN

MESSAGE
CENTER

MESSAGE
CENTER

HEADQUARTERS
15TH INF, SKETCH
TO ACCOMPANY TM #26

Bn
ASSEMBLY
AREA 'A'

BNGP

Bn
ASSEMBLY
AREA 'B'

AT Co

Cannon
Co

Bn
AID STATION

Bn
VEHICLE
PARK
&
BN SUPPLY

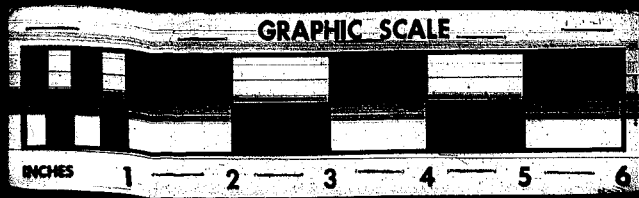
DISTANCES SHOWN
ARE A GUIDE ONLY

COLLECTING
Co

REST
CP

TD PARK

TANK
PARK



HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
APO 3

11 March 1945

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 22)

1. PROPER CARRY OF WEAPONS - All Rifles, Carbines, and old type Tommy Guns when slung on shoulder will be carried with Muzzles Up. When the muzzle is carried pointed downward there is a chance of an accidental discharge of the piece hitting someone. In the past week one accident has already occurred in which the man was shot in the foot, and there have been numerous cases where dirt or snow was forced into the muzzle when climbing hills or hitting the ground. (OO)

2. CARELESS DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS - Careless discharge of firearms has usually resulted in serious injury to innocent persons. Several cases have resulted in Court Martial of men who have carelessly fired their weapon while cleaning same, or while walking along carrying weapon and not having safety on. DO NOT play with foreign pistols until you understand it's use and construction. Three men have already been shot with foreign pistols while they were being cleaned by men who did not understand their operation. Let us use our weapons against the Kraut, not against ourselves. (OO)

3. PARKING VEHICLES - All vehicles when parked will be headed out, that is, will be backed into a parking area. The reason for this is so that when an emergency occurs the driver will be able to move out quickly without blocking traffic or causing undue delay. (OO)

4. MOVIES - Tonight at VANDIERES - New Picture 11 (SSO)

5. PX RATIONS - All Units will draw their PX Rations today as per the following schedule:

1st Bn 1400 - 1445
2d Bn 1445 - 1530
3d Bn 1530 - 1615
Sv Units 1615 - 1700 (SSO)

By Order of Colonel EDSON:

J. P. Taylor
J. P. Taylor
CWO, 15th Inf
Asst Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY

A.P.O. #

13 March 1945

TRAINING MEMORANDUM

NUMBER..... 27)

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR 14 MARCH 1945

TIME	1st BN	2d BN	3d BN	Special Units
0800-0900	Landing Exercise			
0900-1000	Security and Inspection	Landing Exercise	Security and Inspection	Handling Exercise & DUNK Training
1000-1200		Security and Inspection	Landing-Exercise	Security and Inspection

1500-1400 - Security - For all personnel who were unable to attend security classes during AM. Area:- Special Units Area (West end of Hq Co street).

NOTES:

1. In the 2 hour period allotted for Security and Inspection, the following procedure will be followed:

- a. Half of the Bn will be assembled in the Bn area at the beginning of the period, at which time a school in Security and Handling of Heavy Civilians (not to exceed 45 minutes) will be conducted by Regimental CIG personnel. The balance of the Bn will be personally inspected by the Company Commanders to assure that each man has a gas mask and protective equipment complete, and that each man has his division patches (helmet and shoulder) either covered or removed.

b. Example:

Time	I and K	L, M, Hq
0800-0845	Security	Inspection
0845-0925	Inspection	Security
0925-1000	All units - (movement to landing exercise).	

- d. Special units and attached units will assemble for the school on Security in the special units area (West end of Hq Co street).
- e. All personnel will attend one of the two security lectures in their respective areas.

2. The landing exercise will be conducted in a manner similar to the exercise conducted by each Bn, 13 March. Bns will be in assembly area at the beginning of the period and will have boats returned to boat assembly positions on time for the succeeding unit.

3. Unit Commanders will personally inspect all vehicles of their respective units to assure the proper covering of all unit identification numbers. Reports that this has been accomplished will be submitted in writing to this Headquarters prior to 1500A, 14 March 1945.

By order of Col EDSON;

J. P. TILLY
 CWO, 15th Infantry
 Asst. Adjutant

- 1430 CP opened at DEHLINGEN
- 2115 Communication in to Division, 30th Infantry, 87th Chemical Bn, 1st, 2d & 3d Bns, 15th Infantry.
- 2235 Asst S-3 to Ex C. Arrived at New CP. Ex C checked on communication and transportation to be there by daylight.
- 2310 CO, AT Co to DO: AT co closed at 2310. DO: Have Ln report to CF.
- 2325 Comm O to DO: 1st Bn line will be in shortly. It's waiting on 2d & 3d Bns line.
- 2330 Cn Co to DO: Cn Co closed in at 2330. DO: Send Ln O to Regtl CP
- 2335 Commo O to DO: 1st Bn foot elements closed into area at 2335.
- 2336 DO to Div War Room: Reported times of companies having closed in.
- 2341 Asst S-3 to DO: 2d Bn closed at 2340.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-S Periodic Report

Period: 11200A to 141200A, Mar
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: PARROY, FRANCE
Date: 14 March 1945

No. 58-
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, PARROY, Sheet XXXV-15.

1. Our Front Lines: 15th Inf in training area via of Lake PARROY.
2. Disposition of Troops: bivouac area vicinity Q156097.
3. Weather and Visibility: The weather for the period varied from clear and warm to cloudy and cold. Visibility good to limited.
4. Our Operations for the Period: On the afternoon of 11 March, regiment made preparations for move to new area. 15th Inf (-Sv Co) moved from bivouac area vicinity PACTY-SUR-MOUELLE and VADIERSES (Map - France, 1/50,000, CHAMPELLE) 12 March 1316A, closer to new bivouac area vicinity Lake PARROY (Q156097) that evening.

Bns and Separate Co's and attached units participated in river crossing training: covering exercises in: use of light infantry support rafts, loading and landing equipment in DUNK's, use of heavy pontoon rafts, part of the time was used in pill-box reduction, 13 March.

Morning of 14 March, Bns and special units training consisted of loading exercises, rafting exercise and DUNK training. Two hours were allotted for Security (lecture in Security & Handling of enemy civilians), and Sanitation (to see what material was used and protective equipment) also (to see material removed from vehicles and personnel).

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for duty (As shown on M/R 13-March 1945)

Officers: 95%

WO: 100%

EM: 97%

Rifle Trench Strength

Officers: 48

EM: 1597

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment moved to training area via Lake PARROY.

b. Training exercises in river crossing exercises, pill box reduction, security orientation and inspection.

BARR
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 0045: DO to Div: Reported 2d Bn closing in at 2335.
- 0063: Asst S-3 to DO: 3d Bn closed at 0050. Communication in to all Bns. 2 TD's came forward with 3d Bn and they will keep them.
- 0100: DO to CO: Reported data on units. CO: Have 2 TD's return to woods.
- 0103: DO to 3d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 0150: G-3 (Lt Col Rosson) to DO: What units are closed in. DO: All but Sv Co. Have no report on armor as yet. Our units have closed in their new area.
- 0301: Platoon Sergeant, D Co, 756th Tk Bn. Has 4 light tanks in tank assembly area. Will report to S-3 at 0800.
- 0455: G-3 to DO. Have tanks and TD's reported to CP vet. DO: No. G-3: Get a staff officer out to check on them. CO, 15th Inf and 1st Bn Co's will meet with CG at 0700A.
- 0512: Div War Room to DO: 7th Inf has advanced 2,000 yds -- heavy opposition in town of UTWEILER. 30th Inf advanced 1,000 yds -- not much S/A or any Inf but many mines. DO to CO: Informed CO of meeting with CG. CO to DO: Inform Bn CO's to contact fwd CP at 0630A. (Msg relayed to Bns by DO)
- 0625: CO, 756th Tank Bn to DO: Believe tanks have closed in but have not reported in yet. Have them call our CP when they check in.
- 0626: C Co, 756th Tank Bn reported to CP. Unit closed in at 0515A in DEHLINGEN.
- 0538: DO gave last msg to Div DO. Div DO to DO: 7th & 30th Inf both meeting heavier resistance now. Bny GUF in on Hill N of URBACH.
- 0600: DO Div War Room to DO: Officer from your serial of TD's has reported here. They are on the way to you now. DO to Div: Regiment was completely closed in this area at 0130A.
- 0615: CO Co B, 601st TD Bn reported to CP. Unit closed in assembly area at 0215A.
- 0616: DO gave above to Div War Room.
- 0635: Asst S-3 to DO: Re-still CO & Bn CO's just left for meeting at Division.
- 0710: DO Div War Room to Ex O: 1st phase line secured, new fighting in EDERKIRSCH. UTWEILER cleared. 30th Inf having strong opposition from ridge behind EPPING-URBACH. Committing reserve battalion. Very little arty, but many mines, particularly at mines.
- 0710: CO to S-3: Notify Bn Ex O's to get their organic vehicles up. Still limited to twelve but can use more if needed to move weapons up. Put them on a one hour alert.
- 0712: S-2 relayed above msg to Bn's and separate units.
- 0907: Ex O to Sv Co: Give all signs back to the battalions.
- 0910: Ex O to Dn Co CO: Remove all covering from bushes, markings and display original colors -- signs, markers, etc.
- 0925: Asst S-3 to Ex O: Bns have orders from CO to move to GUISING without armor vehicles. Bns will be met by Bn CO's. Bn's have already received orders.
- 1015: Div to Ex O: The 7th Inf has cleared everything south of FEDALA, and has not run into opposition. The 30th Inf has run into much SA fire and mines, now fighting in EPPING-URBACH. Our right flank unit, 100th Div is progressing satisfactorily, has sent patrols into LITCHE. 45th Div on our left has made good progress.
- 1025: Ex O to 1st, 2d, and 3d Bn's: You will move immediately in the order of 1st, 2d, and 3d Bn's to the vicinity of GUISING. If you find way as this stage then you can move on to next position. If they are not there stop until you get further orders. Weapons will be hand carried.
- 1120: 1st Bn to Duty Clerk: Our first elements moved out at 1115.
- 1205: 1st Bn CO reports that 1st Bn was 2,000 yds from their area at 1245A.
- 1325: G-3 to CO: The 30th Inf has taken EPPING-URBACH. The roads leading to town are mined. Armor bypassed it and went cross-country. Send the Bn's officer and representatives from the tanks and TD's to the CP of the 1st Bn 30th Inf, who will furnish a guide to take you over cross country route.
- 1400: CO & S-3 left for forward CP.
- 1425: Ex O to 1st and 3d Bns: Have your attachments stay in the battalions motor pool until they get orders to move. For the 1st Bn attachments are: 1st platoon, Co G, 756th Tk Bn; 2d platoon, Co B, 601st TD's; 1st Platoon Co C, 87th Cml mortar Bn. 3d Bn's attachments: 3d platoon Co C, 756th Tk Bn; 3d platoon, Co B, 601st TD's; 2d platoon, Co C, 87th Cml mortar Bn.

L-1039

- 1800 CP opened at KRIVILLER, Y0671834 at 1800A.
- 1858 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Regt'l CO has left to go up to your location. Have sent recon party fwd to guide armor from here to where you wish them. Am writing CR now. You may attack before dark. 1st Bn CO to S-3: Had several casualties at Rd via 683544. My Bn O was seriously wounded.
- 1800 Line in to 1st, 2d, and 3d battalions.
- 1820 G-3 DO to S-2: Division's leading elements received SP and arty fire from vic 743618, also from town of GRIMERSVILLER. General nature of resistance is light in Inf and mortar but heavy in arty and SP fire. Encountered many box and glass mines on and in vic of roads. Bn's still clearing mines. One mine field located vic 686668. 7th Inf captured approx 200 PW's; 30th Inf, approx. 40. Intercepted msg from 601st TD Bn: "Six enemy tanks moving west toward town of MENDLSHEIM, 680606?"
- 1830 1st Bn CO to S-3: CO directed that we move out at 1800A. Wish you would make necessary plans to get our armor up to us. S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Will get armor to you and also a group of Bn's.
- 1845 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: 4 Tks and 4 TD's will be up to you in less than an hour. Will send them direct to you at woods. 3d Bn will follow you in move.
- 1848 S-3 to DO, rear-OP: Start 1st Bn's attachments moving to Regt'l OP. Tk Cmr will direct them to this CP. We have a guide for them from here up. Shift TD platoon from 2d Bn to 1st Bn & vice versa. Have 3d Bn's attachments follow 1st Bn.
- 1865 7th Inf DO to S-2: Road block reinforced by Div battle patrol at 6759. Main road from above coordinate to 685580 is clear of mines. Bn's are still finding mines on road S of UMWILLER.
- 1715 G-3 to S-3: OK for you to delay attack from 1800A to 1800A if you need more time for preparation but be sure you notify us the exact time you move out. Searchlights (moonbeams) will probably go on around 2000A. Elements of 30th Inf reached 703584 and 710875.
- 1730 CO to 1st Bn CO: Suggest that you use following route for move; Go to CR at 684567, move to east to town of HPPING-URBACH, then to west side of road running north from latter town.
- 1741 7th Inf to S-3: Your planned route of advance will go through our K Co at 690581. Remainder of K Co at 696866.
- 1745 G-3 to CO: 30th Inf will stay on south side of creek. You are free to operate anywhere north of creek. The town of VALMUNSTER is in your sector. CO to CO: A good line to hold at daylight, if possible to reach that far, is from woods at 7861 along road to town of SCHWENNE. Woods at 7601 is key to whole ground. Hill 295 via 786645 is a key point. Be sure armor is up behind you. Another desirable line to hold could be anchored on these points, 749685, 7661, and ridge to 734623. Be sure you are well prepared before moving out.
- 1800 CO to 1st Bn CO: Gave resume of above. Attack it the way you think desirable.
- 1828 Div DO to DO: A & C Co's, 30th Inf, not on ridge as reported (588 grid line) but below it on 575 grid line.
- 1840 S-2 to 1st Bn S-3 and 2d Bn DO: A, C, & L Co's of 30th Inf we across road below ridge in contact with the enemy. A Co is at 700575, C Co at 702573, L Co at 710875. 3d Bn, 30th Inf attacked WEISKIRCH but was driven off by SP fire and tank fire, not infantry to any great extent, but what infantry there was, was well dug in. Fire came from ridge (740615), WEISKIRCH, and VOLMUNSTER. 7th Inf in UMWILLER but were CA and driven out by 6 crytanks and 4 infantry. However town was retaken in the afternoon. Report 4 or 5 tanks KO'd. Tks were also observed at 689660 (4 tanks) and 6 tanks observed moving west into town at 660617 at 1630A. 2d Bn of 7th Inf has a block at 670-580 and road is clear up to 580 nothing. PW report successive defense lines on ridges.
- 1850 S-3 to 2d Bn: Relayed the above. Also 1st Bn will attack in a half hour.
- 1855 CO 1st Bn to S-3: Will be ready to go in a half hour. S-3: Tanks are coming to 1st Bn, 30th Inf (686680). CO 1st Bn: Any limit on mortar ammunition? S-3: 15 rounds per day.
- 1910 S-2 to 3d Bn: Reported situation and also approximate time of 1st Bn's attack.
- 1912 S-3 to 2d Bn S-3: Will keep you informed. Will keep your 4 tanks and 2 TD's in this town. CO is coming up to see you.

15 MARCH (Cont'd)

- 1940 G-2 to S-3: 50 PWs taken. 15 pieces of enemy armor counted in 7th Inf zone. Air Force received sub tank via 806000.
- 2006 G-2 to S-3: 1st Bn will be ready to move within one and one half hours. Have 3d Bn in close contact with 1st Bn so they can bypass ORMSVILLER when 1st Bn enters the town. They will bypass south of the town, cut main road and started for VOLMUNSTER.
- 2020 S-3 to G-3: All of our Bns are in position. Will take a little time yet to move out, possibly more than a half hour. The armor is up with the troops.
- 2060 G-3 to S-3: PW reports that twenty to thirty Tiger tanks were expected in vicinity of WERNHEIM, 665714, but have not shown up.
- 2100 G-2 to S-3: 1st Bn has moved out but don't know when they will reach the Line of Departure. S-3: 3d Bn armor is here.
- 2108 S-2 to 1st Bn S-1 and 3d Bn S-3: Gave 2060A entry. Also information about 30th Infantry receiving much artillery and SF fire south of ORMSVILLER.
- 2120 7th Inf to S-3: Our K Co has another mission tonight and should have pulled out sooner but were delayed since your attack was through their position. Our K Co must be supplied soon. S-3: We should move out in a half hour.
- 2155 S-3 to G-3: 1st Bn approaching LD.
- 2156 S-2 to 3d Bn: One PW report indicated presence of 20-30 tanks at 665716 (WERNHEIM) a few days ago.
- 2207 30th Inf to S-3: Our K Co in southern edge of WERNHEIM. L Co on hill (710877). Took 14 PW's. A & C Co's ran into mine field on ridge along 70 grid. Roads from Urback to Sping-Urback and from Sping-Urback to Weiskirch cleared.
- 2208 S-2 to 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 2225 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Lost a TD on a mine. We are attacking with "A" on the right and "B" on the north side. Ex O: Watch out for 7th Infantry's K Co. They are moving farther south.
- 2250 1st Bn CO to Ex O: A Co is 300 yards beyond "O" (695587). No contact as yet. B Co suffered ten (10) casualties from an artillery shell. Company together and under control. Radio is temporarily out but we using relay station.
- 2255 S-3 to G-3: A Co is at 695587. B Co cleared 59 grid. No contact. Have coordinated with 7th Inf.
- 2306 7th Inf to S-2: Have overlay of road maps taken from enemy officer, showing usable and mined roads. Suggest you send over for it as time is important.
- 2356 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co heard tanks in town and have sent out a patrol. B Co on the left is still moving. Engineers have cleared up to 1st Rj. Troops now 600 yards north of "O". S-3: The unit on your left jumps off at 2400.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 141201A to 141200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : DEHLINGEN, FRANCE
Date : 15 March 1945

No. 58

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000, SARREGUEMINES & BITCH, Sheets XXXVI-13 & XXXVII-13.

1. Our Front Lines: Has moving to assembly area vicinity 6856 (BITCH, Sheet XXXVII-13)
2. Disposition of Troops:
Regt'l CP via Q68426
Cn Co via Q572426
AT Co Q572421
Hq Co via Q571425
3. Weather and Visibility: Clear and warm; visibility excellent.
4. Information of Attached Units:
Co C, 67 Cav Bn via 585427
Co G, 756 Ft Bn via DEHLINGEN
2 Plato, Co D, 756 via DEHLINGEN
Co B, 10th Engrs via 575426
39th PA CP - BEVILLER
Co B, 601st TD Bn via 5842
Det, 441st AAA AW via DEHLINGEN
Co B, 3d Med Bn via DEHLINGEN

5. Our Operations for the Period:

At 141207A, 15th Infantry began move from bivouac training area (Lake PARROY, Q166097) to initial assembly area via VOELLERDINGEN, Q680422 (see overlay). Bus detucked, and upon division order, troops marched to assembly area where they remained for night 14-15 March - 1st Bn via Q680482, 2d Bn Q681478, and 3d Bn Q680472. Last foot troops closed in assembly area at 180045A. At 141101A, all battalions left present assembly area to assemble in via Q6856.

6. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R 14 March 1945)

Officers: 92%
WO : 100%
EM : 98%

Rifle-Trench Strength:

Officers: 48
EM : 1368

7. Results of Operations:

a. Beginning of movement from Lake PARROY to area via VOELLERDINGEN and then by foot, all battalions moved to area (Q680470).
b. At 141120A, all battalions began moving from last assembly area to via Q6886.

BARR
S-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

75 45 14

14 March 45

Overlay to accompany

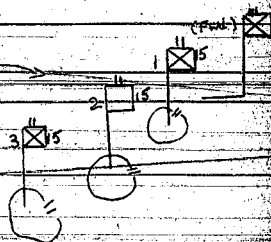
S-3 Report No 58

MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000

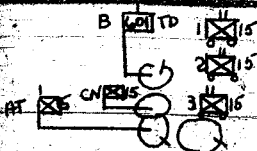
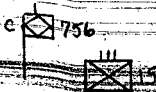
SARREGUEMINE + BITCH sheets

#XXXVI-13 and No XXXVII-13

Bn assembly area
area NFE
14-15 March



+ 47
56



(Bn motor pools,
Initial assembly area
+ detouring area)

+ 41
63

BARR
S-3

GRAPHIC SCALE



Journal

S E C R E T

14 March 1945

(OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)
NUMBER16)

MOVEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. 15 RCT moves from present area to via VOELLERDINGEN, CE65403 (Map - 1/50,000 SARRREGUMINE, Sheet No. XXXVI-15), beginning 1657A, 14 March 1945.

2. Composition, RCT 15:

15th Inf
Co C, 758th Yr Bn
Det, 3d Sig Co
Co B, 601st TD Bn
Co C, 87th Cal Mortar Bn
Det, 421st AAA AW Bn
E Platoon, Co D, 758th Yr Bn

3. Route: See Strip Map (Annex #1).

4. Speed:

- a. Driving in daylight and with lights - lead vehicle 20 MPH, No vehicle to exceed 25 MPH.
- b. Blackout, lead vehicle 15 MPH, no vehicle to exceed 20 MPH.

5. Interval:

- a. Daylight and with lights 60 yd interval will be maintained at all times. Serial commanders will check the column to insure that proper interval is being maintained.
- b. Blackout safe driving distance will be maintained.

6. Unit bivouac (See Annex II).

7. All normal insignias, vehicle markings and signs will be removed prior to departure of any convoy or advance detachment from this area.

8. Gas masks will be carried by all personnel.

9. Radio silence will be maintained until released by order of this Headquarters. All orders issued pertinent to this move will be delivered by messenger. Under no circumstances will this movement be discussed by phone.

10. Administrative Instructions:

a. Tentage:

- (1) Squad tents will be taken down and properly folded and transported to within 5 yds of the main road. Separate company's tentage will be placed with 1st Bn.
- (2) Bnq Bn will furnish two (2) guards to remain with tentage. They will report to Maj TEGAN at Reg'l CP, 0800A, 14 March for instructions.
- (3) Organic tentage will be moved to new area. Do not leave it here.

S E C R E T

SECRET

- b. Personnel Vehicle Drivers:
(1) Each BV will be prepared to feed 25 drivers on 14 March.
- c. Straw:
(1) Straw used in tents for billeting of troops will not be burned.
- d. Kitchens:
(1) All kitchens will remain in present area until ordered to move by Regt'l S-4.

11. March Table: See Annex III.

12. Regt'l MP Officer: will post the necessary guides to assure the arrival and dispersal of all elements of the convoy at the bivouac area. Personnel of the Regt'l IAR Platoon will be available to the Regt'l MP Officer.

By order of Col EDGSON:

J. P. TILER
CWO, 18th Infantry
Asst. Adjutant.

INCL:

- 1. ANNEX I - Strip Map
- 2. ANNEX II - Overlay of Unit Bivouac Areas
- 3. ANNEX III - March Table

SECRET

SECRET

DEHLINGER

BIV AREA

3 MI.

VOELLERDINGEN

LORENTZEN

DOMFESSE

5.3 MI.

NOT TO SCALE

SARRE UNION

48 MI.

TENETRANGE

4 MI.

MITTERSHEIM

L1039

5.3 MI.

HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY
STRIP MAP TO ACCOMPANY
O.I. # 16.

ANNEX #1

DIEUZE

7.2 MI.

OFFICIAL:
BARR
S-3

EDSON
CMDG

MOYENVIC

4.2 MI.

4 MI.

ARRACOURT
IP

PRESENT AREA
LAKE PARROY

SECRET

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES

1

2

3

4

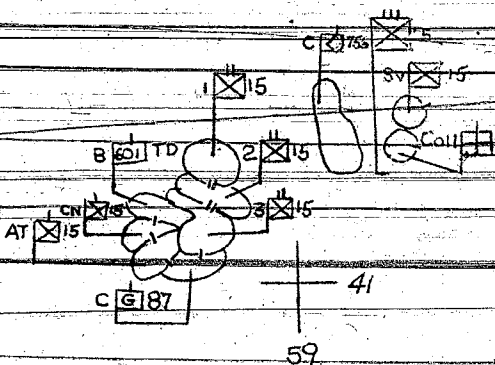
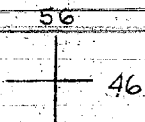
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6

S-E-C-R-E-T

ANNEX No. II

UNIT BIVOUCAC OVERLAY



40 15TH INF

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI No. 16

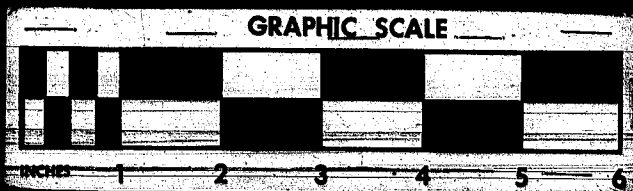
MAP:- FRANCE, 1/50,000, SARREGUEMINE
SHEET No. XXXVI-13

EDSON
CMDG

OFFICIAL:

Barr
BARR
S-3

S-E-C-R-E-T



SECRET

(ANNEX VIII To O2 (No))

MANUE TABLE

<u>SERIAL No.</u>	<u>SERIAL CODE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>M/Vs. OF VEHICLES</u>	<u>WEIGHT IF AT AREA CODES</u>
A	CO	1st Bn	2 : 25 Organic	1857
			2 : 25 Para Carrier	1707
		2d Bn	2 : 25 Organic	1717
			4 : 25 Para Carrier	1727
		Hq Co	5 : 25 Organic & Para	1757
		Carrier		
B	CO	3d Bn	2 : 25 Organic	1810
			2 : 25 Para Carrier	1820
		4th Co	3 : 25 Organic	1850
		5th Co	4 : 25 Organic	1840
		6th Co	5 : 25 Organic	1850
C	CO	Co E, 601 TD	1 : 25 Organic	1925
		Co W, 601 TD	2 : 25 Organic	1945
		Co E, 34 Med	3 : 25 Organic	1955

NOTES:

1. Time from present area to IP is approximately 15 minutes.
2. Bns will have the present attachments of 441st AAA Bn for the move.
3. The target TD group will report to the CO, 3d Bn for movement.
4. The Engr platoon (10th Engr) attached for movement to the new area, with Hq Co.
5. The capacity of each 2 1/2-ton truck is 25; the capacity of each Cab-over trucks is 35. Each battalion will have ten 2 1/2-ton trucks and 15 Cab-over trucks.

SECRET

- 0015 Line in to Cn Co and 3d Bn.
- 0030 1st Bn CO to S-2: B Co moved up on left. A Co is at 579 grid line.
- 0032 S-2 gave resume of situation to 7th Inf S-2. Feb Inf S-2 to S-2: B Co is at 683500. K & L Co's of UFWILER. Encountered no enemy arty.
- 0042 S-2 gave above msg to 1st Bn CO.
- 0130 1st Bn S-3 to S-2: Check with arty to see that they do not fire on objective # 1. We are getting Engrs to clear road.
- 0131 S-2 to 30th FA Bn: Gave above msg.
- 0135 S-3 to Div CO: 1st Bn A Co beginning to enter objective # 1, CPNERSA WILFEL meeting some heavy arty and mortar fire, very little SA's. Four KOPF tanks that are salvageable are located on EPPING-URBACH B-W road. Div CO to S-2: I Co, Feb Inf, Hill # 370.
- 0145 1st Bn S-3 to S-3: Troops about 300 yds from CRNERSVILLER.
- 0150 CO to 1st Bn CO: Get A & B Co's into CRNERSVILLER so that 3d Bn can move through to objective # 2, VOLMUNSTER.
- 0159 S-3 to 7th Inf: Our Engrs clearing road from EPPING-URBACH to WEISKIRCH.
- 0215 1st Bn CO to Cn: A Co in left part of CRNERSVILLER and B Co on right side of town. Engrs ready to clear road. CO to 1st Bn CO: Send patrol to objective # 3 (vic 78310) and then push on.
- 0250 S-3 gave situation report to Division War Room.
- 0235 S-3 to 1st Bn: Relay following msg to 2d Bn: Move out at once - no change. Your armor will follow 1st Bn armor up to CRNERSVILLER.
- 0240 CO to Div Lt: Road from RIMLING to EPPING-URBACH has knocked out tanks and TD's on it which should be removed immediately. One vehicle located at 682585.
- 0250 CO to CO: Gave resume of situation.
- 0300 CO to 3d Bn S-3: Have your Bn come up to CRNERSVILLER through 1st Bn and on to objective # 2 (VOLMUNSTER) and then objective # 4 (ZSCHVILLER)
- 0303 CO to 3d Bn Fwd CP: Relays 0235A and 0300A entries.
- 0315 1st Bn to S-2: Have 4 PW's to be picked up in EPPING-URBACH. Advance party including 22 moving up to CRNERSVILLER.
- 0317 S-2 gave above msg to MP's.
- 0320 CO to CO: Have all arty possible available for your use. Also use smoke during daylight. Get armor up to 1st and 3d Bns: Put one platoon of Tanks at CR at 683555.
- 0330 1st Bn S-3 to CO: Moved from EPPING-URBACH with tanks to CRNERSVILLER. From CRNERSVILLER, we will go to objective #3 (VOLMUNSTER). Engineers will clear road.
- 0335 CO to 2d Bn CO: Our 1st Bn tanks from 683650 at 0620A to vic EPPING-URBACH. Will report to CRNERSVILLER.
- 0345 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: 3d Bn will follow through you after you have cleared the town.
- 0347 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn: Relayed the above message.
- 0400 1st Bn S-3 to Dy Cks: Engineers just finished sweeping road from EPPING-URBACH to CRNERSVILLER.
- 0406 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Have cleared town of EPPING-URBACH and on way to CRNERSVILLER.
- 0409 CO to CO: Want the bt you are using for Reserve assembled in area ready to move in any direction. 0630A is primary CP for North and East part. 0630A has 2 battalions as counterattacks and attacking force. 1st Lt has troops NW of CRNERSVILLER, one battalion vic 692655, another battalion vic 69607. Two likely approaches for enemy to counterattack are: (1) vic UFWILER, (2) woods vic 66067. My orders will not interfere with any operations you have planned. It is permissible for them to be on road moving at 0630, but let me know when you are ready to move them.
- 0415 CO to 2d Bn CO: Gave above. Be sure we have phone communication to you at 0630A. 2d Bn CO: At 0630A, I will probably have moved up as far as EPPING-URBACH.
- 0422 CO to TD platoon ldr: Lead convey of 2d Bn's tanks and TD's up to vic of Rd (683555). Have communication with you at 0630A. TD platoon ldr: Have Liaison Cpl here at Regt and radio in liaison about car.
- 0425 CO to 2d Bn to Asst S-3: My troops are moving out of CRNERSVILLER for objective two (2) at VOLMUNSTER. Am leaving EPPING-URBACH to go to VOLMUNSTER.

16 MARCH 1945 COM 1

- 0427 Asst S-3 to Div DO: Gave above. Road cleared by Bnrs from EPPING-URBACH to CRMERSVILLER. 1st Bn's armor has left EPPING-URBACH.
- 0428 Asst S-3 to 39th FA Bn: Gave 0425A entry. 39th FA Bn CO to Asst S-3: No word from 3d Bn arty La O concerning planned arty preparations.
- 0430 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn Arty La O: Gave above. Ans: Everything will go as planned.
- 0435 Asst S-3 gave above to 39th FA Bn CO.
- 0439 7th Inf DO to Asst S-3: Our 1st Bn last reported just beyond 60 grid line. S/A fire on left flank. L Co cleared woods and setting up defense along edge of woods, via 68 grid line. I Co on objective 11 (890897). 2d Bn still in UTWILLER. Asst S-3 to 7th Inf DO: Gave 18th Inf dispositions.
- 0444 Div DO to Asst S-3: Have captured map taken by 7th Inf showing mine fields. Asst S-3 to Div DO: We have this information on overlay.
- 0450 30th Inf DO to Asst S-3: Our 2d Bn at NOUSSVILLER will move farther left (west or northwest). No changes in dispositions at present.
- 0453 Asst S-3 to Regt Mag Center: Notify 601st TD La Cpl to get radio on scout car in operation and then report to me.
- 0455 1st Bn S-1 to Asst S-3: No information from fwd, except that D Co is moving. Direct line from here to Regt is out. This cell is going through 30th Inf switch board.
- 0500 2d Bn Arty La O to Asst S-3: Div sheet will be over at 0515A. After that time we can lay down a preparation. Our fwd group is moving up to CRMERSVILLER. Rear group will stay at EPPING-URBACH.
- 0506 TD La Cpl reports radio set is ready for operation.
- 0522 2d Bn COMM O to Ex O: Our leading elements were ready to move from CRMERSVILLER when I left to come back to rear. Plans made for TOT on VOLMUNSTER at 0540A.
- 0522 2d Bn S-3 to Ex O: Our armor is back at EPPING-URBACH.
- 0533 IPW to Ex O: Have 5 PW's taken by our 1st Bn; one from 2d Co 87 88 PG; four from 3d Co AT Bn. Will have more information later.
- 0538 Line is out to 2d Bn.
- 0542 30th Inf DO to Ex O: L Co along 678 grid line. C Co at 705578; A Co at 706579; B Co still in EPPING-URBACH.
- 0544 2d Bn S-1 to duty officer: 2d Bn left area at 0510A.
- 0549 1st Bn DO to Ex O: Armor is enroute to CRMERSVILLER.
- 0555 Ex O gave resume of situation to Div DO. Div DO to Ex O: Extreme right flank of 48th Div is at 648575. Left flank of 106th Cav Reg Group is at 75854. One troop of 106th Gp is at 754540, another at HOTVILLER. On left 45th Div attacks at daylight. 7th Inf attacking objective 10. There are now no river line waiting to get armor across river.
- 0500 1st Bn S-1 to Ex O: No late information from fwd except radio intercepts. 3d Bn's armor is still in EPPING-URBACH. Ex O to 1st Bn S-1: Send msg to your CO to start moving for objective 3.
- 0610 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: Fwd OP does not want armor up yet. Ex O to 3d Bn Ex O: Check with them to see if they will go ahead and let you move it. Want to clear your armor out so 2d Bn's armor can move through.
- 0615 IPW to Ex O: PW reports concerning 4 PW's from AT Bn: Plat was approx 25 men strong including plat ldr. Had two 88 mm guns & one 75 mm. One of each were withdrawn to be set up via LAUCHBACH. The third gun was supposed to be placed up during the night but transportation didn't return.
- 0620 Line in to 1st Bn.
- 0650 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Bn has closed in CRMERSVILLER. 3d Bn reports they have one company 400 yds short of VOLMUNSTER.
- 0640 1st Bn CO to CO: We have been shelled three times tonight, none of it by friendly fire. CO to 1st Bn CO: You must start moving immediately.
- 0643 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O: I Co now in town of VOLMUNSTER. No opposition. L Co is now swinging N of town and will move on to next objective. L Co present position, 722890.
- 0647 Ex O gave resume of situation to Div DO, and to 39th FA Bn, and 30th Inf.
- 0655 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: All Co's are on objective # 2. K & L Co getting ready to move to objective # 4. All bridges are in.
- 0657 7th Inf S-3 to Ex O: L Co cleared wooded area via 682607. 1st Bn in NEDEL-SHEIM. We will now attack PEPPEKUM.

16 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 0700 Ex O to 1st, 2d, 3d Bns: Gave resume of situation.
- 0704 Gave resume of situation. CO: Push hard through woods to Rd via 780610. Get set to throw two battalions on that Rd and then to push astride road to HORNBACK. As of now the 601st Recon Troop are attached to you to protect right flank.
- 0730 Ex O to Div: Gave air targets of HORNBACK & MAUSCHBACH. Also, 1st Bn heading toward 728807.
- 0735 Ex O to All Bns: Relayed the above. Also that our heavy artillery is firing on the towns. 3d Bn: Road cleared from OMMERSVILLER to VOLMUNSTER but from VOLMUNSTER to ESCHWILLER is not clear. We have armor in VOLMUNSTER. Bridge is not blown.
- 0740 Ex O to Div: Relayed the above.
- 0750 G-3 to Ex O: Send guide to 685550 to pick up 601st Recon.
- 0755 G-3 to Ex O: Have 1 platoon of 601st Recon go (if possible) from VOLMUNSTER to HORNBACK and if they get up there, disregard boundary and start for ZWEIBRUCKEN.
- 0805 G-3 to CO: Have strong dismounted patrols, taken from the battalion now in OMMERSVILLER, to proceed NE. Try pass all resistance and out road at 7564.
- 0809 CO to G-3: Send another patrol to BRENSCHELSBACH and then NE toward HORNBACK.
- 0811 2d Bn to DO: Have 1 PW. He is a Cpl identified from Stabat Co, 37th Regt. Also have 8 civilians (3 men, 3 women, 2 children). Our MPs on the way to pick them up. Relayed to MP Officer.
- 0812 1st Bn to Ex O: Tank is in front of our positions now. We're firing on it.
- 0822 Ex O to CO 2d Bn: Send strong patrol with radio to BRENSCHELSBACH. If town is unoccupied, be prepared to occupy it. Have patrol, if possible, to move to 720630, being 2d road. Then continue along line to 743041. Bn will be prepared to occupy any of that line. Relayed route of ROK. Also 1st Bn captured a map that indicates a MLR behind BRENSCHELSBACH.
- 0825 CO to 30th Inf: Relayed our situation.
- 0850 CO to Ex O: Have GPO pick up some men on road to EPPING-UNDBACH. Road is clear except for deep holes. See if engineers can fill holes.
- 0900 2d Bn to Ex O: Patrol hasn't started as yet. Will be reinforced platoon.
- 0907 Div to Ex O: There will be another combat patrol by-pass all resistance, operating east of North-South road and out road at 7564. Bn at OMMERSVILLER will be ready to take advantage of either good reports of either patrol.
- 0910 Ex O to CO 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 0917 IFF to S-2: PW report that regt staff has gone from OMMERSVILLER to BRENSCHELSBACH. 9 assault guns which moved yesterday from OMMERSVILLER to UNTEILLER had four of its guns KO'd. The other 5 moved into BRENSCHELSBACH. PW from 2d Co - 37th Regt.
- 0925 Ex O to CO: Relayed the above. Also 3d Bn has armor in ESCHWILLER. CO: Have 3d Bn send out a patrol with radio to Objective #6.
- 0930 Ex O to CO 3d Bn: Relayed the above. CO 3d Bn: Haven't my armor in town but as far as bridge on southern part of town: Engineers working on bridge now. In taking VOLMUNSTER, 1 enemy killed, 3 wounded, 7 PWs and 3 flak wagons (18th SS).
- 0935 1st Bn to Asst S-3: Trial to creek heavily mined. Sending patrol to LOUVILLER. Bridges are blown along creek.
- 0945 Div to S-2: Air Corps bombed ALTHEIM. 24 bombs in target area. Ammunition dumps up and one half-track knocked out. Also bombed and strafed HORNBACK. S-2: Target MAUSCHBACH.
- 0950 Ex O to Asst CO: Gave resume of situation. (CO in ex unit): Asst CGY: 30th has HORNBACK and leaving platoon there. 30th will then move into VOLMUNSTER and Division Reserve. Ex O: Will be sending a patrol to HORNBACK. 100th Recon is in LANGELSHHEIM.
- 1003 7th Inf to Ex O: Patrol reinforced platoon, going to Objective 14 (688523), Objective 17 (710680), Objective "O" (720643), then to HORNBACK. Gave data on our patrols. 7th Inf: Our 1st Bn at KENDELSHHEIM, 2d Bn at PEPPENSHHEIM.
- 1005 S-2 to Div DO: Cancel all air missions on towns of HORNBACK & MAUSCHBACH.
- 1015 Ex O to 1st Bn: 2d Bn is moving to Objective 8 and on to Objective 11. Recon troop sending platoon from VOLMUNSTER to north to HORNBACK. 100th Recon has reached LINGELSHHEIM and will move north to BRIDENBACH.
- 1015 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: Looking for trestle bridge now. Have sent an L Co patrol to LOUVILLER.

16 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- progress of bridge and conditions of road. Make plans for forward CP in VOLMUNSTER.
- 1080 Asst S-3 to 30th Inf: Have report that your A & C Co's are moving through ORNERSVILLER. 30th Inf: Our regiment is assembling in VOLMUNSTER as Div Reserve.
- 1081 2d Bn S-2 to S-2: Have 5 PWs (one in civilian clothes) in town of ORNERSVILLER from 37th Regt. Also have 6 civilians to be investigated. Have three stragglers
- 1082 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: 1st Bn is 800 yds north of Obj #5. These are first troops of 15th Inf to cross into Germany.
- 1088 S-2 to IPW: Gave above. S2nd CIC and C/A to investigate cases.
- 1040 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: A & C Co's of the 30th Inf are back on correct road to VOLMUNSTER.
- 1048 Asst G-3 to S-2: We have a bombing mission scheduled on town of MAUSCHBACH. Do you have other missions that you desire to request. S-2: That is the last mission that we desire.
- 1106 CO (at 3d Bn) to Ex O: Getting troway in at VOLMUNSTER. Still pulling charges from the bridge. Patrol went 600 to 1000 yds from ESCHVILLER and met light resistance at NJ via 762605. Road from ORNERSVILLER to VOLMUNSTER is very poor. Will return to Regt'l CP soon.
- 1110 1st Bn S-1 to Asst S-3: Our fwd CP is in vicinity 727618.
- 1114 Ex O to AF Co CO: Got AF guns up to support 3d Bn in ESCHVILLER without fail per orders from CG. Bridge is partially out at VOLMUNSTER but jeeps can cross. Report to CO 3d Bn.
- 1120 Asst G-3 (Maj Barnes) to S-3: Convoy of enemy camouflaged vehicles spotted between HORNBACH & MAUSCHBACH -- ~~no description~~ looking on convoy. Also enemy tanks spotted north of convoy. S-3 to Asst G-3: 601st Bn is going in that direction. Asst G-3 to S-3: We are keeping posted on location of friendly units.
- 1125 7th Inf FO to S-3: Request information on progress of your reg. Asst: No report. 7th Inf: One hour ago one of our patrols was at 706620, heading for via 718630.
- 1130 2d Bn S-2 to S-3: Patrol scheduled to go to BRENSCHELBACH will move out soon. Delayed because of arty landing in that area.
- 1132 Line out to all three battalions. Tanks ran over wires.
- 1133 30th Inf S-3 to Ex O: Bailey bridge will probably be in by noon at WEISKIRCH. Engrs are sweeping road from WEISKIRCH to VOLMUNSTER.
- 1138 30th FA Bn moving out of present location. 3d Bn 30th FA has line left by 39th.
- 1145 Asst G-3 to S-3: Report of damage by friendly air mission: Destroyed 4 staff cars, 2 tanks, 1 truck, 1 half-track, and set fire to six bldgs.
- 1151 S-3 to G-2: Gave situation report. G-2 to S-3: 7th Inf patrol went to 700617 without any contact. 45th Inf Div attacking with three regiments a-brought. One Co on west end of BITCH (town taken), one at CAMP-DE-BITCHE. 65d Div reached woods via 5688.
- 1159 CO (at 2d Bn) to S-3: 2d Bn patrol recd S/A fire north of objective 14. No further communication with them. 2d Bn S-3 went up to check -- no word from ~~them~~ 2d Bn is going to investigate. He has my radio. Plan to have radio set up for our comm with a relay at telephone switch in HPPING-BURBACH. Tell the Regt'l Ex O to go to let or 2d Bn to help carry out activities. He can get phone comm at 2d Bn.
- 1231 1st Bn S-3 to S-3: FO at 742612. Nice and radio communication between rear and fwd is out. Bn has 694 radio with them. Need report through arty.
- 1240 S-3 to Div: Troway last seen in traffic tie up. Light resistance reported at 763604. 1st Bn FO reports from 742612. Captured enemy mag shell line behind LOUTZVILLER, town is clear. Div: My reported in BRENSCHELBACH. No report on WEISKIRCH bridge. Our patrol to BRENSCHELBACH reported S/A fire. 7th Inf will jump off at 1830A.
- 1245 1st Bn CO to S-3: We are in LOUTZVILLER, town is clear. Had 24 ft troway with wide track to bring armor up. I'll have guide at 1st Bn rear to meet Engrs to show them. S-3: My reported in BRENSCHELBACH. CO 1st Bn: Site of bridge just west of town. Armer is at water's edge. Asst CG listened in on call and will contact engineers.
- 1249 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: My reported in BRENSCHELBACH. 3d Bn: Bridge at VOLMUNSTER is being put in. Should be finished in 35 minutes.

16 MARCH 1945 CONT'D

- 1502 S-3 to Div: 1st Bn strafed by our own planes. They put out red panels and yellow smoke but they came back and strafed again. Notify air support.
- 1510 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn: Reported 1st & 3d Bn's situation.
- 1515 G-2 to Asst S-3: Did 57 mm plat of AT guns cross stream. S-3: CO saw plat outside of ORMERVILLE tied up in traffic on road.
- 1525 7th Inf to Asst S-3: 2d Bn attacking abreast at 1350A towards HORNWACH. Cur 3d Bn via 680605 and 1st Bn via MEDELSHEIM.
- 1540 Engrs to S-3: 48 ft Breakway bridge should arrive at 1st Bn rear within an hour.
- 1545 CO to Ex O: Relayed the above. Ex O: B Co has taken objective 9 (woods in vic 725617); A Co captured two 105 mm with ammunition via of LOUTZVILLER
- 1550 2d Bn arby Ia O to S-3: Last report we received on patrol half hour ago they were 300 yds from town of BRENSCHELBACH. No phone seen at present. Regt 1 Ex O is here.
- 1408 Ex O to Asst S-3: Our patrol in town of BRENSCHELBACH.
- 1410 Asst S-3 to 7th Inf: We have a patrol in BRENSCHELBACH. 7th Inf: Attack hasn't started yet. Waiting for armor.
- 1420 CG to S-3: You should be at the line I gave CO seen. One company to occupy 775685 and another to occupy 786653 and ROEBLING with bulk of battalies in vic 766653. No moonbeam at start of attack but can be used after an hour.
- 1443 39th FA to S-2: Do we have personnel at 735635. FO reports personnel there and would like to fire. S-2: Will confirm and call back.
- 1445 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn: Any personnel at 735635? 2d Bn: No. Patrol has just cleared BRENSCHELBACH. No one in town.
- 1447 S-2 to 1st Bn: Any personnel at 735635? 1st Bn: No. No report on patrol to SCHWETEN.
- 1450 Ex O to S-3: Bridge to 1st Bn. 3d Bn has met resistance at objective 4-5. Preparing to attack, then move to attack objectives 10. 2d Bn will take objectives 8 & 11. 1st Bn will be squeezed out.
- Radio Msg from 601st TD Ron elements: "1st, 2d, & 3d Platoons and fwd CP at 725684. Time received 1350A."
- 1515 Ex O to CO: Bridge is in at VOLMUNSTER. Believe it will take a battalion to take objective 5. Stiff resistance there.
- 1523 7th Inf DO to Asst S-3: Our 3d Bn has one Co at 705625. Also have elements 800 yds from ALTHEIM.
- 1528 CO to G-3: 7th Inf holds positions N & NW of BRENSCHELBACH; Would like to cancel my move in that area and get my troops back on this side of stream. G-3 to CO: Approved. CO to G-3: Will regroup 2d Bn and move them to objectives assigned to us north of DIRTRICHINGEN and point west of ROEBING. Plan to use 3d Bn for move to point 1000 yds south of MAUSCHBACH.
- 1535 CO to Regt 1 Ex O, CO 1st Bn, & CO 2d Bn: Gave above concerning G-3 approval of pulling 2d Bn back on this side of stream. Elements of 1st Bn have two pieces of armor will hold woods via objective. Have bridging material coming up for woods via of 735607. 1st Bn CO: Have bridging material coming up for construction of bridge for armor. 2d Bn can use same bridges. CO: 3d Bn will take objectives 5. 1st Bn will move for objective 6, 10, 9 and be prepared to go to 11 and possibly 12. 2d Bn will attack tonight. 1st Bn S-3: 601st Ron stopped by crater in woods road opposite place 1st Bn wants to build bridge. Crater is 20' deep and extends across road. Bulldozer could be used in filling crater. CO: 2d Bn will assemble in woods generally located at 735607. 2d Bn's Engrs attachment will work with 1st Bn on construction of bridge and filling crater.
- 1550 Div DO to Asst S-3: Regt 1 CO will attend meeting at Div CP at 1900A.
- 1553 New CP opens in VOLMUNSTER, vic 724583 at 1553A.
- 1712 7th Inf DO to Ex O: Patrols report woods via 729625 unoccupied. Lower half of woods which are NW of above were checked and found unoccupied.
- 1728 1st Bn S-3 to EX O: We should have crater filled by 1900A. Patrol in SCHWETEN saw 20 or 25 enemy who seemed to be confused. Ex O: 2d Bn is moving their armor through VOLMUNSTER. Send yours over same route. Send a patrol to objective #11. You will probably attack objective #11 & #12 soon. The objectives are numbered as follows:
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| #15 - 786645 | #16 - 776886 |
| #17 - 785653 | #18 - 785628 |
- 3 Co can move back if you have a place to put them. 3d Bn's objectives will be 5, 10, 14 & 18. 2d Bn's objectives will be 15, 16, 17.

16 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- 1743 Radio msg from 1st Plat 601st TD Ron to 1st NCO with Regt: "Friendly elements advancing slowly at 762588". Recvd at 1743A.
- 1766 1st Bn to Asst S-3. Have 8 PWs. S-3: Will send up for them.
- 1800 3d Bn CO to Ex O: L Co is meeting no opposition now at 756609, I Co recvd S/A & MG fire from town on right. Armor up with I Co. We got 4 or 5 rounds of SP fire from SCHWEYEN. Ex O: 3d Bn's objectives will be 5, 10, 14 and 18. 3d Bn Ex O: 106th Cav Ron assaulting town on our right now.
- 1829 Radio msg from CO, 15th Inf to CO 1st Plat, 601st TD Ron: "Maintain contact with friends on our right. Submit periodic reports."
- 1843 Dy Ck received following written msg: (1) 3d Plat, 601st TD Ron Co. moving on mission 1820. (2) To CO, 1st Plat, 601st TD Ron: "Maintain Contact with Friends on our Right. Submit Periodic Reports."
- 1847 G-3 to Ex O: Hornbach is your objective.
- 1848 Dy Ck recd the following written msg (Radio): "Air ren reports camouflaged tank at edge of woods, 664634, by tk 665627". T/P 1640.
- 1855 3d Bn to Ex O: I Co working on woods. Receiving some S/A and some arty. L Co turning toward objective #10.
- 1903 G-2 to S-2: There is a report of communication trench from 750821 to 755618. Bridge is blown at 730647. 10 enemy personnel observed at 735624 were fired upon by 39th FA Bn. 100th Div being relieved by new division and should be moving on our right flank tomorrow.
- 1930 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Both Co's moving now and have reached 756613. Getting S/A on rt flank and arty on left flank. Woods not entirely clear. 106th Cav Unit has reached edge of BRENSCHELBACH. Took 1 PW. AT ditch running through town holding them up. Troop is coming up.
- 1932 7th Inf to CO: 1st Bn, 30th Inf in area via 695615.
- 1957 3d Bn to Ex O: Jumping off for objective #10 now. I Co moving up to obj #6. Ex O: When you take #10, send patrols to obj #14.
- 2016 2d Bn S-3 to CO: Bridge at 728611 is all right contrary to report by 601st TD Ron. Ren is not at bridge.
- 2020 1st Bn Ex O to Ex O: Have foot bridges across river. B Co staying in same position tonight. They have defensive positions dug.
- 2030 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O: 3d Bn entering town of SCHWEYEN (Obj #10). 106th Cav Ron has two troops in town of BREIDENBACH. They will send contact group to us at SCHWEYEN. We are sending patrol to objective #14 (ORRETHAL) with 300 Radio.
- 2035 Ex O to 3d Bn S-3: Try to push 106th Ron to obj #15 (via 782638). Have I Co on obj #6 (LODEVILLER). 2d Bn's objectives will be #16, #16 and #17. 1st Bn's objectives will be #11, patrol to #12 and if possible, establish a bridgehead across river via MAUSCHBACH and block towards objective #13 (HORNBACH). 3d Bn then to attack thru 2d Bn at #16 (via 774664) due west and then turn north to next phase line.
- 2048 Div DO to S-3: Moonbeams will be turned on tonight at 2100. 2 troops of Cav in BREIDENBACH. Above relayed to all Ia's.
- 2100 3d Bn S-3 to S-2: 106th Ron will send a 30 man patrol to obj #15 (ROLSING), via 782658).
- 2116 S-2 to 1st Bn S-3 & 3d Bn S-3: Your bn's will each plan a patrol of one officer and 7 MM with radio to patrol dragon teeth and up to bunkers. Men should rest tonight, make observation and terrain notes tomorrow and patrol tomorrow night.
- 2117 7th Inf Ex O to Ex O: We have taken NEUALTHEIM and have run into dragon's teeth. 300 yds. from dragon's teeth.
- 2118 Regt CO left 2d Bn to go to 1st Bn.
- 2127 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: I Co on obj at WINDROF. L Co on obj at SCHWEYEN. We captured approx 6, killed that many, and wounded around 8 or 6. Only opposition was scattered S/A fire.
- 2129 1st Bn S-3 to Ex O: Plat of C Co will move out soon followed by remainder of C Co.
- Radio msg recvd. 601st Ron 1st Plat to CO 15th Inf: "Friendly elements holding at 772598. signed 2015A. Also recvd. 601st Ron 1st Plat to CO, 15th Inf. "Friendly elements from 756593 met friendly elements from 743595 at 772597. signed at 2000.
- 2152 1st Bn CO to Ex O: C Co moved out at 2145A. We have the following phase lines: From 731629 along main road - Obel Hill 331 - King Enemy border - Able
- 2159 IPW to S-2: 2 PWs taken were from 17 AA Bn

16 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- 2218 ~~By 01 received the following written msg (2210): CO, 3d Plt will report to CO, 10th Inf when he returns. 1/2 2140~~
- 2218 CO 2d Bn to CO - Ready to leave and will jump off at 1030. Intend to put my CP at 764645. Short of wire (only 6 1/2 miles), CO; Lay on asmach wire as you can. Will get more to you.
- 2223 Ex O to CO 3d Bn. Any news of patrol. 3d Bn. Negative so far. Left about an hour and half ago.
- 2230 Commo O to Commo O, 2d Bn; You can pick up four miles of wire here.
- 2233 Commo O to S-4. Send us 25 miles of wire. S-4; You can have it in three hours.
- 2246 Ex O to 1st Bn; Any progress. 1st Bn; Have reached Obel line.
- 2252 Ex O to 3d Bn; Any patrol report. Nothing new.
- 2300 Ex O to CO - Reported situation.
- 2306 G-2 to Ex O - River is 38' wide, water is 22' across. Banks are 8' high with a 45-degree angle. Depth unknown.
- 2314 Ex O to 1st Bn; What sort of fire are you receiving? 1st Bn; Heavy R/A. Believe its coming from nose on forward slope of hill.
- 2316 Ex O to 2d Bn; Have you left yet. CO, 2d Bn; Believe we will be ready to leave in about 10 minutes.
- 2327 CO, 3d Bn to Ex O. Patrol 500-600 yds from town. Report hearing heavy vehicular movement.

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-5 Periodic Report

Period: 151201 to 151200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BETTVILLER, FRANCE
Date : 15 March 1945

No. 58
Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000, RITCH, Sheet #XXXVII-13 & FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000,
WALSCHBROHN, Sheet XXXVIII-12.

1. Our Front Lines: 727615 - 700597 - 743585.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP, vic 871534
1st Bn CP vic 727610
2d Bn vic 700594
3d CP vic 723580
CM Co vic 692541
AT Co 581425 (One Platoon with 3d Bn)

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear and warm, visibility excellent.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regimental CP: Displaced from town of DEHLINGEN to BETTVILLER vic 871534.
Forward CP opened at 151600A.

1st Battalion: At 151120A, moved by foot from vic 639462 to assembly area vic 685560. At 152100A, 1st Bn moved from assembly area along axis of RIMLING - EPPING-URBAN, SW-NE road to RJ vic 694571 and then North along axis EPPING-URBAN - ORMERSVILLER road. At 152250, 1st Bn reported A Co vic 695687 with no contact with enemy except for arty and mortar fire. C Co moved to the rear and left of A Co's route. At 160030, A Co reported vic 696599 on main road with B Co moving up on the flank 400 yds from ORMERSVILLER. At 160136A, 1st Bn reported A Co entering ORMERSVILLER getting heavy arty and mortar fire, tho very little S/A's. At 160215A, A Co had occupied the left of ORMERSVILLER and B Co on the right. A Co sent a patrol out to RJ vic 729608 (Obj #3). At end of period, 1st Bn lead elements were reported 800 yds NW of Objective #5, LOUZEVILLE (729608).

3d Battalion: At 160235, Bn was ordered to move from assembly area vic 699581 and follow 1st Bn's armor up to ORMERSVILLER and then thru 1st Bn to attack SE to VOLMUNSTER vic 723581. At 160405, 3d Bn had passed thru town of EPPING-CREACH and on way to ORMERSVILLER. At 160425, 3d Bn passed thru 1st Bn at ORMERSVILLER SE to VOLMUNSTER. Bn reported at 160645A, I Co in the town with no opposition, and L Co swinging North of the town vic 722590. K and I Co's started move to ESCHVILLER and at 160925A had occupied objective. At end of period, patrol was sent from ESCHVILLER met light resistance at RJ vic 752605.

2d Battalion: Bn in regimental reserve vic 690555, was notified to move to their assembly area and to follow 1st Bn after they had cleared ORMERSVILLER. At 160810A, Bn left area for ORMERSVILLER and ahead in area at 160830A, strong patrol was sent NE to and east of ESCHVILLER, 709611.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 15 Mar)

Officers: 90%
WO: 100%
EM: 98%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 49
EM: 1341

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(S-S Report #50 Cont's)

6. Results of Operations:

- a. 1st Bn occupied ORMERVILLE with lead elements pushing toward LOUISVILLE.
- b. 3d Bn moved thru 2d Bn and attacked SE, occupying VOLMUNSTER. K & L Cos moving from latter town to ESCHVILLE.
- d. 2d Bn is Regt'l reserve--ORMERVILLE.

BARR
S-S

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-2 REPORT

FROM: 150800A
TO: 160800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 16 MARCH 1946
PLACE: BITTIVILLER, FRANCE

No 30

MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000; BITCHE SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period the enemy held all terrain north and east of line running generally from Q728596 to Q730570.
- b. Enemy Defense: Enemy defense of the area consisted of numerous mines, a small amount of infantry and some SP artillery. Artillery reported to be light. There were no reports of enemy mortars.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn moved from assembly area via BINNING at approx. noon to attack town of QRMERSVILLER (Q700597) following road north from EPPING - URBACH. Bn received some artillery fire via Q683544 causing a few casualties. Very little resistance was met from infantry. QRMERSVILLER was occupied at 0230A and at the close of the period the Bn was moving on its next objective via Q730605 without contact.
- (2) 2d Bn: Bn remained in reserve during entire period. No enemy action reported.
- (3) 3d Bn: Bn passed thru 1st Bn at QRMERSVILLER and attacked town of VOLMUNSTER (Q720500). Only light opposition was met and at end of the period the Bn occupied the town.

3. ACTIVITIES OF COMPONENT ELEMENTS:

- a. Infantry: Only light infantry opposition was encountered.
- b. Arty: Arty concentration via Q683544 at approx. 1500A. Arty throughout the night of 15/16 March was of heavy caliber though not in heavy volume.
- c. Engineers: Numerous mine fields and mined roads found in sector.
- d. No report of enemy air, armor or M/T activity in our sector.

4. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Enemy Casualties: 100 reported.

DONALD H. LIEB
Maj, 15th Inf
S - 2

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
 NINETEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
 A. P. O. # 3

16 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 150800A - 160800A Mar 1945.

TABULATION:

EW	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time	Capt Unit
1		2/37 SS Pz Gren Regt	OMERSVILLER	0130A	A Co
1		3/17 AT Bn	"	"	"
5		TOTAL			

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5235.

2/37 SS Pz Gren Regt:

PW left hospital at Wiesbaden 3 days ago. By train to Homburg from there marched to Omersviller. States that Siegfried Line Defense position via Hirschweiler is partly manned by Volksturm, partly by Regular Army Units. Saw bunkers 10 - 15yds apart along road from vic Heidelberghof (767695) to vic (758699). Trenches being repaired and improved vic (758699 - 738698). Pillboxes every 100 - 200yds at same locations. According to PW all bridges in this zone are mined.

3/17 AT Bn:

PW states that 1st Platoon had been in OMSERSVILLER 22 days.

WEAPONS:

2 - 88mm AT Guns 100 rounds for each gun
 1 - 75mm AT Gun

LOSSES:

1 wounded
 5 PWs

Platoon Leader with 15 men, 1 - 88mm, 1 - 75mm AT Gun withdrew to WANNENBRACH (752654). PWs left behind with 1 - 88mm AT Gun. Captured because of lack of transportation.

PERSONALITIES:

CO 3/17 AT Bn 1st Lt SCHWANKE
 CO 1st Pl 2nd Lt HUBTEL

HEINE, LEE
 1st Lt., SIG C.

17 MARCH 1945 (Continued)

- 0007 1st Bn to Ex O: May at 754625. Throwing concussion grenades, heavy S/A and MG. Will withdraw and put arty on it.
- 0020 3d Bn CO to S-3: Patrol reports trucks coming from Hornbach to Orenthal. Also arty firing from vic of Orenthal.
- 0022 Ex O to 1st Bn: Unless you attack, don't fire artillery as we will fire quite a bit as soon as we can contact 2d Bn.
- 0030 Ex O to 2d Bn: Put in lateral line with 1st Bn. Contact your CO and have him call me from one of 3d Bn Co's. 2d Bn: Have radio contact and believe he's in vicinity of WINDOF.
- 0032 Ex O to 3d Bn: Any sign of 2d Bn. 3d Bn: None. Six vehicles were reported by our patrol. Alert your artillery to plat fires. We will give you the OK to fire. Reported 1st Bn situation.
- 0037 Ex O to 1st Bn: Plot your arty fire and we will give you the signal. 1st Bn: Believe there are MG's in woods (728626) firing across at us.
- 0042 2d Bn to S-3: Head of 2d Bn via of RJ 750625. They have been halted. CO 2d Bn will call you.
- 0046 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Head of column 200 yds beyond RJ. Ex O relayed about arty to be fired.
- 0050 2 PW's from 17th MP Co taken by I Co. 40 men of their company (approx 1/2 company strength) fighting as infantry. They were warned not to use road from 744640 to HORNBACK. Deese's know why. Told to use field path from 744640 to MAUSCHBACH, then to HORNBACK.
- 0107 Ex O to 1st & 3d Bns: Will give you time to fire artillery. 1st Bn: Rea unit withdraws. Ex O: Have patrols ready to check these areas after barrage.
- 0127 7th Inf to Ex O: 1st Bn have reached obj 18. Also en way to objectives #19 & #20.
- 0131 CO 3d Bn to Ex O: Will hold patrol at RJ. Ex O: Pull them back as arty is going to fire along road.
- 0136 Ex O to 3d Bn: How many guns? Mine Bns for ten minutes - five volleys.
- 0138 Ex O to All Bn's: Relayed the above. At 0200 you will start on original mission.
- 0158 2d Bn to Ex O: 500 yds short of RJ.
- 0200 1st Bn to Ex O: C Co is being reorganized.
- 0201 Div to Ex O: 2d Bn, 7th Inf is en way to objectives on edge of 7164, 7264. 1st Bn approaching obj 18.
- 0246 3d Bn to Ex O: Patrol at 766631.
- 0252 Ex O to 3d Bn: E Co moved out at 0200 leaving men to black.
- 0300 2d Bn to S-3: E Co 300 yards beyond RJ. Not meeting any position.
- 0307 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Have two patrols out. If we don't hear from them within ten minutes, will follow them up with another patrol.
- 0355 Ex O to Div: 2d Bn in vic 753640 and turning east. Also sending a company from 3d Bn to ORENTHAL to protect flank. Div: 7th Inf reports progress and no resistance.
- 0332 3d Bn to DO: BP moving on objective - no opposition. DO: Better have L Co. 2d Bn is on ridge. If you don't get into town, set up a defensive position west and contain it.
- 0350 3d Bn CO to CO: Patrol is on obj #14. L Co is moving up. CO: 1st Bn moving now.
- 0425 2d Bn to CO: L Co is on obj #14 and the town is unoccupied.
- 0432 1st Bn to CO: C Co is moving.
- 0445 2d Bn to DO: 2d Bn on objective #15.
- 0503 2d Bn to DO: No sign of resistance. Can't move out very far as we can't get our arms up because of the trees.
- 0520 3d Bn CO to CO: Patrol from L Co getting ready to leave #14 for objective #18. Have sent a small patrol to contact troops on obj #18.
- 0530 1st Bn to DO: C Co in almost in woods. A Co left at 0517 and B Co at 0630.
- 0540 1st Bn CO to CO: C Co has one platoon on objective. Have some armor in woods.
- 0545 1st Bn to CO: Possible mine field along woods. The field is marked with signs. Am checking it.
- 0550 CO to CO: Try to take the bridges. Get a bridge across the stream, should have a roadway. Use your smoke and arty.

- 0555 2d Bn 3 to CO: G Co in DIETRICHENGEN; patrols are checking on bridge.
- 0745 2d Bn 3 to CO: Bridge is in. CO: Put men across to hold it, bring your armor up; but FO on high ground behind it so you can have arty support in case of counter attack.
- 0752 CO to 3d Bn CO: Bridge is in - move out. 2d Bn will protect your flanks.
- 0806 1st Bn S-1 to DO: Bridge south of MAUSCHBACH in good condition.
- 0816 S-2 to G-2: Our 3d Bn is on the move up to DIETRICHENGEN, preparatory to crossing river in that vicinity. Received reports that our elements have captured bridge in DIETRICHENGEN. Are checking condition of the bridge. Have a task force moving on town of MAUSCHBACH.
- 0830 2d Bn CO to CO: Bridge at DIETRICHENGEN is OK for armor. Enemy armor crossed bridge at 0330A. CO: But something in vicinity of GRENTHAL for flank protection. 2d Bn Ex O to CO: Our tanks now at WINDHOP.
- 0841 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: We have bridge in at 728005. That is our rear CP. Spotted disorganized enemy vic 758058. Bridge at MAUSCHBACH in good condition but won't carry armor.
- 0845 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: Spotted disorganized enemy vic 768058. Bridge at MAUSCHBACH in good condition but won't carry armor.
- 0848 S-2 to 1st & 3d Bn's: Send patrols picket for rear of Dragon's Teeth and Bunkers of SIEGFRIED Line to Regt CP for briefing.
- 0866 G-3 to S-2: For the concentration plan for tomorrow, be sure you have tactical vehicles, armor, engr vehicles, as far forward as possible to eliminate congestion in rear areas and facilitate movement in fwd areas.
- 0900 1st Bn to S-2: C Co in MAUSCHBACH. Contrary to previous reports, bridge south of MAUSCHBACH is blown. Feet troops can pass over but it will carry no vehicles. Bridge is intact on main road south from HORNBACK. One platoon of A Co going into HORNBACK - engaged in fire fight. Chicken wire is around woods vic objective 11. 3 PWs now at rear CP. FO spotted enemy vic 768668.
- 0911 3d Bn Ex O to S-2: Eight man patrol from L Co to objective 16 (ROEBING) found town unoccupied but drew MG fire from high ground to east. I & K Co's and platoon of tanks on way up. Armor will move from SIEPENTAL on secondary road running generally NE to DIETRICHENGEN.
- 1926 S-2 to MP's: Send for 3 PW's at 1st Bn rear CP.
- 0936 CO to CO: You have plenty of arty at your disposal. Use it. Fire heavy concentrations on woods north of MAUSCHBACH. A bn of the 30th Inf attached to 7th Inf will swing to NE around ALT-HORNBACK. Arty preparations you put on woods will help them. When you reach phase line FRANK, push patrol to town and E and toward SIEGFRIED Line. Enemy may have withdrawn because of heavy pressure north of here on the flanks of the pocket.
- 0943 Asst G-3 to DO: Will bomb by radar town of Centwig (777721) in 15 minutes. Air support apologies profusely for fatally wounding two friendly soldiers.
- Radio Mag from 1st Plat, 601st TD Ren to La O. "Friendly elements at 786638".
- Radio Mag from 3d Plat, 601st TD Ren to La O. "S-6 coordinate 732648".
- 1001 G-2 to Asst S-3: Elements of 7th Inf west of HORNBACK. 167th Inf at 685676.
- 1026 1st Bn S-3 to S-2: Bridge blown leading North of HORNBACK.
- 1035 3d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: I Co across river via DIETRICHENGEN. K Co in process of crossing. Bridge is alright for armor.
- 1036 2d Bn S-2 to S-2: Have 4 PWs for you instead of reported 11.
- 1045 1st Bn to CO: Bridge at HORNBACK not blown. Enemy armor has crossed bridge but can be fixed without too much trouble. I Co has crossed at DIETRICHENGEN and K Co is crossing.
- 1047 1st Bn CO to Ex O: A Co heading for Obj 19.
- 1048 3d Bn to Asst S-3: I Co on objective #20; L Co alerted. K Co heading for objective #22.
- 1060 Como O to Asst S-3: Road from SCHWYEBEL to 733623 is clear.
- 1100 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co 500 yds from 19. Bridge in poor shape. Engr estimates will not be ready before tonight.
- 1137 1st Bn S-3 to Asst S-3: A Co on objective #19; C Co will be moving for #21 at 1130A.

17 MARCH 1945, Cont'd

- 1215 Advance CP opened at SCHWEYEN via 747625.
- 1229 1st Bn Ex O to DO: C Co on objective #21 (North end of woods via 754679). Sending patrols to objective #24 (Woods via 753688).
- 1255 7th Inf Asst S-3 to Bn: M and K Co's at 718670. Road from ALTHEIM to HORNBACK is cleared. 2d Bn of 80th Inf is attached to us and will attack HORNBACK.
- 1259 AT Plat Inf to Ex O: Bridge at 731655 is intact.
- 1247 7th Inf Ex O to Ex O: My 3d Bn is at 718675 and have patrols in MITTELBACH.
- 1254 1st Bn Ex O to Ex O: A Co on objective #19 (Southern end of woods via 747687) B Co is in HORNBACK. Rear CP is in latter town. Ex O to 1st Bn Ex O: AT Co will go into position on this side of blown bridge in HORNBACK
- 1516 Ex O to G-2: B Co in HORNBACK, A Co on objective 19, C Co on objective 21 and sending patrol to objective 24. 3d Bn on objective 20 and 22. Bridge is intact between HORNBACK and ALTHEIM.
- 1300 2d Bn CO to Ex O: G Co now released in DIETRICHINGEN. F Co covering objective 17 (via 786666). 108th Cav Reg Troops in objective 18 (via 786638). M Co is in town of DIETRICHINGEN. TD's just KO'd a half-track which is burning via 766670.
- 1544 2d Bn S-3 to Ex O: Have 7 PW's in OHRNETHAL.
- 1407 CM Co CO to 1st Bn: Observed enemy vicinity 728677.
- 1415 CO to 1st Bn Ex O: Want G Co to move on to objective 24 (Woods via 753688) and B Co move from objective 18 to 21.
- 1419 3d Bn CO to CO: K Co is moving on objective 21. We are receiving some S/P fire
- 1425 3d Bn S-3 to CO: Some enemy heavy mortar fire landing in town of DIETRICHINGEN.
- 1425 Ex O 1st Bn to S-2: PW states there are enemy fortifications via woods 730690.
- 1519 CO to 3d Bn: Want an officer led patrol to "Dragon's Teeth" to see if the BERGRIED Line is manned and if not be ready to explore it. The only block you need is at 777677. Use radio for communication. (Same message relayed to 1st Bn)
- 1518 7th Inf to Ex O: Patrol fired on from pill boxes inside "Dragon's Teeth" at 723683.
- 1532 G-2 to S-2: Going to shoot surrender leaflets this afternoon. Also sending broadcast unit up to you to broadcast news to enemy tonight.
- 1600 1st Bn to 3d Bn: Water in woods (objective 21) is good. Good roads thru woods. HORNBACK bridge should be complete in 1/2 hour. S-2: Broadcast unit will broadcast tonight from NE section of your woods.
- 1703 CO 1st Bn to DO: Have a plat of 20 men occupying far edge of woods of objective 24. Patrol will check in and out of their position.
- 1736 3d Bn to DO: Bridge at 788657 is in. 8 ft foot bridge at 785658. Bridge in at 709651.
- 1840 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: Receiving a little S/P fire from the north. K Co receiving no resistance.
- 1901 1st Bn S-3 to S-3: Observed enemy outpost in woods, center of which is located at 738698.
- 2011 CO to 1st, 2d and 3d Bn CO's: Your Reg. patrol must be in by 0500A. 1st Bn on left, 2d Bn on right and 3d Bn in reserve. Bn's will attack in column of companies. Roads that we make will be based on the main road. 1st Bn objective is #5 on Div OI and blocking to M and E. If you secure a bridgehead bring armor up. 2d Bn will assemble before dawn
- 2042 7th Inf to Asst S-3: Will attack in following order: 1st, 3d and 2d Bns, with two CM's abreast. Asst S-3: 1st Bn will be to your right. Will attack two Co's abreast, C, A, and B Co's. LD = "Dragon's Attack".
- 2117 CO to Div: Our LD will be nothing from point 765680. Div arty will start to fire from 0300 until H-1, then 27 minute break, then 35 minute preparation.
- 2136 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Patrol observed via 766694 16 enemy in house and a large manned pill box at 769699 of which has an outpost manned 30 yds to direct front of it. This is inside of the "Dragon's Teeth".

17 March 1946, Cont'd

2230 S-S to CO's of all Bns: H-hour will be 0645. We will attack in a column of battalions, 1st, 2d and 3d Bns in that order. Our left boundary will be 764-grid-running North and South. The LD will be the woods where platoon of C Co is now located (758686). 1st of 7th will be on left of our 1st Bn. The Dragon's Teeth will be breached midway between road at 768697 and 767696. Tank deser will be in woods at objective 21, on call by 1st Bn, after Dragon's Teeth has been breached and can be called through 1st Platoon, Co B, 10th Engrs, which is attached to 1st Bn.

Arty Plan: 0500-0445 - Evy harassing program.
0445-0512 - Silence
0512-0645 - Evy preparation

At 0645, there will be a propaganda broadcast to enemy. The 2d Bn will remain in present position. On orders, this Bn, pass thru 1st Bn and continue attack to Regt'l objective at 775723. Mission is to secure bridges in that sector. 2d Bn will make reconnaissance of route from present area through objective for movement. The 3d Bn will remain in position and block Regt'l and Div flank, assisting by firing all your weapons in support of advance of 1st Bn. Be prepared on call to smoke high ground to the East of K Co and be prepared to follow 2d Bn on order of this Bn. A Bury of M-12's (S/P - 185-mm) are available, for reduction of pill boxes, by calling this Bn.

There will be a confirming written order out tonight. The 4.2 mortars will be attached to the 2d Bn when they pass through 1st Bn. CO, 1st Bn: There are mine fields from C woods to A woods. From NW corner of A woods running NW there is a draw flanking Dragon's Teeth. Foxholes and wire between Dragon's teeth. Observed at least 5 pillboxes, high type, one of which was covered by concealing net. They are single type with an aperture. CO: Can't use that approach. 7th Inf area. S-S: Will send 6 x 6 vehicle loaded with demolition and wire cutters to 1st Bn. Axis of communication will be from MAUNCHBACH to woods (Obj 21) CO: 1st Bn, the following legend: Woods (788687) "a"
Woods (360 yds north of above location "A")

Dragon's Teeth - "D"
Obj (North Bridges) - "G"
Obj (South Bridges) - "H"

2230 (Radio Msg from CG) H-hour for attack tomorrow, "Breaching SIEGFRIED LINE" 180645A.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 161201 to 171200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : VOLMUNSTER, FRANCE
Date : 17 March 1945

No. 60

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000, BITCH, & WALSCHEROM.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.

2. Disposition of troops:

Regt'l CP, 723554
Hq Co, 724884
Sv Co, 718586
Cm Co, 733628
AT Co, 746623.

3. Weather and Visibility: Clear to hazy and cold; visibility excellent to fair.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt'l CP in process of displacing forward to SCHWENYEN via 747623.
1st Battalion: A Co occupied LOUZYVILLE via 728608. At 161245A B Co passed thru A Co occupying woods to the NW via 722618. Bn sent patrol to vie 726825 and reported receiving MG fire. By 170607A lead elements of 1st Bn met enemy resistance in form of S/A's, MG and grenades from SW nose of Hill via 733633; arty was fired on enemy and by 170450A 1st Bn had moved forward to vie 753633. At 170450A 1st Bn was at 759639 and at 170800A in town of SCHNEIDBERG via 745642. Bridge at 728606 reported intact. C Co entered MAUSCHBACH - one platoon of A Co moving into HORBACH, engaged in a small fire fight at 170900A. At 171100A fire fight had ceased and at end of period A Co was moving toward woods via 743653

2d Battalion: Moved from OMBERSVILLER to the North sending a patrol to BREUSCHELBACH via 709615. Patrol reported at 161408A the town was clear. Bn assembled and moved NW to SCHWENYEN via 749622 closing in at 170042A. At 170335A lead elements reported via 755641 and were moving cross-country to the NW. At the end of the period G Co was in DIESTRICHINGEN.

3d Battalion: Moved from RJ via 784605 to RJ 769609 where L Co was reported at 161800A. L and I Co's were moving NW on main road to SCHWENYEN and were enroute via 756614 at 161930A. At 162300A Bn reported L Co in SCHWENYEN and I Co south of WINDHOF via 750626. Patrol was sent to OMBRENTAL via 764634; L Co occupied the town at 170425A. At 170350A, K Co was reported via 764624. A patrol was sent to ROLBING via 766637 and found the town unoccupied. I Co cross river near DIESTRICHINGEN. At close of period I Co was at vie 760661 with 3d Bn CP at OMBRENTAL. K Co moving toward woods via 7667.

Combat Efficiency:

Responsible for Duty, (As shown on M/R or A/R Map)

Officers: 89%

NO: 100%

EM: 93%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 48

EM: 129%

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

RG. Results of Operations:

- a. Rapid advance continued.
- b. Slight enemy resistance encountered.
- c. Contact with enemy maintained.

BARR
H-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: 160800A
TO : 170800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 17 MARCH 1945
PLACE: VOLMUNSTER, FRANCE.

No 31
MAP: FRANCE 1/50,000; WALDSCHBRUNN SHEET.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period the enemy held ground north of the river line BRONBACH - NAUSCHBACH - DISTRIEHINGEN - Q780675.
- b. Enemy Defenses: Slightly light resistance was encountered from S/A's during the entire period.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was moving to the NE on objective via Q780606 with no opposition. After taking the objective the Bn moved north meeting resistance from enemy on forward slope of hill via Q783633 using grenades, S/A's and MG's. At end of the period the Bn was in vic of Q742640.
- (2) 2d Bn: Beginning of the period the Bn was in ORNERSVILLE (Q700695) from where they advanced to the NE drawing fire from S/A's and MG's from vic of Q780640. At end of the period the Bn was in vic of Q772650.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn was in VOLMUNSTER (Q720680) at beginning of the period from where it moved in attack to the NE. A patrol to vic of Rf (Q762606) drew fire from a strong point in the woods vic of Rf. The Bn reduced this strong point killing 26 enemy and capturing 11 MG's and 7 PW's. Bn continued the attack to the north and captured towns of SCHWYEN (Q746623) and WINDHOFF (Q780626) with slight resistance from S/A's and army. At the close of the period the Bn also held the town of OHRENTHAL (Q786635).

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Patrol to Rf via Q762606 drew S/A's and MG's fire at 1300A. 20-25 enemy observed vic of SCHWYEN (Q746623) at 1128A. Heavy S/A's fire received from vic of Q783633 at 2300A. MG fire received from vic of Q786626 at 0037A.
- (2) Arty: 4-5 rds of SP fire received from vic of SCHWYEN at 1800A. Few rds of arty fell on woods vic of Q786613 at 1855A.
- (3) Engineers: Roads were found to be mined and numerous mine fields were encountered. Enemy had blown bridges in this sector at following locations: Q784655 and Q762651.
- (4) The sound of armor was reported via woods Q746640. PW's reported armor crossed bridge at Q786661 going NW just prior to dawn.
- (5) No report of enemy air or M/T in this sector.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: One witnessed PW reported.

DONALD H. LIES
Maj. 16th Inf
S - 2

17 March 1945

IPW REPORT: period 160800A - 170800A Mar 1945

TABULATION		Place of Capt	Date	Capt Unit
1	4/30/37 SS Pz Gren Regt	BRUNNENHILF	0600A	I Co
2	1/37	"	"	"
1	2/37	"	"	"
1	2/37	BRUNNENHILF (6957)	"	"
2	3/37	BRUNNENHILF	0600A	I Co
1	5/37	(708610)	1630	1st Bn
2	6/37	"	"	"
1	8/37	"	"	"
3	3/17 AT Bn	BRUNNENHILF	0800	AT Pl
3	3/17 Arty Regt	BRUNNENHILF	1630	1st Bn
2	17 Arty Co	(756615)	2000	3rd Bn
4	4/17 14 Bn	"	2000	3rd Bn
3	17 Assault Co	718551	1700	Co Co
1	Assault, 2nd Bn (1)	BRUNNENHILF	"	2nd Bn
30				
2	Russian Sniper	BRUNNENHILF	"	2nd Bn

32 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Csg in BRUNNENHILF: 5267

37 SS Pz Gren Regt:

BRUNNENHILF (708615) PW states Major BAUCHER replaced Col. Wink as Regt'l CO. Staff left on mainroad via PJ (695643). Claims short road from (693640) to (677648) mined. Saw 9 assault guns, 4 of them were knocked out by us.

1st Co/37 PW states 1st Pl strength 23 men. 2 INF & 4 INF in Pl. Believes that Co had heavy losses.

2/37 PW estimates strength of Co at 60 men. Came from BRUNNENHILF (692638) to (677648) on mainroad via PJ (695643). Claims short road from (693640) to (677648) mined. Saw 9 assault guns, 4 of them were knocked out by us.

3/37 PW states 2nd Pl strength according to PW 16-18 men. Estimates to have had 50% losses.

4/37 According to PW from 1/37, 4th Co at present in TOLAU, Czechoslovakia.

5/37 PW claims Co strength to be 80 men. Had orders to withdraw to Hornbach

ago. PW's platoon was moved to Brunnenthal leaving the other 2 platoons at "Pa Wall"

8/37 PW had come from "entire" defenses via "attweiler" only 2 days ago and is very poorly informed. Cannot give a y accurate information of "entire" defenses as he is unable to follow the map.

17/37 According to PW's statement this company is an "escort company" employed as Infantry. Company consists of 2 platoons of each about 23 men. PW's were hiding in woods via 718551 and were captured while trying to return to their lines.

3/17 AT PW states that this company had 2 RR mm AT Guns and 1 75 mm AT gun in "Hornweiler". One 75 mm AT gun was brought to Vauschbach (7565) and the 88 mm AT gun was put into position by PW at H# 696653). PW was then supposed to pick up the other RR mm AT gun at Hornweiler and while trying to do so was captured. He also stated that the other Co's of his Bn had the following equipment:

Hq Co	3 Assault Guns	(75 mm AT Guns on Mark IV Chassis)
1st Co	6 "	" " " " " " " "
2d Co	6 "	" " " " " " " "

An undetermined number of Assault Guns were knocked out by us and the remainder was supposed to have moved to Althain (6983). The CP of the 17th AA Bn is also supposed to be located at Althain.

3/17 Arty PW states that his battery had originally 6 10.5 cm Art How of which 3 were lost due to our action and 3 were moved back to via Hornbach (7365). He also states that the 17th AA Arty Bgt is composed of 1 Bn or 2 Batteries each. Each Btry has 6 Artillery Howitzers. Caliber of Art How in 1st and 2nd Bn is 10.5 cm and in 3d Bn 15 cm.

17th up Co PW states that about half of the Co of 80 men is being used as Infantry in groups of 6-7 men. Each group, according to PW is armed with 1 M1 and 2 Panzerfauste. Rest of Co (ca 40 men) still used for up duties. PW was told not to use main road from Scheidberg (714640) to Hornbach, but to go via Vauschbach (752653); PW did not know reason for making this detour.

4/17 AA Bn. PW from 4th Btry claims that part of his, as well as 1, 2, 3 Btry was being employed as Infantry. Claims his Btry's strength at close to 40 men. Does not know what percentage is being used as Infantry.

PERSONALITIES:

CO-37-45 Pa Gren Regt. Major BAUMER
CO 1/37 Lt. BITTMANN
CO 3/37 Capt. ALBERT
CO 5/37 2nd Lt. KUMMER
CO 17 Arty Regt. Major KLADOFFER

CO 1st Bn/17 Arty Capt. Voller
CO 2nd Bn/17 Arty Capt. Vogel
CO 3rd Btry Lt. Stammann
CO 17th up Co Lt. Joesel
CO 17 AA Bn, 4th Btry 2nd Lt. Glueckner.

BRUNN, LEVI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

James

SECRET

Hq 15th Inf
VOLLMUNSTER, FRANCE
17 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER.....16)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALSCHEWEN Sheet XXXVIII-12.

1. 2d Infantry Division continues the attack to breach the SIGFRIED Line with the 7th and 15th Inf abreast, 7th Inf on the left.
2. 15th Infantry attacks early 17 August:
 - a. Crosses the HORN River and seizes the high ground immediately north of HORNBACH, MAUSCHBACH, LOEBERS.
 - b. Continues the attack to the north to the line of dragons teeth immediately in front of the SIGFRIED Line. (See operations overlay)
 - c. During the night 17-18 March sends 2 officer reconnaissance patrols through the dragons teeth to obtain information for the subsequent attack on the SIGFRIED Line.
 - d. On 18 March, launches an attack in conjunction with the 7th Inf to breach the SIGFRIED Line.
 - e. H-Hour to be announced for attacks scheduled on 17th and 18th March.
 - f. Annex # I - Operations overlay, 17 March.
3. a. 1st Bn, on 17th March:
 - (1) Forces a crossing of the HORN River at HORNBACH and MAUSCHBACH and secures objective 19.
 - (2) Holds objective 19 with small force and continues to attack to the north and secure objective 21.
 - (3) Immediately establish outpost line and observation posts on objective 26. Balance of the battalion remains at objective 21.
 - (4) Night of 17-18 March sends patrol of an officer and 7 enlisted men through the dragons teeth to secure information for a subsequent attack to breach the SIGFRIED Line.
- b. 2d Bn:
 - (1) Holds objective 16 with a large force protecting the right flank of the Regiment and Division.
 - (2) Patrols to objective 17.
 - (3) Be prepared on order this Headquarters to move to an assembly area in rear of objective 22.
- c. 3d Bn:
 - (1) Forces a crossing of the HORN River at DIEHRICHOWEN and seizes objective 20.
 - (2) Quickly reconnoiters and continues the attack to the north and seizes objective 22.
 - (3) Immediately establish an outpost line and observation posts on objective 25. Balance of battalion remains at objective 22.
 - (4) Night of 17-18 March sends patrol of one officer and seven enlisted men through the dragons teeth to obtain information for a subsequent attack to breach the SIGFRIED Line.

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4. AF Company:

- (1) Establishes initially 2 road blocks vicinity **TRUSS** with one plot of AF guns and one plot dismounted prepared on order to move to **HEMLOCK** to establish a road block. Establish liaison and radio communication with this headquarters.

5. Co B - 10th Regt:

- (1) Support the river crossing with the necessary assault boats. Establishes vehicular bridge via **RAINIER** as soon as practicable after **D-Day**.

ENCL:

ANNEX # 1 - Operations Summary

OFFICIAL:

DATE

8-8

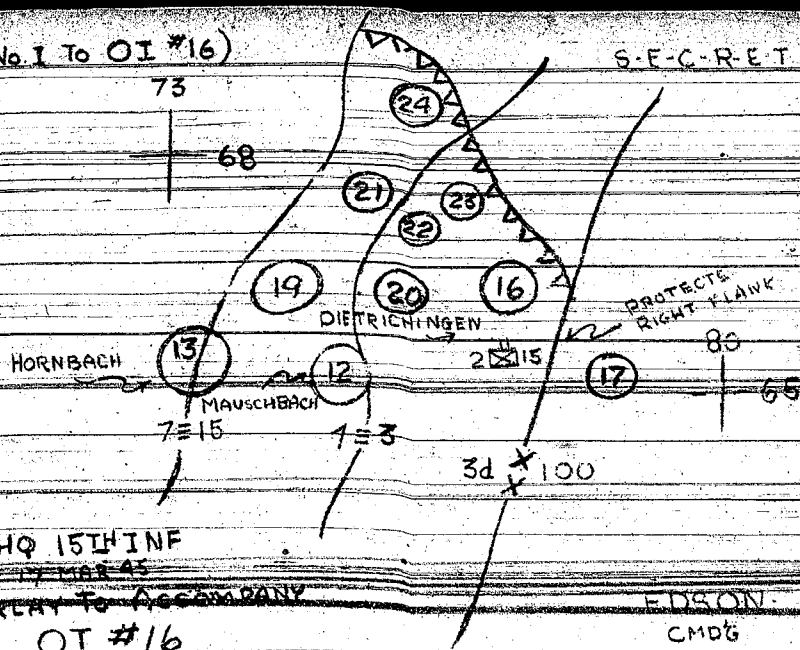
NOTE

END

SECRET

(ANNEX No. I To OI #16)

S-E-C-R-E-T



HQ 15TH INF

17 MAR 45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI #16

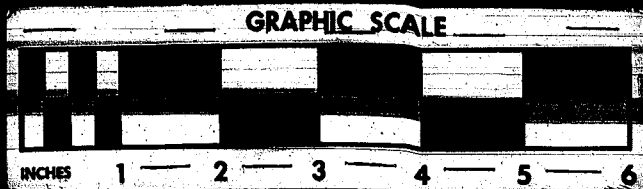
EDSON
CMDG

MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000,
WALSCHRONN,
Sheet XXXVIII-12

OFFICIAL

BARR
S-8

S-E-C-R-E-T



- 0045 3d Bn CO to S-3: Patrol report - (Left at 2050A from I Co CP. Went north to 761684 and was fired on by machine pistol. Went west 180 yds from "C" woods and heard a light vehicle enter "C" woods also heard 2 men talking in wood. Went NE to 760694 and heard 2-3 men outpost there - went east to 766694 and saw pill box with lights and another pill box at 766688) Noticed increase in arty and mortar fire during day.
- 0160 00 3d Bn to DO: Bbby of guns firing from via 766732 and tank firing from 00RTWIG. (Arty notified).
- 0106 to 0600 Negative reports.
- 0625 Bn, OP in church on hill via 764680.
- 0635 Div to Ex O: At 2-hour artillery will lift 500 yds but keep going 15 minutes. Then there will be TOT's.
- 0625 1st Bn C to Ex O: We are moving. We jumped off in time and are abreast of the 7th Inf. Have not reached teeth but have run into a lot of S/A's.
- 0650 30th Inf CP at HORNBACH; 7th Adv CP in ALT-HORNBACK.
- 0705 S-3 to CO: 7th Inf reports themselves thru 1st set of Dragon's Teeth and now at 766700.
- 0718 Ex O to 3d Bn S-1: Smoke high ground east of K Co.
- 0717 CO to Ex O: Have 3d Bn fire fwd over at far left as RJ at 766697. Use AT guns, MG and mortar fire to support 1st Bn in their move. 1st Bn receiving resistance. Have visual contact with 7th Inf.
- 0720 7th Inf S-3 to Ex O: Will check on movement of our troops and will get them out of your area to avoid congestion in woods.
- 0725 CO to Ex O: Move 2d Bn to objective 22. Enemy is shelling woods via 766695. Appears to be single gun. Our troops are closing in on woods. Cut smoke off from right flank, unable to observe enemy targets with smoke.
- 0630 Ex O to 2d Bn CO: Assemble your Bn at objective 22.
- 0640 7th Inf Ex O to Ex O: If you could raise your smoke for 800 yds it would help greatly. We have many between our assault battalion and follow-up Bn. Ex O to 7th Inf Ex O: It was our CO's order to stop smoke screen, will check further.
- 0657 2d Bn to S-3: 2d Bn OP is at 764670 near trail at woods.
- 0900 1st Bn S to S-3: L Co of 7th Inf is in woods at 767688.
- 0955 G-3 to Ex O: Flank open at 766675. (I Co east of this at 774674, K Co on Hill NW of this). (Ex O)
- 0940 1st Bn to Ex O: Asst CG at our CP. Will you notify Div. C Co is in Woods A. A Co is on right flank moving toward dragon's teeth. At 0935, A Co had TD's and at 0935 they were in SW corner of Woods A.
- 1057 S-3 to 3d Bn: C Co in Woods A receiving small arms and heavy artillery. 3d Bn is going into woods (obj #22). Div reported adjacent unit in ELKESTRIMHAUSEN.
- 1080 Ex O to 2d Bn: Move up to woods obj "21"
- 1042 S-3 to CO: Relayed the situation.
- 1052 3d Bn to S-3: Sending patrol east to cross road 776674 and will be leaving in a half hour or mission of run.
- 1110 3d Bn CO to DO: We have an OP at 764680. Have two tanks shooting to east at some pillboxes. Patrol will be leaving in five or ten minutes.
- 1122 1st Bn to Ex O: Need complete load of ammunition for all tks and TD's. Take route out of DIERICHOWEN. Keep smoke on hill at 766770. Receiving MG & AT fire now. Probably have observations for AT guns from OP on hill at that point. C Co is in Dragon's Teeth at 766695. Believe we've located position of 2 MG's.
- 1127 Ex O to S-3: Relayed need for ammunition.
- 1128 Ex O to CO: Relayed information on 3d Bn's patrol. I Co has a block at 776675.
- 1152 "Enemy patrols reported at 810680. 106th Cav reinforcements moving to via of 804685. 104CA. Recvd by Dy Ck. (Written msg via Radio)
- 1155 S-3 to Div: Relayed the above. Div: 7th Inf at 760705.
- 1206 CO to S-3: Contact tks for ammunition. Need it badly. S-3: Relayed information on 7th Inf. Air support worked over enemy vehicles north of SWERBROCKEN. TD getting some ammunition from TD's attached to 2d Bn. Get ammunition from dump in via of obj #24.
- 1224 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O: Patrol has not returned as yet.
- 1226 Ex O to 7th Inf S-3: Gave resume of situation. 7th Inf S-3: Have cleared resistance between our attacking and follow-up Bn's.
- 1230 S-3 to Ex O 766th Tk Bn: C Co tks need ammunition. Suggest that ammunition dump for tks & TD's be set up in woods that center at 766688. 766th Tk Bn CO, Co C, has one ammunition truck with him and we are sending another out now.

18 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1254 S-2 to 601st TD Bn: Relayed need for ammunition and suggestion for a dump
along the front line operations.
- 1255 R-0 to 1st Bn S-1: Truck with ammunition for your armor on the way up to
you.
- 1300 1st Bn Co to R-0 & 2d Bn CO: Breaching Dragon's Teeth line at point 754697
where they make a junction. Have two companies divided into four assault
teams. Some pillboxes are silent. Don't know whether they were unoccupied
or silenced. R-0 to 2d Bn CO: Light tanks are going up with ammunition.
2d Bn CO to R-0: Plan to go through Dragon's Teeth via 756704 (obj #2) and
follow trail to EO two pillboxes (obj #3) and on to village (obj #4). From
there we plan to go for "X" bridge.
- 1318 2d Bn CO to Div: Patrol report: 5 man patrol from our Battle Patrol went
generally north from DIERTRICHINGEN to point east of woods via 774678, drew
fire from KIRSCHBACHERWALD woods. Pulled back and went through woods via
776658 and out to stream. My arty piece located via 785674. Patrol could
hear enemy giving orders. Stream bed is 6' wide. Tanks could not cross.
Saw no Dragon's Teeth.
- 1325 R-0 to Div: Gave resume of situation. Armor is 500 yards behind assault
Companies and putting direct fire on pillboxes.
- 1328 1st Bn S-1 to Asst S-3: Recvd report from one of our officers that he
observed enemy observation plane which flew over our line and then back.
Shortly thereafter, enemy arty fell in our sector. One radio KO'd.
- 1350 1st Bn S-1 to S-2: Regt CO wants one assault gun brought up to southern
edge of woods (obj #19) and have a representative report to OP at northern
edge of "O" woods (center is located at 755689).
- 1351 DO to Ia O: Relayed the above.
- 1358 G-0 to S-3: Request clearance to fire on enemy OP at 746698. S-3: That
is in 7th Inf sector - cannot give clearance.
- Radio Mag from 5d Plat 601st Ren to Ia O: "CO advancing to contact forward
elements to fire one resistance" (1235A)
- Radio Mag from 3d Plat 601st Ren to Ia O: "My MG firing from 776668 (1240A)
- Radio Mag from 3d Plat 601st Ren to Ia O: "Send immediately 30 cal am,
200 rds EM-37 30 RS" (1250A)
- Radio Mag from CO 160th Cav Ren Grp to CO, 16th Inf: "At 797698, observed
smoke and small vehicles moving E to W with red panel. Vehicle not friendly.
On hill 355 trench system and several men moving. At 806690, several trenches
and five or six men moving about in them. Also dug in position on forward
slope of hill north of trenches observed 1255." Time signed 1335A.
- Radio Mag from 2d Plat 601st Ren to Ia O: "Friendly elements at 828682".
Time signed 1330A.
- 1430 DIV to S-3: What time do you want mezbombs turned on? Asst S-3: CO would
like to have lights on at 2000A. Div: 7th Inf only wants lights on call.
- 1434 CO (with 1st Bn) to R-0: B and C Co's report they are through Dragon's Teeth
and are working on pill boxes. Receiving S/A, MG and hvy cal arty.
- 1441 CO to S-3: Get a large build-up on tank ammunition. S-3 relayed the same to
756th Tn Bn.
- 1448 7th Inf to Asst S-3: Disposition of 7th Inf: 1st Bn- 7571, 2d Bn - 753695,
3d Bn - 750675. Asst S-3 gave resume of situation to 7th Inf.
- 1459 Radio Mag from 3d Plat 601st Ren to Ia O: RJ (753674) covered by one 37 mm.
(1405A)
- 1500 39th FA Bn to S-3: 6" howitzers will fire in ten minutes on the following
points: 760718, 774712, 788700 and 798700. Two medium battalions will fire
on all of 2d Bn's objectives.
- 1503 S-3 to R-0: CO wants your 2d Bn to remain in present area until committed.
Also, outpost and patrol positions on each side of woods to the west of 2d Bn.
R-0: Ren elements are in woods. G-3: ASBatek will be pushed tonight.
- 1508 S-3 to 2d Bn S-3: Occupy woods tonight and have patrols contact ren unit.
- 1535 2d Bn S-3 to S-3: K Co is at 755675, I Co at 753675 and L Co at 760674.
I Co has a patrol out to 774678 which left at 1530.
- 1555 1st Bn to R-0: C Co just inside Dragon's Teeth and sniping-up. B Co has
passed through G Company. A Co is in reserve.
- 1557 2d Bn CO to R-0: Will probably make a night attack. R-0: 2d Bn patrol
ran into some MG fire from via 760675.
- 1600 Dy Cik to 2d Bn S-3: CO would like to meet you and CO 2d Bn at OP as soon
as possible.
- 1700 CO to G-3: 2d Bn will attack at 2100.
- 1705 CO 2d Bn to CO: Will attack at 2100 but its dependant on 1st Bn's progress.
Making ren now. Will have to work over pillboxes at 754700 and 756698 before
we will be able to breach SIEGFRIED Line.

18 MARCH 1945 (Contd.)

- 1740 1st Lt. C. G. ... Have phone communication to woods. M-12 located at approximately 756685 is now firing on immediate area. Have organized two assault pillbox teams from A Co. Will send them along 7th Inf break to work on pillboxes we are firing upon now. Will blanket other pillboxes off with smoke. We are getting enemy fire from the right flank down draw. CO to 1st Bn CO: Get your plans made; will send Sgt'l 8-3 down to carry them out for you so you can get some sleep tonight. Keep us posted on your progress.
- 1750 3d Bn Ex O to Asst 8-3: Patrol reports four sets of Dragon's Teeth at 776675. Another patrol reports Dragon's Teeth running from 776675 to 776675 where it crosses road and runs south of road and off to the east. One patrol got into houses but had to pull back because of friendly arty. We stepped arty - will get patrol back to house. Two flak wagons and arty spotted at 777677. Asst 8-3: You can occupy area where patrol went but do not try to go through Dragon's Teeth. We may need you for another mission.
- 1805 8-2 to Div: Have Macbeams ready to use at 2230. We will call for it when we want it.
- 1825 Ex O to Div: The 1st Bn is through the first line of Dragon's Teeth but still has one more line to go. Tonight the 2d Bn is going through the 1st Bn, will probably jump off about 2200. They will attack groups of pillboxes. We are relieving the 3d Bn from its blocks and assemble them during the night for a push through the 2d Bn. The Ren and AF will take over the blocks.
- 1918 2d Bn to Asst 8-3: We are moving out at 1930A in 5 minute intervals.
- 1935 Ex O to 3d Bn: Assemble tonight in woods #21, to be prepared to go through the 2d Bn. The 2d Bn is leaving at 1930A. You should be there by 2300A but have a staff officer at the 3d Bn's CP by 2230A. 3d Bn: We received mortar and machine gun fire from via 777677.
- 1945 CO to 1st Bn: What's the situation? 1st Bn: May still shelling woods "Charlie". Situation is unchanged.
- 1950 Div to 8-2: The 30th Inf is being put on the division extreme left flank and pushing off at 0615. Macbeams will go on at the first call of either the 7th or 16th Inf.
- 2005 Div to 8-2: There's the beginning of a counter-attack in the 7th Inf Sector. We is there any further details now except that no armor has been committed.
- 2015 8-3 to CO: Our CP between EP's #21 and 24. CO: When the 2d Bn breaches the second line of dragon's teeth, you block on both sides to clear on the left and hold on the right.
- 2020 Div to 8-2: May force C/A 7th Inf is estimated to be a reinforced company without armor, originating from the vic of 763704. Arty reported it stopped but can get no confirmation from the 7th Inf.
- 2031 Div to 8-2: At 2000, 80 men with armor attacked BOTTENBACH from the N and NE.
- 2040 8-2 to 3d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 2050 Co to CO: By 2300, am planning to assemble and move from 780670. Tks and TD's will go with 3d Bn. 1 pliat of AF will be left at 775677. H-Hour will be 2200.
- 2061 CO 2d Bn to Ex O: Receiving any arty fire. Will call when we are ready to move out.
- 2065 8-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: K Co will have bazooka team with AF's 2 guns at block at 774677.
- 2115 7th Inf to Ex O: Counter attack at 748748 was repulsed. No armor or ground lost. Have about 55 PW's. Will bring up more armor when AF Ditch is filled. Will continue push toward 736730.
- 2121 801st Ren, 3d Plat, sent following message: "Minesfield in vic of 779674".
- 2130 CG to CO: Plan M for M-12's, who shall pick gun positions. 89th FA will cover withdrawal if necessary.
- 2205 Asst 8-3 to Div: H-Hour had not been definitely set.
- 2207 2d Bn to Asst 8-3: H-Hour still indefinite but appears that 2230 is likely. G Co received some shelling, 1 Officer slightly wounded. Waiting on patrol reports now.
- 2214 CO 2d Bn to CO: Waiting on patrols. Will let you know about H-Hour soon. Have radio communication.
- 2245 CO 2d Bn to Ex O: Pillbox from group of four on ridge very active now. Still waiting for word from patrols.
- 2255 Div to DO: Boundary has been changed. 100th Div sending a Bn into DIMMONTBACH which is now in their sector. 30th Inf assembling in area south of BOTTENBACH. DO: 2d Bn in assembly area but have not started.

18 MARCH 1946 (Cont'd)

- 2330 1 PW to DC: 40 PW's taken from 6 pillboxes. 6 men originally to each pillbox, from 112th Fortress Bn. Yesterday they were reinforced by remnants of 1st, 2d & 3d Co's of 37th SS Pz Regt which had been formed into 1 Co. 20 men were in each pillbox. CO is also a PW. Believe remainder that aren't PW's were killed or were wounded. Field trains have been moved from UIVILLE to TRUFFACHEREN (7670) and our machine defenses there.
- 2326 2d Bn CO to DC: F Co in position to jump off. G Co isn't, still moving. Enemy sensitive. Firing S/A, some arty and mortar. 5 flares have been observed. Ray directing his MG fire in vic. of pillboxes. 1st Bn captured. DC: Relayed PW report.
- 2337 2d Bn to Ex O: One patrol is still out but we are going to jump off without their information.
- 2343 1st Bn to DC: Enemy very sensitive and they are very alert. DC: 2d Bn in position.
- 2344 S-2 to CO: F and G Co's are moving up to LD now. Will have wire communication. Receiving some arty and mortar fire. E Co in reserve. 4.2's in position and are also prepared to fire smoke tomorrow. Ray not using tracers in his MG fire.

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8-3 Periodic Report

Period: 171201A to 181200A
Unit : 16th Inf
Place : MAUSCHBACH, GERMANY
Date : 18 March 1945

No. 61

Map: FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000, WALSCHBRONN, Sheet XXXVII-12.

1. Our Front Lines: 756895 - 756891 - 774674 - 769679.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP - 747625
1st Bn via 750690
2d Bn via 760670
3d Bn via 778680
C Co via 769645
AT Co via 775657
Sv Co via 719687

3. Weather and Visibility: Cold and hazy to warm and clear.

4. Our Operations for the period:

Regt'l CP. Opened at SCHREYEN, 747625, at 171215A. At 181130A, CP displaced forward and opened via 762665, MAUSCHBACH.

1st Battalion: At beginning of period C Co continued its advance and had occupied northern end of woods via 754679 and patrolling to 755689. By 182030A one platoon of G Co were in woods via 755685. A Co advanced on C Co's left, and had southern edge of woods via 747687. B Co in HORNBACH. During night 17/18 Bn prepared for attack in coordination with 7th Inf on the left and 100 Div on the right - regimental objectives, bridges via 770728 and 775719. LD 755685.

At 0645A, 1st Bn jumped off in the attack and were abreast of the 7th Inf. Reported receiving S/A's and heavy artillery fire in woods via 755695 approx 0717A. At end of period, G Co was reported in "Dragon's Teeth", via 755688. A Co via 758691, B Co via 755685.

2d Battalion: At 171023A Bn began move to assemble in woods via 760670. Prepared to move out on regimental order.

3d Battalion: K Co encountered S/P fire moving to woods via 765675. 3d Bn reported some heavy mortar fire in DITTRICHINGEN at 1425A. During night 17/18 Mar, Bn sent recon patrols out to determine enemy strength and dispositions. Contact patrol made contact with C Co via 754690. In coordination with 1st Bn's attack, prepared to block to the Regt's and Div right flank and support 1st Bn by fire. At end of period, 3d Bn reported K Co via 769679 and I Co at 774674.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R of 17 March)

Original: 80%

WM: 100%

EM: 91%

Rifle Team: 80%

Officers: 48

EM: 120%

6. Results of Operations:

- SYNOPSIS line penetrated by 1st Bn.
- Contact with enemy maintained.

BARR
8-3

CONFIDENTIAL

Journal

S-2 Report

FROM: 1708COA
TO: 1808COA
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 18 MARCH 1945
PLACE: SCHWESYEN, FRANCE

No 32
MAPS: FRANCE 1/60,000, WALSCHBRONN Sheet.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: SIEGFRIED LINE.
- b. Enemy defenses: Light resistance encountered from S/A's and toward end of period by scattered artillery. Patrols observed pill-boxes manned and outposts in SIEGFRIED LINE vic of Q7668 grid square.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

- a. General:
 - (1) 1st Bn: At beginning of period the Bn was in vic of Q742640 attacking north and north east to towns of HORNHACH (Q734654) and MAUBACH (Q762853). Very light resistance was met. Bn moved NE to vic of Q766885 where it jumped off in attack of the SIEGFRIED LINE at Q645A. At end of the period the Bn was meeting heavy resistance from S/A, MG and flat trajectory fire, and from enemy arty.
 - (2) 2d Bn: The Bn held positions in DIETRICHINGEN and the woods immediately east and north of the town throughout the period.
 - (3) 3d Bn: At beginning of period the Bn was in vic of OHRENTHAL (Q765-636) from where it moved to north to woods via Q7887. This was accomplished without reported physical contact.
- b. Activities of Component Elements:
 - (1) Infantry: Group of enemy seen vic of Q768658 at Q645A. MG firing from vic of Q790790 at Q811A. Enemy outpost observed vic of Q736-898 at 1901A. 17 enemy observed vic of Q767690 at 1500A. Enemy pill box seen vic of Q769699 at 2010A. 16 enemy observed vic of Q766694 at 2136A. Small groups of enemy were seen throughout the day moving among the SIEGFRIED defenses.
 - (2) Arty: Mortar fire falling on DIETRICHINGEN at 1425A. Extremely heavy arty fall in the vic DIETRICHINGEN during the afternoon. The burning projectile dug craters 20 feet in diameter. This same heavy caliber fire was reported in the assembly areas (woods at Q755680) late in the period.
 - (3) No report of enemy air, armor or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

18 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 170800A - 180800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

<u>EW</u>	<u>OFF. UNIT</u>	<u>Place of Capt</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt Unit</u>
1	1/37	via 730645	0800A	1st Bn
4	2/37	"	"	"
3	6/37	Mietrichingen 7665	0700A	2nd Bn
1	12/37	730645	0800A	1st Bn
2	12/37	Hornbach 7365	1030A	"
4	2/107 Sig Bn	via 775655	0700A	2nd Bn
2	2/17 Regt Bn	Mietrichingen	"	"
1	2/17 Tank Bn	"	"	"
1	4/17 Repl Bn	Hornbach 7565	0930A	1st Bn
2	2/935/245 Inf Div	Hornbach 7365	1530A	1st Bn

20 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5287

2/935/245 Inf Div. PWs arrived in WARMUND (8180) 3 days ago and were sent to man part of the WESTWALL defenses, where they arrived in the morning of the 17. PWs were to man an outpost line 1 km NW of ALTHORNBACH (742677). The post consisted of 1 MG and 5 BM and was armed with 1 81mm M2. PWs stated that they had been without food for 2 days, and that, therefore, they went into ALTHORNBACH (742677) where they were captured by our troops. PWs claim not to have seen any of the Siegfried defenses proper, as they were manned by other parts of their unit, but that the pillboxes started about 2 km further N.

EW is able to have knowledge of only 1 Bn in the 935th Regt, consisting of 2 Rifle Co's of an estimated strength of 60 men each, and of 1 M Weapons Co, 30-40 men strength, with about 8 - 10 81mm Mortars.

PWs claim that Staff of 245 Div is already in Germany, and that they, too were supposed to have left for Germany for the purpose of reorganization. But, arriving in this sector, they were held to man the Siegfried line. They claim that 936 Regt no longer exists, and have no knowledge of the whereabouts of 937 Regt. Also, attached units are unknown to them.

2/107 Sig Bn. PWs state that Bn was part of 13 SS Pz Corps, located at Diersheim (7270) 5 weeks ago. Was at that time moved to location unknown to PW. PWs picked up wire from ALTHORN (6963) to HORNBACH (7365), from there went to HORNBACH (7964) to meet Corps Liaison. PWs state that bridges at (731655) and (738655) were both in usable condition; the 1 was slightly damaged by shellfire. Bridge at MARELLINGEN (7565) intact.

Bn Co/37: PW was member of Recon (Light) Unit. Arrived in the evening 16 Mar at RECON CAMP at SCHWALDENHORN (7667) from WITTENBACH (7168) where they had a Regt Repairshop. PW and 19 others were sent as Infantry reinforcement to Hornbach (7365). Were told by their CO that 37 Regt was to be relieved by Regular Army Unit in near future.

2/17 Engr Bn: 2 PW's carried with them written instructions to blow up bridge via DIETRICHINGEN (766661). They went into a cellar in DEUTSCHEN IMDEN and went to sleep. They did not wake up until our troops entered the town. PW's claim, however, that in order to blow up bridge they would have had to wait for formal orders, and that the slip they carried was only to protect them from being picked up by other units. Only in case of the approach of our Armored Units could they have blown up the bridge without formal orders. The messenger with the formal order never arrived. PW's claim.

Strength of 2Co was about 110 - 120 men, it was a demolition Co, and originally had 4 Platoons, only 3 are left; 17 Engr Bn has, according to PW 3 Co's.

1/17 Tank Bn: PW was crewmember of an Assault Gun knocked out by us. Claims that 1st Co had 9 Assault Guns (75mm Assault Gun on Mark IV Chassis), but that 5 had been destroyed by us. Claims that 2Co had 13, and 3Co 10 Assault Guns of the same type.

1/37: PW with 15 men was sent from ALTHEIM (6963), where he was digging trenches, to H OENBACH (7365) where a Battlegroup was to be formed, from the remainder of 1st Bn/37, he claims, however, that only the original 16 men could be put together, their armament was 1 LMG.

6/37: PW states that Co has 3 Platoons, that 1 Pl had 2 sds, 2Pl and 3Pl 3sds, about 40 men were used for defense of their area, while trains remained in LOUDEVILLER (7462).

12/37: PW was on BS from his Co for 4 weeks, working on defenses in ALTHEIM (6963). Was one of the 16 men sent to H OENBACH (7365) to form Battlegroup. 4 men from 12/37 were with him working in ALTHEIM (6963).

PERSONALITIES:

CO 2nd Co 935 Inf Regt
CO 2nd Co 17 Engr Bn
CO 107 Sig Bn
CO 2nd Co 107 Sig Bn

2nd Lt. Busch
1st Lt. Vietmann
Major Schumacher
1st Lt. Kay.

WEINZ LAWI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

Eq 18th Inf
SCHWENEN, FRANCE
18 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION)

NUMBER17)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALCHENSCHEIM, Sheet XXXVIII-18.

1. 24 Inf Div attacks at 0545A, 18 March with the 7th Inf and 18th Inf abreast; 7th Inf on the left.
 - a. Breaches the SIEGFRIED Line.
 - b. Pushes rapidly to the SCHWENEN River and secures a crossing preparatory for further operations to the North-east.
2. 18th Inf attacks at 0545A, 18 March in a column of Bn's, order of 1st Bn, 2d Bn, 3d Bn.
 - a. Breaches the SIEGFRIED Line.
 - b. Pushes rapidly to the SCHWENEN River, secures "GEORGE Bridge" and "HOW Bridge" and high ground immediately to the North.
 - c. Map-up from the flank and rear of the SIEGFRIED defenses East of the breach in zone.
 - d. Protects the right flank of the Division.
 - e. Maintain contact with the 8th Cav Group and 100th Div on right.
3. 1st Bn 18th Inf:
 - a. Attached: 1st Plat Co C, 750th Tks
2d Plat Co B, 601st TD
1st Plat Co B, 10th Hngr
1st Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn
Det Co B, 441 AAA Bn
 - (1) Attacks at 0545A, 18 March, breaches the SIEGFRIED Line in zone.
 - (2) Pushes rapidly to SCHWENEN River and secures "GEORGE" and "HOW" bridges.
 - (3) Maintain contact with the 1st Bn, 7th Inf on the left.
 - b. Attached: 2d Plat Co C, 750th Tks
1st Plat Co B, 601st TD
Det Co B, 441 AAA Bn
 - (1) Will move from its present area on orders from this Headquarters and be prepared to either:
 2. Map-up resistance East of the zone of attack and protect the right flank of the Division upon the penetration of the SIEGFRIED Line.
 3. Assist 1st Bn in breaching the SIEGFRIED Line.
 4. Assist the 1st Bn in the capture of "GEORGE" and "HOW" bridges.
 - (2) All plans and reconnaissance for the movement will be completed by 0700, 18 March.
 - (3) Upon being ordered to move by this headquarters, 2d Bn will receive the following additional attachments:
1st Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn
2d Plat Co B, 10th Hngr Bn
 - c. Attached: 2d Plat Co C, 750th Tks
2d Plat Co B, 601st TD
2d Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn
Det 441st AAA Bn

SECRET

- (1) Remain in present position and block the Regiment and Division right flank.
- (2) Assist the advance of 1st Bn ^{where with Co} by all weapons of the battalions.
- (3) Be prepared on call to smoke high ground East of K Co.
- (4) Be prepared on order, this Headquarters, to pass through the breach in the SINGHED Line and assist 3d Bn in mopping up East of the zone of advance.

AT Co, 15th Inf:

Two platoons in direct support of 3d Bn in protecting right flank of the regiment. Balance of Co to be used only on orders of this Headquarters.

Co Co, 15th Inf:

Give maximum support of the advance of the 1st Bn.

Ben Co, 501 TD:

- a. Establishes a base of operation in the 3d Bn sector and maintain contact with 108 Cav Group and 100th Inf Div.
- b. When 3d Bn moves forward in the advance, the Ben Co will remain in the area, as indicated on operations overlay, and assist the 3d Bn in protecting the right flank of the Regiment and still maintain contact with elements on the right flank of the Regiment.

Co B, 10th Regt (-1st Plat):

- a. As soon as practicable, will breach a gap in the "DRAGON'S TEETH", midway between the road at 750007 and 757008 for the passage of armored and wheeled vehicles.
- b. Will assist in the preparation of demolition used in the breaching of the SINGHED Line.
- c. Will maintain tank depot in woods, objective #11, for call by 1st Bn after the breaching of the "DRAGON'S TEETH".
- d. Will maintain a minimum of one gun in the vic MANSCHACH on call of the 1st Bn, 15th Inf, to knock out any designated pill box. Balance of Btry will remain on south bank of the BERN River on call this Headquarters.

Artillery Plan:

- a. 0500-0745 - Harassing fire
- 0645-0615 - Remain silent
- 0615-0645 - Heavy concentration on entire zone of attack.
- b. Detail artillery plan attached for infantry battalions and Co B, 10th Regt.

Axis of Communications:

~~Established on operations overlay, in the field and artillery concentrations for infantry battalions and Co B 10th Regt.~~

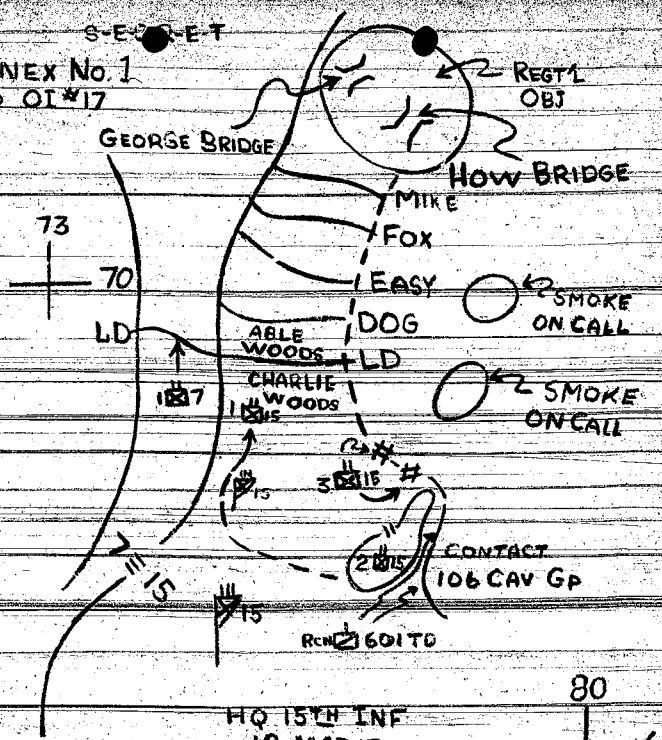
HOBBS
Cmdg

OFFICIAL

BAER
D-3

S-E-C-R-E-T

ANNEX No. 1
TO OI #17



HQ 15TH INF
18 MAR IS
OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI #17

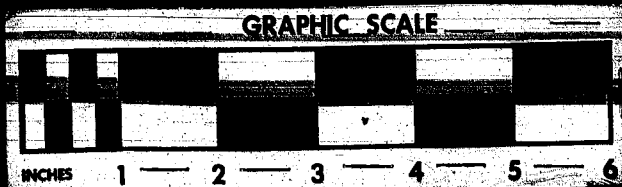
MAP: FRANCE, 1/50,000 WALSCHRONN

OFFICIAL

BARR
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CMDG

S-E-C-R-E-T



found
SECRET

**Eq 15th Inf
MANUSCHACH, GERMANY
18 March 1948**

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER.....18)

Map: FRANCE, 1/25,000, DEMETERICH Sheet, 5710

1. **2d Inf Div continues its attack through the SINGRIED Line (see Operations Instructions, Number 17). 20th Inf attacks at 0615A, 19 March, to the north on high ground between the BUCKEN ALSB River and the HOCH River.**
2. a. **1st Bn, 15th Inf, attached:**
 - 1 Plat Co C, 780th Tr Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 801st TD Bn
 - 1 Sect 441st AAA Bn

(1) Holds present position until passed through by 2d Bn. Upon the passage of 2d Bn through them, they will block to the east in zone between the 1st and 2d Row of Dragon teeth. They will clear to the west until contact is established with 7th Inf in the same zone as above.
- b. **2d Bn, 15th Inf, attached:**
 - 1 Plat Co C, 780th Tr Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 801st TD Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 10th Hqtr Bn
 - 1 Sect 441st AAA Bn
 - 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn

(1) Will pass through the 1st Bn and seize their initial objectives G, F, and E, blocking to the east and west until relieved by the 1st Bn. After being relieved by the 1st Bn, they will continue on to objectives 1 to 6 inclusive.
- c. **2d Bn, 15th Inf, attached:**
 - 1 Plat Co C, 780 Tr Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 801 TD Bn
 - 1 Plat Co B, 10th Hqtr Bn
 - 1 Sect 441st AAA Bn
 - 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn

(1) Will assemble in woods 2E prior to 2300A and will be prepared to pass through the 2d Bn and assume their mission on order this headquarters
- d. **AT Co, 15th Inf, will block with one platoon each at each of the following points: Q78072, Q78082, and Q78090.**
- e. **2nd Co, 801st TD Bn, will block with one platoon each at Q78072 and Q78084. They also will maintain contact with the AT Co blocks.**

INCL:

ANNEX # 1 - Operations overlay

OFFICIAL:

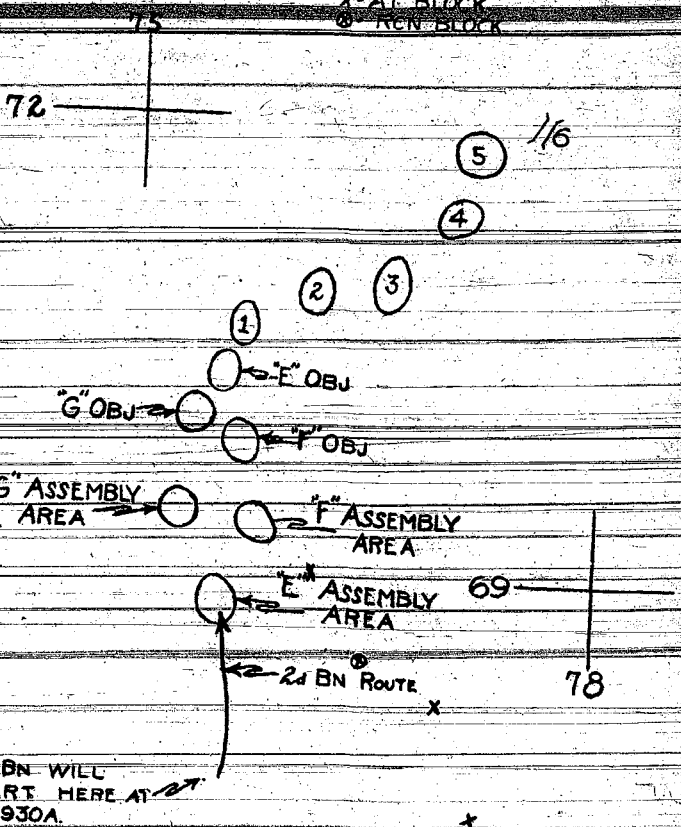
Bar
BAR
S-3

**NSCM
CMDR**

SECRET

SECRET

X-AT BLOCK
O-RCN BLOCK



2d BN WILL DEPART HERE AT 1930A

ANNEX I

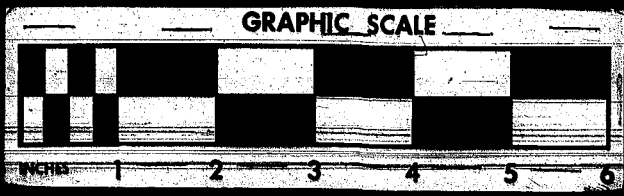
3d BN WILL ASSEMBLE HERE PRIOR TO 2300A

HQ 15TH INF
18 MAR 1945
OPERATIONS OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI #18

OFFICIAL MAP: FRANCE 1/25,000-6710
BARR
63

EDSON
CMOG

SECRET



12 MARCH 1948

- 0016 2d Bn S-3 to Bx O: Patrol returned. Sidn't contact B or C Co's. Believed operating in 7th Inf sector. Had two fire fights. Seems to be enemy outside of pill boxes moving.
- 0020 80th Inf to Asst S-3: Attacking at 0616A with 1st Bn on left, 2d Bn on right, 3d Bn on road to MITTELBAH with RR at SWERBROCHEN final objective.
- 0050 Co 2d Bn to Bx O: F Co to Dragon's Teeth and should contact B Co soon. B Co has about 80 men from 7th Inf that he collected and has them in the pill box via 753697 now, equipped with ammo.
- 0185 1st Plat 601st TD at 0146A were at 753678. L-1039
- 0200 to 0400 Negative reports.
- 0408 2d Bn DO to DO: 2d Bn has resumed attack. F Co pushed off and B Co moving out.
- 0614 601st Ia O to DO: One of our platoons has covered area 756685 and is establishing a road block at that point.
- 0632 2d Bn DO to DO: Is woods via 749685 clear? Ans:- They are clear.
- 0648 2d Bn to DO: Just reorganized; still moving up near 2d row of Dragon's Teeth.
- 0600 7th Inf to DO: Are dispositions area as follows:- 1st Bn - 750710 & 750708, 2d Bn - 750678; and 3d Bn - 750690 (assembly-area).
- 0710 CO to CO: Plan to hit pill boxes at 754702 on our left flank by coming thru 7th Inf.
- 0803 2d Bn S-2 to Asst S-3: 2d Bn CO (Col Pauliak) wounded in the face by shrapnel.
- 0910 CO to 2d Bn CO: 1st Bn CO will be in charge of attacking forces of the 1st and 2d Bn. Coordinate your plans.
- 0908 1st Bn S-3 to Asst S-3: B Co has 20 men from 3d Bn of 7th Inf. We can use them to block when B Co moves up.
- 0916 Asst S-3 gave above to 7th Inf DO: Men are at 755697.
- 0948 Asst S-3 to G-3: 3d Bn passed thru 1st Bn and is attempting to get thru Dragon's Teeth. 1st Bn occupy 3 pill boxes via 755697 and blocking to W and N. 3d Bn is in Div reserve in woods via 7467 grid squared. 2d Bn via 755 grid having receiving direct AF fire from 3 pill boxes on right flank. Will fire M-12's on them as soon as we get good observation.
- 1000 2d Bn S to DO: Have 30 PW's. Need tank deser. Will have guide at south edge of woods 24.
- 1025 Asst S-3 to Div: B Co blocking to west in 3 pill boxes at 754698. A Co blocking to east of B Co via 757 grid. F Co attempting to go into Dragon's Teeth above B Co and G Co attempting to do the same above A Co.
- 1041 AT CO to Asst S-3: Have received about 25 rounds of 8/P fire coming from via 757697.
- 1053 Asst S-3 to CO 2d Bn: G Co has taken 4 pill boxes via 754701. Advance elements of 7th Inf at 750708.
- 1100 7th Inf S to DO: We've radioed to have the tank deser back to you. Believe that deser has filled last AF ditch.
- 1122 CO 2d Bn to Asst S-3: Our Lt G at OP reports 2d Bn approaching "B" Phase line.
- 1200 Bx O to 2d Bn CO: Deser should be on south end of woods. 2d Bn CO to Bx O: A.J. mortar observer is with me. TD officer states that valley must be smoked if they continue operation.
- 1218 CW Co CO to Bx O: Our 1st Bn observer picked up enemy in woods via 754690. Bx O: AF Co has elements in these woods. Will check further.
- 1218 Bx O gave above to AT Co Plat Ldr. AT Plat Ldr:- We gave information to 1st Bn 0600 hrs that enemy was in woods at 754694 and not in woods.
- 1250 7th Inf CO to Asst S-3: Breach of Dragon's Teeth made at 752594.
- 1300 G-2 to Bx O: Received report from 89th FA that they fired arty on suspected counter-attack via 754704.
- 1308 CO to Bx O: G Co took 4 pill boxes and 80 more PW's.
- 1338 3d Bn CO to Asst S-3: My mortars are on the Regt's right flank supporting AT Co and Rom group. Should I assemble them with the remainder of Bn? Asst S-3:- All right to leave mortars in present position. They can be assembled quickly if needed elsewhere on another mission.
- 1418 1st Plat Sgt to By Ckr: Have OP set up at 755689.
- 1421 2d Bn CO to Asst S-3: G Co via 755701, reports they are receiving TD fire from their left rear. Asst S-3 to 2d Bn CO: Have already checked with our own TD's - will check with 7th Inf.

19 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- Brief men and instruct them on formation of assault teams for reduction of pillboxes.
- 1430 Asst S-3 to 7th Inf: Relayed entry of 1421. 7th Inf. 2d Bn is in via of 728892, filling in last AF ditch. Armor is up with infantry. 1st Bn is up with infantry. 1st Bn is through everything and up to 720895. 3d Bn in reserve in via 718673, Have 76 PWs. Encountered no mines.
- 1434 3d Bn Rr C to Asst S-3: We have already sent our Co Omdr and platoon sgt on rear of front line.
- 1445 2d Bn to Asst S-3: PW states C/A scheduled tonight.
- 1507 Asst S-3 to Div: Relayed the above.
- 1513 G-2 to Asst S-3: 63d Div has pierced SIEGFRIED line and combat command is going to pass through them to exploit it.
- 1516 G-2 to Asst S-3: Have your forces alert against a possible C/A from the east.
- 1533 Asst S-3 to AF CO: Relayed the above. Be alert and keep contact.
- 1535 Div to S-3: Can we bomb 766709. S-3: You have our clearance.
- 1536 Asst S-3 to 601st Bn. Relayed alert for possible C/A. Gave positions of 3d Bn and Bn from 100th Div. Contact them and coordinate.
- 1538 S-3 to Div: Bomb 760714 (Hill 340). Div (Alright).
- 1545 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: Be alert against a possible C/A tonight. Be especially alert from 760863 to 780674. Advised line of AF blocks. position of 601st Bn & 229th Inf (189th Div). Let us know your plan for defense.
- 1556 Asst S-3 to AF CO: You're attached to 3d Bn for control in this possible C/A tonight. Get down to see Rr C 3d Bn and coordinate.
- 1608 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn: Relayed situation and plans against possible C/A tonight.
- 1730 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Want to establish a TQP at 753670 and direct-armed vehicles along SE side of woods. Wheeled vehicles will use other two roads.
- 1731 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Want to establish a TQP as relayed above.
- 1748 1st Bn S-3 to Asst S-3: Arty smoke rounds landing in via area at following coordinates: 758690, 754697 and 755700.
- 1757 Div DO to Asst S-3: Do you want moonbeams tonight? Asst S-3: CO rather doubts he will want light but would like to get them on call.
- 1820 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: 30th Inf has evidently hit a soft spot in the line - one battalion has gone through west of the defenses receiving very little resistance. 1st Bn CO: Lost two company radios. Have 8 litter cases to be evacuated.
- 1850 3d Bn Rr C to Asst S-3: Have plat of TDs at 779672, plat of AF at 774675. 30th FA has prepared defensive fire in case of counter attack in area 200 yds in front of road. 81 mm and 4.2 mortars can cover entire front, can cover an area 50 yds in from woods. Have communication with all platoons and with AF Co. K Co defenses run from 767671 north to 764677. Tanks and TDs can cover to east and be in mobile reserve. Forward CP in case of C/A would be 758690.
- 2055 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Understand your OP is at 758691. Dig it in with overhead cover to be named twenty-four hours a day. Let me know when it is complete. Set up communication. Let me know when it is finished inasmuch as it has to be operating before daylight.
- 2112 S-3 to Div: F & G Co's attacking tonight.
- 2227 S-3 to 3d Bn: 30th Inf at 774698 and are going after Deathmaker tonight.
- 2d Bn: Quiet. Heard some movement around 777677 and fired arty on it.
- 2240 2d Bn to S-3: Receiving arty fire (tank?), about 50 rds so far. G Co is
- 2330 Rr C to 1st Bn: Two light tanks have left to pick up wounded.

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 181200A to 191200A
Unit: 12th Inf
Place: MAUSCHBACH, GERMANY
Date: 19 March 1945

Map: FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000, WALSCHBROUN, Sheet XXXII-12

1. Our Front Lines: 756698 - 756699 - 756697.
2. Disposition of Troops
(See Overlay).
3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.

4. Our Operations for the period
1st Battalion: In 181400A, B and C Co's continued move north to PJ via 757008 through Dragon's Teeth, mapping-up pill boxes. Encountered small arms, machine guns and heavy artillery fire at 181555A. E Co passed through C Co moving from 757685 to 759098. A Co in Ia reserve via 755694. During the night 18/19, Bn held positions with 2d Bn patrols through them at approximately 180450A. At end of period, Bn had occupied three (3) pill boxes via 756690 and are blocking to the west and east.
2d Battalion: Remained in assembly area via 760270 during the 1st of the period, prepared to pass through 1st Battalion. Were held up by intense enemy artillery fire from moving forward. However, at 190400A, Bn began to move with R & G Co's in the lead. E Co reserve company of Bn. At 190645A, Bn reported lead elements short of Dragon's Teeth. At end of period, 2d Bn was in via 757008 receiving direct AT fire from two (2) pill boxes on right flank.
3d Battalion: At beginning of period, Bn sent patrols to the north. One patrol drew small arms fire in via KIRSCHBACHSWALD Woods. Patrol reports four sets of Dragon's Teeth at 779673. Bn assembled in woods via 759878 prior to 182300A and became reserve Bn. During morning of 18th March, K Co received several casualties due to heavy enemy artillery fire.
AT Co: 601st AT: Assumed blocking position via 754684, 756686, 751688, 775675 and 779673.

5. Combat Efficiency:
Personal Performance: (As shown on M/R of 18 March)
Officers: 80%
WO: 100%
EM: 86%
Rifle Trench Strength
Officers: 46
EM: 1151

6. Results as Observed
a. Bn passed through 1st Bn's continued penetration of the S.E. BARRIED Line.

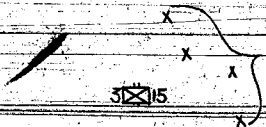
BARR
S-3

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73

70

AT 15



AT BLOCKS

⊗ 601 RCN BLOCK

AT 15

AT 15

65

79

CN 15

HQ 15TH INF.
18 MAR 45

OVERLAY TO S3 REPORT 62

MAP: FRANCE 1/50000

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
CMDE

BARR
S-3

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

Journal

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S-2 Report

FROM: 180800A
TO : 190800A
UNIT: 15TH INFANTRY
DATE: 19 MARCH 1945
PLACE: MAUSCHBRACH, GERMANY

No 82

Map: FRANCE 1/50,000; WALSCHERON Sheet.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: Siegfried Line.
b. Enemy Defenses: The enemy resistance stiffened considerably when the Siegfried Line was reached. Main resistance was from enemy manning pill boxes using 81's and MG's and from arty, SF and mortar fire.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn was attacking the Siegfried Line at beginning of the period meeting stiff resistance from manned pill boxes, AF and artillery fire. At end of the period the advanced elements had reached vic of Q755698 occupying some pill boxes.
(2) 2d Bn: The Bn remained on alert in readiness to support the 1st Bn during the period and reported no enemy action other than enemy artillery shelling.
(3) 3d Bn: Remained on right flank sending patrols and blocking to the east. Patrols received MG fire from Q780675 and Q777677. At end of period was occupying same area.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: C Co in woods via Q755694 receiving fire from 81's at 1027A. MG fire received from vic of Q780675 at 1316A. Enemy personnel and 2 flak wagons observed via of Q777677 at 1750A.
(2) Artillery: Heavy enemy artillery fire received in this sector during the period. Concentrations were reported on woods vic of Q787684 and Q784688.
(3) No report of enemy air, armor, engineer or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

None. See attached IEW Reports.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 15th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
 FIFTEENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
 A. P. O. # 3

19 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 180800A - 190800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

WM	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time	Capt Unit
10	1	1/37	7h7696	1600A	1st Bn
6		2/37	"	"	"
13		3/37	"	"	"
1		2/38	"	"	"
9		1/112 Fortress Bn (Regt?)	"	"	"
39	1	TOTAL			

Grand total through 15th Infantry Cage in France: 5327

1/112 Fortress Bn (Regt): WFO PW estimates strength of Co at 300 - 400 men. PWs were located in 3 pillboxes which were knocked out. They state that pillbox is occupied by a permanent crew of 4 - 5 men, but was reinforced yesterday by 15 or more men per bunker. The 3 pillboxes knocked out by us had, according to PW's statement, an occupancy of about 20 men each.

1/37: This Co absorbed remnants of 2 Co, and 3 Co/37 Regt bringing it up to a total strength of about 40 - 50 men. They were under Lt. Boehm (captured), and represented the reinforcements for the pillboxes mentioned above. Total PWs listed apparently make for the remainder of the combat troops of 1/37 SS PIR.

2/37: Remainder of Co was absorbed by 1/37, but PW made the statement that train of 37 Regt, formerly located in MONTIGNY, now occupy bunkers in area of (758700) along with a sergeant of an unidentified tank unit. PW was sent there to pick up some clothing, and was therefore able to make this statement.

2/38: PW was wounded, and since his Bn no longer exists, was attached to 1/37 which occupied the bunkers.

PW'S STATEMENT ON SIGHTED LINE FORTIFICATIONS:

Small bunkers of the type knocked out by us have 1 turret with 6 slots defended by 2 MG's.

2 sp' works located at (758700) and (763700) are normally manned by 1 officer and 40 men. They have 2 turrets armed with 2 MG's each, and are further defended by 1 machinegun and 100 which is an automatic mortar with a firing rate of 100 - 120 rps per minute.

4 KING LEVI
 1st Lt. SIG O.

20 MARCH 1945

- 0018 Received following radio msg, relayed by phone to Dy Cks: 0018 - 10;
CO, 16th Inf from CO 3d Bn "Situation OK, Sunshine Out".
- 0026 2d Bn to S-3: G Co in small fire fight (755700). Will check in again
in fifteen minutes. Sent a platoon of F Co to help out if necessary.
- 0016 DO to Div: Relayed the above. 30th Inf attacking hill 290 (Div).
- 0046 2d Bn S-2 to S-3: G Co and platoon of F Co engaged in fire fight. Believe
it is not a counter-attack. Smoke grenades and burp guns used by any.
- 0050 S-3 to Div: Relayed situation.
- 0100 30th Inf DO to S-3: Our 2d Bn is sending platoon to Hill 290 (731702).
G Co will attempt to cross bridge at 727698.
- 0105 1st Bn to S-3: All wounded evacuated except some from G Co.
- 0209 2d Bn S-2 to S-3: Everything under control. Sqr officer has left with
demolitions to breach dragon's teeth. S-3: Check on F Co.
- 0200 S-3 to 39th PA Bn: Gave PW report.
- 0220 1st Bn DO to DO: Everything quiet except for 5-rds of 120 mm mortar fire
between woods and pillboxes.
- 0225 3d Bn sent following radio msg: "Enemy active to west front".
- 0226 G-3 to S-3: Report from Corps Radar indicates enemy movement and believe
he is pulling out. Friendly elements are reported in HORNBURG and they
say they expect to be in ZIEBRUCKEN tomorrow. We must keep pushing to
exploit any weakness.
- 0227 S-2 to 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 0240 3d Bn to S-2: BP heard enemy vehicles to the west and believe it to be
friendly.
- 0245 2d Bn to S-2: G Co is getting rations and ammunition. Plan to work on
pillboxes.
- 0307 1st Bn DO to DO: Bay fire has slackened off considerably but still receiving
some small arms and mortar fire.
- 0332 1st Bn DO to Asst S-3: Receiving a little harassing fire around pillboxes.
- 0333 2d Bn R to Asst S-3: Bay shelling is light. Am assigning sectors and
pillboxes to each unit. They will send out platoons to assault and if success-
ful, will send another one up.
- 0400 2d Bn to Asst S-3: G Co will push on as soon as F Co reinforces them.
- 0400 CO to 2d Bn CO: Forward position of F & G Co's were attacked from rear.
Their rations were brought by tanks and G Co must walk to rear to pick them up.
Mags are here, and F Co is ready. CO ordered them to take more pillboxes
to the right.
- 0431 CO 2d Bn to CO: G Co will try for objectives 21 and 22 immediately. If
it is still dark, will go after 19 and 20. F Co will follow.
- 0455 Asst CO to Asst S-3: Alert 3d Bn as to G/A at daylight.
- 0456 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 0457 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0512 Asst S-3 to Asst CO: 3d Bn has been alerted. CO is at 2d Bn.
- 0535 2d Bn DO to Asst S-3: Sending runners to companies to start attack. Wire
is out.
- 0557 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn R to CO: Last contact patrol at 0416. Have one out now.
- 0620 2d Bn to R to CO: Have taken pillbox #21. Found only one dead German. Moving
on to #22.
- 0635 Asst S-3 to Div: We have an OP at 756690 at center of woods, north edge.
- 0642 CO to R to CO: Believe one is pulling out. Get patrols out.
- 0645 R to CO: Relayed the above. F Co is working on objectives #21 to #24.
CO: Have 3d Bn check all OPs.
- 0653 R to CO to 3d Bn R to CO: Relayed CO's orders. Put 4 patrols out in following
order: 1st patrol at 756690, 2nd at 756690, 3rd at 756690, 4th at 756690.
756690 and fourth in woods below last coordinate.
- 0707 Div to R to CO: Leaving one M-12 with you.
- 0710 Div to Asst S-3: Need air support? Asst S-3: No.
- 0718 30th Inf to Asst S-3: F & G at 730695, H at 733703, C at Rhein, A & B
at 730709, AT at Reichwieser, BP to 726698.
- 0720 7th Inf to Asst S-3: Let Bn at 750710, 2d Bn at 750700, 3d Bn at 750704
- 0732 2d Bn CO to Asst S-3: G Co blew up a pillbox and were not fired upon. Need
orders to blow Dragon's Teeth. Indications that enemy has pulled out.
- 0745 1st Bn to Asst S-3: Need eight pole charges quickly. Asst S-3: Draw them from
dump near you.
- 0747 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Sending out officer-led recon patrols now. #5 has just left.

20 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- A & B west of river, moving north at 706. 1st Bn of 7th Inf via 780710.
3d Bn south of 1st Bn and 2d Bn is 400 yards south of 3d Bn.
- 0800 Div to Ex O: All M-12's are leaving control of Div.
- 0812 CO 3d Bn to Ex O: Patrol #1 (1 Off & 3 EN) has left, mission to make road to reg'l right.
- 0815 AT to Asst S-3: All quiet last night.
- 0830 2d Bn to Ex O: Strong indications that enemy has withdrawn. Pillboxes #23 to 29 inclusive cleared, also, #31, #32, #19, #20 and #21. Moving to obj #1 with F & G Co's. 5 PW's.
- 0837 Ex O to 3d Bn: Relayed the above. Be ready in case we get orders to move.
- 0845 Ex O to Div: Give resume of situation.
- 0847 Div to Asst S-3: Any air support? Asst S-3: None.
- 0856 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Going after pillboxes #33, #34 #35, going east. Need engs, tank deser and demolition. CO wants regular bulldozer to fill in ditches. Need radios. E Co is moving. However, he has no communication.
- 0806 Ex O to 2d Bn: Send bulldozer to 1st Bn.
- 0907 Asst S-3 to 7th Inf: Any change? 7th Inf: We've taken 20 PW's.
- 0910 Ex O to 3d Bn CO: Relayed the situation.
- 0914 30th Inf to Asst S-3: Farthest elements via 710 northing.
- 0928 Ex O to Div: Relayed Situation. G-3: Mop-up all pillboxes in your zone. Have engs start blowing each pillbox.
- 0932 Ex O to 3d Bn CO: Mop-up pillboxes in your zone. Engs will blow up pillboxes as they're cleared.
- 1000 CO to Ex O: 1st Bn will clear.
- 1008 CO to Ex O: 1st Bn to clear to boundary on our right between 1st & 2d line of Dragon's Teeth, then move NE. Our left flank is from 780600 to 800700 to 807712 and then move northeast. 3d Bn engs will be attached to 1st Bn for demolition. E Co will keep moving toward CONTWIG, take bridge, and go across. F & G Co's will follow, clearing up. 3d Bn will make immediate run with view to assembling in area between CONTWIG and breach. I & R will make motor run in four vehicles.
- 1020 Ex O to 3d Bn CO: 1st Bn will continue to mop-up. E Co will head for bridge at CONTWIG and 3d Bn will follow behind. You can go thru or around E Co if possible. Your mission is to occupy objective #3 (CONTWIG). Occupy high ground (hill 304), keep contact with teams of WINDER-AUERBACH and SLAMBACH. Engs sweeping road now have tank desers with them. 3d Bn engs will go to 1st Bn.
- 1021 Ex O to IAR: Make motorized run of road up to CONTWIG. If bridge is in, place jeeps around bridge to secure it. Engs are sweeping the road now.
- 1045 Radio Mag from 2d Bn to CO, 15th Inf: "Check chemical and lift smoke."
- 1050 DO to La O, Cml Bn: Relayed the above. La O: Our mortars are not firing at all. Smoke is coming from 7th Inf sector.
- 1053 Ex O to 7th Inf: Checked Smoke situation: 7th Inf: We are firing smoke on our left flank. Will lift it.
- 1055 CO to Ex O: I am 2,000 yds ahead of objective #24. CO 2d Bn is in front of me. Will contact him. Ex O to CO: Engs have tready and Bailey bridging material in HOENBACH. CO: 2d Bn has 23 PW's. Send truck to pick them up.
- 1115 7th Inf to Asst S-3: Have stopped firing smoke.
- 1220 CO to Ex O: E ac in CONTWIG at 1145. Have run into some enemy 500 yards north of town. TD's blasting at them. Bridge is in, clear of demolitions, armor with E Co. Have CIC report to me and get to work in CONTWIG. 1st Bn will clear pillboxes between the two AT ditches. 3d Bn advance elements at 695 going north. 3d Bn will clear the following area with center of area at 780715, 774712, 774705 and contact 7th Inf. Every pillbox will be cleared and protected until pillboxes are demolished by engs. 3d Bn will clear north of AT ditch at 780705. 3d Bn will assemble in area they clear. 2d Bn will contact 30th Inf in view of 762735. Send three Zp-ten trucks to CONTWIG for prisoners. Possible site of new CP at TRUPPACHERBORN. 2d Bn will patrol to Germany phase line.
- 1254 2d Bn to Ex O: E Co in CONTWIG, both bridges intact, F Co and armor in town.
- 1300 CO to Asst Comd Co: Consolidate Bn's and establish definite CP's. 2d Bn is in CONTWIG, will send strong patrol to "Germany" phase line and to contact 90th Inf. Many civilians to care for in CONTWIG. Send CIC.
- 1310 CO to Ex O: The Bn's will consolidate and continue mopping-up pillboxes.
- 1315 Ex O to 3d Bn: Relayed the above. Co's will stay in their own areas in case of quick move.
- 1335 Div De to Ex O: 100th Div on right, at BOTTENBACH, not as far as WALKAUBEN. Receiving fairly heavy artillery fire, believe it's to cover withdraw east by enemy.
- 1350 Div to Ex O: 100th Div at 7864 grid square.

20 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1422 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co at 776694 to 776888 mapping up, C Co on high ground, hill 365 (770697 to 773698) B Co at 785707. One platoon at 792712. Have taken about 80 PW's. New CP will be at 767699. Are mapping-up in zone B. Farthest eastern point is at 776694.
- 1450 1st Bn CO to Asst S-3: Would like to use bulldozers on the small pillboxes.
- 1459 Asst S-3 to G-3: Relayed the above request. G-3: Use at engr's discretion.
- 1501 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn Ex O: Relayed the above.
- 1506 Radio Message from CO 3d Bn to CO, 15th Inf: "CP in assembly area."
- 1510 1st Bn to Dy Clik. Have 34 PW's
- 1514 Dy Clik to MP's: Relayed the above.
- 1516 S-3 to AT-Plat Ldr: Pull out your northern most road block (764699)
- 1534 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co is on the defensive, in position. Will start moving B Co to a blocking-defensive position.
- 1630 New Hq't'l CP via 773717 opened at 1630.
- 1703 2d Bn to S-2: Plat of F Co follows the enemy tanks at 766733 may be alive. Are investigating now.
- 1717 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Now located 798715, have two platoons of F Co north and west of CONTWIG. Receiving friendly artillery fire. Can you stop it?
- 1725 3d Bn to Ex O: K Co cleaning parallel to river and L Co cleaning east to river about 785 grid. 2d Bn: 1 patrol of E Co, the one who took the left route, has reported. They reached 782733 and received heavy mortar fire. G Co is in town of STANDBACH. 1 Platoon of E Co is north of CONTWIG and 1 Platoon of E Co patrolling CONTWIG. 1 Platoon of F Co at 774730, 1 Platoon of F Co at 775727. 3d Platoon of F Co is clearing the big woods west of CONTWIG.
- 1752 2d Bn to Asst S-3: Bn takes mines via of STANDBACH. E Co will be in vic of CONTWIG, G Co will be in vic of STANDBACH, F Co will be at 774730. S-3: 1st Bn is blocking from 789712 to 780680. 3d Bn in assembly area with center at 769715.
- 1833 I & R gave report to Dy Clik: 30th Inf CP at 726726. Forming regimental motorized task force to follow 6th Armored Div. Route to Div to the town where Div has buildings reserved (737756 is thru CONTWIG and turn left across bridge and stay on north side of the river in SWEIBRUCHEN.
- 1848 2d Bn CO to CO: G Co is in STANDBACH. Receiving MG fire from pillboxes north and east of town from vic of 802717. Setting up defense in STANDBACH. Patrol to 800733 received enemy MG fire. We will block to the ravine NW of town. Also at RJ outside of town. Will fire arty on pillboxes and have recon patrols.
- 1855 7th Inf to CO: We have troops at NEIDERBERG-AUBACH.
- 1900 2d Bn to Ex O: E Co patrol fired on from two pillboxes at 800730. Enemy scout car was knocked out at 784728. There is an unoccupied pillbox at 795731. Brought back three civilians. F Co went to east edge of woods about 728 grid. Brought back two PW's.
- 1906 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: CO want road block south of RJ near bridge at 805700.
- 1910 G-3 to CO: Establish contact point as bridge at 751728 between you and Co F, 30th Inf. CO: 3d Bn in reserve at 766710 and 2d Bn to its north.
- 1925 3d Bn to S-3: One enemy MG and snipers still holding out. Bringing tanks up to blast them.
- 1940 S-3 to Ex O: No roadblock, but patrol to same spot which 3d Bn has a road block.
- 1948 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Send patrol to 2d Bn road block at 805700.
- 1958 2d Bn S-2 to CIC: Have approx 30 civilians at our CP at our CP to be investigated. CIC: Will send transportation for them to be evacuated.
- 2029 2d Bn to S-3: E Co went from town at 777721 up road that follows draw to northeast to 747724. At that point at 1817: they observed enemy scout car. Scout car hit and ran a point within enemy rifle range of patrol. The car turned around and went back same route. Patrol was strictly recon and did not fire. Road fairly good. Observed no mines.
- 2057 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: When 2d Bn established road block, they will notify us and we in turn can notify you.
- 2053 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: Our area has been cleared and all companies are in process of assembling. Bn CP at 766709.
- 2130 3d Bn DO to S-3: F Co, 3 Man patrol, that went to vic NEIDER-AUBACH has returned. Found bridge at 764728 partially blown. Enemy on north side of bridge yelled and started across bridge. Patrol hearing hob-nailed shoes left quickly in their jeep. Town is in flames. Patrol reports a tank on or just off road along hill (800709) pill box at 804714. Received no fire from it, but one enemy deserted from it.
- 2155 AT CO to S-3: Company has closed in except maintenance section.

20 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- 2205 801st Bn to Ex O: 71st Div is relieving 100th Div. 2d Bn, 299th (180th Div) line runs roughly 793643 to 806672 around to hill 356 then south. Our patrol is still out. No thoroughfare at 782674 (mine crater, Dragon's Teeth). Still checking approaches.
- 2216 Ex O 1st Bn to S-2: Enemy occupied pillbox at 604714.
- 2218 S-3 to 3d Bn: 7th Inf had some elements in NIEDER-AUBACH. 30th Inf has F Co at 747749. 2d Bn, 15th Inf-E Co on NE edge of MONTWIG, working almost entirely on patrols. Going to send one patrol to BITTVILLER, the other to OBER-AUBACH. F Co is in via of 772750. Our 1st Bn, B Co in via 789704, blocking to NE. G Co is on hill 4666. A Co is via 783689.
- 2247 3d Bn to S-2: Patrol Reports: E Co left 778724, went out the road to He to 777731 (Rf & Canal). There are fallen trees at that point. Think they are small enough to drive through. South of these there is a house alongside of which there's a vehicle that looks like a half-track. Then they went up road to 778756, then to 784741 on back of hill where MG's opened up on them. After waiting, they tried again and the MG's again opened up. This was about 2200. They couldn't go any further.
- 2317 3d Bn to Ex O: 106th Cav have elements of two troops in OBER-AUBERBACH. Moved east to 784755 where road crosses stream. Bridge is blown, but are making a ford, and have patrol going towards RATTWEILER. Also report bridge is blown at 772755 on road running NE. Objective tonight is OBERHAUSEN to the NE.
- 2320 Ex O to CO: Report just received a message from Div for S-2 or S-3 to report to Div.
- 2330 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: How is your armor disposed. Two tanks on NE edge of town. Two TDs on E edge covering NE of stream.
- 2345 I & R reported to DOR. Completed contact with E Co of 7th in NIEDER-AUBERBACH. Contacted G Co, 15th, who reported they are recvg SP and arty fire.
- 2400 CO to S-2: Report to Div.

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S-3 Period Report

Period: 191201A to 201200A
Unit : 13th Inf
Place : MAUSCHBACH, GERMANY
Date : 20 March 1945

Ref: ~~46~~
No: 63
Name: FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/80,000, WALSCHBROHN, Sheet XXXII-12.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.
2. Disposition of Troops: (See Overlay)
3. Weather and visibility: Warm, visibility fair.

4. Our Operations for the period:

~~1st Battalion:~~ At beginning of period 3d Bn passed thru 1st Bn positions via 78-70 and continued mopping up pill boxes. At 200015A, G Co and one platoon of F Co engaged enemy patrol in S/A fire fight to rear of their positions, via 765700. By 200431A, F and G Co's continued clearing pill boxes finding no resistance and boxes unexploded. At end of period Bn (B Co, lead Co) was moving toward CONTWIG, via 77772A to take objective bridge via 778719, F and G Co's following.

Regt'l I&R: At 201040A, given mission to make a motorized recon patrol to CONTWIG bridge via 778719 and hold bridge.

1st & 3d Battalions: During night 19/20 March, Bns remained on position.

1st Bn given mission to clear all pill boxes between 1st and 2d row of "Dragon's Teeth". 3d Bn given same mission. 3d Plat of 10th Bn attached for demolition work on pill boxes.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for duty: (As shown on M/R of 19 March)

Officers: 86%
WO: 100%
EM: 86%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 45
EM: 1049

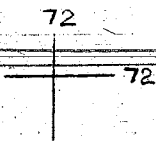
6. Results of Operations:

- a. SILVERLINE line breached.
- b. Mop-up and demolition of pill boxes begun.
- c. Rapid pursuit of enemy.

BARR

1-3

CONFIDENTIAL

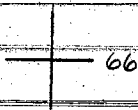


CONFVIG
BRIDGE

2J Bn ENROUTE TO CONFVIG BRIDGE



1 830 Bns TO CLEAR
AREA OF PILLBOXES BETWEEN
1st & 2d ROW OF DRAGONS TEETH

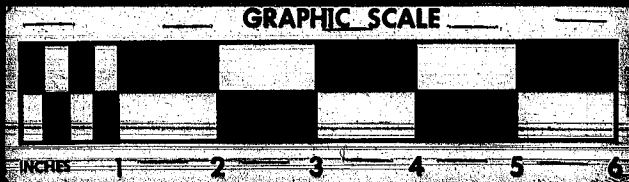


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HQ 15TH INF
10 MAR 45

OVERLAY TO S-3 REPORT #63

MAP FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000
SHEET XXXII-12



Journal

CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 Report

FROM: 190800A
TO: 200800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 20 MARCH 1946
PLACE: MAUSCHRACH, GERMANY

No. 34
Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALSCHROEN Sheet.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: Enemy held the Siegfried Line up to the latter part of the period when he withdrew and broke contact.
- b. Enemy Defenses: Strong resistance was encountered from enemy manned pillboxes, S/A's, artillery and mortar fire.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn continued the attack on the Siegfried Line via of Q768688 and at end of period was still in same vicinity.
- (2) 2d Bn: Bn moved up to vic of Q757697 to support the 1st Bn. Stiff resistance was met and at end of the period the Bn was in the same area.
- (3) The Bn remained in assembly area via of Q768678 in regimental reserve during the entire period. No enemy contact.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: No specific action other than enemy infantry manning pill boxes and offering stiff resistance.
- (2) Artillery: Heavy artillery fire received during the day. At the end of the period enemy artillery was very light.
- (3) No report of enemy air, engineer, armor or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 16th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

**HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. C. # 3**

20 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 190800A - 200800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Place of Capt</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt Unit</u>
10		Hq Co/17 AA Bn	vic 755701	1000A	2nd Bn
4		2/17 AA Bn	"	"	"
2		3/17 AA Bn	"	"	"
2		4/17 AA Bn	"	"	"

TO TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in FRANCE: 5345

17 SS AA Bn: about 21 men from trains of 17 AA Bn Units, including tailors, shoemakers, cooks and drivers were sent down to man the pillbox from which they were captured. They state that they had no arms outside of carbines and pistols. Their CO, Lt. ENGELS, left them, after which they decided to surrender, being practically unarmed. These PW's, mostly Non - Germans, knew little outside the names of their CO's. They state that many pillboxes are not manned, and the ones they have seen manned, are being manned by Army Units. They also were apparently threatened with execution in case they withdrew from the Westwall.

2/17 AA Bn: PW was radio operator and, according to his statement, has come with 1 MCO from OBERAUREBACH (7775) on 18 Mar to man pillbox 504. On his way, he passed through pillbox 485 (755713) which, he states, is being used as Hq for 37 SS PGR. Hq complement consisting of about 8 officers and 50 EM is located there. He was apparently tactically subordinated to 37 Regt. He claims that this pillbox has 4 turrets with 3 MG's each, but does not know anything about other armament.

PERSONALITIES:

CO 17 AA Bn	Major BRAUNE	Adm. O/trains 17 AA Bn	2nd Lt. ENGELS
CG 2/17	1st Lt. MATIS	Arty O-2/17	1st Lt. TRINK- GUT
CGO3/17	Capt. GUNTHER		

LOCATIONS:

Pillbox, Hq 37 PGR (755713)	CG 2/17 AA Bn OBERAUREBACH (7775)
Btry est 105mm Arty Row (755716)	CG 17 AA Bn BATTWEILER (0075)

STRENGTH AND LOSSES:

Men:	<u>2/17 AA Bn:</u>	PW's..... 5
		Dead..... 5
		Wounded..... 2

12

STRENGTH AND LOSSES (cont'd):

Material; Armament before attack: 2/17 AA Bn

5 - 88mm AA/AT Guns

3 - 20mm Multibarrelled AA Guns

Losses of Armament:

1 - 88mm AA/AT Gun

Destroyed by own men in ALTHEIM.

2 - 88mm AA/AT Guns

Destroyed by planes in OBERAUER-
BACH (7775).

2 - 88mm AA/AT Guns

Destroyed by planes in RIMSCH-
WETTER (7369).

1 - 20mm Multibarrelled AA Gun

By planes

Remaining Armament:

2 - 20mm Multibarrelled AA Guns

Remaining Strength of 2/17 AA Bn:

about 140 men at OBERAUERBACH (7775).

Heinz Levi
HEINZ LEVI
1st Lt., Sig C.

Journal

SECRET

**Sq. 18th Infantry
COMVIG, GERMANY
20 March 1945**

**OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION)
PURSER19)**

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALSCHENBORN, Sheet XXXVIII-12.

1. Omitted.

2. 18th Inf will map up the SINGRIED Line in sector; will block to the north and to the east; and, will patrol to phase line "Germany".

3. 1st Bn 18th Inf:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat, Co C, 756th Tns
- 1 Plat, Co B, 601st TD
- 1 Sect, 441st AAA
- 1 Plat, Co G, 87th Cml

- (1) Continue to map up SINGRIED Line in assigned sector and will block on the right flank of the regiment as shown on overlay.
- (2) Patrol to and establish contact with 2d Bn at road block # 1.

3d Bn 18th Inf:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat, Co G, 756th Tns
- 1 Plat, Co B, 601st TD
- 1 Sect, 441st AAA
- 1 Plat, Co C, 87th Cml

- (1) Block to north as shown on overlay.
- (2) Patrol to phase line "Germany"; check towns of OBER-AUENBACH and RAYTHEILERS.
- (3) Establish road block in vic 808700 (see overlay).

3d Bn 18th Inf:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat, Co C, 756th Tns
- 1 Plat, Co B, 601st TD
- 1 Sect, 441st AAA

- (1) Continue to map up SINGRIED Line in assigned sector until completed and will then assemble in area shown on overlay, as regimental reserve.

AP Co, 18th Inf:

Assemble entire company in the vic of COMVIG.

Box Co, 601st TD:

- a. Continue to man the road block in the vic of 762671 and maintain contact with our friendly unit on the right.
- b. Make reconnaissance to the town of WALSHAUSEN, vic 812680 and report to this headquarters immediately after completing mission.

4. Omitted.

5. Regtl CP located at 770716

- 1st Bn - 767701
- 2d Bn - 722721
- 3d Bn - 755709
- AI Co - 770716
- Co Co - 772698
- SV Co - 786614 (1,000 yds SE of SCHMIDT)

**EDSON
Cmdg**

OFFICIAL:

Howard
HOWARD
S-5

SECRET

71
75
74
82

SECRET

GERMANY

2 1/2 BLOCK

ASSEMBLY

3 1/2 BLOCK

AREA

7 1/2

1 1/2 BLOCK

3:100
3:100
#1

HQ 15 INF
20 MARCH 45

OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OI #19

MAP: FRANCE 1:50,000

OFFICIAL:

EDSON
CMDG

HOWLAND
S-3

RCN 1:50,000

GRAPHIC SCALE



INCHES 1 2 3 4 5 6

21 MARCH 1946 (Contd)

- your objectives after 0700. In accordance with field orders for this operation, yours is the SWEIBRUCKEN zone. The 15th RCT will advance on your right. Ahead of you are people of 6th Armored and 106th Cav groups. Your route will be from KRANTWEIG to OBER-AUERBACH, then NE on road going to WIMPERBACH. Have a Div order coming out and should reach objective daylight. You must advance by shuttle and motor movement, using your organic transportation, riding on tanks and TDs. There's going to be two other arty units going with you. You will have marching units in column. The arty units besides the 39th FA Bn are the 698d (108mm) and the other is the 9th FA Bn. You can use the artillery vehicles to carry troops. Your attachments remain the same. The CG is clearly anxious you be protected on flanks by 601st TDs and tanks reinforced by some infantry. The 15th Inf will be ready to move at noon tomorrow. It may be necessary however that recon elements will have to move out as early as 0900.
- 0106 1st Bn to DO: Everything quiet.
- 0120 2d Bn to DO: All quiet except for MG fire about 2350 in vic of 603710.
- 0156 Oral report of Sgt Fisherty to DO: Patrol reports as follows: 6th Armored Div going through NIEDER-AUERBACH. Town is outposted by K Co, 7th Inf. A white flare was observed, 2350, vic 800715.
- 0206 3d Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0210 30th Inf to DO: We were supposed to contact your patrols at the bridge via 752728 at 2200, 2400, 0200, 0400 and 0600. No contact on the first two patrols. DO: Will check on this.
- 0220 DO to 2d Bn: Do you have any patrols in vic 752728? 2d Bn: No.
- 0226 CO to Lt O: Contact CO's from 601st Reg, "C" Co, 756th Trk, "B" Co, 601st TD's, and Sv Co. Officers, 15th Inf to meet at Reg'l CP at 0800. The 601st Reg will assemble within 1,000 yds of the CP by 0900A, prepared to move out on more road.
- 0230 DO to IAR: Contact a patrol from the 30th Inf at bridge via 752728 at 0400 and 0600.
- 0232 CO to DO: Have notified 39th FA Bn to furnish thirty 2 1/2-Ton trucks from 698d FA for movement.
- 0238 2d Bn to DO: Patrol report - "G" Company patrol found woods empty. Trip wires were around pillbox. Wagon tracks were near canal. Heard firing north of FALKENBUSCH. Lights were observed in town.
- 0240 CO of 106th Cav in CP: They are in CONTWIG beyond the railroad. DO: Gave situation.
- 0255 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0300 3d Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0336 2d Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0350 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 0355 Div to DO: Contact the 66th Inf (2d Bn) on your right, some time day, in the vic of 797715.
- 0442 I & R to DO: Contact "B" and Hqs Co of 7th Inf at SWEIBRUCKEN.
- 0460 I & R patrol report to Dy Clerk: Patrol contacted K Co, 7th Inf in vic 754737 and 1st Bn (B Co), 7th Inf via 728776. Also made contact with G Co, 15th Inf. Did not contact 30th Inf patrol at contact point via 752728. DO check 30th Inf reported their jeep to be used for patrol had a flat tire. Will send another contact patrol to point at 0600A.
- 0613 to 0600: All has report all quiet.
- 0625 I & R recon patrol contacted K Co, 7th Inf and G Co, 15th Inf. No contact made with 30th Inf.
- 0655 2d Bn to DO: All quiet. An ambulance loaded with wounded was captured by 106th Cav passed through G Co.
- 0710 2d Bn to DO: Patrol #6 reported back at 0655. Reached objective #1. Captured one PW and located a German scout car loaded with ammunition, apparently out of gas. G Co is sending a security patrol out to the high ground southeast of STAMBACH and putting a road block east and north of FALKENBUSCH.
- 0830 2d Bn to Dy Clk: No activity. No contacts. Patrol #6 on obj #6 and 106th Cav is there. On our right flank, K Co, 7th Inf, are in NIEDER-AUERBACH and there are friendly tanks, HQ of NIEDER-AUERBACH. Road block #1, have units out now to put it in. Sent patrols southeast and east of STAMBACH on high ground and have no contact as yet. The 106th Cav occupy OBER-AUERBACH.
- 0918 CO to 3d Bn: Alert your Bn to move. At 1200 you will operate on right flank. You will only have fourteen 2 1/2-Ton trucks. You will have to ride your men on TD's and Trs. There will be a Lt O to contact you shortly.
- 0940 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: 3d Plat of 601st Reg and a plat of Co D, 756th Tr Bn will be attached to you to precede your column. Attached to the above will be a plat

21 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

of inf mounted on 12-Ten Trucks.

- 0948 Div to CO: Your regiment will keep bulldozer.
- 0949 CO to I & R: Send 2 recon jeeps to fellow 106th Cav recon group to obtain information on their move. At 1200A have one jeep return with information.
- 0953 CO to 3d Bn CO: Your attachments will be four tanks, four TDs, six 2 1/2-Ton trucks (30 men per vehicle), 3d platoon of AT Co, 16th Inf, and Regt'l jeep with 694 radio. In your column will be the 36th PA Bn, Cn Co, 3d Platoon Co B, 10th Egrs.
- 1000 Div DO to CO: Disregard field order (OI #32). It has been cancelled. Be prepared to move the east this afternoon, through CONTWIG and clear area near boundary. G-3 wants you to report to Div (HORNBACH) as soon as possible.
- 1004 CO to 2d Bn CO: You will have 1st Platoon AT Co attached to you. In your column will be 9th PA Bn and the 2d platoon Co B, 10th Egrs.
- 1012 2d Bn S-3 to CO: Our patrols report as follows: The road block at 801706, enemy in draw at 798704, enemy at 798698.
- 1014 CO to CO, Co B, 10th Egrs: Send bulldozer to 2d Bn.
- 1019 Ex O to Ex O 1st Bn: Send patrols to 801706, 798704 and 798698. We must clear enemy from our flanks before next move.
- 1103 106th Bn S-3 to Ex O: We have encountered one Mark IV tank and one half track at 841748. Would like to get some armor from you to combat it. Ex O: Can give you supporting arty fire but couldn't give armor now. We are preparing to have it move.
- 1137 1st Bn to DO: Patrols have encountered enemy M's but have no contact with enemy personnel.
- 1214 Ex O to All Bn CO's: Boundaries changed, shifted south, that's all we have now. Want combat patrols from 1st Bn to use trail paralleling 69 grid as axis going through RJ 812601 then cross country toward WACHENHILLER. Report by radio or messenger. 2d Bn will have a combat patrol go down to tip, then up to DELLFIELD, going down valley keeping in contact with you by radio or messenger. Patrols to keep going.
- 1242 CO to Ex O: Change of plans. We will move due east in a triangle. Our northern boundary will be the SWACHBACH River, our southern boundary will be front line of 71st Div, the western boundary will be boundary of 1st Bn and the eastern boundary will be roughly 89 or 90 grid vertical. The 3d Bn will move along southern boundary, and after the two bns have moved three or four kms, 2d Bn will work through the middle.
- 1246 Div CLK to All Bn CO's: Meeting at CP at 1315.
- 1303 CO 1st Bn to Ex O: My combat patrols will be ready to go in 1/2 hour, platoon size to clear pillboxes, 1 squad will work on the northern side of the road, 1 squad will work on the southern side of the road from the trail junction at 790688 towards WALSHAUSEN. The remaining squad will cover the advance of the other squads. Using radio for communication.
- 1315 CO's aide to CO: CO is in cub plane and expects to land near your CP. Have a party in a jeep on the lookout for him.
- 1322 CO 1st Bn to CO: One of my patrols reached point where they could look into town of WALSHAUSEN. They observed platoons of enemy moving into town from the north. Have recon ready to move. CO to CO 1st Bn: Go into town as in regular attack.
- 1333 G-2 to G-3: 6th Inf is on line running through 780660, 800670, 810675, 830680, 834040, 835616. 16th Inf is on line running through 840600, 848688, 852650. Patrols reached points 870610 and 870690. Enemy batteries one each, located at 837448 and another approximately 8 kms west-northwest from their CP at 838688. 71st has been standing since it lit up 106th Div.
- 1348 3d Bn CO to G-3: Recon left one hour ago. K Co on way with 2 tanks and 2 TDs on left. I Co is on right with 2 tanks. L Co along road with recon with 2 TDs.
- 1300 1st Bn CO to CO: B Co on way with recon in lead. Have troops on recon vehicles. Have patrol moving into WALSHAUSEN (812679).
- 1307 3d Bn CO to G-3: All the Bn is on the move.
- 1315 30th Inf to G-3: 106th Cav reports from divisions in KAISERLAUTERN. 6th armored Div held up - unable to cross 3d Army's supply lines.
- 1321 1st Bn S-3 to G-3: B Co and recon entering WALSHAUSEN. Recon moving on to WILDENBERG.
- 1322 S-2 to Div: Relayed the above.
- 1333 CO to G-3: Gave resume of situation. G-3: 71st Div will have Lm Co with you soon.
- 1350 3d Bn Ex O to G-3: Route we plan to take: From 760704 to left of woods at 760701, onto road at 808699. Road is inclusive to I Co. I Co is on right, K Co on left.

21 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- 1730 S-2 to S-3: DELLFIELD is clear, bridge is blown but can get back across across, area swampy, many civilian in town, trench system at 810688, pill-boxes at 818693, 816694, 814698 are clear. Received 15 rounds of friendly artillery. No artillery unless called for. Road up to 820697 is good. Have patrols to next town.
- 1728 S-2 to CIG: Relayed the above about civilians in DELLFIELD.
- 1840 S-3 to 2d Bn: 1st Bn CP in WALSHAUSEN with recon patrols to WINDSBERG. 3d Bn has advance elements at 806699. 2d Bn: Bn assembling in vic 766709.
- 1848 S-3 to Div: Reported situation.
- 1850 S-4 to Dy Ckr: Sv Co in CONTWIG, near RR Station.
- 1853 1st Bn to S-3: A Co in vic 800670.
- 1902 S-3 to S-3: Be on your objective by morning. Don't leave any reserve bn in rear.
- 1910 3d Bn to S-3: I Co up to phase line #5. I Co has entered NUNSCHWEILER. CP at 806699. Armer outside NUNSCHWEILER. AT ditch before town being filled in.
- 2001 3d Bn CO to Ex O: I Co in fire fight bottom of NUNSCHWEILER. Receiving SP and mortar fire from our fight flank. I Co is beyond the 85 grid (approx 860713).
- 2007 1st Bn Ex O to S-3: Recon say that enemy is at 842690. A Co now at 825686. S-3: CIC on way to WALSHAUSEN but they will be unable to go to them all.
- 2020 CO to Ex O: At 2020, A Co was at 826685 moving SE. B Co at 1980A, was at 8446 moving SE. C Co at 2020A, was at 844688, moving due east. Recon troops at approx 847687. 1st Bn has 18 PWs.
- 2022 S-3 to 2d Bn CO: Gave 1st Bn's situation. Trucks to be sent to the 2d Bn in morning to bring up rear elements. 2d Bn CO: Coming up to Regiment. S-3: 1st Bn rear CP 767701.
- 2058 S-2 to TPW: 1st Bn has 18 PW's.
- 2045 1st Bn to DO: Gave route to WALSHAUSEN: From Rj vic 766701 east over patch of woods. Follow to tip of next woods, then south to next woods, then bend around there, down to 807690.
- 2060 S-3 to 2d Bn S-3: Gave route to WALSHAUSEN.
- 2056 Ex O to Div DO: Gave resume of situation.
- 2056 S-2 to CIG: Suggest that you go to WALSHAUSEN tonight. 1st Bn has some civilians there for investigation.
- 2122 CO to Div DO: Recommend not moving up reserve battalion tonight, and probably crossing near CONTWIG in the morning.
- 2135 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co is at 833685, B Co vic 844676, C Co vic 845684. C Co going toward objective "D", having had to swing slightly into 2d Bn area because of fire from friendly tanks. Now moving into WINDSBERG. Recon tanks now just west of it.
- 2136 IPW to S-2: Have 6 PW's captured by Recon, who were policemen, one 57 yrs old, another 58. Police force had orders to withdraw across RHINE River. PW's were traveling on bicycles and unable to get thru because of destroyed vehicles, horse drawn equipment, etc. A single line of destroyed vehicles extended from crossing of road & RR at 745648 to 770652. Double line of destroyed vehicles and equipment from latter coordinate to 761832. Damage was by arty and air corps.
- 2140 S-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: 1st Bn, C Co in your sector. 3d Bn to S-3: I Co now at 880, north of 865. No contact yet with 7th Inf. No bridges in, as far as we have gone. Recon intend to put one in tonight. New route 728691 on trail fork don't take left. Go straight ahead to 806699, then turn left. Good paved road.
- 2210 3d Bn Ex O to CO: I Co pretty well cleared up now at 800690. Will set up in woods tonight, as L Co goes on through. Am now at DELLFIELD Station (806). I Co headed to HON & PETERSBURG and to make contact with 7th Inf. L Co going into PUEBACH.
- 2228 S-2 to Div DO: Gave resume of situation. Two ammo wagons and two 75 mm howitzers located vic DELLFIELD. Material dump at 816712. Two more ammo wagons vic of 828715. Bridge is out at 847682.
- 2231 Ex O to Div DO: Entered pill box today and seen after entering white smoke gas began to appear. There was no odor upon my arrival. If Cal Warfare O will check this will direct him to pill box.
- 2245 1st Bn CO to S-3: C Co in WINDSBERG, clearing town, will soon head east. B Co vic 860684. Will fire Bn of arty on town of GERSBACH.

- 2286 S-3 to S-4: Have trucks available at 2d Bn area tomorrow at 0700A. S-4: Will have 14 - 2 1/2 ton trucks and 6 - 1 1/2 tons.
- 2306 3d Bn CO to S-3: I Co at 845694, L Co via 853694, K Co on 885 grid line along river.
- 2330 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co on objective 4 (hill 577), B Co on objective "C" (WINDSBERG). C Co is approx 500 yds short of objective. Will be out of comm while moving CP up to WINDSBERG.
- 2336 DO gave resume of situation to Div.
- 2380 1st Bn CO to DO: C Co is 300 yds short of objective. They have taken over 30 PW's, making the Bn total for tonight over 50.

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S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 201200A to 211200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : CONTWIG, GERMANY
Date : 21 March 1948

No. 64

Maps: FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000, WALSCHEBRONN, Sheet XXXII-12.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists..

2. Dispositions of Troops: (See overlay)

3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility fair.

4. Our Operations for the period:

Regt CP: Displaced forward from MAUSCHBACH to CONTWIG, via 770716. New CP opened at 211830A.

2d Bn: At beginning of the period E Co was in CONTWIG - reported both bridges - 775718 & 770728, intact. At 201725A, E Co sent a patrol north of CONTWIG and reported that they had received heavy mortar fire via 782733. G Co entered the town of STAMBACH via 789718 at 201725A. At 201825A, G Co received MG fire from pill boxes NE of town via of 802717. Patrol to 800-732 received one MG fire, and at 201900A, was fired on from two pill boxes located at 800734 and 804733. Patrol to bridge via 754728 found it partially blown. During early morning of the period, the battalion continued to mop up pill boxes in their area and patrol, however did not encounter any. At 211012A, patrol reported fallen tree block at 801706 with enemy in draw at 786704 and 788698. At end of period patrol from 1st Bn was being sent to investigate and mop-up reported enemy.

1st Bn: At 201422A, A Co was reported via 775694 to 775688; C Co via 770-687 to 773696; E Co from 784700 to 788888 in process of mopping up pill boxes - had captured up to the time 80 PW's. At the end of the period Bn was preparing for move.

3d Bn: During the early part of the period, Bn continued to clear areas (with centers of areas at 760715, 774712, & 774703). At 202053A, the Bn reported area cleared and companies in process of assembling via of 789713.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As shown on M/R 20 March)

Officers: 80%

WO : 100%

EM : 87%

Rifle trench strength:

Officers: 40%

EM : 100%

6. Results of Operations:

a. Mopping up of pill boxes continued.

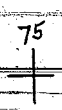
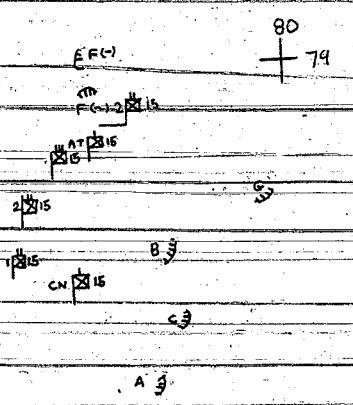
b. Recon, combat, and contact patrols maintained.

c. Battalions prepared for move.

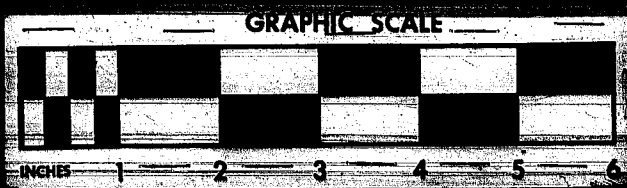
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S-3

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HQ 15TH INF
 OVERLAY TO G-6 REPORT 467
 MAP: FRANCE/GERMANY, 1/50,000
 SHEET XXXI-12



CONFIDENTIAL

S-2 REPORT

FROM: 200800A
TO: 210800A
UNIT: 18TH INFANTRY
DATE: 21 MARCH 1945
PLACE: CONTWIG, GERMANY

No 35
Map: GERMANY, 1/25,000; Sheet # 6710.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: No enemy contact at the end of the period.
b. Enemy Defenses: Most of pill boxes and defenses captured were not manned. A few snipers, isolated MG's and little mortar fire was the only opposition met.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn was assaulting the Siegfried Line meeting very little resistance and end of the period it had a blocking mission from Q797712 to Q783688.
(2) 2d Bn: Bn passed thru the Siegfried Line at beginning of the period, met little opposition and at end of the period was blocking to the north via of Q775726 and sending out patrols.
(3) 3d Bn: Bn moved from assembly area via of Q755690 to area via of Q770710 where it remained the rest of the period.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Group of enemy personnel observed 800 yds north of CONTWIG at 1120A. MG fire received from via Q782733 at 1725A. MG fire received from via Q782733 at 1725A. MG fired on patrol in via of Q800724 at 1845A. Patrol received MG fire from via of Q800724 and Q804780 at 1900A. MG firing from via of Q784741 at 2247A. MG firing from via of Q803710 at 0120A.
(2) Artillery: Very light during the period. Mortar fire received via of Q782733 at 1725A.
(3) No report of enemy air, engineer, armor or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. IPW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 18th Infantry
S - 2

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY DIVISION
A. P. O. # 3

21 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 200800A - 210800A Mar 1945

WANDERINGS

<u>BN</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Place of Capt</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt Unit</u>
3		1/37	Siegfried Line	1200A	1st Bn
		3/37	"	"	"
		4/37	"	"	2nd Bn
		5/37	"	"	1st Bn
		6/37	"	"	"
		7/37	"	"	"
		8/37	"	"	2nd Bn
		9/37	"	"	1st Bn
		10/37	"	"	"
		11/37	"	"	"
		13/37	"	"	2nd Bn
		14/37	"	"	"
		15/37	"	"	1st Bn
		Trains/37	"	"	"
1		3/17 Engr Bn	RO8718	1800A	2nd Bn
2		3/17 Arty Regt	"	1800A	106 Cav Cp
10		9/17 Arty Regt	766609	1000A	2nd Bn
28	1	8/XVII Fortress Pak Bn	Siegfried Line	1700A	2nd Bn
8		Luftschuttpolizei	766709	1000A	"
29		1/112 Fortress Bn	Siegfried Line	1200A	"
3		Fortress Hldg Co	"	"	"
4		Fortress Sig Staff 6	"	"	"
1		1 Wtry 13/13	"	"	"
2		8/VI/22 Nebelwerfer Regt	"	"	"
4		2/36 Volksturm	"	"	"
2		1/37 Volksturm	"	"	"
1		3/1100 Landeschutzen Bn	"	"	"
1		Engr Co/4 Cav Brig	"	"	"
17		1/245 Fus Bn	788690	1830A	3rd Bn
2		3/245 Fus Bn	808718	1800A	2nd Bn
1		7/2057 Fus Bn	783673	1330A	AT Co

189 1 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in France and Germany: 5535

This report during period state that they received orders to withdraw. Some of these orders were received as early as 2100A 19 Mar, others not until the morning of 20 Mar. A few state that they knew now that an order to withdraw was issued, but that it never reached them.

It appears that our sector was named chiefly by remnants of 37 SS PIR, 112 Fortress Bn, 8/XVII Fortress AT Bn, 1/245 Recon Bn and 8/17 Arty Fortress Unit.

8/17 AT Fortress Bn:

Lt. KAMPMANN, who was CO of 8/17 AT Fortress Bn, went through the Regt 1 PW cage and stated that 8th Co was responsible for AT defenses in the sector from HENSTACH (6968) to WERKESBERG (7669). Strength of Co before the attack was 110 men, and the armament was composed of

12 - 75mm AT Guns
6 - 88mm AT Guns
3 - 50mm AT Guns

1/245 Recon Bn:

The 245 Recon Bn is part of the 245 Inf Div of which the 935th and 936 Inf Regt. had previously been identified in our sector, and in adjacent sector to our right. The unit, according to PW's statement has only the 1st and 3rd (heavy) Co. Strength of 1st Co is about 75 men, and of 3rd Co 50 men. They were ordered back to Railroad Station BRUNNEN at 0400A 20 Mar. PW also states that previously a Battlegroup was formed by a Major Guggelberger, composed of a Bn Seemann, Bn Schindler and the 245 Recon Bn; first 2 units, were, however, transferred to Holland. Last known CP was at BRUNNEN (H15715).

Fortress Sig Bn # 6:

PW was switchboard operator in one of the large cps hocks (# 709), which was manned by a PW of an unidentified SS unit which left at midnight 20 Mar. 60 PW and 1 Officer were in the pillbox.

9/17 SS Arty Regt:

PW states that his Battery had 6 - 105mm guns located somewhere N of ZWINGENBERG; guns were tractor-drawn, and according to PW no losses of material were suffered. He was advised that Battery would move 1430A 21 Mar 1945.

3/17 SS Engr Bn:

PW was the messenger to give orders to blow the bridge near COMBERG (715719) he found, however, no crew to do the job.

4th Cav Brigade:

PW's unit is located in Hungary, he was on convalescent furlough and came from WERSTO to see his wife in COMBERG.

1100 Regt:

THIS REGT is part of 116 Inf Div; PW was on a visit in COMBERG.

PERSONALITIES:

CO 8/17 AT Fortress Bn

Lt. KAMPMANN (capt)

Fortress Sig Bn # 6

MAJOR WIRTH

1/245 Fortress Bn

Lt. ALBRECHT

1/245 Recon Bn

Lt. HORNBERGER

245 Recon Bn

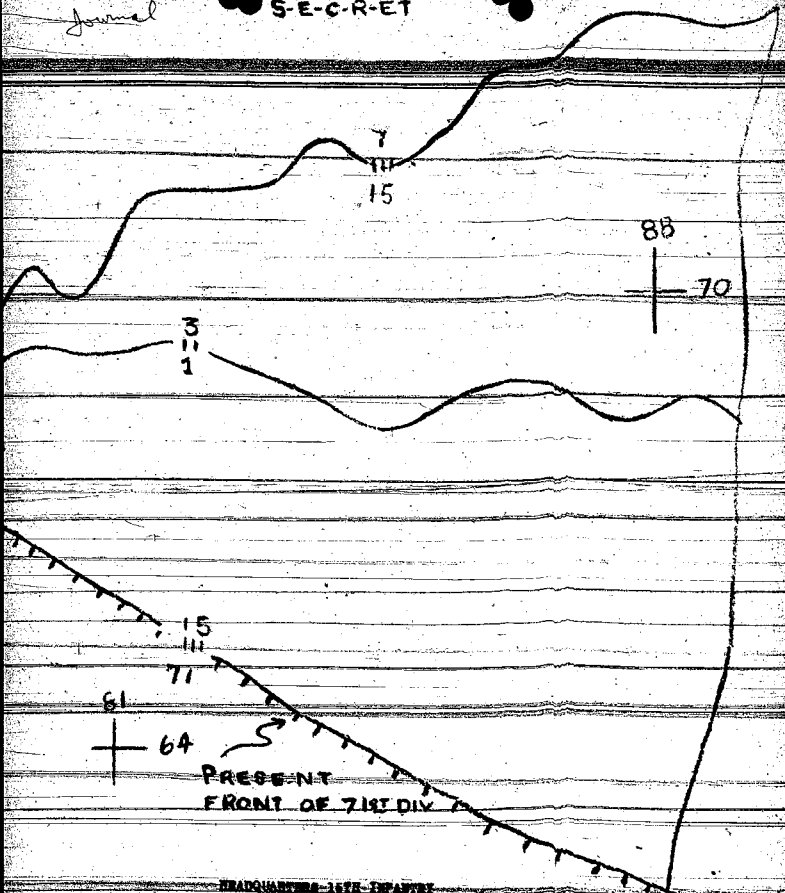
Lt. NITSCHWITZ

2 French Ex-PW's who were in the section NE of COMBAT in the afternoon 20 Mar claimed to have seen 10 - 105mm Arty How at (825748). This information was later confirmed by a PW from the 3/17 88 Arty Regt who stated that his battery's 6 - 105mm Arty How were in the vicinity of above mentioned location.

HEINZ LAVI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

Journal

S-E-C-R-E-T



HEADQUARTERS 15TH INFANTRY

MARCH 21, 1945

Overlay showing Regt'l & Co Boundaries. Map: 1/40,000; PIRMASSEN & KALSCHBERG Streets

15th Inf will:

1. Clear zone
2. Contact 71st Div on right
3. Establish blocks on Div right flank in zone on principle road entrance.
4. Be prepared: (a) To advance to EN in Div Zone by marching & shuttling with organic transportation; (b) Clear right of Div Zone & maintain light blocks; (c) Assist RCT 80 in the capture of KAISERLAUTERN.

OFFICIAL:

HOWLAND, S-S

EDSON
CMDG

S-E-C-R-E-T

GRAPHIC SCALE



No. 15th Inf
 CONTWIG, GERMANY.
 22 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION)

NUMBER 20)

Map: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALSCHENBORN, Sheet XXXVIII-12;
 GERMANY, 1/50,000; PIRMASINS, Sheet XXXVII-12

1. a. Enemy withdrawing to the east leaving small delaying forces.
- b. 2d Inf Div undergoes shift of boundary. 71st Inf Div, on our right, pass to Command XXI Corps (pinned out between XX Corps and XV Corps), prepared for offensive action to NE on Div right. 7th Inf and 15th Inf attacks to east in assigned sector - Div right flank, and blocks to east, prepared to reassemble and continue the advance to the NE by marching and shuttling.

2. 25th Inf attacks without delay in their assigned sector, 1st Bn on the right, 3d Bn on the left, 2d Bn in reserve, blocks to the east along Div right flank and be prepared to advance northeast on Div order.

3. a. 1st Bn 15th Inf:

a. Attached: 3 Tn Co C, 750th Tn Bn
 3 TD Co B, 601st TD Bn
 2 Half Tracks, 441st AAA
 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml
 1 Plat AF Co, 15th Inf
 1 Plat Co B, 10th Engrs
 9th 25th FA Bn (for advance to NE)

- (1) Attack without delay in assigned sector. Capture objectives in general via 875600 to 885620.
- (2) After the capture of their objectives, reassemble on order this Headquarters and prepare to advance to NE.
- (3) Maintain contact with 71st Inf Div on right while advancing to Div east flank.

b. 2d Bn 15th Inf:

a. Attached: 4 Tn Co C, 750th Tn Bn
 4 TD Co B, 601st TD Bn
 2 Half Tracks, 441st AAA
 1 Plat 601st TD Bn Co
 1 Sect Co D, 750th Tn Bn
 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml
 1 Plat AF Co, 15th Inf
 25th FA Bn (for advance to NE)
 Co Co, 15th Inf (for advance to NE)

- (1) Initially in Regtl reserve, via 767700, prepared to attack on order this Headquarters.
- (2) If Bn remains in Regtl reserve, they will be alerted at 8700A, 22 March prepared to move to new assembly area on order this Headquarters.

c. 3d Bn 15th Inf:

a. Attached: 4 Tn Co C, 750th Tn Bn
 4 TD Co B, 601st TD Bn
 2 Half Tracks, 441st AAA Bn
 1 Plat 601st Tn Bn Co
 1 Sect Co D, 750th Tn Bn
 1 Plat AF Co, 15th Inf
 9th 25th FA Bn (for advance to NE)

- (1) Attack in assigned sector without delay and capture objectives in general line via 835725 to 875600.
- (2) Maintain contact with 7th Inf on left while advancing to Div east flank.
- (3) After the capture of their objectives, reassemble on order this Headquarters and prepare to advance to NE.

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2. 1. Changes in attachments: 1 Det, 881st TD Bn Co and 1 Sect Co B, 788th Tr Bn from 1st Bn to 2d Bn.
 2. Route, IP, objectives and K-Hour of advance to HH to be announced.
 3. March order in advance to HH: 2d Bn, 2d Bn, Regt GP Co, 1st Bn.
 4. March details will be carefully organized to provide for appropriate components of AA half trucks, armor, mess-ron and GP vehicles. Reinforced infantry battalions will constitute serial. Bn plat, 801st TD Bn Co with one sect of light tanks, Co B, 788th Tr Bn and one plat of Inf Co mounted on GP trucks will precede the 2d and 2d Bns.
 5. Strict march discipline will be maintained throughout the advance:
 - (a) 50 yards distance between vehicles.
 - (b) Turns down or rolled back.
 - (c) Windshields on 1-ton & 3/4-ton vehicles down.
 - (d) No closing up.
 - (e) No double banking.
 6. All AA weapons will be manned. Air centers will be designated for each vehicle.
 7. All available means of motor transport, including armored vehicles, but excluding vehicles bearing the GENEVA Cross, will be used for the transportation of infantry.
 8. Mess-ron units will be reinforced with armor and infantry and used to the maximum for flank missions, mopping-up, contact patrolling, and deep advance rsn.
 9. Wherever possible, the adv will take advantage of roads. When terrain or resistance require dismounted, cross-country action, mobile rsn forces will promptly feel out the flanks and continue the advance.
 10. Speed and aggressiveness are absolutely essential - Penetrate deeply - overcome resistance rapidly with mobile forces - then mop-up vigorously. All resistance must be eliminated.
 11. AV Co will be moved on Div clearance only.
4. Prior to advancing to HH, trucks will be distributed on order of this Headquarters in following manner: 1st Bn - 8, 1 1/2 trucks; 2d Bn - 7, 2 1/2 trucks; 3d Bn - 7, 2 1/2 trucks.
5. Regt GP to be announced.

HOOB
Cndg

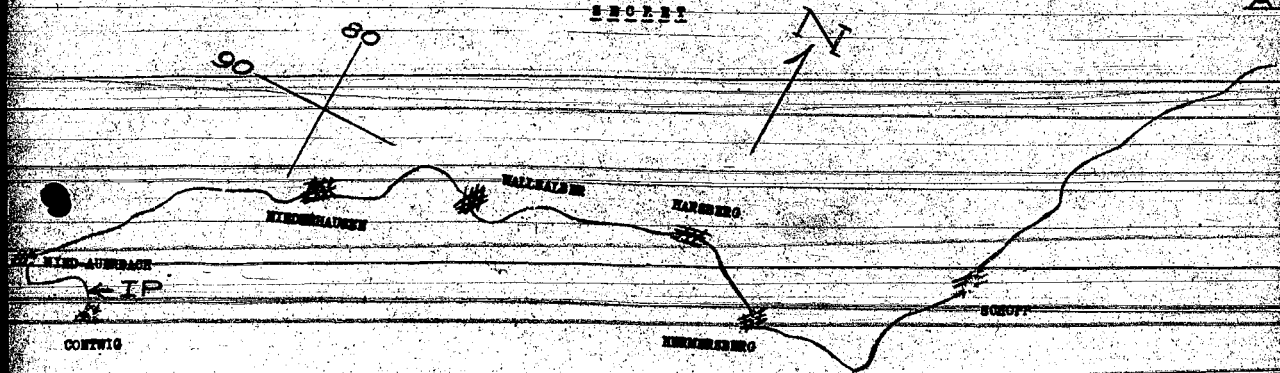
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Handwritten Signature
HOWLAND

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HQ 16TH INF
29 March 1945

Overlay to accompany OI # 20 showing route of advance of 16th Inf to the RH.

Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets

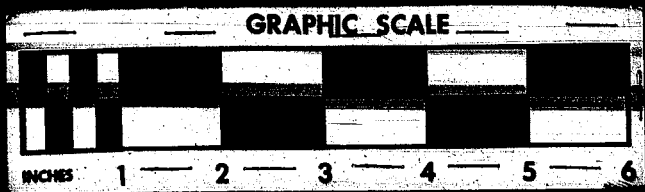
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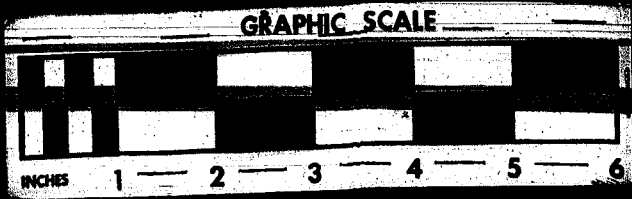
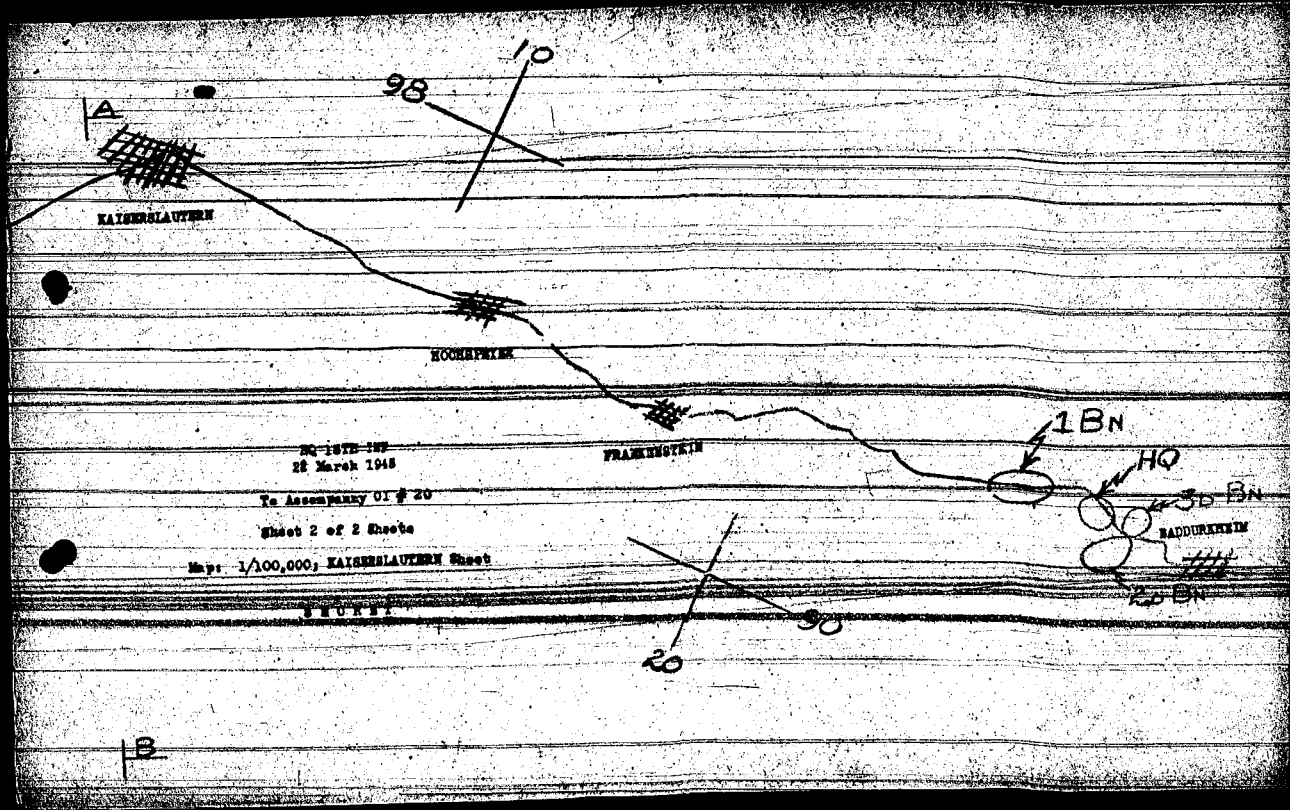
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S-2

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OMDG

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- 0007 3d Bn Bn O to DO: L Co via 880698. Encountered road block with felled trees and mines. Getting Engrs up. I Co via 840693. K Co 500 yds short of objective at 8773.
- 0019 Relay msg from 3d Bn Engr O to 10th Engr Bn DO: Bridge blown at 808699, 110 ft span. At 812711, 2 bridges blown, one 45 ft gap and the other, 80 ft. E Bridge blown at 833718, 80 ft span. All bridges are good for balley's.
- 0050 3d Bn Bn O to DO: L Co passed through town of HOEHSCHNEILER. All doors in town locked. L Co passed through and I Co will follow up to check town. K Co in town of HOH, have taken 10 or 11 PW's. K & I Co's have armor with them. K Co will move from HOH north to town of PROSCHEN AND south to PETERSBERG. L Co's objectives will be towns of PERRBACH and HERSBERG.
- 0136 1st Bn S-1 to DO: Bridge at WINDSBERG is out. Cracked by tank and broken in by AF gun. One light tank and one scout car and a few jeeps are over, rest on this side. Engr officer now on job.
- 0140 DO gave above to Div DO.
- 0180 DO to 7th Inf CO: Gave positions. 7th Inf I Co is at MUEHLACK. Remainder of third bn at 880745 area. 1st Bn in RIESCHNEILER moving on NW road toward PFAFFENBERG.
- 0215 DO to 1st Bn CO: Requested situation. 1st Bn: Can't get rations or armor up. Have had several fire fights. Some S/A heard in 3d Bn sector. Have taken a few PW's. Engrs are starting on bridge now. All companies are on objectives.
- 0225 3d Bn CO to DO: Having fight in HOEHSCHNEILER. L Co went through town and was GA'd. 2 MG's were firing down the road. Two enemy tanks - one was KO'd. One of our tanks with L Co was knocked out. Our armor is stopped at road block near 866702. Will hold what they have, get after roadblock, and send out patrols.
- 0245 DO gave resume of situation to Div DO.
- 0250 S-3 to 3d Bn Bn O and 3d Bn S-3: Requested further information. 3d Bn: We have removed block, and armor moving up. Quiet now. Any shooting flares. Captured two 88's with ammo. Between MUESCHNEILER AND HOEHSCHNEILER met 5 bleaks, 2 heels, and 2 AF ditches.
- 0390 1st Bn CO to S-3: Think there are oxy at objective "easy". O Co has no comm. D Co gunners were on way to support O Co and were fired on by NP's before arriving at objective.
- 0510 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: Gave above. 3d Bn to S-3: 200 yds west of town is an oxy minefield. We used PW's to guide us around mine fields.
- 0515 S-3 gave report to Div War Room.
- 0530 2d Bn S-2 to DO: All is quiet. Have comm with all Co's.
- 0540 1st Bn CO to S-3: Contact now with O Co, situation improved. Will lay wire soon. S-3 to 1st Bn: Explained plan of La O from 66th Regt which intends to pass through us at 0800A this morning.
- 0553 1st Bn Bn O to DO: Lost a TD from K Co. K Co now at 884731. Had a small fire fight, fired arty mission. All is quiet now. S-3 explained plan of 66th Regt, 71st Div.
- 0545 1st Bn to DO: A & B Co's are all quiet. No contact with O Co.
- 0610 2d Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0617 3d Bn: K Co is in THAL, firing arty with arty. L Co is vic of 878704. I Co via 862702.
- 0650 3d Bn: There is still plenty of oxy in our sector with SP's and AF's.
- 0655 3d Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0600 Rpt to Div War Room.
- 0605 DO gave situation to 7th Inf DO, 7th Inf: 1st Bn via SCHREITWEISER, 2d Bn via MUESCHNEILER, 3d Bn via THALISCHNEILER.
- 0620 1st Bn: The 66th Inf is moving into WALHAUSEN. Everything is under control in our sector.
- 0625 3d Bn: Need someone to handle PW's (80) and the civilians in HOEHSCHNEILER. KO'd one SP gun. Oxy with tanks in ICHROCH and STAFFELHOF. Engrs with us did an excellent job.
- 0717 S-3 to 3d Bn: Check on your trucks. Your route will be from RJ via 767701, then to north fork to NW tip woods in 78 grid, then south at 779701 to next large patch of woods to 806696. Make res to that point and
- 0720 3d Bn to DO: Trucks have not arrived yet.
- 0722 S-3 gave situation to 7th Inf.
- 0750 Regt'l MTO to DO: What route do we use. DO: Will phone you back.
- 0755 1st Bn to S-3: On objective, few casualties, have some PW's.
- 0760 3d Bn to S-3: Have 50 PW's and 4 Officers. Fwd CP is in HOEHSCHNEILER.
- 0800 3d Bn to S-3: Lost another TD - this one by mines.

- 0815 S-3 gave resume of situation to Div CO.
- 0825 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: 71st Div going through us now at 821895. 8 pieces of armor with troops have already passed.
- 0827 S-3 to Div: Gave above.
- 0842 CO to S-3: Pull Bn's back and assemble via CONTWIG as soon as 66th Div passes through and takes over. You'll probably have to leave a Bn or reinforced platoon of men there all day to block. Be prepared to move N this afternoon.
- 0902 1st Bn to S-3: AT PW's at WINDSBERG.
- 0903 S-2 to MP's: Gave above.
- 0906 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: Non patrols will circle points and high ground in your vic.
- 0908 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Relayed position of 71st Div. Be prepared to move back to assembly area in CONTWIG as soon as 71st Div moves via area with force.
- 0925 G-2 to S-3: 7th Inf has a fire fight at THALSCHEWELER. K Co in the town with armor; L Co 2 kms west of town on high ground.
- 0927 S-3 gave above to 3d Bn.
- 0955 G-3 to Ex O: Your units will assemble back in CONTWIG leaving blocks behind where 71st Div has not taken over. Your next move will probably be along same route as 30th Inf, who are being screened by 106 Cav Gp. 30th Inf is up to vic 93 Easting. Ex O to G-3: We captured 2 AT guns and KO'd 2 SP guns, one with barrels.
- 0959 CO to S-2: Notify 1st & 3d Bn's to continue checking pill boxes in area.
- 1003 S-2 to G-3: Gave information obtained from PW's. See IPW report.
- 1025 Ex O to 3d Bn S-1: Get latest report on your troop locations and patrols and phone back information to Regt. Also obtain information on movement of 66th Rgt.
- 1032 7th Inf CP group now moving to town of MASSWELER, 850745.
- 1044 CO to G-3: Have captured much any explosives, guns, equipment, etc., that should be either evacuated to the rear or destroyed. This could be a serious threat to our rear areas if any infiltrated and set off explosives, etc. G-3: Will contact Corp and see if they can handle this.
- 1060 3d Bn S-1 to Ex O: K Co still in FROSCHEEN and HOE. Patrol is still out to THAL. I Co is in PETERSBERG, will patrol out to the east. For 45 min elements of the 66th Rgt, 71st Div, have been passing through FERRACH.
- 1109 10th Regt Bn S-3 to S-3: Received unconfirmed report from 7th Inf that bridge is OK via of 887735 and that small bridge at 886735 is blown but armor is able to ford creek. S-3: Our patrol to that vic has not returned.
- 1120 3d Bn S-1 to S-3: Send truck to pick up PW's. Above given to MP's.
- 1130 3d Bn CO to S-3: Bridge at THAL is definitely out. K Co ran into convoy at THAL last night, now occupy the town. I Co at HOE and PETERSBERG. L Co on main highway via 877705.
- 1133 MP Officer to S-3: Would like to get 2-2 and 1/2 ton trucks to haul PW's. S-3: You can get two trucks off alert long enough to make a round trip to Div.
- 1158 CO to Ex O: Assemble your Regt via CONTWIG as soon as possible after 66th Rgt has passed through you. Leave small force to block to north. Follow 30th Inf. As soon as you are ready to move we'll give you the order.
- 1202 Ex O gave above to CO. CO: We will block until 100th Div comes up. 3d Bn CO says that two companies of Inf and one company of tanks from 66th Rgt have passed through STARNHOE. These troops were elements of three battalions. Get I & R platoon on motorized recon to locate 30th Inf.
- 1230 Ex O to CO 1st Bn: Your attached units, except rsn, will re in convoy with you in the next move.
- 1255 Div to S-3: Route of next move: WINTERBACH to OBERBACH to WINTERBACH OBERHAUSEN to town at 9082 to HORNBACH (9481) to N road to 9683 toward KAISER LAUTERN.
- FM from CO, 3d Inf Div to CO, 15th Inf: "Two OSS Agents dropped night 18 March via HOMBURG, Q7180, expected to pass our lines with pass-words either "BODAT" "AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" or "CAPTAIN CHARLIE". Hold personnel and notify this Hq immediately.
- 1305 3d Bn Ex O to S-3: Patrol # 2 is back. From PETERSBERG to railroad at 900-715 is all clear. Captured 2 envs. In past area from CP at 868701 going N there are approx 3 tanks, 12 field pieces, 12 trucks, and 30 dead horses. (All enemy)

1415 3d Bn Ex O to S-3; It was a tank and not a TD that ran into ditch last nite.
1440 S-3 to Sv Co; Have S-4 report here.
1555 3d Bn CO to S-3; All units are on the way except K Co. S-3; You will have AT plat and Engr attachments.
1600 3d Bn CO to S-3; My trucks loaded with personnel are 2,000 yds beyond my CP (at HORNISCHWEILER). Road is jammed with traffic by 71st & 100th Divisions. Will have to detruck troops and walk them to assembly area.
1615 Line is out to 3d Bn.
1615 1st Bn S-1 to Ex O; S-6, 5, & 5 are out now. Don't know when they will return. Ex O; Regt's S-2 will be down to give you plans, etc.
1620 S-3 to 1st Bn; Send down a man with ba sigs for the fwd party. Tell 3d Bn to send their comm O, wire jeep and some BM for advance party.
1632 Ex O to Regt's MTO; Send four 2-1/2 tons to 2d Bn. Have IPW send any trucks when they arrive to 2d Bn.
1635 Ex O to 3d Bn; Keep your trucks. You will hit IP at 1840A. Ask arty to send officer with jeep for advance party.
1637 S-3 to 2d Bn; Send officer and jeep for fwd party.
1640 Ex O to 2d Bn; You leave IP at 1800A.
1645 Ex O to 1st Bn CO; Your IP time is 1950A. Black-out driving all the way. You will follow Regt's HQ. Route is to KAISERLAUTERN, then east to BADKIRCH-HEIM. The 30th Inf will be ahead of the 15th.
1650 3d Bn to S-3; Have 42 PW's.
1720 Ex O to 1st and 2d Bns - Gave change in route.
1730 IPW to Ex O; Sent the two 2 1/2 ton trucks to Sv Co.
1755 2d Bn CO to CO; Am prepared to move but 100th Div is passing.
2025 CG to CO, CO, Rom Co, 601st TD Bn; One inf bn will be moved to Div CP (040040) immediately for guard of KAISERLAUTERN. Both AA units will be detached from 15th Inf effective upon closing. Continue remainder of movement to assembly area on live "Killer" as planned. CO Rom Co, 601st TD Bn and CO of inf bn report to Headquarters without delay.
2330 New CP opened at 282958 at 250016A.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Period: 211201 to 221200A
Unit: 15th Infantry
Place: CONTWIG, GERMANY
Date: 22 March 1945

No. 65

Maps: FRANCE, 1/50,000; WALDSBROHM, Sheet XXXVIII-12;
GERMANY, 1/50,000; PIRMASENS, Sheet XXXVII-12.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.
2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.
3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.
4. Our Operations for the Period:

1st Battalion: At 211522A Bn sent patrol into the town of WALSHAUSEN via 812879 and at 211621A, B Co entered town; Bn CP established there at 211840A. A Co at the time was reported via 806670. At 212007A, A Co was via 825865, moving SE, and C Co via 834685 moving due East. At 212156A, B Co via 845884 and at 212200A, in WINDSBERG via 849680. B Co via 860684. At 212350A, B Co was reported in the town of WINZELN and Bn CP moving up to WINDSBERG, 850680.

2d Battalion: Bn remained in Reg'l Reserve in assembly area via 765705, during the entire period maintaining patrols. At 211720A, a patrol reported DELLFELD clear and many civilians in town. Trench system at 810688, pill boxes at 818688, 818694 and 814698 clear.

3d Battalion: At 211648A, 3d Bn reported K Co advancing with two tanks on left, I Co on right with two tanks. L Co along road with one of two tanks and at 211640A Bn advance elements were at via 806699. CP was established via 806699 at 211910A; I Co was entering NUNSCHEWILER. At 212000A, I Co became engaged in fire fight in NUNSCHEWILER, receiving S/P and mortar fire from right flank. At 212205A, I Co I Co had cleared up woods to 850690; K Co headed toward HOHEISCHWILER and PETERSBERG with L Co moving toward HENGESBERG and PERRBACH. Our armor was stopped at road blocks near 866702 and patrols were sent out and at 220845A blocks were removed and armor moving up. Bn reported capturing two SS's with armor. At 220355A, K Co via 884731 had encountered S/A's fire. At end of period K Co was in THAL via 888734, I Co at RON via 878720 and PETERSBERG via 878720; L Co on main highway via 877705.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As shown on M/R 21 March)

Officers: 80%

WO: 100%

EM: 85%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 40

EM: 100%

6. Results of Operations:

- a. Non-combat, and contact patrols maintained.
- b. Clearing and mopping up continued.

HOWLAND

8-3

C O N F I D E N T I A L

K/15

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77

76-1 15

2 15

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8 15 1 15

2 15

1 15

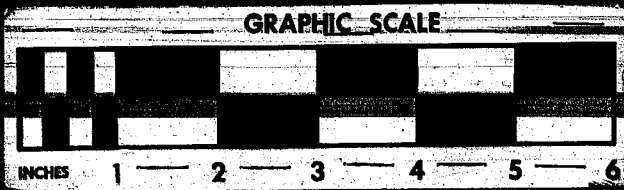
HQ 15TH INF
OVERLAY TO S-3 REPORT #65

NEAR FRANK 1/20,000, WALSCHBRONN
GERMANY 1/20,000, PIRMA SENK.

1 15

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HOWLAND
S-3



C O N F I D E N T I A L

FROM: 210500A
TO: 220500A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 23 MARCH 1945
PLACE: CONTWIG, GERMANY

No. 58

Maps: FRANCE - GERMANY, 1/50,000; WALCHEREN & PIRMAERS SHEETS.

1. Enemy Dispositions:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period the enemy held ground east of the 57 grid.
b. Enemy Defenses: Enemy defense of the area consisted of scattered personnel who surrendered after offering light resistance.

2. Enemy Operations:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At beginning of the period the Bn was on a blocking mission from Q797712 to Q788888. The Bn moved out during the afternoon to the east with mission of clearing enemy from the area. Very little resistance was met and at end of period the Bn was in vic of Q870676, continuing the mopping up mission.
(2) 2d Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was blocking in vic of Q778726 and sending out patrols. During the afternoon the Bn moved to assembly area vic of Q768708 where it remained for the remainder of the period. No enemy contact reported.
(3) 3d Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was in vic of Q770710 from where it moved out to the east with the mission of mopping up. I Co was engaged in fire fight in town of MUNGCHWEILER (Q830698) at 2001A. At 0228A, L Co encountered enemy infantry and two tanks in town of HOEHSCHWEILER. After a short fight 1 enemy tank was KO'd and enemy withdrew. At end of the period the Bn was in vic of Q880710.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Estimated 20-30 sq. observed entering town of WALSHAUSEN (Q812880) from the north at 1822A.
(2) Artillery: Enemy artillery very light during the period. I Co received few rds of E/P & mortar fire vic of Q830698 at 2000A.
(3) Armor: 2 sq. encountered in town of HOEHSCHWEILER (Q830698) at 0228A. 1 was KO'd.
(4) Engineer: Mine field located vic of Q847682. All bridges in zone of advance are blown.
(5) No report of enemy air or M/T activity.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.
b. Captured material: 2 ammo wagons and 2 x 75 mm How vic of DELLFELD. Material dump vic of Q818712. 2 ammo wagons located vic of Q828718.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

22 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 210800A - 220800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Place of Capt</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Capt Unit</u>
4		2/10/25 Volksturm	NE of Centwig	0400A	2nd Bn
15	1	2/10/25 "	woods (R40685)	1900A	1st Bn
2		WIII 37 SS PGR	vic Centwig	1900A	10th Bn
7		2/10/25 Volksturm	vic Windsberg	2100A	1st Bn
1		Fort Sig Staff 6	777721	0400A	2nd Bn
6		Schutzpolizei, Neun- Kirchen	winterbach	1800A	106 Cav Gp
10		8/XXXX Fort AT Bn	Oberauerbach	0930A	106 Cav Gp
2		3/245 Recon Bn	vic Oberauerbach	1200A	2nd Bn
1		1/17 Recon Bn	woods R40685	1900A	1st Bn
1		2/17 Recon Bn	"	"	"
1		4/17 Recon Bn	vic Pillbox 837704	"	3rd Bn
3		1/225/16 WGD	windsberg	2100A	1st Bn
1		1/1316 Engr Bn/16 WGD	"	"	"

54 1 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in France and Germany: 5390

1/17 Recon Bn: PW states that 7/8 strength of Co is 225, and that its T/R calls for 75 "SCHWIMMBOEN" i.e. DUCKS. There were, however, only 28 men left in Co, and the last 16 DUCKS were hurriedly evacuated towards the RHINE on 18 Mar.

2/17 Recon Bn: PW states that about 25 men were left in Co. He furthermore confirms the T/O and T/E strength of this type of Co.

4/17 Recon Bn: PW, an ordnance repairman, states that armament of Co consisted of 2 - 105mm field How and 4 @ 150mm NEBELWERFER. He claims that special instructions had been received to evacuate the NEBELWERFER, which were carried out 16 Mar, and that also the field How had been evacuated.

1/225/16 WGD: PW states that Co came from WINDSBERG sector to Pillbox 441 about 19 Mar. He claims that Reg'l assembly area was to

1/1316 Engr Bn/16 WGD: According to PW, Co received 70 men reinforcement 19 Mar, and was, at the time he left, 90 men strong. Co left WINDSBERG 1930 21 Mar in the general direction of FIRMSBERG. Before leaving WINDSBERG, the blew up 2 bridges. The Co is a demolition Co. He knows nothing of the whereabouts of 2nd and 3rd Co's.

2/10/25 Volksturm Bn. Officer PW was CO of 2nd Co, and states that
streight of all 4 companies was about 60 - 70
men each. Last known HQ CP at OERSBACH. Received orders to withdraw
in the general direction of PIRHASTENS at noon 21 Mar. His Co named
pillboxes along ridge from via BACHENHUTTE (838691) to woods (836683),
and near DIESBACHER WY. (838678).

6 Police Men from Police district SAARBRUEN went through the West 1
PW cage 21 Mar. They ranged between 50 - 57 years of age, and state that
they were being evacuated to the East Bank of the Rhine. PWs traveled
on bicycles up to BACHHOFEN (7583) from where they moved on by foot as
there was a traffic jam, making further move impossible. They claim to
have seen about 40 - 50 destroyed vehicles along the road. Most vehicles
were horse drawn. According to PWs there was one line of vehicles from
(745648), and a double line from 775830 to ROHRKOPF (7883) in the evening
of 21 Mar.

PERSONALITIES:

CO 1/225/16 Gren	Lt. SCHREIBER
CO 1/1316 Eng Bn	Lt. Staber
CO 2/17 Recon Bn	Lt. HOFF
CO 17 Recon Bn	Major (P) RICH (P)
CO 2/10/25 Volksturm Bn	Capt (Reserve) SEBASTIAN (Capt).

HEINZ LEVI
1st Lt. Sig Co.

0020 At 0018A, 2d Bn moved into KAISERLAUTERN, via Div CP & closed in via 0498 grid square.

0080 S-3 gave Div Lm O latest dispositions.

0200 AT Co. closed in at 0146A.

0201 9th FA Bn was moving into new area at 0200A.

0219 893d FA Bn moving into new area at 0218A.

0300 1st Bn moving into new area at 0300A.

0400 3d Bn closed into new area with all attachments at 0335A.

0610 3d Bn reported comm in with all companies.

0700 1st Bn closed in new area at 0600A.

0701 to 1100A: Negative reports from all units.

1100 CO notified 2d Bn CO to make an immediate route run (2 loops) from KAISERLAUTERN to ALLRINGEN at 245010 and a billeting party to start from KAISERLAUTERN to CP and to meet route run party at ALLRINGEN to guide troops in that will be leaving KAISERLAUTERN at 1500A.

1145 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: I'm sending you dismounted AF vehicles to move you along with 9th FA vehicles. After you reach new area, send all AF vehicles including those attached to you will then be returned to 3d Bn. You will move past IP at 1400A.

1200 S-3 to 3d Bn: Relayed info re number of vehicles available for move. You will pass IP at 1445A. Only Bn CP will be in bldgs, and on edge of town. No soldier is to be in town. Route will be marked.

1237 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Did you get your 5 trucks? Ans: Yes, and I already have three 1 1/2 tons. Will unload them and send them to 3d Bn.

1246 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: The route is marked up to the guides. 3d Bn: Will be ready to clear IP at 1445A.

1320 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: We timed the distance from your area to the IP. It takes about 12 minutes to make the trip going about 12 MPH.

1322 S-3 gave above msg to 3d Bn Ex O.

1600 CP group left for advance CP.

1710 New Regt'l CP opened at 232016.

1630 K, L, and Hq, 3d Bn cleared in.

1640 Line in to 3d Bn.

1720 S-3 to 2d Bn S-1: 2d Bn with attachments will be held at present location under division control.

1723 1st Bn CO to S-3: All closed in.

1735 S-3 (Col Ressen) to S-3: You will have attachments released about noon. The 501st Regt will stay back there. They are detached from you now.

1740 S-3 to 3d Bn: All the attachments except TD's are coming in convey with the 39th FA Bn. Troops will be here tomorrow noon.

1745 FM, Div to CO: Until further orders 2d Bn, 18th Inf, with present attachments will be held in present location under Div control.

---- FM, CO to CO: You and your S-3 will attend a meeting tonight at 2000A at Div CP (2501)

1915 1st Bn line is out.

1922 3d Bn to S-3: Everyone is in except the AF platoon.

2035 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: Plan to have a shake down inspection tomorrow morning -- want to cut down on load of organic vehicles to give more room for transportation of personnel. Also have planned to have close order drill.

2110 Line back in to 1st Bn.

2125 CO to S-3: We will move tonight to assembly area approx 18 miles from here. This move will be completed during darkness. We will later take over positions of 6th Armored Division and 94th Division. Notify following parties to attend meeting at Regt'l CP tonight to get information on news: Bn Cmdrs (exclusive of 2d Bn who will remain under Div Control), Bn Ex O's, S-3's, Co CO's, Regt'l staff members and liaison officers from attached units. Have 1/25,000 map on board to cover area from here to vic BOBENHEIM (480100). Route will probably be up to Autoban, about 1 km south of GRUNSTADT, which runs generally W to E.

---- Bn S-3 notified necessary parties concerning meeting at Regt'l CP.

2300 to 2350A: CO briefed Cmdrs, etc, concerning next move.

2350 to 2400A: Negative reports from all units.

C O N F I D E N T I A L
S-S Periodic Report

Period: 221201A to 231200A
Unit : 15th Inf
Place : HARDENBURG, GERMANY
Date : 23 March 1945

No. 66

Map: GERMANY, 1/25,000, Sheet #6514.

1. Our Front Lines: No line exists.
2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.
3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.
4. Our Operations for the Period: During night 22/23 March, Bns began preparation for move; grouping in assembly area vic of CONTWIG in order of march - 2d, 3d and 1st Bns. Bns began move by shuffling and enter at approx 221800A, with 2d Bn reaching KAISERSLAUTERN at 222500A. 2d Bn remained in KAISERSLAUTERN and was detached from Reg't for guard of the town; bivouaced via Div CP vic 0495. Cn Co, attached to 2d Bn for move remained with the Bn. 3d Bn and Hq Co closed in assembly area at approx 230355A - Hq Co in HARDENBURG - 3d Bn via 290355. 1st Bn closed in assembly area via 293954 at approx 230600A. Platoon of AT Co, attached respectively to 1st, 2d and 3d Bns, remained with each Bn. Reg't CP displaced from CONTWIG and opened at HARDENBURG via 292956 at 222330K.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty (As shown on M/R 22 Mar 45)

Officers: 81%

WO: 100%

EM: 85%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers 40

EM 1285

6. Results of Operations:

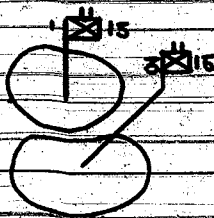
- a. Regiment moved from vic CONTWIG to assembly area vic HARDEBURG.
- b. 2d Bn detached from Regt for guard of KAISERSLAUTERN.

HOWLAND
S-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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97

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HQ 15TH INF

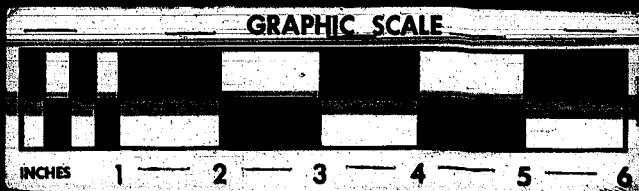
OVERLAY TO G3 REPORT #66

23 MAR 45

MAP GERMANY, SHEET #6574

30

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93



Jensen

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

23 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 22000A - 23000A Mar 1945

TABULATIONS:

BN	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capture
2	1	1/723 Inf Regt/719M	E of GORRIN
5		2/723	"
6		3/723	"
2		4/723	"
1		6/723	"
10		13/723	"
3		14/723	"
2	1	1st/723	"
4		1st/719 AT Bn	"
6	1	1/719 AT Bn	"
3		2/719 "	"
1		3/719 "	"
4	1	1st/719 Engr Bn	"
1	1	1/719 Engr Bn	"
3		2/719 Engr Bn	"
2		2/719 Inf Regt	"
1	1	3/198 AT Bn/719 M	"
3		1/719 AT Bn	"
1		2/719 AT Bn	"
1	1	8/719 AT Bn	"
1		1st/719 Arty Regt/719	"
2	1	1/719 Arty Regt/719	"
1	1	2/719 Arty Regt/719	"
2		3/719 Arty Regt/719	"
3		10/719 Arty Regt/719	"
5		1719 Assault Gun Co/719	"
1		Veterinary Co/719	"
1		Alarm Co/719	"
3		1st/860 Inf/3d7	"
2		1st/860 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/861 Inf/3d7	"
1		6/861 Inf/3d7	"
1		11/861 Inf/3d7	"
1		12/861 Inf/3d7	"
5		13/861 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		4th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		5th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		6th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		7th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		8th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		9th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		10th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		11th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		12th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		13th/862 Inf/3d7	"
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1		15th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		16th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		17th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		18th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		19th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		20th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		21st/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		22nd/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		23rd/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		24th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		25th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		26th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		27th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		28th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		29th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		30th/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/862 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/863 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/863 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/863 Inf/3d7	"
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1		21st/863 Inf/3d7	"
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1		29th/863 Inf/3d7	"
1		30th/863 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/863 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/864 Inf/3d7	"
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1		4th/864 Inf/3d7	"
1		5th/864 Inf/3d7	"
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1		22nd/864 Inf/3d7	"
1		23rd/864 Inf/3d7	"
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1		30th/864 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/864 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		4th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		5th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		6th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		7th/865 Inf/3d7	"
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1		19th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		20th/865 Inf/3d7	"
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1		23rd/865 Inf/3d7	"
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1		27th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		28th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		29th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		30th/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/865 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		4th/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		5th/866 Inf/3d7	"
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1		15th/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		16th/866 Inf/3d7	"
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1		30th/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/866 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/867 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/867 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/867 Inf/3d7	"
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1		6th/867 Inf/3d7	"
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1		31st/867 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/868 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/868 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/868 Inf/3d7	"
1		4th/868 Inf/3d7	"
1		5th/868 Inf/3d7	"
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1		30th/869 Inf/3d7	"
1		31st/869 Inf/3d7	"
1		1st/870 Inf/3d7	"
1		2nd/870 Inf/3d7	"
1		3rd/870 Inf/3d7	"
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1		12th/871 Inf/3d7	"
1		13th/871 Inf/3d7	"
1		14th/871 Inf/3d7	"
1		15th/871 Inf/3d7	"
1		16th/871 Inf/3d7	"
1		17	

TABULATION(cont'd):

RM	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capture
5		RN/225VOR/16VOR	E of CONTWIG
1		1/225VOR	"
9		2/225VOR	"
1		3/225VOR	"
11		5/225VOR	"
4		6/225VOR	"
5		7/225VOR	"
8		8/225VOR	"
2		1/225VOR	"
1		1/1316Bn/16VOR	"
	1	11th Repl Bn/16VOR	"
3		5/3788 PGR	"
2/		4/5888 PGR	"
2/		1st/3788 PGR	"
5		2/3788 PGR	"
2/		3/1788 PGR	"
4		Bakery Co./17	"
4		800sig Regt	"
1		4/13PGR/16VOR	"
1		7/774Inf/16VOR	"
1		14/774Inf/16VOR	"
1		8/16Field Repl Bn	"
2		6/16Repl Bn	"
3		6AF - detailed as Infantry	"
	1	RN/69 Reserve Arty Bn	"
2	1	Organization SPOOPS	"
1		2/112Fort Bn	"
7		5/112Fort Bn	"
2		6/112Fort Bn	"
6		9/112Fort Bn	"
7		36/112Fort AT Bn	"
1		2/8/112Fort AT Bn	"
2		1/112/112Fort AT Bn	"
1		2/13/13 Army Fort Art Regt	"
2		1/1306 Army Fort Art Regt	"
1		4/58 PGR MG Bn	"
4		2/10/25 Volksturm Bn	"
5		3/10/25 Volksturm Bn	"
2		7/Volksturm	"
1		2/779 Landeschutzen Bn	"
1		3/779 Landeschutzen Bn	"
1		1/1101 Landeschutzen Bn	"
2		German Red Cross Workers	"
1		Schutzstaffel	"
1		RN/352VOR/216VOR	ENE NORMANBY
1		2/352	"
1		12/352	"
14		352/14th Co.	"
1		4/689VOR	"

TABULATION(cont'd):

BN	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capture
5		352field Repl Bn	vic HORNBERG
3		1/246 Recon Bn	"
6		Hq/246 Ingr Bn	"
1		2/246 Ingr Bn	"
1		3/246 Ingr Bn	"
1		Service Regt/559VCN	"
	1	(9) Green Bn/9VCN	"
2		6/256VCN/256VCN	"
1		2/467Inf/264ID	"
2		3/1059Arty/159ID	"
3		8/423Inf/212ID	"
1		13/226Inf/19ID	"
1		Hq/468 Wts Arty	"
3		1/157ash Co	"
1		669 Army Supt Bn	"
1		12 Med Bn	"
1		Hq/2 Nebelwerfer Regt	"
4		Hq/6 Arty Regt/683 ID	"
2		Hq/1352 Arty Regt/352 ID	"

266 13 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in France and Germany: 5669

TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 439

Most PW's taken during this period state that they knew little or nothing about their units strength in view of the fact that the retreat to the RHINE seems to be a disorganized movement.

During the early morning hours, 17 PW's were taken to the new Regt 1 PW Cage at HORNBERG. Most PW's belonged to various units of the 246 VGN which, originally, was in the 1st US Army's sector at JULICH. Troops, starting the retreat in very large units, sometimes up to 1000 men, were later on broken up into smaller and smaller groups and moved first to the East, and then, crossing the MOSELLE, to the South, and are now again moving East in an effort to reach the RHINE. It appears that in many instances their vehicles were destroyed by our Tactical Air Force, and that they are now moving on foot. According to statements of PW's, the retreat is taking place without any organized plan, therefore, no information of tactical value could be gained. Small groups of PW with their WCO's and/or officers tried to reach the RHINE via PIRMASSEN and LANNAU.

On the evening of 14 May, the Regiment captured PW's from the following Divisions in the general area East of CONTWIG:

16 Volksgrenadier Division
19 Pz Div
347Inf Div

719 Inf Div: This Division was in action via SAARLAUTERN.

19 Pz Div: Division was in action via SAAROMUEHES .

347 Inf Div: This Division was in action via VOELKLINGEN.

16 Volksgrenadier Div: This Division was in action via GERBACH.

HEINE LEVI
1st Lt., SIG Co.

22 MARCH 1945

- 0040 A Btry, 39th FA to DO: We are moving out for new area now.
0045 1st Bn DO to S-3: Advance detail of 1st Bn will leave in 10 minutes.
0125 39th FA DO to DO: We will clear IP in six minutes.
0127 DO gave above to 2d Bn.
0134 DO to 1st Bn CO: 39th FA Bn has cleared and 2d Bn is just starting out. They should clear in 40 minutes. 1st Bn: We are ready.
0136 Asst S-3 to Div: Gave resume of situation.
0243 1st Bn is on road moving to new area.
0255 FM from Div Sig O to CO 15th Inf: "A Div Adv Switch will be established at ROKKHEM or SOBHEHEM on or about 241000A.
0700 Div DO to DO: 2d Bn, 15th Inf, relieved of responsibility at 0600A.
1000 Bn O to 2d Bn: You were relieved at 0600A and will depart from KAISERSLAUTERN to join the Rgt at 1800A.
1014 Bn O to Rgt MTO: Have your trucks at 2d Bn at 1700A.
1032 Bn O to Div: Now CP in ROKKHEM. We will move to new location tonight.
1040 FM, SECRET, from CG to CO: "1. Commencing immediately, sweep river frontage in Div Zone from 23000 to north boundary, employing platoon sized patrols; destroy all enemy encountered and outpost the river bank with emphasis on the crossing areas. "2. Following this action, place suitable reserves behind each crossing site for the purpose of driving off promptly any enemy patrols that cross to the west bank. "3. 2d Bn relieved of KAISERSLAUTERN guard effective 0600A, 24 March 1945. "4. Move 2d Bn with organic means from KAISERSLAUTERN to your present area so as to pass 23000 on the Autoban at 1900A, 24 March 1945. Column should depart KAISERSLAUTERN at 1800A and average 15 MPH. You are authorized to infiltrate vehicles from your present area to KAISERSLAUTERN during daylight, 24 March 1945. "5. The above instructions modify those given you on the evening of 23d March 1945." ROSSON, S-3; O'DANIEL, Comd; time, 0800A. S-3-CO-907.
1100 CO 15th Inf to CG, 2d Inf Div: "Rgt'l CP at 233015. Now CP to open after 2000A this date via 485000. Time signed, 1100A/ HOWLAND, S-3.
1150 Have line to Rgt'l Adv through Div Switch.
1220 Bn O (red) to S-3: I'm at 2d Bn now. CG's CG are in new area. Everything lined up. Want you to contact 1st Div and get information on their situation especially their contact to the south. Tell M-CO-CC that it is NE-OK to infiltrate vehicles.
1650 DO to 2d Bn S-1: Black out all markings on vehicles.
1652 Rgt'l MTO to DO: Trucks will be a little late in getting to 2d Bn since trucks will have to replenish fuel supply.
1655 2d Bn to Bn O: Highway bridge in bloom and badly broken. RR bridge below it might be repaired for foot troops.
1700 S-3 to Rgt'l MTO: 2d Bn will pass IP (light line at edge of woods) at 1900A.
1800 Bear CP closes at 1800A.
1900 CP opens at 1900A in ROKKHEM.
1905 Bn O to Div: 2d Bn will use southern route as ordered in FM. This is different from instructions in OI 2-26 but it is too late to change.
2005 S-2 to S-3: All identification markings on vehicles will be marked out prior to movement tonight. On road signs the numerals 19 will be blacked out.
2145 1st Bn Bn O to S-3: 100th Div has two companies of Inf in area immediately south of canal (RHEIN PARAL), which is in our sector. S-3 to 1st Bn Bn O: Maintain close liaison with them and if they move their troops south you will have to move into that area.
2214 Div to Bn O: CG wants you to contact the unit on your left in via of 200-100.
2218 CO to 1st Bn Bn O: Have a patrol, foot or motorized, contact the unit on your left in via 200100 and bring back overlay of their dispositions. Send same by runner.
2300 1st Bn Bn O to DO: I area taken over as of 2200A.
2325 1st Bn Bn O to DO: Bn CP is at 425100, C Co at 472058.
2340 2d Bn S-3 to Bn O: Negative report. All quiet.
2340 Bn O to Div DO: 2d Bn closed in at 2210A. 1st Bn is moving in.
2357 1st Bn Bn O to DO: Have completed area Y.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

8-3 Periodic Report

Period: 231201A to 241200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : ALT-LEINWEG, GERMANY
Date : 24 March 1945

No. 67
Map: GERMANY, Sheet 6415 & 6416.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.

2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.

3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt CP closed CP at HARDENBURG at 231610A, displacing forward to ALT-LEINWEG via 26301G at 231710A. Advance CP (switch-board) established in ROXHEIM via 461088 at 241032A.

1st & 3d Bn's: At beginning of period began preparation for move from assembly area. 1st Bn began movement at 231400A and 3d Bn at 231445A. 1st Bn closing in bivouac area via 265001 at 231725A and 3d Bn closed in area via 263021 at 231922A. At 240145A, 3d Bn moved from assembly area and 1st Bn following at 240240A. 3d and 1st Bn's were last reported as follows: 3d Bn in bivouac in ROXHEIM via 463089 and 1st Bn in KL-NIEDESSHEIM via 426099 - 1st Bn (-) in GR-NIEDESSHEIM via 418088.

2d Bn: During first of period, Bn remained with Div CP in KAISERSLAUTERN as guard of town. At 240600A, relieved of KAISERSLAUTERN guard preparing to depart at 241800A to join the regiment.

CN & AF Co's: CN Co remained attached to 2d Bn. Platoons of AF Co attached to each Bn.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As shown on M/R of 23 March 45)

Officers: 82%

WO: 100%

EM: 80%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 88

EM: 100%

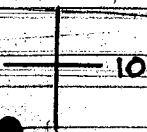
6. Results of Operations:

- a. 1st and 3d Bn's continued displacing toward the East.
- b. 2d Bn released to regiment from Division control

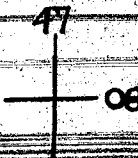
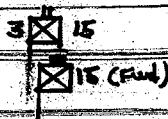
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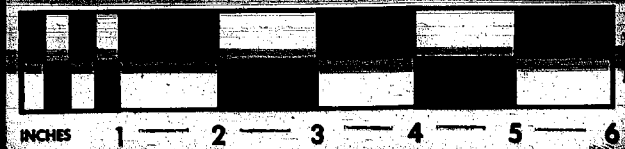
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HQ 15th INF
OVERLAY TO S-2 REPORT #67
23 MAR 65

MAP GERMANY, SHEET 645 2 644

GRAPHIC SCALE



HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

24 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 230800A - 240800A Mar 1945

TABLETION

<u>EW</u>	<u>OWF</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Place of Capt</u>	<u>Capt Unit</u>
	1	1/1125WGR/559VGR	via HAMBURG	
11		Trains/14 Nobelwerfer Regt	"	
1		WA/2308Regt	"	
2		1/559VGR	"	
1		Battle Group "Kroppitsch"	"	
1		1/226/79	"	
3		WA/226VGR/79VGR	"	
1		2/226/79	"	
2		WA/179AT BA/79VGR	"	
1		9W/79VGR	"	
1		6/ATVollstueck Regt(mts)	"	
1		7/103/ATVGR	"	
1		3/ATarty Regt/ATVGR	"	
1		1/256arty Regt	"	
1		4/1Battlegp/256	"	
2		WA/1059arty Regt	"	
7		WA/169AARegt	"	
1		2/ATWY Bnpt BA/207	"	
1		Corps Med Co/113	"	
1		246 Construction BA/246Gr	"	
2		2/358Gr/246Gr	"	
2		4/352 " "	"	
1		8/ " "	"	
2	1	WA/358Gr/246Gr	"	
4		6/316/212	"	
2		2/320/212	"	
1		2/212Bnpt BA/212	"	
2		1/316 BA/212	"	
1		4/212arty Regt/212	"	
2	1	WA/212 Arty Regt/212	"	
2		9/688 Wts Arty	"	
1		4/991 Wts Maint BA	"	
1		17/12/688 Wts Div	"	
1		2/9AT BA/9Gr	"	
4		1/26 AA BA/9AA Div	"	
1		10th Army Arty Bnpt	"	
1		WA/1126VGR/559VGR	"	
1		2/688 AT BA/6 SS Wts Div	"	
2		9/256arty Regt/246Div	"	

EW 3 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Corps in France and Germany: 5756
TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 526

No tactical information could be gained from the interrogation of above tabulated PW's. All of them had been separated from their units for more than 24 hours, and were moving, without plan or coordination, in the general direction towards the RHINE. Many of them took to hitchhiking, stopping our vehicles in order to surrender, and thus to save themselves further marches.

HEINE LWVI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

25 MARCH 1946

- 0010 S-3 to 21st Armored Div: Our 1st Bn has taken positions in your sector.
0088 1st Bn to DO: Everything quiet.
0113 3d Bn DO to DO: Everything quiet.
0118 Ex O 1st Bn to S-3: AF at north end of area reports enemy digging in via 457187. Believes they're digging in light artillery piece or antitank gun.
0130 1st Bn to Div: PW reports from one man and two women who crossed river tonight indicates that enemy patrol plans to cross the river tomorrow night in via 488160. No traffic or mixed road on other side of river. Only Volkstrum with emplacements around BENSHEIM.
0146 DO to 1st Bn: Relayed the above.
0150 S-3 to Div: 1st Bn closed in area at 0130. Want contact with 45th Div.
0155 3d Bn to DO: All quiet.
0300 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
0310 1st Bn to DO: 3d Bn reports that they made contact with the 1st Bn, 397th Inf. Their Bn CP is approx at 470087. Have their companies on line and hold a sector 3,600 yards long.
0313 DO to Div: Relayed the above.
0315 1st Bn to DO: Correct CP position of 1st Bn, 397th Inf is 480027.
0322 to O410: Bns report all quiet.
0440 7th Inf to DO: We are sending a patrol down to river in via Autoban at 0500A. DO: Will notify our 2d Bn.
0441 DO to 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
0500 3d Bn to DO: All quiet.
0506 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
0525 1st Bn to DO: Have 2 PW's from enemy patrol that crossed river.
0535 3d Bn to DO: Have been trying to contact 45th Div for past four hours but were unable because of obstructions caused by bomb damage. Now moving in other direction to try to make contact.
0538 DO to Div: Relayed the situation.
0556 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
0640 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
0709 Div to DO: Send someone up to the 45th Div to talk over pending plans and coordinate with them. Send overlay of your disposition to this Hq.
0738 DO to Div: 2 women PW's came across in a rowboat via of ROXHEIM.
0758 1st Bn CO to DO: 2 enemy came across river in via 449190. Used a boat and were killed by men from AT Co as they reached the bank. Occurred at 0255. Couldn't get to them because of S/A on other side. CO of Bn frp is pushing his unit to contact 45th Div.
0837 DO to 1st Bn CO: PW report indicates that PW attempted to cross Rhine to surrender.
0910 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: Send overlay of your dispositions.
0914 Div to S-3: CO will attend meeting at Div CP at 1400A.
0915 CO to S-3: There will be a meeting at Regt CP at 1500A. Unit Commanders and their S-3's will attend. Attached unit commanders will also attend.
1006 CO to 1st Bn CO: Situation? CO 1st Bn: Have sent you overlay of my positions. Two companies of 100th Div in the area where we were supposed to put a platoon. CO: Put your men in there regardless. Have your patrol contacted the 45th Div. Div is very interested that it should be made as soon as possible.
1010 CO to S-3: We're trying to contact the 45th Div. Expect word soon. Div: Corps is continually asking us. Make it as soon as you can.
1020 CO to Div: Tell S-3 that we have contacted the 45th Div at 0758A. The message was timed 0805A. The 1st Bn of the 167th was contacted. I have message on the line. Also, Capt Kenyon, 3d Bn reports reported as such and has been replaced by a lieutenant.
1045 S-3 to Co 1st Bn: Have you a platoon to the O2 grid? CO: No. It's impossible to move in or out in the daylight. We contacted them but they didn't want us. If 100th Div moves out, we'll move in.
1120 By CIX to 3d Bn CO: The CO wants you to study the plan we sent you and brief all staff officers and company commanders. That meeting is for you and your S-3 only.
1121 Field Msg sent to Regt Surge: You will attend meeting at Regt CP, today, 1500A.
1125 Div to Ex O: Has vehicle list been made up? Ex O: Making it up now. Am putting AT guns on infantry support rafts, ammunition and gas on heavy pontoons.
1200 S-3 to 3d Bn: Let me have your vehicle priority list.
1215 CO to Div: We have made contact with elements (100th Div) on our right flank, via O4 grid line, and with elements on our left flank (45th Div) via 19 grid line.

22 MARCH 1945 CONT'D

- 1218 1st Bn Ex O to CO: I contacted the Bn CO of the 3d Bn, 157th Inf and our troops are in contact with their L Co.
- 1220 S-2 to 1st Bn S-2, 2d Bn S-2, and 3d Bn Ex O: Check to see if all unit identifications on road signs, vehicles, clothing, etc. is blacked out. The diamond on road signs or the number of the Bn need not be blacked out.
- Radio Msg from CG 3d Inf Div to CO 15th Inf: (26110A) "CP closed at LEINGENEN, 0915A, opened SOENHEIM, 4510."
- 1243 3d Bn S-2 to S-2: Have 6 PW's, one of which was captured by G-Co. Two were captured in bars via 464086 by patrol # 5 from K Co. Two were captured in a green shack via 474086. One was in a dug out via 478086 in civilian clothes. My captured by C Co was trying to cross river via 492086.
- 1315 G-2 DO to S-2: FA sub observer rpts unnumbered number of enemy via M465-173, at 1240A. Two women and one man who crossed river in boat indicated that they plans to send patrol across river to via 490100.
- PW from Ex O, 1st Bn, 15th Inf, to CO, 15th Inf: "Contact point with 45th Div is at 448179. 3d Bn, 157th Inf CP at 593200." Time signed: 1202A.
- 1330 Major LAUGHLIN assumed duties as Regt'l S-3. Captain HOWLAND assumed duties as Regt'l Asst S-3.
- 1335 Asst S-3 to Div Traffic Control Officer: Will Co. B, 10th Engr Bn be included in our river crossing priority. Div TCO to Asst S-3: Include all attachments in your river crossing priority schedule.
- 1339 Asst S-3 to Co B, 10th Engr Bn: Give above. Submit list of vehicles by priority.
- 1341 Co G to Asst S-3: Our FC with C Co observed 7 boats via 527087. Asst S-3: Fire a few rds at that target.
- 1329 1st Bn to Asst S-3: Have 5 PW's that we picked up in our sector, via 480086.
- 1713 G-3 to Ex O: Have 2d & 3d Bns alerted and ready to move at 0630A and at the same time have 1st Bn assemble. Also leave small detail from rex contact 45th Div and another small detail to contact 100th Div starting at 0630A.
- 1855 S-4 to Ex O: Rations for next move per individual will be: 1/3 "K", 1 "C", and 2/3 "D".
- 1841 3d Bn S-2 to S-2: We have policed our area thoroughly for any. However it is possible that a few are still holding out.
- 1843 S-2 to 3d Bn S-2: Unit insignia and individual markings may be uncovered at K-Hour.
- (Above msg relayed to all units by duty clerk).
- 1900 Conference call, Ex O to the Bn CO's, separate unit CO's, and liaison officers. Bn's will be ready for marching by 0630A tomorrow, but units will not move out until orders are given by Rgt. 1st Bn may start assembling at 0630A, except for troops via of crossing sites which may be assembled after the first elements of other units pass through. Want CO of 3d Bn to rpt to Regt'l CP. Each Bn will have assigned a 5 man Engr mine sweeping detail. Will have a D-7 (hvy dozer) under Regt'l control. Bn order of march will be 3d, 2d, and 1st. Rations will consist of 1/3 "K", 2/3 "D", and 1 "C". Present indications are that we will move out in 15 man groups. Hand-carry as much wire, ammo, etc, as possible. Will have a meeting concerning transportation at CP at 1830A. Bn CO's, Engr Co's, and representatives from separate units, will attend.
- 1930 S-2 to Div: Running 3 patrols of two jeeps each. Div to S-2: OK to pull the patrols out and leave only one patrol at the jeep operating sites.
- 1941 S-2 to I & A 2 plat ldr: Give above. Continue rex patrols via crossing sites if you do not interfere with 7th and 30th Inf's.
- 2030 Div PIU to S-2: Just checked certic of 24th March and found that there are no new any installations in the area of next operation.
- 2110 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 2115 Ex O to 1st Bn S-3: Cml mortars will assemble in Regt'l motor pool but half-tracks will stay in your Bn motor pools.
- 2200 1st Bn reports 3 small boats at vic of 496086. More details later.

2220 39th FA Bn S-2 to S-2: A Btry had a fire fight with some enemy. One was killed and three more taken prisoners. Will send them back to your IPW.

2225 S-2 gave above to IPW.

2230 1st Bn reports all is quiet.

2230 to 2400A: Negative reports from all units.

Journal

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 241200A to 251200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : BOKHEIM, GERMANY
Date : 25 March 1948

For: 68
Map: GERMANY, 1/25,000, Sheet 6416 & 6516.

1. Our Front Lines: RHINE River (See overlay).

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt CP - 485090	
1st Bn CP - 425100	3d Bn CP - 456090
A Co - 459152	I Co 454090
B Co - 459108	K Co - 457089
C Co - 473087	L Co - 448101
2d Bn CP - 417087	M Co - 448099
E Co - 418087	Hq Co - 455090
F Co - 418085	AT Co - 426092
G Co - 427102	Sv Co - 425071
H Co - 424102	CH Co CP - 455087 CH Co - 448087

3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt CP: Closed at ALF-LEIBEN at 241800A and opened in BOKHEIM via 455090 at 241900A.

2d Bn: Moved from KAISERLAUTERN at 241800A, closing in bivouac area GR-NIEDERHEIM at 242210A.

During period Bn maintained active motor patrols, contact patrols, outposting the RHINE River and clearing and polishing their areas.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel For Duty: (As shown on M/R of 24 March 48)

Officers: 81%

WO: 100%

EM: 86%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 37

EM: 1040

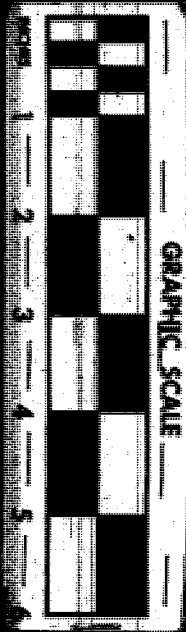
6. Results of Operations:

a. 2d Bn moved from KAISERLAUTERN to GR-NIEDERHEIM.

b. Patrols and outposts maintained.

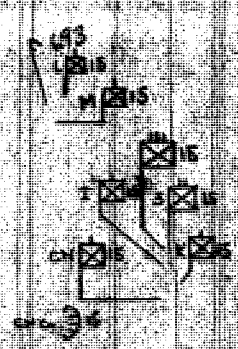
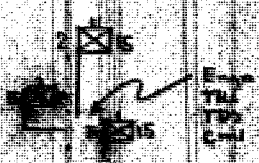
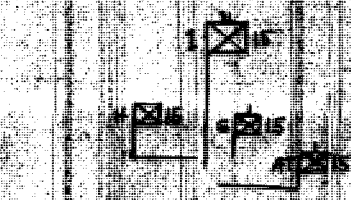
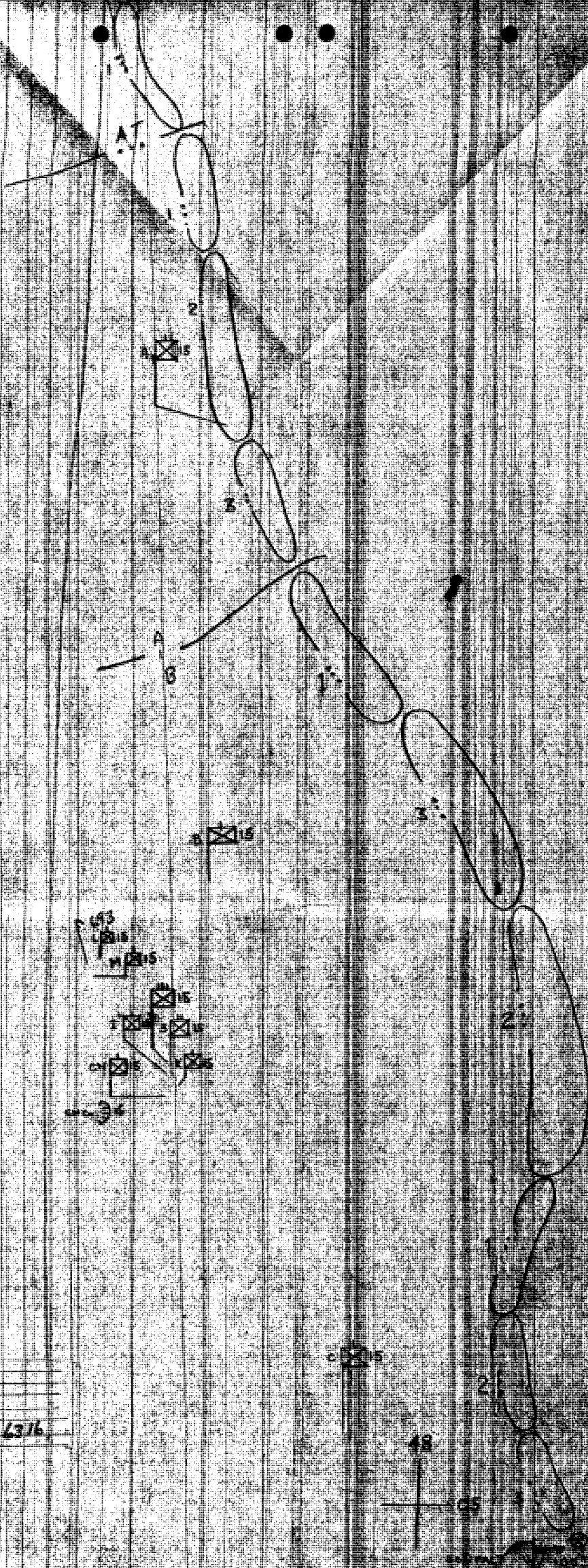
HOWLAND
S-3

CONFIDENTIAL



GRAPHIC SCALE

40
14



HQ 1ST INF
AS MARK LINE
OVERLAY TO S. B. REPORT # 68
MOB. GERMANY, 1/25,000, SHEET 69/68 6376

48
05

Journal

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

25 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 240800A - 250800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

RM	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time	Capt. Unit
1		2/38 Armd Sig Bn	via GRUENSTADT	1200A	
1		11/1 Arty Bn/6 SS Mtn Div	"	"	
2		2/246 HY AA Bn	ROCKHIM	1100A	
3	1	5/1560 Arty Regt/560 WVD	"	"	
4		14/320 Inf Regt/212 WVD	"	1600A	
1	2	84/404 Inf Regt/246 WVD	"	2300A	
1		escapee from Mil Prison	492080	"	
1		46 Inf/AT Bn	492058	0600A	1st Bn
1		8/1559 Arty Regt/559 WVD	via WIMM	0600A	
<hr/>					
15	3	TOTAL			

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in France and Germany: 57th

TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 54th

FW, who escaped from military prison at GERBESCHHEIM, where he was serving a 3 year sentence for cowardice in face of the enemy, states that prisoners were moved to via BARNSTADT, and that he took this opportunity to get to WAIHER (7782) on 20 Mar. From there he proceeded on foot via ROH BRACH (8869), WELFHEIM (6382), WIESLINGEN (6593) to SIEKEMHEIM (5996); there he took the streetcar to WAIHERHEIM on 22 Mar, and continued on to LAUFERHEIM (5311) and then due west towards the Rhine.

He claims to have spoken to members of the 69th Arty Regt, which told him that they were being used as Infantry. He also claims to have spoken to a Lieutenant of an unidentified Engl Unit, who supposedly told that his Co's strength was only 18 men, and that he would attempt to cross the Rhine tonight, 25 Mar, on a reconnaissance mission in the vicinity of WIMMERS BUNGH (488109). He also claims to have heard that WIMMERS (4812) was defended by 4 MG's and that it was wired. He said to have seen posts, armed with rifles, along Rhine in 20 - 30 yards intervals, and that about every 4th post was armed with a MG.

2 women, who claimed to live in WIMMERS and were drafted to work on entrenchments at WAIHERHEIM (5311), came over the Rhine with above FW, tired of the work at WAIHERHEIM, they walked to LAUFERHEIM (5311) and were to cross the Rhine and subsequently crossed in the same boat. They were unable to follow the map, stated, however, that AT ditches were being dug in the fields on the approaches to WAIHERHEIM, and also foxholes along the main road. Most of the young people and the Hitler Youth were used for this job, and they had been working in groups of 30 under the supervision of a German WFO. They claim to have seen very little traffic on the East side of the Rhine.

Amongst the PW's which passed thru the PW cage, 2d Mar, were the Commanding Officer and the Reg'tl Surgeon, 40th Inf, 2d6 VGD. No tactical information could be obtained as unit had been out off for several days, and most of the troups dispersed.

HEINZ LEVI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

0020 1st Bn to DO: Arty falling in C Co area. Can't determine where it is coming from. Regt'l AF reports digging at 487187.

0025 DO gave above to Div War Room DO.

0030 2d & 3d Bn's report all quiet.

0106 1st Bn DO to DO: B Co rpts a gun via 487100. Will contact our arty La O to get fire on it. Mortars are still falling in C Co area. 3d Bn rpts everything is OK.

0107 3d Bn rpts all quiet.

0125 Div to DO: Plans was just knocked down. Believed to have fallen in your 2d Bn area. Pilot bailed out. Alert your guards.

0126 Above relayed to 2d Bn. 2d Bn: Plans went over us, believe it landed in 30th Inf area.

0127 Gave above to Div.

0240 S-3 to all units and attached units: Vehicle priority listings are on the way.

0341 Div DO to DO: 30th Inf has 2d and 3d Bn's across and most of 1st Bn. Received mortar fire, some casualties. Treadway bridge has been started. 7th Inf has elements of 1st & 2d Bns across. Received direct fire, high velocity, and much mortar fire. Some SA fire coming from the SE. 180th Inf of the 48th Div has two battalions across.

0350 1st Bn DO to DO: Mac's Following msg from 3d Bn Tps: "48th Div was strafed at 080100 at 0808A. Plane dropped flare, via 447200. Plane now in some N. 48th Div situation same at 0137A. My plane shot down in some A. Obs Post at 0808.

0406 Div DO to DO: Assemble 1st Bn immediately. Send officer run party to crossing site of 30th Inf with guides. Move 2d and 3d Bn's at 0830A, proceed with plan as scheduled. Cross over and assemble in area.

0438 DO to 1st Bn DO: Gave above.

0450 DO gave situation report to Div War Room.

0458 DO to 2d & 3d Bn: Gave 0408A entry. Send run parties to crossing sites and post guides.

0458 30th Inf DO to S-3: At last report, troops were 500 yds from objective "E". Tanks are moving to objective "D". Site of vehicle crossing being shelled.

0457 Div to DO: 7th Inf closing in on SANDHOFEN, getting fire from island to SE and some SP fire.

0530 7th Inf DO to S-3: 1st Bn in SANDHOFEN. 3d Bn in process of crossing, slowed down by SP fire from vic HANNEBERGIN forcing the Bns to stop west from him to time. The sector has been well covered in. Have encountered armor.

0544 S-3 to Div: Requested situation on 30th Inf. Div: They have encountered armor and have requested arty on BURSTADT.

0553 S-3 to 2d & 3d Bn's: Gave situation on 7th and 30th Inf. 3d Bn assemble via 516128 and 2d Bn via 507140. 3d Bn moves at 0630A. 7th and 30th have no vehicles across. Have bazooka teams fwd. 1st Bn will assemble but you can't cross until after 2d and 3d Bns cross.

0642 S-3 to 30th Inf: We are on edge of LAMPERSHEIM drawing SP and S/A fire.

0644 G-3 to GO: Use open assembly area via 410940 or 500940. XII Corps is advancing. Have bridge over MAIN River.

0707 1st Bn GO to S-3: Am assembling Bn at area "X".

0715 1st Bn Bn O: C Co receiving heavy enemy artillery.

0720 Div to Bn O: 30th Inf moving on BURSTADT, receiving mortar and SP fire but are moving. They have no armor as yet.

0722 S-3 to 7th Inf: Crossing fire on the right flank. Lost our tanks to SP fire.

0730 S-3 to Asst CO: 3d Bn pushed off at 0630, the 1st Bn is in the woods south and east of WORN and the 2d Bn is in that area moving behind the 3d.

0740 S-3 to 30th Inf: We're within 600 yds of LAMPERSHEIM. Are an objective "A" & "B" and moving on "B".

0748 30th Inf to S-3: We have taken 100 PW's. Artillery reaction is heavy in 7th Inf sector. Units are generally on the SE casting, with the 7th Inf 1,000 yards from town.

0758 GO to Div: No need for platoon of TD's down on the river.

0810 1st Bn to S-3: 1st Bn not completely assembled.

26 MARCH 1945 (Contd)

- 0815 30th Inf to S-2: Our K Co 1/3 of the distance to Objective "H". "L" Co is 500 yds north of objective on railroad. Sending patrols east of woods. F Co is fighting on outskirts of town. E Co is on the main road 500 yds from D Co. G Co is on objective "C". B Co is attacking objective "B". "A" Co is at 474158, moving toward "B" and meeting some resistance.
- 0825 3d Bn to DO: K and L Co's are leading up shortly.
- 0835 7th Inf to S-2: We're generally on E2 easting. Patrols are working north to contact 30th Inf.
- 0845 S-3 to All Bn's: Regt'l CP will be in area J2 where the 2d Bn is.
- 0855 3d Bn to S-3: Bn is across now.
- 0857 S-3 to S-2: Replied the above. 1st Bn will assemble at 496147. 3d Bn is at 507132. 2d Bn will cross and assemble at 507142.
- 0910 S-2 to S-3: CG wants one battalion committed as soon as possible to clear out the island between J10 and J12 grid east of the river. The troops are drawing observed artillery and sniper fire from this island. Coordinate with the 30th. Follow the route of 3d Bn, 30th Inf, pass on their west flank and then attack north into that island.
- 0915 S-3 to 30th Inf: We're moving up to clear out that island. 30th Inf; PW reports indicate 8 MGs at 496122. Freshly an SP gun in vic of 476134.
- 0950 S-3 to Ex O: Let us know when you start to move across the river.
- 1006 S-3 to Ex O: CG is making arrangements to get some armor from 30th Inf for your 3d Bn. Have 3 TD's across but no tanks as yet. Ex O: I instructed TD's to remain in assembly area until ordered to move by this Hq.
- 1011 Div to DO: 397th Inf has the following positions: Regt'l CP at AUBERSHEIM, 1st Bn CP via 486027, A Co CP via 497041, B Co CP via 501014 and C Co CP in vic 500085.
- 1022 39th FA Bn to DO: Some of our troops are along river between 496102 and 492106 were fired on by six (6) enemy MG's from across the river. DO: Our 3d Bn is cleaning out pocket across river in that vicinity.
- 1035 S-3 to Div: 3d Bn has been briefed and is now moving up to clear island pocket just east of RHINE River between I0 & I5 grid lines. They will attack that area from the south. Our E and F Co's have crossed the river; H Co in process of crossing; G Co is still on the west side of river waiting for H Co to complete crossing. 1st Bn is assembling now and will follow 2d Bn across. Also relayed dispositions of 397th Inf.
- 1045 Ex O to Div: 2d Bn has completed crossing RHINE River.
- 1048 3d Bn to Ex O: Radio information from 3d Bn CO indicates that K and L Co's are getting ready to move out.
- 1053 1st Bn Ex O to Ex O: Do not have G Co assembled with remainder of Bn. Ex O: Move rest of battalion across. You can bring G Co across later. Leave an officer behind that I can contact.
- 1107 Div to Ex O: 30th Inf light support raft is in operation. Hope to have bridge in by 1400A. Ex O: Would like to get some wire jeeps, medical supplies and radio jeeps across 30th Inf light support raft.
- 1112 39th FA Bn to DO: Bn CP is at 475137.
- 1122 7th Inf DO to S-3: 1st Bn is in vic of SANDROVEN, encountering some mortar fire. 2d Bn has crossed river and upon order will move to SCHAEF. I Co is on objective "H", K Co on objective "J" and L Co on objective "I". Have 3 DT's across. Have approx 70 PW's. PW report indicates that enemy has moved two batteries of arty to woods in front of E Co. AF has crossed. E Co received mortar fire trying to contact 30th Inf.
- 1128 30th Inf DO to S-3: Have cleared half of town of LAUBERSHEIM. 3d Bn cleared A, B and C. Have switchboard on east bank of river.
- 1150 Ex O to Div: K Co on island, bridge intact. I Co is coming up from the south.
- 1304 Ex O to Dy Clik: A, B and G Co's are across. Regt'l Hq Co on way across.
- 1320 HHTO to S-3: Bridge is 2/3 completed.
- 1310 30th Inf S-2 to Ex O: Our flak wagons are not firing in area occupied by your 3d Bn. We are using our 4.2's to smoke that area. Ex O: Lift smoke to tip of pocket along 49 grid line.
- 1322 3d Bn Trp to DO: We've taken over communication line left by G Co.
- 1330 Ex O to Div: Regt'l CP opened at 506159.
- 1355 3d Bn Trp to DO: Have contact with 100th Div who reports all quiet. 71st Div is going to relieve 100th Div.

- 1340 Comm O (at advance) to Asst Comm O: Have comm through 30th Inf Switch. Regt'l CO and S-2 just arrived. Comm O to Ex O: Will put MP's at following pts along road to pontoon bridge at WORMS; 477153, 480135, and 504135. Ex O to CO: Disposition of 30th Inf: 1st Bn (-) via BOPHEIM, with C Co via BOB-STADT, L Co via 525135, I Co via 530118, K Co via 530110. 30th Inf rpted CA from SE of 100 cry and two tanks which was rapulsed. 34 Bn, 7th Inf via 538065.
- 1345 Fwd CP opened, across RHINE River at RR Station of LACHE via 506139.
- 1352 Div Traffic Control Officer to Ex O: Practically ready to send your TD's across. Use route "C" which passes by TCP # 8. Plan to send your armor ahead of 7th Inf. Expect roadway to be in in 45 minutes. Will start 30th Inf on pontoon in approx 30 minutes. Ex O: Have 12 TD's ready to move. Also need wire, radio, and ambulances across now. All of our foot troops are across and adv Regt'l CP has been set up, but have no vehicles across. Div TCO: Will phone you back concerning other vehicles.
- 1410 Ex O gave above to CO, Co B, 501st TD Bn.
- 1410 34 Bn CO to CO: I Co has 20 PW's, K Co has cleared east side of island. CP is at 518122. Shelling at flak wagen at 539145. Patrol has contacted the 30th Inf. Their K Co are about two hundred yds from town, planned down by any fire including Mark IV tank. CO: When you have cleared island, contact 7th Inf. Have K Co block at bridge. L Co of 30th Inf reported at 525-158 and I Co, 530118. I Co of the 7th Inf, 518085.
- 1416 34 Bn DO to DO: CP is at 530142, F Co at 498155, F Co via 504155, G Co via 555141, H Co at 504140. F Co sent out a patrol. They went SE along RR with mission of locating SP gun and locating friendly elements. Located 34 Bn CP at 518130. SE of that point (518125) received fire by SP gun. Seemed to be firing from SE of 542132. Continued to 527124. Contacted K Co of 30th Inf, who were engaged in fire fight near objective "B". G Co patrol went south along SO grid to contact elements of 34 Bn. Located M Co via 501131, with rifle companies across lagoon on island.
- 1425 Ex O to 1st Bn Mtr Co: Want you to have one wire jeep, one radio jeep, one medical jeep, and one ambulance to assemble via Regt'l CP preparatory to moving to crossing site. Relay comm msg to 34 Bn.
- 1440 Ex O to 34 Bn DO: Msg came as above.
- 1505 G-3 to CO & Ex O: The CG is not satisfied with the 7th Inf's advance. We hope to have your armor over to you in a couple of hrs. You are to push through 30th Inf at LAMPHEIM or by-pass town and continue the attack to the SE & E and take over 7th Inf objectives out to phase line "ABLE". This will be a two battalion mission. 34 Bn will continue its present mission. If they can accomplish it with less than a battalion. When mission is completed 34 Bn will go to via SANDYON (530065). Bdry between 15th Inf and 7th Inf will be read (inclusive) from SANDOFF to SE which passes under Autoban via 557065. Bdry to NW runs up to give 7th Inf the town of KIRSCHGARTSHAUSEN, 518065. Send msg to 34 Bn, 30th Inf via LAMPHEIM. 7th Inf has not reached RR tracks in that area. They are just north of Autoban at 555 grid line. HUTTENFELD will be 15th Inf sector. CG to U-3: Hwy pontoon bridge is in. 15th Inf vehicles can start crossing. Ex O: Would like to get 18 light veh across, including wire jeeps, radio jeeps, medical jeeps, and ambulances. CG to G-3: Give these vehicles priority to cross soon.
- 1515 Ex O to CO, Co B, 501st TD Bn: Gave above. Move out with your LTD's now over route "A" to hvy pontoon bridge via WORMS.
- 1519 Ex O to Div TCO: Gave numbers of 15 priority vehicles to cross RHINE River. Div: Move these vehicles across now.
- 1522 34 Bn Tps made contact with right flank unit, 100th Div. Everything is OK.
- 1531 34 Bn to Asst S-3: Let us know when our vehicles are across.
- 1558 Div TCO to Ex O: Have 25 more vehicles ready to move enroute to crossing site, on my order.
- 1541 Ex O to Co B, 10th Engrs: Will include two - 2 1/2 ton trucks with one trailer and a D-7 bulldozer in the next group of veh to move.
- 1543 G-3 to Ex O: One platoon of B Co, 750th Tank Bn, will be released from 30th Inf to you as soon as they cross hvy pontoon bridge. It will probably be the last platoon to cross. Capt Greer is sending guide to bridge site. Ex O to G-3: Our K Co has crossed bridge w/ island at approx 118 grid line. I Co has passed bridge.

26 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1549 S-3 to 3d Bn: 3d Bn will assemble at 580085. Start patrols from L Co. to LAMPERTHEIM then south to SCHARHOF.
- 1550 3d Bn CO to S-3: Receiving S/A fire and am in fire fight. S-3: LD will be from 564106 south to the 078 near woods.
- 1552 CO to Ex O: 3d Bn has now completely cleared island. Took PW's (20). Light arty can't support us on next move. When medium arty gets over, they will be good support. Ex O: 1st Bn is assembled via 505142; 2d Bn assembled via 495146.
- 1556 Ex O to CO: Within two hours, we can put across 11 TD's and 15 other vehicles.
- 1600 39th Inf to S-2: Have 890 PW's, five flak wagons, 8 - 88mm guns, 5 - 75mm guns and 4 tanks captured. Have spotted 10 - 88mm guns near 568117.
- 1600 756th Tk Bn to Ex O: Will have some tanks available to you.
- 1606 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 1610 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: Have patrol go through center part of LAMPERTHEIM that 3d Bn, 30th Inf reports clear. 3d Bn CO: Patrol is ready to start
- 1620 756th Tk Bn to DO: Sending two tanks up now.
- 1625 1st Bn to DO: Vehicles have left 5 minutes ago.
- 1630 CO to S-2: "B" objective clear.
- 1637 Asst S-2 to CO: Armer is on way. CO: have someone at bridge to locate 1 platoon of Co B tanks. Contact 30th Inf CP for location of these tanks.
- 1640 CO to Ex O & S-3: Want your battalions moving fast? You must give your utmost energy to speed this operation. Army & Corps are very anxious to complete operation in that corner. S-3: Our 3d Bn captured 7 flak guns in island pocket. 30th Inf reported LAMPERTHEIM cleared.
- 1656 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: Patrols reports is in north edge of town still going. Will report as soon as mission is completed.
- 1705 Ex O to Div: One platoon of tanks from 30th Inf are near bridge and have been instructed to cross now. Div: Vehicles should be ready to fill treadway as soon as its completed.
- 1710 Ex O to 10th Bn: Treadway nearly completed. 1st group to cross there. D-7 to go with next group. Bn: The two trucks have just left.
- 1713 S-3, 30th Inf to S-3: LAMPERTHEIM clear except for scattered snipers. Going for NEUCHOSS now. 4 arty guns there and believed to be 88mm's.
- 1715 Ex O to Fed CP DO: B's tanks are to cross now; should reach you in 20 minutes. Another 26 vehicles are coming soon, but probably will use the treadway. NP's are posted at both bridges.
- 1716 S-3 to CO 2d Bn: Want you to move between 1745 and 1800.
- 1722 Div to DO: Want 100 priority vehicles to move up the road. TCR #1, TCR #2, Charley to have head of the column hit the point (TCP#6) at 1740.
- 1730 3d Plat of 3d Bn to DO: Have contacted with 45th Div. Their positions are unchanged. Heavy flak encountered at OBERHEIM.
- 1735 Div DO to Ex O: Pontoon bridge reports numerous occasions when it is not being used.
- 1736 3d Bn Ex O to DO: Patrol contacted 100th Div who are now being relieved by 71st Div.
- 1750 3d Bn to S-3: Combat patrol from L Co reported halfway between phase line "C" and "B". No resistance.
- 1751 S-3 to 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 1812 1812 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn: Drop your wire at new CP (622101).
- 1816 2d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: S-3 has lost and 2 Bn is following and 2 Co will follow shortly.
- 1820 2d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: Alert about you 100 vehicles through. They will be followed by 9th FA and 7th Armored. Alert another 100 vehicles to move out in 30 minutes after the 7th Armored.
- 1831 3d Bn to S-3: L Co patrol on edge of SANTOFF drew S/A from town and SP fire from vic CR (56097). L has moved, K & I Co's on move
- 1832 Ex O to 1st & 3d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 1836 S-3 to Mag Com: Sent following msg: TO: CO 1st Bn: "2d Bn is moving. Having meeting at GP. Have your CO or S-3 stop as they move by."
- 1838 Ex O to S-3: Relayed the above.
- 1839 Bear CP (ROXHEIM) closes.
- 1840 Ex O to S-3: 100 vehicles should be arriving at CP now. Will bring another 100 vehicles when I come. That will take care of all vehicles except rem vehicles. Will leave message for them.
- 1850 30th Inf to S-3: Have obj DOG, moving to EAST with two companies with three tanks. Ran into 5 pillboxes and some flak southeast of DOG objective near 526154; 1st Bn cleared BAKER this morning. Have one company on each

20 MARCH 1968 (cont'd)

- of the following objectives "C", "D", "E". Have seven or eight hundred prisoners. The 45th Div is in KLEINHAUSEN at 585195 and out northern highway.
- 1905 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Artillery drove off fighting enemy. L Co is moving on objective and rest of 3d Bn is following up. LAMBERTHEIM is now CP. Have 21 PW's including 5 snipers.
- 1956 3d Bn to Asst S-3: K & I Co's on objective.
- 1940 CG to CO: Want you to be on CHARLIE tonight. On objectives #6, #7 & #8 by midnight.
- 1955 New Regt CP at 589101.
- 2006 Have communication with forward CP.
- 2060 New CP opened in town of LAMBERTHEIM via 589101.
- 2051 OP #1 now established at 586107. Have good visibility.
- 2105 7th Inf to S-3: Contact points at 586070 and 518090. Regt CP in SANHOFEN. K Co at 589078. Y Co at 539460, L Co at 580065. 1st Bn still fighting in SANHOFEN. 2d Bn at western end of town waiting for 1st Bn to clean up. Troops will go as far south tonight as the following points: 580040, 548042, 535042 and 525042.
- 2115 Ex O to 3d Bn CO: Is 548076 clear for fire mission. 3d Bn CO: You can fire. We have no troops there.
- 2140 1st Bn CO to S-3: 1st Bn is moving out now.
- 2142 2d Bn CO to CO: F Co is moving out. My CP will be at edge of woods near RR tracks. My half tracks and TD's are following S Co. CO to 2d Bn CO: The 44th Div will start crossing RHINE River in our sector at 0100A.
- 2155 Dy Clk to Div: 1st & 2d Bn have jumped off from assembly areas east of LAMBERTHEIM to take objectives on "ABLE" phase line.
- 2200 I & R OP #1 (588107) to Dy Clk: 2 Concentrations of friendly artillery, total of 30 rounds landed 140 degrees azimuth approximately 2,000 yds out.
- 2205 2d Bn CO to CO: Our leading companies are entering woods.
- 2209 Asst S-3 to S-2: 2d Bn passed through 3d Bn. S Co contacted 3d Bn and 3d Bn said enemy were in front of them and they had planned to shoot artillery. 2d Bn requested that shoot be called off as their troops have entered woods.
- 2213 DO to 1st Bn CO: Relayed the above. 1st Bn: Our troops are 100 yards west of woods on left of 2d Bn.
- 2223 1st Bn CO to S-3: A & B Co's entering woods. Have taken 3 PW's.
- 2236 CO gave resume of situation to CG. CG: Push hard tonight. Bay is badly disorganized. If you encounter any contain area and by-pass it. CO: Plan to go on to "Able" line and continue to "Charlie" line tonight. 8 inch Howitzers can cover us nearly to "Charlie" line. CG: Div CP now in BURSTADT.
- 2245 3d Bn S-3 (Capt Gates) to Asst S-3: L Co in fire fight via 578075.
- 2248 Asst S-3 to Second Bn Ex O: Gave above. 2d Bn Ex O: Our troops in woods are north of that area. Troops have met no resistance. Tail end of Co's are in woods.
- 2250 CO to 1st Bn CO & 2d Bn Ex O: Same as 2236A.
- 2254 Ex O to 2d Bn Ex O: Have Plat of 4.2 mortars with support of 900 rds of ammo for your Bn's.
- 2258 3d Bn CO to Asst S-3: L Co fire fight at 548078 instead of 578076 (prev reported in 2248A).
- 2300 On CG to Asst S-3: Our PO reports enemy C/A in 3d Bn sector via 586065. Have fired one valley already. Asst S-3: Go ahead and fire concentration.
- 2315 3d Bn CO to Asst S-3: Hear armor to our front. Check with 7th Inf to see if they have armor in vicinity.
- 2320 3d Bn CO to Ex O: L Co patrol had fire fight via 588097. Took 10 PW's but one of our officers was killed. Enemy activity which we believe is C/A is in via 586061.
- 2324 1st Bn to S-3: Our troops are close to line "TOP". A Co has 4 PW's.
- 2326 2d Bn to S-3: Our Ex O is going forward soon.
- 2328 Ex O to 3d Bn: Send contact patrol to 7th Inf. Get disposition of their troops and their plans.
- 2343 OP #1 to DO: At 2250, S/A fire, 155 degrees, 1 mile away.
- 2345 1st Bn to Ex O: Troops nearing phase line "TOP". Terrain is difficult.

Journal

SECRET

RE 1000-10
KAMPFTRUPPEN, GERMAN
26 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER. 22)

- 1. a. Enemy withdrawing to the east leaving small pockets of resistance consisting of disorganized units. Several SP guns and 88mm flak guns (used on ground targets) have been encountered throughout the day.
- b. 3d Inf Div continues its attack to east toward phase line ABLE.

- 2. a. 15th Inf attacks in its assigned sector with 1st Bn on the left and 2d Bn on the right, seize objectives #6, #7, #14 and #6 on phase line ABLE. Quickly reorganize on phase line ABLE and continue the attack and seize objectives #10, #11 and #16 prior to dawn. Reorganize on phase line CLIFF, attack and seize objectives #17 & 18, hold along line CHARLIE.

3. a. 1st Bn

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co G, 756th Tk Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf
- 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn

Assemble with all possible speed in assembly area (see overlay) prepared to attack along route (indicated on overlay).

- (1) Attack at H-Hour in conjunction with 2d Bn on right, seize objectives #8 & #9, reorganize quickly on phase line ABLE, seize objective #10 prior to dawn, reorganize on phase line CLIFF, continue the attack, seize objective #16, block to east, patrol to front (see overlay).
- (2) Maintain contact with 2d Bn on right.

b. 2d Bn

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co G, 756th Tk Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf
- 1 Plat, Co C, 87th Cml Bn

Assemble with all possible speed in assembly area (see overlay) prepared to attack along route (indicated on overlay).

- (1) Pass through 3d Bn on phase line BIG, attack at H-Hour in cooperation with 1st Bn on left, seize objectives #6 & 14, reorganize quickly on phase line ABLE, move along route (indicated on overlay), attack and seize objectives #11 and #16, prior to dawn block on objective #16 and patrol to south, reorganize on phase line CLIFF, attack along route (indicated on overlay) seize and secure objective #17, block to the east and patrol into the town of ND LIEBERSBACH.
- (2) Maintain contact with 1st Bn on left.

c. 3d Bn

- a. Attached: 1 Plat 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf
- 1 Plat Co D, 756th Tk Bn

On continuing of blocking mission on east bank of river between #20 and #12 grid, assemble in southwestern edge of HAMPERTHEIM. Attack and secure phase line BIG, upon being passed through by 2d Bn, assemble in Div Reserve in SANDTOR.

- (1) On order this Headquarters, be prepared to execute a blocking mission in rear and flank of assault bn's by blocking with the Bn - 1 Co on objectives #6, #7, #8, and #14, establishing outposts (indicated on overlay) - Block with 1 Co in SANDTOR with 1 Plat blocking at RJ 665065.
- (2) Maintain contact with 30th Inf on left and 7th Inf on right by patrol

SECRET

- d. Cn Co, 10th Engrs
Assemble in vic of LAMPERTHEIM prepared to build a Brookway Bridge
at either bridge #1, #2, #3, if either is found to be blown.
- e. Cn Co
Will support the advance of the regiment.

4. Omitted.

- 5. Axis of Signal Communication - LAMPERTHEIM - BUTTENFELD
Radio communication by SCR 694 and SCR 500.
Normal wire network will be maintained.
Signal supplies at forward ration point.
Regt#1 CP located at 589101.

EDSON
CMDG

OFFICIALS:

LAUGHLIN
S-3

SECRET



CHAFIE

ABLE

DE TAT

BIG

15

1st DTI Assy Area

2nd DTI Assy Area

10

14

16

17

18

19

3rd DTI Assy Area

4th DTI Assy Area

5th DTI Assy Area

6th DTI Assy Area

7th DTI Assy Area

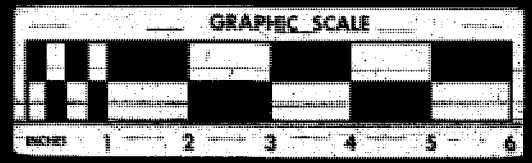
8th DTI Assy Area

9th DTI Assy Area

HO ISMINE
24 MAR 41
CHECK OUT TO ACCIDENT OF #23
SAC. GERMANY, IRE, AND SWITZERLAND
RE: GERMANY, IRE, SWITZERLAND, 24/3, 24/12

OFFICIAL

LAUGHLIN
6-2



27 MARCH 1945

- 0080 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Have 2 Co's on objective "TOP". We have armor to the south and east. Is that 3d Bn's armor. Will set up road block with mines and AT guns to south. TD's are with E Co. Have rec'd some SP fire.
- 0085 2d Bn to DO: Our L Co reports tanks movement also. Out TD's are with L Co, but have not been moving around.
- 0086 2d Bn to DO: Have 2 PW's at our Bn CP vic 656097.
- 0040 1st Bn to DO: A Co in small scrap on phase line "HAT". Unable to contact E Co at present.
- 0042 Ex O to Div: Relayed our situation.
- 0044 Div to Ex O: Dispositions of 30th Inf: 3d Bn vic 670118, 2d Bn vic 684175, 1st Bn vic 631185. 2d Bn is trying to reduce road block vic RJ at 684175. 7th Inf: 1st Bn is attacking west of SANDHOFF vic 621 grid. K Co is on "TOEHOLD" line. L Co is behind I Co which is south of K Co.
- 0046 2d Bn to DO: Patrol to 7th Inf encountered enemy MG supported by riflemen vic 638076. Patrol has been sent out again to complete mission.
- 0100 CO 2d Bn to Ex O: Both leading Co's have crossed over "TOP". Stringing wire to RJ. Will move forward in 15 minutes.
- 0114 Ex O 1st Bn to DO: A & B Co's met resistance on phase line "HAT". A has wiped out and is again advancing against resistance toward objective #7. A Co has captured 5 PW's and 2 SP's. B Co captured 1 PW.
- 0120 1st Bn to DO: Have not received overlay as yet.
- 0122 IAR OP #4 reports all is very quiet.
- 0126 Ex O to Div: Relayed situation.
- Radio Msg from CO 3d Inf Div to CO, 15th Inf. 3d Inf Div CP spoke at BURGSTADT, M-6216 at 2230A, signed 2322 A.
- Radio Msg CO 3d Inf Div to CO 15th Inf. Immediate and extraordinary measures will be taken to safeguard bridges, bridge sites, and RHINE as well as ferry sites against sabotage by the enemy, signed 2360A.
- 0180 2d Bn CO to S-2: Am moving to RJ at "TOP".
- 0184 1st Bn to DO: E Co has block in at phase line "HAT".
- 0187 2d Bn to DO: Bn moving forward.
- 0144 1st Bn to DO: A Co has crossed Autoban. Have block in on right flank. C Co will pass through E Co. AT will block to west vic 695117.
- 0210 2d Bn to DO: E Co passing "HAT". G Co at 671068.
- 0225 1st Bn CO to DO: A Co is on Obj 7.
- 0228 S-2 to Div: Relayed situation.
- 0229 IAR OP to DO: Enemy MG fire from 145 degree - 2,500 yds. Three planes flying from SE to NW.
- 0256 1st Bn CO to C: C Co en way to HUNTFELD and will go for bridges. C is across Autoban.
- 0258 CO to 2d Bn CO: Relayed 1st Bn's dispositions. 3d Bn will relieve you're that is holding when you push out. 2d Bn CO: G Co is going by E to obj #4.
- 0307 OP to S-2: Twenty enemy shells landed in town.
- 0380 30th Inf to S-2: Our K Co at 690114 and L Co at 689118.
- 0400 30th Inf De to DO: K & L Co's on Autoban and have contacted 1st Bn, 10th Inf
- 0416 1st Bn CO to S-2: C Co in HUNTFELD. Meeting a little resistance.
- 0450 2d Bn to CO: 13 PW's and 4 killed. 2 companies almost on objective. Am sending patrol to bridge and if they are in and will cross. Moving CP to G Co. Check on 4.2 mortars and 3d Bn.
- 0440 2d Bn to S-2: E Co moving up to join L Co and will move to blocking positions.
- 0439 1st Bn CO to S-2: Our patrol reports bridges on 11 grid line west of HUNTFELD are both okay. Going to push A Co across. 2d Bn will follow. A Co will cross within 30 minutes. S-2: 30th Inf at 6885 meeting enemy at HEFFENHEIM.
- 0505 DO to 2d Bn: Relayed the above.
- 0507 DO to CO: Relayed the above. CO: Have 1st Bn place a platoon size guard with armor on bridges after A Co goes through. Bx bridges across canal are in vic 624110 and 628110.
- 0610 S-2 to 1st Bn CO: Put platoon size guard with armor on bridges.
- 0630 3d Bn to S-2: Bn en way at 0600A.
- 0625 CO 30th PA Bn to DO: At four different times, enemy artillery has fallen on intersection vic 638106 as troops or vehicle movement goes by. Believe enemy radio directs fire. Have IAR check house in vic.
- 0626 DO to IAR: Relayed the above.

27 MARCH 1946 (Contd)

- 0626 Div to S-3: Let 3d Rom pass through you and move ahead.
- 0627 3d Bn to S-3: Four light tanks going with K Co. S-3: May lose tanks to 3d Rom.
- 0629 S-3 to Div: 3d Rom is across the river.
- 0645 DO to 3d Bn: Get your tanks back to 549085 where 3d Rom can pick them up.
- 0625 30th Inf to S-3: Patrol on outskirts of HEPPENHEIM. Received enemy MG and S/A fire. We are going to attack with one company with armor. S-3: A Co pushes off from HUTTENFELD to attack objective #10 (LAUBENBACH). After A Co clears bridge, 2d Bn will attack HEMSACH (objective #11) and SULZBACH (Objective #16).
- 0636 1st Bn CO to S-3: A Co is held up from crossing bridge by enemy MG's via bridge. Working on them now. S-3: 3d Rom will pass through you after you cross the bridge.
- 0636 1st Bn to DO: Our forward OP is moving to HUTTENFELD.
- 0650 S-3 to 7th Inf: G Co at 616077, E Co via 608087, F Co via 598887. A Co east of HUTTENFELD, C Co at 595115 and blocks at 517101 and 565063. I Co in SANDTOP. K Co (-) has a block via 565065. L Co moving from behind 2d Bn. I Co moving forward following 1st Bn. 7th Inf: Our 1st Bn - 525042, 2d Bn - 535045 to RR with a reserve company at 529066. 2d Bn - 546063-563045. Will send patrol up Autoban to contact you.
- 0710 3d Bn to S-3: I Co in HUTTENFELD.
- 0715 CO to Div: Enemy has been firing artillery from VIERNHEIM indirectly at RJ via 533106. Div: As seen as 7th Inf patrol contacts you on Autoban, you can abandon block. The 345th Inf (44th Div) will push through 3d Bn, making your left boundary the 10 grid line.
- 0730 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn: K Co (-) will go to 582045 and establish road block at RJ with Autoban.
- 0745 CO to 3d Bn: Wants good FO on OP overlooking VIERNHEIM. CP now at 568093. Enemy ammunition dump at 583066.
- 0755 1st Bn to Asst S-3: A Co on way to objective #10. Have crossed first canal and are now looking for bridge across second canal.
- 0800 Asst S-3 to 10th Bn: Bridge is out at 629110. 10th Bn: It is not out.
- 0808 Asst S-3 to Div: Relayed situation.
- 0815 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn: Situation? CP at HUTTENFELD. Company and 1 Tank entering objective #10 now. Bridges are in.
- 0820 Asst S-3 to Div: Relayed the above.
- 0825 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Contact 7th Inf: I Co at 540064, L at 540064, K at 563045.
- 0835 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Wants A and C Co's to help A Co.
- 0850 3d Bn to S-3: L Co in position and has contacted K Co. 44th Div in area.
- 0900 1st Bn to S-3: A Co getting 20mm fire from east of objective #10, but are still moving.
- 0910 2d Bn CO to Asst S-3: Now prepared to go after HEMSACH with G Co. F Co will push up to SULZBACH.
- 0915 Asst S-3 to Cn Co: Move east of main road between 5R and 60 grid.
- 0917 1st Bn CO to Asst S-3: Need Rom Ln O at CP.
- 0930 3d Bn to Asst S-3: Will move forward soon. Asst S-3: Be sure you have communication with forward before moving.
- 0945 30th FA Bn to HQ: Friendly troops observed at 524211.
- 0946 1st Bn to 2nd: A Co is 500 yards short of objective #10. B Co is moving up to help A Co. C Co still has two platoons guarding bridge.
- 1025 3d Bn to 2nd: Contacted 2d Bn, 44th Inf at 530064.
- 1030 Ex O to 1st Bn CO: 3d Bn will relieve your two platoons on bridge. 1st Bn: B Co is with A Co now. See several white flags in town. Have arty on way to target. C Co (-) on the two bridges.
- 1034 Ex O to 3d Bn: One reinforced platoon of I Co will be sufficient to relieve platoon of C Co on the two bridges.
- 1046 Ex O to Div: Relayed Situation.

27 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1106 3d Bn to Ex O: Bn CP at 614113. I Co has one platoon of K Co at 565065 blocking. Remainder of K Co moving to edge of woods to relieve L Co. L Co now has four blocks and when relieved will assemble via Bn CP. Elements of I Co at 606110. Remainder of I Co is outposting town of HUTTENFELD.
- 1111 CO to Ex O: Want the following outpost set up by 3d Bn: #1 via 625069, #2 via 644070, #3 via 663087.
- 1116 CP opens at HUTTENFELD via 615113.
- 1118 G-3 to CO: Boundary moved to LAUDENBACH - HEPPENHEIM. CO: Outposts will be established at 643070 and 663087. A Co is in LAUDENBACH, B & C Co's on their way.
- 1120 Ex O to CO: I Co is leaving platoon at 565065. L Co will move to edge of woods and outpost along 06 nothing. CO: Have outposts establishing at 625069 and 644070.
- 1126 G-3 to Ex O: CO wants a platoon in position at 590046. You can move platoon of K Co from 565065 down to former coordinate. Also put a platoon in via 590066, and one at RJ of Auteban at 596081 blocking to the south.
- 1126 Ex O to 3d Bn CO: Want some changes made in dispositions before 324th Inf Regt moves up to relieve you. Relay the CO's instructions as given above. In addition L Co will outpost to east of woods at 624067 and 643071. I Co can outpost south end of woods in area generally N of VIERNHEIM. 3d Bn CO: Have sent 2 platoons of I Co to bridge. K Co is receiving SP fire (4 rds) from vic of VIERNHEIM.
- 1136 Rear CP closes.
- 1146 2d Bn CO to Asst S-3: G Co in HEMSACH & F Co behind them. E Co in HUTTENFELD. Asst S-3: Put platoon outpost at 662088.
- 1150 1st Bn to Asst S-3: A & B Co's on Objective #10. C Co has been relieved by 3d Bn (I Co).
- 1202 1st Bn to Asst S-3: 3d Ron has a platoon in town at 665126.
- 1214 1st Bn to S-3: Objective #10 is clear.
- 1230 Asst S-3 to 30th Inf: A & C Co's in LAUDENBACH receiving sniper and heavy arty fire. G Co in HEMSACH, F Co moving to SALBACH.
- 1238 Asst S-3 to Div: Relayed the situation.
- 1237 S-3 to 1st Bn: Pull in your rear blocks.
- 1238 S-3 to 3d Bn: K Co will block at #3, #4 and #6 with L Co is blocking at #1 and #2.
- 1244 CO 2d Bn to S-3: G Co in HEMSACH, F Co moving on other town, E Co in reserve.
- 1300 Cn Co to CO: Fired 200 rds on enemy personnel and flak wtrns with good effect at 670134.
- 1310 CO 3d Bn to CO: L Co patrol reports VIERNHEIM clear.
- 1338 S-3 to CO 3d Bn: Not necessary to take VIERNHEIM.
- 1356 CO to Ex O: Take SANDTOR by tonight. Ex O: Pushing in that direction now.
- 1432 S-3 to 3d Bn: Outpost road south of town.
- 1466 CO 2d Bn to Ex O: KO'd enemy flak wagon, took 36 PW's, F Co definitely moving toward SULERACH, G Co in HEMSACH.
- 1525 CO to Asst S-3: Need a C18 officer in this town (HEMSACH). People are milling around. Plat of 3d Ron proceeded up a draw E of town, going NE, were fired upon by flak wagon and MG's at 678112.
- 1606 S-3 to Div: C Co is in fire fight at 668128 and have KO'd a MG and have taken 2 PW's. E Co is at 666130, G at HEMSACH, F on edge of HEMSACH (held up by a flak wagon) will start for SULERACH. Plat of 3d Ron at 662111 and was last reported in a fire fight at 1800. Div: S Co at 664130, I Co at 30th at 670176.
- 1614 1st Bn to CO: Contact between HEPPENHEIM and LAUDENBACH is being read now.
- 1618 CO to S-3: IAR reports contact between Objectives #11 and #10 by road and between #10 and #11 by RR. Have 1st Bn send a patrol to 2d Bn relaying the above.
- 1657 1st Bn to S-3: G Co at 670128, E Co at 670138, A Co still in town. Patrol went beyond HEPPENHEIM and reports road clear.
- 1666 1st Bn to S-3: B at 668130, C at 668135, C Co on left and both abreast and moving to Objective #16.
- 1700 CO to S-3: Road from #10 to #11 is good and can go north to #6.
- 1736 1st Bn to DO: B & C Co's moved out at 1716.

27 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1745 1st Bn to S-2: Have 27 PW's.
- 1805 S-4 to S-2: Have 25 vehicles on other side of river. Will get them across before 1900 if possible.
- 1825 1st Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: F Co in SCLOBACH under fire from enemy 40 mm gun from south of town. Patrol going to G Co were fired upon by enemy mortar and 40mm.
- 1850 1st Bn to S-3: Need bulldozer to ret read bleck at LUFENBACH, C Co at 675 grid. B Co in small fight.
- 1840 S-3 to 2d Bn: Any information on read bleck #3 at objective #16. Still receiving 40mm fire from southeast.
- 1845 1st Bn to S-3: We are heading toward town #18 and have reached via 758133. C Co is on road and B Co on their left.
- 1900 1st Bn to DO: Had trouble at 677132 but it's cleared now. Am sending A Co into town.
- 1915 1st Bn S to DO: B Co and A Co moving again, past town via 680135. A Co is a ss embling a rd will move to town at 1945h.
- Radio Mag from 3d Plat to CO: Position 665130. West side of town under some fire. Infantry reports mine field, flak wagon via 668135. Still sniper fire in town.
- Radio Mag from 3d Plat, Ron Co, to CO: Holding here to investigate. 2d Plat moving behind us. Friendly arty-shelled German-held hill above us.
- 1995 3d Bn to Ex O: "M" co at EPPENHEIM.
- 1930 G-3 to Ex O: You are to continue the advance to 730 to the northeast. Advance will go to the extended line.
- 1935 Ex O to G-3: 5d Bn is completely relieved.
- 1940 1st Bn to Dy Ckr: Have two French and three Russians that were PW's.
- 1945 Ex O to 2d Bn: Artillery readblocks relieved. 2d Bn: No, but they are in process of being relieved. The companies are patrolling. "G" Company is in town.
- 1955 1st Bn to Ex O: A Co has started to occupy the town at 675134. The 4.2's are moving up. Am leaving AF platoons behind to bleck. Am sending a platoon of A Co and 2 TD's to bleck to the northwest. B and C Co's are going to BORSHWILER.
- 2105 CP classes. (rear)
- 2000 New CP opened in HEPPEHEIM, via 662150 at 2000A.
- 2015 30th Inf DO to S-3: C Co has support at 719209, remainder of company attacking SCHLIERBACH. B Co via 702219 attacking toward KRODEN. A Co via 702200 attacking towards SCHANENBACH. K Co via 705171, I Co via 705168, L Co via KIRSHAUSHEIM.
- 2020 S-3 to 30th Inf: Our 1st Bn is via 665135. Our 2d Bn is via HEMSBACH & SULENBACH. They will be relieved and will attack to the east.
- 2022 S-3 to 3d Bn: Send motorized patrol along following route: From town of HEPPEHEIM on road running generally southeast to ERBACH and on southeast to RJ via 693145, then move southwest to meet 1st Bn on their route of advance via 694165. At two places, patrol should dismount, approaching ERBACH & approaching RJ via 693142.
- 2029 S-2 to Cn Co: Relayed situation. My guns are in vic HEMSBACH.
- 2035 S-3 to 1st Bn: Alright for you to have CP in HEPPEHEIM but your troops were supposed to stay south of town. However you may leave your M & Hq Co in present position. You will have platoons of tanks before you move out again.
- 2038 2d Bn to S-2: Have 150 French Moroccans that were PW's.
- 2125 3d Bn to DO: Motorized patrol is on the way.
- 2130 CO to CG: Gave resume of situation. CG to CG: Get on your objective as fast as possible in order to get some rest tonight before tomorrow's operation. OI will be out tonight. Attack tomorrow will be at 0730.
- 2135 2d Bn CO to S-3: Have 12 PW's, two of which are officers. Would like to get Regimental Interrogator here to question some prisoners before we move out tonight.
- 2150 S-3 to Div: Relayed situation. Div: Div has taken 800 PW's today making a total of over 2,000 since RHINE crossing.
- 2215 Div to Ex O: Lt O is on his way with new Div OI.
- 2220 1st Bn CO to Ex O: B Co is 200 yards southwest of RJ at 693143 and running into S/A from that direction. New CP at OSER-LAUDENBACH.
- 2225 Div to Ex O: OI changed. Send Lt O back for new one.
- 2245 3d Bn to S-3: I Co has patrol out.
- 2250 1st Bn to DO: B Co at RJ and moving up.
- 2306 2d Bn S-3 to S-3: B Co on way and will lead F Co to Objective #17.
- 2315 3d Bn to S-3: Patrol reports read bleck at 663132. Saw tank attacks to ERBACH.

27 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

and heard tanks in there and other enemy activity.

2340 3d Bn to DO: I Co has closed in.

2400 Ex O to 30th Inf: Have you any people via 678159. 30th Inf: Yes, we
went through it at 1900. Ex O: 3d Bn is up to "C" line all along line.

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 251201A to
271800A
Unit : 18th Inf
Place : LAMPERTHEIM,
GERMANY
Date : 27 March 1948

No. 89.

Maps: GERMANY, 1/25,000, Sheets: 6516, 6517, 6518 & 6416, 6417, 6418.

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.

2. Disposition of Troops:

Regt'l CP via 839101
A & B Co's via 660127
E Co via 618111
I Co 629107
C Co (-) 618107
G Co 664108
K Co via 696068
L Co via 618068

3. Weather and Visibility: Rain to overcast; visibility poor.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt'l CP: Displaced from ROKHEIM and established CP at LACHS ER station via 506139 at 261830A. CP moved again to LAMPERTHEIM via 639101 at 262030A.

Beginning of period Bns continued policing of areas and picking up enemy stragglers; also maintaining contact patrols between units of the regiment and adjacent units. 251830A, 2d and 3d Bns began move to assembly area along RHINE River via 46-18. At 260428A, 1st Bn alerted for move to assembly area (Woods SE of WORMS) via 46-18. 2d Bn began move from assembly area at 260830A to crossing site 467138 and 3d Bn followed. At 260855A, 3d Bn was across RHINE River and 2d Bn crossing at 261045A. 3d Bn was committed to clean out island via 50-18 of enemy who were firing MG and S/P at crossing sites. By 261522A island was reported cleared and Bn reported capturing

20 PW.
At 261200A, 1st Bn was across RHINE and assembled via 506144; 2d Bn via 496146. Contact was made with all Bns. 3d Bn, after mopping up island sent a patrol to SANDTORF where it drew S/P fire from CR at 553097. Arty fire was placed on CR and enemy resistance broken. X and K Co's reported in the town at 261938A. At 262155A, 1st and 2d Bn's jumped off from assembly area East of LAMPERTHEIM; 1st Bn on the left of 2d Bn. 3d Bn in reserve. L Co was engaged in fire fight via 546076 at 262245A, mopping area to rear of the two lead Bns. 1st and 2d Bns passed thru 3d Bn swinging to the SE.

1st Bn: At 270114A, A Co cut NS Autoban road via 596114 and C Co leading enroute to HUTTENFELD. Reported in the town at 270415A meeting little enemy S/A fire. Patrols sent from HUTTENFELD reported bridge over canal via 624110 and 628110 intact. A Co pushed thru bridges, mopping out enemy MG guarding the first bridge and continued East to LAUDENBACH with B Co. Withdrawing and C Co guarding the bridges. At 271100A, 1st Bn was on objective LAUDENBACH via 662127.

2d Bn: During night 26/27 Bn assembled and mopped up via 61-07. At end of period 2d Bn reported G Co fighting in HEMEBACH with F Co prepared to follow thru to the south to take objective SULEBRACH via 666108.

3d Bn: Blocked to the SE of woods via 87-06 during night 26/27 with blocks established via 506068 and 584068. I Co relieved C Co of guarding bridges via 624110 and 628110.

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5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel For Duty: (As shown on M/R of 26 Mar 45)

Officers: 82%

WO: 100%

MI: 87%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 37

MI: 1078

6. Results of Operations:

a. RHINE River crossed.

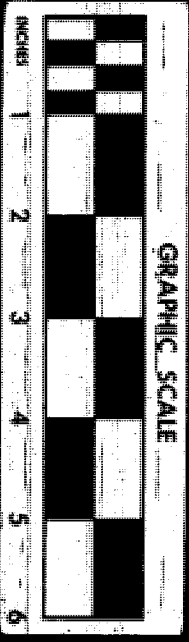
b. Rapid pursuit of enemy begun.

c. Contact maintained.

LAUGHLIN

-8-1

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S-3 Report

FROM: 260800A
TO: 270800A
UNIT: 16TH INFANTRY
DATE: 27 MARCH 1945
PLACE: LAMPERTHEIM, GERMANY

NO 89
MAP: GERMANY 1/25,000; Sheets #6817 & #6818.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period the enemy held ground east of a line running generally from LAUDENBACH (MG64185) to HEMSBACH (MG68105) to SALZBACH (MG68094)
- b. Enemy Defenses: Enemy defense of the area consisted of scattered groups of personnel which surrendered after short fire fights. A number of AA guns were captured during the advance. Greatest difficulty still continues to come from SP's, 88mm dual-purpose guns and 20mm flak guns.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: The Bn jumped off in attack to the east from an assembly area via of LAMPERTHEIM at 1200A. Little resistance was met and at end of the period the Bn was in via of LAUDENBACH.
- (2) 2d Bn: The Bn jumped off at 1200A on right flank of 1st Bn and met little resistance in the attack to the east. At end of the period the Bn was fighting on the western edge of HEMSBACH (MG68106) where they encountered some S/A resistance.
- (3) 3d Bn: After crossing the Rhine River the Bn attacked island area via of M610115 to clear it of enemy who were harassing engineers building bridges across the Rhine. After clearing the island the Bn moved to the NE of a blocking mission.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: L Co in fire fight via of M648075 at 2245A. 3d Bn patrol fired on by MG and rifles from via of M633076 at 0045A.
- (2) Artillery: Enemy arty light during the period. RD at M633106 received interdictory fire during the period.
- (3) No report of enemy armor, engineer or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PW's: See IPW report for period 260800A to 270800A.

DONALD H. LYLES,
JG1, 16th Infantry

S - 2

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Journal

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTYSEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. G. # 3

27 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 260800A - 270800A Mar 1945

TABULATION:

BN	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time Capt	Unit
21	1	1/696VOR/34OVOR	via LAMPERTHEIM		
2		2/696VOR/34OVOR	"		
21		3/696VOR/34OVOR	192100		3rd Bn
10		4/696VOR/34OVOR	via LAMPERTHEIM		"
1		11/696VOR/34OVOR	"		"
9		1/836Engr Tng Bn	192100		3rd Bn
9	1	2/836Engr Tng Bn	190145		2nd Bn
11		2/33AT Bn	via LAMPERTHEIM		1st Bn
10	1	CG1/99Searchlight Bn	"		"
1		1/99Searchlight Bn	"		"
6		6/99Searchlight Bn	"		"
4		Hq/109AA Regt.	"		"
4	1	1/636AA Bn	"		2nd Bn
4		2/636AA Bn	"		"
1	1	14 Hq Nebelwerfer Regt.	via ROKHEIM		756Fak Bn
28		Non-Tactical Units	via ROKHEIM		
143	5	TOTAL			

GRAND TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 712

TOTAL through 15th Infantry cage in France and Germany: 5942

696 Inf Repl Bn (TENTENFISCH Bn): This unit, also known as Battle Group ROSE (CO Major ROSE) occupied the East Bank of the Rhine from (485125) to (492665). Bn was made up of 4 Co's, 3 of which were Rifle Co's and one Hq Wpns Co.

1/696: Lt. SCHULZ, CO of the unit went through the Regt 1 cage. He states that strength of the Co was about 140 men just prior to our attack and that about 80% were ordered to withdraw. He remained with the remainder to man the defenses.

3/696: strength of Co was 121 men after it had received reinforcement of 60 men prior to our attack. CP was located at (499048). Casualties due to our attack were 2 dead and 20 wounded.

4/696: This Co supported the 3 rifle Co's with 4 MM's and 2 81mm Mortars. Co strength was about 50 men. Remained in contact with 12th SCHLOSS (566118) to defend the road there.

836 Engr Repl Bn: Reinforced the sector held by the 696 Bn with 2 Co's, the 1st Co holding the northern sector with about 40 men, the 2nd Co the southern sector. Each Co was armed with 4 LMG.

Other Units encountered included Air Corps Ground Crews and Searchlight Bn's, all of which were employed as Infantry.

499 Searchlight Bn: was composed of about 75% girls who were mostly evacuated to unknown points East. The male members, mostly limited service personnel were employed as Infantry in this sector. The Bn is made up of 8 Batteries, which were stationed in various towns East of the Rhine. The strength of each Btry was about 150 men and women. This Regiment encountered only members of the 1st, 4th and 6th Btry. 4 PW's were supposedly told that they now belong to the reorganized 26th Volks Grenadier Division, without knowing to which Co or Regiment. The claim that the CG of the Division was General KUEHN(?), and that the CP was located at IOMCH. Their knowledge of the state of the division is very insignificant. It appears, however, that the division is not yet fully organized, if it is to be organized at all.

PERSONALITIES:

CO 696 Inf Repl Bn	Major ROSE
CO 1/696	Lt. Schula
CO 3/696	Lt. GLASER
CO 4/696	Lt. BUCHLER
CO 2/836 Engr Repl Bn	Lt. REICHER
CO 1/499 Searchlight Bn	Lt. ZIMMERMANN

HEINZ JAKI
1st Lt., Sig Co.

26 MARCH 1945

- 0001 G to 1st Bn DO: Gave dispositions of 30th Inf.
- 0003 DO to Cn Co DO: Gave dispositions of our Bn's.
- 0006 2d Bn to Ex O: 2d Bn has moved out.
- 0016 Ex O to Div: 1st Bn moving toward "Charlie" line. 2d Bn has jumped off for MDR. LIBERSBACH.
- 0028 Ex O to 2d Bn: Alert your squad-locks as 106th Ron is moving N and are receiving S/A fire believed to be yours. 2d Bn: We're receiving enemy arty fire. Perhaps they are receiving same.
- 0032 Ex O to 106th Ron: Relayed above.
- 0040 Ltr O from B Co, 756th Tk Bn checked in at CP.
- 0055 1st Bn to DO: Out of comm with B & C Cos who were advancing toward objective 16 when last heard from at 0005A.
- 0106 2d Bn to DO: E Co has passed via 673092. No resistance. G Co patrol is out.
- 0110 3d Bn DO to DO: K Co closing into their area.
- 0136 1st Bn S-3 to DB: C & B Cos moving into objective # 16. Am leaving to go fwd taking TD's r' th me.
- 0156 1st Bn S-3 to DO: We're 600 yds from our objective and meeting no opposition.
- 0210 2d Bn Ex O to Ex O: We are near via 660095. No resistance.
- 0215 1st Bn to DO: B Co is on objective # 16.
- 0230 3d Bn DO to DO: The Bn S-6 & S-3 arrived at new CP.
- 0245 DO gave resume of situation to division DO.
- 0260 DO to 3d Bn DO: Gave disposition of 1st & 2d Bn troops.
- 0300 DO to 39th FA Bn: Same as above.
- 0320 1st Bn to DO: G Co reached objective # 16.
- 0323 DO made report to Div DO.
- 0326 2d Bn S-3 to Ex O: E Co along up grid at 104. They are meeting no resistance.
- 0400 30th Inf to DO: Disposition of 3d Bn: plat of K Co at 723167. Btl of K Co and 4 Co at 710167. I Co at 690159. Bn CP at 688166. An sending ron out, will pass through plat of K Co.
- 0407 30th Inf DO to DO: Plat of K Co heard a tank out in front of them. Thought you would like to advise the Ron of this.
- 0420 2d Bn to DO: E Co is on objective A at 664106. Sending reinforced plt out to 695106. F Co at 690097. Sending patrol down to town.
- 0425 Report to Div War Room.
- 0434 1st Bn: On objective # 16. Have a sect of TD's on cross road at 709139. Sending a patrol into MORLENBACH.
- 0460 1st Bn: Have a platoon and you pick them up? ANSWER: Yes.
- 0600 1st Bn: Patrol has not returned from MORLENBACH.
- 0630 1st Bn: MORLENBACH unoccupied. Moving up remainder of platoon and tanks to hold it.
- 0645 1st Bn: Spotted 5 box car loads of eny. in town, with drawing our troops to throw in arty.
- 0700 Periodic report to Div War Room.
- 0722 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3 (Capt Gates): Gave resume of situation of other two battalions. Trucks will be available to you this morning to transport your troops up to phase line "Charlie", from where you will move out in attack at 1200A.
- 0803 1st Bn DO to DO: Have one EW at Bn rear in LAUDENBACH.
(Do get notified of above).
- 0813 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Your tanks, the 2d plat of 756 Tk Bn, are in LAUDENBACH. You will get some more of them as they are available.
- 0840 30th Inf DO to Asst S-3: Dispositions of 30th Inf. K Co (-) via 712169, plat at 723167; L Co via 712167; I Co via 691169; A Co via 760219; B Co (-) 710223, plat at 730223; C Co (-) via 743209, plat at 744213. 2d Bn still assembled in HEPPEHEIM.
- 0850 S-3 gave situation of 1st Bn to 2d Bn CO: B & C Cos in BORSWEIHER; A Co via 692142. 1st Bn has patrol to enter town of MORLENBACH. There they spotted 6 train-car loads of eny. Adjusting arty on target now.
- 0930 S-2 to Div DO: Troop disposition unchanged since last report. Traffic problems are our greatest difficulty. 3d Ron unable to advance on their axis because of traffic jams. Div DO to S-2: C Co, 30th Inf, via 7521. Remainder of Rgt is on the "Charlie" line.
- 0956 S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: Get everything moving as soon as possible before roads are tied up with hvy traffic.

26 MARCH 1945 CONT'D

- serious conditions will be made rounded up thru medical channels
(Above given to MP Sgt)
- 1607 Line is out to 1st Bn.
- 1011 2d Bn CO to CO: Have route for my armor to move up to MORLENBACH. Will move out in about 20 minutes. CO: Keep radio comm with Rgt.
- 1613 3d Bn line is out.
- 1026 3d Bn line is back in.
- 1030 3d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: ROAD FROM HUTTENFELD over to HEPPENHEIM is crowded with 12 GM Armcd vehicles. S-3 to 3d Bn Ex O: Detruck your assault company and start them fwd to "Charlie" line. Trucks will assemble as soon as possible, in BORSWEIHER.
- 1036 CO, 39th FA Bn to S-3: Two eny road blocks just west of ERBACH on 666 and 670 Eastings.
- 1040 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: Received rpt through PW's are defending MORLENBACH. CG & CO desire that you attack the town with 2 Co's abreast.
- 1044 30th Inf to S-3: PW rpt states 300 or 400 eny located via of MORLENBACH and NE of town. Believe town of FURTH is cleared. A Bn S-4 drove thru town this morning.
- 1047 I & R Plat' Sgt to S-3: Radio msg from patrol stated eny road block manned with 2 Clar guns via 666166. They are helping to neutralize it now.
- 1102 3d Bn to DO: 3d Bn is moving now.
- 1110 Ass S-3 to 30th Inf: Leading elements of our 2d Bn is at NIEDER-LINDERSBACH.
- 1123 Radio Msg from CO 15th Inf to CO 1st Bn: "Enemy road block at 670168. Send A Co with armor in from the rear now."
- 1138 Radio Msg from 3d Ron CO to S-2: Our 2d platoon at 750174. Report friendly units are everywhere.
- 1144 3d Bn to Asst S-3: K Co is moving up to clear road block. I & L Co's moving by feet.
- 1158 S-3 to 3d Bn: Contact K Co and get information from them.
- 1160 3d Ron to DO: Our 1st platoon has moved out.
- 1203 IAR to Dy Cik: K Co is moving out. Road block (666186) is clear. Patrol coming back.
- 1206 CO to 1st Bn CO: Give the man a rest today. Will committ you tonight. 1st Bn, B and C co's at BORSWEIHER. A Co at 676183.
- 1210 3d Bn to S-3: Have report that K Co is loaded on tanks and are moving out.
- 1226 3d Bn to Ass S-3: We moved to ERBACH and KO'd a 76mm gun with rifle fire.
- 1230 Radio Msg from CO 1st Bn to CO: Unable to move with armor.
- Radio Msg from 3d Plat, 3d Ron to CO: Stopped at 678182, road jammed.
- Radio Msg from 2d Plat, 3d Ron to CO: In via 700171, moving out now.
- 1235 2d Plat, 3d Ron to Asst S-3: At 800185 and have contacted 1216 and 92d Cav and 12th Armored.
- 1240 Div to S-3: Did you make start on time.
- 1247 3d Bn to S-3: AF and BP taking over ERBACH.
- 1312 30th Inf to S-3: Road still jammed with traffic.
- 1322 3d Bn to Ex O: I & L Co's moving up to CHARLIE, F Co just about on it.
- 1330 Ca Co to 3d Bn Ex O (DO listening): 2d Bn observer requests fire on 702082 on observed enemy personnel. 3d Bn: Have our clearance.
- 1540 Div to S-3: Had report of fire fight at 770200 (north and east of KIMBACH). S-3: Relayed situation and plan of attack for 3d Bn from 716147 to BREITENBACH. K Co is at 708115, G Co at 718107 and F Co back at NIEDER-LINDERSBACH.
- 1429 Div to DO: CP at HEPPENHEIM (660160)
- 1438 3d Bn to S-3: Bridge at 719108 knocked out.
- 1452 Div to DO: PWs and displaced persons from 700171 at HEPPENHEIM.
- 1507 30th Inf to S-3: Our 3d Bn is through ELLENBACH headed to RJ 775209 with 1st Bn going toward 758236. Regt' CP at LINDENFELD (758216)
- S-3 to DO: 3d Bn through KIMBACH going north toward FURTH, K Co leading I Co. 2d Bn entering MORLENBACH now. G Co is in town, F Co following with armor, B Co blocking to the south.
- Radio Msg from 2d Plat of 3d Ron at 708184 - Same armor there in fire fight, told to go down to 806183, but ran into Antitank gun at 708178.

28 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 1616 3d Bn to DO: Our location is just short of Objective #6.
1626 3d Plat, 3d Ron to S-2: Civilian reports that enemy (100) are in hills west of town.
1632 1st Bn to Ex O: Traffic still thick here. Am moving everything up to BOHNSWEILER, which will take until 1700.
1640 S-2 to CG: Relayed situation.
1647 Radio Mag from CO 3d Bn to CO: "Disregard previous message. We are on #5 and #4, moving to #6. Do you want anyone left on Objective #6.
1648 Radio Mag to CO 3d Bn from Ex O: "Leave small block".
1658 2d Bn to Ex O: When you get objective #1A, send patrol as far as objective #6. 2d Bn: S Co will block at 720108 and 730113. F & G Co's going for #1A and #2.
1612 CO let Bn to S-3; 2 Civilians from MORLENBACH report two Tiger Tanks and 100 enemy in town this morning. Also 1 - 88mm gun and 1 - SP gun. Also enemy is organized into tank hunting teams of ten men armed with Panzerfaust. From Op personally observed quite a bit and saw 60 enemy leaving town. S-3; 2d Bn is in that town and 3d Bn is going for Objective #6.
1641 3d Bn to Ex O: Have 6 trucks in water pool, two others with M Co.
1650 Radio Mag to 2d Bn from S-3: "Request situation and location? Did big friends go south?"
1652 Dy Ck cancelled the above per Ex O orders.
1658 2d Bn to Ex O: Haven't seen 12th Armored Div or Ron Trp. G Co is working in town (MORLENBACH). Will check to see if 12th Armored took road south or went through edge of MORLENBACH.
1712 CO to CG: Still fighting at MORLENBACH at about 1600. Indications that we have town but are still fighting around it. 3d Bn has Objective #6. Intend to use 1st Bn to come in behind ridge and attack from North. 3d Bn will push from there side and 2d Bn will continue for Objectives #1A and #6 and push for ridge from that side. CG: Would like to have phase line LSTs by daylight.
1732 Radio Mag from CG: Am located at #6. Troops moving from #6 to #6.
1747 I & R platoon leader to Asst S-3: Road to FURZE, east from HIPPENHEIM, still checked.
1749 Radio Mag from CO 3d Bn to CO: Passes through Objective #5 and #6 on my way to seven.
1752 Radio Mag to CO from CG: Report your advanced elements, location and situation immediately.
1802 CO to 1st Bn CO: S-2 - Ten trucks on way. Start as soon as possible. Go through #5, #4, #3 and #6. From #7 head toward objectives #9 and #10. Act #10, go to bridge #2 at 862178, then to bridge #1 at 865169. If these are taken before daylight, take bridge #3 at 868201. Artillery is 1,500 yards west of RIMBACH and can cover objectives #6 and #10.
1648 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn: Your mission tonight is to block at #1, #1A and #2. Block all roads leading south and let us know where. Send patrol from #1A to Objective #9. Have another patrol to investigate FAHRBACH (767160). They can take vehicle to LORENBACH and cross on feet. Return on feet down east side of river.
1930 Rear CP closed.
2200 New CP opened at KRUMBACH (767191).
2207 3d Bn CO to CO: There is a road block (unmanned) of thirty trees on the spider at objective #7. CG: That road has to be cleared before morning.
2220 DO to Div: Relayed the situation.
2240 3d Bn to S-3: I Co is a little short of #6 and moving on. Suggest you get #6 up that far if not necessary as we are going to assemble down below tomorrow.
2243 3d Bn to Asst S-3: I Co at 806187 and moving to 815180 and have cleared all high ground and have sent a patrol to OBERHITTLINGEN and have established road block at road web. I Co attacking north and east from Objective #7 to OBEROSTRAM and swinging east to ERZBACH. K Co will follow I Co and set up in town. New CP at 799185. Asst S-3: 30th Inf on phase line "LTS".
2325 S-3 to DO: 2d Bn CP is at 798185, I Co at 816180, sending patrol to 837165. Most of enemy were encountered in area 809186. I Co is at 803198, K Co to follow I Co and take ERZBACH. Patrol will go to 812222 then south to ROBACH, then back to ERZBACH.

28 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

2342 7th Inf to Asst S-3; Our CP at 750220.

2355 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn; No definite time for assembly.

Journal

SECRET

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 271201A to 281200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place: HEFFERHEIM,
GERMANY
Date : 28 March 1946

No. 70
Map: GERMANY, 1/100,000, MANHEIM-r- U-2.

- 1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.
- 2. Disposition of Troops: (See overlay)
- 3. Weather and Visibility: Overcast, visibility fair.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt'l CP: Displaced from LAMPERTHEIM to HUTTENFELD via 615113 at 1115A; CP again moved to HEFFERHEIM, opening CP at 2000A via 652160.

1st Bn: At beginning of period 1st Bn was in LAUBERBACH with C Co moving thru town to RJ east of the town via 670128 and B Co on NE road via 670138; A Co in the town. Bn moved NE and was reported via 688135 at 2800A. At 2220A was on JUNOHE RJ via 693143 running into S/A's fire from the town. At 0425A, enemy fire had ceased and B Co was reported in HENSBRACH sending patrols to MORLESBACH. At end of period B and C Co were in BONSWEINER and A Co via 693143.

2d Bn: At beginning of period G Co had cleared out enemy in HENSBRACH and F Co moving on edge of the town to SULEBRACH. F Co encountered enemy S/P fire moving on the town from the south. At 280000A H Co moved thru SULEBRACH and was reported via 673092 and at 0210A moved SE on road via 680095 moving to RJ via 694104, meeting no resistance, moved west and at 0430A in woods via 684104; F Co following, reported via 680097. Sent patrols north to WIEDER - LIEBERSBACH. At 1110, lead elements were in WIEDER LIEBERSBACH.

3d Bn: At beginning of period Bn continued blocking to the south and SE in woods via 67-06. L Co sent a patrol to VIERSHEIM and found it clear at 1200A. At 2033A, 3d Bn relieved of blocking right flank by 34th Inf Div. Bn assembled and began move to area via 680168 during early morning. By 0900A Bn was prepared to move B from assembly area by foot to ERBACH, and were moving out at 1102A.

5. Combat Efficiency:

MO: 100%
EM: 87%
Rifle Troop Strength:
Officers: 32
EM: 1088

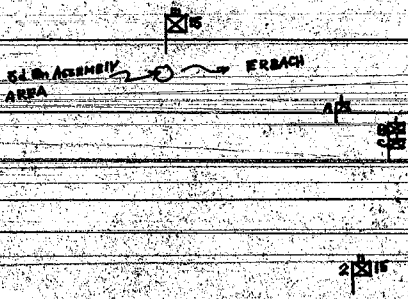
27-39

6. Results of Operations:

- a. Regiment continued to clean up small pockets of enemy resistance
- b. Rapid pursuit of enemy continued.

LAUGHLIN
S-3

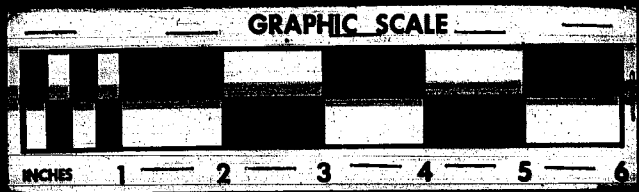
S-E-C-R-E-T



OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
G-3 REPORT #70
MAP: 1/100,000, MANHEIM-UR

LAUGHLIN
G-3

S-E-C-R-E-T



Journal

S E C R E T

S-2 Report

FROM: 270800A
TO: 280800A
UNIT: 16th Inf
DATE: 28 MARCH 1945
PLACE: NEPPENHEIM, GERMANY

No. 40.
MAP: GERMANY 1/100,00; MANNHEIM Sheet.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At the end of the period the enemy held ground east of line running generally 7218 - 7113 - 6809.
- b. Enemy Defenses: Only scattered groups of personnel were encountered during the period. Fire was received from flak guns ranging from 20mm to 88mm placed chiefly along the high ground east of the NEPPENHEIM - SULEBACH road; this fire delayed our advance considerably. These guns were reduced chiefly by direct tank and TD fire.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was in vicinity of LAUDENBAUCH (664128) attacking to the east. Considerable sniper and heavy flak fire was received in the town and at end of the period, the town had been cleared and the Bn continued the advance to the east. The Bn encountered an enemy defended road block vic 666133 which was reduced by 1800A; the Bn then continued rapidly until they encountered another defended block at the E of vic 693142. This block was reduced by about 2100A and the Bn continued to its objective vic 700133 which it held at the close of the period.
- (2) 2d Bn: The Bn was fighting on the western edge of HEMSBACH (665106) at the beginning of the period. After a heavy concentration of Tn and TD fire, the Bn moved rapidly into the town and started F Co to the south toward SULEBACH. The enemy then opened a heavy fire with flak guns of all caliber from the high ground east of town, delaying the advance of F Co and hindering all movement in the vic of the town. Tank, TD and artillery fire neutralized the enemy flak guns and F Co continued on to take SULEBACH in the early evening. The Bn then continued east to occupy its objective at the close of the period vic 700100.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn was blocking to the south in the 1000m woods at the beginning of the period. During the night the Bn moved to an assembly area south of NEPPENHEIM where it remained the rest of the period.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Enemy personnel and flak wagons fired on by our artillery vicinity of 670134 at 1300A. - C Co in fire fight vic of 670134 at 1300A.

S E C R E T

(2) Arty: Heavy artillery received vic of LAUDENBACH during the day.

(3) No report of enemy air, engineer, armor or M/T activity.

8. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IPW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 18th Infantry
8 - 2

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

28 March 1945

IPW REPORT: period 270800A - 280800A Mar 1945

CAPTURED:

EM	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time	Capt Unit
15		1/837 Engr Tng Bn	vic HITTENFELD		1st Bn
4		2/837 Engr Tng Bn	vic HENSBACK		2nd Bn
4		Hq/696 VNR	vic HITTENFELD		1st Bn
1		1/696 VGR	"		"
3		2/33 AT Bn	vic HENSBACK		2nd Bn
1		3/33 AT Bn	"		"
3		33 AT Bn (PG GROWNEY Co)	"		"
4		1/701 HY AA Bn	vic LAYENBACH		1st Bn
3		4/701 HY AA Bn	"		"
8		2/A Engr Bn	"		"
9		3/A Engr Bn	"		"
16		2/667 Assault Gun Bn	vic HENSBACK		2nd Bn
9		1/751 Light AA Bn	vic HENSBACK		2nd Bn
5	3	2/751 Light AA Bn	"		"
1		4/751 Light AA Bn	"		"
56	1	Non - Tactical Units			

112 4 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Cage in France and Germany: 6088

TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 858

As during the previous day, units encountered during the day covered by this report, included mainly replacement and training, as well as air force units. PWs were not too well informed due to the present state of confusion in the German Army; also the knowledge of PWs about the situation was rather limited.

2/33 & 3/33 AT Bns: Members of these 2 Co's claim to have come to HENSBACK (6610) on 4 - 75mm assault guns on MK IV chassis from HENSBACK (6321). 6 Flakwagons with multibarrelled wts were attached to above Co's, which 1 PW referred to as Battlegroup "STERN".

4/701 HY AA Bn: This unit came to LAYENBACH (6612) from vic FRANKENTHAL (4603) with 6 - 105mm AA guns. Strength of Co was supposed to be 150 men, including 20 gunners.

2/751 Lt Bn: Co according to PWs was made up of 3 Platoons with a total of 12 - 20mm AA guns, all of which were located in the vicinity SULZBACH (6610). CO of 2nd Co, Lt. Rosenbauer, and a Platoon Officer, Lt. Slets, went through the Regtl PW Cages according to them, Co was supposed to have come from ZELL (6520) in the early morning of 27 March. One PW placed 1 - 20mm AA gun at (650118), 1 at (648110) and a 3rd on the road between HENSBACK (6610) and SULZBACH (6610).

A German Nurse found at SULZBACH furnished the following information concerning the defenses at WEINHEIM (6706): Tank obstacles across roads consisting of wooden blocks at (67h073), (676067), (675063), (678062) and (677067). Foxholes, 20 - 30 yards apart through fields on both the right and the left of the tank obstacles at (67h073). It appears as if WEINHEIM was a collecting point for various dispersed units, and actual strength figures could, therefore, not be obtained.

PW's were interrogated in an effort to obtain some information about the defenses in the mountains directly East of road HENSHEIM (6420) to WEINHEIM (6707). As all PW's came from territory west of this line, no accurate information could be obtained. All, however, stated that they did not believe that any sizable unit, or armor were in the mountains, and that they had not had any Artillery support from any units there.

WEINZ LEVI
1st Lt., Sig C.

S E C R E T

15th ACF
MEPPERSHIM,
GERMANY
28 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)
NUMBER 28)

1. a. Omitted.

b. 3d Inf Div continues its advance to the East with all possible speed. The 45th Inf Div on the left, the 44th Inf Div on the right as far East as CHARLIE Phase Line, then, 12th Arm Div on the right after passing through the 3d Div sector to that point (see overlay).

2. 15th ACF continues its attack to objectives on line LITE, protecting Div right. Be prepared to continue the attack to the NE along the Regt's Route of Advance.

3. a. 3d Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B 601st TD Bn
1 Plat Co C 87th Cal Bn
1 Plat Co B 750th TK Bn
1 Plat AT Co

Will move from present area by motor along route indicated, detrust and move by marching to phase line CHARLIE so as to attack from that point along route indicated on overlay, at 1200A, 28 March and will:

(1) Seize objective 4G, reorganize and continue to objectives 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

(2) Maintain contact by patrols with 30 ACF on left.

(3) After securing objective 7 and 8 patrol to East.

b. 2d Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B 601st TD Bn
1 Plat Co B 750th TK Bn
1 Plat AT Co
1 Plat Co C 87th Cal Bn

Will attack from CHARLIE line at 1200A, 28 March and will:

(1) Seize objective 1, 1A, and 2.

(2) Block with one company on avenue of approach from the south along Div right flank until contacted by the 12th Arm Div.

(3) Upon securing objective 1A, report condition of bridge as soon as possible and leave blocking force to guard bridge. Supporting Bn, (c) own Co, prepared to follow the advance of 3d Bn to objective 7.

From there, advance to and seize objectives 1 and 2.

(4) After securing objective 10, patrol to the East and South. If no contact is established to immediate south with 12 Arm Div, place blocks along Div right flank.

c. 1st Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B 601st TD Bn
1 Plat Co B 750th TK Bn
1 Plat AT Co

After passed through by 3d Bn will be prepared on order:

(1) To assemble in vic BOLLERSHILL prepared to follow the advance of 3d and 2d Bn on order this Hq.

(2) To assist either 3d or 2d Bn in their mission or assume the mission of either assault Bn.

(3) To relieve blocks of 2d Bn on objectives 1, 1A, & 2 on order this Hq.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

d. 3d Recon Troop: Attached - Div BP

1 Plat Co D 756th Tk Bn

At 0800A, 28 March will reconnoiter vigorously along route indicated and to flanks.

e. Others: No change.

x. (1) Changes in attachments.

Plat, Co C 87th Cml Bn from 1st Bn to 3d Bn.

(2) All troops and installations will be North of Div boundary and East of Autehan Hwy prior to 1000A, 28 March.

4. Omitted.

5. a. 16 RCT CP at MG50162.

b. Axis Signal Communication - HEPERDUTH, LAUDENBACH, ROTLSWELLER, MORLENBACH, RIMBACH, BURTH and WEGSCHNITZ.

RDSON

Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

LAUGHLIN

S-3

S E C R E T

ALGERIA
35215
21500

22
15

35215
11

QUAILIE

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HQ 15th INF

ALGERIA

MAP GERMANY 725000

OFFICIAL
MANSION
53

5300
5000

55



Journal

SECRET

No. 1888
HEPPENHEIM, GERMANY
28 MARCH 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER24)

Map: GERMANY, 1/25,000; LINDENHOLS, Sheet No. 6218

- 1. a. Omitted.
- b. 3d Inf Div continuing its attack to the northeast towards the MAIN River. 45th Inf Div on Div left and 15th Armd Div on the right. 44th Inf Div blocks to the southwest.
- 2. a. 15th Inf continues its attack in its sector to phase line "LETS" running from vicinity 810250 south to 816168 and will:
 - (1) Maintain contact with the 44th Inf Div via WYNNHEIM (4670060).
 - (2) Patrol and block to the east and south.
 - (3) Upon completion of mission, assemble in Div Reserve via OBER HILTER KELLINGEN (M880170).

3. a. 1st Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 756th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf

Entrucks via 696141, moves to and detrucks via FURTH (755174), attacks south to HAMMELBACH (790188) and LITTELBACH (790120) and secures obj #2, attack, with one company, the town of GRAS KELLNBACH (818152), secure obj #10 and will:

- (1) Patrol and block to east and south.
- (2) Maintain contact with 2d Bn on left.
- (3) On order this Headquarters, assemble in vic 840175

b. 2d Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 756th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf

Upon securing objectives #1, #1A and #2, take up blocking mission to the south, maintain contact by water patrol with 44th Inf Div in WYNNHEIM and will:

- (1) Send combat patrol with radio with mission of clearing high ground northeast of NOTENBACH (796120). Contact 1st Bn at HAMMELBACH (789157).
- (2) Send combat patrol via NOTENBACH (745120) north along east bank of WENNSCHNITZ RIVER to FARNENBACH (745160).
- (3) On order this Headquarters assemble troops in MORLENBACH (724115), from NOTENBACH (745120) area move by motor to assembly area (830175).

c. 3d Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 756th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co C, 87th Cml Bn
- 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf

Continues its attack towards phase line "LETS", capture towns of WENNSCHNITZ (797161) and UFFER OSTERN (811280) and ERERACH (818203) and will:

- (1) Patrol and block to north and east.
- (2) Maintain contact with 1st Bn on the right.
- (3) On order this Headquarters, assemble in vic 816190.

SECRET

S E C R E T

1 platoon will report without delay to 7th Inf Regt'l CP for instructions, 1 platoon maintains contact between 2d Bn, 18th Inf and 44th Inf Div via WEINBERG (670060). The Troop less 1 platoon will report as early as possible 29 March, after completion of mission with 2d Bn, to Regt'l CP, 7th Inf.

c. Others:

Assembles via OBER HILFER SKLINGEN en route this Headquarters from present locations.

4. a. Company kitchens will be brought to company areas as early as possible 29 March.

b. Regt'l shower in via OBER HILFER SKLINGEN.

5. Regimental CP will move to via OBER HILFER SKLINGEN.

EDSON
CMDG

OFFICIAL:

LAUGHLIN

5-3

0020. 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: K Co in OBER OSTERN, I Co in KRZBACH, and L Co is at Spider Web junction. Ex O: Check on that patrol. (Explained 1st Bn route across country and that Co alerted for AM will go down to OBERHITTLINGEN and back to S.

0030 Radio msg from 1st Bn: "CP at 757173. Attack from this area at 2345A."

0031 1st Bn CO to Ex O: Sending a Co down each side of stream. C Co to move to fwd edge of wd, B Co to take west section and east section of town, C then going down to get the other town and then put in blocks. A Co will send combat patrols to bridges at objective # 12

0045 3d Bn DO to Ex O: L Co has been alerted for the morning and patrol to bridge to move out shortly and will continue them through town if they can get over bridge.

0050 Ex O to Asst S-2, 7th Inf. Gave situation and plans.

0206 3d Bn DO to Ex O: Our battle patrol is out with mission of contacting I Co from vic 802198. Last reported at 811214. L Co patrol on road running SE reports HANMELBACH bridge along ridge is clear.

0208 1st Bn CO to Ex O: A & B Co's moving on HANMELBACH. Had to cut arty preparation as some rds were short. Jumped off from 786165 and 784162. Intend to move C Co up right away. Have 2 roads that can take armor but checking one for mines.

0220 Ex O gave resume of situation to Div DO.

0245 3d Bn to Ex O: 3d Bn CP at OBER OSTERN (802198). Battle patrol has contacted I Co. Route is clear.

0308 3d Bn to Ex O: L Co at crossroads, 814180, now. Patrol to HILTERSLINGEN reports town is clear. 12th Arm Div, with a 100 vehicle convoy, crossed bridge, went through town, and kept on going. Ex O: Leave a reinforced platoon at RJ and at 0700A move into town to secure south edge of it. Leave a squad via bridge.

0310 Cn Co located via 789192.

0326 DO gave resume of situation to Division War Room DO.

0332 3d Bn to DO: Battle patrol has returned.

0337 1st Bn to DO: Armor has moved fwd.

0432 1st Bn CO to DO: B Co reported by radio that they are clearing "GnDelle" moving through A Co, which is meeting stiff resistance.

0453 1st Bn CO to DO: B Co is moving to their objective at HOMBURG. A Co is held up by stiff resistance. Bn S-3 is now taking TD's up to clear the trouble. C Co now passing through objective # 9 on way to HANMELBACH.

0455 DO to Div. Gave resume of situation.

0527 1st Bn Ex O to DO: A & B Co's going to LITZELBACH. C Co has passed through HOMBURG and heading to objective # 10.

0530 DO to Cn Co: Gave resume of situation.

0536 1st Bn CO to DO: A Co blocking in town. TD's ready to move out. Have swept whole road for mines. Tanks have gone down to LITZELBACH with B Co. When we reach objective # 10 will send patrol to contact 3d Bn in objective # 7

0540 DO to 3d Bn S-3: Relayed the position of 1st Bn.

0600 Div to DO: 30th Inf had patrol to UTER OSTERN (812223). They heard some armor pull out to the south.

0606 DO to 3d Bn: Relayed the above.

0620 DO to 1st Bn: Send patrol north to 814180 when you hit objective # 10.

0646 1st Bn to DO: C Co is just short of Obj # 10. No resistance.

0654 1st Bn S-3 to S-2: A Co at HANMELBACH, B Co at LITZELBACH, C Co going into # 9.

0710 3d Bn S-3 to DO: Patrol moving out now.

0713 DO to CO: Relayed situation.

0730 1st Bn CO to DO: Enemy road block at 789145 is not named. C Co has taken HANMELBACH. Getting ready to attack GRAS ELLENBACH.

0745 3d Bn to S-3: No bridge at 830178. Only an 8" culvert. Unit that passed there didn't leave a squad there. S-3: Send a squad back to that location.

0750 Div to S-2: CCA via 860140, COB via 61040.

0756 1st Bn Ex O to DO: We are sending patrol up to objective # 7. Would like to have patrol from 3d Bn to meet us south of objective # 7 at 796173

22 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 0806 1st Bn to DO: C Co is on their objective (GRAS ELLENBACH). Have patrol ready to go to 815170. Took four PW's.
- 0810 S-3 to 3d Bn S-3: Send patrol down to contact A Co at 812152.
- 0814 1st Bn CO to DO: 3 man patrol from L Co met our elements at east road block. They had contact mission of reporting in at C Co CP at #10 Obj. We will send patrol to 3d Bn in an hour or so.
- 0830 S-3 to CG: Have one Co at 835168 and friendly units have been passing through that area since 0300. We have patrolled mountain ranges. CG: Close in your assembly area as soon as possible. You will get about twenty-four hour rest before next commitment.
- 0838 1st Bn CO to DO: 2 men stopped on shoe mines via 776186.
- 0800 3d Bn S-3 to DO: Patrol went north from OBER OSTERN to UTER OSTERN (810220), then southeast to ROERBACH, southwest to EREBACH where they contacted I Co who just entered town. All areas clear. L Co in OBER HILTERSKLINGEN.
- 0835 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: Have 2 Tks and 2 TD's with L Co and 2 TD's with I Co.
- 0841 3d Bn to Dy Cik: Motorized patrol in on the way.
- 0843 1st Bn to DO: CP located at 789157.
- 0847 S-2 to 3d Bn: Relayed situation.
- 0848 S-2 to 3d Bn: Warned presence of mines.
- 0849 S-3 to Div: Relayed situation. Div: CG via 810240, CGA via 800140, 92d Run via 810118, 2d Bn 30th Inf via 910309, advanced units of 48th Div via 010640, 7th Inf started moving out 1 1/2 hours ago.
- 0850 1st Bn to S-3: Concentration or labor camp in town occupied by C Co via 818148. C Co patrolling to town of WABLEN. Received report that 12th Amd has taken three towns to southeast of town occupied by S Co. S-3: Start patrol from C Co over hill to OBER HILTERSKLINGEN (Obj #12) and remain there. 1st Bn will probably be assembling there when patrol arrives. 1st Bn: Will send a platoon-size patrol. S-3: Assembly areas: 1st Bn, north boundary 835168 extending south and east through town 500 yards on either side of road to 848160. 2d Bn, from 1st Bn's boundary up along road to 826177. 3d Bn, north of 2d Bn, around spider web junction via 81480 with east boundary via 84 northing. 2d Bn will move first, then 1st Bn and then 3d Bn by marching.
- 1000 S-3 to 7th Inf: Gave dispositions of troops. 7th Inf: One bn has crossed IP via 818222, fanned out for their various objectives. Another bn is crossing IP now.
- 1053 3d Bn to S-3: The motorized patrol reports a road block consisting of trees at 787145. S-3: Check the block to see if it is clear yet.
- 1055 Asst S-3 to 1st Bn: Leave C Co where it is and gather other elements for a2move. Keep whatever attachments you have.
- 1122 DO sent radio msg to 3d Bn: "Send billeting party to CP at 763190 immediately".
- 1125 Div DO to CO: You can move to the new area now. This new area to include KIRCH BROMBACH at 1800.
- 1307 LAR to Dy Cik: Road to EREBACH is clear including previous road block in via 815103. Road will take armor.
- 1410 LAR to DO: Report route to new CP clear and clearly marked.
- 1430 Advance CP Opens at KIRCH BROMBACH via 875271.
- 1655 1st Bn to S-3: 1st Bn completely closed in new area. Bn CP located at 877288.
- 1740 2d Bn to Asst S-3: All troops except Hq Co closed in at 1630. Trucks are on the way back to old area.
- 1800 Field Mag from CG to CO: "Div CP opened at PFaffen BEERFURTH".
- 1840 1st Bn to DO: Bn all closed in.
- 2027 3d Bn to DO: Bn closed in at 0800.
- 2032 Asst S-3 to DO: Bn's will move between 0200 and 0400 in order of 1st, 3d and 2d Bns. Move will be into 30th Inf sector across bridge in their sector and then down into our (previous 7th Inf) sector on the other side of the MAIN River.
- 2100 Div to S-3: 3d Bn 30th Inf at 870210 (HELBACH). You'll have to force a river crossing. Enemy appears to be defending river line.
- 2101 1st Bn to DO: All quiet.
- 2104 30th Inf to S-3: 1st Bn, 30th Inf, last reported (1700) fighting in WORTH.

29 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

2138 S-3 to 1st, 2d and 3d Bn's: Have billeting parties at this CP at 0645, one jeep per bn, to go forward to pick assembly area. 30th Inf on MAIN River, two reports: (1) Fighting in NORTH; (2) NORTH is clear. 30th Inf will force a crossing tonight, form a bridgehead with a line running from hill 222, south through hill 310 (045356) south to high ground 052318. After they have alpha's across, we will follow. Units will cross as follows: 30th Inf foot troops, 18th Inf troops, 30th Inf armor, 16th Inf armor, 30th Inf tactical vehicles, 18th Inf tactical vehicles. Once across we will swing south and take southern part of phase line SWINGBOARD and clean out to south and east. 30th Inf will patrol and if they have no contact will secure northern part of SWINGBOARD. 7th Inf last reported at 072338. They attacked from there and last reported at river. Not meeting any organized resistance (no line, only RJA defended). One RCT of 179th Inf across river at 010470, 180th Inf south of 48 northing (not across river) are in contact with enemy on west side of river. 187th Inf at 010640, will come around and attack town. Report from the 30th Inf indicated all bridges across river in their sector are blown except for RR bridge that needs to be reinforced for armor. We will follow 30th Inf. 01, this Hq, will have 1st Bn going for 070263; 2d Bn to go left for 080326 and 080316, then block to south and southeast, patrol to northeast to contact 30th Inf; 3d Bn, on order this Hq, will pass 3d Bn to go for 145316 and KUSHFEIN and patrol to west along river bank. You will each have ten 2 1/2-ton trucks. Route will be to 906310 to RINBACH (940325) to LUTENACH to SEUMBAELEN. Trucks will return as a unit (10 each) to this town. A vehicle will go forward 980300.

2230 10th Bnrs to S-2: Bridge out at 907338.

2324 AT to D: Clik: C completely closed in new area.

Journal

S E C R E T

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 281201A to 291200A
Unit: 16th Infantry
Place: KRUMBACH, GERMANY
Date: 29 March 1945

No. 71

Maps: GERMANY, 1/25,000; Sheet 6418, 6419 & 6518, 6519.

1. Our Front Lines: No definite line exists.
2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.
3. Weather and Visibility: Overcast to rain, visibility poor.
4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt. CP: Moved from HEPPEHEIM to KRUMBACH via 788191, opening at 2130A.

1st Bn: At beginning of period, Bn assembled in BONGWELDER, via 709152. Began moving to the NE to HANNELBACH, via 790169 at approx 1630A; following to NE axis of MORLENBACH, RIMBACH FURTH and turning SE toward HANNELBACH. At 0208 A and C Co's moved on HANNELBACH from areas 786165 and 784162, north of the town. Reported opposition in form of enemy arty fire. TD's were employed and resistance ceased. At 0656A, A Co was blocking in the town and B Co pushing toward LITZELBACH, with tanks. At 1655A, B Co reported in LITZELBACH meeting no opposition. C Co pushed S from HANNELBACH towards GRAS ELLENBACH and were on their objective at 0806A and sending patrol to OBER HILTERSKLINGEN.

2d Bn: Moved from NINDER LINDERSBACH and at 1615A was entering MORLENBACH with B Co in the town, F Co following and E Co blocking to the south. During rest of period, Bn was in reserve blocking to the north from MORLENBACH and EOTENBACH.

3d Bn: At 1215A, Bn was in ERBACH. By 1615A, Bn had passed through RIMBACH going North to FURTH, K Co leading. At 2245, L Co was on NW Hwy via 806187. I Co swinging NE to OBER OSTERN. K Co following. At 2325A, L Co via CR 814180, sending patrol to 857165, which reported town clear. At 0200A, K Co followed I Co into OBER OSTERN and I Co had pushed on to ERZBACH. Bn CP established in OBER OSTERN at 802198 at 0245A. At 0900A, L Co in OBER Hiltersklingen.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel Per Duty: (As shown on M/R of 28 Mar 45)

Officers: 74

WO: 100

EM: 300

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 30

EM: 1020

6. Results of Operations:

- a. Regiment continued to clean up small pockets of enemy resistance.
- b. Rapid pursuit of enemy continued.

LAUGHLIN
S-3

SECRET

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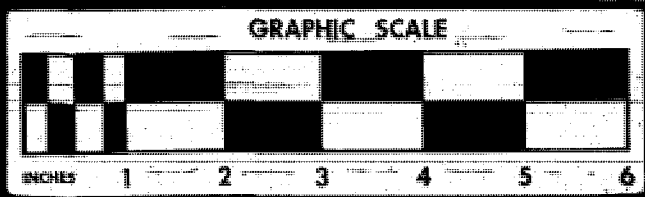
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SECRET
20 MAR 52

LAURENCE, JOHN R. & SONS

LAUREN

SECRET



Journal

SECRET

S-S Report

FROM: 280800A
TO: 280800A
UNIT: 18TH INFANTRY
DATE: 29 MARCH 1948
PLACE: KRIMBACH, GERMANY

No. 41
Maps: GERMANY 1/100,000; MAINRHEIN sheet.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITION:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At the end of the period the enemy had withdrawn east of a line generally from OBER OSTERN (818188) to UNTER HILFESKLEINEN (880180).
- b. Enemy Defenses: Scattered small groups of personnel offering light resistance was the only opposition met. A few road blocks were encountered, most of them being unmanned.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was on its objective vic of 708182 from where it moved to vic of HANDELBACH (798180) meeting little resistance.
- (2) 2d Bn: At the beginning of the period the Bn was in vic of 700100 from where it moved to the NE to vic of ROTENBACH (748180) and MORLENBACH (728118) remaining in the vicinity for rest of the period. The Bn engaged in a brisk fire fight in MORLENBACH and the high ground in that vicinity; they engaged elements of Battle Group KRITZMANN (300 men), which was the first organized infantry unit resistance encountered since crossing the Rhine. Approximately 100 PW's were taken in that vicinity.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn was in an assembly area south of HEPPENHEIM at the beginning of the period. The Bn advanced to the east occupying the towns of HREZBACH (188200) and OBER OSTERN (818188) at the end of the period. Some resistance was met vic of 809188 which was quickly wiped out.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Many personnel fired on our arty vic of 708088 at 1820A. Number of enemy offered resistance vic of 809188.
- (2) Arty: Very light arty reported during the period. 2 flak wagons (120mm barreled 37mm) and one 75mm assault gun were ED'd vic 888187 at about 1100A.
- (3) No report of enemy air, armor or M/T activity.
- (4) Engineers: 2 Sahn Mines were seen placed along the road vic 728188; they had apparently been employed previously on 18TH INFANTRY ADV. A

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PW's: See attached IFW Report.

DONALD N. LIES
Major, 18th Infantry
S-2

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. O. # 3

29 March 1945

IPW REPORT: Period 290800A - 290800A Mar 1945

TABLETATION:

KM	OFF	UNIT	Place of capt	Time	Capt Unit
82	1	Battle Group HEITMANN	MORLENBACH	1630A	2nd Bn
9		Hq/3119th/553rd	?	0300A	3rd Bn
1		HQ/1119/553	?	0300A	3rd Bn
1		6/1119/553	?	0300A	"
13	2	Venger Bn	LAUDENBACH	1000A	1st Bn
2		Hq/Venger Bn	via HEPPENHEIM	1300A	1st Bn
1		1/4Venger Repl Bn	VIRSOHNENSEN	1800A	"
2		1/701-Ry AA Bn	"	"	"
3		2/751Light AA Bn	LAUDENBACH	"	"
4		7/751Mixed AA Bn	via UNRECHENET	"	"
8		3/766Light AA Bn	"	"	"
1		4/771old Repl Bn	"	"	"
3		Hq/667 Assault Gun Bn	"	1300A	"
1		Hq/352AT Bn	"	"	"
3		3/352AT Bn	"	"	"
1		2/837Venger Tng Regt	?	"	"
1		1/2 AA Regt/9AA Div	?	0300A	3rd Bn
3		4/736Light AA Bn	MORLENBACH	1600A	2nd Bn
1		49 AA Salvage Co	"	"	"
1		Warach Co/33 AT Bn	via HEPPENHEIM	1000A	1st Bn
1		Schutzpolizei	MORLENBACH	1600A	2nd Bn

112 1 TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry Corps in France and Germany: 6231
TOTAL since crossing the Rhine: 457
TOTAL since 15 March 1945: 1001

Battlegroup HEITMANN, according to captured Regt II (Battlegroup) order, dated 23 March 1945, consisted of 8 Co's, plus 1 Canon and 1 AT Co. The whole unit, according to the order, was subordinated to 172nd Div. s.b.v. The first Bn (Bn PRESS), 1st - 4th Co plus 1 AT Platoon were employed for the defense of MORLENBACH (721). They arrived from the via SHONAU (7821) before daylight, 28 Mar. According to PW's statement the strength of units in MORLENBACH was as follows:

2nd Co - 60 Men
3rd Co - 47 Men
4th Co - 75 Men
1st Platoon 7th Co - 20 Men

WEAPONS:

3 Rifle Co's: 6-8 MG's per Co
1 - Karabiner Mk3 per Squad
(equally built as M-1)
1 - 2 Grenade Launchers per Squad
4th Co (by wpns) 5 - By MG's
6 - 80mm Mortars
1st Plt (7th Co) 5 - Panzerschreck
11 - Panzerfaust

LOSSES:

Medical men from 2nd Co states that his Co had 6 wounded and 2 dead during the day.

SUPPORT:

PW's state that they had no support whatsoever except 1 Plt from 7th Co. No artillery or armor was even seen.

MISC:

The whereabouts of 2nd Bn (Bn BERG) is unknown to PW's. Apparently remnants of the 1st Bn escaped into the mountains East of Moerlenbach without specific orders as to where to retreat to. Orders were to defend MOERLENBACH to the last man, according to PW's statement.

PERSONALITIES:

CO	Major HEITMANN
CO 1st Bn	Capt PRUSS
CO 2nd Bn	Capt HUBER
CO 3rd Co	1st Lt WITTMANN
CO 2nd Co	1st Lt FRAH (capt)
CO 3rd Co	1st Lt WITTMANN

1119VOR/553VOR: This Regt was last employed in vic KODIRBACH (7132).

Regt'l Hq was composed of:

Signal Section - 20 Men
Eng Section - 40 Men
Medical Section - 10 Men

PW states that total strength of Regt'l Hq was 1 Officer, 13 MG's, 72 PW.
Regt'l CP was in WIESCHWITZ (8018).

1119VOR: only members of Regt'l Hq and of 2nd Bn were accounted for with this report. 2nd Bn was employed in vic KODIRBACH (7132) and

2nd Bn Hq - 60 Men
5th, 6th, 8th Co - 60 Men each
7th Co - 40 Men

- 200 Men

WEAPONS (6th Co/119vnr):

1 - 50mm Mortar
4 - LMG's
30 - Panzerfaust
1 - M-43 per squad
2 - MP-44 per squad

LOSSES (6th Co):

1 wounded
2 dead

PERSONALITIES:

CO 119vnr - Col. BANOLOW
CO 6th Co - Lt. HENSCHEL
CG-2nd BN - Capt. FEINBERG

According to PW's the Regiment has neither Artillery nor any other support at the present time. This Regiment has arrived from vic BADEN-BADEN March 22-45.

HEINZ LEVI
1st Lt. Sig Corps.

SECRET

Hq 15th Inf .
KIRCH BROMBACH, GERMANY
29 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 25)

MAP: GERMANY, 1/100,000, Sheets U-2 & T-3.

1. a. Omitted.

b. 3d Inf Div forces crossing of MAIN River with 1 RCT on night of 29-30 March via WORTH (036340), establishes bridgehead line, drives northeast in its zone of action to phase line "SPRINGBOARD" with 45th Inf Div on left, 12th Armored Div on the right, 44th Inf Div blocking to the southwest.

2. a. 15th Inf moves by motor from present assembly area to a forward assembly area via WORTH (036340), cross MAIN River behind 30th Inf in 30th Inf zone of advance, swing south and secure objectives in the zone of advance up to phase line "SPRINGBOARD" and will:

- (1) Maintain contact with 30th Inf on left.
- (2) Upon reaching phase line "SPRINGBOARD", block to south and east along MAIN River, be prepared on order to continue the attack to the northeast.

3. a. 1st Bn

a. Attached: 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf

On night of 29-30 March, move by motor along route to forward assembly area via SIEGMAUERN (990320) prepared to cross MAIN River in zone of 30th Inf via WORTH (036340) and will:

- (1) On order this Headquarters, cross MAIN River, reorganize on far shore with all possible speed, attack south along route indicated on overlay, seize objective #1, reorganize and continue the attack south along the east bank of the MAIN River, seize objectives #2, #3 and #4.
- (2) Report condition of all bridges across the MAIN River found in zone of advance, leave a strong blocking force on any bridge found intact.
- (3) Upon securing objective #4, patrol northeast along MAIN River to objective #6.

b. 2d Bn

a. Attached: 1 Plat AT Co, 15th Inf

Move by motor night 29-30 March along route indicated on overlay to assembly area via SIEGMAUERN (995317) and will:

- (1) Maintain close liaison with 1st Bn, cross MAIN River behind 1st Bn, reorganize with all possible speed to attack south and east and seize objectives #6, #7 and #8, block to south and east.
- (2) Send patrols to south and east (see overlay).
- (3) Maintain contact with 1st Bn on right and 30th Inf on left.
- (4) Upon being passed through by 2d Bn, be prepared to assemble in via ROLLBACH (089315) in Regt'l Reserve.

a. Attached: 1 Plat, AT Co, 15th Inf

Move by motor on night 29-30 March to forward assembly area via MAIN GRUND (965325) prepared to cross MAIN River via WORTH (026340) and will:

- (1) Maintain close liaison with 3d Bn, on order this Headquarters cross MAIN River behind 3d Bn, reorganize quickly on far shore, move to assembly area in via 065325.

SECRET

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- (2) On order this Headquarters pass through 5d Bn at objective #8, continue the attack to the east and seize objectives #9 and #10, block along phase line "SPRINGBOARD".
 - (3) Retrad to the east and southwest along MAIN River.
 - (4) Report condition of all bridges over MAIN River found in area, leave strong holding force on all bridges found intact.
- d. Co B, 601st TB Bn:
On night of 29-30 March assemble platoons in vic BREITENHURN (910306) prepared to cross MAIN River and will:
- (1) On order this Headquarters move platoons across bridge via WORTH (025340).
 - (2) Upon reaching far shore, 1 platoon will be attached to each Bn.
- e. Co B, 758th Tank Bn:
On night of 29-30 March assemble platoons in vic BREITENHURN (910306) prepared to cross MAIN River and will:
- (1) On order this Headquarters move platoons across bridge via WORTH (025340).
 - (2) Upon reaching far shore, 1 platoon will be attached to each Bn.
- f. Co C, 87th Cal Bn:
On night of 29-30 March assemble company in vic BREITENHURN (960306) prepared to cross MAIN River and will:
- (1) On order this Headquarters cross MAIN River by bridge via WORTH (025340).
 - (2) Upon crossing MAIN River attach platoons to 1st and 2d Bns.
- g. On Co, 16th Inf: General support.
4. a. (1) All troops crossing river will carry three (3) bandoliers of ammunition.
- (2) All tactical vehicles will carry TBA load of ammunition across river. All gas tanks will be filled prior to vehicles crossing river. Vehicle will carry as much extra filled gasoline cans as possible.
- (3) Each Bn will have ten (10) 2 1/2 ton trucks for movement to forward assembly areas.
- (4) Order of march to forward assembly areas will be 1st Bn, 3d Bn 2d Bn and Regt^l Hq.
- (5) IP for 1st, 2d Bns and Regt^l CP at KIRCH BROMBACH. IP for 3d Bn will be 3d Bn CP at KIRCH BROMBACH. Time for reaching IP --- 1st Bn-0300, 2d Bn-0330, 3d Bn-0316, Regt^l Hq-0346.
- (6) Vehicles assembly for crossing will be in vic BREITENHURN (960306). Troops will march from that area and hand carry tactical loads.
- (7) Evacuation normal.

Regt^l CP on near shore (see overlay)

Line of signal communication - WORTH (025340) - BREITENHURN (910306)

SCHWACHENBERG (090328)

1st Bn - 0300

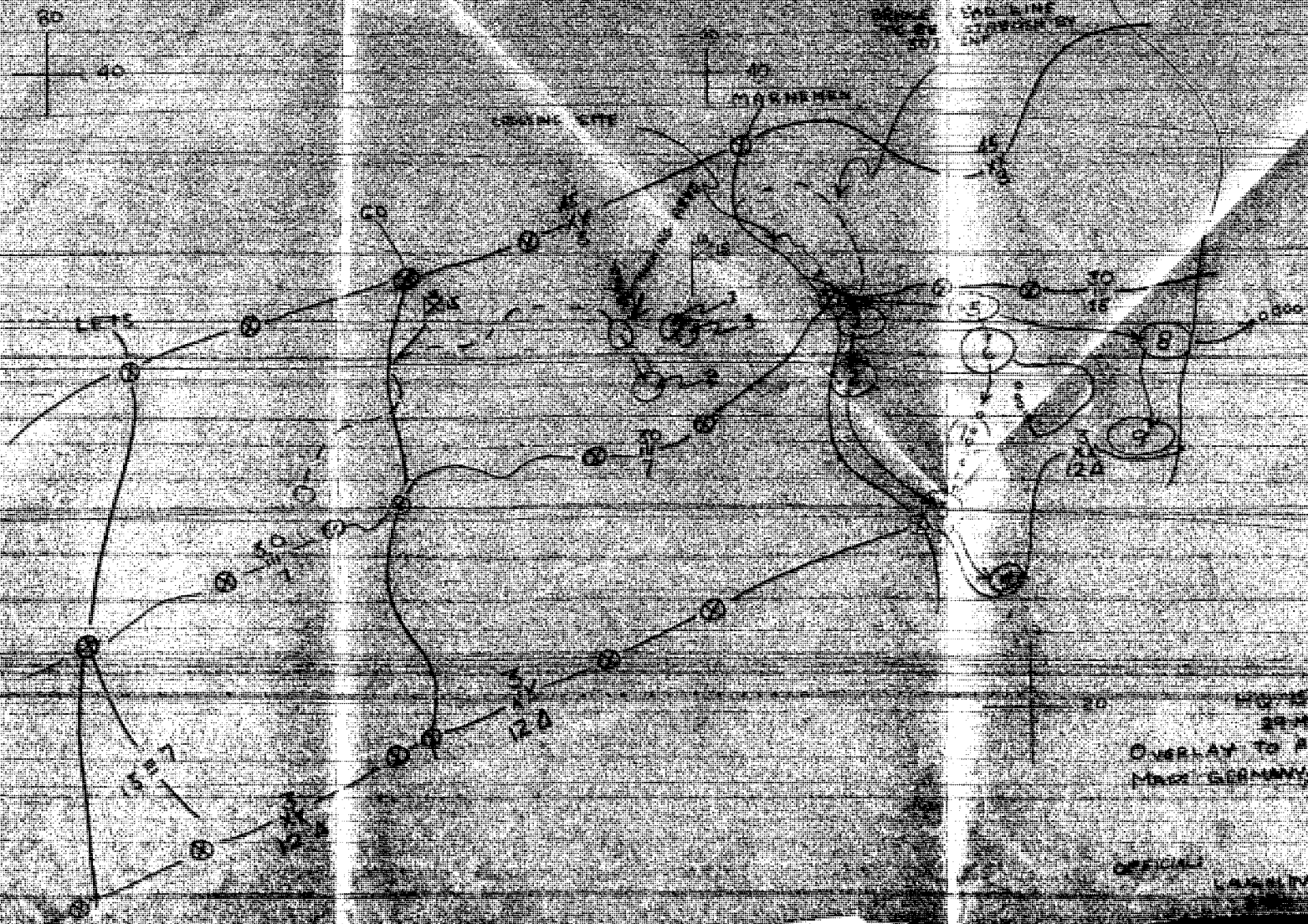
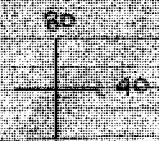
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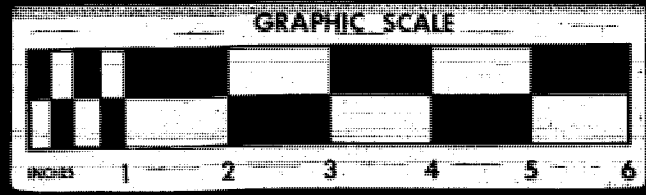
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SECRET



HIGH SEINE
 32 MARKS
 OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY DE
 MAGE GERMANY SHEETS U2 & T3

OFFICIAL
 LAGS IV



30 MARCH 1945

- 0007 S-3 to 3d Bn 3: Will move at 0515, go to BREITENBRUNN where you detruck and march forward on feet. You will take weapons off the vehicles. Vehicles will assemble at BREITENBRUNN.
- 0030 Div to S-3: No vehicles or troops will go beyond BREITENBRUNN.
- 0120 S-3 to 1st, 2d, 3d Bn and AT Co: There's a change in the OI. No vehicles or troops will go beyond BREITENBRUNN. Assembly area will be picked this side of BREITENBRUNN. Guides will meet you at RIMHORN and take you to your area. The OI says the Reg'l CP is to be at SECKMAUERN WGU it will probably be at BREITENBRUNN instead.
- 0225 Asst S-3 to CO: 15th Inf detrucking point - HAINGRUND. Read good, well marked. Forward troops C and E of 30th Inf in WORTH receiving sniper fire. G Co in TRENNFURT. No resistance known. Radio contact only to G Co. A Co at 006351, securing crossing site. No resistance. 1st, 2d Bns CP's 30th Inf at 999334 across street from each other. 3d Bn, 30th Inf moving from MÜBLING and RUMBACH now to via 990350. Reg'l CP, 30th Inf at HAINGRUND.
- 0515 1st Bn CO to DO: Trucks are in Co areas leading now.
- 0550 Ex O to 3d Bn CO & 1st Bn CO: Will change schedule so that 3d Bn crosses the IP at 0400A. 1st Bn will follow 3d Bn, then 2d Bn.
- 0552 3d Bn pulling phone and moving out now.
- 0408 Div to DO: Get Bn CO's down to river for recon as they will be able to move their men rapidly.
- 0420 Asst S-3 to DO: 3d Bn has cleared, 1st Bn following. Half-hour delay for regt in leaving.
- 0440 Advance party to S-3: OP set up in SECKMAUERN and have communications.
- 0445 2d Bn to DO: Moving out.
- 0460 30th Inf to Ia O: 1st Bn is across river, 2d Bn is starting now.
- 0510 All three Bns and AT Co have closed out their phones.
- 0746 Old CP closed at 0648 and new CP opened in SECKMAUERN via 994325 at 0745A. 3d Bn arrived in HAINGRUND at 0630. At 0648A, all elements of regiment left KIRCH BROMBACH except one Co of 2d Bn. 3d and 1st Bns bivouaced in SECKMAUERN. 2d Bn between HAINGRUND and SECKMAUERN. At 0646A, Co's A, C, E, and F, 30th Inf across MAIN River at a point approx one mile wide north of WORTH. E Co occupied high ground at 035856.
- 0809 30th Inf DO to Asst S-3: 1st Bn has taken approx 100 PW's. E Co is on hill 222. F Co moving to hill 310 - possibly there by now. G Co is following F Co and will help hold hill. 3d Bn still on west side of MAIN River and will stay there until 7th Inf moves up alongside on their right flank.
- 0813 All units closed in completely at 0746A.
- 0833 3d Bn CO to S-3: Bn S-3 has returned from recon of river crossing area. Some enemy flak wagon fire in that vicinity.
- 0910 Rear CP staff moving to SECKMAUERN.
- 1007 30th Inf to DO: Friendly arty KO'd one tank, three S/P guns and one 88-mm via KLINKERBERG.
- 1010 S-3 to 1st Bn CO: Start moving your Bn to WORTH.
- 1015 1st Bn S-3 to S-3: We will move out at 1045A.
- 1022 CO to 1st Bn CO: Start working on blown RR bridge in WORTH to make a foot bridge.
- 1040 S-3 to 1st Bn S-3: We will lay the wire thru WORTH from the river to BRLENBACH to LINGENBURG. Use radio till then, and you continue from there.
- 1060 30th Inf to CO: The footbridge won't be in till 1130A. CO: We are having the RR bridge repaired in 10-15 minutes for use by foot troops.
- 1065 1st Bn Ex O to DO: E Co starting from area now, to be followed by G Co, command group, A Co, D Co and Rq.
- 1120 1st Bn Dy Ck to Ex O: Last company went by about ten minutes ago.
- 1209 30th Inf to Ex O: 3d Bn crossed on captured barges and have set up on a road block at 035334.
- 1220 Radio Report: 1st Bn, 15th Inf all across bridge over MAIN River.
- 1250 Radio report: E Co entering objective #1. K Co started across bridge.
- 1317 3d Bn CO to Ex O: K Co and most of I Co is across Broadway bridge is nearly completed. Will move on soon.
- 1320 Radio Msg: 1st Bn is entering Obj #1.
- 1324 Cpl Bn Ia O to CO: 1st Plat of 4.2 mortars are going to WORTH to set up in position. CO: Do not send more than one platoon there.

30 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- because of congested traffic.
- 1357 S-3 to Ex O: Get 3d Bn wire jeep across river in DUKW. Plan to get more jeeps across. Ex O: Use 3d Bn wire jeep to string line behind 1st Bn.
- 1361 1st Bn to DO: A Co starting on Objective #2 now.
- 1345 CO to 2d Bn: Have 2d Bn start moving across the river to assembly area. 1st Bn has taken Objective #1. 3d Bn is across river.
- 1355 1st Bn CO to DO: At road block. Need help to take it out.
- 1369 CO to 1st Bn CO: Use tools available to remove block.
- 1404 1st Bn to DO: C Co changing plans. Change will be faster.
- 1409 CO to CG: Gave resume of situation.
- 1412 CO 1st Bn to DO: Have few means of taking road block out. Have 20 PW's.
- 1417 DO to 1st Bn CO: Howling are legs? Are there any mines?
- 1423 39th FA to Ex O: C Btry FO reports smoke rounds landing on 3d Bn position via OS2308. Believed fired by Cal Mortars.
- 1451 1st Bn to DO: Bn is shoving off from Objective #3.
- 1455 3d Bn to DO: K Co leading elements can see Objective #6, 200 yards short of objective.
- 1500 39th FA La O to Ex O: Will get some DUKW's from artillery for you.
- 1506 Ex O to CO, C Co B, 756th TK Bn: You will soon move your armor across river and then down to KLINGENBERG where we will set up our next CP.
- 1510 3d Bn Ex O to Ex O: We are extending line forward to KLINGENBERG now. Forty to fifty PW's from 1st Bn just passed us.
- 1533 CO to S-3: Stopped Cal Mortars from firing on area via of 3d Bn. Going to organize DUKW's and get some vehicles across river. S-3: Will send some radios and wire jeeps down.
- 1547 S-3 to Div: Relayed situation.
- 1510 1st Bn to DO: B Co is enroute through woods to Objective #3. C Co was fired upon from across the river. They have reports that friendly troops are there.
- 1511 Div to S-3: Have La O guiding some DUKW's to the river for your use.
- 1515 S-3 to RMO: One of 3d Bn's wire jeeps is across. Take the 2d Bn's wire, radio and CO's vehicles plus those of the 1st Bn down to the river for transportation in the DUKW's.
- 1533 3d Bn to DO: M Co is on Objective #6. K is moving to #6.
- 1535 RMO to Asst S-3: The jeeps requested can't get through now because the traffics doublebanked in both directions.
- 1559 S-3 to S-3: B Co is between #2 and #3. 40 PW's have been captured. Have sent a PW down to the bridge to interrogate them when they get there.
- 1560 Div to S-3: Send 12 priority jeeps now to go across the river on assault rafts.
- 1553 3d Bn to DO: Do not fire west of #6 for radius of 2,000 yards.
- 1700 3d Bn to DO: Friendly troops are located 5,000 yards northeast of #6. Do not fire there.
- 1715 1st Bn S-3 to S-3: B Co is in #1, C Co is in #2, A Co is going to #3. S-3: Relayed position of 12th Arm. 1st Bn: 7th Inf fired tank, .50 Cal and .30 cal MG at us wounding two men, but I went across in a boat and gave them a resume of our positions to their CP.
- 1753 1st Bn to DO: Call 7th Inf to stop the small arms fire coming from across the river at LAUDENBACH.
- 1745 S-2 to Div: Gave resume of situation.
- 1746 1st Bn to S-3: Sending 14 PW's. 3d Bn moving to #2 preparatory to going on to #3. 1st Bn has taken Obj #2.
- 1800 CO to Ex O: Believe 39th Inf shelling KLINGENBERG (2d or #2). Priority patrol in that vicinity. Armor can advance from #2 to #3.
- 1803 CG to CO: You may go ahead to the "SPRINGBOARD" line. Put out some flank protection to the left. Leave block at 070250 and leave outposts. Get 501st Recon Co across. Be set to go by daylight with the Recon 5,000 yds in front.
- 1947 3d Bn Ex O to DO: L & I Co's in SCHMACHTENBERG via OS0325. K Co in ROLLBACH via OS5315.
- 1955 1st Bn S-3 to DO: C Co in town of ROLLFELD via 045305. A Co in town of ROLLBACH, via OS5315, B Co is now en route from ROLLFELD to Obj #4.
- 1958 2d Bn Arty La O to DO: F & B Co's half through woods to Objective #3 and #4. G Co follows F Co.

30 MARCH 1945 (Cont'd)

- 2019 DO to Div: Cave resume of situation.
- 2045 1st Bn S-3 to S-2: A Co has cleaned town of GROSS HEUBACH taking 80 to 100 PW's plus 30 more this afternoon between Objectives #2 and #3. PW's report that there are 80 more PW's between Objectives #3 and #4.
- S-2 to 1st Bn: L Co of 7th Inf is in town of KLEIN-HEUBACH. 12th Arm reported via 870170. S-3 to 1st Bn: Reinforced platoon of I Co at Obj #7 to contact 1st Bn at Obj #8.
- 2046 64 Bn CO to Ex O: Reinforced platoon now at objective #7. Ex O: trying to get plat of tanks and plat of TD's across for you tonight.
- 2200 Div to Ex O: Expect bridge in at midnight.
- 2206 Ex O to RMTG: Make Rom of crossing site around midnight. If bridge is open, rush all of our armor and two platoons of 601st Rom Co. They have priority over everything else.
- 2286 1st Bn CO to S-3: Plat from A Co cleaning up on Objective #4. Will send platoon from B Co down to Objective #4. When Objective #9 is cleared, we will patrol to it.
- 2248 2d Bn CO to S-3: Have elements on high ground above REISTERHAUSEN. Can hear enemy armor and troop movement in the town. Will send patrols down to check.
- 2259 2d Bn CO to S-3: Heard explosion a few minutes ago. Sending patrol out. Will have some information within an hour.
- 2325 Asst S-3 to Div: Enemy opposition in our area, was composed of the Battle Group Weiland, composed of 3 Co's totalling 400 men. Their line extended from KLINGENBURG to KLEIN HEUBACH. Total PW's for today - 180 EM's and one officer.
- 2355 RMTG to Asst S-3: Armor on way to bridge to you. Will cross at 2400A. 601st Rom will probably cross at 0800A.

SECRET

S-3 Periodic Report

Period: 291201A to 301800A
Unit : 16th Infantry
Place : SECKMAUERN, GERMANY
Date : 30 March

No 72.
Map: GERMANY, 1/100,000; Sheets U-2 & T-3.

1. Our Front Lines: No line exists.
2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.
3. Weather and Visibility: Overcast, visibility fair.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt'l OP: Displaced from KRUMBACH to KIRCH BROMBACH via 876271, opening at 1410A. OP again moved, and at 0404A, in town of SECKMAUERN, via 9825A.

At beginning of period Bns began moving to assembly areas: 1st and 3d Bn's via KIRCH BROMBACH and 2d Bn assembling in BOLLSTEIN. All Bns had closed in by 2600A.

Night 29/30, Bns moved in order, 3d, 1st and 2d Bn thru IP in KIRCHBROMBACH. At 0845A all elements of the regiment had cleared IP. By 0745A all units completely closed in their new areas: 1st and 3d Bns via of SECKMAUERN, 2d Bn between HAINGRUND and SECKMAUERN, via 985305.

At end of period, 1st Bn began moving to foot bridge (blown RR bridge) to left of WORTH, via 620844 to cross MAIN River and to assemble and pass thru 30th Inf.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (As shown on M/R of 29 Mar 45)

Officers: 74%

WO: 100%

EM: 85%

Rifle Trench Strength:

Officers: 30

EM: 1026

6. Results of Operations:

a. Regiment assembled and prepared to pass thru 30th Inf.

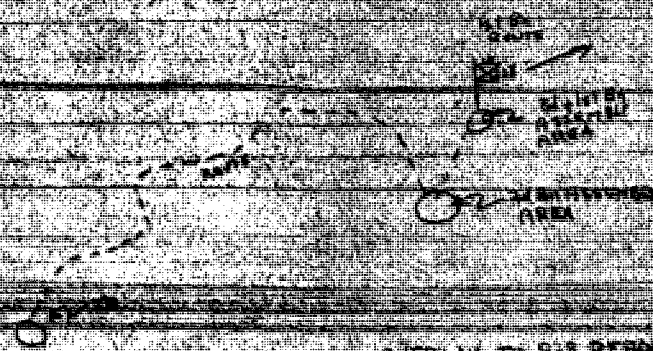
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S-3

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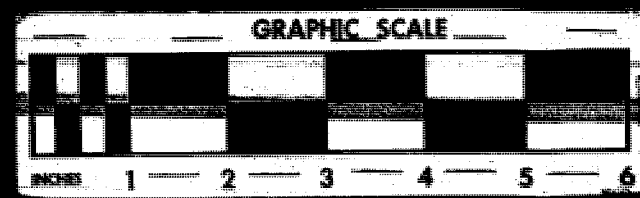
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OVERLAY TO S-S REPORT #72
30 MAR 45
MARI, GEORGE, Check U2 & T

LAUGHLIN



21 MARCH 1945

0015. Div to DO: Have PW report. A captured German Lt reports. 700 men in north part of MILTENBURG via 10-24. MLR consists of fox holes extending from 086242 east to RR at 092241 to 093239 and east to river. A very thin line there. of 700 enemy around positions, only 300 armed. Majority of troops green - not much fight. Bn CP is at the south of RR rd. via 082241. No mines in MILTENBURG. Expect us to attack down west bank of river.
- 0030 1st Bn to DO: Plat of A Co on objective #4, via 090240; took 16 PW's.
- 0100 DO to Div War Room: 3d Bn CP and L Co, K Co (-1 plat) via 080325. I Co via 086516. Plat of K Co at 087284 moving south. 2d Bn had fire fight at town via 140515 (two Co's F and G). E Co via objective #6 via 130255.
- 0108 1st Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: Things seem to be going better at objective #4. A plat of A Co is there, and a plat of B Co is now on the cut-skirts. Both are under fire from the East, but they have not contacted each other yet.
- 0118 Report of the I&R Patrol: Found heavy mount of ack-ack gun at 047317. Investigated castle at 0629 BUT all was quiet.
- 0125 1st Bn Dy Clik to Asst S-3: The fire fight at objective #4 has quieted down somewhat.
- 0210 1st Bn Ex O to S-2: Road block at objective #4 was reoccupied by enemy and they wounded 6, killed one. We took 8 PW's, but enemy reserves came up as wounded being tended, and four of the PW's escaped. We have pulled back to objective #6. Will reorganize the B Co platoon and go down again.
- 0215 S-2 to Security Plat Ldr: Have MP at bridge to direct the vehicles as they come across into the bn assembly areas.
- 0217 3d Bn reports everything OK.
- 0218 S-2 to 3d Bn DO: Have guide waiting for the vehicles at the bridge.
- 0220 S-2 to 2d Bn Ex O: Send guide for vehicles.
- 0226 1st Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0230 S-2 reported to Division War Room.
- 0240 1st Bn Ex O to S-2: Our 1st plat seems to be behind the line you gave me (the only line reported by the German Lt). S-2 to 1st Bn Ex O: You will have to clear out that area by morning anyway, so you might as well start now.
- 0242 A 2d Bn ambulance driver stated that they came upon some 18 bay rifle men on the road near MONCHBERG. Being medics, our men were allowed to turn around and leave.
- 0256 1st Bn Ex O to S-2: Request that you give our situation to Regt'l CO. Would like to get a decision on whether we can wait until morning to clear out area.
- 0338 Ex O to 1st Bn Ex O: CG agrees that you should wait for morning and send armor. Use A & B, with C Co to do the blocking.
- 0346 1st Bn D Clik to Ex O: B Co rpts that I Co has just contacted them.
- 0348 Ex O to 39th FA Bn Ex O: Gave resume of situation and plans for the morning. Ex O, 39th FA Bn to Ex O: We are set up via 081326 and ready to clear.
- 0355 3d Bn reports all is quiet.
- 0420 Ex O gave resume of situation to Div. Div to Ex O: Expect bridge to be in by 0445.
- 0425 S-4 to Ex O: Have rations lined up. Ex O to S-4: Tell Regt'l MTO to line up armor and 801st TD Rom first.
- 0456 S-3, 1st Bn to Ex O: Plat of A Co still at 086241. Plat of B Co on main road had stiff fire fight near 086250. Railroad bridge is out. Believe road bridge is in.
- 0447 Ex O to 1st Bn: Tanks and TD's for 1st Bn are here now. Send guides.
- 0400 3d Bn to Ex O: Ration jeeps have arrived.
- 0510 Ex O to 2d Bn Ex O: Send guides to 2d Bn assembly area. Few vehicles have arrived.
- 0520 Ex O to 1st Bn: Send guides to assembly area for TD's.
- 0540 3d Bn to DO: All is quiet.
- 0541 2d Bn to Ex O: F & G Co's have patrols almost in town. Ex O to 2d Bn: Send guides for your TD's and have him check in at Regt'l CP.
- 0600 DO to Div DO: All tactical vehicles are on the road.

- 0610 1st Bn Ex O to DO: Have armer. Will push out soon.
- 0626 5d Bn to DO: Contact patrol is back, not an enemy. Contacted I Co at objective # 6, outpost at objective # 7, and A & B Co's of 1st Bn.
- 0700 2d Bn Ex O to CO: Tanks just arrived. Have patrols out. Will move out soon.
- 0710 1st Bn CO to DO: Have taken 168 PW's.
- 0735 2d Bn Ex O to DO: Patrol not in. Bridge blown in front of E Co. Heard an explosion at 0200A. Believe my armer is on other side of river.
- 0750 2d Bn to DO: Patrol found town empty. G Co moving in. E Co requests armer.
- 0820 1st Bn Ex O to Ex O (Col Davis): We are now mopping up objective # 4, have no more details.
- 0835 Div DO to DO: 7th Inf, 1st Bn via 0637, 2d Bn via 1035, 3d Bn via 0328. 45th Div via 0637, 0239, 0441, and 0844. 12th Armored Div still on right flank.
- 0810 1st Bn CO to CO: Town (obj # 4) cleared. Have 40 PW's. Bay hospital with 200 enemy wounded and 3 Americans PW's located in town across river from MILTENBERG. Civilians in MILTENBERG have white flags out.
- 0811 DO gave above to 2d Bn Ex O. CO to 2d Bn Ex O: Sending recon motorized patrol from objective 1, to 2, 3, 4, 5, and then to 8. Believe it would be all right for you to send vehicles from 4 to 9.
- 0835 Div DO to Asst S-3: 2d Bn of 7th Inf has cleared town of MONCHBURG. 1st Bn of 7th Inf via 106370. 12th Arm Div has elements via 090168 and 040140. Asst S-3 gave resume of situation to Div DO.
- 0844 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: Gave above. 2d Bn Ex O: G Co is getting fire from high ground via PFECHENBACH.
- 1005 1st Bn S-3 to Ex O: Two more military hospitals located across river in town of MILTENBERG. Also one civilian hospital. Observed one friendly soldier walking down street and civilian brought out basoca and then dumped them into river (MAIN River).
- 1018 1st Bn COMM O to Asst S-3: Regt'l CO is here. Objective # 4 is cleared. B Co now occupy that vicinity.
- 1030 Asst S-3 to Div: We will put TD's and Tanks in conspicuous positions on our side of MAIN River so people across river in MILTENBERG, who have already hung up white flags, will not give us any trouble.
- 1031 Msg from 3d Plat, 3d Ron: "We are at objective # 4 and proceeding on." Signed 0950A.
- 1040 Msg from 3d Plat, 3d Ron: "Town north east of objective # 4 is nearly cleared." Signed 1030A.
- 1050 3d Bn S-3 to Ex O (Col Davis): Sent a Patrol from ROLLBACH across woods to vic. 275 northing. Searched woods and came back to town of KOTZENHOF. Captured one enemy who was a glider instructor. Claims he had 30 students. Ex O: All right for you to withdraw outpost group from town of ROSSHOF.
- 1110 CO to Ex O: Requested situation. Ex O to CO: 2d Bn approaching phase line. Held up by S/A fare from vic 16 vertical grid. Have 50 PW's. Have captured hospital complete with staff and wounded.
- 1125 2d Bn CO to Ex O: P Co at REISTENHAUSEN, E Co at KRISCHPURT, G Co attacking PFECHENBACH, getting S/A from across the river. Have supply problem, checking on roads in 7th Inf sector through MONCHBURG to REISTENHAUSEN. Should be ready to push out in an hour.
- 1150 Ex O to 3d Bn: You assemble your companies in their area. Have a motorized patrol to reconnoiter road from SAUTENBERG through MONCHBURG to Reistenhausen. You are not to send a patrol unless on order this HQ as I & R Plat is working on this.
- 1135 G-3 to Ex O: Clean up your area, leaving light blocks. 42d Div is going to pass through us, boundaries have been changed.
- 1138 Asst S-3 gave same msg as above to 1st Bn.
- 1140 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn CO: Elements of 42d Div will relieve your Bn. Leave light blocks at E Co. Do not know time relief will be effected. If you see Regt'l CO or 3d Ron have them contact us at Regt.
- 1151 Asst S-3 to 3d Bn CO: We will be relieved by elements of the 42d Div.
- 1200 Asst S-3 to S-4: Don't come across river with 5v elements. We will be relieved soon by 42d Div. Turn in flame throwers and nine 57 mm AT Guns.

- 1220 2d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: Our com went to 157332. They saw the 7th Inf clearing the hill to the left and a fire fight, probably G Co to the front in REISTENHAUSEN.
- 1230 2d Bn to Asst S-3: Have cleared FECHENBACH. Two of our men wounded. 10 enemy wounded and 6 killed.
- 1235 Above msg given to Mgr Lt.
- 1300 PW from 3d platoon, 3d Bn to CO, 16th Inf: "Approaching objective # 9, road getting bad (1246).
- 1340 3d Bn S-3 to S-2: A patrol had picked up a glider instructor who said there were 30 men in the woods. We sent a squad out to search the woods and found 12 PW's. At the woods to the NE around 093288 we found seven more PW's but 2 had escaped. At the airport there were 12 gliders found, apparently in excellent shape. There were no airplanes.
- 1345 2d Bn Ex O to Asst S-3: A report on roadblock states that it has 50 or 60 legs in it, and over six feet high. Will need Mgr's to clear it. When cleared we can send our ambulances to casualties. Asst S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: Bring your casualties up by jeep to the road block and have ambulance met you there.
- 1430 2d Bn to CO: Have all three objectives cleared out to FECHENBACH. Tanks are there, but the road block is still in. We have some of P Co working to remove block.
- 1432 CO to 1st Bn CO, 2d Bn Ex O, 3d Bn Ex O: (Conference Call); Instructions. To 3d Bn: Move into new area immediately, to be followed by 1st and 2d Bns. Move across at RUCK, 0637, and go to HAUSEN, 0642, Bn CO, com parties, (S-3 and Comm O), and Co CO's are to go to the BOENNER CP for information and to make com. We take over 180th Inf sector in vic of HEIMATHEN (1244). Actual boundary is 180th's sector--the Div's new left boundary, extending S to the river which goes through RUCK. Put strong flank outpost at 116-410. Will try to send you 10 to 12 trucks (2 1/2 ton trucks). To 2d Bn: Put outpost at N (FECHENBACH) and possibly a small group at REISENHAUSEN & KROPPFURTH. Could be handled by motor patrol from N to the other two towns. Hold there till relieved by 232d Inf of 42 Div. (tonight or tomorrow morning). Assemble in vic of RUCK, 0638.
- To 1st Bn: Have light block at 4, with guards at hospital and several outposts, and a jeep for messenger service. Assemble at STREIT, 063565, as soon as you can with your present transportation (shuttle). The 232d Inf of the 42d Div will cross bridge at NORTH from 1700A-1800A, tonight and will move to ROHLBACH and SCHMACTENBURG. 2d Bn should have a guide at the CP in SCHMACTENBURG to lead elements of the unit to the blocks at 9, 8, and N. Regt'l MP platoon will meet the 232d Inf at bridge and guide them to the towns. 1st Bn will have guides to take units to point at 4. Future Plans: Regt will attack through 3d Bn (probably tomorrow morning) through assembly area at STREIT. To all Bn's: When you close your present CP's, send liaison officer to regt CP at KLINGENBERG and use your 300 radios.
- 1448 S-3 to Motor Pool: Round up your 2 1/2 tons quickly (at least 10)
- 1450 1st Bn DO to Dty Clk: Need MP's to pick up 4 PW's at Bn.
- 1458 CO to 3d Bn Ex O: Have your S-3 bring up the Bn as you go on the com party.
- 1506 S-2 to 3d Bn Ex O: Don't know condition of bridge at RUCK or the roads.
- 1525 39th FA Bn DO to Ex O: Bn CP located at ROLLBACH.
- 1529 Co Com reports that they can be reached by phone com through 2d Bn switchboard.
- 1531 7th Inf S-2 to S-2: Read from ROHLBACH to KLINGENBERG. We were there it turns E to ESCHAU. Do not know about the remainder of it.
- The Bn's are assembling at the following points: 1st Bn in ROLLFELD, 2d Bn in KLINGENBERG, 3d Bn in SCHMACTENBURG.
- Dispositions of 7th Inf: 1st Bn (-) 108386. B Co via 117375. Regt'l CP at ESCHAU. 2d Bn (-) via 124367, E Co via 147367. 3d Bn in assembly area in vic of ESCHAU. 3d Bn platoon at 103389.
- 1552 3d Bn S-3 to S-2: We will take road to STREIT north to SCHIPPACH to RUCK. Your CO is taking a radio with him and messages can be relayed through you to us.
- 1601 S-2 to 3d Bn DO: The cameras collected from civilians are to be left with the Burgemeister till the Civil Affairs Officer arrives. Firearms are to be turned over to the S-4.

31-MARCH 1945, CONT'D

- 1606 CO to 1st Bn CO: Assemble at ROELFELD.
- 1641 Asst S-3 to 2d Bn Ex O: CP of 232d will be at MUNCHBERG.
- 1645 S-2 to Div: Reported capture of 8 gliders at the landing field near KLATZENHOF (093288), where there was a glider school with some 30 men in training. Captured 12 in that vicinity.
- 1710 2d Bn CO to Ex O: Resum'e of last night's operation - 86 prisoners, 12 dead, 5 wounded. Our casualties were 2 killed, 1 wounded.
- 1728 3d Bn S-3 to S-3: Have seven 2 1/2-ton trucks now plus organic transportation.
- S-3: Move L and K Co's and their attachments now.
- 1807 1st Bn Ex O to S-3: Our medics picked up 9 PW's - more enemy in vic. S-3 to 1st Bn Ex O: Leave approx a squad of men in that area to round up more PW's.
- 1837 Dy Clik reported to Div that 3d Bn is on the way with all three Co's.
- 2235 Adv Staff Group arrived at VOLKERSBRUNN, vic 101463 at 2235A.
- 2240 Ex O to Dy Clik: Elements of 3d Bn - K and L Co's, arrived at assembly area vic HEIMBUCHENTHAL (121443).
- 2244 CH Co 1st Sgt to Dy Clik: Co closed in vic ROSSBACH at 2200A.
- 2318 S-3 to 3d Bn CO: You will attack tomorrow around 0900A, with 2 Co's blocking to South with one platoon. You may set up your defense tonight in groups anyway you desire so as to be in firmable position to move out in the attack tomorrow. 3d Bn CO:- Received orders from Regt'l CO to patrol to 7th Inf and 179th Inf Regts and to go into defensive positions.
- 2325 S-3 to Lt NCO, Rom Co, 601st TD Bn: Notify your Co to move in the morning as far as to class in new area around 0630A.
- 2337 AT Co Lt NCO to Dy Clik: Have picked CP location in this town for AT Co.

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8-5 Periodic Report

Period: 301201A to 311200A
Unit : 15th Infantry
Place : KLINGENBERG, GERMANY
Date : 31 March 1945

No 73.
Map: GERMANY, 1/100,000; Sheets N-2, T-3 & T-4.

1. Our Front Lines: No line exists.

2. Disposition of Troops: See overlay.

3. Weather and Visibility: Warm, visibility excellent.

4. Our Operations for the Period:

Regt' CP: Displaced from BRECKMAUERN to KLINGENBERG via 040327. CP established at 1900A.

1st Bn: At beginning of period, 1220A, 1st Bn was across MAIN River; B Co via KLINGENBERG. A Co following, received scattered S/A fire. At 1715A, C Co passed thru and reported in ROLLFELD - A Co pushing to ROLLBACH. At 1953A, A Co in ROLLBACH and B Co moving towards MILTENBERG. At 0630A, Plat of B Co encountered a road block manned by enemy to SE of MILTENBERG via 096250; engaged enemy in fire fight wounding 6 of them. Plat of A Co via 080241. At end of period, Bn reported MILTENBERG cleared. B Co occupying the town.

2d Bn: At beginning of period Bn began move from their bivouac area across MAIN River. At 1958A, Bn reported F and E Co's enroute to the east thru woods to REISTENHAUSEN, G Co following F Co. At 2248A, Bn had elements on high ground north of REISTENHAUSEN and sent patrols to the town. At 0750A, E and G Co's moving into the town, encountered enemy in fire fight. At 1128A, F Co in REISTENHAUSEN, G Co moving on FECHBACH, getting S/A fire from across river. At end of period FECHBACH was occupied and Bn holding positions.

3d Bn: At beginning of period, Bn began move across MAIN River and at 1455A, K Co lead element, was closing in on SCHMACHTENBERG. At 1947A, L and I Co's SCHMACHTENBERG and K Co pushing south to ROLLBACH. At 0100A, 3d Bn CP, L Co and K Co (-1 Plat) via 080325. I Co via 086516. Plat of K Co 082284.

5. Combat Efficiency:

Personnel for Duty: (as shown on M/R of 30 Mar 45)

Officers: 74%
WO: 100%
EM: 85%

Rifle Troop Strength:

Officers: 30
EM: 80%

6. Results of Operations:

- a. MAIN River crossed.
- b. Continued mopping up of scattered enemy resistance.

LAUGHLIN
8-5

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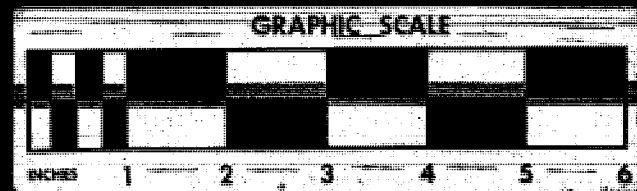
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8-3



Journal

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S - 2 Report

FROM: 800800A
TO: 810800A
UNIT: 18TH INFANTRY
DATE: 31 MARCH 1948
PLACE: KLINGBERG, GERMANY

No 48
Map: GERMANY, 1/100,000, Sheet #75 & 76.

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS:

- a. Enemy Front Lines: At end of the period the enemy held ground generally east of the 14 grid line in our sector.
- b. Enemy Defenses: Only defense of the area consisted of small groups of enemy offering light resistance.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 1st Bn: Bn crossed the Main River and moved south meeting light opposition and at end of the period occupied towns of ROLLFELD, GROSS-NEUBACH and vic of MILTOWBERG North of the Main River.
- (2) 2d Bn: After crossing the river the Bn moved to the east occupying positions vic of 140318 and 130285. Light resistance was the only opposition met.
- (3) 3d Bn: The Bn advanced to the east of the Main River to vic of 064328 where it was at the end of the period.

b. Activities of Component Elements:

- (1) Infantry: Heavy S/A fire received from vic of 150308 at 0100A.
- (2) Artillery: Very little or no arty received during the entire period.
- (3) No report of enemy air, engineer, armor or M/T activity.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. PW's: See attached IRW Report.

DONALD H. LIEB
Major, 18th Infantry
S - 2

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT
A. P. C. # 3

31 March 1945

IPW REPORT: period 300800A - 310800A, Mar 1945

TABULATION:

EM	OFF	UNIT	Place of Capt	Time	Capt Unit
2		1/991 AA Bn (AA-4)	SCHMACHTENBERG	1800A	2nd Bn
9		2/	"	"	"
24		991 AA Bn	TREMPERT	1200A	3rd Bn
26	1	1/42 Gren Bn (Bn KERBER)	KLEIN HEUBACH	2000A	1st Bn
34		2/42	"	"	"
39		3/42	"	"	"
10		4/42	"	"	"
4		5/42	"	"	"
1	2 CO	2/11/111 (Bn KERBER)	MILTENBERG	2400A	3rd Bn
5		AT Drivers Repl Bn	TREMPERT	1200A	"
3		25 Motor Instructors Co	"	"	"
2		112 Fortress Bn	"	"	"
1		Polizei	"	"	"
16		2/12 Automobile Repair Bn	SCHMACHTENBERG	1800A	2nd Bn
1		1/12	"	"	"
1		260 Gren Repl Bn	"	"	"
1		7/47 Engr Brigade (Mts)	KLEIN HEUBACH	2000A	1st Bn
2		2/82 Mtn Engr School	MILTENBERG	2400A	3rd Bn
1		Miss (released from Hospital)	KLEIN HEUBACH	2000A	1st Bn
183	3	TOTAL			

GRAND TOTAL through 15th Infantry capt in France and Germany: 646

T O F A L since 15 March 1945: 1216

TOTAL since crossing the Rhine: 573

Bn KERBER: This Bn, according to PW's statement has been occupying the sector MILTENBERG - ROELBACH - KLINGENBERG. The Bn, also referred to as Battlegroup MOELLER or II/111 consists of 5 Co's which were organized 3 days ago in MILTENBERG. PW's state that 60% of the men came from Air Corps Units and the remaining 40% were taken from regular Army Units. 1st Lt. KERBER, Bn CO, arrived in this sector with 5 officers and 130 men. Bn - 90 men came from an Infantry Repl Bn in BUCHERN, the 90th Bn furnished a sizable number of men. The 12 Gren Bn was supposed to come from the sector FROMMACH. A group of 120 men were moved by trucks as they were unable to march. They were mostly absorbed as they marched.

STRENGTH:		
	1st Co	- 120 Men
	2nd Co	- 120 Men
	3rd Co	- 130 Men
	4th Co	- 90 Men
	5th Co	- 100 Men
	TOTAL	560 Men

WEAPONS: This unit was armed with Carbines and a few Panzerfaust as well as 1 - 2 LMG's per Co. PW's state that they had no support of any kind, and that there were no other weapons than the ones shown above.

PERSONALITIES:

CO Bn KREMER - 1st Lt. Kertzer
CO 1st Co - Lt. Woelker
CO 2d Co - Lt. Deutsch

LOSSES: According to PW's statement, losses were very negligible, as the unit does not put up a fight. Only 1 - 3 men were wounded or killed per Company.

Misc. PW's state that their mission was to defend the MAIN river bank from MILTENBERG to KLINGENBERG. They had no orders as to where to retreat to, but it appears that a sizable number of men is still at large (300), and is withdrawing from village to village in an Easterly and North Easterly direction.

2/82 Mtn Engr Bn: This unit is an Engr Tug Co which was to be formed at Schmachtenberg. Strength of unit was about 120 men. This Company was committed as Infantry armed with Carbines and 1 LMG. CO Lt Keller.

12 Automobile Repair Bn The first Co of this unit was located at Erlenbach, the 2nd Co at KLINGENBERG. Both are composed of technical personnel and had a strength of about 130 men each. Weapons included rifles, Panzerfaust and 2 LMG's per Co.

HEINZ LEVI
1st Lt. Sig Co.

SECRET

Hq 15th Inf
KLINGENBERG,
31 March 1946

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

NUMBER 26 }

MAP: GERMANY, 1/100,000, Sheets T-3 & T-4.

1. a. Omitted.
- b. 3d Inf Div prepared to continue the advance to the NE within its zone of action with 48 Inf Div on left and 22th Arm Div on right.
2. a. 15th Inf in conjunction with 7th Inf on right will be prepared on order to continue the advance to the NE within its zone of action, protect its own and Div right flank. Maintain contact with 7th Inf on left.

3. a. 1st Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B, 801st TD Bn
1 Plat Co B, 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat 15th Inf AT Co
1 Plat Co C, 824th Col Bn

Upon securing objective B and R patrol to the East. On order this Bn be prepared to continue the attack to the Northeast and seize objectives in Regt'l Zone of action to Phase Line "M". On reaching Phase Line "M", block to the East.

- (1) Maintain contact with 7th Inf on left.
- (2) Patrol to the North and East.
- (3) On order this Headquarters, be prepared to continue the attack along route indicated on overlay, to Phase Line "WILD".

- b. 3d Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B, 801st TD Bn
1 Plat Co B, 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat 15th Inf AT Co
1 Plat Co C, 824th Col Bn

On order this Headquarters, assemble Bn in vicinity SCHWACHENBERG (080525) prepared to follow close behind the 2d Bn. Be prepared to block along Regt's left flank until contact has been established with 7th Inf.

- (1) Be prepared to assist the 2d Bn in completing its assigned mission.
- (2) On order this Headquarters, be prepared to pass through the 2d Bn at any point along route of advance and continue the attack to the NE.
- (3) Send patrols to left and right of 2d Bn's route of advance, investigate all roads, houses and by-passed areas where the enemy might be.

- c. 1st Bn: Attached - 1 Plat Co B, 801st TD Bn
1 Plat Co B, 756th Tk Bn
1 Plat 15th Inf Regt AT Co

On order this Headquarters, assemble Bn in vicinity ROLFFELD (045308) in Regt'l reserve, prepared to follow by being along the route of advance of 2d Bn.

- (1) On order this Headquarters, be prepared to pass through 2d Bn on Phase Line "M" and continue the attack to the NE along route indicated on overlay.

- d. CN Co: Will support the advance of the 15th Inf.
- e. Non CG, 601st TD Bn:

Will patrol on routes indicated on overlay and will:

- (1) Report condition of all bridges found along MAEN River in 15th Inf route of advance.
- (2) Leave blocks on bridges found intact until relieved by elements of 15th Inf and on order this Headquarters.

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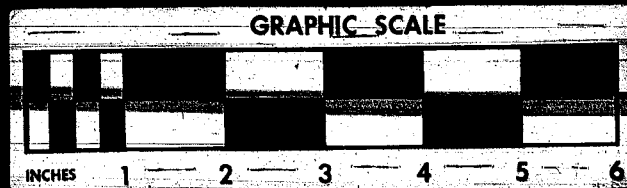
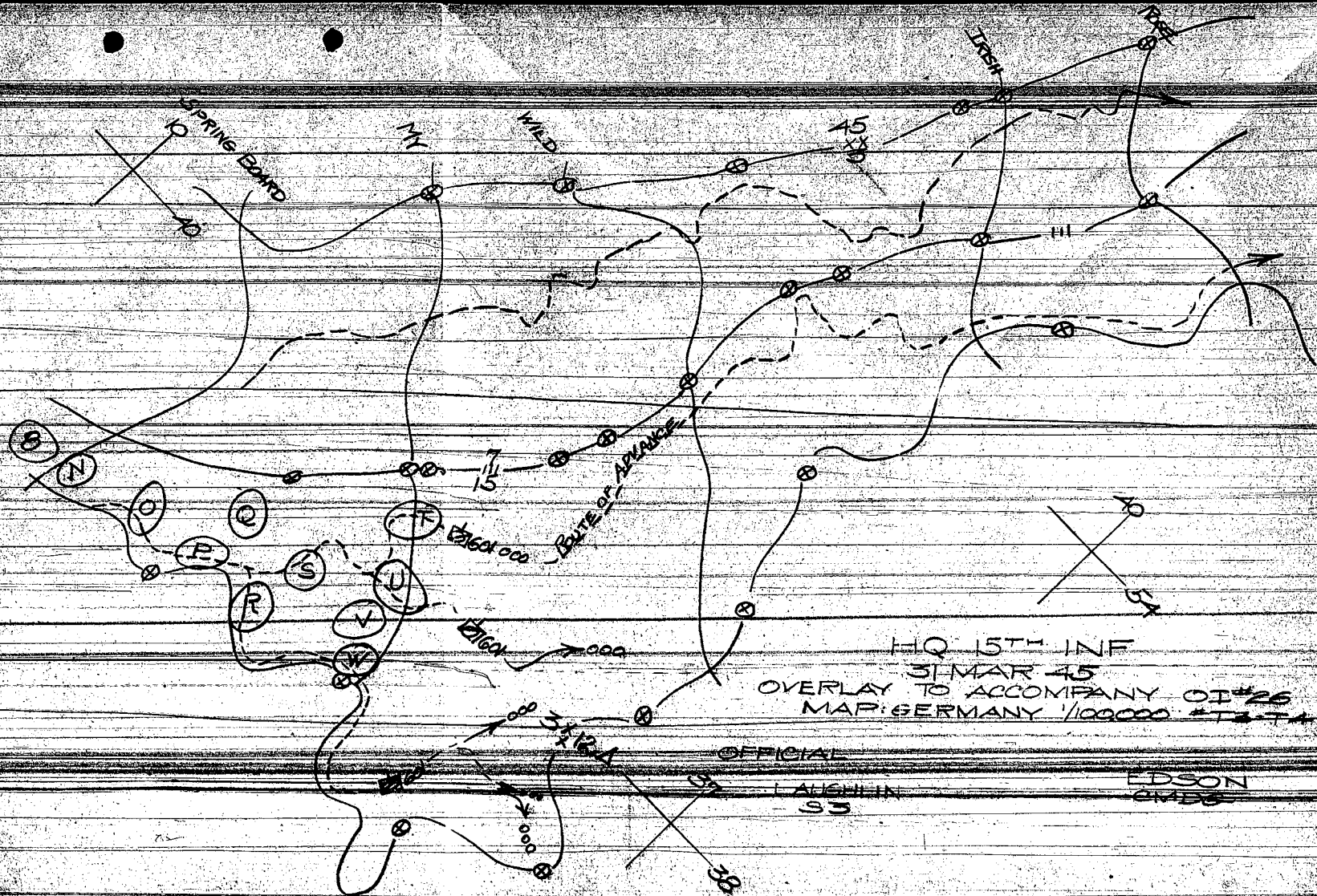
4. a. Co B, 601st TD Bn & Co B, 756th Tk Bn:
Will attach one platoon to each Bn 15th Inf immediately after crossing the MAIN River.
 - b. Co C, 87th Chnl Bn:
Will attach one plat to 3d Bn 15th Inf and one plat to 2d Bn 15th Inf immediately after crossing MAIN River.
 - c. AT Co:
Will be prepared to assemble eleven 1 1/2-ton trucks on one hour notice from this Headquarters for use in shuttling battalions forward.
 - d. Battalions will make all available use of their tactical and attached vehicles in moving forward.
 - e. If column halts for any appreciable time, the officer in charge will pull vehicles off in temporary assembly area.
 - f. Evacuation - normal.
5. Axis of Signal Communication along 15th Inf advance (see overlay).
Regt'l CP at 040328.

EDSON
Crdg

OFFICIAL:

Laughlin
LAUGHLIN
8-3

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Journal

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By 15th Inf
K.L.H. 1945
31 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS)

NUMBER 27)

MAP: GERMANY, 1/100,000, Sheets T-5 & T-6.

- 1. a. Omitted.
- b. At 210001, 34 Div accepts responsibility of new sector, prepares to continue the advance to the SE with 45th Div on left and XII Corps on right.
- 2. a. 15th Inf relieves 180th Inf new holding in new Div sector with one (1) battalion, upon being relieved in this sector by 43d Div, Regt assemblies, prepared to continue the advance to the northeast in new assigned sector.

5. a. 24 Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 750th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat 15th Inf At Co

Assemble immediately in vic of SCHMACHTERBERG (080825) prepared to move by water along previously reconnoitered route to assembly area via RUCK (088776), relieve elements of 180th Inf now holding sector from HEMMATHEN (120440) south to ELSEA River which is new Div boundary and will:

- (1) Send advance parties forward to 180th Inf Regt's CP in vic HAUFEN (086420) to arrange relief prior to troops arriving in new assembly area.
- (2) Upon taking over the new sector, patrol to the east and northeast to determine location and strength of enemy in new area.
- (3) Leave strong flank outpost at 11/410
- (4) On being passed through by 1st and 2d Bn's, be prepared to assemble in vic of HEMMATHEN (120440) as Regt's reserve.

b. 23d Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 750th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat 15th Inf At Co

With light forces hold present objectives with outpost on Objective H and on being relieved by elements of 23d Inf, assemble Bn in vic RUCK (088776) and WILLY.

- (1) Have guides at Bn CP in SCHMACHTERBERG (080825) to guide following units to area.
- (2) Assemble in new assembly area elements of Bn not necessary to maintaining blocks on objectives G, H and N.
- (3) Patrol between objectives G and H until relieved.

c. 1st Bn:

- a. Attached: 1 Plat Co B, 601st TD Bn
- 1 Plat Co B, 750th Tr Bn
- 1 Plat 15th Inf At Co

Maintain light block on objective J, assemble Bn in vic HOLLERS and WILLY.

- (1) Have guides at 1st Bn CP in SCHMACHTERBERG (080825) to guide relieving elements of 1st Bn Regt to objective J.
- (2) On order this Headquarters be prepared to attack through 1st Bn in new assigned sector.

d. On Co, with 20th PA Bn, support Regt while being relieved.

- 4. a. Treadway bridge across MAIN River will not be used by 15th Inf between 1700 and 1800, 30 March.
- b. 24 Bn will have 9 1/2-ton trucks from AT Co and 8 1/2-ton trucks from 5v Co for movement to new area.

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- c. 1st and 2d Bn's will each leave one officer in this area to orient relieving Bn's.
- d. Regt'l MP's will guide 232d Inf from Treadway bridge across MAIN River to town of MOWHEENS.
5. CP in this area until all Bn's have been relieved. Now CP opens HIGHLSRACH (08089) at 020001.

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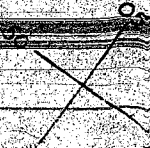
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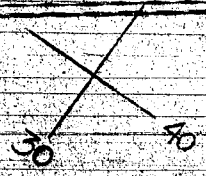
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MAP: GERMANY

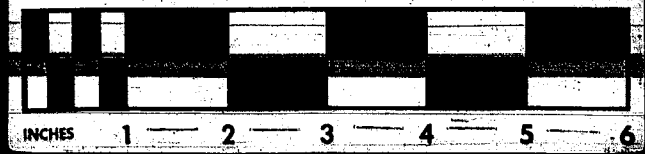
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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS THIRTIETH INFANTRY
APO # 3

5 February 1945

SUBJECT: Operations Report, Thirtieth U.S. Infantry

TO: Commanding General, Third Infantry Division

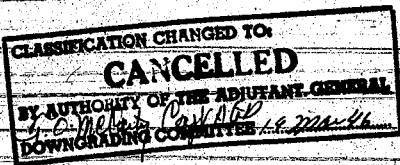
1. Report of Operations covering the period 1-31 January 1945, is submitted in five copies, in compliance with Par. 10, AR 345-105.

2. Unit journal in one copy, complete with supporting files is submitted as an annex to Report of Operations.

L. C. McGarr
LIONEL C. MCGARR,
Colonel, 30th Infantry,
Commanding.

INCL:

- ANNEX 1 - Overlays Phases 1-III**
- ANNEX 2 - Unit Journal (S-2 and S-3)**
- ANNEX 3 - Unit Journal (S-1)**



S E C R E T

1-1037

1. In compliance with par. 10, AR 345-105, Report of Operations for the period 1-31 January 1945 is submitted together with supporting files.

2. Summary of Own Operations:

- PHASE #1: Continuation of the COLMAN Offensive
PHASE #2: Preparation for the Crossing of the LA FÉCHT and L'ILL Rivers
PHASE #3: Continuation of the COLMAN Offensive

a. PHASE #1: Continuation of the COLMAN Offensive

At the beginning of the period the regiment continued to hold defensive positions in the towns of AMMENSCHWILH, KIENTZBETH, SIGOLSHEIM and the hill mass to the Northwest of AMMENSCHWILH. Because of the large sector held by the Regiment, platoons, companies and battalions were only in contact with each other by patrolling. Extensive combat patrolling was conducted deep into enemy territory with good results, mainly keeping the enemy off balance and securing vital unit identifications of the enemy. During the period all positions were wired in and circled with mortar and artillery fire. The enemy continued with his harassing artillery missions, particularly on the towns of AMMENSCHWILH, KIENTZBETH, KAYSERSBERG, SIGOLSHEIM and ALESPACH and known supply routes, road junctions, and road crossings in the Regimental sector.

010001A to 011200A:

No changes were made in the Regimental sector. The Regiment continued to operate strong combat patrols to the front. At 2345A Company F directed mortar fire on enemy crossing river vicinity (689479); Company G combat patrol engaged enemy in fire fight in woods North of river on East of blown bridge. Enemy patrol of about 30 men overran Company F outposts at (690482 and 687479). Outposts reported reestablished at 0345A.

1st Battalion continued laying of defensive wire in sector. At 2014A Company C fired two flares and observed a 13-man enemy patrol vicinity (652474). They fired and a patrol from Company L went out to investigate the results. Patrol did not locate any enemy.

3rd Battalion continued digging of defensive positions in sector. Battalion operated extensive patrols during the hours of darkness making no enemy contact.

011201A to 021200A:

1st Battalion moved to the rear and was relieved by 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment. Battalion moved by foot to HIQUEWILH, closing at 2230A, and immediately went on a half-hour alert status to counterattack any enemy penetration in either the 15th or 30th sector. Morning 2 January was spent in care and cleaning of equipment.

2nd Battalion continued to improve positions North of Weisse River and operate strong combat patrols. At 2140A Engineers reported 4 S-mines tripped by wire laying detail vicinity (684480).

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Company F outpost reported one man killed from enemy patrol action.

3rd Battalion continued improvement of defensive positions during the period. During hours of darkness patrols made up from men of 3rd Battalion and 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment were operating South of area. At 2400a a patrol engaged 4 enemy in fire fight 200 yards West of ~~AMBERSCHWILK~~ with no casualties. Patrol also observed 30 enemy vicinity of bridge #267, fired on by artillery and dispersed enemy.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment attached to 30th Infantry Regiment for battle indoctrination remained in vicinity of ~~ALSPACH~~ preparing to make relief of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry. Relief completed on position at 2115A.

021201A to 031200a:

Regiment continued improvement of defensive positions with 1st Battalion remaining in Division reserve on 2-hour alert status.

G Company combat patrol to the East from ~~ALANTZHEIM~~ in a limited objective attack with mission of sweeping strip approximately 500 yards wide to South of Weiss River. Patrol met heavy MG fire from (677478) (680478) and RJ #209. Patrol withdrew after silencing one machine gun.

3rd Battalion improved ~~no~~ of positions during period operating 4 patrols during the hours of darkness with no reports of enemy contact.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment sent out strong combat patrol as diversion for Company G attack, receiving 3/A and artillery fire after passing through battalion forward lines. Patrol suffered several casualties but continued on mission.

031201A to 041200A:

Regiment remained in defensive positions. 1st Battalion remained in ~~RIQUEWILK~~ in Division Reserve during period. Battalion Commander and Company Commanders made reconnaissance of 3rd Battalion secondary line of defense. Battalions continued to operate extensive combat patrols during hours of darkness.

2nd Battalion continued laying defensive wire around positions, continued operating strong combat patrols and contact patrols during hours of darkness.

3rd Battalion continued to improve positions vicinity (652485) operating contact and combat patrols during the night.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment sector was very quiet. Light enemy artillery fell on positions.

041201A to 051200A:

Regiment remained in defensive positions operating extensive patrols to the front, and continued to improve their positions by additional wire and mine laying. Regimental sector was extended North to include the towns of ~~BENNHILK~~, ~~MIRLENHILK~~ and ~~PEBLENHILK~~. 1st Battalion moved out to relieve 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry on position. Relief was completed by 2226a.

3rd Battalion reported unusually quiet night.

2nd Battalion continued work on defensive positions and operated contact patrols to units on right and left. 1st

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Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment operated combat patrols to their front; one patrol from Company A ran into 3-man enemy patrol, engaged in a fire fight and wounded one enemy.

051201A to 061200A:

Regiment continued readjustment and improvement of defensive positions in sector by the laying of mine fields and wire. 1st Battalion readjusted positions in new sector. Company B observed some enemy digging in vicinity (704487), fired on by 81mm mortars. Company B combat patrol observed 17 enemy at (704487) fired on by 4.2 mortars and artillery. Patrol checked area and returned with two (2) PW's.

2nd Battalion continued operating contact patrols between units and laying of wire. Fired CN Company on enemy truck vicinity (685445), setting it ablaze.

3rd Battalion continued work on defensive positions during period and operated extensive patrols to front with no enemy contact reported.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment reported enemy activity vicinity RJ 207. Battalion operated patrols in sector during period.

061201A to 071200A:

Regiment remained in defensive positions maintaining contact with friendly units on right and left and continued improvement of defensive positions.

1st Battalion patrol captured 2 PW's asleep in fox holes, after patrol returned, 4.2 mortar fire was adjusted and a machine gun was seen flying in the air after a direct hit.

2nd Battalion operated contact patrols between units and combat patrols to the front. enemy SP gun fired on by our artillery and silenced.

3rd Battalion remained in reserve position and practiced reserve counterattack plan. Companies I and L received instructions in the use of the "Panzerfaust". Company A completed wiring of mortar positions in TCGE area.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment operations were confined mostly to patrolling. At 070528A patrol engaged in a fire fight with 5-man enemy patrol, killing 3 of the enemy. One man from patrol missing.

071201A to 081200A:

Regiment continued improving defensive positions. Preparations were being completed at end of period for diversion attack by Company I on Hill 616 to take place at 1430A.

1st Battalion continued laying wire and mine fields in Company A area for possible penetration attack. Enemy aircraft flying overhead.

2nd Battalion placed CN Company fire on a group of 20 Germans vicinity (705420) with good results. CN Company fire was also brought down on enemy truck vicinity KGS area.

3rd Battalion in Regimental Reserve continued preparation of defensive positions on hill to North of KGS area.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment prepared Company C for assistance in diversionary attack of Company I, removing mines from road blocks to the East and South of KGS area.

061201A to 061200A:

Regiment continued laying of tactical wire and booby traps in front of positions.

1st Battalion attacked hill 216 in conjunction with attack of Company I. Northern half of hill was cleared and one (1) PW taken. Enemy reacted violently with mortar and artillery fire on our front line positions.

2nd Battalion reported 10-man enemy patrol moving South from bridge at (687478) dispersed by artillery fire. Company G patrol flanked an enemy MG position and returned with 2 PW's.

3rd Battalion continued with preparation of defenses on Hill. At 1430A Company I crossed LD and continued up forward slope of hill 216 receiving heavy S/A fire. Company I reached top of hill and reorganized, leaving one platoon to cover withdrawal of remainder of company. At 1625A Company I (-) started to withdraw from hill, after successfully completing mission, meeting heavy S/A and MG fire on the way down. At 1700A Company I (-) reached AMMERSCHWIHN. At 1700A the platoon started withdrawal along same route to AMMERSCHWIHN. Platoon reached AMMERSCHWIHN at 1905A. 10 PW's were taken during the action and an unknown number of enemy killed.

1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment remained in defensive positions vicinity AMMERSCHWIHN. Company C jumped off at 1815A along road running East from AMMERSCHWIHN, supported by 2 tanks and 2 TD's in a diversion for the attack by Company I, 30th Infantry Regiment. Upon completion of Company I's mission, Company C returned to the town of AMMERSCHWIHN.

091201A to 101200A:

Regimental positions remained unchanged, extensive patrolling being continued during period.

1st Battalion continued laying of defensive wire and mine fields in front of positions. At 0854A Company B patrol heard enemy laying wire 200 yards Southeast of outpost at (704492). Patrol bypassed them and found numerous unoccupied foxholes vicinity of CR (708466). Patrol returned and adjusted mortar and artillery fire on enemy positions.

2nd Battalion fired observed CN Company, 4.2 mortar fire on 100 enemy, 3 flak wagons and 1 field piece South of MOWSEN (738467). Field piece and 1 flak wagon were destroyed and many casualties inflicted on personnel.

3rd Battalion remained in WAYSCHENBACH as Regimental reserve engaging in care and cleaning of equipment and personal hygiene. Company E prepared for relief by Company C of 7th Infantry. 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry prepared for relief by 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry. Patrol from Company A ran into MG fire vicinity (547467). One German wounded and captured. At 0130A 3 enemy surrendered to Company D Machine Gun section in AMMERSCHWIHN.

101201A to 111200A:

Regiment readjusted positions during the period after relief of 2nd Battalion by 1st Battalion and 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment by 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. Extensive screening patrols were operated during period to ward off detection of relief by the enemy. 1st Battalion remained in position until

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one platoon each of A and B Company was relieved by Company G, 254th Infantry Regiment on position; relief completed at 0310a. Company C moved to reserve positions vicinity (675469).

2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry upon completion of relief moved by foot to vicinity of ALSA CH in Regimental Reserve. Balance of period spent in rest and rehabilitation. 2nd Battalion completed relief of 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment on position at 2045a. Patrols operating during hours of darkness made no enemy contact.

111201A to 121200a:

Regiment readjusted defensive positions to conform to new boundary lines.

1st Battalion reinforced with G Company, continued improvement of defensive positions and patrolling deep into enemy territory. 2nd Battalion (-) remained in Regimental Reserve vicinity of ALSA CH preparing plans for the continuation of defensive positions on high ground North of KAYSERSBERG.

3rd Battalion less Company A, remained in defensive positions in ALWILSKA and hill mass to the Southeast. Continuous patrolling continued to the front with no enemy contact reported.

121201A to 131200a:

Regimental sector remained very quiet with very little enemy action reported during period.

1st Battalion operated continuous patrols to front during hours of darkness with no enemy encountered.

2nd Battalion remained in Regimental Reserve vicinity ALSA CH, continuing preparation of defensive positions on high ground to North of KAYSERSBERG.

3rd Battalion operated continuous patrols to the front, reported no enemy activity.

131201A to 141200a:

Regimental sector remained very quiet with little or no enemy activity reported. 1st and 3rd Battalions operated extensive patrols to the front and reported no enemy activity. 2nd Battalion remained in Regimental Reserve continuing work on high ground North of KAYSERSBERG.

141201A to 151200a:

Regiment remained in defensive positions conducting extensive patrols to the front and flanks. 1st and 3rd Battalions continued to improve defensive positions in sectors. 2nd Battalion (-) remained in Regimental Reserve vicinity ALSA CH and continued work on defensive positions to the North of KAYSERSBERG.

151201A to 161200a:

Regiment remained in defensive positions until 1925a when relief of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment by 1st Battalion 254th Infantry Regiment began. Relief was completed by 0350a. 1st Battalion moving to vicinity ALWILSKA. 2nd Battalion remained in Regimental Reserve vicinity ALSA CH. 3rd Battalion relief of positions by 1st Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment began at 1945a with I Company being relieved in ALWILSKA at 2145a. Battalion (-) L Company assembled vicinity KAYSERSBERG.

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171201A to 181200A:

Regiment prepared for movement to St. CROIX - LIEPVRE area in preparation for objective training period consisting of conditioning, battle indoctrination and practice river crossing. At 180730A 2nd Battalion crossed IP. 3rd Battalion (-) L Company crossed IP at 0855A, for movement to new area. L Company upon relief on position by 3rd Battalion, 254th Infantry Regiment ordered to join Regiment in St. CROIX-aux-MINES. 1st Battalion remained in Division Reserve on one (1) hour alert status vicinity RIJUELLA.

b. PHASE II - Preparation for the LA FECHT and L'ILL Rivers.

171201A to 211200A:

During balance of night Company L was relieved of their defensive positions and joined Regiment closing at 2210A. 1st Battalion remained in RIJUELLA as Division Reserve. The 16th and 17th were occupied exclusively with rehabilitation and reequipping as far as the supply situation would permit. Training for the LA FECHT and L'ILL River crossing began. January 18th, 2nd and 3rd Battalions trained in the vicinity of St. CROIX-aux-MINES and LIEPVRE area and the 1st Battalion trained in the RIJUELLA - RIBEAUVILLE area. The 1st Battalion being in Division Reserve, could not concentrate on training as it should have until relieved by the 15th Infantry Regiment. The battalion moved into the RIBEAUVILLE area and started their objective training. Battalion river crossing problems were conducted during the hours of darkness stressing stealth and control. Other training was conducted in conditioning marches, military discipline, and a snow shoe and ski school was instituted by the battalions. The use of sleds for carrying weapons and ammunition was practiced. In the meantime, reconnaissance of the river crossing sites was made from a forward OP and on the ground. Plans were written and discussed and staff preparations were completed. This involved considerable work for all concerned since several plans were prepared and studied. In spite of all the changes in plans the Regiment was poised and set to strike at the German LA FECHT and L'ILL River defenses on the East bank of the river in the vicinity of GUEMAR (748543). D-Day was set for January 22, H-Hour being 2100A.

c. PHASE III - Continuation of the COLMAR Offensive.

211201A to 221200A:

Preparation being as complete as time would permit the Regiment began the movement to a forward assembly area in RIBEAUVILLE. 1st and 3rd Battalion bridghead platoons left during the night 21 January for forward assembly areas in GUEMAR. The remainder of the Regiment intruded at St. CROIX-aux-MINES and moved to join the 1st Battalion in RIBEAUVILLE (69-45) closing at 1315A.

221201A to 231200A:

1st Battalion moved from RIBEAUVILLE on foot at 1730A, closing in GUEMAR at 1830A. Battalion completed crossing of FECHT River at 2200A. Company A reported on Objective "B" with Company B on Objective "C" at 230007A. At 0637A Company A crossed bridge over

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L'ILL River constructed by Infantry out of rubber boats, planks and blankets. Remainder of battalion completed crossing at 0900A. At 1209A Companies A and B reached Objective "E",

2nd Battalion moved by marching to GUEMAM and billeted in buildings. At 0230A 23 January battalion as Regimental Reserve crossed PECHT River, moved to assembly area vic. (756528).

3rd Battalion moved from RIEBAUVILLE behind 1st Battalion closing in GUEMAM at 1930A. Battalion started crossing foot bridge across PECHT River at 2100A. At 2130A mortar and artillery fire began landing vicinity of bridge site, but the crossing was completed at 230015A. Company K encountered a field of snu-mines at (754534). The battalion kept advancing toward objectives through S/A fire. At 231130A I Company attacked and seized bridges intact on Objective "E" (767502).

231201A to 241200A:

The Regiment continued to press forward against determined enemy resistance. At 1630A the first bridge across the ILL River capable of taking armor was declared open. Supporting armor was ordered forward, but the first tank fell through the bridge and the armor did not join the Infantry as planned.

The 1st Battalion attacked Southeast toward RIEDLHR. As the battalion reached the western edge of town the enemy counter-attacked with Infantry supported by at least three tanks. The battalion withdrew to the Eastern bank of the ILL River, quickly reorganized, and established a defensive position extending from (773513) to (773505) which stopped the attack.

The 2nd Battalion continued to follow the attack in Regimental Reserve. When the enemy counterattack came, the battalion reorganized on the West bank of the ILL River. At 2400A the battalion moved to OSTHIA in Division Reserve.

3rd Battalion attacked South toward COLMAR Canal at 1400A. I and K Companies entered HOLZLHR (764480) at 1605A, capturing five artillery pieces and their crews. While the town was being cleared, enemy Infantry supported by tanks counterattacked from the South and East. Without supporting armor to meet this threat, the battalion withdrew across the ILL River where it was reorganized and moved to GUEMAM in Division Reserve.

241201A to 251200A:

Regiment remained in Division Reserve and continued to regroup and reorganize. Company C and Regimental Raiders established a blocking position from (765492) to (760500) at 1915A, while the 1st Battalion less Company C, moved to GUEMAM to complete reorganization.

At 0630A 2nd Battalion moved into defensive positions East of bridges over the ILL River at (774515) and (773507).

3rd Battalion remained in reserve in GUEMAM. Company L, (reinforced) relieved Company C and Regimental Raiders at 1000A,

251201A to 261200A:

The Regiment remained in Division Reserve continuing to regroup and reorganize. The 2nd Battalion continued to improve their positions on East side of L'ILL River bridge maintaining contact with the 1st DMI (French) by patrol. At 0745A battalion assembled on Regimental order in COLMAR Forest.

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The 3rd Battalion less Company L (who was in a blocking position vicinity (755500)) remained in GUTMAH.

261200A to 271200A:

The Regiment attacked to the Southeast in conjunction with CO4 (French) at 3490A occupying the towns of HOLTZWILHR (765460) and WICKENSCHWILHR (777455). After a stiff fight 109 EM and 4 Officers were captured and many enemy killed.

1st and 2nd Battalions jumped off in the attack with the 3rd Battalion taking a blocking position to the East of the ILL River. By the end of the period the towns of HOLTZWILHR and WICKENSCHWILHR were cleared of enemy by the 1st and 2nd Battalions. 2 SP guns were destroyed and one captured intact by the 1st Battalion in WICKENSCHWILHR. One (1) SP gun was captured intact by the 2nd Battalion in HOLTZWILHR. One enemy tank was destroyed by artillery fire in BISCHWILHR.

271200A to 281200A:

Regiment continued to operate extensive patrols within Regimental sector North of COLMAH Canal. Blocks were established to cover all bridge crossings on North side of Canal and patrols sent out to gain control of crossings for forthcoming operation.

1st Battalion set up defensive positions in town of WICKENSCHWILHR (778453) and bridge crossing sites at (779451) and (771450).

2nd Battalion remained in defensive positions in HOLTZWILHR (764460) with G Company jumping off in attack at 1715A to sweep through area (771449 - 762446). At 1915A 2 enemy tanks pulled up on South side of the canal and fired directly into G Company positions.

3rd Battalion remained in defensive positions vicinity (773473). At 1620A Company L moved out to sweep area East of ILL River and North of COLMAH Canal.

At 2000A Company L reached Objective at (741441) and heard enemy vehicles South of COLMAH Canal. At 2015A Company L was relieved and moved back to join the battalion, closing at 2330A.

281200A to 291200A:

The Regiment continued to man blocks covering bridge crossings over the COLMAH Canal.

1st and 2nd Battalions remained in defensive positions North of COLMAH Canal maintaining contact with friendly units on both flanks.

3rd Battalion remained in defensive positions as a blocking force in the Bois de RIEDWILHR.

291200A to 301200A:

The Regiment continued to maintain control of bridge crossings over the COLMAH Canal keeping secure a LD for a Division attack to the South.

1st and 2nd Battalions remained in defensive positions during period maintaining contact with friendly units on both flanks.

3rd Battalion moved from blocking position to sweep area to the North of COLMAH Canal and East of ILL River and secure possible enemy crossing sites over the COLMAH Canal.

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301201A to 311200A:

The Regiment maintained outposts covering bridge crossings across COLMAR Canal from bridge at (778451) to (740559) until relieved by the 289th Infantry. The remainder of the period was spent in rehabilitation and preparation for forthcoming operation.

3. Situation at end of period:

By the end of January the battle to reduce the COLMAR pocket was at its peak. The fury of past battles and the coming of darkness presented the thought that the reduction of this pocket would not be an easy one. Now that the enemy knew of our intentions he fought for every yard of ground, counterattacking repeatedly to regain positions that had been overrun by our troops. While the enemy suffered heavily from casualties and the loss of equipment, we too sustained losses, not as much as he of course, but enough to be felt. At the close of the period the Regiment, after holding down a defensive position on the Northern edge of the COLMAR Canal and the Eastern edge of the ILL River, was assembled in Division Reserve in the towns of HOITZELER and WICKERSCHWILH in preparation for the resumption of the attack to the Southeast.

4. Enemy operations for period:

During the period January 1 to January 16 the enemy, in our sector, held a line running generally from KATZENTHAL to the Weiss River then along the South side of the Weisse River Southeast to the FECHT River. This line consisted of fox holes 20 to 50 meters apart, dug-in MG and a few pillboxes, with outposts out to front. Their positions were staggered to form a defensive line approximately 200 meters in depth.

The enemy frequently sent recon and combat patrols against our lines during the hours of darkness, and in the early morning fog. All during the period the enemy made good use of his prepared positions, occupying one position one night and changing to other positions the next night.

During the latter part of the period the enemy began to send strong combat patrols against our positions and made several attempts to knock-out or capture our outposts.

Unoccupied pillboxes were found in the vicinity of (705483). One of these pillboxes was taken by our F Company. This pillbox was very near the enemy positions and he made several attempts to retake it.

During the period, we ran several strong combat patrols and a company raid on an enemy position on hill 616 (647801). The company raid was very successful. The enemy was taken by complete surprise, his defensive fires were called for too late and fell on our line of departure after the troops had crossed it. Company I completely overran the enemy positions on the forward slope of the hill, killing a large number of enemy and taking a total of 10 PW's.

Enemy artillery for the period was moderate. During the first few days of the period enemy artillery was very heavy, with KAYERSBERG, AMENSCWILH, SIGOLSHILH and KIANTZELH his main targets. His principle targets, for the latter part of the period, were the towns and the road-nets in the vicinity of the towns, with

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Enemy artillery for the period was moderate. During the first few days of the period enemy artillery was very heavy, with KAYSERSBERG, AMERSCHWILK, SIGOLSHEIM and KLEINZELN as his main targets. His principle targets, for the latter part of the period, were the towns and the road nets in the vicinity of the towns, with

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most of his fire falling during the hours of darkness. Although he used light artillery most of the time, 150mm and 170mm was used to interdict KAYSERSBERG and AIBFACH.

The enemy made good use of his tanks and SP guns, using them for interdiction fire. Nobelwörter fire was reported on two occasions, but was not confirmed. The enemy used 120mm mortar on our front lines and on the towns in the forward areas.

During the period 17 January through 21 January the Regiment was relieved from the KAYSERSBERG sector and moved to St. CROIX. While in the St. CROIX area patrols were operating in the GUMER sector gathering information for our attack of 22 January. Enemy patrols were also active in this sector and most of our patrols made contact with small enemy patrols or outposts.

Our attack during the night of 22 January was met with only light resistance. The enemy held the COLMAR Forest with a series of strong points along the North and western edge of the woods, with a few strongpoints around the trail junctions in the woods. The enemy did not have prepared positions East of the L'ILL River to fall back to. Although our advance was very rapid, the enemy managed to bring in armor and Infantry with which he launched a counterattack against our troops in the vicinity of HOLTZWILH. Our troops were without armor and were forced to withdraw to the L'ILL River. During the night of 22 January to the 23rd January the enemy brought in elements of the 2nd Mt. Division and some armor from the East side of the RAINE River. He used these troops piecemeal in an effort to drive all our forces back across the L'ILL River, and to retain his NER in the COLMAR Forest.

The enemy made good use of his armor, which was supported by Infantry, during the first part of the attack, bringing it up to our line on the East side of the L'ILL River and firing across the river and on our bridge sites. The effectiveness of the enemy armor was due to the fact that we were not able to get our armor across the river to meet his attack.

The enemy continued to counterattack our positions and those of 15th Infantry during the 24th and 25th of January, with Infantry and armor. He used men from company trains and other rear installations for some of these attacks.

On the night of the 25th January our 1st and 2nd Battalions moved into the woods to launch attack to retake HOLTZWILH, and to drive on to the COLMAR Canal. The enemy launched a counterattack against our troops while they were moving to the line of departure. This counterattack was driven back and our attack jumped off with elements of CG4. With his attack broken up the enemy made an effort to hold the towns of HOLTZWILH and WICKERSCHACH but by morning was forced to retreat across the COLMAR Canal. Although the enemy had heavy casualties he managed to bring in more troops and armor in order to hold our forces on the North side of the COLMAR Canal. He immediately began to send patrols across the canal, using tanks and SP and MG fire for support.

S E C R E T

Although the enemy was cleared from the East side of the LILL River and the North side of the COLLAR Canal he was able to keep the Southwest corner of our sector covered by fire. His positions across the river consisted of well dug in MG positions, mortar, SP guns and light artillery. The enemy was very active in the Northeast corner of the COLLAR Canal.

During the period the enemy used mortar, tank, and SP guns for his defensive fires rather than artillery.

At end of the period the enemy was falling back towards the Rhine river after suffering very heavy losses in personnel, armor and equipment.

S E C R E T

5. Status of Personnel and Equipment:

a. Status of Personnel:

(1) Combat strength at beginning of period:
118 Officers - 2400 EM - 5 WO.

(2) Casualties:	OFF.	EM.
KIA.....	1	29
WIA.....	13	204
MIA.....	4	407
MFA to KIA.....	0	11
DCM.....	0	6
NBO.....	14	498
(3) Replacements.....	10	510
Reassigned and Joined.....	23	490
(4) Miscellaneous Changes:		
MIA to duty.....	0	123
Duty to transferred.....	0	15
Duty to AWOL.....	0	57
AWOL to duty.....	0	35
Duty to confinement.....	0	8
Confinement to duty.....	0	8
Duty to discharged.....	0	4

(5) Prisoners of War: 3 Officers, 172 EM

(6) Combat strength at end of period:
106 Officers - 2296 EM - 5 WO.

(7) Morale: Excellent

b. Status of Equipment:

At the beginning of the period the Regiment was on the defense. The Regiment was relieved on 17 January and given five days for refitting, reconditioning of equipment and personnel. The 22nd of January found the Regiment in the attack across the L'ILL River. In subsequent withdrawal back to the river line many of the crew served weapons were lost or missing. The consolidated list of lost and recovered items is as follows:

	TOTAL MISSING	TOTAL RECOVERED	TOTAL LOST
Mortar, 81mm	11	9	2
Mortar, 60mm	21	16	5
MG, cal. .30, M1919A4	42	36	6
MG, cal. .30, M1917A1	14	14	0
BAR, cal. .30, M1918A2	77	45	32
Launchers, rocket	62	42	20
Gun, 57mm, AT	4	4	0
Truck, 1 1/2-ton	1	1	0
Truck, 1-ton	15	15	0
Trailer, 1-ton	9	7	2

Snow smocks of local manufacture proved highly satisfactory as an individual camouflage against snow covered terrain.

At the close of period the following items were critical:

S E C R E T

Mortar, 60mm
 Mortar, 81mm
 Heavy machine guns, M1917A1
 Gloves or mittens
 Winter clothing of all items
 Ammunition, 100mm, M-3 type

CLASS I:

Rations drawn during the period were as follows:

Type "B"	52,360
Type "C"	14,564
Type "K"	18,824
Type "X"	20,220

CLASS II & IV:

Quartermaster items of clothing and equipment drawn and issued during the period:

CLOTHING

Helmet, steel, M-1	550
Sweaters, wool, hi-neck	120
Shoe pass, size 9	10
Laces, shoe pac	1000
Blankets, wool	333
Liner, pile	1400
Insoles, f/shoe pass	421
Towels, huck	725
Shirts, wool	336
Trousers, wool	2042
Jackets, field, M-43	33
Boots, combat	847
Undershirt, wool	3800
Towels, bath	1700
Socks, hvy wool	1500
Socks, 1/wool, cushion-sole	3220
Caps, parka	59
Liner, parka	59
Coat, parka	59
Headbands	30
Trouser, field, cotton, wool	808
Gloves, hvy leather	20
Suits, white	3700
Raincoats, dismtd	78
Socks, wool, ski	3350
Mufflers, wool	1260
Suits, wsg, 1-pc	56
Drawers, wool	3700
Buttons, trigger, hvy w/insert	44
Overshoes, arctic, size 8	388
Liners, helmet	560

ORGANIZATIONAL PROPERTY

Bag, carrying, rocket, M-6	26
Can, corrugated, 24-gal.	3
Can, corrugated, 32-gal.	9
Pans, bake & roasting	3
Pans, cake	5

S E C R E T

Lanterns, gas	9
Heater, immersion type	6
Desk, fibre, field	1
Kit, barber's	1
Pumps, stove	6
Heater, conversion unit	61
Containers, rd, insulated	5
Outfit, officer's mess	1
Lanterns, kerosene	4
Outfit, cooking, 2-burner	2
Mauls, f/lantern, gas	48
Tents, pyramidal	15
Stoves, Sibley, complete	90
Field, Range, M-37	5
Pack "A", set	3
Pipe, stove, lengths	30
Flags, GC	4
Shovel, intr., M-45	210
Carrier, shovel, intr.	60
Bags, carrying, amac	8
Generators, f/lantern, gas	50
Globes, f/lantern, gas	5
Tent, C.F.	1
Unit, fine, M-37	1
Packboards	8
Padlocks	12
Case, dispatch, canvas	12
Machine, duplicating, stencil-process	1
Container, water, 5-gallon	164
Paulin, canvas, small	1
Rakes, garden	6
Repe, 1/2"	3600 ft.

INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

Bag, canvas, field	25
Cans, meat	80
Canteens, M-10	425
Covers, canteen	615
Haversacks, M-28	540
Pouch, 1st aid	500
Spoons	500
Belt, cant., cal. 50	500
Bag, mountain, sleeping	130
Belts, BAH	64
Belts, pistol	168
Pouch, carbine	183
Pouch, pistol	170
Pouch, cant. 50 cal.	170
Case, water, 5-gallon, 1/2 bag	170
sleeping, mountain	100
Cups, canteen	239
Suspenders, belt	10

EXPENDABLES

Wool, steel	29 lbs
Limc	76 cans
Soda, caustic	402 cans

S E C R E T

EXPENDABLES (cont'd)

H.T.A.	41 cans
Powder, insecticide	2953 cans
Cardles	950 lbs.
Brushes, scrub	111
Halozono	4800 btls.
Soap, grit	298
Rinse, f/mess gear	384 cans
Rinse	234 cans
Brushes, curry	48
Washer, potato	48
Brooms	48
Tablets, fuel	22,900

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Shoes, ski	33
Skis	33
Snowshoes, trail	21
Snowshoes, bear-paw	145
Goggles, ski	160
Creepers, ice	100
Sleds	48

ORDNANCE:

VEHICLES lost or salvaged during the period:

	<u>BATTLE CASUALTY</u>	<u>SALVAGED</u>	<u>STOLEN</u>
Truck, 3/4-ton G&A 4x4	7	17	1
Trailer, 1/2-ton	2	1	1
Truck, 2 1/2-ton 6 x 6		3	
Truck, 1 1/2-ton 6 x 6	3		
Carriage, motor, M-8		1	

ARMAMENT and other Ordnance:

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>AMOUNT DRAWN</u>	<u>ON CREDIT</u>
MG, cal. .30, M1917A1	6	9
MG, cal. .30, M1919A4	3	11
MG, cal. .30, M1919A6	3	9
SMG, cal. .45, M-3	4	7
TSMG, cal. .45, M-1	11	29
Mortar, 60mm, M-2	4	9
Mortar, 81mm, M-1	--	5
Mount, tripod, MG, cal. .30, M-2	5	33
Mount, tripod, MG, cal. .30, M1917A1	5	9
BAR, cal. .30, M1918A2	25	59
Mount, tripod, M-2	1	1
Bayonet, M-1	132	
Launcher, grenade, M-7	40	190
Launcher, grenade, M-8	40	40
Launcher, rocket, AT, M1A2	18	28
Launcher, rocket, AT, M9A1	83	20
Pistol, auto, cal. .45	--	36
Rifle, US, cal. .30, M-1	205	--
Gun, 60mm, M1, w/carr., M1A3	4	4

- 15 -

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Binoculars, M-3	7	17
Binoculars, M-8	3	6
Binoculars, M-9	--	1
Binoculars, M-13		3
Finder, range, 1 meter base, M9A1	2	--
Glasses, field, type EE	--	3
Watch, wrist, 7-jewel, Elgin	--	3
Watch, wrist, 9-jewel, Waltham	--	6
Watch, wrist, 17-jewel, Hamilton	--	3
Watch, wrist, 15-jewel, Bulova		1
Watch, wrist, 17-jewel, Waltham	4	
Mortar, 60mm, T-18-E-6	2	1
Mortar, 81mm, T-27	6	2
Carbine, cal. .30, M-1	--	--
		67

SIGNAL:

SIGNAL equipment lost, captured and destroyed:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
SCR 300	2
SCR-625	1
SCR 536	63
EE-8	39
TS-10	63
RL-39	36
RL-31	2
DD-71	3
TE-33	28
TI-122	61
M-209	2
RM-29	3
BC-5	1
TE-21	1
LS-7	1
TS-16	8
AN-130	8
AN-131	9
CE-11	4
RL-29	5
HS-30	2
SCR-284	1

S E C R E T

6. Comment and Lessons Learned:

a. LOCAL "REST CAMPS"

We have found that when fighting in snow and in extremely cold weather it is necessary to devise a system of aids for the Infantrymen to insure health and continued combat efficiency. Our solution to this problem was the installation of Crying tents. One tent per platoon was set up. Each tent was equipped with a stove, facilities for washing feet, shaving, cooking and letter writing. Once during each 24 hour period all men were rotated to this local "rest camp" for at least two hours. In this way we were able to cut down considerably on frozen feet, trench foot, and exposure cases in the Regiment in addition to maintaining a high state of morale.

b. CONTROL:

Officers and non-commissioned Officers must be thoroughly indoctrinated in methods of control. This applies particularly to the attack and the period of reorganization immediately following the taking of an objective. In a recent attack two of our battalions were successful in reaching objectives well in advance of units on either flank. While reorganization was taking place the enemy launched a counterattack with Infantry supported by armor. Unable to cope with the enemy armor, control was temporarily lost and a state of panic existed. Fortunately the situation was saved by the positive action of officers and non-commissioned officers, but not before considerable damage and disorganization had occurred.

Panic can be prevented only if all officers and NCO's are alert to recognize the first indications and take immediate steps to stop it before it starts. If one man is allowed to start to the rear or to lose control of himself he will start a plague that will quickly spread throughout all troops including those which have not been in contact with the enemy. Control must be exercised on the spot or a disaster is eminent.

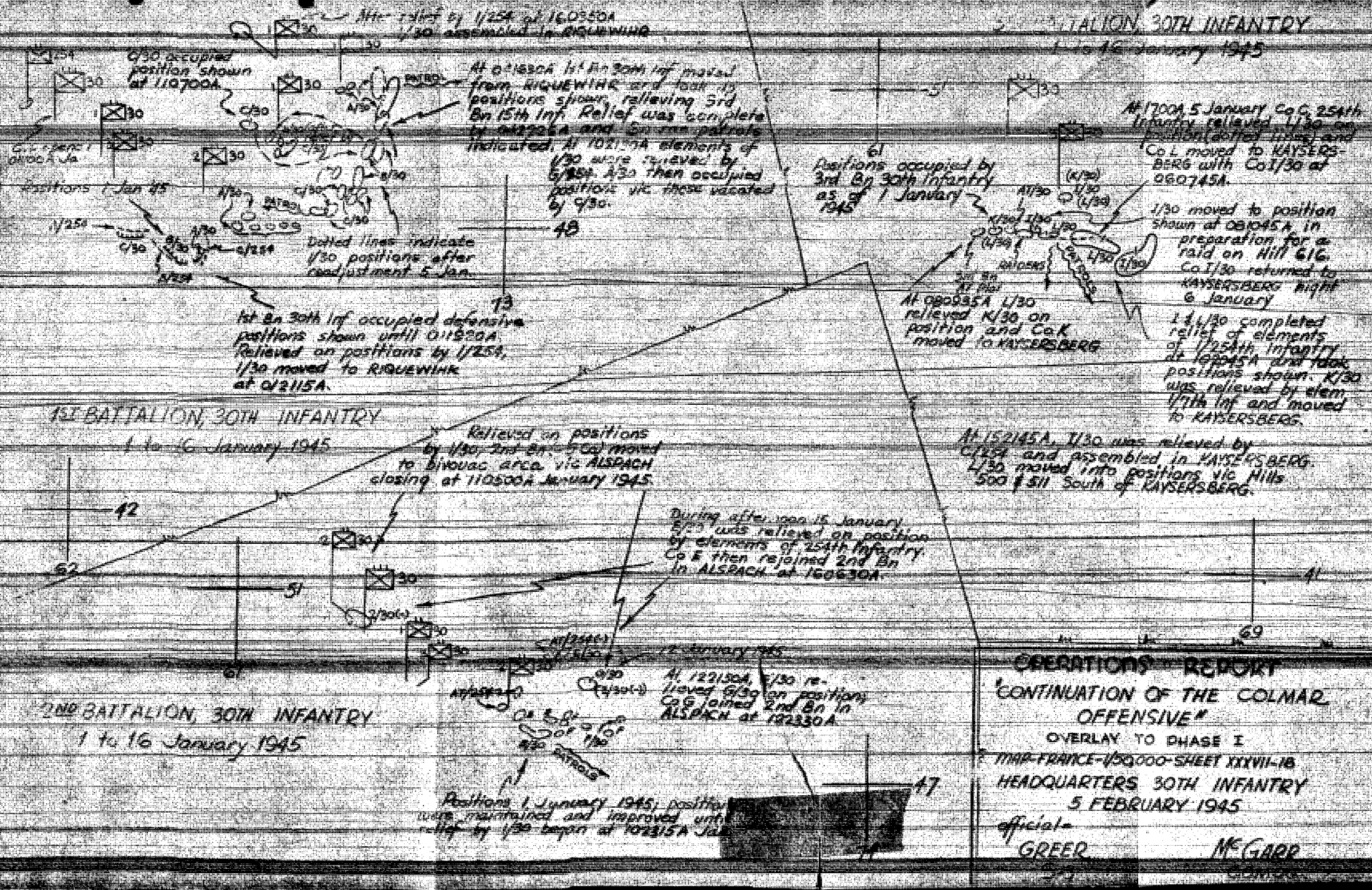
c. CARE OF WEAPONS TO PREVENT FREEZING

We experienced considerable trouble with our weapons while operating in freezing temperatures. Our solution to prevent freezing was the application of heavy oil on the moving parts of all weapons in addition to the use of anti-freeze in MMS water jackets. BAR's should be carried with bolts forward to prevent snow from entering the chamber and freezing.

d. USE OF TANKS AND TD's FOR AT DEFENSE:

One of our medium tanks fired six rounds into a German tank at a range of about 50 yards and none was effective. The shots were all fired at an angle of less than 45 degrees and failed to penetrate. This fact emphasizes the fact that all AT weapons including tanks and TD's must habitually be sited to get flanking fire on enemy armor and gunners must be taught to hold their fire until this condition exists.

S E C R E T



1ST BATTALION, 30TH INFANTRY

1 to 16 January 1945

Q/30 occupied position shown at 110700A

At 011830A 1st Bn 30th Inf moved from RIQUEWIHR and took its positions shown, relieving 3rd Bn 15th Inf. Relief was complete by 0230A and 500m patrols indicated. At 102150A elements of 1/30 were relieved by 6/25. 1/30 then occupied positions vic those vacated by 6/25.

Positions occupied by 3rd Bn 30th Infantry as of 1 January 1945

At 1700A 5 January Co C 25th Infantry relieved 1/30 on position (dotted lines) and Co L moved to KAYSERSBERG with Co I/30 at 060745A.

1/30 moved to position shown at 061045A in preparation for a raid on Hill 616. Co I/30 returned to KAYSERSBERG night 6 January.

1st 1/30 completed relief of elements of 1/254th Infantry at 162045A and took positions shown. 1/30 was relieved by elem 1/7th Inf and moved to KAYSERSBERG.

At 080355A 1/30 relieved K/30 on position and Co K moved to KAYSERSBERG.

At 152145A, 1/30 was relieved by 6/25 and assembled in KAYSERSBERG. 1/30 moved into positions vic Hills 500 & 511 South of KAYSERSBERG.

1st Bn 30th Inf occupied defensive positions shown until 011820A. Relieved on positions by 1/254. 1/30 moved to RIQUEWIHR at 02115A.

Relieved on positions by 1/30. 2nd Bn 30th Inf moved to bivouac area vic ALSPACH closing at 110500A January 1945.

During after noon 15 January 6/25 was relieved on position by elements of 25th Infantry. Co E then rejoined 2nd Bn in ALSPACH at 160630A.

At 122130A, 1/30 relieved 6/25 on positions. Co G joined 2nd Bn in ALSPACH at 122330A.

Positions 1 January 1945; positions were maintained and improved until relief by 1/30 began at 102315A Jan.

1ST BATTALION, 30TH INFANTRY

1 to 16 January 1945

2ND BATTALION, 30TH INFANTRY

1 to 16 January 1945

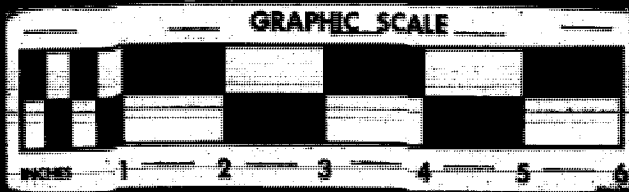
OPERATIONS REPORT
'CONTINUATION OF THE COLMAR OFFENSIVE'

OVERLAY TO PHASE I

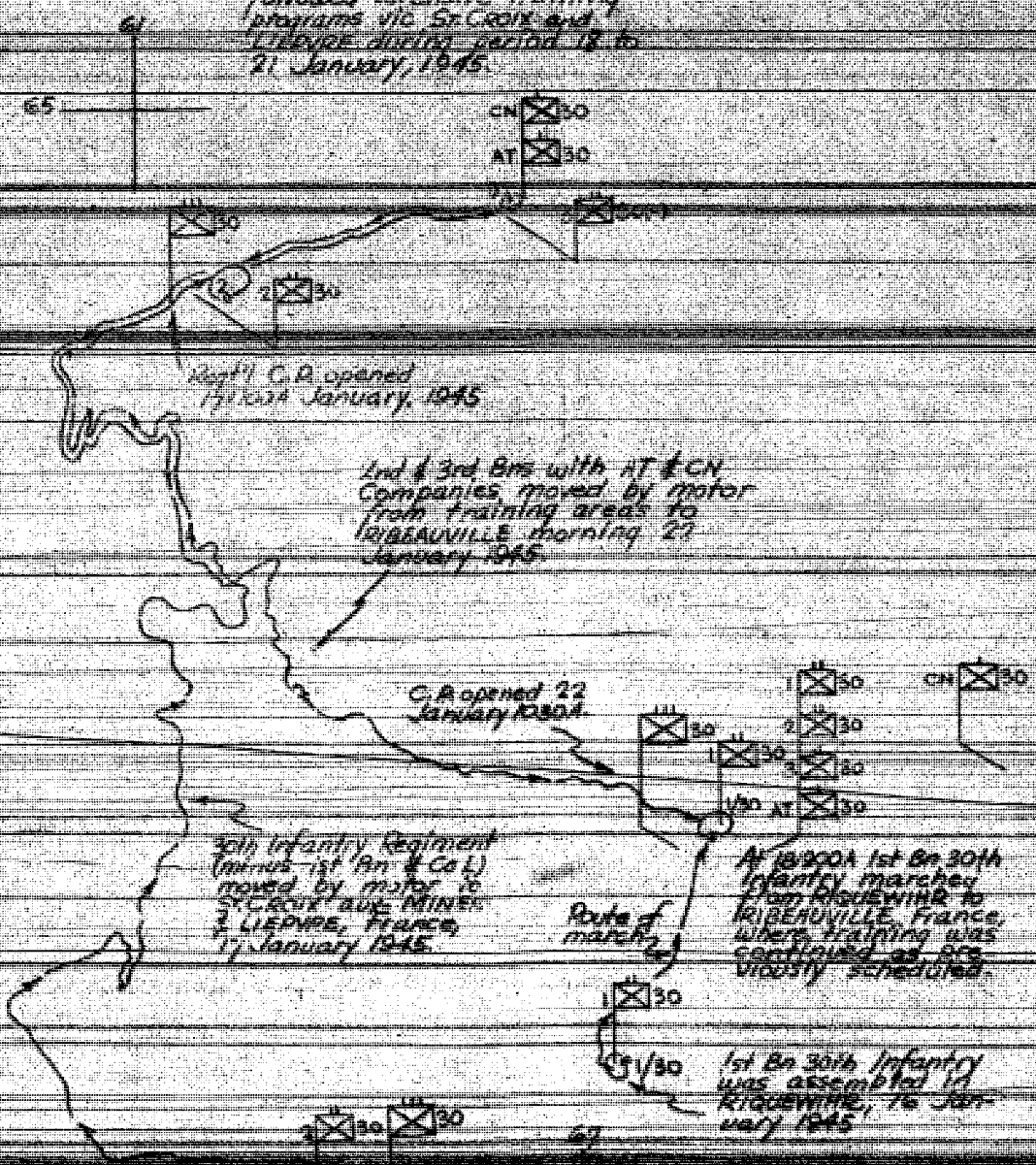
THIR-FRANCE-150000-SHEET XIXVII-16
HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY
5 FEBRUARY 1945

official
GREER

McGARR



followed intensive training programs vic St Croix and Liepvre during period 18 to 21 January, 1945.



C.A. opened 17/034 January, 1945

2nd & 3rd Bns with AT & CN Companies moved by motor from training areas to RIBEAUVILLE morning 21 January 1945.

C.A. opened 22 January 1945

30th Infantry Regiment (minus 1st An & Co L) moved by motor to ST. CROIX AUX MINES, 3 LIEPVRE, FRANCE, 17 January 1945.

At 1800A 1st Bn 30th Infantry marched from RIBEAUVILLE to RIBEAUVILLE, France, where training was continued as Bns vicinity scheduled.

1st Bn 30th Infantry was assembled in RIBEAUVILLE 16 January 1945

2nd & 3rd Bns 30th Inf. were assembled in VIC. CAUSE SAEGERS & AISPACH in morning prior to move by motor to ST. CROIX AUX MINES and LIEPVRE, FRANCE.

Regt. Raiders & L/30 were called on morning moved by motor to join 3rd Bn in LIEPVRE.

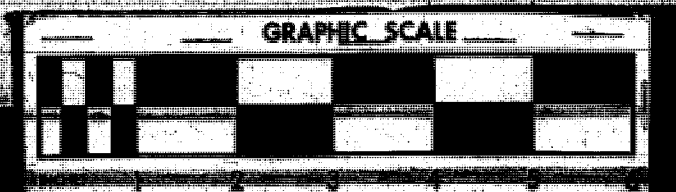
OPERATIONS REPORT

OPERATION FOR THE CAFFENT & L'ILE-FRANCAISE (CROSSING) OVERLAY TO PHASE II (10-15 JANUARY) 1945

HEADQUARTERS 30th INF. REGIMENT 1945

GREEN

MEGARD



30th Infantry Regiment
 assembled in BEAUVILLE
 23 January in preparation
 for operation which be-
 gan about 22 January

1st Bn (relief) relieved elements
 of 1st Bn 30th Inf on pos-
 ition at 251000h
 1st Bn was relieved
 of blocking mission at 260830h
 and closed in evening at 1110A
 26 January 1945.

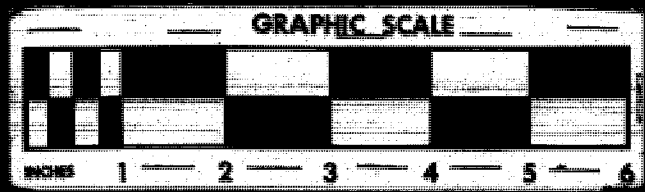
OPERATIONS REPORT
CONTINUATION of the COLMAR
OFFENSIVE
 OVERLAY 1 TO CHASE
 MAP FRANCE 1:50,000
 HEADQUARTERS 30th INFANTRY
 9 FEBRUARY 1945
 Official
 GREER S-3 M-GARR
 COMMAND

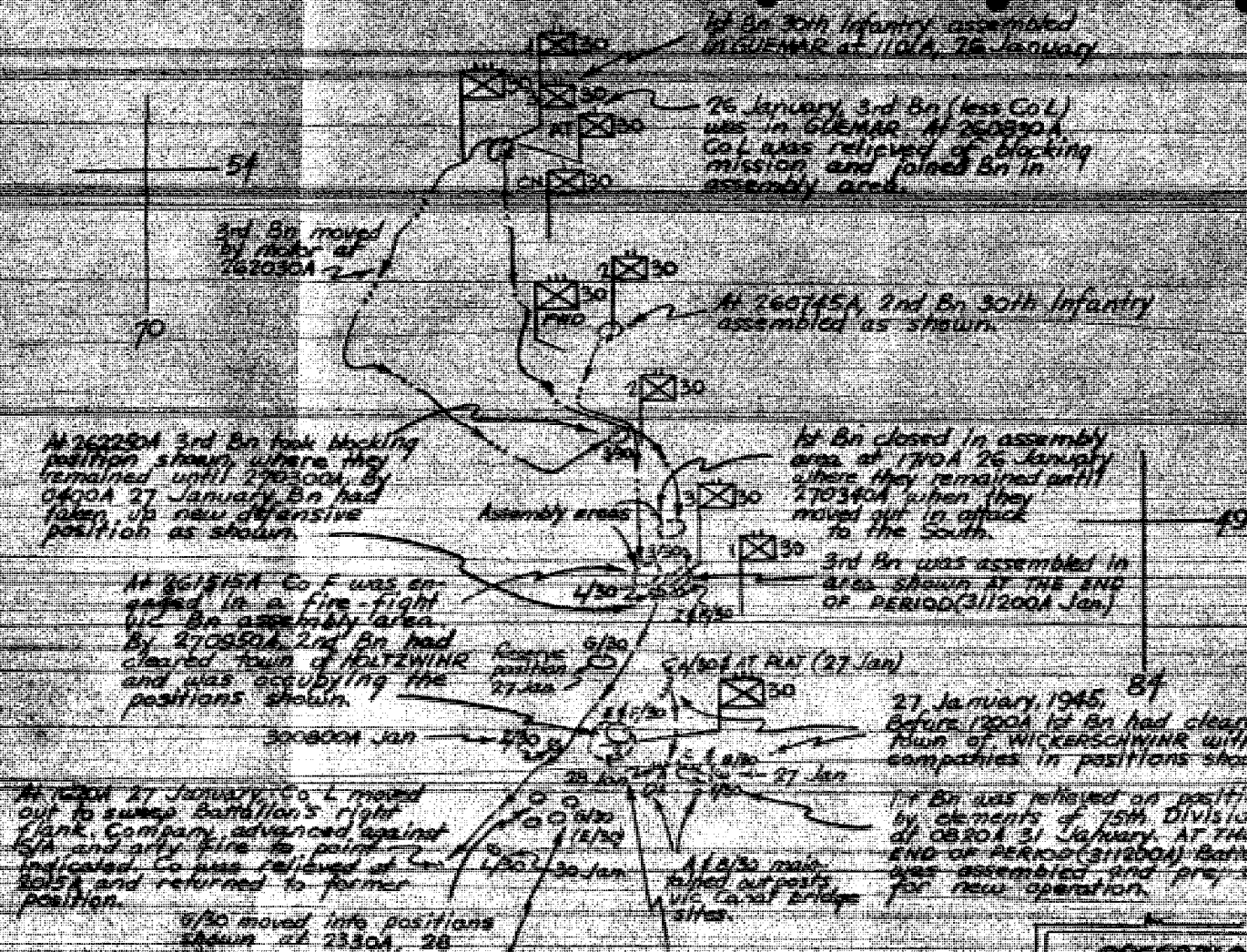
2nd Bn 30th Inf
 withdrew from positions
 shown because of strong
 enemy counterattack with
 arms and infantry. Bn
 moved to January Bn had
 assembled in Orléans and
 was reorganizing.

4th Bn 30th Infantry established
 block street, night 22-23
 January 1945.

3rd Bn 30th Infantry had reached
 outskirts of HOLTZWILR by
 231605h but a strong force
 of enemy tanks and infantry
 fire caused Bn to withdraw
 across MILL River. Battalion
 assembled in Orléans during
 night 25-26 January.

At 231732h, Companies A & B
 attacked town of RYEDUNIK
 but strong enemy armor and
 anti-aircraft weapons caused
 Battalion to withdraw in
 early evening. Defeat
 was caused by heavy
 river.





1st Bn 30th Infantry assembled
in GLENNAR at 1100A, 26 January

26 January 3rd Bn (less Co L)
was in GLENNAR. At 250000A,
Co L was relieved of blocking
mission and joined Bn in
assembly area.

3rd Bn moved
by motor at
162030A 27

At 260745A, 2nd Bn 30th Infantry
assembled as shown.

At 262250A 3rd Bn took blocking
position shown, where they
remained until 270300A. By
0400A 27 January, Bn had
taken up new defensive
position as shown.

1st Bn closed in assembly
area at 1700A 26 January
where they remained until
270340A when they
moved out in attack
to the South.

At 261715A Co F was en-
gaged in a fire-fight
with Bn assembly area.
By 270650A 2nd Bn had
cleared town of HOLTZWILR
and was occupying the
positions shown.

3rd Bn was assembled in
area shown at the end
of period (31/200A Jan)

300800A Jan

27 January, 1945, 81
Before 1200A 1st Bn had cleared
town of WICKERSCHWIR with
companies in positions shown.

At 1200A 27 January, Co L moved
out to support Battalion's right
flank. Company advanced against
5th and arty fire to point
indicated. Co was relieved at
2015A and returned to former
position.

1st Bn was relieved on positions
by elements of 75th Division
at 0820A 31 January. AT THE
END OF PERIOD (31/200A) Battalion
was assembled and preparing
for new operation.

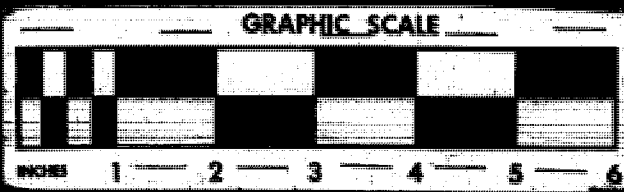
5/30 moved into positions
shown at 2330A, 28
January.

At 0130 main
joined out posts
via Canal bridge
sites.

6/30 relieved 5/30 on
position at 300330A
and 5/30 moved to
HOLTZWILR with F/30

Relieved on positions by
2nd Bn 289th Inf. at 310740A
5/30 assembled in HOLTZWILR
where they were at the
END OF PERIOD (31/200A Jan)

OPERATIONS REPORT
CONTINUATION of the COLMAR
OFFENSIVE
OVERLAY 2 TO PHASE II
MAP-FRANCE-150,000-SHEET 37-18
HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY
5 FEBRUARY 1945
Official
GREER
5-3
MCGARR
COMDG



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM NB-920 PENTAGON

ADD MICROFILM
EXEMPT BY <u>3044</u>
(Cont)

2nd Lt. on R. - to info

41 12 22 95 11 50

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SECRET

1-1038
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HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-NINTH INFANTRY
APO #2

2 March 1945

SUBJECT: Operations Report, Twentieth U.S. Infantry
24 Commanding General, Third Infantry Division

1. Report of Operations covering two periods from February 1945, is submitted in five copies, in compliance with Par. 10, AR 125-105.

2. Unit Journal in one copy, complete with supporting files is submitted as an annex to Report of Operations.

David M. ...
Lieut. Col. ...
Colonel, 29th Infantry,
Company.

Inst:

- ANNEX 1 - Overlays Phases I-III
- ANNEX 2 - Unit Journal (see unit log)
- ANNEX 3 - Unit Journal (B-1)

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
 AUTHORITY OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF
[Signature]

1-1038

S E C R E T

1. In compliance with par. 10, AR 345-105, Report of Operations for the period 1-29 February 1945 is submitted together with supporting files.

2. Summary of Own Operations

PHASE I: Continuation of the COLMAR Offensive
PHASE II: Watch on the RHINE
PHASE III: Training for Future Operations

a. PHASE I: Continuation of the COLMAR offensive:

The beginning of the period found the Regiment moving from Division reserve in the towns of REIDWIHR, HOLTZWIER and WICKERSCHWIHR to an L.D. via URSCHEINHEIM in continuation of the attack to eliminate the COLMAR pocket. Enemy resistance continued to be heavy and determined, indicating the desire of the enemy to hold the COLMAR pocket just as long as he possibly could, thereby having a secure bridgehead across the RHINE River for the continuation of the offensive if so desired. The enemy continued to use his infantry supported by armor to great advantage, at times making small, limited-objective counterattacks to regain strategic ground lost by him through our attacks. Our Infantry, armor and artillery proceeded to take the brunt of his attacks and drive him back with enormous losses of armor and men. His artillery and mortar fire increased considerably, especially when he could definitely locate our troops.

010001A to 011200A:

The beginning of the period found the Regiment moving across an L.D. in the vicinity of URSCHEINHEIM in the attack to sweep the BOIS de BIESHEIM and SCHAEPFERWALD Woods.

The 1st Bn with Company A in the lead crossed the L.D. at 0100A; at 0337A B and C Co's reached the West bank of the RHINE-RHONE Canal, meeting heavy enemy resistance. Co A received a counterattack by two enemy tanks supported by infantry at 0722A, but succeeded in driving them off with the assistance of our armor and artillery. A total of 124 PW's were taken by the Bn during the period.

At 1500A, F Co moved from HOLTZWIER to relieve the 1st Bn 15th Infantry via (80642Q). Bn (-) followed at 2100A, closing in FORTSCHWIHR at 2330A as Regt'l reserve. Companies E and G followed Co A in BOIS de BIESHEIM.

3rd Bn crossed the L.D. at 0100A, attacking to the East through the BOIS de BIESHEIM and SCHAEPFERWALD Forest to the RHINE-RHONE Canal. At 0400A the Bn was moving toward (833394), receiving heavy S/A fire. At 1045A, Co I was at (842394) with K and L Co's at (833396) defending from the South and East against enemy attempts of infiltration. Bn took 13 PW's during the period.

-1-
S E C R E T

SECRET

021200A to 021200A:

Regiment, upon seizing all of its assigned objectives, established outposts along the West bank of the RHINE-RHONE Canal and operated strong combat patrols throughout the sector, guarding against possible enemy infiltration; and mopping up isolated pockets of resistance.

1st Bn registered defensive arty and mortar fire to the front of their positions. At 1519A, arty and mortar concentrations were fired at bangas tied up in the RHINE-RHONE Canal, setting them on fire and sinking them.

2nd Bn continued attack toward RHINE-RHONE Canal with G Co tying in with C Co on the left and I Co on the right. At 0140A, Co G patrol reported enemy personnel about 500 yds south of their positions at (836390). At 0945A Cos E and F moved S to relieve elements of 005 in position in SCHAEFERWALD Forest. At end of period companies were improving their positions with E Co at (830385), F Co at (823388), and G Co at (832386).

3rd Bn with K and L Co's at (833396) and I Co at (842384) were counterattacked by two enemy tanks and 40 infantrymen. The attack was beaten off successfully with untold casualties inflicted on the enemy. At 1600A the Bn captured intact a battery of 105mm enemy arty pieces.

021201A to 031200A

The Regiment continued to maintain blocking positions along West bank of the RHINE-RHONE Canal and operated strong combat patrols to the South along the Canal toward NEUF-BRISACH.

1st and 2nd Bns remained in blocking positions, rearranging and improving positions. 1st Bn patrol crossed the RHINE-RHONE Canal to the vic of woods at (848407), found one dead enemy. At 2200A, E Co patrol reached northern wall of NEUF-BRISACH and reported the walls to be 7 or 8 feet high.

The 3rd Bn at the beginning of the period was shifting its positions to conform to the new zone of responsibility. At 2310A, a 3-man patrol left I Co and went S to within 200 yds of a house at (841362). They saw a light and heard motor running in vic of the house. At 0330A I Co was attacked by an unknown number of enemy vic of (847394); the attack was beaten off at 0400A with heavy losses to the enemy.

031201 to 041200A:

The Regiment continued to occupy positions along the West bank of the RHINE-RHONE Canal, sending strong combat and reconnaissance patrols S and SW, feeling enemy strength and positions.

1st Bn continued to apply pressure on the town of NEUF-BRISACH by sending small combat patrols to the edge of the town. At 2100A, an 8-man patrol from I Co captured two pillboxes. One platoon followed up the patrol's advance and occupied the pillboxes upon capture. At 0435A, a 5-man patrol from

S E C R E T

Co A went to vic (844365) and captured 24 PW's.

2nd Bn remained on position, maintaining strong combat patrols to the S and SW. At 2335A, a 12-man patrol from F Co captured an enemy sentry vic (841365). The patrol received heavy S/A and mortar fire and was forced to withdraw.

3rd Bn remained on their positions during the period. At 0800A, a 2-man patrol found a footbridge across the WIDENSOLEN Canal at (817591); patrol crossed and contacted AT Co, 289th Inf.

041201A to 051200A:

The Regiment remained on their positions during period with elements of 1st Bn relieving 2nd Bn, 30th Infantry Regiment.

1st Bn supported attack of 7th and 15th Infantry Regiments by placing all fires on known enemy positions.

2nd Bn, upon completion of relief by elements of 1st Bn, 30th Inf, assembled and moved by marching to vic B-LITZENHEIM (888437) in Division reserve.

3rd Bn remained in defensive positions until ordered to assemble vic (846405).

051201A to 061200A:

The Regiment attacked to the S and SE at 2130A, seizing all assigned objectives enroute, capturing the towns of NEUF-BRISACH, VOLGELGRUN and ALGOLSHEIM, killing numerous enemy and capturing many PW's.

1st Bn attacked S along the West side of the RHINE-RHONE Canal with B Co in the lead. At 1530A, B Co received enemy M/G fire from houses vic (842367). At 1540A, our tanks fired on the houses and B Co, moving in under the fire, succeeded in occupying the houses and capturing 26 PW's. At 0945A, one platoon of B Co left for the town of NEUF-BRISACH and at 1101A reported they had entered the town. C Co attacked along the WIDENSOLEN Canal on the East bank, driving two Mark IV tanks from vic (832371). At 0945A, one platoon from Co G entered the town with the platoon from B Co. Companies reported the town of NEUF-BRISACH clear of enemy at 1125A. This entire action by the 1st Bn was accomplished while the Bn was under orders to block, not to attack. The actual capture of NEUF-BRISACH was the mission of another unit, but the 1st Bn requested and received permission to enter the town if possible.

2nd Bn moved by marching from B-LITZENHEIM to L.D. vic VOELSHEIM. At 2030A the Bn jumped off in the attack S and E toward VOLGELGRUN, receiving moderate S/A and sniper fire. At 2230A, light opposition was encountered and the town was reported clear at 2315A. Co's E and G occupied defensive positions on the N and S edges of the town. F Co swept East toward the RHINE River, from VOLGELGRUN, leaving one platoon on the northern edge of VOLGELGRUN as a counterattacking force. At the end of the period F Co was engaged in a fire fight vic (884345). One platoon of the

S E C R E T

3rd Ren Troop was employed as a screening force S of VOLGELGRUN after the town was secured.

3rd Bn moved by marching from assembly area at (846405) to via VOLGELSHEIM (866350). At 21004 L. Co. was caught in an artillery concentration, suffering heavy losses while enroute to VOLGELSHEIM (866350). The Bn crossed the L.D. at 01454, attacking to the S and 32004 was meeting S/A fire. At the end of the period the Bn was in the northern outskirts of ALGOLSHEIM, meeting heavy S/A fire from vic (867342).

061201A to 071200L:

The Regiment continued to mop up scattered enemy resistance in the Regt'l sector during the period, operating strong combat patrols to the E and SE. A total of 77 PW's were taken during the period.

1st Bn set up all-around defense in the town of NEUF-BRISACH, cleaning out all underground passages of enemy. A total of 75 PW's were taken during the period in the town.

2nd Bn continued on mission of clearing all pillboxes and houses of enemy on the west side of the RHINE River in zone of responsibility.

3rd Bn continued clearing town of ALGOLSHEIM of all enemy and at the end of the period were progressing satisfactorily in the mopping up of isolated pockets of enemy resistance.

071201A to 081200A:

The Regiment continued to operate extensive patrols within the sector, checking for possible bypassed enemy groups of resistance. At the end of the period the 2nd and 3rd Bns were making final preparations for the responsibility and relief of the 15th Infantry Regiment sector.

1st Bn remained in town of NEUF-BRISACH, operating roving patrols to halt looting. Three PW's in civilian clothes were captured during the period.

2nd Bn outposted western bank of the RHINE River, maintaining contact with 3rd Bn on right.

3rd Bn remained in their positions, operating strong combat patrols to the South, making no enemy contact during the period.

PHASE II: Watch on the RHINE.

081201A to 191200A:

During this period the Regiment maintained defensive positions on the West bank of the RHINE River, maintaining contact with the 7th Infantry Regiment on the left and the 75th Infantry Division on the right. Upon completion of relief of the 75th Inf

S E C R E T

Div by elements of 4RTM, the 2nd Bn, 30th Inf, readjusted their front line positions to conform to new Division boundary maintaining physical contact with 4RTM.

The 1st Bn remained in the town of NEUF-BRISACH, with one company taking up defensive positions on the left flank of the 2nd Bn, 30th Inf.

The Regiment conducted a modified training schedule in their zone of responsibility, stressing military courtesy, physical conditioning, standardization of housekeeping, range firing, and schools for NCO's and Artillery adjustment. All training was conducted according to schedule as far as the tactical situation would permit. The 1st Bn in NEUF-BRISACH and the 3rd Bn in ALGOLSHEIM were able to carry on a considerable amount of training because their zones of responsibility were not under direct enemy observation, while the 2nd Bn, with one company in reserve in the town of VOLOELGRUN, carried on what training they could. The training under actual combat conditions afforded the officers and NCO's the chance to battle-indoctrinate newly arrived reinforcements.

At the close of the period the Regiment was preparing for relief by elements of the 4th RTM and awaiting orders for motor movement to via NANCY, France, for a rest, rehabilitation and intensive training period.

PHASE III: Training for future operations.

191201A to 282400A:

The Regiment, upon completion of relief by elements of the 4th RTM, assembled with 1st Bn in NEUF-BRISACH, 2nd Bn in the hospital area -- CASERNE ABATUCCI -- (855347), and the 3rd Bn in the town of ALGOLSHEIM (862340). On 20 February 45 the Regiment (-) entrusted for movement to the NANCY area with the 1st Bn moving into the town of EULMONT, the 2nd Bn in the town of BOULIERES aux HAMES, the 3rd Bn in the town of LAY-St. CHRISTOPHER and the Reg'l C.P. in the town of MALZEVILLE, France.

The 1st Bn left two provisional companies behind to represent the Regiment at a ceremony in GLOMAR for the presentation of the French Citation to the Third Division. Upon completion of the presentation the provisional companies joined the rest of the Regiment.

At the end of the period the Regiment was engaged in an intensive training program, highlighting Street Fighting, Attack of a Fortified Position, Tank and Infantry Training, physical hardening and conducting officer and NCO schools.

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S E C R E T

3. Situation at end of Period:

The end of the period found the Regiment engaged in intensive training preparatory to future offensive action.

4. Enemy operations for period:

The period opened with our troops moving to an assembly area near and in URSCHENHEIM for an attack against the enemy in the BOIS de BIESHEIM and BOIS de URSCHENHEIM. The enemy held these woods with a line of foxholes along its Western edge and a few strongpoints near the trail crossings. The enemy had approximately 200 men in the sector and a few pieces of armor.

The enemy offered light resistance to our advance thru the woods during the early morning of 1 February 45. However, the resistance began to increase in the afternoon and the enemy launched several small counterattacks against our forward positions and along the canal.

An enemy strongpoint in the vic (833395) supported by at least one SP gun gave us quite a bit of trouble. The enemy did everything possible to hold this strongpoint and the Biesheim bridge across the RHINE-RHONE Canal. He launched a counterattack supported by armor to keep our troops from the bridge site, and later blew the bridge just as our troops reached it.

On one occasion the enemy used barges to move in on one of our outposts along the canal. These barges were 150 feet in length and about 6 feet high. Machine guns were mounted on the barges and the enemy was armed with auto-matic weapons.

During the period the enemy made use of every available man, using many from his trains, rear installations, and all the stragglers he could round up. These men were not well informed and were committed piecemeal with orders to hold at all costs.

After being driven from the woods the enemy continued to hold a line about 1000 to 1200 yards North of NEUF-BRISACH between the WIDERSOLEN and the RHINE-RHONE Canals. This line was held by at least 200 men and was his main defense for the city of NEUF-BRISACH. The line consisted of communication trenches with pillboxes near the RHINE-RHONE Canal and a strongpoint of three houses near the center of the line.

The enemy allowed small Recon patrols to pass thru his lines on several occasions but fired on larger patrols.

A well planned afternoon attack by the 1st Battalion cleared the area of enemy, capturing 75 prisoners, killing and wounding many others. This opened the way for the attack on NEUF-BRISACH which the enemy gave up with little resistance.

The enemy offered light resistance to our advance from VOLGELSHEIM to the RHINE River with the exception of two pillboxes and a house two hundred meters East of ALGOLSHEIM.

Enemy artillery during the first part of the period was heavy especially in the hills to BICHAM, along the HUNG-HUANG Canal and in the areas of THONGHAI and HUNGHAI. The enemy made good use of his dual purpose 82's, firing as many as 16 guns at one time in one area. Heavy mortars and 81 guns were also used to a great extent.

The towns of THONGHAI and HUNGHAI also received heavy artillery fire the first day they were taken by our troops.

Enemy aircraft was used against our forward positions. The town of THONGHAI was bombed three times by one of two jet propelled planes.

During the latter part of the period the enemy artillery decreased to 20-30 rounds per day in our HUNGHAI sector as compared with 1000 rounds one day during the first part of the period.

The period closed with the enemy mowing pillboxes along the Eastern banks of the HUNG River, and trying to reorganize his forces.

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5. Status of Personnel and Equipment;

a. Status of Personnel:

(1) Combat strength at beginning of period:

104 Officers - 2360 EM - 5 WO

(2) Casualties:

	OFF.	EM.
KIA	1	29
WIA	5	63
MIA		78
MIA to KIA		18
DCW		3
NEC	1	321
Deceased		1

(3) Reinforcements 21 529
 Reassigned and Joined 22 555

(4) Miscellaneous Changes:

MIA to Duty		84
Duty to transferred		8
Duty to AWOL		21
AWOL to Duty		41
Confinement to Duty		3
Duty to Discharged		1

(5) Prisoners of War: 13 Officers, 862 EM.

(6) Combat strength at end of period:

131 Officers - 2826 EM - 4 WO.

(7) Moral: Excellent

b. Status of Materiel:

CLASS I:

Rations drawn during the period were as follows:

Type "a"	54,140
Type "c"	11,896
Type "k"	12,728
Type "x"	11,910

CLASS II and III:

Quartermaster items of clothing and equipment drawn and issued during the period:

CLOTHING

Gloves, leather palm	1700
Belt, web, waist	50

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Tool set, Carpenter & White	1
Heater, immersion	1
Shovel, ironworking	100
Carrier, shovel, iron	100
Can, water, 5 gal	75
Carrier, pickettack	10
Hammer, barbed wire	10

STATIONERY

Post-It, 100	1000
Steno pads	1000
Post paper	100
INDEX CARDS	1000
INK, BLUE, WATER & SOAP	100
Parade, 1st Aid	100
Tap, aneuria	100
Line	100
Flash, lantern	1
Map	10
Map, color	10
Form, shipping	10
R.F.B.	10
Line, message	100
Brush, scrubbing	100
Shovel, shov	1000
Shovel	100
Oil, kerosene	1
One month stationary supplies	
One month advance cleaning & preserving	

VEHICLE PROPERTY

VEHICLES LOST OR SALVAGED DURING THE PERIOD:

	<u>WATTLE COUNTRY</u>	<u>SALVAGE</u>	<u>STEEL</u>
Truck, 1-ton, GAC, 1941	1	1	1
Truck, 1-ton, GAC	1		
Truck, 1-ton, GAC	1		
Truck, 1-ton, GAC	1		

ARMAMENT & OTHER ORDNANCE:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT DRAWS</u>	<u>AMT ON DESTROYED</u>
Gun, machine, cal. 30, M1919A1	1	1
Gun, machine, cal. 30, M1919A4	1	1
Gun, machine, cal. 30, M1919A1	12	3
Machine, M1919	1	1
Machine, M1919	1	1
Mount, tripod, M1, cal. 30, M1919A1	12	1
Rifle, auto, cal. 30, M1919A1	16	13
Carbine, cal. 30, M1	10	10
Knife, trench, M1	10	151

ITEM	AMOUNT ISSUED	AM'T OF CERTIFICATE
Launcher, grenade M1	20	20
Launcher, grenade M2	20	-
Launcher, Rocket, AT, M16	1	1
Launcher, Rocket, AT, M16A1	20	20
Flare, smoke, white, M1	20	20
Projector, type, hand, M1	1	1
Sight for launcher grenade M1	1	1
Binoculars, M2	1	1
Binoculars, M3	20	20
Binoculars, M4	1	1
Binoculars, M5	1	1
Binoculars, M15	1	1
Finder, range, low line, M1	1	1
Glasses, field, type M1	1	1
Watch, wrist, 7 jewel	1	1
Watch, wrist, 7 jewel	1	17
Watch, wrist, 15 jewel	1	1
Watch, wrist, 17 jewel	1	1
Marker, smoke, T-15-C	1	1

SIGNAL PROPERTY

SIGNAL equipment lost, destroyed and unaccounted for

ITEM	QUANTITY
AG-151	12
AG-152	12
TE-25	12
TE-122	12
TE-150	12
TE-151	12
TE-21	12
TE-153	12

Other PFF:

Gas and oil consumed during period:

Gas	21,700 gal.
Paraffin	45 gal.
Gas M1 M10	210 gal.
M10	200 gal.
M11	20 gal.
M12	110 gal.
Gasoline M1 M10	200 lb.
Oil	200 lb.

Remarks:

During the period the Regiment assumed the defensive along the RHINE. "B" Battions were FCI and Reserve troops, organizations being rotated every two days. Clean clothes and showers were provided. Rehabilitation of personnel and equipment was undertaken prior to moving to a new area. Intensive battle field savings was accomplished.

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SECRET

SECRET

At the close of the period the Regiment was engaged in intensive training, and rehabilitation of personnel and equipment was continued. Automotive equipment was being given concentrated attention and replacement vehicles were being received. Replacement of shortages of all items of equipment is expected.

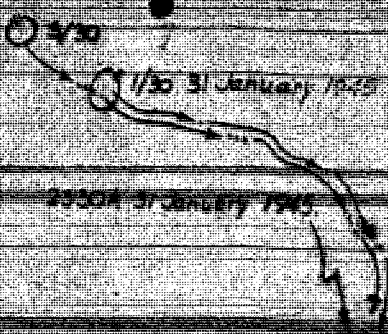
6. Comments and Lessons Learned:
Rifle Companies

a. All men should be made familiar with the operation of the Panzerfaust. We have found that most of the enemy positions we overran contained large quantities of the German Panzerfaust. If our men were capable of firing them they could be used to a very good advantage against any armored counterattacks by the enemy.

b. While a unit is in a defensive position holding down a quiet sector the men have a tendency to let down on Military Courtesy & Discipline and Personal Cleanliness. We have found that a modified training schedule including such periods as close order drill, callisthenics, N.C.O. schools and daily inspections by Company Officers & N.C.O.'s, can be carried on within reserve units of front line Bns with good results. Of course discretion must be used when assembling groups of more than 10 or 12 men in one spot. Direct enemy observation or known or possible enemy artillery concentrations must be avoided at all times when holding such periods.

c. The use of A.A. searchlights was introduced into our sector with very good results. Unit commanders can exercise more control and the use of the lighting speeds up supply of front line units considerably. We have learned of the capabilities of artificial moonlight through actual use and highly recommend the use of them on moonless nights.

SECRET



At 0100A 1 Feb:
 1st & 3rd Bns began
 a coordinated attack
 S & SE with ultimate
 objective of seizing bridge-
 heads on the Rhine - Rhine
 Canal and the capture of
 the fortress city of
 NEUF BRISACH.

0810A 1 February 1945

2140A, 4 Febru-
 ary, 2nd Bn closed
 in assembly area
 in BALTZENHEIM.

At 0600A 5 February
 3rd Bn moved into
 assembly area shown

At 0600A, 5 Feb, 2nd Bn, 30th
 Infantry began attack toward
 VOLGELGRUN and VOLGELSHEIM.
 By 2315A town of VOLGELGRUN
 was clear. Companies of the
 3rd Bn pushed on toward the
 Rhine River encountering and
 overcoming enemy fortified
 positions.

At 0400A 6 February
 3rd Bn, 30th Infantry
 had advanced against
 enemy resistance to
 positions shown.

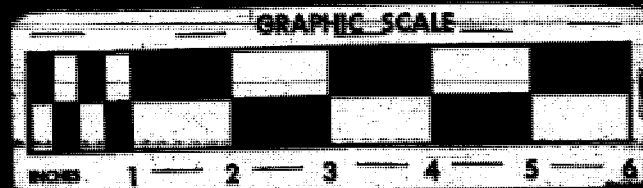
OPERATIONS REPORT
OVERLAY I TO PHASE I
"CONTINUATION OF THE
COLMAR OFFENSIVE"

MAP - FRANCE - 1/50,000
 SHEETS 37-18 & 37-19
 HEADQUARTERS 30th INFANTRY
 5 MARCH 1945

OFFICIAL

5-8

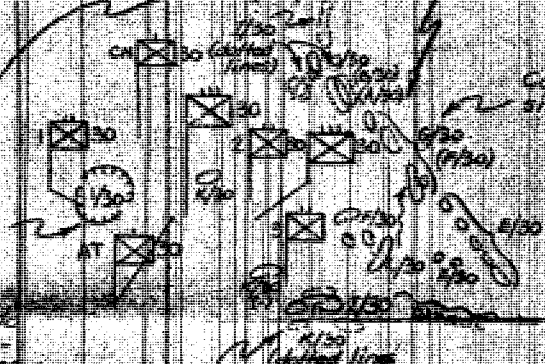
111 CHAR
 COMDG.



At 2000A, 16 Feb, Co I took 1st Bn positions and readjusted to those shown by dotted lines

During 7-9 February, 2nd and 3rd Bns adjusted positions to those shown. Bns operated patrols indicated.

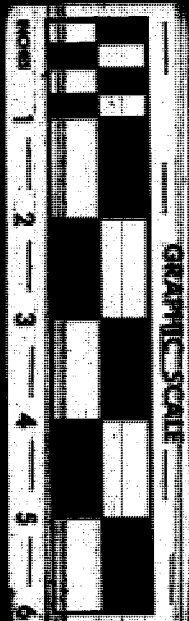
During period 6-8 February, 1st Bn 30th Infantry improved defensive positions in NEUF-BRISACH. On February 8 at 1820A, Co I left town and marched to vicinity of Fort Mortier (872368) where they took positions to foil any attempt of the enemy to infiltrate across the Rhine. At 10:20A Co B relieved Co C on position. Co C returned to NEUF-BRISACH. Companies continued to rotate. Co A relieving Co B at 12:00A. On 16 Feb entire 1st Bn assembled in NEUF-BRISACH to begin special training for awards ceremony. Co I took over positions thus vacated by 1st Bn.



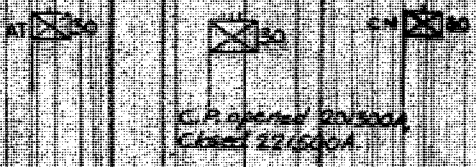
Co F relieved Co G on position at 2000A, 16 Feb.

After 1/30 moved to 1st Bn positions on 16 February, 1/30 readjusted positions to those shown by dotted lines.

Relief of 30th Infantry by 4th RTM (French) began night of 17 Feb. Troops were then assembled in preparation for move by motor on 20 February to training areas via NANCY.

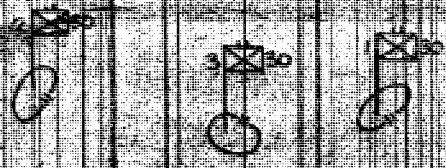


OPERATIONS REPORT
 OVERLAY 2 TO PHASE I
 WITH OVERLAY TO PHASE II (INSERT)
 "WATCH ON THE RHINE"
 MAP - FRANCE - 1:50,000
 SHEETS 34-14, 34-15, 37-18, 37-19
HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY
 5 MARCH 1945
 OFFICIAL: **GREER** 5-3
MCGARR COMOG.



C.P. opened 201500A, Closed 221500A.

From 20 February to 28 February 1945 30th Infantry Regiment was in areas shown, following a program of rehabilitation and training.



INSERT
 OVERLAY SHOWING
 TROOP DISPOSITION
 AT END OF PERIOD.
 MAP - FRANCE - 1:50,000
 SHEETS 34-14, 34-15

C.P. opened 221500A.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION**

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM
ITEM NO: <u>3044</u>
<u>(cont)</u>

J 1039-ENV 15

Open 197-3044 by E&L

Page 1-1

CLASSIFICATION
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS THIRTIETH INFANTRY
APO 3

5 April 1945

SUBJECT: Operations Report, Thirtieth U.S. Infantry
TO : Commanding General, Third Infantry Division

1. Report of Operations covering the period 1-31 March 1945, is submitted in five copies, in compliance with Par. 10, AR 345-105.

2. Unit Journal in one copy, complete with supporting files is submitted as an annex to Report of Operations.

Donald U. McGarr
DONALD U. MCGARR,
Colonel, 30th Infantry,
Commanding.

Incl:

- ANNEX 1 - Overlays Phases I-III
- ANNEX 2 - Unit Journal (S-2 and S-3)
- ANNEX 3 - Unit Journal (S-1)

SECRET

1-1039

S E C R E T

1. In compliance with par. 10, AR 345-105, Report of Operations for the period 1-31 March 1945 is submitted together with supporting files.

2. Summary of Own Operations

PHASE I: Continuation of Training for Future Operations
PHASE II: Breaching of the Siegfried Line
PHASE III: Crossing of the Rhine River

a. PHASE I: Continuation of Training for Future Operations:

The beginning of the period March 1-14 found the Regiment in and around the town of NANCY, France, conducting an intensive training schedule in preparation for the crossing of the Rhine River. The Regiment moved by motor from the town of NANCY to SCHMITTVILLER, France to test the defenses of the Siegfried Line before the crossing of the Rhine River. Immediately after the jump-off against the vaunted defenses of the Siegfried Line it was found that the enemy had covered the whole front of his position with anti-personnel and AT mine fields. While the process of breaching the mine fields was slow the Regiment finally broke through into the face of numerous pillboxes and antitank ditches which slowed the advance of the armor considerably. He resisted our advance through the Siegfried Line fiercely but after fighting with bull-dog tenacity the Regiment succeeded in breaking through and getting behind his positions. Then began the slow tedious procedure of mopping up each individual pillbox. The job was finally ended with the Regiment taking the town of ZWIEBRUCKEN and the high ground to the North of the town. After a record breaking motor move to the Rhine River, which put the Regiment on the Rhine for the third time, the Regiment was ordered to cross and continue the attack to the Northeast. A successful bridgehead was made with the Regiment making another record breaking motor move through confused enemy troops to reach the West bank of the MAIN River. Without hesitating the Regiment made an assault crossing of the MAIN River using rubber boats and seized the high ground to the East and South of the towns of ERFENBACH and KLINGENBERG.

The actions of the Regiment during the month of March were instrumental in the complete break up of the Siegfried Line, the rapid advance to the Rhine River, crossing of the Rhine and Main Rivers and the continuation of the swift advance to the East. It found the Regiment after many months of fighting finally reaching the German border and penetrating deep into the enemy's inner defenses. As the drive closed the Regiment was set for an all out attack to cut flank the enemy's positions and continue the drive to eliminate all organized resistance in Germany. A record number of prisoners-2809 plus enormous quantities of enemy equipment and supplies.

b. PHASE II: Breaching of the Siegfried Line:
141201A to 151200A:

The 30th RCT launched attack against the outer reaches of the Siegfried Line and progress was made against heavy small arms, SU, tank and artillery fire. A large number of anti mine and AT mine fields were encountered during the RCT's progress.

The 1st Battalion moved from an assembly area at SCHMITTVILLER, France (592453) to a forward assembly area at (684555) in preparation for movement to a LD. The battalion jumped off at 0100A 15 March, advance elements running into an S-mine field vic. (692563). The battalion launched an attack

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against the town of EPPING URBACH with two companies supported by armor; at 1125A 15 March the town of EPPING URBACH was declared clear.

2nd Battalion in Regimental reserve moved by marching from SCHMITTVILLER (597453) closing into a forward assembly area at (684549).

3rd Battalion moved from SCHMITTVILLER (597453) at 1800A closing in forward assembly area (686549) at 2330A. At 0105A 15 March the battalion jumped off from LD. I Company running into a minefield and heavy MG fire at (677565). The battalion made slow steady progress forward against heavy small arms and direct SP fire and at the end of the period the battalion was moving out to attack the town of WEISKIRCH.

151201A to 161200A:

The Regiment continued the attack, taking Hill 319 (703577) and the towns of WEISKIRCH, DOLLENBACH and MOUSSEVILLER against heavy small arms and MG fire during the period. Foot troops encountered many S-mine and shu mine fields during its progress. As the period closed the Regiment was assembling in the town of VOLMUNSTER (723585) in Division Reserve.

The 1st Battalion encountered SP and Flak wagon fire from the town of ORNERSVILLER at 1900A. A and C Company attacked Hill 319 (709576) supported by armor and succeeded in taking the crest against small arms and MG fire. The battalion assembled in the town of VOLMUNSTER as the period closed.

The 2nd Battalion remained in Regimental reserve as the period opened. At 2145A 15 March Co's F and G moved out toward WEISKIRCH with mission of seizing and securing DOLLENBACH and MOUSSEVILLER. At 160650A Co's F and G passed through DOLLENBACH, meeting no opposition and continued toward MOUSSEVILLER, which was taken without any opposition. As the period closed the battalion was assembling in the town of VOLMUNSTER.

3rd Battalion continued the attack toward WEISKIRCH with K and I Co's meeting heavy small arms and MG fire from town. At 1930A resistance had been overcome at the Southern end of WEISKIRCH. At the end of the period the battalion was assembling in the town of VOLMUNSTER.

161201A to 171200A:

The Regiment remained in Division Reserve with the battalions spending the period in reorganization and resupply. As the period ended the Regiment was moving toward a forward assembly area in preparation for continuation of the attack.

171201A to 181200A:

The Regiment (-) the 2nd Battalion, who was attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment, remained in Division Reserve in a forward assembly area at (730649) during the period.

181201A to 191200A:

The Regiment (-) the 2nd Battalion, continued in Division Reserve until 0515A 19 March, at which time they jumped off in the attack to the North against the main defenses of the Siegfried Line. As the period closed the Regiment had breached the positions of the Siegfried Line against heavy small arms, MG, mortar and artillery fire.

1st Battalion crossed LD at 190540A after a heavy artillery preparation making steady progress through the dragons teeth of the Siegfried Line and as the period closed the battalion was moving steadily forward through a maze of pillboxes and entrenchments.

S E C R E T

The Battalion remained attached to the 7th Infantry Regiment in and around the town of ALTHORNBAACH until 1955A when they reverted to control of the 30th RCT. At 0115A 19 March the battalion moved by marching from ALTHORNBAACH to assembly area (724668). At 0515A the battalion crossed a LD after 30 minute artillery preparation to breach the main defenses of the Siegfried Line. As the period closed the battalion had cleared 12 pillboxes (727688) and an AT ditch was being filled to permit armor to follow the attack.

3rd Battalion remained in an assembly area at (730649) during the period, alerted to move on a moments notice.

191201A to 201200A:

The Regiment continued to attack and advance aggressively against the vaulted Siegfried Line fortifications, penetrating and pushing on through in many places within the Regimental zone against heavy small arms, mortar and MG fire. During the period the Regiment captured numerous PW's and inflicted heavy damage to enemy personnel and equipment.

1st Battalion continued the attack through the Siegfried Line defenses seizing initial bridgehead over the HORNBAACH River. The battalion left one platoon to screen Engineers constructing bridge and continued toward the town of IXHEIM without any enemy opposition. At end of period patrols reported the bridges intact in the town of ZWIEBRUCKEN and the town clear of all enemy.

2nd Battalion continued its attack through the Siegfried Line toward the town of ZWIEBRUCKEN meeting heavy small arms and some Nebelwerfer fire. The battalion had moved through the last defenses and was ordered to clear the town of IXHEIM with E Company remaining in a blocking position at (740696). As the period closed the battalion was moving through the town of ZWIEBRUCKEN to take up positions on the high ground to the North of the town.

3rd Battalion closed out of assembly area at HORNBAACH (730649) and moved by marching to a forward assembly area at (718671). At 1400A 19 March a barrage of Nebelwerfer fire landed in battalion assembly area causing several casualties. At 1430A Co's I and K moved out to mop up scattered pockets of resistance bypassed by the 2nd Battalion in its advance. As the period closed the battalion was still mopping up scattered resistance around the town of MITTELBAACH.

201201A to 211200A:

The Regiment continued its mopping up of pillboxes and other enemy installations within the Regimental zone. 265 prisoners were captured during the period and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. At the end of the period the Regiment was alerted for a motorized move to the East.

As the period came to a close the 1st and 2nd Battalions were occupying the high ground to the North of ZWIEBRUCKEN (736574) capturing numerous PW's who were overrun by the mad surge of the Regiment through the Siegfried Line and the town of ZWIEBRUCKEN. The road was open now for elements of the 6th Armored Division to pass through. During the night the Regiment was alerted for a motor movement to the North and East toward the Rhine River.

The 3rd Battalion continued to mop up enemy positions bypassed by the 1st and 2nd Battalions, cleaning out many Siegfried line pillboxes and isolated strong points. At the end of the period the battalion was closed in an assembly area awaiting further orders.

211201A to 221200A:

Regiment moved from an assembly area vicinity ZWIEBRUCKEN in a motor column to the northeast with the 3rd Battalion in the assault and as the period closed were still moving, having met no enemy resistance. Much abandoned enemy equipment

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was found and numerous PW's were encountered along the roads, too confused by the sudden onslaught of our breakthrough to be able to halt our advance.

221201A to 231200A:

The Regiment continued to move in a motor convoy toward LUDWIGSHAFFEN meeting no enemy resistance along route. As the period came to a close the Regiment was ordered to an assembly area vicinity HERXHEIM am BERG in preparation for the crossing of the Rhine River.

231201A to 241200A:

During the period the Regiment moved from assembly areas to vicinity RAMSEN (200043) closing at 1530A. The remainder of the period was spent in care and cleaning of equipment, training and preparation for forthcoming operation.

c. PHASE III - RHINE River Crossing:

241201A to 251200A:

The Regiment moved from training areas vicinity RAMSEN afternoon 24 March to assembly areas vicinity HORSHEIM and WIES-OPPEHEIM in preparation for forthcoming Rhine River crossing. The battalions reviewed the technique of assault river crossing and boat team organization. As the period closed the Regiment was primed and set for the crossing of the Rhine River.

251201A to 261200A:

The Regiment crossed the Rhine River in zone beginning at 260230A meeting only light resistance and some artillery fire on the near bank, attacking to the East capturing and occupying the towns of HOPHEIM (485176) and BOBSTADT (511185) against heavy small arms, MG, flak wagon and artillery fire. A record number of PW's (950) being taken during the period and large quantities of enemy material being captured. As the period came to a close the Regiment was making satisfactory progress against stiffening enemy resistance.

261201A to 271200A:

The Regiment continued the attack to the East capturing all assigned objectives in Regimental sector, seizing the towns of BURSTADT, LORSCH, HEFFENHEIM and NEUSCHLOSS during the period. Approximately 300 enemy PW's were captured during the period plus large quantities of enemy equipment and supplies.

271201A to 281200A:

The Regiment continued to advance to the East and Northeast taking all assigned objectives in the Regimental zone of action, capturing numerous PW's and enemy equipment and inflicting heavy damage to enemy personnel and equipment. During this period the Regiment was motorized, using all organic transportation available including attached tanks and TD's to keep up the swift advance. Scattered strong points were encountered only to be isolated and bypassed by leading elements, and cleaned up by reserve units within the Regiment.

281201A to 291200A:

The rout continued with the 1st and 3rd battalions spearheading the drive to reach and seize bridges intact across the MAIN River. The 1st Battalion captured the town of LINDENFELS, capturing 1500 PW's to set a new high for the Division while the 3rd Battalion continued to advance against heavy small arms and mortar fire. At the close of the period the Regiment was still pressing forward against steady small arms and flak wagon fire.

291201A to 301200A:

The Regiment reached the West bank of the MAIN River with the 1st Battalion fighting and clearing the town of WORTH and the 2nd Battalion clearing the town of TRENNFURT. The 3rd Battalion was in a blocking position protecting the right flank of the Regiment by placing platoon size road blocks on the principal roads leading into the Regimental sector from the South.

Preparations were being made for an assault crossing of the MAIN River with the 1st and 2nd Battalions reconnoitering the West bank of the MAIN River for crossing sites. At 0310A 30 March the 1st Battalion crossed the river with Company A in the assault, followed by Company C, and then the 2nd Battalion. The crossing was made without incident but heavy small arms and sniper fire was encountered by the 1st Battalion in the town of ERLENBACH. At 0622A the town of ERLENBACH was declared clear by the 1st Battalion. The 2nd Battalion in the meantime swung to the East and South securing the high ground to the East of the towns of ERLENBACH and KLINGENBURG. The 3rd Battalion cleared the town of TRENNFURT and had knocked out an enemy tank, 2 20mm flak wagons and killed many snipers. At 1005A the battalion started across the river and at the end of the period Company K was just clearing the West bank of the MAIN River.

301201A to 311200A:

During the first half of the period the Regiment continued the attack to the North and East, taking all assigned objectives enroute, killing and capturing numerous PW's and inflicting heavy damage to enemy personnel and equipment. At 0500A 31 March the Regiment passed to Division Reserve with the 7th Infantry Regiment passing through the forward elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

3. Situation at end of Period:

Regiment at end of period passed to Division Reserve and was in assembly areas making preparations for an all out attack to eliminate all organized resistance in Germany.

4. Enemy Operations for Period:

On the morning of 15 March our troops made an attack against an enemy that had been in position for at least two months. The enemy had spent a good part of his time in improving and constructing these positions.

The enemy held a line North of URBACH along Hill 310 extending Southeast towards HOTTVILLER. This line consisted of double foxholes, and dug in positions with good communication trenches. The enemy had placed his positions on the crest of the rolling hills and the reverse slopes. He also had prepared positions on each ridge line to the rear of his MLR.

All streams, ditches, and trails toward these positions were heavily mined, with anti mines and S-mines in the stream beds and T and AP mines along the trails and roads.

Although the morale in this sector was reported to be low, the enemy offered stiff resistance to our advance and fell back only after our artillery and small arms fire made each of his forward positions untenable.

Our attack towards the town of WEISKIRCH was met by very accurate SP fire from the town itself, and the vicinity of VOLMUNSTER. The enemy also used his mortars and some artillery against our troops during the day, in this vicinity.

S E C R E T

During the night March 15-16 the enemy began to withdraw his forces towards the West Wall, leaving light forces to delay our advance.

The Siegfried Line in the MITTLEBACH and RIMSWELLER sector consisted of two rows of dragons teeth, anti-ditches, pillboxes and a few large bunkers.

The enemy did not have sufficient number of troops to man all of the positions in our sector, however, he was able to man about 60% of the positions. The smaller pillboxes were manned by 3 men crews with a LMG. The larger bunkers were manned by crews of 12 to 20 men.

The enemy's reaction to our artillery preparation was light, however, after our break through of the first row of dragons teeth he began to place accurate artillery and mortar fire on our troops. Nebelwerfers were used all during the day on our troops in the sector and several heavy concentrations were placed in the woods due South of the line. Antitank and SP guns were used in support of the pillboxes and bunkers.

Several enemy positions, bypassed by our troops, held out until the second day. A few pillboxes in the vicinity of RIMSWELLER kept the town under small arms and MG fire making the town and road unusable.

During the night of March 20th the enemy began to withdraw his forces towards the Rhine River, leaving a few road blocks which were taken out by our advance recon groups.

The East bank of the Rhine River in the vicinity of WORMS was defended by double foxholes 50 meters apart and a few squad positions each squad having one LMG.

Our crossing of the Rhine River received small arms, mortar, and light artillery fire along with SP fire during the early morning. As our troops pushed on they were met by very stiff resistance in the towns of HOPHEIM, BURSTADT, and LAMPERTHEIM.

The towns of HOPHEIM was held by approximately 200 men supported by 5 dual purpose 88 guns, several AT guns and flak wagons.

BURSTADT was defended by troops which had been driven back from the Rhine River. These troops were supported by SP guns and flak wagons.

The enemy offered the most resistance in the town of LAMPERTHEIM. The town was defended by approximately 500 enemy supported by several dual purpose 88 guns, and flak wagons and some armor.

With these towns taken and the loss of a large number of troops with which he had intended to hold the Rhine River the enemy was forced to try to get the remnants of his forces back across the Main River. He began to form march companies using all available troops as small delaying forces.

The enemy made an attempt to hold the town of WORTH on the Main River. The enemy expected a crossing of the Main River in the vicinity of ERLENBACH, and moved a force of approximately 200 men to the vicinity to prevent our crossing. However, our troops crossing the river, met little resistance and many of the enemy surrendered to our forces, without firing a round.

During the period the enemy, with the exception of a few days, made little use of his artillery. SP guns and mortars were used to a great extent, especially in the defense of EPPING URBACH, URBACH line, the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River.

During the period the enemy used all available troops in an attempt to delay our advance, and suffered heavy losses in both men and equipment. The period closed with our forces pushing a confused enemy further back through his homeland.

5. Status of Personnel and Equipment:

a. Status of Personnel:

(1) Combat strength at beginning of period:

131 Officers - 2826 EM - 4 WO

(2) Casualties:

	OFF.	EM
KIA.....	5	50
WIA.....	20	312
MIA.....	1	114
MIA to KIA.....		3
DOW.....		8
NBC.....	20	339
Deceased.....		1

(3) Reinforcements:

15 220

Reasgd & Jd..... 16 217

(4) Miscellaneous Changes:

MIA to duty.....		68
Duty to transferred.....	1	5
Duty to AWOL.....		55
AWOL to duty.....		43
Duty to confinement.....	1	5
Confinement to duty.....	1	6
Duty to discharged.....		2
AWOL to transferred.....		3
AWOL to confinement.....		3
Confinement to transferred		10
Duty to D/S.....	4	26
D/S to duty.....	1	1
Duty to T/D.....	29	650
T/D to duty.....	20	640
T/D to AWOL.....		2

(5) Prisoners of War: 35 Officers, 2866 EM.

(6) Combat strength at end of period:

103 Officers - 2491 EM - 4 WO

(7) Morale: Excellent

b. Status of Equipment:

During the first half of the period the Regiment culminated its training and rehabilitation period in the NANCY area. The Siegfried Line was assaulted on 15 March and the Regiment made an assault crossing of the Rhine River the night of 25 March, 1945. No unusual supply problems were encountered. DUKW's were used to a high degree of success in transporting ammunition and rations across the river when the Infantry support rafts failed due to swamping. DUKW's were also used successfully in evacuation of wounded. At the close of the period the Regiment was engaged in making an assault crossing of the Main River. Items especially critical during and at the close of the period were 1/2-ton G & R's and motor vehicle replacement units. Supply activities during the period were:

(1) ORDNANCE:

(a) Automotive:

	Salvaged	Battle Casualty
1/4-ton G & R	10	1
2 1/2-ton 6 x 6	3	
1-ton trailer	1	

SECRET

(b) Arms and Other Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number Drawn</u>
MG, cal. .30, M1917A1	2
MG, cal. .30, M1919A4	5
Mortar, 81mm, M1, w/mount	2
Mount, tripod, MG, M1917A1	2
BAR, cal. .30, M1918A2	53
Carbine, cal. .30, M1	50
Knife, trench, M5, w/scabbard	431
Launcher, grenade, M7	90
Launcher, rocket, AT, M9A1	34
Pistol, auto, cal. .45, M1911A1	21
Binoculars, M-3	27
Watch, wrist, 7-jewel, Elgin	1
Watch, wrist, 9-jewel, Waltham	7
Watch, wrist, 15-jewel, Bulova	15
Watch, wrist, 17-jewel, Waltham	35
Watch, wrist, 15-jewel, Elgin	10

(c) Clothing:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number Drawn</u>
Overshoes, Arctic	318
Shoe pads	80
Inserts, I/gloves, trigger-ringed	49
Trousers, field, cotton, OD	23
Liners, helmet, M-1	200
Raincoats, dismounted	2960
Jackets, field, M-47	480
Shirts, W.O.D.	69
Suits, wkg, Iapic	39
Trousers, H.B.T.	30
Jackets, H.B.T.	30
Boots, combat, service	424
Trousers, W.O.D.	400
Helmet, steel, M-1	30
Sweaters, W.O.D., hi-neck	40
Drawers, cotton	2100
Undershirts, cotton	3150
Chevrons, insignia	50

(d) Individual Equipment:

Forks	160
Towels, huck	3000
Tent, shelter-half	400
Belt, pistol	160
Canteen, mag., carbine	40
Pouch, mag., pistol	40
Necklace, identification tag	1800
Canteens	225
Belts, mag., BAR	180
Can, meat	470
Cup, canteen	425
Haversack	40
Cover, canteen	18
Spoons, M-10	100
Blank, guidon	27
Lantern, Coleman, gas	4
Tube, flexible, nozzle	118

S E C R E T

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number Drawn</u>
Lanterns, kerosene	8
Can, corr., nesting, 32-gal	10
Can, corr., nesting, 24-gal	4
Bags, sleeping, mountain	20
Bags, carrying, ammo	100
Bags, canvas, water, sterilizing	2
Containers, water, 5-gallon	50
Dask, fiber, field, co.	1
Set, chaplain hymn book	1
Heater, immersion type	8
Container, rd., insul., M-41	4
Trumpet, G, w/slide to F	4
Bucket, GP, GI, 14-qt	1
Shovels, intr., M-43	120

(d) Expendables:

Lime	24 cans
H.T.H.	51 cans
Wool, steel	8 rolls
Mantles, lantern, Coleman	72
Generators, lantern, Coleman	50
Brushes, scrubbing	132
Lye	340 cans
Rinse, germicidal	167 cans
Soap, grit	150 lb.
Brooms, sweeping	72
Candles	320 lbs.
Conversion generator, lantern, Coleman	3
Wood	12 stores and 3 loads
Straw	10 loads
Halazone	900 btl.
Tablets, fast	10,200 ea.
Rakes, garden	7

(3) Rations:

Type "A"	27,004
Type "C"	18,120
Type "I"	1960
Type "B"	52,830

(4) Class III:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Amount Drawn</u>
Gasoline	63,350 gal.
Kerosene	7 gal.
SAE 10	75 gal.
" SAE 30	615 gal.
" SAE 90	125 gal.
Grease, G.P. 1	75 lbs.
" G.P. 2	428 lbs.

(5) Medical Equipment:

Mechanical Prophylactics	3000
Packets, 1st aid	300
Powder, foot	1008 cans

(6) Reserve Equipment:

Lighters, fuze	120
Cord, primer	600 ft.
Fuze, safety	600 ft.

SECRET

Type	Amount Drawn
Caps, blasting, non-electric, 8	100
Torpedoes, Bangalore	250 lbs.
Caps, blasting, electric	600
Torpedoes, Bangalore	30
Tape, tracing, white	50 rolls
Igniters, pull	50
Beehives, T-3, 40	4
Barbed wire	2 rolls
Ink, India, red	3 btl
Ink, India, black	4 btl
Ink, India, blue	5 btl
Markers, illuminous, radio-active	140
Batchel charges or prepared plastic	32
Bolts, stove, 1/4" x 2"	500
Bags, sand, Burlap	1500
Marline	3 rolls
Rope, manila, 1"	550 ft.
Paint, enamel, black	2 1/2 gal.
Paint, enamel, red	2 gal.
Oxygen	7 tanks
Acetylene	3 tanks
Lumber, 1" x 10" x 14'	30 pos.
Lumber, 2" x 6" x 14'	6 pos.

(7) Signal Equipment:

Lost, captured, destroyed and replaced during the period.

Item	Number
ESS telephones	4
EL27 Reel Equipment	5
SG10 Sound Power Unit	1
SCR-536 Radios	7
TR33 Tool Equipment	11
TL122 Flashlight	15
ML123 Wire Rigs	3
RI511 Reel Equipment	1
AN130A Antenna	1
AN131A Antenna	7

6. Comments and Lessons Learned:

a. The SCR 694 Pack radio has been proven by this headquarters to be a very highly satisfactory radio. On numerous occasions it has been used to great advantage. The use of an SCR 300 has been ordered, signal communication with the company has been highly efficient. It is highly recommended by this headquarters that at least two of these sets be issued to each battalion for such an occasion.

b. It has been found by this headquarters in the assault of the Siegfried Line defenses that direct fire weapons used against pillboxes can do much toward neutralizing them, especially when the ports are closed or knocked out.

c. The tanks with the SCR 300 installed were a great help to the Infantry commanders. They were used as relays when the battalion had a wide front. They helped in control and brought the Infantry and Tank coordination closer together. They facilitated the rapid movement of tanks to threatened points.

SECRET

AT 50

CN 50

Morning 10 March, 1945 30th Inf Regiment arrived via. BARBY, France and moved into bivouac area shown. Training was conducted in techniques of river crossing until morning 11 March when Regiment departed and returned to bivouac area via. BARBY, France.

1 March to 10 March, 1945 30th Inf was in bivouac area, conducting company level individual training. Morning of 10 March Regiment moved by march to via. BARBY, France, where training in river crossing was conducted (see overlay No. 7).

OVERLAY 2 TO PHASE I
MAP-1/50,000-SHEET 35-15

OPERATIONS REPORT
OVERLAY 1 TO PHASE I
"TRAINING FOR FUTURE
OPERATIONS"

MAP-1/50,000-SHEETS 33-14 & 34-14

HEADQUARTERS, 10TH INFANTRY

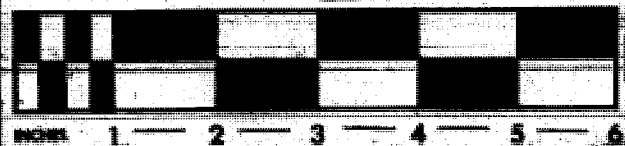
1 APRIL 1945

OFFICER

GREEN

McGARR
COMDG

GRAPHIC SCALE



AT 30 CN 30

30th Infantry continued training in areas indicated during 12-13 March 1945. Afternoon 13 March Regiment began movement by motor on route shown to concentration area via SCHMITTVILLER, France.

54

58

14-15 March

Objectives are shown by dotted green lines.

C.P. opened 141930A

30th Infantry moved by marching to assembly area via L.D. shown at about 0100A, 1st and 3rd Bns crossed L.D. in attack with 2nd Bn in Regimental reserve. Troops advanced against moderate resistance in some cases, against determined enemy resistance in others, and at 1200A 15 March was occupying positions shown on various objectives.

After motor march from vic. NANCY, France, 30th Infantry had completely closed in SCHMITTVILLER by 140405A.

TO SCHMITTVILLER

Regt C.P. closed 140800A

Regt C.P. opened 132030A

OPERATIONS REPORT OVERLAY I TO PHASE II "BREACHING THE SIEGFRIED LINE"

MAP 1/50,000 - SHEETS 36-13 & 37-13
HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY
5 APRIL 1945

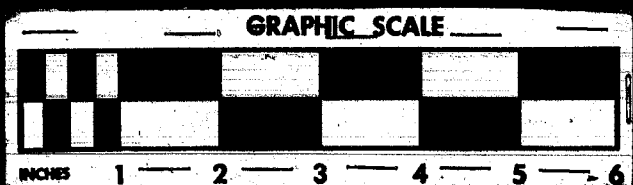
OFFICIAL -
GREER
S-3

McGARR
COMDG.

43

INSERT

MAP 1/50,000 - FRANCE
SHEETS 34-14 & 34-15



At 1400 on March 16th of 30th Inf (SERINBUCK) was reported clear by 1st Bn. Having cleared all of assigned objectives, 30th Inf assembled via SERINBUCK before the cessation of pursuit and attack of the enemy.

30th Inf advanced against enemy's resistance, clearing objectives E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ.

16-17 March 1945

At noon 19 March 30th Inf was alerted through objectives "E", "G", "H", "I", "J", "K", "L", "M", "N", "O", "P", "Q", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W", "X", "Y", "Z", "AA", "AB", "AC", "AD", "AE", "AF", "AG", "AH", "AI", "AJ", "AK", "AL", "AM", "AN", "AO", "AP", "AQ", "AR", "AS", "AT", "AU", "AV", "AW", "AX", "AY", "AZ", "BA", "BB", "BC", "BD", "BE", "BF", "BG", "BH", "BI", "BJ", "BK", "BL", "BM", "BN", "BO", "BP", "BQ", "BR", "BS", "BT", "BU", "BV", "BW", "BX", "BY", "BZ", "CA", "CB", "CC", "CD", "CE", "CF", "CG", "CH", "CI", "CJ", "CK", "CL", "CM", "CN", "CO", "CP", "CQ", "CR", "CS", "CT", "CU", "CV", "CW", "CX", "CY", "CZ", "DA", "DB", "DC", "DD", "DE", "DF", "DG", "DH", "DI", "DJ", "DK", "DL", "DM", "DN", "DO", "DP", "DQ", "DR", "DS", "DT", "DU", "DV", "DW", "DX", "DY", "DZ", "EA", "EB", "EC", "ED", "EE", "EF", "EG", "EH", "EI", "EJ", "EK", "EL", "EM", "EN", "EO", "EP", "EQ", "ER", "ES", "ET", "EU", "EV", "EW", "EX", "EY", "EZ", "FA", "FB", "FC", "FD", "FE", "FF", "FG", "FH", "FI", "FJ", "FK", "FL", "FM", "FN", "FO", "FP", "FQ", "FR", "FS", "FT", "FU", "FV", "FW", "FX", "FY", "FZ", "GA", "GB", "GC", "GD", "GE", "GF", "GG", "GH", "GI", "GJ", "GK", "GL", "GM", "GN", "GO", "GP", "GQ", "GR", "GS", "GT", "GU", "GV", "GW", "GX", "GY", "GZ", "HA", "HB", "HC", "HD", "HE", "HF", "HG", "HH", "HI", "HJ", "HK", "HL", "HM", "HN", "HO", "HP", "HQ", "HR", "HS", "HT", "HU", "HV", "HW", "HX", "HY", "HZ", "IA", "IB", "IC", "ID", "IE", "IF", "IG", "IH", "II", "IJ", "IK", "IL", "IM", "IN", "IO", "IP", "IQ", "IR", "IS", "IT", "IU", "IV", "IW", "IX", "IY", "IZ", "JA", "JB", "JC", "JD", "JE", "JF", "JG", "JH", "JI", "JJ", "JK", "JL", "JM", "JN", "JO", "JP", "JQ", "JR", "JS", "JT", "JU", "JV", "JW", "JX", "JY", "JZ", "KA", "KB", "KC", "KD", "KE", "KF", "KG", "KH", "KI", "KJ", "KL", "KM", "KN", "KO", "KP", "KQ", "KR", "KS", "KT", "KU", "KV", "KW", "KX", "KY", "KZ", "LA", "LB", "LC", "LD", "LE", "LF", "LG", "LH", "LI", "LJ", "LK", "LL", "LM", "LN", "LO", "LP", "LQ", "LR", "LS", "LT", "LU", "LV", "LW", "LX", "LY", "LZ", "MA", "MB", "MC", "MD", "ME", "MF", "MG", "MH", "MI", "MJ", "MK", "ML", "MM", "MN", "MO", "MP", "MQ", "MR", "MS", "MT", "MU", "MV", "MW", "MX", "MY", "MZ", "NA", "NB", "NC", "ND", "NE", "NF", "NG", "NH", "NI", "NJ", "NK", "NL", "NM", "NN", "NO", "NP", "NQ", "NR", "NS", "NT", "NU", "NV", "NW", "NX", "NY", "NZ", "OA", "OB", "OC", "OD", "OE", "OF", "OG", "OH", "OI", "OJ", "OK", "OL", "OM", "ON", "OO", "OP", "OQ", "OR", "OS", "OT", "OU", "OV", "OW", "OX", "OY", "OZ", "PA", "PB", "PC", "PD", "PE", "PF", "PG", "PH", "PI", "PJ", "PK", "PL", "PM", "PN", "PO", "PP", "PQ", "PR", "PS", "PT", "PU", "PV", "PW", "PX", "PY", "PZ", "QA", "QB", "QC", "QD", "QE", "QF", "QG", "QH", "QI", "QJ", "QK", "QL", "QM", "QN", "QO", "QP", "QQ", "QR", "QS", "QT", "QU", "QV", "QW", "QX", "QY", "QZ", "RA", "RB", "RC", "RD", "RE", "RF", "RG", "RH", "RI", "RJ", "RK", "RL", "RM", "RN", "RO", "RP", "RQ", "RR", "RS", "RT", "RU", "RV", "RW", "RX", "RY", "RZ", "SA", "SB", "SC", "SD", "SE", "SF", "SG", "SH", "SI", "SJ", "SK", "SL", "SM", "SN", "SO", "SP", "SQ", "SR", "SS", "ST", "SU", "SV", "SW", "SX", "SY", "SZ", "TA", "TB", "TC", "TD", "TE", "TF", "TG", "TH", "TI", "TJ", "TK", "TL", "TM", "TN", "TO", "TP", "TQ", "TR", "TS", "TT", "TU", "TV", "TW", "TX", "TY", "TZ", "UA", "UB", "UC", "UD", "UE", "UF", "UG", "UH", "UI", "UJ", "UK", "UL", "UM", "UN", "UO", "UP", "UQ", "UR", "US", "UT", "UY", "UZ", "VA", "VB", "VC", "VD", "VE", "VF", "VG", "VH", "VI", "VJ", "VK", "VL", "VM", "VN", "VO", "VP", "VQ", "VR", "VS", "VT", "VU", "VV", "VW", "VX", "VY", "VZ", "WA", "WB", "WC", "WD", "WE", "WF", "WG", "WH", "WI", "WJ", "WK", "WL", "WM", "WN", "WO", "WP", "WQ", "WR", "WS", "WT", "WU", "WV", "WW", "WX", "WY", "WZ", "XA", "XB", "XC", "XD", "XE", "XF", "XG", "XH", "XI", "XJ", "XK", "XL", "XM", "XN", "XO", "XP", "XQ", "XR", "XS", "XT", "XU", "XV", "XW", "XX", "XY", "XZ", "YA", "YB", "YC", "YD", "YE", "YF", "YG", "YH", "YI", "YJ", "YK", "YL", "YM", "YN", "YO", "YP", "YQ", "YR", "YS", "YT", "YU", "YV", "YW", "YX", "YY", "YZ", "ZA", "ZB", "ZC", "ZD", "ZE", "ZF", "ZG", "ZH", "ZI", "ZJ", "ZK", "ZL", "ZM", "ZN", "ZO", "ZP", "ZQ", "ZR", "ZS", "ZT", "ZU", "ZV", "ZW", "ZX", "ZY", "ZZ.

OPERATIONS REPORT

OVERLAY 2 EB PHASE II
"BREACHING THE SIEGRIED LINE"

NAR. FORCE / 500MM

100,000-SHEETS 37-12/13

HEADQUARTERS 30th INFANTRY
5 APRIL 1945

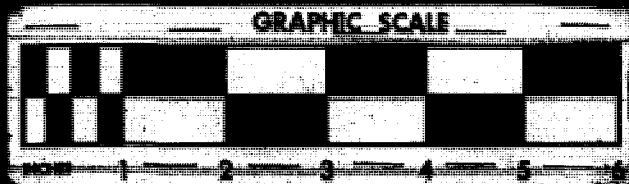
OFFICER
GREER
S-3

MC GARR
COMDG.

By 1200 16 March 30th Inf had cleared objectives indicated by dotted green lines and was assembling via SERINBUCK in direction indicated.

51

51



INSERT

Route of motor march from vic. RAMSEN, normally, to forward assembly area prior to RHINE River crossing.

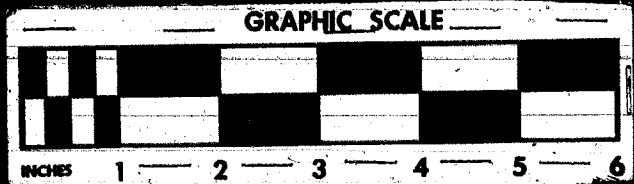
By 0210A 25 March all elements of 30th Infantry had closed in forward assembly area on the rd and were awaiting orders to cross the RHINE.

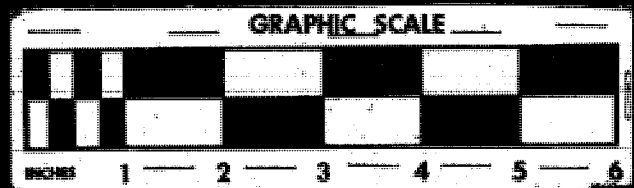
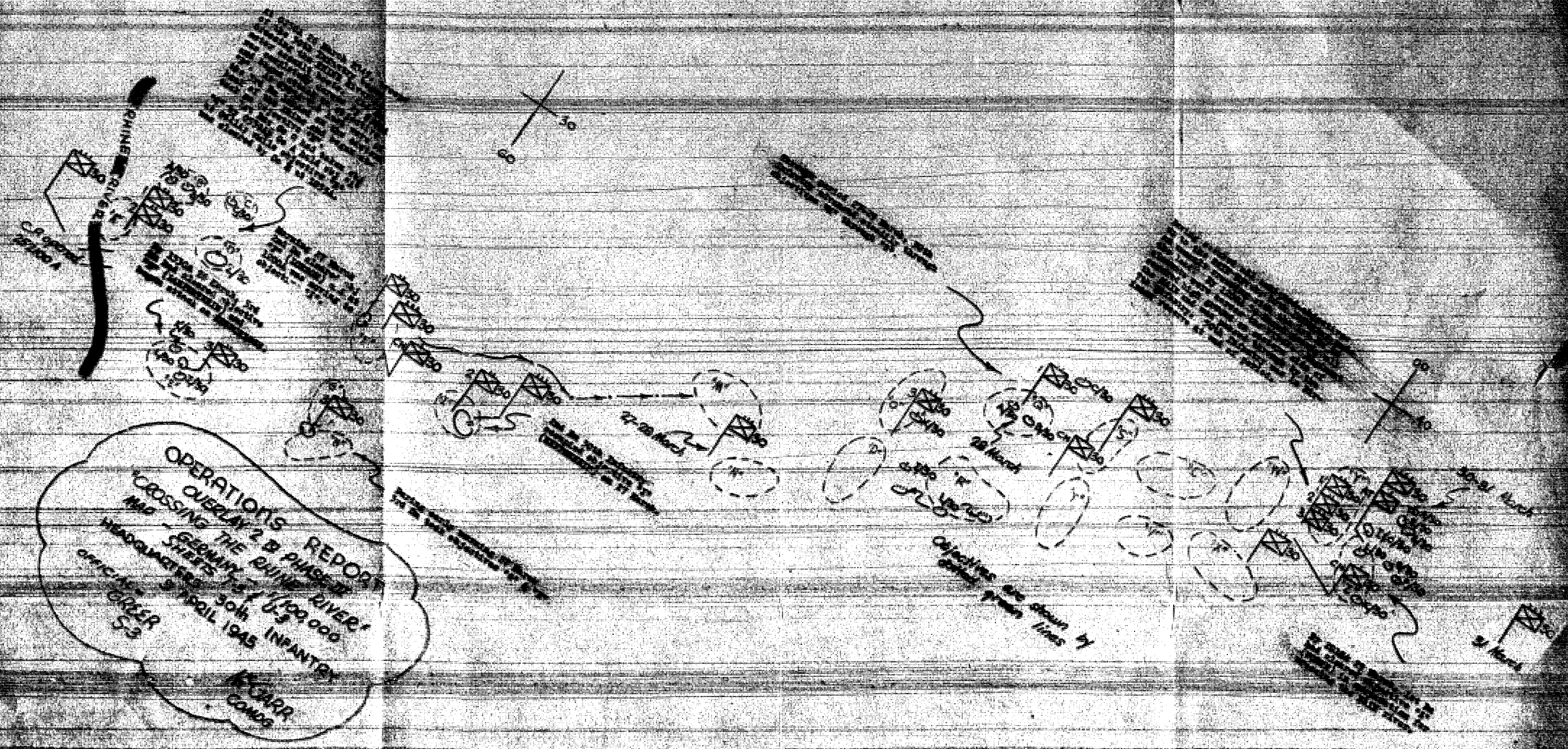
After motor march from vic. RAMSEN, 30th Infantry moved into assembly area via. RAMSEN-40-7500. By 2110A all elements were closed in at rd where they remained until 2115A, when troops began movement to cover to vic. RAMSEN.

C.P. opened 222100A

From 20 March to morning 22 March, 30th Infantry was positioned via. RAMSEN-40-7500. On morning 22 March, motor march to vic. RAMSEN began.

OPERATIONS REPORT
OVERLAY 1 TO PHASE III
"CROSSING THE RHINE RIVER"
MAP GERMANY - 1:100,000
SHEET U-2
HEADQUARTERS 30th INFANTRY
5 APRIL 1945
OFFICIAL -
GREER S-3
MCGARR COMDO.





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM NB-920 PENTAGON

ADD MICROFILM
FILE NO. 3045

Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including the number '100' and various symbols and characters.

SECRET

Form Title: G-3-3-4

UNIT: 5th Inf Div
DATE: 2 Mar 45
INITIALS: BCD

Copy No. 3

HEADQUARTERS 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION

CANCELLED
PROPERTY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
COMMITTEE

1-430
3

SUBJECT: After Action Against the
TC: Commanding General, 5th

In compliance with ltr Hq 5th Inf Div, same subject as above, dated 27 July 44, submitted herewith is a day by day summary of operations for 5th Inf Div during the period 1 Feb - 28 Feb 45.

SECTION I - OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the month, the 5th Inf Div had the following attachments:

- 77th Tr Bn
- 81st TD Bn (SP)
- 129th AAA AN Bn
- Co B & D 91st Cal Bn (4.2" mortar)

The Div was in position along the W bank of the SUEZ RIVER in the area of VIANDEN (P905495) occupying defensive positions along a MIA. The 2d Inf was on the right and the 11th Inf on the left. Each regiment had two battalions in the line and one in reserve. The 10th Inf was in Div reserve in the vicinity of BRISTROUX (P824398) and ELSBURGH (P868423).

1 Feb 45

Detached: Co D 91st Cal Bn (4.2" mortar) effective 1710A.

2CT: 3d Bn relieved the 1st Bn (-Co A) in the line completing the relief at 2135L. 1st Bn (-Co A) assembled in the vicinity of BASTENDORF (P873447). Units continued to organize their positions along the MIA and CFL.

11CT: Regiment started the relief of elements of the 11th Inf with the 3d Bn completing the relief of the 3d Bn 11th Inf at 2315A.

11CT: Relief by elements of the 10th Inf was started and the relief of the 3d Bn by the 3d Bn 10th Inf was completed at 2315A.

Division continued to man defensive positions within its sector patrolling actively to the front. 11CT started relief of the 11CT in the line. 2CT rotated its units in the line. A total of 1 PW was evacuated during the period and an estimated 4 more were killed and 11 wounded.

Adjacent Units: On the left of the Div the 6th Cav Gp remained in position occupying a portion of the front line. CCB 4th Arm Div, attached to the 80th Inf Div, remained in position on the right of the Div sector maintaining positions on the MIA.

2 Feb 45

11CT: 1st Bn completed the relief of the 1st Bn 11th Inf at 1230A. 2d Bn relieved the 2d Bn 11th Inf completing the relief at 0010A. CO 10th Inf assumed command of the sector at 0030A.

11CT: 1st Bn was relieved by the 1st Bn 10th Inf with the relief being com-

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pleted at 1230A. 1st Bn moved to assembly area vicinity EITELBRUCK closing at 0230A. 2d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity EITELBRUCK closing at 0210A. 3d Bn moved to an assembly area vicinity DIEKIRCH closing at 0230A. CO 10th Inf assumed command of the old 11th Inf sector at 0030A.

Division continued to man defensive positions within its sector patrolling actively to the front. 10CT completed the relief of 11CT and CO 10th Inf assumed command of the sector at 0630A. 11CT moved to an assembly area vicinity EITELBRUCK and DIEKIRCH in Division reserve. A total of 6 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 5 enemy were killed and 15 wounded. 20 enemy dead were buried.

3 Feb 45

Div continued to man defensive positions within its sector patrolling actively to the front. Preparations were made for relief of the Div by elements of the III Corps. One PW was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 30 wounded. A total of 24 enemy dead was buried. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed included an ammunition dump with 500,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, hand grenades, 80 to 100 rounds 88mm ammunition, 300 rounds 8cm mortar ammunition and American TNT and dynamite.

4 Feb 45

Attached: 417CT (of 76th Inf Div) effective 1800A and Co C 91st Cal Bn (4.2" mortar), effective 1725A.

2CT: 28th Cav Sq (6th Cav Gp) completed the relief of the 2d Bn (plus Co C) at 2300A and the 3d Bn at 2355A. 1st Bn (-Co C) moved to an assembly area vicinity LORENTZHEIL (P852236) and BLASCHETTE (P872238) closing at 1900A.

10CT: 6th Cav Sq completed the relief of the 2d Bn at 0230A and the battalion assembled in the vicinity of EITELBRUCK. The 6th Cav Sq passed to tactical control of the 10th Inf at that time. Elements of the 6th Cav Sq also relieved the 3d Bn completing the relief at 1920A and the CO 6th Cav Sq assumed command of his sector at 2000A. 3d Bn closed into assembly area vicinity EITELBRUCK at 2345A. 1st Bn moved to position vicinity (L01038C) closing at 2115A and started the relief of elements of the 17th Inf in the new regimental zone. 1st Bn passed to the tactical control of the 11th Inf until such time as the 10th Inf CP closed into the new zone.

11CT: CT moved to its new sector vicinity GONSORF (P994373) closing at 1745A. 1st Bn started the relief of elements of the 17th Inf in the regimental zone. 2d Bn remained in assembly area vicinity SCHEIDEN (L010323). 3d Bn remained in assembly area vicinity (P993313).

417CT: Elements of the 10th & 11th Inf started the relief of the 3d Bn and were continuing this relief at the close of the day. 1st Bn continued to man defensive positions on the MIR. 2d Bn remained in position vicinity (L020303).

6th Cav Gp completed the relief of elements of the Div in the old Div sector by 2400A and the CO 6th Cav Gp assumed command of his sector at that time. CO 5th Inf Div assumed command of his new Div sector at 1800A. Elements of the 10th & 11th Inf moved to the new Div sector and started the relief of the 17th Inf in place. 417th Inf was attached to the 5th Inf Div at 1800A.

5 Feb 45

2CT: 2d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity GODBRANGE (P917273) closing at 0345A. Co C closed into the 1st Bn area at 0200A. 3d Bn moved to the vicinity BOURLEINSTE (P916235) closing at 0530A.

10CT: 1st Bn completed the relief of elements of the 417th Inf at 0230A. The battalion reverted to 18th Inf control. 2d & 3d Bns remained in assembly area.

11CT: 1st Bn completed the relief of elements of the 417th Inf in the regimental zone at 0230A. 2d & 3d Bns remained in assembly area.

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vicinity (10000) closing at 0900. 1st Bn continued to man defensive positions on the MIB. 2d Bn remained in position.

Elements of the 10th & 11th Inf completed the relief of the 3d Bn 417th Inf and the Div manned a defensive line along the S bank of the SAUER River in the vicinity of ECHTERNACH (1046360).

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left of the new Div sector maintained defensive positions. 76th Inf Div (-417C) on the right of the new Div sector maintained defensive positions.

6 Feb 45

Attached: 2 Sections 81st Cal Co (80).

2CT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

10CT: 1st Bn remained in position. 2d Bn moved to assembly area N of BERDORF (1057470) closing at 1900A. 3d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity (1027377) closing at 1900A.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position. 2d and 3d Bns moved to forward assembly cross on the S bank of the SAUER River vicinity (1034965) prior to midnight.

417CT: 1st Bn remained in position. 2d and 3d Bns moved to forward assembly area vicinity (1043358) prior to midnight.

10CT, 11CT and 417CT moved remainder of their units to forward assembly areas in preparation for attack across the SAUER River at 070100A. Elements in the line continued to man their defensive positions.

7 Feb 45

2CT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

10CT: 2d Bn started to cross the SAUER River vicinity (1030378) at 0205A but came under heavy artillery and MG fire. Further attempts to cross encountered heavy opposition and the battalion moved to position vicinity (1032377) where further attempts were made to cross the river. 3d Bn moved to the river bank vicinity (1033375) and prepared to cross at that point. At the close of the day only elements of Co E and patrols from the 3d Bn had succeeded in crossing.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d & 3d Bns encountered heavy mortar, MG and artillery fire as they attempted to cross the SAUER River at 0100A and only the 2d Bn Rcn Plat was able to cross. Units were reorganized and the 2d & 3d Bns resumed crossing activities at 1830A. Ten boatloads of Co F crossed against light resistance. In the 3d Bn sector 2 boats of Co K reached the far shore but further crossing was held up due to heavy MG fire from the crossing site. Additional troops could not be crossed in either sector due to leak of boats, through inability to return them to the near shore because of the swift current, and losses to enemy fire.

417CT: 1st Bn attacked at 0100A to force a crossing of the SAUER River vicinity (1045363). Cos A & B and part of Co C crossed the river and continued the advance forward to capture the high ground vicinity (1066383). Other elements were kept from crossing by heavy enemy fire on the crossing site and the swift current in the river.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp). Supported the attack of the Div furnishing assault boats and attempting to build bridges across the SAUER River for the crossing of infantry. No bridges were completed because of the extremely swift current in the river and hostile enemy action.

Div attacked across the SAUER River and into the GERMAN LINE with elements of the 10CT, 11CT and 417CT elements. Only small elements of the 10CT and 11CT had

SECRET

100T: The second half company of the 117th Inf crossed and captured the bridgehead vicinity (103332) at 1615. For two units were unable to cross because of the swift current in the river. Preparations were being made at the close of the period for further crossings within the Div zone and plans were made for the possible passage of the 2d Inf through the 80th Inf Div zone into the area N of the river.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left attacked at 0900 to the N across the SAUER River and had crossed 3 battalions at the end of the day. 76th Inf Div on the right continued to man defensive positions.

8 Feb 45.

20T: Remained in position in Div reserve.

100T: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn continued crossing in the vicinity of (1032377) and at the close of the day had crossed all but portions of Co H. Elements of the 2d Bn across the river captured the buildings vicinity (1033380) and were continuing to expand their bridgehead to the N. 3d Bn was unable to cross in the vicinity of (1033375) and moved into position in rear of the 2d Bn prepared to follow the 2d Bn across.

110T: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn completed the crossing of Co F but further attempts to cross Co E were repulsed by heavy automatic fire from pillboxes, mortar and artillery fire. Two more boatloads were crossed in the 3d Bn sector to establish radio-communication between the 2d & 3d Bns and the elements across the river.

117T: Remainder of the 1st Bn and Cos E & C with one platoon of Co H were across to the far shore during the night and moved to join elements of the 1st Bn in the vicinity (1045358). Further crossings were held up because of inability to return boats to the near shore. Crossing attempts were resumed at 2000 and the remainder of the 2d Bn was crossed and the 3d Bn was starting to cross.

Div Arty: Artillery liaison planes supplied elements of the 417th Inf across the river during the period, making 41 trips carrying a large amount of ammunition, rations, medical and communication supplies.

Aviation: Fighter bombers of the XIX TAC dive bombed and strafed the towns of FROCHWELER (1043412) and BRUNZEN (1049389) with excellent results. Three large explosions and fires were observed in FROCHWELER which it is believed were caused by the explosion of ammunition dumps.

Div continued to cross units to the N bank of the SAUER River and into the SIEGFRIED LINE with elements of the 100T, 110T and 117T crossing. At the close of the period 2d Bn (-) 10th Inf, Co F and elements of Co G 11th Inf and the 1st & 2d Bns 417th Inf were across the river. 2d Bn-10th Inf had cleared some of the buildings in REITERBACH (1032380) and were advancing to the NE. 417th Inf was re-organizing its troops and clearing enemy out of the rear areas preparatory to continuing the attack. Units were continuing to cross troops at the close of the day. An estimated 40 enemy were killed and 80 wounded.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div completed the crossing of 4 battalions into the bridgeheads on the N bank of the SAUER River and was expanding its bridgeheads. 76th Inf Div on the right continued to maintain defensive positions.

9 Feb 45

2 OT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

100T: 1st Bn remained in position. 2d Bn completed the crossing of the remainder of its elements at 1640 and had completed mopping up all resistance around the crossing area on far N at (1031389). 3d Bn was preparing to cross at the close of the day.

110T: 1st Bn started crossing at 1645 and was completely across at 2000. Cos A & C advanced from the crossing area and at the close of the period had

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advanced one mile reaching the vicinity (1052380) completing the clearing of all pillboxes within their zone of advance. 2d Bn continued the crossing of their troops and at 1500A the whole battalion was across the SAUER River. Co F cleared 2 pillboxes and, after being joined by Co E, continued the advance approximately one mile to positions vicinity (1044387).

417CT: Continued the crossing of troops completing the crossing of the 3d Bn into the bridgehead. Troops in the bridgehead continued mopping up enemy in pillboxes in the zone of action and reorganization of troops preparatory to moving on to further objectives to expand the bridgehead.

737th Tk Bn. One section from Co C, equipped with 4.5" rocket launchers and supporting the 11th Inf, fired one volley at enemy strong points with excellent results. Another section of Co C, likewise equipped and in support of the 417th Inf, fired 3 volleys with unobserved results.

Aviation: Two squadrons of P47 fighter bombers of the XIX TAC bombed the town of IRREL (1081394) and Air GPs reported excellent results. Four P47s dropped I and J rations to troops of the 417th Inf in the bridgehead area. Air and ground GPs reported supplies were dropped successfully with the majority landing in the target area.

Division continued to cross units to the N bank of the SAUER River and expand the bridgehead area into the SIEGFRIED LINE. At the close of the period the 2d Bn 10th Inf, 1st & 2d Bns 11th Inf and 1st, 2d & 3d Bns 417th Inf were across the river. 11th Inf continued clearance of the area advancing approximately one mile to positions vicinity (1052380), (1044387) and were continuing the advance at the close of the day. All pillboxes within the Div bridgehead had been cleared. Approximately 126 PWs were in the PWB but had not been evacuated at the close of the period. An estimated 30 enemy were killed and 65 wounded during the day. Two enemy SP guns and 1 enemy MG nest are known to have been knocked out by TD fire. Fire of the 155mm SPs was observed to have destroyed one pillbox and materially assisted the infantry in the capture of another.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div continued the crossing of troops into the bridgehead at the S side of the river and at the close of the period had reached the vicinity (P996432) and (P998413). 76th Inf Div on the right continued to man defensive positions.

10-Feb-45

Attached: 1 Plat Co B 808th TD Bn (SP) (90ms).

2CT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

10CT: 1st Bn moved to 11th Inf area and completed the crossing of the SAUER River at 2105A. 2d Bn remained in position occupying the high ground vicinity Hill 183 (1033387). 3d Bn completed the crossing in the 11th Inf zone at 1645A and passed through the 2d Bn advancing approximately one mile to the vicinity (1037407).

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position sending patrols to the NE. 2d Bn remained in position during the period. 3d Bn started across at 0730A and at 0945A the complete battalion had crossed. Battalion passed through the 2d Bn and reached positions vicinity (1045393) which was held for the night.

417CT: 2d Bn continued movement to the E mopping up pillboxes vicinity (1063360). 1st & 3d Bns continued mopping up pockets of resistance within their areas.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp): Completed the construction of foot bridges in the vicinity (1052361) and (1039366).

Aviation: One squadron of P47 fighter bombers of the XIX TAC bombed the town of HOLSTHUM (1051455) with unknown results.

Div completed the crossing of the 10th, 11th and 417th Inf Regts into the bridgehead N of the SAUER River and units were attacking and reducing SIEGFRIED

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LINE 2000. Elements of the 11th Inf continued expansion of its bridgehead across the SAUER River capturing the town of BLESDOERF (1972440) and advanced to the vicinity (P990438). 76th Inf Div on the right continued to maintain its defensive positions.

11 Feb 45

Attached: Btry C 558th FA Bn (-1 pliat) effective 1800A.
Detached: 417CT effective 1200A.

2CT: Remained in position during the period.

10CT: 1st Bn continued movement NE along the high ground paralleling the SAUER River to the vicinity of BJ (1009413). Elements of the battalion moved to the S and in conjunction with the 2d Bn attacked the town of BOLLEDOERF (1013400). 2d Bn continued clearing of the area along the river road and in conjunction with the 1st Bn attacked toward BOLLEDOERF. 3d Bn occupied DIENSBURGERHOF (1013414) and the high ground in the vicinity and covered the road to the S and SE.

11CT: 1st Bn advanced through the woods reaching the vicinity (1055782). 2d Bn remained in position. 3d Bn continued the attack in the morning reaching positions along the line (1043403) - (1049404) - (1030400).

417CT: Reverted to 76th Inf Div control at 1200A and continued consolidation of the regimental area mopping up pockets of enemy resistance and pillboxes in their rear areas.

7th Engr Bn (supported by the 1103d Engr Gp): Completed construction of a trestle bridge vicinity (1037368). At 0925A, enemy artillery falling in the area of the bridge, damaged 2 piers which were being repaired at the close of the day. The bridge was still passable to light vehicles.

Division continued to expand its bridgehead capturing the town of DIENSBURGERHOF and the high ground on the N bank of the SAUER River was completely cleared within the Div zone. 417th Inf reverted to 76th Inf Div control at 1200A and the new boundary between the 5th & 76th Inf Div went into effect. A trestle bridge was constructed over the SAUER River into the bridgehead. At least 9 pillboxes were destroyed by SP gun fire. A total of 30 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 150 enemy were killed and 300 wounded during the day. One SP gun is known to have been destroyed by artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left continued expansion of its bridgehead across the SAUER River. 417th Inf reverted to 76th Inf Div control at 1200A and continued consolidation of positions and mopping up enemy pillboxes within its area.

12 Feb 45

Attached: 84th Cal Co (SG) effective 2100A.
Detached: 2 Sections 81st Cal Co (SG) effective 2100A.

2CT: Remained in position in Div reserve. 1st Bn was alerted for movement into the bridgehead.

10CT: 1st Bn, in conjunction with the 2d Bn, completed the clearing of the town of BOLLEDOERF at 1000A and resumed the advance to the E advancing 500 yds to the vicinity (1000418). 2d Bn assembled in the vicinity BOLLEDOERF. 3d Bn remained in position during the period.

11CT: Regiment remained in position reorganizing and making preparation to

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Continued the attack to the N & NE.

5th Cav Ron Tr: Moved elements across the SAUER River to maintain contact with the 80th Inf Div on the left flank.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp): Treadway bridge vicinity (1037370) was repaired and classified as a Class 20 bridge. Construction was started on a Bailey bridge vicinity (1028381).

737th Tk Bn: Crossed 16 tanks into the bridgehead area during the period.

803d TD Bn (SP): Crossed 14 TDs into the bridgehead area during the period.

Division continued to expand its bridgehead after having passed through the main defenses of the SINGRIED LINE. The town of BOLLENDORF was cleared at 1000A. Tanks and TDs had been crossed into the bridgehead and were assisting in the attack to the N. A total of 159 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 100 enemy were killed and 300 wounded.

Adjacent Units: 80th and 76th Inf Divs continued to expand their bridgeheads.

13 Feb 45

2CT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

10CT: 1st Bn assembled in the vicinity (1020418) and resumed the attack to the N at 1310A advancing approximately one mile and a half to capture WICKENBERG (1017436) and the surrounding high ground. 2d Bn moved N and passing through the 1st Bn attacked to the NE at 1100A reaching the vicinity (1043428) and the OR vicinity (1031431) at 1655A. 3d Bn continued its advance to the N capturing the town of FERSCHWEILER (1044413) at 0920A and sent patrols to the N.

11CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance to the NE at 1310A reaching positions vicinity (1057383). 2d Bn moved to the vicinity (1045043) and were engaged in mopping up the pillboxes in that area during the period whose positions were taken for the night. 3d Bn attacked at 0500A to the N reaching the vicinity (1050404) where positions were taken for the night.

449th AAA AW Bn: Engaged enemy aircraft active over the area submitting one Category II Claim against one ME109 which was engaged.

5th Cav Ron Tr: Contact was made with the 80th Inf Div on the left flank at 0010A. At 0500A elements of the troop attacked to the NE capturing the 80th Inf Div objective vicinity (1005427) at 1200A. These units were relieved by the 2d Bn 317th Inf and the troop reverted to the mission of maintaining contact between the 80th Inf Div and the Div left.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp): The treadway bridge vicinity (1037370) was strengthened during the day and reclassified as a Class 40 bridge.

737th Tk Bn: Completed the crossing of Cos A & B into the bridgehead area.

803d TD BN (SP): Completed the crossing of all TDs of Cos B & C into the bridgehead area.

Aviation: One squadron of P47 fighter bombers bombed and strafed SCHANNWEILER (1028452). Other fighter bombers bombed enemy artillery positions vicinity (1038465) with unknown results. Strafing of miscellaneous targets on the Div front was reported as good.

Div continued to expand its bridgehead capturing the towns of FERSCHWEILER and WICKENBERG and the high ground vicinity (1043428) - (1057383) - (1045043) - (1050404) and the OR vicinity (1031431). A landing strip vicinity (1038423) was captured. A total of 143 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 75 enemy were killed and 250 wounded.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left attacked during the morning 13 Feb

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Continuing the work of 100th Inf Div on the night continued to expand its bridgehead capturing the high ground vicinity (1067384).

14 Feb 45

20T: Remained in position in Div reserve. Regiment was alerted for movement to relieve the 10th Inf in position.

10CT: 1st Bn continued the attack to the N toward SCHANWEILER (1029453). Strong enemy resistance was encountered vicinity (1022439) which was being reduced at the close of the day. 2d Bn remained in position reducing enemy pockets in the vicinity (1042436). 3d Bn remained in position during the period.

11CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance at 0900A to the N reaching positions S of ERNZE (1059388) which were occupied and held. 2d Bn resumed the advance to the N at 0920A. The town of ERNZE was captured and positions were consolidated in that area. 3d Bn attacked at 0730A to the N and at 0920A the objective vicinity LACISENHOF (1056422) had been captured and the battalion was organizing its positions. Patrols moved to the N toward the high ground overlooking the FRUM River.

Aviation: Fighter bombers of the XIX TAC continued to support the 5th Inf Div attack by bombing and strafing motor vehicle movement to the Div front, particularly in the vicinity of BITBURG (1133333).

Div continued to expand its bridgehead to the N in the direction of SCHANWEILER patrolling to the front to determine any enemy resistance SW of the FRUM River. The towns of ERNZE and LACISENHOF were captured. A total of 336 PWs was evacuated during the period. More than 100 PWs were captured during the day's operations. An estimated 100 enemy were killed and 250 wounded. One enemy artillery piece and ammunition dump were destroyed by artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left continued expansion of its bridgehead across the SAUER River advancing to the high ground vicinity (P984477) and (1004443). 76th Inf Div on the right continued to expand its bridgehead capturing the high ground vicinity (1074366) - (1076360).

15 Feb 45

2CT: 1st Bn moved to the bridgehead area completing the relief of the 1st Bn 10th Inf at 2300A. Patrols were sent to the vicinity of SCHANWEILER during the night. 2d Bn moved to the vicinity of BOLLENDORF closing at 1900A. 3d Bn relieved the 2d Bn 10th Inf in the line completing the relief at 2035A. CO 2d Inf assumed command of the new sector at 2300A.

10ST: Co F was relieved by Co K 11th Inf at 0425A and Co F joined the remainder of the battalion. 1st Bn continued clearing the woods SW of SCHANWEILER until relieved by the 1st Bn 2d Inf at 2800A. 2d Bn remained in position until relieved by the 3d Bn 2d Inf at 2035A. 2d Bn moved to the vicinity BOLLENDORF closing at 2345A. 3d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity GERSBACH closing at 1900A. CO 2d Inf assumed command of the sector from the CO 10th Inf at 2300A.

11CT: Regiment remained in position during the period organizing its positions and patrolling to the front. Elements of the 3d Bn relieved elements of the 2d Bn 10th Inf within the enlarged regimental zone at 0431A and organized positions clearing small pockets of resistance in the vicinity (1020436). Patrols, operating between the positions and the N bank of the FRUM River, encountered no enemy on the N of the river except that encountered by the 3d Bn.

7th Engr Bn (supported by the 1103d Engr Gp): Completed construction of a Class 40 Bailey bridge vicinity (1028381) at 1725A.

Aviation: Fighter bombers of the XIX TAC continued to support the 5th Inf Div attack by attacking motor vehicle movement, enemy ammunition dumps, ration dumps, CPs and artillery positions to the Div front with excellent results. Four tanks were known to have been damaged and a large number of horse drawn and motor vehicles were destroyed or damaged in the vicinity of SCHANWEILER (1075237).

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24 Inf continued to expand its bridgehead maintaining the attack to the E in the direction of SCHAMMATHEN and patrolling to the W bank of the PRUM River within zone. 2d Inf completed the relief of the 10th Inf and the CO 2d Inf assumed command of the sector at 2300A. 10th Inf moved to assembly area vicinity AITLINSTER closing at 2345A. A total of 166 PWs was evacuated during the day and an estimated 50 enemy were killed and 150 wounded. Enemy aircraft captured or destroyed included 4 tanks damaged and a large number of bc-se drums and motor vehicles destroyed or damaged by aircraft operating under Div control. Three JU52s and 2 unidentified aircraft (damaged) were captured in the vicinity (1013417).

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left consolidated its bridgehead across the SAUER River and made preparations for continuation of the attack to the E. 76th Inf Div on the right continued to expand its bridgehead capturing the high ground vicinity (1080375).

16 Feb 45

Detached: 1 Flat Co B 808th ID Bn (SP) (90mm) effective 1050A.

20T: 1st Bn remained in position clearing enemy pockets S of the ENE River. 3d Bn cleared enemy pockets in its area and reorganized its positions to occupy the high ground overlooking the ENE River. Patrols were sent to the front to determine river conditions along the front and possible crossing sites.

100T: Remained in assembly area during the period in Div reserve.

110T: Regiment remained in position during the period reorganizing its positions and patrolling to the W bank of the PRUM River. 3d Bn completed clearing of the woods vicinity (1044428) repelling a small enemy counterattack in that vicinity.

Aviation: Fighter bombers of the XIX TAF continued to support the 5th Inf Div positions by attacking enemy installations at GILZEN (L128418) and MECKEL (L124443) with good results.

Div continued to organize its bridgehead patrolling to the front to the ENE and PRUM Rivers clearing small enemy pockets within its area. A total of 33 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 35 wounded during the period.

17 Feb 45

Div continued to reorganize its positions patrolling to the PRUM and ENE Rivers to determine possible crossing sites and river conditions. A total of 16 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 40 enemy were killed and 100 wounded.

18 Feb 45

20T: 1st Bn attacked to the E at 0300A crossing the ENE River. The town of SCHANNWEILER (1028482) was cleared of enemy and the bridges at (1025459) and (1022432) were captured intact. At 0735A the objective vicinity (1013468) had been captured and the town of SCHANNWEILER was organized and became open to the E. Positions were organized in the vicinity of BOLLENDERS, passing through the 1st Bn, at 1730A attacking to the E to reach positions vicinity the CR. at (1030475). 3d Bn attacked at 0900A across the ENE River and at 0735A captured the objective vicinity (1044453) after having advanced approximately one mile. Positions were organized in this area.

100T: Remained in assembly area in Div reserve.

110T: Regiment continued to patrol toward the E toward the PRUM River and reorganized its bridgehead within its area. 2d Bn attacked to the E at 0735A to clear enemy pockets within its zone and at the close of the day the regimental positions had been advanced to the cliff overlooking the PRUM River within the zone and patrols patrolling to the front and rear. An enemy counterattack on the evening patrol established an outpost at (1047441) after having cleared the enemy out of that area.

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approximately one mile to the high ground vicinity (1094466) and (1094455) overlooking the PRUM River. 2d Bn passed through the 1st Bn and advanced to the vicinity of the CR at (1090475). The town of SCHANKWILDE was cleared and 2 bridges across the BEZ River were captured intact. 11th Inf posit'ns had been advanced to the cliff overlooking the PRUM River and all enemy feet teams had been refused E of the PRUM River. A total of 37 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 150 enemy were killed and 300 wounded. One enemy tank was destroyed and a large quantity of small arms and ammunition was captured.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left attacked to the N at 0630A reaching the vicinity of (P978482) and capturing the towns of CRUCHTEN (P980445), STUCKERT (1003459) and HEMERDINGEN (P984466). 76th Inf Div on the right continued to consolidate its positions.

19 Feb 45

2CT: 1st Bn continued to improve its positions during the period. 2d Bn continued to advance to the N capturing the town of STUCKEN at 2120A. 3d Bn was relieved by the 3d Bn 10th Inf by 2030A and the battalion moved to front line positions vicinity (1040476).

10CT: 1st Bn moved to assembly area vicinity WALDBILLIG (P996440) closing at 1500A. 2d Bn relieved the 3d Bn 11th Inf in position completing the relief at 2120A. 3d Bn relieved the 3d Bn 2d Inf in position completing the relief at 2030A. CO 10th Inf assumed command of the new zone at 2120A.

11CT: 1st Bn (-) was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn 365th Inf at 1330A and moved to assembly area vicinity BOHLENLUST closing at 1600A. 2d Bn, with Co B attached, was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn 365th Inf by 1230A and the 2d Bn moved to an assembly area vicinity GEBENBERG closing at 1800A. 3d Bn, with Co C attached, was relieved by the 2d Bn 10th Inf at 2120A and the 3d Bn started movement to an assembly area vicinity BLASCHETTE (P970236). CO 365th Inf assumed command of his zone from the 11th Inf at 1300A and CO 10th Inf assumed command of his part of the 11th Inf zone at 2120A.

Division continued its attack to the N with the 2d Bn 2d Inf advancing approximately one mile to the town of STUCKEN. Elements of the 365th Inf relieved the 1st Bn (-Co C) and the 2d Bn 11th Inf. The new boundary between the 5th and 76th Inf Divs became effective at 1300A and the CO 365th Inf assumed command of his new zone. 10th Inf completed the relief of the 3d Bn 2d Inf and the 3d Bn plus Co C 11th Inf by 2120A and CO 10th Inf assumed command of his new zone. A total of 212 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 95 enemy were killed and 300 wounded. Three enemy tanks, 2 Mk Vs and one unknown, and one SP gun were destroyed by TD and artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 80th Div continued the attack to the N capturing the high ground vicinity (1018502), (P996492), (P978498) and (P997488). 76th Inf Div relieved elements of the 11th Inf and the new boundary between the 5th & 76th Inf Divs went into effect at 1300A.

20 Feb 45

2CT: Regiment resumed its position clearing enemy positions on the N bank of the PRUM River and patrolling actively to the front. 2d Bn captured the town of HAUSSORF (1024488) at 0600A and completed the clearing of all enemy in the vicinity of the town.

10CT: Regiment continued to consolidate its positions patrolling actively to the front. 1st Bn (-Co D) moved to the vicinity BOLLENDORF closing at 1550A.

11CT: Remained in position in Div reserve.

7th Engr Bn (supported by the 1103d Engr Gp): Completed the construction of a fixed bridge across the SAUER River at BOLLENDORF.

Div continued the clearing of enemy resistance on the N bank of the PRUM River

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and at the close of the period the W bank of the PRUM River was cleared from (100721A) to (100728B) and the town of HALSDORF was captured at 0800A. A total of 81 PWs was processed during the period and an estimated 35 enemy were killed and 95 wounded. Two enemy SP assault guns were captured in the vicinity HALSDORF and one enemy tank was destroyed by artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div continued the attack to the W capturing the towns of OBERSEEGEN (P996493) and ROTH (P915484).

21 Feb 45

Detached: Btry C 558th FA Bn (-1 platoon) effective 2300A and 2 Sections 84th Cml Co (SG) effective 2300A.

Div contd organization of positions on the W bank of the PRUM River. A total of 69 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 15 enemy were killed and 45 wounded during the period. One enemy SP gun and 5 trucks were destroyed.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div continued the attack reaching OBERECKLER (P965537).

22 Feb 45

Detached: Co C 91st Cml Bn (4.2" mortar) effective 2210A.

2CT: 2d Bn relieved elements of the 1st & 3d Bns 317th Inf within the new 5th Inf Div zone at 2330A and the new boundary between the 5th and 80th Inf Divs went into effect. 1st Bn remained in position. 3d Bn (-Co K) was relieved by elements of the 1st Bn 10th Inf by 2325A and the Bn (-Co K) assembled in the vicinity (1020460).

10CT: 1st Bn started the relief of elements of the 2d Inf in position. 2d & 3d Bns remained in position outposting the area and patrolling actively to the front.

11CT: Remained in position during the period.

803d TD Bn (SP): 11 M10 TDs were replaced by M36 TDs during the period and moved to the Div area.

Div regrouped its forces on the W bank of the PRUM River. Elements of the 2d Inf relieved elements of the 317th Inf within the enlarged Div zone and the new boundary between the 5th & 80th Inf Divs went into effect at 2230A. Elements of the 10th Inf started relief of the elements of the 2d Inf within the enlarged 10th Inf zone. A total of 24 PWs was evacuated during the period. One tank, one fortified house and one pillbox were destroyed by artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div completed the occupation of OBERECKLER and organized positions within their zone. GCB 4th Arm Div, attached to the 80th Inf Div, passed through the 80th Inf zone advancing to the vicinity (P970533). 76th Inf Div continued to clear enemy resistance on the W bank of the PRUM River in the vicinity of MINDEN (1089269). 304th Inf was relieved by the 2d Cav Gp and started movement into the 5th Inf Div area.

23 Feb 45

2CT: 1st Bn 10th Inf completed the relief of the 1st Bn 2d Inf at 0100A and the CO 10th Inf assumed command of his enlarged regimental zone. 1st Bn moved to an assembly area vicinity (1030470). Remainder of the regiment remained in position patrolling actively to the front.

10CT: 1st Bn relieved elements of the 2d Inf in position completing the relief at 0100A and the CO 10th Inf assumed command of the enlarged regimental zone. 2d Bn and elements of the 3d Bn were relieved by the 2d & 3d Bns 304th Inf within the enlarged 76th Inf Div zone prior to 240008A and the boundary between the 5th and 76th Inf Divs became effective. Remainder of the regiment remained in position patrolling across the PRUM River.

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1107: Remained in position as Div reserve.

Div continued to regroup its forces on the W bank of the FRUM River. Elements of the 10th Inf completed the relief of elements of the 2d Inf within the enlarged 10th Inf zone and CO 10th Inf assumed command of his enlarged zone at 0100A. Elements of the 304th Inf relieved the 2d Bn and elements of the 3d Bn 10th Inf completing the relief by 240008A and the boundary between the 5th & 76th Inf Divs went into effect. A total of 4 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 5 enemy were killed and 25 wounded during the period. One pillbox and 1 tank were destroyed by artillery fire during the period.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div remained in position during the period. CGS 4th Arm Div, attached to the 80th Inf Div, continued the attack capturing the high ground vicinity (P995448), (P995434) and (P995520). 76th Inf Div continued to clear enemy resistance on the W bank of the FRUM River. 304th Inf completed the relief of the 10th Inf within the new 76th Inf Div zone and the new boundary between the 5th & 76th Inf Divs became effective at 240008A.

24 Feb 45

207: 1st Bn attacked across the FRUM River in the vicinity (1051483) at 2300A. The battalion had cleared the river as of 2400A. The 2d Bn remained in position protecting the left flank of the regiment. 3d Bn moved to positions prepared to follow the 1st Bn across the FRUM River.

1107: 2d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity BOLLENDORF closing at 0045A. 1st Bn attacked across the FRUM River at 2300A and was crossing at the close of the day. 2d Bn started movement from the vicinity BOLLENDORF to assembly area vicinity (1030470). 3d Bn attacked across the FRUM River at 2300A and was crossing at the close of the day.

1107: Remained in Div reserve during the period.

5th Cav Recon Tr: Moved to the vicinity (1040436) relieving Co 1 2d Inf assuming mission of helping guard the left flank of the 2d Inf.

7th Engr Bn (supported by the 1103d Engr Gp): Supported the attack of the Div across the FRUM River completing the construction of 2 foot bridges in the regimental zones prior to 2400A.

Div attacked to the E across the FRUM River at 2300A and at the close of the day 1 battalion of the 2d Inf was across and 2 battalions of the 10th Inf were crossing. Advance was continuing at the close of the period.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div remained in position during the period. CGS 4th Arm Div, detached from the 80th Inf Div control, continued the attack capturing the towns of GUTSCHIED (1012969) and BRIMINGEN (1018339). 76th Inf Div prepared to attack with the 5th Inf Div moving 2 battalions to positions to cross the FRUM River in the 10th Inf zone.

25 Feb 45

207: 1st Bn continued the advance capturing the town of HERRINGEN (1037486) and the high ground vicinity (1058499) and (1065404) where positions were organized and held. 2d Bn advanced to the N capturing the town of BOTTINGEN (1039501) and ALSENDORF (1030314) at 1700A. 3d Bn followed the 1st Bn across the FRUM River clearing at 0200A and capturing the objective vicinity (1027493) and continuing the advance to the N. 2d Bn 11th Inf, attached to the 2d Inf at 1210A, relieved elements of the 1st & 3d Bns in vicinity (1070494) where positions were organized.

1107: 1st Bn completed crossing the FRUM River at 0300A and elements had captured the high ground vicinity (1065474) at 0300A. Advance was continued to the E to capture the town of INLENDORF (1083491) at 2015A. 2d Bn closed in assembly area vicinity (1030470) at 0100A. Bn moved across the FRUM River during the day to the vicinity of (1065474). 3d Bn completed crossing the FRUM River at 0035A and captured the high ground vicinity (1066460) by 0500A and at 1100A had captured the town of PEFFINGEN (1047464) and was continuing the attack to the E.

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1107. Regiment in Div passed starting movement at 0900A to the vicinity of HUSUM (100472). Regiment closed into assembly area at 1400. 2d Bn, attached to the 2d Inf at 1210A, moved to the vicinity of (1070494).

5th Cav Ron Tr: Aided the 2d Bn 2d Inf in the capture of BETTINGEN and after the capture started movement across the PRUM River to positions to protect the right flank of the Div.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp): Completed construction of a Class 40 Bailey bridge at PEFFINGEN (1047464) at 1530A.

Airaction: Fighter bombers of the XIX TAC supported the attack of the 5th Inf Div bombing vehicle concentrations in the vicinity DOCKENDORF (1084481) and WOLSFELD (1089460). Bombing effects aided in keeping the enemy disorganized.

Div continued the attack to the E across the PRUM River with the 20T and 10CT abreast. 20T advanced over 2 miles to the E to capture the high ground in the vicinity of (1070520) and (1082520). 10CT advanced 2 miles to the E to capture the town of ENGENDORF. In addition, the towns of BETTINGEN, ALSDORF, PEFFINGEN, WETTLINGEN, and MESSERICH had been captured and the advance was continuing at the close of the period. An estimated 100 enemy were killed and 300 wounded. A total of 280 PWs was evacuated. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed included 6 trucks with 3 ammunition trailers, 2 nebelwerfers and 1 horse drawn vehicle.

Adjacent Units: CGA 4th Arm Div moved through the town of OBERWEIS and crossed the PRUM River and at the close of the day was moving to the NE. CGB 4th Arm Div captured the town of BIRTENDORF (1113560) and at the close of the day was in the vicinity of (1140566). 80th Inf Div, following the 4th Arm Div, mopped up enemy pockets which had been bypassed by the armor clearing the enemy W of the PRUM River within zone. 76th Inf Div completed the crossing of 4 battalions to the E bank of the PRUM River and had advanced to the vicinity of (1079466) and (1080436).

26 Feb 45

20T: Continued the attack to the E at 0200A capturing the high ground vicinity (1070520) at 0515A. Attack was continued to the E to capture the high ground vicinity (1082516) at 1530A and the battalion continued on to capture the town of STAHL (1113528). 2d Bn crossed the PRUM River to the vicinity (1080500) and attacked to the E capturing the town of BIRTILINGEN (1102503) where a Class 70 bridge over the NIMS River was captured intact. 3d Bn continued the advance to the N capturing the high ground vicinity (1082520) at 0200A and was in position mopping up the woods in the vicinity (1086520) at the close of the period.

10CT: 1st Bn continued the attack capturing the town of MESSERICH (1100506) at 0900A. Positions were organized in the vicinity of the RR (1106493) for the night. 2d Bn passed through the 3d Bn at 0800A crossing the NIMS River and capturing the high ground vicinity (1116478). Bn advanced to capture the town of OBERSTEDEN (120485) where positions were taken for the night. 3d Bn continued the attack to capture the town of DOCKENDORF (1084482) at 0410A and continued forward across the NIMS River to capture the town of NIEDERSTEDEN (1114486) where positions were organized.

1107. Regiment (-2d Bn) started movement across the PRUM River closing in the vicinity (1070470) at 1354. 2d Bn reverted to Regimental control at 1800. 1st Bn passed through the 1st Bn 10th Inf and attacked to the NE at 2100A. 3d Bn moved to positions behind the 1st Bn 10th prepared to follow the latter in its attack to the NE.

803d TD BN (SP): Cos, firing in support of their respective CIs, destroyed one AT gun and one enemy truck and were believed to have killed approximately 60 enemy infantry with TD fire.

Div continued the attack to the E with the 20T and 10CT abreast. 20T advanced to the W bank of the NIMS River capturing the towns of STAHL and BIRTILINGEN. 10CT advanced across the NIMS River to capture the towns of MESSERICH, DOCKENDORF, NIEDERSTEDEN and OBERSTEDEN. 10T started movement

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through the 10T at 2100A and was attacking to the NE at the close of the period. A total of 292 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 60 enemy were killed and 150 wounded. One AT gun and one truck were destroyed by TD fire.

Adjacent Units: CGA 4th Arm Div moved to the NE contacting CGB 4th Arm Div in the vicinity (L140566). CGB continued to advance to the E and S capturing the woods in the vicinity (L130550), the town of MATZEN (L147554) and the area along the KYLL River vicinity (L164565). 76th Inf Div continued expansion of its bridghead to the vicinity (L104460), (L110450) and (L100454).

27 Feb 45

2 CT: Regiment remained in position clearing all enemy from the W bank of the NIMS River and organized positions along the river within its zone.

10CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance at 0800A. The battalion passed through the 2d Bn, capturing the high ground vicinity (L136477) at 1135A. Advance was continuing to out the main BITBURG-TRIER Road vicinity (L140475) and the high ground vicinity (L143474) was captured. The town of ESSLINGEN (L132469) was cleared at 1135A. Positions were organized in this area for the night. 2d Bn passed through the 1st Bn attacking to the NE and was advancing at the close of the period. 3d Bn continued the attack E to clear the woods NE of SCHARBILLIG at 1930A where positions were organized.

11CT: 1st Bn continued the attack toward BITBURG capturing the high ground vicinity (L122514) at 0545A and entered the outskirts of the city at 1745A. Positions were taken there for the night. 2d Bn followed the 3d Bn across the NIMS River moving to the vicinity (L123514). 3d Bn crossed the NIMS River after the 1st Bn and attacked to the E to capture the town of MASHOLDER (L122507) at 1000A. The advance was continued to the E to capture the high ground vicinity (L122510) at 1725A and the town of MORSCH (L153522) at 1920A.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1103d Engr Gp): Completed the construction of a Class 40 Bailey bridge vicinity MEISERICH at 0700A and a Class 40 trestle bridge vicinity DOCKENDORF was also built during the period.

Div continued the attack to the E with the 10CT and 11T abreast. 10CT advanced to capture the high ground vicinity (L136477) - (L143474) and the town of ESSLINGEN. 11CT captured the towns of MASHOLDER and MORSCH and the high ground vicinity (L121923) and (L122510). The advance was continued to the E at the close of the period. 45 PWs were evacuated during the day and an estimated 60 enemy were killed and 120 wounded. A mortar ammunition dump in MASHOLDER was captured.

Adjacent Units: 4th Arm Div continued consolidation of its positions capturing the towns of NATTENHEIM (L130586) and FLEISSEM (L146590). 76th Inf Div continued the attack to the SE capturing the towns of WEICHBILLIG (L161400) and IDESHEIM (L167425) and the high ground vicinity (L165397).

28 Feb 45

Detached: 84th Cml Co (SC) (-2 Sections) effective 1455A.

20T: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d & 3d Bns passed through the 5th Cav Reg Tr vicinity (L140475) at 0900A attacking to the E. 2d Bn captured the towns of TRIMPERT (L167462) and IDENHEIM (L164550) and cleared the enemy from the W bank of the KYLL River within zone. 3d Bn attacked to capture the towns of SULM (L166475) and DAHLEM (L181468) and cleared the enemy from the W bank of the KYLL River within zone. Positions were organized on the high ground overlooking the river at the close of the day.

100T: 1st Bn attacked through the 2d Bn during the morning to capture the town of BOHL (L163494) and the woods vicinity (L156544) at 1130A. Advance was continued to clear all the enemy from the W bank of the KYLL River and to capture the high ground overlooking the river. 2d Bn continued the advance to capture the town of SCHARBILLIG (L155466) at 0135 where the battalion was assembled in regimental reserve. 3d Bn passed through the 2d Bn at 530A and continued the

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11th Lt. Co. continued the attack at 0700 and at 1130 the city of KITHIRI was reported clear. 2d Bn passed through the 1st Bn and advanced to capture the town of HAKKI (116548) and the high ground overlooking the KILL River vicinity (116544) and (115836) clearing the S bank of the KILL River within zone. 3d Bn resumed the advance at 0700 to capture the high ground vicinity (116548) at 1700 and cleared all enemy from the S bank of the KILL River within zone. Positions were organized on the high ground overlooking the KILL River.

17th Lt. Co. continued to support their respective CTA. Co A, operating with the 11th Bn, destroyed 1 enemy radar station and 1 enemy tank.

18th Lt. Co. (M). Co. in support of their respective CTA, knocked out 1 half-track, 1 M1 tank and inflicted numerous enemy casualties. Additional M30 Tds were received bringing the total M30 Tds to 21 at the end of the month.

19th Lt. Co. continued to attack to the E clearing all enemy from the S bank of the KILL River and organized positions on the high ground overlooking the river. The town of HAKKI and the town of HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI, HAKKI and HAKKI were captured. A total of 125 PWs was processed and an estimated 20 enemy were killed and 60 wounded during the day. The total number of PWs processed during the operation of breaking the HAKKI LINE and capturing HAKKI was 2,025 and 17 enemy dead had been buried.

20th Lt. Co. continued the attack capturing the town of HAKKI (116500) and HAKKI (116500). 21st Lt. Co. continued the attack to the E capturing the towns of HAKKI (116500), HAKKI (116500) and HAKKI (116500).

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SECTION II - COMMENTS

1. GENERAL. During the month of Feb 1945, the 5th Inf Div forced a crossing of the SAUER River, established a bridgehead, continued the attack, crossed the ENZ, PRUM and NIMS Rivers and captured BITBURG. The SIEGFRIED LINE was broken through in the crossing of the SAUER River. Most comments concern the breaking of the SIEGFRIED LINE. Lessons learned in river crossings were similar to ones recorded in previous reports.

2. FIGHTING IN SIEGFRIED LINE.

a. Information. The enemy manned about every 10th pillbox along the river line and managed to place small area fire on our crossing sites. The SAUER River was at flood stage and estimates of the current varied from 10 to 20 mph. Approach roads were most difficult to keep open due to mud.

b. Pillboxes on the river line were reduced by direct fire of 90mm Tds and tanks. The ones that could not be reduced by tanks and Tds were reduced by 155mm SP guns and by precision adjustment of heavy artillery.

c. In many cases the pillboxes were buttoned up by small area fire then destroyed by pole charges.

3. ARTILLERY PREPARATION FOR RIVER CROSSING.

a. During this month, artillery ammunition was available for the first time in sufficient quantities to prepare for and support the operations of the regiments.

b. When crossing against a well organized and manned position no preparation, counterbattery or counter communication fires were delivered in more than normal volume prior to H Hour. Thirty minutes after H Hour counterbattery and counter communication fires were delivered in full volume. Assaulting troops were given a chance to get leading elements across the river before the enemy was alerted by our intense artillery fires. Crossings were made in darkness.

c. When crossing against a hastily organized and poorly manned position, the weight of arty fire was built up several hours prior to H Hour, firing in all known active defensive positions. The already groggy enemy was easily defeated and surrendered in large numbers to our fast moving attack which overran his positions as the artillery lifted.

4. ENGINEER OPERATIONS.

a. An Engr C Bn is the proper unit to support an assaulting regiment in a river crossing.

b. When preparation fires were used, Engrs were able to construct foot bridges during these fires so that assault troops could cross at H Hour and get out immediately for initial objectives.

c. Time to spend one or more nights determining character of stream, bottom and banks at various points speeds the crossing of troops and installation of bridges after H Hour.

R. C. Dickens
R. C. DICKENS,
Lt Col, GSC,
ACofS, G-3.

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***** HEADQUARTERS 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION *****

APO 5, US ARMY
2 Mar 45

E-499
4-11-45

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report.
TO: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

In compliance with ltr, Hq 5th Inf Div, same subject as above, dated 27 July 44, submitted herewith is a day by day summary of operations of the 5th Inf Div during the period 1-Mar - 31-Mar 45.

SECTION I - OPERATIONS

At the beginning of the month the 5th

737th Tk Bn
803d TD Bn (SF)
449th AAA (AW) Bn
Co B 91st Cml Bn

DECLASSIFIED BY: *SP-4 JAK/MS/MS*
CANCELLED
AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *June 16*

The Division had just completed the capture of the city of BITBURG (L134595) and had cleared the enemy from the west bank of the KYLL River within zone and organized positions east of BITBURG on the high ground overlooking the river.

1 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn moved to vic. OBERSTEDEN (L120485) closing at 1600A. 2d and 3d Bns remained in position during the period. Co A (attached to 3d Bn) effected relief of the elements of the 10th Inf within the enlarged regimental sector and at 020100A relief was completed.

10CT: 1st, 2d and 3d Bns (-Co I) remained in position during the period. Co I was relieved by Co A 2d Inf by 020100A and assembled with the remainder of the battalion.

11CT: Remained in position during the period.

Division remained in its positions on the high ground overlooking the west bank of the PRUM River within the sector. Elements of the 10th Inf relieved elements of the 10th Inf within the enlarged 2d Inf sector. A total of 156 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 50 wounded. One enemy gun was destroyed and an ammunition dump was set on fire by artillery fire during the period.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the attack capturing the towns of SEFFERN (L118638), SEFFERWEICH (L131630), MALBERGWEICH (L155625) and the high ground vic (L116634) and (L116629). 76th Inf Div continued the attack to the southeast capturing the towns of NEHEL (L173350) and OLE (L150360).

2 Mar 45

Attached: 84th Cml Co (SG) (effective 0347A).

Division remained in position on the high ground overlooking the KYLL River, making preparations for the attack across the river at 2400A. A total of 19 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 20 enemy were killed and 80 wounded.

Aviation: Three flights of 4 fighter-bombers each, bombed the town of BADEN (L191565) at 1223A, BILLINGEN (L230511) at 1400A and METTWEICH (L177379) at 1550A with excellent results.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the attack clearing the area south of the KYLL River within its zone. 76th Inf Div continued the attack to the south and east to clear the area west of the KYLL River and reached the MOSEL River opposite TRIER vic (L120300).

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2CT: Regiment continued to patrol the west bank of the KYLL River. 1st Bn relieved the 3d Bn in the line, completing relief at 2230A. Co F relieved Co L in the line, completing relief at 2230A. Co J relieved Co K 10th Inf, completing relief at 2230A. Remainder of the 3d Bn assembled in regimental reserve in vic OBERSTEDEM (L119486).

10CT: Attacked across the KYLL River at 022400A with the 1st and 2d Bns abreast. 1st Bn completed crossing at 0130A, reaching vic (L20251) and capturing the town of HUTTINGEN (L178528). 2d Bn completed crossing the river at 0730A and at 2030A captured the town of GONDORF (L199528) after repelling several strong counterattacks. Co K was relieved by elements of the 2d Inf by 2230A and joined the remainder of the 3d Bn which was making preparations at the close of the period to cross the river into the bridgehead.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn attacked across the KYLL River at 022400A and at 0540A the entire bn was across. Advance was continued to the north and at the close of the day the battalion was engaged in clearing the woods in vic (L172557) and had advanced to the south edge of the town of ERDORF (L165563). 3d Bn encountered difficulty in the construction of a footbridge and at 0600A the battalion started crossing on the footbridge vic (L177521) in the 10th Inf's zone. Upon completing crossing, the battalion advanced to capture the town of METTERICH and had cleared the woods vic (L188855) and advanced to the vic (L189557).

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Constructed footbridges in the regimental zone to aid in the attack across the KYLL River. A class 40 treadway bridge was completed vic (L166537) at 1700A.

Aviation: Five flights of 4 fighter-bombers bombed tanks in the vic (L205561) at 0835A, enemy activity in the town of GRENHOFFEN (L221448) at 0910A, vehicular activity at CR (L239468) at 0930A and tanks in vic (L188549) at 1155A and 1200A. Additional fighter-bombers also attacked artillery positions in vic (L228556) resulting in temporary silencing of enemy batteries.

Division attacked across the KYLL River at 022400A with the 10th and 11th CIs abreast. 10CT on the right crossed 2 battalions and at the close of the period had advanced to capture the towns of GONDORF and HUTTINGEN and advanced to the high ground vic (L202552). 11CT on the left crossed two battalions and advanced to capture the town of METTERICH and clear the woods vic (L172557) and (L188552). A total of 150 PWs had been evacuated during the period and an estimated 40 enemy had been killed and 150 wounded. At least two enemy tanks had been destroyed.

4 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn (Co B) moved to vic BITBURG closing at 1935A. 2d Bn, with Co B attached, maintained positions on the Regimental MIA. 3d Bn remained in assembly area during the period.

10CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn continued the attack to the east at 032400A against very heavy resistance and advanced slowly during the period. 3d Bn closed in across the KYLL River during the night and advanced through the 2d Bn to attack to the northeast. At 2330A the town of GONDORF (L214538) was captured and at 2345A the town of DUMELDORF (L214534) was captured. Positions were organized in the vic of these towns.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn continued the attack to capture the high ground vic (L174564) and at 1655A entered the town of ERDORF (L166564) against very heavy enemy resistance. The town was captured at 2100A and the high ground east of the town was organized. 3d Bn continued the attack and at 1330A captured the town of BADEM.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed the construction of a class 40 Bailey bridge vic (L168540) at 0600A.

Division continued its attack within the bridgehead to capture the towns of BADEM, DUMELDORF, GONDORF and HUTTINGEN. A total of 45 PWs had been evacuated during the period and an estimated 50 enemy were killed and 150 wounded. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed included 4 Mark IV tanks, 2 Mark V tanks, 1 Tiger Royal tank, 1 light tank, 1 20mm AA gun, 3 nebelwerfers, 2 Volkswagens and 1 1/2 truck.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div started movement into the 5th Inf Div's zone in preparation for crossing into the bridgehead. 76th Inf Div attacked across the KILL River in vic (L19643) to capture the town of POGNER (L19243) and SPEICHER (L214490). Fighting was in progress in vic of the town of GRENHOFEN (L223448).

5 Mar 45

Detached: 84th Cml Co (SG) (effective 2130A).

2CT: Remain in position during the period.

10CT: 1st Bn attacked to the northeast at 0330A capturing the town of PICKLEISSEM (L222550) at 0740A and the ground west of the town vic (L213555) was organized. Battalion remained in position during the remainder of the period. 2d Bn continued the attack to capture the town of PHILLIPPSHEM (L205312) and the high ground vic (L205528) and (L215525) where positions were organized and held for the remainder of the period. 3d Bn remained in position during the period.

11CT: 1st and 2d Bns remained in position during the period. 3d Bn continued the attack to capture the town of CRSPFELD (L204593) at 1900A where positions were held at the close of the period.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): A class 40-treadway bridge was completed vic ERDRF at 2100A.

Division continued its attack to the east to capture the towns of PICKLEISSEM and PHILLIPPSHEM and to complete the clearing of all high ground along the final bridgehead line. Units of the 4th Armd Div were passed through the 5th Inf Div lines starting at 0530A. A total of 200 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 25 enemy were killed and 75 wounded. Three 20mm AA guns, 2 40mm AA guns and other miscellaneous equipment were captured in the town of ERDRF.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div started passing through the 5th Inf Div's lines at 0530A and had advanced to capture the towns of OBERKAIL (L245604) and MALLENBORN (L276734) and were continuing the advance to the north. 76th Inf Div consolidated its positions during the period crossing additional troops into the bridgehead.

6 Mar 45

2CT: CT was formed consisting of 50th FA Bn, Co A and Ron Co 803d TD Bn, 737th Tk Bn (-Co A), 5th Cav Ron Tr (-1 plat), Co A 7th Engr Bn, 1 Plat Co B 91st Cml Bn and Co A 5th Med Bn with the mission of advancing armorized behind the armor and clearing enemy pockets in the rear of the armor. The CT started movement across the IP vic BITBURG at 0900A and at 1325A advance elements had reached OBERKAIL where the column was stopped by a blown bridge. Foot elements proceeded on to capture the town of SCHWARTZENBORN (L267605) where positions were taken.

10CT: Remained in position during the period.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn attacked to the north clearing the enemy from the east bank of the KILL River as far north as KYLLBURG (L183607) and capturing the towns of ETTELDORF (L168597) and WILSECKER (L174593). 3d Bn sent patrols to the west to KYLLBURG contacting the 80th Inf Div in that area.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): The blown bridge vic OBERKAIL was made passable to 2 1/2 trucks at 1500A and work was continued to make it passable to heavier vehicles.

Division continued its attack to the east, passing the 2CT through the bridgehead. The towns of ETTELDORF, WILSECKER and SCHWARTZENBORN had been captured and the east bank of the KILL River had been cleared as far north as KYLLBURG. A total of 114 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 40 enemy were killed and 150 wounded during the period.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the attack to the northeast capturing the towns of SAIM (I254730), OBERSTADTFELD (I309577), DAUN (I357777), MONREAL (I190094) and UBERDORF (I340731). 76th Inf Div attacked to the northeast capturing the towns of EISENFELD (I263527) and HERBERT (I251303).

7 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn, driven from the town of SCHWARTZENBORN by extremely heavy counterattacks during the night, organized the high ground overlooking the town. 2d Bn, passing through the 1st Bn, continued the attack to the east to recapture the town and seize a bridgehead across the SAIM River in vic EISENSCHMITT (I274612). The town of EISENSCHMITT was cleared and the battalion occupied the high ground north and east of the bridge site. 3d Bn continued the attack to the east capturing the town of GRANSDORF (I252580) across the SAIM River to occupy the high ground south and southeast of the town of EISENSCHMITT.

10CT: 1st Bn attacked to the east to capture the towns of SPANG (I245540), SPANGDAHLEM (I244554) and DAHLEM (I248551) at 0450A. Positions were organized in this vicinity. During the remainder of the period the regiment remained in position.

11CT: 1st Bn motorized, moved to the northeast to occupy the towns of DARSCHNEID (I398796), DAUN and PUTZBORN (I340773). 2d Bn motorized, remained in position in vic ERDORF waiting clearance on the route to the northeast. 3d Bn, motorized, moved to occupy the town of SAIM (I255730) and the RJ's vic (I222700) and (I220665).

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): The bridge vic OBERKAIL was made passable at 1130A for class 40 loads.

Division continued its advance to the east and northeast to capture the towns of SCHWARTZENBORN, EISENSCHMITT, GRANSDORF, SPANG, SPANGDAHLEM and DAHLEM. The towns of DARSCHNEID, DAUN, PUTZBORN and SAIM were occupied, after being passed through by the armored division. 21 PWs were evacuated during the period and an estimated 20 enemy were killed and 50 wounded. Three enemy tanks were destroyed by artillery fire.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the attack to the east reaching the final objective, the RHINE River in the vic of WEISSENTHORN (7800020). Other elements were on the high ground east of SEFFIG (I1780980). 76th Inf Div continued the attack to reach vic of NIEDERKAIL (I290536) and capture the town of ZEMMER (I254442).

8 Mar 45

Detached: 11CT (attached to 4th Armd Div) (effective 2150A).

203: 1st Bn continued the attack to the east against moderate enemy resistance and extensive road blocks. 3d Bn remained in position guarding bridges across the SAIM River until passed through by the 1st Bn and at the close of the period was following the 1st Bn in its attack to the east. Task Force GRAHAM, composed of the 2d Bn 2d Inf, Co D and Assault Gun Plat 737th Tk Bn, Cam Co 2d Inf, 1 Plat 7th Engr Bn and 5th Cav Bn Tr (-1 plat) moved to the north and east to attack south from the vic of UBERDORF. Task Force moved to GRANSDORF and bivouacked there for the night.

10CT: 1st and 2d Bns remained in positions. 3d Bn moved to positions on the right flank of the 2d Inf and at 2000A occupied the towns of GRANSDORF, SCHWARTZENBORN and EISENSCHMITT (I284604).

11CT: (Attached 4th Armd Div) (effective 2150A). 1st Bn continued movement to the vic of EISEN (I460792). 2d Bn moved to vic of OBERSTADTFELD. 3d Bn moved to vic DAUN.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed construction of a class 40 bridge across the SAIM River vic EISENSCHMITT at 1130A and started clearing the 300 yd abatis extending from (I293620) to (I297619).

Division continued its attack to the east clearing the way in the rear of the 2d Bn. 11CT (attached 4th Armd Div at 2150A) had forward elements in vic DAUN. A town of 2000A was captured. 16 enemy were killed and 40 wounded during the period. Three enemy 88 artillery pieces were knocked out during the period.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the attack capturing the towns of NIESENHEIM (179000), KETTING (1806977), MUIHEIM (1833986), RUBEINACH (1850970), WOLGHEM (1882950) and RUBEIN (1893902). 76th Inf Div continued the attack to reach via MUEHLEN (1330973) and capture the town of RUSK (132355).

9 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn continued the attack to the east, advancing to the high ground overlooking the XL MILL River vic (1338638) and continued the attack to the east and north toward the town of MANDERSCHEID (1338664). The battalion was motorized and moved to the north and east to attack south toward GILLENFELD (1405702). Battalion bivouaced at PUTZBORN (1340773) for the night. 3d Bn attacked to the northeast through the woods, capturing the towns of PANTENBURG (1360661) and BETTENFELD (1303657). Relieved the 1st Bn of TF GRAHAM in vic MANDERSCHEID and PANTENBURG. TF GRAHAM attacked to the south clearing the town of BLECKHAUSEN (1315700) and completing the capture of MANDERSCHEID at 1630A. The battalion entrucked and moved to the north and east bivouacing in the vic of DARSCHIED (1398795) during the night.

10CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn moved to vic of MANDERSCHEID and were preparing to relieve the 3d Bn 2d Inf. 3d Bn remained in position sending motorized patrols to the towns of DEUDSFELD (1282677) and MEERFELD (1299666) finding the towns unoccupied.

11CT: (Attached to 4th Armd Div). 1st Bn continued movement to vic KAISERSSECH (1676814). 2d Bn moved to vic DARSCHIED. 3d Bn moved to vic of NIMEN.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed the clearing of the 300 yd abatis vic (1293620) and a 100 yd abatis vic (1327620). A roadway bridge was placed over the large crater in the road vic (1326637).

Division continued its attack to the east with the 2CT advancing to seize the towns of MANDERSCHEID, PANTENBURG and BETTENFELD. 10CT cleared the towns of DEUDSFELD and MEERFELD. 11CT, attached to 4th Armd Div, continued movement to the east and at the close of the period had forward elements in the town of KAISERSSECH. A total of 97 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 25 wounded. Four tanks were known to have been destroyed.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued the expansion of its area, capturing the towns of GARDEN (1690760), WIRPUS (1622780) and TEMERSBURG (1676764). 76th Inf Div captured the town of SCHLADT (1359597).

10 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn attacked to the south to capture the town of GILLENFELD at 1030A and cleared the towns of UDLER (1386713), OBERWINKEL (1434722), NIEDERWINKEL (1444923), IMMERATH (1444705), STRATZBOSCH (1450683) and STROHN (1498683), contacting elements of the 10th Inf in the vic of the railway overpass at (1370685). 3d Bn, after being relieved by the 2d Bn 10th Inf, moved to vic of GREIMERSBURG (1574764). TF GRAHAM continued the advance to capture the high ground 1000 meters north of COCHEM (1593720) at 1300A and at 1325A captured the town itself. Positions were organized in this area and held during the remainder of the period.

10CT: 1st Bn moved to vic of BLECKHAUSEN and closed into assembly area at 2230A. 2d Bn completed the relief of the 3d Bn 2d Inf in the vic of MANDERSCHEID and remained in position sending patrols to the east to contact elements of the 2d Inf. 3d Bn remained in position during the period.

11CT: (Attached to 4th Armd Div). 1st Bn remained in position vic KAISERSSECH. 2d Bn moved to vic of GERDING (1664860). 3d Bn moved to vic of MERTLOOR (1696857).

Division continued its attack to the east, seizing the towns of COCHEM, GILLENFELD, NIEDERWINKEL, OBERWINKEL, IMMERATH, STRATZBACH, STROHN and UDLER. A total of 177 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 25 wounded. Fifteen to 20 12cm mortars were captured in vic (1267693).

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued patrolling to the RHINE and MOSEL Rivers within some clearing enemy pockets on the west bank of the rivers. The towns of KALTENBERGERS (183300), GUIS (1868940), WINDENBERG (18, 006) and KORBEN were cleared. 76th Inf Div continued the attack to capture the towns of GIPPERTATH (L376604), PLEIN (L383590) and LUXEM (L445564).

11 Mar 45

11CT reverted to Division control effective 112400.

2CT: 1st Bn continued the attack to the east reaching via of LITZERATH (L479701) and captured the bridge at (L469706). TF GRAHAM remained in position during the period clearing enemy from its zone. The town of FAID (L558720) was cleared and occupied. 3d Bn remained in position during the period patrolling its area.

10CT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d Bn was relieved by elements of the 89th Inf Div and by 1130A moved to the assembly area via LAUBACH (L630813), closing at 2300A. 3d Bn moved to the vic of MANSBURG (L660887) closing at 2230A. A detachment was sent from the regiment clearing the town of BUEHEL at 1830A.

11CT: 1st Bn relieved elements of GCB 4th Armd Div in the vic of FORST (L555800), BENNING (L760785), KALL (L648761), BRIEDEN (L662768), BROEL (L675802) and MONTENICH (L690805) and patrolled to the north bank of the MOSEL River. 2d Bn remained in position via GERING (L664860). 3d Bn remained in position via MERTZCH (L696857). The new boundary between the 5th Inf and 4th Armd Divs went into effect at 112400A and the GO 11th Inf assumed command of his zone.

5th Cav Recon Troop reconnoitered in the 89th Inf Div's area clearing the towns of LITZERATH, DRIESCH (L290708), WEILER (L529715), VENICH (L636730) and KENNIFUS (L489658).

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed construction of a class 70 bridge via (L283957) at 1000A and a class 40 Bailey bridge at of ANDERSCHIED at 1200A.

Division continued the clearing of its zone and a portion of the 89th Inf Div's zone on the right of the Div zone. The towns of LITZERATH, DRIESCH, WEILER, GEVENICH, KENNIFUS, BUEHEL and FAID were captured. 11CT reverted to Div control at 112400A and the new boundary between the 5th Inf and 4th Armd Divs became effective at that time. All resistance had been cleared from the north bank of the MOSEL River within zone and positions were occupied along the high ground overlooking the river. A total of 131 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 5 enemy were killed and 15 wounded. Enemy equipment captured and destroyed included 6 tanks, 2 ammunition dumps, 1 150m mortar and 2 120m mortars.

Adjacent Units: 4th Armd Div continued to patrol the banks of the RHINE and MOSEL Rivers within some clearing enemy pockets on the west bank of the MOSEL River. The 89th Inf Div relieved elements of the 5th and 76th Inf Divs within its new Division zone and continued clearing to the east.

12 Mar 45

2CT: Remained in position during the period patrolling the north bank of the MOSEL River.

10CT: 1st Bn moved to assembly area in vic STATE QUARRY (L532795) closing at 1730A. 2d and 3d Bns remained in position during the period.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position patrolling the north bank of the MOSEL River within zone. 2d Bn moved to assembly area via (L650825) closing at 1200A. 3d Bn moved to assembly area via (L650800) closing at 1430A.

Division patrolled the north bank of the MOSEL River within zone during the period. All troops of the Division closed into the new Division zone. A total of 153 PWs was processed during the period and 113 were processed by the 11th Inf during its attachment to the 4th Armd Div. An estimated 10 enemy were killed and 25 wounded. A large store of signal supplies, including radio intercept equipment, was captured in a church in MANSBURG (L660826).

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div moved into position on the Division, relieving 4th Arm Div units within their new zone. 89th Inf Div continued the attack to the east, clearing the towns of HILDING (1619678), LASCHWITZ (1621691) and DORF (1660702).

13 Mar 45

Attached: 84th Cal Co (SG) (-2 sections) (effective 1645A).

2CT: 1st Bn relieved by elements of the 2d Bn 10th Inf by 2100A assembled in the vic of GARDEN (1760689), preparing to cross the MOSEL River. 2d Bn relieved by elements of the 2d Bn 10th Inf by 2100A assembled in vic of KALL. 3d Bn, relieved by elements of the 11th Inf, assembled in vic GARDEN in preparation for crossing the river.

10CT: 1st and 3d Bns remained in assembly area during the period. 2d Bn (plus 1 co) relieved the 1st and 2d Bns 2d Inf on the west bank of the MOSEL River, completing relief at 132100A.

11CT: 1st Bn moved to assembly area in the woods north of MUDENBERG (1713774) closing at 1800A. 2d Bn remained in position during the period. 3d Bn moved to assembly area vic MUDENBERG closing at 2030A.

Division regrouped and reorganized its troops preparing to attack across the MOSEL River on the morning of 14 Mar 45. A total of 69 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 25 wounded. Two tanks were destroyed in the vic (1687743). A total of 1632 PWs was evacuated during the operation from the KILL River to the MOSEL River.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div moved to positions, prepared to attack across the MOSEL River in conjunction with the 5th Inf Div. 89th Inf Div on the right, continued to mop up enemy pockets within the zone.

14 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn attacked across the MOSEL River at 0200A capturing the high ground south of TRIES (1690750). Attack was continued and at 1900A the town of TRIES was captured. 2d Bn crossed the river after the 1st and 3d Bns, and moved to positions in vic TRIES. 3d Bn attacked across the river at 0200A, reaching the high ground vic (1703743) where positions were organized and held for the remainder of the period.

10CT: Bns remained in positions during the day.

11CT: 1st Bn attacked across the MOSEL River at 0345A completing the crossing at 0700A and reaching the high ground vic (1717740) at 1730A where positions were taken for the night. Houses along the river at (1721760) had been cleared. 2d Bn moved to assembly area vic MUDENBERG and crossed the MOSEL River after the 1st and 3d Bns, completing the crossing at 1815A. 3d Bn started crossing of the MOSEL River at 0550A and attacked to capture the high ground vic (1733733) at 1540A. The towns of LUTZ (1733734) and EVERSHAUSEN (1754730) were captured at 1830A. Advance was continued to capture the high ground vic (1748737) at 2130A where positions were taken for the night.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Supported the Division in its attack across the MOSEL River ferrying troops and vehicles across to the far shore. A class 40 trestle bridge was completed in vic (1717762) at 2100A by the 1135th Engr (C) Gp.

Aviation: Fighter-bombers of the XIX TAC supported the attack of the 5th Inf Div. Motor transport, flak positions, some tanks and supply and ammunition dumps in the vic of (7267) and (7962) were hit during the period. Results were generally excellent. One aircraft was lost due to enemy flak.

Division attacked to the south across the MOSEL River at 0200A with the 2d and 11CTs abreast. 2CT on the right advanced to capture the town of TRIES and the high ground vic (1703743). 11CT on the left attacked to capture the high ground vic (1717740) and (1748737). The towns of LUTZ and EVERSHAUSEN and the buildings along the river vic (1721760) were cleared. All battalions of the two CTs were across the river and tanks and TDs were crossing at the close of the day to aid the CTs in the continuation of their attacks to the south. A class 40 trestle bridge had been completed across the river into the bridgehead. A total of 62 PWs was evacuated and an estimated 40 enemy were killed and 40 wounded during the period.

Adjacent Units: Attached in conjunction with the 5th Inf Div at 0200A advanced to capture the towns of LIEBEN (1794835), HORTERSHAUSEN (1818808), BURGEN (1753792) and the high ground via (1753777) and (1778787). 5th Inf Div continued the mopping up of all enemy pockets until noon and at the close of the period had cleared all organized resistance on the west bank of the MOSEL River within its zone.

15 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn resumed the attack at 0700A advancing to capture the high ground via (1660734), (1655723) and (1660698) where positions were taken for the night. 2d Bn advanced at 0700A through the positions held by the 1st Bn during the night and attacked to the south reaching via (1695696) where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn resumed the attack at 0700A and advanced to reach the high ground via (1690716) where positions were organized. The battalion moved during the afternoon to positions behind the 2d Bn.

10CT: Remained in position during the period.

11CT: 1st Bn resumed the attack at 0630A and advanced to the vic of (1716727) where positions were held during the remainder of the period. 2d Bn passed through the 1st Bn at 1300A and advanced to capture the town of LIEN (1723713) and the high ground to the southeast at 1800A where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn resumed the attack at 0630A and the battalion captured the towns of DOMMERSHAUSEN (1760715) and DORWEILER (1776712) where positions were taken for the night.

5th Cav Ron: Troop moved into the bridgehead and patrolled the right flank of the Division area, clearing the area between the 1st and 2d Bns 2d Inf as far as the RJ (1681693) where positions were taken for the night.

Aviation: During the morning fighter-bombers continued armed reconnaissance to the Division front reporting no movement seen.

Division continued its attack to the south with the 2CT reaching the high ground via (1660734), (1655723), (1660698), (1703743) and (1695696). The towns of LIEBEN, DOMMERSHAUSEN and DORWEILER were captured. A total of 237 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 30 enemy were killed and 80 wounded. At least 4 MGs were captured.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack capturing the towns of BUCHHOLZ (1854790), KREUTZBURG (1869766) HOISENBACH (1868753) and OBER and NIEDER DOMMERSHAUSEN (1825734). 4th Arm Div attacked to the south through the bridgehead advancing to the vic of LIESENFELD (1859733) and SIMMERN (1850538)

16 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance in the early morning, clearing enemy from the east bank of the MOSEL River and the towns of ALT STRIMMIG, MITTEL STRIMMIG (1677658) and LIESENWACH (1664654). Co A remained in this position and the remainder of the battalion moved to regimental reserve in vic WORSDORF (1721672). 2d Bn moved forward to positions in BELL (1790625) which were held during the night. 3d Bn passed through the 2d Bn during the morning to capture the high ground (1697690), (1708686), (1719676), (1732661), (1798653) and the towns of WORSDORF, BUCH (1753643), BELL and HUNDHEIM (1720586).

10CT: (-2d Bn) (Task Force BRECKENRIDGE). Task Force composed of 10th Inf (-2d Bn) (motorized), 46th FA Bn, Btry B 21st FA Bn, Cos B, D and Assault Gun Plat 737th Tk Bn, Co B 7th Engr Bn, Co B and Ron Co 803d TD Bn, 5th Cav Ron Tr and Co B 5th Med Bn, started movement at 1300A into the bridgehead across the MOSEL River. 3d Bn in the lead, advanced during the day to vic REIDERSHAUSEN (1700630) where positions were held during the night. 1st Bn bivouaced in the vic of STRIMMIG overnight.

2d Bn 10th Inf: Operating under Division control cleared the area in the pocket formed by the MOSEL River via (1630730).

11CT: 1st Bn moved forward behind the 2d Bn closing in via KASSELBAUM (1790635). 2d Bn resumed the advance at 0530A to capture the towns of LOER (1726696), ZILSHAUSEN (1748683), MARWEILER (1772677), UDLER (1784655) and

During the night, 1 Bn resumed the advance at 0700 to occupy the town of KASTLHAUN and capture the town of LAUBACH (1839618) where positions were held during the night.

5th Cav Regt: Troop advanced during the morning of 16 Mar to the vic AIT STRIMMIG and MITTEL STRIMMIG clearing the towns and reached the vic of REIDENHAUSEN where positions were held for the night.

Division continued its attack to the south against very light resistance. 2CT advanced to the vic of HUNDHEIM clearing all enemy from the route of advance. TF BRECKENRIDGE moved into the bridgehead and advanced along the Division right flank as far as REIDENHAUSEN. 11CT advanced to the vic of SIMMERN clearing all enemy from its route of advance. A total of 41 towns were cleared of enemy during the period. 592 PWs were evacuated and an estimated 25 enemy were killed and 80 wounded. Four tanks, 3 88mm guns, 3 AT guns, 1 150m howitzer, 2 105mm guns, several AA-guns and several ammunition dumps were captured or destroyed during the period.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack on the left of the Division reaching vic HIRZENACH (1932758) and HOLZFELD (1936738). 4th Armd Div continued the attack reaching vic of BAD KREUZNACH (M090385) and captured bridges across the NAHE River in vic OBERHAUSEN (M016324) and EDENBURG (M073345).

17 Mar 45

2CT: During morning of 17 Mar the 1st Bn moved to vic HUNDHEIM where it remained during the remainder of the period. 2d Bn passed through the 3d Bn advancing to clear the towns of NANNHAUSEN (1816529) and TIEFENBACH (1863486) and positions were taken for the night vic OHLWEILER (1830518) and HALZBRACH (1853507). 3d Bn cleared the town of VOLKENROTH (1756594) and moved to positions vic BIESEN (1792548).

10CT: (-2d FF) (Task Force BRECKENRIDGE). TF resumed the advance during the morning 17 Mar with the route of advance BLANKENROTH (1690600)-PANZWEILER (1692580)-WUSCHEIM (1775570)-SIMMERN. 3d Bn leading the column had advanced through SIMMERN and reached the vic of HALDBOCKELHEIM (1988353) where positions were held for the night. Remainder of the column, held up by heavy armed traffic, stopped overnight in vic TILFENBACH. All previously unoccupied territory along the route of advance was cleared of enemy.

11CT: 1st Bn moved to vic SIMMERN where positions were held overnight. 2d Bn resumed the advance in the morning and at the close of the period had advanced to capture the town of REISWEILER where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn resumed the advance in the morning to capture the towns of ELLERN (1933541) and ARGENTHAL (1901530) where positions were held overnight.

2d Bn 10th Inf: Remained in position in Division Reserve vic STRIMMIG.

Division continued its attack to the south with the 2CT advancing to the vicinity TIEFENBACH. 11CT advanced to vic REISWEILER, ELLERN and ARGENTHAL. Units of TF BRECKENRIDGE had advanced to HALDBOCKELHEIM while remaining units were held up in the vic of TIEFENBACH. A total of 24 towns were cleared during the period. 71 PWs were evacuated during the day and an estimated 40 enemy were killed and 180 wounded. A large number of tanks and SPs were captured in the vic (1720580).

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack on the left of the Division to clear enemy along the west bank of the RHINE River. Forward elements had reached the vic of DOKWEILER (M011520). 89th Inf Div remained in position with the 11th Armd Div passing through to attack to the south. 4th Armd Div maintained its bridgehead over the NAHE River.

18 Mar 45

2CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance reaching the vic of WEITERSBORN (1850390) and SKESSBACH (1864385). 2d Bn remained in position during the period. 3d Bn attacked in the afternoon reaching positions just north of PFEDRSVELD (1895391) where heavy resistance from tanks and infantry was encountered. These positions were consolidated and held during the night.

of CCB 4th Arm Div in its bridgehead across the NAHE River in vic FIEL. Remainder of the column resumed the advance in the morning clearing the towns of WERNERSHEDD (189446) and SIEBEROTH (184043) against heavy resistance. The town of GEMUNDEN (181542) was cleared and the column had advanced to the vic of (1846423) where heavy resistance, road blocks and craters were encountered. 2d Bn reverted to regimental control and moved to vic GEMUNDEN.

11CT: 1st Bn following the 2d Bn in its attack in the morning reached the vic WINTERBACH (1928418), GEBRATH (1945421) and IPPENSCHIED (1925407) where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn resumed the advance to the STAATS FORST reaching the vic ARGERSCHANG (1974425) and DALBERG (1997442) where positions were held during the night. 3d Bn resumed the advance in the morning, clearing the area through the STAATS FORST to capture the towns of SIEBERSBACH (1985513) and HERGENFELD (M202450) where positions were held for the night.

5th Cav Bn Tr: Troop moved to the northwest to clear the new route which TP BRECKENRIDGE was using and had reached vic (1890403) where heavy road blocks and craters were encountered.

Division continued its attack to the south. 2CT advanced to vic WIEDERSHORN, SEESBACH and PFERDSFELD. 11CT advanced to clear STAATS FORST as far as WINTERBACH, GEBRATH, ARGERSCHANG, DALBERG, SIEBERSBACH and HERGENFELD. Elements of TP BRECKENRIDGE relieved CCB 4th Arm Div in its bridgehead across the NAHE River with other elements advancing to the vic of (1846423). A total of 38 towns was cleared during the period. 155 PWs were evacuated and an estimated 50 enemy were killed and 150 wounded. Four halftracks, 1 75mm AT gun, 3 105mm howitzers and 2 20mm guns were destroyed.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack on the left of the Division clearing enemy from the west banks of the RHINE River as far as BIEBERBUCH (M108518). 11th Arm Div had advanced to capture WIEDERSHEDD (1814308) and had crossed the NAHE River to capture BECHERBACH (1811207).

19 Mar 45

Detached: 10CT (attached to 4th Arm Div) (effective 0330A).

2CT: 1st Bn attacked to clear the KÖNIGLICHE FORST and at the close of the period had advanced to clear the forest within zone and had cleared all enemy from the north bank of the NAHE River within zone and occupied the towns of WELTER (1874344) and MÖNZINGEN (1896334) where positions were held. 2d Bn attacked to clear the forest and at the close of the period had reached the vic NUSSBAUM having cleared the forest within zone and had cleared the north bank of the NAHE River within zone. 3d Bn attacked to capture the town of SORRENHEIM (1940317) and advanced to the south to capture the town of BOMMELER (1912392) and clear all enemy from the north bank of the NAHE River within its zone.

10CT: TP BRECKENRIDGE was dissolved and the 10CT was attached to 4th Arm Div at 0330A. 1st Bn reduced the resistance vic (1846423) during the night and resumed the advance to reach the vic of WALDBUCKELHEIM and cross the NAHE River into the bridgehead already held by the 3d Bn. 2d Bn following the 1st Bn moved into the bridgehead. 3d Bn remained in position in the bridgehead across the NAHE River vic FIEL.

11CT: 1st Bn advanced to clear the town of WALDBUCKELHEIM and clearing the north bank of the NAHE River within zone. 2d Bn continued the advance capturing the towns of HUFFELSHEIM (M406360), TRAISEN (M059357) and NIEDERHAUSEN (M034337) and cleared the north bank of the NAHE River within zone. 3d Bn continued the advance clearing the town of GUTENBERG (M045424) and closing into the town of BAD KREUTZNACH where positions were occupied during the night.

449th AAA AW Bn: Btry B engaged 1 ME262 from 1830A to 18:54. No claims were submitted. Btry B also engaged 2 FW190s between 1909A and 1913A with one Cat I claim submitted.

Division continued the attack to the south and at the close of the period had cleared the north bank of the NAHE River within zone. A total of 20 towns was cleared during the period. 415 PWs were processed and an estimated 50

enemy were killed and 120 wounded. A large number of trucks were destroyed in the RESSBACH area, one half-track and 2 personnel carriers were destroyed by TD fire.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div crossed the NAHE River via KIRN (L800320). 4th Arm Div attacked from the bridgehead across the NAHE River at 1100A and had advanced to capture the towns of GAU HEPPENHEIM (L315270) and LINTESHEIM (M295233). 11th Arm Div advanced to capture ST ALBAN (M093205) and IRIESEM (M200117).

20 Mar 45

2CT: Task Force STAPLES, composed of infantry, tanks and TDs moved during the morning through the bridgehead via of OBERHAUSEN (M017324) and attacked to clear the towns of DUCHROTH (M003316), ODERNHEIM (L078297), STANDERNHEIM (I966307), NIEDERMOSCHEL (M043260), KALKOFEN (M073260), WINTERBORN (M093274), NIEDERHAUSEN (M114275), MUNSTERAPPEL (M103263) and OBERHAUSEN (M086246). 1st Bn moved in the rear of TF STAPLES advancing to occupy the towns of MUNSTERAPPEL and OBERHAUSEN. 2d Bn moved to vic HALLIGARTEN (M038292). 3d Bn moved to vic of NIEDERMOSCHEL and AISENZ (M057248).

10CT: (Attached to 4th Arm Div). Maintained positions in the bridgehead south of the NAHE River and started movement to assembly area via WONSCHHEIM (M164316).

11CT: 1st Bn continued the attack reaching the vic of BECHTLESHEIM (M330340) and GAU ODERNHEIM (M330318) where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn continued the advance to the vic of SPIESHEIM (M283346) and ENSHEIM (M272342). 3d Bn resumed the advance moving through GAU BICKELHEIM (M250276) and reaching vic WURSTADT (M274378).

449th AAA AN Bns: Btrys A, B and C engaged 4 ME109s between 1210A and 1215A. Btry A engaged 1 HE111 between 1330A and 1353A. Btry B engaged 2 ME109s at the same time on which 2 Cat II claims were submitted. Btry A engaged 1 ME109 between 1425A and 1430A. Btrys B and C engaged 6 ME109s between 1740A and 1753A. One Cat I claim was submitted. At 1745A Btry B engaged 2 FW190s and submitted 1 Cat I claim and 1 Cat II claim. Btry D engaged 4 FW190s at the same time. Btry B engaged 4 ME262s between 1821A and 1920A. One Cat I and 1 Cat II claim were submitted. During the same period Btry C engaged 2 ME210s.

5th Cav Recon Tr: Troop moved through the 11th Inf and patrolling the advance of 11CT reached vic GARSHEIM (M315365) and BIERHEINHEIM (M313332).

Division continued its attack to the east with forward elements reaching the vicinity of GAU ODERNHEIM, SPIESHEIM and WORSTADT. A total of 56 towns was cleared during the period. 163 PWs were processed and an estimated 60 enemy were killed and 150 wounded. Six 15cm howitzers, 7 7.5cm howitzers, 8 tracked prime movers, 1 truck and 7 Volkswagens were captured or destroyed during the period.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div attacked to cross the NAHE River and had reached vic BRETZENHEIM (M363537), GANARENHEIM (M340560) and WRISENHAU (M405538). 4th Arm Div continued its attack to reach the west bank of the RHINE River within its zone in the vic of the city of WORMS (M450150). Elements of the 11th Arm Div reached the west bank of the RHINE River within their zone.

10CT reverted to Division control at 1200A.

Attached: 11th Cal Co (80) (effective 2200A).

2CT: TF STAPLES was dissolved and the 1st Bn moved to vic KRIEGSFELD (M130234). 2d Bn moved to vic of NIEDERHAUSEN. 3d Bn moved to vic NIEDERWIESEN (M175256).

10CT: Reverted to Division control at 1200A. 1st Bn moved to vic WORSTADT clearing the towns of GONDENHEIM (M333295), WRISENHAU (M405538) and GINDHEIM (M360194) and further moved to assembly area via DOLOSHEIM (M374329) closing at 1825A. 2d Bn moved to clear the towns of MAUCHENHEIM (M223243), OFFENHEIM (M213253) and BUCHHEIM (M195255). 3d Bn completed the clearing of the city of WORMS and reverted to Div control at 1730A.

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110T: 1st Bn resumed the advance clearing the town of OPPENHEIM (M44800) on the RHINE River where positions were taken for the night. 2d Bn moved to assembly area via DAIHEIM (M404365). 3d Bn continued the advance clearing the towns of SCHWABSBURG (M415406) and NIERSTEIN (M433417) where positions were held for the remainder of the period.

Division continued its attack to the east to clear all enemy from the west bank of the RHINE River within zone. 10CT reverted to Div control during the period and was assembling in via DOIGESHEIM. A total of 186 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 15 enemy were killed and 40 wounded.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack and at the close of the period were fighting in the town of MAINZ (M380560). Remainder of the 90th Inf Div's zone has been cleared to the RHINE River. 4th Arm Div continued mopping up the west bank of the RHINE River within zone. 11th Arm Div closed to the RHINE River within zone.

22 Mar 45

Attached: 748th Tank Bn (DD) (amphibious) (effective 1800A).

20T: 1st Bn moved to positions via (M440405). 2d Bn moved to via UDENHEIM (M313417) closing at 1800A. 3d Bn remained in position.

10CT: 1st Bn moved to assembly area via (M445387) closing at 2230A in preparation for crossing the RHINE River. 2d Bn moved to assembly area via DORNDRUHEIM (M384300) and then moved to assembly area via (M442388) closing at 2245A prepared to cross the RHINE River. 3d Bn closed in assembly area via WINTERHEIM (M393312) at 1400A and were further moving to assembly area via DIENHEIM (M343378) at the close of the period.

110T: 1st and 3d Bns started crossing the RHINE River at 22200A and at the close of the period the crossing was progressing very satisfactorily. 2d Bn remained in position during the period prepared to follow the 3d Bn across.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Supported the attack of the Division across the RHINE River. Units of the 1135th Engr Gp started construction of a trestle bridge across the RHINE River at 2340A.

Division reorganized its forces and at 2200A the 1st and 3d Bns 11th Inf started the assault crossing of the RHINE River. Crossing was progressing very satisfactorily at the close of the period. A total of 801 PWs was processed during the period making the total PWs for the completed operation 2606 with 29 enemy dead buried.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div completed the clearing of the town of MAINZ. 4th Arm Div remained in position on the west bank of the RHINE River within zone.

23 Mar 45

Attached: 357th Inf Regt (effective 1430A). ^{Go TND}
6th Engr Bn (effective 1154A).

Detached: 748th Tank Bn (- elements already on the east bank of RHINE River) (effective 1730A).

20T: 1st Bn crossed into the bridgehead over the RHINE River and attacked to the north-reaching via of ASTHEIM (M164184) where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn crossed into the bridgehead and cleared the west bank of the river north as far as (M450468) and provided close-in security for the bridges. 3d Bn crossed the RHINE River and moved to the north to relieve elements of the 11th Inf in TREBUR (M743275). Co L continued the attack to the northeast to capture the town of ASTHEIM where positions were taken for the night.

100T: 1st Bn started crossing the RHINE River at 0155A and at 0300A the battalion had completely crossed the river. Battalion advanced to the

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east to capture the town of ERFELDEN (M530378) at 1320A where positions were held during the night. 2d Bn started across the RHINE River at 0415A, completing the crossing at 0420A. Battalion advanced to the west to capture the town of LEBHEIM (M506401) and continued to the vic of DORHEIM (M530423). 3d Bn started crossing the RHINE River at 0600A and at 0655A the battalion was completely across and had started the advance to the southeast. The battalion had completed clearing the woods along the east bank of the RHINE River vic (M475360) and moved to vic LEBHEIM closing at 1815A where positions were taken for the night.

11GT: 1st and 3d Bns completed the crossing of the RHINE River at 0100A. 1st Bn attacked to clear the town of GRINSHEIM (M474425) and reached the woods vic (M503446) where positions were held during the remainder of the period. 2d Bn completed crossing the RHINE River at 0435A and advanced to capture the town of WALLERSTADTEN (M515455) where positions were taken for the remainder of the period. 3d Bn, having crossed the river, attacked to the north to capture RJ (M460463) and the town of TREBUR. Battalion was relieved in these positions by the 3d Bn 2d Inf at 2330A.

357th Inf: (Attached to Division at 231430A). Started movement across the RHINE River at 1730A and at 2230A all three battalions had crossed and the 2d Bn was in position relieving the 1st Bn 10th Inf vic ERFELDEN.

449th AAA Av Bn: All btys engaged 7 ME109s between 1830A and 1831 A with 2 Cat I claims and 2 Cat II claims being submitted.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): A class 40 treadway bridge was completed across the RHINE River at 1800A and work was progressing satisfactorily on a class 40 heavy ponton bridge.

737th Tk Bn: Cos A, B and C 737th Tk Bn crossed into the bridgehead and moved to positions in support of their respective Cts. Eight tanks of the 738th Tk Bn (amph) were crossed into the bridgehead.

803d TD Bn (SP): Cos A, B and C 803d TD Bn (SP) crossed into the bridgehead and moved to positions in support of their respective Cts.

Aviation: Fighter cover and fighter-bombers of the XIX TAC furnished support for the Division bridgehead attacking vehicles, guns, flak positions and personnel with excellent results. Enemy air was extremely active in the Division bridgehead area during the period and friendly air cover shot down 19 enemy aircraft over the Division bridgehead.

The Division continued its attack across the RHINE River in the first assault crossing of the RHINE River in modern history. During the period four complete regiments supported by their tanks and TDs had crossed into the bridgehead. Artillery was crossing into the bridgehead at the close of the period. The attack was launched in a column of regiments in the order 11th Inf, 10th Inf and 2d Inf. 11th Inf began crossing at 222200A and at 230435A had all battalions across. At the close of the period they had advanced to capture the towns of GRINSHEIM, WALLERSTADTEN and TREBUR. 10th Inf started crossing at 0354A and at 0655A had all battalions across the river. Advance was made to the southeast and at the close of the period the towns of ERFELDEN and LEBHEIM had been cleared. 2d Inf crossed all three battalions during the day and at the close of the period had captured the town of ASTHEIM and relieved the 11th Inf. The 357th Inf Regt attached to the Division at 1430A, had crossed the river at 1730A and had moved to the vic LEBHEIM. The 357th Inf Regt continued to advance. A class 40 treadway bridge was completed across the river 20 hours after the original attack. A total of 401 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 10 enemy were killed and 65 wounded. A large number of PWs had been captured but not yet processed at the close of the period.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div started crossing of the 359th Inf into the bridgehead area. 357th Inf (attached 5th Inf Div at 1430A) had been completely crossed. 4th Arm Div moved to assembly area in preparation for passing through the Division bridgehead on 24 Mar 45.

24 Mar 45

Detached: 357th Inf Regt (effective 1200A).
84th Cal Co (SG) (effective 1500A).
Co B 691st TD Bn (effective 1330A).

201: 1st Bn continued the attack to the north capturing the town of BAUSCHEIM (M482515) where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn was relieved by the 24 Bn 101st Inf of its mission of the close-in protection at 1330A and moved to join the regiment. Battalion attacked during the evening clearing the woods via (M495510) where positions were taken for the night. 1st and 3d Bns, in conjunction with the 3d Bn 11th Inf repelled several strong counterattacks against their positions during the night. 3d Bn resumed the advance during the evening 24 Mar and reached the vic (M480517) where positions were held for the night.

10CT: 1st Bn was relieved in the vic of ERFELDEN by the 2d Bn 357th Inf and the battalion moved to vic DORNHEIM. Attack was resumed to the north in the morning from these positions and the battalion advanced to the vic of BERRACH (M53447). 2d Bn continued the advance to capture the town of DORNHEIM at 0325A and then moved to assembly area vic WALLERSTADTEN. 3d Bn moved to assemble northwest of WALLERSTADTEN and attacked in the evening to capture the town of NAUHEIM (M513496) at 2350A where positions were taken for the night.

11CT: 1st Bn attacked toward the town of GROSS GERAU (M535478) and at 2030A in conjunction with the 2d Bn captured the town where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn attacked to the east, clearing the woods via (M535455) and captured the town of DORNBERG (M538455). Attack was continued to the north and in conjunction with the 1st Bn the town of GROSS GERAU was captured. 3d Bn in conjunction with the 1st and 3d Bns 2d Inf repelled several strong counterattacks during the night and during the day moved to the vic WALLERSTADTEN clearing an enemy pocket at (M494460) en route.

449th AAA AW Bn: All btrys engaged a varied formation of enemy aircraft between 0600A and 0630A. No claims were submitted. All btrys engaged 4 ME109s between 1820A and 1841A with 3 Cat II claims submitted. Btry C engaged 1 ME109 between 2015A and 2018A. The plane was hit but no claim was submitted. A recapitulation of claims submitted during the period of 19-24 Mar includes 9 Cat I claims and 15 Cat II claims.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed construction of a class 40 heavy ponton bridge across the RHINE River at 0630A and started construction of an additional class 40 trestle bridge.

Aviation: XIX TAC continued its excellent support of the attack of the Division. Fighter cover was continuous from first light to dusk. Fighter-bombers worked on the following areas: gun positions vic GRIESHEIM (M5940), SF guns vic (M5047), motor transport and flank positions vic (M5050), vehicles vic (M7C40), gun positions vic (M476518), enemy CP in school building in KONGSTADTEN (M5148), 300 plus enemy vehicles vic (M3596). An enemy regimental CP at (M521525) received 2 direct hits.

Division continued the expansion of its bridgehead capturing the towns of DORNBERG, BAUSCHEID, NAUHEIM and GROSS GERAU. The woods vic (M500505), (M480530) and (M460525) were cleared. A total of 17 P4 Bns was crossed into the bridgehead during the night 23-24 Mar. CO 101st Inf Regt assumed responsibility for close-in protection of the bridges at 1200A. A total of 873 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 200 enemy were killed and 400 wounded. Two ammunition dumps, 5 SF guns and 1 CP were known to have been destroyed. One half-track was captured.

2d Assault Units: 1st and 2d Div started movement through the Division bridgehead at 0900A and had advanced to the vic (M480530) (M590525) by 1000A. 90th Inf Div continued the attack and at the close of the period had reached the towns of WERFELDEN (M584480), SCHNEPPENHAUSEN (M605482) and GRIESHEIM (M590405).

25 Mar 45

20T: 1st Bn continued the attack clearing the woods vic (M460525) capturing the town of GUSTAVSBERG (M476555) and stopping the south bank of the MAIN River within zone. 2d Bn continued the attack clearing the buildings vic (M497526), capturing the town of BIRSCHHEIM (M445545) and stopping up the south bank of the MAIN River within zone. 3d Bn continued the attack clearing the woods vic (M480530), the barracks area (M485538), the town of RUSSELNHEIM (M485550) and clearing the south bank of the MAIN River within zone.

10CT: 1st Bn moved to assembly area via RAUNHEIM closing at 1500A. 2d Bn attacked through the 3d Bn at 21200A capturing the town of HINSTADTEN (M521518). 3d Bn attacked to the north to capture the town of HASSLOCH (M538442) where positions were held for the night.

11CT: 1st Bn remained in position sending reinforced patrols to the edge of the woods vic (M555493). 2d Bn (-Co F) remained in position during the period. Co F (reinforced) moved at 1500A and reached the vic of (M570487) where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn remained in position during the period.

449th AAA AW Bn: All btrys engaged mixed formations of hostile aircraft between 0628A and 0632A. Four Cat II claims were submitted on ME109s engaged during this period. All btrys engaged aircraft between 1940A and 1958A with 1 Cat I claim and 1 Cat II claim being submitted against ME109s. Btrys B and C engaged 1 JU88 between 2002A and 2023A with a Cat I claim submitted.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Completed construction of an additional class 40 trestle bridge across the RHINE River.

Aviation: Elements of the XIX TAC continued to support the attack of the Division. On the afternoon 25 Mar an attack by fighter-bombers against heavy enemy troop concentrations vic (M410565) was reported by Cub CPs as having achieved excellent results. Another flight attacked enemy troops and guns via FLORESHEIM (M495570) with Cub and Inf CPs reporting excellent results.

Division continued the expansion of the bridgehead capturing the towns of GUSTAVSBURG, BISHOFSEIM, RUSSELLSHEIM, KONIGSTADTEN and HASSLOCH. The barracks area vic (M485538) was also cleared. The south bank of the MAIN River within the 2CT zone was cleared of enemy. A total of 1691 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 60 enemy were killed and 100 wounded. Four SP guns, 1 88mm dual purpose gun, 1 40mm AT gun, 2 MGs and a POW depot were destroyed during the period.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div continued the attack capturing the towns of LANGEN (M675550), ARHEILGEN (M663465) and aided the 4th Arm Div in the capture of DARMSTADT (M660420). 4th Arm Div continued the attack to establish a bridgehead across the MAIN River in the vic of ASCHAFFENBURG (M885610) and FROGSCHHAUSEN (M860624). 6th Arm Div after passing through the bridgehead over the RHINE River had reached vic (M593616), (M620620), and had captured the town of DREIERCHENHAIN (M700563).

26 Mar 45

Attached: 2d Cav Sq (-Tr O) (effective 1500A).

2CT: 3d Bn moved to the northeast to capture the town of RAUNHEIM (M513575) where positions were taken. Remainder of the regiment remained in position until the regiment was relieved by the 2d Cav Sq (-Tr C). Relief was completed by 1720A and the Regiment moved by motor to assembly area in vic (M620660) closing during the night.

10CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance to the northeast in the morning and at the close of the period had cleared all enemy resistance on the south bank of the MAIN River within its zone and captured the town of SCHWANHEIM (M605655). The RHINE-MAIN Airport reported to be the second largest in Europe (M620660) had been cleared during the advance. 2d Bn resumed the advance and at the close of the period had cleared the town of KEISTERBACH (M560625) and cleared all enemy from the south and east banks of the MAIN River within zone. Mission of patrolling the portion of the zone along the river bank north of KEISTERBACH was assumed by the 5th Cav Ron Tr at 1700A, and the battalion assembled in vic KEISTERBACH. Elements of the 2d Cav Sq assumed responsibility for patrolling the left flank of the Division north to include the town of KEISTERBACH and within the 10th Inf zone relieved elements of the 2d Bn and the 5th Cav Ron Tr prior to 1700A. 3d Bn moved by motor closing in assembly area vic (M605625) at 2130A.

11CT: 1st Bn resumed the advance at 0700A and at the close of the period had cleared all enemy from the woods (MONSCHWALD) as far as (M633621) where positions were held for the night. 2d Bn resumed the advance at 0700A to

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clear the woods to the north as far as (M644587) and captured the town of MORFELDEN (M696535). 3d Bn moved by motor to assembly area vic MORFELDEN closing at 1230A and further moved to assembly area vic (M644587) situated at 1900A. Battalion marched to the crossing area seized by the 6th Armd Div across the MAIN River and started crossing behind armored infantry into the bridgehead into the city of FRANKFURT.

2d Cav Sq (-Tr C) completed relief of the elements of the 2d and 10th Infs and the 5th Cav Rcn Tr along the south bank of the MAIN River from (M610550) north to include the town of KELSTERBACH by 1720A. CO 2d Cav Sq assumed responsibility for the area patrolling the south bank of the MAIN River during the period.

Division continued the attack clearing the east and south banks of the MAIN River as far as (M630659). 2d Cav Sq (attached to 5th Inf Div effective 1500A) relieved 2d Inf and elements of the 10th Inf along the MAIN River from (M610550) northeast to include the town of KELSTERBACH and assumed responsibility of that area. 10CT captured the towns of KELSTERBACH, SCHWANHEIM, clearing the airport and MUNSCHWALD within its area. 11CT continued the clearing of its zone reaching the vic of (M633621), (M644587) and clearing the town of MORFELDEN. 3d Bn motorized, moved to the crossing area seized by the 6th Armd Div across the MAIN River and were moving across into the city of FRANKFURT at the close of the day. 2CT, after being relieved by the 2d Cav Sq was motorized and moved to assembly area vic (M620660). A total of 482 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 50 enemy killed and 125 wounded. Equipment captured or destroyed included a btry of searchlights with generators, 1 88mm gun, 1 40mm AT gun and 4 SP guls.

Adjacent Unit: 90th Inf Div continued the attack closing to the MAIN River and clearing the towns of RUMPENHEIM (M760708), MUEHEIM (M782704) and DIETESHEIM (M800698). 6th Armd Div continued the attack partially clearing the part of FRANKFURT south of the MAIN River vic (M680670) and capturing the highway bridge partly intact. Troops of one armored infantry battalion had crossed into the main section of the city of FRANKFURT at the close of the period. 4th Armd Div continued to expand its bridgehead over the MAIN River vic GROSSAUHEIM (M865680).

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2CT: Regiment moved by marching during the morning to the crossing site vic (M667672) prepared to follow the 10th Inf into the bridgehead and were still in position at the close of the period.

10CT: 1st Bn remained in position vic SCHWANHEIM during the period. 2d Bn moved to the vic of the crossing site and completed crossing into the bridgehead at 1730A and attacked clearing the portion of FRANKFURT within its zone as far north as (M666686) where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn moved by motor at 0400A to the vic of (M658648) and by noon the battalion was completely across into the bridgehead. The battalion attacked to the east, reaching positions vic (M673682) which were held for the night. 3d Bn 11th Inf (attached 10th Inf) completed crossing into the bridgehead and continued the attack to the north and west reaching positions vic (M655677) on the north and (M654670) on the west which were held for the night.

11CT (-3d Bn): 1st Bn resumed the advance in the morning clearing the woods to the north and assembled in vic (M682655). The town of WAILDORF (M602563) was cleared during the advance. 2d Bn resumed the advance, completed the clearing of the woods and assembled in vic (M655682) at 1500A prepared to cross into the bridgehead. 3d Bn (attached 10th Inf) continued the attack in the bridgehead.

2d Cav Sq (-Tr C): Continued to screen the left flank of the Div zone. Tr A relieved by elements of the 80th Inf Div in the area west of RUSSELLSHEIM moved to vic KELSTERBACH and took positions patrolling the bank of the MAIN River between KELSTERBACH and SCHWANHEIM.

Division continued its attack to clear all enemy from the Division zone south of the MAIN River and expand its bridgehead in the city of FRANKFURT. Three battalions had been crossed into the bridgehead and the bridgehead had been expanded to the north as far as (M666686) to the west as far as (M654670) and to the east as far as (M673682). A total of 573 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 40 enemy killed and 120 wounded.

Three enemy aircraft (intact), numerous aircraft (damaged) and a large amount of aircraft supplies were captured on the HUNSHEIM airfield (M66605).

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div maintained its positions along the MAIN River during the period. 6th Arm Div remained in position during the period. 26th Inf Div completed the capture of the city of HANAU (M845710).

28 Mar 45

Division passed to control of XI Corps effective 282400A.

Detached: Co B 91st Cal Bn (effective 282400A).
2d Cav Sq (-Tr C) (effective 281700A).

2CT: 1st Bn crossed into the bridgehead and attacked during the morning 28 Mar through elements of the 10th Inf reaching positions vic (M675719) which were held during the period. 2d Bn crossed into the bridgehead and attacked through elements of the 10th Inf during the morning reaching positions vic (M695708) and (M703707) where positions were taken for the night. 3d Bn moved into the bridgehead and attacked to the east reaching vic (M703700) where positions were taken for the night.

10CT: 1st Bn started crossing into the bridgehead at 1330A and at 2050A had completed crossing. Battalion moved to positions northwest of (M657682) and were preparing to attack through the 2d Bn in the morning. 2d Bn reassembled and attacked to the north reaching positions vic (M55694) which were occupied during the night. 3d Bn reassembled and attacked to the north reaching positions vic (M660725). 3d Bn 11th Inf reverted to 11th Inf control at 1215A.

11CT: 1st Bn cleared the portion of FRANKFURT south of the river vic (M690678) and assembled in that area. 2d Bn started crossing into the bridgehead at 0400A and after completing crossing attacked to the west, reaching vic (M626673) where positions were held for the night. 3d Bn reverted to 11th Inf control at 1215A and continued the attack to the west reaching positions vic (M636665) which were held for the night. Patrols were sent into the town of GRIESHEIM (M620664) during the period.

7th Engr Bn (supported by 1135th Engr Gp): Repaired damaged railway bridge across the MAIN River vic (M666674) to make it passable for class 10 traffic.

Division continued its attack in the city of FRANKFURT crossing eight infantry battalions into the bridgehead. The main portion of the city of FRANKFURT had been cleared and troops were clearing the outskirts of the city and the suburbs. The railway bridge had been repaired to make it passable for class 10 traffic and vehicles had passed into the bridgehead. A total of 430 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 50 enemy had been killed and 150 wounded. Two 280mm Schneider railway guns, 20 train carloads of artillery ammunition, 10 carloads of small arms and 10 carloads of coal, 20 motor vehicles and 70 carloads of miscellaneous medical, clothing and hardware supplies were captured on the railway tracks in vic (M670668). The Division passed to the control of XI Corps in position effective 282400A.

Adjacent Units: 90th Inf Div attacked across the MAIN River at 0300A and advanced to capture the towns of BIESCHHEIM (M657700), BREUNINGEN (M652200), WERDELGROEN (M624663) and BRUCHKREI (M815762). 6th Arm Div started crossing through the 90th Inf Div and attacked to the north. 4th Arm Div moved to the north through the town of HANAU and at the close of the period had advanced through the town of WINDECKER (M815810).

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2CT: Regiment continued the attack clearing the suburbs of ESCHERSHEIM (M660734), FREUNGSHEIM (M683785), SECHBACH (M708723) and RIEDERWAND SIEDLING (M719704) and completing the clearing of all the area within its zone as far as the main bridgehead line. 3d Bn contacted the 90th Inf Div via BREUNINGEN (M727730). Upon completing the clearing of the regimental zone units reorganized and assembled with the 1st Bn vic (M667738), 2d Bn vic (M655725) and 3d Bn vic (M715705).

LICHT: Regiment continued the attack completing the clearing of GINNEHEIM (M655721), HESSEL (M637157) and ROSENHEIM (M625704) and finally the clearing of all enemy from the regimental zone as far as the final bridge at Dins. Upon completion of the mission elements assembled with the 1st Bn in vic (M635702), 2d Bn vic (M633715) and the 3d Bn vic (M655725).

LICHT: 1st Bn remained in position during the period. 2d and 3d Bns continued the advance to clear all enemy from the regimental zone clearing the suburbs of NIED (M595672), the FRANKFURT Airfield (M630683) and the woods vic (M610680). Upon completion of this mission battalions assembled in the regimental area with the 2d Bn vic (M680686) and the 3d Bn vic (M640674).

7th Engr Bn: Completed construction of a class 40 Bailey bridge across the MAIN River vic (M673679) at 0500A.

Division continued its attack completing the clearing of all enemy in all the outskirts and suburbs of the city of FRANKFURT. Upon completion of this mission units assembled in their respective zones and the Division passed into Corps Reserve. A total of 1239 PWs was evacuated during the period and an estimated 25 enemy were killed and 100 wounded. A great deal of equipment was captured in the city including several military warehouses, 2 railway stations with a large number of loaded freight cars and a large quantity of small arms and ammunition.

Adjacent Units: 80th Inf Div on the left continued the attack reaching vic of KLOPPENHEI (G720819), and KLEINKARBEN (G741811). 319th Inf (motorized) moved to the vic BAD NAHEIM (G710967). 65th Inf Div crossed into the bridgehead between the MAIN and RHINE Rivers moving to the vic of STEINBACH (G735176). 6th Arm Div continued the attack to the north reaching vic of WINNERAD (G776240). 90th Inf Div continued the attack to capture the towns of BURG GRAFENRODE (G755850), SAICHEN (G784844) and ROESDORF (G79785).

30 and 31 Mar 45

2d Inf: Regiment remained in position guarding existing bridges and installations within its area, patrolling throughout its area to maintain order.

10th Inf: Regiment remained in position guarding bridges and installations within its area, patrolling throughout its area and maintaining order. Co L moved to vic FRIEDBURG (M725940) to guard PWs for the 6th Arm Div. Co was relieved by Co A 11th Inf and the company moved back to the city of FRANKFURT.

11th Inf: Regiment remained in position in the city of FRANKFURT relieving elements of the 2d and 10th Infs guarding bridges and important installations in the city. Co A moved at 311530A to the vic of FRIEDBURG to relieve Co L 10th Inf in its mission of guarding PWs for the 6th Arm Div, completing this relief at 311900A. Co C moved at 311545A to seize the headquarters vic (M635967) previously used by Gen von Rundstedt, commander of the armies in the West. This mission was completed at 311800A. AT Co started movement at 311915A for the vic of KASTEL (M392568) with the mission of guarding PWs for the 80th Inf Div.

5th Cav Recon Tr: Patrolled on 30 Mar to the north and east as far as (M657075) where a German prison camp was captured, releasing 58 Allied airforce personnel.

Division completed assembling in the city of FRANKFURT, maintaining the guarding of the existing bridges and important installations, and patrolling to maintain law and order. Elements were sent to the vic of FRIEDBURG and KASTEL to guard PWs for the 6th Arm Div and 80th Inf Divs. Another element was sent to guard the previous headquarters of Gen von Rundstedt. Patrols of the 5th Cav Recon Tr on 30 Mar captured a German PW camp vic (M570795), releasing 58 Allied airforce personnel. A total of 1381 PWs was evacuated during the period. Enemy equipment captured or destroyed included military barracks containing many rifles with ammunition, the underground telephone exchange of FRANKFURT (partially in order), 3 searchlight towers with 4 lights and generators, 21 88mm AA guns, 3 M210s, 2 PW190s and 1 ME109 aircraft.

Adjacent Units: 6th Arm Div continued the advance and at last reports had reconnaissance elements in the vic TREISA (M2258). CCB was at HESSLAR (M2283) and CCA at (H1487). 80th and 65th Inf Divs were following slowly behind the armor and at last reports elements of the 80th Inf Div were in vic of SCHWARTZENBORN (M200980).

SECTION II - COMMENTS

1. **GENERAL.** The Division accomplished perhaps more during the month of March 1945 than any other month yet in our operations were concerned. The fighting was taken in stride. Crossings were forced over three large rivers (MOSEL, RHINE, MAIN) and one small river (KILL). Bridgeheads in all cases were exploited by the armor. Since most of the month was spent working with armored divisions most comments will be about infantry and armor divisions working together.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS.** The key to successful cooperation of infantry and armored divisions is adequate communications. Radio communication is the only practical means. Radio communication between Division Headquarters is of very little value because armored division headquarters does not get enough information and it is usually too late to be of value to the regiments. Therefore the radio communication must be between our leading regiments and the combat commands of the armored division working in our zone. This Division normally furnishes this communication by using the Ren Tr. This has proven successful but it does take away our Ren Tr. It would certainly seem advisable to provide a division headquarters with additional radios in armored cars for the specific purpose of providing adequate communication with armored divisions. The radios would not be wasted for they could be used by the liaison officers to adjacent divisions and to the regiments when not being employed with armored divisions.

3. **INTELLIGENCE.** Having adequate communications, the regiments can be kept reliably informed of the situation to their front. Without adequate communications to the combat commands of the armored division traffic jams are usual, enemy pockets develop and cause trouble and troops proceed cautiously, and as a consequence, move slowly. Regimental commanders must know (1) the enemy information gained by the combat commands, (2) towns bypassed, (3) road information - route used, bridge conditions, etc. Combat commands must know the routes we are taking and location of our leading elements. Again, this exchange of information depends on adequate communications. A way of expediting the exchange of information was for the Division to use the same check point list as the armored division. Our G-2 reproduced with the consent of 4th Arm Div, their check point list. It was distributed as far down as infantry battalions and, of course, the Ren Tr had sufficient copies.

4. **MOP UP OPERATIONS.** One of the most difficult tasks of an infantry division is to thoroughly mop up the zone passed through by an armored division. This operation is difficult because first the mop up must be thorough, and second it must be done with speed. Naturally, higher headquarters and the armored division are never content with the speed, yet it must be realized that the maximum speed of advance in enemy country is the speed of a man walking. Motorized infantry cannot mop up a zone properly. They bump into resistance, then the trucks clutter the roads. The conclusion has been reached by the Division Commander that the only fast way to mop up the zone is for the infantry to march. Zones of advance are assigned the regiments and they march through them as rapidly as possible.

5. **CROSSING OF THE RHINE.** The 11th Inf reached the RHINE River in the vicinity of OPPENHEIM by dark on 21 Mar. It forced a crossing the following night at 2200 hrs. The 10th Inf closed into an assembly area near OPPENHEIM on the afternoon of 22 Mar and crossed that night following the 11th Inf. The facts speak for themselves. It is now believed that the crossing could have been made with the assistance of a third regiment, the 2d Inf, that has also crossed its share of rivers. The 1135th Engr Gp also furnished the best of support for the operation. Credit for the successful operation goes to the men who forced the crossing. The staff work that contributed most to the subsequent buildup goes to the G-4. His control of the traffic, establishment of far shore supply dumps, and coordination of the many means of crossing the stream was indeed remarkable.

R. C. Dickers
R. C. DICKERS,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AGOF, G-3.

2 Incls -

Incl 1 - Journal (5 folders)

Folder
1 - 27 Mar 45
2 - 28 Mar 45
3 - 29 Mar 45
4 - 30 Mar 45

Incl 2 - Maps.

SECRET

Auth: CG, 1st Div Art
Dir: *100*

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
5th Infantry Division Artillery
APO #5, c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

2 March 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report.
From 0001 hrs, 1 February to 2400 hrs 28 February 1945.

L-430
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TO: The Adjutant General, US Army, Washington, D. C.

1. Personnel

a. Total effective strength:

(1) At beginning of period:

20 Officers

1 Warrant Officer

139 Enlisted Men

(2) At end of period:

21 Officers

1 Warrant Officer

156 Enlisted Men

b. Killed in action, wounded in action, missing in action during the period: None.

c. Replacements received: 1 Officer.

d. Other changes: 1 officer transferred from 5th Medical Battalion to this headquarters; 1 officer transferred to hospital; 1 enlisted man transferred to 19th FA Bn; 3 enlisted men transferred to 46th FA Bn; and 1 enlisted man returned to duty from hospital.

CLASSIFICATION
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
13 May 45
DOWNGRADING COMMAND

2. ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

a. 1-7 February 1945. Enemy artillery was virtually silent during this period, with only eight concentrations reported during the period. Concentrations were scattered on forward elements with little effect. All firing reported was from either nebelwerfers or 82mm guns.

b. 8-12 February 1945. Enemy artillery increased considerably during this period. Artillery fire was heavy along the SAUER River, with observed fires on crossing sites causing some damage. Enemy artillery observers were well placed in pillboxes overlooking the crossing site, during the initial 48 hrs of our attack. After 9 February firing was unobserved and little damage was done to bridge and crossing sites. All calibers up to 210mm nebelwerfer were reported, with a predominance of 150mm howitzer. Average number of rounds falling in division sector daily during this period was 500 rds.

c. 13-19 February 1945. Enemy artillery was moderate during this period. There was a definite decrease in the number of concentrations received but the intensity of fire was maintained. 150mm and 210mm nebelwerfers were reported. A large concentration of fire was reported on 18 Feb and 210mm nebelwerfer was reported on 19 Feb.

d. 20-25 February 1945. Enemy artillery was considerably lighter during this period with majority of fire reported on forward elements from fairly long ranges. Enemy fire was predominately from single guns with a few battery concentrations received. No massed fires were received during this period. Fire was harassing with little damage reported.

e. 26-28 February 1945. Artillery fire extremely light during this period with a few concentrations of 82mm, 105 howitzer, and nebelwerfer reported. Visibility was excellent for both ground and air ops resulting in rapid neutralization of any enemy artillery firing during daylight hours.

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5. OUR OPERATIONS

a. 1 Feb 45.

(1) At the beginning of the period 5th Infantry Division was maintaining positions with the MLR on the high ground West of the OUR River in the vicinity of VIANDEN (P805-495) and South of EISENBACH (P880-569), with the 2nd Infantry and 11th Infantry in the line, and the 10th Infantry in division reserve.

(2) 5th Division Artillery maintained positions supporting the MLR, executed supporting fires against targets of opportunity and enemy batteries and maintained moderate harassing and interdiction schedules due to restricted ammunition allowance.

(3) Missions of organic units were:

- (a) 19th FA Bn in dir sup of 11th Inf.
- (b) 21st FA Bn in gen sup reinf fires of 50th FA Bn.
- (c) 46th FA Bn in gen sup reinf fires of 50th FA Bn.
- (d) 50th FA Bn in dir sup of 2nd Inf.

(4) 449th AAA AW Bn and 805d TD Bn were attached to 5th Division Artillery. "A" and "C" Cos 805d TD Bn were in direct support respectively of 2nd and 11th Infantry Regiments. "B" Co, 805d TD Bn was in general support. "A", "B", "C" and "D" batteries 449th AAA AW Bn were in direct support of 19th, 21st, 50th, and 46th FA Bns respectively. AA protection was provided for bridges in division area.

(5) Supporting artillery units were the following:

- (a) 182nd FA Gp in general support; reinforcing fires of 5th Division Artillery.
- (b) 191st FA Bn (155 H) general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.
- (c) 695th FA Bn (105 SP) in general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(6) Plans were revised in positions for possible rearward displacement in defense of the 5th Infantry Division zone.

- (7) CP 5th Division Artillery, SCHIEREN, (P821-380), LUXEMBOURG.
- (8) CP 449th AAA AW Bn, DIEKIRCH (P861-421).
- (9) CP 805d TD Bn, ETTELBRUCK, (P824-598).

b. 2 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division maintained positions, 10th Infantry relieved 11th Infantry in line.

(2) 5th Division Artillery executed light supporting fires. Tank destroyers and tanks were used in indirect fire positions for harassing and interdiction fires to compensate for small ammunition allowance. Fires were executed on targets of opportunity. Propaganda missions were fired.

(3) When 10th Infantry completed relief of 11th Infantry at 0030 hours 2 February, the following changes of missions of artillery units were effected:

- (a) 19th FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.
- (b) 46th FA Bn in direct support of 10th Infantry.
- (c) 191st FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (d) 695th FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.

(4) Forward positions were selected by organic units for occupation in case the division moved to the attack.

(5) 5th Infantry Division continued to maintain positions West of OUR River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery and attached units maintained positions and continued support missions.

(3) Supporting fires were executed on targets of opportunity. Harassing and interdiction fires were maintained.

(4) FO #14, XII Corps concerning proposed Corps attack was received and reconnaissance for positions West of the attack was ordered in the vicinity of GONDORF (P805-324) and BERDORF (L033-087).

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(5) Suitable positions were selected and all organic Bns were ordered to move one gun to area for registration.

d. 4 Feb 45.

(1) Operations Instructions #51, 5th Infantry Division was received directing relief of division by elements of III Corps and the relief of elements of the 76th Infantry Division by 5th Infantry Division.

(2) FO #16, 5th Infantry Division concerning proposed division attack was received and preparation of fire plan to support division attack was initiated.

(3) 19th FA Bn displaced to (1005-545).

(4) 19th FA Bn ordered to establish radio and wire communication with 901st FA Bn, 76th Infantry Division, and 46th FA Bn ordered to establish radio and wire communication with 14th FA Bn, 80th Infantry Division.

(5) 1st FA Bn displaced to (1000-526).

(6) Forward CP, 5th Division Artillery displaced to ALPHEA (P309-290).

(7) CG, 5th Division Artillery relinquished control of artillery in old division sector to CO, 185d FA Gp at 2400 hrs 4 February.

(8) 46th and 50th FA Bns relieved of direct support missions of 10th and 2nd Infantry Regiments by units of 185d FA Group.

(9) XII Corps Artillery FDC replaced Headquarters 410th FA Group as Corps FDC for 5th Infantry Division zone.

(10) Harassing and interdiction schedules were increased during relief.

e. 5 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued regrouping in new zone in preparation for division attack, with 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments in the line and 2nd Infantry in reserve. 417th Combat Team, 76th Infantry Division attached to 5th Infantry Division for the attack across HAUK River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued preparations for attack.

(3) 46th FA Bn displaced to (1005-571).

(4) 50th FA Bn displaced to (1018-542).

(5) 901st FA Bn displaced to (1006-525).

(6) Missions of organic units were:

(a) 19th FA Bn - direct support of 11th Infantry.

(b) 1st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(c) 46th FA Bn - direct support of 10th Infantry.

(d) 50th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(e) 901st FA Bn - direct support of 417th Infantry.

(7) Supporting units were as follows:

(a) 185d FA Group - general support; reinforcing fires of 5th Division Artillery.

(b) 66th FA Bn (Awd) (106 SP) - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.

(c) 191st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.

(d) 901st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.

(e) 901st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.

(8) 7th FA Bn assumed direct support of 20th and 21st Infantry Regiments at 0225 hrs, 5 February.

(9) 46th FA Bn relieved 19th FA Bn of direct support of 10th Infantry at 1500 hrs, 5 February.

(10) 803d TD Bn was ordered to send an officer to the 417th Infantry to assist them in planning use of their tank destroyers.

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(11) Bn Coos, 19th, 46th and 901st FA Bn were notified that tanks in each regimental sector would be equipped with rocket launchers, survey of position area and the laying of the rocket launchers, was their responsibility.

(12) CP 805d TD Bn moved to CONDERRANG (P926-227).

(13) CP 140th AAA AW Bn moved to JUNGLINSTER (P927-251).

f. 6 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division maintained defensive positions South of SAUER River between BOLLERDORF (L008-40) and ECHTERNACH (L08-35).

(2) 5th Division Artillery and attached units maintained supporting missions.

(3) Artillery fire plans were received from 19th, 46th and 901st FA Bns for support of infantry attack.

(4) 5th Division Artillery distributed counter-communication fire plan to all units.

(5) The composite close supporting fire plan was distributed to the 19th, 46th, and 901st FA Bns. The purpose of this plan was to give close support during the attack to each infantry regiment. This plan had priority over all other plans. Direct support battalions were responsible for the coordination of parts of this plan that pertained to their infantry regimental zones.

(6) Counter-battery fire plan was received from III Corps Artillery and distributed to 21st FA Bn.

(7) 21st FA Bn was replaced by (L008-357).

g. 7 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division attacked at 0100 hrs. Light artillery and machine gun fire was employed by the 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments. Poor visibility and flooded river conditions made the river crossing difficult and only small elements of 10th and 11th Infantry were able to cross the SAUER River. 417th Infantry Regiment crossed the SAUER River with one battalion in the vicinity of ECHTERNACH and advanced approximately 2000 yds to the North of the high ground at (L067-377).

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of attack. Intensive supporting fires coordinated with fires on the XII Corps front, were fired beginning at 0150 hrs, and continued for one and one half hours. In addition to scheduled fires on communications, a heavy harassing and interdiction schedule was maintained. Approximately 7000 rounds were expended by the organic and supporting units during the preparation. Communication centers and enemy batteries were heavily and repeatedly hit. Enemy artillery for the first nine hours of the attack was relatively light. Available photo coverage was used to advantage in locating all targets. Targets during the day included principally, enemy batteries, Nebelwerfers, tanks, pillboxes, and mortars. Counter-attacks with tanks were repulsed in the 417th Infantry zone by artillery fire. Observer in 417th Infantry zone reported the fire on this counter-attack was excellent. One light tank was destroyed, and two heavy tanks damaged. Heavy harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained on communications centers and towns. Majority of fires were division artillery concentrations delivered by TOT methods. Point and time fuse increased the effectiveness of the fires delivered.

(3) 105mm assault guns, 737th Tank Battalion were prepared to assist in the reduction of pillboxes.

(4) 449th AAA AW Bn sent a representative to 5th Infantry Division G-3 for the purpose of obtaining information on the use of search lights in the division zone.

(5) 901st FA Bn was ordered to report suitability of position area in vicinity of (L080-350).

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- (7) CP 805d TD Bn moved to HEBBERG (P986-297).
- (8) 78th Co, 81st TD Bn attached to 805d TD Bn.
- (9) 449th AAA AW Bn began operating search lights in support of attack at 2115 hrs. Lights were placed about 3500 yds in rear of front lines and their beams against cloud banks gave fair illumination to division zone of action.
- (10) 449th AAA AW Bn furnished two 40mm AA guns and four multi-mounted machine guns to 11th Infantry to assist in crossing of river, by firing on roads and one 40mm AA gun to 10th Infantry to mark objectives with tracer ammunition.

h. 8 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and several companies of the 10th and 11th Infantry and six companies of the 417th Infantry crossed the river. The difficulties encountered were from the river rather than enemy activity.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired supporting missions against counterattacks, hostile batteries, Nebelwerfers, and pillboxes. Two counterattacks were broken up by artillery fire. Liaison planes of 5th Division Artillery and reinforcing units dropped 7600 rds of small arms ammunition, 15 cases of rations, 87 rds of bazooka ammunition, 84 rds of 60 mortar ammunition, 20 anti-tank mines, 1 SCR radio, 4 BA 40 batteries, 1 case type D rations, 20 AT rifle grenades, 10 first aid kits, 20 fragmentation grenades and 2 each BA 70 batteries to the 417th Infantry. A total of 6 flights in 1 1/2 hrs was made to complete the missions. Intense anti-aircraft fire, small arms fire, and smoking of the objective by the enemy was encountered during these missions.

(3) 19th, 21st, and 46th FA Bns were ordered to reconnoiter forward areas for displacement.

(4) 4th Bn, 560th FA Bn destroyed 7 pillboxes with direct fire.

i. 9 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack. Two battalions each of the 10th and 11th Infantry crossed the SAUER River and were enlarging the bridgehead with little resistance. Two battalions and part of the third battalion of the 417th Infantry were reorganizing on the North side of the SAUER River. No bridges had been completed due to swift current of the river.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack with fires on hostile batteries, mortars, enemy hold towns, and pillboxes. Information from PW sources indicated that enemy forces were assembling in ERZEN (1080-590) and FERSCHWELTER (1044-415) for a counterattack. Heavy division artillery concentrations by TOT methods were fired on these towns. Harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained. The 155mm SP guns were used to reduce pillboxes. One pillbox was destroyed and another fired upon materially helping the infantry to take it.

(3) CP 449th AAA AW Bn moved to RIPPIC (P980-279).

(4) 19th, 46th and 901st FA Bns were notified that 8th howitzers were available for reduction of pillboxes. A forward observer was standing by at each crossing site for this mission. Destruction of pillboxes was to be accomplished by adjustment with a 105 howitzer and then completing the mission with the 8th howitzer.

(5) Teams of two tank destroyers, one tank assault gun and one 155mm SP gun, and the 901st FA Bn were to fire supporting missions on the pillboxes.

j. 10 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to advance to the North and enlarged the bridgehead as more elements of the infantry crossed the river. Resistance was light, and many pillboxes were cleared of the enemy. Advances of one to two miles were made with patrols nearing FERSCHWELTER and ERZEN. Two bridges were being constructed in vicinity of (1051-361) and (1029-367).

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(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the attack by firing on hostile batteries, enemy held towns, targets of opportunity and pillboxes. Seven pillboxes were destroyed.

(3) One platoon from each company, 805d TD Bn was placed in indirect fire positions for harassing and interdiction missions.

(4) "B" Co, 808th TD Bn (800m SP) was attached to 805d TD Bn.

(5) Shell-rop teams were ordered to be placed at the bridge and boat sites.

(6) Search lights continued to give light to division zone during hrs of darkness.

1. 11 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack. All elements of 10th, 11th and 417th Infantry regiments had crossed the river and the bridgehead was enlarged. Many unoccupied pillboxes were captured. Two foot bridges and one trestle bridge were constructed.

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the division attack by firing close support missions; enemy batteries and mortar positions and nine pillboxes were destroyed by direct fire methods.

(3) Possible position areas were selected on both sides of SAUER River for future displacement.

(4) 21st and 50th FA Bns were ordered to prepare positions South of river for early displacement.

(5) 901st FA Bn, 78th Infantry Division was detached and reverted to 78th Division Artillery control as of 1200 hrs, 11 February.

(6) One platoon, "C" Btry, 558th FA Bn attached to 78th Division Artillery.

(7) Ammunition for 155mm howitzer was again a critical item, and orders were issued to use the medium battalions sparingly, but to use the 105mm howitzers to maximum.

(8) Operational Directive #78, XII Corps concerning change in division right boundary was received.

1. 12 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry continued to attack and cleared enemy from BOLLANDORF (1015-400) and DIESBURGERHOF (1034-414).

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the division. In addition to fires on targets of opportunity, division artillery concentrations were fired on hostile batteries and enemy held towns. Heavy harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained.

(3) 10th, 46th and 50th FA Bns were notified that a British 25-pounder would be used for harassing and interdiction fires by each battalion.

(4) 21st FA Bn moved to (1006-357).

(5) One platoon, Btry "C", 558th FA Bn relieved from attachment to 5th Division Artillery as of 1200 hrs 12 February.

(6) 10th, 46th and 50th FA Bns were ordered to expend more ammunition with time fuse (M-54) in place of the quick fuse (M-48).

(7) Tank destroyer missions were given to all battalions.

(8) Tank destroyer missions were given to all battalions. Increased harassing and interdiction missions were given to tank destroyers firing for 46th and 50th FA Bns.

1. 15 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to enlarge the bridgehead across the SAUER River. The town of FERSCHWILLER was occupied and cleared. Heavy enemy resistance continued on the right of the division sector in the vicinity of ENZEL.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the division. Division artillery concentrations were fired by "time on target" methods on

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enemy batteries, rebelwerfers, and enemy held towns. Visibility was good and the air OPs located and adjusted fire on numerous hostile batteries and rebelwerfers. A PW reported that his artillery battery was forced to change positions five times during the day, due to intense counterbattery fire.

- (4) 50th FA Bn moved to (1021-378).
- (4) 50th FA Bn was notified that one battalion of 2d Infantry might be committed in 10th Infantry sector. Necessary arrangements for liaison and forward observers were to be made. 46th FA Bn was to be in direct support of this battalion if committed.
- (5) 19th and 46th FA Bns were given new areas to reconnoiter.
- (6) 21st FA Bn marked the town of SHANKWELLER with smoke for bombing and strafing by the air corps.
- (7) Defensive and counter preparation fires were received from III Corps Artillery for the division sector.
- (8) 46th FA Bn was ordered to place shell-rop teams on BOLLERHOF bridge.

- (9) 19th FA Bn moved to (1056-347).
- (10) 1st 88th TD Bn moved to BERDORF (1010-426).

n. 14 Feb 45.

- (1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and occupied the towns of ERNZEN and WICKINGENBURG (1017-454). The high ground in the vicinity of (1045-428) was taken by the 19th Infantry, and area in vicinity (1056-422) by 11th Infantry.
- (2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the division by firing on targets of opportunity, hostile batteries, rebelwerfers and tanks. An ammunition dump was set on fire. Air OPs were again active and located new enemy artillery positions. PW reports, estimated that 100 enemy were killed by artillery fire in the town of ERNZEN. Another PW reported that artillery fire had caused many enemy to surrender in the vicinity of SCHANKWEILER (1029-452). Propaganda shells were again fired at the enemy.
- (3) 19th, 46th and 50th FA Bns were ordered to reconnoiter positions north of SAUER River for British 25 pounder positions.
- (4) 46th FA Bn moved to (1009-397).
- (5) 50th FA Bn was ordered to be prepared to reinforce the fires of the 46th FA Bn.

(6) 19th, 21st and 50th FA Bns were ordered to reconnoiter for positions north of SAUER River.

- (7) Operations Instructions #53, 5th Infantry Division concerning relief of 10th Infantry by 2d Infantry was received.
- (8) 5th Division Artillery issued counter-preparation fire plan.

o. 15 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack. Enemy resistance was light and strong-points and pockets of resistance were zapped up. 2d Infantry relieved 10th Infantry in the line.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. In addition to targets of opportunity, division artillery concentrations were fired on the town of BERDORF (1010-426).

(3) The 2d Infantry relieved the 10th Infantry at 2800 hrs, 15 February.

- (4) When the 2d Infantry relieved the 10th Infantry at 2800 hrs, 15 February the following changes in missions were effected:
 - (a) 46th FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn
 - (b) 50th FA Bn in direct support of 2d Infantry.
 - (c) 68th Arcl FA Bn in general support; reinforced by the fires of the 50th FA Bn.
 - (d) 101st FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.

(4) 50th FA Bn turned over direct support mission to 46th FA Bn at 0900 hrs and moved to (LO08-408) and reassumed direct support mission at 2300 hrs.
(5) 19th FA Bn temporarily turned over direct support mission to 21st FA Bn for the purpose of displacing to (LO10-401).

P. 16 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack. Enemy pockets of resistance were cleared West of the PRUM River, South of the ENZ River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the attack of the division. A counter-attack of platoon size was repulsed in the 11th Infantry sector. Missions were fired on enemy machine guns, pillboxes, nebelwerfers, enemy batteries and enemy held towns. Propaganda leaflets were fired in enemy held towns. Liaison planes again located enemy batteries and nebelwerfers.

(5) 21st FA Bn relieved of direct support of 11th Infantry as 19th FA Bn assumed mission at 0150 hrs, 18 February.

(4) Due to difficulties in relieving Co "B", 805d TD Bn, as 2d Infantry was relieving 10th Infantry, Co "B" remained in the line in direct support of 2d Infantry and Co "A" remained in general support.

(5) 449th AA I AV Bn was assigned mission of protecting the BOLLENDORF Bridge.

(6) A counter-communication fire plan was issued to the 19th, 46th, 50th and 86th (Arm) FA Bns. The purpose of this plan was in support of the attack in the 2d Infantry sector.

(7) Orders were issued to 46th and 50th FA Bns for reconnoitering in forward position areas.

Q. 17 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and occupied the town of SCHANWEILER and captured two bridges across the ENZ River intact.

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the attack. Heavy casualties were reported by the 2d Infantry on three companies of Germans retreating from SCHANWEILER to PEFFINGEN (LO47-464) due to artillery fire. Propaganda leaflets were again fired.

(5) 19th FA Bn moved to (LO19-401). Direct support of 11th Infantry assumed by 86th (Arm) FA Bn during the displacement.

(4) 21st FA Bn moved to (LO26-411).

(5) 5th Division Artillery moved to BERDORF (LO05-367).

(4) JO, 50th FA Bn ordered to organize reconnaissance party for 50th, 46th, 86th (Arm) and 191st FA Bns for suitable positions to the North.

(7) Plans were started to open an officer candidate school in 5th Division Artillery. All battalions were ordered to submit candidates' names.

(8) All battalions submitted names of officers to attend an information and education school in PARIS at a later date.

R. 18 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and captured the high ground West of the PRUM River vicinity of (LO45-450) and (LO55-467).

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. Division artillery concentrations were fired on enemy troops and vehicular activity, enemy batteries, tanks, and enemy held towns.

(5) The counter-communication fire plan was issued to the 19th, 46th, 50th and 86th (Arm) FA Bns for the attack of the 2d Infantry on 19 February.

(5) 50th FA Bn relieved of direct support of 11th Infantry. 5th Infantry Division commencing relieving 3d Cavalry Artillery. (5) 50th FA Bn submitted preparation fire plan to support the 2d Infantry attack. All fires were on call.

(6) 5th Infantry Division ordered search lights placed under control of 5th Division Artillery.

(7) 46th FA Bn moved to (LO20-428).

(8) 753rd FA Bn (8th How) which was in general support of the 5th Division Artillery.

... to the 18th ...
... 20 February.

(6) Operational Directive #78, 111 Corps, concerning boundary changes was received.

r. 17 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack. Elements of the 76th Infantry Division and the 10th Infantry relieved the 11th Infantry and elements of the 2d Infantry in the line.

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the attack of the division by firing counter-communications plan and counter-battery plan at 0515 hrs 19 Feb. Counter-attack of understrength was repulsed at (L05-48). Other fires were on targets of opportunity, enemy batteries, enemy held towns, and nebelwerfers.

(3) Upon completion of relief of 11th Infantry by the 10th Infantry the following changes in missions were effected:

- (a) 19th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing the fires of 50th FA Bn.
- (b) 21st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing the fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (c) 46th FA Bn - direct support 10th Infantry.

(4) 5th Division Artillery moved to ROLLENDORF (L005-396).

(5) CP 44th AAA AF Bn moved to ROLLENDORF (L006-398).

(6) Search lights moved to (L035-415) and continued to be used to light the sector at night.

(7) 50th FA Bn was ordered to reconnoiter forward positions.

s. 20 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and occupied the towns of STUCKEN (L030-487), BZENEN (L030-479) and HALSDORF (L025-487).

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack by firing on enemy batteries, nebelwerfers, tanks, and targets of opportunity. One tank was destroyed, one counter-attack was repulsed, and two counter-attacks which were forming were broken up by artillery fire.

(3) 21st and 191st FA Bns assumed direct support missions respectively of 10th and 2d Infantry regiments from 1500 to 1700 hrs, 20 February, for training purposes.

(4) 50th FA Bn moved to (L004-446).

(5) 19th FA Bn was ordered to reconnoiter position area in vicinity of (L005-464).

(6) Tank stopping concentrations were revised and issued to all units as a result of the boundary changes.

u. 21-23 February 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to clear enemy in zone and to prepare to cross the FRUM River by regrouping of elements due to change in boundaries.

(2) 5th Infantry Division remained in position and fired on targets of opportunity, enemy batteries, nebelwerfers and enemy held towns. Heavy harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained. Many enemy batteries and nebelwerfers were adjusted on by the liaison planes on 22-23 February with excellent results. Three tanks and seven vehicles were destroyed during the period by artillery fire.

(3) With the aid of search lights on the air strip, night patrols by the liaison planes were started on 21 February. Flights had air strip to be made

(4) Liaison plane operations were continued during the period. Liaison planes. Effect of the fire was excellent.

(5) Liaison planes flew photographic missions for the division to get oblique coverage of the area East of the FRUM River.

(6) 750th FA Bn (ex Bow) attached to 182d FA Gp on 21 February with mission of general support in 5th Division Artillery zone.

(7) Officer Candidates School started by 5th Division Artillery
22 February.

(8) Operational Directive #78, XII Corps concerning diva. boundary changes and simplification of attack was received on 22 February.

(9) By using a 105mm howitzer for adjustment and an 8" howitzer for effect, two pillboxes received several direct hits and one fortified house was destroyed on 22-23 February.

(10) Operations Instructions #58, 5th Infantry Division concerning the attack across PRUM River was received on 23 Feb, and the artillery plan in support of the attack was initiated.

(11) Search lights moved to (P998-468) and (1009-461) during the period.

(12) 19th FA Bn moved to (1009-464), 23 Feb.

(13) 21st FA Bn ordered to reconnoiter positions in vicinity of (P998-445).

(14) PW report on 23 Feb indicate that two batteries were forced to move to NECHEL (1012-44) and one battalion had lost all of its weapons due to heavy, accurate counter-battery fire.

(15) Counter-preparation plan was revised and issued to all battalions as a result of boundary changes.

(16) CP, 8034 TD Bn moved to BOLLENDORF (1012-401).

v. 23 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division attacked at 2300 hrs 24 February. By the end of the period three foot bridges across the PRUM River had been completed, one in the 2nd Infantry zone and two in the 10th Infantry zone. Three companies of the 2nd Infantry and two companies of the 10th Infantry had crossed the river. Resistance was reported as very light.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. Heavy counter-battery, counter-communication, and preparation fires were fired prior to, and during the attack. Three hrs before H-hour, a diversionary preparation was fired in the towns of BETTINGEN (104-50) and OLSDORF (108-51). One battery of 6th Armd FA Bn continued to harass the towns after the plan was completed at 2030 hrs. Approximately 1700 rds were fired during phase one. Phase two started at 2100 hrs and was fired on communications deep in the enemy territory in the division zone of advance. Approximately 650 rds were expended by the light battalions during this phase which ended at 2200 hrs. One gun from 19th, 46th and 50th FA Bns continued to harass and interdict this area. Phase three started at 2210 hrs. This phase was the preparation fires on the far shore of the PRUM River. There were three zones of fire, in this phase. Each zone was to be fired successively until lifted either by order of liaison officers or forward observers in the regimental sectors. Counter-battery fire began at 2150 hrs and all enemy batteries, command posts, supply points, enemy activity, bridges and towns were hit. Full advantage of "POSIT" and time fuse was taken to obtain maximum effect. Photo coverage of the entire front taken two days prior to the attack, located many targets.

(3) All battalions were ordered to register at various points in the sector, and to obtain time corrections.

(4) 449th AAA AF Bn was ordered to protect the bridge across the SAUER River at BILLENGEN (P988-405).

(5) 19th and 50th FA Bns were ordered to support the attack on the PRUM River. The following is the artillery plan for the attack:

- (a) 19th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing the fires of the 46th FA Bn.

v. 24 Feb 45.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and advanced with slight resistance. The towns of BETTINGEN, OLSDORF, BETTINGEN (1046-486), KEFFINGEN (1046-484) and INGENDORF (1088-490) were occupied. The front line at the end of the period was approximately 4000 meters E of the PRUM River, on the high ground overlooking the NIMS River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the attack of the division by firing on targets of opportunity. Many division artillery concentrations were fired on Nebelwerfers, hostile batteries, enemy personnel, vehicle columns, and mortars. Counter-preparations were fired prior to daylight to prevent any possible counter-attacks. Many casualties were observed and two CP guns and 2 vehicles, two of which were horse-drawn, were destroyed. Harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained.

(3) All battalions were ordered to reconnoiter for positions in vicinity of PRUM River, in the division zone of advance.

(4) Preparation fire plan for an attack on BETTINGEN and OLSORF was issued to all units.

(5) 512th FA Bn (105 How) relieved 66th Armd FA Bn of mission.

(6) 449th AAA AF Bn was ordered to furnish anti-aircraft protection to the bridge sites across the PRUM River.

(7) 19th FA Bn moved to WETTLINGEN.

(8) 46th FA Bn moved to WETTLINGEN.

(9) 30th FA Bn moved to WETTLINGEN.

(10) 5th Division Artillery moved to SCHARBACHEN (P997-443), Germany,

x. 28 Feb 45.

(1) 11th Infantry Division continued to attack with resistance ranging from negative to light. The towns of DOCKENHOF (L06-48), OBERTEDEM (L120-435), NIEDERSTEDEN (L11-48), MESSRICH (L10-49) and BIRTLINGEN (L10-50) were occupied. 11th Infantry passed through 10th Infantry in vicinity of MESSRICH and prepared to attack toward BITBURG (L11-50). 10th Infantry continued to clear enemy in zone. 2nd Infantry continued in zone and prepared plans to attack on the left of 76th Infantry Division toward TRIER (L20-28).

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the division by firing on targets of opportunity and massing fires on enemy batteries, infantry, and Nebelwerfers. Many close support targets had to be fired with extreme care and accuracy due to the rapidly changing situation.

(3) When the 11th Infantry was committed, the following changes in missions were ordered and assumed:

(a) 19th FA Bn - direct support of 11th Infantry.

(b) 512th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(4) 21st FA Bn moved to (L045-457).

(5) Continuous reconnaissance was ordered so that artillery could maintain close support.

(6) Due to an army order, three search lights were released. One search light continued to operate in the division zone and the other at the division artillery strip to allow for night patrols.

(7) 5th Division Artillery airstrip moved to (L038-425).

(8) 21st FA Bn moved to (L0505-4609).

(9) 19th FA Bn moved to (L0896-4885). CP remained in WETTLINGEN.

(10) CP, 8054 TD Bn moved to DOCKENHOF.

(11) CP, 449th AAA AF Bn moved to (L057-471).

y. 27 March 45

11th Infantry moved to outskirts of BITBURG, occupied WASHOLDEN (L12-50) and nearby HONSON (L15-52). 10th Infantry occupied area vicinity of (L148-499) and prepared to occupy SCHARBILIG (L16-46). 2nd Infantry, after occupying area vicinity (L100-417), prepared to relieve elements of 11th Infantry vicinity (L140-475) and to destroy enemy in this sector. The division right boundary was changed to include the towns of BELINGEN (L13-46) and IDENHOF (L164-450).

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack by giving close supporting fires. Fires for the period in addition to targets of opportunity were on enemy batteries, enemy held towns and preparations. Due to an ammunition restriction, expenditures were held to a minimum and then only on good targets. Preparation fires were fired in the vicinity of BITBURG and SCHARFBILLIG. A small counter-attack in vicinity of (L135-500) was repulsed with artillery fire.

(3) Operational Directive #82, XII Corps concerning the division boundary change was received.

(4) 5th Division Artillery moved to WESTLINGEN.

(5) 19th FA Bn moved to (L083-490).

(6) 21st FA Bn moved to (L086-478).

(7) 46th FA Bn moved to (L088-492).

(8) 50th FA Bn moved to (L132-486).

(9) Operations Instructions #59, 5th Infantry Division concerning 2nd Infantry relieving elements of the 10th Infantry was received.

(10) All battalions were given forward areas to reconnoiter as final positions before the KYLL River.

(11) 802d TD Bn was in the process of replacing the M-10 tank destroyer (3" gun) with M-56 tank destroyers (90mm).

28 February 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and completely cleared the enemy in the zone of action to the KYLL River. The towns of BITBURG, NOTSCH, ROMM (L17-45), SÜLM (L16-47) EBLINGEN, IDENHEIM, FAHLEN (L18-46) and HANSPORT (L17-46) were occupied.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the attack on enemy CPs, vehicles, infantry, artillery and Nebelwerfers. Division artillery concentrations were fired on enemy infantry, artillery and Nebelwerfers.

(3) 5th Division Artillery moved to MESSERICH (L109-494).

(4) 19th FA Bn moved to (L133-527).

(5) 21st FA Bn moved to (L135-488).

(6) 46th FA Bn moved to (L135-487).

(7) 54th FA Bn moved to (L135-486).

(8) 449th AAA AF Bn moved to (L108-495).

(9) 5th Division Artillery directly moved to (L086-478).

(10) 46th and 50th FA Bn were ordered to reconnoiter forward position areas close to KYLL River.

4. SUPPLY

Class I - Supply was ample and points of issue were always conveniently located.

Class II - Critical shortages continue to include 12-volt conversion units for 1/4-T Jeeps; battery chargers; air compressors; one 10-T wrecker and bulbs for night lighting devices for artillery pieces.

Class III - Same as Class I.

Class IV - Facilities and supplies were ample.

In sight. Distant location of ASP and general condition of roads forward hindered resupply. However, 5th Division G-4 was responsible for putting into operation a narrow gauge railroad between LUXEMBOURG and CONSDORF for hauling ammunition, rations and gasoline. This train handled approximately 40% of the ammunition required during the raid it operated, and reduced the haul by approximately 24 miles over very critical roads.

SECRET

5. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS a. Results of operations during this period were excellent. Mapping of fires was employed on all principal targets by "time on target" methods, with mixed fuse action. A total of 478 division artillery concentrations were fired. Destruction of enemy materiel and enemy casualties was heavy as a result of such fires.

b. The policy of aggressive displacement was continued to maintain close artillery support for advance elements.

c. Lessons learned and procedures developed during this period follow:

(1) On attacking pillboxes with the 155mm SP Gun, better protection for the crew serving the weapon can be obtained by employing a team of two tank destroyers and a tank assault gun with the 155mm SP Gun. The destroyers and assault gun cover the SP by firing at adjacent pillboxes and enemy installations.

(2) In using search lights to assist the infantry at night, PWs have reported that enemy artillery has been ordered not to fire at the search lights.

(3) In some cases, search lights continue to fire after heavy, accurate division artillery concentrations have been employed. It is believed that these weapons are replaced. By using delay fuse on this type target, the weapon can be destroyed.

(4) The delay element of the fuse is not sufficiently long in some instances. In firing on an enemy hold-down with 155mm howitzers with delay fuse and later adjusting 8" howitzers on such building, the upper two stories of such building were destroyed, but the basements, were still able to be used to shelter the infantry.

(5) Anti aircraft weapons, such as the 40mm gun and anti-mounted machine guns, greatly assist the infantry in river crossing by marking the objective with tracer and harassing the enemy on the far shore.

d. 5th Division Artillery missions were fired as follows:

(1) Administrational

(a) Ground observed	33
(b) High burst	5
(c) Air observed	98
(d) Flash and sound	19

(2) Ground observed missions 589

(3) Air observed missions 127

(4) Unobserved missions including preparation, counter-battery and

counter communication fires 2425

(5) Harassing and interdiction 746

(E) Propaganda 54

e. 5th Division Artillery expended during this period:

109mm howitzer 96,335

155mm howitzer 17,694

TOTAL 114,029

f. 802d TD Bn provided anti-mechanized defense of 5th Infantry Division area; destroyed enemy tanks and vehicles; delivered harassing and interdiction fires by indirect methods. The following are the results of their action:

(1) Destroyed:

(a) SP guns

(b) Mortars

(c) Machine guns

(e) Half-tracks - 2

(f) Mps - 5

SECRET

- (2) Miscellaneous.
- (a) Pill boxes damaged - 5
 - (b) PWs - 20
 - (c) Enemy killed - 119

g. 449th AAA AW Bn maintained anti-aircraft defense of units of 5th Division Artillery, critical bridges and operated search lights in the 5th Infantry Division area.

2 enemy planes were engaged during the period;

- 0 Destroyed (Category I)
- 1 Probably destroyed (Category II)
- 0 Damaged (Category III)

For the Commanding General:

SAMUEL W. HORNER II,
Col., Field Artillery,
Executive.

OFFICIAL: *James R. Johnson*

JAMES R. JOHNSON,
Lt. Col., FA.
S-5.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
5th Infantry Division Artillery
APO 8, c/o Postmaster, NY.L-499
Fmv 28

31 March 45

SUBJECT: After Action Against the Enemy Report,
From 0001 hrs 1 Mar to 2400 hrs 31 Mar, 1945

TO: The Adjutant General, US Army, Washington, D.C.

1. PERSONNEL

a. Total effective strength:

(1) At beginning of period:

21 Officers

1 Warrant Officer

136 Enlisted men

(2) At end of period:

19 Officers

1 Warrant Officer

135 Enlisted men

b. Killed in action, wounded in action, missing in action during period

None.

c. Reinforcements received: None.

d. Other changes: 1 Officer to DS, 10th Reinforcement Depot; 1 Officer transferred to 50th FA Bn; 1 Officer transferred from 19th FA Bn to this Bq; 1 Officer transferred to 60th FA Bn; 2 Officer transferred from 60th FA Bn to this Bq; 1 Officer transferred to 50th FA Bn; 1 Officer assigned to this Bq; 1 Officer transferred to 2d Infantry Regiment; 1 EM transferred to 19th FA Bn; 2 EM on CD from 50th FA Bn; and 2 EM transferred to hosp.

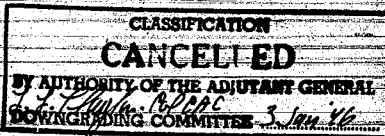
2. ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVITY

a. 1 to 7 March 45 - Enemy artillery was active during this period especially on the forward elements as the attack advanced. Some rounds fell on the bridge site across the Kyll River. The largest concentration reported was one of 40 rounds from a 75mm gun. The average concentration was from 6 to 15 rounds. The artillery reported was from all calibers up to 150mm and included concentrations from nebelwerfers. The most active day was 5 March when an estimated 250 rounds fell in the division area. No counter-battery fire was reported.

b. 8 to 15 March 45 - Enemy artillery decreased in activity as compared to the previous period. The largest concentrations reported were 20 rounds of nebelwerfer and two concentrations of 25 rounds each. The most active day was on 14 March when an estimated 170 rounds fell in the division area. The hostile fire was from all calibers up to 150mm. The average concentration was 5 to 10 rounds.

c. 16 to 23 March 45 - Enemy artillery was inactive during this period. The only active days were 17, 22 and 23 March. An average of about 9 rounds per concentration fell on these days. On 22 and 23 March most of the activity was in the vicinity of the RHINE River bridge site from light caliber guns and SP's. No counter-battery or large concentrations were reported.

d. 24 to 31 March 45 - Enemy artillery increased considerably over any previous period. The largest concentration reported was approximately 600 rounds with others of 300, 200 and 100 rounds falling in the vicinity of the HAIN River bridge site. Most of the fire was thought to be from 88mm AA guns from the vicinity of FRANKFURT. Some tanks and SP guns were reported and a small amount of fire came from 105 or 150mm howitzers. During this period approximately 400 rounds fell in the division area. The greater portion of this fire fell on 27 - 28 March. No shelling was reported after 29 March.



L-499

3. OWN OPERATIONS

a. 1 March 45

(1) At the beginning of the period 5th Infantry Division was organizing positions on the high ground west of the KYLL River. The front extended from vicinity of IRECH (L18-54) to vicinity (L185-432) with all regiments in the line, 2d Infantry on the right, 10th Infantry in the center and 11th Infantry on the left. Plans were prepared to attack and seize a limited bridgehead across the KYLL River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery maintained positions and fired on targets of opportunity, enemy batteries, personnel and vehicles. One SP gun was destroyed and an ammunition dump was set on fire. Due to ammunition restrictions, harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained by tank destroyers in indirect fire positions. Liaison planes adjusted on several targets during the period.

(3) Operations Instructions No. 11, 5th Division Artillery, concerning tank stopping concentrations, was issued.

(4) Fire plan in support of the KYLL River crossing was initiated.

(5) Operational Directive No. 65, XII Corps, concerning the seizing of a limited bridgehead across the KYLL River was received.

(6) Missions of organic units were:

- (a) 19th FA Bn - direct support of 11th Infantry
- (b) 21st FA Bn - general support, reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn
- (c) 46th FA Bn - direct support of 10th Infantry
- (d) 50th FA Bn - direct support of 2d Infantry

(7) 449th AAA AW Bn and 805d TD Bn were attached to 5th Division Artillery. "A", "B", "C", and "D" batteries, 449th AAA AW Bn were in direct support of the 19th, 21st, 46th, and 50th FA Bns respectively. AA protection was provided for bridges in the division area. "A", "B", and "C" Coes, 805d TD Bn were in direct support, respectively, of the 2d, 10th, and 11th Infantry Regiments.

(8) Supporting artillery units were the following:

- (a) 182d FA Gp - general support; reinforcing fires of 5th Division Artillery.
- (b) 191st FA Bn (168H) - general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.
- (c) 512th FA Bn (105H) - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(9) CP, 5th Division Artillery - MESSERICH (L106496), GERMANY.

(10) CP, 449th AAA AW Bn - MESSERICH.

(11) CP, 805d TD Bn - Moved to OBERSTEDEM, (L118407), GERMANY.

b. 2

to 2 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division remained in position on the high ground west of the KYLL River and prepared to attack to seize a bridgehead at 2400 hours, 2 March.

(2) 5th Division Artillery remained in position and fired in support of the division. Due to ammunition restrictions firing was limited to specific targets of opportunity and some counterbattery fires.

(3) Operations Instructions No. 11, 5th Division Artillery, concerning the plan of fire supporting the division attack, was issued.

(4) 70d FA Bn (168H) was assigned to 182d FA Gp with mission of general support; reinforcing the fires of 19th FA Bn.

(5) Prior to the attack all battalions were ordered to lay in directions to support the attack.

(6) Additional missions were assigned as follows:

- (a) 50th FA Bn - direct support of 2d Infantry and reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (b) 191st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 50th and 19th FA Bns.

(7) Operations Instructions Nos. 11 and 12, 5th Division Artillery, concerning tank stopping concentrations and counter-preparation plan, respectively, were changed to include the bridgehead area.

S E C R E T

(8) On call counterbattery fire plan, XII Corps Artillery, for the attack was received and issued to 21st FA Bn.

(9) 4th Armored Division Artillery and 76th Division Artillery assisted in the attack by firing increased harassing and interdiction fires.

c. 5 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division attacks and crossed the KILL River with the 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments abreast. Assistance encountered in the initial stages was mostly small arms and mortar fire on the forward elements. The 10th Infantry occupied the town of HOTTINGEN (L17-68) and GOEDERF (L18-68) and the high ground vicinity of (L202-652), 11th Infantry occupied the town of MESTERICH (L17-65) and the woods vicinity of (L174-656).

(2) 8th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. A counter-communication plan, starting at 0011 hours was fired by tanks, tank destroyer, and the cannon companies due to limited artillery ammunition. All other planned fires were on call. Other targets during the period were enemy tanks, vehicles, personnel, Nebelwerfers, mortars and batteries. Two tanks were destroyed in the wooded area vicinity (L18-64, 18-65). Three counterattacks were repulsed in vicinity of GOEDERF. One Nebelwerfer was destroyed. One large explosion and several lesser explosions were observed in the town of DUELDORF (L21-63), resulting from a Corps-Division artillery concentration by "time-on-target" methods. Liaison planes were active and adjusted fires on many targets, and assisted the high-performance aircraft in locating targets for bombing and strafing.

(3) 19th FA Bn moved to (L15-328).

(4) 26th FA Bn moved to (L178-488).

(5) 50th FA Bn was ordered to reconnoiter for positions in vicinity of 46th FA Bn.

(6) Field Order # 16, XII Corp., concerning the attack to the north-east to seize the west bank of the RHINE River was received.

d. 4 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the woods vicinity of (L178-387) and (L160-658). The towns of BADEM (L19-60), DUELDORF and PHILLIPSEIM (L20-61), were cleared and occupied. Resistance varied with fire coming mainly from snipers in SF gaps.

(2) 8th Division Artillery continued to support the attack by firing on SF gaps, enemy batteries, towns and Nebelwerfers. Ammunition still remained critical and expenditures were rigidly controlled. PWs stated that our artillery fire is extremely demoralizing although the number of casualties during preparation barrage is comparatively negligible, most artillery casualties result when the enemy infantry are forced to leave their positions and retreat.

(3) All 105mm battalions were ordered to reconnoiter for positions east of the KILL River.

(4) 50th FA Bn moved to (L160-681).

(5) Field Order # 17, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the attack and seizure of the west bank of the RHINE River was received. 5th Infantry Division was to follow 4th Armored Division in combat teams. 2d Combat Team on the north route, 11th Combat Team on south route, and 10th Combat Team in reserve.

e. 5 March 45

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the enemy positions at (L2254), and ORSPHID (L2069) were occupied. The 4th Armored Division began passing through the bridgehead at 0730 hours, 5 March.

(2) 8th Division artillery remained in position to support the attack. Division artillery concentrations, "time-on-target" methods, were fired on Nebelwerfers, enemy artillery and activity. Only a limited number of targets were engaged since resistance was light.

(3) 19th, 46th and 50th FA Bns were placed under combat team control at 1800 hours, 5 March.

(4) Assault guns, 747th Tk Bn, were attached to 50th FA Bn for pending operations.

(5) Operations Instructions, #61, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the division advance in two columns, was received.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

f. 6 March 1945

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to attack. 2d Combat Team started movement and occupied OBERKAIL (12460) and SCHWARZENBORN (12860). 10th Infantry occupied SPANGDALEM (12464) and DAHEM (12465). 7th Infantry occupied WILBECKER (11759) and STTGLORF (11659). Resistance continued to be light.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the advance of the division by firing on targets of opportunity, towns, Nebelwerfers, SP guns, and enemy batteries.

(3) 50th FA Bn moved with 2d Combat Team and occupied positions in vicinity of GINDORF (12167).

(a) 101st FA Bn -- general support, reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn

(4) Operational directive #85, XII Corps, was received.

g. 7 March 1945.

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to advance. Strong enemy counterattacks in vicinity of SCHWARZENBORN forced 2d Infantry to withdraw during the night. The town was reoccupied during the day. Elements of 11th Combat Team started movement and occupied area vicinity (1220705), (1254730), (1220665), and (1252585) with no resistance.

(2) 8th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. Targets were enemy infantry, Nebelwerfers, and enemy batteries. Resistance was light and only a few good targets were reported during the period, except in the 2d Combat Team zone.

(3) 21st FA Bn moved to vicinity of ORDORF.

(4) 48th FA Bn moved to vicinity of PICKLESSEEN.

(5) 8th Division Artillery forward CP moved to ORDORF.

(6) 449th AAA BN Bn continued to maintain AA defense of the bridges and to operate the searchlights in the division zone.

(7) 19th FA Bn moved with 11th Combat Team.

(a) 762d FA Bn -- general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

h. 8 March 1945

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to attack and destroy the enemy in its zone, west of the RHINE River and north of the MOSELLE River. 2d Combat Team crossed the SALS River and cleared the town of EISENSCHMITZ (1274612), and GRABSDORF (1285680). 11th Combat Team occupied DARSCHID (1298796), BAUM (1265778) and FURTDOEN (1250712). Resistance continued to be light.

(2) 8th Division Artillery continued to support the attack by firing on SP guns and enemy held towns. Brassing and interdiction schedules were maintained.

(3) The plan of attack for 8th Infantry Division was for 11th Combat Team to continue along route of COB, 4th Armored Division, relieving elements upon arrival; 2d Combat Team to advance and clear MANDERSCHID (12366), HESCHHAUSEN (1216700), BAUM, and MEREK (1290767); elements of 10th Combat Team to relieve 2d Combat Team in its zone.

(4) 51st FA Bn in general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn until 2d Combat Team relieved by 10th Combat Team, then reinforcing fires of 48th FA Bn.

(5) 449th AAA BN Bn moved to PHILIPPEN (126009).

(6) 50th FA Bn moved to (124188).

(7) 19th FA Bn moved to vicinity of KLEDER (12078).

(8) 11th Combat Team including 19th FA Bn was attached to the 4th Armored Division at 2100 hours, 8 March.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

l. 9 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east and captured the town of BLECKHAUSEN and MANDERSCHREID. 11th Combat Team had forward elements in the vicinity of ULMEN.

(2) 5th Division Artillery was prepared to support the attack but due to scattered resistance, few missions were fired.

(3) 512th FA Bn moved to reinforce fires of 19th FA Bn due to release of 22d FA Bn at 2300 hours, 8 March 1945.

(4) 50th FA Bn moved to (1277616).

(5) Operations Instruction No. 62, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the division advance was received.

(6) 40th FA Bn moved to (1267806).

(7) 21st FA Bn moved to vicinity OCKENHAIL.

(8) Operations Instruction No. 63, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the advance by 2d Combat Team and its relief by 10th Combat Team was received.

(9) XII Corps plan for clearing present zone and crossing MOSELLE River was received.

(10) 805d TD Bn moved to OINDORF (1221578).

l. 10 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and 2d Combat Team captured the towns of OITZENFELD (1260702), PLANENBURG (1260661), BETTENFELD (1260667), DORREN (126072) and OILLENFELD (126070); 11th Combat Team moved to vicinity of KAISERBERG (1267814), MANDERSCHREID (1267796) and ULMEN (1261792).

(2) 5th Division Artillery supported the division attack but fired no missions due to light and scattered resistance.

(3) 5th Division Artillery moved to DANW.

(4) CP 449th AAA BN Bn moved to DANW.

(5) CP 805d TD Bn moved to DANW.

(6) 50th FA Bn moved to (1260703).

(7) 40th FA Bn moved to (1267806).

(8) 19th FA Bn moved to vicinity BERG (126597).

(9) 21st FA Bn moved to (1264661).

(10) All battalions were ordered to reconnoiter for positions for future advance of division across MOSELLE River.

l. 11 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and 2d Combat Team cleared the towns of UNDEL (1266713), OCKENHAIL (1264722), WIDENHAINEL (1264723), DINKERATH (1264705), STROTZSDORF (1260683) and STROH (1218683). 11th Combat Team relieved elements of 4th Armored Division and occupied NROEL (126780), MONTKIRCH (12680) BIRNINGEN (126478) and MAUREM (127084) elements of 89th Infantry Division began relieving elements of 2d and 10th Combat Teams.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the division attack by firing on enemy batteries and personnel. Targets were again limited.

(3) Operational Directive No. 66 XII Corps concerning the clearing of the enemy from zone and the attack across the MOSELLE River was received.

(4) 19th FA Bn moved to (1273803).

(5) Assault gun platoon 737th Tank Bn, detached from 50th FA Bn at 1200 hours, 11 March 45.

(6) Operations Instruction No. 64, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the active defense along the MOSELLE River was received.

(7) Orders were issued to 19th and 50th FA Bns to organize organic CPs for each position south of MOSELLE River.

(8) 19th FA Bn moved to (1273803).

(9) 21st Combat Team relieved 10th Combat Team at 2400 hours, 11 March.

l. 12 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to clear the enemy from its zone. 2d Combat Team occupied LUTZERATH (1267901), HAIL (1264761), and PAID (1266970). 10th

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

Combat Team began moving to assembly area in vicinity of LAUBACH (LS30813). A small detachment cleared the town of HUEBEL (LS375). 11th Combat Team continued to clear enemy in its zone to the MOSELLE River and relieved elements of 4th Armored Division.

(8) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack on enemy personnel, mortars, origin of small arms fire, vehicles and suspected CP's. More targets were observed during this period. All battalions closed into final positions prior to attack across the MOSELLE River.

(9) 21st FA Bn moved to (LS49837).

(4) 46th FA Bn moved to (LS28833) as of 1800 hrs 11 March.

(5) 5th Div Arty moved to KAIBERSBACH (LS3814).

(6) CP 449th AAA AV Bn moved to GABLEN (LS18825).

(7) CP 8034 TD Bn moved to KLOSTER (LS40785).

(8) Plan of attack, 5th Infantry Division was received.

(9) All battalions reverted to 5th Division Artillery control as of 1200 hrs, 12 March 1945.

(10) 21st FA Bn moved to (LS49785).

(11) 50th FA Bn moved to (LS2780).

(12) 771st FA Bn (165th H), assigned to 182d FA Gp, was given the mission of general support, reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(13) FO #10, XII Corps, concerning the attack of the corps across the MOSELLE River to BAD HERSBACH (M0638) was received.

(14) For the attack of the MOSELLE River the following missions were ordered and assumed:

(a) 18th FA Bn - direct support 11th Infantry.

(b) 21st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of the 46th and 50th FA Bns.

(c) 46th FA Bn - direct support of 10th Infantry; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.

(d) 50th FA Bn - direct support of 2d Infantry.

(e) 182d FA Gp - general support; reinforcing fires of 5th Division Artillery.

(f) 512th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(g) 771st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(h) 191st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.

(15) 46th FA Bn moved to (LS74801).

at 12 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division regrouped in its zone and prepared to attack across the MOSELLE River.

(2) 5th Division Artillery remained in position prepared to support the division.

(3) A tank flash warning system was established within the units of division artillery.

(4) The use of searchlights in the division attack was coordinated between the infantry regiments and the 50th Infantry Division.

(5) All units were notified that a hour would be at 0200 hours 14 March and that supporting units would be in the area.

(6) Preparations were made to use two platoons of "H" Company, 803d TD Bn in indirect fire positions, for 19th and 50th FA Bns.

(7) Operations Instructions No. 14, 5th Division Artillery, concerning the counter-communications fire plan, was issued to all of the light battalions.

(8) FO #18, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the division attack, was received.

(9) XII Corps Artillery Preparation Fire Plan was received.

(10) Due to resupply of ammunition and condition of tubes of the tank destroyers, the indirect fire positions were to be used for only one day.

(11) CP 8034 TD Bn moved to GABLEN.

at 14 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division attacked and crossed the MOSELLE River at 0200 hours, 14 March with the 2d Infantry on the right and the 11th Infantry on the

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left. Two battalions of each regiment passed into the bridgehead with little resistance and occupied the high ground on the south side of the river. The towns of TRUIS (1690750), TRIZ (1738634) and EVERHAUSEN (1764730) were captured.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. Approximately 1800 rounds of light ammunition was expended in the preparation. Other targets were enemy batteries, SP guns, mortars, personnel, vehicles, and OP's. A counter-attack was repulsed with assistance of artillery fire. Several 88mm AA guns, 105mm guns and horse-drawn vehicles were destroyed. In addition to targets of opportunity and division artillery concentrations, "time on target" methods, fire was directed against enemy personnel, vehicles, tanks, and mortars. Harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained.

(3) A plan of future positions for all battalions north and south of the MOSELLE River was issued to all battalions.

(4) Operations Instructions No. 65, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the formation of a task force with two battalions of the 10th Infantry, 46th FA Bn, "B" Btry, 21st FA Bn, and other units, was received.

(5) 449th AAA AW Bn was furnished with two captured searchlights for illumination of the 5th Division Artillery Airstrip.

(6) 48th FA Bn and Btry "B", 21st FA Bn were attached to Task Force for the proposed operations.

(7) 5th Division Artillery moved to DENNINGEN.

(8) Task force was placed on a two-hour alert for movement.

2. 15 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and the bridgehead across the MOSELLE River was enlarged. The towns of DOMERSHAUSEN (1760715), DORNWILER (1776715), LING (1723715) and DORNWILER (1776715) were taken. Resistance continued to be light. CGR, 4th Armored Division passed through the bridgehead.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the division by firing on enemy personnel, vehicles, towed weapons, and SP guns. Liaison planes were again active in picking up targets of opportunity. Division artillery concentrations, "time on target" method were again used to attack critical targets.

(3) 50th FA Bn moved to (1662787).

(4) All battalions were again warned that resupply of ammunition might be critical and that expenditures were to be controlled so that the two-thirds basic load could be maintained.

(5) Operations Instructions No. 66, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the routes of the 4th Armored Division and the rapid advance of the Division, was received.

(6) 19th FA Bn moved to (1727759).

(7) 50th FA Bn moved to (1716746).

(8) 5th Division Artillery forward CP moved to TRUIS.

(9) 21st FA Bn passed to control of the 4th Armored Division as the division passed through the bridgehead.

2. 16 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued the attack and with little resistance captured the towns of HORSBORN (1730672), BUCH (1754645), HELL (1773636), LAHE (1738636), EILHARDT (1738636), KREITZEL (1776672), WIER (1738636), AIL-TERMICH, and WIER (1738636). Task Force of 10th Infantry moved to vicinity of REIDENHANS (1790680).

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the attack and fired on targets of opportunity which included strong points in enemy held towns, tanks and SP guns. Resistance was such that only a limited number of targets were fired upon.

(3) 21st FA Bn (less "B" Btry) moved to (1690751).

(4) 46th FA Bn and "B" Btry 21st FA Bn moved to assembly area vicinity of (1687747).

(5) 19th and 50th FA Bns were placed under 11th and 2d Infantry Command Teams respectively.

(6) The following changes of missions were assumed:

(a) 11th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 50th

FA Bn.

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(v) 21st FA Bn (less "B" Btry) - general support, reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.

- (7) 19th FA Bn moved to EASTELLAUN.
- (8) 50th FA Bn moved to (127044).
- (9) 40th FA Bn and "B" Btry 21st FA Bn moved to (127044).
- (10) 2nd FA Bn (less "B" Btry) moved to (127044).
- (11) Forward CP, 5th Division Artillery moved to EASTELLAUN.
- (12) CP, 44th AAA Bn moved to EASTELLAUN.
- (13) CP 50th FA Bn moved to EASTELLAUN.
- (14) Operational Directive No. 67, XII Corps, concerning joining of west bank of MEINE River between MAINE and WOHNS, was received, 17 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the enemy from the area south of the MOELLE River. All units in the division sector were cleared including VOLKENROTH (126984), KEINHEIM (126984), NIKEN (126984), ASHBY (126984), TIERKIRCH (126984), GRONIKER (126984), HOLZACH (126984), KERN (126984), SCHNEIDER (126984), WALDHECKER (126984), and KIRCHNER (126984).

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired as observed missions in support of the division attack due to light resistance. Harassing and interdiction missions were fired during the hours of darkness.

- (3) CP 50th FA Bn moved to SIEGEN.
- (4) CP 44th AAA Bn moved to vicinity of AHNHORN (127000).
- (5) Operational Directive No. 68, XII Corps, concerning the work advance to seize the west bank of the MEINE River at MAINE (12700) and WOHNS (12610) was received.

(6) 50th FA Bn moved to (127007).

(7) 20th FA Bn moved to (126985).

(8) 21st FA Bn (less "B" Btry) moved to (126985).

(9) 19th FA Bn moved to (126985).

(10) 40th FA Bn and "B" Btry 21st FA Bn moved to (126985).

(11) Orders were issued to all units that in case a bridge was captured intact across the MEINE River, all units would be released and given road priority to move to their vicinity for AA protection.

18 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to advance against heavy to light resistance and cleared the towns WEITENBORN (126980), HERRACH (126985), WINTERSBACH (126985), GERRATE (126981), IFFENWALD (126985), KARNBORN (126980), KERNBORN (126980), HERRFELD (126985), KIRCHHORN (126985), and STARK FORT. 10th Infantry tank force relieved CG of 4th Armored Division in the MAINE River bridgehead in the vicinity of FIELE (126987).

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the attack on enemy vehicles and personnel in column and infantry. Missions picked up a concentration of vehicles and mission was turned over to high performance aircraft. Several vehicles were destroyed by artillery fire.

- (3) 5th Division Artillery moved to SIEGEN.
- (4) CP 44th AAA Bn moved to HORNACH (126985).
- (5) Boundary changes between 4th Armored Division, 5th Infantry Division, 2d Bn, and 21st Infantry were received.
- (6) Operational Directive No. 68, XII Corps, concerning boundary changes was received.

- (7) 19th FA Bn moved to (126985).
- (8) 40th FA Bn and "B" Btry 21st FA Bn moved to (126985).
- (9) 50th FA Bn moved to (126985).
- (10) Operations Instruction No. 67, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the division advance, boundaries, and relief of 4th Armored Division was received.
- (11) 19th FA Bn moved to (126985).
- (12) 21st FA Bn (less "B" Btry) moved to (126985).
- (13) 40th FA Bn with "B" Btry 21st FA Bn were ordered to reinforce 5th Division Artillery.

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(14) "B" Stry 21st FA Bn detached from 40th FA Bn and 21st FA Bn attached to 40th FA Bn mission - general support; reinforcing fires of 40th FA Bn. Effective time, when CO, 21st FA Bn reports to CO 40th FA Bn on morning of 19 March 1945.

o. 19 March 1945.

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the enemy from the north bank of the RAHE River. The towns of WELSER (L974544), ROENIGER (L986334), ROSENHEIM (L913224), ROSENHEIM (L940617), RAN KROENACH, FRIEDENFELD (L986337), and WILDSCHNEIDER (L975328) were occupied and ROENIGER FORN was cleared. 10th Combat Team was attached to 4th Armored Division as of 0330 hours 19 March.

(2) 8th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack. New targets were attacked during the day. Heavy harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained on the town of OBERHEIM (L975327).

(3) 8th Division Artillery moved to WIEHENSBERG (L945397).

(4) CP, 449th AAA BN Bn moved to WIEHENSBERG.

(5) CP, 803d TD Bn moved to SPOHEIM (L994584).

(6) Boundary changes as shown in Operations Instructions No. 67, 8th Infantry Division were effective this date.

(7) Plan of attack of 14 and 11th Infantry was received.

(8) 21st FA Bn detached from 10th Combat Team and assumed mission of general support, reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.

(9) 19th FA Bn moved to (L952378).

(10) 20th FA Bn moved to (L913591).

(11) 40th FA Bn moved to (L986338).

(12) 21st FA Bn moved to (L041314).

(13) 21st FA Bn moved to (L986338).

o. 20 March 1945.

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to attack and occupied the towns of HILDEBRONN (L955546), KALKOFEN (L975370), WIEHENSBERG (L945397), HALL GARTEN (L986338), SPOHEIM (L917367), WIEHENSBERG (L912475), MUEHLENFELD (L986338), OBERHEIM (L986338), RECHTOLHEIM (L986340), SAN OBERHEIM (L986310), WERSTATT (L974375), and SPIESHEIM (L986346).

(2) 8th Division Artillery continued to displace in close support of the advancing infantry. No missions were fired except for harassing and interdiction schedules.

(3) 8th Division Artillery forward CP moved to WOLLSTEIN (L913552).

(4) CP, 449th AAA BN Bn moved to ROENIGER (L987375).

(5) 20th FA Bn moved to (L996340).

(6) Operational Directive No. 80, XII Corps concerning boundary changes and the corps advance was received.

(7) 19th FA Bn was attached to the 11th Infantry.

(8) 21st FA Bn was attached to the 19th FA Bn.

(9) Operations Instructions No. 68, 5th Infantry Division, concerning boundary changes and the division advance, was received.

(10) 19th FA Bn moved to (L924397).

(11) 20th FA Bn moved to (L986338).

(12) 21st FA Bn moved to (L986338).

(13) 40th FA Bn moved to (L913224).

(14) 40th FA Bn moved to (L986338).

o. 21 March 1945.

(1) 8th Infantry Division continued to attack and clear the enemy from the west bank of the RHINE River. The towns of MORTLAT (L975125), GUNDEHEIM (L987317), FURMANHEIM (L986338), GIEHEIM (L986194), HANNOHEIM (L986338), OFFENHEIM (L913228), ROENIGER (L986338), WORN (L940180), OFFENHEIM (L948400), HIEBEN (L9455417), SCHNABEN (L914406), and SCHNABEN (L917367) were cleared and 104th and 2d Infantry began regrouping.

(2) 8th Division Artillery was prepared to support the infantry advance.

(3) 8th Division Artillery moved to WEINLISHEIM (L986338).

(4) CP, 449th AAA BN Bn moved to WIEHENSBERG (L945397).

(5) CP, 803d TD Bn moved to WIEHENSBERG (L945397).

(6) Operational Directive No. 81, XII Corps, concerning clearing of the west bank of the RHINE River and preparations for crossing the RHINE River

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was received.

- (7) Plan of attack, 5th Infantry Division, concerning proposed crossing of RHINE River, was received.
- (8) 46th FA Bn moved to (M226165).
- (9) Orders were issued to reconnoiter positions for attack of RHINE River.

- (10) 21st FA Bn moved to (M226369).
- (11) 19th FA Bn moved to (M224507).
- (12) Strg "A" 46th FA Bn fired first round across the RHINE River on 21 March 1945.

- (13) 50th FA Bn moved to (M406374).
- (14) The following was the organization for combat for the attack across the RHINE River:

- (a) 19th FA Bn - direct support of 11th Infantry.
- (b) 21st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.
- (c) 46th FA Bn - direct support of 10th Infantry.
- (d) 50th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (e) 410th FA Gp - fire direction center for XII Corps Artillery in 5th Division Artillery sector.

- (1) 24th FA Bn (1550) - general support of 5th Division Artillery.
- (2) 751st FA Bn (126.0) - general support of 5th Division Artillery.
- (3) 182d FA Group - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th

FA Bn.

- (1) 518th FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (2) 771st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (3) 940th FA Bn - (1550) - general support; reinforcing fires of 46th FA Bn.
- (4) 740th FA Bn - (8" H) - general support of 5th Division Artillery.
- (5) 177th FA Group - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th

FA Bn.

- (1) 275 Armd FA Bn (206 H) - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.
- (2) 179th FA Bn (1550) - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.
- (3) 191st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 19th FA Bn.
- (4) 752nd FA Bn (8" H) - general support of 5th Division Artillery.

- (15) Operations Memorandum, 5th Infantry Division, concerning beach markers and vehicle priority, was received.

- (16) 19th FA Bn moved to (M226165).
- (17) 50th FA Bn moved to (M406374).
- (18) 21st FA Bn moved to (M226369).
- (19) Plan of attack, 5th Infantry Division, was received.
- (20) 21st FA Bn detached from 19th FA Bn as of 1800 hours 21 March 1945.

1945.

v. 22 March 1945.

- (1) 5th Infantry Division cleared the enemy from the west bank of the RHINE River and regrouped in preparation for crossing the river.
- (2) 5th Division Artillery remained in position prepared to support the division attack. In addition to targets of opportunity, targets for the period were enemy personnel, artillery, anti-tank guns, anti-aircraft guns, OP's, and enemy-held towns. Division artillery and supporting units moved into final positions for the attack.

- (3) Operational Directive No. 82, XII Corps, concerning the regrouping of units for RHINE River crossing, was received.

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(5) Forward position areas were ordered to be reconstituted by all battalions.

(6) Seven batteries of 90mm AA guns moved into division area to protect bridge.

(7) A total of 4 searchlights were to be used for the operation, two for indirect illumination and two for direct illumination of the bridge area.

(8) Operations Instructions No. 15, 5th Division Artillery, concerning counter-communication fires on call and harassing and interdiction schedules was issued to all battalions.

(9) Field Order No. 19, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the assault of the RHINE River, was received.

(10) 46th FA Bn detached from 10th Infantry as of 1600 hours 23 March.

(11) 5th Division Artillery moved to FRIESEHEIM (M473378).

(12) CP, 449th AAA AW Bn moved to FRIESEHEIM.

(13) CP, 803d TD Bn moved to FRIESEHEIM.

w. 23 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and by 0100 hours the 1st and 2d Battalions, 11th Infantry were completely across the RHINE River and by 0455 hours the 2d Battalion had completed crossing. The towns of GUNNEHEIM (M474483) and TREBUR (M483478) were cleared. The 10th Infantry began crossing the river at 0158 hours and had completed crossing by 0455 hours. The town of LEBHEIM (M443978) was captured. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry crossed the river and advanced to the vicinity of ASTHEIM (M444483). 2d Battalion furnished close-in security for the bridge and cleared the east bank of the river as far north as (M480448). The town of REIFELN (M480378) was cleared. The woods in vicinity of (M473380) were cleared. 3d Battalion, 90th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, was attached to 5th Infantry Division at 1450 hours 23 March 1945 and started moving across the RHINE River at 1730 hours and completed crossing at 2230 hours. The 2d Bn 387th Infantry began relieving the 1st Battalion of the 10th Infantry.

(2) 5th Division Artillery fired in support of the division attack on enemy artillery, enemy personnel, vehicles, tanks, and tanks. The counter-communication fire plan was not called for by the infantry due to the light resistance at the early stages of the attack. Artillery fire dispersed a possible counter-attack forming northeast of TREBUR.

(3) 545d FA Bn, 90th Infantry Division was attached to 5th Division Artillery as of 1450 hours 23 March. The mission was direct support of 387th Infantry Reconnaissance Troop.

(4) Co "B", 691st TD Bn (T) attached to 5th Division Artillery as of 1200 hours 23 March and relieved Co "A", 803d TD Bn of mission of protecting the bridge sites.

(5) Co "B", 691st TD Bn (T) attached to 803d TD Bn.

(6) Co's A, B, and C, 803d TD Bn were attached to 2d, 10th, and 11th Infantry Regiments respectively.

(7) Operational Directive No. 25, XII Corps was received.

(8) 46th FA Bn moved to (M480448).

(9) 803d FA Bn moved to (M480448).

w. 23 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack against increasing enemy resistance. Counterattacks were repulsed without loss of ground. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry was relieved by 2d Battalion, 101st Infantry, 26th Infantry Division, of close in protection for the bridges. The town of ASTHEIM (M444483) was taken. 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry was relieved by 2d Battalion, 387th Infantry. The towns of BERRACH (M483447), DORNHEIM (M483447) were taken. 3d Battalion, 11th Infantry was relieved by 3d Battalion 2d Infantry. The town of WALLERSTADT (M416485) was captured. Other towns cleared were BAUSCHEIM (M482618), HAUSEIM (M416485), ORNDORF (M485476), and DORNHEIM (M483448). 387th Infantry captured GODDEIM (M443977) and at 1200 hours 24 March reverted to control of 90th Infantry Division.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the division attack on enemy artillery, enemy personnel, vehicles, tanks, and tanks. The counter-communication fire plan was not called for by the infantry due to the light resistance at the early stages of the attack. Artillery fire dispersed a possible counter-attack forming northeast of TREBUR. The 1st and 2d Battalions, 11th Infantry were completely across the RHINE River and by 0455 hours the 2d Battalion had completed crossing. The towns of GUNNEHEIM (M474483) and TREBUR (M483478) were cleared. The 10th Infantry began crossing the river at 0158 hours and had completed crossing by 0455 hours. The town of LEBHEIM (M443978) was captured. 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry crossed the river and advanced to the vicinity of ASTHEIM (M444483). 2d Battalion furnished close-in security for the bridge and cleared the east bank of the river as far north as (M480448). The town of REIFELN (M480378) was cleared. The woods in vicinity of (M473380) were cleared. 3d Battalion, 90th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, was attached to 5th Infantry Division at 1450 hours 23 March 1945 and started moving across the RHINE River at 1730 hours and completed crossing at 2230 hours. The 2d Bn 387th Infantry began relieving the 1st Battalion of the 10th Infantry.

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(a) With all infantry regiments in the line, the following missions were assigned:

- (a) 50th FA Bn - direct support of 2d Infantry.
- (b) 21st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 50th FA Bn.

FA Bn.

- (c) 71st FA Bn - general support; reinforcing fires of 4th FA Bn.

(4) 177th FA Group was released to 4th Armored Division to move across bridge.

- (5) 948th FA Bn was released to 5th Division Artillery.
- (6) Forward CP, 5th Division Artillery moved to GUMBERG.
- (7) 21st FA Bn moved to (M27428).
- (8) 19th FA Bn moved to (M215483).
- (9) Operations Instructions No 70, 5th Infantry Division concerning the division attack to the northeast to expand the corps bridgehead, was received.

(10) 50th FA Bn moved to (M254473).

- (11) 4th FA Bn moved to (M266474).

28 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the area vicinity of (M297648), and the town of GUMBERG (M488680), GUMBERG (M215483), GROSS GELM (M234475), GUMBERG (M215483), and BUCHENBERG (M488648), were captured. Regimental boundaries were changed to put 2d Infantry on the left, 10th Infantry in the center and 11th Infantry on the right. 5th Armored Division began passing through the 5th Infantry Division.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the division attack by firing on CP guns, AA guns, vehicles and enemy activity. Four CP guns were observed knocked out by artillery fire.

- (3) 5th Division Artillery rear and forward moved to TREUER.

(4) CP 449th AAA BN Bn moved to TREUER.

(5) CP 805th TD Bn moved to TREUER.

(6) Operational Directive No. 84, XII Corps, concerning the enlarging of the bridgehead and advance to the northeast, was received.

(7) 50th FA Bn moved to (M288630).

(8) 4th FA Bn moved to (M215483).

(9) Operational Directive No. 85, XII Corps, concerning corps and division boundaries was received.

(10) 21st FA Bn moved to (M214445).

(11) Co "B", 691st TD Bn detached from 5th Division Artillery.

28 March 1945.

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared the HORNWALD woods as far as the airport (M200890), the town of KILSTERBACH (M200890), HASSLOCH (M215483), MORNBERG (M234475), and SCHWABERH (M200895). 2d Infantry was relieved by 2d Cavalry Squadron (-1 Troop). Elements of 10th Infantry were relieved by 5th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

(2) 5th Division Artillery continued to support the division attack by firing on targets of opportunity, using AA Guns, and personnel. Reporting and intelligence schedules were maintained on enemy positions and batteries.

(3) 5th Division Artillery forward CP moved to MORNBERG.

(4) Orders were issued to all battalions to recommit positions south of the MAIN River and FRANKFURT (M234475) for support of the river crossing.

(5) 4th FA Bn moved to (M234475).

(6) Companies A, B and C, 805th TD Bn (HP) detached from 2d, 10th and 11th Infantry Regiments effective at 1800 hours 28 March and reverted to battalion control.

(7) 21st FA Bn moved to (M201534).

(8) Overlay of plan of 5th Infantry Division crossing of MAIN and HORNWALD Rivers was received.

(9) 19th FA Bn moved to (M234475).

(10) 4th FA Bn moved to (M205578).

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(1) Operational Directive #98, XII Corps, concerning the Corps advance and boundary changes was received.
at 22 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and cleared all the enemy from its zone south of the MAIN River. With the capture of a bridge partially in tact at (M286974) by the 6th Armored Division elements of the 10th and 11th Infantry crossed the bridge into the city of FRANKFORT to enlarge the bridgehead. Resistance and enemy artillery fire from AA weapons was heavy. The bridgehead was expanded slowly by the 10th Infantry and one battalion of the 11th Infantry.

(2) 8th Division Artillery fired counterbattery missions on AA and SP guns firing at the bridge site. Other targets were enemy personnel and vehicles. Heavy harassing and interdiction missions were maintained during the hours of darkness.

(3) 8th Division Artillery CP moved to KITTLEIDICK (M285888).

(4) 449th AAA AW Bn moved to vicinity of airport (M285891).

(5) CP 803d TD Bn moved to FRANKFORT (M285880).

(6) Operations Instructions #71, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the expanding of the bridgehead and regimental boundaries, was received.

(7) Operational Directive #97, XII Corps, concerning advance and Corps boundaries was received.

(8) 19th FA Bn moved to (M285885).

(9) 11st FA Bn moved to (M285897).

(10) 20th FA Bn moved to (M285895).

(11) 13th FA Bn moved to (M285899).

(12) 46th FA Bn moved to (M285898).

(13) 11st FA Bn moved to (M285896).

(14) 20th FA Bn moved to (M285897).

at 22 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and enlarge the bridgehead in FRANKFORT. 2d, 10th and 11th Infantry (less one battalion) were across and advancing under lessening resistance.

(2) 8th Division Artillery continued to fire in support of the division attack. A total of 40 division artillery concentrations were fired by "time on target" methods mainly against enemy batteries and German headquarters. Heavy harassing and interdiction schedules were maintained during the hours of darkness.

(3) Bn Co, 803d TD Bn took over mission of 2d Cav Sq (ITP) as per paragraph "d" Operational Instructions #71, 5th Infantry Division.

(4) All companies of 803d TD Bn (less one platoon) prepared to cross MAIN River.

(5) 449th AAA AW Bn was ordered to place AA protection on bridges across MAIN River.

(6) 5th Infantry Division passed to control of XII Corps as of 2400 hours, 23 March.

at 23 March 1945

(1) 5th Infantry Division continued to attack and completed clearing all enemy in the out skirts and suburbs of the city of FRANKFORT. Upon completion of this mission, units began operating in their respective zones and the division passed to corps control.

(2) 8th Division Artillery was prepared to support the division attack. The harassing and interdiction mission was fired.

(3) Operations Instructions #72, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the assembly areas of the division was received.

(4) 11st FA Bn moved to (M284643).

(5) 20th FA Bn moved to (M28587000).

(6) 46th FA Bn moved to (M285712).

(7) Forward CP 8th Division Artillery moved to FRANKFORT (M285889).

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ad. 30-31 March 1945

- (1) 8th Infantry Division and 5th Division Artillery regrouped in the city of FRANKFORT in preparation for further operations.
- (2) 46th FA Bn moved to (N667712).
- (3) 50th FA Bn moved to (N688708).
- (4) Forward CP, 5th Division Artillery, moved to FRANKFORT (N668599).
- (5) CP, 449th AAA AW Bn moved to FRANKFORT (N664700).
- (6) CP, 803d TD Bn, moved to FRANKFORT (N672706).
- (7) 19th FA Bn moved to (N640693).
- (8) 21st FA Bn moved to (N670710).
- (9) Ron Co, 803d TD Bn relieved of its mission of patrolling the south bank of the WAIN River and reverted to battalion control as of 1530 hours, 30 March 1945.
- (10) 449th AAA AW Bn was ordered to place two batteries on the airport at (N668708) by daylight 31 March.
- (11) Ron Co, 803d TD Bn was ordered to screen a division route on 31 March.
- (12) Field Order No. 17, XX Corps, Artillery, concerning the artillery supporting the corps attack was received.
- (13) Operations Instructions No. 74, XX Corps, concerning boundary extensions, was received.
- (14) Operations Instructions No. 75, XX Corps, concerning the corps advance and boundaries, was received.
- (15) Operations Instructions No. 75, XX Corps, concerning the corps advance and modification of boundaries was received.
- (16) Operations Instructions No. 75, 5th Infantry Division, concerning the movement of the division to the northeast, boundaries, routes, assembly areas, and composition of columns, was received.
- (17) Order received from 5th Infantry Division that movement would start on 1 April 1945 in accordance to Operations Instructions No. 75.
- (18) 449th AAA AW Bn relieved of airport protection as of 1900 hours 31 March.

4. SUPPLY

- Class I - Supply was ample and points were always conveniently located.
- Class II - Critical shortages for the period were 2 1/2 ton trucks, 3/4 ton trucks with wench and 1/2 ton jeeps.
- Class III - Same as Class I.
- Class IV - Facilities and supplies were ample.
- Class V - Ammunition allowance and supply were sufficient except for the last few days of the period during which time it was necessary for higher headquarters to impose restrictions by allocation at ASF. This shortage was apparently due to lack of transportation between the railroad and the ASF. During the BEINS crossing and immediately afterwards, ammunition was shuttled across the river by "Duke's" operating from a marshalling area on the near shore to a division Class V dump on the far shore, thus minimizing the congestion on the bridge.

5. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
a. Results of operations during this period were excellent. Massed fires delivered by "time on target" methods were used on critical targets with good results in reducing enemy opposition. The use of mixed fuses gave excellent results against fortified towns and field works.

b. Aggressive displacement enabled 5th Division Artillery units to maintain artillery fire for supported units. Units were placed in close support when necessary.

S E C R E T

c. Lessons learned and procedures developed during this period follow:

(1) In planning artillery fire for river crossings the light battalions fire on targets up to four thousand yards and the medium battalions and corps artillery fire counterbattery and targets beyond four thousand yards. The preparation begins simultaneously. During the fire, one gun from each battalion is assigned several deep harassing and interdiction targets from the beginning of the preparation until deemed unsafe to fire by the direct support battalion.

(2) Organic observation and shellrep teams at critical points should be turned over to corps artillery for coordination and responsibility. This leaves the organic battalions of division artillery free to operate and displace forward as the situation permits.

d. 8th Division Artillery missions were fired as follows:

- (1) Registrations.
 - a. Ground observed..... 15
 - b. Air observed.....106
 - c. High burst..... 3
 - d. Flash and sound..... 1
- (2) Ground observed missions.....315
- (3) Air observed missions..... 68
- (4) Unobserved missions, including preparations, counterbattery, and counter-communication fires.....899
- (5) Harassing and interdiction.....875
- (6) Propaganda..... 11

e. 8th Division Artillery expended during the period

105mm Howitzer.....54,592
 155mm Howitzer..... 8,722
 Total **63,314**

f. 449th AAA Bn maintained anti-aircraft defense of units of 8th Division Artillery, critical bridges, and operated searchlights in the 8th Infantry Division areas.

(1) 81 enemy planes were engaged during the period:

- a. 15 Destroyed (Category I)
- b. 18 Probably destroyed (Category II)
- c. 0 Damaged (Category III)

g. 405d TD Bn provided anti-mechanized defense of 8th Infantry Division areas, destroyed enemy tanks and vehicles, and delivered harassing and interdictionary fires by indirect fire methods. The following are the results of their actions:

(1) Destroyed

Halftracks.....6
 Machine guns.....9
 40mm AF guns.....2
 82mm guns.....4
 Oil Dumps.....1
 AF guns.....7
 Trucks.....2
 Tanks, M-4.....2
 Trucks, M-3.....1

(2) Miscellaneous

POs.....640
 Killed.....Est.....124

For the Commanding General:

OFFICIAL: *Johnson*
JAMES R. JOHNSON,
 Lt Col., FA,
 S-3

SAMUEL W. FORTNER II,
 Col., Field Artillery,
 Executive.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM

ITEM NO:

3042

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY

SUBJECT: After Action Report for January 1945.
TO : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

1 February 1945

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>NOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 January 1945	160	4	3018	3182
31 January 1945	154	4	2933	3091

b. Killed in action, wounded in action, missing in action, during periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>NOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) Killed in Action:	2	0	43	45
(2) Wounded in Action:	10	0	225	235
(3) Missing in Action:	3	0	75	78
TOTAL:	15	0	343	358

c. Reinforcements received:
 (This figure includes 329 RFD's)

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>NOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	16	0	510	526

2. Enemy:

a. Period 1 - 18 January 1945:

- (1) Units identified: 915 Regt, 352 Volks Grenadier Div.
- (2) Summary of enemy operations:

(a) During this period of holding pos 3 of the SAUER River via GILSDORF (Luxembourg) no aggressive action of the enemy was encountered by the Regt. His defensive pos centered around CLAIREFONTAINE and BETTENDORF. The latter was the scene of our raid on 10th January which caught the enemy completely off guard and resulted in the capture of 3 PWs and valuable documents. One, criticizing the pos around BETTENDORF by the CO of the 915th Regt, recommending additional minefields and obstacles was captured on a messenger. Additional suggestions for improvement were added and delivered thru FA channels on enemy CPs as located thru PW interrogation.

b. Period 19 - 29 January 1945:

- (1) Units identified: 915 Regt, 352 VG Div
 915 " " "
 916 " " "
 352 Fusilier Co, 352 VG Div
 352 Eng Bn, 352 VG Div
 1352 Intg Regt, 352 VG Div

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

36 Regt, 9 VG Div
 915 Regt, 9 VG Div
 916 Regt, 9 VG Div
 917 Regt, 9 VG Div
 918 Regt, 9 VG Div
 919 Regt, 9 VG Div
 920 Regt, 9 VG Div
 921 Regt, 9 VG Div
 922 Regt, 9 VG Div
 923 Regt, 9 VG Div
 924 Regt, 9 VG Div
 925 Regt, 9 VG Div
 926 Regt, 9 VG Div
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 997 Regt, 9 VG Div
 998 Regt, 9 VG Div
 999 Regt, 9 VG Div
 1000 Regt, 9 VG Div

352-INF-10

4031

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, 1 Feb 45) Sub: After Action Report, Jan (Contd)

5 Para Arty Regt
12 Para Flak Regt
406 Volks Arty Corps
668 GHQ AT Bn
226 Regt, 79 VG Div

(2) Summary of enemy operations:

(a) The original stage of our attack Vic CLAIREFONTAINE-BETTENDORF was opposed by 915 Regt and other Elms of the 352 Div. The front line Cos of 915 were surprised and overrun by our attack, whole Plats being taken prisoner who claimed they never had a chance to fire a shot. The surprise was so complete that in vic HERRENBERG we capt 5 Arty OPs and 1 Stry Cnadr. The OPs were unable to observe our ops due to hvy fog. BETTENDORF resisted more stubbornly even though the caliber Germans was the same as on the rest of the Regt Front. Our bridgeheads were under heavy Arty concentrations. The Germans had at least 5 Bns of Arty in support of defending troops in the 10th Inf sector but suffered from lack of ammo and locomotion for the guns.

At LONGSDORF approx 1 Bn of the 226 Regt, 79 VG Div was thrown in for a counter-attack. They were pulled out of the MERSCHIEDT sector, W of here, for this purpose. The counter-attack was supported by 88 AAAT Guns from the 668 GHQ AT Bn. Remnants of 914, 916, and various Arty Regts were scraped together to form a system of strongpoints to protect the BASTENDORF-BRANDENBURG Road with S/A, MG and Mortars.

Enemy resistance stiffened along high ground and woods in a line NACHAMANDERSHEIDT-FUHL, where the 36 and 116 Regt of the 9-VG-Div stubbornly defended every yard of ground and every house. The SFs which supported the 36 Regt were employed to the best advantage by well trained crews and managed admirably to elude our Arty Fire. Repeated counter attacks from Plat to Coy strength and supported by tanks delayed our advance. Several Btys of the 406-Volks Arty Corps after being taken out of the BASTOGNE sector, were encountered in this vic.

In the final phase of the attack enemy dispositions became confused as units of the 130 Pz Lehr Div also on their retreat into Germany were rushed in. They were to halt our advance as we were endangering the Germans last escape route from the Ardennes Salient. Bns of the 130 Pz Lehr Div had 300 men and the support of Hvy Inf Weapons.

The Germans made every possible use of the hilly terrain and showed a tendency to mine the entrance to draws, cover them with Inf How and AT Guns and then fight the whole length of the draw.

FUTSCHIED, our last objective, was desperately defended by continuously changing elements of the 130 Pz Lehr Div who were to keep the escape lane towards the East open for their Div at all costs. Up to six SFs and tanks, dug into houses fired direct on our front line troops. They had supporting mortar and Arty Fire from Vic Weiler.

(3) Prisoners Captured during period: 640

(4) Enemy morale and status of equipment:

(a) The 352 Div had 7% Heavy and GAF personnel and an average Co strength of 70 men. Their morale was satisfactory as they had good and fairly safe quarters in warm cellars. Food was brought up regularly, supplemented by excursions into local farm yards. This false sense of security accounted for the effectiveness of our surprise attack and

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, 1 Feb 45) Sub: After Action Report, Jan (Contd)

resulted in capturing many Germans with comparative ease. As we advanced supplies failed to get to the front line troops due to confusion and they were incapable of fighting in the cold.

The 79 and 9 VG Divs had suffered heavy casualties in their previous sectors. They were composed of convalescents, recruits and a small cadre of Russian veterans. The recruits and convalescents were exhausted due to local difficulties, cold and long marches, while the veterans from the East were permanently fed up and incapable of any initiative.

Bns of the 130 Pz Lehr were of higher caliber than the Volks Grenadiers. Their beating in the previous sector was not as bad as that of the VG Divs. Though their columns had been continuously strafed on the road from St Hubert to here they were able to salvage most of their equipment.

(b) Considerable number of Artillery Pieces, Inf Hows, and 1 Nebelwerfer were captured. Also, due to our rapid advance the enemy had to demolish Arty and at least 1 Btry of Inf How. At least 8 Tanks and SPs were destroyed by Arty. We also captured and destroyed a large number of rifles, MGs and mortars.

3. Own operations:

a. Troops engaged: 46th FA Bn, Co B 5th Med Bn, Co B 7th Engr, Co B 803 TD Bn (detached 221000A), Co B 737th TK Bn, 1 plat Co D 735th Tk Bn (attn 2512000A), Co D 91st Chem Bn (4.2).

b. During the period 1 to 18 January 45 Bns were alternated in Regt Res and on the MLR. At the beginning of the advance on 18 Jan 1st Bn constituted the Regt Res. In the second phase of the advance, the attack on PUTSHEID, alms of 2d Bn formed the Regt Res.

c. At the beginning of this period the regiment held a defensive position extending generally from GILSDORF to REISDORF incl. Two Bns were employed on the MLR which followed the high ground S of the SURE River and one Bn in Regt Res in vic MEDERNACH. Outposts were located covering the bridges across the river at MOESTROFF and at coordinates (924421) and (910425).

During the period 1 - 15 January incl these poons were maintained and improved and alternate poons selected and prepared on a division reserve line and alternate delaying positions. Bns were rotated from the MLR to Regt Res. Front line Bns patrolled the river line during this period and on the night of January 9 - 10 a strong combat patrol from 3d Bn entered the town of BERRENDORF and destroyed a number of enemy installations and personnel and captured prisoners.

On the night of 15 Jan the 2d Bn which was holding the left sector of the Regt MLR took over the hill on the right of the 2d Inf sector and the 10th Inf Regt btry was moved to the left to include it. At the same time the 3d Bn on the right sector of the Regt MLR was held by the 3d Bn 8th Inf and 2d Bn 8th Inf was atchd to 10th Inf. In both cases alms (outposts) of the unit being held remained in poon during the movement and were held later. 2d Bn assembled in MEDERNACH and 3d Bn in FELS. All movements were completed prior to 152400A.

Pursuant to Div order all Bns made reconnaissance and preparation for an attack to begin 180300A Jan. Initial obje prescribed included the two principal hill masses

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, 1 Feb 44) Sub: After Action Report, Jan (Contd)

opposite the Regt Zone on the N side of the river, hill 383 and the high ground NW of BESTENDORF. 2d and 3d Bns began the River crossing at 180300A and 1st Bn remained in assembly area in vic (895413) in Regt Res. During the day 3d Bn reached the obj on the right and were counterattacked by a reinforced Co at that point. The attack was repulsed and one Co moved to a point covering the road to the NW. 2d Bn cleared GILSDORF and occupied hill 383. The Regt bdy on the right was extended to include BESTENDORF and Co A cleared that town. Co B (plus 1st platoon Co C) followed 2d Bn and went into posn on the SW slope of hill 383 to deny regt left flank to enemy in DIEKIRCH vicinity. 3d Bn 8th Inf reverted to 8th Inf at 181000A Jan.

On the 19th Jan 3d Bn occupied BASTENDORF and leaving one Co in the town. Advanced to hill 300 and consolidated a posn there. At 191830A 1st Bn was counter-attacked by an enemy force of approx 50 infantry supported by tanks and arty. This attack was repulsed after a half hour engagement. The 3d Bn advanced and captured the high ground E of TANDEL and consolidated a posn there, patrolling to the N. 1st Bn assembled N of DIEKIRCH and moved Co C to a posn in vic (869437).

On the 20th Jan 1st Bn contd the advance and occupied BRANDENBURG and the high ground vic (860480) 2d Bn advanced to the edge of the WOODS S of WALSDORF. 3d Bn was held by elms of 12th Inf in vic TANDEL and moved W to continue attack on left of 1st Bn.

On 21 Jan and the morning of 22d 1st Bn cleared the ground N and W of BRANDENBURG and advanced to vic (860505). 2d Bn completed clearing the ground in their zone and occupied the high ground SW of WALSDORF. 3d Bn occupied LANDSHEID and moved one Co to cover the draws N of their posn. On the 22d the 2d Bn continued to clear enemy resistance from the woods to the rear of 1st Bn and prepared to relieve them on the morning of 23d. 3d Bn consolidated their posn and cleared and outposted the draw to the NW vic (840494).

On the 23d 1st Bn completed clearing the vic of FUEHL and at 240330A began advance toward FUTSHEID with Cos A and B. Co C occupied and cleared NACHTMANDERSHEID. 2d Bn occupied FUEHL and vic when 1st Bn began advance. One platoon with 1st platoon AT Co established outpost at (840495). 3d Bn held 3d Bn 12th Inf in vic (880500). Relief was completed at 240730A. Leading elms of 1st Bn entered FUTSHEID during the afternoon of 24 Jan but as a considerable number of enemy tanks still occupied a part of the town our troops were withdrawn to permit adjusting arty fire on the town. During the 24th Jan one Co of 3d Bn advanced to a posn vic (878511), consolidated posn and established contact with units on right and left. The remainder of 3d Bn held posns vic (883498) and WALSDORF. All Bns remained in these posns during the 25th and 26th Jan. At 261045A 1st Bn 2d Inf was attached to 10th and relieved Bn of 12th Inf in extension of the Regt right flank. Regt right boundary was extended to a line FODHREIN (Insl) - BATTLE (axol). During the 27th preparations were made to capture FUTSHEID and the high ground to the W. At 280315A 2d Bn moved 1 platoon to the hill at (867520) to block the escape route from FUTSHEID. 1st Bn began the advance at 280600A. Co A cleared the hill at (847523) and took up a posn there while Co C advanced into the town. Co C was counter-attacked by a strong force of enemy infantry and tanks and was forced to retire. Co A attacked the town from the N and Co B from the S and occupied and cleared the town at 281400A. Upon the entire 1st Bn being committed Co G of the 2d Bn was attached to 1st Bn and moved to NACHTMANDERSHEID. During the night 28 Jan 1st Bn was held by elms of 11th Inf and 2d and 3d Bns (-Co E) were held by 2d and 3d Bns 2d Infantry. Relief was completed and command of the Regt sector passed to 2d Inf at 282215A Jan. 1st and 2d Bns assembled in BITTELBRUCK and 3d Bn in DIEKIRCH. 1st Bn 2d Inf reverted to 2d Inf. At 292300A Jan Co E was relieved and joined the 2d Bn at BITTELBRUCK.

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, 1 Feb 49, Sub: After Action Report, Jan, Contd)

d. During this period the regiment advanced from positions on the SURE River to a line S and W of the OUR River from the high ground W of PUTSREID (847524) to the high ground NW of VIANDEN (883498). During these operations prisoners (est) were captured and an unreported number of tanks and arty pieces captured.

4. Supply and evacuation:

a. Class I:

(1) Operations in extreme cold weather have increased the consumption of rations to such an extent that the normal issue of "B" ration has been insufficient. It has been necessary in some instances to augment this ration with a meal of C or K to front line companies. The quality of the B ration is noticeably lower than in past operations. K rations continue in popularity over the C ration.

b. Class II:

- (1) Cleaning and preserving for all weapons has not been issued in sufficient quantities to assure the continued and effective operations of these arms.
- (2) Replacement of vehicles lost in combat has been too slow and has limited the effectiveness of this unit. Replacement of weapons has been good. A more rapid replacement of bazookas should be affected.
- (3) The candle issue is very inadequate. Lighting is a serious problem in all units.

c. Class III:

(1) Gasoline supply has been sufficient. Antifreeze solution are still in sufficient for the protection of vehicles.

d. Class IV: Satisfactory:

e. Class V:

- (1) Normal.
- (2) Basic load is 98% complete.

f. Evacuation:

(1) Ski litters were used in the present battle and have proved excellent for evacuation in snow, except where tanks have been widely employed. In the latter case the deep ruts of tank tracks make the ski litter impractical. The only other faults noted were the delicateness of skis which get broken if handled roughly. However, if replacement and repair are maintained these litters are a great blessing, speeding evacuation and lessening the work of litter bearers.

(2) Medicines for non-battle illness have been too scarce. The shortage of ammonium chloride troches has been most felt. Men coughing in the front lines and on patrols are dangerous, enough are necessary to control coughing particularly at night.

(3) Present rules that corps litter bearers cannot be used forward of aid stations make them useless. When the combat team litter bearers are exhausted, corps litterbearers have to be available, and since litter bearers are rarely used rearward from aid stations, they are needed forward and should be available for such use. They should be prepared for the same risks as our own.

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(Ltr HQ 10th Inf, 1 Feb 45, Subj: After Action Report, Jns of Contd)

(d) Price packs are a decided improvement over writing.



ROBERT F. HILL,
Captain, 10th Infantry,
Commanding.

4. Incis:

- Encl #1 - Unit Journals, 10th Infantry, 1-21 Jan 45 incl.
- Encl #2 - Unit Journals, 1st Bn, 10th Inf, 1-21 Jan 45 incl.
- Encl #3 - Unit Journals, 2d Bn, 10th Inf, 1-31 Jan 45 incl.
- Encl #4 - Unit Journals, 3d Bn, 10th Inf, 1-31 Jan 45 incl.

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SECRET
HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY

SUBJECT: After Action Report for February 1945.

2 March 1945

TO : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 February 1945	153	4	2936	3093
28 February 1945	147	4	2963	3114

b. Killed in Action, Wounded in Action, Missing in Action, during periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) Killed in Action:	3	0	50	53
(2) Wounded in Action:	12	0	286	298
(3) Missing in Action:	0	0	138	138
TOTAL:	15	0	474	489

c. Replacements received:
This figure includes 371 RFD's

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	12	0	614	626

2. Enemy:

a. Period 1 - 6 February 1945:

(1) Units Identified: Fus Co, 276 VG Div

During this period the enemy had taken up purely defensive positions along the OUR River and in the SIEGFRIED LINE behind the river, after completing the withdrawal of the badly shattered German Forces from the Ardennes Salient. The only unit identified thru a deserter was the Fusilier Co of the 276 VG Div.

b. Period 7 - 15 February 1945:

(1) Units Identified:

- 7th Army Battle School
- 80th Corps Battle School
- 106 Fortress Stamm Bn
- 212 VG Div
- 316 Inf Regt
- 429 Inf Regt
- 212 Pioneer Bn
- 212 Arty Regt
- 212 Fus Co
- 560 VG Div
- 1128 Inf Regt
- 1129 Inf Regt
- 1130 Inf Regt
- 1560 Arty Regt
- 1560 Eng Bn
- 9 VG Div
- 36 Inf Regt
- 37 Inf Regt

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, dated 2 March 45: After Action Report cont'd)

Extremely difficult terrain with stiff cliffs along the river bank and the swift current of the swollen SAUER helped the enemy considerably in his resistance against our crossing at WEILERBACH. Very poor visibility hampered our operations. Grazing MG fire from the pillboxes along the cliffs on the N side, 12mm Mortar fire from the hillsides, artillery and 15mm Nebelwerfer concentrations were combined against the crossing sites and the bridgehead area. After the capture of several fwd observers the arty fire lessened to some extent. All along the river and on every mile inland the most extensive system of minefields was encountered, and these, used together with road craters and demolitions, were used to slow our advance.

The 7th Army Battle School together with elms of the 106 Fortress Bn manned the pillboxes and poens around them in the 10th Inf Sector. As the pillboxes were bypassed and attacked from the rear their close in defenses were neutralized and in many cases the crews surrendered in groups. PWs stated that most pillboxes in this sector were intended for shelters rather than for fighting, that they were not familiar with the installations as they had been brought into this sector only recently. PWs stated that they were afraid of being smoked out by flamethrowers and pole charges. Defense from the trenches outside the pillboxes was made almost impossible by our heavy artillery concentrations.

Elms of the 212 Eng Bn were employed as infantry in counterattacks vic FERSCHWEILER, where they were supported by SF Fire. In the woods W and NW of FERSCHWEILER various small combat groups of the 1128, 1129 and 1130 Inf Regt resisted stubbornly with automatic weapons.

After the units of the 560 Div were pushed back and annihilated, remnants of the 9th VG Div were thrown into our sector and combat groups of the 36 and 57 Inf Regts were committed to hold us up.

o. Period 15 - 18 February 1945:

(1) No contact with enemy.

d. Period 19 - 28 February 1945:

(1) Units Identified:

- 352 VG Div
- Combat Group Dula (Combat School 352)
- 352 Eng Bn
- 915 Inf Regt
- 1352 Arty Regt
- 560 VG Div
- Combat Group Malow
- 1130 Inf Regt
- 1560 AT Bn
- 1560 Eng Bn
- 1560 Arty Regt
- Nebelwerfer Regt 2
- 1310 Fortress Arty Regt
- Alarm Bn MAJOR HEIM
- 212 MG Div
- 320 Inf Regt

The enemy was unaggressive at the beginning of the period, he had taken up defensive poens on the E bank of the PRUM River. Harassing fire and Nebelwerfer concentration were received by our fwd elements.

SECRET

(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, dated 2 March 45. After Action Report cont'd)

Not counting on any attack in the PEFFINGEN sector, only a thin screen of troops was covering this area. As our troop concentrations became obvious several reserve Cos were shifted into the vicinity.

Kampfgruppe DUHLA, formerly Combat School 352 and Kampfgruppe MALOW (150 men, mostly 17 to 18 years old, combining the weak remnant of 1130 Regt) could not offer any serious resistance to our attack across the FRUM.

Elms of the 1560 Eng Bn, used as Inf, and supported by SPs of the 1560 AT Bn tried without success to delay our advance thru the vast woods between the FRUM and NYM Rivers. An Officer PW stated that it was never expected that we would make our crossing at that particular spot, where the terrain is most difficult and only poor roads available.

Harassing Arty fire was encountered in our NYM River crossing but only scattered resistance by alms of the hastily thrown in 3 Cos of the 320 Inf Regt. The Bn Staff was captured without difficulty. SP fire harassed our mopping up operations, which continued otherwise without much enemy opposition.

An alarm Bn, ALARM BN HEIM, 2 Cos composed of stragglers, was thrown in the last minute to delay our advance to the KYLL River. Most of them including the 2 Co Cndrs, were taken PW in a surprise night attack on SCHARFBILLIG.

Almost 1000 PWs were taken during the month. This figure, as well as the fact that a great number of officers were captured, proves the low state of morale among the enemy troops. Many of the Germans gave up in groups and a big majority of them were war-weary. The Russian successes, the fact that many home towns were already occupied and the realization that the war is lost for them made them unwilling to sacrifice themselves in this last phase of the war, as was stated by some of them.

Many of the troops encountered were green and inexperienced recruits of 17, inducted as late as November 1944 who were very depressed by our continuous arty concentrations and afraid of our "Jabos". ("With two of your Jabos you are paralyzing our entire Div sector" stated one Officer PW).

Our artillery also accounted for total disruption of enemy communications, which added to the general confusion. Officer PWs complained that they were sent into action without being acquainted with their men and without being briefed on the situation.

3. Own Operations:

a. Troops engaged were normal CT attachment, 46th FA Bn, 5th Med Bn (CoB) and Co B 7th Engrs. Also Co B 91st Chem Mortar Bn, Co B 803 TD, Co 737th Bn and 182d FA Bn.

b. During the crossing of the SAUER River 1st Bn formed the Regt's Reserve in the initial stage of the action. After 1st Bn was committed various elms of 1st and 2d Bns formed the reserve. During the crossing of the FRUM River elms of 1st and 2d Bns constituted the reserve until the 27th when 2d Bn was assembled in SCHARFBILLIG in Res.

c. At the beginning of this period the regiment was assembled in ETTTELBRUCK and DIEKIRCH in Div Res and was organizing a division reserve line and guarding bridges within the Div area.

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, dated 2 March 45. After Action Report cont'd)

On 1st Feb the Regt proceeded on div order to relieve the 11th Inf in posn N of HOSCHEID and BERDORF facing the SAUER River. Relief was completed at 021230A, 2d and 3d Bns organizing posns on the MLR and OPL and 1st Bn in Res. Regt's CP was established at (805498). On the night of 3 Feb 2d Bn N of HOSCHEID was held by elms of the 6th Cav Group. Relief was completed at 040230A and 2d Bn assembled in ETTLEBRUCK.

During the period 5, 6 Feb the Regiment maintained its posn with 1st Bn on the MLR N of BERDORF, patrolled to the River and completed plans for crossing on the early morning of 7 Feb. 2d and 3d Bns moved to Assembly areas in the rear of the 1st Bn on the evening of 6 Feb and crossing was begun by 2d Bn at 070205A at WELERBACH. Crossing was attempted with captured German rubber boats against a strong river current and the initial attempt drew heavy fire from German fortifications on the N bank, forming a part of the SEIGRIED Line. A number of boats were destroyed and only a small group of men were landed on the far shore. Preparations were made to continue the crossing at (030378) by the 2d Bn and 3d Bn moved to (033775), patrolled to the German shore, and prepared to cross at that point.

Crossing continued during the night of 8-9 Feb and 2d Bn succeeded in crossing the major portion of the Bn. 3d Bn, being unable to make a crossing at the point selected, assembled in rear of 2d Bn and prepared to follow.

During the 9th Feb 2d Bn completed crossing and advanced to Hill 183 (033388), clearing enemy fortifications in that area and patrolling to the North. 3d Bn began crossing following 2d Bn. After crossing one Co at this point 3d Bn moved the remainder of its troops E and crossed on 11th Inf bridge.

On 10 Feb 1st Bn crossed E of the Regt's Bdry on a bridge which had been constructed in the 11th Inf area. Crossing was completed and the Bn moved NW through 2d Bn and moved to the high ground at (020410). 2d Bn remained in position vic hill 183 (033388) and 3d Bn passed through 2d Bn and advanced N toward DIESBURGERHOF.

1st Bn continued NE along the high ground paralleling the River. Co B remained in contact with 3d Bn. During the night 11-12 Feb leading elms 1st Bn reached BOLLENDORF and a point on the main N-S Rd 500 yds N of the town. Cos E and G of the 2d Bn cleared EISENHUTTE-WELERBACH (033381) and Co F moved along the river road to BOLLENDORF making contact with elms of 1st Bn in the town. 3d Bn occupied DIESBURGERHOF (034414) and the high ground covering roads to the S and SE of that point.

On 13 Feb 1st Bn continued to (025423) and moved one Co to vic (015417) to cover the roads to the W. 2d Bn completed clearing BOLLENDORF, maintaining contact with 1st Bn. 3d Bn continued to occupy posn vic DIESBURGERHOF, extended their posn to include the RJ at JOHANNES, S of FERSCHWEILER and patrolled to FERSCHWEILER.

All Bns continued to the N and NE during the night of 13 and morning of 14 Feb. 1st Bn cleared WICKENGERBURG (020437) and the woods surrounding that point. 5th Reg Tr was placed in posn on the left to maintain contact between 2d Bn and elms of 80th Div. Co F cleared the area vic of CR (037417) at 131655A and at 140425A were held by elms of 11th Inf and assembled in DIESBURGERHOF together with Co E. Co G and one plat Co E occupied high ground N of DIESBURGERHOF and maintained contact with 1st Bn. 3d Bn completed clearing and occupied FERSCHWEILER. Regt's CP established in BOLLENDORF.

Orders were received on the 15th for relief of Regt by 2d Inf to take place upon clearing of woods SW of SCHANKWEILER (028453). This was accomplished and relief began 152300A. Last elms of regt were held and command passed to 2d Inf at 152300A. Regt assembled as follows:

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, dated 2 March 45. After Action Report cont'd)

1st Bn vic LORENTZWEILER, 2d Bn vic BOURLINSTER, 3d Bn vic CODERANGE. 3d Bn reld elms of 2d Inf guarding radio station LUXENBOURG. Regt remained in these assembly areas during the period Feb 16. 17 and 18.

On 19 Feb 1st Bn moved to assembly area vic WALDBILLIG. 2d Bn reld 3d Bn 11th Inf in vic (041431) to (055412). 3d Bn reld 3d Bn 2d Inf vic (035463) to (037442). These poans were maintained and improved by 2d and 3d Bns during the period 20, 22 and 23 Feb and patrolling carried on to the FRUM River. Regt'l CP opened in WEILERRACH 19 Feb. 1st Bn moved to asy area in BOLLENDORF on the morning of 21 Feb and on the 22d reld elms of 2d Inf, extending the Regt'l Bdry N to (0455481). This relief was completed at 230100A. On the night 23 - 24 Feb 2d Bn was reld by elms of 304th Co I and assembled in BOLLENDORF. 1st and 3d Bns remained in poan with the exception of Co I which was reld by elms of 304th Inf and assembled in SCHANKWEILER. Poans were adjusted and patrols pushed across the FRUM River. Regt'l CP opened in SCHANKWEILER.

Three foot bridges were constructed and at 242300A 1st and 3d Bns began crossing FRUM River, 1st Bn at (047477) and 3d Bn at (049455). Both Bns advanced rapidly, establishing a bridgehead to a depth of 1500 yds. 2d Bn assembled at (030470) prepared to cross.

On 26 and 27 Feb 1st Bn continued to advance N and E, clearing MESSERICH, ESSLINGEN and the woods surrounding the TRIER-BITBURG Rd NE of ESSLINGEN. 2d Bn crossed NIMS R at (037473) and cleared NIEDERSTEDEN, establishing a line (100472)-(100479)-(115475) - OBERSTEDEN. 3d Bn consolidated poans vic GR (128493) and on the 27th advanced to SCHARFBILLIG-BITBURG-Rd, clearing the woods NW of SCHARFBILLIG and consolidating poans there. 2d Bn crossed and assembled in ESSLINGEN, OBERSTEDEN and NIEDERSTEDEN and advanced E, clearing SCHARFBILLIG and Hill 385 (160488) during the early morning of 28 Feb. At 280130A enemy resistance was cleared to the TRIER-BITBURG Road within Regtl Zone and SCHARFBILLIG and Hill 385 secured. Patrols were pushed to the East and preparations made to clear all enemy resistance to the KYLL River.

On the 28th 1st Bn continued to advance and cleared ROHL at 281100A. Advanced two Gos to the high ground NE of ROHL overlooking the KYLL River. 2d Bn assembled in SCHARFBILLIG. 3d Bn passed through ROHL and occupied GR (183501) and the high ground to the SE. 1st and 3d Bns maintained poans and patrolled to the KYLL River during the night. Regt'l CP opened in SCHARFBILLIG.

d. Cleared enemy resistance from SAUER River to a line SCHANKWEILER - FERSCHWEILER. After a three day rest advance was resumed crossing the FRUM River and clearing enemy resistance to the KYLL River within the Regtl Zone. Prisoners - 990. No accurate report is available on enemy material destroyed.

4. Supply and Evacuation:

a. Class I:

(1) Excellent

b. Class II:

- (1) Satisfactory cleaning and preserving issue.
- (2) Satisfactory replacements of weapons and vehicles.
- (3) Candle issue insufficient.

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf, dated March 45. After Action Report cont'd)

- c. Class III:
 - (1) Satisfactory.
- d. Class IV:
 - (1) Satisfactory.
- e. Class V:
 - (1) Supply normal.
 - (2) Basic load 97% complete.

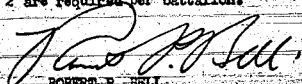
The lack of time and opportunities for maintenance of transportation in this regiment has created a serious handicap to operations. All vehicles in the regiment average 12.16 months in operation, average mileage per vehicle is 8534 miles. Time in rest areas suitable for maintenance in the last seven months only sixteen days. All operations of this command suffer from this obvious and unavoidable lack of proper maintenance time.

f. Evacuation:

1. Medical reinforcements have been received in ample quantities, though not as promptly as desired. However, practically none have been trained for the position. The last two groups were mainly hospital M.P.'s, cooks, drivers, etc. Previous ones were all hospital orderlies. Medical reinforcements for an infantry regiment must be trained as first aid men, not as hospital attendants. They must be trained for combat zones and know how to get along in the field, they must be young and physically fit, too many are old or unfit cast-offs from hospitals.

2. A fair number of acute gastroenteritis cases have occurred, the distribution being scattered and suggesting a respiratory spread. Many cases suggest a liver dysfunction and the number of cases of jaundice have increased (these generally start with the same sort of gastroenteritis). Few non-jaundice cases require hospitalization but are demoralizing. Sanitation was found not to be a cause. Sulfquanidine was useful for therapy.

3. The change in T/O which substitutes a 3/4 T and trailer is impractical. The jeep ambulance is a necessity in every battle and 2 are required per battalion.



ROBERT P. HILL
Colonel, 10th Infantry
Commanding

4. Incls:

- Incl #1 - Unit Journals, Hq 10th Inf, 1 to 28 Feb 45 Incl
- Incl #2 - Unit Journals, Hq 1st Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 28 Feb 45 Incl
- Incl #3 - Unit Journals, Hq 2d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 28 Feb 45 Incl
- Incl #4 - Unit Journals, Hq 3d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 28 Feb 45 Incl

S E C R E T
HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY

SUBJECT: After Action Report for March 1945.

2 April 1945

TO : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

File Mar 45

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of period:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 March 1945	147	4	2965	3114
31 March 1945	143	4	2999	3146

b. Killed in Action, Wounded in Action, Missing in Action, during period:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) Killed in Action:	2	0	32	34
(2) Wounded in Action:	6	0	156	162
(3) Missing in Action:	1	0	41	42
TOTAL:	9	0	229	238

c. Reinforcements received:
This figure includes 224 RTD's

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
10	0	382	392

2. Enemy:

a. Period 1 - 8 March 1945:

- (1) Units Identified: Elms 9 VGD - 2 Pz Div - 352 VGD - 246 VGD
560 VGD
15 Flak Regt
45 Arty Obs Bn

Only light resistance with small arms and Mortar fire was encountered during the KYLL River crossing. Elements of 915 Regt divided into 4 KGs were holding twice their normal company sector. Our bridgehead cut the communications between the Regtl CP and the attached KGs and resistance became disorganized.

Heavy artillery concentrations fell on the footbridge and adjacent areas.

After the initial stages of the bridgehead operation remnants of many AA and Arty units were hastily formed into small KGs by any officer available and these outfits tried without success to fill gaps in the line.

At Dudeldorf an attempted counterattack in strength supported by 10 SP's was broken up by arty.

The Germans tried to reorganize their defense and were unable to do so because of our fast advance.

CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL
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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
S E C R E T
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 1945

Incl # 2

305-101-013

master

S E C R E T

(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for March 1945, 2 April 45)

b. Period 8 - 16 March 1945:

- (1) Units identified: Remnants of 2 Pz Div - 9 VGD
16 Flak Bn
various small KG's

During this period the 10th OT secured the bridgehead and protected the flank of the division and only stragglers and deserters were picked up as PW's.

c. Period 16 - 22 March 1945:

- (1) Units identified: Elmas 2 Pz Div, 6 SS Mtn Div,
9 VGD, 159 VGD, 198 Div, 246 VGD
352 VGD, 559 VGD

During this period the enemy was pursued across the Moselle and Nahe Rivers towards the RHINE. Only at few places was contact made with the retreating enemy forces. Resistance centered usually around road blocks or towns within the zone of advance. The strongpoints were mainly defended by small groups of the listed units supported by SP's.

The enemy attempted to delay our advance, to extricate the bulk of his troops from the SAAR basin. But we overran these troops, elements of the 159 and 198 Division, and encountered many elements of troops from the SAAR who were trying to reach the RHINE before the bridges were blown up.

Lack of gasoline and transportation forced the enemy to abandon or blow up a great number of artillery batteries as well as AA guns and Nebelwerfers.

The bridgehead across the NAHE was secured with almost no opposition.

Two Eng Tng Bn's were used in the defense of WORMS but no strong resistance was encountered as the attack came too suddenly.

d. Period 22 - 27 March 1945:

- (1) Units identified: 55 Eng Repl Bn
12 Transport Repl Bn
Landes Schutzen Repl Bn I-9
SS KG GROWOW
KG KENTNER
AA Alarm units

Only light resistance was encountered during the first phases of the historic RHINE crossing. As the advance continued inland small arms and MG fire was received.

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for March 1945, 2 April 45)

Only low-class emergency units were encountered. The main unit opposing us was the Landes Schutzen Repl Bn, formed of 50-60 years old men who were not fit to offer any serious resistance and almost the entire Bn ended up in the PW cage.

Harassing artillery fire fell on bridge sites and enemy aircraft strafed and bombed the bridgehead area.

During the further advances toward FRANKFURT various AA Alarm units, formed from newly inducted 16 year old boys were contacted. They were sporadically supported by SP's but offered only scattered resistance.

Many AA positions guarding the vast RHINE MAIN airfields were overrun, forcing the Germans to blow up their gun batteries.

Several enemy planes were captured intact on the airfield.

e. Period 27 - 31 March 1945:

- (1) Units identified: 81 Gren Repl Bn
109 Fortress MG Bn
604 Landes Schutzen Bn
KG DUVENSEN
VOLKSTURM, POLICE, AIRRAID POLICE FRANKFURT

The defenders of Frankfurt offered stiff resistance with house to house fighting from the MAIN River to the main RR station. Very heavy artillery and SP fire fell on the bridge area and hampered operations. After the capture of the RR station and of the City commanders building (where previously the commanding General was wounded and his Lt. Colonel killed by a direct arty hit) resistance became sporadic. Defenders were mainly armed with rifles and Panzerfaust and neither the Repl Bn nor the Police resisted for long.

The sweeping advances toward the RHINE stunned most German soldiers and the majority considered the situation as hopeless. But groups of higher noncoms and officers still claimed they were confident because they expected the use of another secret weapon before the end of the war. But they too admitted it might be too late for it.

After the RHINE crossing the morale of the troops who were either in the 50-60 age group or newly inducted 16 year old boys became extraordinarily low and none of them had any illusions left on the final outcome.

3. Own Operations:

a. Attachments during this period consisted of the usual components of 10th CF and Cos B and D of the 737 Tk Bn. The 5th Ren Tr was attached to the Regt during the move S from the KYLL River. Jd Bn 11th Inf was attached to the 10th Inf during the 26, 27 and 28th.

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(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report, 6 March 1945, 24147-75)

b. The usual plan of rotating Bns in a regimental reserve status was followed except for the time during which the Bns were widely separated after passing SIMMERN. At that time elements of special companies constituted the reserve. Second Bn was in Division reserve March 15 to 19th. First Bn was in Division reserve 24th and 25th March.

c. On Mar 1st the 1st and 3d Bns completed clearing ROHL and PHILLIPSEIM and patrolled to the KYLL River. The 2d Bn in Regimental reserve assembled in SOHARFILLIG. The Regt CP opened in SOHARFILLIG at 011400A. During the next day the regiment remained in position, patrolling the river line and completing preparations for crossing. The boundary between the 10th and 2d Inf was changed and Co I relieved by elements of 2d Inf and assembled in ROHL.

At 022400A the crossing began and the 1st Bn moved rapidly to its objective (200546) clearing HUTTINGEN. Second Bn met heavy resistance and did not complete its crossing until 030750A. All resistance was cleared from the area shortly after daylight and the regt occupied a line from GONDORF to the high ground N of HUTTINGEN. At 031130A a strong enemy counterattack was launched against elements of the 2d Bn in GONDORF. This attack was beaten off but was resumed again at dusk, this time with strong tank support. Co L was attached to the 2d Bn and moved to a point NE of HUTTINGEN but the counterattack was repulsed without Co L being committed and at 032000A the Co reverted to 3d Bn. During the night of Mar 4th Cos I and L passed through the 2d Bn and attacked DUDLEDORF at daylight. Two platoons of Co L entered the SW portion of the town and met heavy resistance from an enemy force consisting of tanks and infantry. The two platoons were cut off from the remainder of the Bn for several hours but with the assistance of a platoon of supporting tanks, the 3d Bn cleared the town and advanced to ORDORF. During the day the 2d Bn moved against heavy resistance to a line from a point in vicinity (205528), a nose E of GONDORF to PHILLIPSEIM and the W slope of the hill at (215525). The 1st Bn occupied PICKLIESSEIM and established outposts. The regt maintained these positions during the next day, patrolling the woods to our front and guarding bridges in the 11th Inf and 4th Armd Div area and the brewery in BIEBURG. Regt CP moved to HUTTINGEN. On the night of 6 March Division directed that the town of SPANGDAHLEN be occupied prior to daylight Mar 7 and this mission was completed by elements of the 1st Bn without serious resistance. First Bn consolidated positions on the N-S road (247540) to (230556) and 2d Bn assembled in GONDORF. Third Bn continued to occupy DUDLEDORF.

On the evening of Mar 8 the regiment was ordered to move one Bn to a position on the right flank of 2d Inf. The 3d Bn (plus Co) completed this move at 082000A. The Bn was disposed on the line GRANSBORN (251581), SCHWARTSBURG (267602) MICHELHUTTE (284604). Motorized patrols were sent to DEUBESFELD and KERRFELD. These positions were maintained until the evening of Mar 10th when the Regiment was relieved of the bridge and brewery guard assignments and began to assemble in preparation for movement. First Bn assembled in BLOCKHAUSEN and MANDERSCHNID. Second Bn in MANDERSCHNID, and 3d Bn in OBERKALL. Regt CP opened in OBERKALL.

(Ltr Bq 10th Inf Subs After Action Report for March 1945, 2 April 45)

Movement to an assembly area was begun on the 11th of Mar with 2d and 3d Bns moving by truck to assembly areas in LAUBACH (530835) and MARSBURG (560877). Regtl CP opened in MULLENBACH at 111500A. A guard was established on the OR near BÜCHEL. The movement was completed on the 12th with the 1st Bn assembling in vicinity of STATE QUARRY (532795).

On the 13th the 2d Bn was ordered to relieve elements of the 2d Inf on the N bank of the MOSELLE River. This relief was completed at 132100A and the Bn disposed on a line KOEHEM (593724) - KLOTZ (618741) and R2 (625757). These positions were held until the 15th of Mar when 2d Bn was detached by Division Order and placed in Division reserve. The Bn was moved to vicinity of TRIES (690750) and were ordered to occupy the towns of LIESENICH (663652), MITTEL STRIMMIG (676659) and ALTSTRIMMIG (682662) prior to 170800A.

At 161300A the Regiment (-2d Bn) began the advance S, the 5th Ren Tr leading. First Bn assembled for the night in vicinity of LIESENICH (663652). The 5th Ren Tr and elements of 3d Bn encountered a road block protected by tanks and infantry in vicinity (693622) at 161400A and cleared this resistance during the evening and bivouaced near that point. Regtl CP opened at MITTEL STRIMMIG.

On the morning of 17 Mar the advance was resumed, Ren Tr and 3d Bn continuing to lead the column. Upon arrival at SIMMERN the Ren Tr and 3d Bn continued on the original route but the remainder of the column was directed to the SW and the towns of SARGENROTH (840480) and NEUGERSCHEID (836460) cleared. Regtl CP opened in HOLZBACH at 171800A. The 2d Bn, still in Division reserve, moved to MITTEL STRIMMIG.

The advance was continued on the 19th, clearing the woods SE of GEMUNDEN (815441). A road block in vicinity (863146), supported by infantry and flanked by mine fields delayed the march but was cleared during the night of Mar 18-19. Regtl CP was established at GEMUNDEN and 2d Bn reverted to Regtl control and joined the Regiment at GEMUNDEN. Communication was established with the 3d Bn which was assembled near BINGERT (815406). At 190520A 10th Inf was attached to 4th Armored Division for operational control. The regiment continued under 4th Armored control for the succeeding 48 hours during which time the 3d Bn was assigned the mission of clearing a part of the city of WORMS. This mission was completed at 211615A and the Bn assembled in vicinity of WINTERSHEIM (393312). First Bn moved to an assembly area vicinity of DOLGERSHEIM (375330) and 3d Bn to DORN-DÜRHEIM (384300). The Regt (-3d Bn) reverted to 5th Division at 211315A. Third Bn reverted to Regt upon completion of their assignment at WORMS at 211615A. Regtl CP opened at HILLESHEIM.

On the 22d of Mar the Regt began moving to an assembly area generally in vicinity of DIENHEIM (443378) and the road to the N. Orders were issued for a crossing of the RHINE RIVER to begin the morning of 23 March. All three Bns were assembled in the new area by 2400A of the 22d.

The river crossing was begun at 230155A, 1st Bn leading, followed by 2d and 3d Bn in that order. The crossing was completed at 230655A. The 1st and 2d Bns occupied LIEHEIM (508402) and the road S of the town and pushed patrols out to WALFSKNELEN (550397). Regtl CP (adv) opened at

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(1st Bq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for March 1945, 2 April 45)

NIERSTEIN at 222200A. Upon completion of clearing LIESSHEIM the 2d Bn moved on and occupied DORNHEIM (538423). First Bn cleared KRFELDEN (530378) and followed 2d Bn to DORNHEIM. 3d Bn completed clearing the woods on the E bank of the RHINE and moved to LIESSHEIM at 231815A.

On the 24th 1st Bn was placed in Division reserve in DORNHEIM. Second Bn occupied KONIGSTADTEN (510520) at 242400A, and the 3d Bn occupied MAUHEIM (513496) at 242350A. Regt CP opened 241315A at GEINSHEIM (474425).

On the 25th of Mar 1st Bn reverted to Regt and was assembled at MAUHEIM. Second Bn remained in KONIGSTADTEN and 3d Bn occupied HASSELÖCH (518542) at 251215A. Regt CP opened in MAUHEIM at 251500A. The regiment continued the mission of clearing the woods S of FRANKFURT in preparation for crossing the MAIN River. First Bn occupied SCHWANHEIM (605655). Second Bn advanced to KELSTERBACH (569365) and went into position to protect the Regt left flank. At 261700A the Regt was relieved of responsibility for guarding the left flank and 2d and 3d Bns were moved by truck to assembly areas in south FRANKFURT in vicinity (65864S) and prepared to cross the MAIN River. Third Bn 11th Inf was attached to 10th Inf at 262130A. Regt CP established at the airfield (610625). Second Bn completed crossing at 271730A and 3d Bn at 271030A. First Bn completed clearing SCHWANHEIM and moved to the crossing site. Second and Third Bns engaged in clearing buildings NE and E from the bridge in FRANKFURT.

The 1st Bn completed crossing at 282050A and moved into area NW of the RR station. All Bns completed clearing during the 29th and 30th and assembled in billets in FRANKFURT. Regt CP opened 291310A on the corner of WEISENAU and EPPERHEIMER STR. Third Bn 11th Inf reverted to 11th Inf at 291200A.

At the close of this period all elements of the Regiments are prepared to continue the advance to the N. One Co was engaged in guarding prisoners at FRIEDBERG during the day of 31 March.

d. At the beginning of this period the regiment completed clearing enemy resistance to the KYLL River and forced a crossing of the KYLL and cleared HUFFINGEN, DUDELDOF and SPANGDAHLEM. Upon completion of this mission the Regiment was regrouped and moved to relieve other elements of the 5th Division on the N bank of the MOSELLE River. This relief was completed on the 13th Mar and positions held until the 16th along a line KOCHER-KLOTEN and a RJ in vicinity (625757).

On the 16th the regiment took up the advance to the S and SE, clearing the route through LIESENICH, SARGENROTH, MENGERSOHEID and GEMUNDEN and the woods SE of GEMUNDEN. The regiment was then placed under operational control of the 4th Armored Division and one Bn assisted in the capture of WORMS. Upon the completion of this mission the regiment reverted to 5th Division control and began assembly for crossing the RHINE River. The crossing was completed during the morning of 23 March and LIESSHEIM and DORNHEIM cleared. The regiment continued to advance to the N clearing the woods S of FRANKFURT and on the 27th and 28th crossed the MAIN River and cleared the portion of FRANKFURT assigned to the regiment. At the close of

10th Inf, G-3, After Action Report for March 1945. 2 APR 45

this period the regiment is assembled in FRANKFURT and prepared for re-
suming the advance to the North.

The operations of the regiment during this period resulted in the
capture of an estimated 2850 prisoners and the capture or destruction of
material including vehicles, planes, gasoline and food supplies and several
important air fields.

4. Supply and Evacuation:

- a. Class I:
 - (1) Excellent.
- b. Class II:
 - (1) Satisfactory cleaning and preserving issues.
 - (2) Satisfactory replacement of weapons. Replacement of vehicles
is slow. This is compensated, except in case of loss of "Jeeps", by making
use of captured German Army vehicles.
 - (3) Canteen issue is insufficient.
- c. Class III:
 - (1) Satisfactory.
- d. Class IV:
 - (1) Satisfactory.
- e. Class V:
 - (1) Supply normal.
 - (2) Basic load 98% complete.

Remarks of last month as to need of maintenance on vehicles of this
Regiment are more true than ever.



ROBERT P. BELL
Colonel, 10th Infantry
Commanding

4 Incls:

- Incl No. 1 - Unit Journals, Hq 10th Inf, 1 to 31 Mar 45 Incl
- Incl No. 2 - Unit Journals, Hq 1st Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 31 Mar 45 Incl
- Incl No. 3 - Unit Journals, Hq 2d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 31 Mar 45 Incl
- Incl No. 4 - Unit Journals, Hq 3d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 31 Mar 45 Incl

HEADQUARTERS 10th INFANTRY

SUBJECT: After Action Report for April 1945.
TO : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

3 May 1945

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 April 1945	145	4	2999	3148
30 April 1945	140	3	3019	3162

b. Killed in Action, Wounded in Action, Missing in Action, during period:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) Killed in Action:	0	0	13	13
(2) Wounded in Action:	2	0	56	58
(3) Missing in Action:	0	0	19	19
TOTAL	2	0	88	90

c. Reinforcements received:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
This figure includes 138 RTD's	11	0	262	273

2. Enemy:

a. Period 1 - 7 April 1945:

(1) No contact with enemy units.

Stragglers, deserters and soldiers in civilian clothes trying to make their way home were picked up by the Regiment during the patrolling of FRANKFURT, the mopping-up in the woods via FRIEDBERG and while in assembly area via GIESSEN.

b. Period 8 - 14 April 1945:

- (1) Units identified:
- Sperrverband WIRTZ
 - 6 Eng Repl Eng Bn
 - 655 Eng Bn
 - Elms 176 VGD
 - 116 Pz Brig
 - 130 Pz Lehr Div
 - 53 Werfer Regt
 - 406 Volk Arty Corps
 - 654 TD Bn
 - 55 Flak Assault Bn
 - 5 Inf Flak Bn
 - 108 Flak Constr Bn
 - 486 Landes Schutzen Bn
 - 486 Landes Schutzen Bn
 - 193 Security Bn
 - 72 Army Eng Bn
 - 374 Hvy Bridging Col
 - 892 AA Bn

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
 BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 (With D Top in Time)
 DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 27 Feb 46 73

2

305-1111-900
 210-1011
 90 3/1945
 MASTER

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547 Supply Bn
209 Luftsperrb.
Various KG's, Volksturm

During the initial stages of the attack against the RUHR POCKET in vic MESCHEDE, stubborn resistance was encountered from isolated strongpoints centered around towns or suitable terrain features. Artillery fire was generally light with occasional SP shelling.

As our advance continued west along the RUHR River the enemy made no serious attempt to break out of the pocket but was mainly concerned to delay our troops by roadblocks, blowing of bridges and other defensive measures.

Sperrverband WIRTZ under command of the Chief Eng General on Field Marshal MODEL's staff controlled a conglomeration of Eng Repl and Tng Bn's, Labor Service units and Volksturm men who were charged with the defense of the BRILLON - MESCHEDE area. Great difficulties were encountered in keeping contact among all these mixed units and the seriousness of the attempted defense usually depended upon the spirit of the commander of the strongpoint.

Twenty mm AA gun fire was encountered by our troops at ARNSBERG, where Volksturm men and soldiers discharged from hospitals had been mobilized for a last-ditch defense. ARNSBERG was originally supposed to be declared 'neutral zone', but in accordance with orders of the FUHRER to defend every town the city commander tried to make a stand. The low morale of his men however made a determined defense impossible.

Elements of the Pz Gren Regt of the 116 Pz Brigade made another unsuccessful attempt to delay our clearing of all enemy resistance E of the RUHR river.

With the trend to commandeering all male civilians into army units an unusually large number of AF's, sick, untrained, old men and 16 year old boys passed through the PWE.

Except for a very few stubborn ones, they all realized that the war was lost for them and they considered the end only a matter of weeks. This was best evidenced by the fact that in many cases enemy officers realizing the hopelessness of the fight surrendered their units en masse.

Enemy materiel captured or destroyed included a number of tanks, Nebelwerfers, 105 How's, mortars, bulldozers, trucks, fire engines and many other vehicles. In addition one dump with signal supplies, several medical supply stores and 3 big army hospitals were overrun.

o. Period 15 - 24 April 1945:

With the RUHR POCKET on the verge of complete annihilation most officers gave their men instructions to "get out" as best as they could. In many cases discharge papers were issued supposedly to enable the soldiers to pass our lines easier. The majority of the soldiers took

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(~~W/~~ Rq 10th Inf Sst AFV) Action Report for April 1945, 3 May 45)

the instructions as signal to go home and stay there until the end of the war rather than surrender to us. They changed into civilian clothes, split up into small groups of 2 or 3 men and tried to cross our lines.

Roadblocks were established all over the Regimental area to check on 'phony' civilians with the result that many hundreds of them turned out to be German soldiers. In ARNSBERG a complete round-up of all male civilians took place and after screening by CIC and IPW about 10% of them had to be evacuated as PW's. In addition CIC was able to pick up a number of suspects and some highranking Nazi official who had been on the blacklist.

d. Period 25 - 30 April 1945:

(1) No contact with enemy units:

A number of stragglers and soldiers in civilian clothes were picked up while the Regiment was on the move south to an assembly area in vic REGEN in Bavaria.

Total of PW's: The record number of 9285 prisoners were processed during the month, bringing the total since Normandy to well over 16000.

3. Own Operations:

a. During the period 1 to 7 April incl attachments consisted of Co B 5th Med Bn. On the morning of 8 April the following attachments became effective at 0800B: 46th FA (w/21st FA atchd), Cos A, B, D and assault gun Plat 737 Tk Bn, Cos B and C 803d TD Bn, Co B 7th Eng Bn. At 1800B 8th April the 32d Cav Sqdrn (w/Tr F 18th Cav atchd), Co B 17th Tk Bn and Co B 90th Cml Mortar Bn were atchd. At 091800B 46th FA Bn (21st FA atchd), Aslt Gun Plat 737 Tk Bn, Cos B and C 803d TD Bn and Co B (-1 plat) 7th Eng Bn were detached. At 100700B Co B 17th Tk Bn was detached and at 101800B Cos A and D 737 Tk Bn and 1 Plat Co B 90th Cml Mortar Bn were detached. At 110700B 32d Cav Sqdrn was detached. At 130800B 1 Plat Co B Cml Mortar Bn was reattached and at the same time tr F 18th Cav detached, At 150800B Co B 737 Tk Bn, one plat Co B 7th Eng Bn and Co B 90th Cml Mortar Bn were detached. Co B 5th Med Bn was detached 172400B, leaving the regiment without attachments. At 250800B Co B 5th Med Bn was again attached. At 280800B 46th FA Bn was attached. At 301000B 21st FA Bn and 1 Plat Co B 7th Eng were attached.

b. At the beginning of the RUHR pocket operation, the 3d Bn was assembled in Bigge and formed the regtl res on the night of the 8th and day of the 9th April. Upon the 3d Bn being committed on the morning of April 10 elms of the Special Cos formed the reserve until 1200B, when 1st Bn completed mopping up in its area and reverted to Regtl Reserve. On the 11th the 3d Bn again constituted the reserve and upon 3d Bn being again committed on the 12th elms of spec Cos formed the reserve until 2000B when the 2d Bn reverted to reserve. The 2d Bn continued in reserve during the 13th April. On the 14th April 1st Bn and I Co 3d Bn were in reserve.

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c. At the start of the period on the 1 April 1945 the regt was assembled in FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN engaged on the mission of guarding various captured installations and patrolling the area asgd the regt for the purpose of maintaining law and order. On 1 April the regt was ordered to send one Bn reinforced to clear the woods just west of the autobahn in the vicinity BAD HOMBURG-BAD NAUHEIM. This mission was asgd to the 3d Bn reinforced by Co B 737th Tk Bn and the aslt gun plat 737th Tk Bn. The Bn moved from FRANKFURT at 011650B April 45 and closed in assembly area vic BAD HOMBURG-BAD NAUHEIM-FRIEDBERG by 011800B April 45. The Bn started on its mission at 02100B April 45 and had completed the mission by 021645B April 45. They reassembled with the Bn less Companies K and L in BAD NAUHEIM, with Co K in BAD HOMBURG and with Co L in FRIEDBERG. On 1 April the regt also received warning orders to be prepared for a possible move and the 11th Inf relieved all elms of the regt fr guard of captured installations, completing the relief by 021200B April 45.

The regt remained assembled in FRANKFURT until 4 April when orders were received for the regt to move to a new assembly area SE of GIESSEN. The move commenced at 050800B April 45 and all elms had closed in the new area by 051250B, with the regtl CP at GARENTEICH, the 1st Bn assembled in WATZENBORN, the 2d Bn assembled in HAUSEN and ANNEROD, and the 3d Bn assembled in STEINBACH, ALBACH, and BURKHARDSFELDEN. During the period 6 - 7 April 45 trng was conducted in the assembly area consisting of disciplinary drill, test firing of various weapons, and some ceremonies. Reconnaissance was also made for a possible defensive position in the area just NW of GIESSEN, and plans completed for occupation of the position if necessary.

At 072200B April 45 orders were received alerting the regt for immediate movement to the north to an assembly area in the vic FRANKENBERG and preparations were made for the move. At 080600B April 45 the 21st FA Bn, 46th FA Bn, Cos A, B, D, and the Aslt Gun Plat 737th Tk Bn, Cos B and C 803d TD Bn, and Co B 7th Engr Bn were atchd to the regt for the move. Leading elms of the regt crossed the IP at 081300B April 45. In route to FRANKENBERG the destination was changed and the regt ordered to continue the march beyond FRANKENBERG to an assembly area in the vic BIGGE and be prepared to pass through elms of the 47th Inf Regt early on the morning 9 April 45, and continue the atk to the west along the outh bank of the Ruhr River. The regt assembled with the 1st Bn in BESTWIG, the 2d Bn in OSTWIG, and BORGHAUSEN, the 3d Bn in BIGGE, and the regtl CP in NUTTLAR. The last elms of the column closed at 082915B April 45. Due to the fact that trs were riding pig-a-back on tanks, TD's and all other types of conveyance and many of these fell out due to mechanical difficulties in route each Bn was short anywhere from 50-150 men on arrival in the assembly area.

Upon arrival at NUTTLAR it was found that the 47th Regt had one Bn still engaged in clearing the town of MESCHUDE while the remainder of the regt was disposed along some high ground about 5000 yds SE of the town. It was therefore decided to pass the 2d Bn through the Bn which was clearing MESCHUDE and to start the 1st Bn clearing the area west of the line being held by the remainder of the 47th Inf Regt. The 1st Bn

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S E C R E T

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moved fr its assembly area at 090800B and passed through the 1st Bn 47th Inf moving in a SW direction initially. Scattered but stubborn resistance was encountered from dug-in enemy in the vicinity BERINGHAUSER-KLAUSE, and it was not until 091530B that this resistance had been eliminated and the village cleared. The advance was then continued to the NW and W clearing the towns of SCHEDERBERGE, BERINGHAUSEN, HEGGEN, and LOTTMARINGHAUSEN before posns were taken for the night. One tr of the 32d Cav Sqn which was working with the 1st Bn also cleared the town of MESSCHEDE. Positions were taken for the night with Co C in the vic LOTTMARINGHAUSEN-HEGGEN, Co B in vic BERINGHAUSEN, and Co A on the high ground vic SCHEDERBERGE. The 2d Bn moved fr its assembly area early on the morning of 9 April and by 0920 hours had taken over the posns in MESSCHEDE occupied by the Bn of the 47th Inf. As the advance was continued to the west resistance was encountered fr enemy dug in on the high ground just west of MESSCHEDE. This resistance had been overcome by 1300 hrs and the towns of BERGHAUSEN and LAER cleared. The advance was continued to the west and the towns of MULSBORN and KALLE cleared. Positions were taken for the night with Co G in KALLE and on the high ground N of the town, Co E in vic MULSBORN and the high ground west of the town, and Co F in vic BERGHAUSEN and the high ground west of the town. The 3d Bn in regtl reserve moved from BIGGE to MESSCHEDE closing in that area at 2015 hours. The regtl CP moved fr NUTTLAR to MESSCHEDE, opening in its new location at 1615 hrs.

Orders were received to continue the atk to the west and seize crossings of the WENNE RIVER. Since the 1st Bn was still considerably east of the 2d Bn it was decided to have the 1st Bn continue mopping up its zone, have the 2d Bn continue the advance to the west and have the 3d Bn advance west generally fr the vic of MESSCHEDE. One troop of the 32d Cav was atchd to the 2d Bn to screen their left flank until such time as the 3d Bn came abreast of them. On 10th April the 1st Bn completed mopping its zone and then assembled in regtl reserve in MESSCHEDE, closing at 1800 hours. The 2d Bn resumed the advance at 0700B and cleared WALLEEN and SIESS with light opposition. Some resistance was encountered from the high ground just north of SIESS. Company E then continued the advance and captured the town of BERGE together with an intact bridge across the WENNE RIVER. Company G then passed through Co E and captured the town of NIEDERBERGE, some SP fire was received from vic OLPE. Positions were taken as of dark with Co E in BERGE and on the high ground NE and SW of the town, Co G in NIEDERBERGE and Co F in WALLEEN. The 3d Bn moved from its assembly area in MESSCHEDE at 0630B. Company I moved south on the east side of the HENNE-TALSPERRE reservoir and cleared the towns of ULMBOCKE and VELLINGHAUSEN. Companies J and K moved south on the west side of the reservoir and cleared the town of ENKHAUSEN. Company I then advanced SW and cleared the town of SCHUREN. Company K passed through Co I and advanced west clearing the town of OSTERBERGE and then moved SW clearing the town of WENHOLTHAUSEN against fairly light opposition. Patrols from Co I and from the 32d Cav checked the remainder of the Bn area which had not previously been cleared during the 2d Bn's advance. Positions were taken for the night with Co I in vic SCHUREN, Co K in vic WENHOLTHAUSEN, and Co L in vic ENKHAUSEN. At approximately dark contact was established at WENHOLTHAUSEN with elms of the 7th Armd Div advancing fr the south.

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Orders were received during the day directing that the 2d Inf take over the southern half of the regtl sector. Leading elms crossed the bridge at BERGE at about 1700 hours and relieved the elms of Co E on the high ground SW of the town. During the night 10-11 April a reinforced platoon from Co F captured and cleared the town of VISBECK and a reinforced platoon from Co G captured and cleared the town of OLPE.

The 32d Cav Sqdn was relieved fr atohmt to the regt eff 110700B April 45. Two Plats of the 5th Rcn Tr moved during the night of 10-11 April through the Ninth Army sector north of the Ruhr River to the town of OVENTROP. The plan for 11 April provided that the 2d Bn resume the adv in a northerly direction and that the 5th Rcn Tr patrol south from OVENTROP. The 1st Bn was to cross the bridge at BERGE and passing through VISBECK clear the town of HELLEFELD and then advance in a northerly direction clearing the left half of the regtl zone. One Bn was to be held in Division reserve and the 3d Bn was to assemble in vic BERGE-NIEDERBERGE for this mission.

The 1st Bn moved from its assembly area at MESCHEDE and crossed the bridge at BERGE at 110730B, passed through VISBECK and secured the high ground NW of the town. Fairly strong opposition was encountered fr the vic if the CR at WENGELERHOF and fr the town of HELLEFELD. The CR had been cleared by about 1400 hours. HELLEFELD was entered by Co C at 1723 hrs who completed mopping up in the town by 2030 hours. Company A moved on through the woods to a posn vic 255067 where posns were taken for the night. Company C moved from HELLEFELD to posns vic 240055, where posns were taken for the night. Company B left one plat in vic OR WENGELERHOF and the remainder of the Co took posns in vic HELLEFELD, for the night. The 2d Bn advanced north clearing the town of FREIENOHL. The platoon of Co F which had cleared VISBECK during the night 10-11 April advanced north through the woods to the town of FRENKHAUSEN, which they cleared by 1500 hours. The Bn then continued to the north and cleared the town of BRUMLINGSEN. The platoon of Co F moved SW from FRENKHAUSEN and cleared the town of HERBLINGHAUSEN. Our patrol fr the 5th Rcn Tr had worked west from OVENTROP and passing through the east edge of RUMBECK worked south through the woods to vic 258070. Another patrol worked SE from OVENTROP and then SW through the woods to vic 258070 where they contacted the other patrol. Company F then moved to posns in the east edge of RUMBECK where they took posns for the night. Company E took posns in vic OVENTROP, and Co G took posns in vic FREIENOHL. The 3d Bn moved to assembly area in vic BERGE-NIEDERBERGE closing in that vic at 1700 hours. Regtl CP moved fr MESCHEDE to VISBECK opening in the new location at 1730B.

The plan for 12 April was that the 1st Bn should continue the advance to the NW until they had secured the high ground vic 198078. At this time the 1st Bn would atk to the north and the 3d Bn would pass behind the 1st Bn and atk west. The 2d Bn would close up around the city of ARNSBERG, and depending upon the type of resistance encountered would either contain it or clear it. The 1st Bn resumed the adv on 12 April and by 1225B Co A had advanced and cleared DIOKENBRUCH, capturing a hospital there with a total of about 3000 patients and staff. Company C had

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advanced to a posn vic 233073 and Co B then passed to the left rear of Co C and advanced to vic 205073. Company C then cleared the woods vic 226075 and advanced to the road vic 226081 where posns were taken for the nite. The 2d Bn continued the atk on the morning of 12 April with Co E advancing through the woods SE of ARNSBERG to a posn vic 237095. Company G cleared the western half of RUMBECK and advanced to a posn vic 241101. At 1505 leading elms of both companies entered the eastern half of the city. At 1430B word was received that the First Army-Ninth Army boundary had been changed so that all of the city of ARNSBERG was included in the First Army sector. The 2d Bn was therefore directed to clear all of the city. By 1800B all of the city south of the Ruhr River had been mopped up and Co E had crossed into the portion of the city north of the river and started clearing it working from south to north. By 2010B all of the city north of the river had been cleared as far north as the RR tunnel and Co E took posns there for the night. The 3d Bn moved fr its assembly area in vic BERGE-NIEDERBERGE, starting the move at 1345B, and at 1600B passed through Co B and continued the atk to the west. At 1900B Co I captured the town of WENNIGLOH and Co K continued to the Ruhr River in the vic of HACHEN. Co K occupied some high ground vic WENNIGLOH. Company B continued the advance N after being passed through by 3d Bn and by night had elms in WENNIGLOH with Co I and were outpostting the high ground north of the town.

The 1st Bn resumed the advance on 13 April with Co B advancing to and clearing the town of MUSCHEDE. Companies A and C bypassed MUSCHEDE to the east and north and at 1330B entered the town of HUSTEN. The 5th Recon Tr which was working with the 1st Bn passed through HUSTEN and advancing NW secured a bridge over the BAUM River and patrolled the high ground to the NW of the stream. The clearing of HUSTEN was completed by companies A and C at 1830B, and Co B passed through HUSTEN and advanced to and cleared some houses vic 148176, where posns were taken for the night. Company C cleared some woods just west of HUSTEN and took posns for the night. Company A moved to posns in the woods vic 150153 for the night. The 2d Bn in regtl reserve remained in posn in ARNSBERG during the day maintaining law and order and guarding captured installations. Contact was established with elms of the Ninth Army north of ARNSBERG at 0900B. The Bn less Co K moved fr ARNSBERG to assembly area in HUSTEN at 1800B. The 3d Bn continued the advance on 13 April and cleared the towns of HERDRIGEN, KLOSTER OLINGHAUSEN, and HOLZEN. Posns were taken for the night with Co K in vic HOBZEN, Co L on the high ground in the woods vic 135148 and Co I in vic HERDRINGEN. Regtl CP moved from VISBECK to MUSCHEDE during the day opening at its new location at 1300B.

On 14 April Companies B and C remained in posns. Company A moved to ARNSBERG and relieved Co F of guard duties at 1400B. The 2d Bn advanced through elms of the 1st Bn at 0715B with Co E leading. Company E cleared the woods south of BADHUM and the town of BACHUM and Co G then passed by them and cleared the town of VOSSWINKEL against light opposition. Company G continued the advance to the west and cleared the towns of WIMBERN and BERINGHOFF and took posns for the night along the RUHR RIVER. Company E continued the advance fr BACHUM with the 5th Recon Tr assisting and cleared the towns of HOLLINGHOFEN and ECHTHAUSEN and took posns for the nite along the RUHR RIVER. Contact was established by

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both companies E and G with elms of the Ninth Army north of the RUHR River during the day. Company F after being relieved by Co A in ARNSBERG, moved to the vic VOSSWINKEL. Company I of the 3d Bn passed through Co L at 0845B and advanced NW through the woods to the vic of WIMBERN where contact was established with Co G. Upon the 2d Inf on their left clearing the area SW of them they returned to HERDRINGEN for the night. At 141500B April 45 the regtl zone was reported entirely cleared of enemy resistance.

During 15-16 April 45 the Bns remained in posn patrolling the regtl zone, gathering stragglers, and guarding captured installations. On 16 April orders were received considerably enlarging the regtl zone of responsibility, and on 17 April the 1st Bn moved to vic ARNSBERG, the 2d Bn moved to vic MENDEHN and reld elms of the 2d Inf there, and the 3d Bn moved Co L to vic VOSSWINKEL. On 18 April Co A was moved from ARNSBERG to MESSCHADE, Co B fr ARNSBERG to SUNDERN, and Co C fr ARNSBERG to BERGE. Routes were established for security patrols throughout the regtl area and guards posted on bridges and captured installations. Company K was also sent to BRILON to assist in the guarding of the corps prisoner of war enclosure.

On 22 April elms of the 290th Inf commenced relief of elms of the regt on guard duty at various installations. The relief of all such elms was completed at 242400B April 45. Upon relief elms of the 1st Bn reassembled in ARNSBERG, elms of the 2d Bn reassembled in MENDEHN, and elms of the 3d Bn assembled in vic HUSTEN-HERDRINGEN.

On 24 April orders were received directing that the regt move to an assembly area in the vic of FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN. The move commenced on 25 April with the leading elms of the regt passing the regtl IP at SUNDERN at 251000B. Leading elms of the regt arrived in the assembly area vic HANAU at 1800 hours and the last elms closed at 2220 hours. Regtl CP opened at WINDECKEN, 1st Bn less elms riding Tks, and TD's, and Artillery assembled at OSTHEIM, 2d Bn less elms on Tks, TD's, and Arey, assembled at BILDESHEIM.

Upon arrival in the assembly area orders were received directing that the march be continued on 26 April to an assembly area in vic of BAMBERG. Leading elms passed the IP at 261000B and arrived in the new assembly area at 2015B. The Regt less elms riding on Tks, TD's, and Arty, closed in the new assembly area at 270055B, with the regtl CP at DORFLINS, 1st Bn in vic OBERHAID, 2d Bn in vic HALLSTADT, and 3d Bn in vic LAUTER.

The regt remained in this assembly area during 27-28 April doing maintenance of vehicles and some disciplinary trng. On 28 April orders were received alerting the regt for a move to the vic REGEN. The 46th FA Bn was stohd for the move. The move commenced at 291015B April and the leading elms of the regt arrived in the assembly area SE of REGEN at 300245B April 45, the last elms closing at 301030B April 45. Regtl CP opened at TRAMELSRIED, 1st Bn assembled at SCHLAG, 2d Bn at MITTERBICHL, and 3d Bn at KIRCHDORF.

Upon arrival in the assembly area orders were received directing that the regt with the 5th Ron Tr operating in their zone clear a zone

(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for April 1945, 3 May 45)

extending generally SE along the Czechoslovakian-German border and take up positions generally along the border defending to the NE. The 2d Bn moved from their assembly areas at 1200B and started clearing their zone. During the afternoon the 1st and 3d Bns moved SE toward their respective zones. Positions were taken for the night with the 1st Bn en route to ALTREICHENAU, the 2d Bn with Co E in vic 280465, Co F in vic SONNDORF, Co G vis HERZOG-SREU, and the remainder of the Bn vic KREUZBERG, and the 3d Bn in vic JANDELSBRUNN. Regtl CP moved during the afternoon to FREYUNG, opening at its new location at 301410B April 45.

d. The operations for this period consisted of a movement from vic FRANKFURT am MAIN to the RUHR POCKET area in vic ARNSBERG, clearing the territory along the south bank of the RUHR River and occupying the territory cleared, screening enemy personnel and guarding installations.

Upon completion of this mission a movement was made to the vic of the CZECHOSLOVAKIAN border east of REGEN. This movement was completed and a mission of clearing the territory along the border begun at the close of this period.

Operations for the period resulted in the capture of 9285 prisoners, several hospitals and other installations including a signal supply dump. A large number of enemy weapons and vehicles were captured or destroyed during the period.

4. Supply and Evacuation:

a. Class I:

(1) Excellent.

b. Class II:

(1) Very satisfactory.

c. Class III:

(1) Satisfactory.


d. Class IV:

(1) Satisfactory.

e. Class V:

(1) Supply normal.

(2) Basic load 98% complete.


ROBERT P. BELL
Colonel, 10th Infantry
Commanding

4 Incls:

Incl No. 1 - Unit Journals, Hq 10th Inf, 1 to 30 April 45 Incl

Incl No. 2 - Unit Journals, Hq 1st Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 30 April 45 Incl

Incl No. 3 - Unit Journals, Hq 2d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 30 April 45 Incl

Incl No. 4 - Unit Journals, Hq 3d Bn 10th Inf, 1 to 30 April 45 Incl

not inc in A.C. file

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS 10TH INFANTRY

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for May 1945.

TO : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of periods

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1 May 1945	140	3	3013	3156
8 May 1945	154	3	3003	3160

b. Killed in Action, Wounded in Action, Missing in Action, during periods:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) Killed in Action	0	0	0	0
(2) Wounded in Action	0	0	5	5
(3) Missing in Action	0	0	4	4
TOTAL	0	0	9	9

c. Reinforcements received:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
This figure includes 53 RTD's	11	0	53	64

2. Enemy:

a. Period 1 - 8 May 1945:

- (1) Units identified: Hitler Youth Regt OBERDONAU
 17 TD Tng Bn
 78 Flak Repl Bn
 Sperrverband 487 Div
 KG KLING, 1st Pz Div
 KG HERBES
 Elms 11 Pz Div
 Disc.: Volksturm, Landesschutz, 88 Police, RAD.

CLASSIFICATION
CA C E L L E D

305-1NF (10) - 0.2
 8 AUG 1945

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

OWNGRADING CO

No firm contact with the enemy was established at the beginning of the period as the Regiment cleared the area between the highway leading E from FREYUNG and the Czech border. Roadblocks and an occasional enemy ambush were encountered, while stragglers and deserters usually surrendered at the approach of our troops.

Bad weather and road conditions rather than enemy opposition slowed the advance.

A group of 14 - 18 year old boys, organized into the Hitler Youth Regiment Oberdonau and armed with Panzerfaust was brought up from Austria but of few of them showed any enthusiasm for fighting.

On 4 May the Reg't 1 boundary was changed and as the attack to the NE started heavier resistance with a/a fire was met around

903

(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for May 1945, 17 May 45)

KUNZVART where elements of the 1st Pz Div set up and stubbornly defended some roadblocks.

Although no continuous defense line existed along the Czech border, KG HERREUS which controlled the KUNZVART - VOLARY sector had set up strongpoints centered around small villages and AT obstacles. Wehrmacht personnel, generally willing to give up, was forced by SS and Party officials to fight on. But their opposition lacked the support of heavy weapons and was too disorganized to be effective.

After our troops cleared KUNZVART and seized the bridges across the MOLDAVA River, the garrison of WINTERBERG decided to surrender without fight.

The further advance to the NE was halted due to the general capitulation, but several large convoys of German vehicles with hundreds of troops were speeding to our lines to be captured before the 8 May mid-night deadline.

Only one thought seemed to have been in the mind of every German - to evade falling into Russian hands and to surrender rather to US troops.

German hospitals were captured at WINTERBERG and the total of PW's taken was well over 6000. (the surrender of an additional 10,000 troops had to be declined as coming too late).

3. Own Operations:

a. At the beginning of this period attachments consisted of the following: 46th FA Bn, Co B 5th Med Bn, 21st FA Bn, 1 Plat Co B 7th Eng Bn (effective 011800B), Co B 737th Tk Bn and Co B 803d TD Bn. These attachments remained unchanged until 041800B when the 46th FA Bn and 21st FA Bn were detached. The 46th FA Bn was again attached effective 070800B. At 082400B all attachments ceased with the exception of Co B 5th Med Bn.

b. On 1 May 1st and 3d Bns were moving into position to the E and Co E, in the vic of KREUZBERG formed the regtl. res. Elms of 2d Bn and Spec Cos continued to constitute the res until after the rel. of 1st and 3d Bns on 4 May when the 3d Bn became the regtl. res upon completion of its assy in the new Regtl. 2. Upon 3d Bn passing to the attack on the morning of 7 May the 2d Bn reverted to Regtl. res until the close of the operation.

c. At the beginning of this period the regt was moving into position to clear and occupy the area between the main highway leading E from FREYUNG and the CZECHOSLOVAKIAN border. The 1st and 3d Bns had experienced some difficulty in moving into their assigned areas on account of congested road conditions but at 010015B May the 1st Bn closed in ALT RICHENEAU (Q395365), after clearing HINT FREUNDORF (Q395372) and BRANDWEINHAUSER (Q405385). At daylight 1 May the 1st Bn continued clearing to the N and during the day reached the line AUERSBERGREUT (Q410448) HAUDBAUSER

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(Q428430) RIEDELSBACH (Q455357). Second Bn continued the operation begun on 30 April and advanced to the line HINTER-SCHMIDING (Q298413) HER ZOGSREUT (Q525433). Elements of the 5th Ron Tr screamed the left flank during this movement. During the day the 3d Bn moved by shuttling to vic (Q428300) and thence by foot into the Bn sector. Elements of the 5th Ron Tr assisted in this movement by clearing the woods in the S portion of the Bn Z.

On 2d May the 1st and 2d Bns continued to parcel their areas and established an outpost and contact point at BISCHOFREUT (Q391460). The 3d Bn completed crossing into their area and advanced N to (Q515408) (Q545378) and one plat at (Q550400). During the night of May 2d elms of the Bn engaged en troops attempting to infiltrate to the S. The plat at (Q550400) was withdrawn from its fwd pos to vic (Q545378). At daylight 3 May Co L, Bn res, was moved through the 1st Bn area to a pos in support of the leading elms of the Bn. All Bns continued patrolling their areas during the day. Co G reld Co F in posn in the 2d Bn area.

During the day of 4 May the regtl bdy on the Rt was changed and the relief of the 1st and 3d Bns by elms of 2d Inf completed. Third Bn assembled in vic HERZOGSREUT upon completion of rel and 1st Bn assembled in vic KREUZBERG. Second Bn was disposed along the stream line S of KUNZVART.

On 5 May the advance was resumed by 1st and 2d Bns. During the day the 1st Bn reached ZATON, the woods at (Q435545) and (Q420555). Bridges were seized intact at (Q430544) and (Q433532). The 2d Bn cleared the town of KUNZVART at 1618B and Cos F and G with one plat Tds, moved rapidly N and secured the bridge in HOR VLTAVIOB. The 3d Bn moved to vic (Q355515) during the day with the mission of protecting the L flank of the Regt. At 1615B 3d Bn was assembled in KUNZVART less Co K which continued the protection of the l flank. Regtl CP was opened in KUNZVART.

At 060700B the 1st and 2d Bns resumed the advance. First Bn (-Co A) moved during the day to the BJ at (Q420632) and vic (Q410590). Company A remained in posn in vic ZATON. Second Bn moved toward WINTERBERG and at 0910B the Major of the city contacted the Bn CO and offered surrender of the town. The 2d Bn completed the occupation of WINTERBERG at 1030B. Third Bn remained in Regtl Res in vic KUNZVART. Regtl CP was set in WINTERBERG.

On the morning of 7 May the advance was resumed by 3d Bn, movement being made to an asy area in vic WINTERBERG in time to permit beginning the advance at 0800B. The advance was made in three columns and 1st Bn was prepared to follow and protect the Rt flank the movement was progressing rapidly when orders were received at 0830B to halt in place. Later in the day the fwd elms of the 3d Bn were withdrawn to conform to instructions read from Hq 5th Div and the regiment was assembled in the vic of WINTERBERG and the area N of the town. The remainder of the period was spent in processing and guarding en personnel and material

- 3 -

S E C R E T

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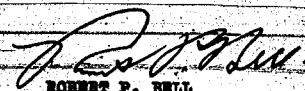
(Ltr Hq 10th Inf Sub: After Action Report for May 1945, 17 May 45)

surrendered in accordance with the terms of capitulation.

d. The operations of the regt during this period resulted in the clearing of the area along the GRENZ border NR of FERNUNG to include the occupation of KUNZVART, ALT RICHENNEAU, HINT FREUNDORF, BRANDWEINHAUSER, HERZOGSBRUNT and WINTERBERG. Three bridges were seized intact at HOR VLAIVIC and vic (Q433532) At the time orders were recd to cease hostilities the regt was successfully attacking to the N. Prisoners (est) 3500. A complete German Hospital with Medical personnel was captured at WINTERBERG.

4. Supply and Evacuation:

- a. Class I:
(1) Excellent.
- b. Class II:
(1) Very Satisfactory.
- c. Class III:
(1) Satisfactory.
- d. Class IV:
(1) Satisfactory.
- e. Class V:
(1) Supply Normal.
(2) Basic load 98% complete.



ROBERT F. HILL
Colonel, 10th Infantry
Commanding

4 Incls:

- Incl No. 1 - Unit Journals, Hq 10th Inf, 1 to 9 May 45 Incl
- Incl No. 2 - Unit Journals, Hq 1st Bn, 10th Inf, 1 to 9 May 45 Incl
- Incl No. 3 - Unit Journals, Hq 2d Bn, 10th Inf, 1 to 9 May 45 Incl
- Incl No. 4 - Unit Journals, Hq 3d Bn, 10th Inf, 1 to 9 May 45 Incl

*not recd
jfh*

SOE-INT(10)-0-3

(9031)
Master

1/1, Esp., 10th Inf Regt

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



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HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON**

Jan-Mar '45, Apr '48
May '45

AGO MICROFILM
ITEM NO: 3048

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4. A total of 241 prisoners was captured during period covered by this report.
5. The morale of the enemy during this period was from a moderately high to a very low degree. Initially it was high due to the success of the Western Offensive, but when it was stopped, and replacements, supplies, etc. were not forthcoming, the morale fell rapidly.

6. UNIT OPERATIONS.

a. Units Engaged.

(1) Our Troops.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) 1st Inf Regt | (11) Co A 5th Regt In |
| (b) 2nd Inf Regt | (12) 1st Lt Co |
| (c) 3rd Inf Regt | (13) 2nd Lt Co |
| (d) 4th Inf Regt | (14) 3rd Lt Co |
| (e) 5th Inf Regt | (15) 4th Lt Co |
| (f) Co A 10th Div In | (16) 1st Lt, 2nd Lt, 3rd Lt |
| (g) Co B 10th Div In | (17) 1st Lt, 2nd Lt, 3rd Lt |
| (h) Co C 10th Div In | (18) Co A 7th Regt |
| (i) Co D 10th Div In | |
| (j) Co E 10th Div In | |
| (k) Co F 10th Div In | |
| (l) Co G 10th Div In | |
| (m) Co H 10th Div In | |
| (n) Co I 10th Div In | |
| (o) Co J 10th Div In | |
| (p) Co K 10th Div In | |
| (q) Co L 10th Div In | |
| (r) Co M 10th Div In | |
| (s) Co N 10th Div In | |
| (t) Co O 10th Div In | |
| (u) Co P 10th Div In | |
| (v) Co Q 10th Div In | |
| (w) Co R 10th Div In | |
| (x) Co S 10th Div In | |
| (y) Co T 10th Div In | |
| (z) Co U 10th Div In | |
| (aa) Co V 10th Div In | |
| (ab) Co W 10th Div In | |
| (ac) Co X 10th Div In | |
| (ad) Co Y 10th Div In | |
| (ae) Co Z 10th Div In | |

(2) Enemy Units.

- (a) 10th Inf Regt
- (b) 11th Inf Regt
- (c) 12th Inf Regt
- (d) 13th Inf Regt
- (e) 14th Inf Regt
- (f) 15th Inf Regt
- (g) 16th Inf Regt
- (h) 17th Inf Regt
- (i) 18th Inf Regt
- (j) 19th Inf Regt
- (k) 20th Inf Regt
- (l) 21st Inf Regt
- (m) 22nd Inf Regt
- (n) 23rd Inf Regt
- (o) 24th Inf Regt
- (p) 25th Inf Regt
- (q) 26th Inf Regt
- (r) 27th Inf Regt
- (s) 28th Inf Regt
- (t) 29th Inf Regt
- (u) 30th Inf Regt
- (v) 31st Inf Regt
- (w) 32nd Inf Regt
- (x) 33rd Inf Regt
- (y) 34th Inf Regt
- (z) 35th Inf Regt
- (aa) 36th Inf Regt
- (ab) 37th Inf Regt
- (ac) 38th Inf Regt
- (ad) 39th Inf Regt
- (ae) 40th Inf Regt
- (af) 41st Inf Regt
- (ag) 42nd Inf Regt
- (ah) 43rd Inf Regt
- (ai) 44th Inf Regt
- (aj) 45th Inf Regt
- (ak) 46th Inf Regt
- (al) 47th Inf Regt
- (am) 48th Inf Regt
- (an) 49th Inf Regt
- (ao) 50th Inf Regt
- (ap) 51st Inf Regt
- (aq) 52nd Inf Regt
- (ar) 53rd Inf Regt
- (as) 54th Inf Regt
- (at) 55th Inf Regt
- (au) 56th Inf Regt
- (av) 57th Inf Regt
- (aw) 58th Inf Regt
- (ax) 59th Inf Regt
- (ay) 60th Inf Regt
- (az) 61st Inf Regt
- (ba) 62nd Inf Regt
- (bb) 63rd Inf Regt
- (bc) 64th Inf Regt
- (bd) 65th Inf Regt
- (be) 66th Inf Regt
- (bf) 67th Inf Regt
- (bg) 68th Inf Regt
- (bh) 69th Inf Regt
- (bi) 70th Inf Regt
- (bj) 71st Inf Regt
- (bk) 72nd Inf Regt
- (bl) 73rd Inf Regt
- (bm) 74th Inf Regt
- (bn) 75th Inf Regt
- (bo) 76th Inf Regt
- (bp) 77th Inf Regt
- (bq) 78th Inf Regt
- (br) 79th Inf Regt
- (bs) 80th Inf Regt
- (bt) 81st Inf Regt
- (bu) 82nd Inf Regt
- (bv) 83rd Inf Regt
- (bv) 84th Inf Regt
- (bv) 85th Inf Regt
- (bv) 86th Inf Regt
- (bv) 87th Inf Regt
- (bv) 88th Inf Regt
- (bv) 89th Inf Regt
- (bv) 90th Inf Regt
- (bv) 91st Inf Regt
- (bv) 92nd Inf Regt
- (bv) 93rd Inf Regt
- (bv) 94th Inf Regt
- (bv) 95th Inf Regt
- (bv) 96th Inf Regt
- (bv) 97th Inf Regt
- (bv) 98th Inf Regt
- (bv) 99th Inf Regt
- (bv) 100th Inf Regt

b. Operations.

(1) Included in this Report.

(2) Summary of Operations.

(a) Period 0000Z Jan 45 to 0000Z Jan 45.

1st Lt relieved the 1st Lt on the 1st Lt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45. 2d Lt relieved and went into Corps Regt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45.

3d Lt continued consolidating positions on the 1st Lt. Enemy arty fire sporadic.

(b) Period 0000Z Jan 45 to 0000Z Jan 45.

1st Lt relieved the 1st Lt on the 1st Lt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45. 2d Lt relieved and went into Corps Regt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45. 3d Lt continued consolidating positions on the 1st Lt. Enemy arty fire sporadic.

(c) Period 0000Z Jan 45 to 0000Z Jan 45.

No change.

(d) Period 0000Z Jan 45 to 0000Z Jan 45.

1st Lt relieved the 1st Lt on the 1st Lt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45. 2d Lt relieved and went into Corps Regt, relieved in at 0000Z Jan 45. 3d Lt continued consolidating positions on the 1st Lt. Enemy arty fire sporadic.

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1st Bn 2d Inf. 512400A Jan 45. sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- (5) Period 060700A Jan 45 to 060700A Jan 45.
 5d Bn consolidated positions on the MRR.
 1st Bn less Co B consolidated positions on the RRL.
 Co B relieved 2d Bn, 318th Inf, relief completed at 2145 hrs.
 2d Bn remained in Corps Reg.
- (6) Period 060700A Jan 45 to 070700A Jan 45.
 5d Bn no change.
 Co B no change.
 1st Bn (4Co B) moved to vic SCHIEREN (828578), closed in
 1700 hrs.
 2d Bn remained in Corps Reg.
 1st Bn, 551st GS Engr Regt attached to 2d Inf at 061200A Jan 45.
 Cos were disposed as follows: Co B - OBERGLOECH (859328),
 Co A - WUNDER (878589), Co C - CRUCHTEN (846548), Bn Hq
 CRUCHTEN, closed in by 062500A Jan 45.
 5th Cav Recon Troop attached to 2d Inf 061200A Jan 45, moved
 to SCHIEREN (828578), closed in 1600 hrs.
- (7) Period 070700A Jan 45 to 080700A Jan 45.
 5d Bn no change.
 2d Bn no change.
 Co C relieved Co B on the MRR, closed in at 071800A Jan 45.
 Active patrolling on N bank of the SAUER R during the hours
 of darkness.
- (8) Period 080700A Jan 45 to 090700A Jan 45.
 1st Bn no change.
 2d Bn no change.
 5d Bn, Cos I & K changed places on the MRR, relief
 at 1750 hrs.
 1st Bn, 551st GS Engr, engaged in preparing positions on the RRL.
- (9) Period 090700A Jan 45 to 110700A Jan 45.
 No change.
- (10) Period 110700A Jan 45 to 120700A Jan 45.
 2d Bn relieved the 5d Bn on the MRR at 2200 hrs. Company A
 relieved Co C on the MRR at 1850 hrs.
 5d Bn reverted to Corps Reg.
 1st Bn continued to improve positions on the RRL.
- (11) Period 120700A Jan 45 to 130700A Jan 45.
 Co B relieved Co A on the MRR.
 1st Bn continued to improve positions on the RRL.
 5d Bn no change.
- (12) Period 130700A Jan 45 to 140700A Jan 45.
 5d Bn no change.
 Co C replaced Co B at 1800 hrs.
 2d Bn no change.
- (13) Period 140700A Jan 45 to 150700A Jan 45.
 No change.

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- (14) Period 180000Z Jan 45 to 180000Z Jan 45.
No change.
Co G relieved by elements of the 10th Inf. Relief completed at 2130 hrs.
Let in no change.
1st Bn, 52d AF Bn, detached as of 1410 hrs.
- (15) Period 180000Z Jan 45 to 180000Z Jan 45.
Co G 1st Bn attached as of 1440 hrs.
2d Bn relieved in it on the 2nd, relief completed at 2130 hrs.
2d Bn moved to ground (775777), closed in at 2130 hrs.
Let in no change.
- (16) Period 180000Z Jan 45 to 180000Z Jan 45.
1st and 2d Bn moved into assembly areas preparatory to attack.
2d Bn remained in position furnishing base of fire for attack.
Co F could not reach the 3d Bn to secure footbridge since no ground was to heavy wooded gun fire.
1st Bn was directed to proceed with illumination of footbridge and succeeded in starting a crossing at 0830 hrs. The entire 1st Bn crossed and had started for obj 1, with Co G detached to support 1st Bn at the close of the period.
2d Bn was organized and ready to cross at the close of the period.
- (17) Period 180000Z Jan 45 to 180000Z Jan 45.
2d Bn completed crossing of the river and started for obj 2, (775777). Received a small counterattack from 1st Bn.
1st Bn reached obj 1, dispatching Co G to clean up 1st Bn (775777). Heavy enemy arty fire encountered in and around the town.
2d Bn completed crossing of the river and prepared for the assault of 1st Bn (775777) was about one third thru the town at the close of the period.
1st Bn had reached their objective for the day, obj 2, at the close of the period.
2d Bn had reached phase line B, at the close of the period. A total of 125 prisoners were taken during the period.
- (18) Period 180000Z Jan 45 to 180000Z Jan 45.
1st Bn remained in position supporting the attack of the 2d Bn by fire. Co F was heavily engaged in the wooded area all day long. Co G was fighting in the area during the entire day. Several enemy strong points were eliminated. 2d Bn jumped off on the attack at 11 hour and hit an enemy counterattack at the jump off. The 2d Bn met very stiff resistance throughout the day but succeeded in advancing beyond PHASE LINE during the day. Very heavy 2d and small arm fire was received during the entire engagement.

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Mr. Bn 2A Inf. 512400A Jan 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

5d Bn was successful in clearing the enemy from DIEKIRCH by 1200 hrs. The city was very heavily mined and busy trapped. The 5d Bn was then moved to Regt Bns in vicinity of INGELLART. At 0200 hrs, the Bn was moved to relieve elements of the 1st and 2d Bns in the line. At 0500 hrs, the 1st and 2d Bns moved out toward their objective, 1st Bn on the left, 2d Bn on the right. Bypassing the woods it was planned to attack objective 12 by moving up the draws and come on to the objective from the E and W flanks. At the close of the period, both Bns were on the edge of the objective.

A total of 261 prisoners were taken during the period.

(19) Period 200700A Jan 45 to 210700A Jan 45.

1st Bn continued forward to gain their objective. They found the high ground defended in strength. Elaborate defense installations were manned by the enemy. Enemy flanking fire from the high ground on the left of the boundary caused considerable casualties.

2d Bn continued forward on the 1st Bn right to gain objective. They found the high ground defended and the buildings fortified and manned in strength. Only after considerable fighting and maneuver were the positions taken. After the positions were consolidated, the Bn was relieved by the 5d Bn. The Bn then moved to DIEKIRCH and reverted to Regt Reserve.

5d Bn was given the mission of clearing out the pockets of resistance that had been by-passed by the 1st and 2d Bns. The Bn encountered stiff resistance in clearing out the woods. The Bn then relieved the 2d Bn.

A total of 167 prisoners was taken during the period.

(20) Period 210700A Jan 45 to 220700A Jan 45.

1st Bn jumped off and continued the attack to the NE. Strong enemy resistance was encountered and prepared defensive positions were overcome only after long, hard fighting. Objective was taken and consolidated by 1200 hrs.

The Bn jumped off at 1445 hrs for the next objective and met stiff opposition in the village of LIPPESCHUM. This village was mopped up and positions were consolidated. The Bn was passed through by a Bn of the 11th Inf at 0600 hrs and at the close of the period, the Bn was on its way back to its bivouac area in EITZLEBUCH.

5d Bn on the right of the 1st Bn jumped off and continued the attack to the NE. Strong enemy resistance was encountered in the wooded areas along the E boundary of the Regt. A coordinated attack was launched by the 1st and 5d Bns at 1445 hrs for the objective and the Bn met strong enemy resistance.

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- In the wooded areas along the West East boundary. The 1st Lt. reached a point and consolidated their positions for the night. The 1st Lt. was passed through by a Lt. of the 11th Inf and at the close of the period, the 1st Lt. was on its way to the bivouac area in ATTENBORO.
- 1st Lt. remained in South East in ATTENBORO.
- A total of 100 personnel was taken during the period.
- 1st Lt. - ATTENBORO
2nd Lt. - ATTENBORO
3rd Lt. - ATTENBORO
4th Lt. - ATTENBORO
5th Lt. - ATTENBORO
6th Lt. - ATTENBORO
7th Lt. - ATTENBORO
8th Lt. - ATTENBORO
9th Lt. - ATTENBORO
10th Lt. - ATTENBORO
- (142) Period 0000Z Jan 45 to 0100Z Jan 45.
1st Lt. - no change.
2nd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
3rd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
4th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
5th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
6th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
7th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
8th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
9th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
10th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
- (143) Period 0100Z Jan 45 to 0200Z Jan 45.
1st Lt. - no change.
2nd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
3rd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
4th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
5th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
6th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
7th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
8th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
9th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
10th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0100Z.
- (144) Period 0200Z Jan 45 to 0300Z Jan 45.
No change.
- (145) Period 0300Z Jan 45 to 0400Z Jan 45.
1st Lt. - no change.
2nd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
3rd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
4th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
5th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
6th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
7th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
8th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
9th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
10th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0300Z.
- (146) Period 0400Z Jan 45 to 0500Z Jan 45.
No change.
- (147) Period 0500Z Jan 45 to 0600Z Jan 45.
1st Lt. - no change.
2nd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
3rd Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
4th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
5th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
6th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
7th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
8th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
9th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.
10th Lt. - attached to 11th Inf, effective 0500Z.

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Ltr. No 24 Inf, 512400A Jan 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- Co E 10th Inf attached to 2d Bn as of 2115 hrs.
2d Inf assumed command as of 2115 hrs.
Co D 91st Cal Bn attached as of 222400A.
Co C 757th Tr Bn attached as of 222400A.
1 Plat Co D 757th Tr Bn attached as of 222400A.
- (28) Period 530700A Jan 45 to 500700A Jan 45.
1st Bn - no change.
2d Bn - no change.
3d Bn (less Co K) moved to BRANDENBURG, closed in at 1650 hrs.
Co K relieved Co E 10th Inf and was attached to the 2d Bn, completed relief at 2150 hrs.
- (29) Period 500700A Jan 45 to 510700A Jan 45.
1st and 2d Bns moved forward to more favorable positions on the MLR.
3d Bn - no change.
1 PW taken during the period.
- (30) Period 510700A Jan 45 to 010700A Feb 45.
Co A relieved Co G; completed relief at 512400A.
Co F relieved Co J; completed relief at 010045A.
Co F relieved Co I; completed relief at 012100A.
Co K went into positions formerly occupied Co A; closed in at 0200 hrs.
Units continued preparing positions on the MLR and OPL.

d. Results of Operations.

The regiment continued to maintain the defensive positions along the RAHER river until 18 Jan, when it jumped off in the attack. At 0500 hrs on the 18th of Jan, Co K attempted to cross the river in assault boats to secure foot-bridge sites, but were driven back by heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. 1st Bn succeeded in getting a foot-bridge across the river in the vicinity of ERPELDANGE and they continued the attack to the north, clearing the town of ERPELDANGE. 2d Bn crossed the river and went on the right of the 1st Bn. Together they continued the attack to the north. The 3d Bn crossed the river and assaulted and cleared the town of INGELGER, then started on the town of BIERBACH, meeting heavy enemy resistance. On the 19th of Jan, the 2d and 1st Bns continued the attack to north and had considerable difficulty in advancing due to the very hilly terrain, snow and ice and enemy prepared positions. Numerous counterattacks were repulsed during the day. By the end of the day, the 1st and 2d Bns had reached FRIEHOFF FARM, LUXEMBOURG. The 3d Bn succeeded in clearing the enemy from DIEBIRCH. On the 20th, the 1st and 2d Bns continued the attack and encountered organized defensive positions of the enemy plus fortified buildings at KIPPENBERG FARM, LUXEMBOURG. Only after considerable maneuver and hard fighting was this position taken

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and consolidated. The 5d Bn relieved the 2d Bn and the 3d Bn moved to DIELEBACH in Regtl Bns. On the 21st, the 1st and 5d Bns jumped off to attack to the NE. Again, strong resistance was encountered and prepared positions were used. The town of KIEFFERSHELD was cleaned up after house to house fighting by the 1st Bn. On the 22nd the 11th Inf passed through the 1st and 2d Bns and they then moved to a bivouac area in ETTLEBROCK, LUXEMBOURG. On the 22nd, the 2d Bn was attached to the 4th Div (no movement involved) and the Regt assumed responsibility for the guarding of all bridges across the SAUER river within the Div zone. On the 23rd, the 5d Bn was attached to the 11th Inf. The 1st Bn continued reorganizing and maintenance of equipment. On the 24th, the 2d Bn was released from attachment to 4th Div. On the 26th, the 1st Bn was attached to the 10th Inf and relieved the 2d Bn 10th Inf in the line, and the 2d and 5d Bn continued their reorganization. On the 29th, the 2d Bn relieved the 1st Bn of the 10th Inf. The 5d Bn was relieved from attachment to the 11th Inf and moved to a bivouac area in ETTLEBROCK. Co B of the 10th Inf was attached to the 2d Bn and command changed from the 10th to the 2d Inf effective at 2115 hrs. Regtl Hq moved to BRANDENBOURG. On the 29th, the 5d Bn moved from ETTLEBROCK to BRANDENBOURG and Co K relieved Co E of the 10th Inf. The 1st and 2d Bns consolidated their positions on the MGR at the close of the period.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION.

a. Supply.

(1) Class I. Rations are drawn daily from Div truckhead. Ration scale, Breakfast to Supper, inclusive, 1 1/2 days rations on hand, including 1 day of reserve operational rations, consisting of a combination of type C and K. Operational rations are supplemented by a D ration issued on a basis of 1/5 of total operational rations. Operational rations are also supplemented by an issue of coffee, milk and sugar. A 10% increase has been received on B rations during the month of January, as authorized by Cir 77, Hq STOUZA, 1944 series.

(2) Class II. Clothing, individual and organizational equipment requisitioned and drawn weekly. Replacement of salvage has been by turn-in of unserviceable items and requisition, excepting clothing which is replenished as directed in Cir 58, Hq STOUZA 1944 series. Additional winter clothing has been received during the past month, but total requirements for some items including shoe pads, sleeping bags, mittens and wristlets have not been filled. However, extra blankets and overshoes are on hand as substitutes for shoe pads and sleeping bags.

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Ltr. Rm 2d Inf. 512400A Jan 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- (3) Class III. - Drawn as needed from Div truckhead on a can for can exchange basis. Sufficient available for all requirements.
- (4) Class IV. - All Class IV items available on request. PX rations issued weekly and are being received in sufficient quantity for present needs.
- (5) Class V. - Ammunition drawn from Army ASP on T/O approved by DAG. Complete basic load maintained at all times. A few substitutes are on hand for some authorized pyrotechnics.
- (6) Factors Affecting Flow of Supplies.
The flow of supplies in all categories has been normal.
- (7) Shortage of Major Items.

ORDNANCE

- 5 ea Gum, machine, cal .50, M1919A4
13 ea Mount, tripod, M/2
57 ea Launcher, grenade, M/7
13 ea Sets, Light, aiming post, M/14
2 ea Posts, aiming, M/3
2 ea Posts, aiming, M/7
4 ea Projector, pyrotechnic, M/9
1 ea Rifle, 1903A4 (snipers)
1 ea Telescope, obsv, M/19

ORDNANCE MOTOR TRANSPORT

- 52 ea 600x16 tires
54 ea 600x16 tubes
5 ea 750x20 tires
14 ea Wheel assemblies, 1-ton 4x4
5 ea Exhaust pipe, 1-ton 4x4
2 ea Radiators, 1-ton 4x4
12 ea Batteries, 1-ton 4x4
5 ea Compressors, 4 on FM (Component of 2d Ech Set #1)

QUARTERMASTER ORGANIZATIONAL EQUIPMENT

- 52 ea Can, water, 5 gal.
18 ea Carrier, wire cutter, M/58
57 ea Cutlery, wire, M/38
54 ea Guitlit, cooking, 1 burner
1 ea Tool kit, w/tools, complete

QUARTERMASTER INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- 1552 ea Covers, protective

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- (4) **Intelligence - Individual Equipment**
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Mr. W. G. L. BLAGG Jan 25, 1945, with After Action Report (Cont'd)

(e) Quartermaster Individual Clothing

218 ea Belt, web, waist
22 ea Cap, garrison G.D.
119 ea Coat, wool, serge
512 ea Drawers, cotton
455 ea Drawers, wool
22 ea Jacket, field
511 ea Jacket, U.S.A.
22 ea Leggings, canvas, diast.
122 ea Overcoat, wool
11 ea Suspenders, blanket lined
22 ea Suspenders, rubber or chain top
102 ea Suspenders, rubberized
22 ea Shirts, wool, G.D.
122 ea Shoes, garrison
4 ea Socks, combat
112 ea Socks, L.E.
17 ea Suspenders, knit
112 ea Trousers, w.o.d.
222 ea Trousers, U.S.A.
122 ea Undershirts, cotton
122 ea Undershirts, wool
512 ea Undies (bath and sock)
222 ea Gloves, toy leather
222 ea Belts, cartridge or pistol
172 ea Garters, cotton, M/K10

(f) Signal

1 ea Radio, SCR 300

(g) Signalfield Recovery and Evacuation (Signal) during period

3 ea Glasses, field w/cover
4 ea Flashlight
1 ea Rifle, Walker, cal .22
3 ea Pistol, machine, 2mm
7 ea Rifle, machine, M.P. 43
11 ea Rifle, Manner
1 ea Shotgun
2 ea Trip Mine
1 ea Trip, automatic, Manner

Items as listed under foregoing paragraph have been turned into proper collecting points. All evacuation in all categories has been completed.

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HEADQUARTERS 8000D INFANTRY

Vic ESSELINGEN, GERMANY
(152466)
28E400A Feb 45

Subject: After Action Report

To : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division

1. Personnel - Period 1 Feb 45 to 28 Feb 45.

- a. (1) Total effective strength at beginning of period: 155 officers, 5 warrant officers, 8008 enlisted men.
- (2) Total effective strength at end of period: 141 officers, 5 warrant officers, 2872 enlisted men.
- b. (1) Killed in action during period: 4 officers, 58 enlisted men.
- (2) Wounded in action during period: 26 officers, 259 enlisted men.
- (3) Missing in action during period: 0 officers, 17 enlisted men.
- c. Replacements received during period: 14 officers, 516 enlisted men (includes RTDs).

2. Enemy

- a. Enemy contacted during the period of this report include elements of: The 8th VGD, 2d Pa Div, 212 VGD, 562 VGD, 22d Nebelwerfer Regt, and various Battle Groups.
- b. During the period of 1 - 5 Feb 45 the enemy occupied positions in the such heralded "West Wall", except for a limited amount of patrolling, no physical contact with the enemy was made.
During the period of 4 - 15 Feb 45 no physical contact with the enemy.
During the period of 14 - 28 Feb 45 an attack was launched to the NE and stiff enemy resistance was encountered in the town of SCHANNWILDER (024452), BERTLINGEN (046486) and BERTLINGEN (041501), GERMANY. This resistance embodied the extensive use of minefields and heavy HEKELMEYER concentration on our forward elements. It was also noted during this period the increase of enemy armor, particularly SPs. Upon breaking the enemy lines it was discovered that the enemy had committed only a holding force, and due to our rapid advance, the enemy was caught attempting to withdraw to the east. The momentum of our attack continued unabated until the enemy was forced across the KILL R.
- c. Enemy installations encountered were the usual hasty field fortification, i.e., foxholes, slit trenches, etc. Also the numerous pillboxes and cleverly camouflaged blockhouses that make up the "West Wall". The details of which have already been made known.
- d. Heavy casualties in killed and wounded were inflicted upon the enemy during the period covered by this report. Evacuation of killed and wounded continued to be performed satisfactorily.

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- e. A trial of M11 performance was captured during the period covered by this report.
- f. The morale of the Army during this period was at a low ebb. The chief cause being the world-wide of the Russians on the East Front, thus leaving the East Army endangered.

3. THE OPERATIONS

a. Force Disposition

- (1) 1st Division
 - (a) 1st Inf Bn
 - (b) 2nd Inf Bn
 - (c) 3rd Inf Bn
 - (d) 4th Inf Bn
 - (e) 5th Inf Bn
 - (f) 6th Inf Bn
 - (g) 7th Inf Bn
 - (h) 8th Inf Bn
 - (i) 9th Inf Bn
 - (j) 10th Inf Bn
 - (k) Co 1 1st Cav Bn
 - (l) Co 2 1st Cav Bn
 - (m) Co 3 1st Cav Bn
 - (n) Co 4 1st Cav Bn
 - (o) Co 5 1st Cav Bn
 - (p) Co 6 1st Cav Bn
 - (q) Co 7 1st Cav Bn
 - (r) Co 8 1st Cav Bn
 - (s) Co 9 1st Cav Bn
 - (t) Co 10 1st Cav Bn
- (2) 2nd Division
 - (a) 1st Inf Bn
 - (b) 2nd Inf Bn
 - (c) 3rd Inf Bn
 - (d) 4th Inf Bn
 - (e) 5th Inf Bn
 - (f) 6th Inf Bn
 - (g) 7th Inf Bn
 - (h) 8th Inf Bn
 - (i) 9th Inf Bn
 - (j) 10th Inf Bn
 - (k) Co 1 2nd Cav Bn
 - (l) Co 2 2nd Cav Bn
 - (m) Co 3 2nd Cav Bn
 - (n) Co 4 2nd Cav Bn
 - (o) Co 5 2nd Cav Bn
 - (p) Co 6 2nd Cav Bn
 - (q) Co 7 2nd Cav Bn
 - (r) Co 8 2nd Cav Bn
 - (s) Co 9 2nd Cav Bn
 - (t) Co 10 2nd Cav Bn

b. Summary

- (1) 1st Division
 - (a) 1st Division Feb 14 to 1500 hrs. Feb 15.
 It is recalled the 1st Bn on the M11, relief completed at 1500 hrs.
 Co 1 attached on the M11 attached to the 1st Bn.
 It is noted Co 1 was later sent for via READINGTON, 1500 hrs.
 Co 2 1st Cav Bn relieved from attachment to 1st Inf as of 1500 hrs.
 Co 3 1st Cav Bn attached as of 1500 hrs.
 - (b) 2nd Division Feb 14 to 1500 hrs. Feb 15.
 No change.
 - (c) 3rd Division Feb 14 to 1500 hrs. Feb 15.
 It is recalled Co 1 on the M11.
 It is noted Co 1 continued maintaining positions on the M11.
 - (d) 4th Division Feb 14 to 1500 hrs. Feb 15.
 It is noted Co 1 moved to assembly area via of LORINGHAM and READINGTON, closed in at 1500 hrs.
 It is noted Co 2 moved to assembly area via of READINGTON, closed in at 1500 hrs.
 It is recalled by TFF on the M11, relief completed at 1500 hrs.
 The 1st Bn then moved to via of SHEDDEN, closed in at 0545 hrs.
 The 2nd Bn relieved by TFF on the M11, relief completed at 0100 hrs.
 The 3rd Bn then moved to via of SCHMIDTKE, closed in at 0500 hrs.

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Ltr. Bn 2d Inf. 282400A Feb 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd)

- (5) Period 060700A Feb 45 to 060700A Feb 45.
1st Bn no change.
2d Bn no change.
3d Bn no change.
Cn Co moved to vic SCHANNKILLER, closed in at 1200 hrs,
Units prepared for future operations, training in pillbox
assault.
- (6) Period 060700A Feb 45 to 120700A Feb 45.
No change.
- (7) Period 120700A Feb 45 to 120700A Feb 45.
1 Plat Co G relieved 1 Plat 5th Cav Bn guarding radio
station at JUNELINSTER, relief completed at 121515A Feb 45.
- (8) Period 120700A Feb 45 to 120700A Feb 45.
No change.
- (9) Period 120700A Feb 45 to 120700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf relieved 1st Bn 10th Inf, relief completed
as of 122200 hrs.
2d Bn 2d Inf in Regtl Res vic BOELLENDORF, closed in as of
1900 hrs.
3d Bn 2d Inf relieved 3d Bn 10th Inf, relief completed as
of 123035 hrs.
AT Co 2d Inf relieved AT Co 10th Inf, relief completed as of
121245 hrs.
Cn Co 2d Inf relieved Cn Co 10th Inf, relief completed as of
121245 hrs.
2d Inf assumed command as of 122500 hrs.
- (10) Period 120700A Feb 45 to 170700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf improved its positions during the period.
Plat of Co C moved to positions at 1150 hrs where they
obtained observation on SCHANNKILLER.
Co B advanced at 1740 hrs into town of SCHANNKILLER,
encountered stiff fighting, occupied half the town at
close of period.
2d Bn 2d Inf remained in Regtl Res in vic BOELLENDORF.
3d Bn 2d Inf improved its positions during the period.
Patrols were active to the river to our front during the
night.
Roads in Regtl sector were very bad during period and were
being worked on by Sigs.
- (11) Period 170700A Feb 45 to 180700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf completed clearing town of SCHANNKILLER by
1200 hrs encountering heavy MG and small arms fire.
A bridge N of SCHANNKILLER was secured by Co A at 1450 hrs.
Bridge was of concrete structure and was secured intact.
It was not prepared for demolition.
Bridge E of SCHANNKILLER was secured intact by Co B at
1400 hrs and one Plat occupied houses on E bank of river.
Bridge was not prepared for demolitions.

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- (11) Period 170700A Feb 45 to 180700A Feb 45. (cont'd)
At 0800 hrs, companies A and C attacked. Co A attacking over the F bridge and Co C attacking over E bridge then turning N. Co B remained in town of SCHANNWEILER securing both bridges. At the close of the period, both A and C Cos were on obj.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved from HALSDORF to positions N of SCHANNWEILER, remained in Regtl Res.
3d Bn 2d Inf patrolled to ENE of during the day, to select crossing sites. At 0500 hrs, Cos L and I attacked. Co I crossed river on bridge E of SCHANNWEILER, attacking due E towards obj. Co J crossed river by means of foot-bridge attacking NE to obj. At close of pe iod both Cos were on obj. Co K remained in position protecting right flank of Regt and maintaining contact with 17th Inf Regt.
Co G 757th Td Bn was being moved from FESCHWEILER to SCHANNWEILER at close of period.
- (12) Period 180700A Feb 45 to 190700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf improved positions throughout the period. Company A destroyed one enemy tank with bazooka fire. Company B was moved from positions via SCHANNWEILER to woods NE of town.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved out of Regtl Res positions at 1750 hrs to attack obj. At close of period, attack was still progressing.
3d Bn 2d Inf improved positions throughout the period.
- (13) Period 190700A Feb 45 to 200700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf improved positions throughout the period, 2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack. The Bn encountered strong enemy resistance in the form of enemy counterattack of estimated company strength with accompanying tank. The Bn line held and attack was beaten off with heavy loss to the enemy. Two Mark V tanks and one enemy SP were destroyed by Co A 9054 TD Bn supporting 2d Bn 2d Inf. Bn reached and consolidated via of STORKEN at 2150 hrs. Units were dispatched to clear out bunker to W of town and forced surrender of 86 prisoners from bunker. At close of period 2d Bn had plot in town of HALSDORF.
3d Bn 2d Inf was relieved by 3d Bn 10th Inf. Relief was completed by 2050 hrs and 3d Bn 2d Inf formed in assembly area prior to relieving units of 1st and 3d Bns.
- (14) Period 200700A Feb 45 to 210700A Feb 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf continued clearing out woods to FRUM B through out the period.

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1st Bn 2d Inf, 222400Z Feb 45, sub: 2224 Action Report (Cont'd)

- (14) Period 220700Z Feb 45 to 210700Z Feb 45. (Cont'd)
 2d Bn 2d Inf continued clearing up and consolidating positions in HALESDORF. Positions in STUCKEN were further improved. Company E cleared woods towards FRUM R.
 3d Bn 2d Inf continued clearing up woods in their sector to FRUM R. Positions were consolidated and supports were posted.
 Fear roads gave considerable trouble throughout the period.
 Eighty-four (84) prisoners were taken during the period.
- (15) Period: 210700Z Feb 45 to 220700Z Feb 45.
 1st Bn 2d Inf improved positions throughout the period, and did aggressive patrolling along the FRUM R.
 2d Bn 2d Inf consolidated positions during the period and did active patrolling E and W toward BETTINGEN. Report that enemy SF was destroyed by Co A 6034 TD Bn.
 3d Bn 2d Inf improved positions during the period and conducted patrolling along the FRUM R in their sector.
- (16) Period 220700Z Feb 45 to 230700Z Feb 45.
 1st Bn 2d Inf relieved by units of 10th Inf as of 0150 hrs, moved into reserve.
 2d Bn 2d Inf continued mop up operations in sector, capturing 16 enemy. Enemy 3-man patrol intercepted - 1 captured, 1 killed, 1 escaped.
 Co E relieved by Co F, 3d Bn 2d Inf as of 2400 hrs.
 Co G relieved units of 80th Inf Div on the Regt left. Relief completed at 2555 hrs.
 3d Bn 2d Inf was relieved by units of 10th Inf Regt as of 2525 hrs. Bn went into reserve.
- (17) Period 230700Z Feb 45 to 240700Z Feb 45.
 1st Bn 2d Inf remained in Regt Res throughout the period.
 2d Bn 2d Inf conducted active patrols in the direction of BETTINGEN, contact was made with the enemy W of the town.
 3d Bn 2d Inf conducted active patrols through the period.
 Bn CP moved from SCHANKKILLER to NUHBAUM.
 2d Inf CP closed out at DOLLINGEN 1500 hrs. Opened at new location SOBBAKKE at 1500 hrs.
- (18) Period 240700Z Feb 45 to 250700Z Feb 45.
 1st Bn 2d Inf jumped off on attack in Regt sector at 242500Z, crossed FRUM River. Bn cleared river as of 2400 hrs and proceeded to take obj, and the town of WETTINGEN. Resistance light to moderate. At close of period were preparing to proceed with attack.
 2d Bn 2d Inf remained in position protecting the left flank of the Regt attack.
 3d Bn 2d Inf followed the 1st Bn across FRUM R, clearing river as of 250200Z. Proceeded to take obj. Encountered small arms, some mortar and sbs. Resistance light to moderate. At close of period were organizing captured obj.

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(19) Period 260700Z Feb 45 to 260700Z Feb 45

1st Bn 24 Inf continued attack taking obj as of 0800 hrs. Resistance light to moderate, consolidated positions on obj. As of 0800 hrs Bn jumped off on attack of next obj, occupied it as of 0815 hrs. Continued mopping up and consolidating position for remainder of period.

2d Bn 24 Inf sent patrols into towns of BETTINGEN and WLSDOEF, encountered very light resistance and occupied towns as of 1700 hrs. Roads into both towns mined extensively.

3d Bn 24 Inf continued attack taking obj at approximately 1200 hrs, consolidated obj and moved off to take next obj as of 0800 hrs. Approaching obj at close of period.

(20) Period 260700Z Feb 45 to 270700Z Feb 45

1st Bn 24 Inf mopped up obj and proceeded to next obj. Occupied obj as of 1550 hrs and proceeded to clear sags to NIMS R line. Occupied the town of STARK across the river, both bridges were found blown.

2d Bn 24 Inf cleared woods west of BIRTLINGEN and proceeded to obj, occupying the town of BIRTLINGEN as of 1100 hrs. Glass 70 bridge found intact. Occupied town of BIRTLINGEN and line along NIMS R at close of period.

3d Bn 24 Inf consolidated and mopped up woods NW of BIRTLINGEN during the period.

2d Inf closed CP at EKENS at 1550 hrs. Opened CP at BETTINGEN 1550 hrs.

2d Bn 11th Inf detached as of 261200Z.

(21) Period 270700Z Feb 45 to 280700Z Feb 45

1st Bn 24 Inf consolidated positions throughout the period.

2d Bn 24 Inf consolidated positions throughout the period.

3d Bn 24 Inf remained in Regtl Res.

(22) Period 280700Z Feb 45 to 010700Z Mar 45

1st Bn 24 Inf in Regtl Res in town of STARK throughout the period.

2d Bn 24 Inf relieved elements of the 5th Ron Tr on obj F of ESSELINGEN and at 0950 hrs proceeded to attack to the N within same. During the period the Bn captured the German towns of TRIMPERT and IDERKIM. At close of period, zone had been cleared of the enemy to the KYLL R and high ground N of River secured.

3d Bn 24 Inf relieved elements of the 5th Ron Tr on obj H of ESSELINGEN and at 1100 hrs, proceeded to attack to the east within same. Bn captured German towns of SULEM and DAILEN, then continued the advance clearing the enemy from same to the west bank of the KYLL R.

2d Inf closed CP at BETTINGEN at 1500 hrs. Opened CP in ESSELINGEN at 1500 hrs.

Total of 84 prisoners taken during the period.

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Ltr. No. 2d Inf. 282400A Feb 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

d. Results of Operations.

The regiment for the first four days of the period held the line along the OUR River. Relieved by TFF, the regiment assembled in the general vicinity of ALTENSTETTER, GOERANRANG, LOHRENSWILLER, and BOURGLINSTER, LUXEMBOURG. On the 15th of February, the 1st and 5d Bns 2d Inf relieved the 1st and 5d Bns 10th Inf in the vicinity of BOLLENDORF, GERMANY and continued the attack to the north. The 2d Bn 2d Inf relieved the 2d Bn 10th Inf in BOLLENDORF and remained in reserve there. 1st Bn captured the town of SOHANNWILLER against strong enemy small arms and SP fire, and at the same time captured two bridges intact across the OUR River. Continuing the attack across the KEE River, the 1st and 5d Bns captured and consolidated the high wooded terrain NE of SOHANNWILLER and south of BETTINGEN. The 2d Bn was committed the 18th of Feb to attack north and northwest of SOHANNWILLER, and after beating off an enemy counter-attack supported by tanks and encountering stiff opposition from enemy small arms, tanks and self-propelled guns, the Bn captured the towns of STOOKEN and HALSCHOFF. On the 24th of Feb 45, the regiment attacked east across the PRUM River. 1st Bn cleared the river as of 2400 hours and captured the town of WETTLINGEN, securing the bridgehead and high ground to the east. The 5d Bn followed and cleared the bridge as of 250200A and took the high ground east of the river on the right flank of the regiment. Resistance was light to moderate. The 2d Bn initially holding a line along the regiment's left flank, entered the towns of BETTINGEN and GLADORF against slight resistance on 25 Feb, clearing the towns by 1700 hours. The following day, 26 Feb 45, the 1st Bn pressed the attack to the east and cleared their route to the NIMS River, capturing the town of STARL. The 2d Bn crossed the PRUM River in vic of WETTLINGEN, passing through and clearing the dense woods behind the 5d Bn, then continuing the attack towards the east to the NIMS River, and capturing the town of BIRTLENGEN and bridge intact. With the passing of the 11th Inf across the regimental front, the 2d and 5d Bns relieved elements of the 6th Arm Tr on 26 Feb on the Div right flank and advanced to the east to the KILL River. The 2d Bn on the right captured the towns of IESBERG and TRIMPERT against light opposition. The 5d Bn on the left captured the towns of SULEM and DAHLEN against light resistance. At the close of the period, the 1st Bn remained in Regtl reserve in the vic of STARL, GERMANY. The 2d and 5d Bns occupied a line along the KILL River, consolidated with the 10th Inf Regt on the left, and the 11th Inf Regt on the right.

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4. Supply and Procurement.

- (1) Class I. - Ration cycle from breakfast to supper inclusive, allowing a daylight breakdown and distribution. Rations drawn daily between 0600 and 0950 at Div Class I truckhead. A "B" ration is used consistently by this organization, except where the tactical situation does not permit its use. If terrain affords cover and a covered or concealed approach a "B" ration is fed to troops in front line positions by the use of hot food containers, moved forward from company release points by platoons and/or Company carrying parties. Approximately 1-1/3 days of Ration on hand, consisting normally of 1 day of "B", and 1/3 day of operational reserve, this reserve being a combination of "C", "B" and "D" in 1", which is supplemented by "D" rations issued on the basis of 1 "D" ration to each 3 operational rations on hand. Operational rations also supplemented by packages of bread, coffee, milk and sugar. During winter months the "B" ration has been, and still is, increased by 10 percent, as auth. by Gtr #77, Hq KROUSA, 1944 series.
- (2) Class II. - All Class II items are requisitioned and drawn weekly, and supply has been constant. Replacement of salvaged clothing has been accomplished as prescribed in Gtr #55, Hq KROUSA, 1944 series.
- (3) Class III. - Gasoline, oils and lubricants drawn daily from Div truckhead on a can for can exchange basis. Sufficient available for all requirements.
- (4) Class IV. - These items available on request, excepting PX supplies which are requisitioned and received weekly. All PX supplies are being received from Class I supply point. These PX issues are supplemented by sales items of a like nature through the Regtl Special Service Officer.
- (5) Class V. - Ammunition drawn from Army ASR on I/O approved by DAGO. This approval is based on expenditure reports and certified battle losses. Basic load maintained at all times, excepting some pyrotechnics, for which a suitable substitute is on hand.
- (6) Factors Affecting Flow of Supplies. - The flow of supplies in all categories has been normal. Some delay in the movement of supplies forward from Div Supply Points to Regtl and Bn areas has been experienced for several days. This delay has been due primarily to the condition of the roads which are in poor condition as a result of the recent thaw, and also to traffic congestion on secondary roads necessary for supply vehicles of this organization to use.

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ICR. Bu 24 Inf. 892400A Feb 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

German Acquisition

- 78 rds Mortar shells, 120mm (9 cases of 4 ea - 10 cases of 2 ea) Bal not packed
- 129 rds Mortar shells (15 cases of 5 ea. 25 cases of 4 ea)
- 15 rds Panzerfaust, 5.0cm (5 cases of 4 ea.) Bal not packed.
- 10 rds Panzerfaust, 6.0cm, not packed
- 10000 rds Cart., (rifle)
- 4 rds Grenade, Frangible (smoke)
- 9 rds Shell, 8.0cm., R.F., B GR 4522 (Baseball)
- 16 rds Shell 7.5cm., Sprgr., 14 pak 40
- 1 box 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 (Contents consist of Very-flares, smoke pots, hand grenades)
- 22 rds 120mm WGR., 41 Spr., Dev. Dev (Screaming Meemies)
- 6290 rds Cart., 7.62mm .31, M3
- 569 rds Shell, HE, 6cm Mortar
- 24 rds Grenade, hand, stick, #24
- 48 rds Grenade, hand, egg-shaped #59
- 4500 rds Cart., 7.62mm
- 5000 rds Cart., M1 7.62mm
- (b) **Quartermaster, Organizational Equipment**
 - 20 ea Packboards, plywood
 - 15 ea Carriers, intr., M/45
 - 15 ea Carriers, shovel, intr., M/45
 - 12 ea Picketattack, intr., M/10
 - 8 ea Carriers, Picketattack, M/10
- (c) **Quartermaster, Individual Equipment**
 - 215 ea Ball, 7.62mm
 - 100 ea Grenade
 - 157 ea Cap, G.I.
 - 82 ea Cover, canteen
 - 231 ea Eversocks
 - 120 ea Carriers, pack
 - 70 ea Hat, wool
 - 31 ea Tent, tent shelter half
 - 2 ea Mail, bedding, officers
 - 174 ea Pina, tent shelter half
 - 13 ea Belt, pistol
 - 15 ea Rope, tent, shelter half
- (d) **Quartermaster, Individual Clothing**
 - 18 ea Goggles, rubberised
 - 112 ea Shoes, service
 - 98 ea Socks, 1/2 length
 - 412 ea Blankets, wool
 - 141 ea Tent, shelter half
 - 14 ea Bag, sleeping

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HEADQUARTERS SECOND INFANTRY

Via FRANKFURT, GERMANY
(688704)
1 April 1945

File 7 Mar 45

Subject: After Action Report

To: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division

1. Paragraph - Period 1 Mar 45 to 31 Mar 45.

- a. (1) Total effective strength at beginning of period:
140 officers, 5 warrant officers, 2872 enlisted men.
- (2) Total effective strength at end of period:
141 officers, 5 warrant officers, 3025 enlisted men.
- b. (1) Killed in action during period: 2 officers, 64 enlisted men.
- (2) Wounded in action during period: 9 officers, 312 enlisted men.
- (3) Missing in action during period: 5 officers, 121 enlisted men.
- c. Replacements received during period: 24 officers, 890 enlisted men.

2. Enemy.

- a. Enemy contacted during period of this report include elements of: 159 WID, 6 SS Mountain Div, misc flak units; Battle Groups made up of conglomerate units were most frequently contacted. These assumed the names of their respective unit commanders.
- b. During the period 1-5 March 1945, the enemy occupied positions on the east bank of the KILL River, GERMANY. Due to the enemy's rapid retreat to the east, his main efforts were directed toward the establishing of a stable defensive line on the east bank. Except for a limited amount of patrolling, no physical contact with the enemy was made.

During the period 6-13 Mar 45, an attack was launched to the east, and it was soon discovered that the enemy's defensive line was not adequate, and a general rout followed. Our attack continued unabated until the enemy was forced to the south bank of the MOSELLE River, vic of TRUIS (690750), GERMANY. During our rapid advance, the most serious obstacles encountered were numerous road blocks and inadequate road nets in the area. The road blocks for the most part were the felled-tree type (abatis).

During the period 14-22 Mar 45, an attack was launched to the southeast, principally to establish a bridgehead across the MOSELLE River. Initially, stiff enemy resistance was encountered, composed chiefly of artillery and mortar fire. However, this resistance was soon broken and the enemy's attack continued unchecked, until the enemy was forced to retreat to GEMMERSPO, of the RHINE River, where he again directed his efforts to the

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CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
1st Lt. J. M. [unclear] (4464)
DOWNING CENTER

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establishing of a stable defensive line.

During the period 22-31 Mar 45, the attack to the east continued and the RHINE River was bridged, with amazing ease. Again it was found that the enemy could not adequately organize a defensive position, and our advance turned into a rout as we continued to drive deeper and deeper into HITLER'S GERMANY. His only resistance was of scattered units which did not have the time nor means to escape to the east.

- c. Enemy installations encountered were numerous road blocks, which for the most part were the felled-tree type (abatis). These blocks were found on almost all principal roads and hindered our advance a great deal. For the most part, mine fields were not encountered to a great extent, principally because the enemy didn't have the time to construct any. Also encountered were the usual hasty field fortifications, i.e. foxholes, slit-trenches, etc.
- d. Heavy casualties in killed and wounded were inflicted upon the enemy during the period covered by this report. Evacuation of killed and wounded continued to be performed satisfactorily.
- e. A total of 2,775 prisoners was captured during the period covered by this report.
- f. The morale of the enemy during this period was at its very lowest ebb, principally because of our rapid advance against such obstacles that the enemy thought to be impregnable.

3. OWN OPERATIONS.

a. Forces Engaged.

(1) Own Troops.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) 82 Inf | (j) Co B 757th Tk Bn |
| (b) 50th FA Bn | (k) Recon Tr 808d TD Bn |
| (c) 19th FA Bn | (l) Co B 81st Sig Bn |
| (d) 21st FA Bn | (m) Co A 5th Med Bn |
| (e) 46th FA Bn | (n) Co A 7th Engr Bn |
| (f) Co C 757th Tk Bn | (o) 191st FA Bn |
| (g) Co H 757th Tk Bn | (p) 512th FA Bn |
| (h) Co A 805d TD Bn | (q) 276th FA Bn |
| (i) Assault gun Co 757th Tk Bn | (r) 179th FA Bn |

(2) Adjacent Units.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 10th Inf Regt | (e) 76th Inf Div |
| (b) 11th Inf Regt | (f) 89th Inf Div |
| (c) 80th Inf Div | (g) 81 Cav Group |
| (d) 28th Inf Div | (h) CGR 4th Arm Div |

b. Reserves.

- (1) Included in par 2a.

c. Summary of Operations.

- (1) Period 010700A Mar 45 to 020700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf in Regt's Res, moved from position in town of STAHL to GERSTEDEN as of 1800 hrs. Co A was attached to 5d Bn 2d Inf on Regt's left flank and relieved elements of the 10th Inf as of 0100 hrs; occupied zone to new Regt hqry,

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Ltr. Bn 2d Inf, 1 Apr 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

2d Bn 2d Inf actively patrolled W of KYLL R within zone and improved positions throughout the period.
3d Bn 2d Inf actively patrolled W of KYLL R, within zone and improved positions throughout the period.
AT Co 2d Inf swept and removed AP and AT mine fields along the Regtl front line.
A total of 8 prisoners were taken during the period.

- (2) Period 020700A Mar 45 to 050700A Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf, less Co A, remained in Regtl reserve throughout the period.
2d Bn 2d Inf actively patrolled their zone west of the KYLL R and in support of attacking units on the Regtl's left, laid diverting fires on enemy across the river within zone.
3d Bn 2d Inf, Co A atchd, patrolled their zone west of the KYLL R and in support of attacking units on the Regtl's left, laid diverting fires on enemy across the river within zone.
Detached: Co A (-1 plat) 91st Cml Bn (4.2nd mort) - effective 021200A.
Co A 7th Engr Bn - effective 021200A.
- (3) Period 050700A Mar 45 to 040700A Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf relieved 3d Bn 2d Inf on the MIA. Relief completed as of 2255 hrs.
2d Bn 2d Inf remained in position, F Co relieving I Co on Bn left. Relief completed as of 2250 hrs.
3d Bn 2d Inf, less Co I, relieved from line, went into Regtl reserve in OBERSTEDEN. Co I 2d Inf relieved Co K 10th Inf on Regtl left flank. Relief completed as of 2250 hrs.
- (4) Period 040700A Mar 45 to 050700A Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf less Co B reverted to Regtl Res to city of BITBURG; closed in 1955 hrs.
2d Bn 2d Inf, Co B atchd, maintained position on Regtl MIA.
3d Bn 2d Inf remained in Regtl Res in town of OBERSTEDEN.
- (5) Period 050700A Mar 45 to 060700A Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf remained in reserve via BITBURG, prepared for future operations.
2d Bn 2d Inf occupied MIA in Regtl zone, prepared for future operations.
3d Bn 2d Inf in Regtl reserve in OBERSTEDEN, prepared for future operations.
- (6) Period 060700A Mar 45 to 070700A Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf jumped off from BITBURG, crossing IP at 0900 hrs, passed through the 10th Inf and attacked to the NE taking the town of GINDORF, then proceeded to OBERKLEH. Detrucked Bn attacked E toward SCHWANENBERG and at close of period was encountering fierce resistance. Bn reached town and was driven out by strong enemy counterattack of Inf supported by 8 to 10 tanks.

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At close of period Bn occupied line along stream W of SCHWARZENBORN. Bridge over stream was captured intact. 2d Bn 2d Inf followed 1st Bn into town of GERHILF. Committed Co G to hold right flank of 1st Bn line which occupied woods south of SCHWARZENBORN at close of period. 5d Bn 2d Inf followed 2d Bn in route march formation; occupied town of GINDORF at close of period. Usual attachments augmented by 757th Tn Bn less Co, 5th Recon Tr less Plat, 805d Recon Tr.

(7) Period 070700A Mar 45 to 080700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf held positions along stream W of SCHWARZENBORN. Moved Co C into SCHWARZENBORN relieving Co G. Bn in reserve at close of period. 2d Bn 2d Inf, passing through 1st Bn, continued the attack to the E, capturing the town of SCHWARZENBORN. Continuing E the Bn seized a bridgehead across the SALM River and cleared the town of EISENSCHMITT. At close of period, Bn occupied high ground to N and E of bridge site. 5d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the E capturing the town of GRANSBERG, continuing the attack across the SALM River. The Bn occupied the high ground S and SE of the bridge site in EISENSCHMITT.

Work was progressing on bridge at close of period. A total of 57 prisoners were captured during the period.

(8) Period 080700A Mar 45 to 090700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the East. Moderate enemy resistance and extensive road blocks were encountered. At close of period, Bn was clearing road block in woods and patrolling to the East.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the NE, pushing out to final bridgehead line. Holding there, the Bn was formed as part of Task Force GRAHAM for next period's action.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to E and SE, capturing the town of EICHELHUTTE. Resistance was stubborn and hand fighting resulted. At close of period, Bn was consolidating highground on final bridgehead line. 69 enemy were captured during the period.

(9) Period 090700A Mar 45 to 100700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to E, clearing numerous road blocks against moderate resistance between EISENSCHMITT and MANDERSOHEID. Proceeding NE as TF BLAKEFIELD at close of period, unit was in MANDERSOHEID.

2d Bn 2d Inf as TF GRAHAM departed from GERHILF, proceeding by way of SEINFELD, MEISBURG, WALKENBORN, MANDERSOHEID, EICHELHUTTEN to attack MANDERSOHEID. TF GRAHAM captured MANDERSOHEID and took 151 prisoners. TF continued attack to NE and at close of period, advance elements were in UEMEN.

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Ltr. Hq 2d Inf, 1 Apr 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

5d Bn 2d Inf attacked to the N and E, clearing the town of BENTENFELD and high ground to E and SE. Continuing to the E, Co K took the town of PANTENBURG. At close of period, Bn was in MANDERSCHIED with Co K in PANTENBURG. Regtl CP closed out in BIERKALL at 1700 hrs; opened in MANDERSCHIED at 1700 hrs.

A total of 185 prisoners was taken during period.

(10) Period 100700A Mar 45 to 110700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf with attached units, as Task Force BLAKEFIELD, continued the attack to the E, capturing the town of GILLENFELD.

2d Bn 2d Inf, as Task Force GRAHAM, continued the attack to the E and swinging S captured the town of COCHEM on the MOSELLE R.

5d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in MANDERSCHIED, closed into new positions in vic MASSBURG as of 1845 hours.

2d Inf CP moved from MANDERSCHIED to MASSBURG, opening CP as of 1700 hrs.

A total of 77 prisoners was taken during the period.

(11) Period 110700A Mar 45 to 120700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued clearing the area around GILLENFELD, UNLER, OBERWINKEL, NIEDERWINKEL, IMMERATH, STROTZBOSCH and SIBACH. At close of period, Bn was relieved by elements of the 89th Inf Div and Bn was enroute to new area.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued patrolling and clearing enemy from zone. Town of FAID was cleared of enemy and occupied.

5d Bn 2d Inf continued active patrolling and clearing enemy from zone during period.

2d Inf CP closed at MASSBURG at 1800 hrs; opened at LANDKERN. 51 prisoners were taken during the period.

(12) Period 120700A Mar 45 to 130700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf moved from vic GILLENFELD to assay areas vic of KALL and BRIDEN relieving elements of 11th Inf at these locations.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued active patrolling of the river line within zone.

5d Bn 2d Inf continued active patrolling of the river line within zone.

29 prisoners were taken during the period.

(13) Period 130700A Mar 45 to 140700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf relieved by elements of 10th Inf assembled east of COCHEM enroute to crossing of MOSELLE R. At 0800 hrs, the Bn on the R of the Regtl zone attacked across the river by assault boats. Good progress was made and at close of period, all companies were across, on the first obj and continuing the attack.

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- 2d Inf CP closed at LANDKERN at 1500 hrs; opened at BINNINGEN.
A total of 15 prisoners were taken during the period.
- (14) **Period 140700A Mar 45 to 150700A Mar 45.**
1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the south to next objective and captured the town of TREIS. At close of period, Bn was consolidating positions on high ground south of town.
2d Bn 2d Inf crossed the MOSELLE R and took up positions vic TREIS.
5d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the south seizing additional high ground in bridgehead and at close of period was consolidating positions.
A total of 45 prisoners were processed during the period.
- (15) **Period 150700A Mar 45 to 160700A Mar 45.**
1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the SW and broadening and deepening the MOSELLE R bridgehead. Resistance encountered was moderate, and at close of period, Bn was defending Regt R flank, and consolidating positions on high ground.
2d Bn 2d Inf attacked to the S deepening the bridgehead and securing two (2) objectives. At close of period Bn was consolidating high ground N of obj.
5d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S deepening the bridgehead and capturing obj. At close of period Bn was in Regt Res on obj.
2d Inf CP closed out at BINNINGEN at 1200 hrs. Opened CP at TREIS at 1200 hrs.
A total of 202 prisoners were taken during the period.
- (16) **Period 160700A Mar 45 to 170700A Mar 45.**
1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S, capturing the towns of ALT STRIMMIG, MITTEL STRIMMIG and LIESENICH. At close of period, Co A occupied towns of ALT STRIMMIG and MITTEL STRIMMIG pending relief by elements of DOLLAR.
Bn in Regt Res occupied the town of MERSDORF.
2d Bn 2d Inf in Regt Res less Co F moved forward to positions in BELL. Co F occupied positions NW of BUCH at close of period.
5d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S advancing over 15,000 yds and capturing the German towns of MERSDORF, BUCH, BELL, HUNDHEIM AND VOLKENMATH. At close of period Bn occupied HUNDHEIM AND VOLKENMATH.
2d Inf CP moved from TREIS at 1200 hrs, opened temporarily at MERSDORF at 1200 hrs. Opened at BUCH at 1500 hrs where it was located at close of period.
A total of 102 prisoners were taken during the period.

S E C R E T

Mr. Bu 2d Inf. 1 Apr 45. sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

(17) Period 170700A Mar 45 to 180700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf in Regt Res (less Co C moved from positions in MORSDORF, to HUNDHEIM. Co C, attacking to the SW and S, cleared the towns of KRATTEL and WOLGERTH.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S, covering approximately 15,000 yards and capturing the towns of WUSCHEIM, REICH, BIEBERN, HANNAHAUSEN, OELWEILER, HOKZBACH, TIEFENBACH and RAVENGIERSBURG. At close of period, Bn was consolidating positions in RAVENGIERSBURG, TIEFENBACH, HOKZBACH and OELWEILER.

3d Bn 2d Inf in Regt Res moved from positions in HUNDHEIM to BIEBERN.

2d Inf GP moved from BUCH to BIEBERN.

A total of 74 prisoners was taken during the period.

(18) Period 180700A Mar 45 to 190700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S, gaining a distance of over 20,000 yards and clearing the German towns of HEINERSHAUSEN, HEINERBACH, UZENBERG, SCHWARZENEN, WEITERSBOHN and SEESBACH. Bn encountered moderate resistance in via WEITERSBOHN and SEESBACH, taking 121 prisoners out of the latter town.

2d Bn 2d Inf held positions along the SIMMERN, KIRCHBERG Road, pending the arrival of the 89th Inf Div on Regt's R flank. At close of period, Bn was on move to MENGERSCHIED.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S, clearing the woods to a point just N of PFEDSFELD. Bn encountered resistance from tanks and infantry and consolidated positions there for the night.

2d Inf GP closed at BIEBERN, at 1500 hrs; opened at MENGERSCHIED, at 1500 hrs.

A total of 187 prisoners was processed by the Regt during the period.

(19) Period 190700A Mar 45 to 200700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the S capturing the towns of GORNATHERHOF, WEILER and MESSINGEN. At close of period Bn had captured all objectives and were consolidating positions within zone protecting the R flank of the Regt.

2d Bn 2d Inf from positions in OELWEILER moved to MENGERSCHIED attacking to the S from there the Bn captured the towns of LINGENTHAL, ALEN and NUSSEBAUM. At close of period Bn was consolidating positions within zone.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the advance to the S capturing the towns of PFEDSFELD, ECHSWEILER, DAUBACH, STEINHARDTERHOF, GEBSTREIT and SCHERREHEIM. At close of period Bn was consolidating positions within zone.

2d Inf GP moved from positions in MENGERSCHIED to PFEDSFELD opening new GP at 1200 hrs.

A total of 221 prisoners of war were taken during the period.

S E C R E T

- (20) Period 200700Z Mar 45 to 210700Z Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf moved from positions via MUEHLINGEN to the SE.
At close of period, Bn had cleared and occupied the towns of
KALDOWEN, MUNSTERAPPEL and OBERHAUSEN.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in PFEDSFELD to HALLGARTEN.
In Regt Res at close of period.
3d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in vic of SOBERNHEIM to
clear and occupy the towns of NIEDERMOSCHEL and ALSENE. At
close of period was consolidating positions.
TF STAPLES, companies A and L with attached tank and TD
elements secured bridges across the NAHE and ALSENE rivers
and proceeded to capture the towns of SOBERNHEIM, REHDORN,
LEITWILLER, NIEDERMOSCHEL, ALSENE, KALDOWEN, MUNSTERAPPEL
and OBERHAUSEN.
2d Inf CP moved from vic PFEDSFELD to HALLGARTEN opened
new CP at 1800 hrs.
A total of 56 prisoners were taken during the period.
- (21) Period 210700Z Mar 45 to 220700Z Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf (less Cg C) continued the attack to the E to
capture and occupy the town of KRITZSFELD. Cg C in conjunction
with cubs from XII Corps experimented with new means of
river crossing by cub plans. Bn was consolidating positions
at close of period.
2d Bn 2d Inf in Regt Res, moved from positions in HALLGARTEN,
to occupy towns of WINTERBORN, and NIEDERMOUSEN.
3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the E, capturing and
occupying the town of REHFELD and NIDDELNIESEN. Bn was
consolidating positions at close of period.
2d Inf CP moved from HALLGARTEN to MUNSTERAPPEL. Opened
new CP as of 1800 hrs.
A total of 49 prisoners of war was taken during the period.
- (22) Period 220700Z Mar 45 to 230700Z Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf remained in positions during period.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in WEIDERSCHEIM to UDESHEIM
closing into new area as of 1800 hrs.
3d Bn 2d Inf remained in positions during period.
Cn Cg 2d Inf moved from positions in OBERHAUSEN to SOBORNHEIM
closing into new area as of 1800 hrs.
AT Cg 2d Inf moved from positions in OBERHAUSEN to RHINE
crossing area vic of GEFENHEIM to aid in traffic control at
the site.
A total of 3 prisoners were taken during the period.
- (23) Period 230700Z Mar 45 to 240700Z Mar 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf crossed the RHINE R by Ferry assembled on S side
of air strip and attack to the N. At close of period Bn
occupied positions in ASTHEIM and were holding the town against
heavy enemy counterattack.

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1st Bn 2d Inf, 1 Apr 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

(23) Period 250700A Mar 45 to 240700A Mar 45. (Cont'd)

2d Bn 2d Inf under Div control furnished close in security for the RHINE bridge site. At close of period Bn had Cos G and F across the river. Co E furnishing security on the W bank.

3d Bn 2d Inf crossed the RHINE R by ferry assembled on S side of air strip and moved to the N to relieve elements of 11th Inf in TREBUR. Co L continued the adv to the NW taking the town of ASTHEIM and holding until relieved by 1st Bn. At close of period Bn had beaten off continuous enemy tank and Inf counterattacks and still held their objective.

2d Inf CP moved from MUNSTERAPPEL to NIERSTEIN, opening new CP as of 1200 hrs.

A total of 20 prisoners were processed. Large number of prisoners were held by 1st and 3d Bns pending opportunity to evacuate them.

(24) Period 240700A Mar 45 to 250700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, capturing the town of BAUSCHHEIM and cleared and consolidated positions to hold there throughout the period.

2d Bn 2d Inf attacked to the NE and captured woods, cutting road and BK running through the woods. At close of period, Bn was consolidating position.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, and at close of period, occupied the ground E of the town of BAUSCHHEIM.

2d Inf CP moved from location in NIERSTEIN, across the RHINE R to a location NW of the town of GEINSHEIM.

A total of 520 prisoners was taken and evacuated during the period.

(25) Period 250700A Mar 45 to 260700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the W and NW, capturing GINSHEIM and GUSTAVSBURG. At close of period, Bn was consolidating positions along the MAIN R.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, capturing the wooded area W of RUSSELSHEIM. Proceeding W, the Bn captured HIRSCHSHEIM. Positions were consolidated along river.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, capturing the town of RUSSELSHEIM. At close of period, Bn was consolidating position along the MAIN R.

2d Inf CP moved from positions 1500 yds NW of GEINSHEIM to BAUSCHHEIM.

A total of 191 prisoners was taken during the period.

SECRET

(26) Period 280700A Mar 45 to 270700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf held positions along the MAIN R via GUSTAVSBUERG throughout the day. As of 1800 hrs, Bn was relieved by units of the 2d Cav Group and moved forward to an assembly area in the vic of the airfield S of FRANKFURT prior to crossing the MAIN R to attack the city of FRANKFURT.

2d Bn 2d Inf held positions along the MAIN R via BISCHOFSHHEIM throughout the day. As of 1800 hrs, Bn was relieved by elements of the 2d Cav Group and moved forward to an assembly area in the vic of the airfield S of FRANKFURT, prior to crossing the MAIN R to attack the city of FRANKFURT.

3d Bn 2d Inf held positions along the MAIN R via RUSSELSHEIM throughout the day. As of 1800 hrs, Bn was relieved by units of the 2d Cav Group, and prepared to move to forward assembly area, prior to crossing MAIN R.

2d Inf CP moved from positions in BAUSCHHEIM to location on E edge of airfield approx 7,000 yds of city of FRANKFURT. CP opened as of 0200 hrs.

A total of 45 prisoners were taken during the period.

(27) Period 270700A Mar 45 to 280700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf attacked across the MAIN R to enlarge the bridgehead in the northern part of the city of FRANKFURT. At close of period Bn was completely across the river and preparing to continue the attack on the E of Regtl 2.

2d Bn 2d Inf attacked across the MAIN R to enlarge the bridgehead in the northern part of the city of FRANKFURT. At close of period Bn was completely across the river and preparing to continue the attack on the R of Regtl 2.

3d Bn 2d Inf moved across the MAIN R, to take up positions W of the bridge. At close of period Bn was consolidating positions.

2d Inf CP moved from position, approx 7,000 yds S of city of FRANKFURT to CP in FRANKFURT.

A total of 10 prisoners were taken during the period.

(28) Period 290700A Mar 45 to 290700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, clearing approx 220 blocks of the city of FRANKFURT. Moderate resistance was encountered from sniper and other small arms. At close of period, Bn was consolidating positions on N edge of metropolitan section of the city.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N NW, clearing approx 100 blocks of the city of FRANKFURT. Resistance was light to moderate and at close of period, Bn was consolidating positions on NW edge of metropolitan section of the city.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the W and NW clearing approx 120 blocks of the city against light resistance at close of period. Bn was consolidating positions along NW edge of the metropolitan section of the city.

A total of 99 prisoners were taken during the period.

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1st Bn 2d Inf, 1 Apr 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd)

(29) Period 230700A Mar 45 to 300700A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N, clearing the northern suburbs of FRANKFURT. At close of period Bn was consolidating positions.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the N and NE clearing the enemy from the suburbs of FRANKFURT. At close of period Bn was consolidating positions.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the E and NE clearing the enemy from the suburbs of FRANKFURT. At close of period Bn had contacted elements of 90th Inf Div on Regt R flank, and were consolidating positions.

2d Inf CP moved across the MAIN R to positions in NE FRANKFURT. Spending new CP as of 1100 hrs.

A total of 1155 prisoners were taken during the period.

(30) Period 300700A Mar 45 to 311800A Mar 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf occupied positions vic of ECKENHEIM during period. Guard in area relieved as of 1600 hrs by elements of 11th Inf.

2d Bn 2d Inf occupied positions in vic SEEBACK during period. Guard in area relieved as of 1600 hrs by elements of 11th Inf.

3d Bn 2d Inf occupied positions in vic E FRANKFURT during period. Guard in area relieved as of 1600 hrs by elements of 11th Inf.

A total of 59 prisoners was taken during the period.

(31) Period 311800A Mar 45 to 011800A Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf situation unchanged from previous period.

2d Bn 2d Inf situation unchanged from previous period.

3d Bn 2d Inf moved to clear woods N of ERSSTADT of reported 700 an. Arty supporting the Bn was firing on an column N of woods obj. No info on other contact with an available at close of period.

A total of 6 prisoners was taken during the period.

d. Results of Operations.

The Regt for the first four days of the period held positions along the W bank of the KYLL R. Assembling 5 Mar 45 vic of BITBURG, the Regt jumped off on attack the 6 Mar 45, passing through the 10th Inf and attacking to the E. Strong resistance and counterattacks were encountered in vic SCHWANKENBERN. Elements of the 1st Bn were driven from the town in a night attack and the town was retaken by the 2d Bn the following day. Continuing the attack, the Regt with 2d Bn in lead, captured a bridgehead over the SALM R. TF GRAHAM was organized and by making a flank attack and coming in by motorized column from the NE into MANDERSCHIED, the bulk of enemy resistance crumbled enabling the mopping up of the area. TF GRAHAM pushed on to the E and captured the town of GOCHERN on the MOSELLE R. The Regt cleaned up the town within zone N of the MOSELLE for the next days, and at 0900, 15 Mar 45, 1st and 3d Bns crossed the MOSELLE R vic of GARDEN, by assault boat.

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Attacking to the S the towns of TREIS, ALT STRIMMIG, MITTEL STRIMMIG, LIESENICH, HELL, BUCH, MENSCHOFF, HUNDKIN and VOLKENRATH were captured in two days. 27 more towns fell in the next three days placing the Regt in a position flanking BAD KRENNACH, the Div obj. Task Force STAPLES was formed and on 20 March 45 resumed the attack to the E, securing bridges across the RAHE and ALSEY rivers and capturing 8 more towns. On 21 Mar 45, the 1st Bn took the lead and cleared the town of KRINGSFELD, the 5d Bn clearing two more towns the same day. On the 22d Mar 45, the Regt went into an assembly area in the town of UDEHEIM, SCHROESHEIM and OFFENHEIM prior to crossing the RHINE River. The Regt crossed the RHINE River 23 Mar 45 by ferry, the 1st and 5d Bns attacking to the N to enlarge and secure the 5d Army bridgehead, the 3d Bn furnishing close-in protection for the bridges. The 1st Bn held the town of ISTHEIM the night of the 23d Mar 45 and beat off numerous and vicious counterattacks. The 5d Bn held the town of TREBUR and fought off counterattacks of tanks and infantry throughout the night. Resuming the attack to the N on the 24th, the Regt cleared 5 towns to the MAIN River in two days and by evening 25 Mar 45, held positions along the MAIN River with the left boundary the RHINE River. Relieved as of 1800 hrs 26 Mar 45, by elements of the 3d Cav Gp, the Regt proceeded to an assembly area S of the city of FRANKFURT, prior to attacking across the MAIN River to seize the city. Attacking across the MAIN River on the morning of 27 Mar 45, all 3 Bns crossed and took up positions in the city. Encountering heavy artillery fire on the bridge, but only moderate resistance in the city, by 30 Mar 45, the city of FRANKFURT and surrounding suburbs had been cleared. As of 1800 hrs 31 Mar 45 the Regt was relieved by elements of 11th Inf at positions it was guarding in the city and was making preparations to continue to the E.

4.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION.

a. (1)

ITEM 1. - Some difficulty has been experienced in locating Water Points during the past operations. It is noted during rapid moves forward that new locations of Water Points are not disseminated to the using units as quickly as desired, necessitating in some instances a haul of 12 to 15 miles to the rear to the old water points, requiring an excessive use of transportation and the time of supply and evacuation personnel, who could otherwise be profitably used in pursuit of their other normal functions. Rations drawn daily from Div truckhead, Ration cycle is from breakfast to supper inclusive. An "A" field ration is used whenever the tactical situation permits. Normally 1-1/5 days of ration are on hand as of 1800 hrs daily, consisting of 1 "A" ration or current operational ration and 1/3 ration operational reserve. Operational rations are supplemented by an issue of coffee, bread, butter, milk, sugar and an occasional

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Mr. H. R. Inf. 1 Apr 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

issue of fresh boneless meat. There is also a "D" ration supplement to Operational rations on the basis of 1 "D" ration to each 5 Operational rations on hand.

- (2) Class II - Class II items are requisitioned and received weekly.
About 50% of items are usually extracted. As a whole class II supply has been constant. Unserviceable items of organizational equipment are replenished on an exchange basis. Unserviceable clothing is replaced as prescribed in Gtr 35, Eq ETUSA, 1944 series.
- (3) Class III - Gasoline, oil and lubricant drawn daily at Div Truckhead
on a can for can exchange. Sufficient available for all requirements.
- (4) Class IV - Available on request. During past month PX supplies consisted entirely of the 200 in 1 ration, which are issued weekly on basis of reported actual strength.
- (5) Class V - Ammunition drawn from Army ASP on T/O, processed through
Div D.A.O. Basic load is constantly maintained.
- (6) Stores Effecting Flow of Supplies. - Supplies have been ample, and all requirements have been met, excepting a few non-critical items. Some difficulty was encountered in the matter of ammunition resupply. In one specific instance ammunition trucks were required to travel a total distance of approximately 200 miles to ASP #58, the closest ASP stocking the required items. Due to congestion of traffic on the MSR and ASP loading time this trip required an elapsed time of 20 hrs..
- (7) Shortage of Major Items.

(a) Ordnance.

2 ea. Quadrant Gunners, M/1
1 ea. Sight, M/4.

(b) Ordnance Motor Transport.

1 ea. Truck, 1 1/2 ton, F.G.
5 ea. Truck, 1/2 ton, C/R
2 ea. Compressor, air, 4 cu ft
72 ea. Tires, 6:20x16
60 ea. Tubes, 6:00x16
4 ea. Tires, 9:00x16
4 ea. Tubes, 9:00x16
14 ea. Tires, 7:50x20

(c) Engineer

10 ea. Lamp, electric, portable, Command Post Tent

(d) Quartermaster Organizational Equipment

52 ea. Outfit, cooking, 1-burner

b. Status of Evacuation.

(1) Bodies Evacuated During Period.

101 ea. American K.I.A.
167 ea. Enemy K.I.A.

(2) Battlefield Recovery and Evacuation During Period.

(a) Ordnance.

American Weapons
556 ea. Rifles, US, cal .30, M/1

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212 ea Slings, gun, leather, M/1907
 27 ea Carbines, US, cal .50, M/1
 1 ea Gun, machine, cal .50, Browning, M/2, HB
 1 ea Mount, tripod, cal .50, M/5
 58 ea Bayonets, M/1
 115 ea Tool, combination, M/5
 30 ea Scabbard, bayonet, M/7
 11 ea Bayonets, M/5
 15 ea Scabbard, bayonet, M/5
 46 ea Slings, gun, web, M/1
 4 ea Gun, sub-machine, cal .45, M/5
 2 ea Scabbard, bayonet, M/1
 51 ea Case, edler and thong
 2 ea Mount, tripod, cal .50, M/2
 1 ea Mount, tripod, cal .50, M/1917A1
 1 ea Cradle-elevator-assembly
 1 ea Gun, 57mm
 1 ea Mount, telescope, M/24A1
 1 ea Carriage, 57mm
 1 ea Launcher, rocket, M/1A1
 1 ea Receiver, cal .50
 1 ea Mortar, 60mm, complete
German Weapons and Ordnance.
 489 ea Rifle, Mauser, bolt action
 1 ea Cannon, 88mm
 5 ea Spare Parts Set, 88mm
 15 ea Barrels, Spare, German M.G.
 25 ea Chests Ammunition
 4 ea Barrels, 40mm
 64 ea Case, cartridge, leather
 5 ea Flashhider, 40mm
 55 ea Wrenches, assorted
 52 ea Pads, shoulder
 2 ea Steroscopes
 3000 ea Links, belt, M3
 109 ea Magazines, Machine Pistol
 5 ea Rifle, semi-automatic
 7 ea Machine Gun, Beretta
 25 ea Machine pistol, M/45
 1 ea Machine gun, M/54
 1 ea Range finder
 3 ea Binocula
 25 ea Pistols, civilian
 15 ea Daggers
 8 ea Rifles, cal .22
 40 ea Rifles, flintlock
 82 ea Shotguns
 41 ea Sabers
 561 ea Bayonets

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Ltr. No 24 Inf. 1 Apr 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- 1 ea Machine pistol, M/40
 - 4 ea Scope, observation, similar to BC type w/tripod and filters
 - 1 ea Tripod, range finder
 - 172 ea Rifles, civilian
 - 14 ea Machine guns, M/40
 - 6 ea Machine guns, M/31
 - 16 ea Spare barrels, MG
 - 1 ea Mortar, about 60mm
 - 14 ea Carbines, (French)
 - 11 ea Bayonets, (French)
 - 265 ea Rifles, bolt action (French)
- (b) ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
- Organizational Equipment
- 1 ea Stove, tent, M/41
 - 46 ea Drums, inflammable liquid, 8-gallon
- Individual Equipment
- 187 ea Tent, shelter half
 - 509 ea Haversacks
 - 78 ea Pole, tent, shelter half
 - 925 ea Blankets, WOD
 - 198 ea Gas masks
 - 266 ea Belt, cartridge
 - 74 ea Pouch, lat aid
 - 115 ea Carrier, pack
 - 224 ea Bag, sleeping
 - 14 ea Belt, pistol
 - 125 ea Canteens
 - 71 ea Can, meat
 - 24 ea Ground cloth, rubberized
 - 1 ea Roll, bedding, officers
 - 1 ea Mosquito bar
 - 17 ea Forks
 - 15 ea Knives
 - 10 ea Spoons
 - 6 pr Mittens, trigger finger
 - 142 ea Covers, canteen
 - 119 ea Pins, tent, shelter half
 - 2 ea Bags, field
 - 15 ea Covers, protective
- Individual Clothing
- 387 pr Drawers, wool
 - 144 ea Overcoats, WOD
 - 102 ea Shirts, WOD
 - 128 ea Raincoats
 - 149 pr Trousers, WOD
 - 668 ea Jackets, field

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418 ea Jacket, ENT
472 pr Undershirt, ENT
1 ea Suit, working, 1 piece
104 ea Belt, steel
84 ea Liner, helmet, M/1
41 ea Belt, web, waist
55 pr Leggings
537 pr Socks
162 pr Shoes, service
42 ea Towel, bath
125 ea Undershirt, wool
111 pr Undershirt, elastic
62 pr Socks, combat
4 ea Gait, machine
17 pr Hose, WEB
97 pr Goggles, cotton
145 pr Goggles, clear
50 ea Undershirt, cotton
2 ea Suspenders, wool
211 ea Socks, white
42 ea Undershirt, cotton
1 ea Socktie, Khaki
10 ea Cap, service
2 ea Cap, web knit
54 ea Coat, wool, serge
(a) ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ~~SECRET~~
12 ea Gait socks
21 ea Gaitsocks
12 ea Suspenders
12 ea Socks
12 ea Belts
2 ea Gait Kite
7 ea Gait
12 ea Suspenders

I. RECOMMENDATIONS.

None.

WFFS
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HEADQUARTERS SECOND INFANTRY

Vic ROHMENBACH, GERMANY
(G-250517)
2 May 1945

Subject: After Action Report

To: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division

1. Personnel - Period 1 Apr 45 to 30 Apr 45.

- a. (1) Total effective strength at beginning of period:
141 officers, 5 warrant officers, 5025 enlisted men.
- (2) Total effective strength at end of period:
145 officers, 5 warrant officers, 5041 enlisted men.
- b. (1) Killed in action during period: 9 enlisted men.
- (2) Wounded in action during period: 49 enlisted men.
- (3) Missing in action during period: None.
- c. Replacements received during period: 10 officers, 25 enlisted men.

- 2. a. Enemy units contacted during the period were mostly stragglers of the routed armies of Western GERMANY. The main identifications are as follows: 6th SS Pz Mtn Div, Sperr Verband Wsurtz, 178th R.A.D. Div, 408th Volkz Arty Corps, 116th Pz Div, Land-schutzen, Volksturm, Hitler Youth (Flak Helpers). A great number were taken wearing civilian clothing, were men on furlough, hospitalized, or were trying to conceal the fact that they belonged to the Wehrmacht.
- b. During the period of 1-6th Apr 45, an enemy battle group, which was bypassed by our armor, made up of remnants of the 8th SS Mtn, tried to break through to the east from ERBSTADT, vic (804684) in two columns. This unit was picking up stragglers along the way, and was reported to consist of about 5000 men. Along the route, the enemy column overran an ordnance unit, hospital and other supply installations, capturing a considerable number of personnel, vehicles and much equipment. The vehicles the enemy used until they ran out of fuel, then destroyed them. This battle group, upon coming under our terrific air, artillery, infantry-tank attack, broke up into small groups, each without a concrete plan, attempted to make their way through our lines at night, hiding in the woods during the day. By the time our units reached the areas around STAMMEIN vic (840910), and MERKENFRITZ vic (010016) this entire force was either taken prisoner or was a casualty.

It took an extensive screening effort by our CIC, IPW and Military Gov teams to weed out the German soldiers who had discarded their uniforms and were trying to hide out as civilians.

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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED BY 1
CANCELED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE
26 Feb 1964

SECRET

During the period of 7-15 Apr 45 the enemy was endeavoring to delay our advance into the core of the Ruhr pocket to allow some sort of a reorganization to take place of their armored units contained therein. The material and men needed for such an effort was totally inadequate. Knowing this, the German soldier's morale was very low. The supply of food and ammunition was very poor, but, judging from the amount we captured, could have held out for quite some time longer.

The enemy held the west bank of the WENNE River vic BERGE (297085) with only a light force. In crossing it, our troops encountered light small arms and mortar fire. As we continued to advance west, resistance increased somewhat and the enemy used a good number of 20mm AA guns as direct fire against our leading elements. All attempts to halt our advance was done in a haphazard manner indicating that his communications were badly disrupted. The German soldiers were given to believe by their leaders that reinforcements and help were on their way. When it became apparent to the enemy that he couldn't hold our advance he fell back in front of the large towns of MENDEL vic (0415), BUNWIG vic (0509), NEUENRADE vic (0498). All panzer units were to assemble at HAGEN vic (8209). Considerable artillery and air attacks were directed against concentrations of enemy vehicular traffic and resistance became totally disorganized. The enemy had employed in the vic of MENDEL (0415) a large gun unit called Pz STURM WERFER CO 1002 which had 500mm guns mounted on Tiger Tank chassis. Due to mechanical failures they were inoperational. The opposition encountered during the close of the period consisted of scattered self-propelled gun fire into towns. Our units overran entire enemy gun batteries from which the Germans fled. A German general and his whole staff were captured in BUNDEN (1904).

The enemy resorted to a ruse which proved unsuccessful. When capture seemed imminent the unit commanders would issue discharge slips to his personnel.

During the period 16-23 Apr 45, the screening agents were carefully checking on all male personnel, particularly youths, as there was reported considerable evidence of the "Werewolves" activities. A number of these characters were captured in BUNDEN vic (1904).

During the period 24-30 Apr 45, the enemy continued to drift into our outwards when proclamations were read in the villages and towns.

Enemy installations encountered were road blocks of the usual type constructed of logs set in between upright posts. A mine field AF and AP on roads and shoulders at WESTENFELD vic (220029). The dam at LANGSCHEID was prepared for demolitions but was captured before it could be destroyed. Roads were cratered at strategic points. No elaborate field fortifications other than those previously constructed for AA positions were encountered.

- 2 -

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Ltr. Hq 2d Inf, 2 May 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- d. During the period 1-8 Apr 45, heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. The rest of the period the casualties were light.
- e. A total of 8,297 prisoners was taken during the period.
- f. The morale of the enemy was of complete hopelessness for the continuation of hostilities.

3. OWN OPERATIONS.

a. Forces Engaged.

(1) Own Troops.

2d Inf
50th FA Bn
19th FA Bn
21st FA Bn
46th FA Bn
787th Tk Bn

805d TD Bn
Co A 5th Med Bn
7th Engr Bn
Co D 90th Cal Bn
52d Cav Sqdrn

(2) Adjacent Units.

10th Inf Regt
11th Inf Regt
7th Armd Div
99th Inf Div
9th Inf Div
8th Inf Div

95th Inf Div
96th Inf Div
76th Inf Div
8th Armd Div
26th Inf Div
2d Cav Sqdrn

D. Reserves.

- (1) Included in par 5a.

e. Summary of Operations.

(1) Period 021800A Apr 45 to 021800A Apr 45

1st Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in ECKENHEIM vic (680720) along the ASSENHEIM, HEINELSHHEIM, DAUERHEIM, GRISS-NIDDA, NIDDA, GLASHUTTEN road to block-escape route of any enemy in woods to S. Proceeding along road at close of period.

2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in SECKBACH to assembly area in RANSTADT, there detrucking, the Bn was advancing to the NE to clear enemy within zone at close of period.

5d Bn 2d Inf held positions for the night of 1 Apr 45 in STADEN and along EN road in woods to the S. During the day, the Bn continued clearing the woods, and assembling in vic of GEM MUCKSTADT prior to jumping off for new objective; they were continuing advance at close of period.

2d Inf CP moved from FRANKFURT to STAMHEIM, opening new CP as of 1100 hrs.

A total of 115 prisoners was taken during the period.

(2) Period 021800A Apr 45 to 051800A Apr 45

1st Bn 2d Inf advanced from positions vic MERKENFRITZ to BURG BRACHT taking an EN line there to prevent enemy escape from woods to SW. At close of period, Bn was advancing to secure woods to N.

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2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in NIDDA, to clear large woods to NE. At close of period, Bn had cleared woods and held positions along N and E edge.

3d Bn 2d Inf moved 6000 yds to the E and at close of period held line from HIRZENHAHM to WENINGS.

2d Inf CP moved from STAMMHEIM to MERKENFRITZ opening new CP as of 1200 hrs.

A total of 174 prisoners was taken during the period.

(5) Period 031800B Apr 45 TO 041800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf cleared woods north of GEDERN during period. Bn, less Co B, closed into new assembly area vic BESSINGEN at 1800 hrs.

2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in vic NIDDA to VILLINGEN closing into new area as of 1730 hrs. Also it cleared about 10-12 sq mi of woods W and NW of NIDDA.

3d Bn 2d Inf patrolled woods and roads in zone: HINZENHAHM, GELHAAR and WENINGS. At close of period, Bn was enroute to new assembly area vic LANGD.

AT Co 2d Inf with CID and CA extensively screened towns in Regtl zone during the period.

2d Inf CP moved from MERKENFRITZ to HUNGEN closing into new area as of 1600 hrs.

A total of 128 prisoners was taken during the period.

(4) Period 041800B Apr 45 to 051800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf cleaned woods and towns of enemy in Bn 2 throughout the period. Co B closed into Bn area as of 1800 hrs.

2d Bn 2d Inf cleaned woods and towns of enemy in Bn 2 throughout current period. Period 051800B to 041800B, Bn cleared enemy from approx 9000 sq yds of woods NW of NIDDA.

3d Bn 2d Inf cleaned woods and towns of enemy in Bn 3 throughout the period.

Sep Cos cleaned towns and woods in respective zones.

A total of 144 prisoners were taken by all units of the Regt during the period.

(5) Period 051800B Apr 45 to 061800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued clearing up and consolidating positions during the period.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued clearing up and consolidating positions during the period. Co G, less 2 platoons, formed guard of honor in presentation of awards by Lt Gen GEORGE S. PATTON, Commanding General 3d U.S. Army.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued clearing up and consolidating positions during the period.

A total of 25 prisoners of war was taken during the period.

(8) Period 061800B Apr 45 to 071800B Apr 45.

All units conducted training throughout the period.

A total of 6 prisoners was taken during the period.

(7) Period 071800B Apr 45 to 091800B Apr 45.

2d Inf, less 2d and 3d Bns, crossed IP at 1545 hrs enroute to new assembly area in 3d Corps Reserve, 1st Army, vic BRILLON.

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S E C R E T

Ltr. No 2d Inf, 2 May 45, subg After Action Report (Cont'd).

- 2d Bn 2d Inf maintained positions throughout the period.
3d Bn 2d Inf maintained positions throughout the period.
A total of 4 prisoners was taken during the period.
- (8) Period 081800B Apr 45 to 091800B Apr 45.
2d Inf less 2d and 3d Bns closed into new assembly area via BRILON at 0400 hrs.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in VILLINGEN to GEVELINGHSEN and HERINGHSEN closing into new area at close of period.
3d Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in LANGD to HESTWIG closing into new assembly area at 1800 hrs.
A total of two (2) prisoners was taken during the period.
- (9) Period 091800B Apr 45 to 101800B Apr 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf moved to positions via NUTTLAR closing into new area at approximately 1000 hrs.
2d Bn 2d Inf moved to forward assembly area via KALLE and was closing into position at close of period.
3d Bn 2d Inf was preparing to move forward to assembly area via WALLE at close of period.
2d Inf Fwd CP opened at WALLE at close of period. CP had moved to OSTWIG opening 0930 hrs. Rear still in OSTWIG at close of period.
A total of 13 prisoners was taken during the period.
- (10) Period 101800B Apr 45 to 111800B Apr 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf moved from positions in NUTTLAR to occupy the town of ALTENHELLEFELD at close of period. Bn was in Regtl reserve throughout the period.
2d Bn 2d Inf attacked to the west to take objectives 16 and 19. At close of period, Bn had contact with 10th Inf units on right and held a line generally along the road running NW from WESTENFELD. Bn was continuing the attack.
3d Bn 2d Inf attacked to the west to take towns of GREVENSTEIN, ALTENHELLEFELD and LINNIFE. At close of period, Bn was continuing the attack.
2d Inf CP moved from positions in OSTWIG to KALLE.
A total of 124 prisoners was processed during the period.
- (11) Period 111800B Apr 45 to 121800B Apr 45.
1st Bn 2d Inf in Regtl Reserve moved from positions in GREVENSTEIN to SUNDEEN during period.
2d Bn 2d Inf attacking to the west crossed the road via BAINGHAUSEN, BROICH taking four objectives up to ROHR river. At close of period, Bn was preparing to attack HAGEN to cross the river.

S E C R E T

3d Bn 2d Inf attacking to the west captured WESTENFELD, SUNDERN. Continuing the attack to the west, the Bn held positions along the ROHR river at close of period and were preparing to cross and establish bridgehead from LANGSCHEID to ENKHAUSEN.

2d Inf CP moved from KALLE to ALTENHELLEFELD.

A total of 298 prisoners was processed during the period.

- (12) Period 121800B Apr 45 to 131800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf attacked to the west and captured the towns of ESTIN HAUSEN, HOWEL, WETTMARSEN and ALBRINGEN. Stiff resistance was encountered in vic of ALBRINGEN and west of position in vic of EISBORN. At close of period, Bn was pressing attack on EISBORN.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the west capturing ENKHAUSEN and AINGHAUSEN. At close of period, Bn held road junction at approximately 2000 yds W of AINGHAUSEN. Bn was continuing the attack.

3d Bn 2d Inf continuing the attack to the west, captured LANGSCHEID, WELSCHENS, BECKUM and VOLKCRINGHAUSEN. At close of period, Bn was continuing the attack.

2d Inf CP moved from ALTENHELLEFELD to LANGSCHEID, opening new CP at 1100 hrs.

A total of 674 prisoners was processed during the period.

- (13) Period 131800B Apr 45 to 141800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the NW during the period, capturing the town of EISBORN, ASECK, BOINGSEN, BIEBERBERG and SCHWITZEN. At close of period, Bn had cleared all objectives in zone and held line along the RUHR river.

2d Bn 2d Inf continued the advance to the NW, capturing the towns of RETRINGEN, LURBEKE, OER OSBERN, NDR OSBERN and NDR BORGE. At close of period, Bn had cleared all objectives in zone and held line along the RUHR river.

3d Bn 2d Inf continued the attack to the NW, capturing the towns of OER BODINGHAUSEN, HUINGSEN, LENDRINGEN and the industrial city of MENDEN. At close of period, Bn was mopping up the city and holding positions up to the RUHR river.

2d Inf CP moved from positions in LANGSCHEID to BIEBERBERG opening new CP as of 1600 hrs.

A total of 453 prisoners were taken during the period.

- (14) Period 141800B Apr 45 to 151800B Apr 45.

1st Bn 2d Inf consolidated positions throughout the period and outposted a line along the RUHR.

2d Bn 2d Inf consolidated positions throughout the period and outposted a line along the RUHR.

3d Bn 2d Inf consolidated positions throughout the period.

A total of 379 prisoners was taken during the period, and the capture of 3 hospitals in the MENDEN vic area tallied an additional 898 prisoner patients and attendants.

SECRET

Ltr. Bn 2d Inf, 2 May, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- (15) Period 161800B Apr 45 to 161800B Apr 45.
No change.
A total of 93 prisoners was taken during the period.
- (16) Period 161800B Apr 45 to 171800B Apr 45.
2d Inf relieved elements of 99th Inf Div within X during period.
Regt continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of prisoners and maintenance of law and order.
Regt CP closed at BIEBERBERG 1300 hrs and opened at SUNDWIG 1300 hrs.
Prisoners of war taken during period: 15.
- (17) Period 171800B Apr 45 to 181800B Apr 45.
Regt continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of prisoners and maintenance of law and order.
Prisoners of war taken during period: 1024.
- (18) Period 181800B Apr 45 to 191800B Apr 45.
2d Inf continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of PWs and maintenance of law and order. Took over guard of French PW enclosure at BALVE.
Total PWs for period: 1508.
- (19) Period 191800B Apr 45 to 201800B Apr 45.
2d Inf continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of PWs and maintenance of law and order.
PWs evacuated during period: 605.
- (20) Period 201800B Apr 45 to 211800B Apr 45.
2d Inf continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of PWs and maintenance of law and order.
PWs evacuated during period: 546.
Co Comdrs of 290th Inf contacted Bn Comdrs within zone preparatory to relief.
- (21) Period 211800B Apr 45 to 221800B Apr 45.
2d Inf continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of PWs and maintenance of law and order.
PWs evacuated during period: 92.
- (22) Period 221800B Apr 45 to 231800B Apr 45.
2d Inf continued screening of displaced persons, evacuation of PWs and maintenance of law and order.
1st and 2d Bns had been relieved by 1800 hrs by units of the 290th Inf Regt, 75th Inf Div.
3d Bn had been partially relieved by end of period.
PWs evacuated during period: 51.
- (23) Period 231800B Apr 45 to 241800B Apr 45.
2d Inf was completely relieved of guard duties by elements of 290th Inf by 1400B. Upon completion of relief, battalions assembled in respective areas preparatory to movement from this area.
Prisoners processed during period: 1.

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- (24) Period 241800Z Apr 45 to 251800Z Apr 45.
 2d Inf (less 1st Bn and AT Co) moved by motor from vic HEMER and ALTENA to bivouac area vic HANAU, closing in at new location 1630B.
 CP opened at STEINHEIM at 1650B.
 1st Bn remained in posn at ISERLOHN.
 AT Co remained in posn at ISERLOHN.
- (25) Period 251800Z Apr 45 to 261800Z Apr 45.
 2d Inf (less 1st Bn and AT Co) closed into new area by 1800B. 2d Bn vic BREITENGULIBACH; 3d Bn vic RECKENDORF; Cn and Serv Cos in vic BRUMACH.
 1st Bn and AT Co under control of 50th FA Bn.
 CP 2d Inf opened at EBERN at 1745 hrs.
- (26) Period 261800Z Apr 45 to 271800Z Apr 45.
 1st Bn closed into area vic ERING at 1700 hrs.
 AT Co closed into area vic EBERN at 1730 hrs.
 Bal of regiment remained in position; continued maintenance work on equipment and transportation.
 Prisoners processed during period; 14.
- (27) Period 271800Z Apr 45 to 281800Z Apr 45.
 Regt remained in positions N of BAMBERG conducted maintenance operations on equipment and disciplinary tng.
 2d Inf CP closed at EBERN and opened at BAUMACH.
 PWs evacuated during period; 8.
- (28) Period 281800Z Apr 45 to 291800Z Apr 45.
 2d Inf remained in position performing maintenance operations on vehicles and equipment and conducting training.
 Regt prepared for move to XII Corps area.
- (29) Period 291800Z Apr 45 to 301800Z Apr 45.
 2d Inf began movement to assembly area in zone of XII Corps crossing IP at 300840B. At close of period 1st Bn, 2d Bn (less 2 R Cos), Cn Co, Serv Co and Regtl Hq were nearing assembly area vic SCHONBERG.
 3d Bn remained in original area prepared to move to the south 1 May 45 with 50th FA Bn.
 2 Rifle Cos 2d Bn began movement during period with 737th Tk Bn. Posn at end of period unknown.
 Regtl CP at end of period - mobile.
- (30) Period 301800Z Apr 45 to 011800Z May 45.
 1st Bn closed into assembly area vic INNERZELL at 302050B. Moved into Corps reserve 011800B in vic of XII Corps CP.
 2d Bn (less 2 R Cos) closed into assembly area vic EBERHARTS at 010500B. 2 Rifle Cos closed into assembly area at 011820B.
 3d Bn closed into assembly area vic INNERZELL 011900B.
 Cn Co closed into assembly area SE of SCHONBERG at 302050B.
 AT Co was closing into assembly area vic SCHONBERG at end of period.
 Serv Co closed into assembly area vic SCHONBERG at 302050B.
 Co 1 5th Med Bn closed into assy area vic EBERHARTS at 302050B.
 Regtl CP opened at SCHONBERG 302000B.
 Prisoners processed during period; 16.

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Ltr. Hq 2d Inf. 2 May 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

d. Results of Operations.

Moving from outskirts of FRANKFURT 02 Apr 45, 2d Inf moved by motor and footmarching to block the ASSENHEIM-MITTA-GLASHUTTEN road and mopped up the area S of the road. Regt continued mopping up enps until 4 Apr when it moved into reserve area vic VILLINGEN, LANGD, HUNGEN and BESSENGEN, where it cleared woods and towns of stragglers. Regt remained in posns conducting training and performing maintenance operations on vehicles until 8 Apr when the Regt (less 2d and 5d Bns) moved by motor to XII Corps reserve vic BRILON. On 9 Apr, 2d and 5d Bns arrived in new assembly areas at GEVELINGSHAUSEN and BESTWIG respectively.

10 Apr, the Regt moved into forward assembly area and 2d and 5d Bns crossed the WENNE river advancing to the west. Continuing the attack on 11 Apr, 2d Inf captured Obj 16, 19 and towns of GREWENSTEIN, ALTENHELEFELD and LINNEE.

On 12 Apr, the Regt continued attack to the NW, clearing BALINGHAUSEN, BROICH, HACHEN, ENKHAUSEN, WESTENFELD, SUNDEN and LANGSOED and crossing ROER river.

Taking 674 prisoners on the 15 Apr, the Regt captured ESTINGHAUSEN, HOWEL, WETTMARSEN, ALBRINGEN, EISBORN, AINGHAUSEN, REHRINGEN, WELSCHEDE, BEKIM and VOLKINGHAUSEN.

On 14 Apr, Regt completed its mission by clearing ASBECK, BOLINGSEN, BIEBERBERG, SCHWITTEN, LURBKE, OER OSBERN, NDR OSBERN, NDR BORGE, OBER BODINGHAUSEN, HUIINGSEN, LENDRINGSEN and MENDEN. At end of day, the Regt had cleared its zone and was consolidating posns on RHEE river.

From 14 Apr until 17 Apr, Regt remained in posns and on 17 Apr relieved elements of 99th Inf Div in vic of HEMER, ISERLOHN and WEHRDOHL. Regt took over mission from 99th Inf Div of screening displaced persons and fulfilled this mission until relieved by 280th Inf Regt of 75th Inf Div 23-24 Apr 45.

Upon relief by 280th Inf, battalions assembled preparatory to move to Third Army area.

On 25 April, 2d Inf (less 1st Bn and AT Co) began motor movement to assembly area N of BAMBERG, stopping for the night 25-26 Apr in vic of HANAU. Regt (less 1st Bn and AT Co) closed into area 281800 Apr with Regt CP at EBERN. 1st Bn and AT Co closed into area 271750B. Regt remained in area performing maintenance enps on vehicles and conducted training.

On 30 Apr, Regt (less 5d Bn) moved from BAMBERG area to XII Corps sector, closing into assembly area vic SCHONBERG by 2050B. 5d Bn closed into area 011800B. Regt (less 1 Bn) was placed in Div Res with 1st Bn in Corps reserve.

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4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION.

- a. (1) Class I. - Supply of Class I items have been ample and continuous excepting for shortages of some important menu items. Issues of fresh bread and fresh meat were in some cases unavailable with an "A" ration. In two instances there were only partial issues of bread, these partial bread issues amounting to twenty two pounds per hundred man per day. No bread was available with operational rations, and was not available for three straight days with an "A" ration. Rations are drawn daily from the Div truckhead. Cycle from Breakfast to Dinner inclusive. Normally one and a third days of rations are on hand consisting of a full day of "A" ration (current) and a third of a day of operational reserve excepting during some situations when the "A" ration is not suitable. When practicable, an "A" ration is used consistently. Operational rations most of the time are supplemented with an additional issue of coffee, milk and sugar and occasionally with fresh bread and fresh butter, also with a "D" ration in the ratio of one third "D" ration to each full operational ration, however this supplemental issue of "D" ration has been more or less sporadic during the past month.
- (2) Class II. - Items falling in this category are requisitioned weekly. Unserviceable items of organizational property are tallied into direct exchange of unserviceable items for serviceable items. Unserviceable clothing is replaced as prescribed in Cir 55, Hq STUSA, 1944 series.
- (3) Class III. - Gasoline, oil and lubricants drawn as required from Div Truckhead on a can for can exchange basis. Sufficient for all purposes has been available.
- (4) Class IV. - All fortification items and Engineer construction items are available and drawn on request. PX supplies are drawn weekly and consisted during the past month of the 200 in 1 ration pack. These PX rations are supplemented by some sales items made available through the Special Service Office.
- (5) Class V. - Drawn from Army A.S.P. on T/O approved by division D.A.C. No shortages of basic load and no critical shortages of ammunition. Some suitable substitutes are on hand for some items of pyrotechnics.
- (6) Factors Affecting Flow of Supplies. - There were no adverse factors effecting the flow of supplies. In general all requirements have been met. Road net work of Div M.S.R. and Regt. M.S.R. have been exceptionally good during the period covered by this report, thus expediting the movement and the delivery time of all classes of supplies.
- (7) Shortages of Major Items.
- (a) Exchange.

None.

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Ltr. Hq 2d Inf, 2 May 45, subj: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- (b) Ordnance Motor Transport
 - 80 ea 6:00x16 tubes
 - 50 ea 6:00x16 tires
 - 12 ea 9:00x16 tubes
 - 12 ea 9:00x16 tires
 - 40 ea 7:50x20 tubes
 - 19 ea 7:50x20 tires
 - 2 ea compressors, air, 4 cu ft (2d sch set, Set #1)
 - 1 ea Truck, C/R, 4x4
 - 1 ea Truck, P.C., 6x6
- (c) Signal
 - None
- (d) Engineer
 - 20 ea Compass, lensatic
 - 12 ea Lamp, electric, portable, command post.
- (e) Medical
 - None
- (f) Chemical
 - None

b. Status of Evacuation.

- (1) Bodies evacuated during period.
 - 29 ea American K.I.A.
 - 81 ea Enemy K.I.A.
- (2) Battlefield recovery and evacuation during period.
 - (a) Ordnance

- American Weapons and Ordnance
 - 20 ea Carbines, US cal .30, M/1
 - 5 ea Gun, sub machine, cal .45, M/3
 - 88 ea Rifles, US, cal .30, M/1
 - 1 ea Gun, machine, Browning, cal .30, M/1918A6
 - 2 ea Mount, tripod, M/2
 - 2 ea Launcher, rocket, AT, 2.58" M/9
 - 3 ea Launcher, rocket, AT, 2.58" M/1A1
 - 2 ea Gun, machine, Browning, cal .30, M/1918A4
 - 1 ea Rifle, auto, cal .30, M/1918A2
 - 1 ea Cart, hand, M/5A4
 - 1 ea Mount, tripod, M/5
 - 15 ea Sling, gun, M/07
 - 11 ea Tool, comb, M/5
- German Weapons and Ordnance
 - 1545 ea Rifles, shotguns (civilian)
 - 2548 ea Bayonets
 - 142 ea Sabres
 - 6 ea Guns, B.B.
 - 28 ea Rifles, cal .22
 - 120 ea Shotguns
 - 54 ea Rifles, cal .32
 - 555 ea Rifles, Mauser

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77 ea. M. Guns
 200 ea. Mortars, spare M
 21 ea. Mights, Mortar
 21 ea. Mights, artillery
 12 ea. Box, spare parts
 124 ea. Gun, machine, M/42
 72 ea. Mortars, M/42
 241 ea. Mortars, spare M
 22 ea. Machine, pistols, M/42
 12 ea. Rocket, launchers
 2 ea. Spare part Sets M
 2 ea. Binoculars
 20 ea. Goggles, E.U.
 2 ea. Compass
 2 ea. Tripod, range finders
 21 ea. Search, M
 2 ea. Machine guns, M/42
 4 ea. Rifles, French
 4 ea. Revolvers, French

(b) German Motor Transport
American vehicles

(c) Signal
 2 ea. Carrier, personnel half-track

American

1 ea. Radio set GCR-100

German

12 ea. Switchboards
 12 ea. Radios
 2 ea. Transformers
 2 ea. Switch boxes
 4 ea. Amplifiers
 22 ea. Batteries
 4 ea. Receivers
 2 ea. Transmitters
 2 ea. Insulators
 4 ea. Condensators
 22 ea. Telephones
 4 ea. Field boxes
 2 ea. Disk box
 1 ea. Box, spare parts, radio
 1 ea. Box, wire

(d) Quartermaster

International equipment

1 ea. Pot, cook, 12 gal
 2 ea. Pan, cooking
 1 ea. Cover, pan cooking

Individual Equipment

22 ea. Blankets, w.p.c.
 27 ea. Tent, shelter half
 12 ea. Bolt, cartridge, cal .50

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Inv. No. 44 Inf. 2 May 45, sub: After Action Report (Cont'd).

7 ea. Canteens
1 ea. Ball, bedding, officers
15 ea. Pails, tent shelter
2 ea. Handker, mosquito
4 ea. Pocket, magazine, carbine
5 ea. Belt, pistol
6 ea. Bag, sleeping bag
7 ea. Bag, duffel
2 ea. Saveracks
1 ea. Can, meat
5 ea. Carrier, pack

Individual Clothing

24 pr. Socks, w.s.d.
7 ea. Jacket, field
7 ea. Goggles, service
4 ea. Drawers, wool
5 ea. Undershorts, wool
6 pr. Shoes, pace
11 ea. Undies, w.s.d.
20 pr. Trowsers, w.s.d.
2 ea. Belts, web, waist
6 ea. Suspenders
4 ea. Hosiery
12 pr. Goggles

(a) Chemical

American

15 ea. Gas masks

(c) Miscellaneous

German

1,000 metres of sewing cloth (not sorted)
20 lbs. gas' ammunition and demolition material

2. Recommendations

None.

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UNCLASSIFIED
Control

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS SECOND INFANTRY

Vic LENOVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(Q-435555)

14 May 1945

Subject: After Action Report

To: Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division

1. **Personnel.** - Period 1 May 45 to 8 May 45, inclusive.
 - a. (1) Total effective strength at beginning of period:
155 officers, 5 warrant officers, 3047 enlisted men.
 - (2) Total effective strength at end of period:
152 officers, 5 warrant officers, 3055 enlisted men.
 - b. (1) Killed in action during period: 5 enlisted men.
 - (2) Wounded in action during period: 8 enlisted men.
 - (3) Missing in action during period: None
 - c. Reinforcements received during period: 9 officers, 50 enlisted men.

2. **Enemy.**

a. Enemy contacted during the period include elements of the 11th Pz Div, 1st Pz Div, 2d SS Pz Div, along with stragglers from the Russian front.

b. During the period 1-8 May 45, the enemy was in a defensive position along the east bank of the TEPLA river, vicinity of CELEBY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The Germans had all bridges over this river covered by SA, bazooka and SP fire. There was also a series of 50 pill boxes of which three were occupied. They were located along the east bank of the river at strategic points and cleverly camouflaged. These were strong points which caused considerable concern and hampered our advance.

The enemy sent a number of patrols over the river at night to try and intercept our patrols before they returned with any information.

The attitude of the German in the fight seemed that of only token resistance.

In one instance, two German officers came through our lines bearing a white flag in an effort to seek safe passage for 10 German nurses and one wounded American to come into our area. The enemy knew the war was lost and was trying to get the nurses out of the zone to where they feared the Russians might get.

The tanks and SPs the Germans had were immobilized by lack of gas but were a considerable threat as they could still shoot.

305-INF-2-103

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

CANCELLED

- 1 -

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

DATE: 26 Feb 76

8 AUG 1945

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- During the period 7-9 May 45 the enemy was surrendering by units. Most of the Germans had knowledge of the peace negotiations and were fleeing in this direction away from the Russians.
- On the 5th of May, the town of VOLARY was surrendered to C Co by the Burgermeister. On the morning of the 8th of May, a reconnaissance patrol was ambushed by a German outpost who was not notified of the "cease fire" order.
- c. Enemy installations encountered were road blocks (abatis) on the trails through the forests, mined road junctions, bridges prepared for demolition. A series of 50 pill boxes was found along the east bank of the TEPIA river.
 - d. Few casualties were inflicted upon the enemy due to the mildness of the fighting.
 - e. A total of 3,872 prisoners of war was taken.
 - f. The morale of the enemy was of complete hopelessness. Their only desire was to surrender to the American forces rather than to the Russians.

5. OWN OPERATIONS:

a. Forces Engaged.

(1) Own troops.

2d Inf	Co A 737th Tk Bn
50th FA Bn	Co D 737th Tk Bn
670th FA Bn	Co C 803d TD Bn
Co A 7th Engr Bn	Rgn Co 803d TD Bn
Co A 5th Med Bn	

(2) Adjacent Units.

10th Inf
11th Inf
26th Inf Div
4th Arm Div
2d Cav Gp

b. Reserves.

(1) Included in par 5a.

c. Summary of Operations.

- (1) Period 021900B May 45 to 021900B May 45:
2d Inf (less 1st Bn) moved from assembly area in vic of SCHONBERG to assembly area via ROHRNBACH, closing into new area at 021100B. 2d Bn at KUNEBUT; 3d Bn at GERNDORF.
1st Bn 2d Inf remained in Corps reserve.
Regtl CP opened at ROHRNBACH 021100B.
- (2) Period 021900B May 45 to 031900B May 45.
2d Inf (less 1st Bn) remained in position in Division reserve.
1st Bn remained in Corps reserve.
8 PWs were evacuated during period.
- (3) Period 031900B May 45 to 041900B May 45.
2d Inf (less 1st Bn) moved from positions in Div reserve to relieve 1st Bn 10th Inf, north of ALT REICHENAU. Relief was accomplished by 1900B.
Regtl CP opened at ALT REICHENAU at 041300B.
PWs for period: 9.

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Ltr. Hq 2d Inf, 14 May 45, subject: After Action Report (Cont'd).

- (4) Period 041900B May 45 to 051900B May 45.
2d Bn 2d Inf advanced between 8000 and 11000 yards within zone, cleared CZLEBY, GUTHAUSEN, FECH B, crossed the TEPLA river by swimming and on a foot bridge. At end of period, Bn was continuing the attack to enlarge the bridgehead and secure objectives 9 and 10.
5d Bn 2d Inf advanced within zone 6000 yards, seized STOEK and cleared zone to the TEPLA river. At end of period, Bn was consolidating posns and maintaining patrol contact on the flanks.
1st Bn (less 1 R Co) remained in XII Corps reserve, via GRAFENAU. C Co released to Regtl control, went into Regtl reserve at 1545B in vic of AUERSBERGSEBUT, and at close of period was moving to reserve position.
Cn Co at close of period had displaced.
Regtl CP opened at HALDMUHE at 0900B and at CZLEBY at 1850B.
20 prisoners were evacuated during period.
- (5) Period 061900B May 45 to 061900B May 45.
2d Bn advanced within zone 11,000 yards on a 4,000 yard front securing objectives 9, 10, 14, 21 and 25 and clearing town of MILESICE. At close of period, Bn was advancing on objective 24.
5d Bn held line of TEPLA river within zone. At 1700B, 5d Bn - less 1 rifle Co - moved into Regtl reserve in vic HOUZNA. I Co remained in posns along river line.
1st Bn (less C Co) moved from posns in XII Corps reserve via GRAFENAU, and at close of period was moving onto objectives 11, 12, 15. C Co relieved E Co on objective 1 and at close of period had accepted surrender of town of VOLARY.
Regtl CP opened at LENORA at 1530B.
PWs evacuated during period: 188.
- (6) Period 061900B May 45 to 071900B May 45.
Regt prepared for advance to north at 0820B, but advance was halted by orders from higher Hq at 0851B.
1st Bn occupied VOLARY.
2d Bn occupied obj 12, 13, 24 and 25.
5d Bn remained in Regtl reserve in posns occupied yesterday.
All units manned roadblocks within sector to prevent movement of civilians.
PWs evacuated during period: 150.
- (7) Period 071900B May 45 to 081900B May 45.
2d Inf remained in defensive positions, evacuated prisoners of war and prevented circulation of civilian population.
PWs for period: 1728.
- (8) Period 081900B May 45 to 082400B May 45.
2d Inf remained in defensive positions, evacuated prisoners of war and prevented circulation of civilian population.
PWs for period: 681.

S E C R E T

d. Results of Operations.

2d Infantry moved to new assembly area vic ROHRNBACH 02 May remaining in division reserve (with 1st Bn in Corps reserve). On 4 May, 2d Inf (less 1st Bn) relieved 1st Bn 10th Inf in positions north of ALT REICHENAU. 2d Inf attacked 05 May at 1000 hrs after negotiations with Germans failed. Advancing between 8000 and 11000 yards, 2d Inf cleared GLEBEY, GUTHAUSEN, PECH B, crossed the TEPLA river and seized high ground north of river. On 6 May, regiment continued attack, seizing five numbered objectives and clearing the towns of MILESICE and VOLARY. Regt prepared for advance to north 070820B, but advance was halted by orders from higher headquarters received at 0851B. All units remained in positions manning road blocks within sector and preventing circulation of civilians until 090001 May 45 when hostilities officially ceased.

4. SUPPLY AND EVACUATION.

- a. (1) Class I. - Supply of Class I has not been good during the period. "A" rations have been nearly non-existent. Fresh meat items were issued on a basis of 10 to 30 lbs per hundred regardless of type. Bread issues were from 22 to 30 lbs per hundred when available. Most daily draws consisted of an arbitrary combination of "A", "C", "10 in 1" and "K" rations, although a full "A" ration was consistently requested. Some flour, milk, sugar and coffee were received. Ration cycle remains from breakfast to supper inclusive. No "D" ration was received during the period as a supplemental issue to operational rations. Rations drawn daily from Div truckhead. Daylight issues.
- (2) Class II. - Requisitioned weekly. Most clothing drawn was class "B" with some class X. Issued to about 60% of requirements as requisitioned. Some sizes of combat boots, mostly wide sizes (tariff) medium sizes of cotton underwear and shirts, woolen Q.D. have been consistently unavailable during the period.
- (5) Class III. - Issued as required on a can-for-can exchange basis. Sufficient on hand for all requirements. Div truckhead distribution.
- (4) Class IV. - All class IV items requested have been supplied.
- (6) Class V. - Basis load on hand. Ammunition drawn from Army A.S.P. on T/O approved by Div D.A.O.
- (6) Factors Effecting Flow of Supplies. - During the period covered there has been an average of ten vehicles of 1½ ton and 2½ ton capacity on deadline or evacuated as salvageable to 3d and 4th Echelon Maintenance Companies. Most of these evacuations were for motor replacement. This large deadline is due primarily to the excessive wear and miles of operation of these vehicles and the lack of replacement motors and parts required to repair these vehicles. This has adversely effected the flow of supplies, especially during a moving situation and during the present operations when all possible transportation available

S E C R E T

Ltr. No 2d Inf. 14 May 45, subject: After Action Report (Cont'd).

was required for P.O.W. evacuation, and the evacuation of captured and surrendered materials of war, and the added burden of supplying these P.O.W.'s, displaced persons and Allied P.O.W.'s with Class I and Class III items. All usable enemy transportation was used to augment T/E vehicles during this period.

(7) Shortages of Major Items.

(a) Ordnance (Weapons)

None.

(b) Ordnance Motor Transport

58 ea 6:00x16 tires

72 ea 6:00x16 tubes

14 ea 9:00x16 tires

4 ea 9:00x16 tubes

10 ea 7:50x20 tires

40 ea 7:50x20 tubes

2 ea compressors, air, portable, 4 cu ft

1 ea truck, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ T, P/G, 6x6 (4th Ech repair)

5 ea trucks, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ T, car, 6x6 (4th Ech repair)

(c) Signal

None.

(d) Engineer

None.

(e) Medical

None.

(f) Chemical

None.

b. Status of Evacuation.

(1) Bodies evacuated during period:

7 ea American K.I.A.

5 ea enemy K.I.A.

(2) Battlefield recovery and evacuation during period.

(a) Ordnance.

American Weapons and Ordnance.

40 ea Pistols, cal .45, M/1911 and M/1911A1.

24 ea Holsters, pistol M/1916

2 ea Rifle, automatic, cal .30, M/1918A2

1 ea Mortar, 60mm, M2

1 ea Base, plate 60mm, M2

6 ea Browning MG, M1919A4

3 ea Browning, MG, M1917A1

5 ea Mount tripod, MG, cal .30 M2

13 ea Carbines, cal .50, M1

29 ea MG sub cal .45 M5

52 ea Magazines, ass'y MG cal .45 M5

15 ea Thompson sub MG, cal .45

S E C R E T

22 ea Magazines, ass'y MG, Thompson sub cal .45
5 ea MG cal .50
1 ea Mount, tripod, cal .50 MG
1 ea Cradle, MG, M1917A1
1 ea Mount, MG, M1917A1
1 ea Barrel, spare, MG, cal .30
3 ea Launcher, rocket, M1A1
15 ea Rifles, cal .30, M1
1 ea Elevator, cradle AA cal .50 M1
1 ea Mount, MG M51
2 ea Magazines, ass'y, Pistol cal .45
German Weapons and Ordnance

11 ea Gun, machine M34
8 ea Gun, machine M42
25 ea Rifles, auto cal .51
1200 ea Rifle, (Karbiner M98)
450 ea Assorted Divilian Shotguns and Rifles

(b) Ordnance Motor Transport

American vehicles

2 ea trailers, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton, 2 wheel
5 ea trailers, 1 ton, 2 wheel
1 ea truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton
1 ea truck, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton cargo 6x6 Chev (American)

(c) Signal

None

(d) Quartermaster

Organizational Equipment

1 ea Machete, 22"
1 ea Scabbard, machete
1 ea Saw, crosscut, 6 ft

Individual Equipment

6 ea Bolts, cartridge
14 ea Bags, sleeping
6 ea Poles, tent shelter half

Individual Clothing

15 ea Drawers, wool
25 ea Undershirts, wool
11 ea Overcoats, wool
15 pr leggings, canvas dismt'd
5 ea drawers, cotton
6 ea Trousers, wool
5 ea Jackets, H.B.T.

(e) Chemical

None

(f) Miscellaneous

German Ammunition

8 cases Cartridge cal .51, M18, M3
4 cases Grenade, Panzer (Rifle Grenade AT)
8 boxes Grenade, Egg, hand

SECRET

Ltr. Hq 2d Inf. 14 May 45, subject: "After Action Report" (Cont'd).

German Ammunition (Cont'd)

5 cases Grenade (Stick grenade) hand
118 rds Shell, H.E. Mortar 8 Cm
12000 rds Cartridge, cal .31, rifle
4000 rds Cartridge 20M AA
112 rds Rockets, AT (Panzerfaust)

6. RECOMMENDATIONS.

None.

GRAHAM
Comdg

Graham
FLANN
23

7
SECRET

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-920 PENTAGON**

AGO MICROFILM
ITEM NO: 3049

*2730-ENV 39
DIA Rpt 11th Inf
Dept
1st - Mar 49*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH INFANTRY

430
March 1945
39

Subject: Letter of Transmittal for After Action Report of the 11th Infantry for February 1945.

To : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

Transmitted herewith After Action Against the Enemy Report for the Regiment for the month of February 1945, as required by Letter, HQ 5th Inf Div, dated 27 July 1944, Subject: "Historics and After Action Against the Enemy Report", in quadruplicate.

For the Regimental Commander:

ELBERT L. COOPER,
Captain, 11th Infantry,
Adjutant.

- Incl. 1 - Regtl S-1 Journal
- Incl. 2 - Regtl S-2 Journal
- Incl. 3 - Regtl S-3 Worksheet (with allied papers)
- Incl. 4 - Envelope containing Journals of 1st, 2d, and 3d Bn, 11th Inf.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE 13 Aug 46

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH INFANTRY

2 March 1945

Subject: After Action Against the Enemy Report for Period 1 February to 28 February 1945 Inclusive.

To : Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division.

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of period:

Beginning of period 0001 hours 1 February: 149 Officers, 5 Warrant Officers, 2618 Enlisted Men.

End of period 2400 hours 28 February 1945: 137 Officers, 6 Warrant Officers, 3024 Enlisted Men.

b. Casualties:

Killed in Action: 1 Officer, 68 Enlisted Men.

Wounded in Action: (Evac) 11 Officers, 318 Enlisted Men.

Missing in Action: 1 Officer, 26 Enlisted Men.

c. Reinforcements received:

9 Officers and 642 Enlisted Men reinforcements were received during the month in addition to 18 Officers and 475 Enlisted men returned to duty.

2. Enemy:

a. Identifications:

212 V G D

352 V G D

212 Arty Regt, 3d Battery

1st Bn, 915 Regt (KG Priests)

212 Eng Bn, 2d Co

2d Bn 915 Regt (KG Marmes)

212 Fusilier Bn, 1, 2, 3, 4, Coe. 766 Arty Regt

A23 V G Regt, Regt Hq, Hq 1st Bn, 1352 AT Bn

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 14th Cos.

212 Field Repl Bn, 1st Co.

9 V G D

106 Fortress Bn

9th Field Repl Bn

3d Co

8th Co, 57 Regt

7th Army Weapons School

2 Pn Div

LXXX Corps Battle School

C & 8th Cos, 304 Regt

6/X (PAK) AT Co

1266 March Bn

b. Summary of Enemy operations:

On the night of 6-7 February 1945 when the 11th Infantry crossed the SAUER river in assault units to assault the SIEGFRIED Line via Q35363 NW of ECHTENWACH the enemy effected a resistance from pillboxes and with heavy artillery and mortar fire from the SIEGFRIED Line.

Personnel from the 3d Co, 106th Fortress MG Bn was found to be scanning pillboxes from ECHTENWACH to ECHTENWACH and personnel from the Army and Corps Battle schools were furnishing outside protection for the pillboxes.

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Letter, HQ 11th Inf, Subj: "After Action Against the Enemy Report" 2 Mar 45 (contd)

After penetrating the SIEGFRIED Line and advancing to ERZEN (045390) and FROEGHEILER (044415) the enemy transferred from via BOLLERDORF (010400) where 10th Infantry was crossing, some better grade troops for counterattack and defense purpose. The 1st Bn, 423 V G Regt was brought from via Bollendorf and the 2d Bn 423 V G Regt was reported to have been brought from via TRIER to Erzen.

The most stubborn defense and heaviest fighting was encountered south of Erzen. After bitter fighting in Erzen and a slow withdrawal via Furgenthaler the enemy was forced across the Prum River. The enemy defense of BITBURG was considered only light due to the destruction caused by the Allied Air Force. Practically all of the city was leveled with the exception of the barracks area in the SE corner of the city where the enemy resisted lightly with some troops and an estimated one or two SP weapons. Leading elements of the 1st Bn, 11th Infantry entered Bitburg at 1650 hrs 27 February 1945.

With the exception of a few local counterattacks the enemy remained on the defensive from the SAUER River to the KYLL River.

The enemy made considerable use of SP weapons, a small number of tanks and laid down very effective mortar fire. Nebelwerfers were also employed in several instances.

c. Estimate of Enemy losses during period:

It is considered that enemy losses during the month were somewhat lighter than in other periods due to the fact that they were defending most of the time from the SIEGFRIED line fortifications or previously prepared fire and communication trenches.

Several SP weapons were destroyed along with some tanks, although the number of tanks employed by the enemy in operations of this regiment were not very high.

It is believed that several batteries of artillery were destroyed and considerable light and heavy mortars. Mortar and Nebelwerfers fire showed an increase and as a result several mortars and nebelwerfers were destroyed and many such positions neutralized.

It is estimated that 75-100 enemy were killed and 275 wounded during operations of this regiment during the month. 37 enemy dead were evacuated during the month by the Regimental QMO.

Enemy losses due to other than battle casualties seem to be increasing tremendously as many of the replacements for front line units are partly crippled, other not fully convalescents and also a good percentage of reclassified AF personnel. Many of these, according to statements from PWs are evacuated upon reaching their front line destination.

d. Prisoners captured:

Total prisoners captured by this regiment during the month was 426.

e. Enemy morale and status of equipment:

Enemy morale, as indicated by captured PWs was very poor. Physical hardships, no supplies, food and equipment was a large factor for consideration. Prisoners whose homes had been destroyed and families killed had no desire to continue the fight. For the first time, officers surrendered with their men when there was still a chance of escape or opportunity to continue the fight. Captured officers also volunteered information and

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1st. Hq 11th Inf. Subj: "After Action Against the Enemy Report" dtd 2 Mar 45 (cont)

expressed the idea that the war was lost for Germany. All PWs, men and officers, expressed the greatest fear of the recent Russian offensive.

There was evidence of a sufficient amount of small arms, mortar and most caliber of artillery ammunition. Nebelwerfer ammunition was found abandoned in most all evacuated positions.

Many SP weapons were used and several AT guns were found in excellent dug-in positions.

Many AT and personnel mines were found on the approaches to rivers and the Siegfried line, otherwise when the enemy was retreating not many mines were encountered and those only on roads.

3. Summary of Our Operations for the period:

010700A to 030700A February 45 - 1st Bn remained in assembly area vicinity Construx (794340) and Kolothum. 2d Bn remained in defensive positions on high ground near Wahlhausen (848570). 3d Bn remained in defensive positions on high ground NE of Weiler (848520) and Putscheid (853525). Bn relieved by 10th Inf. Relief completed 022000A Feb 45. Command passed to CO, 10th Inf at 020000A Feb 45. Regt moved to assembly area in Div Res vicinity Eitelbruck (825400) and Dieckroth (866420). CP opened Eitelbruck 021445A Feb 45.

030700A to 040700A February 45 - Regt remained in position throughout period in Div Res.

040700A to 060700A February 45 - 1st Bn relieved elements of 417th Inf on high ground NE of Bardorf (900970) and W of Schernach (055358). Command passed 1915A, 2d and 3d Bns moved to assembly area vicinity Gensdorf (944315). Regt CP closed Eitelbruck and opened at Gensdorf at 041745A Feb 45. Order received for crossing of Saar River and assault on Siegfried Line. F.O. 11, Hq, 11th Inf, issued.

060700A to 070700A Feb 45 - 1st Bn remained in position. 2d Bn moved to forward assembly area vicinity 022384. 3d Bn moved to forward assembly area vicinity 032358. 2d Bn Recon platoon received machine gun fire from pillboxes across river and crossing site lit up with flares. Two additional efforts to cross river repulsed by mortar, machine gun and artillery fire. 2d Bn Recon platoon made a successful crossing in assault boats at 070443A with no opposition. However, bridging difficulties were encountered, and, while waiting for the bridge to be prepared, the leading company received automatic, mortar and artillery fire, and was disorganized. The next company brought to the river was unable to cross in assault boats due to the mass type of enemy fire. At the close of the period, 2d and 3d Bns were reorganizing and preparing to make a crossing in assault boats. Tanks, TDs and 15mm self-propelled guns were moved into positions to take pillboxes under direct fire when visibility permitted.

070700A to 080700A February 45 - Preparations continued during this period and crossing began 071830 Feb 45. Ten boatloads of C Co crossed at 1908. Enemy resistance encountered was a few bursts of ineffective machine gun fire. Crossing operations were extremely handicapped by an unusually fast current, high water and poor visibility. Loss and lack of boats prevented crossing of additional troops of 2d Bn during the period. Efforts of third Bn to cross were repulsed by enemy machine gun fire, with only two boats reaching the far shore.

080700A to 100700A February 45 - Efforts to make a successful daylight crossing were repulsed by machine gun fire. Under cover of fire from supporting weapons, C Co on the far shore silenced pillboxes covering the crossing sites, and crossing of additional troops began at 101116A. At 102000A, 1st and 2d Bns were across, holding positions along main road running

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Ltr. No 11th Inf, Subj: "After Action Against the Enemy Report" dtd 2 Mar 45 (contd)

parallel to river and had established contact with 10th Inf on the left. Preparations were made to cross 3d Bn.

100700A to 110700A February 45 - 1st and 2d Bn gained initial objectives at 0900A while 3d Bn was crossing in assault boats. 3d Bn completing crossing at 0930A, passed through 2d Bn and continued to attack NE. At close of period, attack had been halted by heavy artillery, nebelwerfer and machine gun fire from pillboxes. Footbridge was completed and a trestle bridge was nearing completion.

110700A to 120700A February 45 - 1st and 3d Bns continued attack at 0600A. 3d Bn on left made limited gains while 1st Bn encountered stiff resistance and gained no ground. Heavy artillery, mortar, small arms, and some direct fire from self-propelled guns was encountered. 2d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve.

120700A to 130700A February 45 - 1st Bn continued attack at 1500A following artillery preparations. After advancing approximately 300 yards, 1st Bn received small arms and automatic fire from front and both flanks, and withdrew to original positions. 3d Bn remained in position, patrolling to front and flanks, while 2d Bn remained in Regimental Reserve.

130700A to 140700A February 45 - 1st Bn continued attack making small gains during day. 2d Bn attacked and occupied pillboxes just south of Ferschweller (043412) with Co G. Upon completion of this operation, Co G rejoined 2d Bn in attack on Krnsen (059388) at close of period. 3d Bn attacked at 130700A and captured high ground east of Ferschweller.

~~140700A to 150700A February 45 - 1st Bn continued attack and reached Krnsen 1040A meeting only light resistance. 2d Bn continued attack at 0630A, captured Krnsen at 0830A, resistance also light. 3d Bn continued attack at 0740A, captured high ground vicinity 055420 at 1000A. Co K relieved Co F, 10th Inf on Hill 387 (045428).~~

140700A to 150700A February 45 - 1st Bn continued attack and reached Krnsen 1040A meeting only light resistance. 2d Bn continued attack at 0630A, captured Krnsen at 0830A, resistance also light. 3d Bn continued attack at 0740A, captured high ground vicinity 055420 at 1000A. Co K relieved Co F, 10th Inf on Hill 387 (045428).

150700A to 160700A February 45 - 1st and 2d Bns were engaged in improving defensive positions. 3d Bn engaged in clearing pocket of resistance in woods at 048428. No other enemy contacted west of Prun River within zone.

160700A to 170700A February 45 - 1st and 2d Bns were engaged in regrouping to cover additional frontage. 3d Bn repulsed small counterattack of 40-50 men at 1600A.

170700A to 180700A February 45 - 1st and 2d Bns remained in positions. 3d Bn continued clearing enemy from their front, meeting small arms, automatic, mortar and artillery fire.

180700A to 190700A February 45 - 1st and 2d Bns remained in positions patrolling to Prun River, meeting no resistance, while 3d Bn attacked and cleared all enemy resistance west of Prun River within their zone.

190700A to 200700A February 45 - 1st was relieved by elements of 1st Bn, 385th Inf at 191300A and moved to assembly area vicinity Bourglinster (P908238) sleeping at 191600A. 2d Bn with Co B attached was relieved by elements of 3d Bn, 385 Inf at 191230A and 2d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity Gedbrange (P920273) sleeping 191800A. 3d Bn with Co C attached was relieved by 2d Bn, 10th Inf at 191230A and 3d Bn moved to assembly area vicinity Blacchette (P870236) sleeping at 191300A. 385th Inf assumed command of his zone from 11th Inf at 191300A, and 10th Inf assumed command of his zone from 11th Inf at 191300A.

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1st Bn 11th Inf. Subj: "After ACTION Against the Enemy Report", dtd 2 Mar 45 (contd)

250700A to 250700A February 45 - Regiment remained in Division reserve vicinity Allinster (P909297).

250700A to 260700A February 45 - Regiment moved to assembly area vicinity Nusbaum, closing at 251345A. 2d Bn attached to 3d Inf effective 251300A. Preparations made to move 1st and 3d Bns to assembly areas vicinity 062470 and 062460.

260700A to 270700A February 45 - 1st Bn passed through 1st Bn, 10th Inf and attacked to NE at 262100A. At 27045A the high ground vicinity 112251A was captured.

270700A to 280700A February 45 - 1st Bn continued attack and Co. patrolers reached the outskirts of the city of Bitburg (1133333) at 1430A, meeting small arms resistance. 3d Bn attacked to NE at 1335A overcoming small arms, automatic and tank or self-propelled gun fire and at close of period patrols were met with small arms fire on the outskirts of Hotsch (115522). 2d Bn remained in Regimental reserve vicinity Ingendorf (082190).

280700A Feb to 010700A March 45 - 1st Bn continued attack and at 1130A had cleared town of Bitburg. 2d Bn passed through 1st Bn 1135A, continued attack to Kyll River, clearing all resistance within zone by 1300A. 3d Bn continued attack, clearing town of Hotsch at 0830A and reaching Kyll River, crossing at 1700A after overcoming small arms resistance in woods at 165630. At close of period 2d and 3d Bns occupied positions on high ground overlooking Kyll River, due east of Bitburg. 1st Bn remained in 1st Bn Regt Reserve.

A. Supply and Evacuation:

a. Class I Supply:

- (1) The issue of rations during the past month has been excellent.
- (2) The submission of the Daily Telegram 5 days in advance continues to cause difficulty in planning what combat battalions will consume 5 days later.
- (3) Commodity issues are satisfactory, except that they are not issued on full strength. For example: The regiment drew, on Commodity day, 1000 K Rations and 1300 B Rations. Commoditys were issued only for the 1900 B Rations. Consequently a shortage existed due to the fact that the battalions that drew K Rations that day would not be consuming K Rations for the remainder of the week. It is suggested that commodity be issued on full strength of the regiment.

b. Class II Supply:

- (1) The supply of Class II Clothing and Equipment has been excellent. Major shortages of Quartermaster Equipment are: Outfits, cooking, 1 burner.
- (2) Ordnance supply is excellent.
- (3) Signal, Engineer, GNS and Medical supplies continue to be excellent.
- (4) The limited supply of motor vehicle spare parts continues to restrict the mobility of the regiment.

c. Class III Supply:

- (1) The supply of gasoline and lubricants is excellent.

d. Class IV Supply:

- (1) Engineer supply of Class IV items have been available to fill all requirements during the past month.

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Ltr. Hq 11th Inf, Subj: "After Action Against the Enemy Report", dtd 2 Mar 45 (contd)

e. Class V Supply:

(1) The rationing of 60mm mortar ammunition has not affected operations. Restrictions on the use of 81mm mortar ammunition has definitely influenced the normal operations of the battalions in the attack. The mortar platoons in this regiment are very efficient and are capable of delivering large volumes of fire when the ammunition is available. Several river crossings have been made in recent operations and large amounts of mortar ammunition are used for close support in repelling counterattacks on the far shore with the mortars in position on the near shore.

f. General Comments:

(1) In a recent river crossing operation many men got wet in the river and due to the cold weather had to be evacuated. The following plan was instituted to reduce the non-battle casualties caused by immersions: Dry, clean clothing was bundled in lots of 30 trousers, 30 shirts, 30 suits of heavy wool underwear and 60 pairs of socks. The 30 complete sets of clothing were sent to the battalion aid stations from the collecting companies. The clothing was delivered to the collecting company when requested by the battalion surgeons. Two pairs of socks per suit of dry clothing is necessary for men who are equipped with shoes pace. More than 30 sets of clothing and additional items such as field jackets and sweaters puts too great a burden upon the battalion aid stations.

5. Recommendations based on battle experiences:

See attached recommendations on "River Crossings".

PAUL J. BLACK,
Colonel, 11th Infantry,
Commanding.

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Recommendations based on battle experiences:

RIVER CROSSINGS

It is recommended that, in the planning of the deliberate river crossing operation, in the face of organized enemy resistance, the calculation of assault boat requirements be made with the assumption that sufficient boats to transport at least 50% of the assaulting rifle battalion will make only the initial crossing. The above holds true especially when the following conditions exist:

(1) When the current of the river and the surface of the water are such that experienced and well-trained boat crews will be required to handle the assault boats.

(2) When the majority of the troops participating in the assault crossing have not been thoroughly trained in river crossing technique and the management of assault boats in the water.

(3) When the nature of enemy opposition is such that it is reasonable to expect that the loss of both material and personnel will occur.

It has been found that when major units i.e. regiments and divisions, are conducting a river crossing the proportion of combat engineer troops to the number of engineer tasks to be accomplished is always low. Therefore, in many cases it has been the experience that the infantry take the assault boats across without engineer crews aboard. This results in the boats being stranded on the far shore.

Under the conditions described above, it has also been found that even with a two or three-man engineer boat crew in each assault boat it is impossible for boat crews to return the boats close enough to the embarkation points to permit succeeding waves to use these boats without very excessive loss of time, this being especially true when the operation is conducted under cover of darkness. The calculation of boat requirements for assault crossings on this basis insures the crossing of a sufficiently large number of troops to prevent the isolation of small units on the enemy shore for long periods of time. One engineer may be taken across to secure the boat on the other side.

CONFIDENTIAL
HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH INFANTRY

L-491
25
3 April 1945

Subject: Letter of Transmittal for After Action Report of 11th Infantry Regiment for March 1945.

To : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

Transmitted herewith After Action Against the Enemy Report for the Regiment for the month of March 1945, as required by letter, Hq 5th Inf Div, dated 27 July 1944, Subject: "Histories and After Action Against the Enemy Report", in quadruplicate.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

HERBERT L. COOPER,
Captain, 11th Infantry,
Adjutant.

6 Incls.

- Incl. 1 - Regtl 2-1 Journal
- Incl. 2 - Regtl 2-2 Journal
- Incl. 3 - Regtl 2-3 Worksheet (with allied papers)
- Incl. 4 - 1st Bn Journal
- Incl. 5 - 2d Bn Journal
- Incl. 6 - 3d Bn Journal

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

CANCELLED

AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Paul J. ... 860
CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE 3 June 46

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HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH INFANTRY

3 April 1945

Subject: After Action Against the Enemy Report for Period 1 March to 31 March 1945, inclusive.

To : Commanding General, 5th Infantry Division.

1. Personnel:

a. Total effective strength at beginning and end of period:

Beginning of period 0001 hours 1 March:	137 Officers, 6 Warrant Officers, 3024 Enlisted Men.
End of period 2400 hours 31 March 1945:	131 Officers, 6 Warrant Officers, 2964 Enlisted Men.

b. Casualties:

Killed in Action: 3 Officers, 64 Enlisted Men.
Wounded in Action (Evac): 14 Officers, 224 Enlisted Men.
Missing in Action: 1 Officer, 14 Enlisted Men.

c. Reinforcements received:

21 officers and 190 Enlisted Men reinforcements were received during the month in addition to 16 Officers and 430 Enlisted Men returned to duty.

2. Enemy:

a. Identifications:

2 Pz Div	159 VOB
2 Regt	1210 Regt
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Alamo Co. (97)	Hq, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, March (53)
304 Regt	1211 Regt
1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Alamo, Supply Co (26)	Hq, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, Supply (141)
74 Arty Regt	159 Fus (6)
Hq, 1, 6, 10 Btry, (16)	1059 Arty Regt (8)
Alamo Co (16)	1059 Supply (22)
Other stragglers from:	1059 AT Bn (2)
8 Co, 36 Regt, 9 Div	1059 Comman. (3)
Hq Co, 988 Regt, 276 Div	14 Co, 226 Regt, 79 Div
4 Co, 986 Regt, 276 Div	Hq Co, 694 Regt
8 Co, 8 Regt, 3 Div	1 Co, 316 Regt, 212 Div
Hq Co, 916 Regt, 352 Div	3 Co, 60 Regt, 116 Div
1 Co, 689 Regt, 342 Div	Hq Co, 165 Regt, 65 Div
1 Co, 77 Regt, 26 Div	Hq Co, 751 Regt, 326 Div
212 Fus (2)	38 Eng Bn (21)
3 Para Div (16)	6 SS Mt Div (32)
KG Ingelheim (13)	KG Aush (48)
	KG Popeliev (66)

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9 Field Repl Bn	(21)	6 PR Bn	(15)
9 Fus Bn	(8)	Observation Bn 45	(10)
340 Arty Regt	(3)	340 Eng Bn	(6)
340 Adm	(4)	Corps Comm Bn 489	(6)
Army Comm 512	(2)	Soundmeasure Troop	(19)
Army Munl Co	(2)	Army Arty Bn 1151	(5)
Fieldpost	(10)	Custom Pal	(9)
14 Nebelwerfer Regt	(13)	36 Rv Bn	(6)
12 Para	(11)	Volkssturm Darmstadt	(28)
Other Volkssturm	(67)	Naval Rep Co	(27)
Trng Co 36 Bn	(21)		
Repl Group "west"		Reserve Officers Bn	
1 (17), 2 (47), 3 (103),		I Bn	
4 (9), Hq (1)		1 (11), 2 (16), 3 (6)	
33 Bn		II Bn	
2 (28), 3 (81), 4 (30),		Hq (15), 1 (72), 5 (43),	
Eng (16)		6 (37)	
34 Bn		III Bn	
Arty (18)		1 (18), 2 (4), Hq (4)	
12 Repl Bn (66)		IV Bn	
33 Field Repl Bn (9)		1 (43), 2 (58), 3 (64),	
777 Landeschützen Bn		Hq (10)	
776 Landeschützen Bn		775 Landeschützen Bn	
789 Landeschützen Bn		999 Landeschützen Bn	
9 Landeschützen Bn			
Luftwaffe Personnel:		12 AC Regt (5)	
7 Air Comm Regt (10)			
13th Regt (1)			
FLAK Bns:			
16 (79), 9 (5), 78 (105), 15 (10), 119 (22), 129 (35), 42 (13),			
246 (3), 233 (6), 273 (3), 299 (14), 311 (8), 399 (3), 417 (3),			
537 (9), 501 (2), 661 (17), 846 (2), 856 (7), 865 (1), 878 (33),			

b. Summary of Enemy operations:

After putting up a stubborn resistance against the 5th US Division's crossing of the SAUER River and penetration of the STEGFRIED Line in vicinity NW of KORTENBACH, Luxembourg, the enemy started a withdrawal by fighting a delaying action and attempting to extract what troops and equipment he could.

The enemy was forced from KITSBURG by the 11th US Infantry Regiment and was forced to retreat across the KYLL River. Enemy units identified in this operations were: 3d Pz Div (2 Regt, 304 Regt & 74 Arty Regt), elements of the 157 VGD and 212 VGD.

After crossing the KYLL River, US Armored columns threw the enemy into a disorganized retreat toward BAD KNEUZNACH, capturing many thousand PWs from the 24 Pz, 159 VGD, 212 VGD and Miscellaneous Flak units. The Moselle River was crossed via Haden without much opposition from the enemy who appeared still disorganized and resisting in groups.

The RHINE River was reached without much opposition and was immediately crossed by the 11th US Infantry Regiment, 5th US Infantry Division in an assault crossing between NIERSTEIN and OFFENHEIM, Germany. Opposition was light to medium, with several straggler units initially being identified. (3d Engr Bn, 212 Pz Bn and stragglers from the 6 SS Htn and 5 Para Div.)

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After crossing the RHINE River and securing a bridgehead, elements of the 5th US Division were counterattacked by a new unit contacted for the first time, the XII W Officers School, consisting of four Bns. This was the main effort the enemy made to challenge our advance across the RHINE.

Upon reaching GROSS GERAU it was found that the enemy was using local Volksturm and local police forces for defending the city. PIK units were used as ground troops in their withdrawal toward MAINZ and FRANKFURT.

Upon reaching FRANKFURT, US Amored elements captured the main bridge crossing the MAIN River which was slightly damaged. The 3d Bn, 11th Infantry was immediately sent across the bridge to secure a footing across the river in FRANKFURT. The enemy resisted this crossing with flak guns and SPs. At one time, in a period of 1 hour and 45 minutes, approximately 500 rounds were fired at the bridge with an estimated 60% hitting the bridge.

A brief summary of enemy operations for the month of March could be summarized as: Once crossing the SAAR River and breaching the Siegfried Line the enemy began a retreat which was gradually thrown into disorganization with great loss of personnel and equipment and could not organize sufficiently to impede our advance. Generally resistance was found in form of Battle Groups and Alarm Companies. After crossing the RHINE River the enemy air arm became active for the first time and as many as 6 to 8 enemy planes were over the bridgehead area, bombing and strafing. This was continued by 1 to 2 planes at a time throughout darkness.

c. Enemy losses during period:

The enemy suffered great loss in personnel and equipment during the month. Enemy armor suffered a great loss from the operations of our Air Forces. Many times enemy armor was located in mass trying to escape and was continually bombed and strafed. The predominance of Allied artillery over that of the enemy accounted for many in wounded and killed. Generally, enemy artillery fire was light and he seemed to rely chiefly on SP and assault guns. During his disorganized retreat the enemy was also forced to abandon many tanks, SPs, etc. due to lack of gasoline and ammunition. It is estimated that approximately 600 enemy were wounded and 200 enemy killed as a result of operations by this regiment. 29 enemy dead were evacuated during the month by the GRC.

d. Prisoners captured:

Total prisoners captured by the 11th US Infantry Regiment during the month of March was 3083.

e. Enemy morale and status of equipment:

Enemy morale was best evidenced by the mass surrender of men and officers and in most cases surrender occurred by organization. Practically all of the army personnel realize that their fight is a hopeless one and that it would be better to surrender and get out of the war. An increased evidence of distrust of the Nazi party including Hitler, Goebbels and other high officials. It is believed that enemy morale has reached its lowest ebb, next to complete surrender.

The loss of a large percent of their vehicle transportation by our Air Corps action, bombing and strafing of railway transportation, destruction of their armor has added greatly to the present status of supplies and equipment. Gasoline still remains a critical supply shortage, as evidenced by the

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2d Pz Div abandoning many armored vehicles intact.

Many soldiers see no longer any reason for further resistance, since their hometowns have been occupied by either the Mexicans or Anglo-Americans. Even these officers and soldiers who might be classified as excellent quality are influenced by the great influence of inferior quality troops. A squad leader's will to fight is obviously limited when his squad is made up of sick, old and wounded, yet hardly recovered men.

Lack of Luftwaffe and tank support in face of our superiority, especially of "Jabco" (P47, etc) definitely lowers their morale.

Organization and leadership of hastily organized alarm units is poor and consequently morale or will to resist is lowered.

3. Summary of Our Operations for the period:

010700A Mar to 020700A Mar 45 - At the beginning of period the town of Bitburg and all of the area within the RegtI zone west of the Kyll River had been cleared of enemy resistance with the 2d and 3d Bns occupying posts to the west bank of the Kyll River. 1st Bn was in RegtI reserve in Bitburg. Patrols operated to the front of the 2d and 3d Bns during the period in preparation for crossing operations.

020700A to 030700A Mar 45 - Crossing operations were begun at 2200A with Engineers constructing a footbridge across Kyll River in 2d Bn zone. Bridge was completed undetected by enemy at 2305A. F Co began crossing at 2400A, followed by G Co at 0025A who were completely across at 0100A. F Co advanced about 200 yards with G Co abreast. Enemy detected crossing and some small arms fire and mortar fire was received. E Co crossed at 0340A and moved to clear south portion of bridgehead. F and G Cos patrolled to high ground to east at close of period. 3d Bn began crossing operations at 2400A. Bridging difficulties were encountered and at 0255A no footbridge was available for use. Reconnaissance indicated the river to be three feet deep, but current was too swift for fording as well as extremely cold water. Enemy discovered crossing operations and placed small arms, mortar and automatic fire on crossing sites. At 0500A, CO 3d Bn requested and was granted permission to cross L Co over a footbridge in 2d Bn, 10th Inf zone. At 0600A, L Co had crossed and by close of period had secured objective in crossing zone and bridge construction was begun. The 1st Bn remained in Regimental reserve in Bitburg.

030700A to 040700A Mar 45 - 2d Bn continued attack with E Co clearing Obj 4 (south portion of bridgehead area) at 1015A while F and G Cos captured Obj 2 (high ground just east of river). Considerable artillery fire was received on Obj 2. The western half of Obj 6 was captured by F Co with troops approaching the town of Erdorf against infantry resistance. 3d Bn captured objective 1, 3 and 5, clearing the town of Metternich. One trestle bridge across the river and one Bailey bridge over the railroad were constructed during the period. 140 PWs were captured. 1st Bn moved to assembly area vicinity Netesch, closing at 1400A.

040700A to 050700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn remained in Regimental reserve vicinity of Netesch. 2d Bn continued attack toward Obj 9, meeting small arms and direct fire from a tank or SF gun. Attack continued with tanks in support at 1635A and the town of Erdorf was entered at 1655A, and cleared of enemy at 2100A. 58 PWs were taken in Erdorf. 3d Bn, advancing NE from Metternich, encountered enemy infantry and armor in the town of Badem. Fierce fighting followed with armor slugging it out at 200 yards in some cases. The town was cleared at 1330A, with the enemy leaving 1-Mark III Tank, A Mark IV's,

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2 Mark V's knocked out and 2 Mark V's captured intact. Several trucks, one half-truck and two run-cars were destroyed or captured intact. 226 PWs were taken during the period. At close of period patrols were working to the front and reported no resistance up to 800 yards.

090700A to 060700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn remained in Regimental reserve in Motesch. 2d Bn continued organization of positions on Obj's 6 and 9, patrolling to their front. 3d Bn remained in position vic Baden, sending " Co, reinforced with a platoon of tanks to Orfeld. Town was occupied and 34 prisoners taken. 4th Armored Division passed through bridgehead and attacked to north.

060700A to 070700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn remained in position vic Motesch. 2d Bn attacked to the north, clearing enemy from the west bank of the Kyll River as far north as Kyllburg (188609) and captured towns of Etteldorf (168597) and Wilssecker (174593). 3d Bn patrolled to the west to Kyllburg contacting 80th Inf Div in that area and patrolled between Orsfeld (204593) and Kyllburg during remainder of period.

070700A to 080700A Mar 45 - Regt prepared to follow the 4th Arm'd Div and consolidate their gains. 1st Bn moved at 1530A from vicinity Motesch to Oberstadtfeld (310758) closing at 1930A with A Co in Salm (257391), B Co in Oberstadtfeld and C Co in Wallenborn (2773). 3d Bn moved at 1500A from vic Baden to vic Weisburg to occupy key points on the left flank of Corps at 220665, 255730 and 221707 with Bn CP at Weisburg (231684) closing in area at 2210A. No enemy opposition was encountered. 2d Bn and remainder of 11th CT (less attachments to 1st and 3d Bns and 752d FA Bn) remained in vicinity of Erdorf and Bitburg.

080700A to 090700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn moved to assembly area vic Ulmen (460790), Schonbach (438798), Berenbach (444828) closing at 081700A. 3d Bn with attachments moved at 1400A to occupy Daun, Steinborn, Neunkirchen and Waldkonigen, closing at 081847A. 30 prisoners were taken at Ransgen. Remainder of 11th CT moved at 1230A to Oberstadtfeld, closing at 1530A. Regt CP opened Oberstadtfeld at 1200A and closed at 1430A, opening at Darscheid at 1630A. 11th Inf was attached to the 4th Arm'd Div effective 082305A Mar 45.

090700A to 100700A Mar 45 - 11th CT continued to consolidate gains of the 4th Arm'd Div, occupying key towns, road junctions and commanding ground. 1st Bn moved at 091400A to Kaisersesch, closing at 1500A. 2d Bn in vicinity Oberstadtfeld moved at 1430A to vicinity Darscheid closing at 2030A. 3d Bn in vicinity Daun, moved at 1530A to vicinity Ulmen (460793) closing at 1710A. CP closed at Darscheid at 1530A and opened in Kaisersesch at 091745A. 1st Bn patrolled from 355800 to 540780, taking three prisoners and finding the road clear to that point.

100700A to 110700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn remained in vicinity of Kaisersesch with A Co vicinity 535800, B Co at 572793, with 1 platoon at RJ 580780, and " Co relieved " Co vicinity Alfthen-Buechel at 1530A. 2d Bn moved to vicinity Gering (665862), Kineg (672874), Kellig (672853), closing in area at 1605A. 3d Bn moved to vicinity Merlloch (697858), Haunheim (700842), Gappensch (722860), and Glarceschach (724844), patrolling south to the Moselle River and east to the towns of Kalt (757859) and Horn (753838). Movement was begun at 1200A, closing (less L Co) in area at 1620A. L Co was relieved at Alfthen (500755) and Buechel (532750) at 1830A and closed in assembly area at 1830A. CP moved from Kaisersesch at 1305A and opened at Kehrig (635866) at 1335A. Mission of Regt was to occupy positions to the south of Palsch (698990) to protect south and southeast flank of 4th Arm'd Div. Patrols recon- sidered to north bank of the Moselle River, picking up a few stragglers but encountering no resistance.

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110700A to 120700A Mar 45 - Regiment relieved elements of the 4th Arm Div within new zone southwest of Elz River. Patrols pushed forward to the north bank of the Moselle River, encountering no resistance. 1st Bn relieved elements COB, 4th Arm Div vicinity Forst (655800), Binningen (650785), Nail (648762), Breiden (662768), Brohl (675802) and Montanich (690805) and patrolled to the north bank of the Moselle River. 2d and 3d Bns remained in positions.

120700A to 130700A Mar 45 - Regt was relieved from attached to the 4th Arm Div effective 112400A with new boundary between divisions becoming effective at that time. 1st Bn remained in ponds on north bank of Moselle River, receiving small arms fire, mortar and automatic fire and occasional artillery fire from enemy on south bank of Moselle. 2d and 3d Bns moved to assembly areas within zone to prepare for crossing of Moselle River.

130700A to 140700A Mar 45 - Regt began crossing of Moselle River at 140454 Mar 45. Resistance encountered was moderate with small arms and automatic fire the main effort of enemy to prevent crossing. Some artillery and mortar fire were received in the crossing area. 1st Bn moved to assembly area same vicinity 2000A, 2d Bn remained in assembly area vicinity Harenstein (638830), and Ross. 1st Bn began crossing Moselle River at 140354. G Co and Bn Hon Plat reached far shore at 0400A. The Hon Plat met some resistance. B Co crossed at 0500A. 3d Bn crossed in same area as 1st Bn with I Co crossing at 0550 and L Co at 0600A. Reserve Co (A) of 1st Bn followed L Co at 0640A and K Co was crossing at close of period. All crossing of two assault Bns was made in assault boats. G Co reached Obj 3 at 0554 with B Co on south edge of Obj 3 at same time. At close of period Cos I and L were moving south of the hill toward Obj 4 with I Co reaching NE edge of Obj 4 along edge of woods at 0700A. L Co was moving with little resistance in the sector. Heavy woods with rough, steep terrain impeded progress. 1st Bn at close of period was meeting some resistance from houses in the draw at 720759. 2d Bn was preparing to move to forward assembly area vicinity Hudenberg at 140700A.

140700A to 150700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn continued attack against small arms and mortar resistance, clearing Obj 3 at 1730A and holding positions for the night. 2d Bn crossed the Moselle River at 1645A in assault boats, completing crossing at 0845A. Town of "ute" (730735) was captured by L Co at 1830A. At close of period bridgehead was firmly established and attack continued with 1st Bn engaged in fire fight vicinity Obj 9, while the 2d Bn moved forward meeting no resistance.

150700A to 160700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn continued attack, capturing Obj 9 and on passage of 2d Bn through position, assembled in regimental reserve. 2d Bn continued the attack reducing resistance just north of town of Lieg (722711). The Germans held high command ground here with AA guns and artillery pieces sighted for direct fire, many of which were encouaged in haystacks. Our tanks searched the area with machine gun fire setting fire to the hay stacks and destroying several places and their crews before they could open fire. Other places on the flanks, however, were able to bring fire on our tanks, destroying tow and damaging a third. 2d Bn held position there for the night. 3d Bn continued attack capturing towns of Eveshausen (755730), Demershausen (759716) and Dorweiler. 4th Arm Div passed through our bridgehead at 1200A and attacked to south. Period 160700A to 170700A Mar 45. With resistance eliminated, the 2d Bn continued to advance, capturing the towns of Lair (725697), Zilhanzen (748664), Corweiler (771678) and Uhler (783655) continuing on to Hauselbach (794603) where positions were held for night. 3d Bn

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continued attack capturing towns of Beltheim (805675), Roth (8065), Castellau (788636) and Laubach (840619) holding positions there for the night. 1st Bn in Regt reserve moved to Castellau, closing at 1700A.

170700A to 180700A Mar 45 - Regt began operation of following 4th Arm'd Div, mopping up pockets of resistance and consolidating their gains. 2d Bn moved by motor and marching to occupy positions vicinity Riesweiler (872512) and Holsbach (855507), clearing town of Wehr (801595), Altkull (810590), Muerkirch (825570), Kuls (826365), Chumbachen (840549) and Kaidel-halm (830548). 3d Bn moved by marching, clearing their zone of advance to southeast and towns of Pleizenhausen (880575), Wahlbach (900558) and occupied Schnerbach (912548), Argenthal (901528) and Kllern (922540). 1st Bn in Regt reserve moved to Simmern (8554).

180700A to 190700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn continued attack at 0930A, clearing south through woods, clearing towns of Winterbach (920118), Gebroth (945421), Munchwald (958441) and Spall (960428). 2d Bn continued attack at 0700A, southeast through woods clearing woods and towns of Sparbrucken (985445), Argenschane (979425), Dalberg (994411), Wahlhausen (025434), Sommerloch (018420) and Kraurweiler (008408), occupying the latter two towns for the night. 3d Bn continued attack at 0700A southeast through woods (Forst Neupfals) clearing the woods and towns of Seibersbach (985513), Dorrebach (990498), Sehnberg (004468), Eckenroth (034472) and Hergenfeld (020450) occupying high ground in this vicinity for the night.

190700A to 200700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn continued advance at 0800A occupying high ground vicinity Waldbooselheim (989352) at 1145A. 2d Bn occupied ground vicinity Traisen (060358), Heiderhausen (035338), Kuffelsheim (055405) by 1130A. Bn moved at 1500A to occupy city of Bad Kreuznach by 1700A. Enemy aircraft were active over the area attacking bridges over the Nahe River at 1800A and again at 1900A. One plane was shot down. No damage or casualties were reported.

200700A to 210700A Mar 45 - Regt continued to consolidate gains of 4th Arm'd Div clearing towns and routes. Towns consisted of Hachenheim (1183609), Volxheim (138354), Mollstein (180350), San Bickelheim (205375), Wallertheim (225735), Sulzheim (257383), Wornstadt (274378), Schimsheim (235355), Ronnersheim (255360), Speisheim (283346), Ensheim (272342), Biebelnheim (312330), Gau-Odernheim (330316) and Aechtelsheim (330340). Enemy air was active over sector throughout the period, but no damage was inflicted.

210700A to 220700A Mar 45 - 1st and 3d Bns continued advance to Murrstein (435415) and Oppenheim (445395), clearing all enemy from west bank of the Rhine. 2d Bn moved to vicinity Dalheim (403365) and Weinselheim (385355).

220700A to 230700A Mar 45 - Preparations were begun at beginning of period for assault crossing of Rhine River by the Regiment. No crossings were to be made by adjacent units. The Regt began crossing operations at 2215A with 1st and 3d Bns abreast, 1st Bn on right, vicinity Oppenheim (445395) and 3d Bn vicinity Murrstein (435415). Crossing was effected smoothly, exploiting the element of surprise. Moderate resistance was encountered in crossing, but was reduced and the town of Heinsheim (475425) was captured by the 1st Bn. 3d Bn encountered light resistance and at close of period had a bridgehead about 3000 yds deep. 2d Bn crossed into the bridgehead and moved to vicinity 450418 in Regt reserve.

230700A to 240700A Mar 45 - The attack continued with the 1st Bn capturing Obj 2 at 1022A, reaching the town of Wallersteden (515455) and clearing it of resistance at 1250A. 2d Bn moved from vicinity 450415 to Wallersteden and prepared to continue attack to northeast. Both 1st and 3d Bns received enemy small arms, mortar and SF fire during the night. 3d Bn

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continued the attack and at 1235A the town of Trebur (480478) was captured. An enemy counterattack of one battalion strength was repulsed by the 3d Bn and 700 prisoners were taken during the period, with estimated 150 killed. Enemy air was very active during the entire period over the bridgehead area with numerous bombing and strafing attacks.

240700A to 250700A Mar 45 - 1st and 2d Bns continued to attack and captured the town of Gross Gerau (5347). Town of Dornberg (540455) was captured by 2d Bn. 3d Bn moved to vicinity Wallerstadten (515453) in Regtl reserve mopping up a pocket of enemy resistance at 495460. Approximately 600 prisoners were captured during the period.

250700A to 260700A Mar 45 - Both the 4th and 6th Armd Divisions began passing through the bridgehead, with 6th Armd Div passing through our lines at 1235A and attacking to the north. The Regiment remained in position prepared to follow the 6th Armd Div to northeast, sending patrols to the front and G Co reinforced to clear woods northeast of Gross Gerau. 1st and 2d Bns resumed attack at 260700A to northeast to clear woods north of Gross Gerau.

260700A to 270700A Mar 45 - 1st and 2d Bns continued to clear woods northeast of Gross Gerau toward Frankfurt. 1st Bn cleared the town of Walldorf while 2d Bn cleared Norfelden. 3d Bn moved motorized to assembly area vicinity 655640, closing at 1900A, and immediately crossed the Main River over a damaged bridge held by elements of two armored infantry companies of the 6th Armd Div, expanded the bridgehead and at close of period held positions in city 600 yards deep and 800 yards wide. 3d Bn was attached to the 10th Inf effective 2800A.

270700A to 280700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn completed mission of clearing woods in its zone south of Frankfurt-on-Main and assembled in vicinity 682655. 2d Bn completed mission of clearing woods in its zone south of Frankfurt-on-Main and assembled at 1500A vicinity 655652. The Bn began crossing into the bridgehead at 280400A, and was assembling within the bridgehead. E and F Cos were across at the close of the period. Heavy artillery fire on the bridge prevented remainder of the Battalion from crossing during the period. 3d Bn consolidated its positions in the bridgehead and reverted to Regimental control at 280400A.

280700A to 290700A Mar 45 - 1st Bn placed in Div Regs clearing the south bank of river from bridge site (665673) to the suburb of Offenbach (735675) and guarding captured supply dumps and trains. 2d Bn completed crossing into the bridgehead by 1200A, attacked at 1500A, clearing to west edge of city within zone by 1900A. 3d Bn attacked at 0630A, clearing the north bank of the Main River to west edge of city. At close of period our zone of the City of Frankfurt was cleared.

290700A to 300700A Mar 45 - The Regiment completed clearing enemy from zone to final bridgehead limits, and moved to occupy major portion of the city with mission of occupying and preserving law and order. Patrols were maintained throughout the city and guards placed on captured supplies and equipment.

300700A to 311530A Mar 45 - A Co moved at 311530A to vicinity Friedberg (M725940) to guard prisoners for the 6th Armd Div arriving in position at 1900A. G Co moved at 311545A to seize the headquarters (vicinity M635967) previously used by General Von Rundstedt, Commander of the German Armies of the West. This mission was completed at 311830A. Antitank Co moved at 311915A to vicinity Kastel (M992568) with mission of guarding prisoners for 80th Inf Div. Remainder of Regiment remained in the City of Frankfurt patrolling and guarding installations in the city.

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A. Supply and Evacuation

a. Class I Supply:

(1) The supply of Class I Supplies during the past month has been excellent.

b. Class II Supply:

(1) The supply of Quartermaster clothing and equipment has been excellent. Critical shortages has existed for two months of Outfits, Cooking, 1-burner. This regiment is short 75 Outfits, Cooking, 1-burner. Other shortages are utensils and spare parts for field ranges.

(2) The supply of Engineer T/S equipment has been excellent, except for the shortage of camouflage nets.

(3) The supply of Ordnance T/S equipment has been excellent. Shortages are Binoculars and Launchers, Rocket, A/T 2.36 in.

(4) The supply of Signal, Medical and CRS equipment has been excellent.

c. Class III Supply:

The supply of gasoline and lubricants has been excellent.

d. Class IV Supply:

The supply of Engineer Class IV Supplies has been excellent.

e. Class V Supply:

The supply of ammunition and pyrotechnics has been excellent.

f. General Comments:

During the past month the regiment has been engaged in river crossings and mopping up after armor. In operations of this type extensive use is made of calcium hypochloride for purifying water. Most of the time it is not possible or feasible to keep water purification units close to the front line battalions. In a river crossing all men carry one day's K Ration plus one D Ration Chocolate bar. All ~~men~~ carry a few haloson tablets for water purification.

In a moving engagement where the foot troops hike and the regiment moves up to 20 miles per day the battalions feed a hot breakfast before moving out in the morning and issue a K Ration for the noon meal. The most successful method for feeding a hot supper is for the kitchens to stay behind and cook the evening meal which is sent forward in ~~mess~~ cans. This meal should be prepared by two o'clock in the afternoon and started forward. Immediately after the meal is prepared the kitchens load up and move forward to the new battalion assembly area. Since the battalions usually stop and consolidate before dark the kitchens can move into the forward area at about 1800 hours. The trucks unload immediately and return to the service train. The service train moves forward at 0600 hours and has available transportation to move and to visit all division supply agencies each morning. The kitchen trucks are again made available to the battalions at noon each day. The battalions use their baggage trucks for hauling to and from the service train. It is advantageous for the service train to follow the axis of the regimental command post because wire lines are usually laid along this route, making it possible for the service train to be in constant communication by wire with the entire regiment.

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5. Recommendations based on Battle Experiences:

No recommendations.

**PAUL J. HACK,
Colonel, 11th Infantry,
Commanding.**

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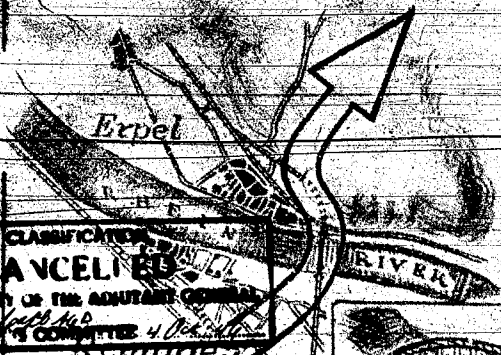
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Report of Operations

1 - 31 March 1945

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HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION

A.P.O. #9

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By Authority CG 9th Inf Div
5 April 1945

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SUBJECT: Report of Operations 1 - 31 March 1945

TO : The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D.C.

THROUGH: Commanding General, III Corps, A.P.O. #303

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SECTION I - AUTHORITY

In compliance with Paragraph 10 (G-4), AR 345-105, this report of operations of the 9th Infantry Division for the period 1 - 31 March 1945 is submitted.

SECTION II - INTRODUCTION

1. Command. During the operations covered by this report, the 9th Infantry Division was part of the III Corps from 1 - 30 March 1945, VII Corps 31 March 1945, of the First U. S. Army.

- a. First Army - Lieutenant General COURTNEY B. HODGES
- b. III Corps - Major General JOHN MILLIKIN until 170001 March 1945, Major General JAMES A. VAN FLEET after 170001 March 1945.
- c. VII Corps - Major General J. LAWTON COLLINS
- d. 9th Infantry Division - Major General LOUIS A. CRAIG

2. Composition of the 9th Infantry Division. During this period the Division was composed of the following units:

a. Organic

- 39th Infantry Regiment
- 47th Infantry Regiment
- 60th Infantry Regiment
- Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 9th Infantry Division Artillery
- 26th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer)
- 34th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm Howitzer)
- 60th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer)
- 84th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzer)
- 9th Medical Battalion
- 15th Engineer Battalion
- 9th Reconnaissance Troop
- 9th Signal Company
- 9th Quartermaster Company
- 709th Ordnance Company
- Headquarters and Headquarters Company 9th Infantry Division

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b. Attachments and Detachments	Assigned	Detached
2 Platoons Company C 90th Chemical Battalion	18 Feb 1945	31 Mar 1945
1 Platoon Company C 90th Chemical Battalion	22 Feb 1945	31 Mar 1945
987th Field Artillery Battalion (less Batteries A and C)	19 Feb 1945	8 Mar 1945
254th Field Artillery Battalion	29 Feb 1945	31 Mar 1945
OCB 9th Armored Division	3 Mar 1945	31 Mar 1945
CGA 7th Armored Division	7 Mar 1945	8 Mar 1945
OCB 7th Armored Division	081235 Mar 1945	081715 Mar 1945
OCB 9th Armored Division	9 Mar 1945	12 Mar 1945
309th Combat Team	9 Mar 1945	11 Mar 1945
311th Combat Team	9 Mar 1945	11 Mar 1945
310th Combat Team (less 1st Battalion)	10 Mar 1945	14 Mar 1945
310th Combat Team (less 1st and 2nd Battalions)	14 Mar 1945	16 Mar 1945
1st Battalion 310th Combat Team	11 Mar 1945	12 Mar 1945
395th Infantry Regiment	11 Mar 1945	12 Mar 1945
394th Infantry Regiment	110730 Mar 1945	111400 Mar 1945
Company B 90th Chemical Battalion	16 Mar 1945	31 Mar 1945
52nd Armored Infantry Battalion	16 Mar 1945	18 Mar 1945
400th Armored Field Artillery Battalion	24 Mar 1945	25 Mar 1945
1 Platoon 987th Field Artillery Battalion	24 Mar 1945	31 Mar 1945
32nd Cavalry Squadron (less 2 Platoons Troop C)	27 Mar 1945	31 Mar 1945

3. Maps. The following maps were used: GERMANY 1/25,000; Sheets 5203 - 4, 5206 - 7, -8, 5303-4, 5306-7-8-9-10-11-12-13, 5409-10-11-12-13; GERMANY 1/50,000; Sheets 100, 130, 160; GERMANY 1/100,000; sheets C-1, R-2, R-3, S-2, S-3.

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SECTION THREE REPORT OF OPERATIONS

1. 1 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-105358; vicinity RATH, GERMANY.

b. The 9th Division continued the attack to the East. The towns of THUIR, GINNICK, MULDENAN, and FROITZHEIM were cleared of enemy and the high ground West of EMBKEN, vicinity F-164320 were captured. Elements of the 9th Armored Division were relieved in the towns of MUDDERSHEIM, DISTERNICH, and SIEVERNICH.

c. The 39th Infantry continued the attack to the East. As the period began, the 1st Battalion was attacking vicinity of THUIR (F-1533), with Company A advancing from the West and Company C advancing from the South. By 0625A, THUIR and the area North and West of the town had been cleared against small arms resistance. The 2nd Battalion attacked at 0200A to capture the town of FROITZHEIM (F-1835). Upon advancing East of the woods, the Battalion met heavy small arms fire. The advance continued and by 1150A, the town had been captured. Resistance in town consisted mostly of sniper, artillery, and mortar fire. Resistance jumped off at 0200A to clear the town of GINNICK (F-1834). The 3rd Battalion until the Battalion reached the vicinity F-176342, where they came under small arms and self propelled gun fire. In town, five enemy tanks were encountered. All resistance was mopped up by 1355A. In the afternoon, the 1st Battalion moved North (F-2440), DISTERNICH, (F-2438) and SIEVERNICH (F-2437).

d. The 60th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd Battalion moving toward the town of MULDENAN (F-1733), at 0630A; after a short fire fight the town was cleared. The 3rd Battalion attacked to capture the ridge West of EMBKEN vicinity F-164320, the position was occupied without opposition.

e. The 47th Infantry remained in Division reserve and moved to vicinity FROITZHEIM.

2. 2 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-105358; vicinity RATH, GERMANY, F-242399; vicinity MUDDERSHEIM, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to the East. The towns of GEICH, FUSSENICH, NIEDERBERG, and ROVENICH were captured and the towns of EMBKEN, JUNTERSDORF, MULHEIM, WICHTERICH and NGR ELVENICH were occupied.

c. In the 47th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion moved at 0530A from an assembly area vicinity FROITZHEIM (F-1735), to seize the towns of BESSENICH (F-2336) and ROVENICH (F-2635) and the high ground vicinity F-275355. No organized resistance was met until the Battalion had advanced almost to ROVENICH when heavy small arms and flat trajectory fire fell on it from the southwest. At 1330A, a 30 Man counterattack was beaten off and by 1700A, Companies B and C were moving into town against light resistance. At 1755A, all resistance had ceased. The 2nd Battalion jumped off at 0330A to capture the town of GEICH (F-2235). Moderate small arms and machine gun fire was met almost continuously but the objective was taken at 0830A. At 0905A, the Battalion moved to BESSENICH after the 1st Battalion had moved to ROVENICH. The 3rd Battalion moved out at 0315A to seize the town of FUSSENICH (F-2134). The town was cleared by 0817A against scattered small arms fire.

d. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 39th Infantry were pinched out by the attack of the 47th Infantry. The 1st Battalion moved to the towns of WEILER (F-2739) and ERP (F-2841) at 0900A. Later in the day, an attack was launched on the town of NIEDERBERG (F-3238). By the close of the period the town had been partially cleared. The 2nd Battalion moved by motor from FROITZHEIM to DISTERNICH

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On 29 Feb, the 3rd Battalion moved out at 1835A and upon arriving at the towns, found friendly armored units there. The 3rd Battalion moved to vicinity F-2238 at 1200A and was designated Division Reserve, prepared to move to the vicinity of BORR and NIEDERBERG.

c. The 60th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st and 2nd Battalions jumping off at 0430A for the towns of JUNTERSODORF (F-2033) and EMBKEN (F-1832). The 1st Battalion closed in on JUNTERSODORF at 0515A and the 2nd Battalion had consolidated in EMBKEN by 0450A. Neither unit met any resistance. The 3rd Battalion remained in BERG in Regimental reserve until 1230A. At this time, the Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion of the 47th Infantry in FUSSENICH and GRUCH.

3. 3 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-242399, vicinity MUDDERSHEIM, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to the East. The towns of NIEDERBERG, LOMMERSUM, OBER WICHTERICH, OBERELVENICH, and ZULPICH were captured. One company fought its way through the town of NEMMENICH but had not eliminated all resistance at the close of the period.

c. The 47th Infantry continued the attack to the East with the 3rd Battalion jumping off at 0300A to seize OBERELVENICH (F-2734). At 0400A, Company I entered the southern edge of town against small arms fire. All three rifle companies were mopping up the town at 0615A, drawing moderate small arms fire and some fire from self-propelled guns from the South. All resistance ceased and the town was reported clear of enemy at 0930A. At 1200A, the town of BALLHEIM (F-278339) was reported clear of enemy. The 2nd Battalion advancing under heavy artillery fire, captured OBER WICHTERICH (F-2932) at 1930A after overcoming heavy small arms resistance. The 1st Battalion remained in position vicinity ROVENICH (F-2635) and prepared to counterattack any possible enemy penetrations.

d. In the 39th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion, after a small arms fight, reported the town of NIEDERBERG (F-3238) cleared of resistance at 0145A. Shortly thereafter, armored units passed through the Battalion, advancing on the town of LOMMERSUM (F-3435). The 1st Battalion followed until the armored units were halted by small arms and self-propelled fire. The Battalion advanced into LOMMERSUM and began clearing the town. By 0910A, the town was reported cleared. Further advance to the East was delayed by enemy artillery and self-propelled fire. At 1830A, the Battalion again attempted to advance but came under heavy, grazing machine gun fire from the other side of the ERFT River. At the close of the period, Company C was moving to the left to attempt to place flanking fire on the enemy. The 3rd Battalion remained in Regimental Reserve and closed vicinity BORR and NIEDERBERG at 0445A.

e. The 60th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion moving out at 0330A and the 3rd Battalion jumping off at 0430A in a coordinated attack on the town of ZULPICH (F-2333). At 0630A, the troops entered the town, catching the enemy by surprise, and meeting no resistance. At 1930A, Company I attacked the town of NEMMENICH (F-2633). Fighting was in progress at the close of the period.

4. 4 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-242399; vicinity MUDDERSHEIM, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to the east. The towns of FRAUENBERG, BODENHEIM, OTTENHEIM, DERKUM and HAUSWEILER were captured and a bridgehead was established across the ERFT River.

c. The 1st Battalion 39th Infantry continued the attack in progress at the close of the last period. Company C crossed the stream vicinity F-348352 at 0110A, followed by Company B. Company A moved down the main road to DERKUM (F-3535) encountering machine gun fire at 0255A and barbed wire later on. The company worked through the wire then waded the ERFT River, about four feet deep at this

point. At 0650A, all three companies were mopping up in town. At 1135A, Company A moved north, passed through Company C and at 1745A had captured the town of HAUSWELLER (F-3536). The 3rd Battalion moved Companies I and K with tanks and tank destroyers to LOMMERSUM (F-3435) preparatory to future operations.

d. In the 47th Infantry area, the 2nd Battalion completed the occupation of FRAUENBERG (F-2932) encountering heavy tank fire and a small counterattack from the South and Southwest. By 0600A, the town was reported clear. The 3rd Battalion remained in defensive positions in OBERELVENICH and at 0605A, sent Company L to relieve Company I 60th Infantry in NEMMENICH. At 1900A, the 3rd Battalion moved by motor to an assembly area east of NIEDERBERG in preparation for future operations. The 1st Battalion moved from ROVENICH at 1800A to NIEDERBERG and prepared to attack east of the ERFT River.

e. The 60th Infantry was attached to the 9th Armored Division throughout the period.

f. Combat Command B 9th Armored Division (attached) continued the attack. Task Force "C" was relieved in position by elements of the 16th Infantry. The town of BODENHEIM (F-3434) was captured at 1845A following a small arms fight and Company B 27th Armored Infantry Battalion moved to the town of KLEIN (F-358385). Task Force "C" moved to an assembly area vicinity BORR.

5. 5 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-242399; vicinity MUDDERSHEIM, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to the East. The towns of SCHNEFFENHEIM, SCHWARZMAAR, GROSS VERNICH, MUGGENHAUSEN, and NEUKIRCHEN were captured. Friendly troops were advancing toward OLLHEIM and some units were in position to continue the attack toward HEIMERZHEIM and objectives to the East.

c. At 0330A, the 39th Infantry continued the attack to the East with the 3rd Battalion moving toward SCHNEFFENHEIM (F-3735), and STRASSFELD (F-3934). After advancing without opposition to F-369349, Company K received self propelled fire from SCHNEFFENHEIM and small arms fire from dug-in infantry at F-370340. This company was able to continue the advance to vicinity F-372347. From this point, under cover of smoke and a strong artillery concentration on STRASSFELD, Company K assaulted and captured SCHNEFFENHEIM by 1430A. The 3rd Battalion continued the attack and captured STRASSFELD by 2350A.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack to the East with the 1st Battalion moving out at 0006A. At 0425A, the 3rd Battalion crossed the ERFT River and by 0445A, Companies K and L were cleaning out the town of GROSS VERNICH (F-36388), Companies A and B were at vicinity F-363378 and Companies I and C had jumped off toward SCHWARZMAAR (F-3936). The latter had been partially cleared by 0925A and from positions vicinity F-388359, Companies I and G beat off two enemy counterattacks. At 1620A, Company L reached SCHWARZMAAR and by 1850A, the town had been cleared. At 2130A, the 3rd Battalion jumped off toward MUGGENHAUSEN (F-3935), and had cleared the town by 2220A. At the close of the period, the 3rd Battalion was moving toward NEUKIRCHEN (F-4035).

e. The 60th Infantry rejoined the Division at 0600A and commenced movement to vicinity BORR - NIEDERBERG at 0915A. Upon arrival, the 2nd Battalion continued on to LOMMERSUM. The 1st Battalion also continued on and assumed responsibility for the ERFT River crossing.

6. 6 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-242399; vicinity MUDDERSHEIM, GERMANY until 1305A; F-338349; vicinity LOMMERSUM, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to capture the towns of DUNSTEDOVEN, BUNNEN, and HEIMERZHEIM.

c. The 47th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd Battalion moving

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Resistance in town consisted mostly of sniper fire and by 1100A, the town had been cleared of all enemy. The 1st Battalion then passed through to continue to the Northeast and by the close of the period, had reached the road junction at F-470388, against moderate small arms fire.

d. The 60th Infantry continued the attack, at 0700A the 2nd Battalion passing through the 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry at OLLHEIM, to capture DUNSTKOVEN (F-4333) and thence Northeast to BUSCHHOVEN (F-4631). DUNSTKOVEN was quickly captured against small arms resistance, but the Battalion was stopped 400 yards short of BUSCHHOVEN by antiaircraft and small arms fire. The 1st Battalion advanced toward the town from the West and seized it at 2030A against heavy small arms resistance.

e. The 39th Infantry continued the attack in progress at the close of the last period with the 3rd Battalion completely clearing STRASSFELD at 0335A, and the 2nd Battalion capturing OLLHEIM at 0550A. Resistance to both Battalions consisted of mines and small arms fire.

7. 7 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-338349, vicinity LOMMERSUM, GERMANY; until 1750A; F-421306, vicinity MIEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack, capturing the towns of VOLMERSHOVEN, WITERSHLICK, and ROTGEN and advancing to within 2000 yards of DUISDORF.

c. The 60th Infantry continued the attack at 0630A with the 1st and 3rd Battalions jumping off toward VOLMERSHOVEN and WITERSHLICK respectively. The 3rd Battalion made good progress against little resistance, capturing WITERSHLICK by 0900A, but the 1st Battalion, delayed by the wooded terrain and sporadic enemy small arms fire, did not capture VOLMERSHOVEN until noon. The 3rd Battalion continued on and captured ROTGEN by dark. At 1030A, the 2nd Battalion jumped off, reaching a point 2000 yards short of DUISDORF, before being held up by heavy enemy antiaircraft and small arms fire.

d. The 39th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions moving out at 1015A and 0950A respectively to capture objectives from which to attack BAD GOESBERG in the near future. Progress was very slow due to the wooded terrain and some light enemy resistance but at the close of the period, the 2nd Battalion had advanced to vicinity 565317 and leading elements of the 3rd Battalion were in the vicinity of 580290.

e. The 47th Infantry remained in previously held positions and staged a firing demonstration in conjunction with the attack of the 60th Infantry. At 2000A, the Regiment plus Combat Team attachments was attached to the 9th Armored Division, preparatory to moving South and across the RHINE to strengthen the bridgehead vicinity REMAGEN.

8. 8 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-421306, vicinity MIEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack until at 1715A, all combat troops and supporting units were detached and the 7th Armored Division assumed command of the Division sector. At the same time, Division Headquarters was alerted to move across the RHINE to assume control of the entire bridgehead and at the close of the period, advance units of the Headquarters were on the road.

c. The 39th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions moving out at 0457A and 0525A respectively to take BAD GOESBERG. Both units met small arms, artillery and nebelwerfer fire during the day. By 1715A, the northern half of the town was clear. At this time, the Regiment plus combat team attachments became attached to the 7th Armored Division.

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d. The 60th Infantry assembled preparatory to moving South to reinforce the bridgehead over the RHINE. At 0730A, the mission of capturing the STALAG at F-513340 was given to Company E. The task proved to be too large for one company, and at 1445A, Companies F and G moved out to assist. The 2nd Battalion had pushed to vicinity of F-505346 when, at 1715A, the Regiment (less 1st Battalion plus attachments) became attached to the 7th Armored Division. The 1st Battalion plus attachments became attached to the 9th Armored Division.

9. 9 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-421306, vicinity NIEL, GERMANY until 0800A; F-647206, vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY.

b. Until 1030A, all Combat Teams remained detached from the Division. At this time, the Division Command Post, having crossed the RHINE River, assumed control of the REMAGEN Bridgehead. The 47th Combat Team and the 1st Battalion 60th Combat Team were reattached and the 311th Combat Team, 1st Battalion 310th Infantry and Combat Command "B" 9th Armored Division were attached. During the period several counterattacks were contained and the bridgehead was enlarged in some sectors. The towns of SCHEUREN, and RHEINBREITBACH, and an objective vicinity F-685219 were captured.

c. The 47th Infantry continued the attack at 0500A to seize objectives vicinity F-6624, F-675235, and F-673211. Good progress was made at first and the 3rd Battalion reached its objective, and continued on to vicinity F-685217, against light opposition. The 1st and 2nd Battalions however, were forced to fall back to their original positions by persistent tank - infantry counterattacks and heavy self-propelled and artillery fire.

d. The 60th Combat Team (less 1st Battalion, plus attachments) commenced crossing the REMAGEN Bridge at 0600A, moving to an assembly area on the East side of the RHINE preparatory to continuing the attack. The 1st Battalion reverted to Regimental control and jumped off, advancing to vicinity of 6920, against heavy machine gun fire until forced to halt by a stubbornly defended strongpoint.

e. The 311th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion moving to HONNEF, the 2nd Battalion attacking to clean out the area South of RHEINBREITBACH and East of SCHEUREN, and the 3rd Battalion seizing the towns of RHEINBREITBACH and SCHEUREN. Heavy resistance was met in HONNEF and the town was only half cleared at the close of the period. The 3rd Battalion accomplished its mission by 1430A and the 2nd Battalion was relieved by elements of the 309th Infantry and reverted to Regimental Reserve.

f. The 309th Infantry closed into an assembly area at 1524 on the East side of the RHINE and attacked with the 1st and 2nd Battalions jumping off at 1855A to seize the line BRUCHHAUSEN - Hill 424 (F-692227). The 1st Battalion accomplished its mission but the 2nd Battalion met very heavy mortar and artillery fire and could not reach the objective. The 3rd Battalion established a defensive line from F-660230 to F-678230.

g. The 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion went into a defensive position to fill the gap between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions 47th Infantry and the 1st Battalion 310th Infantry held positions vicinity of F-682195 to protect the South flank of the bridgehead. The remainder of Combat Command "B" remained in Division Reserve.

10. 10 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206, vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY

b. The 9th Division continued the attack to extend the REMAGEN Bridgehead East of the RHINE River. Numerous determined enemy counterattacks were beaten off and although some ground was lost in the center of the sector, the flanks were pushed out to the North and South.

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e. The 60th Infantry continued eastward in the attack with the 3rd Battalion jumping off at 0800A East of LINZ (F-6718) to capture the high ground vicinity of F-702189. Progress was steady and although heavy resistance was met at noon vicinity RONIG (F-699189), the objective was taken by nightfall. Company C moved to the high ground vicinity F-698204 and encountered an enemy pocket which was still holding out at the close of the period.

d. The 47th Infantry was counterattacked strongly with tanks and infantry at 0700A, and the 3rd Battalion was forced to draw back to the vicinity F-694195. The enemy action proved to be the first of a series of counter blows which were launched during the day. However, at 1910A, the 1st Battalion jumped off from F-677210 and advanced to vicinity of F-685211 at 2335A when ordered to halt for the night.

e. The 39th Infantry rejoined the Division at 1825A and moved into assembly areas East of the RHINE.

f. The 309th Combat Team continued the attack to extend the bridgehead with the 1st Battalion attacking to establish a line from F-663248 to F-663230 and the 2nd Battalion moving to Hill 305 (F-674237). Both Battalions met heavy resistance in getting to their objectives and a strong enemy counterattack supported by self-propelled guns forced the 2nd Battalion to withdraw to vicinity F-673228.

g. The 310th Infantry (less 1st Battalion) crossed the RHINE River and were attached to the Division at 0400A. The 2nd Battalion assisted in halting the counterattack on the 47th Infantry in the morning and the 3rd Battalion jumped off (followed by the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion) at 1335A toward an objective vicinity F-692221. Resistance was stiff but the 3rd Battalion captured its objective by 1915A, and the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion arrived at its objective vicinity F-692227. The latter objective had not been completely cleared by the close of the period.

h. The 311th Combat Team continued the attack with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions moving out at 0900A to seize objectives vicinity F-6523 and F-6726 respectively, and the 1st Battalion continuing to mop up in the Northern part of HONNEF (F-6427). The town of HONNEF was reported clear of resistance at 1145A and by 1500A the 3rd Battalion was organizing its objective. At the close of the period, leading elements 2nd Battalion were reported vicinity F-644276.

i. Combat Command "B" 9th Armored Division employed the 1st Battalion 310th Infantry (attached) to clear the town of DATTENBERG (F-6817). By 1435A, the town was reported clear after heavy small arms resistance had been mopped up.

11. 11 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206, vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to expand the REMAGEN Bridgehead East of the RHINE. An enemy strongpoint at F-693198, and an objective vicinity F-692235 were cleared of enemy. The 78th Infantry Division assumed command of the 309th and 311th Infantry sectors at 0900A. The 99th Infantry Division completed crossing the river and assumed command of the Southern portion of the bridgehead at 1400A.

c. The 60th Infantry continued the attack to deepen the bridgehead. The 1st Battalion attacked at 0300A to clear the resistance from the factory at F-692199 and the 3rd Battalion jumped off at 2900A toward GRENDEL (F-721202). The factory

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was quickly cleared and Company A continued on to vicinity HARGARTEN (F-7120), capturing the objective at 1930A. The 3rd Battalion made slow progress toward GREENDEL and was passed through at dark by the 1st Battalion, 393rd Infantry. At this time, the 3rd Battalion moved Northwest toward the high ground East of HARGARTEN.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion moving at 0830A toward vicinity F-701217 and Company K attacking at 0900A to clear the Line of Departure for the 2nd Battalion, which jumped off through Company K at 1015A. The 1st Battalion made slow progress due to determined enemy resistance, halting at vicinity F-694209 at 1730A for the night. Company K partially cleared the group of houses at F-688218 allowing the 2nd Battalion to move through. Upon arrival at vicinity F-688222, heavy small arms, mortar, tank and artillery fire prevented the 2nd Battalion from moving any further forward. Company K reported all resistance cleared from the houses by 1500A.

e. The 310th Combat Team (less 1st Battalion) attacked with the 2nd Battalion moving out toward an objective vicinity F-692235 at 0735A. The battalion met heavy resistance consisting of artillery and small arms fire but captured the objective by 1620A. The 3rd Battalion occupied and improved a defensive position vicinity F-691228.

f. The 1st Battalion 310th Infantry moved from vicinity of LINE (F-6818) to defensive positions vicinity F-660213 with the mission of protecting the approaches to the bridge site.

g. Combat Command "B" remained in Bridgehead Reserve.

h. The 395th Infantry became attached to the Division at 1800A with the 1st Battalion assembled vicinity OHLENEBERG, 2nd Battalion vicinity RHEINBREITBACH, and 3rd Battalion vicinity BRUCHHAUSEN.

i. The 311th Combat Team and the 309th Combat Team reverted to 78th Infantry Division control at 0900A.

12. 12 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206, vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY

b. The Division continued the attack to deepen the bridgehead. Good progress was made in the center of the sector and more high ground was captured. At the close of the period, troops were fighting in the town of HARGARTEN.

c. The 47th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd Battalion moving out at 0530A toward an objective vicinity F-708217 and the 1st Battalion jumping off at 0630A toward F-705236. The 1st Battalion advanced against small arms, machine gun, and bazooka fire to vicinity F-703219, but at this point, the battalion became heavily engaged with enemy infantry and was unable to advance farther. Rough terrain slowed the advance of the 2nd Battalion during the morning and in the afternoon, heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire forced the battalion to halt.

d. The 60th Infantry continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period with the 3rd Battalion passing through Company B toward road junction at F-721205, and the town of HARGARTEN (F-7120). Good progress was made against small arms and some bazooka fire until leading elements moved to within 75 yards of HARGARTEN. At this point, the battalion encountered heavy fire from infantry and tanks and was forced to fall back to its jump-off position. The road junction was recaptured at 1930A and ten minutes later, the 1st Battalion jumped off for HARGARTEN. At the close of the period, this battalion was mopping up the town.

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toward an objective vicinity F-6902M. Still enemy resistance was not cleared immediately but progress was made and by 0955A, Companies F and G had reached the edge of the objective where they were pinned down by direct fire from self-propelled guns and automatic weapons. A strong enemy counterattack launched at 1745A forced the 2nd Battalion to relinquish all ground gained during the day.

f. The 395th Infantry and Combat Command "B" 9th Armored Division remained in assembly area.

g. The 395th Infantry remained in assembly areas and reverted to parent unit control effective 1800A.

13. 13 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to deepen the REMAGEN Bridgehead, capturing the towns of HARGARTEN and ST. KATHARINEN. The high ground vicinity F-714229 and F-708232 was secured and an objective vicinity F-7024 was reached but not cleared of resistance.

c. As the period opened, the 1st Battalion 60th Infantry was fighting in the town of HARGARTEN (F-7120). All resistance was overcome by 0400A and the 2nd Battalion passed through to attack the town of ST. KATHARINEN (F-7221). This attack was stopped by tank fire and several counterattacks but was resumed after dark. By 2600A, ST. KATHARINEN was reported clear and at 2130A, Company I had re-taken the Road Junction at F-722203 which had been lost during the counterattacks.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack at 0800A with the 1st Battalion moving out toward vicinity NOTSCHEID (F-7122) and the 2nd Battalion jumping off for an objective vicinity F-708235. Both battalions met heavy small arms and some machine gun fire but the 1st Battalion cut the road at F-714229 and the 2nd Battalion dug in for the night vicinity F-708232. At 2300A, Colonel George W. Smythe relinquished command of the 47th Infantry, the command passing to Lt Col Peter O. Ward.

e. The 310th Infantry (attached) continued the attack with the 52nd Armored Battalion jumping off to take the Railroad - Road Junction and buildings vicinity F-7024. The battalion fought its way to the objective by 1310A against heavy resistance from tanks, artillery and mortars. At the close of the period, the objective had not been cleared of all enemy.

14. 14 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to deepen the bridgehead against stiff enemy resistance. The town of LORSCHIED was entered in force and ground was gained in an advance toward NOTSCHEID. An objective vicinity F-733209 was captured and an enemy counterattack vicinity F-7024 was beaten off.

d. The 60th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion moving toward NOTSCHEID (F-7122), the 2nd Battalion attacking LORSCHIED (F-7221) and Company L jumping off toward an objective vicinity F-733209. The 1st Battalion

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attacked at 1200A, making slow progress against heavy resistance and as the period closed, were still advancing about 400 yards short of the objective. Company L advanced over a route that was constantly harassed by artillery and mortar fire to take its objective by 1800A. The 2nd Battalion moved out at 2100A and at the close of the period, was engaged in mopping up the town of LORSCHIED.

d. The 1st and 2nd Battalions 47th Infantry continued the attack toward NOTSCHEID at 0800A and the high ground vicinity F-704237 at 1000A respectively. The 1st Battalion with Company A leading met heavy resistance from small arms, machine gun and self-propelled fire and at the close of the period, the assault was still continuing. The 2nd Battalion jumped off with Company G in the assault against heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar, tank, artillery and 20mm fire and was stopped vicinity F-715234 at 1330A. The battalion consolidated in this vicinity due to reports of an enemy counterattack at 1700A against the 310th Infantry on the left.

e. The 310th Infantry attacked at 0430A with the 52nd Armored Infantry followed by the 2nd Battalion 310th to complete the occupation of the objective vicinity F-699242. The mission had almost been completed when at 1600A, an enemy counterattack of about a company of infantry supported by tanks hit the unit. Some enemy infantry infiltrated but no tanks broke through and the front lines remained unchanged.

15. 15 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued driving Eastward in the REMAGEN Bridgehead, clearing the towns of NOTSCHEID and LORSCHIED and high ground vicinity F-699242, F-702243, F-718234, and F-743214.

c. At the beginning of the period, the 1st Battalion 60th Infantry was engaged in an attack on the town of NOTSCHEID (F-7122) and the 2nd Battalion was attacking toward LORSCHIED (F-7221). Company B had been stopped at the main road short of NOTSCHEID, but after continuing the assault at 0630A, the town was cleared and the high ground to the East occupied. The 2nd Battalion met heavy resistance on the outskirts of LORSCHIED and temporarily lost contact with Company F due to a counterattack. Early in the afternoon, Company G renewed the assault and cleared the town while the 3rd Battalion sent Company L with tanks and tank destroyers to occupy the high ground vicinity F-743214. Both missions were accomplished.

d. In the 47th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion continued the attack on NOTSCHEID at daylight, the 2nd jumped off at 0630A for objectives vicinity F-710238 and F-708243, and the 3rd Battalion attacked at 1000A toward vicinity F-718238. Company A made slow progress in NOTSCHEID against small arms, automatic weapons and self-propelled fire but contacted elements of the 60th Infantry in town and reported the objective clear at 1800A. The 2nd Battalion accomplished its mission against heavy machine gun fire by 1200A and the 3rd Battalion reported Company I pinned down at the edge of its objective by small arms, machine gun, mortar, and self-propelled fire at 1700A. As the period closed, Company L was moving to secure the southern portion of the objective.

e. The 310th Combat Team (attached) (less 1st and 2nd Battalions) continued the attack with Company I jumping off to secure objectives "C" and "D" vicinity F-699242 and later, Company I with Company G 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion moved out to take the wooded area overlooking the town of KALENBORN (F-702243). Objectives "C" and "D" were cleaned up against heavy small arms, tank and artillery fire and the wooded area was reported clear at 1747A.

16. 16 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY.

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Bridgehead, capturing the towns of STRODT and KALENBORN and seizing the high ground vicinity F-716238.

c. The 60th Infantry continued the attack with the 1st Battalion moving out at 0300A to take the town of STRODT (F-7322) and the surrounding terrain. The attack met heavy small arms, machine gun and self-propelled fire and was halted at the edge of town. At 1900A, the assault began again after Company B had maneuvered to a position near the high ground east of town, and the mission was accomplished by midnight. The 9th Reconnaissance Troop (plus Company D 746th Tank Battalion) became attached to the 60th Infantry at 1515A and at the close of the period was in the process of relieving the 3rd Battalion in positions on the high ground South of STRODT.

d. The 39th Infantry reverted to Division control at 0930A and continued the attack on objectives vicinity KALENBORN (F-7024) and the crossroads at WILLSCHIED (F-715250). Before noon Company L had fought its way through KALENBORN and Company I moved out for the crossroads. The latter objective had not been cleared and fighting was still in progress at the close of the period.

e. As the period opened, the 5rd Battalion 47th Infantry was in the process of completing the occupation of an objective vicinity F-716238 and reported the mission completed at 1030A. Late in the period, Company F commenced moving to seize a Line of Departure preparatory to jump off in the morning toward the town of VETTELSCHOSS (F-7224).

f. The 310th Combat Team (less 1st and 2nd Battalions) was detached, and reverted to parent unit control at 0930A.

17. 17 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack eastward in the Bridgehead capturing the towns of WILLSCHIED, HALLERBACH, and VETTELSCHOSS. The Autobahn was cut at F-723272 and the high ground east of STRODT vicinity F-712225 was frequently assaulted but only partially occupied by the close of the period.

c. In the 39th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion moved out at 0500A toward Objective "G" (vicinity F-7226), the 2nd Battalion jumped off at 0600A for Objective "I" (vicinity F-7227), and Company I continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period, clearing the crossroad at WILLSCHIED before noon. The 1st Battalion made good progress against moderate resistance, clearing the town of HALLERBACH by noon. Company A continued on and at the close of the period was engaged in a fire fight at the edge of FROHREN (F-7225). Company G became involved in a fire fight early in the morning at vicinity F-715267, remaining in this vicinity until dark; the resistance lessened and Company E was able to pass through and cut the Autobahn at F723272 at 2135A.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack at 0300A with the 2nd Battalion jumping off from a Line of Departure at F-719242 to capture VETTELSCHOSS (F-7224). No resistance was encountered until the Battalion neared the objective when 20mm, tank and self-propelled fire held up the advance. Early in the afternoon, the tanks and self-propelled guns withdrew to the East, and the town was secured by 1445A after moderate house to house fighting.

e. At the beginning of the period, the 1st Battalion 60th Infantry was engaged in an attack to gain the high ground east of STRODT (vicinity F-738225). Resistance was extremely heavy and despite the fact that Company L moved to assist in the attack, the very top of the hill was still in enemy hands at the close of the period.

18. 18 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERPEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued moving east in the REMAGEN Bridgehead, capturing

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the towns of WINDHAGEN, OER WINDHAGEN, ROTT AND HEIDE. The high ground north of ROTT and vicinity F-738245 was also cleared of the enemy.

c. The 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period on Objective 80A (vicinity F-73273) and the 1st Battalion jumped off at midnight for Objective "J" (vicinity F-732256). The towns of WINDHAGEN (F-7327) and OER WINDHAGEN (F-730269) were cleared by 2200A by Companies E and G after overcoming heavy small arms and self-propelled fire. At the close of the period, Company G was engaged in a fire fight just west of HECKEN (F737269) after having been driven from the edge of town by four enemy tanks, and Company E was preparing to attack WIR WINDHAGEN (F-735276). Company C was on Objective "J" (vicinity F-732256) at 0730A encountering small arms and self-propelled fire from the North. The 3rd Battalion advanced at 1500A and captured Objective "N" (vicinity F-7426) against heavy opposition from artillery fire.

d. In the 60th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period to clear the high ground STROETER HUGEL (F-742225) by 0400A against determined resistance. The 3rd Battalion cleared the town of ROTT (F-7423) against some small arms, bazooka and artillery fire by 1000A. The attack continued with Company I capturing the high ground north of ROTT (vicinity F-745242) and Company K taking the town of HEIDE (F-7524) by 1500A.

e. The 47th Infantry continued the attack at 0600A with the 2nd Battalion (plus Company L) jumping off toward the town of HORNET (F-739245). At the close of the period, Companies F, G, and L were closing in on the town meeting considerable small arms, machine gun and self-propelled fire.

19. 19 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued to push eastward in the REMAGEN Bridgehead, capturing the towns of HECKEN and DINKELBACH, the area vicinity F-755240 and making good progress toward the town of JOHANNISBERG.

c. In the 39th Infantry sector, the 2nd Battalion continued the attack on HECKEN (F-7326) while the 3rd Battalion moved toward objectives vicinity F-738266 and F-746270. Soon after midnight, Company G cleared HECKEN of all resistance and the 3rd Battalion advanced to vicinity of F-738266 without opposition. At 1335A, Company K moved out for an objective vicinity F-746220 but was stopped by self-propelled and machine gun fire from the town of JOHANNISBERG (F-7427). The remainder of the 3rd Battalion was then committed and at the close of the period Company I was moving slowly toward HUNGSEER (F-7427); The 1st Battalion attacked at 2000A and forty minutes later was mopping up its objective (vicinity F-738286) under considerable enemy artillery fire.

d. The 1st Battalion 47th Infantry moved out at 0400A to take the town of DINKELBACH (F-7525) and met no resistance until leading elements neared the Autobahn, where small arms, tank, and self-propelled fire were encountered. However, the objective was secured by 1400A. Units in town were subjected to self-propelled, artillery, mortar and nebelwerfer fire throughout the afternoon. The 3rd Battalion continued mopping up toward the Autobahn in the Regimental sector. Defensive positions were improved and patrols operated to the front and flanks.

20. 20 March 1945.

a. Division CP: F-647206; vicinity ERFEL, GERMANY until 1720A; vicinity F-699242, KATZBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division organized and improved defensive positions within its sector following the seizure of Objective "P" (vicinity F-745272) in which the towns of JOHANNISBERG and HUNGSEER were cleared of enemy resistance.

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c. In the 39th Infantry sector, the 3rd Battalion continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period to capture Objective "P" (vicinity F-745272) including the towns of JOHANNISBERG and HUNGSBERG. The towns were captured and the objective cleared by 0530A against some small arms and machine gun fire. The remainder of the period was spent in improving defensive positions and patrolling to the front and flanks.

d. In the 47th and 60th Infantry sectors, units maintained and improved defensive positions, and patrolled to the front and flanks.

21. 21 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-699242; vicinity of KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued to defend in its sector. Units improved positions and initiated plans and reconnaissance in preparation for future operations. The 3rd Battalion 47th Infantry relieved the 3rd Battalion 60th Infantry.

22. 22 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-699242; vicinity KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack late in the period with a successful crossing of the WIED River on the right of the Division sector. On the remainder of the Division front, defensive positions were maintained and improved, and boundaries were adjusted.

c. The 60th Infantry continued to defend in its sector on the Division right until 2200A. At this time, the 2nd Battalion attacked across the WIED River with Company F on the right; E on the left, toward objectives vicinity F-765220. At the close of the period both companies were moving, F meeting machine gun and sniper fire and E meeting no resistance. Company A had crossed the river and was mopping up behind the assault companies.

d. In the 39th and 47th Infantry sectors, defensive positions were maintained and improved until at 2200A, both regiments staged firing demonstrations in conjunction with the attack of the 60th Infantry.

23. 23 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-699242; vicinity KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack across the WIED River, capturing ten villages and surrounding high ground.

c. The 60th Infantry continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period. The 2nd Battalion, with Company F on the right and E on the left, captured the towns of STRAUSCHIED (F-7622), RAHMS (F-7721) and WEISSENFELS (7620) against light resistance consisting mostly of small arms and machine gun fire. The 3rd Battalion passed through the 2nd Battalion at 1300A and attacked to capture the towns of GERHARDSHAHN (F-7722), SCHAREN (F-7822), NESCHEN (F-7821), SCHATTERN (F-7822), JUNGFERNHOF (F-7823), AMERICH (F-7823) and FERNTHAL (F-7922). Light resistance was encountered including small arms, bazooka, and artillery fire.

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The 1st Battalion crossed the WIED at 1500A to become Regimental Reserve and to establish a bridgehead defense.

d. The 39th and 47th Infantry Regiments continued to hold defensive positions within the Division sector, maintaining contact to the front and flanks and planning for future operations.

24. 24 March 1945

a. Division OP: F-699242; vicinity KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the attack to capture the towns of BORSCHIED, BERTENAU, MANROTH, and HODDEN. At the close of the period, all three regiments were moving Eastward.

c. In the 60th Infantry sector, the 3rd Battalion continued the attack at daylight and captured the towns of BERTENAU (F-7823), MANROTH (F-7923) and BORSCHIED (F-8022), meeting resistance only from enemy infantry.

d. The 39th Infantry continued to defend in position until 2200A when the 2nd and 3rd Battalions jumped off toward Objectives "Y" (vicinity F-7726) and "I" (vicinity F-7727) respectively. As the period closed, Company F was in the vicinity of F-766265 under machine gun fire from FRANGENBERG (F-7626), Company E was in the vicinity of F-760250 and Company I was in the vicinity of F-755267.

e. The 47th Infantry remained in defensive positions until the 2nd Battalion jumped off at 2200A. At the close of the period, leading elements had advanced to F-765242 and F-764248, encountering no resistance.

25. 25 March 1945

a. Division OP: F-699242; vicinity KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the advance in progress at the close of the preceding period and captured 13 small towns and villages including BUEHLINGEN, EGPERT, KRUNKEL and OBR. STEINEBACH.

c. In the 60th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion attacked southeast against heavy resistance to capture HOMERACH (F-809209). The 2nd Battalion then passed through to continue the attack toward EGPERT (F-8220) and KRUNKEL (F-8320). Heavy resistance was encountered but by 1800A the towns had been captured and Company F was moving North to secure OBR. STEINEBACH (F-8321) and HEIDERHOF (F-8322). The 3rd Battalion passed through the 2nd Battalion toward HORHAUSEN (F-8520) and at the close of the period was engaged in a fire fight vicinity GULLESHEIM (F-8522) and NIEDERSTEINEBACH (F-8422).

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd Battalion moving on Objectives #1 (vicinity F-768248) and "O" (vicinity F-778250). A band of mines at F-765241 and some small arms fire offered the only resistance. The 1st Battalion captured Objectives #6 (vicinity F-78322) and #7 (vicinity F-803262) against light resistance and by 2000A was consolidating both objectives. Two companies of the 3rd Battalion were employed to complete the capture of Objective #8 (vicinity F-807244) against heavy resistance.

e. The 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry encountered machine gun fire from FRANGENBERG (F-7626) during its advance and became involved in a heavy fire fight with tanks and infantry immediately following the capture of NDR. ETSCHIED (F-7625). The battalion jumped off again at 0855A to capture EHRENBERG (F-7725), BRUCHEM (F-7726) and BUEHLINGEN (F-7826) against scattered resistance. The 3rd Battalion advanced against moderate small arms, mortar, artillery and at times, heavy machine gun fire to capture VOGTSLAN (F-7627), HINTERPLAG (F-7727), OBERPLAG, STRASSEN,



DINSFEL (F-7827) and KALSCHIED (F-7927).

26. 26 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-699242; vicinity KALENBORN STATION, GERMANY until 1430A; F-831212, vicinity OBR. STEINEBACH, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued the advance eastward, seizing and occupying a number of towns including HERSCHBACH, HORHAUSEN, RAUBACH, URBACH-KIRCHDORF and MUNDERSBACH. Crossings over the HOLZ River and the town of MARIENHAUSEN were also secured.

c. In the 60th Infantry sector, the 3rd Battalion continued the attack in progress at the close of the preceding period to take the town of HORHAUSEN (F-8521) and surrounding territory. Initial heavy resistance slackened after 0300A and the town was secured by daylight. The 2nd Battalion attacked east from KRUNKEL (F-8320) to take RAUBACH (F-9219) by 1400A against scattered resistance, and the 3rd Battalion moved out to seize crossings over the HOLZ River at MARIENHAUSEN (F-9618). By 1740A, the Battalion had occupied positions, vicinity of MARIENHAUSEN, MAROTH (F-9619) and ELGERT (F-9519) and the crossings were secured.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the attack with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions moving out toward objectives vicinity F-825237 and F-818255 respectively. Scattered resistance was soon overcome and at 0700A, the 1st Battalion moved out to capture an objective, vicinity F-865245. Resistance continued to be light and the rapid advance continued. By 1630A, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were reported vicinity of F-913220 and at this time the 39th Infantry assumed control of the 47th sector. The 47th Infantry assembled vicinity PUDERBACH (F-9121).

e. The 39th Infantry, at 1630A, passed through the 47th Infantry. Very little resistance was met and at the close of the period the 1st Battalion had moved to vicinity F-990205 and G-001196, 2nd Battalion to vicinity G-000230 and the 3rd to vicinity F-965230.

27. 27 March 1945

a. Division CP: F-831212; vicinity OBR. STEINEBACH until 1745A; G-263194, vicinity MITTELHOFEN, GERMANY.

b. The Division, following closely behind the 7th Armored Division, continued the rapid advance eastward, moving forward approximately 27 miles and securing a number of crossings over the DILL River.

c. In the 60th Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion moved out at 0630A and the 2nd Battalion at 0700A, from the vicinity of RAUBACH (F-9219). Resistance was very light and by 1700A, the 2nd Battalion had crossed the DILL River vicinity of G-435246 and the 1st Battalion had arrived vicinity OBERHAUSEN (G-358184). The 3rd Battalion moved into an assembly area in Regimental Reserve vicinity ARBORN (G-35818) and all positions were consolidated for the night.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the advance, moving out at 0945A through the 60th Infantry sector thence northeast into the 39th sector. The 1st and 2nd Battalions met little resistance and at the close of the period, both battalions had crossed the DILL River and were in positions, vicinity G-420285 and G-415296. The 3rd Battalion closed vicinity F-3725 in Regimental Reserve.

e. The 39th Infantry continued the advance with the 1st and 2nd Battalions moving at 0630A from positions vicinity G-001196 and G-000230 respectively. Some light resistance vicinity G-145240 was overcome and the Regiment moved forward rapidly until the 47th Infantry moved into the sector in the afternoon, and assumed command. At the close of the period the 39th was assembled in Division Reserve vicinity G-1225.



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28. 28 March 1945

a. Division CP: G-263194, vicinity MITTELHOFEN until 1715A; G-617325, vicinity KIRCHVERS, GERMANY after 2030A.

b. The Division advanced against negligible opposition and gained approximately 25 miles, clearing a large number of ~~German~~ ^{German} villages.

c. In the 60th Infantry sector, the advance continued at 0600A with the 2nd Battalion moving out from KATZENFURT (G-4324) and the 3rd Battalion jumping off from EHRINGSHAUSEN (G-4522). A brief small arms fight with eight stragglers vicinity G-628306 was the only enemy resistance met and at the close of the period, the 2nd Battalion held positions vicinity FROMHAUSEN (G-6734), the 3rd Battalion had organized defensively vicinity ODENHAUSEN (G-6830) and the 1st Battalion had closed vicinity KRUMBACH (G-6030) in Regimental Reserve.

d. The 47th Infantry continued the advance with patrols moving out from positions on the DILL River at 0630A, followed later by the bulk of the Regiment. Heavy friendly armored traffic on the roads offered the only resistance and at the close of the period, the 1st Battalion had advanced to vicinity NIEDERWALGERN (G-6837), the 2nd was reported vicinity FROMHAUSEN (G-6734) and the 3rd Battalion organized positions vicinity LOHRA (G-6337).

e. The 39th Infantry remained in Division reserve. At 1100A, the Regiment commenced moving forward to take over responsibility for the security of the crossings over the DILL River. Movement was slow due to heavy traffic on the roads and at the close of the period, the Regiment was in the process of closing in vicinity KATZENFURT (G-4324).

29. 29 March 1945

a. Division CP: G-617325, vicinity KIRCHVERS, GERMANY.

b. The Division remained in defensive positions west of the LAHN River throughout the period and maintained contact with friendly units to the front and flanks.

c. The 47th and 60th Infantries continued to hold defensive positions on the west bank of the LAHN River. The 39th Infantry closed in vicinity KATZENFURT (G-4324) at 0100A and assumed responsibility of the crossings over the DILL River. During the afternoon, the Regiment moved to an assembly area vicinity ROLLSHAUSEN (G-6136) and LOHRA (G-6338), closing at 2012A.

30. 30 March 1945

a. Division CP: G-617325, vicinity KIRCHVERS, GERMANY.

b. The Division remained in defensive positions west of the LAHN River, maintained contact with friendly units to the front and flanks and prepared for future operations.

c. The three Regiments remained in place; the 47th and 60th Infantries maintained defensive positions west of the LAHN River and the 39th Infantry remained in assembly areas vicinity ROLLSHAUSEN and LOHRA (G-6338).

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31. 31 March 1945

a. Division OP: G-517325; vicinity KIRCHVERS, until 1930A; G-518697; vicinity SCHWARZENAU, GERMANY.

b. The Division continued to defend in its sector west of the LAHN River until mid-afternoon, when the unit commenced moving north into the VII Corps sector to take over a new mission. The Division was detached from III Corps and attached to VII Corps effective at 0001A.

c. The 39th Infantry moved from its reserve positions vicinity ROLLSHAUSEN and LOHRA at 1515A, closing into new areas in the northern portion of the Division sector at 2345A. The 47th Infantry remained in defensive positions west of the LAHN until 1540A, then commenced moving north to take over the southern part of the Division sector. The 60th Infantry moved from its positions west of the LAHN at 2220A to take over the central portion of the Division sector. At the close of the period, neither the 47th nor the 60th Infantries had closed into their new areas.

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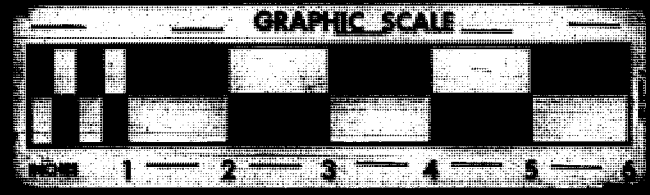
TRAFFIC CIRCULATION PLAN ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF RHEIN RIVER BRIDGEHEAD AREA

MAP: GERMANY - 1:25000
SHEETS: 5208-5209-5208-1900

MS 4/3, W. Dr
APPROX
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ADM. O # 38

- ① Ferry Site
- ② Ferry to Hwy WEST BOUND, Class 40
- ③ RR Bridge: EAST BOUND for ONLY VEHICLES
HEAVIER THAN 4000 LB. SUBJECT
to interruption due to repairs
- ④ OUR W SITE
- ⑤ FERRY SITE
- ⑥ Hwy Pointon EAST BOUND, Class 24



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SECTION IV -- SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

1. SUPPLY

a. Supply problems during the month of March were influenced by two distinct types of operations. First, the crossing of the RHINE RIVER at REMAGEN, and second, the rapid advance inland after breaking out of the Bridgehead.

At 0930, 8 Mar 1945, Maj.-Gen. JOUTS A. CRAIG, Commanding General, 9th Inf Div, assumed command of all troops east of the RHINE RIVER on the REMAGEN BRIDGEHEAD. He therefore befall G-4 and the Division supply services to coordinate the supply, evacuation and traffic for all units within the BRIDGEHEAD AREA. Every effort was made to build up an emergency reserve of two (2) days Class I and III and a Unit of Fire of Class V supplies. This reserve was to take care of supply requirements in case the LUDENDORF RAILROAD BRIDGE was successfully shelled or bombed cut. Although the bridge was heavily shelled, and many attempts were made to bomb it during the build-up period, no emergency arose.

With the completion of a Treadway Pneumatic Ponton Bridge downstream to the north of the LUDENDORF bridge on the night of 10-11 March everyone began to breathe easier and by the time the Heavy Ponton bridge was completed at LIMZ on 11 March, the supply situation was well in hand.

The rapid advance after the breakthrough on 25 March brought back many of the same old problems encountered on the Division's race across FRANCE. These involved primarily, transportation and gasoline. To motorize the tactical troops it was necessary to give 15 trucks to each Infantry Regiment besides using its normally attached TD's, Tanks and kitchen trucks for personnel. These 15 trucks per regiment were drawn from organic units of the division and necessitated grounding kitchens and other equipment.

b. Rations were consumed on the following basis:

Type	B	57.2%
	C	22.0
	D	.8
	K	8.7
	U	5
	10-in-1	11.3
	25-in-1	0
	Hosp. Sup.	0
	Vitamin Pills	116913

c. Gasoline consumption averaged 11,812 gallons per day.

d. Ammunition expenditure for the month was 3697 tons which amounted to the following Units of Fire for the principle weapons:

<u>Small Arms</u>	
Carbine	1.2
M1903	.07
M1	4.1
M.G. Cal. 39	9.8
M.G. Cal. 50	1.5
Thompson Sub-MG	10.2
Rocket AT M61	1.5

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Mortar	
60mm	3.4
81mm	3.9
105mm How M2	13.3

Artillery	
105mm How	14.3
155mm How	15.7

2. **ORDNANCE.** The shortage of GPW and GMC engines and automotive spare parts made it difficult to keep vehicles off deadline. It was necessary to continue using many vehicles that required engine replacement. Three 105mm Howitzers, M2, were replaced in the Light Artillery Battalions making a total of thirty-two (32) replaced since "D" Day.

3. **ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE.** The release of some major assemblies in the early part of the month permitted quick repair and the completion of a large number of major jobs.

a. The figures below show a numerical comparison between the work done in February and March.

	MAJOR JOBS	MINOR JOBS
February	117 (Incl. 91 Major Assys)	380
March	156 (Incl. 95 Major Assys)	479

4. **EVACUATION.** Evacuation of casualties from the front to aid stations was effected by personnel of the Division, augmented by 80 litter bearers from the 450th, 439th, 423rd and 480th Medical Collecting Companies (Sep). Approximately HALF of these attached men were relieved on the 21st of March. The 9th Medical Battalion handled all "front" to rear evacuation within the Division, while the 479th Ambulance Company, with a total of 18 ambulances evacuated sick and wounded from Notorious Clearing Company to Field and Evacuation Hospitals.

The routes of evacuation were constantly extended during the month, as an advance of over 185 miles was made.

On 11 March, all combat elements of the Division had crossed the RHINE RIVER. The number of ambulances available to accomplish evacuation to the rear was insufficient. Lt. Col. Kettlewell, Surgeon of the 9th Armored Division, volunteered to accomplish evacuation of casualties across the ferry, from the EAST bank of the RHINE, and the further evacuation of those casualties to hospitals in the rear. The timely cooperation of the 9th Armored Division enabled our ambulances to operate in the BRIDGEHEAD EAST of the RHINE where they were badly needed. Almost 1000 of our casualties were cleared in this way.

Casualties treated by Divisional medical units during the month of March 1945 are as follows:

	Killed	Wounded	Diseases	Injury	Exhaustion
Division Total	417	1850	1273	525	302
Evacuated		1498	1045	468	287
Returned to Duty		352	228	57	15
*Other Units		792	177	194	37
Evacuated		744	128	149	37
Returned to Duty		48	49	45	0
GRAND TOTAL	2642	1450	1713	718	339

* Includes PW's and Civilians.

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5. BURIAL. Ninth Infantry Division dead were buried in the First U. S. Army Cometary at WESURE-CHAPPEL, BELGIUM (K705152) and ITTENBACH, GERMANY (F680309).

6. CAPTURED MATERIEL. Captured enemy materiel included:

a. Vehicles

- 1 ea. Sedan
- 74 ea. Trucks
- 3 ea. Volkswagons
- 2 ea. Full Track vehicles
- 3 ea. Full Track Prime Movers
- 3 ea. Tanks MK V
- 13 ea. Tanks MK IV
- 5 ea. Half Tracks
- 4 ea. Wagons
- 60 ea. Trailers

b. Guns

- 1 ea. 150mm Gun
- 1 ea. 120mm AA Gun
- 4 ea. 120mm Mortar
- 8 ea. 105mm A.T. Guns
- 5 ea. 88mm A.T. Guns
- 7 ea. 88mm A.T. Guns (S.P)
- 1 ea. 88mm AA Guns
- 7 ea. 75mm A.T. Guns
- 8 ea. 80mm Mortars
- 7 ea. 50mm A.T. Guns
- 4 ea. 40mm Dofoc Guns
- 1 ea. 20mm AA Gun
- 4 ea. 35 barrel Rocket Guns
- 222 ea. Bazookas

c. Small Arms

- 19 ea. Machine Guns
- 3 ea. 81mm Rocket Launchers

d. Miscellaneous

- 21 ea. Locomotives
- 200 ea. Freight Cars
- 15 ea. Sleeping Cars
- 33 ea. Passenger Cars
- 4 ea. Freight Cars, w/medical supplies
- 1 ea. Freight Car, w/assorted pipes
- 7 ea. Freight Cars, w/machinery
- 5 ea. Freight Cars, w/50 gal. drums
- 1 ea. Freight Car, w/30 cm. Rockets
- 1 ea. Ammunition dump w/50 tons of ammunition
- 1 ea. Large ammunition and several small dumps including:

350mm shells	273 rds.
305mm shells	850 rds.
210mm shells	240 rds.
170mm shells	1660 rds.
155mm shells	250 rds.
105mm shells	3000 rds.
150mm shells	186 rds.
120mm shells	1000 rds. (Rocket)
120mm shells	8 rds. (Mortar)
88mm shells	200 rds.
76mm shells	40 cases
75mm shells	517 cases
81mm Mortar shells	70 cases
Panzersfaust #100	8600 rds.
Panzersfaust # 60	500 rds.
Powder Incriments	3 tons

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6 SEP 1945

7. TRAFFIC.

a. Traffic within the REUSEN BRIDGEHEAD was controlled by the 9th Inf Div G-4 Traffic Section. Regulating Stations were established in the town of REUSEN on the Western approaches to the RHINE. Constant M.P. control was exercised to keep personnel and vehicle traffic moving over and away from the LUENDORF BRIDGE regardless of shell fire. Some difficulty was caused by units that crossed the bridge without sufficient prior reconnaissance to determine where they were going. To prevent prolonged delay such units were sent to an assembly area which was established on the East side of the RHINE to meet such situations. Further difficulty was caused by traffic approaching the bridge at a faster speed than that at which the bridge could be crossed. This inevitably resulted in traffic congestion and it was necessary to enforce a strict speed limit on all approach roads for 10 miles back. When the two Ponton Bridges mentioned in paragraph 1 a., were completed, the North (downstream) bridge was made ONE WAY to the WEST, and the South (upstream) bridge was made ONE WAY to the EAST. This plan remained very flexible however and the direction was reversed under M.P. supervision whenever movement could be expedited by so doing.

b. Considering the large amount of traffic which was suddenly diverted to the REUSEN BRIDGEHEAD AREA to take advantage of the unexpected closure of the LUENDORF BRIDGE it is remarkable that the final results were so successful. The fullest cooperation was received from the Staffs of the 9th Armored and the 78th and 99th Infantry Divisions.

c. On 12 March, it was decided that the now famous LUENDORF R.R. BRIDGE deserved a rest and it was closed for much needed repairs. It was during an attempt to repair the main upper steel member of the bridge that it collapsed on 17 March. But the LUENDORF BRIDGE had done its job and was no longer needed - the REUSEN BRIDGEHEAD was secure.

d. The rapid advance inland after breaking out of the bridgehead on 26 March, was favored by good weather and soil conditions which permitted the use of secondary roads and by-passes. The MSR given the 9th Inf Div was not as good as it could have been, and it was felt that perhaps more consideration could be given to road nets by higher headquarters when establishing Division and Corps boundaries. Signal communications were difficult as is usually the case on long, rapid moves, and road clearances were sometimes hard to coordinate. It should be mentioned that in moves of this type the entire Division including headquarters, artillery, and administrative troops are on the road simultaneously where as normally many of them leapfrog. Most bridges were found intact and mines were non-existent.

8. CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

a. The following is a tabulation of the work performed by the 15th Engr (C) Ln. during the month of March:

Abatis removed: 7
 Anti-tank mines laid: 208
 Anti-tank mines lifted (friendly): 208
 Anti-tank mines lifted (enemy): 273
 Bridges built: 13
 Culverts installed: 7
 Graders filled: 18
 Debris cleared from streets in town: 1 1/2 miles
 Demolition charges removed from bridges: 2

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6 SEP 1945

Fords constructed: 2
Mine detector teams with Infantry: 3
Pillboxes blown: 1
Road construction: 1 mile
Road maintenance and repair: 28 miles
Road cleared of mines: 43 miles
Shower unit setups: 2
Water point setups: 31
Water distributed to troops: 939,305 gals.

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6 SEP 1945

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SECTION 7 - PERSONNEL SEP 1945

UNIT	KILLED			DIED			MISSING			WOUNDED			TOTALS		
	IN ACTION			OF WOUNDS			IN ACTION			IN ACTION			TOTALS		
	OFF	EM	TOT	OFF	EM	TOT	OFF	EM	TOT	OFF	EM	TOT	OFF	EM	TOT
HR. CO.										1	1	2	1	1	2
9TH INF. CO.		2	2							4	4		6	6	
9TH INF. TRP.										1	1		1	1	
9TH INF. CO.										1	1		1	1	
109TH INF. CO.															
15TH MIL. BN.		2	2		1	1				2	13	15	2	16	18
9TH INF. BN.															
39TH INF.	3	80	83		14	14			15	15	15	380	395	18	489
47TH INF.	10	136	146	1	14	15	5	78	83	22	515	537	38	743	781
60TH INF.	9	112	121		15	15		53	53	15	144	159	24	624	648
DIV. ARTY.					1	1				1	1		2	2	3
26th FA BN.		2	2		2	2				1	11	12	1	15	16
74th FA BN.		4	4								8	8	4	12	12
60th FA BN.	1	1	2		2	2				1	10	11	2	13	15
50th FA BN.	1	1	2		1	1				1	13	14	2	15	17
SPEC. TRPS.											1	1		1	1
MP PLAT.		2	2								7	7		9	9
DIVISION TOTALS	24	342	366	1	50	51	5	146	151	59	1410	1469	89	1948	2037

NOTE: In addition to above figures, 11 Officers and 190 Unlisted Men were dropped as Injured In Action

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 REPRODUCTION OF
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 6 SEP 1945

DATE	OFF	REG'S	FW'S	TOTALS
Mar. 1	5	54	179	238
2	4	86	253	343
3	22	75	297	387
4	5	43	164	212
5	8	52	251	311
6	4	45	285	335
7	1	1	80	82
8	2	14	97	113
9	9	45	200	254
10	13	24	263	400
11	5	49	229	273
12	4	22	179	205
13	1	5	51	57
14	1	9	49	58
15	3	31	155	189
16	3	15	110	128
17	2	31	110	143
18	5	39	205	249
19	4	40	220	278
20	1	2	31	34
21	1	6	32	38
22	1	3	17	21
23	1	31	90	122
24	3	41	129	173
25	3	53	267	323
26	3	39	260	302
27	2	50	147	199
28	4	27	95	127
29	4	55	268	327
30	20	72	208	280
31	4	10	50	64
TOTALS	233	1116	5463	6712

In addition to above figures, 357 PW's were evacuated through medical channels.

REPLACEMENTS RECEIVED AND CASUALS RETURNED TO DUTY

DATE	OFF	EM	TOTAL	RETURNED FROM HOSPITAL		
				OFF	EM	TOTAL
Mar. 1		4	4	3	128	131
5		322	322	5	85	91
7		205	205	3	84	87
12	1	235	236	6	69	75
13	22	5	27	3	98	101
14		694	694			
15		188	188		73	73
17	8	240	248	1	57	58
18		253	253	1	51	52
19		227	227	2	89	91
21	7	28	35	4	42	46
22	4	25	29		6	6
23		99	99	1	37	38
24		200	200	5	21	26
25	3	103	106		47	47
28	14	75	89		31	31
29	9		9	4		4
TOTALS	68	3005	3071	39	918	957

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6 SEP 1945

LOUIS A CRAIG,
Major General, U. S. Army.
Commanding.

INCLOSURES:

Maps: GERMANY 1/25,000; Sheets 5203 - 4, 5206 - 7, - 8, 5303 - 4, 5306-7-8-9-
10-11-12-13, 5409-10-11-12-13; GERMANY 1/50,000; Sheets 100, 130, 160;
GERMANY 1/100,000; Sheets Q-3, R-2, R-3, S-2, S-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Copy 5. Commanding General, First U. S. Army
6. Commanding General III Corps
7. Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division
8. Assistant to the Division Commander
9. Chief of Staff
10. Adjutant General, 9th Infantry Division

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6 SEP 1945

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Declassified Auth: 748
6 SEP 1945

NOTE
9th Armd Div
11 March 1945

HEADQUARTERS - WESTERN INFANTRY DIVISION
A P O #9

1 March 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions

TO : FO Distribution.

1. a. 39th Inf will, after seizure of FROITZHEIM, continue the attack to seize KELPERHOF (201359) and Hill 171.7 (206359).
- b. Following the seizure of the high ground via 206359, 1st Bn 39th Inf will relieve elements 9th Armd Div in MUDERSHEIM (2439), DISTERNICH (2438) and SIEVERNICH (2437) and will continue to defend crossings of the NEFFEL River at these towns.
- c. Will hold one bn in Div Res in FROITZHEIM (1835) - Hill 185.3 (190344) area and one bn in Div Res in the area 227381 - 210381 - 215365 - 230375.

2. 47th Inf

- a. Will be prepared to pass through the 36th Inf to seize the towns FUSSENICH (213344) and GEICH (226346), on order.
- b. Will, upon seizure of FUSSENICH & GEICH, be prepared to attack to the SE to seize ZULPICH (232330) or to attack to the E to seize BESSENICH (236335).

ID - FROITZHEIM - VETWEISS Rd.

Boundaries - Right: FROITZHEIM - FUSSENICH Road inclusive to 202340 thence SE to Railroad at 206335.

Left: Railroad from 205384 to 234354.

3. 60th Inf

- a. Will, following the seizure of EBEREN, continue the atk to seize JUNDERSDORF (2033).
- b. Will hold one bn in EBEREN to protect right flank of the Div.

4. 9th Rcn Trp

- a. Will continue present mission.
- b. Will be prepared to protect right flank of the Div.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM C. WESTFORDLAND
Colonel, G. S. C.
Chief of Staff

F. C. Feil
F. C. FEIL
Lt Col, G.S.C.
AC of S, G-3

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6 SEP 1945

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Declassified Auth: 2A8
6 SEP 1945

HEADQUARTERS
9th INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #

SECRET
Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div
Inits: KA
Date: 5 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #2

TO: FO Distribution

1. The 9th Infantry Division continues the attack in zone maintaining continuous pressure until final objective is secured.

2. 60th Inf

a. Will pass thru 39th Inf so as to maintain continuous progress in zone.

b. Responsibility in zone will be assumed when able to pick up and continue the progress of the unit relieved (To be determined by CGs 39th & 60th Infs).

3. 39th Inf

a. Will be passed thru by 60th Inf in such a manner as to maintain continuous progress in zone.

b. Relief of responsibility will be accomplished when 60th Inf is able to pick up and continue the progress of the unit relieved (To be determined by CGs 39th & 60th Infs).

c. Upon termination of relief will protect right (South) flank of the Division.

d. Upon seizure of Objective #2 by 47th Inf and of Objective #3 by 60th Inf, will move into assembly area generally to the SE of HEIMERZHEIM (4235).

4. a. Co C 90th Cml Bn (less one plat) atchd 47th Inf.

b. One plat atchd 39th Inf, when passed thru, atchd 60th Inf.

5. 9th Recon Troop

Will maintain contact between Div right (South) flank and 9th Arm Div.

CRAG
Comdg

OFFICIAL:

W. C. HAN
WCH
G-3

Incl: Annex #1 - Opns Overlay

RESTRICTED
Declassified Auth: 2A8
6 SEP 1945

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98 INF DIV
Annex No. 3 TO
ACCOMPANY
OPERATIONS INSTRS
745
SHEETS 5207, 5307, 5
OFFICIAL
CRAIG
COM

OBJ
No 3
60th INF

OBJ
No 6
60th INF

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No 5
60th INF

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No 7
60th INF

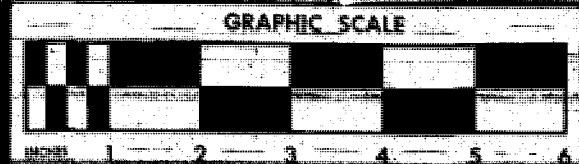
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60th INF

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60th INF

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Sheet 2 of 2

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Declassified Auth: YAS
6 SEP 1945

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #9

SECRET
Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div
Intr: *2*
Date: 4 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS NO 1

TO: FC Distribution

1. 47th Inf
 - a. Will attack in zone to seize bridgehead at VERNICH and GROSS VERNICH.
 - b. Initial bridgehead to be extended, as soon as practicable, to line indicated on overlay.
 - c. Time of demonstration by Co B 27th Armd Inf Bn and elements 89th Ron Tr will be set by CO 47th Inf.
 - d. Will maintain contact with 1st Inf Div on left (North) flank.
2. 39th Inf
 - Will continue the attack to seize bridgehead indicated on overlay.
3. CGB 9th Armd Div
 - a. TF STRANG
 - (1) Will continue attack to seize BODENHEIM (339338) and establish roadblock at 339234.
 - (2) Will protect right flank of the Division and threaten WUSCHHEIM.
 - b. 1st Bn 310th Inf
 - (1) Will attack WUSCHHEIM and establish bridgehead prior to first light 5 March 1945.
 - (2) Will maintain contact with 39th Inf on left (North) flank.
 - (3) By clearance with 39th Inf, 1st Bn 310th Inf (plus Armored support) may use bridge in LOMMERSON to facilitate atk on WUSCHHEIM.
 - c. Co B 27th Armd Inf Bn and elements 89th Ron Tr will demonstrate by fire and the movement of small groups to the main crossing in KLEIN VERNICH to GROSS VERNICH to support attack of 47th Inf. Time will be as set by CO 47th Inf.
4. 9th Rep Tr.
 - Will be prepared to relieve Co B 27th Armd Inf Bn or TF STRANG on order,
5. 1st Plat Co C 90th Cal Bn atobd Div Arty.

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Comd

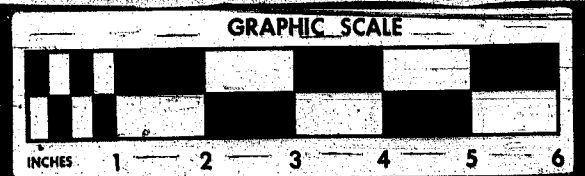
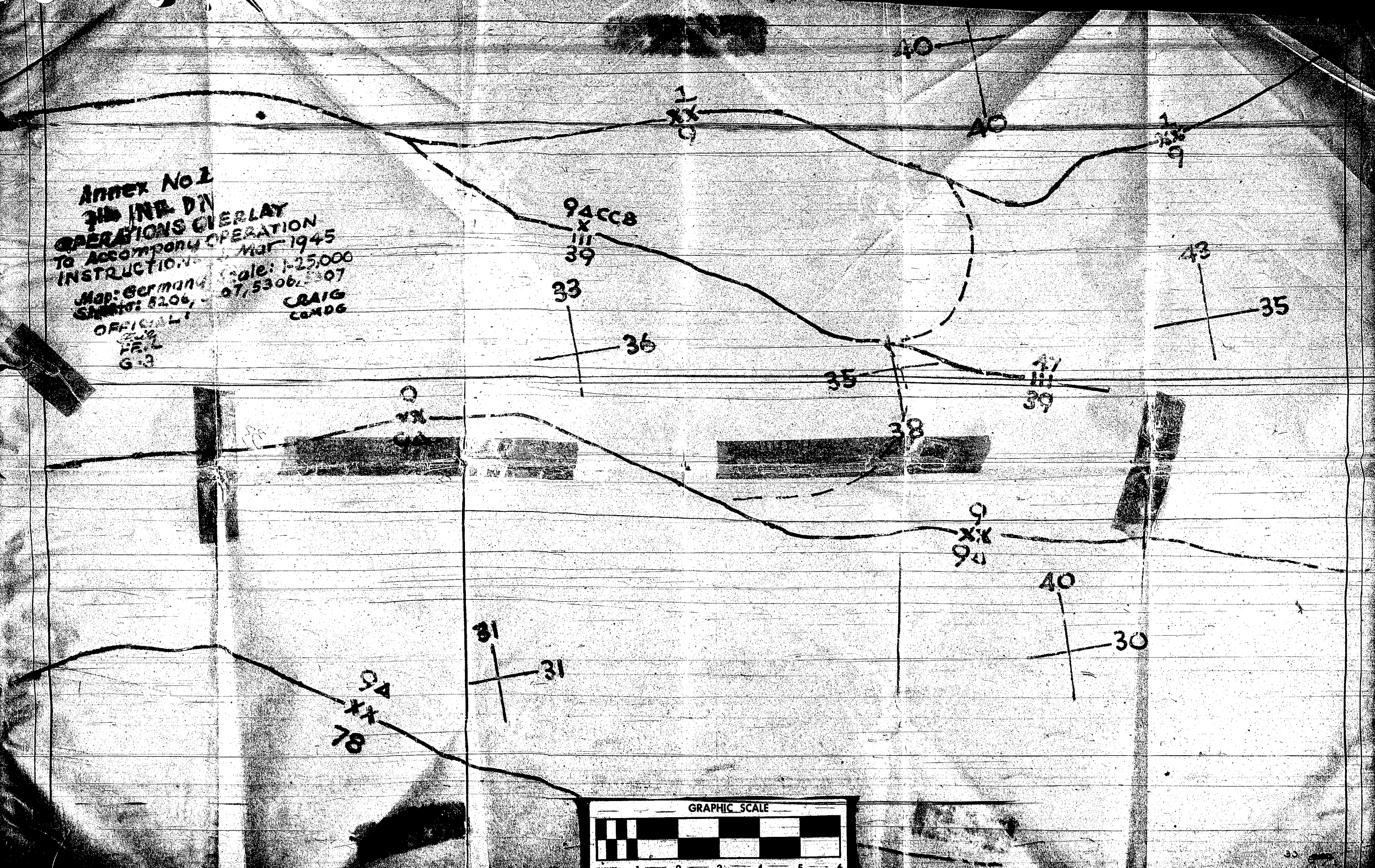
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INCL: Annex No 1 - Opns overlay

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Declassified Auth: YAS
6 SEP 1945

Annex No 2
3rd INB DIV
OPERATIONS OVERLAY
TO ACCOMPANY OPERATION
INSTRUCTION MAR 1945
Map: German
Sheet: 8206, 07, 5306, 07
Scale: 1:25,000
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6 SEP 1945

HEADQUARTERS 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION

A.P.O. #3

SECRET

Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div

Init: *KAJ*

Date: 5 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #2

TO: FO Distribution

1. The 9th Infantry Division continues the attack in zone maintaining continuous pressure until final objective is secured.

2. 60th Inf

a. Will pass thru 39th Inf so as to maintain continuous progress in zone.

b. Responsibility in zone will be assumed when able to pick up and continue the progress of the unit relieved (To be determined by COs 39th & 60th Inf).

3. 39th Inf

a. Will be passed thru by 60th Inf in such a manner as to maintain continuous progress in zone.

b. Relief of responsibility will be accomplished when 60th Inf is able to pick up and continue the progress of the unit relieved (To be determined by COs 39th & 60th Inf).

c. Upon termination of relief will protect right (South) flank of the Division.

d. Upon seizure of Objective #2 by 47th Inf and of Objective #3 by 60th Inf, will move into assembly area generally to the SE of HEIMERZHEIM (4235).

4. a. Co C 90th Cml Bn (less one plat) atchd 47th Inf.

b. One plat atchd 39th Inf, when passed thru, atchd 60th Inf.

5. 9th Recon Troop

Will maintain contact between Div right (South) flank and 9th Armd Div.

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Comdg

OFFICIAL:

2/6/45
YELL
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Incl: Annex #1 - Opns Overlay

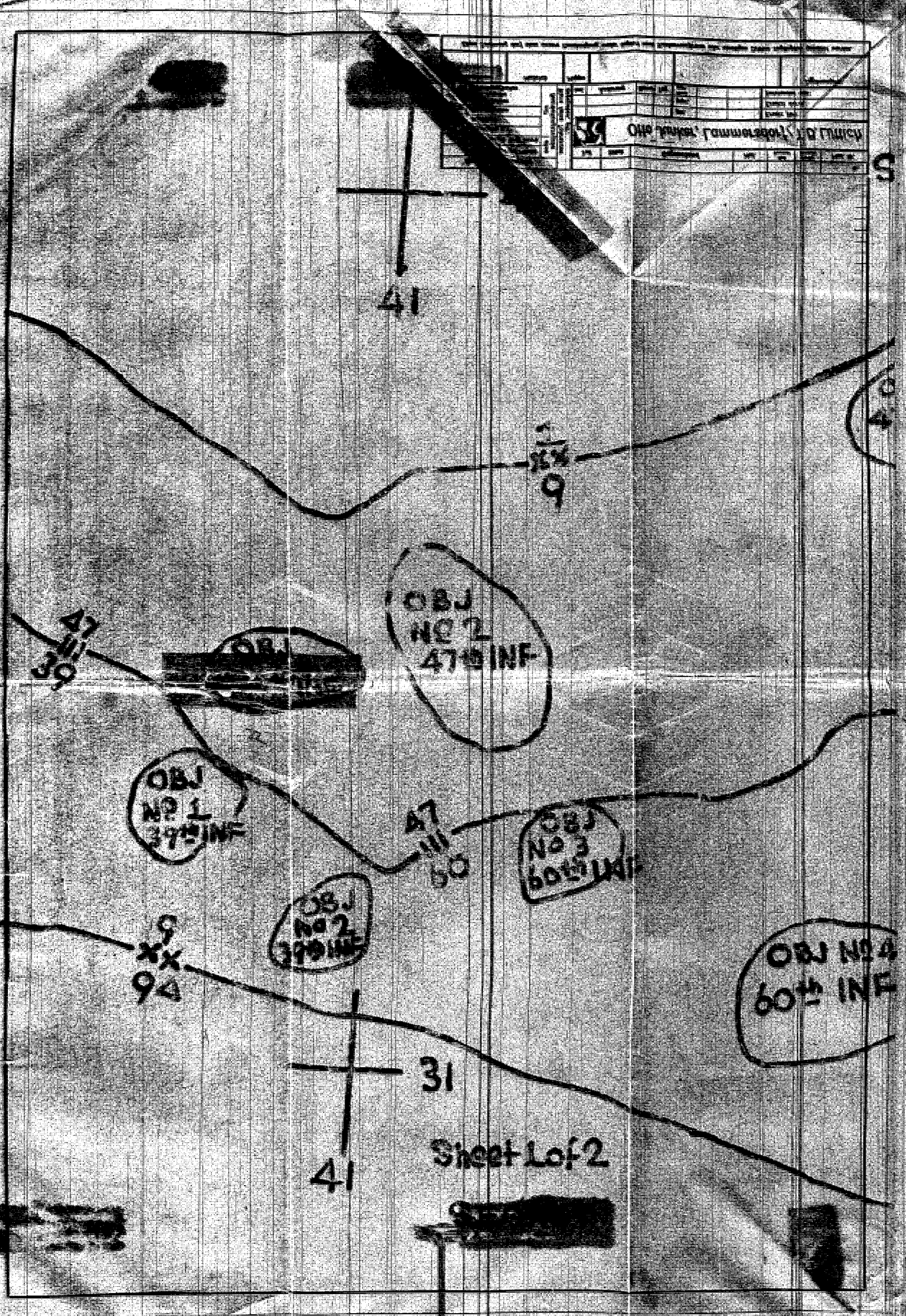
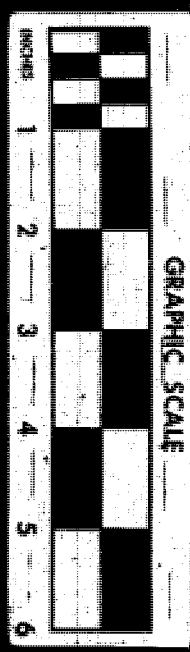
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Downgraded Auth: TAD

6 SEP 1945

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OBJ No 1		OBJ No 2		OBJ No 3		OBJ No 4	
DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME	DATE	TIME



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Sheet Lot 2
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OBJ
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470 INE

OBJ
No 1
370 INE

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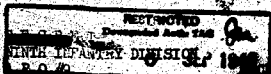
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600 INE

OBJ
No 2
370 INE

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OBJ No 4
600 INE

HEADQUARTERS



Auth: CG 9th Inf Div

Init: *JK*

Date: 6 March 1945

061400A March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #3

TO: FO Distribution

1. 39th Inf

a. Upon the seizure of Obj No. 5 by the 60th Inf, will attack SE within zone, seize high ground at 5630 and 5829, prepared to seize BAD GODESBERG (5832) on order.

b. Will maintain contact with 60th Inf on the left (north) and 9th Recon Trp on the right (south).

c. Boundaries: Left: Rt bdy 60th Inf.

Right: 4730 -- 487292 -- 510290 -- VILLIPIROTT (exclusive)
-- BECH (inclusive) -- LANNESDORF (exclusive) -- RHEN River at 610310.

d. Will protect the right flank of the Division.

2. 9th Recon Trp

a. One platoon will continue present mission of maintaining contact between Division right (south) flank and the 9th Arm Div.

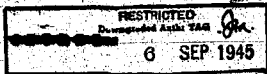
b. 9th Recon Trp (less one platoon) will, upon seizure of Obj No. 4 by 60th Inf, reconnoiter to the SE to BAD GODESBERG.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

CRAIG
Comdg

OFFICIAL:

JK
FEIL
G-3



36 37



HEADQUARTERS

NINE INFANTRY DIVISION

8 SEP 1945

SECRET

Auth: CG 9th Inf Div

Initials: *[Handwritten]*

Date: 8 March 1945

081115A March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS # 5

TO: FO Distribution

1. CGA 7th Armd Div (23rd A I Bn, 32th A I Bn, 17th Tk Bn, Co B 23rd Eng Bn, 489th FA Bn, Co B 61st ID Bn, Co C (-1 plat) 203rd AA Bn) attached 9th Inf Div 072000Z March 1945.

a. Will assemble in area HIEL - MORENOHOVEN - BUSCHHOVEN - DUNSTERHOVEN.

b. Will, when units have closed in above area, attack to seize and secure previously assigned objectives paying particular attention to right part of zone from which, it is reported, fire is falling on ERPEL Bridgehead.

c. Will be prepared to support the Bridgehead by fire.

2. 60th Inf will remain on alert status, prepared to move on order to reinforce Bridgehead.

3. 39th Inf

a. Will continue present mission.

b. Will be prepared for relief by elements 7th Armd Div (Unknown hour 8 March 1945).

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

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Comdg

OFFICIAL:

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6 JCP 1945

SECRET
Authr: CG, 9th Inf
Init: [initials]
Date: 9 March 1945
HQ 9TH INF DIV
100030A March 1945

FO #58

MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000; Sheets 5309, 5310, 5409, 5410.

- 1. a. The enemy has been given time to put into effect emergency measures commensurate with his future intentions. The 11th Pz Div has been identified, and PW statements indicate the entire division has been, or will shortly be, identified. Their role is one of holding in check our expanding bridgehead, indicating the enemy's intentions of eliminating it.

At present the known units in contact are 110th Pz Gren Regt, 111th Pz Gren Regt, Engr Bn 11th Pz Div (being used as infantry), four Engr Bns (being used as infantry), and remnants of 272nd, 3rd Front Regt, 62nd Div. The 119th Arty Regt, 11th Pz Div is believed in the area. The 15th Tk Regt, 11th Pz Div is expected, probably being used as infantry support.

It is expected that no less than one and possibly three infantry type Divisions will be committed within the next 72 hours in an effort to eliminate our foothold East of the RHEIN. Continued efforts to bomb and shell the bridge are to be expected.

- b. III Corps continues the attack to enlarge bridgehead over RHEIN River.
2. This Div (less 39th CT & 34th FA Bn)

Atchd: CGB 9th Armd Div
309th CT
311th CT
746th Tk Bn
899th TD Bn
376th AAA AW Bn

Continues the attack to enlarge bridgehead.

- 3. a. 47th Inf
- Atchd: Co A 746th Tk Bn
Co B 9th Mod Bn
Assault Gun Plat 746th Tk Bn
1 Plat Co B 15th Engr Bn
1 Plat Co C 90th Cml Bn

Will continue the attack in zone to seize Objectives shown on overlay.

- b. 60th Inf
- Atchd: Co B 746th Tk Bn
Co C 9th Mod Bn
1 Plat Co C 15th Engr Bn
Co C 90th Cml Bn (less 1 plat)

Will continue the attack in zone to seize Objectives shown on overlay.

- c. 309th Inf
- Atchd: Co A 303rd Engr Bn
Co A 774th Tk Bn
Co A 893rd TD Bn
Co A 303rd Mod Bn
308th FA Bn

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Declassified Auth: 728
- 1 -
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RESTRICTED
Declassified Auth: NSA
6 Sep 1945

Will attack from vic South of RHEINBREITBACH, on the left (North) flank of the 1st Bn 47th Inf, to seize Objectives shown on overlay.

- d. OOB 9th Armd Div
 - Atchd: 27th Armd Inf Bn
 - 52nd Armd Inf Bn
 - 14th Tk Bn
 - 16th FA Bn
 - 400th FA Bn
 - Troop C 89th Cav Rdn Sq
 - Co B 9th Engr Bn
 - 1st Bn 310th Inf
 - Btry B 482nd AAA Bn
 - Co C 656th TD Bn

Will continue the attack in zone to seize Objectives shown on overlay.

- e. 311th Inf
 - Atchd: Co C 303rd Engr Bn
 - Co C 303rd Med Bn
 - 307th FA Bn

Will continue the attack to seize Objectives shown on overlay.

- f. Div Arty - No change.

- g. 9th Ron Troop
 - Atchd: Co D 746th Tk Bn

Will furnish security detachments for protection of bridge, as directed by Div Engrs.

- h. 15th Engr Bn - SOP

- i. 746th Tk Bn - SOP

- j. 899th TD Bn - Co C, less 1 plat in Div Res, direct support 47th Inf; Co B, less 1 plat in Div Res, direct support 60th Inf.

See current Adm O.

- a. See current SOI.

- b. CPs to be reported.

- c. Div CP: 647206

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Comdg

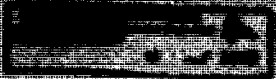
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ANNEXES: Annex #1 - Opns Overlay

- 2 -
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Declassified Auth: NSA
6 Sep 1945

37 40



OB 311

OB 312

OB 313

OB 314

OB 315

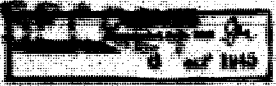
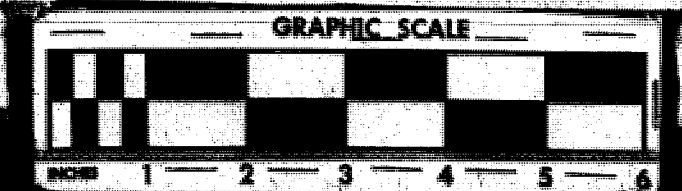
OB 316
316
(1 Bn 310)

316 DIV
MAP GEN. STAFF SCALE 1:25,000
SHEET NO. 316 DIV 316
CORRECTED COPY OF
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6-3

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12



41

HEADQUARTERS

RESTRICTED
Downgraded Auth: FAR
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION 1945

SECRET

Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div

Initials: *JS*

Date: 18 March 1945

102300A March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS # 6

TO: FO Distribution

The 9th Infantry Division.
Atchd: Same plus 39th CT and 14th FA Bn.

Continues the attack 11 March 1945 to seize bridgehead objectives.

1. 311th Inf - No change.
2. 309th Inf - No change. Time of atk 0730A.
3. 310th Inf (less 1st Bn plus 52nd AI Bn atchd)

- a. Will seize presently assigned objective.
- b. Will seize Hill 365 (699239) and Hill 363 (696242).

Bdry 310th - 47th Infs: Present bdry to 695223, North along road (inclusive) to 704242.

- c. Time of atk 0730A.
- d. Will revert to 78th Inf Div upon completion of mission and orders this Hqs. Will proceed to area designated by CG 78th Inf Div.

a. 27th AI Bn will revert to CCB upon release of 310th Inf (-) to 78th Div.

4. 47th Inf

- a. Will seize final objectives in conjunction with 310th Inf.
- b. Time of atk 0730A.

5. 60th Inf - No change.

6. CCB 9th Armd Div

- a. Will maintain present posns.
- b. Upon passage of 394th Inf thru lines will release 1st Bn 310th Inf to 310th Inf.
- c. Upon passage of 394th Inf thru lines will revert to Div Res.

7. 99th Inf Div

a. After moving into assigned assembly areas, will initiate atk with 394th Inf in right of zone.

b. Present front lines CCB.

c. Time of atk 0830A.

d. Upon arrival of 393rd CT, will atk in left of zone in conjunction with atk of 394th CT.

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- 1 -
6 Sep 1945

42

RESTRICTED
Downgraded Auth: 7AS
6 SEP 1945

d. 395th GT

- (1) Is designated as Bridgehead Reserve.
- (2) Will assemble:
 - (a) One Bn at OHLEBERG (678212).
 - (b) Regtl Hq and one Bn at BRUCKHAUSEN (657226).
 - (c) One Bn at RHEINERREITBACH (642246).

(3) Will be prepared to counterattack to restore the line anywhere in Bridgehead.

8. 39th Inf

Will remain in present posns in Div Res.

9. 899th TD Bn

CO is charged with A/T defense of Bridgehead.

x. Upon temporary suspension of movement to final objectives, vigorous day and night patrols will be pushed deep into enemy territory to determine location of German advance elements and dispositions.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

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Comd

OFFICIAL: *File*
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G-3

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6 SEP 1945

43

RESTRICTED
6 SEP 1945

HEADQUARTERS



SECRET

Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div

Initials:

Date: 14 March 1945

141600 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS # 7

TO: FO Distribution

1. 39th Inf

a. Will continue the attack to seize objective "A".

2. 47th Inf

a. Will continue attack to seize present objectives.

b. Will be prepared to seize objectives "B" and "F" on order.

3. 60th Inf

a. Under cover of darkness will seize objectives "C" & "D".

b. Will be prepared to seize objective "E".

4. 310th Inf (less 1st and 2nd Bns plus 52nd AIB)

a. Will continue attack to seize objective.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

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G-3



44

69
26

78
X
90

To parity
Boundary

47
60

91
X
99



39E47

47E60

77

22

916 INFANTRY DIVISION
WART GERMANY
SCALE: 1:25000
SHEETS: 9309, 9310, 9409, 9410
OPERATIONS OVERLAY TO ACCOMPANY
OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #7
DATED 14 MARCH 1945

OFFICIAL
SCALE
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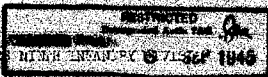
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45

GRAPHIC SCALE



HEADQUARTERS 11TH INFANTRY 71266 1945



SECRET
Auth: CG, 9th Inf Div
Initials: *ES*
Date: 17 March 1945
172300 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS # 8

TO: FO Distribution

1. 39th Inf

a. Will continue attack to seize Objectives "I" and "G" prior to daylight 18 March.

b. Upon seizure of Objectives "I" and "G" will continue attack to seize Objectives "C" and "J".

2. 47th Inf

a. Will, at daylight 18 March, attack to seize HCHNET (739215).

b. Will be prepared to continue attack to seize Objective "K" when attack on Objective "J" is well under way.

3. 60th Inf

a. Will continue clean-up of Objective "E".

b. Will continue attack 18 March to seize Objective "K".

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CRAIG:

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OFFICIALS:

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G-3



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1672
UNCLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET
of CG 9th Inf Div
23 March 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div APO #9
232000 March 1945

FO #59

MAPS: GERMANY 1/25,000; Sheets 5311, 5312, 5411, 5412.

1. a. The enemy has committed, in piecemeal fashion, elements of eight infantry, one parachute and three panzer divisions against the REIAGEN bridgehead in an unsuccessful effort to halt its expansion. No known organized reserves exist which might be committed against our advance to the E; any enemy build-up to our front would draw on the forces he at present has available to meet the threat to his northern and southern fronts. The terrain in the division zone of advance is rugged; high hills cut by deep valleys form compartments running generally N and S. The road net is generally good, and principal roads run along the ridges. Observation favors the enemy, as the hill mass rises generally J to E. The area is thickly wooded, affording excellent concealment to defensive positions. No prepared defense line is known to exist at this time, although civilian and PW reports indicate hasty digging vic villages and natural defense lines. Small trench systems have recently been completed along the WIED River at FLAHERSFELD, OBERLAHR and BETTGEN. Such hasty field fortifications will probably supplement the stronger resistance expected along the ridges at the 85 and the 02 northings. Further E, the very high ridge running roughly along the H grid will probably constitute a strong defensive line.
- b. III Corps attacks to East to capture LIMBURG, and high ground generally North thereof to NEUNKIRCHEN.

2. This Div
Atchd: 376th AAA Av Bn
746th Tk Bn
899th TD Bn
254th FA Bn (155 How)
400th Armd FA Bn
Cos B & C 90th Cml Bn
1 plat 987th FA Bn (155 Gun SP)

Will attack during darkness, night 24-25 March 1945, to overrun all enemy posns West of line A-A. Atk to be contd 0630 in coordination with adjacent units to secure breakthru of enemy posns.

Bdrys, zones of action - See overlay.
ID - Line of Contact
Time to cross ID - As selected by Regt'l Comdrs.

3. a. 39th Inf
Atchd: Co C 746th Tk Bn
1 plat Co A 15th Engr Bn
Co A 9th Med Bn
Co B 90th Cml Bn

Quinn V. Healy

- (1) Will attack in zone to overrun enemy posns West of Line A-A (See overlay) by daylight 25 March 1945.
- (2) Will continue attack, without delay, to seize Objective #2 (See overlay) to remove observation from zone of advance of 47th Inf.
- (3) Will, originally maintain contact with 104th Div on left (North) flank.
- (4) Will, after being pinched out by 47th Inf, prepare to be motorized to exploit any breakthrough by 7th Armd Div.

47

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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

b. 47th Inf
Atchd: Co A 746th Tk Bn
1 plat Co B 15th Engr Bn
Co B 9th Med Bn
Assault Gun Plat 746th Tk Bn
81mm Mortar Sec 746th Tk Bn
1 plat Co C 90th Cml Bn

- (1) Will attack in zone to overrun enemy posns West of Line A-A (See overlay) by daylight 25 March 1945 to permit early reconnaissance of and engineer work on Autobahn bridge in objective.
- (2) Will continue attack in zone to seize objectives shown on overlay.
- (3) Will, after pinching out 39th Inf, maintain contact with 104th Inf Div on left (North) flank.

c. 60th Inf
Atchd: Co B 746th Tk Bn
1 plat Co C 15th Engr Bn
Co C 9th Med Bn
Co C 90th Cml Bn (less 1 plat)

- (1) Will attack in zone to overrun enemy posns West of Line A-A (See overlay) by daylight 25 March 1945 to remove observation from zone of advance of 47th Inf.
- (2) Will continue attack in zone to seize objectives shown on overlay.
- (3) Will maintain contact with 99th Inf Div on right (South) flank.

d. Div Arty
Atchd: 376th AAA AW Bn
254th FA Bn (155 How)
400th Armd FA Bn (105 Mow SP)
1 plat 987th FA Bn (155 Gun SP)

- (1) 26th, 60th, 84th FA Bns - SOP. 26th FA reverts to general support on order.
- (2) 34th FA Bn - General support and reinforcing fires of 60th FA Bn.
- (3) 254th FA Bn - General support and reinforcing fires of 84th FA Bn
- (4) 400th Armd FA Bn - General support.
- (5) 1 Sec Btry "A" and 1 Sec Btry "B" 987th FA Bn atchd to 34th FA Bn.
- (6) 376th AAA AW Bn - SOP.
- (7) 7th Armd Div Arty - General support and reinforcing fires of 9th Inf Div Arty. Direct support battalions will be prepared to illuminate regimental areas with 3" Star Shell on call.

e. 9th Ron Tr
Atchd: Co D 746th Tk Bn

Will await orders in present posns.

- f. 15th Engr Bn (less normal detachments) - SOP.
- g. 746th Tk Bn (less Cos A, B, C & D) - SOP.
- h. 899th TD Bn

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6 SEP 1945

48

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6 SEP 1945

- (1) Will protect the Div against armored attack.
 - (2) Will coordinate Corps TD reserve units in Div Sector.
 - (3) (a) Co A - Two platoons in direct support of the 39th Inf; one platoon in general support of the Div under Bn control. Upon seizure of Objectives "X", "Y" & "Z", and the relief of the 39th Inf provide depth to the Div AT defenses.
(b) Co B - Two platoons in direct support of the 60th Inf. One platoon in general support of the Div under Bn control.
(c) Co C - Two platoons in direct support of the 47th Inf. One platoon in general support of the Div under Bn control.
- x. (1) Strict measures to insure air security to include passive air defense will be enforced.
- (2) Air identification panels will be displayed on vehicles forward of Regtl CP's.
- (3) The importance of aggressive action and rapid advance is emphasized in order to gain surprise and quickly effect a breakthrough which can be immediately exploited by 7th Arm Div. Every effort will be made to capture bridges intact.
4. See Acm O #39 - (To be issued).
5. a. See current SOI.
b. Axis of Sig Cpn. See overlay.
c. CP's to be reported.

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Comdg

Carl
FILL
G-3

Annex #1 - overlay, atchd.

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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

48
49

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TOP

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27

INF DIV
Amendment No 1 to Annex No 1
to FO # 59
dated 23 Mar 1945

26

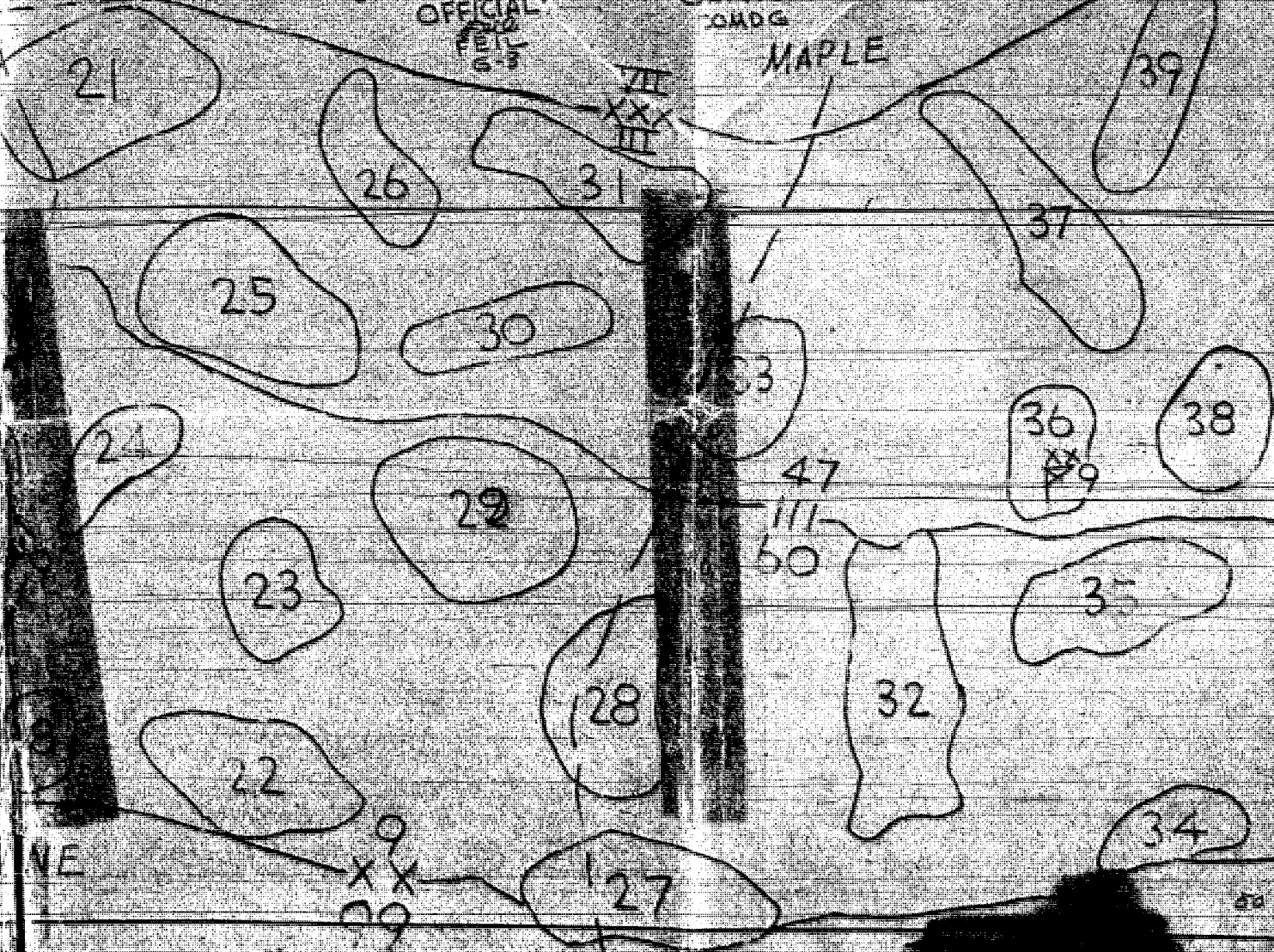
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Sheet: 5311, 5411

VINE

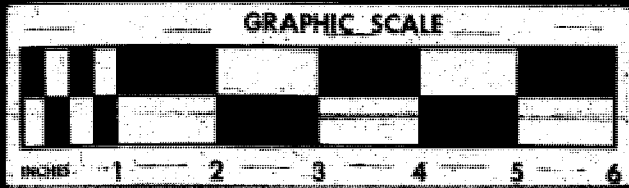
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FIELD
S-5

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OMDG

MAPLE

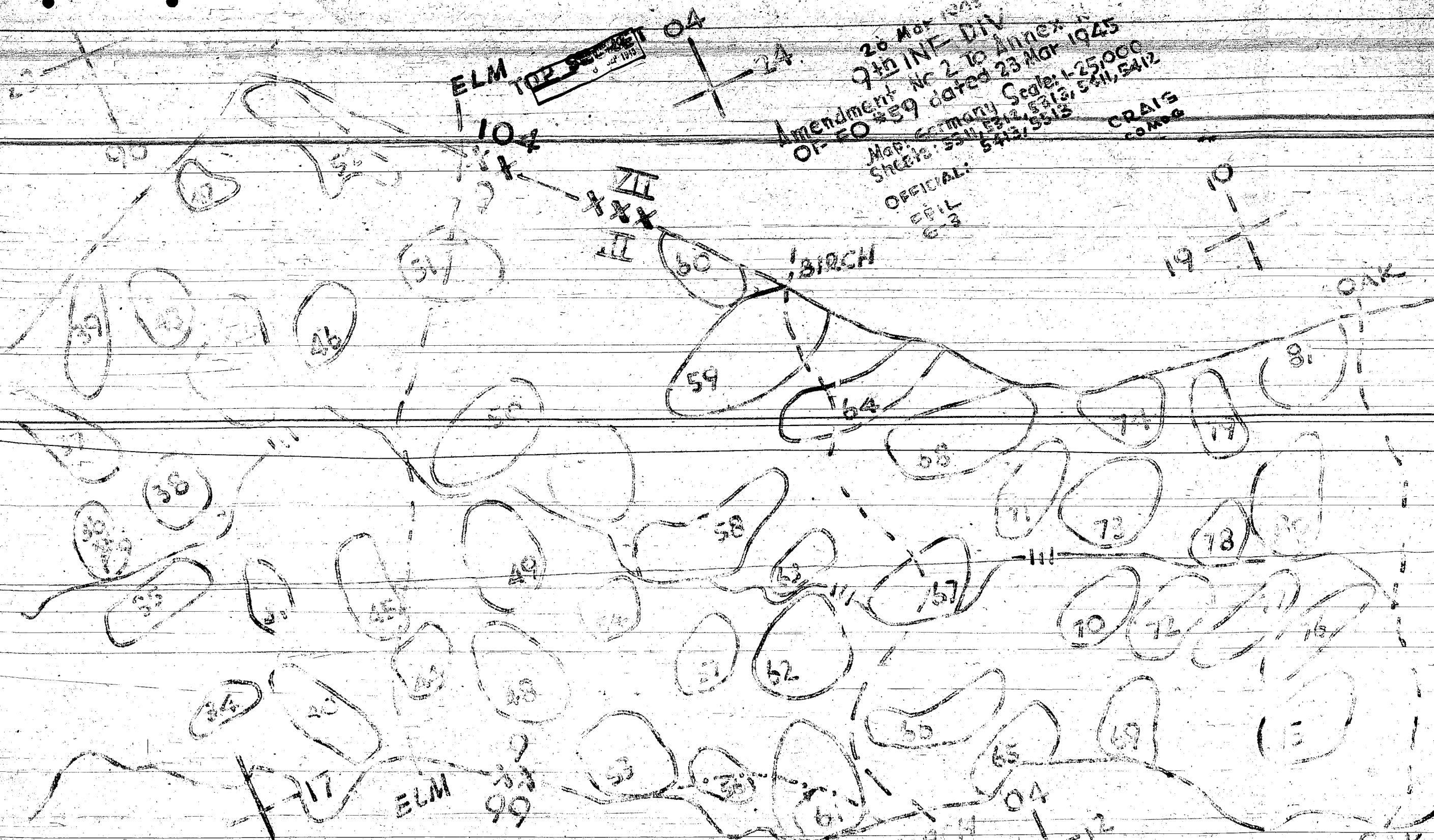


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Otto Junker, Lommersdorf, T. A. Litzke									
WA-									



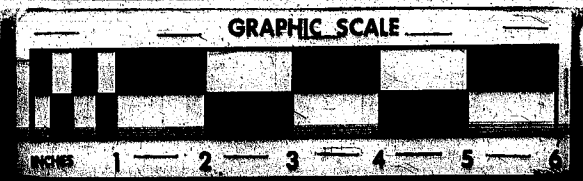
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28 Mar 1945
9th INF DIV
Amendment No 2 to Annex
OF-20 #59 dated 23 Mar 1945
Map: Germany Scale: 1:25,000
Sheet: 5411, 5412, 5413, 5414, 5415
OFFICIAL: 5413, 5414, 5415
CRAIG
COMB



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Possible Alternate Boundary



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Downgraded Auth TAG
6 SEP 1945
HEADQUARTERS 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #9

SECRET

By Authority CG 9th Inf Div
27 March 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div, APO #9
270030 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #9

1. 47th Inf

a. Commencing at daylight 27 March 1945, one bn will expedite the clearance of Objectives 37, 39, and 43.

b. Will be prepared to pass thru zone of 60th Inf into zone of 39th Inf to continue attack to the East in northern zone.

2. 39th Inf

Will continue attack in zone commencing 270630 March 1945.

3. 60th Inf

Will continue attack in zone, commencing 270630 March 1945.

4. All units will advance as rapidly as is consistent with the sweeping of all enemy from zone.

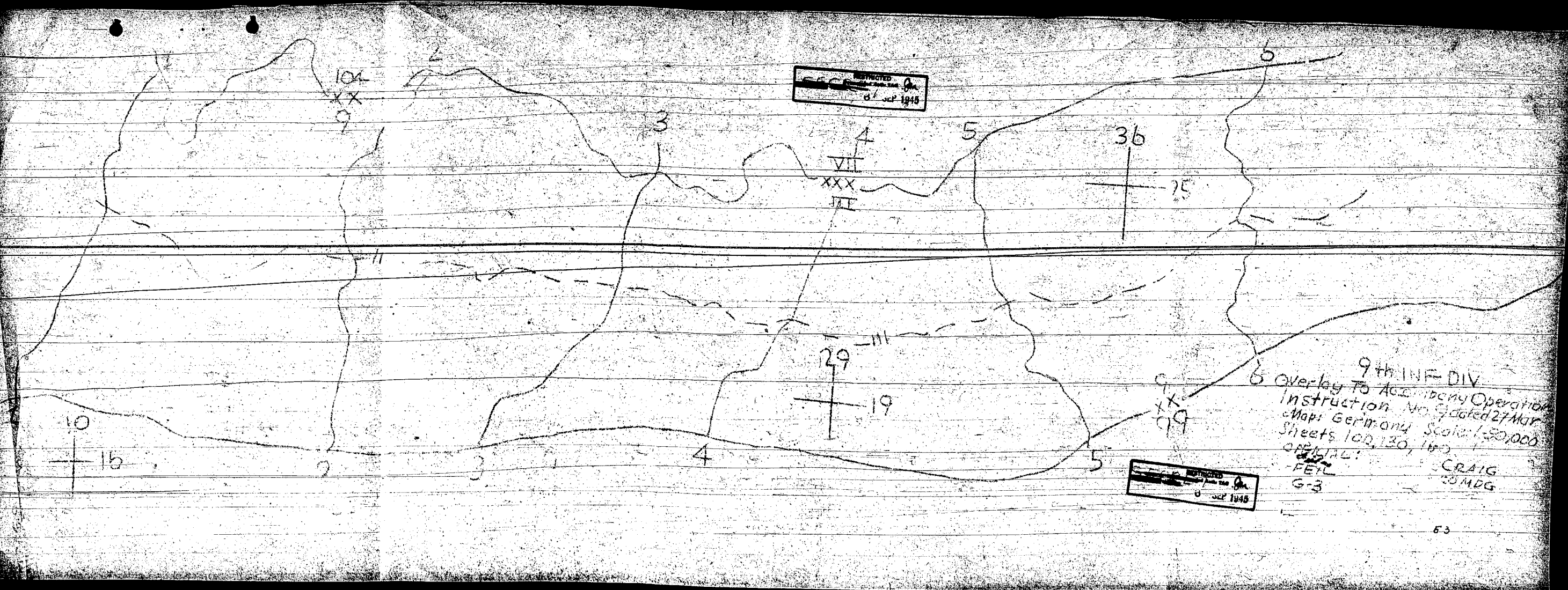
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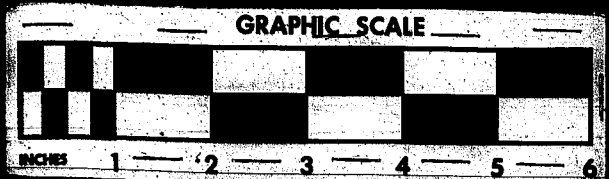
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Annex #1 - Opns Overlay

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Downgraded Auth TAG
6 SEP 1945



9th INF DIV
 Overlay to Assembly Operation
 Instruction No. 9 dated 27 Mar
 Map: Germany Scale: 1:50,000
 Sheets 100, 130, 140
 OPERATIONAL:
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 G-3
 CRAIG
 504MG



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Downgraded Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945
HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION
A.P.O. #9

SECRET
By Authority CG 9th Inf Div
27 March 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div, APO #9
272200 March 1945

OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS #10

1. 60th Inf
 - a. Will be prepared to establish bridgeheads over DILL River in zone.
 - b. Will be prepared to relieve elements 7th Armd Div of security of bridges over DILL River, in zone.
 - c. Will be prepared for further advance to NE in zone.
2. 47th Inf
 - a. Will be prepared to establish bridgeheads over DILL River in zone.
 - b. Will be prepared to relieve elements 7th Armd Div of security of bridges over DILL River, in zone.
 - c. Will be prepared for further advance to NE in zone.
3. 39th Inf
 - a. Will remain in present posns in Div Res.
4. 32nd Cav Sq (less 2 plats Troop C, plus 9th Ron Troop)
 - a. Will be prepared to advance to the NE, in Div zone, maintaining contact with 7th Armd Div.
 - b. Will maintain contact with VII Corps on the left (North).
 - c. Will protect left (North) flank of Div.

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G-3

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Comd

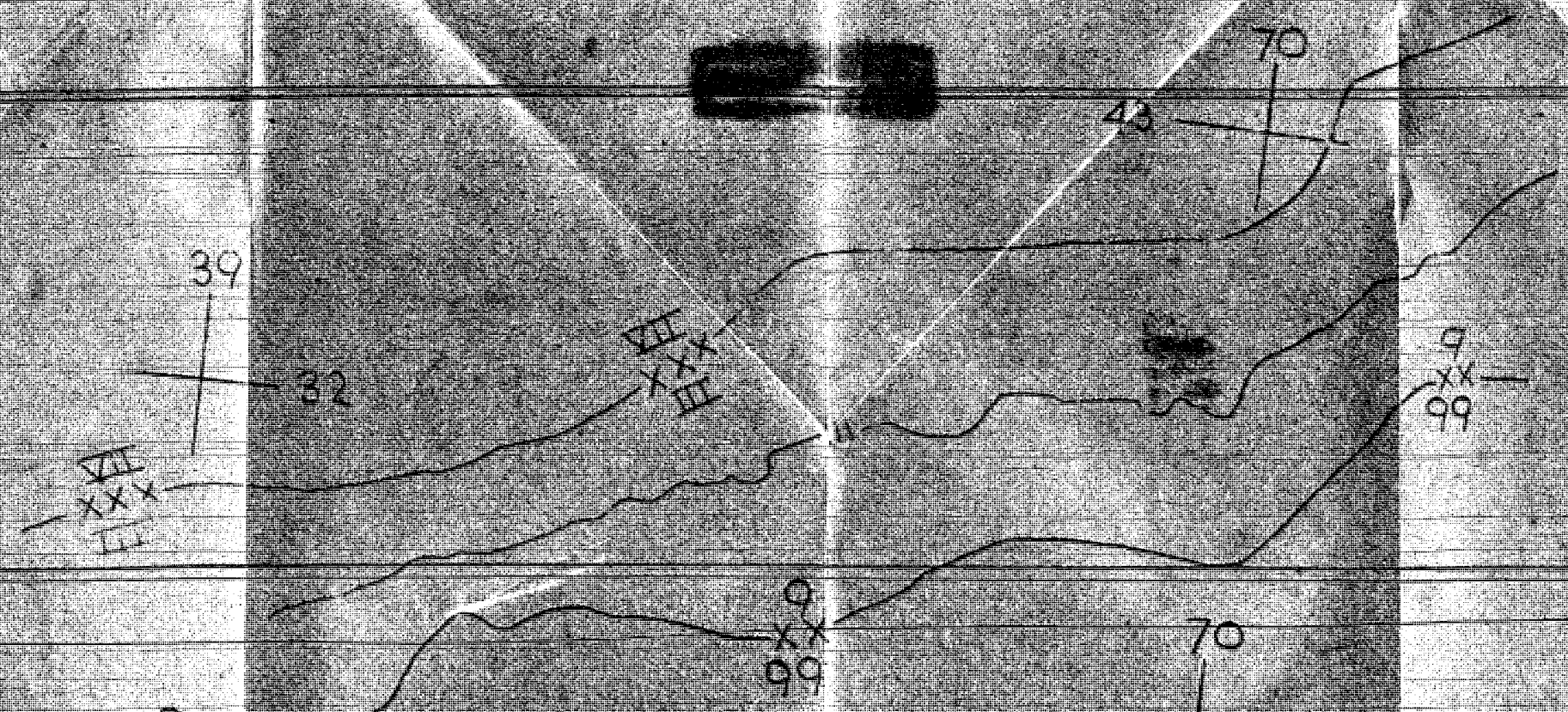
Annex #1 - Opns Overlay

RESTRICTED
Downgraded Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

Name		Rank		Grade		Signature	
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100				

WA.

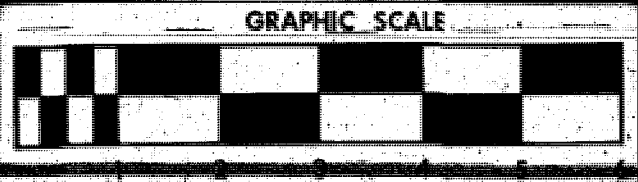
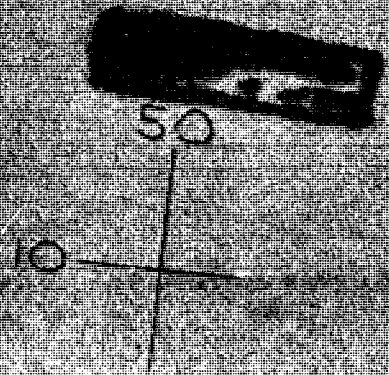
Otto Junker, Lammersdorf, T. S. Lottsch



9th INF DIV
 OVERLEY TO ACCOMPANY
 OPERATIONS INSTRUCTIONS
 NO 10

27 Mar 1945
 Mod. Germany
 Scale: 1-100,000
 Sheets: R2, R3, S2, S3

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 G-3
 CRAIG
 COMDS



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 Downloaded Auth: TAG
 6 SEP 1945
 Inf Div
 RFO 7/9
 0800 - 31 Mar 45

MARCH TABLE

UNIT	ROUTE	IP	TIME TIME HEAD			REMARKS
			DATE	LENGTH	REACHES IP	
Div Hq	"A" Route:	RJ-713417	31	20 min	1500	Not to reach
Div Arty Hq	FRONSW -			05 min		RJ-580612
9 Sig Co	MARLURG -			15 min		before 1600
	RJ-697568 -					
	RJ-580612 -					
	RJ-599609 -					
	HATZFELD -					
	Destination					
39 Rgtl CT	"D" Route:	GLADENLACH	31	3 hrs	1515	Head of 39 CT
	LOHRA -					not to reach
	GLADENLACH -					RJ-54258
	FRIEDENSDORF -					before 1600
	LIEDENKOPF -					
	LAUSHE -					
	Destination					
47 Rgtl Ct	"A" Route	RJ-713417	31	3 hrs	1540	
60 Rgtl Ct	"A" Route	RJ-713417	31	3 hrs	1850	
34 PA Bn	"A" Route	RJ-713417	31	45 min	2200	Attend to 60 CT
746 Tank	"D" Route	GLADENLACH	1	10 min		
(less L-D-C-D)	"D" Route	GLADENLACH	1	10 min		
899 TD	"D" Route	GLADENLACH	1	10 min		
(less L-D-C)	"D" Route	GLADENLACH	1	10 min		

- Average Rate of March - 20-MPH except Mod Arty, Tanks & TD's
 - Mod Arty - 15-MPH
 - Tanks & TD's - 10-MPH
- Units will post own guides.
- MP's will assist traffic.
- Interval 75-yds.
- Panels will be displayed in accordance with Operations Memo #4, First U.S. Army, dated 21 Jan 45.
- Upon completion of the move all trucks except those from Division or permanently attached units will be released.

By Command of Maj Gen CRAIG:

WILLIAM C. WESTHORELAND
 Colonel, G. S. G.,
 Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

G. R. RUFF
 Major, G.S.G.
 Asst MC of S. G. 4.

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 6 SEP 1945

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Downgraded Auth: YAS
6 SEP 1945

ANNEX #2 - LESSONS LEARNED

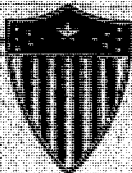
1. A captured Non-Commissioned Officer testified that WP shells frequently set his tanks on fire and that his men had come to dread the appearance of WP more than HE. The prisoner's statement was verified when a concentration of WP was fired on a group of five enemy tanks that had been holding up the advance of an infantry unit for almost a whole day. Concentrations of HE had had no apparent effect on the group but following the use of WP, one tank was seen burning and the other four withdrew, allowing the infantry unit to continue the advance.

2. A method for the execution of night attacks has been devised which proceeds as follows: Two or three hours prior to H-Hour, an artillery TOT is placed on the objective, causing the enemy to suffer casualties and causing confusion and nervous exhaustion among his troops. Then at H-Hour, without an artillery preparation, a rapid march is made to the objective over a previously planned route which by-passes enemy outposts. Armor is never employed due to the possibility of the noise awakening the enemy outposts and alerting the defenders. Invariably the enemy is found asleep, recovering from the strain of having endured the heavy artillery fire, and complete surprise is obtained.

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Downgraded Auth: YAS
6 SEP 1945

RESTRICTED

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



1-12
CG
9
NY

DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

OPERATIONS BRANCH - A.G.O.
COMBAT ANALYSIS SECTION
ROOM 1C 942, PENTAGON

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
COMBATTANTS' COMMITTEE

ADD REPRODUCTION
SEEK FOR 3057

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1-12
CG
9
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CG
9
NY

RESTRICTED
Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INT: 1/1/45 *
* DATE: 1/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

6 SEP 1945
FROM: 202200 Feb 1945
TO: 012200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic BOICH-LEVERSACH.
1 March 1945.

No. 223.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 223377 - FROITZHEIM - 192345 - 178337 - 175327 - 170318 - 115315.

b. Units identified:

- 9th, 12th, 11th Cos, 6th Pzcht Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th Cos, 8th Pzcht Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 1st Co, 5th Pzcht Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 3rd, 4th Cos, 3rd Pzcht Pzcht Bn.
- Alarm Co, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 1st, 2nd Cos, 3rd Pzcht AT Bn.
- 2nd Co, 3rd Pzcht Mortar Bn.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: Enemy infantry supported by heavy fire from SP guns, tanks and mortars defended stubbornly from trenches and pillboxes the advance of the 2nd and 3rd Bns, 39th Inf in the FROITZHEIM-GINNICK area. House-to-house fighting in FROITZHEIM resulted in the enemy's being pushed out to the open country, where he fought skillfully, taking advantage of the rolling terrain. At least 3 of his assault guns were knocked out. 1st Bn troops met little resistance on their advance to HOF LIRIAU (223378).

Enemy high-velocity and mortar fire were moderate on the 2nd and 3rd Bns, 60th Inf; small groups of enemy defended in a stubborn delaying action in the area between MULDENAU and EMBKEN. In HAUSEN, enemy small arms and mortar fire were heavy.

b. Other fronts: V Corps - Town at 0803 (SCHNORRENBURG) cleared after moderate small arms and mortar fire at 1730A. Received heavy arty and Nobelwaffer fire in 0908, 0505, 0403 areas. Friendly patrols received enemy fire from OBERWOHLFERT (0905) and from UNTERWOLFBERT (1005). Enemy patrols active in F 101147 area and 3 enemy armored vehicles destroyed by our arty at 08580277, 50 Pz as of 1800A, from 980th Inf Regt, 164th Inf Regt, 990th Inf Regt and 4 deserters from 5th Co, 277th Arty Regt.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Scattered showers with visibility improving in course of day to 3-4 miles except in rain. Winds: northerly, 12-18 mph. Temperature: maximum, 48°; minimum, 33°. Limited to full fighter-bomber operations possible all during period. Civil twilight: PM 2 March 1817; AM 3 March 0639.

b. Total number of Pz processed during period: 238.
Total number of Pz processed since D day: 32,029.

c. UNDERGROUND HANGAR: Civilians report an underground hangar just S of the main road KALK-BRÜCK (E of COLOGNE), beginning 1 kilometer from BRÜCK and extending for many hundred meters in the direction of the RHINE.

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Paul J. Zinkle, Major, AGO
OWNING OFFICER'S COMMITTEE

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h. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. (1) The enemy is capable of attempting a holding and delaying action with infantry elements supported by assault gun and tank formations.
- (2) The enemy is capable of launching local counterattacks of not exceeding a battalion in strength.

b. Discussion:

After our initial surprise in attacking from the north instead of attempting an actual forced crossing of the river, the enemy has somewhat caught his breath and managed to put a little order into his holding action. Prisoner interrogations indicate that intentions are one of delay to gain time. They are not certain of the reason for the action, other than they have been told of a big show coming off the latter part of the month, strongly supported by the jet plane. They know nothing of dispositions other than their own. The enemy's resistance is becoming more stubborn as he re-organizes the pieces. He has now swung to piecemeal defense. Elements of several companies, and even battalions are likely to be found in one local strong point of resistance.

It is expected that elements of the 353rd VG Regt will be encountered in the northern part of the division sector as we advance on the ERFT River. In the southern areas will be found the remnants of the 6th and 8th Pzcht Divs, and probably elements or all of the 5th Pzcht Regt, of the 3rd Pzcht Div.

At present some six infantry and two Pa divisions, remain unlocated, although there are some twenty-five divisions that are not at present in solid contact. The most likely reinforcement to appear in the zone of advance of the division is the 272nd VG Div, which at last report was in position in the GEMUND sector, with one regiment having been withdrawn for rest and refitting. The lack of strong pressure to our south may allow the enemy to withdraw elements from the quiet sectors and move them north, now that the holding of the line immediately to the south of GEMUND is no longer of tactical value. It is expected to see considerable movement of those units in that area, and it is probable that they will be thrown into the way of our advances.

It is still felt that a major offensive is not likely, but that attacks of companies and battalions for limited objectives is probable. It is possible that a newly-committed division may initially attack as it is committed in the area.

Joseph H. Ferguson
JACK A. HOUSTON, 2nd Lt. Col., GSG,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2.

Dist: n/c

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #223,

PW REPORT

From: 281800 Feb 1945
To : 011800 Mar 1945

1. Units identified in the division sector:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, Regt Hq Cos, 6th Pchrt Regt.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th, 15th, 1st En Hq Cos, 8th Pchrt Regt.
1st, Baker CT (Co), 5th Pchrt Regt.
1st, 2nd Cos, 3rd Pchrt Engr Bn.
Alarm Co, 3rd Pchrt Div.
2nd Co, 941st Inf Regt.
2nd Btry, 902nd Assault Gun Brigade.
3rd Btry, 109th Volk Arty Corps.
Regt Hq, 185th Arty Regt.

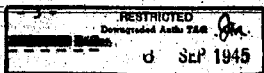
2. General information:

Again, information gathered from PW interrogation leads to the conclusion that the enemy forces confronting this division will try and occupy their next line of defense installation W of the ERPE River. There are indications that small enemy forces (probably company strength) will occupy some of the trenches and fox holes S and NW of ZUELPICH, and if driven out will use the town itself as a defensive installation. However, speaking of the defensive installations before and in ZUELPICH does not, according to P&B, mean any strong fortification. Information has been obtained that the roads leading into this town have been blocked by previously-prepared AT barriers, which are not constructed in depth. These barriers consist of the usual type, namely, a number of trees driven into the sidewalk and part of the road itself, with the space between these trees filled with sand. Large logs have been alongside of those barriers for some time, and are to fill up the gap which has been kept to allow traffic to pass through. Another part of the ZUELPICH defenses is several large bomb craters which have not been filled by the enemy. Some of these craters block the street leading into the town from the W.

The RR line running NW to SE, with its station approximately one kilometer E of the center of ZUELPICH, is intended to be another line of defense for the enemy. Confirmed reports of P&B speak of trenches and log-covered fox holes along the W edge of the RR tracks, using the latter in a similar manner to the tactics employed by the enemy during the ESCHWELLER operations, W of DUEREN.

As to the subject of mines in and around the town of ZUELPICH, P&B who passed through that area 2 and 3 days ago state that no visible signs of any extensive mine preparations could be observed.

There have been no indications of any considerable new enemy units that may confront our division sector during the next period. It will still be the by now badly-battered 6th and 8th Pchrt Regts. It is expected that the 3rd Pchrt Div will call into the front lines more of its rear echelon organizations, as it has already done during this period. Good proof of the poor condition of the 3rd Pchrt Div was the commitment of the Divisional Alarm Co. Just as the word says, the enemy had fairly good reasons to be alarmed about the disorganization of his regiments and thus committed the above company as a unit. The men have worked and trained together for almost 3 weeks.



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3. One of the recent additions to the ~~1st~~ ~~Co~~ ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~P7~~ whose original unit can be compared - at least in nomenclature - with our Ordnance Co. This Ordnance Co is at present time still busily engaged repairing the trucks and motor vehicles of the 3rd Frcht Div at SECHTEM (4543). Then the Germans repair their motor vehicles, they do not have the quantity of spare parts as we do. Consequently, an enemy Ordnance Co is often compelled to make their own parts. This takes more time and forces the motor officers to deadline a great number of the vehicles as the shops cannot put out repair jobs fast enough, even though it employs two platoons of 60 men each. There are some 60-odd motor vehicles parked idle in the vicinity of SECHTEM, all belonging to the 3rd Frcht Div, awaiting repair.

4. A Volks Arty Corps is considered the protege of the German High Command, and when such a Corps as the 409th has to leave some 8 guns out of one battalion in a rear area because of the immobility of its guns, due to tractor and fuel shortage, a German officer PW belonging to that unit drew the conclusion that every one of these guns will have to be blown up or captured in our present offensive. It was also pointed out by this PW that the Volks Arty Corps had new orders to withdraw their guns to new firing positions only at the last minute. This has been practiced in the FRUEN area where artillery guns sometimes waited to move to the rear until the front lines were within one kilometer. There is a flag and sound battery somewhere in the SW direction of WAGEN, which has the mission of locating concentrated US artillery positions. When their job is done, they give their targets to the Luftwaffe, and not to other artillery units for counterbattery.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #223, Hq. 9th Inf Div, dated 1 March 1945.

ENEMY PATROL

The following is a translation of a captured document:

III Bn, 6th Frcht Regt
I a section (S-2)

Cf, Feb 26, 1945

Tentative results of the patrol mission accomplished by Pvt v. BIEL, Pfc ROESLER, Cpls TAMM and HORNUTH on Feb 23-26, 1945.

The patrol crossed the ROER on Feb 23, 1945 at dawn in a small floating bag at a point approximately 300 m north of HAUSAUER House, worked through the ravine north of Hill 356.8 (hunting lodge) towards the western edge of the forest, and reached the southern outskirts of BRANDENBERG at approximately 2100 hrs on Feb 24. Due to the mines and barbed wire blocking the entrance it was not possible for them to penetrate into the village itself. Thereupon the patrol withdrew in a northeasterly direction as far as the forest and observed the traffic on the BRANDENBERG-BERGSTEIN road from a foxhole. In the course of about 12 hours the following data was gathered: from BRANDENBERG towards BERGSTEIN:

- 153 passenger cars occupied by 4-6 men each.
- 53 trucks carrying troops
- 20 motorcycles with sidecars
- 7 heavy tanks.
- 6 armored cars.

From BERGSTEIN towards BRANDENBERG:

- 129 passenger cars, mostly empty.
- 17 trucks, empty.
- 8 motorcycles.
- 2 trucks with ammunition.

The vehicles were invariably packed full of troops on their way to BERGSTEIN, while they ran almost invariably empty on the return trip.

During the night 24-25 Feb the attempt to enter BRANDENBERG was renewed, but failed for the same reason as on the day before. However, it was observed that the enemy took up positions on the western edge of the woods, due northeast of BRANDENBERG. During the same night the patrol pushed forward in a southeasterly direction towards BERGSTEIN; on the level ground north of BERGSTEIN, it encountered a large number of AA guns among which the patrol - only a few yards from the pieces and their crews moved quite freely in an upright position.

The attempt to approach the BERGSTEIN-BRANDENBERG road due north of BERGSTEIN offered serious difficulties, as the eastern approaches to the road were also closed by means of minefields and wire.

NE of BERGSTEIN, at 360.3, they found a small alloy which - protected on the other side on the road by two tanks - made an approach to, and an eventual crossing of the road possible. Here a large concentration of enemy arty and mortar positions was sighted in the gully south of BRANDENBERG. Furthermore, a considerable amount of telephone wire was observed alongside the above-mentioned road.

During the 25th the patrol remained in the immediate vicinity of the road and continued to watch it; several tank tracks led from the BERGSTEIN-BRANDENBERG road toward the NE and stopped suddenly giving rise to the supposition that single tanks fired from these positions at our MLR and especially at those of our command posts and observation posts which were located on high ground. In addition, gun reports and rocket batteries were sighted in the area between BUREBERG and BERGSTEIN Center:

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On the evening of the 25th, the patrol, in compliance with orders, left its position at 2200 hrs and returned without loss following the same route.

In conclusion it may be stated that the extremely animated vehicular traffic points to a movement in the ZERSALL-BERGSTEIN-BUROBERG area. On the other hand the sector facing the 9th Co is very thinly held, at least as far as the river bank and surrounding hill slopes are concerned. The pillboxes there were empty.

In reference to the two pontoons situated respectively 300 m north of NEUENHOF (opposite KALLERBEND) on the ROER bank and NW of NEUENHOF in the woods, the concentration of infantry permits the inference that the main effort of the expected attack will occur in front of the 10th Co and on the right flank of the 11th. The regroupings and reinforcements necessitated by this information will be effected by subsequent orders.

Apart from the well-deserved acknowledgment by higher quarters of the achievements of this patrol I hasten to express to each one of its members my particular appreciation.

EGGERS
Captain and Bn Commander

~~Appendix: The contents of this Summary will be communicated to subordinate commanders in an appropriate manner and each man will be reminded of the responsibility he has to assume in defending his present position.~~

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* AUTH: CG 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *Sc. Lic.* *
* DATE: 2/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

012200 Feb 1945.
TO 1945 022200 Feb 1945.

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic MUEDESHEIM.
2 March 1945.

No. 224.
Map: GSGS 4444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 315477 - 326384 - 302355 - 260349 - 220341 - 210327.

b. Enemy units in contact:

1st, 5th, 7th, 14th, 15th, Regtl Hq Cos, 8th Pzcht Regt.
3rd Co, 5th Pzcht Regt.
1st Bn Hq, 6th Pzcht Regt.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, Hq Cos, 3rd Pzcht Mortar Bn.
5th Co, 3rd Pzcht Repl Bn.
1st Btry, 409th Volks Arty Corps.
6th Co, 183rd Regt, 62nd Div
1st Co, 3rd AT Bn, 3rd Pzcht Div.
1st Co, 272nd Assault Gun Brig.
Alarm Co 162, 62nd Div.

c. Further information on units in contact:

Evidence that the 62nd Div is being partially diverted to this front is at hand in the identification of two elements of that unit, the 183rd Regt (near GIECH) and the 162nd Alarm Bn. The 183rd Regt it would appear has been until recently in the process of reforming in EUSKIRCHEN where it still has its CP. Only the 2nd Bn has been identified; it is a three-battalion regiment, partly composed of remnants of the 3rd Regt of the 62nd which has ceased to exist. The 183rd Regt it will be remembered was met by the 9th Div in the MONSCHAU area last month, and was identified in its entirety at that time. The Alarm Co is even more of a makeshift unit, and indicative only of the commitment of rear echelon elements.

The other development in order of battle is the further identification of the 3rd Pzcht Div units on this front foreseen and expected daily. Apart from the badly shattered elements of the 8th and 6th Pzcht Regts, two battalions of the five Pzcht Regts have been identified. The other divisional units are: the Repl Bn, the Engr Repl Bn, the Mortar Bn, and the 3rd AT Bn. The 409th Volks Arty Corps, the 272nd Assault Gun Brig and the one Pzcht from the 9th Div, though likely to be met again should nevertheless be considered as straggler identifications.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD.

a. General: After the enemy had been dislodged from the rolling terrain favorable to a delaying action he was obliged to withdraw as speedily as possible to sites best adapted to further resistance. EMBKEN, which on the day before had been the scene of violent action was taken in the morning without opposition, and JUNTERSDORF was also occupied. At FUESSENICH enemy opposition became active.

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After noon the enemy recovered enough to harass the BÜCKENICH and JÜNTERS-DORF areas with small arms and arty fire. Some of this fire (notably in the south) came from isolated installations immediately south of EMBKEN; to the north ZWELPICH and NORVENICH each proved to be the center of enemy forces and fire power. A small scale counterattack was launched from the latter village in the middle of the afternoon but broken up by arty before it got underway. In the evening the enemy withdrew from the town towards ZWELPICH with some 180 men, 8 tanks (or SPs) and several half-tracks; later in the evening there was evidence of ZWELPICH being further fortified in preparation for defense: in addition to road blocks and demolitions there are entrenchments near the marshalling yard.

Enemy aircraft were overhead in small numbers after dark. No damage was reported.

- b. Other fronts: 1st Div approached RECHENICH (3145), meeting no arty or mortar fire; ARHEM (3143) was taken; little resistance was encountered and no arty or mortar fire reported. Opposition came chiefly from the 353rd Div. The 8th Div reported stiff resistance in the forenoon, slackening later in the day. Few mines were met, and the enemy withdrew generally in an east-southeasterly direction. SP fire was at times intense.

The 3rd Armd Div had elements in NIEDERAUSSEN (2565) and OBERAUSSEN. Fighting ensued in the FORJUNA mining district NW of COLOGNE. According to the 99th DIV reports, the 10th Div in occupying QUADRATH (26007) and HORREM (2758) encountered considerable sniping from civilians in the houses, probably Volkssturm. Rocket fire was received and arty fire was heavy.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: No weather forecast received from higher headquarters.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during period: 348.
Total number of PWs processed since D day: 32,377.
- c. ARTILLERY BRIGADES: Four arty brigades have been dissolved since last week, according to a PW: there were the 942nd, 244th, 243rd, 905th Assault-Gun Brigades, each brigade having three batteries: there were 41 SP guns per brigade.
- d. MAN OF THE HOUR: The garrison of the town of MULDENAU was composed in the following manner: stragglers from general units, all of them of the 3rd Pz Div were energetically corralled by a young lieutenant of the 8th Pz Regt and summoned to fight to the last man for the sake of national honor. After having aroused the men to renewed efforts so that they were fully prepared to defend the town to the last, the lieutenant disappeared in an easterly direction and was not seen again. The garrison laterly surrendered without a struggle.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

Jack A. Houston
JACK A. HOUSTON, Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1
Dist: n/c

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Downgraded Auth: TAG
8 SEP 1945

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Declassified Auth: TAG
Date: 1995
3rd Pz Div, Gated 2 March 1945

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #224, 3rd Pz Div, Gated 2 March 1945

PW REPORT

From: 011800 Mar 1945
To : 021800 Mar 1945

1. The progress of our troops during this period has brought us well into the area which was formerly occupied by enemy units of regimental and divisional headquarters level and other enemy units. When German front line troops occupied the E banks of the ROER river, the towns of GEICH, FUESSENICH, JUNTERSDORF, ZUELPICH and NEMMENICH were used for the enemy's rear echelon. These echelons, although having moved into the towns E of EUSKIRCHEN, have left traces, for example deserters. Some who were drivers of motor vehicles were able to describe the area between ZUELPICH and EUSKIRCHEN as follows:

The entrenchments and dugouts our troops have found up to ZUELPICH will not be found on the direct road leading to EUSKIRCHEN, leading through UELPENICH (265312), DUERSCHVEHEN and ELSIG. There are some reports, however, that the enemy has moved an approximately 500 Russian, French and Italian laborers into the army at EUSKIRCHEN (321295). These men have been digging defensive installations of the usual type around the NW and W approaches of the town of EUSKIRCHEN for the past week. There are indications that elements of the 3rd Pz Div will try and defend this town. EUSKIRCHEN itself has repeatedly been reported as completely destroyed. There are less civilians in this town than in the small villages we have captured during this period. There is a factory at 32287 between EUEHENIM and EUSKIRCHEN which has been used as a CP for the 3rd Pz Div until very recently.

2. Confirmed reports indicate the presence of the 1st Bn, 409th Volks Arty Corps between the two towns of UELPENICH and DUERSCHVEHEN. This coincides with another statement made by a German arty officer PW of the new tactics employed by Volks Arty Corps, that their arty pieces remain close to the front lines until the last min. One statement made by an officer PW today discloses the German tactics insofar as moving their arty pieces into a new position is concerned: during a US drive such as the present one the Germans consider the terrain and the size of a town and thus assume our objective for the day. Then they move their arty pieces close behind the town. While our troops remain within the area of the objective taken within the period the Germans have time to pull these guns out during the night.

3. As far as reinforcements for the enemy units in the defense of EUSKIRCHEN are concerned, it has been revealed that at least one regiment (183rd VG Regt) of the 62nd VG Div has come up from the GEMUND area to support the very rapidly shrinking elements of the 3rd Pz Div. Accurate intentions and whereabouts of the remaining elements of the 164th VG Regt could not be obtained by PW interrogation. All three regiments had suffered extremely heavy casualties during our drive to the URF Dam. The 190th Regt has been dissolved, and since that time the 183rd VG Regt has received replacements under very limited scale, putting its two battalions to a strength of approximately 200 men each. This took place at ENZEN (2629). The regt CP is still in that town. There were some reports as to the whereabouts of the 85th Div. The unit left behind a divisional MP com-com with a squad of men detailed and authorized to issue march orders to all stragglers belonging to this division to proceed immediately to a town near EDMAR in the province of THURINGIA, where the division itself is supposed to be reformed. The CP of the 85th Div was located at UELPENICH until last Saturday.

4. A German medical M/Sgt PW, questioned as to the evacuation and handling of German wounded soldiers, explained that evacuation itself is done in most cases by means of horse-drawn vehicles, and if at all possible considering the condition of the wounded, the aid men leave their patients in a conspicuous place for the Americans to take care of after a swift administration of first aid. As a whole, this is one of the most difficult problems of the German Medical Corps during a fast drive of our troops.

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3rd Pz Div, Gated 2 March 1945

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5. Two truck drivers who became PWs at BAD GODESBERG indicate with their statements that this town had been and still is used by all the German forces between EUSKIRCHEN and the RHINE (probably army sector) as a main point of replacement units, large motor pools and distributing areas for all enemy divisions fighting in this area.

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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945



* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: SJ *
* DATE: 3/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic HUEDDERSHEIL
3 March 1945.

No. 225.

Map: GCS 1:11, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

- a. Enemy front lines: 346348 - 297347 - 297332 -- ZUELPICH.
b. Units identified:

Regtl Hq, 4th, 5th, 11th Btrys, 162nd Arty Regt, 62nd VG Div.
Fusilier Bn, 3rd Pzcht Div.
CT ZORN, 941st Regt.
189th Ers. Bn.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1st Bn Hq Cos, 62nd Ers Bn.
1st Co, 162nd Comm. Bn.
1st Btry, 513th AA Bn.
8th Btry, 353rd Arty Regt.
Service Co, 353rd Div.
Security Guard, 6th, 7th, 9th, 14th and 15th Cos, 2nd Bn Hq Cos, 8th Pzcht Regt.
2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 12th and Hq Co, 5th Pzcht Regt.
9th Co, 6th Pzcht Regt.
3rd Pzcht Mortar Bn.
3rd Pzcht Engr. Bn.
Regtl Hq, 183rd Regt.
Assault platoon, 8th Pzcht Regt.
1st, 3rd, 4th Cos, Hq Co, 3rd Fus. Bn.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

- a. General: An estimated 250 enemy infantry supported by SP and AT guns and arty fire counter-attacked the 1st Bn, 39th Inf, this morning from DERKUM toward LOMBERSUM; the volume of high-velocity and arty fire was intense. The attack was beaten off at 1330, and firefights continued in the town during the afternoon. By the end of the period, our troops had pushed the enemy back to 346348, but were still receiving intense MG and small arms fire from the E, as well as harassing arty fire.

The 1st and 3rd Bns, 60th Inf took ZUELPICH against little enemy resistance early in the period.

Stiff resistance from an estimated 200 enemy foot troops, supported by high-velocity fire, was met by the 4th Inf in taking OBER WICHTERFICH today. Some of these direct-fire weapons were discovered to be camouflaged in haystacks.

- b. Artillery: Enemy artillery fire was heaviest today in the area of the 1st Bn, 39th Inf; 6 to 8 SPs and 75mm AT guns were active throughout the period, firing from the vicinity of HAUSWEILER-DERKUM. At least 3 enemy batteries were identified between FRAUENBERG and BUSKIRCHEN. These batteries alternately firing on our forward positions from OBERELWENICH to LOMBERSUM. Air OPs adjusted on these 3 batteries, and claimed at least 2 guns destroyed and several probably damaged.



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c. Other fronts:

1st Inf Div - DIRMERZHEIM (F 3117), KONRADSHHEIM (F 3216), LIBLAR (F 3516), AHREM (F 3113), and BLESSEM (F 3416) all cleared. One counterattack from F 3615 toward LIBLAR (F 3516) from SE of 150-175 men and 6-9 SP guns or tanks was repelled at 1500A. Some SPs entered town but no infantry; arty was described as steady, harassing, medium in intensity, of 150mm caliber. 132 Pts were taken from the 12th VG Div and 353rd VG DIV. No bridges were reported intact in division zone.

9th Arm Div - LANGENDORF (F 2131), HERZENICH (F 2230), and WICHTERICH (F 2935) cleared of enemy during period. Stiff resistance in N of WELLES-WIST (F 3610) consisting of intense small arms fire and 75mm and 86mm ATs in strength continued at end of period. Enemy resistance in general showed definite increase upon reaching ERFT river with a definite increase in arty fire being noted. Numerous small groups or single tanks were reported along division front with no concentrations of armor being observed. ROITZHEIM (F 3427) - STOTZHEIM (F 3425) road being prepared by enemy for blocking with wooden barricades.

78th Inf Div - BURVENICH (F 1929) cleared after house-to-house fighting against moderate to light resistance. Estimated 500 civilians still occupying town. Later in period heavy arty fire was received vicinity BURVENICH (F 1929) and VIATTEN (F 1528).

V Corps - reached 111209-119220-125222. Received small arms fire from pill box 098119; mortar fire 095115. No resistance at 105153-109158-103117-080025; small arms fire received at edge of SCHLEIDEN. Booby traps in homes 109158. Arty and mortar fire very light. The 26th Repl Bn, Alarm Co, 981st Regt, 1st Co, 78th Regt; identified.

American Ninth Army troops today contacted Canadian troops at E 9828.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Overcast; few scattered snow showers during morning turning to rain in afternoon. Winds: NW, 5-10 mph. Temperature: maximum 40°; minimum 25°. Fighter-bomber operations limited during morning due to cloud conditions, becoming restricted in afternoon. Civil twilight: PM 4 March 1850, AM 5 March 0635.
- b. Total number of Pts processed during period: 387.
Total number of Pts processed since D day: 32,761.
- c. BOOBY BED: The detail clearing a building for use as PW cage for the 39th Inf discovered 6 Schu-mines under the mattress of a bed in one of the rooms being cleaned out; fortunately for the detail, the mines had not been armed.
- d. STRASSENKARTE VON DEUTSCHLAND ROADMAP (ENGR): There is an urgent need for captured copies of any sheets of the STRASSENKARTE VON DEUTSCHLAND Roadmap published by Der Deutsche Automobil Club. Units possessing or finding these maps will forward them immediately to the Army Engineer.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

No change.

John B. Baker
for
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSG,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3, #4.
Dist: n/c except add GCB, 9th Arm

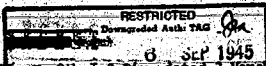
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6 SEP 1945

PW REPORT

From: 021800 Mar 1945
To : 031800 Mar 1945

1. **General Information:** The last 24 hours have brought the first changes in enemy forces to our division front since the crossing of the ROER River. At least two divisions or elements of them have been identified, in addition to those which have been opposing us up to now. However, it has been concluded from PW statements that these units are all moving toward COLOGNE, or at least across the ERFT River, coming up from as far S as SCHLEIDEN and GEBUEND. While passing along our entire S flank from HELLBACH (near the ROER dams) to LOPERSUM, these divisions have detailed a unit of about a battalion strength to keep a constant guard to their N flank, which has been the reason for their identification in the sector of our division. None of the prisoners seem to know of other units relieving those which have moved in a NE direction, and it is indicated that the Germans have pulled out from the areas SE of our present front lines.
2. **Manpower Salvage:** Although there is a steady flow of relatively large numbers of PW coming in to this enclosure, the Germans are trying to save as many men as possible from getting captured in a sector which they estimate as unimportant or hopeless. Of course, this does not coincide with the more customary manner in which the enemy sacrifices great numbers of troops. PWs from the 8th Precht Regt state that their mission was to exert pressure against our advance and encirclement of ZUELPICH only long enough to allow the newly-formed Fusilier Bn of the 3rd Precht Div to withdraw to its new position of EUSKIRCHEN.
3. **The Next Town:** of a fairly large size is EUSKIRCHEN. Up to the present moment PW interrogation indicates that the enemy may want to defend this town, using its ruins as fortifications on our advance towards BONN. One officer PW went as far as to say that the defense of EUSKIRCHEN may again depend upon the same action and tactics of US forces which were employed at ZUELPICH; that is, an advance along the N edge of the town, which would lead us well beyond EUSKIRCHEN, and threaten to cut off the enemy's last chance of withdrawal towards COLOGNE. EUSKIRCHEN itself has about the same defensive setup and construction as ZUELPICH; with the inevitable AT barriers and road blocks. The town itself is flattened out and PWs state that there are very few soldiers and civilians in the area.
4. **Why Withdraw Toward COLOGNE** was the question asked to practically all PWs processed by this office during this period who were part of the units forming the semi-circle around the ancient city at the present time. As far as tactical and military value is concerned, no information could be obtained as to this move. However, some of the PWs still speak of morale and saving "face" before the German population. One PW explained: "It took the Americans some time to cross the ROER River; how long will it take him to cross the RHINE? We still think it to be close to an impossibility. It took the Americans great efforts to capture AACHEN; how long will it take them to capture COLOGNE? We look upon COLOGNE, says the German prisoner, in continuation of "Why COLOGNE", as a bastion at least 3 times the size of AACHEN, and as many times more valuable a communication center, also as a great morale factor for the German people. If the Americans can take a city as large as COLOGNE, I can see no stopping them elsewhere."

The Germans have built fortifications all along the E bank of the RHINE River and have concentrated a considerable force of arty close enough to the river to cover American-held territory to some depth. This includes large caliber guns which some prisoners describe as guns similar to coast arty.



Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #225, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 3 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

3rd Pzcht Div:

A plausible answer was given today to the question regarding the fate of the 9th Pzcht Regt. A deserter from the 3rd Pzcht Fusilier Bn stated that his unit was made up of the remnants of that regiment after the 6th and 8th had had their quotas of replacements. The battalion consists of four companies with approximately 90 men per company. It took part in the defense of ZUELPICH and is now believed to be in EUSKIRCHEN. Thus Genlt. SCHLUPF has devised a means of acquiring an efficient new regiment (6th Pzcht Regt), while at the same time he is also putting the remainder of his 9th Pzcht Regt to the best possible use. According to PWs the Fusilier Bn is in the general area F 3243.

Only the 2nd Bn of the 8th Pzcht Regt was identified in the ZUELPICH sector today; after the capture of the city by our forces it withdrew to F 3030.

PWs from the 5th Pzcht Regt gave the location of their unit as vicinity F 1826.

62nd Volksgrenadier Div:

This division has been carried on the reserve list by higher headquarters during the last few days. Badly mauled in the ARDENNES and subsequently in the fighting near SCHLEIDEN and GERUEND, it is clearly below standard strength. Of the infantry regiments, only the 2nd Bn of the 183rd has been re-identified. PWs say it holds a sector near F 2531. PWs also state that the 190th Regiment no longer exists. As for other divisional units, the 162nd Arty Regt and 162nd Repl Bn furnished PWs. Since the 164th Regt is probably still the strongest element of the division, its commitment in this sector seems likely.

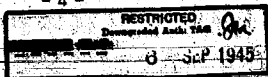
272nd Volksgrenadier Div:

PW from the Veterinary Co reports that the division has been withdrawn from the ROER dams and is now located at F 4523. It has been out of contact for several weeks.

600th Army Engr Bn:

Reported to consist of 4 companies with an average strength of 120 men. Its personnel is engaged in mine-laying behind the front lines in the vicinity of HUERTH (F 3953). PWs gave no information as to the present affiliation of the unit.

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #225, HQ 9th INF DIV, dated 3 March 1945.

EUSKIRCHEN

A few scattered civilians are living in this small industrial city with an original population of 15,000. Although the city is reported almost completely destroyed, telephone communication was intact until Monday, Feb 26, and electricity was still functioning until last week. One railroad track was in operation during the latter part of January.

Immediately after the Christmas bombing, nearly all shops were closed. At the same time, the water supply - probably coming from the RAFT river - was cut off.

There are 5 hotels in EUSKIRCHEN. The cellar of the largest one - Hotel zur POST - was flooded when a bomb struck the brewery next door. The cellars of most private houses are reported in good condition and have been reinforced during the past 12 months. The roads leading into and out of the town are said to be damaged but passable.

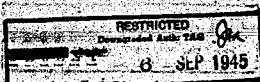
Civilians of EUSKIRCHEN and its surroundings were to have been evacuated four days ago via bus to DIERUM and thence to COLOGNE by train.

A former resident of EUSKIRCHEN estimates that 200-300 civilians remained in the cellars of that town. Bomb damage was described as "severe", especially in the public buildings section where the Post Office and the Nazi Party HQ received direct hits. Bomb craters were usually filled at once and all roads were usable as of two weeks ago. No mine fields were reported and digging was confined to isolated foxholes in the outskirts of the town. Small parties of laborers were engaged in digging trenches at the approaches to EUSKIRCHEN according to rumors of 5 days ago. Informant has never seen or heard of a military headquarters in EUSKIRCHEN.

THE RUHR

As our forces approach the important RUHR industrial region, it is thought by many that the capture of ESSEN will be the decisive blow to the enemy's war machine. This city of 643,000 may be the key to the vital objective but it will not deny GERMANY the wealth of coal and heavy industry which is distributed over an area approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that of RHODE ISLAND. At least four other cities have a population of 300,000-500,000 and the total number of inhabitants of the RUHR district reaches almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ million. The densely populated area is situated between the RUHR and LIPPE rivers, eastern tributaries of the RHINE.





Annex #4 to G-2 Periodic Report #22, 1st Inf Div, dated 3 March 1945.

PI REPORT

Enemy defenses and installations from sortie of 28 Feb 1945.

At 39393840 there are 3 camouflaged guns, 1 x 88mm and 2 x 75s, well dug in.

At 389385 there are 3 shelters which appear to be occupied.

At 403380 in the castle there is a hospital.

At METTERNICH there are 4 tanks (or SP) and at least 15 vehicles in the town, as well as a roadblock at 40253783.

At 407377 there are 2 batteries of guns.

At 433367 there are supplies and vehicles.

At 409386 there are 3 tanks (or SPs) 1 on the road, 2 in the woods.

At 408382 there are 4 unoccupied shelters.

At METTERNICH the trench system is in an arc around the town with communication trenches running into the woods on the north and into the town from the SW.

At 44372 there are 2 guns well dug in.

At 437373 there are 6 trucks in the courtyard of the building.



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6 SEP 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: RLW *
* DATE: 4/7/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: G32200 Mar 1945
TO : 042200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic MEEDERSHEIM.
4 March 1945.

No. 226.
Map: G308 4444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 370392 - 354360 - 352330 - 340338.

b. Units identified:

- 14th Co, 1st Bn, Regt Hq, 183rd Regt, 62nd Div.
- 4th Btry, 5th Btry, 11th Btry, 162nd Arty Regt, 62nd Div.
- 1st Bn, 2nd Bn, 164th Regt, 62nd Div.
- 1st Co, 9th Co, 162nd Repl. Bn, 62nd Div.
- 162nd Fusilier Co, 62nd Div.
- 1st Bn, 6th Pzcht Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- GT TALLER, 6th Pzcht Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 1st Sig Co, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 1st Co, 2nd Co, 3rd Co, Alarm Co, 3rd Pzcht Repl Bn, 3rd Pzcht Div.
- 12th Transportation Bn, 12th VG Div (?)
- 1st Co, Pioneer Bn 600 2bv.
- 8th Co, 4th Fortress Regt.
- 1st Bn, 943rd Regt, 353rd Div.
- 217th Assault Gun Bn.
- 2nd Co, 7th Co, Fansersperriegel Dueren, GHQ.
- 5th Btry, 185th Arty Regt, 85th Div.
- 2nd Co, 352nd Regt, 246th Div.

c. Additional information on units in contact:

The 164th Regt is temporarily under the command of the 183rd Regt in this sector: the CP is reported to be in SCHNEPPENHEIM (375348) in a castle, although the C.O. of the 183rd was killed last night by our artillery.

The 3rd Pzcht Div appears to have its zone of action to the SW of COLOGNE, centering around EUSKIRCHEN. It is of course badly mauled, and although all of its auxiliary units have not been committed it will probably not appear in the defense of COLOGNE but rather in the BONN sector.

The 185th Arty Regt identification is from a straggler, as is the identification of the 352nd Regt.

(For further information see CB notes)

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The enemy sought to prevent our exploitation of the bridgehead over the ERTT at LOMBERSUM by the commitment of SPs firing into DERRUM. Small arms fire also came from HAUSWETTER and made any crossing of the ERTT in force difficult if not impossible. Mortar and arty fire was considerable. Later in the day the enemy under pressure was obliged to evacuate HAUSWETTER, and BODENHEIM; and EUSKIRCHEN was entered after dark: no opposition was reported in spite of previous estimates of troop and materiel concentrations in that town.

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b. Other fronts: 1st Inf Div - Reported enemy front line in north generally along ERFT Canal to BIELESCHEIM (F 3243), east to LIBLAR (F 3546), woods vicinity F 3743 to WELLESCHWIST (F 3740). Strong opposition was reported in woods vicinity F 3743 from heavy mortar and artillery fire at 1525A. PW statements indicate the 12th VG Combat Schools is screening the 12th VG Div NE of GYMNICH (F 3049); 3rd Bn, 4th Fortress Regt and stragglers of the 35th VG Div are holding E of BLESHEIM (F 3543); and the 16th Regt right boundary is N of WELLESCHWIST (F 3640).

9th Armd Div: IRRSHEIM (F 2832) was cleared in early afternoon with 100 PWs being captured in the town. Elements in north received no resistance up to 1600A and last reports placed elements at approximately F 3152L.

78th Inf Div: ULPENICH (F 2631) and ENZEN (F 2629) were cleared against light small arms fire and moderate arty. DURSCHVEVEN (F 2830) was entered during afternoon but at end of period enemy was still offering resistance in the town.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Moderate continuous rain during the early morning becoming showery during the remainder of the period. Surface winds moderate, visibility moderate to good. Minimum temperature 28°, maximum temperature 42°. Civil evening twilight 1852, civil morning twilight 0633.

b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 210 (Not including 59 processed through medical channels).
Total number of PWs processed since D day: 32,974.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

a. No change.

b. Discussion:

Recent identifications of prisoners indicate that the enemy is attempting a delaying action while he is withdrawing the bulk of his forces across the river. The majority of prisoners interrogated state that they have no orders other than defense to the last man. Ground troops have been effectively supported by SF guns and AT units. Stubborn resistance was met as we came to the ERFT River, but the strength available was not sufficient to stem the tide. Arty increased markedly as we reached this line. However the main road center BUSKIRCHEN, fell this evening with no struggle indicating that the probable route of withdrawal will now be further to the south, and in the direction of BONN.

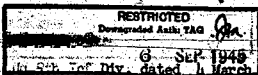
It is expected that as we advance towards the RHINE resistance will continue to be a delaying attempt, permitting the troops to the south to evacuate the West RHINE region via the bridge and ferry service at BONN. It is further expected that the bulk of resistance will come from the main road centers in the area, and from the ridge line running along the southern division boundary. The enemy, as we approach the river, has the advantage of observation, primarily from the south, until a point some 4,000 yards from the RHINE is reached.

It is expected that identifications will be numerous as miscellaneous units are grabbed up and thrown in to delay. Divisions to the south may well be expected to make a dash for it, and if out off, to attempt to fight their way out to a river crossing.

for R. W. Houston, I. I. I. I.
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
ag of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2, #3, #4
Dist: n/c

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Downgraded Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945



6 SEP 1948
by Sgt. Inf Div. dated 4 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: O31800 Mar 1945
To : O11800 Mar 1945

1. General information: Since German parachutists are holding the entire S flank of our drive, with the purpose of allowing the units which were in the SCHLEIDEN and MÜNSTERFEL area to pull out of there in a NE direction towards BONN and COLOGNE, the 9th Div will oppose during the coming period shattered German Wehrmacht units. The divisions, or rather remnants of them, which we are to face contain the poorest German fighting men, 90% of whom are looking for a chance to desert. The Wehrmacht soldier today is not to be compared with the German paratrooper either physically or from the point of morale. A great many of the paratroopers are still convinced Nazis and do not hesitate to admit this fact during the interrogation. The Wehrmacht soldier is certain that he has always had to do hard work in the battlefield. Moreover, the Wehrmacht Ropl Army as a whole is today composed of very poor specimens. The men are old, taken out of office and rear echelon jobs; every one has been either sick or wounded. The Germans know this as can be easily seen by the disposition of his divisions. Only one parachute division along a front of approximately 20 miles on our S flank, and three infantry divisions of the Wehrmacht in a sector of about 15 miles.

2. Intentions: A German Sgt and his 88mm gun crew who were processed today revealed some of the activity of the rear echelon units far behind the enemy lines. The crew had their gun in a fixed position near FRAUENBERG and had been stationed there since Dec '44. During the last few days these men have seen their comrades move towards BONN and GODESBERG (the latter being about 6 miles SE of BONN) with motor and horse-drawn vehicles, intending to reach the other side of the RHINE.

Whether the town of HEDMERZHEIM will be heavily defended or not, cannot be as yet told from PW interrogation, since none of the units opposing us have been in this area long enough to even know the town. The last information received about HEDMERZHEIM was the presence of elements of the 272nd VG Div. It is possible that these elements have kept on moving N, but the possibility of their remaining there must be taken into consideration.

3. Firepower: Some of the new units identified in the immediate sector of this division lead to the definite conclusion that the enemy has his heaviest concentration of 88mm AT and AA guns right in our division sector. Some of these guns, at least a dozen, the enemy cannot move since they are fixed guns in concrete foundations, which are meant to be the last and rear defenses (AT) of the West Wall. These guns cover the main approaches to BONN and COLOGNE. (One of these guns has been captured vicinity FRAUENBERG). More 88s, belonging to a Flak Bn (approximately 12 guns), took up positions 8 kms E of EUSKIRCHEN last night, which would mean that this concentration is or will be against our S flank during the next period.

4. Tank or Assault Gun? A PW who was a mechanic at ENZEN (7 of EUSKIRCHEN) insisted that his battalion is an Assault Tk unit. He describes this armored vehicle as follows: A Mk IV chassis on which a 150mm Hows is mounted in a turret (closed) with a 360 degree traverse and good armor. "Is this a tank or an assault gun?" was the question asked to which the prisoner replied: "It is a fast-moving tank used like an assault gun".

This battalion has used these vehicles in FRANCE and received the same type last Dec at KALL. The mechanic states that the only thing wrong with the vehicle is the super-structure is too heavy and the motor too powerful for the driving wheels and gears of the tracks to withstand the strain. This is where most of the repairs are being done.



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5. The Fuel Situation: The Germans have to cope with an acute gasoline shortage. But whether they are actually out of fuel or not, can be determined by statements made from PWs who are from two different branches of service: an armored unit and an infantry division.

The above mentioned Assault Tk Bn never had any trouble obtaining gas for their vehicles. They were told not to leave their motors idle and save gas as much as possible; but in their mission of supporting German infantry, they could always deal with the gas situation.

Not long ago, when our division fought the three regiments of the German 62nd VG Div, the prisoners processed and interrogated by this office always complained about the lack of food and supplies being brought up to the front, due to lack of gasoline yet tomorrow, we will fight the same division which has arrived from SCHLEIDEN on trucks and motor exclusively. Thus the Germans always have gas where it is badly needed.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #226, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 4 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES

3rd Bn, Flak Regt 12: Only the 3rd Bn of this regiment is on the western front, the other two are fighting in the east. The 3rd Bn has a headquarters battery and three firing batteries with 100 men and four 88mm AA guns per battery. They are in position 8 kms east of EUSKIRCHEN.

Panzer Sperrverband XIII: PWs from the 6th Co state that their unit has fixed Fort # 4s guns in concrete emplacements. Its six platoons contain 30-80mm AT guns defending the approaches to BONN and COLOGNE, constituting the inner ring of the AT defenses of the West Wall.

217th Assault Tk Bn: This unit is divided into Cts HINSKEN and LEHMANN, named after their respective commanders. Each group has 3-150mm Hows mounted on M4 IV chassis. The repair shop of this unit is in ENZEN (F 2629). The only other known unit of this type is the 216th Assault Tk Bn, committed in ITALY.

130th Pz Lehr Div: One PW from the 130th Pz Ron. Bn reports that his unit was at WEILERSWIST (F 3540) on Feb 15. Comment: This battalion was identified in the MÜNCHEN-GLADBACH area on Feb 28.

As the 9th American and 1st Canadian Armies join hands in the northern sector of the Western Front, a certain number of German divisions will be surrounded. Many of the divisions committed against the 1st Canadian Army since its offensive began about three weeks ago are elite units, such as the 116th Pz Div, 130th Pz Lehr Div, the 15th Pz Gr Div and the 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th Pz Divs. The 116th Pz Div and the 130th Pz Lehr Div were partially identified farther south, in the MÜNCHEN-GLADBACH area a few days ago. As for the 15th Pz Gr Div, it seems to be out of contact at present. The 2nd and 6th Pz Divs are rated very highly, while the 7th and 8th Pz Divs are of recent origin and their fighting qualities do not appear to be quite equal to the standards set by their predecessors.

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #226, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 11 March 1945.

PW REPORT (supplementary)

From: 030900 Mar 1945
To: 040600 Mar 1945

1. PW of the 2nd Bn, 8th Pzcht Regt had just returned from convalescent leave and gives more evidence of serious manpower shortage. A convalescent home established in a large school building in BONN (W Bank of RHINE) including a Provisional Clearing Station has been set up in recent weeks. Walking wounded, diseased, and convalescents must walk from the front to the above station for treatment. They remain here from 3-5 days. No one, except seriously wounded are taken across the RHINE. After this short convalescent period the men are ordered to return to their units at the front by the medical officer in charge of the station. Litter patients are evacuated in horse carts. No gasoline supply is available for ambulances.
2. Panzerfausts: Officer PW of the Pzcht Bns. Bn 3 states that 6-8 men bazooka (Panzerfaust) teams are being formed in each company with the purpose of AT defense at edge of villages. No instructions have been given, however, in the use of the Panzerfaust. Personnel from Pzcht Bns. Bn 3 recently arrived as reinforcements are mainly from glider schools.

3. PW from 1st Co, Pzcht Bns Bn 3 saw 10 arty guns (80mm) outside of FRAUENBERG which were made ready for movement at time. PW marched through village.

Annex #4 to G-2 Periodic Report #226, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 11 March 1945.

TERMS IN AREA: FRIESHEIM (3240) - WIDDIG (4944) - ERPEL (6420) - IVERSHEIM (3220)

1. Drainage - The principal streams in the area are the SWIST, which rises near BOKENDORF (5221) and flows generally NW through MORENHOFEN (4530) - HEIMERZHEIM (4235) - METTERNICH (4038) - BLIESHEIM (3543); and the DRUNSDORFER which rises in the high ground in the vicinity of WITERSCHLICK (4932) and empties into the RHINE at GRAU-RHEINDORF (532406). The watershed in the area is provided by the ridge line that runs generally east and west along the 20 Northing. The streams are not large, but will, because of their swollen condition due to the rains, necessitate bridging where encountered.

2. Relief - The area to the east of the SWIST is gently rolling undulating land, with no woods or cover. There are no sharp features in the area. Approaches to the stream are gradual. The terrain rises generally to the south, reaching a height of 111 meters at 385202. Within the contemplated division boundaries the highest point to the west of the SWIST (and east of the ERPEL) is 118 meters at 354345, which affords observation to the east to the woods paralleling the SWIST.

The ground rises gradually from the ERPEL to a ridgeline running generally from 3944-4633-4929-5131. A ridge line of equal height parallels the proposed area of advance running from EUSKIRCHEN (3329) to STADT-MECKENHEIM (4925). South of this line the land rises more abruptly to the heights previously mentioned.

From the NS ridge line which parallels the SWIST the land falls away to the RHINE valley, rather abruptly in the southern part of the area and more gently in the northern part of the area.

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6 SEP 1945

The ridge to the east of the S750 is wooded, passable for infantry, and vehicles. The woods to the south of WETTESCHICK (4932) is dense, troublesome to infantry, and restrictive to vehicular travel.

The highest point in the contemplated zone of advance of the division is a point at 174323, which reaches a height of 173 meters. However, several points to the south in the area under consideration will dominate the entire area of the division advance.

3. Points of Observation - The following is a list of possible OPs within the division zone of advance:

- 366364 - observation to the east and north.
- 385378 - observation to the east and north.
- 393345 - observation to the east and north.
- 382332 - observation to the east and north.
- 400322 - observation to the east and north.
- 447379 - observation to the north and northeast.
- 473300 - observation to the west, south, and southeast.
- 467387 - observation to the north, east, and southeast.
- 491353 - observation to the north and east.
- 511343 - observation to the north and east.

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6 SEP 1945

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6 SEP 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: H/S *
* DATE: 5/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 04200 Mar 1945
TO: 05200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic MUEGGENHAUSEN.
5 March 1945.

No. 227.
Map: GSGS 4444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: METTERNICH - MUEGGENHAUSEN - STRASSFELD.

b. Units identified:

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, Hq 1st Bn Coe, 164th Regt, 62nd VG Div.
- GT SIEBERT, 164th Regt.
- GT WALTER, 164th Regt.
- GT ADAM, 164th Regt.
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Coe, 183rd Regt, 62nd VG Div.
- 5th Btry, 162nd Arty Regt.
- Hq Co, 254th FA Bn.
- 2nd Co, Fus Bn, 62nd Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The town of SCHWARZMAAR was cleared against light resistance early in the period by the 47th Inf, but at 1000 hrs the enemy launched a strong counterattack, consisting of an estimated 200 infantry supported by 8 tanks or assault guns, from MUEGGENHAUSEN. This attack was repulsed by 1130 hrs; however, one tank remained in the vicinity of SCHWARZMAAR. At 1500, two companies of enemy infantry and 5 tanks again attacked from MUEGGENHAUSEN, possibly with the mission of rescuing the tank. The second attack was less severe, and was repulsed more quickly. No enemy tanks were observed to be damaged, but a PW saw one tank burning as it withdrew.

After dark, the town of MUEGGENHAUSEN was taken against little resistance, and our forces continued toward NEUKIRCHEN without difficulty.

The 3rd Bn, 39th Inf, received intense high-velocity fire from SCHNEPPENHEIM during the day, as well as 20mm AA fire from STRASSFELD. The former village was taken against light resistance after dark, and STRASSFELD was entered at the close of the period, with no resistance reported.

b. Artillery: Enemy artillery consisted wholly of SP fire, largely single guns; one concentration of 60 rounds was reported landing at 385365 at 0730 hours this morning.

c. Other fronts: 1st Inf Div - OBER LINLAR (F 3645) and METTERNICH (F 4038) cleared against light to moderate 105mm arty, mortar and SP fire. Flak believed to be 20mm was received in woods F 3940 from RUSBERG (F 4241) at 1130A. Enemy line: F 395445, F 413430, F 410420, F 405415 and F 4040. 224 PWs including identifications from 2nd Alarm Co, 164th Regt and 8th Co, 14th Fortress Regt.

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9th Armd Div - Reported a quiet front in morning. 100 mounted infantry were observed moving east from KLEINBULLESHEIM (F 3631) to ESCH (F 3831) at 1515A against light resistance of some arty and small arms fire. PWs from the 409th VAK stated CP of 3rd PzR is at F 35792838. PW believed straggler and deserter from 185th Arty Regt stated this regiment and guns no longer exist.

78th Inf Div - ELSIG (F 2930), EUSENHEIM (F 3028), WISSKIRCHEN (F 2928), FIEBENICH (F 2626) cleared; EICKS (F 2025) and BERG (F 1927) occupied early; house to house fighting continued in SATZVEY (F 2625); and OBERGARTZEN (F 2627) was cleared all against light resistance mainly of small arms fire, light arty and mortar fire. ANTWELIER (F 3023) cleared, BILLIG (F 3226) entered, and BILLIGER WALD (F 3026) being mopped up at close of period. PW captured at FLOESDORF (F 2026) this morning stated the 272nd Alarm Co and the 282nd Alarm Co withdrew at 0500A to SCHERFEN (F 2227) and 282nd Co has 40 men. PW of 3rd Arty Regt, 3rd Pzcht Div stated regiment withdrew with 105mm howitzers from SCHERFEN (F 2227) to SW. PW captured at ELSIG (F 2930) 183rd PzR, 3rd Pzcht Bn and 3rd Pzcht Fus Bn.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Overcast, with intermittent showers. Visibility 1-2 miles, improving to 3-5 miles in afternoon. Winds, light, northwesterly. Temperature: maximum, 45°, minimum 32°. Limited fighter-bomber operations. Civil twilight: PM 6 March 1854; AM 7 March 0631.

b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 311.
Total number of PWs processed since D day: 33,285.

c. REPORT ON COLOGNE: Two Belgians who had been employed as forced labor in COLOGNE and who had escaped three days ago, shed some light on the conditions prevailing in the city. They said that up to the time of their departure the officials had made no effort to evacuate the population. The civilians, in fact, are getting along as well as can be expected under the circumstances, except for lack of food. The whole city has moved underground - shops, living quarters, schools, all the integral parts of public life. The prisoners estimated that there are still 40,000 civilians in the city. Much of the population is made up of deserters, since COLOGNE is a straggler collecting point and a Frontleitstelle and the stragglers who are collected there have no desire to go back to their outfits. Summary courts, manned by party officials with the power of immediate death sentence, have been set up in an effort to reduce the trouble. The PWs said heavy traffic was still continuing over the HOHENZOLLERN bridge, most of it moving east. Another bridge in the city was in use up until the day before they left, when, under a heavy load of military equipment, it collapsed into the river.

d. CIC ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD: CIC continued to check new towns as they were cleared. Due to the large number of towns cleared during the period it was not possible to make any detailed investigations in these towns. Towns covered and checked by CIC include those listed below:

BOER - CIC from the Town Det. covered this town, finding 350 German citizens who were all permanent residents of the town. It was learned that they had been told by the Wehrmacht to evacuate but had refused to do so. There are also a few civilians here from outlying towns.

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BESSENICH - CIC team with the 47th Inf checked this town. There were about 500 civilians here, including Germans, Poles, Russians, Jugoslavians, 1 Dutch, 1 French, and 1 Italian. These civilians were all screened and one was sent back as a PW. There are 7 Party members still in the town including a Zellenleiter, and an Ortsbauernfuhrer. ANNO ECKSTEIN, a local farmer, was appointed temporary Burgermeister. He was formerly Burgermeister from 1933 to date, and was a Party member during the same period. He will be removed as soon as a satisfactory replacement is found. He is liked by the residents of the town and is well thought of by the foreign laborers in the town.

ZWELFICH - CIC from the 60th Inf screened 600 civilians finding none of CI interest. All civilians were isolated in a hospital building. A Burgermeister was selected by MG.

KEIPERHOF - CIC from the 47th Inf checked this town and found about 30 civilians, mainly Poles and Russians.

MULHEIM - CIC from the 39th Inf screened 500 civilians in this town. PETER DYCK and HERMANN SCHELISS, both Zellenleiters, in the NSDAP, were arrested and sent to the PW cage as security menaces. They had incited people to fire on Americans as they entered the town, but the people refused. Both were members of the SA and were active in recruiting for the Volksturm. HERBERT BRUCK was recommended as BURGERMEISTER and subsequently was installed as such by MG.

CASES INVESTIGATED: VON SCHWEPPEBERG, GETR, Baroness who was temporarily appointed mayor for MUEDDERSHEIM was investigated by CIC. It was discovered that subject had served 4 years with the Luftwaffe Signal Corps as a teletypist in the grade of Hauptheferin and has no papers of discharge from the Luftwaffe. Furthermore, VON SCHWEPPEBERG speaks several languages, including English, and is well trained in the handling of signal equipment. Subject also refused to give one of our MII officers even general information about BUSKIRCHEN, since she considered it "espionage against the German government". Thus she constitutes a definite security menace to American troops in the MUEDDERSHEIM area, apart from her technical PW status, and is being evacuated through PW channels accompanied by an investigative report.

GERARDS, EUGEN, candidate for mayor under MG appointment, for MUEDDERSHEIM, was investigated by CIC. Through an interview with subject it was learned that he is a farmer by profession and that he has spent 13 years in MUEDDERSHEIM. In 1937 he joined the Nazi Party and became mayor of the town in 1940. GERARDS supplied CIC with the names of the following Party officials, none of whom is now in MUEDDERSHEIM: WILHELM FAUST (Zellenleiter), GROSSMAN (Zellenleiter), PAUSTENBACH (Zellenleiter), BERGSCHE (Ortsgruppenleiter), and STOCHEM (former Ortsgruppenleiter). Numerous inquiries made throughout the town revealed that the former Burgermeister GERARDS had a number of Polish and Russian forced laborers on his leased property, GUT MUEDDERSHEIM, who were continually mistreated. Because of that fact and that GERARDS has been a Party member for several years, in addition to serving as Mayor of MUEDDERSHEIM since 1940, CIC recommended that he not be appointed Burgermeister by MG.

6. INSTRUCTIONS TO UNITS IN RELATIONS WITH CIVILIANS: In forward areas where towns are uncovered, a civilian-speaking English should be placed in charge, until MG officer arrives. If English-speaking civilian is not available, some other civilian may be put in charge and given instructions through an interpreter. Civilian placed in charge should then be given the following orders:

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No civilians will leave immediately vicinity of their houses. They will keep off the streets and no travel will be allowed. Curfew will be from 1800 to 0730, at which time all civilians will remain inside. Civilians should under no circumstances be evacuated from the town, or from houses in the town unless it is possible to double them up in other houses. Enough buildings will be left available in towns to take care of civilians and keep them from wandering around on the streets. Soldiers should be instructed not to loot or scavenge food stuff in houses.

In rear areas troops will be located in towns where Burgermeisters have been appointed. Civilian problems should be dealt with through Burgermeisters if MG or CIC representatives are not present. Burgermeisters in these towns will be under jurisdiction of a MG Det, which will have contact with him. Only in exceptional circumstances will passes be issued to civilians in rear areas. Only passes issued by MG officers will be recognized.

Incidents affecting security or suspect individuals should be reported to CIC for investigation. (See: SIC Det #9).

- f. LOCATION UNKNOWN: Documents taken by the 39th Inf at NIEDERBERG, although dealing with military administration, nevertheless the question of what has become of many of the units previously allotted in this area. Specifically in NIEDERBERG, within a space of less than two months, the following units were in this sector, helping (among other things) in the construction of hasty field fortifications:

Police Bn IV.
185th Field Repl Bn.
Combat School 85.
Transport Bn 515.
2nd RR Engr Bn.
Flak Bn 764.
The Volksturm.
Org. TGFt.

- g. THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT WAS FOUND BY 39TH INF:

To the leader of the Volksturm in NIEDERBERG: In a recent bulletin from III Sector, West, for Front Line Intelligence it appears that the Americans, in order better to control their sector to the rear of the front lines, use the residents of towns and villages, furnished with armbands, as patrols. In this manner, all new faces appearing in the community are reported at once to the Military Police. High Command orders that we learn by this practice of the enemy and that in every village members of the Volksturm are to be used in this manner.

By order of the town mayor members of the Volksturm are to be employed in watching all persons from outside the locality. Suspicious persons are to be brought to the town mayor at once.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

No change.

Incls: Annex 1,2,3.

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No. 9th Inf Div. G. S. P. 1945
dated 5 March 1945

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #227

PW REPORT

FROM: 011800 Mar 1945
TO : 051500 Mar 1945

1. Towns between here and the RHINE: BAD GODESBERG (SE BONN) the meeting place of the former British Premier CHAMBERLAIN with HITLER, has so far been spared from the scars of warfare. Prisoners who have passed through that town in the last 3 days found the great hospital city untouched by bombs or artillery. No military personnel, except those belonging to the medical branch of the service of those who are wounded are allowed to stay there for a period exceeding two hours. Most of the hotels and all sanitariums and hospitals have been taken over by the Army and, according to the PWs, are filled to PWS, are filled to capacity. Since GODESBERG has not as yet been attacked by US planes, most of its inhabitants remained in their homes; in fact many civilians from the surrounding villages and also from BONN, have found refuge there.

BONN, only 5 kms further down the RHINE, offers quite a different aspect. Its population is busy wherever they are needed (which happens very frequently), to clean the streets of the debris from the crumbling houses. Only about 20% of the original population of BONN is still to be found living in their homes; and they have to hold a job as a defense worker in BONN or COLOGNE. An electric RR is provided for the daily transportation of this personnel. (It is the old "RHINE UFERBAHN" RR). The bridge connecting BONN to BRUEL is still intact and is carrying a lot of traffic.

A similar surprising fact is the very bad condition of the town of RHEINBACH (425) in comparison to the fairly quiet town of MEGGENHEIM (425).

2. Manpower Shortage: A PW who came back from a hospital to report to his former unit, the 3rd Front Div, carrying on him an order to that effect, was grabbed by the military police to fight as infantry with the 62nd Inf Div. Another PW who came back from a furlough in BERLIN and who was supposed to work as a mechanic, doing some "winter maintenance" on motorized vehicles (a course which he attended only 5 weeks ago), was also captured by the German military police to fight as an infantry soldier. A document found on an officer PW belonging to the 409th Volks-Arty Corps states the following:

"By order of Army Group B, Alarm units can only be formed out of the 409th Volks Arty Corps with the permission of the Corps C.O., and then only in case of defense for the guns, or at least in their own sector in connection with the efficiency of the firing of the guns". (dated the 26th of Feb 1945, and signed by the Bn C.O. 4th Bn, 409th 5th Arty Corps).

When a N/Sgt was asked about his last duties, he answered that he was (1) the officer adjutant of the 1st Bn, 163rd Inf Regt. His duties were augmented after the death of two officers three weeks ago: (2) as signal officer, with the help of one NCO and two privates, he had to take care of the message center, the wire section, the radio section and the switchboard; (3) as officer of the day, with one sergeant of the guard, he had to assign the security posts around the CP, and also act as adjutant whenever needed; (4) as QM officer, with one NCO, he had to worry about ammunition, food, supplies.

3. Inside GERMANY: A big problem seems to arise with the refugees pouring in from the East and West. Due to the belief in some German High Hq that S GERMANY is threatened to a greater extent than the provinces of SAXONY or THURINGIA and the PRUSSIAN province of HANNOVER, refugee processing stations are dispersed throughout the Reich. Their main function is to feed and forward the homeless civilians. The Hq of all such stations in BERLIN is at the Hotel EYCKELSTOR. This office is responsible for the proper issue of rationing stamps and very badly needed clothing.

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Since most of the small villages and towns in the eastern part of GERMANY have already been filled to capacity, barracks have and are being constructed to fulfill the demand. Community kitchens are also set up in the vicinity.

There are still no signs whatsoever of the troops in the eastern part of GERMANY. Three Wehrmacht troop trains were observed 4 days ago between LIEFING (LAHN, approximately 20 miles E of KOBLENZ) and WETZLAR (approximately 30 miles E of KOBLENZ), moving to the eastern front.

Many PIs believe that the war will end soon after the Russians reach the soft coal sector of BITTERFELD (E of LISPZIG), since most of the German trains cannot get any more hard coal.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #227, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 5 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

62nd Volksgrenadier Division: As previously foreseen, the 16th VGR has been committed in our sector. While in the fighting west of SCHLESDEN it controlled the 183rd VGR, the reverse is true at present. Since the combined strength of the two regiments is estimated at 250 men, the 16th VGR must be supposed to have suffered heavy losses in its previous sector. Both regiments are in action in the vicinity of HEIMERSHEIM, the 16th on the north and the 183rd on the south. The 162nd Fus. Bn is fighting alongside the two regiments, presumably to make up for the disappearance of the 190th VGR.

The 162nd Arty Regt: The headquarters of this unit is believed to have moved back to MOPFEN (F 4530). Some of its batteries have lost their weapons and are now fighting as infantry to bolster the depleted regiments and the Fus. Bn. The only identified unit with some of its guns left is the 5th Btry.

149th Volks Arty Corps: The 14th Bn moved into the vicinity of OLLHEIM (F 4032) last night. PW asserts that his unit was in support of the 3rd Pz Div. However, considering its sector and the depleted condition of the 162nd Arty Regt, the battalion may be inferred to have moved into the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division's front.

513th AA Bn, 18th AA Regt: Originally contained 4 batteries with four 88mm AA guns and one 20mm quadruple mount AA gun per battery. The 2nd Btry was dissolved vicinity LAMMERSUM last night and the other three batteries withdrew towards HAMMERZHEIM. PIs stated that the battalion was always attached to the infantry unit that happened to be in the area. Its last controlling outfit was the 3rd Pz Div.

185th Arty Regt: The 85th Inf Div withdrew to the east around the middle of February and turned over its remaining units to the 3rd Pz Div. Since the 85th Div was nothing more than an administrative staff, its reappearance in the near future is most unlikely. PIs from the 5th Btry, 185th Arty Regt, captured today, report that their battery was attached to the 3rd Pz Div for support. Even though no confirmation of this statement is available, it may be assumed that each of the three regiments of the 3rd Pz Div has one battery of this artillery unit attached to it. This belief is further borne out by a PIs statement to the effect that ever since the battle of FRANCOIS the artillery regiment has only three batteries and that none of these followed the 85th Inf Div into its retreat.

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #227, ~~is on the Top Div. dated 5 March 1945.~~

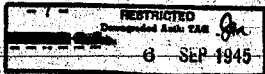
MII REPORT

Civilians returning from BONN about two weeks ago tell of a city in ruins. No body has remained in this city who could go elsewhere.

BONN, cultural center of the region and seat of the renowned university, was in complete confusion. Rubble had been cleared from streets, political offices were preparing to close, passenger train service to villages to the west had been stopped. Buildings of the university are largely destroyed and the fate of its huge library is not known. The city was originally founded by the Romans, grew as a significant RHINE port to a population of 92,000 in recent years. BEETHOVEN was born there in 1717 and his birthplace has been a shrine. The city has been often mentioned as one of those to be defended to the last. No extensive work on fortifications was noted by the most recent visitors although they report main highways lined by foxholes and numerous concrete air raid shelters within the city.

~~BAD GODESBERG, four kilometers S of BONN, was among the most popular of the RHINE resorts. The city was long a center for refugees who believed the city was exempt from bombing because 150 American diplomats were rumored to be interned there. Two weeks ago the city was closed to all traffic because of the confusion caused by the turmoil in military installations due to the attack on this front. There were many excellent hotels in the town which was the scene of the last HITLER-CHAMBERLAIN conference before BREITENBURG.~~

Both of the towns are on the banks of the river where it begins to widen as it flows from the mountainous region into the plain. Approaches from the W are across cultivated fields from the low wooded ridge. There are scattered houses all across the plain to the W of BONN and the road network throughout the area is excellent. Heights on the E bank of the RHINE overlook all of the W bank.



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* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *R. P. M.* *
* DATE: 6/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

200 Mar 1945
TO: 200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
VIC LOMMERSUM.
6 March 1945.

No. 228.
Map: GSGS 4444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines:

Division front - 455388-458364-450338-463304.

Corps front - 420537-343502-425470-442416-455388-463304-496278-453245-440232.

b. Units in contact:

1st Co, 162nd Signal Bn, 62nd Div.

4th, 8th, 11th Btvs, 162nd Arty Regt, 62nd Div.

2nd, 4th Cos, 162nd Fusilier Bn, 62nd Div.

1st Co, 162nd Engr Bn, 62nd Div.

8th Co, 12th Landesschutzen Bn

513th Transportation Bn.

13th Co, 164th Regt, 62nd Div.

Regt Hqrs, 13th Co, 183rd Regt, 62nd Div.

Alarm Co SIEBERT.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD.

- a. General: It became apparent, soon after our forces started to advance, that the enemy had withdrawn during the hours of darkness, so that contact was not at once established. In the airfield in the OUIHEM area mines were encountered and small arms fire was met by the 39th Inf. Later on in the same axis of advance, automatic weapons were not met until well into the morning and whatever opposition there was seemed to be scattered. Although SPs were seen they did not fire, but withdrew to the SE. They had in turn come from the north in front of the 47th Inf. Later in the day further east fire from 20mm AA weapons was encountered, and from small enemy elements supported by SP fire. By the end of the day resistance had stiffened around BUSCHHOVEN, and the fire from weapons of all calibers was heavy; from mortars, SP, small arms, MG, and from 20mm AA guns. It appeared that the enemy's stubborn defense of that town was designed to cover the withdrawal of larger formations across the river at BONN and GODESBERG, and that with the coming of daylight BUSCHHOVEN would be found vacant.

To the north resistance at no time was heavy, and the enemy was unable to halt and organize a defense. A total of 169 PWs were taken by the 47th Inf during the period. HEIMERZHEIM, where the enemy was first encountered was not occupied in force; no mines were found, though roadblocks had been constructed at the entrance of the town. The SWIST River proved no great obstacle, and was crossed without difficulty; the bridges were in. By the end of the period the enemy had withdrawn E of ROEMERHOF.

- b. Other fronts: 1st Inf Div - At 1000A a counterattack vic F 4447 by an estimated 150 infantry and 4 tanks or SPs was repulsed by friendly arty fire with the enemy withdrawing NE to FUEHL (F 4448). An arty OP reported numerous barges operating on the RHEINE River, north of BONN but poor visibility prevented friendly action.

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The 11th Cav Gp in north sector cleared all towns against light resistance to a line LIEBLAR (F 3516) and MODRATH (F 2955). On LIEBLAR - COLOGNE road enemy resistance was encountered vicinity F 354486 with the bulk of the enemy resistance between F 373480 and F 380468. In the southern part of the division zone the front line runs generally along the ridge from DORF PINGSORF (F 4416) to GARDORF (F 4411) then SW to METTERNICH (F 4138). Scattered light resistance was met throughout the day in this part of the division zone.

9th Armd Div - MIEL (F 4230), RHEINBACH (F 4426) and STADT MECKENHEIM (F 5025) were cleared during period. Resistance was generally light consisting mainly of AT guns with strong local small arms fire. Stiff resistance was, however, encountered in clearing RHEINBACH (F 4426). Some mines and booby traps were encountered throughout division zone. Enemy withdrawal was generally in a northeasterly direction.

78th Inf Div - FLAMERSHEIN (F 3725), NIEDERKASTENHOLZ (F 3625) were cleared during the period. Stubborn resistance was encountered vicinity SCHWEINHEDD (F 3824) from heavy local fire but elements of the division continued to advance to vicinity F 4424 and F 4021 against light to moderate resistance. A large ammunition dump was reported in vicinity F 39188.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Overcast, low clouds with intermittent light rain and drizzle in the morning; broken low clouds in afternoon and evening. Visibility 1-3 miles, increasing to 4-6 miles in afternoon.

Maximum temperature 50°; minimum temperature 40°.

Civil evening twilight 1856, Mar 7, civil morning twilight: 0629 Mar 8.

b. PIs processed during period: 312.
Total number of PIs processed D day: 33,597.

c. GOESBERG. The resort city of BAD GOESBERG has been known for its springs since Roman times when they were a center of worship of Aesculapius, god of health. It is a city of many hotels and gardens without important manufacturing or shipping industries. Its usual permanent population, disregarding present influx of refugees, is about 23,700. The city is roughly divided into three parts. First, the belt of villas and gardens along the river bank with a popular promenade about two kilometers long. The business section of the town parallels the railway and is not of unusual interest except for the park which was formerly the property of the Elector of COLOGNE. The third region is that around the springs at the western side of the town where the land begins to rise above the low river banks. There are many hotels and restaurants in this section as well as a concert hall where BEETHOVEN and MOZART have performed. The city is the birthplace of ARNDT, rapidly nationalistic poet whose well-known phrase, "THE RHINE, GERMANY'S RIVER NOT GERMANY'S BORDER," seems about to be refuted.

d. ASSAULT GUNS: The following quotation from the W.O.W.I.R. concerning the 210th Assault Gun Bn may prove of interest as the sister unit, the 217th Bn is at present opposing the 9th Div:

An MD PW who had commanded an assault howitzer in this unit stated that it was considered essential that assault howitzers should, whenever possible, be supported by tanks or assault guns capable of dealing with enemy armor. In general, targets most commonly engaged were MG nests, pillboxes, gun positions and infantry or LT concentrations. Tanks were not supposed to be engaged, but were engaged on occasion with good results. The maximum range allowed was 4,700 yds, but in practice engagement over 2,750 yds was rare. Hollow-charge ammunition was permitted against tanks up to 1,650 yds, although in ITALY PW had used HE against armor at ranges over this and successfully. In general, assault howitzers engaged at the closest range at which they could fire without exposing themselves.

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In defense the normal role of the immediate counter-attack, the assault guns will try to remain undetected until the enemy infantry attack has been launched, when they will emerge to disperse the advancing infantry before they reach the forward edge of the main defensive belt. Rarely are assault guns dug in as pillboxes; PW considered such a method to throw away the advantage of the guns' mobility, but confessed that he had dug in his own gun when used in a purely AT role.

- e. EAST BANK OF THE RHINE: Across the RHINE the SIEBEN GEBIRGE dominate the landscape. These seven peaks rise steeply from the low river banks around the town of KOENIGSWINTER and offer excellent observation as far as COLOGNE and across the plains west of the river. These peaks have been rumored among civilians as V-1 launching sites. Much older legends name DRACHENFELS, one of the peaks rising closest to the river, as the place where Siegfried slew the dragon. The other mountains are known as VOLKENBURG, LOEWENBURG, LOHRBERG, OELBERG, NONNEN-STROMBERG, and PETERSBERG. These extend in a belt 7 kilometers long and 4 miles wide along the river. Their heights are about 325-330 meters above sea level and about 250 meters above the river. The slopes are wooded with deciduous trees and there are occasional thickets. Because of their volcanic origin the mountains form no well-defined ridge but project irregularly, and scenically, from the surrounding landscape.
- f. PW PACKAGES. Reports have come to this Hq that American Red Cross packages for prisoners of war in GERMANY have been found open and partly consumed in civilian homes. It is probable that some (if not all) of these incidents can be thus explained: French (or Polish or Belgian) PWs have been living on farms and working in this region for the last 4 years, and have received Red Cross packages as recently as 3 days ago. Many of the packages have doubtless been opened, and possibly shared with civilians. It does not necessarily imply a misappropriation of the packages.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

for R. M. Northrup
JACK A. HOUSTON, 21122
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2.

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #226, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 6 March 1945.

PW REPORT

FROM: C51800 Mar 1945
TO : C61800 Mar 1945

1. GENERAL. Today's interrogation revealed the first concrete signs of the enemy's withdrawal in an organized manner as possible, to the E bank of the RHINE. The first lead was given by a PW who was until two days ago one of the guards of General SCHIMPF, C.O. of the 3rd Pz Div. He stated that he overheard staff officers, leaving the General's office, that the division had every intention of crossing the RHINE at BONN. The three regiments are to follow up, leaving a small force of auxiliary units to cover their withdrawal. Further confirmation of this was given by two PWs one of them a M/Sgt. Both of them (belonging to the 26th Div) stated that at least one of their regiments was moved up into the 9th Div front to replace the parachutists. The unit now in command of the BONN approaches is the 62nd VG Div, including the elements of the 26th Div.

2. BONN. No information could be obtained as to the defenses of this city. However, some PW statements lead to the conclusion that BONN is not to be considered a fortified city. Nobody who was processed and who had been in BONN recently had seen any defense installations.

3. KOENIGSWINTER. This town, located on the E bank of the RHINE river some 8 miles SE of BONN, has been used by the Germans as a center from which to move trucks and motor vehicles to the W side of the RHINE during the past week. This action is explained as follows:

The major part of the motor vehicles belonging to the divisions still on this side of the RHINE are either damaged or out of gas. Since there are no gas dumps of any size left over here, the Germans were forced to bring their trucks from the other side of the river, organized as transportation companies, to move all their divisions W and probably across the RHINE from the general area of MUENSTEREIFEL.

As far as the above-mentioned area is concerned, none of the PWs who came up here with their units seem to know of other divisions replacing their own.

4. Major General KOKOTT: He was the CG of the 26th VG Div, until ordered to report to SIESBURG (6244), E of the RHINE. For some reason, it was stated throughout his former division, that he was to take the command of the new line of resistance the Germans are in the process of setting up E of the RHINE.

5. FROM VOLKSGRENADIER TO WAFFEN SS: There have been circulars distributed throughout the HQ of the 26th VG Div asking for designs of a new insignia. It was also made known that there may be another change for the Wehrmacht units, formerly plain infantry divisions, at present Volks Grenadier Divs to be thus formed into Waffen SS. The reason of this move is to prevent German soldiers from deserting as they have been doing up to the present time. The enemy likes to make his fighting men believe that due to the reputation of the Waffen SS, this branch of the German Armed Force does not receive regular PW treatment from the Americans; but execution by a firing squad.

6. VOLKSTURM: Although we have not as yet encountered any Volksturm elements during our advances toward BONN, it does not mean that they have not been in the towns we have gone through. Here is what happened to them:

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Organized and put under the command of the respective military formations wearing civilian clothes, they deserted at their earliest convenience, returning to their families. They destroyed and burned their Volksturm badges and had become regular heads of families, upon the arrival of American troops.

7. **RR SERVICE:** A PW who crossed the RHINE 48 hours ago states that he did so by means of RR from FRANKFURT-main to KOBLENZ, detraining at SINZIG. The Germans are still running two trains every 24 hours on this line. One train a day leaves from KOBLENZ to GODESBERG and was reported to have done so the day before yesterday.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #228, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 6 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

26th Volksgrenadier Div: This division comes from COLOGNE and wears the Cathedral of COLOGNE in its shield. It was reorganized at POSNAM after having been destroyed in RUSSIA. Its commanding general described it as an Angriffsdivision (assault division), because it is supported by assault guns and its infantry units had a larger number of assault weapons (notably MP's) than is the case in average Volksgrenadier Divs. Originally the division consisted of well-trained and well-equipped fighting men, but recent replacements are of inferior fighting quality and the present strength represents but a feeble percentage of the original strength of the division.

The 26th Div fought in the BASTOGNE area from before Christmas and subsequently was identified by the 106th US Div in the BERK sector. In the last few weeks the remnants amounted to hardly more than a collection of CJs.

PW's report that the 39th Regt has been dissolved and its remnants distributed between the two other regiments. That this information is inaccurate is demonstrated by the fact that the 39th Regt was encountered by the 78th US Div today. The 78th Regt is controlled by the 62nd Volksgrenadier Div. This information supersedes previous reports indicating that the regiment operated under the command of the 3rd Frcht Div.

The 78th Regt has two battalions of four companies each, with an average company strength of 35-40 men. It is believed to be taking over the sector vacated by the 3rd Frcht Div.

While no firm evidence exists regarding the presence of the 77th Regt on our front, its commitment is very likely.

* **62nd Volksgrenadier Div:** 162nd AT Bn originally had three companies with AT guns, assault guns and AA pieces. Only two SP assault guns being left over, the battalion now fights under the 164th Regt. Thus the combined 164th and 183rd Regts in addition to the 162nd Fus Bn also control most of the divisional AT unit, partially offsetting the decrease in their own manpower and the elimination of the 190th Regt.

The 162nd Fus. Bn has four companies of 60 men each and is commanded by the 164th Regt.

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6 SEP 1945

902nd Assault Gun Brigade: following the withdrawal of the 3rd Pz Div, this unit is now presumably under the 62nd Div. Each of its three batteries contains three 75mm SF Assault guns.

9th Pz Div: No PzB were taken from this unit, but it is reported that the 33rd Pz Regt is committed north of COLCENE. Higher Hq reported a few days ago that this regiment comprised only six companies and that its armored strength had been considerably reduced. Many of its surplus tank crews are now in action as infantry.

* The divisional commander, Gemmaj KOKOTT is a close friend of HITLER and reported to be a ruthless and extremely unpopular man. Regtl commanders: 39th Regt, Maj KAUFMANN; 77th Regt: Lt Col SCHRIEFER; 78th Regt: Lt. Col. FROMBERGER. The latter officer was captured by the 78th US Div today.

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* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INET: 1/31 *
* DATE: 7/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

06200 Mar 1945
TO : 07200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Via MTEL
7 March 1945.

No. 229.
Map: GSGS L444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 525340 - ROETZEN - 565322 - 570313 - 586297.

b. Enemy units in contact:

- 3rd Btry, 9th AA Regt, 15th AA Div.
- 183rd Regt, 62nd Div. (als)
- 162nd Arty Regt, 62nd Div. (als)
- 164th Regt, 62nd Div. (als)
- 162nd Ers. Bn. (GT HERZ)
- 3rd Pocht-Engr Bn.
- 78th Ers Bn.

c. Additional notes on units in contact: 78th-VGR (from G-2 PR/84, 106th Inf Div)

The 78th VGR has withdrawn from our immediate front, and PWs told slightly varying stories, all of which, however, were connected. On the night of 3 March at about 2100 the 1st Bn received orders to be ready to pull out by 2200 for DAHLEM (L 1599). They did not get away until about 0030, 4 March, and went by way of BERK (L 0999), and BAASEM (L 1197). PWs heard that in DAHLEM they were to take up positions S of the town and prepare to defend their northern flank in order to keep the pocket open for the Sicherungs personnel to withdraw. Several other PWs overheard a telephone conversation between a battalion commander and one of his company commanders, both unidentified, at about 1900, 3 March which ran exactly as follows: battalion commander is speaking - "Starting at 2200 you will move to point B, then on to point D, then to point 13 (or 113, PW was uncertain). North of this point there is a patch of forest which will be the assembly area and from where transportation will be provided." The unit was to be in the patch of forest mentioned at 0200, 4 March. Battalion commander stated further that "everyone except the Sicherungs Bn and Festungs Stamm Co are included in the movement". This statement corroborates the statements of all PWs, namely, that the Sicherungs and Festungs Stamm people were to be left behind as a rearguard.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The enemy attempted to delay the advance of the 1st Bn, 47th Inf to the high ground overlooking the RHINE from the BORNHEIM area, but he was unsuccessful; light direct fire and small arms were received, as well as moderate flak.

The 60th Inf has gotten to the perimeter defenses of the town of BORN, where the enemy is attempting to maintain his bridgehead for the evacuation of troops. WITTSCHLOK and ROETZEN were cleared against light small arms and mortar resistance, but heavy SP, 105mm and 20mm flak fires, harassing in nature, slowed our progress to the E.

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Many enemy roadblocks were organized in the zone of advance of the 39th Inf; these were supported by small groups of enemy and assault guns. Patrols had pushed to the outskirts of BAD GODESBERG, at 565221 and 570313, and were engaged in a firefight with an estimated platoon of enemy infantry at the close of the period. A patrol from the 3rd Bn contacted enemy infantry S of the town, at 586297, after dark.

- b. **Artillery:** Enemy arty fire during the period was mainly from SP and AA guns operating in the fixed AA zone of the RHINE River. Single 105mm guns fired harassing fires, as did this 20mm, AA fire, particularly on elements of the 60th Inf; much of the AA was reported as time fire. One concentration of 50 rounds of arty landed in BUSCHHOVEN at noon today.

Seven counterbattery missions were fired by Corps and Div. Arty during the period.

- c. **Other fronts:** 9th Armd Div - MEHLEN, LIESSEN, GIMMERSDORF, BERKUM, BIRRESDORF, REMAGEN and BAD EIBENHORN clear of enemy. Receiving arty fire in SINZIG. Elements of the division crossed the RHINE at REMAGEN, and had reported no resistance at the end of the period.

78th Div - Advanced against very light resistance to a line 532168 to E of BERNAU (5115). 1st Div - Meeting resistance at 505378; otherwise, light opposition.

V Corps: Cleared with no resistance: KALENBERG (F 1919), STRUMPT (F 2120), RISSDORF (F 2722), BREITENBENDEN (F 2420), KALI (F 1816). Troops also advanced against no resistance to F 3320; in general enemy has withdrawn along Corps front SW of KALE at F 1014; to below SCHLEIDEN and NE MIECHERICH (F 2322) in our hands now. Very little fight today. No mortar, no arty. 60 PWs, all of whom say enemy withdrawing to following line: SISTIG (F 1311), KREKEL (F 1408), BLANKENHEIM (F 2305) and DAHLEM (L 1599). There were indications enemy out of ammunition and food. The only thing slowing is mines and booby traps planted through the long period of rest. V Corps front lines: F 200195, F 179175, F 118152, F 184160. In the south, our forces at 10 Easting 1008 - 0006. Patrols report only slight delaying force. Arty fire still light.

VII Corps: Elements of the 3rd Pa Div captured S of NIEHL (F 436665) against light resistance. One enemy tank destroyed. Other elements advanced W of MERHEIM (F 445646) and overran 10-gun flak battery vicinity F 425641. Town of MERVENICH (F 451005) cleared. Troops into COLOGNE, met small arms, light flak and sniper fire. HURTH (F 3632), HEFFELHEIM (F 4054) factory area SW HURTH all occupied, but some street fighting continues. Three tanks (two Tigers) observed in area. Some enemy troops observed F 398532 but no activity. One Combat Command is E of COLOGNE cathedral, one span of HOHENZOLLERN bridge destroyed, resistance still generally light.

Third Army: PW from 3rd and 16th Cos of the 11th SS Mtn Regt, 6th SS Mtn Div at L 2513, other elements of 3rd Bn, 11th SS Mtn Regt, 6th SS Mtn Div at L 2315, stated mission to capture FASCHEL (L 2416) and HENTERN (L 2413), SCHMERTIGH (L 2515). Third Army line: F 3176 - L 2358 - L 2725.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. **WEATHER FORECAST:** Cloudy, with intermittent rain and drizzle; winds, moderate, northerly. Civil twilight: PM 8 March, 1945; AM 9 March, 0627.

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b. Total number of PIR processes during period: 0
Total number of PIR processes since D day: 33,678.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

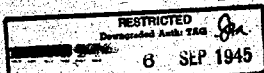
No change.

J. M. Balkman
for JACK A. HOUSTON, *Mag*
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1

Dist: n/o

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #22, 1st Inf Div, dated 7 March 1945.

FOREIGNERS

All foreigners overrun by the advancing American forces come under one of the following headings:

- (1) Volunteer civilian workers.
- (2) Drafted civilian workers.
- (3) Prisoners of War.

(1) Volunteer civilian foreign workers are not numerous. Few Frenchmen volunteered, and although it has been stated that no French women were forced to come to GERMANY by the German authorities, they came very rarely of their own free will. Those French civilians who did volunteer should be viewed with suspicion.

Volunteer Polish civilian workers are far more frequent, although again the term volunteer is misleading. Many Polish PWs were forced by the Germans to apply for release from the Army and at the same time to apply for civilian employment in GERMANY, the whole process taking place within the PW camps in GERMANY. The advantages thus accruing to the Poles were: higher pay, (50 marks a month instead of 10) more liberty, and frequently the possibility of having their families come to GERMANY from POLAND to join them. The advantages to the Germans were likewise appreciable: reduction in PW installations, more and better work, and (presumably) more amenable Poles. It must be said that in some cases the Poles have not been able to resist these inducements and are inclined to be pro-German. Therefore Polish civilians are not to be treated as pro-American unless their sentiments are well established.

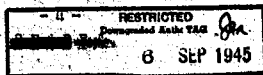
(2) The term drafted civilian workers includes most (if not all) Frenchmen, Belgians, Dutchmen employed in GERMANY at present. They were subject to a rigorous control, with a special German passport, special regulations governing correspondence, furloughs, pay, etc. Their center was previously at BOCHUM for this region. Furloughs of two weeks were allowed each year, and the workers were allowed to return to their homeland to buy certain rationed items for which they had no tickets in GERMANY. The hostage system operated to guarantee their return to work. On the whole the material lot of these workers in small enterprises - whether farms or factories - was not intolerable. Nevertheless it would be hard to find a Frenchman or Belgian who would stay on willingly in GERMANY. Recently the German civilians have behaved with greater consideration, sensing the change in the tide of war, but the Party officials have in some cases compelled the workers to dig trenches and fortifications contrary to agreements, and this has caused much hard feeling. All civilians were ordered evacuated across the RHINE 10 days ago.

(3) The Prisoners of War which we will meet will be those farmed out on much the same conditions as those of the civilians, except much lower pay, and consequently less enthusiasm for GERMANY. These PWs were supposed to have been evacuated 3 weeks ago, and therefore few will be uncovered.

Recalcitrant foreigners, whether military or civilian, were subject to drastic discipline. A concentration camp existed at BOPN to take care of them, and most foreigners doubt if any of the inmates of that camp survive more than a short time.

All foreigners in these classes were entitled to Red Cross benefits.

They are for the sake of speed to be evacuated through PW channels. Interrogation may in some cases produce good information as to defenses, mines, topographical details, etc. over a small area.



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6 SEP 1945

AUTH: G1, 9th Inf Div
INIT: 1/24/45
DATE: 8/25/45

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 072400 March 1945
TO: 062400 March 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
In the field.
8 March 1945

No. 290.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front line: RHINE River at 630215 - 647227 - 667213 - 690199 - RHINE River at 660180.

b. Units in contact: Identified by 9th Armored Division on East bank of RHINE:
12 Co, 12 Home Guard Engr Regt.
655 Engr Constr Bn
4 Btry, 3 Para AA Bn, 3 Para Div.
Medical Group LENZ
803 Engr Bn
160 Smoke Chemical Co.
103 Steel Construction Co
502 Army AA Btry
1308 Fort Arty Bn
842 Engr Constr Bn
37 AA Bn
71 Construction Bn
3 Btry, AA Lehr (School) Regt.
3 Para Hermann Goering Repl Bn.

Identified by 17th Inf Regt on East bank of RHINE:
667 AA Btry
911 AA Bn
843 Inf Bn
3 AA Regt. (Demonstration)
502 AA Btry

c. Further information on units in contact: The AA batteries were in general without transportation and were therefore stranded in this area when friendly elements crossed. Only a small element had been originally committed as infantry, and the remainder were overrun. Their 20mm guns have however been effective. The 667 AA Btry had some 12 X 17mm AA guns.

The 911 AA Btry had some 12 X 20mm AA guns; all but 2 platoons withdrew toward COBLENZ.

The 502 AA Btry had some 18 X 20mm AA guns. There were 350 men per Bn.

The 3 AA DEMONSTRATION REGIMENT contains 3 batteries of 20 rocket projectors (Raketenerwerfer) each. These rockets were fired from a metal frame and only attained a height of 1600 meters and were therefore considered useful against dive bombers. The other 2 batteries (each 100 men strong) and used in RR AA defense.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. Upon the arrival of the American forces in REMAGEN in the afternoon of March 7 the enemy was not organized for resistance. Infantry and a small amount of armor had for the last 3 days been passing across the bridge, heading for

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BRUCHHAUSEN and presumably the super highway to the East. Few units were seen withdrawing along the river road, either to the North or South. The units more or less permanently located in REMAGEN and RPEL were AA batteries to build and maintain ferry services across the RHINE, and medical personnel in the hospital at LINZ. One engineer unit, the 12th Landes Pionier Regiment, was in charge of blowing the bridge. None of these formations was equipped to resist the enemy, and all scouted on the bridge being blown in time.

But the charges had to be put in at the last moment, owing to the disastrous experience at COLOGNE where a bridge prepared for demolition blew up as a result of bombs falling in the neighborhood. When the time came to blow up this bridge no charges were on hand, and those finally improvised were inadequate. The Easternmost span was slightly damaged, but the roadway was left intact. The Americans were able to cross, and did so.

Nevertheless, communications on the Eastern bank were extremely poor, and word of this disastrous event did not at once circulate, and when it was too late to organize effective defence. Units were hastily told to assemble in towns 5 kilometers or more to the East. Those who did not or would not comply were later overrun or destroyed. Well over 500 PWs were taken from 2 wide variety of units. None was represented in strength, few were taken in close combat. The AA made brief use of their 20mm.

By noon of the 8 March a more coherent enemy appeared to be facing us. The river shore had been evacuated and the steep slopes up to GODESBERG and OLENBERG were in our hands. Fire fights on increasing infantry developed in BRUCHHAUSEN and to the Southeast. The enemy was destroyed and many PWs were taken. The familiar pattern of combat reasserted itself; stubborn resistance in the built up areas, occasionally (but effectively) supported by SP fire. Artillery fire began to fall in the vicinity of the bridge but caused no damage. Toward the end of the period quiet prevailed in the bridgehead except for 2 significant developments; enemy planes attempted to bomb the bridge at 3 instances during the night, and after dark the 11th Panzer division was identified by the 47th Inf. Regt.

- c. Other fronts: The 39th Inf took GODESBERG and continued to clear up in that area; the Commanding General of the 3 Para Div was taken prisoner. The 60th Infantry after experiencing severe resistance at the Prisoner of War camps near DUISDORF, the first PW camp overrun by American forces in GERMANY finally overcame all opposition in that area. The First Division occupied large portions of BONN.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Cloudy with occasional showers, visibility poor.
- b. PWs processed during period; (processed by 9th Armored Div.).
- c. General SCHIMPF: (See attachment).

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

The enemy had been driven back across the RHINE River, and those elements forced across to the East represent an estimated 15 divisions in strength. The majority of this force was on the COLOGNE area it is likely that the enemy, feeling that a breathing spell was at his disposal withdrew forces well to the East of the RHINE, to organize them. Our crossing has been a definite surprise to him, but a counterattack, though

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limited in size, will come within 36 hours it is believed. The direction, strength and composition of the attack cannot be foreseen with any accuracy.

The SIEB River offers a fairly favorable defensive line, and it can be expected that in case a counterattack failed in purpose to contain or annihilate a bridgehead a force would be at once put in position along that line to defend approaches to the RUHR. The enemy controls the observation to the East and South.

CAPABILITIES.

- a. The enemy can (1) counterattack with an estimated one or two divisions within 36 hours.
- (2) The enemy can defend along the SIEB River in the North and from the high ground on the South.

Jack A. Houston
JACK A. HOUSTON
Lt. Col., OSC
AG of S, G-2

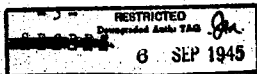
GENERAL SCHIMPF

A brilliant military career came to its close today when the 39th Infantry Regiment captured Genlt. SCHIMPF, Commanding General of the 3rd Parachute Division. Like most high-ranking German Officers, he is ruthless and efficient, but unlike most of them he was greatly admired by his men. And unlike a great many general officers, he was not a native of EAST RUSSIA, but of WURTEMBERG.

The men of his Division almost made their commanding officers into a living legend. He expected superhuman achievements from his Paratroopers, and his favorite phrase was "A Paratrooper dies in his foxhole". When the Div. tried to break out of the FALAISE-ARGENTAN pocket last August, it was rumored that the General had been wounded. An expedition, consisting of officers and men was immediately formed to rescue the popular Commander. The expedition failed, but General SCHIMPF was able to return to GERMANY.

While the Division was fighting a defensive battle in the ARDENNES in the middle of Jan 1945, Genlt SCHIMPF resumed command of his old outfit. He again manifested his two characteristic qualities; Organizing ability and care for his men. He set about to bring the depleted division up to full strength and as recently as mid-February he acquired the 6th Para Regiment and strengthened the other Infantry elements of the Division. Prisoners of War related that he refused to comply with suggestions advanced by higher headquarters to inflict heavy punishment on all men found lax in discharge of their duties. He based his refusal on the fact that higher headquarters had failed to put at the disposal of his troops all the equipment they were entitled to expect.

Taken in itself, the capture of the 56 year old General is not very significant. But considering, that he was the outstanding leader of an enemy Division, it symbolizes the ir retrievable decay of this unit as well as that of the entire WEHRMACHT.



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6 SEP 1945 082100 March 1945
TO 092400 March 1945

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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *CAH* *
* DATE: 9/8/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
ERFEL, Germany.
9 March 1945.

No. 231
Map: GSGS W414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: Rhine at 635275 - 650235 - 682227 - 685210 - 691198 -
Rhine at 678180.

b. Units in contact:

- 2, 3 Cos, III PG Regt, 11 Panzer Division
- 1 Co, 209 Engr Bn, 11 Panzer Division
- 1 Btry, 119 Regt, 11 Panzer Division
- 2 Btry, 8th AA Bn
- 3, 4 Btries, 1st AA Bn
- 4 Co, 3 AA Bn, 3 Pz Div
- 2 Co, 12 Landespionier Regiment
- Pionier Regiment Army Group Wg
- 1, 2, 3, Cos, Pionier Sturm Regiment No. 5
- 4, Hq Btry, 272 Arty Regt
- 1 Co, 8th Pionier Training Bn
- 62 Pionier Bn
- 2 Co, III Ron Bn

c. Information on units in contact: The 11 Panzer Division had been committed in the battle of the ROER and suffered the fate of all other units who escaped encirclement, loss of equipment, temporary disorganization, and ultimate defeat. Its tank component, the 15 Panzer Regiment was withdrawn only 4 days ago from the threatening pocket north of COLOGNE, and it is certainly not near its T.O. strength of 150 tanks. As for the two infantry regiments, the 111 and the 110, they are reported to be 3-400 men strong, though short neither on weapons nor experience. Mortars are few. The Tank Regiment has not been identified on this front, nor have we definite proof that all of both regiments are here. The artillery regiment is remarkable for the preponderance of SPs - 6 batteries out of 10 - the breakdown is as follows:

- 1, 2 batteries, SP 105mm (gun or how)
- 3 battery, SP 150mm
- 4, 5, 6, batteries, SP 105mm (how or gun)
- 8, 9, batteries, motordrawn 105 guns
- 10 battery, 120mm mortar.

The artillery regiment is of interest for 2 reasons: many of its SP-guns will doubtless be reported as tanks; they will of course be acting in an artillery support role. Secondly, the shortage of mortars will be compensated by the 120mm mortars - (motordrawn)

The elements of the 11 Panzer Division at present committed on our front were brought down from DUESSELDORF (and BONN) in all haste during the night of 8-9 March, coming along the Super-highway COLOGNE-FRANKFORT and turning

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off at 713261 (HERTSCHHEID). Their general axis of advance has been to the west toward BREITRHEINBACH. It would be idle to deny the strength of the 11 Panzer Division or to overlook the determination of the enemy to hold us as indicated by the commitment of a good unit. More of the 11th will undoubtedly be met before the end. But it should not be forgotten that the 11th is gravely depleted in strength; its tank regiment must be much reduced, and its morale cannot be any too high when upon the first day of commitment a score of deserters are noted. Its supply and communication problems cannot be easy. Lastly, no German unit can be unaware of the developments both in the east and west and their determination to fight to the end will be weakened by that knowledge.

The Engineer units, still identified in quantity, have all been committed as infantry, and are doubtless under the command of the 11 Panzer Division. The 2 Co, 111 Rcn Bn, (11 Pz Division) was committed south of HONNEF with 16 armored half tracks armed with MGs and 37mm. The unit arrived 9 March at noon.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD:

- a. General: BRUCHHAUSEN, which the enemy was forced to abandon 8 March was during the day the target of much fire from the enemy: SP, MG and small arms. The pressure in the area continued throughout the period. Enemy vehicular activity was apparent south of the town, and to the east.

The 47th Infantry was subjected to 3 attacks during the day, each of them of battalion strength, supported by SP guns (or tanks). By the end of the day the last of these attacks had died down. The enemy had gained no ground, in spite of excellent observation and considerable fire power.

Further to the west along the river itself the enemy was obliged by elements of the 311 Infantry to evacuate RHEINBREITBACH and a large part of HONNEF. Heavy house to house fighting ensued in RHEINBREITBACH, and 195 PWs were taken from the town. Artillery fire slackened toward evening and became negligible.

To the south, stubborn resistance, supported by the usual mixture of small arms, MG, 20mm and SP, met the 60th Inf in its advance. A strongpoint seemed to develop at (91199) a factory building. Elsewhere the enemy withdrew toward the north east and the high wooded ground.

Artillery fire fell on the forward elements during the day, taking advantage of the good observation. Interdictory fire on the bridge grew in accuracy and intensity and appeared to be observed.

b. Operation of component elements:

- (1) Artillery - Enemy artillery was moderate to heavy, the shelling being primarily on forward elements and the bridge site.
- (2) Armor - An estimated 10-15 tanks and/or SPs were operative along the division front during the period, being used in an infantry support role.
- (3) Air - Continuous attempts were made throughout daylight hours to bomb the bridge, the enemy operating in groups of four to eight planes. Four planes were reported destroyed.

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c. Other Fronts:

- 1st Infantry Division - continued to mop up BONN.
39th Infantry Regt - consolidated its position at BONESBERG.
9th Armored Division - (CCB) took 1500 Pys trying to escape across the Rhine.
They occupy the high ground south of the Ahr.
Third Army - 4th Armored reached position overlooking COBLENZ on the Rhine.
11th Armored pushing rapidly on north of 4th Armored to Rhine
near ANDEINACH.
3rd Armored Division - is in COLOGNE.
78th Infantry Division - is almost entirely within the bridgehead area.

Russian Front - Danzig is reported to be in Russian hands. The Russians are
Five miles from STEJIN, the large port north east of Berlin on the Baltic.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Enemy supply routes given by PW interrogation:
(1) Autobahn to 758250 - STRODT - LORSCHIED - ST KATHARINEN - BERGARTEN.
(2) Autobahn to 711281 - 696267 - 673253.
- b. GIC reports that the head of the Volksturm in COBLENZ an ardent Nazi,
found himself in an uncompromising position when his charge refused to
take up arms in defense of their city, and so he killed his wife and com-
mitted suicide.
- c. Weather Forecast: 10 March 1945. - Broken low clouds with light rain or
drizzle. Surface winds north west eight to ten MPH. Visibility two to three
miles during early morning increasing to five to six miles during afternoon.
Civil twilight (PM) 10 March 1945 - 1900 hrs.
Civil twilight (AM) 11 March 1945 - 0623 hrs.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

- a. No change.
- b. The enemy has been given time to put into effect emergency measures commensurate with his future intentions. The 11th Pz Div has been identified, and PW statements indicate the entire division has been, or will shortly be, identified. Their role is one of holding in check our expanding the bridgehead, indicating the enemy's intentions of eliminating it. At present the known units in contact are 110 Pz Gren Regt, 111 Pz Gren Regt, Engr Bn, 11th Pz Div (being used as infantry), four Engr Bns (being used as infantry), and remnants of 272, 3 Prcht Regt, 62 Div. The 119 Arty Regt, 11 Pz Div is believed in the area. The 15 Tank Regt, 11 Pz Div is expected, probably being used as infantry support.
- It is expected that no less than one and possibly three infantry type divisions will be committed within the next 72 hours in an effort to eliminate our foothold east of the RHINE. Continued efforts to bomb and shell the bridge are to be expected.

Falling in the above the enemy will swing to the defensive, the next line expected to be the SIEG River line which offers a natural defensive position for the RUHR region.

Dist: No change.

Jack A. Houston
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
A.C. of S., G-2.

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Annex No. 1 to G-2 Periodic Report No. 220 dated 9 March 1945.

ENEMY OBSERVATION POSTS

L.F. area

5539 - 7239 - 7210

626322 - On the south, the east bank of the Rhine as far as 628296, the west bank of the RHINE, the heights as far as 502172 on the Ahr, to 543210, to 561256 to 625262, GODESBURG, 547319.

Places on the east bank of the RHINE: KOENIGSWINTER, DOLLENDORF, BEUEL. West bank of the Rhine LANNESDORF, GODESBURG, FLIESDORF, DOHENDORF, BONN. To the northeast to ODINGHOVEN, STIEDORFERHOHN, BEANINGHAUSEN, BENNET. To 655316

655316 - Valley can be seen between peaks of the STEBENBERG. Generally a good view of the heights on the opposite bank of the Rhine. View from NE to SE to OBERFLAIS, AEGIDIENBERG and the BERGISCHESLAND.

628296 - RHINE valley from UNKEL to BONN - roads and railways on both banks.

652296 - From UNKEL as far as 628296, both sides of the RHINE valley with roads and railways, further off the slopes of the west bank of the Rhine from 625262 as far as 561256. No view from SE through E to N.

672272 - To HONNEF and HOHENHONNEF (649282); the steep slopes on the opposite bank of the RHINE, and the river itself south of HONNEF. To 628296.

688231 - Plain on east bank of RHINE is obscured. SINZIG is visible. Heights above the Rhine and Ahr rivers as far as 502172 and 543210.

707207 - Large stone quarry, ascent difficult. Wide view from east to south. To SW to LUDENDORF - BRUCKE. The heights of the west bank of the Rhine are almost all visible. The River itself by LINZ and REMAGEN. The AHR valley as far as 502172. Nothing to the north. To 688231 and the peaks of the STEBENBERG, east of HOHENHONNEF. Good possibility of cover in Quarry.

702186 - REMAGEN, SINZIG, and KRIPP are visible. No view to the east.

(Direct translation from German Source published in British publication I.S.T.D./C/103/S-1 dated September 1944)

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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *OKL* *
* DATE: 10/18/45 *

G-2 ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic ERPEL.
10 March 1945.

No. 232.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: RHINE at 632278 - HONNEF (643275) - 643264 - 658265 - 659260 - 677230 - 686228 - 687209 - 700206 - 703180 - RHINE at LEUBSDORF (682166).

b. Enemy units in contact: * Previously identified.

11th Pz Div - 2nd Co, 111th Regt, 11th Pz Div. *
4th Co, 111th Regt, 11th Pz Div.
4th Co, 110th Regt, 11th Pz Div. *
Repl Co, 11th Recon Bn, 11th Pz Div.
2nd Co, 11th Recon Bn, 11th Pz Div. *
5th Co, 11th Recon Bn, 11th Pz Div.
Hq Btry, 119th Arty Regt, 11th Pz Div.
5th Btry, 119th Arty Regt, 11th Pz Div.
AA units - 5th Btry, 686th AA Bn.
4th Btry, 686th AA Bn.
3rd Btry, 277th AA Bn.
4th Btry, 911th AA Bn.
Bn Hq, 911th AA Bn.
4th Btry, 894th AA Bn.
1st Btry, 938th AA Bn.
Engr units - 3rd Co, 12th Landesschuetzen Engr Bn.
1st Co, 834th Engr Bn. *
6th Co, Engr Combat School, Army Group "B". *
4th Co, Bridge Construction Bn 655.
1st Co, 34th Engr Bn. (straggler).

c. Additional information on units in contact:

It appears that the strength and importance of the 11th Pz Div on this front has been overestimated. It is evident that the strictly infantry elements of the 11th Pz Div were never stronger than 3 battalions and that these battalions are severely depleted in numbers, and effectiveness. PW report perhaps prematurely, that the 1st Bn of the 110th Regt (the only one committed) has almost ceased to exist as a combat unit, the men are many of them of a low caliber and insufficient training. The component elements are still strong; just how much of the 15th Pz Regt is here is not known; at least a dozen of its tanks are in the region, Mk VI's and Mk V's; two batteries of the artillery have been identified, both of them SP 105mm. Attached to the division are two hitherto unsuspected units: 1st Co of the 61st AT Bn, and an Army nebelwerfer battalion. In general it may be said that the 11th Pz Div is in a position to provide fire power, mobility, and administration.

By the same token we have perhaps underestimated the importance of the other type units: the engineers and the AA, particularly the engineers. There are on our front probably 3 battalions totalling some 7-800 men. The AA units are probably somewhat less numerous but together they outnumber the 111th and 110th Regts. The command of the engineers is still obscure: 3 battalions came from DUESSELDORF 3 days ago. Part of the engineer regiment of Army Group "B". They appear to be closely connected with the Pz Div, though their identifications is obscure as yet.

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Part of the Repl Bn of DAS REICH Ldv has been located in Reserve somewhere 10 kms to the rear; and so has the Repl Bn of the HOHENSTAUFEN Div. together they have only 160 men. The divisions themselves of course are committed elsewhere.

The 11th Panzer Bn (part of the 11th Pz Div) has a strength of 250 men; 100 of these are reported to be in the rear servicing vehicles. The 209th Engr Bn of the 11th Pz Div is represented by one platoon only on this front.

Rumor's, quite unconfirmed, place the 5th Frecht Regt and either the 272nd or 772nd Div in the vicinity of HIMBERG being reformed.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD.

- a. General: The enemy stubbornly contested our advances during the period, the main resistance coming from small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire. Three counterattacks were launched at our advance elements, two at the 309th Inf Regt, and one at the 47th Inf Regt. In all three the enemy was estimated at battalion strength supported by three to five tanks. The three efforts occurred in the central sector, the objectives being the river at the bridge site (according to PW statements and captured maps). Aggressive action started early in the period and was continuous throughout. Three infiltration attempts were made in the central sector. Elsewhere the enemy was defensive, offering stubborn resistance from key strong points.
- b. Artillery: Artillery fire was generally moderate, primary targets being forward elements and the bridge site, which was heavily interdicted. One heavy concentration fell early in the period, probably a battalion concentration.
- c. Armor: An estimated 12 to 15 tanks were operative along the division front as well as an estimated 10 SP guns, being used in an infantry support role. One group of 5 tanks led a counterattack effort early in the period.
- d. Air: The enemy again attempted to bomb the bridge. Single planes made 12 attempts. Two confirmed destroyed and one probably destroyed were reported.
- e. Other fronts: VII Corps cleared west bank of RHINE entirely; only scattered snipers remained in BONN. To the east of the river, north and south of COLOGNE considerable enemy activity and entrenching was observed.

Third Army has reached BROHL (F 7010) and ANDERNACH (7604) are just short of HOBLINZ. Resistance was scattered and disorganized. The Third and First Army met at BURGEROHL (6707).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Overcast, low cloud base, visibility poor at beginning, fair in the afternoon, weather haze and light fog and local smoke in battle areas. Surface winds light from NW. Maximum temperature 48° minimum 35°. Operations restricted by low visibility with limited operations likely after 1100. Non-visual operations possible during the entire day. Twilight (PM) 11 March 45 - 1901; twilight (AM) 12 March 45 - 0620.
- b. Total PWs processed during the period: 439.
Total PWs processed since D day: 34,117

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- c. DOCUMENT: According to a document captured by the 60th Inf, all units coming by way of the Autobahn (super-highway) turned off at the Siebengebirge cloverleaf near HEDBERG, or at the cloverleaf at HEDBACH (6737). This latter place has been an assembly area.
- d. SOLDEUCH: PWs state that in the future all SS paybooks will be stamped PWs, and this will constitute the only means of identifying SS personnel.
- e. SS: PWs stated that SS were being brought up in order to force the troops in the area to fight.
- f. A patrol from the 311th Inf reported that between ERPEI(6420) and HONNEF (6427) were 14 barges, 1 steam boat, 5 tugs, and 2 RR engines, all apparently in a usable condition. The railroad between these points could be put into working condition very shortly, there being one small crater.
4. RAILWAY CAPABILITIES

No change.

Jack A. Houston
Lt. Col., USMC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1

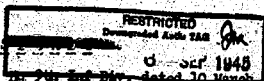
Dist: n/o except add 309th Inf
310th Inf
311th Inf

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #232, 11th Pz Div, dated 10 March 1945.

PI REPORT

From: 091800 Mar 1945
To : 101800 Mar 1945

The composition of the 11th Pz Div is now becoming clearer as a result of further identification: opposing our forces in the bridgehead are; the 110th Regt, 111th Regt, 119th Arty Regt, 11th Rcn Bn, 61st AT Bn (atchd), 209th Engr Bn, Army Nebelwerfer Bn. The infantry regiments formerly contained 3 battalions each, but now contain 2 only. No identification has as yet been made of the 13th and 14th Cos of the two regiments. The 11th Rcn has 5 companies, all identified on this front. The replacement battalions of the DAS REICH and HOHENSTAUFEN Divs have been tentatively identified in the area, although not as yet committed. Pzms vary as to the number of tanks estimated in support. Some Pzms mention having seen as many as 9 in support of one battalion; most of these were reported to be Mk VIs, though some Mk VII's were noted. SP 88s were mentioned as the standard infantry support gun and as a conveyance as well.

Elements of the 2nd Bn, 111th Regt were arriving in this area as late as the morning of the 9th, from DUESSELDORF. They arrived in many cases before their ammunition, and many went into the line without an adequate supply.

Reports of heavy losses among the units of the 11th Pz Div are better substantiated than the majority of such statements. It appears that the 110th unless it receives reinforcements will be obliged to withdraw.

Pzms state KALENBORN is a detrucking area; it was (and perhaps still is) the site of the divisional CP of the 11th Pz Div.

American artillery, has been falling on the super-highway, according to Pz statements.

Pzms several days ago were officially informed that they could expect no respect of the Geneva Convention rules from Americans in case of capture. This move was doubtless designed to discourage desertion.



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The 209th Engr Bn is of course part of the 11th Pz Div and benefits by the tank and artillery support of that command; it has absorbed a few small straggler identifications which will continue to appear for several days.

The 304th Training Regt controls the miscellaneous AA and engineer units to the south.

The 108th Engr Regt of the Army Group "B" controls the miscellaneous AA and engineer units to the north.

For further explanation of the strength and organization of these units, see the IPW report. The chief problem is now to discover the component parts of these units.

The breakdown of units along the bridgehead front makes clearer the weak spots in the enemy's forces. The 110th and 111th Regts have suffered heavy losses; some of its armor and artillery has been moved to the south where our pressure has been heavy, and it is likely that when reinforcements arrive (as they will within a short time; it is generally believed) they will appear on the front of the 309th, 310th and 47th Regts, and at the same time elements of the 11th Pz Div - the reconnaissance battalion, the two regiments, the tank regiment will appear on the south.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

General: 311th Inf sector - Two counter-attacks of 75-100 Infantry supported by 4-5 tanks were broken up in the HONNEF area by artillery fire during the morning. An enemy dug-in position at 668232 was overcome during our advance. Resistance was primarily from small arms and automatic weapons. Fighting was particularly heavy in the 645275 area.

309th Inf sector - Heavy small arms, MG and mortar fire was encountered during the period. Some nobelwarfer fire was received.

310th Inf sector - The enemy launched a counterattack during the afternoon, 7 tanks and an Infantry company comprising the counterattacking force. The enemy smoked positions of the 3rd Bn. The effort was broken up by artillery fire before contact was made. During the rest of the period small arms, mortar, light artillery, and automatic weapons fire was being encountered.

47th Inf sector - Enemy resistance was characterized by the severest artillery and mortar fire encountered for some time. Deep-in harassing fire hindered operations. Infantry resistance was desperate. At the close of the period the enemy was holding from a strong point at 692220.

60th Inf sector - The enemy was stubbornly resisting from strong points taking advantage of favorable terrain. At the close of the period his tactics had become somewhat more aggressive having been driven from two strong points at 692199, and 708206. The main resistance was coming from mortar, small arms, and automatic weapons fire.

393rd Inf sector - An enemy attack at 1800 hrs by 6 tanks and an estimated 150 enemy infantry was successfully repulsed. Another similar attack was likewise broken up by artillery at 1930 hours.

394th Inf sector - Resistance was light to moderate, coming primarily from small arms, MG and 20mm flak.

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6 Jul 1945
By: G. H. C. Div. dated 11 March 1945.

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #233

PT REPORT

From: 101800 March 1945
To : 111800 March 1945

The Rhine Engineers: The RHINE caused the German supply system many difficulties. Allied air power and artillery damaged the bridges so continuously that engineer battalions, under the supervision of so-called "Section Commandants", had to be at hand for repair of the bridges or for the temporary building of suitable bridge-heads for the transportation of supplies by ferry or pontoons.

As long as the Allied infantry was far enough away from the bridges to be of no immediate danger, the RHINE section commandants were responsible for fairly smooth crossing of the river. But when the threat of the U.S. offensive increased, the 5th Pz Army Engr Commander (in this sector) or the Army Group B Engr Commander, was placed directly in charge of the different engineer battalions.

First the engineers were ordered to mine the bridges, and later to blow them up. After that, they were supposed to lay mines and wire entanglements, construct fortifications and defenses on the E bank of the RHINE. But the plans were changed. Some of the wires leading to the demolition charges on the bridge were cut by shrapnel, and the bridge did not collapse. This factor is the main cause for all of the unorganic engineer units in this sector fighting as infantry. Some of these engineers have been called from the former adjoining RHINE sections, with the mission of trying to contain the U.S. bridgehead.

AA Units as Infantry: Almost a dozen AA Bns and Regts have been identified from Pts during the last 48 hours. It has now been explained that there are only 2 or 3 AA Bns identified in this sector that are of significance as fighting units. Most of the personnel has either lost or abandoned their equipment W of the RHINE, and upon crossing the river were immediately put in as infantry in the front lines to fight our bridgehead.

Two of these AA Bns managed to bring their 20mm AA guns across the river, and are now using them as infantry support weapons.

A German Tanker's Opinion: The driver of a Mk V tank, belonging to the 15th Pz Regt of the 11th Pz Div, makes the following statements after having been engaged with our tanks and infantry in the vicinity of KALENBORN:

After having received orders from his regimental Hq, which at that time was located in the above village, to take the town of BRUCHHAUSEN and the road junction at the Sternhorwette factory, accompanied by 4 other Mk V tanks, each mounting some 25 infantry, he drove within range of U.S. tanks and infantry. He said that he could see American tanks moving about, very poorly camouflaged. At that time, his own counter-attacking force was noticed by the Americans, and after a few minutes, U.S. artillery fire knocked out one of his tanks, dispersed the supporting infantry, and caused a leak in his own fuel tank and radiator. As soon as the American tanks approached the Germans, the 3 remaining Mk Vs turned back. The tanker was unable to start his vehicle again and tried to blow it up. The civilian population dragged him from the tank, trying to prevent an explosion which would have shattered their houses in the vicinity. Upon the arrival of the American tanks in the village, 3 rounds were fired into the Mk V, setting it ablaze, although all the hatches were open.

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The PW states that he had heard that the remaining force of armor, belonging to this regiment (15th Arm'd Regt) was well under way, coming down the Autobahn into this sector. The 1st Bn has all Panthers, and the 2nd Bn consists of Mk IVs. He puts the available armor for this regiment at a total of 30 tanks.

Tanks and Heavy Artillery: The general vicinity of NEUBIED was indicated to be an assembly area for considerable number of tanks and artillery pieces. It is not believed that this equipment belongs to any particular unit at the present time, but if left parked there, may soon help equip the units crossing the RHINE at KOBLENZ.

General Summary: From PW interrogation, the following estimate of the organization opposing this bridgehead is given:

The 11th Pz Div being the best organized unit is charged with the job of preventing our forces from widening the bridgehead. It appears that the division Hq has divided the entire sector into four parts. The most important area in the eyes of the enemy are the NE approaches to the Autobahn, which also contains the valuable high ground. Realizing this, the 11th Pz Div has taken the most important of the four parts under its own control with most of the armor and supporting heavy weapons and artillery. This is the general sector between NOTSCHEID (7122) and REBERSCHIED (7126). Estimating the area between the RHINE river at RHOENDORF and HIMBERG, second in importance, the division Hq charged the 106th Pz Brigade with an approximate number of 13 tanks, 12 SP guns and 22 half-tracks, including an engineer regiment, with this sector. Since the wooded area between the village of GINSTERHAIN (7219) and WEISSFELD (7415) can very easily be defended by infantry only due to a very poor and insufficient road net, the 11th Pz Div Hq put its organic 209th Pz Engr Bn in charge of this sector, with the supporting triple and quadruple MGs belonging to an AA unit which managed to bring these weapons across the RHINE.

Finally, the S sector of the bridgehead is defended by a conglomeration of engineer battalions, construction battalions, and stragglers from former AA battalions. The commanding Hq of this S sector, not showing any evidence of armor, is the 103rd Engr Training Regt.

The replacement training battalions of the 2nd SS Div DAS REICH, and the 9th SS Div HOHENSTAUFEN, both totaling no more than 200 men, have been put into this sector with one mission: to make the engineers and Luftwaffe personnel fight, and to prevent any hasty withdrawal. It appears in some sectors that these units just described are actually fighting as infantry, but as explained by other PWs, the only reason of their capture is that they have been trying to look for their own front line companies, where they were to do the above-described job.

Estimate of Enemy Equipment in Contact: Tanks (Mk IV, V, VI) - 13; SP guns - 22 half-tracks - 47; Nebelwerfers - 1 Bn; Regular arty - 7 batteries (105 Hows, 150 Hows and 120mm mortars).

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FORM 1042-200 Mar 1945
TO 1-22200 Mar 1945

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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INLT: 1/32 *
* DATE: 12/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic ERPEL
12 March 1945

No. 234.
Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: RHINE at 632282-643282-652268-678258-678218-681215-679237-700235-708225-699211-721204-727173-HOENNINGEN.

b. Units identified during the period:

1st, 2nd, Hq Cos, 209th Engr Bn.
3rd Btry, 84th AA Bn.
Hq, 108th Engr Regt.
6th Btry, 119th Arty Regt.
1st, 2nd Cos, 10th GAF Engr Bn.
1st, 2nd, 8th, 10th Cos, 368th Marsch Bn.
2nd, 5th Cos, 11th Pz Rcn Bn.
2nd, 6th, 7th Cos, 110th FO Regt.
2nd Co, 111th FJ Regt.
1st Bn, 314th Engr Regt.
57th GAF Sig Regt.
51st Fighter Squadron (straggler).
548th Heavy AA Bn.
1st Co, 655th Engr Construction Bn.
4th Btry, 764th AA Bn.
4th Btry, 7th AA Bn.
1st Co, 834th Engr Bn.
7th Co, 902nd Regt, 130 (Pz Lehr) Div.
KG-STOLLER.
106th Pz Brigade.

c. Additional information on units in contact:

The breakdown of the units opposing us still follows the diagram printed in last night's periodic; the 108th Engr Regt with subordinate units to the north, the 106th Pz Brigade and the 11th Rcn Bn in the same area; the 110th, the 111th, the 209th (in the vicinity of HARGARTEN) the 834th Engr Bn, and finally to the extreme south, the 403rd Regt.

The 84th AA Bn is the AA battalion attached to the 11th Pz Div, although not an organic part of it.

The 10th GAF Engr Bn is only two companies strong; the companies are of approximately 80 men.

The 368th Marsch Bn is the Repl Bn of the 11th Pz Div (see OB notes).

The KG MAGN of the KG KESSLER is part of the 368th Marsch Bn.

At this hour nothing is known of the 314th Engr Regt. Its identification is not final.

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6 JUN 1945

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The 57th GAF Sig Regt is likewise unconfirmed.

The 51st Fighter Squadron is a straggler identification.

The 902nd Regt 130 (Pz Lehr) Division - this identification does not indicate the presence of the division in this sector. According to PWs, 60 men from the 1st, 6th and 7th Cos were detached from the 902nd and sent to this area as replacements.

New units have arrived in the area within the last 24 hours, though none of them indicative of any great reinforcement: the 368th Marsch Bn (with a strength of 200 more or less) 60 men from the 902nd Regt, including such identifications as the 314th Engr Regt, the 57th GAF Sig Regt may perhaps account for another 200, making a total of 460 replacements within the period.

According to the G-2 of the 78th Div, the KG BECK is of two company size. It was formed at HEIDELBERG and is part of a two-battalion sized combat team recently committed on the southern flank of the bridgehead. BECK's was the 2nd battalion, and included the 5th, 6th and 8th Cos. The 1st Bn was under one WAGNER; both battalions combined to form the KG STOLLER. The boundaries (as of two days ago) were as follows; the HOMBORN-HUBERTUSHOF sector was to be held by an engineer battalion (presumably part of the 1st Trng Regt); HUBERTUSHOF-RODIGERHOF was to be held by KG BECK; RONTGERHOF-HUM ELSBERG was to be held by an SS unit, the miscellaneous group of SS replacements met in that area already. KG BECK had 3 infantry companies of from 60-70 men each; the men had only 4 weeks training in artillery and the heavy weapons support was not very strong. A battalion of 105mm guns however was in support. Apparently a counterattack, coordinated between BECK and the 11th Regt, was planned, since the COs of the two units met at ST KATHARINEN to discuss the matter 3 days ago.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: 311th Inf sector - Resistance in the HONNEF area was generally lighter; three small counter-attacks, each of 100 enemy infantry supported by 2 or 3 tanks, were broken up by artillery fire. Artillery and mortar fire were moderate and continuous throughout the day.

309th Inf sector - Dug-in tanks and infantry constituted the principal impediment to the regiment's advance, as well as fire from one roving SP-gun.

310th Inf sector - Stubborn resistance from dug-in tanks and infantry met the regiment's attack to seize the high ground vicinity 695235. Enemy planes bombed and strafed our troops and counterattack supported by 4 tanks pushed our troops off of the forward slope in that area at dusk.

39th Inf sector - Enemy infantry defended stubbornly from dug-in positions along the route of advance, supported by SP fire. During the afternoon, the enemy moved against the 1st Bn troops, but the attack was repulsed. Arty, Nebelwerfer and infantry fire were heavy.

47th Inf sector - The enemy resisted stubbornly, employing all weapons at his disposal to defend in the difficult terrain of the central part of the bridgehead. Mortar and artillery fire were very heavy. Nebelwerfer and SP fire harassed our troops.

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60th Inf sector - Enemy resistance was initially light in the HARGARTEN-ST KATHARINEN area, but stiffened during the day, when artillery, SP and mortar fire became heavy. SP fire was particularly heavy vicinity ST KATHARINEN. At the end of the period, an estimated 5 tanks were still operating in this area.

393rd Inf sector - Difficult terrain was the chief obstacle to our advance in this sector; at 1730, an estimated 200 enemy infantry launched a counter-attack which pushed our forces from the village of ROEMERBUZ (725182), but the ground was regained without difficulty. An American tank earlier observed accompanied by enemy infantry in the ROMERICH area was dug in at that crossroad later in the period.

394th Inf sector - Enemy resistance was light during the initial phases of our attack in HOENNINGEN, but increased as our troops approached the ridge line. 88mm AT fire and tank fire were heavy on the town.

- b. Artillery: Enemy artillery fire increased today in the forward areas, but decreased in vicinity of the bridges. Fire on forward elements came mainly from the NE and W. The Air OP picked up and brought down heavy fire on a gun battery at 722424. The sound base located batteries at 70h316, 727339, 722294 and 663340, all of which were counterbattered with Corps arty TOTs. A super-heavy gun, estimated 340mm and located to the E fired 6 or 7 rounds on the bridge area today. Several large rocket projectiles were fired into that area from an easterly direction.
- c. Armor: 34 enemy tanks are now believed operative on the bridgehead front.
- d. Air: An estimated total of 18 enemy aircraft were operative over the bridgehead during the period. Troops on both sides of the river were bombed and strafed. The usual unsuccessful attempts on the bridges were made.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: light haze and fog; visibility 1-2 miles, improving to 3-5 miles. Winds, light, northerly. Temperature: maximum, 49°; minimum 40°. Limited fighter-bomber operations possible. Civil twilight: PM 13 March 1905; AM 14 March 0615.
- b. Total number of PPs processed during the period: 205.
- c. TURN ABOUT: Capt BECK, CO of MG BECK, was captured today by the 99th Div. The captain refused to talk on the grounds that he had attempted to interrogate American PPs without success.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

John B. Beckman
for JACK A. HOUSTON, Maj
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2, #3.

Dist: n/c

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Declassified Auth: 248
6 SEP 1945

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #234 No 5th Inf Div. dated 12 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 111800 Mar 1945
To : 121800 Mar 1945

1. General Information:

One of the more important adjustments made by the enemy during the period was the bringing up of the 119th Repl Bn, 11th Pz Div. Since the ranks of the 111th and 110th Pz Gr Regts were thoroughly depleted of men, the two companies of the Repl Bn are now being used as combat teams, under the command of each Pz Gr Regt. Although these men are replacements, they made the impression during the interrogation of being better caliber men than those which had previously filled the ranks of the two Pz Gr Regts of the 11th Pz Div. The NCOs are surprisingly young, and are officer candidates, with the average age of 19. These NCOs and men have never been in combat before and show no sign of battle fatigue.

The battalion came from ASBACH (7829), where one company used the road to KALENBORN, crossing the Autobahn at NIEDERWINDHAGEN; the other company went to OBERPLAG (7727) and then proceeded to VETTELSSCHOSS (7224). The PWs state that they met some of our interdiction fire between the Autobahn and the front lines. No concentration of armor has been seen by any of these men; they saw some arty pieces being moved across the Autobahn in a NE direction.

2. Artillery:

The second important move behind the enemy lines was the fact that the 119th Pz Arty Regt changed the positions of at least 3 batteries, which are identified as the 6th, 8th, and 10th. At one instance, a PW from the 6th Btry related the following story as to his capture:

His btry CO, who occupied an OP in the vicinity of ST KATARIENHOF, noticed the approach of American soldiers towards his OP and said that he was going to return to his battery position, cover the OP with the last artillery barrage, and then move his battery towards the Autobahn. He left the man at the OP, with the mission of reporting our advances. The PW did not follow his orders, and gave himself up to our troops, at the same time telling them of the intentions of his btry CO, which became a reality after about 15 minutes.

3. A German officer states:

The 11th Pz Div is about the best division the Germans could put into a fight at the W front. As far as the divisional units were concerned, every one was sure that they would be able to push the Americans off the bridgehead. He also explains that no one on the German side of the bridgehead realizes the strength of materiel and manpower which the Americans have put in front of them, only a few days after the capture of the LUDENDORF RR bridge. On his trip to the PW cage from the front lines, this German officer realized, and later on stated in this office, that unless the Germans bring up reserves from somewhere, the Americans should be able to extend and break out of the bridgehead as soon as they see fit. However, this officer does not believe that any great reserve is available to the Germans, since most of the German units at the W front have not as yet enough time to reequip and reorganize.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #231, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 12 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

11th Panzer Division: It is now established with a fair degree of certainty that this division commands all units opposing our bridgehead. It first appeared in the west at the end of August 1944 when it fought the Allied invasion of the Mediterranean coast. Gradually pressed towards the north, it was committed in eastern FRANCE and the SAAR Basin through the fall and winter of 1944-45. When the Ninth US Army was dashing towards the RHINE, it found this unit across its path for a short while, and on March 9 the 11th Pz Div turned up in the bridgehead east of the RHINE.

The 15th Pz Regt was reported to have left all tanks in the SAAR area and to have fought as infantry near NEUSS. Since it now has a certain amount of armor at its disposal, it must have received tanks from a depot behind this sector.

Several PWs captured today gave their unit as 119th Repl Bn stationed at BSSLINGEN. This is the regular Repl Bn of the 11th Pz Div. About two days ago, a Marsch Bn 368 was formed out of 119th Repl Bn and committed in the bridgehead yesterday. The Marsch Bn consisted of two companies, each with a strength of 120-140 men. PWs state that the men of the 2nd Co were taken to the Regtl CP of the 11th Pz Gr Regt and assigned to that unit. They did not know to which battalion they belonged, but information obtained by higher headquarters indicates that the 2nd Bn was very short of men and therefore it seems likely that it received the majority of these replacements.

The PWs from the 2nd Co, 368th Marsch Bn, were unable to specify the destination of the 1st Co; it seems likely, however, that these replacements were intended to re-fill the ranks of the 110th Pz Gr Regt, especially its badly depleted 1st Bn.

The PWs from the 368th Marsch Bn, interrogated today, received Pz Gr training at a Regtl Trng School. They were young men, good soldiers, and fanatically devoted to the Nazi Party.

Another group of PWs came from Repl Unit BERTHA V (five), home station at HEIDELBERG and were sent to the 2nd Co of the 11th Pz Gr Regt in the NEUSS sector about 12 days ago. These men seem slightly older and less convinced fighters.

PWs furnished a complete picture of the organization of the 119th Pz Arty Regt. It is divided into three battalions. The 1st Bn contains the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Btrys. The 1st and 2nd Btrys have 4 x 105mm SP gun hows (WESPEN) each, while the 3rd Btry has 4 x 150mm SP hows (HUMMELN). The 2nd Bn includes, curiously enough, the 11th, 6th and 8th Btrys. PWs state that the 11th and 6th Btrys are equipped with 4 light infantry hows each, while the 8th Btry has 4 heavy infantry hows. All of these pieces are tractor-drawn. The 3rd Bn consists of the 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th Btrys. The 5th and 7th Btrys have 4 x 105mm gun hows each, the 9th Btry is armed with 4 x 150mm hows, all tractor-drawn, and the 10th Btry has 120mm mortars which may be moved by trucks.

61st AT Bn is stated to have 3 companies. The 1st Co is committed as infantry in the general area south of KALENBORN. The 2nd Co has 6-7 x 75mm TDS and the 3rd Co contains 9 x 75mm AT guns. In addition, all companies have bazookas.

The 11th Recon Bn is reported to comprise 5 companies. The 2nd and 3rd Cos were composed of infantry men riding on SPs. The 5th Co had one platoon of 4 x 81mm mortars, one platoon with 1 x 75mm motorized Pak and an engineer platoon. A further platoon of the 5th Co, with SP guns mounted on SPs was attached to the 110th Pz Gr Regt in the NEUSS area.

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84th AA Battalion: This unit was committed with the 3 battalions just E of KALENBORN. A short time ago, 25 men of the outfit were attached as infantry to the 106th Engr Training Regt. Their statement to the effect that they rode in personnel carriers of the 11th Pz Div tends to confirm the subordination of all units in the area to that division. The 25 men, thus detached, formerly belonged to the 3rd Btry which has 12 x 20mm quadruple mounted AA guns. The 1st Btry has 12 x 37mm AA guns, while the 2nd Btry, equipped with 12 x 20mm AA guns, has been liquidated and thrown into action as infantry.

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #234, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 12 March 1945.

MII REPORT

The Nazi party has not hesitated to exploit German as well as foreign labor in their version of total war. The following story is from an interview of a native of ERPEL who ran away from HANOVER ten days ago after three years of forced labor in a battery factory. The laborer was formerly employed in a slate quarry here. He is partially blind and not eligible for military service and has a wife and three children. Three years ago, battery factories became more important than slate quarries, so he was drafted as a laborer and moved to his new quarters in barracks in HANOVER where he lived under a semi-military regime with many foreign workers and an almost equal number of German workers. Propaganda newspapers were furnished for foreign workers. No other source of information, either radio or newspaper, was ever available to Germans. Pay conformed to local standards, about 5-6 marks per day, food was unbelievably scanty. Furloughs were granted for six days every six months.

The factory workers seem to have been hoping desperately for the end of the war since last summer. Political personalities, earlier much in evidence, are believed to have moved out, presumably to neutral countries, where a less unsavory reputation could be established, or, improbably, to become part of the last stand of the Party. The much-feared guards and Gestapo still hold everybody in these factories in firm control. The idea of organized underground activity is always considered absurd when presented to these people. They live in fear of the "Standrecht", an emergency court with wide powers including that of imposing the death penalty for treason.

The trip from HANOVER was made by train as far as CASSEL. It was necessary to change trains four times. The entire trip, formerly a matter of hours, lasted three days. One of the two sets of tracks is unusable because of bombing. The rail system is completely destroyed near the depot at the first station south of CASSEL. The worker hitch-hiked from CASSEL to ERPEL and noted that there were still civilian trucks on the highways. The greater part of military traffic (3 March) was moving eastward.

The battery factory is located 13 kilos from the center of HANOVER, in STOECKEN, on the banks of a canal. It employed about 2000 people but has been only in partial operation for several months because of the coal shortage. Of greater economic significance is a large synthetic rubber factory (Continental) along the same canal and across the street from the former plant. The work in the rubber factory was scotered, and the establishment had not been struck by bombs at the time of the subject's departure. The plant where he worked had been hit a few times without serious damage being done.

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One of the important results of current operations may be the severance of the Reichsautobahn leading from COLOGNE to FRANKFORT-ON-MAIN, linking the important, heavy industries of the NE with the manufacturing region of the south. A potential site for blocking or destroying this highway is at the 11-pillared bridge across a meadow valley SW of NEUSTADT (783250). This highway represents a major communications route across the Middle Rhine Highlands and, particularly, the WESTERWALD. The latter area is another of the high plateaus, similar to the EIFEL but, somewhat less rugged.

There is in addition to the Reichsautobahn, a network of provincial highways which are adequate for military use but which do not afford access to the entire region because of the irregular terrain, especially along the RHINE. The roads tend to follow the crest of ridges. Hills afford good observation; limited areas and heights could be defended stubbornly. The numerous small brooks are shallow and serve to drain the higher area, and are not deep-cut gorges like those of the EIFEL. There are patches of brushy, largely deciduous, woods throughout the region. These offer good opportunities for cover and concealment. There are a few regions of dense coniferous growth where artificial reforestation has been undertaken. The cleared land is mostly cultivated, devoted to potatoes and grain.

The peasants in 1923 organized and defeated the Separatists, a political group attempting to establish a separate Rhineland, in a one-day civil war near HONNEF. The area is scenic, fundamentally agricultural, and difficult for fast-moving operations because of its irregular hills, streams, and woods.

East of Lines: A preliminary report from behind the German lines emphasizes the lack of organization to the immediate E. Many cars can be seen along the roads, immobilized for lack of gas. German MPs arrest all stragglers and send them to the front, but the general tendency among these hastily-formed units is to disintegrate each man hoping to find his home unit elsewhere. The Autobahn is comparatively little used for fear of Allied air activity; the highway is little damaged. The only towns containing troops in any number are ROGSBACH (a straggler CP) and ASBACH, a supply head. Even after 5 days of the bridgehead the enemy is not sufficiently organized to resist any prolonged attack and only holds out in the KALENBORN area because that area contains an extremely large ammunition dump which is being hastily moved to the E.

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6 Jul 1945

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* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: W *
* DATE: 23/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

TO : 132200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic ERPEL.
13 March 1945.

No. 235.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

- a. Enemy front lines: 682238 - 696213 - 702231 - 702215 - 719210 - 723203.
- b. Enemy units in contact: 1st, 2nd Cos, 209th Engr Bn (60th)
7th Co, 3rd Pa Regt, 2nd Div (60th)
3rd Co, 901st Regt, 130th Pa Lehr Div (60th)
10th Co, 111th Regt, 11th Ps Div (47th)
1st Co, CT KESSLER, 11th Pa Div (47th)
3rd Co, 11th Sen Bn, 11th Pa Div (47th)
1st Co, 10th GAF Engr Bn (47th)
5th Co, 110th Regt, 11th Ps Div (310th)
6th Co, 110th Regt, 11th Ps Div (310th)

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

- a. General: The 47th Inf met determined resistance from dug-in enemy infantry. Nobelwerfer and artillery fire harassed the front line elements, though the nobelwerfer fire fell far to one side. Small arms and automatic weapons fire was heavy in the forenoon. By dark the enemy appeared to have withdrawn from in front of the 1st Bn, but contact with the 2nd Bn continued close, and harassing mortar and artillery fire persisted.

An attack on a scale more ambitious than usual took place further to the south in front of the 310th and 60th Infs. The apparent objective of this effort was the safeguarding of ST KATHARINEN and the regaining of BARGARTEN. An estimated company of tanks was observed, more than has been seen heretofore in one place. Infantry, however, was far from numerous. Four to six tanks were destroyed by our forces during the period, and an unestimated number were destroyed by the air force in an attack late in the day. At the end of the period it was reported that ST KATHARINEN was empty of enemy troops.

It is estimated that a total of no more than 200 reinforcements came into the area during the period: all reports of large-scale troop movements or concentrations appeared to be unfounded.

Tao/R reported N-S movement on the Autobahn but on a very restricted scale. Enemy planes, including 1 jet-propelled came over the immediate bridgehead area at several instances, and dropped bombs. At least 1 plane was reported destroyed.

- b. Other fronts: The 99th Inf Div experienced an attack in the vicinity of HOESNINGEN in the morning. It was soon taken care of, and among the PWs taken the 277th Div (previously at HEIMBACH) was once more identified, though much reduced in size.



The 78th Inf Div received a great deal of arty and small arms fire, and bombs were dropped in the area. Advances up to a 1,000 yards were made. The 39th Inf reached its objective at 689254. Among the identifications made were, 86th Pz Engr Bn of the 9th Pz Div and the 2nd Bn of the 110th Regt, previously in reserve.

6 SEP 1945

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Partly cloudy at first, possible light showers in early morning; some breaks in the clouds in the afternoon. Poor visibility; maximum temperature 45°, minimum temperature 34°. Civil evening twilight 1907, civil morning twilight 0613.

b. Total PWs processed during the period: 57.

c. CITIES: Critical points in the big picture are the cities of KUESTRIN and KOBLENZ. The former, an outpost of the BERLIN defenses, has fallen to the Russians and the assault on the RHINE city is in progress on this front.

KUESTRIN, although always significant in the surrounding region, has come into world prominence only recently as a key point on the river defenses of BERLIN. It is situated on the ODER near the junction with the WARTHE, two vital rivers of the eastern European plains. This city and FRANKFORT have been the only German strongholds E of the ODER since early February and the defense has been fierce. Capture opens one of the main rail routes toward BERLIN as well as highways and open terrain unimpeded by rivers before the capital city. KUESTRIN has been a fortress since the early 16th Century. It has a population of about 21,000 and many small industries exist there in connection with the processing of farm products and lumber. Historically the city is known as the site of the imprisonment of Frederick the Great, great proponent of Prussian militarism.

A much larger bastion is under assault on this front, the important city of KOBLENZ. The city of 61,000 is not highly industrial, but controls the rail communication of the Middle RHINE, it is the center of business and political administration of the region, and it is world-renowned as the largest city in an historically interesting and scenic region of the RHINE. This city, too, is located at the confluence of two important rivers, the MOSEL and the RHINE. 3,500 ships on an average, handle 90,000 tons of goods through its port facilities annually. The city was occupied by Americans until 1923 and by the French until 1929. Its capture will represent a significant step toward cutting off the cities of the Upper RHINE as well as disruption of commercial life, communication, and political administration of the Rhineland.

d. FOREST: The Westerwald (from a German School Text).

Between the RHINE, the meadow land of the SIEG valley and the LAHN, lies the plateau of the Westerwald. In the E, the high Westerwald reaches its greatest altitude in FUCHSKANTEN (657 meters), it sinks toward the N and W to an altitude of from 3-400 meters. The summits barely surpass the surrounding countryside by 100 meters. In the NW in the corner between the RHINE and the SIEG there lies a group of mountains which because of its seven prominent summits is called the Siebengebirge (7 mountains) the altitudes are between 464 and 325 meters.

The LAHN and the SIEG rivers encircle the Westerwald. The LAHN rises on the EDERKOPF (to the SE) and follows the E and S edge of the mountains in a narrow valley. The river has in its upper reaches a series of basin-like open stretches in which stand the towns of GIESSEN, WETZLAR, WEILBURG, and LIMBURG. In its lower course the LAHN flows through a narrow tortuous valley. The mountains, mostly crowned with castles and ruins, crowd close to the stream. In this stretch lie the little town of MASSAU and the world famous resort of EMS.

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The SIEG also rises in the ~~Westerwald~~ ^{in May 1945}. It flows in many meanders to the RHINE joining it below BONN. The center of the Westerwald is watered by the WIED whose valley is bordered by woods and which flows into the RHINE at NEUWIED.

The climate of the Westerwald is mild in the west near the RHINE becoming colder and damper to the E.

The area was at one time covered by forest; even now half of it is woodlands. The top-soil is thin, and for that reason farming is little practiced. On the plateau potatoes and oats do well, barley and rye less so. The valleys and the few good slopes have terrain suitable for farming, and as the RHINE is approached the fertility increases.

In the valleys there are flourishing meadows and therefore the raising of stock is more important than farming.

Mining in the N and E have increased the transportation facilities. An important RR line leads from GIESSEN through the area to the industrial section of the UPPER SIEG, thence to SIEGBURG and COLOGNE.

The plateau of the Westerwald can sustain only a small population. It possesses no industries and it is therefore lightly settled. The western part is more heavily populated but even there there are no large towns. These are to be found in the outlying valleys.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. (1) The enemy is capable of reinforcing his troops now in the bridgehead areas.
- (2) The enemy is capable of delaying and withdrawal to a defensive line along the super-highway.

b. Discussion.

The expected attack on the REMAGEN bridgehead is overdue. In spite of logistical difficulties the enemy could have introduced a sizeable force by this time from battered units to the north. The enemy no doubt feels that this bridgehead is a large diversionary effort for the main show likely to take place further north. He seems reluctant to hastily move large numbers to this battle area for fear of a sudden crossing in the more immediately vital COLOGNE-DÜSSELDORF area. It is apparent that he is attempting to hold the bridgehead in check with a minimum of forces - hence the preponderance of support weapons, particularly tanks, and SPs. The identification of elements of the 9th Pz Div, and 277th Inf Div does not indicate any sizeable reinforcement, although it does show a trend, and it is felt that further elements of those units may well be encountered as well as additional formations, in an effort to stop the expansion of the bridgehead.

Failing in stopping our expansion the enemy will probably organize a defensive line roughly along the super-highway or the SIEG river, making necessary woods fighting not unlike the EIFFEL area. He has lost most of the command-ground, and a major attack to eliminate the bridgehead is felt unlikely at present, because he has lost what advantages he did hold in the initial phases of the crossing, and because continued attempts at forcing penetrations in every battalion area along the front should show him that our foothold on the eastern RHINE is well established and any such attempt would be abortive by the size of force he could muster, or could afford to commit in view of pending possibilities in the north.

Jack L. Houston
JACK L. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of 8, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2.
Dist: R/C

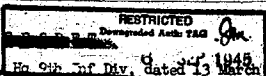
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6 Oct 1945

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PW REPORT

From: 121800 Mar 1945
To : 131800 Mar 1945

General: Although the enemy has brought up reinforcements, and several new identifications indicating two other Pz Divs have been made during this period, the enemy opposing this bridgehead is up to the present still under the command of one Pz Div, which is the 11th Pz Div.

The identification of the 9th Pz Ren Bn of the 9th Pz Div has disclosed nothing but a company-sized combat team. The 86th Pz Engr Bn of the same division, which also appeared in the picture during the day, represents no more than two companies, totaling a force of 80 men. Neither one of the two units brought with them any heavy weapons for support. Both came from the vicinity of LEVERHUSEN (COLOGNE area). Using the Reichsautobahn all the way, they met no army fire and only had to get off the road at a few places to avoid bomb craters made by Allied planes.

The largest force of replacements brought up by the enemy to defend the S half of the bridgehead was an NCO school coming from HEIDELBERG. This school, commanded by a Col. WAGNER, consists of very good men who formerly belonged to the Hitler Youth movements and had plenty of military training before they joined the military forces. This outfit has nobody in its ranks who can be considered old, nor are they to be compared with the poor fighting men met in the usual type of replacements or Marsch Bns. They are young men, with the average age of 22, picked for thorough training to become the type of an NCO the Nazi Party needs very much in the Wehrmacht. Since the school has no number, being an Army unit (Wehrkreis XII), the G.O. Col. WAGNER appointed Maj. STOLL to be in command of a two-battalion regiment, which he sent to this bridgehead. One battalion, under the command of Capt. KESSLER, is committed in the N part of the designated sector, and the other battalion, commanded by Capt. BECK took charge of the S part of the sector. The 62nd Engr Bn (a GHQ unit), under the command of Maj. KELLERMAN, which had already been in that sector during the previous fighting, absorbed the remaining engineer and AA units (fighting as inf) and were added to Maj. STOLL's regimental combat team as a 3rd Bn.

The 901st Pz Gr Regt was also one of the spectacular identifications made during the period, and turned out to be a combat team of about 40 men, who were very hurriedly assembled in the WUPPERTHAL area (RUHR district). This combat team is composed of the remaining rear echelon men and company clerks, cooks and mechanics, who had the mission to make a small counterattack vicinity KALLENBORN with 3 to 4 supporting TDS. Although the infantry asked the tankers to wait for them in case they went back, they were left to fight the Americans after their TDS were forced to withdraw because of our arty fire. PW statements place the whereabouts of the Pz Lehr Div in the area of WUPPERTHAL, where it is being reequipped and reorganized at the present time.

The 3rd Pz Regt of the 2nd Pz Div was another one of the identifications made today by a captured tanker NCO. This PW has not seen his unit since December, and was back to WITTE, where his division was located at that time, the train on which his two tanks had been loaded was bombed and strafed by Allied planes, and the sergeant was forced to wait practically three weeks before he could get gasoline to move his tanks. By that time, he was ordered to cross the RHINE, and after reporting at a direction center for armored units E of the river, was told that his two tanks could do much more good at the REMAGEN bridgehead than at his division. Those two tanks are the only representatives of the 2nd Pz Div in this area. Upon the arrival, they received the mission to cover the approaches of the village ST KATHARINEH, with an infantry support of two NCOs and 12 men. Most of the PWs interrogated during this period, especially those who were recent additions to the enemy forces in this sector, were told on their way to the front lines that they were to take part in wiping out the REMAGEN bridgehead. However, the story was changed once these men arrived, and they were ordered to do their utmost in order to hold the advancing Americans.





Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #235, Wg. G-2, 1st Div., dated 13 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

General: Today's identifications include the 2nd, 9th, 11th and 130th Pz Lehr Divs. Their importance, however, is not easy to assess and no rash conclusions should be drawn from them. The 2nd Pz Div is definitely not present in our sector. The Pz Lehr Div is represented by nothing more formidable than a battle group. As for the 9th Pz Div, while its commitment is still far from certain, it may be considered as a possibility. At the time of this writing, the 11th Pz Div still controls all enemy forces in the bridgehead and its strength has been further increased by additional reinforcements.

Any of the remaining arm'd units in the W (116th Pz Div, 3rd and 15th Pz Gr Divs and 17th SS Pz Gr Div) may be shifted to our bridgehead in 24 to 48 hours and the same may be said regarding the Precht Divs on the Western Front (2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Precht Divs). The most likely candidates are 3rd and 5th Precht Divs and the 3rd Pz Gr Divs. The 3rd Precht Div has crossed the RHINE and the 5th Precht Regt is believed to be in the HEMERING area. The 5th Precht Div has been reliably reported to be reforming at ZIMMERN on the NECKAR river. Finally the 103rd Ren Bn of the 3rd Pz Gr Div was in STROBURG a few days ago.

2nd Pz Div: PW from the 3rd Pz Regt had been out of contact with his outfit ever since the battle of the ARDENNES and was pressed into service in our sector. His presence in no way indicates that the division is facing us.

130th Pz Lehr Div: PWs revealed that a battle group of 40 men from the 901st Pz Gr Regt had come down from the WUPPERTHAL area with a certain number of Jagdpanthers. They also stated that their division is refitting in WUPPERTHAL. This group is presumably attached to the 11th Pz Gr Regt.

9th Pz Div: Several PWs were captured during the day on the AS-BERG (F 6825) from 9th Pz Ren and 86th Pz Engr Bns. It appears that elements of the 9th Pz Ren Bn were intended to fill the gaps caused by heavy losses in the ranks of the 11th Pz Ren Bn. The men from the 86th Pz Engr Bn said their unit had only two companies left and that they came from BERGISCH-GLADBACH. The division was previously committed in the Ninth US Army sector. Genlt v. ELVERFELDT was killed and has been replaced by a Colonel.

Kampfgruppe STOLL: The best available information concerning this unit runs as follows: the personnel was trained in an army NCO school at HEIDELBERG, under the command of Col. WAGNER. The Kampfgruppe, of regimental size, is in charge of Maj. STOLL. It consists of two battalions, of four companies each, led by Captains KESSLER and BECK. The latter officer is now a PW.

According to a PW, Kampfgruppe STOLL has shifted towards the south, to the general area of ROSSBACH (F 7720) and controls the 62nd Engr Bn. If this statement is accurate, it seems likely that the Kampfgruppe is the controlling staff of the other GHQ units in the same sector as well, while it may in turn be responsible to the headquarters of the 11th Pz Div.

Feldherrnhalle Div (60th Pz Gr Div): A Wehr unit (DANZIG), this division consists of SA (Brown shirt) personnel and is rated as a crack outfit. It has been fighting the Red Army ever since 1941 and was encountered in the E as late as Feb 13, 1945. It is known that in Nov 1944 the 106th Pz Brigade was in action under the command of the division. About the end of Nov, the Brigade was transferred to the west and engaged in ALSACE against the First French Army. After the liquidation of the COLMAR pocket elements of the Brigade were committed in the Ninth US Army sector and a few days ago they appeared in the bridgehead. The Brigade is composed of one tk battalion with M4 IVs and M4 Vs and one Pz Gr Bn equipped with arm'd half-tracks.



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6 SEP 1945

It seems most unlikely that the ~~106th Pz Div~~ was sent to the Western Front. On the other hand, it is quite plausible that Pz from the 106th Pz Brigade should refer to their unit by this designation. This theory is further born out by a Pz captured by 1st US Div in BONN on March 9. He said that his "Division" was made up of 7 companies equipped with tanks and half-tracks. Such a description would certainly be much more fitting for a Pz Brigade than a Pz Gr Div.

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Declassified Auth: TAG *JA*
6 SEP 1945



* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: G/M/M *
* DATE: 11/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 192200 Mar 1945
TO: 112200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic ERPFL.
14 March 1945.

No. 236.

Map: GSGS h411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 628287-666752-697278-700246-715234-743202-729171-707138-691137.

b. Enemy units identified:

2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, CT KESSLER.
1st, 2nd, 3rd Cos, 86th Engr Bn, 9th Pa Div.
6th Co, 110th FG Regt, 11th Pa Div.
4th Co, 111th FG Regt, 11th Pa Div.
1st, 2nd Cos, 209th Armd Engr Bn, 11th Pa Div.
Supply Co 901.
3rd Co, 654th TD Bn GHQ.

c. Information on units in contact:

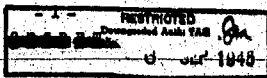
According to G-2, 78th Div, elements of the 3rd Pz Div have appeared on the northern sector, notably from the 6th Pz Regt. The 2nd Bn appears to have been committed, and the Hq Co of the 3rd AA Bn. The four companies in the 2nd Bn have 40 to 50 men each, and the Hq Co, 3rd AA Bn contains 60-70 men. All told this represents a reinforcement of some 220-270 men. A like force seems to have come in yesterday in the shape of the 272nd Div and those remnants of the 9th Pz Div. There is no indication of any sizeable armd reinforcement.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD.

a. General: The 47th Inf met heavy fire from SFs and/or tanks during the day. One tank slowed our advance at 706236, as well as two SFs on the NW edge of NOTSCHEID. Some nebelwerfer fire was received.

The 310th Inf (52nd Armd Inf) fought into the village of KALENBORN-RR station-KRETZHAUS. Small arms fire was heavy in the village, and SP fire came from the other end of the village to the N; and MG fire came from across the RR tracks. A group of enemy, either infiltrated or by-passed, caused trouble to armored elements behind the lines shortly before dark; they were taken care of. The front line was threatened with a counterattack by some 10 tanks and an undetermined number of infantry. The attack was successfully contained and the line was not penetrated.

Heavy fire was received in the ST. KATHARINEN area in the morning by the 60th Inf. Little small arms fire was noted, but artillery and SP fire was heavy. The 1st Bn received artillery and nebelwerfer fire until late in the day, but little armor was observed. Good progress was made and continued after dark.



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- b. **Other fronts:** In the HONNEF area, artillery fire ~~was~~ intense during the hours of darkness, but almost ceased during the day. Small arms, mortar and SP fire was heavy on the western sector of the 78th Inf zone. The advance of the 39th Inf was temporarily held up by SP fire and determined resistance. The 311th Inf advanced beyond HONNEF. The 309th Inf reached its objective after hand-to-hand fighting.

The 99th Inf Div met considerable artillery fire, and although the town of HÖNNINGEN was reported cleared of enemy, patrols saw German troops in the town during the day.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. **WEATHER FORECAST:** Continued fair weather; light to moderate fog, dispersed by noon. Scattered to high and middle clouds during the late morning, broken in the afternoon. Visibility 2-3 miles, improving to 2-3 miles by noon. Maximum temperature 55°, minimum temperature 32°. Evening civil twilight March 15, 1909; morning civil twilight March 16, 0611.
- b. **Total number of PWs processed during the period:** 58.
- c. **TOWNS:** In addition to having the rare distinction of being a center of basalt production, Lins is famous among Rhenish towns for its many historical monuments. These number not only the 1000 year old Lindar Tree of Judgment on the Kirchplatz, the famous mediæval Martinus church, but a network of small crooked streets containing many fine old half-timbered houses. The castle used to be the summer residence of the bishop of COLOGNE. It has had a city charter for some 650 years. Its population is given as 5,600. HÖNNINGEN, at the southern tip of the bridgehead, and still in enemy hands has a population of 4,300. Before the war its chief claim to popularity was its facilities as a resort. It was also the world center of the carbon production and the industries based upon it. Much mineral water also came from the wells of the town. Two miles to the south are the remains of the Roman wall, which 1,500 years ago kept the Teutonic tribes from encroaching on the Roman Empire.
- d. **SABOTAGE:** An attempt has been made by a civilian child to sabotage a US vehicle by placing a small pellet under the vehicle tire. This pellet from examination and previous information appears to be of incendiary nature with a small bursting charge, or a primer, as the igniter, and is apparently set off by crushing the pellet. The pellet is similar to the one found in the new incendiary AA shell. The following is a description of the pellet: Shape - cylindrical; Length - 1.12 inches; Diameter - 0.59 inches; Color - lead gray. Remarks: Four crimped indentations exist spaced equally around the circumference at approximately 0.75 inches from the base. The top cover is painted yellow. Ignition is accomplished by an internal striker on the underside of the top; this rests immediately above the bursting cap or primer.
- It is directed that all personnel be warned to be on the alert for similar acts. (Source: PR 71, VII Corps).
- e. **FLAT TIRES:** A marked increase in the number of flat tires of US vehicles in the 90th US Inf Div zone of advance has been noted. This condition may be attributed to the usual shell fragments and debris scattered on the roads. On the other hand, several members of the division have remarked that these flat tires are more frequent in and around towns occupied by German civilians. (Source: 90th Inf Div).

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f. **BERCHTESGADEN or HIST:** There is a strong indication that the Nazi Party leaders and the war criminals are planning a "Valhalla of the Gods" in the BERCHTESGADEN region, and that the Nazi Party is already planning the underground movement to restore German nationalism after military defeat. It is logical to presume that the criminal enemy leaders will elect to go down fighting in their mountain eyrie rather than submit passively, inasmuch as they have very little future to look forward to once the German military machine is crushed. It remains to be seen how much of the army following the example of the 1920 Freikorps will assist them in this fanatical last stand, and to what extent preparations of the Redoubt and for Partisan warfare have progressed. (Source: Twelfth Army Group)

g. **SECURITY:** The most important source of information for the Germans, according to PW officer candidate, are American documents. Source states that "Confidential" documents are the best source, that "Secret" documents are not infrequent, and that PW knows of two occasions when "Top Secret" documents fell into the hands of his unit (347th Inf Div). Rec units often bring back letters addressed to members of the armed forces which contain unit designations. "Yank" magazine is a good source of information since it gives many units as well as their relationship to higher headquarters.

Source states that two-thirds of all Allied radio messages are intercepted and that the majority of the code names are known. Passwords are sometimes disclosed through lower units which pass them down by radio.

Source states that an Allied attack was usually disclosed by a complete radio silence 24 to 48 hours before the beginning of the operation. (Source: 1st US Army, G-2 PR #274).

h. **Air:** Thirteen enemy sorties were flown over the division area during the period, nine of which were successful in reaching the LUDENDORF Bridge. None of the bombs dropped damaged the bridge.

Seven missions were flown in close support of this division today, hitting tanks and armor at the following points:

STROEDT (739236), where pilots reported good results bombing and strafing many tanks and motor transports.

Vic 770240: 15 tanks and vehicles bombed, with many fires started.

Autobahn: Armed reconnaissance over the road bombed and strafed enemy motor transports and tanks.

ROSTINGEN (715315): All squadrons available were put on an estimated 500 vehicles reported by Tac/R at this point; pilots reported excellent results, bombing and strafing.

LORSCHHEID (729218): SP guns and troops were bombed and strafed with excellent results, as were 12 tanks in VETTELSCHOSS (725245).

Armed reconnaissance was flown in front of the divisional sector during the entire period.

The 634th AA Bn reports that enemy aircraft over the area included 1 FW 190 and 9 ME 262s, of which 6 were badly damaged and 1 destroyed.

h. **ENEMY CAPABILITIES.**

No change.

Coy. M Maxwell
/s/ JACK A. HOUSTON, Capt
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2.
Dist: n/c

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Declassified Auth: TMS
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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 Jul 1945

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report, #239

PW REPORT

From: 13:00 Mar 1945
To: 11:00 March 1945

General: No new identifications were made during this period on the division front and the PW information does not indicate anything, except a sign of organized withdrawal, which of course is meant by the PWs to be only a matter of several hundred yards. This statement is based on the fact that two PWs were told by their platoon leader to withdraw in the direction of the Reichsautobahn. Both PWs were from the 111th Pz Gr Regt. This has actually been the first time during the fighting on the bridgehead that even a unit as small as a platoon was ordered to withdraw to a more favorable position. The new positions were not previously built trenches or anything of the sort: it was the result of pressure from our troops. The platoon leader intended to save his men.

The only change in today's picture appeared when a PW from the 26th Fus Bn indicated that the enemy had brought into the line more reinforcements. Although this unit carries the number "26", it has seen very little or nothing of its own division; and there is no evidence that the 26th Div is in the area. The Fus Bn was created in ~~Germany~~ ^{Germany} little more than a week ago, and was brought into this area by railroad. The unit is composed of three companies, and according to PW statements, it has no hvy weapons company, nor were there any heavy weapons in the unit. Each of the companies is capable of producing 120 men which means a sizeable reinforcement for the enemy. The PW indicated that his unit was under the command of the 9th Pz Div. The 26th Fus Bn has been in the area since Monday, and was evidently kept as a reserve.

The men were billeted and kept on constant alert in the village of WILLSCHIED, E of KALENBORN, and the 3rd Co was committed this morning. The whereabouts of the 1st and 2nd Cos are not as yet known, but PW statements indicate that these two companies may well be kept in further reserve to fill in the gaps at a later date. As to the battalion as a whole, it can be said that the men (who were mostly taken from Marine Construction and Engr Bns) do not exceed the age of 33 and a number of them are as young as 17.

EQUIPMENT: During the usual routine checkup of PWs, chemical warfare equipment and training, nothing new was noticed. In one unit, for example, which was a replacement battalion reinforcing the 111th Pz Gr Regt, the German soldiers were ordered to leave their gas masks with their rear echelon, while most of the men did not own one when they left their home station at ESSLINGEN. As a whole, it can be said that the usual negligence as far as gas equipment is concerned among the German soldiers still prevails. Most of the PWs processed during the period had the old type filter FE 37.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #2, 13 March 1945, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

Feldherrnhalle Division: (The first sentence of the pertinent heading in Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report No 235, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 13 March 1945, should read as follows: A Wcr XX (twenty) unit (DANZIG), this division consists of SA (brown shirt) personnel and is rated as a crack outfit).

11th Panzer Division: There seems to be misunderstanding as to the status of the 61st AT Bn. This Battalion is the organic AT unit of the 11th Pz Div. The other organic units are: 15th Pz Regt, 110th Pz Gr Regt, 111th Pz Gr Regt, 119th Pz Arty Regt, 11th Pz Recon Bn, 209th Pz Engr Bn, 341st Pz Sig Bn, 119th Field Repl Bn, and 61st Divisional Services. Auxiliary unit number 61.

3rd Pz Div: General Lieutenant SCHIMPF, former commanding general of this division, captured by the 39th Inf at BAD GODSBERG on March 7 gave the following information: All three Pz Regts suffered heavy losses in the fighting between the ROER and RHINE rivers. They were withdrawn across the RHINE on 8 March, and they were followed by the remnants of other divisional units. The General also revealed that when the division left HOLLAND in October 1944 it numbered 16,000 men of which only 5,000 were left at the start of the ARDENNES offensive.

When last committed west of the RHINE, the division included the 5th, 6th and 8th Pz Regts. The 6th and 8th Regts consisted of only two battalions each and lost heavily in men and equipment. Little is known regarding the 5th Pz Regt, but it was recently reported to be in the HIMBERG area. Latest information from the 78th US Inf Div indicates that the 6th Pz Regt is in contact in the bridgehead, and that the 5th and 8th Regts have given up their complement to strengthen the 6th Pz Regt.

The 9th Pz Regt, originally an organic unit of this division, has been dissolved and its personnel divided up among the Pz Rifle Regts and the 3rd Pz Fus Bn. Lately, however, there were rumors concerning its possible restoration.

9th Panzer Division: The bulk of this unit last saw action against XIII US Corps. The 13rd Pz Regt was seriously depleted in respect of both tanks and men and part of its personnel fought as infantry. To offset its losses in armor, the 301st GHQ Tank Bn was attached to the regiment. On February 25, the entire 1st Bn of the 10th Pz Gr Regt was captured and the regiment has been a weak fighting unit ever since. The 11th Pz Gr Regt appears to have been less seriously affected.

XIII Corps estimates the strength of this division at 1,000 men and 15 tanks, which seems an underestimate even if increments acquired since its last commitment are disregarded. The 301st GHQ Tk Bn had approximately 30 Tiger tanks when last identified.

Up to date, only the 9th Pz Recon Bn, the 86th Pz Engr Bn and elements of the 2nd Bn, 11th Pz Regt have furnished PWs in the bridgehead.

65th AT Bn: The 65th AT Bn, identified by a PW from the 60th Inf, this AM came from BADENBADEN by train and arrived in the area two days ago. Its home station is at HARBURG near HAMBURG. It comprises three companies with 12-14 x 88mm mounted on Jagdpansers. Major NOAK is C.O. It was previously committed near COGNAC in November, but has not suffered very heavily in spite of defeat. It is apparently under the command of the 11th Pz Div. It is not established how much of the equipment and firepower is present in the bridgehead. It is a GHQ unit.

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Propaganda Assets TAG
6 DEC 1945

SECRET
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: 15 MAR *
* DATE: 15/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 112200 Mar 1945
TO: 152200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Via ERPFL.
15 March 1945.

No. 237.

Map: GSGS 1:111, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 700246-710240-717236-720220-743217-743205.

b. Units identified:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, 26th Fus Bn.
3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th Cos, 110th FG Regt.
2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 10th Cos, 111th FG Regt.
Hq, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cos, GT KESSLER.
2nd Co, 86th Eng Bn.
6th Btry, 119th Fz Arty Regt.
2nd, 4th, Hq Cos, s.b.v. Bn, HEINDELBERG.
1st Co, 368th March Bn.
1st Bn Hq Co, 15th Pz Regt.
March Co, West XII/3.
3rd Co, 654th TD Bn.

c. Additional information on units in contact:

The 654th AT Bn prefers to operate with infantry troops in support (according to a PW) and much resents their absence in this theater. In the front opposite the 39th Inf the supporting infantry pulled out and left the tank destroyers at a disadvantage. The battalion came here from the COIMAR area with some 40 new Jagdpanthers, as well as 4-5 damaged ones; an ordnance company brought along for the purpose is at present repairing these latter ones. One TD in every unit has night vision. The armament is an 88mm gun often employed (again according to a PW) at a range of 2500 yards. The initial mission of the battalion was to assist in the elimination of the bridgehead; this plan was modified not many days ago to that of containing our advance, and even so a possible route of withdrawal has been indicated every day. As long as tank warfare is out of the question (thanks to the difficult terrain) the TDs are used in an arty role, and are to be found chiefly in villages; alternate locations are always chosen, and the TDs often fire from a dug in position. The PW further stated that more fuelier and independent battalions have come from DENMARK to be committed in this area.

The 340th Div or a fragment of it has been identified by the 99th Div on the southern portion of the bridgehead; the 13th Co of the 694th Regt. The 695th Regt, although on this side of the RHINE is not likely to be near; the 694th was until recently in ALFIED not far to the E of our front. It crossed the RHINE only 150 strong, without heavy weapons, and has now been committed in the VETTELSCHOSS area in three Cts of scarcely more than platoon strength, armed only with rifles. The names of these three Cts (which are likely to be met in the immediate future) are not known. They are certainly not formidable either as to size or armament.

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2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD

- a. **General:** Enemy resistance was moderate to heavy during the period, coming primarily from tanks and SPs, automatic weapons and small arms fire. Defense against the 17th Inf's attack was elastic, built around automatic weapons well sited on favorable terrain, with SP guns and tanks in numbers defending built-up areas; this was particularly true along the VETTELSCHOSS-KALENBORN axis. NOTSCHEID was strongly defended by infantry and tanks; SP guns fired in battery from E of the town after it had been cleared. A defensive line manned by infantry with MGs has been set up by the enemy along the RR track vicinity 722240.

Infantry supported by heavy SP fire defended LORSCHIED early in the period, and harassed the town from defiladed positions when the 60th Inf had cleared it. A counter-attack supported by 6 Mk VI tanks was repulsed with one tank destroyed. Stiff resistance, mainly direct fire, met the regiment's advance during the day, particularly in the built-up areas. Nebelwerfer and arty fire fell on our advancing elements.

Dig-in enemy tanks gave the 310th Inf considerable trouble; infantry resistance was lighter than during the previous day. Moderate arty and light nebelfire were received.

It was evident from ground reports, concentration areas reported by the air, and PW statements that the bulk of the armor along the bridgehead area was committed in the division zone of advance.

- b. **Artillery:** Enemy arty activity increased during the period with 26 shells reported. Shelling continued to fall on forward elements; chiefly in KALENBORN-KREITZBUS sector with several reports of shelling in ST KATHARINEN-NOTSCHIED-SCHNEIFELD. Enemy 2-4 gun batteries were predominately active with as many as 10-12 guns firing at one time. All the fire came from an area between 30 degrees to 50 degrees and east of the Autobahn.

Counterbattery fire was placed on one nebelwerfer location and 22 enemy gun locations in front of the division sector.

- c. **Air:** One enemy aircraft was sighted over the bridgehead during the day, and another one dropped flares vicinity the REMAGEN bridge after dark.

Three close-support missions were flown for this division during the period:

HOMSCHEID (72726) was bombed and strafed and the road from there to the Autobahn was strafed. Two tanks were hit and an armored vehicle strafed. Five tanks in STCENT were hit by fighter-bombers and large fires started. Armed reconnaissance was flown all day in front of the division sector.

- d. **Other fronts:** 78th Inf Div - Light enemy resistance encountered as our troops cleared REINDORF (F 6328), and high ground (F 628297), and advanced to F 690294 W of A HINDENBERG. One counterattack by estimated 100 infantry in number vicinity F 675300 was contained by mid-afternoon, but slowed our progress in that area. Estimated 90 PWs including 58 captured F 665305-F 656310. Identified as follows: 43rd and 87th Marsch Bns, 1st Bn Hq, 3rd and 9th Cos, 11th SGE and 2nd Co, 10th PGR, 9th Pz Div; 1st Co, 164th Regt and 8th Co, 163rd Regt, 62nd Wg Div. 2 PAs, 1st and 3rd Cos, 26th Fus Bn, 26th Wg Div stated 1st Co located RJ F 697295, and relieved the 85th Pz Engr Bn which slipped S on 14 March. One PW reported rumor - 9th Pz Div to withdraw to DUSSELDORF area to take part in German offensive. Tank and SP fire fell off sharply during the period.

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99th Inf Div - Moderate fire was encountered from towns and high ground, with moderate small arms and mortar fire and only light arty fire received, at HESSELN (F 733178), REHLEN (F 733190) and quarry (F 733190), where estimated 125 PWs were taken, weapons cleared. One PW, 13th Co, 69th Regt captured at F 7419 states the 65th and 69th Regts, 340th VG Div in that area and captured, undated map indicates presence of 340th VG Div in areas of ROSSBACH (F 7719). PW statements indicated that the enemy in this sector was in the process of withdrawing to the E, behind the WIED river. The terrain directly to the divisional front does not lend itself to armd activity, and there has been a noticeable decrease in direct fire.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Continued fair; visibility poor at first, improving in the late morning. Lost than 500 yds until 0900A, 1-2 miles by noon; 2-5 miles in the afternoon. Possible cloudiness in the late afternoon. Maximum temperature 58°, minimum temperature 34°. Evening civil twilight: Mar 17, 1910 - morning civil twilight: Mar 18, 0609.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 189.
- c. WIED RIVER: The WIED River which flows into the RHINE at NEUSTADT, is not a stream of much volume as it passes through the country immediately to our east. Nevertheless its valley presents something of an obstacle to rapid west-east movement. At NEUSTADT (785251) the WIED is 75 feet wide with an average depth of 2 1/2 feet; both banks are steep. Between NEUSTADT and 750215 there are 5 bridges capable of carrying heavy vehicular traffic; fords are numerous, but none have bottoms strong enough for heavy traffic, and the average depth elsewhere within this stretch is 5 feet. The current is not swift. The name "Wied" having as it does the same meaning as the English "wood" is a good indication of the nature of the landscape through which the river flows.
- d. NOTSCHEID: The chief military value of NOTSCHEID which fell to the 47th Inf today is the extensive views to the east which it commands. Two conspicuous hills are to be seen: to the right (or east) rises the ROSSBACHER HAUBOHEN (341 meters: 781200) an excellent OP itself; and to the left (or NE) rises the BERTEMAUER KOPF (791239) just S of NEUSTADT. This hill is 352 meters high, and while it is not the highest in the region it is one of the most prominent, and it commands the best view in the area to the north along the Autobahn.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

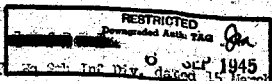
Blair M. Washburn
for JACK A. HOUSTON, 15927
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3, #4.

Dist: n/c

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PW REPORT

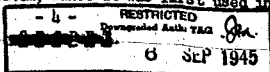
From: 11:300 Mar 1945.
To: 151800 Mar 1945.

Armor: The identification which was made during the late part of the last period, disclosing the presence of the 65th AT Bn, indicated after thorough interrogation that the enemy bridgehead forces have received an additional 36 TDS (Jagdpanthers). This unit came up from the Black Forest region. It left there for the north before there was ever a bridgehead east of the RHINE. However, it was at the time when COLOGNE was endangered, and since this unit is practically up to T.O. strength, and their recent past in combat has not been as strenuous in comparison with other German units, their original mission was to be to prevent any immediate crossing of the RHINE north of COLOGNE. When their transport arrived at FAHRKURT-on-the-MAIN, their orders were changed immediately and the entire battalion received orders to fight on the south flank of the 11th Pz Div.

Explanation: The disposition of the above-mentioned unit helps to understand the main enemy effort as seen from PW interrogation. The only excellent main road net leading to the Autobahn centers in the towns of KALENBORN and ST KATHARINEN and the two towns are protected by high ground. One officer PW gave the explanation that all the available armor was to cover the roads, while the infantry had the mission to prevent our forces from infiltrating through the wooded terrain. This is confirmed by the main armored unit being in those sectors namely, the 15th Arm Regt concentrating at the NS of KALENBORN only, and the newly added 65th AT Bn in the area of ST KATHARINEN, NOISCHIED and SROEDT. The high ground at the ASBERG has also been considered extremely valuable to the enemy, since it also covered the road leading to ROTTELITZE and PEDERSCHEID. In fact, the enemy had up to the present time 4 different units covering this high ground, replacing each unit individually after it had been badly mauled. The first was the 11th Pz Rcn Bn, which was replaced by the 9th Pz Rcn Bn. As the position of those 2 units grew more and more untenable, the enemy brought in more manpower by committing the 86th Pz Engr Bn. This did not last very long either, and from PW statements it is indicated that our artillery fire had taken a considerable toll of this force as well. During the early morning hours of this period the Germans made their last attempt to reinforce the ASBERG territory. This time it was a more elite unit, it was the 26th Fus Bn, which had newly been brought up from DENMARK with 3 rifle companies, 120 men in each and one heavy weapons company. In spite of all this effort to hold this very valuable terrain for the enemy, confirmed reports have been received that the enemy has already withdrawn his GIs and rear echelons to the opposite side of the Autobahn.

A 1st Lt PW from the 15th Pz Regt also clears up the question of why the enemy has never employed more than a few tanks at a time from this particular unit. It is true, states the officer, that the regiment had and still has an available force of about 30 M4 V tanks, but will never be able to throw more than a few into the line or into a counter-attack, since the vehicles spend most of their time in the repair shops. Yesterday for example, 5 tanks were ready to go into the line but the scheduled transport with fuel never arrived, and was reported burning on the Autobahn. As a whole, this officer had a very sad outlook as far as his own unit's striking force was concerned; if the tanks are not in the shops, they lack fuel or if the vehicles are ready to go into the line, they lack the proper type of infantry to man or cover them for an assault.

T.D. Tactics: Compared to the above-mentioned tank unit, the 65th AT Bn seems to have a harder job protecting its vehicles. They consist of the very highly praised "Jagdpanther", which mounts an 88mm gun. According to PWs, who have used these vehicles for quite some time, the present model is a perfect tank destroyer and no complaints have yet been made about it. The vehicle itself has undergone some changes in the oil pressure system, since it was first used in NORMANDY.



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The only drawback on this subject is that the German commander does not use these vehicles in TD fashion, but sends them out to do the job of a tank. The Jagdpanther has no traversing turret, and for that reason is never sent out alone. An NCO who has been crew chief of one of these vehicles explains that there are always at least 3 or 4 Jagdpanthers going out at the same time with two protecting the flanks of the advancing one. The PW states that the number of vehicles would not be required for the jobs designated, if the vehicle was able to traverse its gun.

Engineer Activities: The conspicuous disappearance of the 209th Engr Bn during this period and the planned withdrawal of the 86th Armd Engr Bn disclosed that these units, or at least elements of them, are being used to create some sort of defensive installations along the Autobahn. There has been talk of mines among the engineers in connection with the motor highway.

The 11th Pz Div in Command: It seems that the units now attached to this division do not estimate its command strategically and administratively of great quality. An old NCO PW for instance who was a cadre member of the NCO school in HEIDELBERG, and who seemed to know what he was talking about, made the statement that since his unit has been attached to the 11th Pz Div everything has been in great confusion, and the disposition of the infantry in general has been in a pitiful state.

It also appears from constant PW statements that since they have been under the command of the 11th Pz Div, the increased number and severe punishment in court-martials have been much resented. The previously-mentioned 1st Lt from the 15th Pz Regt practically admitted that he did not intend to go back to his unit, since he has been unable to destroy his tank. He knew that for this offence a severe court martial was to be expected.

Repeated mention was made of the extreme political opinion of the divisional staff. It seems that there is a great number of good Nazis who are planted throughout the unit with the sole job of picking-out men with the so-called "defeatist ideas" and those who want to lead others to desertion.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #237, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 15 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

11th Pz Div: Two important points have been brought out by today's interrogation: Firstly, that the German High Command has abandoned its original plan of eliminating the bridgehead; second, that the division is rapidly declining in men and equipment and is being continually patched up by means of motley replacement groups that can be mustered on the spur of the moment. An officer PW from the 15th Pz Regt testified that his unit had only 30 tanks, of which only a fraction was serviceable at any one time and that all of them were concentrated in the KALENBERG area. The two Pz Gr Regts also find themselves in an increasingly serious predicament. A 37-year old prisoner from the 5th Co, 11th Pz Gr Regt stated that only two or three men were left of those who fought in his battalion in November 1944. The 11th Pz Ren Bn is known to have sustained heavy casualties of all kinds. The 209th Pz Engr Bn and the 61st A' Bn have not been identified for some time.

A large number of prisoners have been supplied by CT KESSLER. This battle group and CT BECK still constitute the most valuable and plentiful infantry element of this division, but they have suffered heavy casualties in killed and prisoners. Lt. WOLFSCHILL, G.O. of the 11th Co of CT KESSLER was captured today.

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A certain number of prisoners captured by their unit at HELLBERG. Some of them were part of STOLLE, the regimental unit which pursued CTS KESSLER and BECK. This entire group was formed out of remnants of the WGO school at HELLBERG conducted by COL WAGNER. Others describe their group as BERTHA V (five). This unit, as may be remembered, had previously furnished replacements to this division in the DUESSELDORF sector. Its affiliation is uncertain, but since "BERTHA" stands for "B" in the German phonetic alphabet, it may well be that BERTHA V (five) is the fifth of a series of replacement or Alarm units detailed by Army Group "B" to fill gaps caused by casualties.

26th Fusilier Bn: This group came from DENMARK a week ago and was committed in the general sector of the 110th Pz Gr Regt. It has nothing to do with the 25th Volksgrenadier Div which was recently reported disbanded. The battalion is composed of Naval construction personnel and a cadre for the training of infantrymen. Three rifle companies and one heavy company are committed in the bridgehead and the combat strength of each rifle company is about 110 men. The 26th Fusilier Bn is under the 58th Reserve Regt which in turn forms part of the 160th Reserve Div, a Wcr I (ten) unit. It may be supposed that the 25th Repl Bn originally trained replacements for the 26th Gr Regt of the 30th Inf Div, fighting in the east. Its subordination to the 160th Reserve Div is readily understandable, as the 30th Inf Div hails from LUEBECK which is in Wcr X (ten). One PW from the 9th Pz Ren Bn of the 9th Pz Div stated that his unit had been relieved by the 26th Fus Bn on the ASBERG.

65th AT Bn: Paybook evidence discloses that the replacement unit of this battalion is an AT Repl Bn #20, stationed at HARBURG near HAMBURG, Wcr X (ten).

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #237, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 15 March 1945.

FI REPORT

Sortie flown 13 March.

- 714302 - Three light AA.
- 733295 - Military activity.
- 734312 - Camp.
- 734311 - 17 vehicles.
- 735311 - Three light AA.
- 743331 - Camouflaged supplies stacked near factory.
- 75033225 - Activity in draw.
- 75753200 - Workshop on side of road leading SW from BUCHHOLZ.
- 746314 - Camp - camouflaged barracks.
- 76453170 - Two guns.
- 734271 - 6 light AA and 4 medium AA guns.
- 73402697 - 3 light AA guns.
- 744250 - 9 light AA guns.
- 7242331 - 5 vehicles parked near house.
- 72552935 - Two medium guns.
- 71422923 - AT empl. unoccupied.
- 72352756 - Three guns.
- 720302 - Military activity.
- 724307 - Military activity. Three light AA guns.
- 70203766 - Three light AA guns - 37mm.
- 69763312 - Three light AA guns - 20mm.
- 69563126 - Three light AA guns.
- 689517 - Light vehicles.
- 70783158 - Two vehicles off road - possible EPs.
- 70543214 - Activity in pit.
- 70953125 - 4 medium guns.
- 706312 - Military activity.

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- 75532562 - Two light AA guns.
- 75552515 - Two guns AA.
- 75582528 - Three med guns AA.
- 75712521 - Five " " " " AA.
- 76012568 - Three light AA and military activity in vic.
- 75932585 - Two unoccupied posns.
- 75902625 - Supplies and vehicles.
- 76002720 - Military activity.
- 75882684 - Two possible guns.
- 75932612 - Three guns.
- 75912708 - Three light AA - 50 cal.
- 76032625 - Three guns.
- 76042613 - Three unoccupied gun posns.
- 74912588 - AT gun.
- 74252655 - Small supplies.
- 75362602 - 4 guns sited SW.
- 75672654 - Three light AA.
- 75062697 - Two 88s, SP.
- 74102685 - Two 20mm AA.
- 73832673 - Light AA.
- 73422704 - 4 med AA, dual purpose.
- 73472703 - Location finder.
- 73982704 - Field radar station.
- 73232806 - Ten vehicles.
- 73882805 - Small supplies.
- 73732714 - Three light AA with military activity.
- 72192810 - Three guns, dual purpose.
- 73362790 - Three camouflaged vehicles.
- 725280 - Vehicle park - hvy track activity.
- 72782844 - Tank.
- 72472733 - Three medium guns.
- 71752875 - Ammo dump blown up - 6 huts standing.
- 72192933 - Air raid shelter.
- 72182865 - Truck on road.
- 71182873 - Three ambulances. No Red Cross on nearby building.
- 71142927 - Three light AA.
- 71633026 - Two ambulances at building with no Red Cross on building.
- 70773017 - Supplies.
- 708400 - 3 light AA.
- 70912995 - Two guns.
- 70962981 - Unoccupied posn.
- 70123001 - Two guns.
- 70463004 - Two SPs.
- 69733024 - Six light AA.
- 69933053 - Unoccupied med AA.
- 70233026 - Three guns, dual purpose.
- 70423015 - Tank.
- 70453053 - Three med guns with a tank nearby.
- 70533119 - Two guns.
- 69762980 - Three light AA.
- 69173046 - Two AT posns unoccupied.
- 69373053 - " " " "
- 69753051 - Four vehicles, parked.
- 69993072 - Unoccupied gun posns.
- 69733125 - Three light AA, unoccupied.
- 69483076 - Unoccupied gun posns.
- 69873132 - " " " "
- 69233171 - Small supplies.

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6 SEP 1945

- 67753118 - Seven large white vans of
- 67433073 - Three light guns.
- 70222810 - Three 88's, gun purposes.
- 707228 - Three guns.
- 709283 - Military activity.
- 70922816 - Three vehicles.
- 70352758 - Two guns.
- 70612680 - Four guns, heavy tracks.
- 71512633 - Unoccupied gun positions.
- 71002675 - Four vehicles, parked.
- 72112756 - 10 vehicles on road heading N.
- 73592656 - 4 tanks.
- 72772599 - 3 light AA.
- 71272822 - Unoccupied positions.
- 71562524 - 4 guns.
- 711143 - Foxholes.
- 71032163 - 4 guns with foxholes.
- 71952417 - 4 guns.

Road not shown on map runs from 73592576 to 74952477 along the northern bank of the stream.

SUMMARY of PHOTOGRAPH: Date of photography - 14 March 1945; quality "A"; area covered: one strip 4,000 yds wide running over the Autobahn from the WIED river north to BRUNGSBERG.

Artillery: The majority of batteries were located just west of the Autobahn. All batteries reported were positively identified. Those batteries located near the WIED river (7624) were sited SW. Those in our northern sector were sited toward the NW (toward HONNEF).

Anti-aircraft: There was a tremendous amount of AA pinpointed both in light and medium batteries. The majority were emplaced east of and parallel to the Autobahn. There was an equal number of unoccupied positions west of the Autobahn. Medium batteries were set to fire dual purpose.

Vehicles: Several tanks were seen. A vacated vehicle park or assembly area was located. Numerous ambulances were seen. No traffic was seen on Autobahn at 1330 on 14 March and all bridges on road were intact.

Miscellaneous: There was a great amount of supply activity seen on eastern side of Autobahn.

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* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: MRB *
* DATE: 16/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

2200 Mar 1945
TO 1 162200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Via ERPEL.
16 March 1945.

No. 238.
Map: GSGS 44th, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: Bridgehead: RHINE at 610317-632308-656310-688313-705268 (39th Inf)-707252-733233-745212 (60th Inf)-757187-736131-RHINE at 698123.

b. Units identified:

- 2nd, 3rd Cos, 62nd Engr Bn.
- 3rd Bn Hq, 4th Btry, 119th Arty Regt, 11th Pz Div.
- 2nd, 5th, 9th Cos, 110th PG Regt.
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 10th Cos, 111th PG Regt.
- 5th Co, 11th Ren Bn, 11th Pz Div.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, 26th Fusilier Bn.
- 3rd, 8th Btrys, 26th Arty Regt.
- Hq, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, CT KESSLER.
- 14th, 16th Btrys, 388th Volkartillerie Corps.
- 2nd Co, CT DAENEMARK.
- 4th, 6th Cos, 86th Fusilier Bn.
- 2nd Co, 3rd Frecht Repl Bn.

c. Further information on units in contact:

The 99th Inf Div identified elements of the 326th Div on its front during the day. According to the OB of the 99th, only 500 of the 326th are east of the RHINE, and as the division previously operated under the control of the 277th, it is not unnatural to find it on this front again under the same control. In short the 326th Div as such has not been identified although sizeable elements will doubtless appear on the southern flank of the bridgehead.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: At an early hour of the morning the 39th Inf was involved in heavy small arms and MG fire in the vicinity of SCHWEIFEID (708260); 5 assault guns were encountered later in the morning. But although the enemy's resistance continued to be stubborn he was obliged to withdraw until by the end of the period he was defending without signs of further withdrawal the woods between WILLSCHIED and HALLERBACH. Tanks and SP guns were used to cover his retreat and the volume of small arms continued heavy. At a late hour, the unit entering WILLSCHIED was involved in a lively and confused engagement within the village. Further south along the line the enemy defended his position in VETTELSCHOSS with a coordinated use of small arms and SP fire, the former coming from the wooded flanks, the latter from the town itself. The volume of fire was heavy, and accurate in concentrations.

The 60th Inf met much the same sort of defenses when it approached STRODT. In the town there was evidently a force of a battalion or more of infantry and from 5 to 8 tanks or SPs, whose fire was accurate and intense. During the morning the firefight was heavy and costly, and it was broken off in the afternoon with the resistance still stubborn and effective. The force within the town was believed to be the 654th AT Bn, and elements of the 111th PG Regt.

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- b. Artillery: There was a slight decrease in enemy artillery during the period, with but eight shellings reported. The shelling was widely scattered over the front and came from almost due north. The fire was lighter in caliber than on previous days and was evenly divided between single SP 88s and 105s and light caliber 4-gun batteries.

10 counterbattery missions were fired within the zone of action and 3 SPs were reported destroyed.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Broken to overcast low clouds at first, with sizeable breaks in the RHINE valley. Light ground fog in the morning dissipating by 1000. Visibility poor in early morning, becoming fair by mid-morning, and good near noon. Maximum temperature 55°, minimum temperature 40°. Fighter-bomber operations likely after mid-morning. Evening civil twilight March 17, 1912; morning civil twilight March 18, 0607.

- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 183.

- c. AUTOBAHN: Air photographs reveal that in the division sector the Autobahn is intact, and up to 3 days ago no bridge had been damaged. Snow traffic or late has been extremely light for fear of Allied air.

- d. DESSERTERS: One regiment reports several instances of deserters from the Wehrmacht being found in cellars, hiding out among civilians and wearing civilian clothes. These cases should be turned over to CIC for investigation, who are authorized to deal with suspected instances of sniping as well as of improper identification. No authentic cases of desertion more recent than 10 days have as yet been uncovered.

- e. A major PW of the 99th Inf Div reports that ALTENKIRCHEN (9332) is a HQ for elements of the Pz Lehr Div and for a training brigade which comprises the following units: CT SCHREIBER (30 strong), CT WINTGENS (107 strong), 834th Engr Training Bn (50 strong), HEIDELBERG unit (77 strong), miscellaneous (78 strong).

The same PW stated that the officer in charge of blowing the REBAGEN RR bridge is under arrest and is to be court martialed for his failure.

- f. FRIGHT DIVISION: The 3rd Pz Div according to the 78th Div G-2, is now a CT of 750 men with no company organization. It was to counterattack in the KALENBORN area but was forestalled by our advance.

- g. KALENBORN: Of interest in the town of KALENBORN, taken by the 39th Inf, is a factory for the processing of locally mined basalt to make a product with 10-20 times the hardness of steel. This material is extremely brittle but this quality does not prohibit its extensive use to line pipes for carrying industrial scrap, stone, dirt and other substances which quickly destroy all metal tubes. The process, which involves heating to 1300 degrees in blast furnaces and slow cooling, was invented in 1922 and has been applied at this plant since 1935. The manager, claims this is the only place in the world where the product is made.

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h. AGIDDIENBERG, taken today by the enemy, was the scene of a small-scale but decisive battle no longer than 24 years ago. The so-called Rhineland Republic fostered by the French and brought into existence at the time of the occupation of the RUWER was promoted by an element of the industrial cities of the RHINE valley. Food was scarce and riding parties were organized in HONNEF UNKEL and other Rhinish towns, which invaded the bank country. It was at AGIDDIENBERG in November 1923 that the outraged farmers at length organized to resist these looting raids, and where they inflicted in one engagement some 120 casualties and throw the Separatists back. Although the French military authorities made a half-hearted attempt to punish AGIDDIENBERG and the other agricultural communities, the whole Rhineland Republic movement here received its death blow, and a monument in the town commemorates the event.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

George R. Ballouger
for JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2, #3, Sketch

Dist: n/c

Amex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #238, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 16 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 151800 Mar 1945
To: 161800 Mar 1945

Reinforcements: The enemy has filled those gaps, which German tankers had noted and had hoped to see filled during the first days of the bridgehead fighting. Infantry has been put into the line in form of entire replacement battalions. The identification of the 26th Fus Bn and the 376th Repl Bn has been clarified by an officer PW late in the period. In DENMARK one of the static training divisions, namely the 160th, was until recently making soldiers of 17 and 18 year old recruits. Up to several months ago the training division sent its replacements to the eastern front; now there is every indication that this entire division is coming down to fight us. The above-mentioned two replacement battalions were a part of the 160th Training Div, and are the vanguards for more units of the same sort, coming from the same place. Although only the NCOs and the officers from this unit are combat experienced, one point is definitely to be considered: the 160th Training Div means a full-sized organization, with companies up to 120 men fighting strength in its battalions. Both the 26th Fus and the 376th Repl Bns are fighting in the same sector, which is roughly along the Autobahn between WINDHAGEN and ORSCHREIDT. The officer PW states that both units are now under the command of a temporary HQ, calling itself the 160th Regt.

New Additions: It was only a platoon of about 24 men belonging to the 3rd Procht Repl Bn which moved into RUDERSCHREIDT during the last period, with orders to defend the village with Volksturm support. When this small force arrived, there was no Volksturm, but the 86th Pz Engrs tried to help them to accomplish their mission. The present location of the 3rd Procht Repl Bn at MAULSBACH (8232), including some of the statements from NCO PWs from this unit, indicate that the 3rd Procht Div as a whole may soon be met in a NE location. The entire division, after its crossing of the RHINE at BONN and GOESBERG, had been spread throughout the lower part of the SIEG river all this time, anxiously awaiting replacements and equipment. It is not to be forgotten that right after its crossing of the RHINE, the 5th Procht Regt had its assembly area at HIMBERG, now ~~on the bank~~

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Artillery: Several PW from the 388th Volksgrenadier Corps (composition, see CB report), have given an explanation today to the origin of some of the hvy caliber arty falling mostly around the LUEDENDORF bridge and REMAGEN. Its 16th Btry is still in possession of 2 x 210mm mortars, which had their first firing positions at STADT. These two mortars were moved last Sunday approximately 2 kms NE to a place called ROTT HEIDE. PWs state that their target until only a few days ago was the LUEDENDORF RR bridge and REMAGEN on which they had observation only during the first two days of the fighting. Another PW statement, that this Corps is a mixed unit, definitely holds true since practically every caliber arty weapon is to be found in it. There is even a battery of 172mm guns; the 10th; there are three of them left. As to the use of the hvy caliber mortar at the present time, it has been explained that these guns are now supposed to be firing on our armored spearheads. PWs emphasize the fact that a Corps concentration of arty fire is nothing out of the ordinary. Practically all the ammunition used by this unit was found at a small place called KAU (7223). This confirms some of the previous reports of the large ammunition stores in the woods surrounding the Autobahn.

As to the whereabouts of the 119th Pz Arty Regt as a whole, several PW statements point to the small town of NEUSTATT. This seems to be the general destination of this unit. PWs constantly speak of hvy losses in men and equipment inflicted by our counter-battery fire.

A rather unusual action was the mission of some 15 artillerymen from the 2nd Bn of the unit mentioned above to protect their OP under any circumstances, fighting as infantry. This is another sign that the enemy is trying to hold what little high ground they have left in order to support his infantry as effectively as possible.

In addition to this information about the 388th Volksgrenadier Corps, it may be of interest to know that the general location of the Corps itself is S of the 119th Arty Regt, and generally centered in the peninsula formed by the WIED river. The 5th Bn is located (for example) in RAHMS.

Underground Factory: A PW who lost his taste for German civilization when he saw his own wounded being left in the immediate vicinity of one of the RHINE bridges at the time it was blown up, tells of an ammunition factory of considerable size, still producing at top speed. This plant is located some 20 kilometers due N of the bridge head, at TROISDORF (584?), and is operated by large numbers of foreign laborers, women and men. The latter are guarded by Landesschuetz units only. This factory had been bombed at one time, but only partly damaged. Another section of the factory is underground, extending from 585,70 to 590,76 to a road at 507,85 to 592,82. The wooded area above this road in a NE direction to the Autobahn is crowded with all kinds of motor vehicles, arty pieces, half-trucks and tractors. The presence of all this equipment is explained by a large ordnance shop which is operating in these pine woods.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #230, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 26 March 1945.

PI REPORT

article from March 14, 1945.

- 80713204 - 2 medium guns.
- 8229 - 2 vehicles in KESCHIED.
- 83272263 - Small stacks of supplies - 5 vehicles.
- 832903 - Approximately 100 boxes of large supplies.
- 833288 - 10 vehicles in PISCHIED - possible HQ.
- 844287 - 6 vehicles in ANLEAGF.
- 832275 - Arty dump.
- 842272 - Gas or rations supply - approximately 1000 small boxes.
- 84222004 - 4 hvy or med guns.
- 842276 - Supplies.
- 85152715 - Brennos.
- 826295 - Small supplies.
- 8352915 - Two med guns.
- 836293 - 15 vehicles in woods.

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6 SEP 1945

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Declassified Auth: TAR
6 SEP 1945

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #383
11th Pz Div. dated 15 Sept 1945

ORDER OF BATTLE AREA OF THE BRIDGEHEAD

In the bridgehead: 11th Pz Div remains the only unit of divisional size the bulk of which is engaged in this area. The enemy continues to resort to expedients and to throw in fractions of units in a piecemeal fashion. Thus, elements of the 3rd Pz, 9th Pz, 130th (Pz Lehr), 26th, 62nd, and 340th Volksgrenadier divisions, as well as battle groups of some SS Pz Divs are encountered, but the presence of their respective staffs is open to doubt. The most likely candidates now appear to be the 3rd Pz and 9th Pz Divs. As for the former, in addition to some regimental combat teams, 3rd Pz Repl Bn is now in contact. As regards to the 9th Pz Div, elements of the two Pz Gr Regts, 9th Rcn and 86th Engr Bns have been identified to date.

Only one noteworthy development is to be recorded in respect to the 11th Pz Div. PWs indicate that the 119th Pz Arty Regt has withdrawn to the area of NEUSTADT. The PW from the 3rd Bn also stated that this battalion now includes the 5th, 7th, 8th and 10th Btrys. Formerly, the 9th Btry was reported to be in this battalion. According to him, the 5th Btry has 105mm gun Hows, the 7th Btry, 105mm guns and the 8th and 10th Btrys have 150mm Hows.

Outside of the bridgehead: Remnants of badly-battered divisions are being concentrated into the vital areas of the SAAR Basin and the stretch between TRIER and COBLENZ. For instance, an elite unit, the 6th SS Mtr Div is now engaged near the MOSELLE estuary, just south of COBLENZ. On the other hand, there is also a tendency towards merging these divisions with one another. To quote a few examples, the 18th and 26th Volksgrenadier Divs have now been joined together; similarly, remaining elements of the 159th and 189th Divs - both of them having fought with the German Nineteenth Army in ALSACE - are now fighting in the SAAR under the command of the 16th Volksgrenadier Div.

340th Volksgrenadier Div: Committed in the bridgehead in the 99th Div zone of action, although it is not known what part of the division is here. Originally from KOENIGSBERG, this division fought in RUSSIA and was reorganized at TORUN, POLAND in September 1944. It came to JUELICH at the end of November 1944 and remained there until after Christmas when it was committed against the Third Army in the ARDENNES. In mid-February 1945 it was shifted to the VIII US Corps sector in the general vicinity of FRIEM where it was continuously engaged till the beginning of March. It consists of the 694th, 695th and 696th Volksgrenadier Regts and has the auxiliary number 340.

388th Volks Arty Corps: Together with the 119th and 277th Arty Regts, this Corps constitutes the principal arty support for the enemy units in the bridgehead. A fairly reliable PW gives its organization as 6 battalions, with 1 Hq Btry, and 3 firing btrys in each. Information concerning its guns is somewhat vague, but the following seems a reasonable version: 1st Bn - 75mm AT guns; 2nd and 3rd Bns - 105mm gun Hows; 4th and 5th Bns - 150mm Hows. Each battery has 4-6 pieces. As the PW was from the 6th Bn, he was able to give its exact composition. He stated that the 16th and 17th Btrys were combined and had only 2 x 210mm Hows (Moerser). The 18th Btry has 3 x 172mm guns.

160th Regt (Kampfgruppe DAENMARK): An officer PW disclosed that this unit comprises the 26th and 376th Repl Bns. It will be recalled that the 26th Bn was identified yesterday in the sector of the 110th Pz Gr Regt. A PW from the 376th Repl Bn said his unit had been stationed at ESBJERG, DENMARK.

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The newly-formed 160th Regt. is an offshoot of the 160th Reserve Div. composed of War I (ten) units, and now stationed in DENMARK. This division controls the 30th, 58th and 225th Reserve Regts which obviously are the replacement units for the 30th, 58th and 225th Inf Divs, all of them War I (ten) units and all engaged on the eastern front. The 26th Regt. is part of the 30th Inf Div and the 376th Regt. belongs to the 225th Inf Div. The 26th and 376th Bns are the respective replacement and training units for these regiments.

The PW taken from these units are mostly excellent soldiers, unflinchingly devoted to HITLER and the Nazi Party, arrogant and extremely security-conscious. Several among them have been cadre NCOs charged with the training of recruits. Their commitment in the west may be due to the dearth of manpower.

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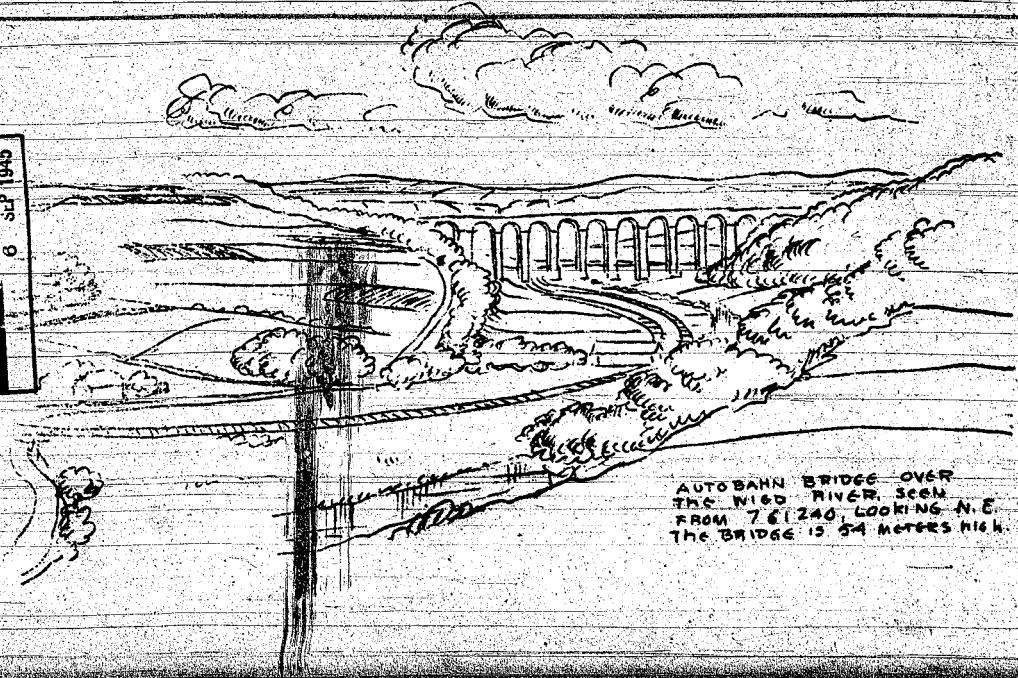
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AUTOBAHN BRIDGE OVER
THE WIGD RIVER, SEEN
FROM 761240, LOOKING N.E.
THE BRIDGE IS 54 METERS HIGH.

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Declassified Auth: 248
6 SEP 1945

SECRET
*AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div
*INIT: 17/3/45
*DATE: 17/3/45

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic BRPEL.
17 March 1945.

No. 239.
Map: CGCS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 71270-724273-728261-725263-727258-VETTELSCHOSS-723235-724223-750215.

b. Units identified:

- *Hq, 1st, 3rd, 4th Cos, KG DENMARK #2, 340th Div.
- *Hq, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, KG DENMARK #3, 340th Div.
- *6th Co, 69th Inf Regt, 340th VG Div.
- 4th Co, 26th Fus Bn.
- 3rd Co, 61st AT Bn.
- 3rd Co, 86th Pz Engr Bn.
- 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Cos, 110th PzR.
- 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th Cos, 11th PzR.
- 1st, 3rd Cos, 62nd Engr Bn.
- 8th Btry, 388th VAK.
- 3rd, 6th, Hq Cos, 15th Pz Regt.
- 11th Co, KG KESSLER.
- Escort Co, 11th Pz Div.
- 136th Inf Repl Bn.

* See paragraph 1.c.

c. Additional information on units in contact:

(1) It is quite evident that the 340th Inf Div has assumed command of a definite sector to the north of the 11th Pz Div and has filled its depleted ranks. The 26th, 376th and 377th Repl Bns have been put under its command and according to FWS now constitute the 694th, 695th, and 696th Inf Regts respectively. Those battalions are also known as KG DENMARK #1, 2, and 3. The 340th Inf Div sector runs from REDERSCHIED (7127) to VETTELSCHOSS (7224) with the 9th Pz Div to the north.

(2) The 11th Pz Div has received replacements from AUSTRIA recently, two Marsch battalions each with 500 men, having been assigned to the 110th and 111th Pz Gr Regts. The division sector extends from VETTELSCHOSS (7224) to STRAUSCHIED (7622), with the 277th VG Div to the south.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The enemy continued to resist stubbornly with SP guns and tanks, supported by infantry, in the towns and villages in the division zone of advance. REDERSCHIED, SCHWEIFELD, WILLSCHIED, VETTELSCHOSS and STROBT were cleared against heavy fire but much direct fire continued to hit in these towns. Mortar, arty and nobelwerfer fire supported the enemy's effort to delay our expansion of the bridgehead area. The 2d Bn, 39th Inf, cut the Autobahn at the end of the period.

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b. **Artillery:** Enemy arty activity was increased during the period, with 19 shells recorded in the division. The shelling followed the same pattern as during the previous period, covering the entire divisional front and coming from NE to E. The KALENBORN sector received the heaviest shelling, with one concentration of 50 rounds and two of 20 rounds reported in that area. Light and medium enemy batteries were in the majority, with the usual heavy SP and tank fire reported. Two SPs were destroyed by Air OP adjustments.

c. **Air:** No enemy air was reported during the period. One close-support mission was flown in front of the 60th Inf sector, near the Autobahn; two tanks were destroyed and two damaged by strafing.

d. **Other fronts:** 1st Inf Div - Heavy arty fire fell on troops vicinity the RJ 711201, and the enemy attempted an attack, supported by armor in the wooded area E of ITTENBACH, across the Autobahn. The 29th PGR was identified, and the successor to General SCHMIDT as 3rd Pz Div commander was captured with his staff vicinity ITTENBACH.

99th Inf Div - HAUSEN (F 7616) and 200 PWs including 10 officers captured without resistance by one company of friendly infantry early in period; HAUSEN bridge damaged but intact; however, enemy holds E bank of river at bridge. HONNINGEN (F 7013) cleared early in afternoon, with 150 PWs taken, principally from the 27th VG Div, after still resistance and house-to-house fighting. One assault gun and two M4V tanks destroyed and estimated 525 PWs captured.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. **WEATHER FORECAST:** Generally overcast, breaking some in afternoon. Visibility good, 1-3 miles, except in sheltered valleys, and improving to 5-6 miles in afternoon. Winds: SW-W, 8-15 mph. Temperature: minimum 42°, maximum 54°. Civil twilight: PM 18 March 1913; AM 19 March 0605.

b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 343.

c. **FIRST US ARMY C-2 requests,** on highest priority, telephone directives, RR time-tables, RR guides, freight railway tariff and/or air freight tariffs. Of lesser priority are RHINE steamboat tariff and schedules or bargo freight traffic tariff. These items are to be forwarded to Army through intelligence channels.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. (1) The enemy is capable of continuing to strengthen his defensive line with additional infantry formations.
 - (2) The enemy is capable of attacking in an effort to eliminate the bridge-head.
 - (3) The enemy is capable of organizing a defensive line along the SIEG river; to the north, the high ground to the east and the LAHN river to the south.
- b. **Discussion:** A considerable addition of infantry troops has been noticed the past two days, with no decrease in the amount of armor in use. In spite of heavy casualty rates, the enemy has managed to introduce "out-of-contact" elements and has brought three full strength battalions from DENMARK, and two from AUSTRIA. It is felt that more time is yet needed before the enemy will be capable of launching a major offensive of any consequence. It is more likely that he will generally remain on the defensive, attempting all the while to gain limited objectives with local battalion attacks supported by 5 to 10 SPs or tanks.

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Should the enemy feel that the forces now at hand are capable of major offensives, he may test the strength of our hold and attack with the 10 divisions now partially or wholly in contact along the bridgehead. It is felt however that more reinforcements are needed before he would attempt to drive us back across the RHINE.

Capability 3 will be executed only when forced on the enemy by our advances.

J. F. O'Connell, Capt
for JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSG,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3.

Dist:	III Corps	9th Mod Bn
	V Corps	Div Engr Co.
	VII Corps	PW Cago
	1st Inf Div	ZH
	78th Inf Div	CIG
	9th Armd Div	MII
	99th Inf Div	AG
	39th Inf	Alv O.
	17th Inf	OB
	60th Inf	G-3
	9th Div Arty	G-5
	CCB, 9th Armd Div.	FI
	8th TD Gp	CG
	716th Tk Bn.	Asst CG
	899th TD Bn.	C/S
	15th Engr Bn	Filo
	9th Ron Tp	History

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #239, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 17 March 1945.

PI REPORT (sortie flown 15 March 1945)

81883451 - 12 tks moving E.	73432705 - 4 guns, dual purpose 88s.
81463455 - 11 tks moving E.	76143410 - 2 guns sited SW.
82273454 - 3 trucks.	768343 - 8 ambulances in MENDL.
82803456 - 4 trucks.	77773446 - 3 guns sited W.
81973372 - 15 camouflaged vehicles in woods.	78053333 - 3 lt AA.
736302 - 6 camouflaged barracks.	78903017 - 3 lt AA.
73583056 - 3 lt AA.	78003098 - 3 lt AA.
73782945 - 4 guns.	78652867 - 3 lt AA.
75092897 - 2 guns.	78822846 - 3 lt AA.
74002729 - 4 lt guns.	79852845 - Small supplies.
74572776 - Supplies.	755333 - Military activity.
74442812 - "	77383025 - 3 lt AA.
74922782 - 4 guns.	77523012 - 2 lt AA.
75182798 - 2 guns.	77573038 - 3 lt AA.
74282683 - 5 lt guns - possible dummies.	77652925 - 3 lt AA.
76552595 - 3 lt AA.	78052924 - 3 lt AA.
76002748 - 3 guns.	78222938 - 3 lt AA.
73742717 - 3 SAs with supplies in hedgerow.	77902884 - 2 hvv guns.
73522726 - Ammo for 4-88s dug in pits.	78932712 - 3 guns.
828295 - Small supplies.	84222804 - 4 heavy or medium guns.
83352915 - 2 medium guns.	849276 - Supplies.
836293 - 15 vehicles in woods.	85352745 - Trenches.
84523045 - 4 possible med guns	818347 - Veh assembly area - approx 50 vehicles.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #239, 11th Pz Div, 6 dates, 1945.

From: 161800 Mar 1945
To : 171800 Mar 1945

Command: The burden of commanding the great number of enemy units which had come down to the bridgehead during the last few days, has more and more been taken away from the 11th Pz Div. As a matter of fact, during this period the 340th VG Div was disclosed to have taken over a great share of this burden. This unit, which until about one week ago, was in no shape to fight anybody, was to be regrouped and reorganized at LIMEBURG-LAHN. However, since events have made it rather urgent for the Germans to put some full-sized units into the line, three replacement battalions were hurriedly sent down from DENMARK and absorbed by the 340th VG Div. Confirmed statements of PWs have placed the 26th Fus Bn in the 69th VG Regt and the 376th Repl Bn in the 695th VG Regt. Unconfirmed reports which appear to be a good assumption, place the 377th Repl Bn under the command of the 696th VG Regt. This actually means that each one of the three regiments of the 340th VG Div have been reinforced by a sizeable unit which came here complete with equipment and hvy weapons companies. Each one of the regiments can now be estimated to be 500 men strong. A great part of this division confronted the 39th Inf during the period.

The 11th Pz Div: Not only has the sector grown more narrow for this division, but it has also received some more replacements. These are some 400 men who came from a Mountain Repl Training Div, located in AUSTRIA, who have spent approximately 12 days on the train, trying to get to the 11th Pz Div, and who have now been incorporated into practically all the units and the auxiliary units of this division. In the meanwhile, the 11th Pz Div CP, which is at the present time located at NEUSTADT, is still in command of CT KESSLER and CT BECK, now fighting on the S flank of the division. It appears that the entire unit has followed a practically straight E direction during its withdrawal.

DENMARK: That part of the German Reich may still be fairly far away from us, but it has become of great interest, since the enemy has one of his major manpower sources in that country. As already mentioned in this report, three fully equipped battalions came from there. The 160th Repl Inf Div, which is up there at the present time, is not to be compared with the size of a combat division; rather, can it be compared with a Corps. It is a perfectly logical assumption which has been made from PW statements, who have recently left the area, that if drained completely of its recruits, the 160th can furnish enough men to put at least three or four divisions into the line as better outfits than those which have been facing the bridgehead up to now.

Towns and Villages: The enemy has long realized that billeting his troops or having a CP in any of the larger villages, is a very dangerous thing for him to do, since he has suffered heavily from our interdicting arty fire and plane activity. It still seems however, that the small villages, with only 100 to 150 inhabitants in the immediate vicinity, are still relatively safe places for the Germans to billet troops and CPs. The following are a number of the small villages not far from our front lines, which according to PW statements must be busy places. N to S: KOELERSHOHN (720271), NIEDERWINDHAGEN (731276), JOHANNISBERG (742274), HUENGSBERG (748270) CP of 340th VG Div, HECKEN (735269), GUNDERSCHIED (742254) former 11th Div (Pz) CP, MOHN (733255), ELSOFF (748247) CP of 11th Pz Gr Regt, ROTT (748238) former Bn CP of 388th Volks Arty Corps, HEIDE (752243), OBERFLAG (775273) assembly area, NEUSTADT (783250) 11th Pz Div CP. The town of FLAMMERSFELD (8527) has now been mentioned for the third time by PWs as the closest place to the front lines where enemy reinforcements are detraining.

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The town of WISSEN (224) which is ^{about 30 miles NE of here} ~~is~~ ^{has} also witnessed considerable action during the last week ^{as far as troop movements are concerned.} Also the previously-mentioned transport from AUSTRIA of about 400 men detained in this town, and was then marched due W to BITCH, using the general route passing through HAMB, ROEBACH, HERCHEN.

The small but famous town of ASBACH (7829) is another town which has been the center of German troop movements to the W ever since the bridgehead fighting began.

Exhaustion: During today's interrogation, a PW was interrogated who suffered from complete exhaustion. He appeared to be in the late 40s, although it was later on found out that his age was 37. The PW explained his appearance by telling the interrogator that he is one of the men who did not collapse on the march from WISSEN to NEUSTADT (approx 30 kms). Many of them did, after not having received any food at all for three days.

There have been indications more than once, that when PWs state their food supply is sufficient, they mean that of the front line soldier. Further back to the rear, especially E of the RHINE, many a soldier sees if he can get fod by a good-natured civilian (who doesn't have much either).

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #232, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 17 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

General Summary: The major events of the last 24 hours can be outlined as follows: (1) the enemy continued to throw fresh units or elements thereof into the battle of the bridgehead; (2) a new divisional staff, 340th VG Div, has emerged and taken its place alongside the 11th Pz Div; (3) the 11th Pz Div has shifted its sector to the south; (4) the rapid turnover of manpower continues and the enemy keeps plugging his gaps with new replacement units.

(1) In addition to units already identified, the 3rd Pz G Div is now in contact on the 78th US Div sector, while the 325th VG Div is fighting against the 99th US Inf Div. Furthermore, the presence of the entire 340th VG Div is now firmly established on the 9th US Div front. This process may continue for some time to come. Due to the lack of transportation, the units now in the northern Third US Army or southern Ninth US Army sector must be given preference.

(2) The record of the 340th VG Div may be recapitulated here. After its defeat in RUSSIA, the division was reorganized and successively committed near JUELICH, in the BASTOGNE area and finally in the vicinity of FRUEN. In the latter sector the division was nearly wiped out and according to a PW it began to reform at LIMBURG-LAHEM. This process was suddenly interrupted by the establishment of our bridgehead which compelled the staff to bring the division into this area. It is now known that the various replacement battalions coming from DENMARK and discussed in detail in yesterday's O.B. notes, were used to fill the ranks of the VG Regts. The manner of their distribution is not certain, but PW statements indicate that the 25th Repl Bn was allotted to the 69th Regt and the 376th Repl Bn went to the 695th Regt. In view of the fact that the 377th Repl Bn was also identified, it may have been assigned to the 696th VG Regt. This is borne out by a PW who has been with the division for a long time and who emphatically claims that - contrary to previous reports - this regiment has been reconstituted. The same PW asserted that the 340th Army Regt has also crossed the RHINE along with the balance of the division. Thus, a reinforcement of the existing army support may be anticipated.

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(3) The 340th VG Div occupied the general sector OBSCHEN, WASSHAGEN, while the 11th Pz Div has slipped towards the south and is now located in the general sector of NEUSTADT. One PW from the 15th Pz Regt reports that an Alarm Co has been formed out of the rear elements of this regiment and attached to the 11th Pz Gr Regt.

(4) One negative fact stands out: no identifications were made today of any elements of CT STOLLE. This may perhaps be accounted for by the assumption that this group has now completed its incorporation into the Pz Gr Regts of the 11th Pz Div. On the other hand, a new group of replacements has just arrived from AUSTRIA to bolster the 11th - and presumably also the 110th PG Regts. This group consists of 400 men, picked from the 136th, 137th, 138th and 139th Mtn Repl Bns, stationed in the vicinity of KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA. It may be interesting to record that the 136th and 137th Bns are the replacement units for the Mtn Regts of the same number. Both of these regiments form part of the elite 2nd Mtn Div which fought in ALSACE and is now engaged in the XX US Corps sector.

Kampfgruppe DAENEMARK: As reported yesterday, the 26th Bn is part of the 30th Reserve Regt, whereas the 376th Bn belongs to the 225th Reserve Regt. Today a certain number of PWs were taken from the 377th Bn which is likewise under the 225th Regt. Both regiments, and the 58th Reserve Regt, are controlled by the 160th Reserve Div, stationed in DENMARK. It seems certain that northern Europe is sheltering today a sizeable portion of the reserve and training establishments of the Wehrmacht and that more reinforcements must be expected from that quarter.

9th Pz Div: A PW from the 86th Pz Engr Bn reported that part of his unit was attached to the 11th Pz Gr Regt and that some men of the 9th Pz Ren Bn were still in the area east of KALENBORN. The appearance of the entire division in the northern or central bridgehead sector is therefore a distinct possibility.

368th Volks Arty Corps: PW from the 8th Btry confirmed that the 3rd Bn was equipped with 105mm gun Hows. His unit supports the 11th Pz Gr Regt. The Corps is commanded by Lt. Col. KRUSCHE.

3rd Pz Gr Div: This unit has had an eventful record and very little rest. It fought the Third US Army in LORRAINE until early October when it was committed near AACHEN opposite VII US Corps. Pulled out in November to reorganize, it was recommitted in the sector of WITZFELD-KALTERHERBERG at the start of the ARDENNES offensive and subsequently shifted to BASTOGNE. It kept retreating eastward until early February and then shifted to the SCHLEIDEN area in the V US Corps sector. Shortly thereafter the battle group stage began. The tank battalion fought partly with assault guns, partly with infantry. The two Pz Gr Regts were split up and sent into action near SCHLEIDEN and in the vicinity of SCHMIDT. Early in March, the division was thrown into the battle of the ROER east of DUEREN, but was unable to hold our advance. Very little remained of its organic units when they crossed the RHINE. Elements of this division were last reported at SIEGBURG.

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* DATE: 18/3/45 *

G-2 PAFIONIC REPORT

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172200 March 1945
194500 March 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KPFEL.
18 March 1945.

No. 240.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 605335-674324-705331-704303-732299-728283-744260-752220-775185-766133-700140.

b. Units identified:

Hq, 1st, 3rd, 4th Cos, 26th Fus Bn, 340th Inf Div.
Alarm Co, 694th Inf Regt, 340th Inf Div.
Hq, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, 376th Fus Bn, 340th Inf Div.
Alarm Co, 1st, 13th Reserve Cos, Hq 1st Bn, 695th Inf Regt, 340th Inf Div.
Hq, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Cos, 377th Fus Bn, 340th Inf Div.
1st, 2nd Btvs, Reserve Arty Bn 58, 340th Inf Div.
4th Co, C^o DEMARK, 26th Inf Div.
Hq 340th Engr Bn, 340th Inf Div.
Reserve Co, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Cos, 110th PGR, 11th Pz Div.
138th Mtn Repl Bn, 11th Pz Div.
139th Mtn Repl Bn, 11th Pz Div.
KG KESSLER, 11th Pz Div.
1st, Service Cos, 15th Pz Regt, 11th Pz Div.
Home Guard FROMMEN.
Army Arty, Btry 1095.
4th Btry, Volks Arty 388.
209th Engr Bn.
62nd Engr Bn.
654th AT Bn

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: Resistance during the period was moderate to heavy with a decrease in SF and tank fire and an increase in arty and mortar fire. Light infantry resistance was encountered this morning, increasing in the afternoon to heavy as our troops approached and crossed the Autobahn. Some 20mm fire was met in the central sector. Armor seemed to be less aggressive during the period than on the previous day, but the marked increase in mortar fire indicated that at the close of the period we had run into another defensive phase line to the east of the Autobahn.

b. Artillery: Enemy artillery increased during the period, mainly in the 60th Inf sector. Most of the firing was single gun harassing, with a few battery concentrations reported.

Corps and division artillery fired a total of 17 counterbattery missions on located enemy batteries.

c. Armor: Armor was less on the division front. Reports indicated an estimated 10-12 tanks and 15-20 SPs active at the close of the period.

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d. Air: An enemy plane strafed the ~~head~~ ~~head~~ ~~area~~ shortly after dark. No other enemy air activity reported during the period. One armed air recon mission operated in front of the division zone at noon. Weather conditions prevented further operations.

e. Other Fronts: 1st Inf Div - Fighting during the period was moderate in intensity. Received a number of small counterattacks with infantry and tanks. Mortar and artillery fire was heavy. An estimated 2000 rounds of artillery fell. A total of 359 PWs were taken. Elements of the 3rd RG Div and 9th Pz Div were identified.

99th Inf Div - Enemy activity was limited to defensive digging and to isolated movement behind lines. A number of small enemy groups overrun by March 17 attacks attempted to make their way back to enemy lines. Arty herded them back towards our lines and they readily surrendered. Enemy artillery showed a marked decrease. Total PWs taken - 233.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Broken to overcast, visibility generally poor, breaking some in afternoon, improving to 5-6 miles. Winds: S-W, 8-15 mph. Temperature: minimum 37^o, maximum 51^o. Civil twilight: PM 19 March 1945; AM 20 March 0603.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 340.
- c. GERMAN SABOTAGE PLANS: During a routine CIC check of the town of REIFFERSCHNEID (F 3901), a girl mentioned having seen a box buried near the church. The following background story was given: A 1st Lt arrived in the town on 18 Feb with 2h men. The officer wore the regular Wehrmacht engineer officer's uniform. He stayed until 7 March 1945. On 7 March after dispersing all civilian and military personnel from the area the officer had two of his men bury the boxes. This was seen by the girl from a nearby window. The general area was pointed out by the girl and the exact location readily found with a mine detector. After finding one box, further search revealed two others. They were buried from 4 to 6 inches below the surface. It could not be determined from the civilians by whom and when the demolitions were to be used. (Source: 8th Inf Regt S-2).
- d. BATTLE TRICKS: During attacks of 16 March, the enemy first, before being forced from each successive ridge, lit a smoke pot to direct the arty and mortar fire which inevitably landed just as troops reached the ridge line. (Source: 99th Inf Div).
- e. DESERT OR NOT? German PWs state that they are tired of the war but, "If we desert and become PWs of the Americans we will be sent across the Atlantic and may never see our families for years. If on the other hand we stick it out for a few more weeks we will be demobilized and sent home immediately after the Allied victory". (Source: XXI Corps).
- f. HOW TO CATCH GERMAN AGENTS: The following points from a reliable informant regarding the use of Organization TODT cover by French collaborationists and agents should be helpful to CIC in screening displaced personnel:
- (1) Real foreign workers usually have pay vouchers from the factory where they were employed, a "Wochenverpflegungskarte" (weekly ration card) and an "Ausweis" of the firm in question.

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- (2) Persons posing as foreign workers can be recognized by several clear appearances, new clothing, leather shoes, gait watches, and generally do not have a *Wochenverpflichtungskarte* and Ausweis of the firm in their possession. They will usually carry normal ration cards, which are only issued to foreign workers in exceptional cases.
- (3) If posing as TODT workers, their Soldbüch will be of very recent date, and they will claim to have been forced into it, a fact which is impossible with French TODT workers. The reason for their Soldbüch being of recent date is that they don't know any details about the Organization TODT and claim to have been recruited in ALSACE.
(Source: First US Army).

- g. **STRAGGLERS:** PWs report that there is an MP detachment working in division *Recon* area to pick up all stragglers and turn them over to the nearest unit headquarters. This will account for miscellaneous identifications that are likely to appear in the division sector.
- h. **ARMED AUSTRIANS:** Approximately 25 Austrians were picked up by the 60th Inf today with no gun, bayonet, or shovel. According to their statements they had never been issued these items. No reason was forthcoming for this strange commitment.
1. **ORDER OF THE DAY:** The following is a translation of an order issued by the C.O. of CT DENMARK:

Regimental Combat Team DENMARK

Regimental CP, March 12, 1945.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Regimental Combat Team DENMARK which I have the honor to command will be committed on the RHINE for the defense of German soil. All of us realize perfectly that the mission entrusted to the new Combat Team is not easy. I am firmly convinced, however, that we shall be able to carry out our mission, if every man will do his duty to the utmost.

All of you have seen the destruction caused by enemy terror-bombing, all of you have witnessed terror raids. You are familiar with the large number of civilian casualties and the destruction of invaluable public property. Despite his terror raids, the enemy will not shatter the morale of the Fatherland.

His superiority in material will be offset by the capacity of the German soldier for self-sacrifice.

We are morally far superior to the enemy. We know what we are fighting for and we shall triumph.

Heil dem Führer!
Signed: ENGELING
Colonel and Commander
of CT DENMARK.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

George M. Newcomer
for JACK A. HOUSTON, Capt.
Lt. Col., GSC,
AO of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2.
Dist: n/c

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #210, D. M. V. dated 1945

From: 171800 March 1945.
To : 181800 March 1945.

The 14th Front? The steady increase in size of the RHINE bridgehead, has not as yet drawn a full sized German division to this front as one complete unit. It seems as though battalions are being sent here one at a time, with very little if any liaison between them, except for a Hq which assigns the sectors which are to be defended. This Hq, strange as it may sound, reaches the combat area before its component units do. Most of these, (incl. Rcn, Repl, Sig, Engr, AT, Arty, Fus, Combat Schools, etc.) have never worked together before reaching this front, and they do not even reach the front at the same time. As a result, the fighting efficiency of all this equipment and manpower is not used to its full capacity.

A M/Sgt tells us of such a messed situation, that no reasonable transportation was available for seriously wounded soldiers. These men were actually piled one on top of another on a horsedrawn cart (without blankets or even straw), while on the Reichsautobahn.

Tanks and SPs were sent into villages "believed to be still in friendly hands", but in reality taken for over 12 hours before the order was issued to defend the said town. Tankers speak of an insufficient number of protective infantrymen, while the latter complains about having no heavy weapons support in his sector, with which he can fight U.S. tanks.

Food does not reach some of the front line units. Soldiers who go out on patrol cannot find their unit again when they return and are simply picked up by any company commander. When asked for their regiment and division, PWs are in such a state of confusion that men who fought in the same company tell us of three different units.

There is no more cadre left, which can officiently lead and assemble the scattered but numerous elements. For once, the Combat Teams which usually were formed as a result of a lost battle, are formed in this instance before entering combat, and are from there on expected to make up the originally absent united combat unit.

This may be partly due to the impossibility of sending a full-sized division to this front all at once, because there are none at hand, and also because our air force does not allow them to travel in convoy the way Allied divisions can.

Troops who were transported by train were held up for over two weeks when coming from DENMARK, while expected within 48 hours. Other soldiers arrived in this sector as a result of a sudden change in orders as to their destination (which in some cases were originally meant to be the COLOGNE or the KOBLENZ area). This may account for the numerous identifications made recently.

PWs still speak of expected Allied bridgeheads on other parts of the RHINE, and give that as a reason for not having committed complete divisions which are momentarily not in the line, but hold in reserve for such an occasion.

What the units we are facing now may well have in mind, is to fight a delaying retreat to the mountainous area in the vicinity, and try to hold us up long enough to permit reorganization. The Volkssturm may well be digging trenches there.

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The 340th VG Div. Of all the above mentioned companies, the enemy does seem to have one outstanding element mainly dispersed along our division front, which he is now trying to put under the command in order to maintain the value of the newly arrived good armor. The latter, coming from DENMARK has been absorbed by the 340th VG Div and expended a considerable amount of armor during this period, which was meant to make up for the lack of arty. There has been evidence that at least two companies of the 654th AT Bn have been fighting under this division, in the general area of WINDHAGEN. The Jagdpanther TDS of this unit were previously reported to be fighting in the area of ST KATHARINEN as an additional support to the 11th Pz Div.

To the N it appears that elements of the 9th Pz Div have also had some connections with DENMARK fighting force. The 1st Bn of the 33rd Pz Regt, consisting of a number of halftracks, provided the arty weapon support and fair mobility. Reports of the 2nd Bn of the same regiment, also being in the vicinity with some 4 Mk V tanks, indicate that the 9th Pz Div has sent into the bridgehead whatever available fighting force they could put into the line, while it is believed that the bulk of the division is still being patched up in the general area of BERGG GLADBACH.

As far as arty support is concerned, the 340th VG Div does not seem to have its own regiment operating in this capacity. The identification of several batteries of this regiment has only disclosed that a great number of arty pieces had to be destroyed W of the RHINE and the personnel are now fighting as infantry in two Alarm Cos, used to plug up holes within the division sector. However along with all the other infantry training battalions from DENMARK, came an Arty Bn which up to now still goes under the identification of the 58th Mtz Ros Tng Bn. Two Btrys only of this unit have been reported to be located in the general area S of ASBACH. Three 122mm Russian Hows and another battery of 150mm Hows make up the composition of this unit and do not seem to be much of a substitute for the original 340th Arty Regt.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #240, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 18 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

General Summary: strenuous efforts are being made to rebuild the 340th VG Div and entrust it with the task of defending the general area of WINDHAGEN. An impressive array of units have appeared with a view to lending armored and arty support to the division.

340th VG Div: The picture is as yet far from clear and only the following general observations seem appropriate. Prior to coming into the bridgehead, two or three Alarm Cos have been formed out of the disbanded 340th Arty Regt and rear elements. It is rather entertaining that no fewer than four 1st Sgts found themselves incorporated into one of these companies. The three companies of the 340th Engr Bn were combined into a CT JORDAN at FRUEN. The various battle groups coming from DENMARK are being employed in refilling the 694th and 695th VG Regts and in setting up a new 340th Arty Regt. No confirmation has been obtained with regard to the existence of a reformed 696th VG Regt. It may be supposed that the infantry elements will represent the usual VG type. One regimental 14th Co - PW know nothing about his regimental affiliation - has been identified with six 75mm AT guns and two squads of bazookas. Of the newly formed artillery regiment, only one battery of 150mm Hows and one battery of 122mm Russian Hows have been heard from so far.

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In addition to the artillery regiment, the division receives support from the following units:

- 33rd Pz Regt (9th Pz Div).
- 50th AT Bn. (9th Pz Div)
- 65th GHQ AT Bn.
- 388th Volks Arty Corps.
- 902nd GHQ Assault gun brigade.

9th Pz Div: A PW from the 33rd Pz Regt stated that his unit was committed in the WINNABERG area. They came from the vicinity of BERGISCH-GLADBACH. The 1st Bn is equipped with SPs and the 2nd Bn has an unknown number of M-V tanks. He also claims to have seen AT guns belonging to the 50th Pz AT Bn.

65th GHQ AT Bn: A PW from the 1st Co confirmed previous information regarding the exceptionally high quality of the men and vehicles of this battalion. According to him, his company still had 10 Jagdpanthers left, and the 2nd Co is also in the area. As the 3rd Co was identified a few days ago, the entire battalion is probably in action in the bridgehead.

388th Volks Arty Corps: According to a PW, the 2nd Bn has 88mm guns.

902nd GHQ Assault Gun Brigade: Only two batteries are in this area, accompanied by one company of infantry for the protection of the guns.

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* INIT: sls *
* DATE: 19/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

1945
FROM: 1945
TO: 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic ERPEL.
19 March 1945.

No. 241.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 740285-738269-740260-750260-DINKELBACH-753246-757244-750235.

b. Units identified:

- 2nd, 3rd Cos, 376th Fus Bn, 340th Inf Div.
- 1st, 4th Cos, 26th Fus Bn, 340th Inf Div.
- 5th Btry, 340th Arty Regt.
- 1st Alarm Co, 694th Regt, 340th Inf Div.
- Alarm Co, 13th-14th Cos, 696th Regt, 340th Inf Div.
- Hq, 13th Co, 695th Inf Regt, 340th Inf Div.
- 1st Co, 138th Mtn Repl Bn, 11th Pz Div.
- 7th Co, 111th PGR, 11th Pz Div.
- 2nd Co, 119th Repl Bn, 11th Pz Div.
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th Cos, 110th PGR, 11th Pz Div.

c. Additional information on units in contact:

The C.O. of the 5th Co, 110th PGR, stated when interviewed today that his company had been virtually destroyed, largely by arty fire. He also said that the 6th and 7th Cos have been combined to form a fighting strength of 65 men.

340th VG Div: PWs who had been with the Div Hq Co until two days ago when they were placed in the Reserve Co stated that during the February retreat from the ARDENNES, Regt 694 and 696 were dissolved. Maj Gen DOLLSTORF, CG of the 340th VG Div told his men after crossing the RHINE that he had saved an approximate 2,500 troops of his division. PW further states that an urgent call from the Hq of the 9th Pz Div brought the 340th VG Div to this sector. On arrival in the area of the 9th Pz Div this unit made it known that the support of the 340th VG Div was not necessary. The 340th VG Div was now shifted to the command of the 11th Pz Div. According to PW only the 695th Regt and some artillery personnel made up the troops of the division. With the reinforcements from DENMARK, however, the two other regiments (694th, 696th) have again begun to function. PWs confirm that no arty was saved in the ARDENNES salient and that the 340th Arty Regt personnel is committed as infantry. The 695th Regt has two battalions at present time; 4-5 tanks are supporting the regiment.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: Enemy infantry resistance in the division's zone of advance was light, but artillery, SP, mortar and nebelwerfer fire were heavy on advancing elements and on towns cleared during the period. HECKEN, BIRKEN, GUNDERSCHIED, HINKELBACH, and HEIDE were captured. Ground OPs observed considerable enemy tank and infantry movement in the ETSCHIED area during the period.

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b. **Artillery:** There was a slight decrease in overall enemy artillery activity during the period, compared with the previous day's fire. The greatest volume of fire fell in the area of the 60th Inf, while the 39th and 47th Infs reported light to moderate shelling, with SP fire predominating. An heavier-than-average concentration fell in the DINKELBACH area at 1930 hrs.

12 counterbattery missions, including two Nebelwerfer positions, were fired in the division zone of action.

c. **Air:** An attempted enemy raid on the bridge at 21h0A was driven off by our AA fire.

The division had 11 close support missions; NEUSTADT (781251), ALTENBURG (806262) and ASEBACH (781298) were hit with fragmentation and blaze bombs. Many fires were started. Tanks at 769260, 761265 and 777272 were bombed and strafed. Considerable movement was noted on the roads vicinity ASBACH; vehicles and tanks were strafed.

d. **Other fronts:** 99th Inf Div - Light resistance encountered throughout day as our troops advanced to F 730099, F 715100, and F 758106, and cleared RHEINBROHL (F 7110) late in period. Elsewhere in division zone enemy was inactive. Estimated 200 PWs.

1st Inf Div - Heavy volume of both arty and small arms during the day. Three counterattacks attempted by enemy infantry supported by tanks vicinity 717309 (GRATZFELD). 273 PWs taken; no new identifications.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. **WEATHER FORECAST:** Light, intermittent drizzle during morning, with light to moderate rain during afternoon. Visibility, fair. Maximum temperature, 62°; minimum, 38°. Limited fighter-bomber operations possible with best results in the morning. Civil twilight: PM 20 March 1916; AM 21 March 0600.

b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 278.

c. **ENEMY PROPAGANDA FRONT:** German Homefront - Threats of extreme penalties, to keep soldiers and workers at their jobs, were resumed by the Nazi Party yesterday. The trial of the Wehrmacht officers responsible for the failure to blow up the REMAGEN bridge was publicized to the hilt by the German Home Radio, which pointed to the trial as an example of the penalties for negligence. An addition to the regular High Command communique, repeated frequently in newscasts, announced the sentence:

"Major Strobl, staff officer of an engineer regiment, Major Shaller, adjutant of an army corps, Major Kraft, CO of an engineer battalion, 1st Lt. Peters, officer in charge of the anti-aircraft batteries protecting the Remagen bridge, and, in absentia, Capt Bratke, commander of the Remagen district, were sentenced to death by a court martial for cowardice before the enemy and failure to do their duty in the field. They were sentenced because they failed, through negligence, to blow up the Remagen bridge in time or to defend it dogmatically. The sentences of Strobl, Shaller, Kraft and Peters were immediately carried out". (See: P & PW Section, First US Army).

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- d. INTERROGATION OF A SWIMMING OPERATOR. In a lengthy six-hour interrogation during which answers were elicited from him only by trickery, Lt. SCHREIBER, a fanatic member of the notorious SKORZENY "Jagdverband" revealed the details of a well-planned attempt to blow up the pontoon bridges across the RHINE.

He was attached to a branch of SKORZENY's "Jagdverbaende," as a "Kampfwimmer" (combat swimmer) under the orders of Admiral HEYE, commander of the "Kleinkampfmittel der Kriegsmarine" (auxiliary combat methods of the Navy).

Previous to his present "commitment" he had gained experience in bridge-destruction operations in two similar attempts in ITALY. Once he swam down the BEVANO river with explosive charges to blow a pontoon bridge, but it turned out that the bridge hadn't been built yet. On another occasion, on the BELLARIA river, the charge he placed against a regular steel bridge was only strong enough to damage, but not to destroy it.

On 11 March he was instructed by phone from BERLIN, thru Admiral HEYE, that he had to report immediately with six of his men at the VIENNA airport of ASPANG. A special plane flew them to FRANKFORT-on-MAIN, from where they were immediately taken to the RHINE in the NEUWIED area. A few days were spent there preparing the floating demolition charges.

Their initial plan was to undertake the bridge-blowing mission on the night of 16 March by launching themselves into the RHINE at HONNINGEN. In order to reach HONNINGEN from NEUWIED unobserved, they could not use the road flanking the RHINE, so they went to ROSSBACH from where they were supposed to take the ROSSBACH-HONNINGEN road. But on the same day the Americans cut that road by their advance, so they returned to NEUWIED.

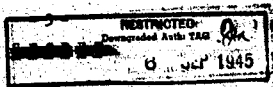
The plan took final shape as follows:

The seven men, each equipped with a specially-prepared floating explosive charge, would take to the water at HAMMERSTEIN (7209) at 2100, 17 March; they were to distribute themselves along the four bridges, two in front, and two behind the REMAGEN span, which had been reported by German air observation. The pontoon bridges would be blown simultaneously at 0130 18 March, for which time the fuzos on the charges were set.

Things went wrong for Lt SCHREIBER from the beginning, when he tore his rubber swimming-suit, whereby he was hindered by the weight of the wet clothing beneath it, and by cramps in his legs resulting from the cold water.

Lt SCHREIBER claims that he would have been able to bypass our floodlighted bridges by cautiously diving beneath the surface as he approached, and submerging the floating charge with him, the charge being provided with compartments which could be either flooded or filled with air, as though it were a submarine.

However his companion was sighted from the shore and fired upon. A bullet hit and detonated the explosive charge, wounding his companion. Lt SCHREIBER then went to his companion's aid and swam to the shore with him. There he surrendered to the Americans in order to get medical attention for the wounded man. But first he scuttled his demolition charge.



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Asked if he thought another bridge crossing expedition like this one would be attempted, Lt SCHREIBER stated that he did not believe a similar plan would be attempted when the Germans, seeing the pontoon bridges standing unmolested, realize that the expedition failed.

He said that the chief obstacle in the path of his mission was the floodlights, although he got past the first lights by diving. He carried tools which would have enabled him, he said, to cut the meshes of any nets he might encounter.

Untersturmfuehrer SCHREIBER is typical of the fanatics who intend to prolong this war to the uttermost. Addicted to Nazi doctrines from earliest youth, he is blindly devoted to the Fuehrer. "If I had had a pistol with me, I would have shot myself," he declared, "rather than become a prisoner".

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No changes.

for *Pl. Lt. J. J. J. J.*
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3.

Dist: n/c

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #211, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 19 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 171800 Mar 1945
To : 181800 Mar 1945

What the Germans think of our intentions: These intentions, and how they expect to prevent us from succeeding, was explained quite willingly by a captured German Bn C.O.

Since the main worry of the German High Command is of course still the RUHR region further north, the enemy has sought to contain the REMAGEN bridgehead with as little as possible of the available fighting forces and equipment. The enemy thinks that if we can expand the bridgehead into a front, we may abandon the idea of a large scale crossing between COLOGNE and DUESSELDORF. He knows that we want to follow up into the RUHR region as quickly as possible, not allowing the German units which were able to cross the RHINE up there to reorganize. If he is able to stall us along in the bridgehead fighting, and can prevent us from breaking out of this semi-circle within the near future, he assumes that the American High Command will spend all its efforts in the expansion of the bridgehead, but will make a large scale operation, crossing the lower RHINE.

This explanation by the Major who was the battalion commander, seems to corroborate what we have seen in the way the enemy has employed and committed his units around the bridgehead. For example, the 11th Pz Div, although as badly battered as were practically all divisions which have fought in the W, was the only major force the Germans have committed on our front for quite awhile. All the other units who have appeared during the past week or 10 days, have more or less been committed in the old piecemeal style. The 9th Pz Div for instance, has been reforming and re-equipping E of COLOGNE, sending down only elements, to help in the delaying action at the bridgehead front. Of course, there have been identifications of the organic

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9th Pz Div units, such as the 11th Pz Bn, the 33rd Pz Regt, the 86th Pz Engr, and so on, but up to date there has been no evidence that the 9th Div Hq has come to direct operations of the entire division. It has not because the bulk of the division is still up N, hoping for enough time to once again make a good fighting force out of its depleted ranks.

There is another sign of the enemy's apparent secondary concern about the bridgehead: it is the way the 340th VG Div has been reactivated. The division was sent here after the original plan of having it refitted further S at RIEBURG-LAEN was abandoned, and the intended replacements coming from DENMARK in the form of three replacement-training battalions were thrown into the line without having been under its division command for almost two days. In other words, the enemy thought that he still had enough time to do the regrouping and reorganizing of the 340th VG Div, while other forces were already engaged in fighting.

This action was thoroughly condemned by the PW. He states that if the three DENMARK Repl Bns, which had totalled nearly 1,500 men upon their arrival, had been committed as one striking force under one regimental command, with all the available arty support, including armor, in an attack directed toward KALENBORN and BRUCHHAUSEN, such an attack would have achieved much better results in containing the bridgehead. It would have thrown us off balance for some time, the major believes. If the German High Command continues his neatly-arranged stalling activity, slowly yielding ground in certain directions, and revealing his entire disposition and intentions to us, he will not be able to prevent the bridgehead from becoming a front as large as we wish it to be, stated the PW.

There is another possibility, which the PW indicated in his practically straight W to E boundaries. This goes for the 11th Pz Div and the 340th Div, as well as for the elements of the 9th Pz Div. Their rear echelons are due E and in some cases, SE of their front line sector. Again, the major helped out in explaining these dispositions. He states that our E flank will be guarded most intensely and kept from expanding more than our N thrust. This latter advance will be checked at the SIEG river, which by that time will be occupied on its E banks by the major part of the forces left in the RUHR region. The Germans will then believe that we deem our bridgehead front large enough to avoid a large scale crossing of the RHINE at NUESSELDORF. In fact, the PW indicated that the Germans anticipate (in case we reach the SIEG river) a similar operation to the one the Americans made at the ROER river, by moving one division after the other through the sector of the units working their way downstream on the E bank of the RHINE.

Camouflaged CPs: Again it must be emphasized, that the enemy has almost completely abandoned the idea of having his CPs in towns or even large villages. The following are examples of the German choice of CP locations which are easily overlooked by a patrolling fighter-bomber in search of a target: DIEFFENAU (819273) is only a pin dot on a large scale map, and probably does not have more than 3 or 4 buildings, but due to the fact that it is on the main supply road between ASBACH, SCHOFNEBERG, FLAMMERSFELD and ALPENKIRCHEN, it was good enough to serve as a regimental CP for the DENMARK replacement units before they were committed. At the present time it is still used for rear echelon work and supply administration. The same is true for an even more inconspicuous place named KAFFROTH, only 1 kilometer NE of the above mentioned village at 833277. HARSCHHEID is also only a small group of houses right outside the towns of ASBACH at 790294, but several reports, including captured documents, make this place the likely CP of the 340th VG Div.

GIESRSHOFFEN (947154) is almost 20 kms from our present front lines, but it is the location of the QM Co of the 340th VG Div. Again it could be noted that it is right outside of the larger town of DIERDORF. The Germans direct their truck drivers to the larger village, and from there on signs will do the rest.

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The last paragraph of a document also discloses the main supply route of the 340th VG Div, which is roughly directed from CLEBSKOPF through RAUBACH, FUDERBACH, NIEDERFIREN, N to STAMMERFELD and then in a W direction to ASBACH.

The area selected for the numerous horses needed in every German VG Div has been that of LINKENBACH (803375). These are the 340th VG horses.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #241, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 19 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

The outstanding feature of the day was the capture of Maj STRUEVE, CO of the 26th Fus Bn DENMARK. His statements, together with the documents obtained from him, substantially confirmed previous reports. The enemy remains on the defensive, holding out in selected strongpoints rather than establishing a continuous line.

340th VG Div: As previously reported, Kampfgruppe DAENEMARK came to the Rhineland in the shape of the 160th Regt commanded by Col EGELING, and destined to be incorporated in toto into this division. The regiment was divided into the 26th, 376th and 377th Bns. Maj STRUEVE states that, contrary to their expectations, the battalions did not remain under the regiment, but were split up among the VG Regts of the 340th Div. The Major has no knowledge of the 696th Regt, but he does know that his own battalion has been converted into the 694th Regt. When it first reached this area, the battalion had approximately 600 men. In addition, an Alarm Co of approximately 60 men had been formed west of the RHINE, which gave the 694th Regt a total of approximately 500 men at the time of its commitment. Only a fraction of those men continue to fight at present; the balance have been killed or captured. The Major also knows that the 376th Bn has become the 695th Regt; the original strength of this unit must have been similar to that of its sister regiment. Since the Major is ignorant of the destination of the 377th Bn, the previously formed hypothesis of the existence of the 696th Regt must be maintained. The DENMARK group obtains its arty support from the 58th Arty Bn which is taken to be the nucleus of a potential 340th Arty Regt.

9th Pz Div: Major STRUEVE and other PWs confirm our previous supposition that the staff of this unit is still pursuing its reforming activities in the BENGISCH-GLADBACH area, while committing fractions of its units wherever the need arises. Today, the 102nd Arty Regt was identified east of STOCKHAUSEN. PW says that only two battalions are in action. Each battalion contains three batteries; two of which have four SP 150mm Hows (HUMMEL) each, and the 3rd has 105mm gun Hows; PW adds that only the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Batteries are facing us and none of the light howitzer batteries is present.

11th Pz Div: Captured German document reveals that the 110th Pz Gr Regt contains a 9th Co of Infantry howitzers and a 10th Co described as an Engr Co.

326th Arty Regt: An organic unit of the 326th VG Div, this regiment was apparently broken up and some of its personnel used as infantry east of WINDHAGEN.

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8 Jul 1945

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #241: By O&A In. Div. dated 9 JCP 1945 19 March 1945.

MIL REPORT

Quaking in a collar where he had been with his congregation for five days, a village pastor was interviewed in WINDHAGEN today. Unfortunately his duties had not required much contact with or observation of enemy troops. Two heavy tanks stopped in the town 18 March and one was destroyed there. Among defending troops no engineers were seen, and no mention of mines had been made.

The usual orders to defend to the last man were not taken seriously by the German soldiers, and the Volksturm is considered a useless farce among all peasants of the region. The total number of infantry and arty personnel in the town had never exceeded 65. Among these were a few AT troops.

Refugees from industrial cities of the WEHR have crowded most of the hamlets in the area recently. Largest of these villages to the immediate front is ASBACH boasting of 600 inhabitants, several small hotels and a hospital. The good, hard-surfaced, two-way highways leading from the S and W should permit easy access to ASBACH and equally rapid departure on similar highways to the SE and N. The town is on the higher ground between the GRIESEN BACH and the MEHR BACH, streams 12-15 foot wide and 3-4 foot deep having gravelly bottoms and muddy banks, subject to momentary flooding at times of heavy rain. Fields around the town are cultivated and open as far as STATSFORST ALTENKIRCHEN, a wooded area of mixed trees and rough, rocky slopes.

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 * AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
 * INIT: JS *
 * DATE: 20/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Recd: 1945 200 March 1945
 TO: 202200 March 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
 Vic KALENBORN.
 20 March 1945.

No. 242.
 Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front line: No change.

b. Units identified:

- Alarm Co. KUSCHNIKE.
- 26th Fus Bn.
- CT SCHELDT.
- 376th Fus Bn.
- CT BEHMAN.
- Alarm Co., 10th Pz-Regt.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: No close contact during period. One enemy patrol attempted to infiltrate at 745274, but was eliminated by our outpost, one PW being taken. Arty fire was moderately harassing, mortar and ~~SP~~ fire was light, and small arms and MG fire was negligible. A little nebelwerfer fire was received during the period.

Observation posts reported a number of single vehicles along the road not in front of the division sector with the preponderance of traffic being to the west and NW. Centers of activity were ASEBACH (780297) and BERNAU (7595). Some activity was observed in all towns. Eight tanks, nine SPs and approximately 300 infantry were observed and fired on during the period. One Mk V and one SP were destroyed, the former by tank destroyer fire and the latter by artillery fire.

b. Artillery: Enemy artillery activity during the period reverted to its old pattern of harassing and interdictionary fire from one or two guns. The fire was well scattered over the division front. The heaviest concentration of 30 rounds fell in the HOHNE area at 1800 hours. The average for 20 shells per hour was 10 rounds at any one time. Calibers were predominantly light with only four reports of medium artillery. No heavy calibers were reported.

Four observed and 27 unobserved missions were fired on enemy gun locations in the division zone of action. An adjustment was also made on an enemy battery caught on the road with fire for effect reported excellent.

c. Air: There were no enemy air attacks on the REMAGEN bridge area. The division had five close support missions in addition to close-in armed run in front of the sector. The town of ASEBACH was hit twice with blaze bombs as well as fragmentation.

Many vehicles located at 765296 were strafed and bombed with excellent results. Nebelwerfers and SPs were reported at 759314 - bombed with no results observed.



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3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. **WEATHER REPORT:** Scattered clouds tonight increasing towards morning. Visibility poor in early morning haze and fog, increasing during the day. Visibility 1-3 miles in haze, except less than one mile in fog, increasing to 3-6 miles by noon. Winds: SW to W, 4-8 miles increasing to 10-15 miles by the end of the period. Maximum temperature 60°, minimum 44°. No precipitation. Civil twilight: PM 21 March 1945; AM 22 March 0558.

b. Estimated total number of P&B taken during period: 28.

c. **KNOW YOUR ENEMY:** Recently a female German agent was taken from the water of the western bank of the RHINE river after crossing from the enemy side. The intercepting tactical unit turned her over to the CIC. Extensive interrogation and supervised employment of her by the CIC has divulged certain objectives and methods of German espionage which provide a picture of a little known enemy spy weapon - the German espionage agent. Time, names and places have been altered necessarily.

Outwardly, Greta appears like merely a better-looking than average Belgian girl; in her 20s; medium height, blonde hair; and an interesting figure. A rather appealing face, a pleasant and quiet manner, but a gangster's moll is a haloed angel in comparison. There resemblance to ordinary womanhood ceases. She speaks French, German, Flemish and Dutch. It is also suspected she speaks English although in several days of interrogation she consistently denies this accomplishment. The CIC employment of her necessitated her being for long periods of time in exposed positions, often subjected to rifle and harassing mortar fire. She was wincing and not visibly disturbed in any way. Other CIC employment has led her into places where the persons contacted would unquestionably have killed her had they suspected her capture by the Americans. Again her observed reactions were completely negative. Further, one of her assigned missions was to "dispose" of a man who was considered by the Gestapo as a threat to them. Those of the Counter Intelligence Branch of the G-2 office who have associated with Greta do not question that this mission would have been fulfilled were she still at large. Also, Greta is an accomplished radio operator and has spent the better part of her time since 1941 dabbling in Gestapo activities ranging from interpreting to establishing espionage rings.

The espionage unit from which Greta operated on her last, and (we hope) final, mission was headed by a highly intelligent man with a gift for organization and an intense interest in his work bolstered by strong Nazi convictions. Agents are run in anything but a haphazard manner. For instance, Greta had received four specific missions:

- (1) To establish and direct a radio post to convey information on units in and about _____
- (2) To liaison with agents in _____ and others who will arrive later and to transmit the information they provide. She possessed a number of addresses and passwords to assist in liaison. She also possessed several codes.
- (3) To dispose of a former Gestapo agent who was thought to have gone over to the American side.
- (4) To contact and liberate certain Gestapo personnel disguised as policemen who had been taken as P&B.

In all these missions she was instructed to employ her evident charms to the fullest extent in order to make the acquaintance of and to work on appropriate American officers. There is no reason to believe she would have not have made use of enlisted men had it served her purpose.

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Upon landing she was to have made her way into a large warehouse standing on the waterfront and to hide there until daylight when she could circulate. In the event of capture she was instructed to say she had spent the night with American personnel known to be quartered in the warehouse in which she had hidden. However, Greta never had the chance to employ this story as her boat turned over, her companions were lost in the river, and Greta herself was apprehended in the resulting confusion.

In conjunction with the above, the following general facts regarding espionage and espionage agents should be noted:

- (1) Of agents apprehended in VII Corps sector in past week, French and Belgian nationality has predominated.
- (2) No longer are the unintelligent, relatively harmless line-crossers formerly encountered being employed. The present agents are shrewd, resourceful, glib, multi-lingual and tough, be they men or women.
- (3) The present emphasis by the Germans has been on radio agents.
- (4) None in doubt call the 'CIC'. Each agent apprehended may be the key which removes an entire ring of agents from the area.
- (5) Agents will attempt to fraternize with you. Don't pay for indulgence with the lives of your fellow soldiers.

THIS IS NOT FICTION - THIS IS YOUR ENEMY

- d. THIS IS ENEMY TERRITORY: At 0900 hours 17 March 1945, 8 men were killed and 3 wounded near ELSDORF (F 178607) when members of a bomb disposal squad lifted a box of TNT from a pile of 4 boxes of enemy explosives which had been inspected 15 March and found free of mines and booby-traps. The box of TNT had apparently been booby-trapped since its previous inspection.

Casualties such as these will continue unless all troops realize that we are in a hostile country, surrounded by a hostile people who are still our enemies. Our victory over them has only served to increase their animosity toward us. They will regard a lack of vigilance on our part as a sign of weakness and be quick to take advantage of it. Eight dead and 3 wounded is an example. (It is requested that the widest possible dissemination be made of the details of this incident).

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

J. C. Gite
for JACK A. HUNSTON, Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incl. annex 21.

Dist: n/c

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #212

Ho Chi Tac Div, dated 20 March 1945.

PI REPORT

Arty positions

Sortie flown 19 March

- 77682539 - 4 guns or mortars.
- 78062665 - 4 guns previously reported.
- 77802712 - 4 guns - gun trails visible - ammo in hedgerow and two vehicles in woods.
- 77502922 - 4 guns, lt.
- 77303044 - 3 guns - gun trails visible.
- 76723100 - 3 guns.
- 75242892 - 4 guns, lt.
- 77682538 - 4 guns, lt - from Tac/R sortie.
- 78092554 - 4 guns, lt - from Tac/R sortie.
- 78322587 - 5 howitzers - Tac/R sortie.

Mortars

- 77062822 - 3 hvy mortars.
- 76032775 - 4 mortars, hvy.
- 76532597 - 3 mortars, hvy.
- 77922520 - 5 mortars, hvy.

Other installations

- 76652695 - Military activity - probably small supplies.
- 771260 - 31 small supplies 6' x 8'.
- 77172573 - 3 lt AA.
- 78132368 - Highway bridge out.
- 778236 - Unoccupied AA positions.
- 76672351 - Bridge out.
- 77532558 - 3 armored vehicles.
- 78992583 - 3 lt AA - mobile - camouflaged.
- 78722548 - 2 vehicles.
- 78642441 - 3 SF guns.
- 84002735 - Supplies.
- 84002705 - Supplies.
- 84132727 - Supplies.
- 84002680 - 3 lt AA.
- 84152705 - Supplies along road on N side.
- 843268 - 6 armored vehicles parked in woods.
- 84722667 - Road partially cut by a crater.
- 84582664 - 3 lt AA and three 20mm AA with two nearby tents.
- 84352653 - 2 vehicles.
- 84432627 - 2 lt AA.
- 84282618 - 3 lt AA.
- 78652555 - 2 SPs.
- 79292607 - 6 lt AA.
- 77502818 - 3 lt AA
- 77672805 - "
- 77572775 - "
- 772277 - Military activity - probably small supplies.
- 77252726 - 5 lt AA.
- 78502777 - Supplies behind hedgerow.
- 77752871 - 3 lt AA.
- 77292952 - 4 med AA.
- 77052932 - 3 lt AA.
- 76842925 - "
- 76652917 - "
- 76342940 - 2 tanks.
- 75443048 - 2 SPs dug in.
- 75993060 - 2 hvy mortars.
- 77173080 - 3 armd cars.
- 77233069 - 2 armd cars.
- 74652905 - 1 SF.

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 * SECRET *
 * AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
 * INIT: R.M.Z. *
 * DATE: 21/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

6 SEP 1945
 FROM: 202200 Mar 1945
 TO : 212200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
 Vic KALENBORN.
 21 March 1945.

No. 243.
 Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: No change.

b. Units identified:

Alarm, 2nd, 6th, 7th Cos, 11th PGR.
 2nd Co, 3rd Pz Regt, 2nd Pz Div.
 4th Co, 376th Bn

c. Additional information on units in contact.

PWs taken today represented stragglers and deserters picked up in the division area. The PW from the 3rd Pz Regt was part of a group sent to MUENCHEN-GLADBACH for new tanks 3 weeks ago; the group of 6 was directed here when the bridgehead was first established. The 2nd Pz Div is supposed to be in contact in the 3rd Army sector at present.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The enemy harassed roads and villages in the division sector with light and medium caliber arty fire, SP and mortar fire. The fire was light to moderate except in the case of the DINKELBACH area, which received heavy fire and bombing after dark. Enemy aircraft bombed elements of the division very early in the period again after dark tonight; both fragmentation and AP bombs were dropped, as well as numerous flares.

b. Artillery: By arty fire was light during daylight hours today, but increased to a moderate harassing program beginning tonight at 1900. The bulk of the fire has fallen in the DINKELBACH area.

11 counterbattery missions were fired by Corps and Div Arty during the period.

c. Air: By air bombed and strafed front line troops early in the period. After dark tonight, front line troops and an arty battery position were bombed; both fragmentation and AP bombs were dropped.

Tac/R and Air OP picked up a large group of tanks, numbering at least 50, in the 819285 area. Air and arty were put on them, with good results, and the armor scattered during the afternoon. Several groups of 4-6 cv tanks were observed stationary in the same general area.

d. Other fronts: 1st Inf Div - The division now has the mission house at 6112; LAMBROICH; SOEVEN is partially cleared; EUDENBACH is also clear. Resistance was primarily from cv infantry supported by an estimated 30 tanks. An attack by the 363rd Div, was made this morning vicinity 705358. The cv force was estimated at 300 infantry supported by a number of tanks. The attack was repulsed; no penetration was made. 750 PWS were taken, including the COs of the 183rd and 958th Regts.

99th Inf Div - Heard 9 explosions, possibly for construction of a new road block at 773157.



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3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Local light fog, dissipating by 0900 hours; light haze to 6000 feet, with possibility of occasional light rain in northern area. Surface winds: light, W-SW. Temperature: Maximum, 60°; minimum, 35°. Fighter bomber operations likely all period. Civil twilight: Ft 22 March 1920; AM 23 March 0555.

b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 38.

c. GERMAN INTERROGATION METHODS: 347th Div interrogation team had at its disposal a nicely furnished house where selected Allied PWs were specially treated, source states. The house was completely isolated, but was located in the vicinity of the division G-2 office. Whenever a PW thought to have interesting information was found, he was brought to this place for a period of 4-5 days. An interrogator is permanently assigned to each PW for the time of his stay at the house. This interrogator takes his meals with the PW, plays cards with him, takes him for walks, etc., and generally tries to gain the PWs complete confidence and friendship. During the conversation questions pertaining to military matters are asked, but the interrogator never insists when the PW shows reluctance in answering his questions.

During his walks with the interrogator the PW is never under guard, the interrogator, however, carries a pistol in his pocket. It is common practice to suggest that the PW take a nap after dinner. That gives the interrogator time to write his report and contact the G-2 office to find out what additional information might be desired.

Source claims that this method produced excellent results. Young Allied officers, suddenly conscious after their capture, often become overwhelmed by the treatment accorded to them and eventually gave all information desired by the interrogator. PW emphasized that the most stubborn PW were elderly sergeants of the American Regular Army, from whom it was practically impossible to elicit any information at all.

Source knows that similar interrogation methods are used in the 17th SS Pz Div and in the 36th VG Div.
(Source: SUSA from 79th Div PR 55, from PR 229, 5th Armd Div)

d. IDENTIFICATION OF SWIMMING SABOTEURS: The 3 swimmers who were to attempt the destruction of the REINGEN bridges had the following document, in place of a Soldbuch:

WAPC 15817 K

DATE:

Paybook Substitute No. _____

.....
(First Name) (Last Name) (Rank) (ASN)

is a member of the organization WAPC 15817K. Upon orders of the organization he has been given a special assignment, on completion of which he is to return to his command by the most rapid means available. He must not be employed by any other unit for any other purpose; on the contrary he should be given all possible assistance by all military and civilian authorities in the completion of his mission and in his return to his command. If any wounded or killed soldiers are found with this paper the organization should be notified as rapidly as possible.

s/ Schreiber, SS Lt, Commanding

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e. THE TOTENKOPF VERBAND: As far back as three weeks ago PW had heard through a wounded SS officer that those parts of the TOTENKOPF VERBAND of the SS who master the English language to perfection will be sent through American lines in English and American uniforms to give our troops false orders, etc. This SS officer mentioned that the total number of men employed in this plan was to be 2000. PW know that this method was used in the EIFEL and he stated orders existed to try this method on every fighting front. PW commented that this plan to wage war is what HITLER meant in one of his speeches when he said, "In the very near future I shall employ a tactic which will save German lives and secure the final victory".

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

No change.

R. A. Northrup
for JACK A. HOUSTON, 2nd Lt.
Lt. Col., GSC.
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3.

Dist: n/c

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #243, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 21 March 1945.

PRODUCTION AND USES OF THE FRICTION RESISTING MATERIAL, "SCHMELZBASALT"

The co-owner of the SCHMELZBASALT factory at KALENBORN Station has written the following description of his product:

Natural basalt, which occurs in column form, is broken up to a certain size and put into special furnaces.

At a temperature of about 1300 degrees (centigrade) the stone melts and the fluid basalt is poured into forms. It can be poured into sand forms or, in case of mass production of certain articles, into shells.

The molded pieces are subjected to further thermal treatment in two electric cooling ovens as soon as they have reached a certain hardness following pouring. In these ovens they attain their firmness and great hardness at carefully controlled temperatures.

Because of the heat treatment the final product becomes harder and denser than natural basalt which is known for its exceeding strength. Above all, the desired durability of the melted basalt has been attained and first-rate alloyed steels cannot compare to its outstanding friction resisting quality.

The uses of Schmelzbasalt are many because of these characteristics. It may be substituted for sheet steel in industrial installations to keep wear and tear at a minimum, particularly in chutes, slides, and gutters of all types whose function it is to carry coarse material such as coke. For this purpose the product is manufactured in a variety of shapes such as flat and grooved pieces, corners, etc, none being less than 30mm thick. They are then joined as closely as possible, using a mixture of cement and mortar.

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6 SEP 1945

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Downgraded Auth: TAG

8 SEP 1945

A chief function of Schmelzbasalt is the lining of pipes of every description. Especially in mining it has become an indispensable anti-friction expedient. There is considerable wear and tear on the tubes refilling mines with rough bulky matter. Consequently nearly all such pipes are lined with Schmelzbasalt. Formerly 15mm thick cast steel pipes were used for this purpose. Because of the rugged treatment they lasted a relatively short time. Today one uses 3mm sheet-metal tubes which are lined with 22-25mm of Schmelzbasalt, again with the aid of cement. This process is readily carried out in specially constructed mechanisms.

Pipes lined with Schmelzbasalt are 10-20 times more durable than the former cast steel pipes. With the introduction of Schmelzbasalt pipes progress in mining reached a peak. An undisturbed refilling of exhausted fields became possible.

Among other things made successfully with Schmelzbasalt are spiral slides and troughs for use in transport of coal and in mines.

Thus the chief area of use is in heavy industries and mining. Schmelzbasalt may also be applied as base plates for heavy-duty floors.

Finally, the acid-corrosion resistance of the material deserves consideration. In cases where devices must be resistant to acid corrosion and friction one can depend on Schmelzbasalt.

Technical data: Weight, 2.8 - 2.9; pressure resistance, 5000 kg/cm; flexibility, 300 kg/cm; tensile strength, 220 kg/cm; hardness (Mohs), 8-9 (in comparison, granite equals 9); resistant to almost all acids.

Under full operation with two furnaces the plant requires about 180 laborers (mostly specialists) and 24 supervisory or administrative personnel.

Capacity of the plant in full operation: 25 tons per 24 hours, of this 10 tons is tubes for mines, 15 tons is for other friction-resisting products.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #243, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 21 March 1945.

IDENTITY PAPERS ISSUED BY THE GERMAN ARMY

All German males between the ages of 17 and 61 possess an identity paper issued by the German Army. This paper will be one of the seven types enumerated below and illustrated on the attached sheets.

SOLDBUCH: This is the German soldier's paybook, carried by officers and EM during active service. Its cover is brown; it is 4" by 6" and it contains at least 24 pages. ANY man in possession of the SOLDBUCH is to be treated as a PW. If in civilian clothes, he should be turned over to CIC. A SOLDBUCH, smaller in size, is usually carried by Volksturm (People's Army) members. (Disregard the crossed lines on the example. Such lines usually indicate death of soldier).

WEHRPASS: This is the German service record for men not in active service, in the above age brackets, who are properly registered with the German "Selective Service" authorities. When carried by a civilian, it may have one of two meanings: (a) he is of military age and subject to call; (b) he has been in the army and has been properly discharged. The WEHRPASS cover is grey, 4" by 6" and contains 52 or 54 pages.

ENTLASSENSCHEIN: This is the German soldier's discharge paper. It is valid without the WEHRPASS but usually accompanies same. It is a single sheet, white, 8" by 9" and on line 5 shows the exact date of the soldier's discharge.

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AUSMUSTERUNGSSCHEIN: This is the German man's disability certificate. It is carried without the WEHRPASS as men holding this document are comparable to our uninducted hrs. It is a single sheet, pink, and 5½" by 8".

BEHELFS-MUSTERUNGS-AUSWEIS: This is a German identity paper for all men born between 1881 and 1893. Exception would be volunteers or specialists who would carry either a SOLDBUCH or a WEHRPASS. It is a single sheet, grey and 5½" by 8".

AUSSCHLIESSUNGSSCHEIN: This is a German Army identity paper for all men who are ineligible to serve as a soldier because of some dishonorable prison sentence in their past life, such as murder, perjury or possibly a political crime. It is a single sheet, blue and 5½" by 8".

AMBULANZEN-AUSWEIS: This German Army identity paper means that a man has been discharged by the Army but still has the right to Army medical care. He, therefore, does not carry a WEHRPASS. This identity paper is generally typewritten and is not standard in size. Its holder should be made to show that he actually does need medical care.

ANY GERMAN MALE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 AND 61 WHO DOES NOT POSSESS ONE OF THE ABOVE IDENTITY PAPERS SHOULD BE ARRESTED AND TURNED OVER PROMPTLY TO THE NEAREST CIC DETACHMENT. (Source: 203rd CIC Det).

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #243, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 21 March 1945.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF TERRAIN IN AREA: 7525-8525-8517-7515

General: The area is part of the RHINE plateau region, of the Westerwald, being of low altitude (below 400m), undulating, with deep, steep-sided valleys (slopes of over 15 degrees), thin clay, and forested.

Drainage: Drainage is south and southwest, and north and northwest towards the WIED river, which flows generally west along the northern boundary of the area, and south on the western boundary, the ridge from 791239 to 860177 forming the watershed. The river is classified as torrential, liable to flooding during winter and heavy rainfall periods.

Cover: The landscape can be described as open, with unhedged fields extending almost to the tops of the hills. The basin of the WIED is heavily forested. The rest of the region is covered with innumerable small patches of beechwood. Around the villages and cultivated fields, there are frequently long, narrow pine-plantations, which act as wind and snow breaks. Generally the ridge lines are fairly open, with the majority of the growth in the valleys and valley slopes.

Ridge Lines: The land rises from 140 meters along the WIED river valley in the NW corner of the area, following a general ridge that runs to the SE, reaching its highest point just outside the area at 866181, 869179, 860177. The Autobahn which crosses the area from 760250 to 850185 follows the ridge line. North of the main ridge, two main ridge fingers extend to the NE: one from 818205 to 843238, and the other from 853184 to 850206 to 856227. South of the Autobahn, two main fingers extend to the SW: one from 804207 to 793165, and the other from 860177 to 835150 to 800150.

Roads: Three main roads are found in the area, two running from the NW corner of the area, to the SE, and the third, generally N-S along the eastern edge of the area. All three roads follow the dominating ridge lines converging in the 8518 area.

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Critical Terrain Features and Tactical Consideration:

WIED river.

Four prominent ridge lines.

Open high ground.

Wooded valleys.

The general rise in ground is from west to east, affording the enemy with dominant terrain and favorable observation.

The terrain lends itself to a ridge-line defense from the eastern edges of the open table-tops of the ridges.

The spotty terrain lends itself to AT and SF weapons being used in an infantry support role, with good fields of fire from defiladed and covered positions.

Excessive rainfall would cause difficulty with vehicular crossings of streams.

As major road nets follow exposed ridge lines, they will for the most part be under enemy observation.

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6 215200 March 1945
10 122200 March 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: VI *
* DATE: 22/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KALENBORN.
22 March 1945.

No. 244.
Map: CGSGS 4444, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: No change.

b. Units identified: 3rd Co, 373rd March Bn, 340th VG Div.
Hq, 110th FGR, 11th Pz Div.
6th Co, 15th Pz Regt, 11th Pz Div.

c. Reserves and other forces capable of intervention: It has been reported that the 361st VG Div has left its reserve area in HOLLAND on 14 March. Although the division is believed to be headed east, a commitment on the West Front is not considered impossible.

The 130th Pz Lehr Div has been contacted on the Third Army front. It is still not certain if the identification is that of a Kampfgruppe only, such as the unit from 1st, 6th, and 7th Cos of the 902nd FGR contacted in the bridgehead area, or of the whole division, including the 130th Pz Regt. In view of the present hopelessness of German prospects on the Third Army front, it may still be doubted if this commitment is a wholesale one. The 363rd Infantry Div has again been recontacted, and seems to be fully reinforced.

The following list is intended to include those enemy divisions which may reasonably appear on the Western Front in the near future. For obvious reasons, it would be impossible to form a complete and exhaustive list of possibilities; thus, the divisions mentioned are proposed as the most probable candidates among those which have actually been reported, or are believed to be, in process of formation or movement.

- 169th Inf Div - Unlocated after leaving DENMARK late in Feb 1945.
- 715th Inf Div - Reported as probably leaving ITALY, 2 March 1945.
- 362nd Inf Div - Reported leaving ITALY, 10 Feb 1945.
- 278th Inf Div - Reported leaving ITALY, 15 Feb 1945.
- 275th Inf Div - Believed to have been reforming in SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN since late Nov 1944. Once reported as having moved to COLOGNE area.
- 553rd Inf Div - Believed reforming, possibly in KARLSRUHE area.
- 48th Inf Div - Stated by prisoners to be reforming in HUNGARY; out of action since Dec 1944.
- 348th Inf Div - Stated by prisoners to be reforming, possibly in HUNGARY.
- 166th Trng Div - Reported leaving DENMARK mid-February 1945.
- 6th Mtn Div - Was reported as following 169th Inf Div out of NORWAY, Feb 1945.
- 7th Mtn Div - Same as 6th Mtn Div, above.
- P.O.A.s Div - Russian z.b.V. Div has supposedly left DENMARK, late Feb 1945.
- 26th Pz Div - Out of contact on Italian Front, and once reported re-fitting in GERMANY, 14 Feb 1945.

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The following divisions have been out of contact for a sufficient length of time to make possible their reformation and consequent reappearance:

- 245th Inf Div.
- 91st Inf Div. (also reported disbanded).
- 49th Inf Div.

Of the many rumors regarding the formation of new SS Divs, the following seem to be most often repeated:

- 27th SS Inf Div "Langemarck" - Supposedly forming at LUENEBERGER HEIDE.
- 25th SS Pz Gr Div "Rheinmarschall" (or "Tannenberg", "Hermann Goering", or "Sachsenburg") - Supposedly somewhere in Eastern GERMANY.
- 24th SS Div "Kerstjaeger" - Reported forming in ITALY, Jan 1945.
- 35th SS Polizei Div - Reliably reported forming in Eastern GERMANY, Feb 45. (Source: Twelfth Army Group).

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

- a. **General:** Enemy activity during the day was confined to a moderate harassing program of artillery and long-range SP fire. Heaviest fire fell in the 60th Inf zone.

Reaction to the advance of the 60th Inf after 2200 hours was light at the end of the period, consisting in light interdiction arty and SP fire. The enemy reacted quickly to demonstrations put on at the same time by the 39th and 47th Infs, with arty, SP and 20mm flak fire.

- b. **Artillery:** Enemy arty carried on a moderate harassing and interdiction program during the daylight hours, increasing to a heavy volume of fire for two hours shortly after dark.

The great bulk of the fire fell on the STROEDT area, with the 7524 area receiving the rest. Direction of fire was consistently and significantly almost entirely from the east, indicating a shift of the enemy arty strength to the south.

Sound and flash picked up a large number of the enemy guns firing. 33 counterbattery missions were fired by Corps and Div Arty.

- c. **Air:** Five close-support missions were flown for the division during the day. ASEACH (781297) was bombed and strafed with good results reported. GEHARDSEN (771227); INENBERG (791245); ROEMIS (270216) and ETSCHIED (768257) were attacked with both blaze and fragmentation bombs; planes and Air OP reported large fires in all towns. Vehicles on roads in this area were strafed. Armed recon was flown in front of the division all day.

- d. **Other Fronts:** 1st Inf Div - Advanced to the stream 694408 - 710369 against light opposition and took LANZENBERG (700392). Heavy rocket fire fell on the central and southern sectors.

99th Inf Div - Little enemy activity except for an unsuccessful attempt to outpost the W bank of the WIEB at 781193 and 773173. Some sniper and light arty fire received.

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6 SEP 1945

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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Light intermittent rain during the morning. Surface winds, moderate, westerly. Maximum temperature, 60°; minimum 38°. Civil twilight; PM 23 March 1922; AM 24 March 0553.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 20.
- c. GESTAPO: Two civilians were picked up between EUDERICH, F 2795 and NIEDER-KASSE, 2995, today. These people posed as Belgians, were put in a DP center. When screened by CIC they turned out to be Gestapo agents with the mission of reconnoitering our installations and dispositions vicinity of last named town. These men were to meet a contact agent on peninsula at 299955 either night of 20-21 March at 0100A or night of 21-22 March at 0300A. Password was "Peter Meyer". Steps are being taken to meet the contact agent. (See: XIII Corps).
- d. WATCH OUT FOR TIME BOMBS: A PW source mentions again the recurrent report of enemy intentions to leave behind him as he withdraws, time bombs in important installations and buildings; likely military CPs will undoubtedly have a high priority. There have been several cases of delayed-action demolitions in Seventh Army and French Army sectors; a J-Fedor device time bomb was discovered before detonation in XX Corps sector, in the SAAR-MOSELLE Triangle recently. A number of instances have been reported in which enemy supply and ammunition dumps have been investigated and found free of demolition charges, only to discover after an elapse of sometimes several days, that the installations have been subsequently booby-trapped. As we penetrate farther into GERMANY and enemy desperation increases, extreme precaution will be highly necessary in order that we forestall the effect of such activities. (See: XX Corps).
- e. DOCUMENTS: The following documents furnish an indication of enemy activities in this area last week:

3rd PGR

14 March 1945

Lt. Trotter, CO, Hq Co of 160th Regt, 340th VGD, is proceeding to the CP of the 160th Regt with the Sig Det and the Bicycle Platoon. He has orders to report to the 340th VGD CP where he will be directed to the Regt'l CP. It is requested that he be permitted to advance unimpeded. The division is in the process of being reorganized in this area.

PGR 110
G-3

SECRET

Regt'l CP
Vic KALENBORN
13 March 1945

* * * * *

Mission for all committed units: defense and holding of the MGR. Penetrations are to be cleaned out at the very beginning by counterattacks by reserves in connection with armor. No linear positions are to be taken up but rather occupy critical points of the terrain.

I advise the use of all available communications in order that reports of the enemy can be made known and corresponding counter measures taken..... not one meter of ground is to be given up.....

RESTRICTED
Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

160th Inf Regt
To: 340th VGD

RESTRICTED
Downgraded Auth TAG *Jan*
6 SEP 1945

Engeman
March

Co Comdr of Hq Co reported to Regt CP at 1830. He reports that he was halted by the 11th Pz Div to wait for their decision. He was not sent on his way until today at noon when he expressed the wish to move out with the company in order to report to regiment. He travelled with half of the Sig Plat (10 men) and the Bicycle Platoon of the PGR 111. PGR 111 has the Engr Platoon with 1 MG 42s and two AT platoons with 7 x 50mm AT guns. Casualties to date: 1 dead, 1 wounded.

/s/ Eggeling
Colonel

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

Jack A. Houston
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3, #4.

Dist: n/c except subtract 8th TD Gp.

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #244, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 22 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 211800 Mar 1945
To : 221800 Mar 1945

373rd Marsch Bn: It has been confirmed by PW statements today that the above-mentioned unit is fighting now as one battalion, confronting our division sector. Originally it was intended to be a replacement group for the 11th Pz Div, and was to be assigned to the infantry companies of that division. This order was carried out with two out of the five platoons (of 50 men each) composing the Marsch Bn, until the two platoons were called back to their former unit; the whole battalion is now fighting as one combat team under the 340th VG Div.

The battalion is mainly composed of skilled air force personnel, drafted into the infantry in November and December 1944. The basic infantry training of 8 weeks was given at WUPPERTAL. From there, a group of 250 men left for ISERLOHN (WESTPHALIA), where the 373rd Marsch Bn was originated. It left that area by train for HACHENBURG (0629), where the 250 men marched via ALTENKIRCHEN (9332), MEIERSIEYEN (753288), to its front line sector in vicinity 755265, a total distance of approximately 20 miles. This hike was necessary due to US air attacks on the troop train.

The Volksturm: During the trip, PWs frequently encountered the civilians, and during the ongoing discussions, the Volksturm was mentioned. It was found the civilians seem to think less of that branch of the service than the soldiers do; the latter do not praise it in the least.

For one, the lack of weapons is responsible for the poor fighting capabilities of the Volksturm, and also the unwillingness to fight. The present front lines and the rationing and the bombing are the cause of the low morale. This results in finding no important obstacle in the "Fighting People" for advancing US troops.

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Nor is there any question of organized movements within GERMANY which are against the Nazi regime, movements which would assist the Allies in finishing the war. Both the soldiers and civilians who have heard artillery fire do not seem to care much what will happen next.

Pfz's opinion as to what we will do next was answered the following way: US arty and mortar fire will keep destroying the German infantryman, and when the German Army runs out of replacements, the end of the war will be at hand. Until then, even a breakthrough on either the Eastern, or the Western front, would not bring about the cessation of hostilities.

Miscellaneous: One of the more favored shelters for German troops in assembly areas are school buildings. ALTENKIRCHEN is severely damaged, whereas HACHENBURG is still undamaged.

A deserter who was hiding out at a home with some civilians at NIEDER HOPPEN tells us of a group of German Pz Gns who came to the house to get some food. They belonged to the 15th Pz Regt, committed as Infantry. After having been told that US troops were approaching, these men rushed back to STRAUSCHIED (760222), still hungry.

Another PW tells us that he was captured after staying back with a wounded comrade, awaiting transportation which never came. After one day the wounded man died, while the PW still remained there because he did not know where to go, and because he had been ordered to stay there until somebody with a vehicle should arrive and fetch him.

A squad of 11 men deserted during the period because their NCO in charge had been beaten by the Co CO for having put one man at a post instead of two. The second man was lying in a foxhole nearby. The desertion was carried out after the men had volunteered for patrol duty.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #244, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 22 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

340th VG Div: PWs captured during the last few days repeatedly gave their unit as Alarm Co of Battle Group directly under command of this division. They profess to have no knowledge of any regimental organization. If true, this information indicates that plans for the revival of the three VG Regts of this division have been abandoned, temporarily at least. This is quite understandable in view of the rapid dwindling of the replacement groups transferred from DENMARK for the rebuilding of the 340th Div. The divisional Alarm Cos and Battle Groups are made up partly of disbanded organic units and rear elements, partly of recently committed replacement units. Today, some PWs were taken from the 373rd Repl and Trng Bn. They formed part of a group of approximately 250-300 men who came from WUPPERTAL via ISERLOHN. They seem to be Pz Gr Repls and may have been originally intended for the 9th or 11th Pz Divs. Instead, they are now fighting under the 340th VG Div.

2nd Pz Div: About March 12, a straggler from the 3rd Pz Regt appeared at the division cage. On the 21st another man was captured from the same outfit. This time he was a member of a small combat team dispatched by his division to the bridgehead area. The bulk of this division, however, is still firmly committed in the Third US Army sector. As it is the only Pz type unit there, it seems very doubtful that it could be spared for commitment in the bridgehead area of the First US Army.

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #244

PLANTOR

Sortie flown 20 March 1945

- 78193097 - 4 SP guns.
- 80892628 - 3 guns.
- 80782676 - 2 guns.
- 80262584 - 3 guns, 88s. dual-purpose.
- 78813151 - 2 guns.
- 78993125 - 3 guns.
- 79833077 - 3 guns.
- 79873035 - 3 med guns.
- 81232846 - 3 guns.
- 81272879 - 2 SPs.
- 82102735 - 3 guns with ammo and 3 vehicles nearby.
- 83902663 - 3 guns.
- 80782224 - 3 guns.
- 80062475 - 3 guns.
- 78002179 - 4 light guns.
- 77632221 - 4 mortars.

Sortie flown 21 March 1945

- 781266 - Much activity - supplies - 4 nebelwerfers, probable.
- 781289 - Tank tracks in area.
- 77692909 - 3 tanks.
- 77972889 - 2 med guns.
- 83222073 - 3 light AA.
- 78972666 - 3 SP guns.
- 790257 - Unoccupied posns.
- 80262584 - " " - previously reported as 3 dual-purpose 88s.
- 79402105 - Small supplies.
- 78282524 - RR bridge prepared for demolition.
- 771260 - Supplies.
- 77272572 - 4 mortars.
- 77602712 - 3 guns.
- 77492923 - 4 guns - previously reported.
- 82152374 - 3 guns.
- 82802505 - 4 med AA guns.
- 82882590 - 4 med AA guns.
- 82852425 - 3 light AA guns.
- 80882628 - Previously reported 4 gun, btry now has 2 positions occupied and two unoccupied - 2 vehicles are parked nearby.
- 80782676 - 2 guns - previously reported.
- 80352797 - 3 light AA.
- 80972835 - 6 light AA.
- 80182897 - 3 guns - probably dummies.

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Annex #4 to G-2 Periodic Report #21
by 21st Inf Div, dated 22 March 1945.

MIL REPORT

The following information was given by an Alsatian, a former member of a PW guard battalion at a PW camp in SELTERS:

This PW camp had Russian, Polish, and French prisoners of war. Informer deserted from the camp on 17 March, and crossed our lines during the night of 21-22 March. He states that according to a new order anyone absenting himself 24 hours from his unit, will be shot. Since this order went into effect 4 guards, who tried to desert but were caught, were shot immediately without questioning.

On his way to our lines he saw several hospitals and a field Gendarmerie straggler-collecting point at DIERDORF (9416). At FLAMERSFELD (8527) he observed Russian and Polish PWs erecting tank barriers at the entrance and exit of the village. About 500 meters outside of FLAMERSFELD he saw about 25 horse-drawn arty pieces, caliber unknown, with ammunition carts in the woods on either side of the main road going SE. Along the road, starting at 831269 to 825270, he saw about 17 King Tiger tanks on the extreme right of the road camouflaged with pine branches. He states that they are well protected from aerial view because of the steep sloped hill which runs along the road in that vicinity. Bridge at 823273 was still intact yesterday. At DIEFENAU (819272), a farm, he saw this sign on the house "Heeres Führer (Army Commander)". On the road at 819274, he spoke to a German soldier who told him that he was to get water at DIEFENAU for his Kampfgruppe. This Kampfgruppe, name unknown, was in the wood NE of the road. At 794272, S of KALSCHHEID, he saw three arty pieces, caliber unknown, in firing position. Ammunition was stacked under fruit trees. Civilians near ETSCHHEID (7625) told him that German soldiers had been going back all during the day (21 March), and that ETSCHHEID itself was occupied by a unit of about company strength.

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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *1/1* *
* DATE: 23/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KALENBORN.
23 March 1945.

No. 245.
Map: GSGS 4414, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 735280 - 735273 - 750270 - 740265 - 744259 - 759259 - 760237 - 750235 - 760225 - 775220 - 780226 - 790220 - 780214 - 785205.

b. Units identified:

Marsch Co, 80th Repl Bn, 326th VG Div.
Hq, 2nd, 6th Cos, 751st Regt, 326th VG Div.
5th, 7th Cos, 15th Pa Regt.
1st Co, 111th Pa Regt.
KG BOUN, 277th VG Div.
KG HUDELL, 277th VG Div.
1st Btry, 119th Arty Regt.
3rd Co, 277th AT Bn.
4th Co, CT DENMARK #2.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: The 60th Inf advanced against light opposition to take the village of STRAUSCHIED, SCHARENBERG, RAMMS, and HEISSENFELS during the period. Resistance was centered in these villages, where strongpoints manned by small groups of enemy armed with Panzerfausts or MGs were met. Arty has been largely harassing in nature, being heavier vicinity the Autobahn.

b. Artillery: Enemy arty fire dropped off sharply today, with only light, harassing fire on forward towns being reported. No further trace of the arty which fired so heavily on the 60th Inf last night was evident.

A PW forward observer obliged his captors with the location of his battery at 802225; the location was TOT'd by Corps arty.

c. Other fronts: 99th Inf Div - Advanced against light resistance to take BREITSCHIED, HOLLIG (8113), GOLDSCHIED, WUSCHIED (790165) and NDR BREITBACH. Heavy concentrations of mortar and arty received in BREITSCHIED and GOLDSCHIED. Estimated 500 PWs taken.

1st Inf Div - Light enemy resistance to the attack beginning at 2100 hrs; HELENBERG was taken quickly, but the enemy reacted strongly vicinity 710370, and a small arms fight was going on at the close of the period.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Light haze in morning, dispersing by 1000 hrs. Visibility: Fair, improving rapidly to good after 1000 hrs. Surface winds: SE, 4-8 mph increasing to 8-15 mph in the afternoon and varying to S. Temperature Maximum, 70°; minimum, 40°. Fighter-bomber operations all day. Civil twilight: PM 24 March 1924; AM 25 March 0551.

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- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 122.
- c. SABOTAGE: Div. Arty. reports an interesting act of wire sabotage. The act occurred at approximately 201500A, but it was 1730A before the cause was found, due to the method used, which was as follows: about a foot of both strands of wire had been bared, then the two strands twisted together and taped thus resembling a splice. Insofar as this particular line had many splices along its length, it was necessary to check each individual splice to ascertain the bad one. (See: 5th Arm Div).
- d. CAPTURED MEDICAL UNITS: Higher Hq desires notice of the capture of German medical units. Designation, location and officer and nurse strength will accompany the report. Inasmuch as this personnel and equipment is to be used in treating enemy personnel, it is desired that such installations be held intact. Report will be through normal intelligence channels.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

Joseph H. Ferguson 2-4-45 ml
for JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3, #4.

Dist: n/c

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #245, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 23 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 221800 Mar 1945
To : 231800 Mar 1945

General Information: About 90% of the PWs captured during the period came from the area of STRAUSCHIED, RAHMS and WEISSENFELS. No longer did any of them belong to an organic regiment; only of battalion size combat teams.

The 15th Pz Regt, formerly made up of eight Pz companies, has been weakened to four Pz companies (with tks) and four infantry companies, having a total force of no more than 170 men and 20 tanks (out of which more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of them are in the repair shops).

The combat team HUDEL, already identified about 2 weeks ago, is composed of 56 men and 6 Mk IV tanks, formerly belonging to the 901st and 902nd Regts of the 130th Pz Lehr Div.

The combat team BOEHM is all of the remnants of the battered 989th, 990th and 991st VG Regts of the 277th VG Div. It is made up of one hvy weapons company (with 80mm mortars and no artillery) and one infantry company. The 13th and 14th Cos are included. The whole combat team has no more than 170 men. That, and a divisional Fusilier Co of 50 men plus left-overs of the arty regiment are all the fighting forces of the 277th VG Div.

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The 80th Repl Bn, of which stragglers were picked up prior to this time, has been identified again under the name of the 1st Bn of the 751st Regt, 326th VG Div. The 1st Bn has control over 160 men.

The Above-Mentioned 600 Men have been ordered to hold at all cost the newly formed bridgehead across the NIED river. Yesterday, elements came up from as far S as NIEDER BREITBACH, to reinforce the expected crossing in vicinity STRAUSCHEID, WIESSENFELS. In fact, during the past 24 hours, 1/2 of the 600 men defending this sector, were brought in from the adjoining areas. The crossing was definitely expected, even though it was not known exactly when it was going to happen. The enemy forces thought that it would take place some time within a few days, but not quite so soon. However, when our arty barrage was in full fury, the German infantryman thought the US infantry would wait at least an hour before attacking. This latter thought turned out to be wrong. Waiting only a few minutes after the quite effective pounding, our infantry caught the defenders by surprise, defenders who were anxiously ducking in their entrenchments.

Miscellaneous. There was still no sign of any but natural defenses as obstacles or fortresses, being or to be used by the withdrawing enemy. There is no indication of widespread mining, digging, or road blocks in our immediate sector.

An arty observer for the 1st Btry of the 119th Arty Regt, 11th Pz Div who was looking at the traffic on the road LORSCHIED to STROEDT asked for arty fire, but was not granted a barrage because of the clear weather and Allied fighters reported in the vicinity. When asking whether or not the Reichsautobahn would be defended the same way RR embankments were defended, the answer was that it is impossible in this sector, to even come close to the Super-highway due to our constant arty and air attacks.

A PW who was granted a furlough from YUGOSLAVIA to LINZ had to guard the hospital train on which he was traveling against any possible attacks by Partisans. He was on duty for a distance of 300 kilometers, from SARAJEVO to AGRAM, where the PW deserted his post and continued his journey on freight trains. It took him about 2 weeks to get to the RHINE area, whereas it used to take no more than 3 days in peace time. The PW claims that most of the stations he passed through were leveled by our bombers, and that the traveling on a train was as safe as standing up under arty fire.

Most of the PWs captured lately have read our psychological warfare leaflets, and assure us that these pieces of paper have saved a lot of lives for both sides. They tell us that the print on these sheets reminds them of their lost home and does induce them to quit fighting or at least not caring as much about continuing the fight. One T/Sgt from the 4th Co (now hvy weapon company) combat team BOEHM surrendered with 13 BM to a single US infantryman.

Eight deserters came in today because they were afraid of being shot by their C.O. for not having fired while US arty was coming in, and the PWs ducked in their foxholes. Again the leaflets helped out, even though they had been read quite some time ago.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #245, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 25 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

There is increasing evidence to show that the RUHR region is used as an assembly area for tank and Pz Gr personnel. The 11th Pz Div has been receiving reinforcements from that vicinity for some time and Pz Lehr Div also periodically contributed armor and men to the enemy forces in the bridgehead. Recent information indicates that the 116th Pz Div and the 15th Pz Gr Div may also be stationed east of DUESSELDORF.

11th Pz Div: The 15th Pz Regt seems to have found a solution for its shortage of armor and its pressing manpower needs. The 2nd Bn has been split up into two groups the men of the 5th and 6th Cos - much to their disgust - are now committed as infantry in the area east of RAHMS. PWs hinted that the same principle may have been applied to the 1st Bn.

Pz from the 119th Pz Arty Regt stated that no part of their unit was committed as infantry. The regiment is well up to strength both in men and equipment. The composition of the 1st Bn was confirmed to be 3 batteries, the 1st and 3rd containing 105mm SP gun Hows and the 2nd, 150mm SP Hows. The 1st Bn was last in position near BORSCHHEID.

Pz Lehr Div (130): A mixed battle group made its appearance in the central bridgehead sector a week ago. It fights independently, under the administrative control of the 111th Pz Gr Regt. It was recruited from members of the 901st and 902nd Pz Gr Regts and originally had 10 tks (probably Panthers) of which 6 are now left. This armor obviously originated with the 130th Pz Regt and it is quite possible that this unit also contributed a few men. The battle group is commanded by a Maj HUDEL (rank uncertain) and contains approximately 50 men - five men to each tank. The group came from the vicinity of WUPPERTAL. It may be inferred that the entire division is located in that neighborhood, although higher headquarters recently quoted PW statements to the effect that the division has departed to the interior of GERMANY for reorganization.

277th VG Div: Not much is left of this unit with which the 9th US Div had a prolonged period of contact north of MONSCHAU last December and January. All remaining elements of the 989th and 991st VG Regts are now combined in a CT BOEHM, named after Capt BOEHM, the former C.O. of the 2nd Bn, 989th Regt. In addition, the CT also comprises personnel from the 989th Regt's 1st Bn Co, 990th Regt, and rear elements. It consists of one group of regular infantry and another group supplying the supporting heavy weapons. Its strength could not be reliably ascertained, but it is certainly not more than 200 men. CT BOEHM was in contact in the RAHMS area.

While the dissolution of the 991st Regt has been confirmed, it is not known if any elements of the 990th Regt still exist outside of CT BOEHM. It is known, however, that the C.O. of this regiment, the famous Lt. Col. BRUM, is now in charge of what is left of this division, since the previous CG, Genmaj VIEBIG, was captured.

363rd VG Div: After the collapse in FRANCE, this division fought the 2nd British Army in the ARNHEM area in October 1944. In December, it turned up in the Ninth US Army sector around JUELICH where it held out in the now celebrated Sportplatz for a considerable length of time. During the battle of the ARDENNES, the division had to send some reinforcements to units fighting in the salient. To add to its troubles, its sector was extended as far as LUEREN in the middle of January 1945. The division fought a losing battle between the ROER and the RHINE from late February to early March when it came face to face with the advancing units of XIX US Corps. Following a short interval of inactivity, the 363rd Div is now again in action in the northern sector of the bridgehead.

Recently captured documents show that the Division adopted the 1945 type T/O as of last February.

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Reserves: The 361st Inf Div, often referred to as the hobby-horse division because of its symbol, was reported on March 11 to have left its Reserve area in HOLLAND. The division was engaged against Seventh US Army from early November to the end of January at which time it was reported moving back to GERMANY. Subsequently it turned out that the division had gone to the ZTULLE (Z 83) area of the NETHERLANDS instead, where it rested and reformed. Towards the end of February, reports located the division in the vicinity of UTRECHT.

Composition: 951st, 952nd and 953rd Inf Regts.

216th VG Div was last identified by VIII US Corps on March 11. It is now reported reforming in the area of WÄHNERHEIDE (F 5151) and will soon be available for commitment.

326th VG Div: V Corps reports on March 19 that this division has been nearly wiped out in its flight to the RHINE. Nevertheless, it was partially reformed in the NEUWIED area. Only 751st, 753rd Regts, 326th Arty Regt and various CTs have been identified in the southern sector of the bridgehead to date. It is believed that the elements of the division committed here are controlled by another staff, presumably the 277th or 272nd VG Div.

Prs captured today state that they belonged to the 80th Repl and Trng Bn and came from KOBLENZ. About 50-60 of them have been absorbed by the 1st Bn, 751st VG Regt. The 80th Repl and Trng Bn formerly supplied replacements for the 80th (Gr Regt of the 34th Inf Div, committed on the Eastern Front. This division hails from HEIDELBERG which is located in Wkr XII as is KOBLENZ, the home station of the 80th Bn. It is quite conceivable that when General Patton's armored columns approached KOBLENZ, the leaders of the Repl Army there decided to salvage as much as they could and to patch up depleted units by means of the remnants of replacement units. The 326th VG Div which partially took over the 80th Bn comes from Wkr VI, the military district just north of Wkr XII in which KOBLENZ is situated.

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Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report #245, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 23 March 1945.

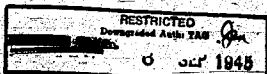
MII REPORT

Civilians continue to repeat the belief that munitions are stored in the woods between HOMBACH (809211) and EPGERT (826202) along the road which leads through the woods. The area has been blocked to civilian traffic for months.

Between the Autobahn and the region of ALTENKIROHEN is a desolate region, and German soldiers speaking to civilians did not believe any determined stand would be made in that area of low hills. Reinforcements against our bridgehead began to arrive the third day after our crossing, but the complete confusion in command continues to be very apparent to civilians. East of the Autobahn there is little basalt to be found but iron mines take the place of the quarries. The first railway tracks manufactured in GERMANY came from the lower TIED valley.

Civilians state that the Nazi Party retains its control by fear up to the bitter end, as the army retreats, by means of emergency courts with power to execute death sentences with or without evidence.

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6 Oct 1945



Annex #4 to G-2 Periodic Report #215, 24 Sep 1945, dated 23 March 1945.

PI REPORT

Summary of Photos of March 21, 1945:

80352600 W to 80312590 - 1 row of mines - one row leads S7 to W and a row due W from town to woods 80392595; mines run from these coordinates and south for about 100 yds along west side of road. There are also mines W of ALTENBERG. Our planes dropped bombs near arty positions.

Very many vehicular tracks between EHRENBURG (777257) N to OBERPLAY (775274); steadily increasing from day to day.

Trenches appearing at FLAMMERSFELD, OBERLAHR (8424), and BELTGEN (8827), and other towns near WIED river.

Vehicular activity is diminishing around FLAMMERSFELD, but AA positions show no change.

Arty - There were some locations found east of Autobahn and south of WIED river. Because of excellent cover all arty picked up on that date was positive.

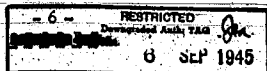
The autobahn bridge over the WIED was blown, 370 gap. Debris fell forming a dam which backed water up 1 1/2 miles upstream and 120 yds wide.

The enemy activities have been more conspicuous than ever before.

88s used as AA guns are being set to fire on front lines in somewhat of a certain line instead of a square.

Following are installations and defenses from sortie flown March 22, 1945.

- 81712605 - 4 guns.
- 83382577 - 3 AA, dual-purpose.
- 83632570 - 6 AA guns.
- 82792470 - 6 guns, dual-purpose.
- 82862487 - 4 med AA - previously reported.
- 83362545 - 3 guns.
- 83662528 - 3 lt AA.
- 81152084 - 3 guns - previously reported.
- 81212136 - 3 guns.
- 80492603 - 1 gun (86mm).
- 80482576 - Unoccupied gun positions.
- 77152556 - 1 SP.
- 77922520 - Trucks.
- 791261 - Unoccupied positions.
- 79652660 - Supplies.
- 80882628 - 4 guns - previously reported.
- 80782676 - 3 guns - previously reported.
- 80752595 - Unoccupied positions.
- 81422328 - 4 guns.
- 817237 - Unoccupied positions.
- 81022255 - 2 guns.
- 82412046 - Military activity - vehicles in vicinity.
- 83202070 - 4 lt AA.
- 78942712 - 2 guns - previously reported.
- 79452730 - Unoccupied gun positions.
- 80352793 - 3 lt AA - previously reported.
- 80152828 - 6 lt AA.



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6 OCT 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: HL/S *
* DATE: 21/3/15 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FORM 232200 Mar 1915
TO: 242200 Mar 1915

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KALENBORN.
21 March 1915.

No. 246.
Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 715280-763260-768238-770237-800233-800218.

b. Units identified: 312th Volksturm Bn.
110th PGR, 11th Pz Div.
KG ROESICH (11th Pz Div).
KG ZUKLAMPEN (277th Div).
KG KOENIG (18th VG Div).
111th PGR, 11th Pz Div.
KG HAI, 5th Pz Div.
751st Regt, 326th Div.
KG LORKE, 11th Pz Div.
373rd Bn (?)

c. Enemy forces capable of intervention: The 5th Pz Div is reliably reported to be in the neighborhood of LIMBURG (see OB notes).

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: During the period of darkness the enemy conducted patrols in the area of the 60th and 47th Infs, and light harassing fire fell in the area of the latter regiment. During the day no infantry contact was established, though the 60th Inf reported a group being pinned down by enemy small arms fire during the latter part of the period, near the Autobahn. Tanks were observed in front of the 47th Inf, and fired upon by our artillery.

Enemy activity was largely concerned with his withdrawal and attempts to delay our advance. Both the 47th and 60th Infs reported blown bridges; and numerous riegel mines along the roads. The 60th Inf reported demolitions along the Autobahn and during the afternoon two large explosions were heard, leading to the belief that the railroad bridge near PETERSLAHR had been destroyed. The PWs taken were in the majority of cases stragglers and were taken without difficulty. Artillery fire continued throughout the period, though light in volume and harassing in nature. In general the enemy appeared to have evacuated everything west of the line 8223-8234. After dark the 39th Inf advanced to the Autobahn at 776211, meeting small arms fire. The town at MERIAU was reported defended by 40 enemy.

b. Other fronts: VII Corps - Pressure continued strong throughout the period on the left flank of the Corps front and 2 or 3 tanks were reported to have infiltrated behind our front lines. The chief opponent was the 363rd Div.

V Corps - Light to moderate resistance was met throughout the period, with the chief conflict in the town of OBERBIEBER. No new identifications were made.

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3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Small amounts of low cloud, medium cloud increasing during the afternoon. Visibility restricted in battle areas by smoke and haze to 1 to 3 miles, otherwise 1 to 2 miles improving to 4 to 6 miles during the late morning. Risk of light intermittent rain late in night. Maximum temperature 70°, minimum temperature 40°. Full scale fighter-bomber operations possible all of period. Civil evening twilight March 25, 1945; civil morning twilight March 26, 0626.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during the period: 173.
- c. LOCATIONS: First Army has issued the following instructions: Telephone reports of enemy action and type of resistance should be sent in coordinates rather than by reference to a friendly unit. Telephone code names for units are not secret and should not be identified with areas and localities.
- d. GASOLINE: A PW, interrogated by (IC), 17th Inf, reports that the tank unit whose CP was at GUNDERSCHEID spent much time on the telephone urgently requesting gas for their tanks; a general and his staff were also reported located in that town but have subsequently moved to MANROTH. It is possible that the unit was the 15th Pz Regt, and it is evident that the gas did eventually arrive, since air reconnaissance found no tanks later in the day.
- e. COMMANDOS: The French PWs overrun by our advance are usually organized into Arbeitskommando (work gangs) of some 40 men each. The unofficial representative of these gangs is called the "homme de confiance" and has served as contact between the PWs and the Red Cross for the distribution of mail. NEUSTADT is, according to French PWs the next location of a Commando. All local commandos in turn depended upon the Stalag in BONN; but now that that has been overrun the Stalag is reported to have moved to ALTENKIRCHEN. These French workers, provided they have been for some time in the region, are (it must be repeated) excellent sources of limited information on the location of hidden enemy supply installations, mines, condition of roads, bridges, communications; as well as on the political loyalties of the population, and since the majority have learned to speak German they can be interrogated by the regimental interrogators.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. (1) The enemy is capable of defending from the ridge line that runs N-S along the 85 Easting, and delaying from towns and built up communities.
(2) The enemy is capable of attempting to delay our advances from the dominating terrain in the 0828 - 1115 area.

b. Discussion:

The strength opposing First U.S. Army forces is not felt sufficient at present to do other than delay our advances into GERMANY. The ranks are badly depleted and there is no evidence of other major forces being brought in. It is expected that units will be introduced as our drive goes on, but it is felt that the forces available are insufficient to do other than hold up elements at strategic points. There is a possibility that units may be brought from ITALY in a last effort to stem the tide. Whatever resistance that is met, if it is at all widespread along the First Army front, will be only a shell and will not represent a strong defense in depth.

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It is felt that at present a breakthrough on our part will not be too difficult an accomplishment. It is further expected that the most advanced elements will meet the most stubborn resistance as the enemy attempts to shift forces to stop our advances, these shifts being necessitated by his lack of sufficient strength to form a solid defensive wall. It is not felt likely that troops from the Russian front will be brought westward.

JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2, #3.

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #246, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 24 March 1945.

PW REPORT

From: 231800 March 1945
To : 241800 March 1945

General: From the disposition and arrangement of the 340th VG Div and all elements of the 277th VG Div, it appears today that the 11th Pz Div, the one which was about 2 weeks ago the strongest in the area, is being squeezed out of the front line; this is natural, since the 11th Pz Div has lost a great deal of its manpower. This has extended the sector of the 340th VG Div farther to the S and even across the WED river.

The appearance on our division front of the 15th Pz Div, 5th Pz Div, has disclosed only that this Combat Team appears to be the vanguard for the entire division itself, which is at the present time reported to be training its newly filled ranks in the area between LIMBURG and BAD EMS, both on the LAHN river.

Supply and MSR's: Some light was thrown on the subject of how the enemy is now solving his food and supply problem. W of the RHINE, the Germans had great warehouses and food storages; when pressure came in that area, and all rear echelons were moved E of the river, not only every available vehicle but also every man had to carry as large a load of supplies and equipment as he could. Warehouses and large stores are now being set up further E, but as for the immediate distribution of food, ammunition and equipment, the divisional QM companies are still very well stocked and probably able to hold out for a few weeks longer. As far as ammunition is concerned a great part of the dump in the woods E of RHEINBREITBACH, now in our hands, was moved out in time by the Germans.

This does not mean that the front line soldier is well fed at the present moment. Prisoners have stated that no food has come from the rear in two days, mainly because of our thorough arty interdiction of their supply routes. The Germans try to speed their movement of supplies by placing as many different divisional QM companies on one road as possible. This is clearly seen by the locations of the QM Co of the 340th Div (which is at GIERSHOFEN, 9415) and the QM Co of the 11th Pz Div (at FUDERBACH, 9022). Vehicles coming from GIERSHOFEN will pick up supplies for the 11th Pz Div on the same trip, since they must pass through the area where the latter QM Co is located. This naturally saves gasoline, vehicles and men, and this sort of inter-divisional supply cooperation has been going on for some time.

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The main supply routes of the above mentioned division start at GIESHOFEN and run NW through BIERDORF - RAUBACH - RUDERBACH - SELFEN - FLAMMERSFELD and from there into the individual division sectors.

Enemy Rear Areas: There has been absolutely no indication of German troop concentration or defensive installations as far E as 15 kms from our present front lines. In fact, PWs all maintain that there is not a soul to be expected or anything that looks like resistance in the towns further back. There is to be sure the Volksturm to be considered, and the latest location of such a battalion, has been PETERSLAHR (8223). The manner in which the German military police has been picking up every man on furlough, or even those looking for their unit, directing them to the nearest front line unit, is another indication that the Germans worry about filling gaps in the actual MGR itself, and are not in a position to consider a second or third line of prepared defense.

The LIMBURG Area: There are definite signs that the entire region between BAD EMS and LIMBURG (both on the LAHN river) has been and still is the scene of considerable enemy activity. The first reports came with the 3d Pz Div about a week or 10 days ago, when PWs from this unit declared that their unit had originally planned to train and reorganize in that region. There were also reports of vehicles and hvy equipment hidden throughout the wooded areas E of BAD EMS. Again during this period, the LIMBURG area was mentioned in connection with the 5th Pz Div, which is at present busily engaged in reforming and training recently arrived replacements, 1500 in all. Much of this activity is going on in the SCHARBURGSCHER FORST and also the STAATS FORST DIEZ; both of these forests within 8 and 10 kms of LIMBURG (W of the city).

Manpower: The German Pz Army trains its men in one general area, which includes STEINL, WITTSOCK and GARDELBOEN, all three very close to BERLIN. Those Trng and Repl camps are by no means empty, and their importance is evidenced very directly by the fact that the 5th Pz Div received some 1500 men on the 10th of March and the 3rd Pz Div also added more than 2000 men to its depleted ranks; all of these replacements coming from the above mentioned area. According to many PW statements, training schedules and activities are going on unhindered and the camps themselves are constantly being refilled while men are taken out of former ground crew and flying units to be trained as infantry in the parachute divisions. All the Allied bombing of BERLIN and its immediate vicinity has never touched the camp itself, thus keeping open one of the best German training centers. According to PWs, jumping personnel have not been trained for several months now. The last practice jumps made at this school were executed from observation balloons in order to save gasoline. But even this has been abandoned, and the training confines itself to the same tough basic which parachutists have to undergo.

Miscellaneous: Two officer PWs who have been interrogated during this period made an entirely different impression than that which would have been usual several months ago. When asked as to the reason of their disillusionment, both of them seem to agree that they were given companies to lead without actually knowing their sector, nor whether it has been taken by the Americans, and without knowing any of their men or NCOs. The 1st Lt showed unconcern as to the present condition of the German forces; he stated that every soldier in GERMANY who might have done his duty before, believing in the German forces and obeying orders blindly, is now seriously considering whether he should expose his home and family and the heart of GERMANY itself to the continuation of the war. Whether a German soldier fights on the Eastern Front or at the Western Front today does not make any difference, since the advance of the Russians is affecting the morale of all.

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Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #215, HQ 9th Inf Div, dated 21 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

General Summary: The Order of Battle of the bridgehead becomes daily more perplexing. The enemy has brought in new forces at the rate of 1 or 2 divisions a day, which is quite understandable in view of the fact that most of these divisions number only a few hundred men. It is natural that these Combat Teams should not fight under the command of their own staff, but rather be subordinated to a division that happens to be present in greater strength than the rest. In our sector, this division seems to be the 277th VG Div; S of us, the strong element is represented by 26th WD.

It now seems that the German High Command does not have sufficient forces on the Western Front to cope with the situation and faces the dilemma of being rapidly pushed back towards the interior of GERMANY or of having to drain its manpower in the east.

277th VG Div: It is believed that the units engaged south of the WIED river come under the jurisdiction of this division.

A Battle Group HAI from the 15th Pzcht Regt, 5th Pzcht Div, was committed about two days ago. This division was committed SE of BASTOGNE in the ARDENNES offensive and retreated across LUXEMBURG and Western GERMANY to the KOBLENZ area. It suffered very heavy losses, but elements succeeded in crossing the RHINE at BROHL and in reassembling on the east bank. The division then moved to the area between LIMBURG on the LAHN and BAD EMS where it received GAF replacements from the great Pzcht Trng Camp at GARDELEBEN. CT HAI contains approximately 150 men. Other elements of the division have been reported by the 99th US Div to fight under command of the 26th VG Div north of NEUMIED.

Another Battle Group identified today on our front is composed of personnel belonging to the 326th VG Div. This division was also badly battered in its fight to the RHINE in the Third US Army sector, and underwent a short and incomplete process of reform at NEUMIED. So far only 751st and 753rd Regt have been identified and they were reported to contain only two battalions each, with two companies per battalion. PWs from Battle Group ZESCH, captured today, state that the 40 men of their outfit were made up partly of rear elements of the 326th Arty Regt and partly of the remnants of the 751st VG Regt. The gun crews of the arty regiment complete with guns were left on the left bank of the RHINE, with the exception of only 3 x 150mm Hows belonging to the 3rd Bn.

A third Battle Group was detached from the 272nd VG Division to fight in our sector. This division saw action in the general vicinity of KESTERNICH and SCHMIDT and its remnants appeared in the southern part of the bridgehead. Judging by the fact that it has an Alarm and a Convalescent Co, it must be seriously weakened. The Battle Group just referred to has a strength of 40 men and in addition to men from the 272nd Div one straggler was taken from the 15th Pz Gr Div and another from the 276th VG Div. Neither of these units has been encountered in force in this area.

26th VG Div: As mentioned above, this unit controls all loose ends in the southern sector of the bridgehead and its staff also acts as a straggler-collecting point. Besides elements of 5th Pzcht Div, it also has some components of the 89th Inf Div under its command.

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LIMBURG on the LAHN and NEUWIED are both recruiting out-areas (Wehrbezirke) under recruiting area headquarters (Wehrersatzinspektion) in KOBLENZ. MONTAUBAU, W of LIMBURG, is the home station of the 226th Gr Repl Bn, a replacement unit for the 226th VG Regt, 79th VG Div, now engaged S of MAINZ. A technical replacement and training battalion (Technische Ersatz und Ausbildungs Abteilung) is stationed at NIEDERLAHNSTEIN, SW of LIMBURG (See MII Annex).

It seems very likely that numerous replacement units stationed W and SW of the RHINE have recently moved across to the E bank. The 5th Front and the 340th VO Divs recently reorganized in the LIMBURG - BAD EMS area, although neither division is from Wehr XII and it does not seem that they obtained the majority of their reinforcements from here. But a few remaining training groups stationed in this area could conceivably have been assigned to these divisions. The 326th VO Div, a Wehr VI unit, reformed in NEUWIED and WEISSENTURN early in March.

Annex #3 to G-2 Periodic Report # 246, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 24 March 1945.

III REPORT

LIMBURG, 40-50 miles from KOBLENZ or from NEUSTADT, dominates and controls the valley of the middle LAHN, river bounding the Westerwald on the south. A city of 12,000 population, it lies on the bank of the river in a broad valley, which resembles a small edition of the COLOGNE Basin. This and its neighboring cities, DIEZ and BUNDEL, are known as the "picturesque miniatures of NASSAU," and as such are favorites among tourists. LIMBURG's narrow streets are lined with hotels and shops catering to travellers. However, the city is not all quaintness, its machine manufacturing industries, railroad shops, and iron foundries have been important to the Reich's weakened industrial backbone. As a marketing center for the surrounding farms it is locally significant. The rich clay soil of the valley is devoted largely to grain. Marble quarries, lead and iron mines contribute their resources to the region's wealth. The city's general contour is based on the ancient circular, walled pattern but the ruined medieval wall and moat will be of little use when our forces dominate the heights of the Westerwald, and the TAUNUS above the town and approach it on good, if not numerous, highways along the valleys of the streams which flow out of the highlands to the N, S, and E. The city is dominated by a magnificent seven-spired cathedral from the 10th Century, the pride of the natives and symbol of the strong Catholic influences throughout the region. The Romans, as usual, played their part in the history of the valley.

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* INIT: *1/3* *
* DATE: 25/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

REC'D 240200 Mar 1945
TO : 252200 Mar 1945

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KALENBORN.
25 March 1945.

No: 247.
Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 782276 - 798274 - 813217 - 810237 - 830227 - 855198.

b. Units identified: 340th Volksgrenadier Div (or attached thereto)
694th VG Regt
695th VG Regt
340th Engr Bn
58th Arty Repl Bn
CT HAI (Elements of 5th Precht Div)
CT FLAK (Former 26th Fus Bn with only approx 30 men left)

277th Volksgrenadier Div (or attached thereto)
1st Bn, 277th Arty Regt
Hq Btry, 272nd Arty Regt (272nd VG Div)
272nd Repl Bn (272nd VG Div)
277th Fusilier Co
1st Bn, 751st VG Regt (326th VG Div)
CT ZESCH (326th Arty Regt, 326th VG Div)
CT THEHLE (272nd VG Div)
CT BOEHM
CT BREHM

11th Panzer Div.
6th Btry, 119th Arty Regt

Volkssturm
Kampfkommandantur NEUSTADT

c. Enemy forces capable of intervention: According to Tac/R a buildup of enemy armor has taken place near ALTENKIRCHEN during the period approximately 60 tanks being reported operating in that vicinity. In the III Corps zone reports of armor were negligible. The entire 9th Pz Div as well as all elements of the Pz Lehr Div have been identified on the bridgehead front.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: During the early part of the period the enemy defended stubbornly in the sector of the 39th Inf, employing mortar and artillery and SP fire to advantage in open terrain. In the afternoon the 39th Inf met less determined opposition and cleared HINTERPLAG and OBERPLAG, BUEHLINGEN (786261) and KALSCHIED (793272). A total of 168 PWs were taken during the period, chiefly from the 5th Precht Div.

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After meeting light resistance in the morning, chiefly from small arms and light arty the 47th Inf forced the enemy to vacate NEUSTADT defended by Volksturm elements (see OB and IPW annexes). But the enemy continued to resist from the high ground NW of town and E of RUDEL (767248). A great quantity of mines, at fords, bypasses, main roads delayed our advance considerably; the bridges across the WIED were destroyed, and determined resistance (though on a small scale) was met in EHRENSTEIN.

The 60th Inf reported comparatively little enemy opposition during the morning hours; light, arty and mortar fire being encountered. EPGERT (827201) and KRUNKEL (833201) OBER-STEINBACH (831212) and BORSCHIED (803225) were taken during the period, and a total of 209 PWs taken. By the late afternoon the entire length of the Autobahn in the division sector had been cleared and the point 855198 had been reached.

- b. Other fronts: VII Corps - The 3rd Armd Div reached 850266, meeting scattered resistance. The 1st Div after heavy resistance during the morning, pushed ahead during the afternoon and passed through BUCHHOLZ. The Corps line was as follows: 7241-7738-7836-8131-8329-8526.

V Corps - line was at last report 8311-8710-8702.

Third Army - The 90th Inf Div has advanced north along the Autobahn leading into FRANKFORT-on-the-Main at last report; the 5th Div on the left is along the MAIN river from the RHINE to the west. The 4th Armd Div is to the E of FRANKFORT along the MAIN river between HABENHAUSEN and ASCHAFFENBURG holding bridges across the river at M 9655 and at 0052. Elements of the division are also at HANAU (8672) (see MII note).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: Light intermittent rain with overcast medium clouds. VISIBILITY: Fair except in rain. Maximum temperature 52°, minimum temperature 41°. Limited fighter-bomber operations expected all day. Civil evening twilight March 26, 1927; civil morning twilight March 27, 0622.
- b. Total PWs processed during the period: 323.
- c. MAPS: A map captured by the 99th Div and given to this office shows the towns of RAUBACH (921197) and HORHAUSEN (852209) organized as strongpoints (see IPW annex) and PW interrogation establishes the fact that KG BOEHM with 80-90 men is in that town.

Another captured map from the same source shows the following Combat Teams on the E of the WIED as of several days ago. The position and strength of those units has undoubtedly changed since then, but their survival and relative size probably still obtain:

BT BOEHM (battalion)
 CT MERKEL (battalion)
 CT BREHM (regiment; see OB annex)
 CT ROSSNER (regiment)
 CT Lt MA KAI PEN (company)
 CT GRAUENDOR (battalion)
 CT SCHMIED (battalion)
 CT BURLAN (regiment)
 CT SCHLETZ (company)
 CT DREYER (regiment)
 CT CHITAM (battalion)

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- d. PRIZES: The castle of ALTENSTEIN at 751233 contains a large collection of photographs including postcards; at the railroad station at WILLYBURG (769242) contains much signal equipment including a store of railroad directives. Lastly in a quarry at 819190 there is an engineer dump containing picks, shovels, and generators, these last in excellent condition.
- d. III: Main Plain - The area in which the advance elements of the Third American Army are now operating is a plain comprising excellent farm land famous for its fruit orchards, and its wines. It is densely populated, and the focus of the region is FRANKFORT-on-the-Main, a river port as well as a great commercial and industrial center. The MAIN river is generally considered to be the traditional boundary between northern and southern GERMANY; between Prussianism and its less energetic opposite, between Catholicism and Protestantism (excluding of course the Rhineland) and between Low German speech to the north and high German to the south. ASCHAFFENBURG entered by the 4th Arm'd Div is actually a Bavarian city, with a population of some 40,000. It is the last point on the MAIN that is navigable to large vessels. DARMSTADT, the first large city to fall to the Third Army is the capital of HESSE and has a population of 89,000. It has many industries and was famous for its technical institute, one of the best in GERMANY. FRANKFORT-on-the-Main had a population of over half a million, and has been an important commercial city for more than 1,500 years. Apart from its industrial and commercial significance it had other claims to fame; it was the city where the German emperors were crowned, the birthplace of Goethe, and where the peace treaty between FRANCE and GERMANY was signed in 1871. Its monuments, antiquities, and collections were remarkably large even for a rich city, and the FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG was until very recently the most highly esteemed newspaper in GERMANY. The city is reported to be more than half destroyed.

HANAU with a population of 38,000, entered by elements of the 4th Arm'd Div yesterday is a center of diamond polishing and jewelry manufacturing. It is likewise the birthplace of the Grimm brothers, collectors of the well-known fairy tales.

h. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

John B. Houston
for JACK A. HOUSTON, Major
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Incls. Annex #1, #2, Sketch.

Dist: n/c

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Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #21, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 25 March 1945.

PW REPORT

General: The lot of PWs which has passed through the enclosure during the period turned out to be typical remnants of a broken German MLR, which for many days has only consisted of Combat Teams of between 100 and 150 men strong. The components of this MLR, had anxiously expected us to roll-up this thin crust with great anxiety. Practically all German soldiers who were interrogated during this period appear not only to be now broken from a military point of view, but from the morale point of view as well. Practically all of the PWs who came from the Volksgrenadier units consisted of rear echelon personnel, even 1st Sgts were found leading squads and platoons; and they almost unanimously expressed the belief of the German soldier that defeat would be a liberation for the German soldier as well as for the civilian. Almost all of these men stated that there is no major force even of division size anywhere in the towns due E of our present front lines. Just as little information has been obtained as to defensive installations.

Hedgehog: It can of course be expected that all these Combat Team commanders, if not captured or killed, will withdraw with the remnants of their troops to the next sizeable town, favorable high ground, etc, attempting to delay our advance. One of these strongpoints for example is likely to have formed in the small town of HORRAUSEN by Capt BOEHM, from the 277th VG Div. With this available force of less than 200 men, with practically no heavy weapons, he has formed a defensive position which the Germans call "Igel Stellung", meaning that he has arranged the group in the form of a Hedgehog in or around the town, thus being able to direct fire in and from practically all directions. The significance of such a position is that these troops will have to be sacrificed and are not to be withdrawn. This is the most probable development until the last one of the numerous Combat Teams are annihilated.

As to the effectiveness of an Igel Stellung we have the explanation of the man who commanded one in the vicinity of EPGERT, taken today. The leader of this position was a private, and the responsibility of approximately 60 men rested upon his shoulders simply because he was the only one who was an experienced infantry soldier, although he himself had spent the greater part of his four years in the army in the rear. After his men were dug in, he told them to go to sleep and offered to stand guard himself. When the Americans came, he did not wake up his men, but motioned our troops to advance; after which he woke them up capitulating the entire position. This man even went so far as to send one of his fellow soldiers to some of those dug in who had not as yet been discovered by the Americans, and thus completed the roundup himself.

From several PWs comes the strange story that on their march to the front lines through some of the towns to the east, practically all civilians told them to leave as fast as possible, refusing any aid which would prolong the stay of the soldiers in their town. The reason for this procedure was that (according to civilians) if any German soldiers were discovered in the towns by Allied planes, the communities would be laid into ruins.

As soon as we reach the towns of RAUBACH, DIELDORF and FUDERBACH, we will meet up with a considerable number of French and Polish laborers. These people are reported to be running around the towns without control. This state of affairs started last week when authority was no longer sufficient to make the foreign laborers go back to work. It is highly improbable that the Germans will be able to create a military force out of foreign laborers.

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C.C.N.: This could be the American abbreviation for the title which the Volksturm group which was to defend the town of NEUSTADT today gave itself. Some PWs of this unit describe its effectiveness by stating that 130 men (Volksturm), (practically none of them originating from the town itself) possessed some 30 French hunting rifles with five rounds of ammunition per rifle. All of these men wore German uniforms and none of them wore the Volksturm brassard. One of the Volksturm PWs interrogated today wore a Luftwaffe overcoat, a RAD (labor force) blouse, field grey Wehrmacht trousers, a Marine infantry cap and civilian shoes.

Supply System: The information in a previous PW report on supply routes and the system of distribution was entirely confirmed today, with the addition that the system of divisional QM Cos located close to the MSR has been used for the entire German bridghead force. This can be seen by drawing a line following the road from BAD EMS to FLÄMERSFELD through the towns (going S to N) KEMTENAU, WELSCH NEUDORF, NIEDER ELBERT, bypassing MONTABAUER to DERNBACH, WIRGES, SIERSHAHN, MOGENDORF, SELTERS, DIERDORF, RAUBACH, FUDERBACH, and DORTTESFELD. It clearly shows that the Reichsautobahn is only touched at one point where the crossing is made NW of MONTABAUER. The road being used is of excellent quality and not subjected to the constant air and arty attacks which make the use of the Autobahn impractical. This by the way is also the exact route which the elements of the 5th Pz Div (now fighting in our sector) took for its march up here.

A German 1st Sgt PW was the second PW within two days to make the statement that the individual rear echelon units of each division were relatively well stocked immediately after the crossing of the RHINE in food and ammunition, as German warehouses had been emptied not only W but also E of the RHINE as far as 20 kms east.

Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #217, Hq 9th Inf Div, dated 25 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

General Summary: The confusion in the enemy situation is increasing daily. As the enemy retreats in disorder, individual stragglers and entire groups separated from their original outfits are hastily collected and ordered to hold a sector to the last man. PWs are totally at a loss to identify the organization to which they belong.

The replacement system is gradually breaking down. Important recruiting centers are overrun and training units sent to divisions for which they were not intended. Most divisions are unable to obtain any replacements at all. Apart from SS outfits, only Pz Divs and a few lucky infantry units are partially replenished: the former because they are under the aegis of HERMANN GOERING, the latter because their commanders happen to wield political influence in BERLIN. Such is the case of Genmaj TOLSDORF, CG of the 340th Volksgrenadier Div and Genmaj KOKOTT, CG of the 26th Volksgrenadier Div.

9th Div sector: The dominant fact is the gradual disappearance of the 11th Pz Div from our front. Its organic components have been seriously weakened and the replacements received chiefly from HEIDELBERG and KLAGENFURT were insufficient to offset the process of growing depletion. The gap created by the elimination of this unit is being filled by the extension of the 340th VG Div's sector towards the south and the 277th VG Div's sector towards the north. As far as can be ascertained, they represent, for the time being, the "strong" element in charge of all odds and ends engaged in the area.

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6 Oct 1945

Kampfgruppe "HAIN": It was reported yesterday that CT HAIN, a group formed from elements of the 15th Pzcht Regt, 5th Pzcht Div, was presumably under the command of the 277th Div. PWs captured today say they are controlled by the 340th Div. They specifically mention the 694th Regt, but it is very doubtful whether any regimental organization still survives within the division. Some of the PWs came from the 11th Pzcht Regt, which indicates the mixed character of the Battle Group. It consists of four companies, each with a complement of approximately 50-55 men. In view of the well-known preferential treatment accorded to parachute units it is still unsafe to hazard the guess that this outfit - plus the elements incorporated into the 26th VG Div - is all that is left of the 5th Pzcht Div. A possible reorganization and recommitment must be reckoned with.

BREMM vs BOEHM: As for the 277th VG Div, some confusion seems to have arisen in regard to Battle Groups BREMM and BOEHM. Lt Col BREMM was the commander of the 990th Regt, whereas Capt BOEHM used to command the 2nd Bn of the 989th Regt. It is therefore likely that BREMM is in charge of the entire sector of the 277th Div, following the capture of the previous CG, Capt BOEHM, on the other hand, leads a group composed predominantly of remnants of the 989th VG Regt.

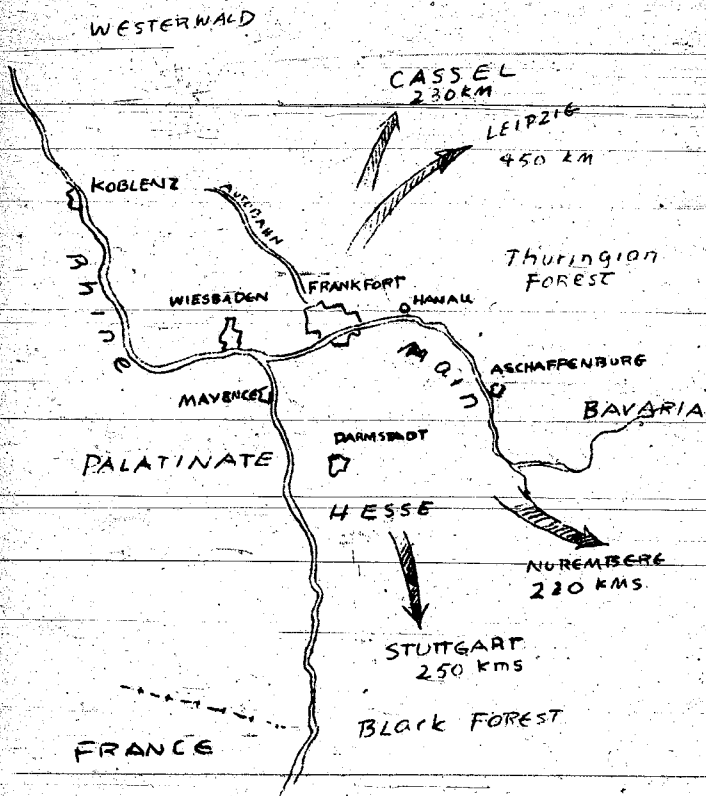
277th Arty Regt: The arty element of the division has survived the crossing of the RHINE. Remnants of the 2nd Bn have been converted into the 1st Bn, with 105mm gun Hows. The 3rd Bn is equipped with 150mm Hows. The regiment was in position in the FLECKHAUSEN area.

272nd Div: Part of another badly-battered division, the 272nd, is also engaged against us. A Battle Group RUEGEN, with an estimated strength of 80 men, is reported to operate under CT BOEHM. It contains the remnants of the 982nd VG Regt, 272nd Fusilier Bn and the usual assortment of rear elements (supply troops, ordnance), stragglers and other non-organic personnel.

99th Div sector: The "strong" unit south of us is the 26th VG Div. It underwent a speedy reorganization on this side of the RHINE and its regiments are committed as small Combat Teams. It also controls part or all of the following outfits: 18th and 272nd VG Divs, 89th Inf Div and the 5th Pzcht Div. The relationship between the 272nd Div and the 277th Div still demands clarification.

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6 SEP 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *SM* *
* DATE: 26/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 262200 Mar 1945
TO: 262200 Mar 1945

Hq. 9th Inf Div
Vic. OBERSTEINBACH
26 March 1945

No. 248.

Map: GSGS 4411, 1/25,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

- a. Enemy front lines: No contact except for scattered small groups.
- b. Units identified: (See IP# Annex).
- c. Enemy forces capable of intervention: Civilians in OBERLAHR (845250) report that 1,000 enemy and a large number of tanks passed through that point last night, presumably heading north. The 116th Pz Div broke contact on VII Corps front last night, however, PzB said the division was withdrawing north across the SIEG river. The 13th, 14th and 15th Pz Div Regts, 5th Pz Div have been reported reassembling in the area LIMBURG-NASSAU, and BAD EMS.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

- a. General: Enemy resistance was characterized by attempts at delay in our sector. After stubborn enemy resistance during the early part of the period, the town of HORHAUSEN (855210) was cleared, against small arms, SP and artillery fire. Otherwise, resistance was generally disorganized and scattered, and the main task for our troops was that of reducing enemy forces which were pocketed by the advances of friendly armored units, both to the north and south of our sector. A general advance of 15,000 yards had been attained by the end of the period, and a great many towns and villages were cleared. 7th Armored Div reached G 2518, 99th Inf Div reached the 98 easting with no resistance.
- b. Other fronts: VII Corps - 1st Inf Div again met a morning counterattack, but went on to clear towns at F 7440, 7340, 7839, 7937, 8035, and cleared river bank to 7640. 3rd Arm Div met hvy resistance in their northern sector but light resistance further south. Arty fire on roads was hvy, but towns at 9128, 9428, 9029, 9229, and 9230 were cleared. 104th Div reported little opposition and mopping up in the zone continued.

V Corps - Reported a minimum of resistance, with serious fighting only at HILLSCHIED (F 9700), where two or three SP guns were encountered, supported by infantry. MONTABAUER (G 0604) was bypassed, and troops of the 9th Arm Div entered outskirts of LIMBURG, meeting small arms fire. Other troops reached G 243995.

Third Army - Hvy resistance was met at CRUMSTADT (M 5534). At ERFELDEN (M 8237) there was strong resistance from police and civilians armed with small arms and bazookas. 90th Inf Div bridge site received 30 rds of arty for an hour at 1600 hrs yesterday. There was continued arty activity in parts of the Army sector. Total Third Army PzB for 10-day period ending 24 March was approximately 80,000.

Seventh Army - has cleared all resistance, except for scattered pockets, throughout the Upper RHINE area W of the river.

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3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: March 27 - no change in weather. March 28, 29, 30 - general improvement with broken low clouds in mornings, bases 2-3,000 ft, becoming small amounts in afternoon. Visibility 3-6 miles. Winds: light southeasterly. Civil twilight: PM 27 March 1929; AM 28 March 0620.
- b. Total number of F7B processed during period: 302.
- c. TAC/R during the period reported enemy vehicular activity headed north at the SIEG crossings and in the area to the north: In our sector Tac/R revealed nothing of significance.

- d. PANZERFAUST 60 AND PANZERSCHRECK FIRED FROM ROOMS: An official German document dated 16 Jan 1945 gives information on the effects of firing the above weapons from rooms:

A special problem in connection with these weapons arises due to the discharge of recoil neutralizing gases to the rear in the case of the Panzerfaust and the rocket gases of the Panzerschreck.

The information given applies to a room of 8 square meters with normal ceiling height and having two openings. It is said that the pressure effects on the firer are negligible, but stronger on personnel standing near the tube, without being harmful.

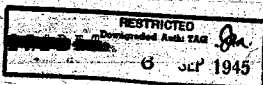
Other points are: - (1) The pressure of the Panzerfaust is stronger than that of the Panzerschreck, (2) the pressure is easily bearable, and is hardly felt by the firer, (3) the smoke effects, obscuring vision and affecting the throat necessitate the room being evacuated after 3 rounds with the Panzerschreck and 2 rounds with the Panzerfaust, (4) there are no breathing difficulties or other inconveniences.

- e. ARREST PROCEDURE: Persons should not be evacuated through F7 channels merely because they have admitted membership in the Nazi Party. Individuals of this category may be displaced within a unit zone or placed under other control deemed advisable from a security standpoint, but they should not be permitted to clog F7 channels when there is no material evidence that they are a security threat.

F7 channels should not be used as a substitute for displaced persons' evacuation. Non-suspect displaced persons should be turned over to Military Government Officers for evacuation. Where large numbers of persons are arrested and evacuated, it is essential that, when field conditions make the proper documentation of individual arrestees impracticable, at least a memorandum should accompany them, listing the individuals arrested by name, the place and date of their arrest, the arresting agency and the reason for the arrest. (See: First Army).

- f. BOMBS: Oxygen cylinders similar to those used with acetylene gas torches but filled with high explosive and naked high explosive, claimed to have been found in electricity generating stations in GERMANY. Public utilities including water pumping stations, coal-gas generating stations, electricity stations and substations should be checked carefully for this material, if found and not needed for operation of the plant, should be removed to a safe location pending examination by experts. These bombs were to be initiated by stay-behind agents. (See: First Army).





4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. (1) The enemy is capable of attempting to delay our advances into GERMANY, defending from key road centers, strategic bottlenecks and river crossings.
- (2) The enemy is capable of reinforcing the fast-disintegrating forces in the division-sector in an effort to stop our breakthrough.

b. Discussion:

The rapid disintegration of enemy resistance has reached the route stage in our sector. The enemy still seems to place the greatest importance in troops advancing to the NE, probably fearing an encirclement of a large scale of his forces opposing the Ninth Army and the Canadian sectors, and also attempting to prevent exploitation of the RWHR region and the northern German plains.

It is felt that resistance will be scattered and isolated. However, should our advances continue at their present rate it is believed that they will draw armored elements from in front of the VII Corps in an attempt to arrest our advances. The only anticipated ground resistance from infantry will most likely be encountered at key communication centers and possible bottlenecks.

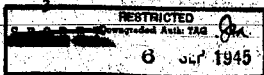
It is possible that the enemy will rush forces from other fronts, most likely the Italian front in an effort to stop our sweeping advances. It is likely that such a move would slow up our advances, should priority be given to the First Army front.

As we go deeper into GERMANY, the possibility of organized Volksturm resistance becomes more likely.

126/1000, 1st 400
JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of 3, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1.

Dist: n/c





6 SEP 1945

Annex #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #218, 9th Inf Div, dated 26 March 1945.

PW REPORT

General: The best suitable comparison to the present PW entanglement was our experience immediately after the capture of General Von SCHLIEBEN at CHERBOURG, in NORMANDY. Then, the German infantry soldier was convinced that there was no way out for him. It was death or captivity; and today, once again, he is thinking the same way. He knows that there is no Siegfried line he can fall back to; that the remaining officers or NCOs in command of his Combat Team are out of contact with the adjoining Combat Teams; that every Combat Team is "on its own"; and that there is a thorough state of confusion in everyone's mind on the friendly and enemy situation - especially on the front lines. The very few who still believe that there is reason to fight agree that such a fight is hopeless; these, as well as the overruling majority of those who do not see any reason for fighting any more, have no wish to jeopardize their lives for a hopeless or useless cause; specifically, none of them want to die. That is why PWs stopped our PW evacuation trucks to surrender, and that is why some 30 men walked to a US clearing station to give themselves up during the period, in the sector of the 9th Inf Div.

Most of the German officers who were brought to the PW cage today shook their heads in despair, explaining that they have done what they thought right - surrendered with their men. Those who had not wanted to give up the fight had the alternative of surrender or death because their men refused to fire. A similar experience had never before occurred in their careers as officers. The officers were no longer able to threaten their grenadiers because the latter were together in their lack of desire to fight and in the possession of loaded rifles.

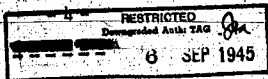
In one instance, a CT was ordered to defend a village, to use it as a strongpoint everything was all set....until the American tanks came rolling up and the civilians in nearby houses stuck out white flags all over the town. This "demoralized" the PWs to such an extent that they, too, raised white flags.

The German front-line soldiers know of the Rhine crossings N and S of the REMAGEN bridgehead. The German Wehrmacht's news mentioned it over the radio and the company C.O.'s had to read the sad report to their companies and to answer all questions asked. They could no longer delude their listeners who by now have learned to read between the lines, and to understand a little more of the true significance of recent events on the Western Front.

Units in Contact: CT Col BURIAN (980th Regt and 167th Repl Bn, 272nd VG Div taken in LUESKENBACH, SCHARBACH; CT Col ROESSNER (CT BRANDS 982nd Regt and CT DENK 989th Regt) taken HORHAUSEN, BERENBACH; CT Capt BOEHM (989th, 990th, 991st Regt) taken WELLENTHAL; CT Lt. Col BREHM (272nd, 276th, 277th VG Div) taken URBACH, HUF.

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Pzcht Regts had been reported as being reassembled in the area LIMBURG, MASSAU, BAD EIS in the LAHN valley. It may well be possible that those units will be encountered in our advances.

Aside from some stragglers, rear echelons, AA units and lost groups of men, the 167th Repl Bn is a new addition to our identifications for this period. The battalion consists of three companies and is now under the command of the 272nd VG Div. All other CTs, none exceeding a strength of 50 men, had been identified previously by PWs.



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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: *HS* *
* DATE: 27/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

262200 Mar 1945
272200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic MITTELHOFEN.
27 March 1945.

No. 249.
Map: GSGS 4416, 1/100,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: 445294 - 435249 - 440217 - 395196.

b. Units in contact: The following identifications do not necessarily indicate the presence of the units themselves, nor is the list complete:

QM Co, 272nd Div.
Repl Bn 10.
Observation Bn 7.
89th Sig Bn, 11th Pz Div.
190th Arty Regt, 90th Inf Div.
43rd Marsch Co.
Repl Bn 4, 5th Frcht Div.
111th PG Regt, 11th Pz Div.
KG WAHL, 5th Frcht Div.
II/199 Construction Bn.
5th Co, 11th Frcht Regt, 5th Frcht Div.
39th AA Bn.
246th AA Bn.
2nd Co, 602nd Mobile Bn.
4th Co, 981st Regt.
1167th Field Repl Bn.
775th Landeschutzen Bn.
Chief of draft board, NEUWIED.
Interrogator from 67th Army Corps Hq.
Army Food Depot No 599.

c. Enemy forces capable of intervention: 106th Pz Brigade - While the 11th Pz Div was not contacted yesterday what is left of the 106th Pz Brigade was contacted, or rather overrun. All PWs bore out the estimate of the weakened condition of this unit. PW taken from the TK Bn stated that the total strength was 35 men, with one tank, one SP gun and 2 AA guns left.

According to higher headquarters the enemy has the equivalent of 6 field divisions in reserve in GERMANY. Given time, he has the capability of bringing some of these divisions, together with divisions from NORWAY, DENMARK, and ITALY to oppose the advance of Allied Armies east of the RHINE. It should be anticipated that pending a complete collapse of all organized, armed resistance the enemy will make every effort to halt our advance.

The 3rd Frcht Div is now out of contact on VII Corps front. It may be expected that the division will be quickly reformed with GAF replacements and recommitted on the First Army front.

The 553rd VGD was contacted in the Third US Army bridgehead area. The division has had almost three months to reform, and has probably incorporated elements of several divisions from the Nineteenth Army - decimated in the withdrawal from the COLMAR pocket.

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2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD

- a. General: No evidence of organized resistance was encountered during the period, but according to PW statements an organized withdrawal of sizeable units took place on March 26 to an unknown destination, though in an easterly direction. In isolated instances small groups of the enemy temporarily opposed our advance, but this opposition was not part of a concerted plan. No mines or hastily constructed obstacles were encountered in the division sector. The 7th Armd Div likewise reported little resistance of any nature, and an unofficial report gave the PW total as over 3000. No shellreps were reported.
- b. Other fronts: Third and First Army joined forces during the early hours of the day.

Third Army - Elements reached LOHR-on-the-Main, some 30 miles east of FRANKFURT. Heavy fighting was reported in HANAU. The Second British Army reported very heavy opposition with small gains near MILLINGEN (A-0757).

Ninth Army - Reported stronger resistance. Reached general line 3527-3833-3735-4035-3910.

Sixth Army Group - RHINE crossed against moderate opposition. 2 divisions are across. GERNSEHEIM, 15 miles S. of DARMSTADT, cleared of enemy after heavy fighting.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: 29, 30 March - general improvement with broken low clouds in mornings, bases 2-3000. Visibility: 3-6 miles. Winds: light, SE. Civil twilight PM 28 March 1930; AM 29 March 0541.

- b. Total number of PWs processed during period: 199.

- c. TOWNS TAKEN: WESTERBURG, heavily damaged by bombing, is a town of 12,000 inhabitants, a Protestant island surrounded by Catholic communities. It is the birthplace of William "the Silent" of NASSAU the liberator of the NETHERLANDS, whose ancestors were local rulers. Among the many lords of the town were several noteworthy characters, including REINHARD III (called "the Mad") who was so quarrelous that he was challenged 50 times in the course of a month by his outraged acquaintances, and a descendant who for fear of thieves buried his wealth one dark night so securely that he could not locate it ever again. It is believed to be somewhere within the castle grounds.

GIESSEN, with 33,600 inhabitants is the capital of Upper Hesse, and the site of a university founded in 1607 with 1750 students. It possesses a commercial airfield, and although its chief attraction is the medieval appearance of its center, it is nevertheless a modern town with mining and quarrying interests, well located on a plain between the lower Lahn valley (which leads to the RHINE) and the FULDA valley which leads to CASSEL and the WESER river.

- d. TOWNS TO BE TAKEN: MARBURG with 23,000 inhabitants the home of Phillips university founded in 1527, with 3,600 students is reputed to be one of the most picturesque towns in GERMANY and was the scene of great debates at the time of the Reformation between BUCHER, MELANCTHON and ZINGLI, which took place in the conspicuous castle on the hill.

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Between DILL and LAHN: That part of the Westerwald between the DILL and LAHN rivers is a bleak and rolling country, poor of soil and cold of climate. The valleys contain whatever prosperity there is, the population there working in sawmills, paper mills and, in the LAHN valley, in the mines. The heights are heavily wooded, the villages few and small. The suffix "BACH" on place names does not indicate a stream, but that the town is located on a hill; and such place names are very frequent here.

The DILL river, a tributary of the LAHN is within the division zone; a stream of from 50 to 70 feet wide, and averaging in normal times 3 feet in depth. It is liable to flood after heavy rains and its banks are not high. It meanders through a comparatively rich meadow countryside, and its current is swift enough to work numerous mills. The LAHN river which rises to the north and flows into the RHINE near COBLENZ is a more important river, but in our zone is between 70 and 100 feet wide, and about 4 feet deep.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

J. A. Houston
for JACK A. HOUSTON,
Lt. Col., GSC,
AC of S, G-2.

Dist: n/c

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22200 Mar 1945
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* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: 11 G *
* DATE: 28/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KIRCHVERS, GERMANY.
28 March 1945.

No. 250.
Map: GSGS 4416, 1/100,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines. 740348 - 700350 - 690300.

b. Enemy units in contact: No complete list of identifications is available. The following is of those taken by the 60th Infantry:

- Field Replacement Battalion 326
- Engineer Replacement Battalion 9
- Assault Battalion 15
- Training Battalion 57
- Engineer Battalion, 5 Pocht Division
- AA Battalion 692
- Ordnance Company 26
- Elements of 26 Division, 277 Division, 272 Division
- 150 Hungarian Volunteers
- 26 Recon Bn identified by 47th Infantry.

c. Further information on units in contact: The training Battalion 57 was only recently organized by local military authorities largely from stragglers and Volksturm personnel. Its headquarters has already been overrun.

The 150 Hungarians were part of a group of 400 who were initially in training in WETZLAR, then were withdrawn to MARBURG, and are now reported to be on their way back to KASSEL. They were all of them volunteers, and were issued, as late as yesterday, M-1 rifles.

A captured document (see Miscellaneous) indicates that the 26 Division now comprises no more than 3 battalions greatly reduced in strength, 1 replacement battalion of Volksturm men, unsuited for combat, inducted into the Wehrmacht, 1 heavy AT gun, 2 medium batteries of 2 guns each, 3 light batteries of 1 of 3 guns, 2 of 2 guns. The strength is given as no greater than 527. One Pocht IG is attached.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. The enemy continued to remain out of contact with our advance armored elements and with the infantry as well. PWs stated that they had seen the armor coming and had continued on their way through the forests, surrendering to the infantry at a later hour or to the armor in the towns. There continued to be no signs of organization in the immediate area, but evidence accumulated throughout the period that sizeable elements of the 5 Pocht Division, of the 26 Division, of the 18 Division, the 272 Division as well as various RAD (labor service) units withdrew 26 March toward MARBURG thence toward KASSEL. The few cases of small arms resistance, though effective as delaying actions, were not indicative of any concerted effort, and the large number of stragglers, of equipment hastily abandoned, as well as the almost total lack of demolitions, pointed to a confusion within the enemy's forward ranks. Withdrawal continued throughout the period.

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b. Other Fronts: (Reprinted from First US Army Periodic Report dtd 27 Mar 1945)

Third US Army Sector - Continuing to consolidate their bridgehead in VIII Corps zone, 87 US Inf Div units linked up to form a single base, advancing north of BRAUBACH (L-9386) and capturing LYKERSHAUSEN (L-9578). Moderate resistance, primarily from automatic weapons and 20 millimeter anti-aircraft fire, prevailed; and one small counterattack at L-9289 was repulsed late yesterday evening. The opposition to 89 US Inf Div's assault of the RHINE varied greatly from scattered small arms fire to strong mortar and arty fire. Both DORSCHHEID (M-0067) and KAUB (M-0265) were cleared of the enemy. In XII Corps zone, the enemy reacted more strongly to our attacks as 6 US Armored Div gathered momentum, capturing WILDORF (M-6056) and advancing in two columns toward GRIESHEIM (M-6266) and SACHSENHAUSEN (M-6767), on the outskirts of FRANKFURT, against stiffening resistance. 90 US Inf Div, meanwhile, reached ARHEILGEN (M-6645) against generally light resistance. Early 27 March the enemy evinced his concern about the 4 US Armored Div's bridge at HANAU (M-8668) by launching a strong counterattack, preceded by heavy arty fire, south of the bridge. The attack suffered the same fate as an unsuccessful counterattack by a company of infantry, supported by four tanks, toward the bridge south of ASCHAFFENBURG (N-0054). Enemy aircraft were consistently attacking the RHINE bridging sites during the period.

Ninth US Army Sector - Enemy opposition to expansion of XVI Corps' bridgehead was moderate to strong on the flanks of the salient, and strongpoints were established in the high ground areas. Elsewhere, the defense appeared to lack coordination. 2 Parachute Division was contacted yesterday as prisoners were captured from 7 Parachute Regt at A-3429. 30 US Inf Div extended the northern sector of the bulge to the southern bank of the LIPPE Canal and established a bridgehead on the north side today at A-3440, meeting some small arms reaction and fire from flak guns. 156 Panzer Grenadier Regt (116 Panzer Div) was identified in the sector A-3238 - A-3635, and prisoners stated both battalions were fighting, morale was low and fuel and food were critically short. 79 US Inf Div captured prisoners from 1221 Inf and 880 Arty Regts (180 Inf Div) in the Vic of A-3332 during advances against scattered resistance which captured DINSLAKEN (A-3230), and penetrated the WESEL Forest along the 36 easting.

Seventh US Army Sector - Although very strong resistance from mortars, anti-aircraft guns and SF artillery was met by XV Corps troops this morning in their assault of the RHINE, the enemy fell back rapidly. As a result, GROSS ROHRHEM (M-5324), NORDHEIM (M-4721), BURSTEDT (M-5216) and LAMPERTHEIM (M-5311) were occupied against disorganized resistance and only light, scattered artillery fire. No identifications have yet been reported since the attack began.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: 29 March to 1 April. Broken to overcast low clouds at 1000 to 3000 feet throughout period, with scattered rain showers, visibility poor during mornings, becoming moderate in afternoons. Surface winds light to moderate, and generally westerly. Flying conditions poor during morning, but allowing partial aerial operation in afternoons. Civil twilight PM 29 Mar 1932 hrs; AM 30 March 0539 hrs.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during period: 127.
- c. Disguise: It has been noted that an increasing number of German soldiers are attempting to pose as displaced persons in order to escape internment as PWs. In the past two days, three former members of the Wehrmacht posing as Polish

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6 Oct 1945

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workers have been investigated by GIC and a confession obtained in all cases.

d. Captured document:

SECRET

25.3.45

TO: Gen Hq 67 Army Corps:
Weekly Strength return as of Saturday.
26 VG Div (Div CG Brig General KOKOTT - G-1 Major BUCHHOLZ)

Enr: 3 battered (I/77, I/39, I/26) the latter being VOLKSTURM men not trained, inducted into Wehrmacht.

Total strength: 5 officers, 210 E.M.
Attached: 1 weak Bn (CT) KITZLER, Front unit.

Heavy A/T: 1 gun
Artillery: 2 med btry's (2 guns each)
3 light btry's (total 7 guns)

Transportation: Horse drawn 70% of T/O
Motorized 50% of T/O

Combat value: IV
AA ready: 1 medium (3.7cm SP)

Daily and combat strength: 3 officers 226 E.M. present
1 officer 527 E.M. combat

26 VG Div Hq (Staff)
BUCHHOLZ

- e. The following is a translation of an order which was read to soldiers of the German Army on 23 March 1945. It was reported to interrogator by two PWs who recalled its content in detail:

ORDER

Oberkommando West.
The complete inefficiency of a few officers at the REMAGEN bridgehead makes it necessary to stress once more the importance of previous orders and of their strictest execution. It is an account of insufficient fighting spirit and lacking courage on the part of our soldiers, that the American Army succeeded in crossing the undamaged bridge at REMAGEN. We have suffered unnecessary losses for this reason, and our present military situation has become nearly catastrophic. From now on, every soldier has to bear and endure whatever may happen and must be willing to shed his last drop of blood while fighting with the greatest bravery. He who does not fight to the last, giving his all, will have to take into consideration the fact that not only himself, but also his kinemen, will be subject to martial law.
(See: VII Corps Periodic Rpt No. 77)

KESSELRING OB West.

h. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

Herman J. Harrison Jr
For JACK A. HOUSTON, Capt.
Lt. Col., G.S.C.,
A.C. of S., G-2.

Dist: n/c

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6 SEP 1945



Annex No. 1 to Periodic Report No 250 dated 28 March 1945.

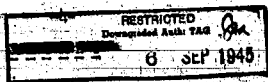
III

The following information given by civilians is confirmed by British and Australian prisoners-of-war liberated by our capture of LOLLAR:

The last German troops left the town of LOLLAR at 1400 today. These were stragglers from the AA personnel located in the town who had destroyed their guns this morning. Yesterday 800-1000 troops, stragglers and remnants of a great variety of units rushed through the town toward GRUENBERG which they believed to be their only escape route. Less than 50% of these troops had weapons, many were seriously wounded. Horses were pulling those unable to walk, on childlike wagons. 6-8 105's were moved down the east bank of the Lahn southward from LOLLAR yesterday afternoon. Highest ranking officers were believed to have left in automobiles yesterday morning. Observers believed organization of any sort of defense an impossibility.

Roads are in excellent condition, apparently blocks and obstacles were not even begun. Bridges across the LAHN are intact in the vic of LOLLAR, most are wide enough for only one-way heavy traffic.

The Allied PWS have been in confinement here and in Italy for four years. They were released from arrest yesterday and allowed to go into the town. They made prisoners of their guards today.



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Declassified Auth: T&E
G SEP 1945

* SECRET *
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: R-71 *
* DATE: 29/3/45 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

22200 Mar 1945
TO : 22200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KIRCHWIS.
29 Marh 1945.

No. 251.
Map: CGCS 4416, 1/100,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

- a. Enemy front lines: No contact.
- b. Enemy units in contact: Stragglers and bypassed individuals from the usual variety of units were noted.
- c. Further information on units in contact: (See Miscellaneous, Captured document).

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

- a. General: During the day no attack was launched by the division, and the period was one of almost uninterrupted quiet. The Service Battery of the 81st P.A. Bn was the only division unit to engage the enemy during the day, when it reduced a pocket of enemy vicinity G 505335, after a brisk firefight, took 35 PWs. Enemy stragglers were picked up throughout the period. Two enemy aircraft were over the sector at approximately 1630 hrs, but committed no unfriendly acts. Two other unidentified aircraft were over the sector between 2200 and 2300.
 - b. Other fronts: Third U.S. Army sector: Late reports placed advanced northern units of XII Corps at LAUTERBACH (H 1728), ULRICHSTEIN (H 030205), and GRÜNBURG (G 8622). In the eastern part of XII Corps, M 8757-G 9307-H 1028-G 8223 were reached. Line also ran M 7680-H 4283-G 3410-G 6604-G 8937-G 747.
- 3rd Armd Div: Reached G 8184, G 7284, G 6475, G 7195, G 6271, G 6168, G 6661, G 7056. 101st Div continued to mop up behind the armor.
- 21st Army Group: Reached general line A 2058, A 2957, A 4061, A 4952, A 4249, A 4347, A 5013, A 4442, A 4332, A 2010, A 2506.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. WEATHER FORECAST: 30 Mar to 1 April - Scattered to broken low cloud becoming overcast late 30th and 31st becoming broken on the 1st. Base 2000-3000 feet lowering to 1000 feet late 30th and 31st. Visibility 1-2 miles becoming 3-5 miles during afternoons. Surface winds light to moderate, west south-west. Maximum temperature 58°, minimum 40°. Light to moderate intermittent rain 31st. Civil twilight: PM Mar 30, 1934; AM Mar 31, 0537.
- b. Total number of PWs processed during period: 327.
- c. CAPTURED DOCUMENT: The following captured document may throw some light on the question of whether the enemy in our sector has been routed or has withdrawn:

II Bn/Pzmt Arty. Regt #5
Office of S-1

CP 25 Mar 45

RESTRICTED
Declassified Auth: T&E
G SEP 1945

RESTRICTED

Declassified Auth: 748

6 SEP 1945

Subject: March Order
To: (See Distribution)

Departure of the batteries under the leadership of the Battery Commanders at 2400 hrs. Route of march: OETZINGEN-NIEDERRAHR-OBERRAHR-HEUDA-HERSCHEBOH-SALZ-DO-NDORF-FRICKHOFFEN-MUELBACH-HAUSEN (total 25 kms). On the vehicles only that personnel may be loaded which may be proven unable to talk, under the responsibility of the Battery Commanders. The batteries will assemble NW of HAUSEN on the road to TETRAUT (1 km NW of HAUSEN) in the woods on the left of the road. Billposting of the batteries in HAUSEN is forbidden. Telephone wires will be taken down on order.

Signed (unreadable)
Lt. and Adjutant.

- d. MILITARY INSTALLATION? P.I. found a huge installation, revetted around all buildings, criss-crossed with pipe lines and rail spurs, in woods vicinity G 4948. Extensive effort at camouflage has been made. Buildings are well segregated.
- g. MÜNSTERLAND: The plain of Northwest GERMANY, the so-called MÜNSTERLAND which is at present the scene of the advance of the 2nd British and 9th US Armies is bounded to the south by the coal region of the RUHR, to the north and east by the Teutoburger Forest. It is watered by the LIFFE and the EIS rivers, both of which have a slight current in contrast to the rivers further south and are not suitable as sources of power but are used instead for transportation. The MÜNSTERLAND belongs to WESTPHALIA entirely, and constitutes its western part. MÜNSTERLAND is chiefly a country of farms and as such is in great contrast to the WESTPHALIAN mining region of the RUHR. There is scarcely a square yard which is not cultivated. Fields, pastures, hedges, isolated comfortable farm houses where Westphalian ham is a specialty. Especially in the south the fertility is great; in the north on the Upper EIS river there are moors and heathlands on the southern flank of the Teutoburger Forest.

The chief city, MÜNSTER with 120,000 inhabitants is the site of the signing of the treaty of WESTPHALIA in 1648 which reduced GERMANY to the position of a second rate power for 200 years. Because of this fact, HITLER early avowed his intention of dictating the peace in this city. It had long been a center of great military activity, particularly with the Prcht Divs. PADERBORN, the other city in the region has 36,000 inhabitants. It is an extremely ancient city.

4. HEAVY CAPABILITIES.

No change.

R. H. H. H. H.
for JACK A. ROUSTON, Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S, G-2.

Incls: Annex #1, #2.

Dist: n/c

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

Declassified Auth: 748

6 SEP 1945



Annex A to G-2 Periodic Report #251, HQ 5th Front Div, dated 29 March 1945.

PI REPORT

1. The Enemy's Withdrawal:

- a. General: Remnants of at least 4 enemy divisions were observed to be withdrawing at top speed during the past 4 days of the breakthrough. These elements used almost exactly the same route which we have taken for our advance; road markers and PW statements indicated the towns of GIESSEN and MARBURG, all converging towards the latter town, during the last period. Since our capture of MARBURG, the city of KASSEL has been the focal point of the enemy's route to the east.

These remnants are those of the 272nd VG Div, 5th Front Div, 26th VG Div incorporated with the 18th Div. It is believed that the 5th Front Div can be considered the strongest unit of the four, with a total strength not exceeding 2000 officers and enlisted men. The 26th VG Div, under the command of the well-known Maj Gen KOKOFF who is known to be an intimate friend of HIMMLER, has a maximum strength according to a document, of about 550 men.

- b. Time Element: Enemy regimental and divisional Hq provided motor transportation for all staff officers down to the grade of captain. It is by no means to be assumed that these headquarters were aware of the location of the most forward US elements, but the very fact that these headquarters moved during the night as well as during the day, increased the distance between the retreating German staff and our own tank spearheads. The latter has clearly been noticed, since the time separating us from the German Hq and main body was approximately 18 hours, 2 days ago, and at the present time extends to 26 hours for the same units.

2. Intentions:

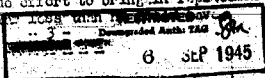
Interrogation of both officers and enlisted men PWs from the very beginning of this breakthrough up to the very latest captured by the armored spearhead during the afternoon of this period, shows two versions as to the intentions of the forces withdrawing in front of this Corps:

- a. One Version: Whatever is left of the enemy at the present time consists more of higher Hq, from regiments up to the command of the entire Western Front, also Army Group "B". Their route and destination has pointed towards KASSEL and from there on slightly SE into the province of THURINGEN (THURINGEN). In a few instances the towns of EISENACH, GOTHA, ERFURT and LEININGEN were mentioned in connection with distribution centers and strategic collecting points. The province of THURINGEN is mountainous and rugged and its highest terrain, the THURINGER Wald, forms a direct barrier, since it ranges from EISENACH SE to SCHNEBERG, thus confronting a US drive to the NE.

If these above-mentioned Hq can gain enough time to reach this area, they may simply incorporate the training centers or replacement battalions stationed in that vicinity and form some sort of a setup for the defense of this mountain chain.

- b. Other Version: The following description is based entirely on the ideas of PWs expressed since the REINGEN bridgehead up to the present moment.

It is evident that the Germans took some of their best units to the eastern front at the beginning of the great Russian advance in January, although our drive across the COLOGNE plain was imminent and anticipated. It is also evident that the general buildup of the units that crossed the REINGEN could have been much stronger, as this was definitely within the enemy's capabilities. To be sure, he made some effort to bring in replacements during the REINGEN bridgehead days, but



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Since to the Germans the greatest threat was in the east, developments on that front have caused them much more worry than those in the west. The enemy gambled; he intended to hold the west with his battered divisions, none of which have seen any rest in months, while against the Russians he has even committed their SS units. Another point which definitely helps us to understand the German action is the belief that the nation which has won the most German territory will later on administer and occupy the same region.

This leads to the final point. The Germans could have done more for the defense of the west than they did. It was only a thin layer of defensive installations at this front. Their gamble may very well have been that if this layer cracks in the west, the eastern front will be held so that the western Allies will take most of the territory and occupy it after the war.

In this event, the remnants of the German Hq may very well move east as far as they can, pushing the training centers and replacements units ahead of them, and forming some sort of a setup on their way to the east. PW interrogation has found that those schemes originating as they do in the heads and conversations of even German field grade officers, are very convincing to many of the men.

3. Intervention at KIRCHHEIM.

Although it was one of the capabilities, it was still a surprise when the Germans brought a unit down from DENMARK and dumped a sizeable part of it right into the path of our armor advancing in the direction of KASSEL.

- a. Identification: A firm identification is the 661st Inf Regt which was formed in DENMARK, consisting of 3 battalions. The latter have only 3 rifle companies each, and absolutely no heavy weapons, nor has any sign of arty been noticed by a considerable number of PWs from this unit. Unconfirmed reports disclose the presence of the 662nd Inf Regt as well. (Some PWs place both regiments under the 116th Inf Div, others say that they belong to the 166th Inf Div; sec. OB note). Each company is up to 200 men strong, and armed with carbines, 1 MG and Panzerfaust; there are no bazookas nor are there any AT guns.
- b. Mission: It is very clearly indicated that the mission of this unit was chosen within the last two days, since this force was composed in DENMARK about 18 days ago, at a time when there was no breakthrough east of the RHINE. PWs state that the nature of the entire buildup and transport of the unit was done without haste. The original orders for this unit were to detrain between KASSEL and KIRCHHEIM, and resume its training schedule until this organization was ready to be used as a combat division. However, when the troop transport arrived in KASSEL, the entire setup was changed and everything was moved into the town of KIRCHHEIM itself, where the men received orders to defend the roads leading N and NE. For this latter mission, only one battalion was used and the employment of the remaining two or five (if the 262nd Regt is also in the vicinity) remains within the enemy capabilities, of placing these battalions into similar situations on the way to KASSEL.
- c. A Coincidence: This is just what happened. The unit came down from DENMARK Army Group B moved N and then E into THURINGEN; and since the unit arrived in time, plans were changed so that this large infantry force could be placed in a position where it could prevent our armor pursuing the retreating Army Group B. Of course these men are inadequately equipped to stop an armored thrust; but they helped Army Group B to go about its plans, whether it is version one or the other version mentioned in the above report.

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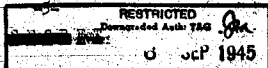
Annex #2 to G-2 Periodic Report #251, HQ 7th Inf Div, dated 29 March 1945.

ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES ON UNITS IN CONTACT

Today, the 7th Arm Div captured Pz from the 661st and 662nd Inf Regts. It is believed that these units form part of the 166th Inf Div which came from DENMARK and was committed between KASSEL and KIRCHHEIM. The supposition that these men belong to the 116th Inf Div is probably incorrect since that division has the 712th, 713th and 714th Regts and has been in action S of us for a long time.

Pz state that the 661st and 662nd Regts have 3 battalions each. Each battalion has 3 rifle companies and no hvy weapons at all. Nor was the division accompanied by any arty units. Companies average strength, approximately 200 men. Nothing is known to date regarding other divisional units. The men are mostly from northern GERMANY and of a type similar to the recently identified Battle Group DEBARK. But it seems that they have been given an extremely short period of training and their fighting efficiency may therefore fall short of that of their predecessors.

Soldbuch indicate that the replacement unit of the 661st Regt is 236th Repl and Trng Bn DEBARK. This battalion is reported to be under the 361st Trng Div.



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Declassified Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

SECRET
* AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
* INIT: 17/3/45 *
* DATE: 20/3/45 *

G-2-PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 282200 Mar 1945
TO: 362200 Mar 1945
Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic KIRCHVERS.
30 March 1945.

No. 252.
Map: GSGS 4416; 1/100,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy front lines: III Corps front lines: The Corps objective at the EDER-STAUSEE has been reached.

First Army: VII Corps - elements at B 7044, 3 miles south of PADERBORN; at (O 1836) TRINDELBURG; at (B 4129) ANROCHT. V Corps - Elements at (G 9781) BAD WILDUNGEN; ZWISTEN (H 0174); BORKEN (H 0874); ZIEGELHAIN (H 0658). III Corps - Elements at HEMFURTH (G 9287); WETZLAR (G 5418).

Third Army: Elements at BAD NAUHEIM (M 7196); FULDA (H 3718) 15 kms W of EISENACH (H 8268); ESCHNEGE (H 6391).

Seventh Army: Elements at HEIDELBERG (R 7090); MANNHEIM (R 5599).

Ninth Army: Elements at A 5137.

2nd British Army: Elements at COESFELD (A 6273),

SUDLOHN (4472).

b. Enemy units in contact: There was no contact with the enemy PW stragglers from the following units:

- 2nd, 3rd Cos, 15th Proct Regt, 5th Proct Div.
- 8th Btry, 126th Arty Regt, 26th Div.
- 3rd Co, 9th Div Repl Bn.
- 972nd AA Bn.
- 859th AA Bn.
- Hq, 12th Corps.
- 8th Co, 662nd Regt.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General: There was no contact by the division with the enemy. Elsewhere on the Corps front the enemy offered no resistance to the advance of armored elements to the EDERSTAUSEE, though a bridge across the EDER below the dam was blown shortly before we could seize it. The attitude of the civilians in the area of the lake and dam indicated that enemy units had passed to the north and east comparatively recently, in contrast to the situation on other sectors of the front where the enemy has been gone at least 48 hrs and the civilians are willing to talk. No hostile air activity was reported. No shellreps were submitted.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Low clouds with showers in the afternoon, visibility, poor. Maximum temperature 58°, minimum temperature 46°. Evening civil twilight Mar 31, 1935; morning civil twilight April 1, 0535.

b. Total number of Pts processed during the period: 280.

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6 SEP 1945

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6 SEP 1945

- c. ERFURT: A French PT of the ~~German~~ ~~army~~ recently escaped from a temporary camp near GREIFFEN stated that the inmates, 1200 in all were evacuated on foot to ERFURT in THURINGIA.
- d. LEHA: A PT from Corps Hq, 12th Corps stated that the Hq of the Army Group B-15 on its way to SCHWEINBERG near LEHA, 43 kms W of ERFURT.
- e. PRECISION INSTRUMENTS: Army directs that units over-running or capturing factories or other establishments containing precision instruments such as optical equipment, have the responsibility of making every effort to prevent destruction of any such equipment and of guarding it until relieved by the proper authorities.
- f. HESSE: First Army has penetrated deep into the province of HESSE-NASSAU and is rapidly approaching its capital, GASSEL. The region, comprising 17,000 square kilometers, has a population of about 2 1/2 million and represents a major loss to the Reich. Regions of knobby, wooded hills, such as the RHOEN and VOGELSBERG, surround its irregular shallow basins, and three large rivers, the MERRA, the FULDA, and the LIMB, run generally N-S across the province. The valley of the FULDA has long been a leading channel for travel between N and S GERMANY. This river joins with the MERRA NE of GASSEL to form the WESER, one of the Big Five of GERMANY's rivers. The valley of the LIMB is now familiar to us. Its picturesque towns do not have adequate resources to progress in the industrial age and hence retain much of their medieval character. The province may be roughly divided into three parts: First, the peer, rugged, largely undeveloped highlands of the THURINS, and the WESTER ULD; secondly, the agricultural regions of the river valleys; and thirdly, the industrial area centered around GASSEL and based on rich deposits of lignite in the NE part of the province. Its location between the markedly different N and S GERMANY has made the province the scene of religious and political strife through centuries. The area was particularly impoverished during the 30 Years War.

4. TREASURY CAPABILITIES.

No changes

John B. Jackson
to JACK A. HOUSTON, Major
Lt. Col., GSC,
AG of S; G-2.

Dist: g/c

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Downgraded Auth: TAG *Jan*

6 SEP 1945



SECRET *
AUTH: CG, 9th Inf Div *
DATE: 3/3/15 *

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Hq 9th Inf Div.
Vic SCHMIDTBAU.
31 March 1945.

No. 253.
Map: OSGS 4416, 1/100,000.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

- a. Enemy front lines: See bomb line P 5207 - G 5183 - G 4585 - G 4973 - G 4571 - G 3771.
- b. Enemy units in contact: A total of 64 stragglers were taken, chiefly from the 5th Front Div, 751st Regt, and miscellaneous GHQ units. None were taken in the course of combat.
- c. Enemy reserves capable of intervention: (See Estimate of the Situation attached).

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD.

a. General Division front - The 9th Arm was involved in a small arms fight S of SCHMIDTBAU, and from PW statement learned that two battalions of infantry with 9 SP guns in support were located to the E of LAASPEH at 446615. 25 PW were taken.

3rd Arm Div - Heavy fighting took place during the day in PADEBORN with elements of an SS training center in the vicinity.

1st Inf Div - Light resistance to advance beyond WAHLBACH (G 2240).

10th Inf Div - Main opposition from near FRANKENBERG, advancing in support of the 3rd Arm Div.

5th Inf Div - Embittered resistance was met at HERDORF (G 1542). Other towns cleared without difficulty.

7th Inf Div - Patrolling activity along and across the SIEG river.

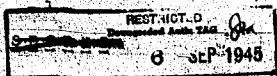
4th Cavalry Group - Patrolling activity during the period.

- b. Armor: For the first time in several days scattered contact with armored elements was reported. 3 SP guns in the H-IGER vicinity and others in the vicinity of LAASPEH.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. WEATHER FORECAST: Scattered low clouds, moderate visibility. Evening civil twilight April 1, 1945; morning civil twilight April 2, 0533.

- b. Total number of PW processed during the period: 64.



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Downgraded Auth TAG

6 Jul 1945

- c. AGENTS: The purpose of strict travel control by GIC is to hamstring enemy agents by preventing their circulation in their "target" areas.

Travel control is accomplished by: issuing uniform passes; by imposing hours of curfew; by limiting all travel to the minimum in keeping with efficient civil administration; by operating road blocks manned by GIC personnel and national gendarmes and placed at strategic locations; and by organizing roving patrols who check papers and arrest violators.

More than 50% of all enemy agents picked up in VI Corps area were first arrested for violating travel restrictions. Agents apprehended complained of the effectiveness of such travel restrictions in hindering them from accomplishing their missions of espionage, sabotage, and the like. (See Hq. XFO Combat Observation Report #68).

- d. NATIONAL REDOUBT: Much speculation on the enemy's possible intentions of retreating to the "National Redoubt", in the mountains of Southern Germany, in order to continue the war, has recently appeared. The following is condensed from Twelfth Army Group Weekly Intelligence Summary for week ending 20 March 1945:

The latest reports on the Redoubt area indicate that SS personnel, high Party and government officials have been entering the BODENSEE-VORARBERG area. Non-essential persons are being evacuated to STUTTGART, MUNICH, and AUGSBURG. HIMMLER on 1 March was reported to have made 15,000 freight cars available and placed top priority on shipment of military supplies to this area. Other reports deal with an influx of foreign workers to work on underground depots and fortifications, HITLER is reported to head the activities, and his most successful commanders, GUDERIAN, MODER, and KESSELING to be in line for command assignments under him here. The wives of HITLER and GOERLING are said to be in the area, and Dr LITZ, Labor Director, is reported to have a chateau on the CHIEMSEE.

The Gestapo's archives have been transferred to a castle and the Party archives, to a monastery in the district field fortifications are reported in progress at KEMPTEN, MEININGEN, and east of the ILER river. A fortified zone is reported from KLIPPENBURG to SCHNELLBACH to ST. POLTEN, and another along the ELBE river from ROSENHEIM to HUFSTEIN. Various other reports have been received on locations of many camps, depots, barracks, and weapons, especially artillery.

The precise area of the Redoubt is of course not known; locations such as ones given above indicate that it occupies the ALPS of Upper Austria, SALZBURG, BAVARIA and the TYROL, with a possible extension into SWITZERLAND, and at all times maintaining contact with the outside world by bordering on SWITZERLAND.

- e. WINTERFELD ROUTE: Civilians in the town of HATZFELD (5766) report that large motorized convoys passed through LAUSEE, to TIMMERBERG three days ago. The convoy consisted of tractor-drawn guns and equipment, tanks, assault guns and half tracks.

This would indicate that TIMMERBERG is the accepted route to the east from this region, and that the enemy may be expected to investigate the further possibility of using the road.

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6 Jul 1945

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6 SEP 1945

f. CASSIL, an administrative and industrial center of 190,000 population, lies on both sides of the FULDA river. Its location has made it an outstanding target for air attack as a center of N-S communication, and as a key point on the main rail lines from industrial ESTPHALIA toward FRAKONIA, SAXONY, and Lower THURINGIA. Lignite pits near the city have contributed to the development of important manufacturing industries in the II and III sections of the city. Manufacture of motors and railway equipment are important. The city's cultural significance is attested to by a large number of specialized schools, libraries, and excellent museums.

As in most European cities, there is a central region which represents the oldest part, and whose winding streets are more picturesque than convenient. Wide, important avenues have been more recently built in the III section. The HADICHTER woods on the heights of the city is one of the many parks which have made CASSIL known as a garden spot. Retreating romances from this sector have been moving toward the city and may participate in its defense. Of especial importance among the city's factories are two aircraft manufacturing plants, one of which is the Henschel plant, where Royal Tiger tanks have also been reported in production. A huge assortment of smaller industries was also located here, but the area has been reported heavily damaged by repeated bombardments.

CASSIL, which is located in Wehrkreis IX, is the home of the following units, some of which may be employed in the defense of the area:

- 409th Div
- 5th Inf Reinforcement Regt (?)
- 9th Motor Park Reinforcement Bn
- 501st Pz Workshop Co.

NOTE: To date, very few similar units have appeared in the defense of their home stations, most of the units of this type have long since been used as reinforcements, or as independent fighting units or under an old regimental staff of an existing division.

WILHELMSTUHL, a castle outside of CASSIL was the scene in 1870-1871 of the internment of NAPOLEON III after his defeat at SEDAN; and it was a favorite summer home of the last German Kaiser.

4. BRUNNEN-CAPPELLEREN.

Soc G-2 Estimate of Situation attached).

Joseph H. Ferguson
for JACK A. HOUSTON, 2nd Lt.
Lt. Col., GSG,
AC of S, G-2.

Incl. Estimate of Situation.

Dist: VII Corps	60th Inf	QB
V Corps	9th Div Arty	PI
III Corps	698th AD Bn	G-5
1st Inf Div	140th Tk Bn	AG
8th Inf Div	15th Engr Bn	CG
70th Inf Div	9th Recon Tp	Asst CG
104th Inf Div	9th Med Bn	C/S
3rd Armd Div	7th Cgo	G-3
4th Cav Sp	PI	Air O
39th Inf	ONG	File
47th Inf	XXI	History

RESTRICTED
Downgraded Auth: TAG
6 SEP 1945

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION

ROOM NB-920 PENTAGON

AGO MICROFILM

ITEM NO. 3052

Handwritten notes on the right margin:
N. 165 2nd 2
A 12 8th - 9th Div
Duty
Mar 70

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO 9 U.S. Army.

SECRET
By Authority of
18004 Gen. 9th Inf. Div.
Date *24 Dec 45*
Initials *[Signature]*

31 MARCH 1945

SUBJECT: After Action Report for the Month of March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
(Thru Channels)

1. In compliance with Par 10 (G4), AR 345-105, this Report of Operations of the 9th Infantry Division Artillery for the period 1 March thru 31 March 1945 is submitted.

2. During the period covered by this report the 9th Infantry Division Artillery, Commanded by Brigadier General **HERB N. POWELL** was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, Commanded by Major General **LOUIS A. GRAIG**. The 9th Infantry Division was assigned to III Corps, 17 February to 31000 March 1945; commanded by Major General **MILLIKIN**, who was relieved by Major General **VAN FLENN**. At 0800 hours was assigned as temporarily attached to the VII Corps, commanded by Major General **J. LAWTON COLLINS**, who were in turn assigned to FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY, commanded by Lieutenant General **COURTNEY H. HODGES**.

3. During this period the following units, for the dates shown, were attached to this unit:

- (1) 987th FA Bn. "B" Btry. (155 Gun SF) 18 February to 8 March 1945.
- (2) 254th FA Bn. (155 How) 18 February to 31 March 1945
- (3) 400th FA Bn. (105 How SF) 14 March to 23 March 1945.
- (4) 2nd Platoon Btry "G" 226th AAA (SL) Bn. 15 March to 20 March 1945.
- (5) 16th FA Bn. (105 How SF) 9 March to 21 March 1945.
- (6) 489th FA Bn. (105 How) (SF) 7 March to 8 March 1945
- (7) 376th AAA (AW) Bn. Permanent attachment.

3. Report of Operations. (attached)

4. Annexes:

- a. Annex No. 1, 2-2, 2-3 Journal (attached)
- b. Annex No. 2, 2-2 Reports 9th Div. Arty.
- c. Annex No. 3, Overlays.

For the Commanding General:

CLASSIFICATION
CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
W. A. Lucas, Capt #60
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE *6 June 46*

WILLIAM A. LUCAS,
1st. Col., 9th Div. Arty.,
2-3.

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1 March -

The Division pushed ahead against spotty resistance which at times became very determined and stiff. Self-propelled weapons were encountered in and near the towns which gave considerable trouble to our armored units, particularly at FROITZHEIM and GINNICH. By nightfall all of our objectives had been taken. The constant maneuver of our units out-flanked the enemy at his strongpoints and they fell one by one.

At the beginning of the period the Division held the line generally 500 yards east of the road through ERM, ERM and ERM. The 39th Infantry moved east and north towards FROITZHEIM and GINNICH. During the morning and afternoon the resistance at FROITZHEIM was very heavy. The enemy had AF guns in number and strongly entrenched Infantry which finally gave way at 1400 hours. GINNICH proved to be strongly held and did not fall until 1600 hours. Immediately after dark the 39th Infantry pushed further to the east and secured the high ground east and north of GINNICH and FROITZHEIM; Hills 171 (KEMPELHOF) and 183. The 1st Bn. was then motorized and swung around to the north, occupying the town of MUDERSHEIM, DISTERNICH and SIEVERNICH which had been passed through by the 9th Armored Division, and mopping up as they advanced east beyond the NEFFEL River.

The 2nd Bn. 60th Infantry jumped off from ERM at 0900 hours against moderate resistance which increased as they approached MULDENAU. The 3rd Bn pushed southeast toward WOLLERSHEIM protecting the right flank of the Division. Enemy armored elements defended determinedly and prevented our forces from getting into WOLLERSHEIM. The 2nd Bn. got a toehold in the village of MULDENAU and remained there at dark, preparing to jump off again early the next morning for ERMEN and JUNTERSDORF.

The 47th Infantry remained in reserve but moved into assembly area between FROITZHEIM and VETTERHEIS after dark preparing to jump off at 0530 2 March to the towns of FUSSENICH, GRICH and ZULFICH respectively.

The Division Artillery continued to support the attack with close support missions, and placed heavy concentrations on the strong-points encountered. These were generally the towns of FROITZHEIM, GINNICH, WOLLERSHEIM and ERMEN. By nightfall all of the artillery units had crossed the ROER River and were in positions to support the rapid advance of the Division.

The Division Artillery CP moved to LEVERSBACH (1040-3595) and began operations at 1400 hours at which time the rear CP moved forward. 60th FA Bn. displaced at dawn to new positions at 123-334; 34th FA Bn. displaced to 124-322 at 1030 hours. At 1300 hours the 234th FA Bn. displaced to 133-340, and the 907th FA Bn. (less A & C Btrys) displaced to 106-342. 84th FA Bn. displaced to 140-335 at 1630 hours. At 1600 hours the 26th FA Bn. displaced its CP "B" & "C" Btrys to new locations in the 1st Division sector to support the 39th Infantry. Location: 170-376. Displacement was by Battery and communications were maintained to all units throughout the displacement. Maximum fire power was retained and all missions were thoroughly covered.

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Missions of the Artillery with the Division were as follows: 26th, 60th FA Bns, 80F. Upon arrival in new positions 254th FA Bn. direct support of the 26th FA Bn. 34th FA Bn. upon arrival in new positions in direct support of 60th FA Bn., and upon arrival in new positions of the 84th FA Bn. reinforcing the fires of the 84th FA Bn. 84th FA Bn. upon arrival in new positions direct support of the 47th Infantry. 987th FA Bn. (less "A" and "G" Btrys) general support.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 22; Unobserved Missions 92. Total rounds expended 3248.

2 March -

During the period the attack of the Division was continued. Resistance varied from light to moderate.

The 39th Infantry met light resistance in entering the town of GIMNICH. The 1st Bn. 39th Infantry relieved elements of the 9th Armored Division in the towns of MUDNESHKIN, DISTERNICH and SIEVERNICH after moving through the 1st Division sector; relief accomplished by 1950. As a result of operations the towns of FROITANKIN and GIMNICH were cleared; 3 tanks knocked out, and 2 probables; 117 POW taken and overrun the CP of the 8th Regt. 3rd Div.

The 60th Infantry jumped off at about 0320 reporting no resistance. The town of BICHEN was entered with little resistance being encountered. Companies "E" and "G" moved on and entered the town of JUNKERSDORF without opposition. Road blocks were immediately set up and mined.

The 47th Infantry jumped off to continue the attack on or about 0325, slight resistance reported initially. Companies "E" and "F" were held up soon after jump-off by small arms fire coming from trench system at 228-338. 3rd Bn. was reported in the town of FUSSENICH while 2nd Bn. mopped up in GIMICH. 1st Bn. was pushing on to ROVENICH where they were to be relieved by the 2nd Bn. 47th Infantry moved on to the vicinity of BRESENICH and entered the town with no opposition.

The 39th Infantry 2nd Bn. assembled in FROITANKIN and prepared to continue the attack. 39th (less 1 Bn.) moved out at 0830 in support of the 9th Armored Division 1st Bn. 39th Infantry pushed off at 0930 to seize BRENNIK d' KRENN. 2nd and 3rd Bns. pushed off to seize FRIEDRIKH HEIDERRICH and WEGHTERICH. The town of WELKER AUF d' KRENN was taken with little or no resistance.

The Division Artillery continued in its normal support missions - assisted by Air OP. A TOR was fired at 0955 on orders of Heiny 5. Location of impact area ZULFICH.

60th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 124-329; 84th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 243-373. 987th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 224-378. 26th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 279-410. There were no changes in missions of the artillery with the Division.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 20; Unobserved Missions 89. Total rounds expended 3240.

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3 March -

During the period 0115-0130, the enemy continued the attack, moving along and meeting light to moderate resistance.

The 39th Infantry sent a patrol to inspect bridge at 314-381; bridge appeared to be in good shape. "F" and "E" Cos were reported in eastern part of MULHEIM. 1st Bn. cleared HEIDERBERG taking approximately 40 POW. "A" Co. continued to push on and entered LOMMERSUM, and continued to push on to final objective. Air support was called for in support of elements in LOMMERSUM. The counter-attack died out at 1330 although SF fire fell on 2nd Bn. coming from FRAUENBERG. Plans for the 39th and CGS (who was attached to the Division) to take the town of DERKUM. At patrol was sent to 342-350, reported bridge suitable for motor traffic; also one footbridge. 1st Bn. was pinned down each time an effort was made to cross the ERFF canal, flares were expended in great numbers by the enemy in order to observe activities of "B" Co which was reported right against the canal.

The 47th Infantry advanced in ELVENICH while units of 1st Bn. remained in BESSENICH. "K" Co. cleaned up in ELVENICH while "I" Co moved on to OBRELVICH, meeting some resistance. 2nd Bn. entered the town of OBRE WICHTERICH, meeting stiff resistance. Town of WICHTERICH was cleared at 2000 hrs. 2nd Bn. was to continue the attack at 0015 to seize FRAUENBERG.

60th Infantry moved to LB at 0350. 3rd Bn. moved to town of ZULFICH meeting no resistance. Roads blocks were established and manned. "K" Co. was attached to 9th Recon Troop. 60th CT attached to 9th Armored Div. effective 032400A March 1945.

The Division Artillery continued in its normal support missions. The 60th FA Bn. was attached to 9th Armored Division effective 032400A March. Air OP continued to observe. 254th FA Bn. displaced to new locations vicinity of 252-401. 84th FA Bn. displaced to new locations vicinity of 290-382. Missions of artillery units with the Division remained the same.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 45; Unobserved Missions 103. Total rounds expended 4286.

4 March -

The only enemy activity of any note today was against the 1st Bn. 39th Infantry. Heavy small arms and moderate to heavy mortar and artillery fire opposed these troops in their advance across the ERFF Canal. The resistance lessened during the afternoon and the towns of HAUSWEILER and DERKUM were cleared of the enemy. Higher headquarters ordered no artillery fire should fall on BOMH except at specific military targets.

39th Infantry succeeded in getting elements across the ERFF at 0115; after getting across the canal barbed wire was encountered causing great difficulty. 2 bridges were reported out, while the one over the main stream was reported in. Later information proved first bridge in and second out. Towns of DERKUM and OTTENHEIM were reported clear of enemy at 1500 hours. Town of HANSMULLER was seized and cleared by 1735.

47th Infantry reported having taken town of FROGENBERG. A counter-attack was directed against the 47th Infantry at 1500 as a result of movement by the 60th Infantry - it was beaten off. 9th Armored Division passed through the 47th Infantry at 1500. 2nd Bn. relieved the 3rd Bn.

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in OBERELVENICH and FIEDERLEVENICH. 47th Infantry was ordered to move to bridge site in order to assist 39th.

60th Infantry cleared the towns of HORNBIENICH and set up road blocks, still attached to 9th Armored who were supposed to seize EUSKIRCHEN.

The Division Artillery continued in its normal support mission. The 60th FA Bn. reported its new location in the vicinity of 2873-3456. 254th FA Bn. displaced to new locations vicinity of 313-378.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 28; Unobserved Missions 94. Total rounds expended 2846.

5 March -

The 47th Infantry in SCHWARZMAAR was counter-attacked twice today. The first time by an estimated 200 Infantry and 8 tanks; the second time by an estimated 200 Infantry and 15 tanks. Both attacks were repulsed by combined infantry and artillery, and driven back into MUGGENHAUSEN whence they had begun. The 39th Infantry proceeded toward STRASSFELD receiving fire from direct laying assault, AT and AA guns.

39th Infantry was across the river and started fanning out dropping outposts as they went - this was at 0530. Some small arms and SP fire from enemy at 370-340; smoke and artillery was placed on dug-in position. A "ZOMBIE" was placed on SCHREPPENHEIM to halt artillery fire from there. Progress was slow during this period due to SP fire. "K" Co. assaulted the town of SCHREPPENHEIM at 1955. 39th was given the mission of going on and seizing STRASSFELD during the night. STRASSFELD was entered with no difficulty at 2330.

47th Infantry 1st Bn. jumped off at 0010. The demonstration planned had some effect as enemy artillery fell, also, flares and mortars. 1st Bn. was across first and met little resistance - it stiffened later on. "K" and "I" Cos. were reported in VERNICH at 0445. "I" and "G" Cos. were counter-attacked at 0950 - 3 tank and undetermined number of infantry. At 1125 the counter-attack was quieted down. Another counterattack was launched by the enemy at 1520 - directed from the town of MUGGENHAUSEN - it was repelled by 1600. By 1805 the town of SCHWARZMAAR had been cleared out. MUGGENHAUSEN cleared by 3rd Bn. at 2220.

2nd Bn. 60th Infantry closed in assembly area prior to noon. Plan of maneuver called for the 2nd Bn. 60th Inf to pass through the 39th Infantry at daylight using 39th forward line as LD. 1st Bn. 60th moved into 2nd Bn. area at LOMMERSUM.

The Division Artillery continued in direct support of the Regiments. In addition, TOT's were fired on call. Air OP continued surveillance and directed fire on targets of opportunity.

The 60th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 344-356. 26th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 344-349. 254th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 360-387. 34th FA Bn. displaced to new locations at 361-378. 34th FA Bn. moved to new location vicinity of 349-355. Missions of artillery with the Division remained the same.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 32; Unobserved Missions 80. Total rounds expended 2498.

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6 March -

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During this period the progress was steady the main opposition being SP and AT gun fire.

3rd Bn. 39th Infantry cleaned out STRASSFELD as the 2nd Bn. continued the attack - were continually delayed by mines. The objective of OLLHEIM was cleared out at 1555.

At 1010 III Corps stated our boundary started at 495-295 VILLFERRAT (inclusive) then to PEOH (inclusive). We were to make our main effort on BAD GODESBERG - not to close in on BOMM until Corps ordered.

2nd Bn. 47th Infantry started attack at 0120 - progress was slow at start although opposition was light. 2nd Bn. entered HEIMERSHEIM at 0650. 3rd Bn. moved down to them.

"F" and "G" Co. 60th Infantry moved out in attack and were 150 yards short of objective at 0801. 60th took over control of sector - relieving the 39th at 0700. "F" and "G" Cos. 60th Infantry entered the town of DUNSTROVEN at 0920 - they received some mortar fire. 1st Bn. controlled HUSHOVEN by 1810.

The Division Artillery continued in support role, in addition TOT's were fired as scheduled. The Air OP continued to observe and fire on targets of opportunity.

The 987th FA Bn. moved to vicinity of 415-330. 60th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 429-341. 254th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 410-377. 84th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 415-368. Missions of artillery units with the Division remained the same.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 15; Unobserved Missions 88. Total rounds expended 2661.

7 March -

The Division continued the attack during this period. Progress was made although the opposition seemed to increase.

The 39th Infantry had Co. "C" 90th Cal. Mortar Bn. (less 1 platoon) attached to them as of 1400A. All battalions continued to advance slowly continually sending forth patrols.

"C" Co. 47th Infantry stated that they would see the RHINE. All battalions made good progress, constantly sending out patrols. 3rd Bn. put on demonstration at 1635. 16th Infantry (1st Div.) took over from 3rd Bn. 47th Infantry at approximately 1900.

60th Infantry reported long range artillery fire fell on them at 2155A. "I" Co. cleared the town of ROTTEGER. The bridges at 531-327 were reported intact.

The Division Artillery continued in normal support missions. TOT's were fired on call, and the Air OP continued to observe when weather permitted. Fired on targets of opportunity.

The 26th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 412-337. The 84th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 421-370. The 34th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 463-365. 60th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 484-319. 254th FA Bn. moved to new positions vicinity of 466-322. Missions of artillery with the Division remained the same.

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Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 9; Unobserved Missions 51. Total rounds expended 1236.

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8 March -

The Division continued the advance during the period and gains were made. Heberwerfer fire was encountered in early part of the period. The 47th Infantry was sent across the RHINE into bridgehead area established by the 9th Armored Division.

39th Infantry 2nd Bn. jumped off at 0455 - opposition was slight. Sniper fire was heavy on "C" Co at 0507-020. During the late morning hours enemy resistance stiffened and Heberwerfer fire was encountered. 39th CF attached to 7th Armored Division at 1840 hours.

47th Infantry was motorized in order to move south with news of the capture of the bridge in vicinity of REMAGEN by the 9th Armored Division. 1st Bn. cleared area at 0745 - in trucks. After crossing into bridgehead area, 2nd Bn. was met with small arm fire at 658-227. 1st Bn. landed elements at 652-217.

60th Infantry was attached to 7th Armored Division at 1840 hours. All units continued to move forward - securing objectives as planned. Long range fire was received during the afternoon and evening but advance was steady. "L" Co secured prison camp at 514-340.

The 9th Division Artillery continued in normal support throughout the period. COA of the 7th Armored Division and the 489th FA Bn. were attached effective 2000A 7 March 1945. 987th FA Bn. detached as of 0600 and departed at 0900A to be attached to 408th FA Group. 254th FA Bn. displaced to new locations vicinity of 466-321. 26th FA Bn. reported in new locations vicinity of 549-275. 60th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 478-321. Division Artillery CP moved from the vicinity of NIEL to new CP location vicinity of HEPFENGM at 2200A.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 33; Unobserved Missions 237. Total rounds expended 3249.

9 March -

The Division operated in the beachhead during the period. Increased reaction to the forces across the RHINE was encountered. Heavy harassing of bridge and adjacent towns continued, and in addition considerable artillery fire fell on forward elements. Attempts by the enemy to infiltrate were encountered all along the line.

Heavy tanks operating separately were reported continually from all sectors. A PW from the 11th Pz Div stated that the entire Division was in this sector and would attack.

At 091030A March Division CP opened vicinity of HEPFK (647-206) with following units attached or reattached: 47th CF; 1st Bn 60th CF; 1st Bn. 310 Inf; 311th Inf; CGS 9th Armored Division consisting of 27th Armored Infantry; 32nd Armored Infantry; 14th Tank Bn.; 16th FA Bn.; 400th FA Bn.; Co "C" 89th Cavalry Recon Sqdr.; Co "B" 9th Eng. Bn. and "B" Btry 482nd AAA Bn.

47th Infantry "K" Co reached objectives "K" and received 2 counterattacks of infantry and tanks. Small arms and artillery fire continued on all units during the period. The condition of all units remained in a state of unrest and semi-disorganization due to heavy fire and frequent contact with the enemy forces.

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2nd Bn. 309th Infantry reported east of BRINE at 1235 hours. At 1355 hours 1st Bn. moved into the line. 2nd and 3rd Bns moved into the line and attacked at 2300 hours.

311th Infantry "B" and "C" Cos holding line 636-273 - 642-271. Flak fire being placed on them. "I" Co. attempting to clear out SOBUREN to allow armor to reach "K" and "L" Cos.

60th Infantry 3rd Bn. closed in LINE at 1515A - they were receiving small arms, mortars, and encountering a few mines. At 1705A 2nd Bn reached assembly point. 1 Platoon of 90th Cml. Mortar Bn. was detached from the 60th and placed with the 49th Infantry. 1st Bn. was held up by fire from buildings at 632-199. During the night the 3rd Bn. was to attack and seize objective.

The Division Artillery continued in normal support of Regiments in the bridgehead. New Division Artillery GP opened in vicinity of HEPFINGEN at 0500A. 254th FA Bn. reported in new locations vicinity of 581-218. 26th FA Bn. reported in new locations vicinity of 612-186.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 48; Unobserved Missions 126. Total rounds expended 3399.

10 March -

The front lines in the Division sector were changed very little at the end of the period despite heavy and constant fighting.

The 3rd Bn. 47th Infantry was encountered attacked about 0700 by an unknown number of enemy infantry supported by 2 King Tiger tanks and 5 tanks of another type. Cos. "L" and "K" were forced to withdraw about 800 yards before the fury of the attack and constant pressure was maintained against their front by the enemy, until approximately 1100A. The 3rd Bn. 310th Inf. in assembly vicinity of 680-185 were attached to the 47th Infantry in an effort to afford them some relief. The 52nd Armored Infantry and 2nd Bn. 310th Inf. began attack about 1100 designed to relieve the pressure against the 3rd Bn. 47th Infantry. There was a slackening in the intensity of the assault against the 3rd Bn. about 1100 at which time the 2nd Bn. began to receive the brunt of enemy activity. The Division Artillery and attached artillery were firing constantly on the Division front placing heavy concentrations on all points requested. seldom was there less than 8 Batteries of artillery firing on any target reported and ammunition was unlimited. The enemy maintained his strong attacks all along the Division front, and all Infantry units on the front were in a state of constant alert waiting to see where the next attempt would be. The attacks today were not the usual probing and harassing attack which has characterized the actions of the enemy for the past several days, but each constituted a real threat. In all cases these attacks were supported by armor and in most cases by massed artillery fire the like of which has not been encountered for some time by this Division.

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There were reports of armor movement along the entire Division front but as visibility was very poor and flying impossible, the Air OP's were unable to operate to assist, and numerous requests for fighter bombers went unanswered. The situation was kept under control due to the large amount of artillery made available to the Division, there being at one time 12 Battalions of artillery firing on the front of the 3rd Bn. 47th Inf. alone.

There was constant harassing and interdiction fire on the railway bridge at ERMAGEN, which was in some cases believed to be observed, and numerous hits were scored on the bridge. The fire was from a 170mm gun firing from the northeast and from a suspected light battery firing from the east. The bridge despite the damage inflicted upon it is still able to carry our heaviest loads.

The Division Engineers in an attempt to place a pontoon bridge across the river near the ER bridge were time after time driven away by heavy fire on the bridge site.

1 SP gun of the 987th FA Bn. was sent to the 60th Inf. on the east side of the RHINE River to assist them in reducing strong-points.

There have been attempts throughout the day to bomb the ER bridge, so far without success.

There were no changes in dispositions or missions of artillery with the Division.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 10; Unobserved Missions 152. Total rounds expended 4509.

11 March - The Division continued to expand the bridgehead against very stiff opposition, especially in the northern part of the sector where the enemy attacked with infantry and tanks supported by SP guns. We made appreciable gains against weak resistance in the southern part of the sector.

Division Artillery continued to support the attack from the west bank of the RHINE; the 34th FA Bn. in general support, the 26th FA Bn., 60th FA Bn., 84th FA Bn. in support of their respective regiments, namely the 39th, 60th and 47th Infantry Regiments.

The 84th FA Bn. completed crossing the RHINE by 1500 under fire with several casualties, and were the first Field Artillery Battalion to cross the river.

The 26th FA Bn. captured a German S/Sgt observer with radio, hiding in a haystack in their "B" Btry position area.

Missions fired by the Artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 6; Unobserved Missions 119. Total rounds expended 3929.

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12 March -

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The Infantry continued to advance along the front against stiff resistance ranging from light to heavy. Enemy artillery was directed primarily against our forward elements with the heaviest concentration of 100 rounds reported by the 47th Infantry. Some heavy artillery fell in the vicinity of the bridge.

There were no changes in our artillery positions or support missions.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 10; Unobserved Missions 131. Total rounds expended 4419.

13 March -

The 60th and 393rd Inf. Regts. were counter-attacked by tanks and infantry today. At least 6 enemy tanks were knocked out after a stiff fight all day. In spite of this counter-attack the 2nd Bn 60th Infantry captured its objective, the town of ST. KATHARINEN. The 47th and 39th Infantry continued to advance in the face of strong resistance and SP fire. The bridge received very light artillery fire, the lightest since the bridge was established.

The 39th Infantry and 26th FA Bn. were relieved from attachment to the 7th Armored Division, and reattached to the 9th Division as of 131000A March 1945. 26th FA Bn. CP located at 672-200. The 34th FA Bn. continued in its general support mission and moved its CP to 6695-1998. The 60th and 84th FA Bns. continued their support from the same positions. Division Artillery fired a SERENADE on the town of MORSEHID at 1815 hrs.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 27; Unobserved Missions 176. Total rounds expended 3741.

14 March -

There was an increase of enemy artillery activity on the forward elements coming from 2 or more guns. Several battery and battalion concentrations were reported from light caliber guns predominantly. At least 400 rounds of artillery fell in the Division sector. One report of a Nebelwerfer was received. For the second consecutive day there was little or no shelling in the vicinity of the bridge and ferries. Our Infantry advanced slowly.

The 26th and 60th FA Bns. reported no change in position or missions. The 34th FA Bn. was in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 60th FA Bn. The 34th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity 6692-240. The 84th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 663-220 and continued in its mission of direct support of the 47th Infantry.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 32; Unobserved Missions 237. Total rounds expended 8261.

15 March -

Stiff resistance and a serious counter-attack retarded our troops. The enemy counter-attacked and used 6 M4 tanks against the 60th Infantry this morning; the attack was repulsed after heavy fighting. The 39th and 47th Infantry Regts repulsed several minor counterattacks in the evening. On the whole progress for the day was fairly good with several objectives being taken.

Counter-battery fire was placed on one Nebelwerfer and 22 enemy gun locations in front of the Division sector.

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There were no changes in missions or dispositions of any of the artillery with the Division.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 39; Unobserved Missions 214. Total rounds expended 8114.

16 March - The enemy artillery activity greatly decreased over the entire Division front as only light caliber fire was reported. Our Infantry made good progress.

The 26th FA Bn. in position at 672-200 in direct support of the 39th Infantry, reverted from attachment to the 78th Division at 0950 hours. The 34th FA Bn. in direct support of the 60th FA Bn. was in position in vicinity of 682-192. The 84th FA Bn. in position vicinity of 679-212. The 254th FA Bn. was placed in direct support of the 84th FA Bn. reinforcing the fires of the 84th FA Bn. A means to encode time was used for the first time today, similar to our PO system, it is called NOISY Time + or -.

The Division Artillery OP moved to the town of HEISTER (679-212) on the east bank of the RHINE River.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 62; Unobserved Missions 161. Total rounds expended 7575.

17 March - Our Infantry continued to advance in the face of increased resistance and enemy artillery activity covering the whole Division front, and coming from the KH and H. The KALENBORN area was hardest hit with one concentration of 50 rounds. Our Air OP's adjusted on 2 SP's claiming probables on both.

The 39th Infantry used searchlights to advantage, these lights will be available to the 60th Infantry on call. The bridge across the RHINE at REMAGEN collapsed from its own weight at 1905A.

There were no changes in missions or dispositions of any of the artillery with the Division.

The 26th FA Bn. knocked out 2 enemy tanks at 0600A and set 2 more on fire. The 34th FA Bn. claimed 4 tanks or SP's during the day.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 40; Unobserved Missions 165. Total rounds expended 6553.

18 March - The Infantry continued its advance today against the same stiff opposition of tanks and infantry. 390 POW were taken during the day.

The 26th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 697-235. The 2 attached field artillery battalions the 254th FA Bn. (135 Reg) and the 400th FA Bn. (105 Reg) (SP) moved to vicinity of 678-211 and 703-235 respectively. There were no changes in missions or dispositions of the organic Field Artillery Battalions of the Division.

The 254th FA Bn. reported 2 direct hits on enemy tanks.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 40; Unobserved Missions 201. Total rounds expended 8177.

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19 March - The Infantry advanced generally along the front. Enemy artillery again slackened off during the period. The 60th Infantry felt the greatest volume of fire in their sector. One heavy concentration fell in the DUNKLEBOHN area at 2000 hours. 2 Nebelwerfers were fired on in the Division zone at 7744-3120. The Air OP² reported numerous targets that were taken under fire with good effect being reported.

The 26th FA Bn. displaced to new location vicinity of 690-236. There were no other changes in missions or dispositions of other artillery of or with the Division.

The 254th FA Bn. reported 2 direct hits on tanks which burned.

The Division Artillery Air strip was located in vicinity of 651-222.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed missions 69; Unobserved Missions 89. Total rounds expended 4412.

20 March - Our troops gained their objectives during the night and early morning. The daylight hours were spent consolidating their positions.

Our artillery observers were very active today and fired a large number of observed missions with excellent effect on enemy build-ups and Infantry near the town of ASBACH. An enemy artillery battery was caught on the road and adjusted upon with excellent effect reported.

Enemy artillery fire was of an harassing and interdictory nature. The only concentration of any size fell in the HAHN area at 1800 hours and was reported as approximately 30 rounds. The 47th Infantry reported and SP gun was set on fire at 7600-2595.

The 254th FA Bn. displaced to new positions vicinity of 717-249. 2nd Platoon Btry "C" 226th BAA (SL) Bn. released from Division control on 201700A March 1945.

The 9th Amered Div. Arty. relieved from direct support of 9th Division Artillery on 062100A March 1945.

9th Division Artillery OP located in vicinity of 699-249. There were no changes in dispositions or missions of the artillery with the Division.

34th FA Bn. reported 2 tanks positively destroyed.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows:
Observed Missions 44; Unobserved Missions 52. Total rounds expended 2511.

21 March - Our Infantry advanced but all gains were of a small nature. All observation continued good today; there was little activity reported in front of this Division Sector. There was little enemy movement reported and only a few scattered small enemy groups were fired upon.

An enemy build-up of armor was reported at about 1100A in the general area at 820-285 by one of our Tnc/E planes. The plane called for bombers that seem appeared destroying a good percentage of the enemy armor and forced the rest to draw back beyond the OO - H-S line.

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There were no changes in dispositions or locations of the artillery units with the Division. The 254th FA Bn. reported 4 direct hits on an enemy tank. The 34th FA Bn. reported 1 gun in Ordnance for repair following a near miss by a bomb dropped by an enemy plane which caused several casualties. The 26th FA Bn. broke up what was supposed to be a small counter-attack by quick and accurate fire at the request of "I" Co of the 39th Infantry.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 35; Unobserved Missions 98. Total rounds expended 1943.

22 March 1945

There were small gains by the Infantry against considerable enemy resistance. A number of enemy POW were taken. A significant fact being that many of the POW had only arrived in this area 1 to 2 days previous. The 60th Infantry prepared to jump off at 2200 and were aided by a demonstration from the 47th Infantry on their left which drew considerable enemy fire.

Division Artillery fired numerous harassing and interdiction missions. The heaviest shelling by the enemy was in the area from HARSCHKEID (729219) through STRODT (737225) to ROTZ (748-239) and HEIDE (752-241) area.

Division Artillery fired a heavy counter-battery program. Corps and Division Artillery together counter-battered 40 enemy gun locations.

Organization for combat:

26th FA Bn. - (690-236)	Direct support	39th Inf.
60th FA Bn. - (721-216)	"	60th Inf.
84th FA Bn. - (718-226)	"	47th Inf.
34th FA Bn. - (722-243)	"	60th FA Bn.
254th FA Bn. - (722-248)	Attached	General Support
400th FA Bn. - (703-246)	"	"

Division Artillery CP located vicinity of 699-243.

Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 36; Unobserved Missions 132. Total rounds expended 4349.

23 March -

60th Infantry took all their objectives after jumping off at 2200 last night. After considerable fighting they captured 160 POW - no officers and crossed the AUFBAHN.

47th Infantry reported generally quiet day and a considerable decrease in amount of artillery and SF fire. They also noticed quite a lot of enemy activity in the ERSCHKEID - HUELDEL areas.

The 39th Infantry reported little activity but that they were receiving considerable 80mm AA fire.

A PW picked up in RAHMS turned out to be a forward observer. He gave us coordinates of his 3 gun battery (105mm), his information checked with sound locations and Corps and Division Artillery placed a heavy TOF in the area. No further enemy fire from this area was reported.

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No changes in locations of any of our organic or attached Field Artillery Battalions. The 9th Armored Division Artillery was attached in general support and reinforcing the fires of the 9th Division Artillery.

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Missions fired by the 9th Division Artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 36; Unobserved Missions 151. Total rounds expended 3673.

- 24 March - 39th and 47th Infantry's jumped off late tonight and made good progress against light resistance. The 60th Infantry consolidated their gains and reported the condition of the main highway (Autobahn) as in fairly good condition. Several under-passes and over-passes had been destroyed, otherwise activity was very light in the Division sector for the period. Only 54 rounds of enemy artillery were reported in our sector today. 26th FA Bn. displaced to vicinity of 7268-2590. The 60th FA Bn. displaced to the vicinity of 763-214. There were no other changes in locations of any of the other artillery units with the Division. Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 43; Unobserved Missions 106. Total rounds expended 3896.
- 25 March - Infantry moved very well today against light resistance. 47th Infantry reported NEUSTADT and EYENBERG have been cleared. The road from 763-238 down to the river and ford heavily mined. 39th Infantry reported receiving automatic weapon and direct SP fire meeting somewhat stiffer resistance. 60th Infantry encountered some moderate artillery fire. 1 Officer (Capt. Grandall) and 2 enlisted men ran over a mine while on a reconnaissance mission for a new CP location in the NEUSTADT area, as a result of which Capt. Grandall was seriously injured and the 2 men killed. 26th FA Bn. displaced to 7602-2490; 60th FA Bn. to 831-205; 64th FA Bn. to 805-262; 34th FA Bn. to 762-215; 254th FA Bn. to 755-255. 400th FA Bn. reverted to control of the 7th Armored Division as of 1200. Missions fired by the artillery were as follows: Observed Missions 21; Unobserved Missions 57. Total rounds expended. 1702.

- 26 March - The 7th Armored Division passed through our lines this morning and made excellent progress throughout the day. All of our Infantry have been busy following up and mopping up behind the armor, all by-passed enemy troops. 26th FA Bn. displaced to 8345-2045; 34th FA Bn. to 870-195. Division Artillery CP displaced to 830-214. All Battalions were constantly displacing by echelon to keep up with the fast moving situation. No missions were fired even though all Battalions kept at least 1 Battery in range throughout the entire movement.

- 27 March - All III Corps troops moved rapidly ahead today. The 7th Armored Division after having passed through our lines early this morning are moving toward GIESSEN with the mission of taking the town late tonight.

1st Division on our left had one of the hardest days of fighting in the Division history yesterday encountering the PANZER LEHR Division. The 1st Div. Arty. fired over 12,000 rounds of ammunition.

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Division Artillery OP displaced to vicinity of NITTEL HOFEN (263-195) after a 25 mile march over a crowded route. Battalions occupied positions as indicated below after again not having fired a round, but always keeping at least 1 battery within firing range.

The 26th FA Bn. was in position at 260-190; 60th FA Bn. at 340-225; 34th FA Bn. at 338-212; 84th FA Bn. at 189-220; 254th FA Bn. at 180-210.

28 March - The Armer continued to advance well throughout the day. The 99th Infantry was involved in a fire fight late last night but quickly cleaned it up and took a total of 150 POW.

Division Artillery again displaced approximately 25 miles to the town of KIRCHWEIS (614-327). The Battalions displaced to positions as follows: 26th FA Bn 416-370; 60th FA Bn. 656-348; 34th FA Bn. 640-345; 254th FA Bn. 623-350; 84th FA Bn. 641-361.

At present plans are to stay in present positions to consolidate.

There were no missions fired.

29 March - The 7th Armored Division continued to move forward throughout the day but ran into SF fire and sniper fire in the town of KIRCHHAIN (84-48). After a small fight the town was cleared out and a total of 900 POW taken for the day. The bridge in town was found to be mined.

The 26th FA Bn. moved to 642-568. There were no other changes in missions or dispositions of any of the other artillery units with the Division.

All the Battalions are in the process of reorganization bringing up supplies, servicing vehicles and equipment pending further movement expected in the immediate future.

There were no missions fired.

30 March - The 7th Armored Division continued to move forward, met no resistance and were on their objectives. All Division Artillery in same location pending further orders.

31 March - At 0245 the Division Artillery was notified that the Division had been ordered to assume control of a forty thousand meter sector extending from 64270 to G 5207, along the east side of the HUNE pocket.

Reconnaissance parties went forward to reconnoiter a CP at ARFELD 65069. This town was found to be occupied by the enemy by the 9th Recon Troop who preceded the recon party, as the CP was selected at SCHWARZENAU (3269).

The Division and Division Artillery OP moved at the head of the column leaving at 1430, CP closed at 1420. North of HARBURG the CP group pulled to one side and a Battalion of the 47th Infantry passed to go ahead into the area. The CP opened at SCHWARZENAU at 1950. The Artillery Battalions followed their respective Infantry Regiments with the 34th FA Bn attached to the 60th FA Bn. for the move. The 84th FA Bn. closed in position and was ready to fire at 2300. Other Battalions did not close until after 2300.

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Date 26 April 1945
Initials DM

HEADQUARTERS SIXTIETH INFANTRY
A.P.O. 9. U. S. ARMY.

13 April 1945.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

For Month March 1945

I. This report is submitted in compliance with Paragraph 10,
AR 345 - 105 (C4).

II. a. SUPERIOR UNITS

- 1st U. S. ARMY - Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges
- III Corps - Major Gen. J. A. Milliken
- 9th INF DIV - Major Gen. Louis A Craig

b. COMMANDERS

- 60th Inf Regt - Col. John G. Van Houten
- 1st Bn - Major E. A. Watters
- 2nd Bn - Major Ralph E. Johnson
- 3rd Bn - Lt. Col. Keene N. Wilson

c. MAPS

GSOS No. 4414, Germany, Sheets 5309, 5310, 5311,
5312, 5409, 5410, 5411, 5412. Scale: 1/25,000.

309-11N(60)-0.3

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:

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HEADQUARTERS SIXTIETH INFANTRY
A.P.O. 9. U. S. ARMY.

SECTION III

AFTER ACTION REPORT - MARCH 1945

1 March 1945. At the beginning of the period the 2d Bn and the 3d Bn less "K" Co were in BERG, preparing to continue the attack to the east. The 1st Bn, in reserve, was in an assembly area 2000 yards to the west of BERG.

At 0330 hours the attack jumped off. The 2d Bn was on the left, with the mission of taking the town of MULDENAU, moved under cover of darkness with two companies abreast. Good progress was made and at 0515 the outskirts of the town was reached. After a short fire fight the position was captured. Road blocks were immediately established and contact attempted between adjacent units.

The 3d Bn attacked in a column of companies. Its objective was a ridge west of EMBKEN and southwest of MULDENAU. No resistance was met and at 0500 the leading company was in position and one hour later the second company arrived. Defense to the south was organized and a contact patrol was sent to the 2d Bn on the left. This patrol made contact at 1000 hours.

The 1st Bn, at 0245 hours, left its assembly area and moved to BERG. Leading elements arrived at 0330 hours and immediately road blocks on roads leading to the south were established. This Bn prepared plans to accomplish its mission as regimental reserve.

2 March 1945. The CT, with orders to continue the attack to the east, commenced operations at 0030. The 1st Bn at that hour began moving from an assembly to a line of departure. This line was crossed at 0430 and an assault of JUNTERSDORF was made. No resistance was met and at 0515 hours the Bn closed in on the objective. Positions for defense were organized and occupied for the balance of the period.

The 2d Bn crossed a line of departure at MULDENAU at 0430 hours and assaulted EMBKEN. The move was made without resistance and at 0450 hours the town was entered and organized. This Bn remained in this position throughout the period. A platoon of A Co was relieved of its position southeast of GINNICK by a platoon of E Co at 1800 hours.

The 3d Bn remained in Berg as regimental reserve till at 1230, when it was moved to FUSSENICH and GEICH where it relieved a Bn of the 47th Inf.

3 March 1945. The CT, with the 1st Bn at JUNTERSDORF, 3d Bn at FUSSENICH and 2d Bn at EMBKEN, prepared to continue the advance.

At 0330 hours the 1st Bn commenced an attack toward ZULPICH in conjunction with an attack by the 3d Bn. After advancing 1500 yards it was ordered to halt to permit the 3d Bn to come abreast. The 3d Bn, which had started at 0430 hours

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After Action Report - March 45.

came abreast at 0545 hours and the advance continued. The town was entered at 0630 hours and the defending enemy completely out-manuevered and surprised were quickly captured.

Defensive positions were organized and the 2d Bn at 1400 hours was moved into FUSSENICH. At 1500 hours the 1st Bn relieved the 3d Bn of its positions in ZULPICH and entered an assembly area in town.

At 1930 hours I Co commenced an attack on NEMMENICH to the southeast. Good progress was made and automatic fire met at the edge of town was reduced. At 2115 hours the opposite side of the objective was reached. At the close of the period fighting was still in progress.

4 March 1945. At 0001 hours the CT was attached to CCA, 9th Armored Div and liaison was immediately established. New boundaries were given and plans for future employment were made.

At the beginning of the period I Co was engaged with the enemy at NEMMENICH in house-to-house fighting. Tanks had been sent to them but could not be employed because of the darkness. Sporadic fighting took place most of the night and shortly after daylight the town was considered secured.

K Co which had been motorized and sent on a mission as a counter-attacking force for higher headquarters was returned at 1000 hours.

I Co in NEMMENICH was relieved by a company of the 47th Inf and returned to the 3d Bn assembly area in ZULPICH at 1100 hours.

5 March 1945. The CT at the beginning of the period was assembled at ZULPICH with the 2d Bn in FUSSENICH. At daylight the CT was released from attachment to the 9th Arm Div and ordered to re-join the 9th Division. At 0915 hours a march was commenced to BARR. Upon arrival the 2d Bn marched by foot to LOMMERSUM where it prepared to attack the following day. The 1st Bn was made responsible for security of the ERFT River crossing and placed outposts and road blocks to accomplish this mission.

6 March 1945. The period opened with the 2d Bn in assembly at DERKOM, the 1st Bn was enroute to LOMMERSUM and the 3d Bn enroute to NIEDERBERG. The CT was following the 39th Inf with orders to pass through that unit upon the capture of OLLHEIM. Good progress was made by the 39th Inf so the Bns were kept moving forward.

OLLHEIM was captured by the 39th Inf at 0630 hours and the 2d Bn, with this town as a line of departure, jumped off in the attack. The objective was the town of DUNSTEKUVEN. Without much difficulty the town was reached where assaulting units met small arms fire. The town was reduced by 1030 hours and the 2d Bn continued the advance toward BUSCHHOVEN. Progress was somewhat delayed by entrenched enemy to the east and it was necessary to alter the course to include these trenches. When the Bn

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was 2000 yards short of the objective fire from AA weapons was received. Progress was slow until, at 1700 hours, E and F Cos were stopped 400 yards short of the town.

I Co was sent to DUNSTEKUVEN to secure the town and was relieved by G Co at 1700 hours.

The 1st Bn was sent to BUSCHHOVEN from the west and B and C Cos arrived there at 1430 hours. These units entered town but were immediately involved in a fight. This fight continued until, at 2030 hours, the town was considered secured.

The 3d Bn moved to an assembly area 1500 yards west of BUSCHHOVEN and waited for the town to fall in order to continue the advance.

7 March 1945. The CT, in defensive positions vic BUSCHHOVEN, commenced the attack to the east at 0630 hours. The 1st Bn attacked due east toward VALMERSHOVEN across country. Progress was slow because of wooded terrain and sporadic enemy fire. At 1000 hours leading elements had arrived in the town and by noon the objective was organized.

The 3d Bn attacked northeast and then east toward WITTERSCHLICK. Rapid progress was made and at 0900 hours elements of I Co had captured the town. Heavy flak fire fell on both WITTERSCHLICK and VALMERSHOVEN soon after each was taken.

The 2d Bn commenced an attack at 1030 hours toward DUISDORF and an objective 2000 yards west of the town. After emerging from the woods 2000 yards from the objective enemy anti-aircraft weapons and self-propelled artillery opened up and the Bn was unable to continue the advance. F and G Cos maneuvered to the right and captured the objective at 1800.

The 3d Bn was relieved of its positions in WITTERSCHLICK at 1300 by C Co and this Bn attacked and captured ROTTGEN and terrain to the north. The objective was secured by darkness.

All positions were consolidated and defensive positions assumed for the night.

8 March 1945. The CT in positions were disposed as follows: 1st Bn vic VALMERSHOVEN, 2d Bn vic WITTERSCHLICK and 3d Bn at ROTTGEN.

At 0700 hours E Co, with the mission of clearing high ground to the east, moved out in the attack. Enemy small arms and S.P. fire was encountered at 1000 hours from vic STALAG VI. Increased enemy pressure was placed on the company and G Co was employed on the left flank. Elements of the 3d Bn moved north some distance and assisted by fire. Although some ground was lost the STALAG later was captured and G Co returned. Another counterattack came at 1800 hours but was repulsed.

At 1130 hours the 1st Bn was attached to the 9th Armored Division and at 1410 moved out to cross the RHINE River.

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The balance of the CT was attached to 7th Arm
Div at 1600 hours.

9 March 1945. At 0600 hours the CT commenced a movement to cross the RHINE River at REMAGEN, GERMANY. The 3d Bn led off and made the move without incident. The crossing of the RR bridge was made under artillery fire but few casualties occurred. This Bn then entered an assembly area where it prepared to attack.

The 2d Bn arrived at the bridge at 1600 hours and all foot elements had crossed by 1630. Direct artillery hits on the bridge, however, made it impossible for passage of vehicles and these had to remain behind. This Bn also entered an assembly area preparatory to continuing the attack.

The 1st Bn, previously attached to CCB, 9th Arm Div, reverted to regimental control at 0800 hours. This Bn attacked at 0800 and made some progress against heavy small arms and mortar fire. Hilly terrain also hampered advance. At dark forward elements were halted by heavy machine gun fire from a well defended factory. The Bn remained in this position for the duration of the period.

10 March 1945. The CT, vicinity of LINZ, prepared to continue the attack to the east to secure the bridgehead.

At 0800 hours the 3d Bn moved to a line of departure east of LINZ and at 0830 hours jumped off. Steady progress was made throughout the day. At noon the Bn was held up by heavy resistance at RONIG, a small group of buildings. This was reduced and, by darkness, the Bn was on the high ground of the objective.

Two companies of the 2d Bn were committed to close a gap in the left flank when an enemy column was reported moving in that direction. At 1000 hours the move was begun and G Co arrived in place at 1100 hours, F Co at 1230 hours.

The 1st Bn moved forward C Co to the high ground at PREUDCHEN (698204) at 1300 hours. A small pocket of resistance held out there for the balance of the period. The enemy, in positions in the factory, held out through the period.

11 March 1945. 1st Bn - Assaulted factory 1500 yards northeast of LINZ. A Co established a base of fire and B Co maneuvered to take the buildings from the north. Objective secured at 0330 hours. A Co continued to HARGARTEN, arrived on objective at 1930 hours after heavy fighting. A Co attacked down road to east at 1400 hours. It made fair progress till stopped at 1900 hours by six Tiger Royal Tanks and enemy infantry.

2d Bn - At 1000 hours E Co attacked around north side of C Co position. It received heavy direct fire artillery and suffered many casualties. F Co moved to a position west of C Co. G Co moved to north along main road leading

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north, cleared the road bends of enemy, defended the left flank of the regiment. It was moved to south of factory on alarm of enemy tank attack.

3d Bn - Continued the attack to the east. Made low, steady progress to GREDEL. At dark was passed through by 1st Bn, 393d Inf. The 3d Bn then attacked to the northwest toward the high ground east of HARGARTEN. At close of period had halted along road south of the town.

2 March 1945. At the beginning of the period B Co was moving east along the road south of HARGARTEN, clearing it of mines and remaining enemy. The 3d Bn, moving from the south, arrived at the road and proceeded through B Co toward a road junction at 21205. This junction was gained and I and K Cos dug in.

At 1000 hours I and K Cos commenced an attack to the north toward HARGARTEN. Progress was made till forward elements came within 75 yards of the town. At this point enemy tanks and infantry opened fire at point blank range. The companies were forced to withdraw to positions occupied before the jump-off.

At 1900 hours I Co commenced an attack to retake the road junction and this attack ended at 1930 hours when it was reported that the objective was secured.

The 1st Bn jumped off in an attack on HARGARTEN at 1940 hours and at 2045 it had entered the town. At the close of the period the town of HARGARTEN was still not clear of enemy and mopping up continued.

13 March 1945. At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was involved in a night attack on the town of HARGARTEN. House to house fighting was carried on against tanks and infantry till at 0400 hours, at which time the town was completely taken. At 0430 hours the 2d Bn moved down through the town and commenced an attack toward ST. KATHARINEN. Heavy fire from enemy tanks as met at the road junction short of town and the Bn was held up in these positions for the remainder of the day.

Commencing at daylight, the enemy launched a strong offensive aimed at reducing the RHINE bridgehead. Repeated tank assaults were thrown back and at darkness the pressure decreased.

At 2000 hours the 2d Bn attacked again toward ST. KATHARINEN. Little resistance was met and at 2115 hours had passed through the town. At the same hour I Co attacked enemy positions on the RJ to the east and at 2130 hours had gained the objective and contacted the unit on the right.

14 March 1945. The Combat Team, in positions at ST. KATHARINEN and HARGARTEN, organized newly taken positions and halted operations for the early hours of the period. At first light reconnaissance was made to continue the attack.

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At 1230 hours elements of L Co began an attack to the east. No resistance was met but the route was exposed and enemy artillery and mortars harassed the column during the whole march. The final objective was reached at 1800 hours.

The 1st Bn attacked at 1200 hours toward NOTSCHEID but was stopped on the LD by enemy artillery fire. At 1445 the attack was resumed but only a little ground was gained. At dark progress continued and at 2400 hours the Bn had reached a point 400 yards short of the objective and was still moving.

At 2100 hours the 2d Bn attacked LORSCHIED. Good progress was made under cover of darkness and at 2400 hours the town was reached. Some resistance was met and overcome and the advance continued.

5 March 1945. At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged in an attack on the town of NOTSCHEID and the high ground to the east. B Co in the lead was stopped at the main road just south of town. After a renewed assault at 0630 hours the town was carried and a short while later the high ground was occupied. This Bn reorganized and remained in their positions for the balance of the day.

The 2d Bn at midnight was engaged in an attack on LORSCHIED. F Co had been pinned down by fire at the edge of town. At 0300 hours E Co was committed and attempted to pass through F Co. Heavy fire was received and a counterattack pushed the company back some distance. Some men were captured in the fight. A renewed assault by G Co at 1300 hours the town was totally cleared of enemy. The 2d Bn then withdrew E Co for reorganization and F and G Cos remained in LORSCHIED.

The 3d Bn patrolled to the east to the high ground and discovered some enemy positions. K Co loaded on tanks and TDs made an assault on this high ground and occupied it at 1530 hours. I Co joined K Co there at 1900 hours.

16 March 1945. At 0300 hours the 1st Bn commenced an attack on STRODT from positions south of NOTSCHEID. C Co made a frontal assault on the town and was halted at the edge of the town by very heavy SP fire. A Co attacked on the north side of the town, bypassed it and reached high ground east of the town, completely cutting off the enemy. This Co remained on the high ground all day without being detected by the enemy.

At 1900 hours the attack was renewed. B Co maneuvered around to the south and approached the high ground east of the town from the south while C Co again attacked frontally. A Co remained in position. At 2400 hours C and B Cos arrived on their objectives, having met only slight resistance.

Cos I and K were relieved of positions by the 9th Reconnaissance Troop and these companies were enroute to ST. MARTIN at the close of the period. L Co remained in position to be a possible support to the 1st Bn.

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March 45. At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged with the enemy vicinity of STRODT; the 3d Bn less I Co was in assembly area in ST. KATHARINEN; I Co was covering the regimental right flank and prepared to assist the 1st Bn; the 2d Bn was in reserve vicinity of ST. KATHARINEN.

Throughout the hours of darkness the 1st Bn struggled to gain the high ground east of STRODT but was continually held up by enemy SP fire. At daylight this fire became heavier and more accurate. Elements of B Co were cut off and badly disorganized.

After many attempts to advance I Co was committed and moved at 1000 hours. I Co made slow progress against opposition on its right until at 1700 hours it had arrived at the base of the hill which was B Co's objective. Some members of B Co were located there.

At 2000 hours the 1st Bn renewed the assault on the high ground and were repulsed by small arms fire from the tip of the hill. Another platoon at 2330 hours renewed the assault on STRODTER HUGEL. A Co was still probing to the north at 2400.

G Co established a left flank outpost of one reinforced platoon to cover that flank. The 9th Reconnaissance Troop occupied positions on the right flank and during the afternoon occupied successive positions to cover the rear of I Co.

18 March 45. At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged with the enemy vic of high ground east of STRODT. The 2d Bn less G Co was in assembly area vic of ST. KATHARINEN, G Co (one reinforced platoon) maintained a left flank outpost covering that flank and the 3d Bn was preparing to move to LD (1st Bn front lines).

At 0400 hours the 1st Bn, after continuously assaulting the top of high ground at STRODTER HUGEL, finally cleared the enemy out of their well dug-in positions and occupied the entire area.

At 0500 hours the 3d Bn crossed the LD (1st Bn front lines) and secured the intervening forest land and the town of ROTT by 1000 hours. At 0500 hours G Co sent a platoon along the 7th Inf right flank to protect the left flank of the 3d Bn as it attacked to the northeast.

K Co continued to attack to the northeast and at 1500 hours secured the town of HEIDE. I Co, which also continued its attack, secured the high ground north of the town of ROTT. The remainder of the 3d Bn continued to push forward to the limits of their objective and establish roadblocks.

At 2300 hours the balance of G Co moved up and joined the reinforced platoon on the 3d Bn's left flank and maintained contact with the 47th Inf.

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During this assault they received considerable enemy automatic fire, SP and artillery fire.

The 9th Ron Troop maintained outposts protecting right flank of CT and maintained contact with 395th Inf on the right.

9 March 45. The period opened with the 1st Bn in defensive positions on the right flank, the 2d Bn in reserve in vicinity of ST. KATHARINEN and the 3d Bn concluding an offensive toward the AUTOBAHN.

The 3d Bn spent the hours of darkness mopping up isolated pockets of resistance, pushing out outposts and establishing roadblocks. At daylight work was commenced on the improvement of defensive positions and patrols were operated to the front.

The 1st Bn continued to defend the assigned sector. B Co relieved the 9th Ron Troop at 2032 hours.

The 2d Bn, having sent G Co to advance abreast of the 3d Bn and cover the regimental left flank, was withdrawn at first darkness to an assembly area.

20 March 45. The CT continued to defend the assigned sector. The 3d Bn outposted the left, the 1st Bn outposted the right and the 2d Bn remained in reserve. All Bns retained normal attachments.

K Co sent a patrol to vic 758239 to clear out snipers which had been bothering them from this location. Patrol ran into minefields and enemy machine gun fire and was forced to withdraw.

At close of period L Co was putting into execution plans for moving around enemy strong-point and approaching it from the NE with the mission of clearing it out and then patrolling along the east bank of the river.

During darkness patrols operated to the front with the mission of determining enemy information and condition of roads and stream. Some enemy positions were located and artillery fire was placed on them.

During hours of daylight reorganization and resupplying took place. Training was commenced in certain prescribed subjects and plans for future training were made.

Normal contacts with adjacent units were made throughout the period. Harassing fire was delivered on artillery positions during the period.

21 March 45. The Combat Team remained in defensive positions vicinity STRODT. The 3d Bn on the north-left flank reconnoitered crossings of the WIED River, patrolled to the front and contacted the 47th Inf on the left. The 2d Bn remained in regimental

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reserve and also reconnoitered for crossings of the river. The 1st Bn remained in position and attempted some reorganization. Plans for crossing the WIED River were continued.

22 March 45. Positions were maintained on the high ground east of STRODT during the day. At darkness an approach march was made toward the WIED River and crossings were made at 2000 hours. The 2d Bn made the initial crossings against light opposition and proceeded inland for about 2-kilometers.

23 March 45. The 3d Bn continued the attack from positions near the WIED River bridge-head and making rapid progress seized GERHARDSHAHN, SCHAREN, NESCHEN, SCHATERN, JUNGFERNHOF, AMMERICH and FERNTHAL. The final objective was reached at 2230 hours. The 2d Bn which had secured additional high ground to enlarge the bridge-head followed the 3d Bn and the 1st Bn took over the bridgehead defenses.

24 March 45. During the early hours the 3d Bn attacked again and at daylight had seized ground from which a determined assault was launched. Against heavy resistance the towns of BERTENAUER, MANROTH and BORSCHIED were captured and at 1800 hours halted for the day.

The 2d Bn cleared enemy from positions on the regimental left flank and moved to successive positions behind the 3d Bn to be able to support the 3d Bn attack. The 1st Bn remained in regimental reserve and prepared to take over the assault from the 3d Bn.

25 March 45. The CF, in column of Bns, commenced this day's operations by attacking with the 1st Bn at 1000 hours. The objective was HEIMBACH. It was necessary to cross the AUTOBAHN, which was an enemy main supply route and was heavily defended by self-propelled artillery and infantry. Fighting was heavy and progress was slow. At 1130 hours the road was cut by infantry elements and at 1300 hours A and C Cos were firmly established on favorable defensive ground.

The 2d Bn attacked at 1000 hours also and passed through HEIMBACH proper with the 1st Bn. It continued on to EPGERT and KRUNKEL against heavy enemy resistance and at 1800 hours had reached high ground north of KRUNKEL. From there, F Co attacked north to OBERSTEINBACH and HEIDERNOF. It was 2300 hours before final positions were reached.

The 3d Bn, which had been in reserve with B Co attached, passed through 2d Bn positions at 1900 hours at KRUNKEL and moved to NE to capture HERHAUSEN. It was ordered to continue the attack and, in a bright moonlight proceeded on to GULLESHEIM and NIEDERSTEINBACH where enemy infantry positions were quickly reduced.

26 March 45. The 1st Bn less B Co cleared its objective at daylight and entered an assembly area at EPGERT as regimental reserve.

SECRET

SECRET

After Action Report - March 45.

The 2d Bn throughout the night continued its attack toward an objective at RAUSBACH. Resistance at daylight slackened and the Bn was able to make rapid advances. At 1400 hours it passed through 2d Bn positions and reached stream crossings at MARIEHAUSEN without resistance. By 1700 hours crossings were secured the roads for an attack by the 3d Bn.

The 3d Bn, in order to take full advantage of the apparent enemy collapse, was motorized at 1330 hours and at 1400 hours it passed through 2d Bn positions and reached stream crossings at MARIEHAUSEN without resistance. By 1700 hours crossings were secured.

27 March 45. The CT was semi-motorized by the attachment of 25 trucks from III Corps. At 0630 hours the 1st Bn crossed an IP at RAUBACH, followed by the 2d Bn at 0700 hours. The objective for this day was the DILL River. No resistance was met and final positions were secured at 1730 hours. The 3d Bn, with 5 attached trucks, shuttle-moved to ARBORN.

28 March 45. With no apparent organized enemy resistance, the CT accomplished a tactical motor march from KATZENFURT on the DILL River to the town of ODENHAUSEN. The last unit closed in at 2000 hours and defensive positions for the night were organized.

29 March 45. The CT, having overtaken element of the 7th Armad Div, was ordered into assembly areas to await the complete passing of that unit. The 1st Bn was at KRUMBACH, the 2d Bn at FRONHAUSEN and the 3d Bn at ODENHAUSEN. They remained in these positions until the close of the period, accomplishing rehabilitation and resupplying.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Whitmore
WHITMORE
Asst. 3-3

SECRET

SECRET

SECTION VI (ANNEXES)

No. 1. FIELD ORDERS NOS. 14 - 25 INCLUSIVE.

No. 2. DAILY PERIODIC REPORTS OF OPERATIONS.

No. 3. LESSONS LEARNED (OMITTED).

SECRET

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS SIXTIETH INFANTRY
A.P.O. # 9. U. S. ARMY

1 March 1945.

FIELD ORDER (FRAGMENTARY)

NUMBER 14:

3. a. 1st Bn will cross LD at 020330 March 45, seize and secure Objectives D and E. Will establish and maintain road blocks 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d and 1e.

b. 2nd Bn will attack at 020430 March 45, seize and secure Objective C. Will establish and maintain road blocks 2a, 2b and 2c.

c. 3rd Bn will protect flank of C.T. from present positions.

d. F.O. Co C, 90th Cml Bn, will be with 1st Bn.

e. Co C, 15th Engr Bn, will furnish mine sweeper teams to 1st and 2nd Bns.

x. No other change in attachments.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

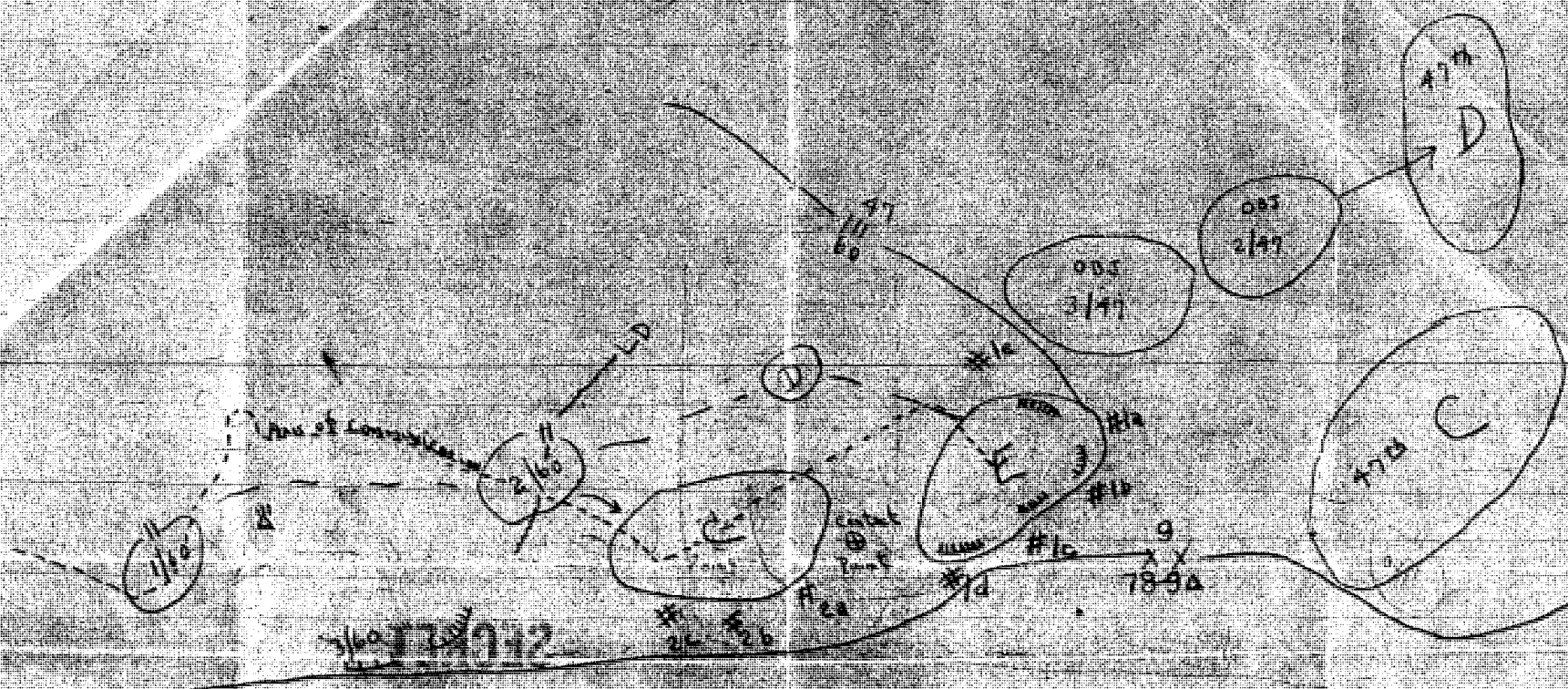
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S E C R E T

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37



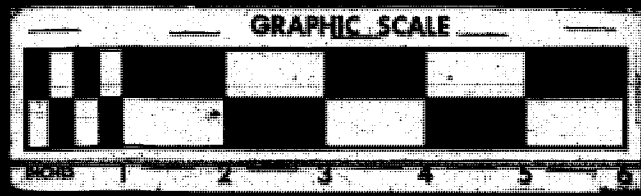
Overlay To Accompany
 FO (Fragmentary) No 14
 1 March 45

Map of Germany
 Sheets # 5204, 5205, 5304, 5305
 Scale 1/25,000

HANNEN
 5-3

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S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS SIXTIETH INFANTRY
A.P.O. # 9. U. S. ARMY

2 March 1945.

FIELD ORDER (FRAGMENTARY)

NUMBER 15:

2. This C.T. attacks at H-Hour 3 March 1945 to seize and secure ZULPICH.

3. a. 1st Bn will attack in right of sector to seize and secure S half of ZULPICH. Will establish and maintain roadblocks 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d.

b. 2nd Bn will protect right flank of C.T. from present positions in EMBKEN. Will relieve 1st Bn at JUNTERSDORF with "G" Co after dark 2 March 1945. Will relieve "A" Company platoon with platoon of "E" Co at 185335 as soon as practicable.

c. 3rd Bn will attack in left of sector to seize and secure N half of ZULPICH. Will establish and maintain roadblocks 3a and 3b.

d. Platoon, Co C, 90th Cml Bn, will furnish P.O. to 1st Bn.

e. Co C, 15th Engr Bn, will furnish mine sweeper teams to 1st and 3rd Bns.

f. No other change in attachments.

g. H-Hour to be announced.

When attack takes place as ordered, the word "Go-Devil" will be transmitted. If attack is to be delayed, term "Easy" will be used.

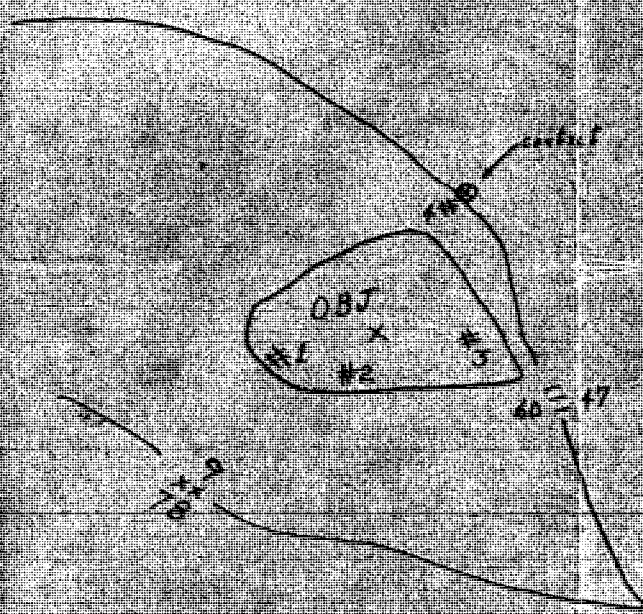
VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Hennen
HENNEN
S - 3.

S E C R E T

2200EL



2200EL



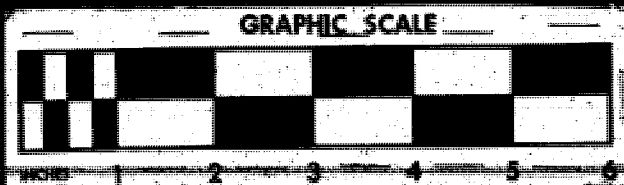
F.O. #16 (Fragmentary)
031700 March 45

- 3- One Co. (I) 3rd Bn reinforced with one platoon Tanks, one section TDs, and one Engineer mine sweeper team, will cross L.D. (contacted by CO 1 Co.) at 1900 to seize Obj X.
- Will establish and maintain roadblocks shown as 1, 2, 3 & 4.
- Will establish contact with 47th Inf at contact point.

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45

Map Ref. Germany
Sheet # 5205, 5206, 5305, 5306
Scale 1/25,000

HP. 60th Inf.



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HEADQUARTERS SIXTIETH INFANTRY
A.P.O. # 9. U. S. ARMY

3 March 1945.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS:

TO: All Units,

1. The First Bn will be responsible for the security of ZULPICH effective at 031700 March 1945. Present position of 3rd Bn will be taken over prior to that time. Two platoons Regt A.T. Co and two platoons Co B, 899 T.D. Bn, will support 1st Bn for A.T. defense.

a. Special instructions:

1. Outposts will be placed well out on perimeter of town and will be strong in automatic weapons.
2. Civilians will be "frozen" in their present location. Circulation by civilians forbidden.
3. Looting will not be tolerated.

2. The Third Bn upon relief by First Bn will assemble in ZULPICH in vicinity of present Bn CP. Third Bn AT Platoon will be relieved by one platoon Regt A.T. Co.

3. A.T. Co will support First Bn with two platoons.

4. Co B, 899 T.D. Bn, will support First Bn with two platoons.

5. Second Bn will remain in present assembly position in the vicinity of FURSSENICH.

6. Regt OP + 232332.

VAN ELDYEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Hennen
HENNEN
S - 3.

SECRET

4 March 1945

FIELD ORDER (FRAGMENTARY)

NUMBER

179

2. C.T. 60 passes through C.C.A. and/or C.C.R. (9 AD) and seizes
BUSEKROHN at H-hour D-day.

LD - Final front line position of 9 AD.

a. 1st Bn. will attack in right of sector and seize and secure
objective shown. Will establish and maintain road blocks shown. Will make
contact at contact point with 2d Bn.

b. 2nd Bn. will attack in left of sector and seize and secure ob-
jective shown. Will establish and maintain road blocks shown. Will make
contact at contact point with 1st Bn.

c. 3rd Bn. will remain in assembly at ZULPICH in C.T. reserve,
prepared to displace forward to FRAUENBERG. Also will be prepared to attack
in zone of either 1st or 2d Bn. on one hour's notice.

d. Co. "G" 15th Engr. Bn. will attach one platoon each to 1st,
2nd and 3rd Bns. prepared for mine clearance and demolition of enemy
obstacles.

e. Co. B. 899th T.D. Bn. will support 1st and 2nd Bns. with one
platoon each.

f. Co. B. 746th Tk. Bn. will attach one platoon each to 1st, 2d
and 3rd Bns.

g. Balance of C.T. - S.O.P.

h. Base time 09000 March 1945. Actual time - plus or minus in
minutes.

i. Regimental forward C.P. - OBSELVENICH 275341.

OFFICIAL:

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

HANSON
HEMERY
8-9

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R
X
A

Order of Company
FOI # 80000000 No 17
4 March 85

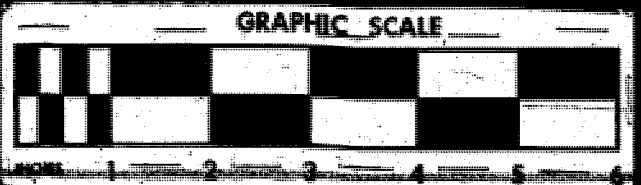
Map of Germany
Scale 1/25,000
March 85

9D
XX
8

To be
seized state

25
29

~~Secret~~



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**HEADQUARTERS SIXTIFTH INFANTRY
A.P.O. # 9. U. S. ARMY**

7 March 1945.

FIELD ORDER (FRAGMENTARY)

NUMBER 80;

2. The C.T. prepares to move by motor vehicle to a new area.
3. a. 1st Bn will assemble via **VOLMERSHOVEN**, and **WITTERSCHLICK** immediately, maintain outposts for local security and be prepared to move by motor vehicle by 0600.
b. 2nd Bn less one company will remain in present positions, maintain local security and be prepared to assemble on order via **WITTERSCHLICK** by 0600. It will be prepared to move by motor vehicle to a new area. The company remaining behind will at 0700 hours patrol area to NE, clear area (see overlay) and be prepared to rejoin 2nd Bn on short notice. Close control and communications by this company will be maintained at all times.
c. 3rd Bn will remain in present positions and be prepared to move to assembly area on order via **WITTERSCHLICK** anytime after 0600 hours.
d. Artillery - No change.
e. Cn Co - Prepare to move by 0600 hours.
f. A.T. Co - One platoon direct support with 1st Bn, attach one bazooka team to 1st Bn, prepare to move by 0600 hours.
g. 4.2 mortars - Attached to 1st Bn.
h. Engineers - Attach one platoon to 1st Bn, remainder general support.
i. T.Ds - Attach one platoon each Bn.
k. I & R - Prepare to post signs and guides after 0600.
x. Bazookas, bazooka ammo and radios are of primary importance in this mission. They will be checked and repaired if necessary.
4. To be issued later.
5. C.P.s present location until further orders.

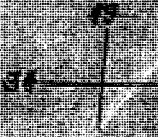
**VAN ROUËN
Commanding**

OFFICIAL:

Hennen
HENNEN
S - 5.

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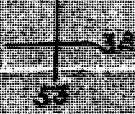
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AREA TO BE
CLEARED BY
1st Bn 2nd Inf



ASSEMBLY AREA
1st Bn 2nd Inf



ASSEMBLY AREA
1st Bn

OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS
FB #20
7 March 45

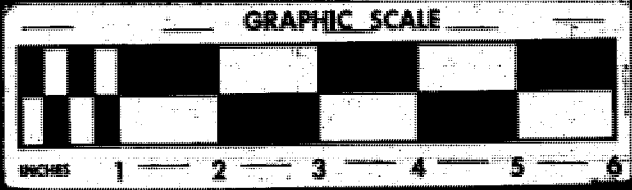
Map Ref Germany
Sheet # 5308
Scale 1/25,000

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51

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SECRET
Auth: 00 7th Inf Div
Date:
Ref: 14 March 1948
By: 0013 Inf
14,000 March 1948

PG 2 OF

MAP: GERMANY, Sheet: 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030.

1. Omitted.
2. G.I. 02 continues attack.
3. a. 1st Bn will maintain positions on present objective at ROYENBERG. Will maintain contact with 47th Inf on 1479. Will move 750 Co after dark to its reserve position via ROYENBERG.
b. 2d Bn will attack at H-hour 14 March 48 to seize ROYENBERG as directed in F.O. No. 22. Will also seize and secure THIEBACHEN 28 as shown on overlay. Will establish and maintain roadblocks shown. Will maintain contact with 1st Bn on 1479.
c. 3d Bn will maintain positions on present objective as directed in F.O. No. 22. When picked up by 2d Bn will assemble via St. KATHARINEN in G.I. reserve.
4. Balance of G.I. - R.I.I.
4. Omitted.
5. Omitted.

VIA ROUTE
Continuing

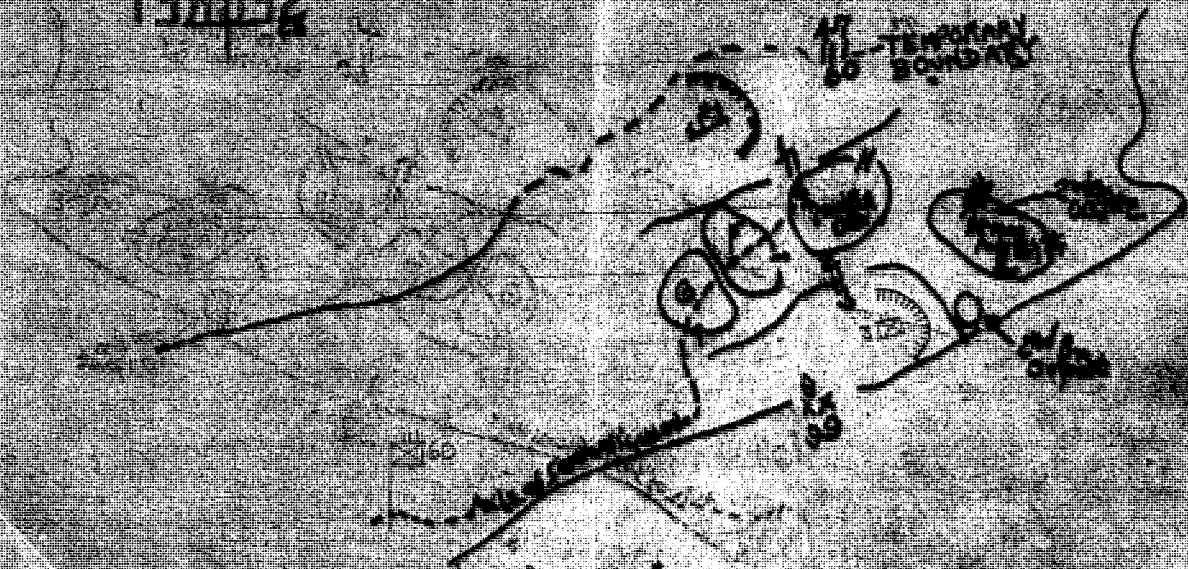
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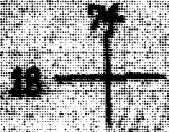
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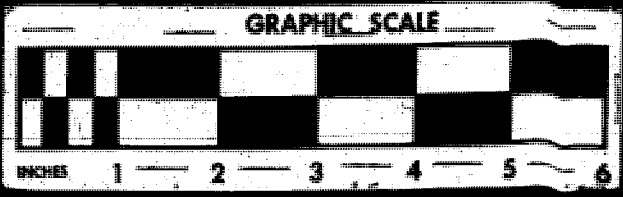


Area No. 1
 12/12/50
 14/12/50

12/12/50
 14/12/50
 12/12/50



SECRET



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26

SECRET

Amendment No. 1 to FO #27

1. Par. 3g is amended to read:
"1st Bn will be prepared to seize
objective 'E' on order"

2. Hour - 2d Bn is 142100 March 45

SECRET

HENNEN
5-3

YAK HOUTEN
CMDG

HQ 60th INF
MAP, GERMANY
SCALE: 1/25,000
SHEETS: 5309, 5310,
5409, 5410

Temporary
Boundary

17
60

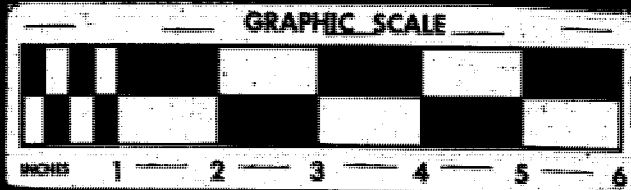
Boundary effective
when 1st Bn
clears 1d Bn

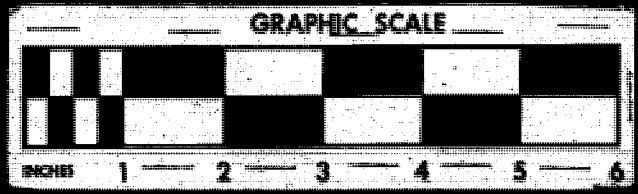
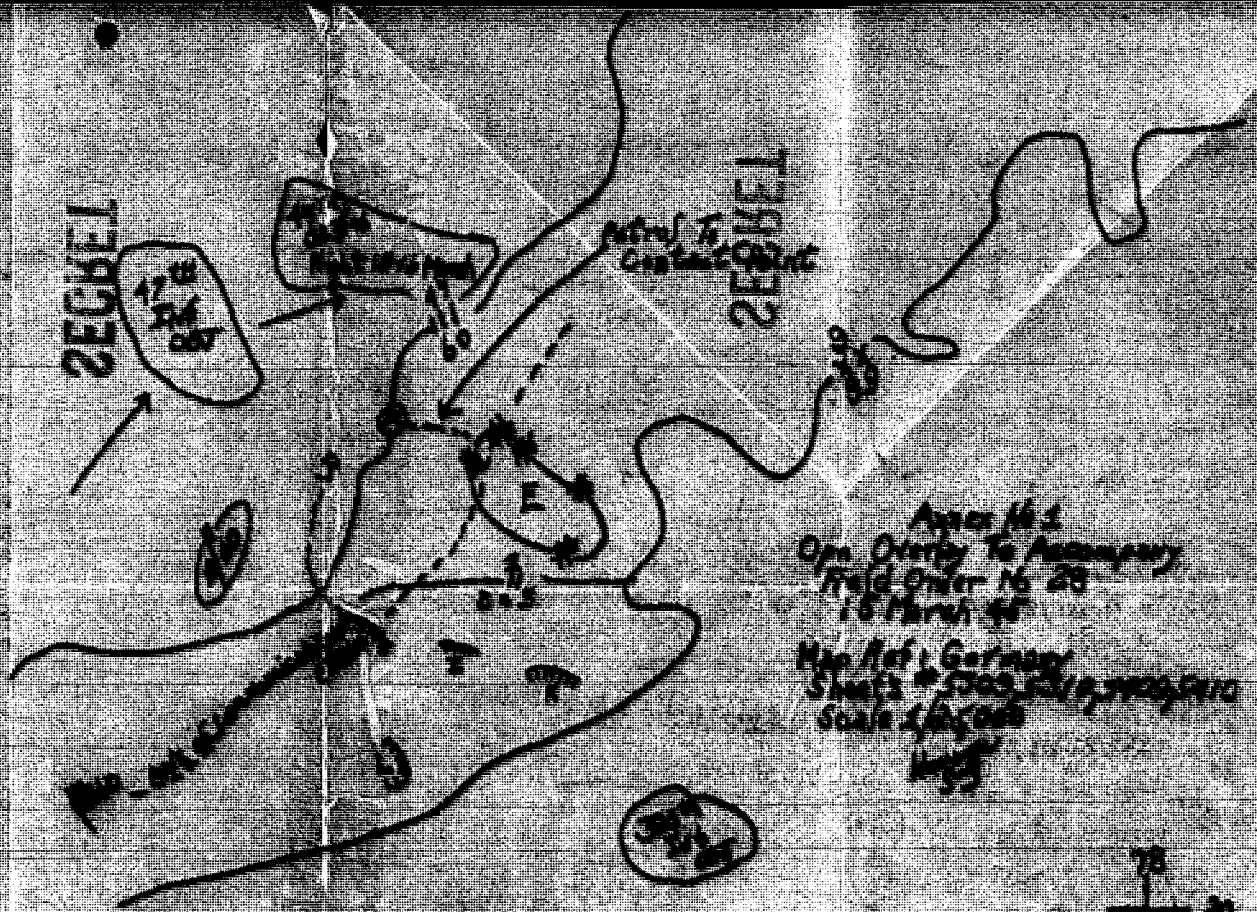
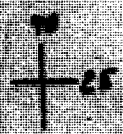
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22

SECRET

SECRET





SECRET

SECRET
Date: 20 Feb 1948
Time: 12 March 1948
No. 2076
12:00 March 1948

SO F 28

REF: SECRET, Special 2200, 2410, 2420, 2430.

1. Nullified.
2. CE CE continues attack.
3. a. Let CE CE attempt to cross 40 at 12000 hours of no
noise and secure objective "B". Will establish and
maintain contact with 47th Inf, 4th Div, 1st
Marine Div. Will establish and maintain contact
with 2nd Div. Particular attention will be paid to
approaches to objective from North and Northwest.
b. 2-hour 12000 hours CE.
c. 12 - 1 hour evening.
4. a. 2d Div CE will remain in present positions, with one
company via 47. 12000 hours. Will constitute CE company
and be prepared to counterattack in support of 1st Div CE
on one hour's notice.
5. 2d Div will maintain 1, 2, and 3 companies in positions
indicated on evening.
6. Co. C, 20th Inf will have P.O.s with 1st and 2d
Div.
7. Status of CE - No change.
8. Nullified.
9. Nullified.

THE JAPANESE
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

SECRET
F - 2.

SECRET: Annex 21 - Open Evening.

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET
Auth: CG 9th Inf Div
Intr:
Date: 16 March 1948

Hq 60th Inf
161700 March 1948

FO # 29

MAP: GERMANY, Sheets 5309, 5810, 5409, 5410.

1. Omitted.
2. CT 60 continues attack.
3. a. 1st Bn CT continues attack at dark night of 16 March 48 to seize and secure objective shown. Co A will establish roadblock in present position to trap enemy in STRODT. Co B will move through 3d Bn and flank enemy position from SE. Co C will move down axis of communication in continuation of attack. 1st Bn will secure objective, establish and maintain roadblocks shown.
b. 2d Bn CT will remain in present positions prepared to support 1st Bn attack.
c. 3d Bn CT will be relieved after dark night of 16 March and will assemble via rd ST. KATHARINEN. Co L will be left via rd present position to assist on order, if necessary, in attack of Co B. Movement of 3d Bn will not interfere with 1st Bn preparations for attack.
d. 5th Recon Troop (attached to CT 60) will relieve 3d Bn night of 16 March. Will occupy positions to protect right flank of CT and maintain contact with 389th Inf on right. Will maintain outpost shown on overlay. Movement will not interfere with movement of 1st Bn.
e. A.T. Co will furnish two bazooka teams from A.T. Mine Platoon to 1st Bn.
4. Balance of C.T. - No change.
5. Omitted.
6. Omitted.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIALS:

KEMMER
B - 2.

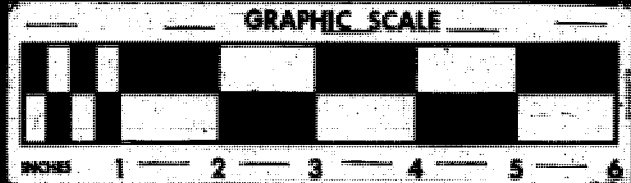
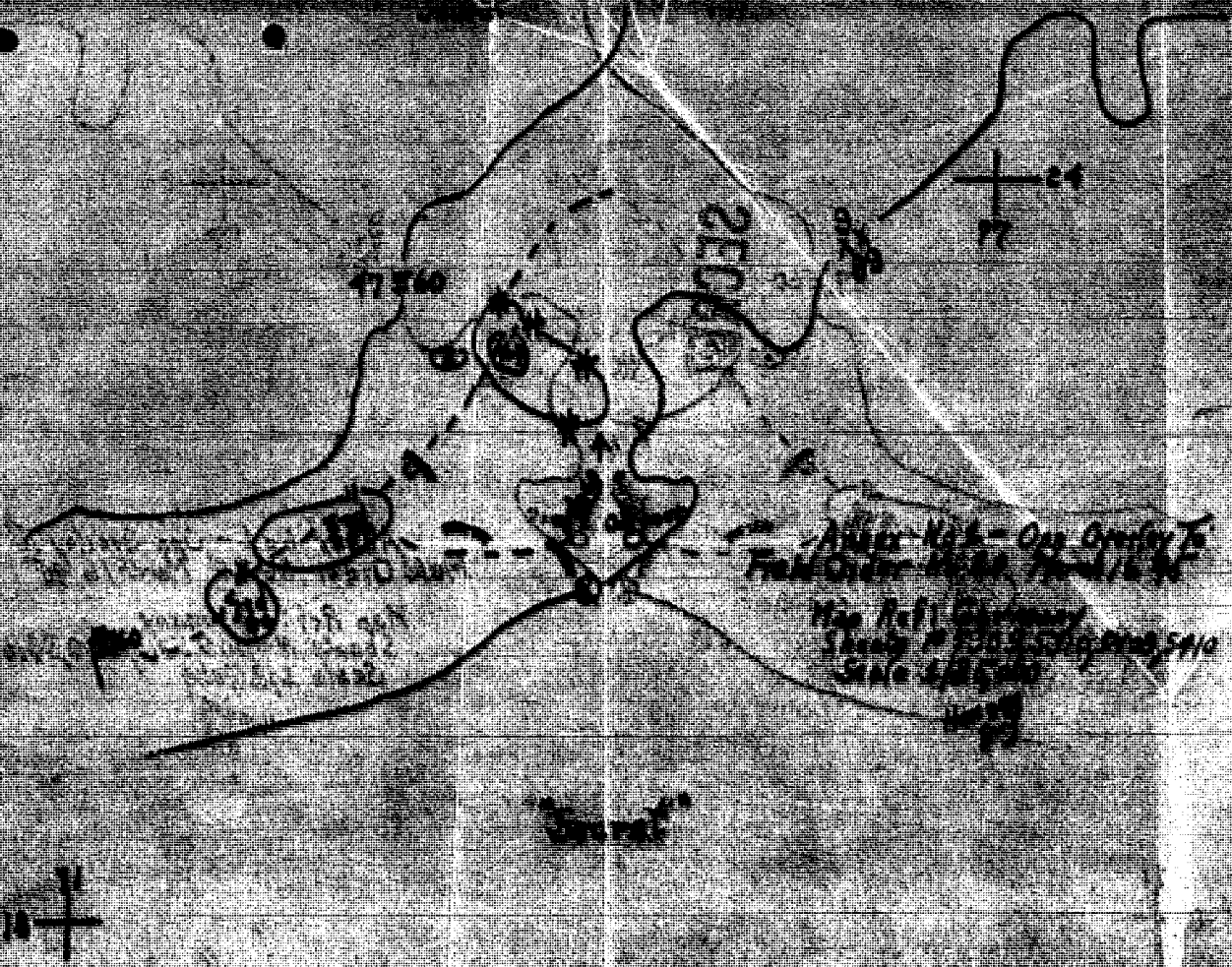
ANNEX: Annex # 1 - Copy Overlay.

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Authr. CG 6th Inf Div

Init:

Date: 21 Feb 1945

Hq 60th Inf
210930 March 1945

FO # 32

MAP: GERMANY, Sheets 5309, 5310, 5409, 5410.

1. a. Elements of the 11th Pz Div, chiefly the 110th Pz Gren Regt, were last identified on the regimental front. It is possible that the 110th Pz Gren Regt and the 111th Pz Gren Regt have been combined and reinforced by March Battalions from the Mountain Training Battalions stationed in KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA. Tank elements last known to be operating on the regimental front were from the 664th Heavy A.T. Bn, which is believed to have at least 20 Tank Destroyers (88mm guns on a M4 V chassis) under its control.

The desire of the enemy to commit as few troops as possible against the bridgehead has developed a scheme of defense based on heavy self-propelled artillery fire to support a minimum of infantry.

Enemy artillery fire has been chiefly from single guns, some of which are 150mm or over, with approximately four batteries of artillery believed in action against the regimental zone of action.

The enemy is capable of using paratroops in an effort to disrupt our communications and to use chemical warfare in a last effort to liquidate the bridgehead.

b. See overlay.

2. CT 60 continues the attack to the East to seize and secure the high ground vicinity 788225.
3. a. 1st Bn will be prepared to pass through 2d Bn after its seizure of the initial objective, and to seize and secure the high ground via RAHMS (769216) on order. During the attack of the 2d Bn on the initial objective will support by fire the attack of the 2d Bn from high ground via STRODT and the ridge at 745219. Will protect with small arms automatic fire the crossing of the 2d Bn at 761216. Upon seizure of the 1st Bn objective will establish roadblocks shown and be prepared to support by fire the attack of the 3d Bn on the final objective. Will, on order, protect flank of 3d Bn by securing position B.
- b. 2d Bn will cross LD (River NIED) at 212300 March 45 to seize and secure initial objective. Will establish and maintain roadblocks shown on overlay and support by fire the attack of the 1st Bn on the 1st Bn objective. Will, on order, protect flank of 3d Bn by securing position B. Will support by fire attack of 3d Bn on final objective.

SECRET

S E C R E T

g. 3d Bn will be prepared, on order, to pass through 2d and 1st Bns and seize and secure final objective. Will establish and maintain roadblocks shown. Will be prepared, on order, to make contact with adjacent units on the right and left.

(Alternate Plan: In the event of a rapid crossing against light opposition, the 2d Bn will be prepared to attack, on order, to seize and secure 1st Bn objective, in addition to 2d Bn objective as outlined above. If this Alternate Plan becomes effective, the 1st Bn will then be prepared, on order, to seize and secure objective now assigned to the 3d Bn.)

d. Co B, 746th Tr Bn will attach one platoon to each Bn. Platoon attached to 2d Bn will be prepared to cross to initial objective with 2d Bn. Platoons with 1st and 3d Bns will support attack of 2d Bn with direct fire from positions vic 742215 and 743226.

g. Co B, 899th TD Bn will have one platoon in support of each Bn. Platoon in support of 2d Bn will be prepared to cross to initial objective with 2d Bn. Platoons in support of 1st and 3d Bns will support attack of 2d Bn with direct fire from positions vic 742215 and 743226.

i. Co C, 15th Engr Bn will initially support the 2d Bn and give first priority to crossing sites for the 2d Bn, completing fords or bridges for the passage of armor at the earliest possible time. After seizure of the initial objective, will support attack of the 1st Bn, giving first priority to clearance of mines and maintenance of roads. Will support attack of 3d Bn upon its commitment to attack of final objective, with first priority on clearance of mines and maintenance of roads. Will assist 3d Bn in establishment of roadblocks for securing of final objective.

g. 1st Platoon, Co C, 90th Cml Bn, will support attacks of all Bns. Will furnish F.O. initially to 2d Bn.

h. 60th F.A. Bn - SOP.

i. Cannon Co - SOP.

j. A.T. Co will have one platoon in support of each Bn. Mine platoon will furnish two bazooka teams to 2d Bn.

k. I & R platoon will man regimental O.Ps and be prepared to displace forward across river as soon as other suitable terrain is secured.

l. Hqs Co - SOP.

SECRET

M. Service Co - SOP.

4. A. Rations: All personnel of assault units will carry one full day's "C" rations. Halazone Tablets will be carried by all personnel in units making initial assault.
- B. Water: All personnel will be cautioned against drinking water that has not been chlorinated. Unit commanders must assure that all personnel have a full canteen of water prior to departure from assembly areas.
- C. Gasoline: Units will draw gasoline from present area until further notified.
- D. Ammunition: Unit commanders will insure that all personnel have prescribed amounts of ammunition prior to departure from assembly areas. Any enemy ammunition dumps located will be reported to S-4, 60th Inf, immediately. Any abandoned ammunition, left by friendly troops, will be reported to Ammunition Officer, 60th Inf.
- E. Gas Masks: Will be carried by all personnel; all unit commanders will take every measure possible to keep all personnel aware of their importance.

F. Evacuation:

(1) Evacuation will be through Co C, 9th Med Bn.

(2) Burial: Units will handle allied and enemy dead as prescribed in regtl SOP. Any cases requiring assistance will be referred to Capt. Fisher.

G. Miscellaneous:

(1) Roads: The Main Supply Route (MSR) will be marked by Service Co.

(2) Snow Buggies: Will be checked and carefully handled at all times to keep them in condition for supply and evacuation purposes. Allocation of snow buggies, initially: 1st Bn - 1; 2d Bn - 2; 3d Bn - 2.

(3) All supply installations remain in present positions until further notice.

(4) Locations of enemy equipment will be reported to S-4, 60th Inf, as soon as possible. Any weapons captured that can be evacuated will be done so as soon as possible to prevent recapture and use by the enemy.

(5) One pair of clean socks will be carried by all personnel.

SECRET

SECRET

2. **Area Current 902.**

Point of Origin effective 210000 March 48: 3000.

3. **Axis of Communications: Route used by armoc. Crossing site to be announced.**

4. **ETA - to be reported.**

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Hansen

SECRET

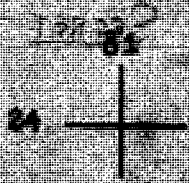
ANNEX: Annex # 1 - Opns Overlay.

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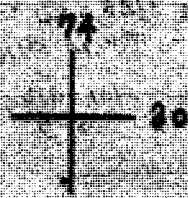
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One Reinforced Co
1st Bn

1st Inf
OBJ
2d Bn

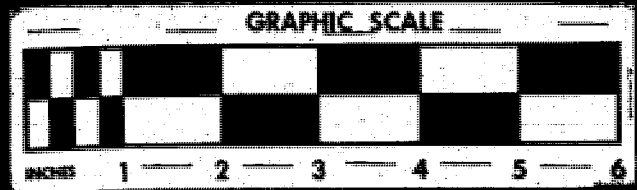
1st Inf
OBJ
2d Bn



X 9
99

SECRET

Annex No 2
One Overlay to Accompany
Annex No 1 To Annex No 2
Field Order No 38
21 March 45
Map Ref. Germany
Scale 1:100,000
Sheets 5710, 5711
Hannover
5-3



SECRET

SECRET

Auth: CG 9th Inf Div
Init:
Date: 24 March 1945

Hq 60th Inf
241200 March 1945

FO # 33

MAP: GERMANY. Sheets 5311, 5312, 5411, 5412.

1. a. See Intelligence Annex.
b. See Overlay.
2. CT 60 continues the attack to the S, SE and E to overrun positions of line A-A by daylight 25 March 45 and to continue the attack to seize objectives shown. LD present front lines.
3. a. 1st Bn: Will attack to seize and secure objective No. 5 prior to daylight 25 March 45 with one reinforced company. This company will be prepared, on order, to assist 47th Inf in capture of objective No. 6 and be prepared, on order, to be relieved by 3d Bn. Will attack with one reinforced company at 250800 March 45 to seize and secure objective No. 4 and attack with one reinforced company at 250800 March 45 to seize and secure objective No. 5. Will establish and maintain roadblocks as shown and will be prepared, on order, to make contact with adjacent units on right and left.
b. 2d Bn: Will assemble prior to daylight 25 March 45 in company assembly areas, is designated regimental reserve and will be prepared to continue attack to E and SE.
c. 3d Bn: Will maintain present front lines, clear objective No. 2 by daylight 25 March 45 and will be prepared, on order, to relieve 1st Bn on objective No. 3. Will assist by fire the attack by 1st Bn on objectives Nos. 3, 4 and 5.
d. Co B, 746th Tk Bn: Will attach one platoon each Bn. Platoon with 3d Bn will support attack of 1st Bn.
e. Co B, 899th TD Bn: Will attach one platoon to each 1st and 3d Bns. Platoon with 3d Bn will support attack of 1st Bn.
f. Co C, 15th Engr Bn: Will support 1st Bn with one platoon. Balance in general support. Will maintain roads in sector. Will be prepared to furnish additional mine sweeping crews on short notice.
g. 1st Plat, Co C, 90th Cml Bn: Will support attack of 1st Bn. Will furnish F.O. with 1st Bn effective 242400 March 45.

SECRET

SECRET

h. 60th F.A. Bn: SOP.

i. AT Co: Will have one platoon in support of each Bn. Nine platoons will be prepared, on order, to furnish mine sweeping crews to any Bn on short notice.

k. I & R Platoon: Will man regimental O.Ps.

l. Hqrs Co: SOP.

m. Service Co: SOP.

4. Omitted.

5. a. Current S.O.I.

b. Regtl Axis: See Overlay.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Whitmore
WHITMORE
S - 3.

- 2 -

SECRET

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 60TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. 9, U. S. ARMY

24 March 1945,

ANNEX NO. 2

TO: FO NO. 33

Elements of the 11th Pz Div, the 277 V. G. Div, the 326 V. G. Div and attached Battle Groups have been identified on the Regimental front during the past 24 hours.

Badly disorganized, the enemy has been defending only from built up areas and with little spirit. There have been no indications of any cohesive defensive plans by the enemy to the immediate front and units have been told only "to hold".

No enemy armor has been observed during the past 24 hours and enemy artillery fire has been chiefly of a harassing nature.

It is likely that the enemy, unable to draw upon any reserves, will continue to defend with the limited means at his disposal the built up areas to our front. It may be expected that his armor and artillery will be used for a more determined stand to the east, probably on the high ground between Siegen and Limburg.

Meanwhile, in a last desperate effort to halt what may be the "death blow" to Germany, the enemy may resort to chemical warfare.

CLARK

S - 2

S E C R E T

SECRET

SECRET

Auth: CG 9th Inf Div

Init:

Date: 24 March 1945

Hq 60th Inf
241200 March 1945

FO # 33

MAP: GERMANY. Sheets 5311, 5312, 5411, 5412.

1. a. See Intelligence Annex.
b. See Overlay.
2. OT 60 continues the attack to the S, SE and E to overrun positions of line A-A by daylight 25 March 45 and to continue the attack to seize objectives shown. LD present front lines.
3. a. 1st Bn: Will attack to seize and secure objective No. 3 prior to daylight 25 March 45 with one reinforced company. This company will be prepared, on order, to assist 47th Inf in capture of objective No. 6 and be prepared, on order, to be relieved by 3d Bn. Will attack with one reinforced company at 250600 March 45 to seize and secure objective No. 4 and attack with one reinforced company at 250800 March 45 to seize and secure objective No. 5. Will establish and maintain roadblocks as shown and will be prepared, on order, to make contact with adjacent units on right and left.
b. 2d Bn: Will assemble prior to daylight 25 March 45 in company assembly areas, is designated regimental reserve and will be prepared to continue attack to E and SE.
c. 3d Bn: Will maintain present front lines, clear objective No. 2 by daylight 25 March 45 and will be prepared, on order, to relieve 1st Bn on objective No. 3. Will assist by fire the attack by 1st Bn on objectives Nos. 3, 4 and 5.
d. Co B, 748th Tk Bn: Will attach one platoon each Bn. Platoon with 3d Bn will support attack of 1st Bn.
e. Co B, 899th TD Bn: Will attach one platoon to each 1st and 3d Bns. Platoon with 3d Bn will support attack of 1st Bn.
f. Co C, 16th Engr Bn: Will support 1st Bn with one platoon. Balance in general support. Will maintain roads in sector. Will be prepared to furnish additional mine sweeping crews on short notice.
g. 1st Plat, Co C, 90th Cml Bn: Will support attack of 1st Bn. Will furnish F.O. with 1st Bn effective 242400 March 45.

SECRET

SECRET

L. 60th F.A. Bn: SOP.

1. AT Co: Will have one platoon in support of each Bn. Nine platoons will be prepared, on order, to furnish mine sweeping crews to any Bn on short notice.

K. I & R Platoon: Will man regimental O.Ps.

L. Hqs Co: SOP.

M. Service Co: SOP.

4. Omitted.

5. a. Current S.O.I.

b. Regt Axis: See Overlay.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIAL:

Whitmore
WHITMORE
8 - 3.

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS 60TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. 9, U. S. ARMY**

24 March 1945.

ANNEX NO. 2

TO: FO NO. 33

Elements of the 11th Pz Div, the 277 V. G. Div, the 326 V. G. Div and attached Battle Groups have been identified on the Regimental front during the past 24 hours.

Badly disorganized, the enemy has been defending only from built up areas and with little spirit. There have been no indications of any cohesive defensive plans by the enemy to the immediate front and units have been told only "to hold".

No enemy armor has been observed during the past 24 hours and enemy artillery fire has been chiefly of a harassing nature.

It is likely that the enemy, unable to draw upon any reserves, will continue to defend with the limited means at his disposal the built up areas to our front. It may be expected that his armor and artillery will be used for a more determined stand to the east, probably on the high ground between Siegen and Limburg.

Meanwhile, in a last desperate effort to halt what may be the "death blow" to Germany, the enemy may resort to chemical warfare.

CLARK

S - 2

S E C R E T

SECRET

Auth: 2nd Air Div
Inits
Date: 23 March 1945

No. 2018 Inf
230100 March 1945

1. 2. 3.

SECRET - (Classification)

1. Enemy resistance, not confined to separate and uncoordinated battle groups of the 277 and 289 V.I. Divisions, has decreased sharply during the past 48 hours and at the end of the period only contact with the enemy has been sporadic.

It is apparent that the main enemy line has been broken. His effort to build another defensive position by the east is dependent upon completion of units that cannot probably be withdrawn from their sectors. It is unlikely that any change in strategy can be anticipated on the rearward front in the next 24 hours.

Enemy artillery has been steadily displaced to the west and is now positioned forward of the main front line. The participation of the present units of the break-through continues.

The attacks, chiefly from single enemy elements, are possible, particularly during the hours of darkness.

2. Area Overview.

1. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

Line of departure: Forward front lines.
Time of attack: 170000Z March 24.

1. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

2. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

3. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

4. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

5. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

6. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

7. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

8. We will continue the attack to the east to further exploit the break-through.

SECRET

SECRET

1. 22 Feb. No change.

2. 22 Feb. 200.

3. I & B Statement with maintenance budget with 20 Feb and with 1st of the 1st.

4. 22 Feb. 200.

5. 22 Feb. 200. Will attach 200 (10) of the 200 to the 200 of the 200 to the 200 of the 200.

6. Small package of resistance will not be permitted to delay main bodies - they will be maintained and changed by increasing scale of the 200.

7. 22 Feb.

8. 22 Feb. 200.

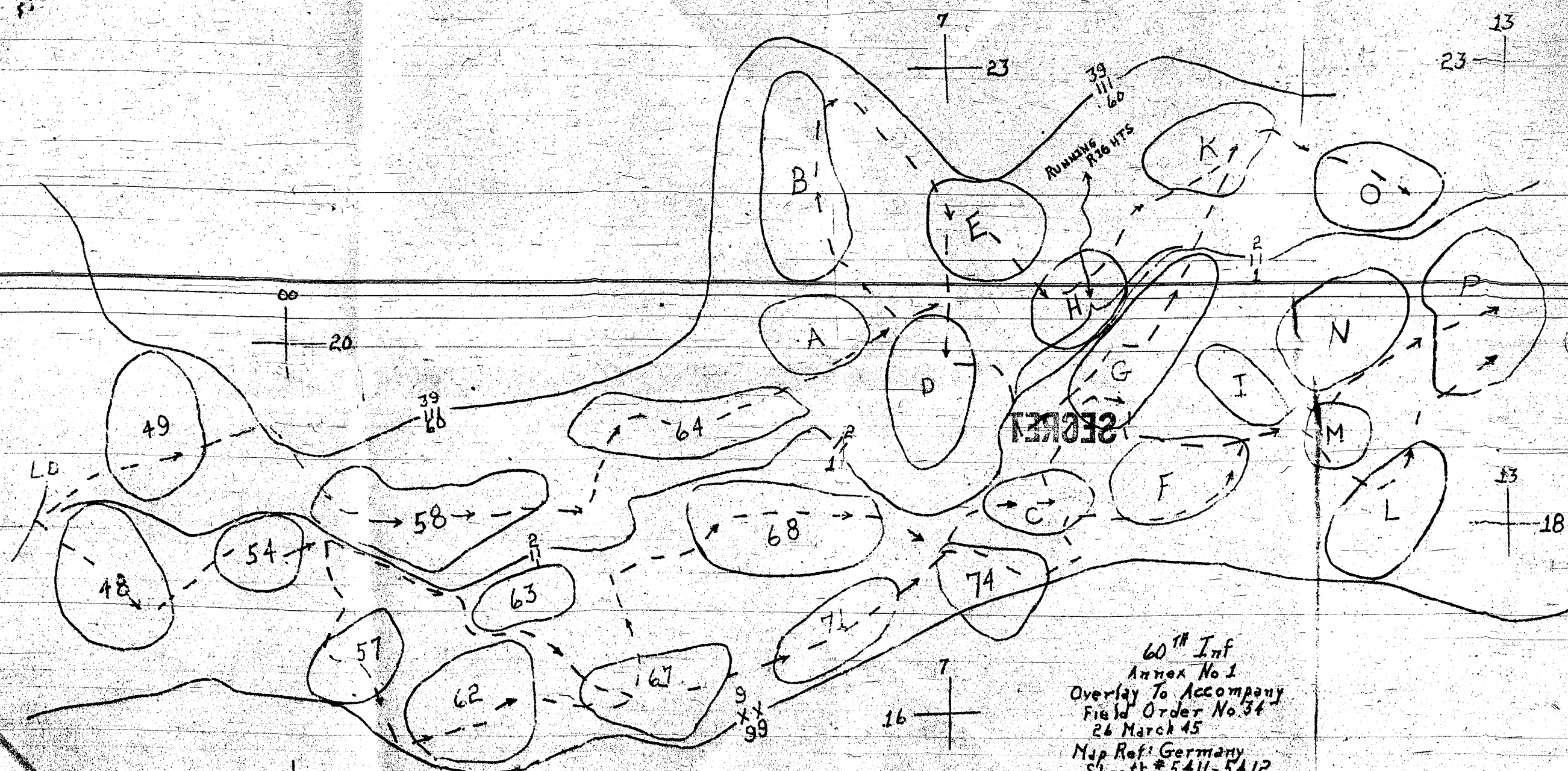
9. 22 Feb. 200. See 200.

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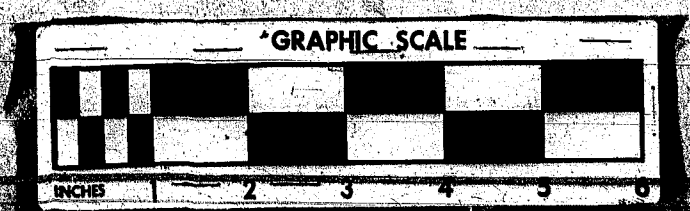
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60th Inf
 Annex No 1
 Overlay To Accompany
 Field Order No. 34
 26 March 45
 Map Ref: Germany
 Sheets # 5411-5412
 Scale 1/25,000

Official
 Whitmore
 5-3
 Van Houten
 Comd



SECRET

S E C R E T

SECRET
Area: CG 3rd Inf Div

Date: 31 March 1945

Hq 50th Inf
311000 March 1945.

FO No. 35

MAP: GERMANY. Sheets R3, S3. Scale 1/100,000.

1. a. Omitted.
- b. Omitted.
2. CT 50 moves by motor 311825 March 45 from its present position to BEDDEHAUSEN.

3. 1. Allocation of attached vehicles:

1st Bn - 25
2d Bn - 25
3d Bn - 25
Hq Co - 2
Hq - 1
RSO - 7

1. Those vehicles attached as of 31 March 45 will be released to Bn Motor Officers upon arrival at destination.

b. Order of March: See March Table.

Note: Co B, 746 Tank Bn, Co B, 899 TD Bn will assemble under company control and march as a unit.

c. Regtl Control Point 666347 at FROMHAUSEN.
9th Div IP at RJ 713417 near GISSELBERG.
Route: See accompanying Route Overlay.

d. Traffic: Distance between vehicles 75 yards, between march units 2 minutes, between serials 3 minutes. Rate of march 20 MPH, maximum to gain lost distance 25 MPH. AA weapons will be manned and half-loaded.

e. Control: Guides and roadsigns will be posted by I & R platoon. Control Point at 666347 (communication SCR 284 and phone through 2d Bn). March units and serials will be marked with appropriate signs designating number and first and last vehicle.

f. Billeting parties under S-1 will select assembly areas and meet their respective units south of BEDDEHAUSEN.

g. Administrative: Panels will be displayed (yellow, single) one panel per 5 vehicles. Full water cans and canteens will be carried. Individual rolls will be carried with the individual on the truck.

S E C R E T

SECRET

4. Omitted.
5. a. SUP.
- b. CPs to be reported.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

OFFICIALS

3
W. H. H. H.
ENTRANCE

3-1

APPENDIX: Annex No. 1 - CPs Overlay.
March Table.

SECRET

MARCH TABLE

To Accompany F. O. No. 35

SERIAL	UNIT	CMR	No. MUs	TIME LENGTH	CROSS CONTROL POINT	CROSS DIV IP	ARRIVE DESTINATION
1	2d Bn Regtl Hq Regtl Hq Co	Major Johnson	5	23	1825	1850	2055
2	3d Bn	Lt. Col. Wilson	4	15	1851	1916	2101
3	1st Bn	Major Watters	4	15	1909	1934	2119
4	Cn Co Co C, 90 G AT Co Hq Co C, 15 Engr	Capt. Brooks	3	15	1927	1952	2137
5	60 FA Bn	Lt. Col. Beets	5	29	1945	2010	2155
6	Serv Co Co C, 9 Med	Capt. Foley	2	12	2017	2042	2227
7	34 FA Bn	Major Kane	4	45	2032	2157	2242 Move 15 MPH
8	Co B 746 TD Co B 899 TD	Capt. Hoschild	2	20	2120	2145	2330 Move 10 MPH

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET
S. W. WITTMER REPORT

G-3 Report

From: G10001 March 1945
To : G10000 March 1945
Sub: Infantry
Name: ~~SECRET~~
Class: March 1945

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: GSA, 9th Armd Div.
Unit on left: 29th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, changing to shower at 1800 hours.
5. Our operations for this period: At the beginning of the period the 2d Bn and the 2d Bn less "C" Company were in MIRA, preparing to continue the attack to the east. The 1st Bn, in reserve, was in an assembly area 2000 yards to the west of MIRA.

At 0830 hours the attack jumped off. The 2d Bn was on the left, with the mission of taking the town of MELLENAN, moved under cover of darkness with two companies abreast. Good progress was made and at 0915 the southeast of the town was reached. After a short fire fight the position was captured. Road blocks were immediately established and contact attempted between adjacent units.

The 2d Bn attacked in a column of companies. Its objective was a ridge west of MIRA and southeast of MELLENAN. No resistance was met and at 0920 the leading company was in position and one hour later the second company arrived. Defenses to the south were organized and a contact patrol was sent to the 2d Bn on the left. This patrol made contact at 1000 hours.

The 1st Bn, at 0845 hours, left its assembly area and moved to MIRA. Leading elements arrived at 0930 hours and immediately roadblocks on roads leading to the south were established. This Bn prepared plans to accomplish its mission as regimental reserve.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 27.
Prisoners: 20.
Morale: Excellent.

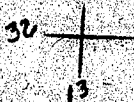
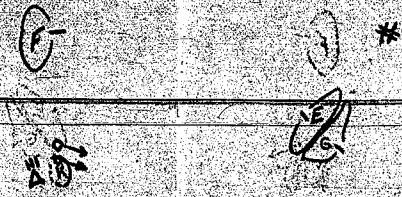
7. Results of operations:

- a. The town of MELLENAN was captured.

JOHN W. WITTMER
Captain, Infantry
Apt. 2 - 2 . . .

SECRET

SECRET

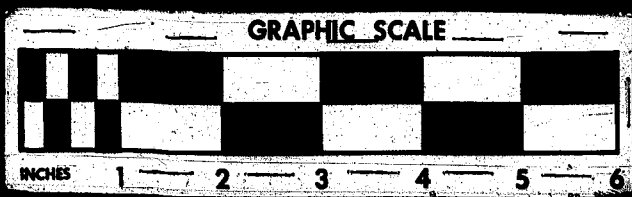


Handwritten notes, possibly a list or a set of instructions, including the number '000351' at the bottom.



HQ 6038 Inf.
Overlay to Accompany
Periodic Report
0001-2100 1 March 45
Map Ref. Germany
Scale 1/25,000

SECRET



SECRET

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 020001 March 45
To: 020400 March 45
60th Infantry
WULDERMAN, GERMANY
020400 March 45

1. Our front lines: See covering.
2. Position of troops: See covering.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 60A, 9th Arm
Div.
Unit on left: 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, visibility good.
5. Our operations for this period:

The 61 Bn, with orders to continue the attack to the east, continued operations at 0400. The 1st Bn of that hour began moving from an assembly area to a line of positions. The 1st Bn was engaged at 0430 and an element of 200 men was sent to the objective. No resistance was met and at 0435 hours the 1st Bn cleared the objective. Positions for defense were organized and occupied for the balance of the period.

The 2d Bn crossed a line of departure at WULDERMAN at 0400 hours and assaulted KUNNEN. The move was made without resistance and at 0450 hours the town was entered and organized. This Bn remained in this position throughout the period. A platoon of "A" Co was relieved of its position southeast of KUNNEN by a platoon of "X" Co at 1800 hours.

The 2d Bn remained in WULDERMAN as regimental reserve till at 1800, when it was moved to FUSSENHORN and BRICK where it relieved a Bn of the 47th Inf.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 20.
Prisoners: 10.
Morale: Excellent.

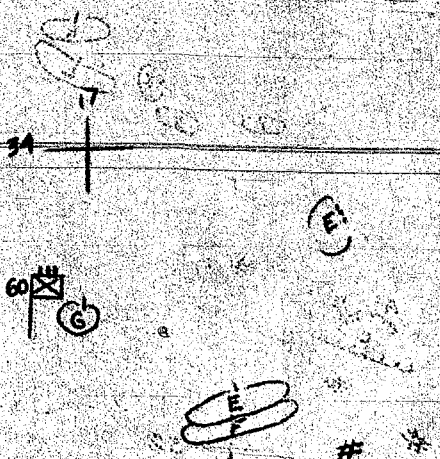
7. Results of operations:

- a. The towns of KUNNEN and FUSSENHORN were captured.
- b. The 2d Bn relieved a Bn of 47th Inf.

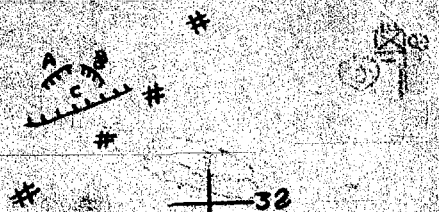
JOHN H. VILHELM
Captain, Infantry
AGC 2 - 2. . . .

SECRET

SECRET

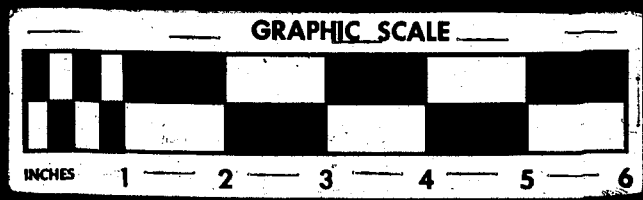


HQ 60th Inf
 Overlay to Accompany
 Periodic Report
 0001-2400 2 March 45
 Map Germany 1:25,000



HQ 60th Inf
 Overlay to Accompany
 Periodic Report
 0001-2400 2 March 45
 Map Germany 1:25,000

SECRET



S E C R E T

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

**From: 030001 March 45
To : 032400 March 45
80th Infantry
ZULPICH, GERMANY
032400 March 45**

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: CGA, 9th Arm
Div.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, colder, visibility good.
5. Our operations for this period: The CT with the 1st Bn at JUNTERSDORF, 3d Bn at FUSSENICH and 2d Bn at EMBKEN, prepared to continue the advance.

At 0330 hours the 1st Bn commenced an attack toward ZULPICH in conjunction with an attack by the 3d Bn. After advancing 1500 yards it was ordered to halt to permit the 3d Bn to come abreast. The 3d Bn, which had started at 0430 hours came abreast at 0545 hours and the advance continued. The town was entered at 0630 hours and the defending enemy completely out-manuevered and surprised were quickly captured.

Defensive positions were organized and the 2d Bn at 1400 hours was moved into FUSSENICH. At 1800 hours the 1st Bn relieved the 3d Bn of its positions in ZULPICH and entered an assembly area in town.

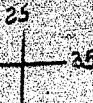
At 1930 hours "I" Company commenced an attack on NEDDENICH to the southeast. Good progress was made and automatic fire met at the edge of town was reduced. At 2115 hours the opposite side of the objective was reached. At the close of the period fighting was still in progress.

6. Combat efficiency: By the employment of deceptive tactics and aggressive action a total of 111 prisoners were taken with only 1 casualty reported. Morale is excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The town of ZULPICH was captured.
 - b. The town of NEDDENICH was entered.

**JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst G - 3.**

S E C R E T

SECRET



3266

3266

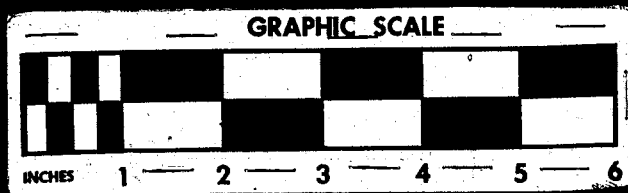
3266

3266

Handwritten notes and a small crosshair with the number '30' in the center. The notes include 'I 1900-2000', '30', '000000', and 'class'.

HQ-60th Inf
Overstay to Accompany
Periodic Report
0001 - 2400 3 March 45
Map Ref: 1:25,000
Germany Scale

SECRET



SECRET

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

**From: 040001 Mar 45
To : 042400 Mar 45
60th Infantry
ZULPICH, GERMANY
042400 March 45**

1. Our front lines: No change.
2. Position of troops: No change.
3. Unit on right: 78th Inf Div; Unit on left: COB, 9th Armd Div.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, changing to cloudy and rain.
5. Our operations for this period:

At 0001 hours the CF was attached to OCA, 9th Armd Div and liaison was immediately established. New boundaries were given and plans for future employment were made.

At the beginning of the period "I" Company was engaged with the enemy at NEMMENICH in house to house fighting. Tanks had been sent to them but could not be employed because of the darkness. Sporadic fighting took place most of the night and shortly after daylight the town was considered secured.

"K" Company, which had been motorized and sent on a mission as a counter-attacking force for higher headquarters, was returned at 1000 hours.

"I" Company in NEMMENICH was relieved by a company of the 47th Inf and returned to the 3d Bn assembly area in ZULPICH at 1100 hours.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 5.
Prisoners: 23.
Morale: Excellent.

7. Results of operations:

- a. The town of NEMMENICH was captured.
- b. Plans for future operations with the 9th Armd Div were made.

**JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. B - 3**

SECRET

S E C R E T

- 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

**From: 050001 March 45
To : 052400 March 45
60th Infantry
LOMMERSUM, GERMANY
052400 March 45**

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: 39th Inf to the front.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy, light showers.
5. Our operations for this period:

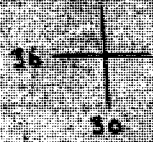
The CT at the beginning of the period was assembled at ZULPICH with the 2d Bn in FUSSENICH. At daylight the CT was released from attachment to the 9th Armored Division and ordered to re-join the 9th Division. At 0915 hours a march was commenced to BARR. Upon arrival the 2d Bn marched by foot to LOMMERSUM where it prepared to attack the following day. The 1st Bn was made responsible for security of the ERFT River crossing and placed outposts and roadblocks to accomplish this mission.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 0.
Prisoners : 0.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The CT moved from ZULPICH to BARR.
 - b. Preparations for attacking were made.

**JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. S - 3.**

S E C R E T

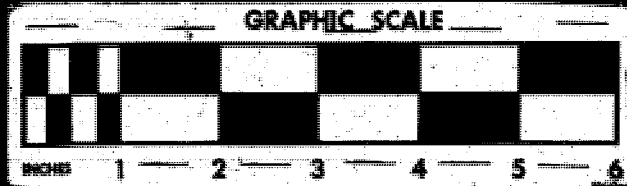
34 SECKEL



HQ 608 Inf
Overlays to Accompany
Periodic Report
0005-2400 5 MARCH 43
MAP Ruhr Germany
Scale 1/25,000

0005-2400
0005-2400
0005-2400
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0005-2400
0005-2400

SECKEL



SECRET

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 060001 March 45.
To : 062400 March 45.
80th Infantry,
OLLHEIM, GERMANY.
062400 March 1945.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 9th Armd Div.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. weather and visibility: Cloudy, changing to clear, intermittent showers.
5. Our operations for this period:

The period opened with the 2nd Bn in assembly at DANKUM, the 1st Bn was enroute to LOMMER UM and the 3rd Bn enroute to NIEDERBERG. The CT was following the 39th Inf with orders to pass through that unit upon the capture of OLLHEIM. Good progress was made by the 39th Inf so the Bns were kept moving forward.

OLLHEIM was captured by the 39th Inf at 0630 hours and the 2nd Bn, with this town as a line of departure, jumped off in the attack. The objective was the town of DUNSTEKUEN. Without much difficulty the town was reached where assaulting units met small arms fire. The town was reduced by 1030 hours and the 2nd Bn continued the advance toward BUSCHHOVEN. Progress was somewhat delayed by entrenched enemy to the east and it was necessary to alter the course to include these trenches. When the Bn was 2000 yards short of the objective fire from AA weapons was received. Progress was slow until, at 1700 hours, "E" and "F" Companies were stopped 400 yards short of the town.

"I" Company was sent to DUNSTEKUEN to secure the town and was relieved by "G" Company at 1700 hours.

The 1st Bn was sent to BUSCHHOVEN from the west and "B" and "C" Companies arrived there at 1430 hours. These units entered town but were immediately involved in a fight. This fight continued until, at 2030 hours, the town was considered secured.

The 3rd Bn moved to an assembly area 1500 yards west of BUSCHHOVEN and waited for the town to fall in order to continue the advance.

- 1 -

SECRET

S E C R E T

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 28.

Prisoners : 36.

Morale : Excellent.

7. Results of operations:

a. The towns of DUNSTEKUOVEN and BUSCHHOVEN were captured.

b. Units moved to positions to continue the advance.

JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry,
Asst. S - 3. . . .

- 2 -

S E C R E T

SECRET

(6) (3)

#160

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33

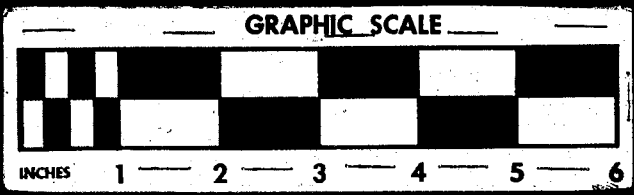
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HQ-60th Inf
Overlay to Accompany
Periodic Report
0001-2400, 6 March 45
Map: Ref: Germany
Scale: 1/25000

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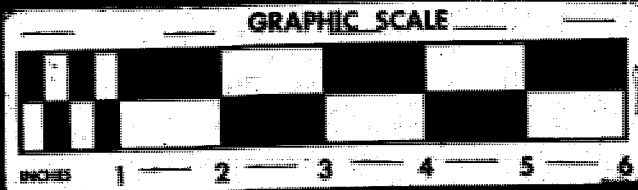
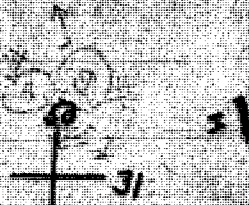
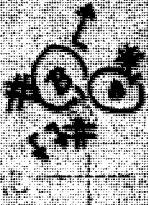
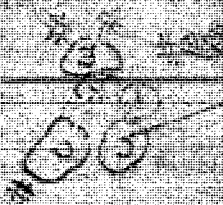
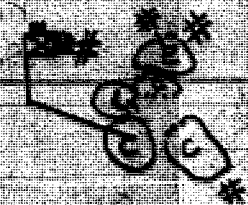
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HQ 60th Inf
Orders to Accompany
Periodic Report
0001 - 2400 7 March 45
Map Ref Germany
Scale 1/25,000



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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

**From: 070001 March 45
To : 072400 March 45
60th Infantry
WITTERSCHLICK, GERMANY.
072400 March 45.**

1. Our front lines: See overlay;
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 9th Armd Div.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Showers, cloudy.
5. Our operations for this period:

The CT, in defensive positions vic BUSCHHOVEN, commenced the attack to the east at 0830 hours. The 1st Bn attacked due east toward VALMERSHOVEN across country. Progress was slow because of wooded terrain and sporadic enemy fire. At 1000 hours leading elements had arrived in the town and by noon the objective was organized.

The 3d Bn attacked northeast and then east toward WITTERSCHLICK. Rapid progress was made and at 0900 hours elements of "I" Company had captured the town. Heavy flak fire fell on both WITTERSCHLICK and VALMERSHOVEN soon after each was taken.

The 2d Bn commenced an attack at 1030 hours toward DUESDORF and an objective 2000 yards west of the town. After emerging from the woods 2000 yards from the objective enemy anti-aircraft weapons and self-propelled artillery opened up and the Bn was unable to continue the advance. "F" and "G" Companies maneuvered to the right and captured the objective at 1800.

The 3d Bn was relieved of its positions in WITTERSCHLICK at 1300 by "G" Company and this Bn attacked and captured ROTTGEN and terrain to the north. The objective was secured by darkness.

All positions were consolidated and defensive positions assumed for the night.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 51.
Prisoners : 76.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The towns of VALMERSHOVEN, WITTERSCHLICK and ROTTGEN were captured.

**JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. S - 3**

SECRET

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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

**From: 080001 March 45
To : 082400 March 45
60th Infantry
WITTEBSCHLICK, GERMANY
082400 March 45**

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 39th Inf.
Unit on left: 1st Inf Div.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy, showers.
5. Our operations for this period:

The CT in positions were disposed as follows: 1st Bn vic VOLMEHSHOVEN, 2d Bn vic WITTEBSCHLICK and 3d Bn at ROTTGEN.

At 0700 hours "E" Co, with the mission of clearing high ground to the east, moved out in the attack. Enemy small arms and S.P. fire was encountered at 1000 hours from vic STALAG VI. Increased enemy pressure was placed on the company and "G" Company was employed on the left flank. Elements of the 3d Bn moved north some distance and assisted by fire. Although some ground was lost the STALAG water was captured and "G" Co returned. Another counterattack came at 1800 hours but was repulsed.

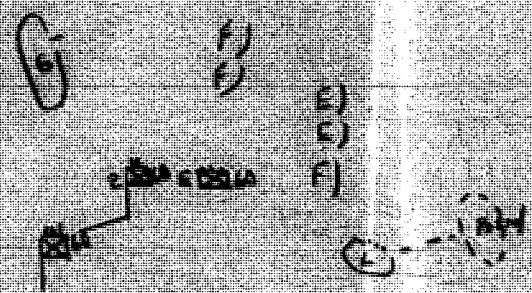
At 1130 hours the 1st Bn was attached to the 9th Armored Division and at 1410 moved out to cross the RHINE River.

The balance of the CT was attached to 7th Armored Division at 1800 hours.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 9.
Prisoners: 47.
Morale: Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. Two counterattacks were beaten off.
 - b. STALAG VI and surrounding country was captured.

**JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. S - 3**

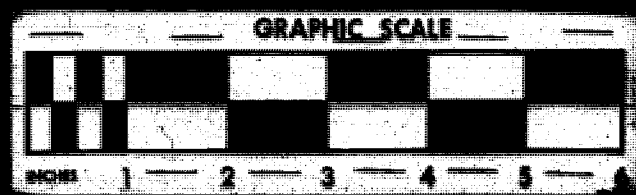
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Periodic Report
0001-4100 8 Mar 45
Map Germany
1:25000



S E C R E T

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 090001 March 45
To : 092400 March 45
60th Infantry
Via OCKENFELS, GERMANY
092400 March 45.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 1st Bn, 310 Inf
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy, visibility limited.
5. Our operations for this period:

At 0600 hours the CT commenced a movement to cross the RHINE River at REMAGEN, GERMANY. The 3d Bn led off and made the move without incident. The crossing of the RR bridge was made under artillery fire but few casualties occurred. This Bn then entered an assembly area where it prepared to attack.

The 2d Bn arrived at the bridge at 1900 hours and all foot elements had crossed by 1630. Direct artillery hits on the bridge, however, made it impossible for passage of vehicles and these had to remain behind. This Bn also entered an assembly area preparatory to continuing the attack.

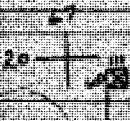
The 1st Bn, previously attached to CGC, 9th Armored Division, reverted to regimental control at 0900 hours. This Bn attacked at 0800 and made some progress against heavy small arms and mortar fire. Hilly terrain also hampered advance. At dark forward elements were halted by heavy machine gun fire from a well defended factory. The Bn remained in this position for the duration of the period.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 40.
Prisoners : 20.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The Combat Team crossed the RHINE River.
 - b. The attack was continued to the east.

JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. S - 3

S E C R E T

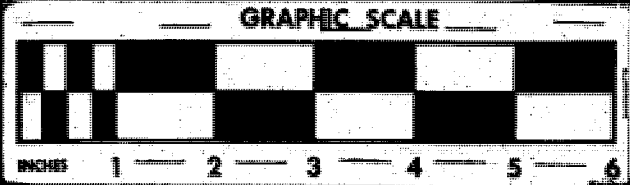
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MAP: GERMANY
SCALE: 1/25,000



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S E C R E T

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 100001 March 45.
To : 102400 March 45.
80th Infantry.
Via CCHENFELS, GERMANY.
102400 March 45.

1. Our front lines; See overlay.
2. Position of troops; See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 310th Inf.
Unit on left: 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Overcast, occasional showers.
5. Our operations for this period:

The C.I., vicinity of LINZ, prepared to continue the attack to the east to secure the bridgehead.

At 0600 hours the 3rd Bn moved to a line of departure east of LINZ and at 0830 hours jumped off. Steady progress was made throughout the day. At noon the Bn was held up by heavy resistance at ROMIG, a small group of buildings. This was reduced and, by darkness, the Bn was on the high ground of the objective.

Two companies of the 2nd Bn were committed to close a gap in the left flank when an enemy column was reported moving in that direction. At 1000 hours the move was begun and "G" Company arrived in place at 1100 hours, "F" Company at 1230 hours.

The 1st Bn moved forward "G" Company to the high ground at FREUDCHEN (498404) at 1500 hours. A small pocket of resistance held out there for the balance of the period. The enemy, in positions in the factory, held out through the period.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 55.
Prisoners: 94.
Morale: Excellent.
7. Results of operations:

- a. The 3rd Bn objective was taken.
- b. The area was held secure against enemy counter-attack.

JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry,
Asst. G - 3. . . .

S E C R E T

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U - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

U-3 Report

From: 110001 March 45
To : 112400 March 45
60th Infantry
LINZ, GERMANY
112400 March 45

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 393rd Inf.
Unit on left: 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy, visibility limited.
5. Our operations for this period:

1st Bn - Assaulted factory 1500 yards northeast of LINZ. "A" Company established a base of fire and "B" Company maneuvered to take the buildings from the north. Objective secured at 0330 hours. "A" Company continued to HARGARTEN, arrived on objective at 1930 hours after heavy hard fighting. "A" Company attacked down road to east at 1400 hours. It made fair progress till stopped at 1900 hours by six Tiger Royal Tanks and enemy infantry.

2d Bn - At 1000 hours "E" Company attacked around north side of "C" Company position. It received heavy direct fire artillery and suffered many casualties. "F" Company moved to a position west of "C" Company. "G" Company moved to north along main road leading north, cleared the road bends of enemy, defended the left flank of the regiment. It was moved to south of factory on alarm of enemy tank attack.

3d Bn - Continued the attack to the east. Made slow, steady progress to GRUNDEL. At dark was passed through by 1st Bn, 393d Inf. The 3d Bn then attacked to northwest toward the high ground east of HARGARTEN. At close of period it had halted along road south of the town.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 53.
Prisoners: 96.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The factory strong point at 692199 was captured.
 - b. The high ground west of HARGARTEN was occupied.
 - c. The bridgehead in the regimental sector was enlarged by 1200 yards.

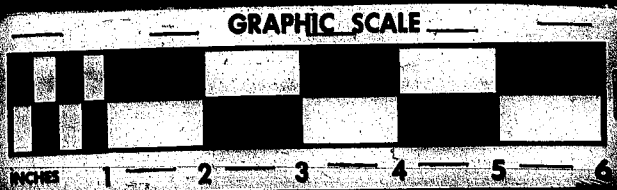
JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. 3 - 3

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S E C R E T

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 120001 March 45.
To : 122400 March 45
60th Infantry
Vic 700198.
122400 March 45.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 393d Inf.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy to clear; visibility 800 yards.
5. Our operations for this period:

At the beginning of the period "B" Company was moving east along the road south of HARGARTEN, clearing it of mines and remaining enemy. The 3d Bn, moving from the south, arrived at the road and proceeded through "B" Company toward a road junction at 721205. This junction was gained and "I" and "K" Companies dug in.

At 1000 hours "I" and "K" Companies commenced an attack to the north toward HARGARTEN. Progress was made till forward elements came within 75 yards of the town. At this point enemy tanks and infantry opened fire at point blank range. The companies were forced to withdraw to positions occupied before the jump-off.

At 1900 hours "I" Company commenced an attack to retake the road junction and this attack ended at 1930 hours when it was reported that the objective was secured.

The 1st Bn jumped off in an attack on HARGARTEN at 1940 hours and at 2045 it had entered the town. At the close of the period the town of HARGARTEN was still not clear of enemy and mopping up continued.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 90.
Prisoners : 47
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. A counterattack was repulsed.
 - b. The town of HARGARTEN was entered.
 - c. The high ground southeast of the town of HARGARTEN was taken.

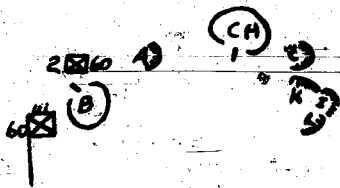
JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry,
Asst. B - 3. . . .

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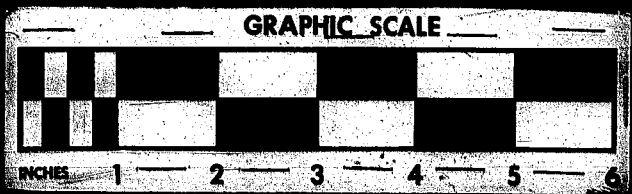
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 Periodic Report
 120001 to 122400 March 45

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Map Ref: Germany
 Scale 1/25,000



S E C R E T

G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 130001 March 45
To : 132400 March 45
60th Infantry
Via 700198
132400 March 45.

MAP: GERMANY. Sheet 5409.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 393rd Inf.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, visibility good.
5. Our operations for this period:

At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was involved in a night attack on the town of HARGARTEN. House to house fighting was carried on against tanks and infantry still at 0400 hours, at which time the town was completely taken. At 0430 hours the 2d Bn moved down through the town and commenced an attack toward ST. KATHARINEN. Heavy fire from enemy tanks was met at the road junction short of town and the Bn was held up in these positions for the remainder of the day.

Commencing at daylight the enemy launched a strong offensive aimed at reducing the RHINE bridgehead. Repeated tank assaults were thrown back and at darkness the pressure decreased.

At 2000 hours the 2d Bn attacked again toward ST. KATHARINEN. Little resistance was met and at 2115 hours had passed through the town. At the same hour "I" Company attacked enemy positions on the RJ to the east and at 2130 hours had gained the objective and contacted the unit on the right.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties:
Prisoners : 15.
Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The towns of HARGARTEN and ST. KATHARINEN were captured.
 - b. Commanding ground to east of 3d Bn was captured.
 - c. Strong enemy counterattacks were beaten off.

JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry,
Asst. S - 3

S E C R E T

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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 140001 March 45
To : 142400 March 45
60th Infantry
Vic 700198
142400 March 45

MAP: GERMANX. Sheet: 5409.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 395th Inf.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, slight ground haze.
5. Our operations for this period:

The Combat Team, in positions at ST. KATHARINEN and MARGARET, organized newly taken positions and halted operations for the early hours of the period. At first light reconnaissance was made to continue the attack.

At 1230 hours elements of "L" Company began an attack to the east. No resistance was met but the route was exposed and enemy artillery and mortars harassed the column during the whole march. The final objective was reached at 1800 hours.

The 1st Bn attacked at 1200 hours toward NOTSCHEID but was stopped on the LD by enemy artillery fire. At 1445 the attack was resumed but only a little ground was gained. At dark progress continued and at 2400 hours the Bn had reached a point 400 yards short of the objective and was still moving.

At 2100 hours the 2d Bn attacked LOBSCHNEID. Good progress was made under cover of darkness and at 2400 hours the town was reached. Some resistance was met and overcome and the advance continued.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 51.
Prisoners : 19.
Morale : Excellent.

7. Results of operations:

- a. The 3d Bn objective was taken.
- b. The town of LOBSCHNEID was entered in force.
- c. The town of NOTSCHEID was approached and its main street was out.

JOHN H. WHITMORE
Captain, Infantry
Asst. # 3

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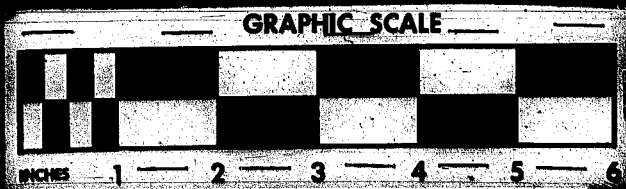
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Overlay To Accompany
Periodic Report
140001 To 142400 March 45
Map Ref: Germany
Scale 1/25000



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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 150001 March 45
To : 152400 March 45
60th Infantry
HARGARTEN, GERMANY
152400 March 45

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on left : 47th Inf.
Unit on right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, warm visibility good.
5. Our operations for this period:

At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged in an attack on the town of ROTSCHEID and the high ground to the east. "B" Company in the lead was stopped at the main road just south of town. After a renewed assault at 0630 hours the town was carried and a short while later the high ground was occupied. This Bn reorganized and remained in their positions for the balance of the day.

The 2d Bn at midnight was engaged in an attack on LORSCHIED. "F" Co had been pinned down by fire at the edge of the town. At 0300 hours "E" Co was committed and attempted to pass through "F" Co. Heavy fire was received and a counterattack pushed the company back some distance. Some men were captured in the fight. A renewed assault by "G" Co at 1300 hours the town was totally cleared of enemy. The 2d Bn then withdrew "E" Co for reorganization and "F" and "G" Companies remained in LORSCHIED.

The 3d Bn patrolled to the east to the high ground and discovered some enemy positions. "K" Co loaded on tanks and T.O.'s made an assault on this high ground and occupied it at 1530 hours. "I" Co joined "K" Co there at 1900 hours.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 44.
Prisoners: 45.
Morale: Excellent.
7. Results of operations:

- a. The town and high ground vicinity of ROTSCHEID were captured.
- b. The town of LORSCHIED was captured.
- c. High ground east of LORSCHIED was captured.

JOE H. HITCHCOCK
Captain, Infantry
Asst. 3 - 3

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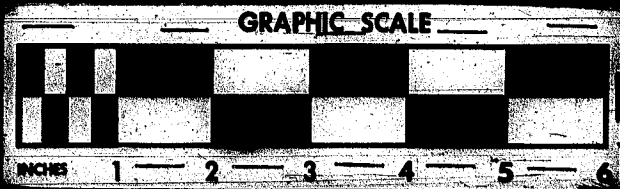
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Overday to Accompany
Periodic Report
2400-15 March 45
Map Germany - 1:25,000



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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 160001 March 45
To : 162400 March 45
60th Infantry
HANGARTEN, GERMANY.
162400 March 45.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on left: 47th Inf.
Unit on right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, warm, visibility unlimited.
5. Our operations for this period:

At 0800 hours the 1st Bn commenced an attack on STROET from positions south of KARHASEL. "C" Company made a frontal assault on the town and was halted at the edge of the town by very heavy SP fire. "A" Company attacked on the north side of the town, bypassed it and reached high ground east of the town, completely cutting off the enemy. This Company remained on the high ground all day without being contacted by the enemy.

At 1900 hours the attack was renewed. "B" Company maneuvered around to the south and approached the high ground east of the town from the south while "C" company again attacked frontally. "A" company remained in positions. At 2400 hours "B" and "C" Companies arrived on their objectives, having met only slight resistance.

Companies "I" and "K" were relieved of positions by the 9th Reconnaissance Troop and these companies were enroute to ST. KARHASEL at the close of the period. "L" Company remained in position to be a possible support to the 1st Bn.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 34.
Prisoners: 4.
Morale: Excellent.

7. Results of operations:

- a. The town of STROET was captured.
- b. The terrain northeast of STROET was captured.

JOHN A. BRITTON
Captain Infantry
Asst 3

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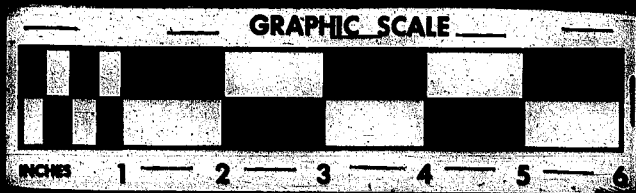
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Overby To Accompany
Periodic Report
160001-162900 March 45
Map Ref: Germany
Scale 1/25000

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U - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

U-3 Report

**From: 170001 March 45
To : 172400 March 45
60th Infantry
HARGATTIN, COMPANY
172400 March 45**

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on left : 47th Inf.
Unit on right: 396th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Cloudy, cold; visibility 1000 yards.
6. Our operations for this period:

At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged with the enemy vicinity of STRODT; the 3d Bn less "L" Company was in assembly area in ST. KATHARINEN; "L" Company was covering the regimental right flank and prepared to assist the 1st Bn; the 2d Bn was in reserve vicinity of ST. KATHARINEN.

Throughout the hours of darkness the 1st Bn struggled to gain the high ground east of STRODT but was continually held up by enemy SF fire. At daylight this fire became heavier and more accurate. Elements of "B" Company were cut off and badly disorganized.

After many attempts to advance "L" Company was committed and moved at 1000 hours. "L" company made slow progress against opposition on its right until at 1700 hours it had arrived at the base of the hill which was "A" Company's objective. Some members of "B" Company were located there.

At 2000 hours the 1st Bn renewed the assault on the high ground and were repulsed once by small area fire from the top of the hill. Another platoon at 2330 hours renewed the assault on STRODT HILL. "A" Company was still probing to the north at 2400 hours.

"C" Company established a left flank outpost of one reinforced platoon to cover that flank.

The 9th Reconnaissance Troop occupied positions on the right flank and during the afternoon occupied successive positions to cover the rear of "L" Company.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 47.
Prisoners: 35.
Morale: Excellent.

7. Results of operations:
 - a. The town of STRODT was cleared of enemy.
 - b. The area east of STRODT was continually assaulted and finally occupied, except for the top of the hill.

**JOHN H. WELLYARD
Captain, Infantry
Asst. S - 3.**

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Overlay to Accompany
Periodic Report
2400-17 March, 45
Map Germany; 1:25,000

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GRAPHIC SCALE



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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 180001 March 45
To : 182400 March 45
80th Infantry
LERSCHHEID, GERMANY
182400 March 45

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 395th Inf.
Unit on left : 47th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, visibility good.
5. Our operations for this period:

At the beginning of the period the 1st Bn was engaged with the enemy vic of high ground east of STRODT, the 2d Bn less "G" Co was in assembly area vic of ST, KATHARINEN, "G" Co (one reinforced platoon) maintained a left flank outpost covering that flank and the 3d Bn was preparing to move to LD (1st Bn front lines).

At 0400 hours the 1st Bn, after continuously assaulting the top of high ground at STRODTER HUGEL, finally cleared the enemy out of their well dug-in positions and occupied the entire area.

At 0500 hours the 3d Bn crossed the LD (1st Bn front lines) and secured the intervening forest land and the town of ROTT by 1000 hours. At 0500 hours "G" Co sent a platoon alling the 47th Inf right flank to protect the left flank of the 3d Bn as it attacked to the northeast.

"K" Co continued to attack to the northeast and at 1500 hours secured the town of HEIDE. "I" Co, which also continued its attack, secured the high ground north of the town of ROTT. The remainder of the 3d Bn continued to push forward to the limits of their objective and establish roadblocks as shown on overlay.

At 2300 hours the balance of "G" Co moved up and joined the reinforced platoon on the 3d Bn's left flank and maintained contact with the 47th Inf.

During this assault they received considerable enemy automatic fire, S.P. and artillery fire.

The 9th Recon Troop maintained outposts protecting right flank of OT and maintained contact with 395th Inf on the right.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 77.
Prisoners : 103.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The forest land and town of ROTT were captured.
 - b. The high ground north of ROTT and the town of HEIDE were cleared of enemy.

E. J. HENNEN
Major, Infantry
S - 3.

SECRET

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G - 3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 150001 March 45
To : 150400 March 45
60th Infantry
LAWRENCE, GEORGE
150400 March 45.

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on left : 47th Inf.
Unit on right: 280th Inf.
4. Weather and visibility: Clear, warm; visibility unlimited.
5. Our operations for this period:

The period opened with the 1st Bn in defensive positions on the right flank, the 2d Bn in reserve in vicinity of ST. KATHARINE and the 3d Bn mounting an offensive toward the AUTRAN.

The 2d Bn spent the hours of darkness mopping up isolated pockets of resistance, pushing out outposts and establishing fireblocks. As daylight work was commenced on the improvement of defensive positions and patrols were operated to the front.

The 1st Bn continued to defend the assigned sector. "B" Company relieved the 9th Reconnaissance Troop at 2000 hours.

The 3d Bn, having sent "G" Company to advance ahead of the 2d Bn and cover the Regimental left flank, was withdrawn at first darkness to an assembly area.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties : 42
Prisoners : 8.
Morale : Excellent.
7. Results of operations:
 - a. The 2d Bn area was cleared and secured.
 - b. The 9th Recon Troop was relieved.
 - c. Defensive positions were organized and improved.

JOHN H. WHITCOMB
Captain, Infantry,
Actg. G - 3 . . .

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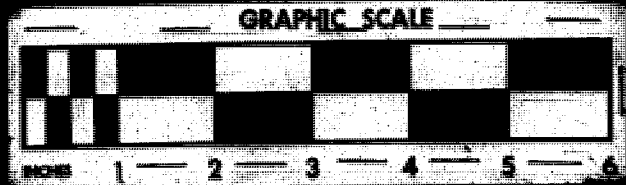
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Monthly Report
100001 to 192400 March
Map Ref: Germany
Scale 1:25000



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G-3 PERIODIC REPORT

G-3 Report

From: 200001 March 45
 To : 202400 March 45
 60th Infantry
 LONSCHEID, GERMANY
 202400 March 45

1. Our front lines: See overlay.
2. Position of troops: See overlay.
3. Information on adjacent units: Unit on right: 396th Inf.
Unit on left: 47th Inf.
4. Weather : Clear dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our operations for this period:

The G3 continued to defend the assigned sector. The 3d Bn out-posted the left, the 1st an outposted the right and the 2d Bn remained in reserve. All Bns retained normal attachments.

"L" Co sent a patrol to vic 760239 to clear out snipers which had been bothering us from this location. Patrol ran into minefields and enemy machine gun fire and was forced to withdraw.

At close of period "L" Co was putting into execution plans for moving around enemy strong-point and approaching it from the NE with the mission of clearing it out and then patrolling along the east bank of the river.

During darkness patrols operated to the front with the mission of determining enemy information and condition of roads and stream. Some enemy positions were located and artillery fire was placed upon them.

During hours of daylight reorganization and reassembling took place. Training was commenced in certain prescribed subjects and plans for future training were made.

Normal contacts with adjacent units were made throughout the period. Harassing fire was delivered on artillery positions during the period.

6. Combat efficiency: Casualties: 19.
Prisoners: 1.
Morale: Excellent.

7. Results of operations:

- a. Area was defended.
- b. Patrols were operated.
- c. Contacts were made.

JOHN H. WHITEHEAD
 Captain, Infantry
 Mast. 3 - 3.

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Overlay to Accompany
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Map Ref Germany
Scale 1/25,000

GRAPHIC SCALE



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S-3 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 216001 March 45
To : 212400 March 45
60th Infantry
LORSCHHEID, GERMANY
212400 March 1945

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left: 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather : Warm, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn: Continued to defend assigned sector, regrouped A Company for future operations and contacted 395th Inf on the right.

b. 2d Bn: Remained in regimental reserve, reconnoitered for crossing of the WIED RIVER and accomplished some training.

c. 3d Bn: Defended the assigned sector, patrolled to front, contacted 47th Inf on the left and made preparations for crossing the WIED RIVER. It was relieved by the 3d Bn of the 47th Inf at 2300 hours and entered an assembly area vic STRODT.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support, fired harassing fire and some observed targets.

e. A.T. Co: Continued normal support.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 26.
Prisoners : 30.

7. Results of Our Operations:

Continued to defend sector, regrouped to continue the attack, patrolled to front and to flanks for contact with adjacent units, made preparations for crossing the WIED RIVER.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

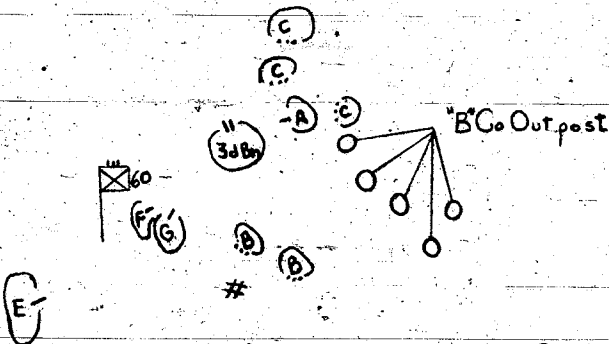
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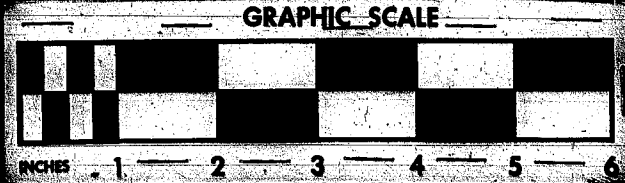


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Overlay To Accompany
 Periodic Report
 212400 March 45
 Map Ref: Germany
 Scale 1/25,000



S E C R E T

From: 22001 March 45
To : 22400 March 45
60th Infantry
LORSCHIED, GERMANY
222400 March 45

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left : 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather : Clear, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn: Defended the assigned sector, supported by fire the attack of the 2d Bn at 2200 hours, prepared to cross "A" Company over the river after the 2d Bn.

b. 2d Bn: Remained in regimental reserve until 2200 hours. At 2200 hours attacked across the WIED River, "E" Co and "F" Co crossed river at 747223 and 751218 and, meeting opposition, continued to push toward objectives. At close of period "F" Co had run into enemy machine gun fire and sniper fire en masse at 756218, "E" Co had progressed to 753227 meeting no opposition, "A" Co following "E" Co was spreading out to the right and left in mopping up action behind the 2d Bn and "G" Co was at LD (river bank) preparing to cross.

c. 3d Bn: In assembly area vic STROEDT remained in place during the period, supported by fire the 2d Bn attack, prepared to pass through the 2d Bn across the river.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support, fired harassing fires during the period, supported the 2d Bn attack.

e. AT Co: Continued normal support.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 28.
Prisoners : 3.

7. Results of Our Operations:

Continued to defend the assigned sector; maintained contact between adjacent units; small bridgehead established across the WIED River.

VAN HOUTEN
Commanding

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Asst.S-3

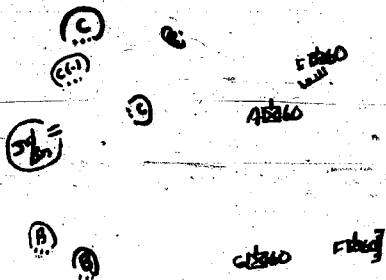
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Overlay To Accompany
Periodic Report
220001 To 222400 March 45

Map Ref Germany
Scale 1/25,000

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3-3 MILITARY REPORT

From: 280001 March 45
To: 238400 March 45
60th Infantry
NIEBER HOFFEN, GERMANY
238400 March 1945

1. Unit Contact Lines: See Overlay
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left: 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather: Warm and dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn. Defense assigned at 0300. Platoon defense assembly area across WIND RIVER at 1500 hours. It protected bridge and bridgehead installations and was designated regimental reserve.

b. 2nd Bn. Continued the attack east of WIND RIVER, captured SIKADE, UELID, HEBED, and SIKEDSHEID, contacted unit on right and unit on left.

c. 3rd Bn. Attacked through 2nd Bn. at 1300, captured GEBES, GEBSEN, SCHMIED, HESCHEN, SCHATTEN, JUNGESGRUPP, ABERGION, and PRANTHAL, penetrated to front and flank for security.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support, displaced to east of WIND RIVER.

e. M.F. Co: Attached one platoon each bn, initially, 2 platoons to 3rd Bn and 1 to 2nd Bn at 1800.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent
Unassisted: 27
Prisoners: 243

7. Results of Our Operations:

a. Successfully crossed WIND RIVER.

b. Captured ten villages and additional command positions.

c. Maintained contact with adjacent units.

VAN ROOYEN
Commanding

W.M.C.S.
Aest. 3-3

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AMERICAN REPORT

From: 24000 March 45
To : 24000 March 45
60th Infantry
RAMM, GERMANY
24000 March 1945.

1. Our Front Line: See Overlay.
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left : 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 200th Inf.
4. Weather : Warm, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn: Remained in regimental reserve; attached B Co to 1st Bn at 1400 hours; moved A and C Cos forward to positions in rear of 1st Bn in preparation for an attack.

b. 2d Bn: Remained in positions; contacted units on right and on left; sent a platoon to HODDEN to clear it of enemy in preparation for passage of the 47th Inf.

c. 3d Bn: Continued advance during the night and gained ground to the E and N; resumed the attack at daylight with small unit actions; captured HERTENBERG, MANDROT and HORNHEID; moved B Co to HORNHEID and relieved elements of L Co there at 1800 hours.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support; displaced to RAMM at 1500 hours.

e. AF Co: Placed one platoon in direct support each Bn; displaced to RAMM at 1500 hours.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 17.
Prisoners : 47.

7. Results of Our Operations:

Continued attack to E and captured four villages and surrounding high ground; contacted adjacent units.

VAN HOUTEN
CdnG

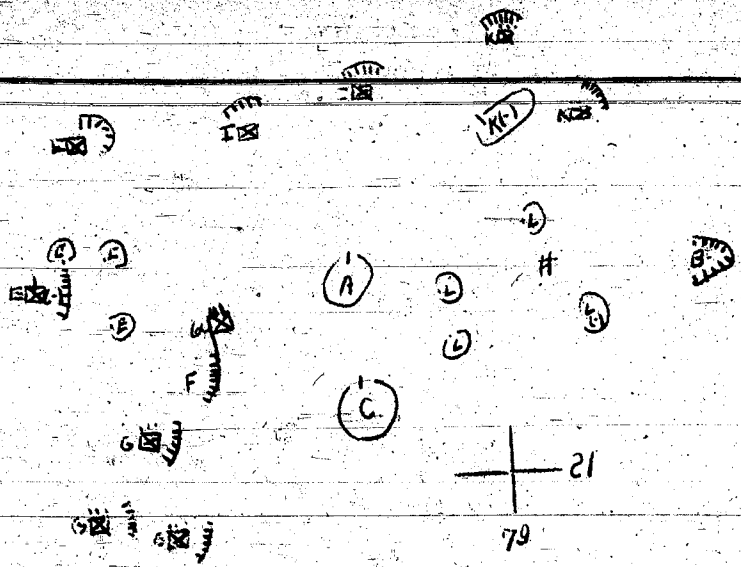
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 Map Ref: Germany
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GRAPHIC SCALE



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S-3 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 250001 March 45
To : 252400 March 45
60th Infantry
FERNTHAL, GERMANY
252400 March 45

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left : 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 395th Inf.
4. Weather : Warm, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn: CONTINUED THE ATTACK TO SW, CAPTURED HEIMBACH at 1000 hours after heavy fighting, remained in position along AUTOBAHN for balance of period. It attached B Co to 3d Bn for the attack on HERHAUSEN.

b. 2d Bn: Passed through the 1st Bn at 1000 hours, met Resistance near HEIMBACH. It had heavy fighting on to EPGERT and KRUNKEL. F Co was sent north to capture OBERSTEINBACH and HEIDERUOF at 1800 hours.

c. 3d Bn: Passed through the 2d Bn at 1900 hours, attacked SE and captured HERHAUSEN and the high ground to the south. Fighting was in progress near GULLESHEIM and NIEDERSTEINBACH at close of period.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support, displaced to HEIMBACH.

e. AT Co: Continued normal support, displaced to FERNTHAL.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 75.
Prisoners : 209.

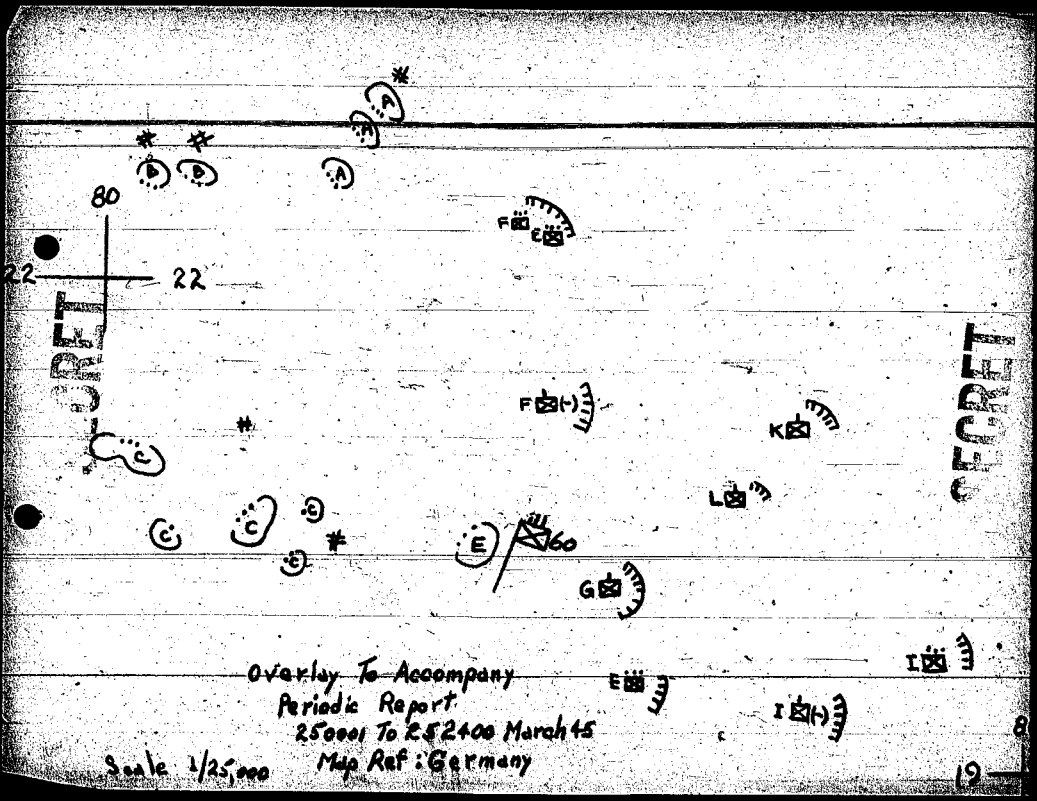
7. Results of Our Operations:

The attack continued to east; eight towns were captured; contact was made with adjacent units.

VAN HOUTEN
Cmdg

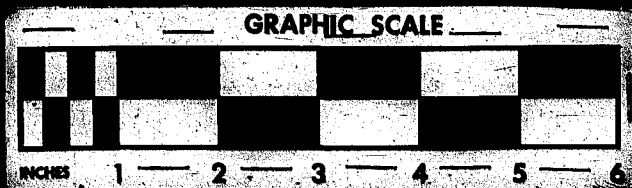
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Overlay To Accompany
 Periodic Report
 250001 To 252400 Marshals

Scale: 1/25,000 Map Ref: Germany



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3-3 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 260001 March 45
To: 262400 March 45
60th Infantry
RAUBACH, GERMANY
262400 March 45

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Location of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left: 39th Inf.
Unit on Right: 394th Inf.
4. Weather: Warm, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn: Continued the attack to the east, captured high ground in its zone. It attached B Co to the 3d Bn at 0100 hours, continued the attack till it was pinched out by the 3d Bn. Entered an assembly area at 1700 hours at EFGERT.

b. 2d Bn: At the beginning of the period was attacking to the east from KRUNKEL. It made good progress against light resistance and at 1400 hours had seized RAUBACH. It remained in these positions to the end of the period.

c. 3d Bn: Followed the 2d Bn in the attack, was meterized at 1330 hours and attacked through the 2d Bn at RAUBACH at 1400 hours. It made rapid progress and at 1700 hours had captured MAROTH and the stream crossings at MARIENHAUSEN. It remained in these positions for the balance of the period.

d. Cn Co: Continued normal support.

e. AT Co: Continued normal support.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties: 11.
Prisoners: 133.

7. Results of Our Operations:

A total advance of 18 kilometers was made during the period; contact was maintained with adjacent units.

VAN HOUTEN
Cmdg

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S-3 PERIODIC REPORT

Plan: 270001 March 45
To: 272400 March 45
60th Infantry
MEMBERSKIRCHEN, GERMANY
272400 March 1945

1. Cur Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Position of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left: 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 394th Inf.
4. Weather: Clear, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

a. 1st Bn continued attack to east at 0630 hours from RAUBACH, moved, motorized, against little resistance in right sector. Arrived at GUNNIBACH at 1730 hours and assumed defensive positions for the night.

b. 2d Bn, motorized, attacked east at 0700 hours in left sector and reached the banks of the DILL River against little opposition at 1630 hours.

c. The 3d Bn in regimental reserve shuttle-moved behind the 2d Bn and entered an assembly area vic ARBORN at 2100 hours.

d. Gn Co: Continued normal support.

e. AT Co: Continued normal support.

5. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties: 6.
Prisoners: Unknown.

7. Results of Our Operations:

- a. Attack was continued and crossings on DILL River were secured.
- b. Contact was maintained with adjacent units.

VAN HOUTEN
Cndg

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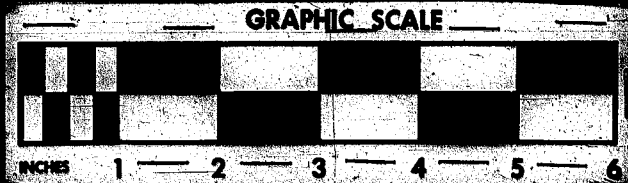
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Overlay
Periodic Report
27 March 45
Map Germany, Scale 1:50,000



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From : 00000 March 45
To : 282400 March 45
60th Infantry
OBENHALGREN, GERMANY
282400 March 1945.

1. Our Front Lines: See Overlay.
2. Position of Troops: See Overlay.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left : 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 394th Inf.
4. Weather : Warm, dry.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:
 - a. 1st Bn: Remained in regtl reserves, followed the assault Bns in the attack, arrived in assembly area at KUNIBACH at 2000 hours.
 - b. 2d Bn: Continued attack from KATZENFURT in left sector at 0600, met no enemy, assumed final positions at FROMHAUSEN at 1700 hours.
 - c. 3d Bn: Continued attack from KERINGSHAUSEN in right sector at 0600 hours, met no enemy, assumed final positions at OEH-NAUSEN at 1800 hours.
 - d. Cn Co: Continued normal support.
 - e. AT Co: Continued normal support.
6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 0.
Prisoners : Unknown.
7. Results of Our Operations:
 - a. The attack was continued to the east.
 - b. Contact with unit on left was maintained.

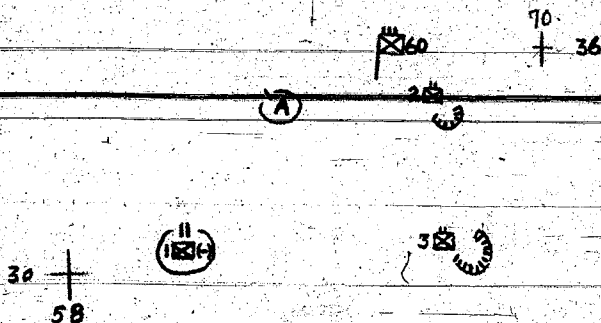
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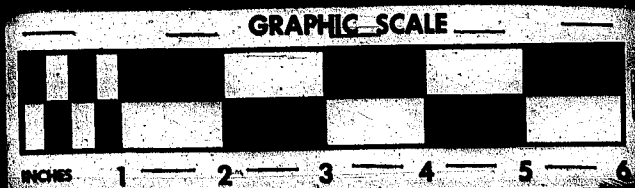
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Overlay to Accompany
Periodic Report
OGAI-2400, 28 March 45
MAP Ref: Germany
Scale 1/100,000
Sheet S-3

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S E C R E T

S-3 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 290001 March 45
To: 292400 March 45
60th Infantry
ORENVALGERN, GERMANY
292400 March 1945.

1. Our Front Lines: No change.
2. Location of Troops: No change.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Right: 394th Inf.
Unit on Left: 47th Inf.
4. Weather: Overcast, showers.
Visibility: Limited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

The CF remained in assembly areas throughout the period waiting to resume the march behind the 7th Armored Division.

Care and cleaning of equipment was accomplished and reorganization took place. Plans and reconnaissances were made for a resumption of the attack.

A motor patrol was sent to the south to establish contact with the unit on the right. This contact was made at 1830 hours at the town LOLLAK with the 394th Inf.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties: 6
Prisoners: 115.

7. Results of Our Operations:

- a. Reorganization and rehabilitation was accomplished.
- b. Contact established with 394th Inf on the right.

VAN HOUTEN
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

WHITMORE
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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

S-3 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 30000L March 45
To: 302400 March 45
60th Infantry
OBERWALGERN, GERMANY
302400 March 45

1. Our Front Lines: No Change.
2. Location of Troops: No Change.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Unit on Left: 47th Inf.
Unit on Right: 99th Div.
4. Weather: Warm, clear.
Visibility: Unlimited.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

The CT remained in assembly area prepared to continue the advance behind the 7th Armored Division.

At first light work was continued on reorganization, rehabilitation and supply. Rear dumps were moved up and hot meals were served.

Reconnaissance of roads in the area to the front was made in preparation for future operations.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties: 0.
Prisoners: 52.
7. Results of Operations:
 - a. Reorganization, rehabilitation and supply were accomplished.
 - b. Plans and reconnaissances for future operations were made.

VAN HOUTEN
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

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PERIODIC REPORT

From: 310001 March 45
To: 312400 March 45
6th Infantry
BEDDELHAUSEN, GERMANY
312400 March 45

1. Our Front Lines: Enroute between FRONHAUSEN and BEDDELHAUSEN.
2. Position of Troops: Enroute as above.
3. Information on Adjacent Units: Not committed.
4. Weather : Clear, Overcast.
Visibility: 1000 yards.
5. Our Operations for the Period:

The 1st prepared to continue the attack to the NE, was notified of the Division attachment to VII Corps and ordered to move to an assembly area 38 miles to the NW. Throughout the day preparations were made for the move and at 2300 hours the march commenced.

At the close of the period, portions of the CT were enroute with the balance prepared to leave.

6. Combat Efficiency: Excellent.
Casualties : 0.
Prisoners : 33.
7. Results of Our Operations:

a. The CT regrouped and prepared to move to a new area.

VAN HOUTEN
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

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WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-¹³⁷ PENTAGON

AGC RECORDS
ITEM NO. <u>3254</u>

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UPGRADED TO
CLASSIFICATION REMOVED

AFTER BATTLE REPORT
HEADQUARTERS 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION
G-3 SECTION
PERIOD 01 MARCH 1945 - 31 MARCH 1945

BY AUTHORITY OF TAG

01 March 1945

11 Pas 45 - 1150

Date Initials

The 30th Infantry Division continued protection of the right flank of the XIX Corps, completed cleaning out the town of LIPP (F179668), occupied the towns of HARFF (F164705), MORKEN (F165717), GUSTORF (F180750), and LAACH, without opposition and relieved elements of the 331st Infantry in ORKEN (F185782), NOITHAUSEN (F195794), and in the western portion of GREVENBEROICH (F192778).

The 117th Infantry, attached Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, maintained defense of the PUTZ (F142673), KIRCH (F145657) and TROISDORF (F135662) area. The 3d Battalion relieved elements of the 125th Cavalry Squadron in the town of LIPP (F179668) and completed cleaning scattered infantrymen from the town at 0830A.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, maintained and improved its defensive positions in the KIRCHHEITEN (F123685) and KONIGSHOVEN (F150720) area. The 1st Battalion moved from KONIGSHOVEN and without opposition occupied the towns of HARFF (F163704) and MORKEN (F165717).

The 120th Infantry, attached Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, relieved the 3d Battalion of the 331st Infantry with the 1st Battalion in the towns of ORKEN (F185782) NOITHAUSEN (F195794) and in the western portion of the town of GREVENBEROICH (F192778) at 1915A. The 2d Battalion remained in an assembly area in the vicinity of KALRATH (F103665). The 3d Battalion moved to the east from GARZWEILER at 1500A and occupied the town of JUSTORF (F180750) without opposition.

02 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division continued defense of its sector and the XIX Corps flank and repulsed an enemy counterattack in the vicinity of KAPELLEN (F220814).

The 117th Infantry, attached Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion began movement to the north at 1400A from the PUTZ (F142673), KIRCH (F145657), TROISDORF (F135662), HARFF (F163705) area, and closed into the HEIMERDEN (F200813), KAPELLEN (F222816), GILWERATH (F230821), HOLZHEIM (F252253) area at 2015A. The Regiment relieved elements of the 120th Infantry and 331st Infantry, and assumed responsibility for the defense of that sector.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, 30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized, and the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed), maintained defensive positions in the KONIGSHOVEN (F150720), KIRCHHEITEN (F123685), HARFF (F163704) and MORKEN (F165717) area. The 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) was attached to the Regiment at 1000A and Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion relieved from attachment and reverted to Battalion control. The 30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized, was attached to the 119th Infantry at 1500A.

The 120th Infantry, attached 743d Tank Battalion, Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion attacked at 1500A with Company A cleaned out enemy infantry and tanks in the vicinity of KAPELLEN (F220814) and at 1730A contacted and relieved Company I, 331st Infantry, which had been cut off from its Regiment. The 2d Battalion moved from KALRATH

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(F103665) and closed into an assembly area in vicinity of EISEN (F180776) at 1330A. The 3d Battalion maintained its defensive positions in the vicinity of GUSTARF (F180750).

03 March 1945

The 90th Infantry Division maintained and improved its defensive positions, patrolled the west bank of the ERFT RIVER, and protected the right flank of the XIX Corps and Ninth U. S. Army.

The 117th Infantry, attached Companies A and C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, maintained defense and completed cleaning enemy west of the ERFT RIVER in the HEIMERDEN (F200813), KAPPELLAN (F222816), GILVERATH (F230821), HOLZHEIM (F252253) area, and patrolled along the west bank of the ERFT RIVER. Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the Regiment at 1200A.

The 119th Infantry, with attachments, maintained its defensive positions in the KONIGSHOVEN (F150720), KIRCHHERTEN (F123685), HARFF (F163704) and MORGEN (F165747) area until its positions were uncovered by the advance of the 4th Cavalry Group on the east bank of the ERFT RIVER. When its positions were uncovered at 1045A the Regiment assembled in the vicinity of KONIGSHOVEN, KIRCHHERTEN, HARFF and MORGEN. The 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion (Crossed) and 30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized, were released from attachment at 1200A.

The 120th Infantry, attached Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion and 743d Tank Battalion maintained its defensive positions in the GUSTARF (F180750), EISEN (F180776) and KAPPELLAN (F220814) areas. The 743d Tank Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 120th Infantry at 1200A. When its defensive positions were uncovered at 1445A by the advance of the 4th Cavalry Group, the Regiment assembled in the towns of GUSTARF, EISEN and KAPPELLAN.

04 - 05 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division during the period 04-05 March maintained active defense and patrolling of its sector, protection of right flank of XIX Corps, and maintenance and repair of equipment. The Division's defensive positions were uncovered at 041630A by the advance of the 4th Cavalry Group and the 99th Infantry Division to the northeast of the ERFT RIVER. When its defensive positions were uncovered the Division assembled its troops.

The 117th Infantry, attached Companies A and C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, maintained defense and patrolling west of the ERFT RIVER in the HEIMERDEN (F200813), KAPPELLAN (F222816), GILVERATH (F230821), HALZHEIM (F242253) area. The Regiment's defensive positions were uncovered at 041630A by the advance of the 4th Cavalry Group and the 99th Infantry Division, and the Regiment assembled its troops in the towns of HEIMERDEN, KAPPELLAN, GILVERATH and HOLZHEIM. Companies A and C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were released from attachment and reverted to Battalion control at 051200A.

The 119th Infantry during the period 04-05 March remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance and repair of equipment.

The 120th Infantry, attached Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, during the

period 04-05 March, remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance and repair of equipment. B Company, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion was released from attachment and reverted to battalion control at 041500A.

06-23 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division at 060900A, began movement by motor from its assembly area in the vicinity of NUHREN, GERMANY (P135788) and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of NCHT, HOLLAND (K690800) at 071800A. During the period 08-16 March, the Division remained in its assembly area and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance and repair of equipment and vehicles, and carried out an intensive amphibious training program with all types of boats and landing craft on the MAAS RIVER. At 162050A, the Division began moving its troops, by infiltration under cover of darkness, to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of ALPON, GERMANY (A152316) in preparation for its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. During the period 17-21 March, the Division continued its training, rehabilitation of troops, maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment, and completed movement to its forward assembly area. During the period 22-23 March, the Division remained in its forward assembly area, and completed plans and preparations for its assault across the RHINE RIVER.

The 117th Regimental Combat Team began movement at 060800A March, by motor from its assembly area in the HELMSTEDER (P200813), KAPELLAN (P222816), SILVERATH (P230821), HOLZHEIM (P252253), GERMANY, area, and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of MAASBRACHT, HOLLAND (K7185) at 061345A. During the period 07-18 March, the 117th Infantry remained in its assembly area and conducted intensive amphibious training with all types of boats and landing craft on the MAAS RIVER in preparation for its assault across the RHINE RIVER, rehabilitation of personnel, and maintenance and repair of equipment. At 181900A, the regiment began movement by motor under cover of darkness, and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of ALPON, GERMANY (A152316) at 182330A. During the period 19-23 March, the regiment remained in its assembly area and completed plans and preparations for its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of WALLACH, GERMANY (A197324).

The 119th Regimental Combat Team began movement by motor at 061340A, March, from its assembly area in the KONIGSHOVEN (P150720), KIRCHHERTEN (E123685), HARTF (P163704), and MORKEN (P165717), GERMANY area and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of SUSTEREN, HOLLAND (K970760) at 061845A March. During the period 7-19 March, the 119th Infantry remained in its assembly area and conducted intensive amphibious training with all types of boats and landing craft on the MAAS RIVER in preparation for its assault across the RHINE RIVER, rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance and repair of equipment. At 191900A, the regiment began movement by motor under cover of darkness and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of ISSIM, GERMANY (A091271) at 192345A. During the period 20-23 March, the regiment remained in its assembly area and completed plans and preparations for its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of BUDERICH (A200375).

The 120th Regimental Combat Team began movement by shuttling from its assembly area in the GUSTART, EISEN and KAPELLAN, GERMANY area at 061130A, and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of BROICHSITTARD, HOLLAND (K706697) at 071800A. During the period 8-20 March, the 120th Infantry remained in its assembly area and conducted intensive amphibious training with all types of boats and landing craft on the MAAS RIVER in preparation for its assault across the RHINE RIVER, rehabilitation of personnel, and maintenance

and repair of equipment. At 202000A, the regiment began movement by motor under cover of darkness and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of RHEINBERG, GERMANY (A213280) at 210200A. During the period 21-23 March, the regiment remained in its assembly area and completed plans and preparations for its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of RHEINBERG, GERMANY (A213280).

21 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division launched its attack to the east at 240200A, from positions in the vicinity of BUDERICH (A200975), WALLACH (A197324), and RHEINBERG (A213280), GERMANY, forced a crossing of the RHINE RIVER between the towns of WESEL (A230405) and MEHRUM (A230316), GERMANY, advanced to the east, seizing the town of MEHRUM (A230316), ORK (A220335), SPELLEN (A225353), UNTER EBBELSUM (A212350), SCHANZENBERG (A212336), GOTTERS-MICKERHALM (A254322), LOHMEN (A248329), STOCKUM (A242350), FRIEDRICHSPELD (A250774), HOLT HAUSEN (A266347), WORDE (A261335), and MÖLLEN (A273323). The division established its bridgehead across the RHINE RIVER, advanced between 7 and 10 kilometers along its entire front, and cleared the enemy from a large portion of the area between the LIPPE RIVER and LIPPE CANAL south of the town of WESEL, GERMANY.

The 117th Infantry, attached Company C, 736th Tank Battalion (DD); 743d Tank Battalion (less Company C); Company A, 744th (Light) Tank Battalion, and Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, launched its attack at 240200A, in a column of battalions in order 1st, 2d, 3d, with 1st Battalion leading, to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER east of WALLACH, GERMANY (A197324) in the vicinity of (A213337). The 1st Battalion, using assault and storm boats, forced a crossing of the RHINE RIVER and advanced against moderate resistance from small arms, automatic weapons, artillery, and mortar fire and seized its objective, the town of ORK (A220336) at 240340A. The 2d Battalion, following the 1st Battalion, crossed the RHINE RIVER on LVTs and assault boats at 240400A, and attacked at 240630A, to the northeast. The battalion seized its objective, the southeast portion of the town of SPELLEN (A227347) at 240720A. The 2d Battalion continued its attack to the east at 241010A, and advanced against heavy small arms, mortar, and artillery fire and seized its objective, the road junction in the vicinity of (A249353) at 241300A. The 3d Battalion, following the 2d Battalion, began crossing the RHINE RIVER at 240530A, completed crossing the river at 240735A, and assembled in the town of ORK. The regiment continued its attack to the east at 241730A, with the 1st and 2d Battalions abreast, 1st Battalion on the right, advanced against heavy resistance from tanks, small arms, and antitank weapons, and seized its objective, the town of HOLT HAUSEN (A267347) at 242012A. Company C, 743d Tank Battalion, was released from attachment to the 117th Infantry at 242400A, reverted to battalion control and attached to the 117th Infantry. A Company 744th (Light) Tank Battalion, was released from attachment at 242400A.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company C, 18th (Light) Tank Battalion, 8th Armored Division; Company C, 743d Tank Battalion, and Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, launched its attack to the east at 240200A, in a column of battalions in the order 2d, 3d, and 1st, with the 2d Battalion leading, and forced a crossing of the RHINE RIVER east of the town of BUDERICH, GERMANY (A200975), in the vicinity of (A206366). The 2d Battalion advanced against light resistance approximately 2,000 yards, seized the locks across the LIPPE CANAL in the vicinity of (A225373), and its objective, the built up area extending from (A225373) to (A217356). The 3d Battalion, following the 2d Battalion, completed crossing the river at 240405A, passed through the 2d Battalion, and attacked to the southeast to seize the town of SPELLEN (A224354), at 240530A. The battalion encountered considerable resistance from small arms and mortar fire and seized its objective at 240710A. The Regiment completed its crossing of the RHINE RIVER at 240700A.

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The Regiment continued its attack with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast, 3d Battalion on the right, and seized its objective, the railroad, extending from (A239370) to (A238357) at 241242A. The 1st Battalion passed through the 2d Battalion, and with the 3d Battalion on the right, continued the attack to the east at 241411A. The battalion advanced against heavy resistance from tanks, small arms, automatic weapons, and seized their objective, the town of FRIEDRICHSFELD (A350374), and the factory area in the vicinity of (A256636) at 242000A. The Regiment continued its attack to the east at 242235A, with the 3d Battalion, less I Company, attached A Company. The battalion encountered heavy resistance from small arms, direct fire weapons, and artillery and mortar fire, and advanced to a line extending from (A266377) to (A268363) at 242400A, and was continuing the attack to the east. At 241700A, Company G crossed the LIPPE CANAL in the vicinity of (A226373) and attacked to the north and northeast to clear enemy from that area between the LIPPE RIVER and LIPPE CANAL south of WESSEL (A330405). The company advanced against light resistance, and with Company F, which crossed the LIPPE CANAL at 242000A, cleared a large portion of the area of enemy, with particular attention to that point of land in the vicinity of (A218384) at the juncture of the RHINE and LIPPE RIVERS. Company C, 743d Tank Battalion, was released from attachment at 242400A, reverted to Battalion Control, and the entire battalion attached to the 117th Infantry, Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion was released from attachment at 242200A.

The 120th Infantry, attached 744th (Light) Tank Battalion (less Company A), and Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, attacked at 240200A, in a column of battalions in order 2d, 3d, and 1st, and forced a crossing of the RHINE RIVER east of the town of RHEINBERG, GERMANY using assault and storm boats to cross. The 2d Battalion encountered light small arms and artillery fire and seized its objective; the town of WEHRUM (A230315) at 240425A. The battalion continued its attack to the east and northeast and seized an objective in the vicinity of (A237327) at 240530A, and continued its attack to the north-east against light resistance, and seized the town of SCHANZENBERG (A240336) at 240935A. The 3d Battalion crossed the river at 240400A, passed through the 2d Battalion at 240500A, and attacked to the east and seized the town of GOTTESMICKERHAHM (A253322) at 240839A. [The battalion continued its attack and seized the town of MOLLER (A274323) at 241200A. At 241205A, the 2d Battalion attacked to seize the town of LOHMEN (A247329), encountered stiff resistance and seized its objective at 241330A. The 3d Battalion continued its attack to the east at 241700A, advanced rapidly against light resistance and seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (A303343) at 241800A. The 1st Battalion completed crossing at 240500A, and assembled in the town of MERLEN. At 241630A, the battalion moved into an assembly area in the vicinity of LOHMEN, passed through the 2d Battalion, and attacked to the east at 241800A, advanced approximately 3,000 yards against moderate resistance from small arms and artillery fire, and seized its objective in the vicinity of (A287343) at 242130A. Company A, 744th Tank Battalion, was released from attachment to the 117th Infantry, reverted to battalion control, and attached to the 120th Infantry. The 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion (less B Company) was attached to the 120th Infantry at 242200A.

25 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east, advanced approximately 4 miles along its entire front, and seized the town of HUNTER (A330387). The Division completed clearing enemy from the area between the LIPPE RIVER and LIPPE CANAL west of (A346397).

The 117th Infantry, attached 743d Tank Battalion; Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion; and company C, 736th Tank Battalion, launched its attack to the northeast at

250230A, with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast, 1st Battalion on the right. The Regiment advanced approximately 2,000 yards against moderate small arms, artillery and mortar fire and fire from antiaircraft weapons employed in a ground role, and seized its objective, the built up area and high ground in the vicinity of (A285355) at 250100A. The Regiment continued its attack to the northeast at 250900A, with the 1st and 3d Battalions abreast, 1st Battalion on the right, to seize the high ground and wooded area extending along the Autobahn from (A313385) to (A324367). The Regiment advanced approximately 3,000 yards and seized its objective at 251000A. The 2d Battalion, motorized, moved to the east at 251600A, from the vicinity of (A264350) and reached its line of departure vicinity (A323372) at 251800A. The Battalion dismounted and with the 743d Tank Battalion (less A Company) attacked to the east at 252245A, to seize the road net centered at (A359372). The Battalion advanced 1,000 yards against heavy resistance, and at 252400A, had reached (A331371). The 1st Battalion continued its attack to the northeast at 251900A, and seized the town of HUNXER (A330387) at 252050A. The Regiment advanced approximately 6,000 yards to the east, seized objectives in the vicinity of (A285355), (A317375), and the town of HUNXE, and at 252400A, was continuing the attack to the east.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company D, 18th Tank Battalion, continued its attack at 242235A, with the 3d Battalion reinforced. The battalion advanced approximately 2,000 yards against direct fire from 82mm antiaircraft guns and small arms and seized its objective in the vicinity of (A272370) at 250230A. At 251400A, the battalion continued its attack to the east and at 251515A, had completed clearing the woods in the vicinity of (A280370). The 2d Battalion completed clearing the island between the LIPPE RIVER and LIPPE CANAL at 250800A. The 1st Battalion attacked east from the vicinity of FRIEDRICHSFELD (A350371), and with Company C north of the LIPPE CANAL, cleared that portion of the island between the LIPPE CANAL and LIPPE RIVER to a point at (A345397) and cleaned the south bank of the LIPPE CANAL to the town of HUNCO (A330387). The 2d Battalion was relieved by the 3d Battalion at 251700A, and moved to positions in the vicinity of (A335334) to protect the Right flank of the division. The 3d Battalion occupied positions along the south bank of the LIPPE CANAL in the vicinity of (A250377) and on the island south of WESSEL, in the vicinity of (A244387), and established contact with the 1st British Commando Brigade at (A237389) at 251800A.

The 120th Infantry, attached 744th (Light) Tank Battalion, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion (less C Company), continued its attack to the East at 250900A, in a column of battalions, in order 1st, 3d, and 2d. The 1st Battalion advanced approximately 2,000 yards against resistance from small arms and automatic weapons and seized its objective, the crossroads in the vicinity (A329360) at 251030A, cutting the Autobahn highway at that point. The 3d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion and attacked to the southeast at 251215A, and seized the crossroads at (A337349) and the high ground in the vicinity of (A337346). A task force Hunt, composed of the 744th (Light) Tank Battalion, Company B and Company A (less 1 platoon), 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, and 2d Battalion, 120th Infantry, passed through the 1st Battalion and attacked to the east at 251555A. The task force encountered heavy enemy resistance from mines and tanks, but seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (A356342) at 251900A. The 1st and 3d Battalions attacked to the east with Task Force Hunt and advanced against heavy resistance, seized their objectives in the vicinity of high ground (A361359) and (A353347) respectively at 251900A. Task Force Hunt was dissolved at 252400A.

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26 March 1945.

The 30th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east, advanced approximately 4 miles along its entire front across difficult wooded terrain against heavy enemy resistance, repulsed an enemy counter attack of armor and infantry, and cleared a large portion of the town of GAHLEN (A403414).

The 117th Infantry, attached 743d Tank Battalion (less C Company); Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company C, 735th Tank Battalion, continued its attack to the east at 260000A, with the 2d Battalion, which launched its attack at 242245A, advanced approximately 2,000 yards and seized its objective, the high ground and road net in the vicinity of (A359370) at 260115A. The 1st Battalion attacked to the southeast from the vicinity of HUNKE (A330397), and advanced approximately 3,000 yards across difficult terrain against enemy small arms, machine guns, and artillery fire, and seized its objective, the road net and high ground in the vicinity of (A359379) at 260500A. The regiment continued its attack to the east at 260730A, with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast 2d Battalion on the right. The regiment advanced approximately 4,000 yards against heavy resistance, small arms, machine gun, and artillery fire and direct fire from enemy tanks and anti-tank weapons, through difficult wooded terrain, and seized its objective, the high ground at the east edge of the woods (A399380) to (A399365) at 261100A. The 1st Battalion began movement at 260800A, and occupied positions in the vicinity of (A375384) at 261100A, and protected the left flank of the regiment. C Company, 743d Tank Battalion, was released from attachment at 260800A and attached to the 119th Infantry.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company D, 18th Tank Battalion; Company C, 743d Tank Battalion, and Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, continued its attack to the east with the 1st Battalion. The battalion advanced slowly against heavy resistance, small arms, and automatic fire, and seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (A355391) at 260300A. The Battalion continued its attack to the east and northeast along the south bank of the LIPPE CANAL, and advanced across difficult wooded terrain against heavy small arms, tanks, and fire from enemy anti-tank weapons, and seized a large portion of the objective, the town of GAHLEN. The 2d Battalion maintained protection of division right flank in the vicinity of (A336332) until 261800A, at which time it assembled and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of (A353375) at 261930A. The 3d Battalion was relieved of its defensive positions protecting the left flank of the division along the south bank of the LIPPE RIVER and LIPPE CANAL at 260900A, by the 15th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, moved and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of (A353375) at 261300A. At 261730A, the battalion attacked to the northeast to assist the 1st Battalion in seizing the town of GAHLEN (A393413). The battalion advanced approximately 5,000 yards and reached its objective at 262000A, where it encountered heavy resistance and at 262400A, had assisted the 1st Battalion in clearing a large portion of the town. Company D, 18th Tank Battalion, was released from attachment at 261200A. Co C, 743d Tank Battalion and Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to the regiment at 260800A.

The 120th Infantry, attached 744th (Light) Tank Battalion; 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, less A and C Companies, continued its attack to the east at 260630A, with the 2d Battalion to seize and objective in the vicinity of (A355353). The battalion advanced across difficult wooded terrain against heavy resistance from small arms and automatic weapons and seized its objective at 260900A; and at 260940A, repulsed a strong enemy counter attack from armor and infantry, inflicting heavy casualties upon the infantry and causing

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the armor to withdraw. The 1st Battalion remained in the vicinity of (A353351) until 262030A, at which time they passed through the 2d Battalion, attacked to the east, and advanced against heavy resistance approximately 2,000 yards and seized its objective, the high ground and wooded area in the vicinity of (A405353) at 262130A. The 3d Battalion remained in the vicinity of (A353337) until 261630A, at which time it advanced to the east against small arms and machine gun fire and occupied its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (A381344) and assisted the attack of the 1st Battalion by fire. The regiment in its attack advanced approximately 4 miles to the east across heavy wooded terrain studded with mine fields and repulsed a strong counter attack of armor and infantry. "A" Company, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, was released from attachment at 260800A and attached to the 119th Infantry.

27 March 1945.

The 30th Infantry Division continued its attack to the east, seized the town of GÄHLEN (A403413) and BESTEN (A413393), and advanced approximately 2,000 yards to the east against heavy enemy resistance.

The 117th Infantry, attached 743d Tank Battalion (- Company C); Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company C, 736th Tank Battalion, attacked east at 270001A, with the 2d and 3d Battalions abreast, 2d Battalion on the right, to seize the north-south highway and commanding ground extending from (A420385) to (A420437). The 2d Battalion, on the right, encountered moderate resistance from small arms and machine gun fire and seized the southern portion of the objective at 270445A. At 271005A, the 2d Battalion received a strong counter attack from tanks and infantry of the 110th Panzer Grenadier Division, which it repulsed, and maintained its defensive positions. At 271600A, strong combat patrols from the 2d Battalion completely cleared the woods in the vicinity of (A424375). The 3d Battalion encountered heavy opposition and advanced against small arms and direct fire from antiaircraft weapons employed in a ground role, and seized the northern portion of the objective at 270445A. At 271000A, the battalion attacked north to seize the town of BESTEN (A416393). Enemy artillery and tank fire was so heavy that the battalion was unable to advance. However, at 272200A, K Company attacked BESTEN by moonlight and secured the town at 272400A. The 1st Battalion remained in regimental reserve and protected the left flank and rear of the regiment. During the period 270001A, to 272400A, the regiment advanced approximately 2,000 yards against heavy resistance and seized the town of BESTEN (A416393). Company C, 736th Tank Battalion was released from attachment at 291200A.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company C, 743d Tank Battalion; Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, at 270001A, was attacking to the east with the 1st Battalion and to the northeast with the 3d Battalion to seize the town of GÄHLEN, with the 1st Battalion on the left. The regiment encountered heavy resistance from small arms and machine gun fire, and fire from tanks located in the center of the town. The battalions advanced slowly due to heavy resistance which resulted in house to house fighting, and at 271345A, completely cleared the town of enemy. The 1st Battalion continued to advance to the northeast and advanced approximately 500 yards, clearing the enemy south of the LIPPE-SEITEN CANAL. The 3d Battalion continued the attack to the east against heavy resistance and advanced approximately 1,000 yards. The 2d Battalion began movement from an assembly area in the vicinity of (A393395), and attacked to the east at 271130A. The battalion advanced against heavy resistance, and seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity (A414397) at 271330A. The regiment continued its attack to the east with the 3d Battalion and advanced against heavy resistance from enemy small arms and machine gun fire, and seized its objective in the vicinity of (A416400) at 271730A. The regiment in continuing its attack to the east, seized the town of GÄHLEN, and advanced approximately 2,000 yards.

743d TANK BATTALION - BESTEN

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The 120th Infantry, attached 744th (Light) Tank Battalion; 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion (less A and C Companies), continued its attack to the east with the 3d Battalion at 270600A. The battalion advanced against small arms, machine gun, and anti-aircraft guns employed in a ground role, and artillery fire, cleared the woods in the vicinity of (A405345), and seized its objective, the high ground in the vicinity of (A410344) at 270735A. The regiment continued its attack to the east at 272100A, with the 2d Battalion. The battalion advanced against heavy resistance and seized its objective, the commanding ground extending from (A42353) to (A427343) at 272345A.

28 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division maintained defense of its sector, improved its defensive positions and aggressively patrolled to its front, facilitated the passage of the 8th Armored Division through its lines in its attack to the east, and against moderate resistance advanced approximately 2 miles and seized the towns of CSTRICH (A427402) and GREVERSLOF (A441400).

The 117th Infantry, attached 743d Tank Battalion (- C Company); Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, maintained defense of its sector and completed clearing its sector of enemy. Patrols rechecked the woods in the vicinity of (A424375) to insure that no enemy would hinder the passage to the east of the 8th Armored Division.

The 119th Infantry, attached Company C, 743d Tank Battalion and Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion, continued its advance to the east at 281330A, with the 2d Battalion. The battalion advanced 2 miles to the east against moderate resistance and seized the towns of OSTRICH (A427403) and GREVERSLOF (A441400). The 1st and 3d Battalions maintained aggressive patrolling of their sector. The regiment facilitated the attack to the east through its sector by Combat Command A of the 8th Armored Division at 280600A.

The 120th Infantry, attached 744th (Light) Tank Battalion; 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion (less A and C Companies) maintained defense of its sector and aggressively patrolled its area. The regiment facilitated the attack to the east through its sector by Combat Command R of the 8th Armored Division at 280600A.

29-31 March 1945

The 30th Infantry Division, during the period 29-31 March, assembled its troops and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, repair and maintenance of equipment.

The 117th Infantry, during the period 29-31 March, assembled its troops and conducted rehabilitation of personnel and maintenance and repair of equipment. The 743d Tank Battalion (less Company C) and Company C, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were released from attachment at 292400A.

The 119th Infantry, during the period 29-31 March, assembled its troops and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance and repair of equipment. Company C, 743d Tank Battalion and Co A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were released from attachment at 292400A.

The 120th Infantry, during the period 29-31 March, assembled its troops and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance and repair of equipment. Company B, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion was released from attachment at 292400A. The 744th Light Tank Battalion was released from attachment at 300600A.

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The 30th Infantry Division was released from attachment to XVI Corps at 300600A March 1945 and attached to XIX Corps at that time.

30th Division Artillery.

1 March 1945.

30th Division Artillery supported the division in active defense of its sector. "G" Company, 92d Chemical Mortar Battalion, was released from attachment to Division Artillery at 282400A. The 751st Field Artillery Battalion and 25th Field Artillery Battalion was released from attachment to Division Artillery at 011500A. During the period 2-5 March, the Division Artillery supported the division in active defense of its sector, continuing to fire on targets of opportunity and furnishing fires on call. Division Artillery began movement from JUCHEN, GERMANY (F135788) at 061610A, and closed into new assembly area in the vicinity of ECHT, HOLLAND (K692802), at 062245A. During the period 7-9 March, the Division Artillery conducted reorganization, maintenance and repair of equipment, and care and cleaning of materiel. The 89th Chemical Mortar Battalion was attached to the Division Artillery effective 100800A, and was released from attachment to the Division Artillery at 101700A. The 92d Chemical Mortar Battalion and the 751st Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 30th Division Artillery 101700A. 691st Field Artillery Battalion and 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division and reattached to 30th Division Artillery at 140600A March 1945. The 35th Infantry Division Artillery was attached to the 30th Infantry Division and 30th Division Artillery at 140800A. The Division Artillery began movement at 152050A, displacing 3 battalions forward. The 751st Field Artillery Battalion closed into a new assembly area in the vicinity of (A193302) at 170200A. The 691st Field Artillery Battalion closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of (A193301) at 170400A. The 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion closed into its assembly area in the vicinity of (A185342) at 170500A. The remaining artillery battalions began movement at 171920A March 1945. The 30th Division Artillery (less the 92d Chemical Mortar Battalion) closed into its assembly area at 180300A. The 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to Division Artillery at 180800A. During the period 14-23 March 1945, the Division Artillery reinforced remained in its assembly area and completed preparations and plans to support the 30th Infantry Division's assault across the RHINE RIVER. Beginning at 240100A, the Division Artillery fired a one (1) hour artillery preparation prior to the division's assault across the RHINE RIVER. During the period 24-28 March, the division Artillery supported the division's attack and displaced its battalions to the east side of the RHINE RIVER. The Division Artillery during the period 28-29 March, supported the attack of the 8th Armored Division. During the period 29-31 March, the Division Artillery remained in its assembly area and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance, and repair of equipment. The 30th Division Artillery was released from attachment to the 30th Division Artillery at 251500A. The 898th Field Artillery Battalion and the 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion were released from attachment at 274500A. The 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was released from attachment at 271800A. The 751st Field Artillery Battalion and 591st Field Artillery Battalion were released from attachment at 291300A. The 407th Field Artillery Group, consisting of the 211th Field Artillery Battalion and 758th Field Artillery Battalion, was attached to the Division Artillery at 252130A, and released from attachment at 290900A.

105th Engineer Combat Battalion.

During the period 1-5 March, the battalion assisted the division in its attack and defense by sweeping roads of enemy mines, filling bomb craters, and clearing streets of

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towns of debris. The battalion moved from the vicinity of JOCHIM, GERMANY, (F138789), and closed into an area in the vicinity of ECHT, HOLLAND (K692806) at 062050A. During the period 7-18 March, the battalion assisted the division in conducting amphibious training and with supporting engineers, made preparations and plans to assist the division in its assault across the RHINE RIVER. The battalion began movement, with the combat teams, at 181920A, and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of ALICH, GERMANY, (A152316) at 210149A. During the period 21-23 March, the battalion remained in its assembly areas and completed plans, preparations for the division's attack across the RHINE RIVER. The battalion assisted the attack of the division in its assault across the RHINE RIVER on the 24th of March, by crossing troops in close support of the Infantry, preparation of landing sites for tanks and vehicles on the east bank of the RHINE RIVER, removal of enemy mine fields, removal of debris and road blocks, and the maintenance of main routes of supply. During the period 25-27 March, the battalion assisted the division in its attack east of the RHINE RIVER. During the period 28-31 March, the battalion, assembled with the combat teams and conducted rehabilitation of personnel, maintenance and repair of equipment.

823d Tank Destroyer Battalion.

During the period 1-4 March, the battalion assisted the 30th Division in its attack to the north and northeast and its defense and protection of the right flank of the XIX Corps and IX U. S. Army along the west bank of the REFT RIVER. The battalion assembled in the vicinity of GIERATH, GERMANY, (F166799) at 041500A. During the period 5-6 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance and repair of equipment. The battalion began movement from GIERATH at 070700A, and closed into a new assembly area in the vicinity of BIRGDEN, GERMANY, (K823688) at 071120A. During the period 8-19 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance and repair of equipment. At 192132A, the battalion moved to and closed into a forward assembly area in the vicinity of HERSTGEN (A119245) at 200140A, in preparation to assist the 30th Infantry Division in its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. During the period 20-23 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area conducted maintenance and repair of equipment, and completed plans and preparation for the division's attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. The battalion assisted the division's attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER on the 24th of March, by quickly crossing the river by use of LCMs and Bailey Rafts and provided close support to the attacking Infantry and anti-tank protection to the division zone east of the RHINE RIVER. During the period 24-28 March 1945, the battalion assisted the division in its attack to the east of the RHINE RIVER by providing close support to the attacking Infantry and anti-tank protection to the entire division zone. The entire battalion assembled under division control in the vicinity of (A352392) at 282030A. During the period 28-31 March, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted maintenance and repair of equipment.

30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized.

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop, Mechanized, was relieved of attachment to 113th Cavalry Group and reverted to control of the 30th Infantry Division at 010800A. The Troop was attached to the 119th Infantry at 021500A. The Troop was released from attachment to the 119th Infantry and reverted to Division control at 031200A. At 040800A, the Troop moved from BEDBURG (F197806) to ALDENHOVEN (F180826), and closed into that area at 041000A. During the period 5 March, the Troop remained in its assembly area and conducted maintenance and repair of equipment. The Troop began movement by motor from

ALDENHOVEN, GERMANY, (F181827), and closed into an assembly area vicinity KIRCHHOVEN (K835767) at 062100A. During the period 7-12 March, the Troop remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance and repair of equipment. The Troop moved from KIRCHHOVEN (K835767) at 130600A, and closed into a new assembly area at ALPON (A153317) at 130930A, for the purpose of setting-up and operating Observation Posts along the RHINE RIVER in the Corps Sector. During the period 13-23 March the Troop maintained observation posts along the RHINE RIVER in the sector of the 75th Infantry Division. The troop assembled in the vicinity of RHEINBERG, GERMANY (A213281) in division reserve at 251500A, and remained in its assembly area until 261000A, at which time it began movement, crossed to the east bank of the RHINE RIVER, established road blocks, and patrolled along the south bank of the LIFFE-SEITEN CANAL south of KRUDENBERG, GERMANY (A321397). The troop established contact with the 17th Airborne Division. During the period 26-28 March 1945, the troop continued to maintain its road blocks, patrolling along the south bank of the LIFFE-SEITEN CANAL, and maintain contact with the 17th Airborne Division. The troop assembled in division reserve at RUMKE (A332388) at 281100A. The troop was attached to the 117th Infantry at 012000A.

743d Tank Battalion.

During the period 1-4 March 1945, the battalion assisted the 30th Infantry Division in its attack and defense and protection of the right flank of the XIX Corps and IX U. S. Army along the west bank of the ERFRT RIVER. The battalion was placed in division reserve at 031200A, and assembled in the vicinity of JACKERATH, GERMANY, (F00719). During the period 4-6, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted training, maintenance, and repair of equipment. "A" Troop of the 1st Lothian and Border Yeomanry (Flats) was released from attachment to the battalion at 041200A. The battalion began movement from the vicinity of JACKERATH at 070750A, and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of GANGLT, HOLLAND, (K782678) at 071200A. Company C, 736th Tank Battalion (DD) was attached to the 30th Infantry Division at 110001A, and attached to the 743d Tank Battalion. The battalion was attached to the 117th Infantry at 121200A. During the period 8-21 March, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted amphibious training with LCMs and Bailey Rafts on the MAAS RIVER, and maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment. The battalion began movement from its assembly area in the vicinity of GANGLT, and closed into a forward assembly area in the vicinity of ALPON, GERMANY, (A152316) in preparation to assist the division in its attack to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. During the period 21-23 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area. The division launched its attack at 240300A, to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. The battalion assisted the division's attack east of the RHINE RIVER by quickly crossing the river by the use of LCMs and Bailey Rafts and furnished close support to the attacking infantry. During the period 24-28 March, the battalion assisted the division in its attack east of the RHINE RIVER. The battalion assembled under division control in the vicinity of (A260337) at 292400A. During the period 30-31 March, the battalion remained in its assembly area and conducted maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment. Company C, 736th Tank Battalion (DD) was relieved from attachment at 270800A.

744th Tank Battalion.

The 744th Tank Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division at 090001A, March 1945, and remained in assembly area in vicinity of STEINSTRASS, GERMANY (F123598). The battalion moved from the vicinity of STEINSTRASS, to an assembly area in the vicinity BRUXER, GERMANY, (K7770), and closed into its new area at 101100A March 1945. During the period 10-21 March 1945, the battalion conducted training, maintenance and repairs.

SECRET

The Battalion was attached to the 120th Infantry effective 120001A March 1945. The battalion began movement at 202250A, from its assembly area in the vicinity of BRUXGEN, and closed into a forward assembly area in the vicinity of ALPEN, GERMANY, at 220010A. During the period 22-23 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area. The 120th Infantry, as part of the 90th Infantry Division, launched its attack at 240200A, to force a crossing of the RHINE RIVER. The battalion quickly followed the regiment to the east bank of the RHINE by crossing on logs and Bailey Rafts. During the period 24-29 March 1945, the battalion assisted the 120th Infantry in its attack by providing close support to the attacking infantry. The battalion was released from attachment to the 120th Infantry and 30th Infantry Division at 300600A.

654th Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The 654th Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division at 151200A. The battalion closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of MILLIGEN (A180293) at 151200A. During the period 15-22 March 1945, the battalion remained in its assembly area, reconnoitered, prepared, and occupied firing positions along the west bank of the RHINE RIVER. The battalion supported the division's assault across the RHINE RIVER and furnished protection against possible threat from Marine Demolitions to hinder the crossing. The battalion was released from attachment to the 30th Infantry Division at 251500A.

531st Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion.

During the period 1-31 March 1945, the 531st Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion, reinforced, continued to furnish antiaircraft defense for the entire division zone, antiaircraft protection for the **division artillery**, and initial protection to the crossing sites, ferries, and bridges across the RHINE RIVER. The 1st Platoons, Batteries B, C, and D, 571st Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry Division and the 531st AAA AW Bn 130800A and released from attachment at 180600A. The 2d Platoon, B Battery, 357th Searchlight Battalion was attached at 111200A and released from attachment at 210600A. B Battery, 533d Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion was attached at 210800 and released from attachment 251500A. A and C Batteries, 556th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion were attached 230800A and released from attachment at 251500A.

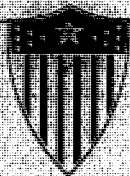
83d Chemical Smoke Generator Company.

The Company was attached to 30th Infantry Division at 100001A March 1945. During the period 24-25 March, the Company furnished a protective smoke screen and haze to cover the movement of troops and bridging activity across the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of WALLACH (A197384). The Company was released from attachment at 251500A.

74th Chemical Smoke Generator Company, Sections 1 and 4.

Sections 1 and 4, 74th Chemical Smoke Generator Company, were attached to 30th Infantry Division at 220600A March and during period 24-25 March furnished a protective smoke screen and haze to cover the movement of troops and bridging activity across the RHINE RIVER in the vicinity of RHEINBERG (A213280). The sections were released from attachment to Division at 251500A.

**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
ROOM MB-867 PENTAGON**

ADD MICROFILM

ITEM NO. *3014*

HEADQUARTERS
30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Maps: GSGS 1416, Germany
Sheets PP 2,3,4,6,7
1/100,000

APC #30
U.S. Army
1 May 1945

019.1/401 (c)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C.

On the 1st April 1945 the Division was not in contact with the enemy. During the day the Division, combat teams, moved out once again into action. Battalions were with their respective combat teams; the 113th Field Artillery Battalion and 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion were in general support.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery closed out of the old location at Frieurichsfeld, Germany (A25C372) at 010830 and made an uneventful 7 1/2 mile motor march to Dransteinfurt, Germany (A995552), where a temporary command post was established. The 113th Field Artillery Battalion and the 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion closed in at (A996553) at 1230; the 197th Field Artillery Battalion closed in at (B01E577). On the following day the Division artillery displaced forward approximately 4 1/2 miles to Neuenkirchen, Germany (A4E7597). The battalions were located as follows:

- 113th Field Artillery Battalion - (A92592)
- 113th " " " " - (603633)
- 197th " " " " - (602632) *Area 1st Div*
- 230th " " " " - (486626)
- 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion - (A92592)

(The 113th Field Artillery Battalion was "loaned" to the 2nd Armored Division for operations only at 021200).

On the 3rd April the 119th RCP took CHILLON (B0474) against fanatical resistance. The Division Artillery continued to support the efforts of the Division in reducing strong points bypassed by the 2nd Armored Division. On this day the Division artillery displaced forward again approximately 6 miles to KURTE, Germany, (57000250) where the command post was established in a beauty parlor. Approximately 500 liberated Jewish women of many nationalities were encountered in the vicinity. These women had been branded on the arms and bore identification crosses crudely painted on the backs of their outer garments.

During the day the following units displaced forward:

- 113th Field Artillery Battalion - (664675)
- 197th " " " " - (655682) *Area 2*
- 230th " " " " - (724677)
- 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion - (7807697)
- AOF - (555335)

On the 4th April the Division artillery supported the attack of the Division on strong points. The same fanatical resistance was encountered by the 130th RCP in taking HEDDERS (B7370). DETA was taken by the 2nd Battalion of the 130th RCP and an OSS school with staff complete was one of a number of interesting captures. The I and K platoon overran an air field at (B044700), con-

CLASSIFICATION

CANCELLED

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

10 July 46

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JUL 18 1945

[Handwritten signature]

taining three planes, nineteen gliders and miscellaneous tools, parts, etc.

The 38th Chemical Mortar Battalion, less Company "C", was relieved from attachment at 2400, the latter was relieved at 1200 the following day. During the day, advance elements of the armor were generally along (A0080)-(A35625)-(A350870)-(A305675). The 118th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (64475), the 197th Field Artillery Battalion to (714736) and the 230th Field Artillery Battalion to (724077).

On the 5th April elements of the Division captured SCHOT-MAK and considerable equipment:

<u>Guns:</u>	<u>Airplanes:</u>
107 - 75mm Guns	37 B-10's
57 - 75mm Howitzers	3 FW-190's
10 - 150mm Guns	1 Twin motored pursuit plane
21 - 150mm Howitzers	2 Stuka Dive Bombers
	1 Twin motored cabin plane
<u>Vehicles:</u>	<u>Supplies:</u>
3 - Cargo vehicles	3 Warehouses w/ assorted small arms and ammunition
3 - Gas trucks	1 Small ammunition store
3 - Utility vehicles	250 - 6 cylinder engines
1 - Personnel carrier	35 inline airplane engines
1 - Wire truck	10 radial airplane engines
9 - Motorcycles	30 Cases wire and propeller blades
3 Tracked personnel carriers	100 Airplane tires
32 - Motorcycles	100 Rubber boots
1 - Prime mover	
10 - Trailers	
27 - Horse drawn ammunition wagons	
113 - Horse drawn ammunition carts	
1 - Horse drawn transport	

During the day, the Division Artillery displaced forward approximately 7 miles to AUGSBURGER, Germany, (A/10475); the 118th Field Artillery Battalion to (60080); the 197th Field Artillery Battalion to (743707), and the 230th to (700870). The Division Artillery was located in a German artillery training camp which had been abandoned in apparent great haste by the enemy. Stocks of food, including partially prepared meals, were found and quantities of equipment as well as personal effects were discovered in abundance.

On the 6th April, elements of the Division overran an airfield with hangars, planes, gliders, camouflaged tanks, half-trucks and two large loaded gasoline trailers. Units of the Division Artillery displaced as follows:

118th Field Artillery Battalion	-	(078868)
118th " " " "	-	(104378)
197th " " " "	-	(139866)
230th " " " "	-	(091804)

On the following day HAMELN was captured by the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 117th RCF reminding all of the story of the "Pied Piper's" antics in 1259 AD culminating in the kidnapping, through the magic of his pipe, of all of the children of the town save one cripple who could not complete the trek to KOPPENBERG.

where the children were supposed to have disappeared. 15 hospitals and a Nazi party headquarters were captured against light resistance. A jet propelled plane and one ME 109 were observed over the area. The latter could be observed more closely in the area shortly thereafter if one so desired.

The Division Artillery displaced approximately 35 miles to HANDBL (A102912), closing in at 1500. The 118th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (123905); the 197th Field Artillery Battalion to (397016) and the 230th Field Artillery Battalion to (156816).

On the 8th April the 117th RCT captured HOFIKEN (K0897). LUNDBER (X1801) was surrendered by the Burgemeister who met our troops at the outskirts of the town in his anxiety. During the day, the 113th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (210838) and the 230th Field Artillery Battalion to (274871). Leading elements were generally from HUFEDA (C3007) to BOCHUMEN (C4607)-(08397)-(A5696)-(A-886). The 203rd Field Artillery Battalion was attached to Division Artillery at 0600.

On the following day LUNDBER (C142956) was cleared and several prisoners of war camps and hospitals were overrun. During the day, the 197th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (4804) and the 230th Field Artillery Battalion to (274871).

On the 10th April, the Division Artillery moved first to SAKETOR (4406) and, following the rapidly advancing infantry, displaced again to GR ILSEDS (X69v106), approximately 51 miles, closing in at 1700 in a former Gambling Casino. Battalions were located as follows:

113th Field Artillery Battalion	-	(721092)
118th " " "	-	(737038)
197th " " "	-	(with the 119th RCT attached to 2d Armored Division)
230th " " "	-	(71002)
203rd " " "	-	(696053)

On this day, as the Division drew up before the enemy garrisoned city of Brunswick, an ultimatum of "unconditional surrender" was made. The tender was finally rejected by Genlt VEITH, commanding the troops in the town, and preparations were made to take the town by assault.

The Division Artillery, reinforced, supported the attack of the Division east to establish a bridgehead across the Oker Canal. On the following day the Battalions displaced for the attack on the city as follows:

113th Field Artillery Battalion	-	(792113)
118th " " "	-	(800103)
197th " " "	-	(811968)
230th " " "	-	(793053)
203rd " " "	-	(811050)

The city was placed under heavy fire with each battalion given a section of the city in which to fire. These sections were enthusiastically worked over, fires were massed in TOT's on particular targets and targets were marked for air strikes. As elements of the Division closed in on Brunswick, SALZDALLUN (X9503) fell to our troops!

S E C R E T

Leading elements of the armor at 1400 were generally (X630135)-(X635140)-(X675105)-(X630355).

Brumbeck, a pre-war train officer, 6000 persons, control of the German state of the same name and industrial center was cleared of the bridge. In the vicinity, the German Gorking Steel plant, employing 4000 German workers and 80,000 impressed workers, was captured. Practically intact, as well as 2000 (2) civilians, and a prisoner of war camp, Orlage 78, containing 2000 British and American prisoners of war. General Veith was killed on the night of 11th-12th April trying to slip through a 120th Infantry road block east of the city.

During the day, the drive of the Division rolled on approximately 30 miles east capturing BOMAB, BÜLDESUTTEN (Y0010) BÜLKSIM, (Y0717), liberating 50 of an estimated 100 United States prisoners of war near WOLLA (Y131) and forcing the crossing of the Weser-Elbe Canal.

The Division Artillery displaced approximately 43 miles to GARDEN (Y210170) closing in at 1400. The advance of the Division carried the axis to the western edge of the woods from (X1440)-(Y0024).

On the 12th April elements of the Division captured the Fortress artillery school at BOMAB (Y0000); ROKALZ was cleared against heavy opposition; an airfield containing seven (7) fighters and one (1) bomber; a signal warehouse and a clothing warehouse; a prisoner of war camp containing 2000 prisoners at (Y12000), another prisoner of war camp (Y001) and a tank and armor prisoner of war camp of 2000 at GELBING were overrun.

The Division Artillery displaced during the day some 32 miles to "OHLINGEN" (660100). During this march the command group of this command and of Division made initial allied entries into several heretofore by-passed towns, took approximately 200 prisoners of war and liberated numerous prisoners of war held by the enemy, 500 of which were American and British. A column at one time was halted for an hour when the former prisoners of war started over the column in a pathetic welcome and incidental search of food, cigarettes and sweets. Some had been prisoners of war for five (5) years. Some had children so far that their shoes had worn off.

During the day, staff members armed with sub machine pistols were hunting strays, one major was going from dugout to dugout calling, "Here Heiman! Here Heiman!" Lt. Flowers upon entering a house found two German officers having their last drink before capture and Lts. Sprague and Buck flying ahead of a column in an L-4 Liaison Plane introduced a unique visual but effective warning method by diving on an enemy ambush ahead of the Infantry and firing .45's at the enemy.

At the close of the day elements of the Division had closed to the Elbe River, as the attack of the Division swung southeast part of the original sector on the north was turned over to the 35th Infantry Division.

At 132200 April units were located as follows:

113th Field Artillery Battalion	-	(Y220250)	DS	117th AGF
11th " " "	-	(Y220250)	DS	117th AGF
230th " " "	-	(Y550000)	DS	130th AGF

*Actually located at KEMMEL and KEMMEL, Germany. Captured by elements of 2nd Armored Division. 197th F. A. Battalion guarded this plant from 11th-13th April.

S E C R E T

203rd Field Artillery Battalion - (Y654115) DS 126th ACP
 197th " " " " - W/119th ACP (2nd Armored
 Division)

On the 14th April NSIMIGASBERG (Y7215) was cleared against light resistance. In reconnoitering the routes to the rear the Reconnaissance Troop captured 270 PWs at SIKKASBERG (Y5614) and an artillery depot and proving grounds in the vicinity containing over 2000 artillery pieces, trucks, sedans, bus', trailers, radar and extensive signal equipment. Enemy artillery was extremely active during the morning hours; approximately 500 rounds fell in the Division sector during the forenoon, some 75 rounds falling in the vicinity of this command post. This was the first enemy artillery in volume directed against the Division in several weeks. The ACP adjusted on these enemy batteries and the resultant TOPIs were observed to be effective. An estimated five or six enemy battalions of light and medium caliber artillery, including anti-aircraft guns used in a ground role, were active on the Division front.

During the day, the 118th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (Y708183) and the ACP to (Y659135). The 70th Field Artillery Battalion was attached to the Division Artillery at 14-1400 and was used in the following missions: 48 counter-battery missions, 3 counter-forces missions, 9 missions on enemy infantry, 10 interdiction and miscellaneous missions were fired throughout the day.

On the 15th April, 27 ME 109's and FW 190's were active in the Division area. Front lines were strafed and anti-personnel bombs were dropped. Two (2) planes were shot down by ground defenses.

The Division Artillery supported the active defense of the sector, firing numerous TOPIs on enemy assembly areas, active enemy batteries, (one of which was an eight gun battery), with excellent results. The ACP adjusted on a railway train which was fired on; damaging the latter and causing fires and explosions. 11 registrations, 67 counter-battery missions, 22 interdictions, 9 preparations and 17 close support missions were fired during the day.

The 113th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (Y692173) during the day, and displaced again the following day to (599065), the 114th Field Artillery Battalion to (624053).

On the 16th April an unconditional surrender ultimatum was delivered to the garrison at Magdeburg which was regretfully declined. During negotiations between 1400 and 1430, all fires were lifted. During the day TOPIs were fired on enemy batteries, infantry assembly areas and on some fuel storage tanks. The latter went up in flames 600 to 1000 feet high. The enemy sent 16 FW 190's over the Division area during the day. The 70th Field Artillery Battalion was shelled three times causing one casualty in the command and killing several civilians in the vicinity. 4 registrations, 24 counter-battery missions, 32 interdictions, 9 neutralizations, 20 harrasing fires and 23 close support missions were fired.

On the 17th April the Division launched a coordinated attack against Magdeburg, preceded by heavy night harrasing and interdiction fires, an air attack and an artillery preparation. H-hour was 1445 for the 120th Infantry which was the first element

to move in. Prior to the jump-off, known enemy flank and artillery positions were liberally annotated with TOT's and heavy neutralization fires were fired throughout the morning. North of Laddeburg, NO. 12333 (Y6805) was taken and BISSLOM (Y6299) west of Laddeburg fell to our forces. 17 registrations, 26 counter-battery missions, 102 harassing missions, 6 missions on strong points and 17 close support missions were fired during the day.

At 1400 the 197th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 2nd Armored Division and the 14th Observation Battalion became operational on the Division front (651085). At 2200 leading elements of the Division were generally 6500-6600-6703-6805.

On the 18th April the Division Artillery continued to support the attack of the Division on Laddeburg firing 2 registrations, 11 counter-battery missions, 35 interdictions, 66 preparations, 4 missions on strong points, 98 harassing missions and 34 close support missions, as the infantry, against reported light resistance, took their final objectives, 2 LE 110's and 2 JU 52's were over the sector during the day bombing and strafing. On the following day a JU 52 was shot down in 113th Field Artillery Battalion area carrying 2 tons of pistol ammunition to the Hartz Mountain heights.

The remainder of the month, after positions were thoroughly consolidated, was spent in an active defense of the area, care of materiel and guarding the area, including making preparations to receive thousands of displaced persons. The front lines ran along the Elbe River with the Division facing east.

Units of the Division Artillery were located as follows:

Headquarters & Headquarters Battery - (Y68132) Wolmirstedt	
113th Field Artillery Battalion - (655022)	Givenstedt
113th " " " " " - (659990)	Laddeburg
197th " " " " " - (660894)	Dodendorf
230th " " " " " - (655055)	Barleben
203rd " " " " " - (654110)	Alben
70th " " " " " - (670935)	Sollen (From (64122) Laddeburg, 204 Apr.)
14th " " " " Observation	
14th " " " " " Battalion	- (66000) Dal enwarsteden
14th " " " " " Battalion	- (655133) Wallmirstedt

The drive to the Elbe River was reminiscent of the drive through France into Belgium presenting practically the same tactical problems and difficulties. Supplies were brought up more readily however. As the Division drove from Havel, Army called on the Division Artillery for 95 2-ton trucks to haul ammunition. Although dictated by necessity, it was a staggering blow at this time when the Division was pressing here a breakthrough and rapid pursuit. The Division Artillery was immobilized.

In order to keep up with the rapidly advancing elements of the Division and to deliver the required artillery support 62 trucks were borrowed from the 113th Field Artillery Group as follows: 20 trucks from the 2nd Field Artillery Battalion for the 113th Field Artillery Battalion, 22 trucks from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion for the 113th Field Artillery Battalion and 20 trucks from the 197th Field Artillery Battalion for the 113th Field Artillery Battalion which enabled the 113th Field Artillery Battalion to continue the support of the Division effort until their vehicles were returned at Brunswick.

During the last 24 hours the ... negotiations were ... the Gross ... prisoners ... cleaned out ... one prisoner ... available ...

General ... 10 ... General ... 10 ...

... 10 ...

... 10 ...

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. J. ...
Major, F. A. ...
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

SECRET

Maps: Central Europe
1/100,000, Sheets - RI
1/50,000, OSOS 407
Sheets 17 & 37

APO #30
c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.
1 April 1945

319.1/401(c)

March

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

On the 1st March 1945, units of the Division Artillery were located in Germany as follows:

Hq and Hq Btry, 30th Inf Div Arty	(102838)	Redden
113th Field Artillery Battalion	(11566890)	
118th " " " "	(14456870)	
197th " " " "	(14306880)	
230th " " " "	(11657080)	
751st " " " "	(12806718)	
25th " " " "	(10456380)	
1st CP	(098638)	

30th - 113th - 197th - 230th - 751st - 25th

The organization remained unchanged. On this day the 751st and the 25th Field Artillery Battalions were released from attachment and reverted to Corps Artillery.

From the 1st to the 5th March 1945, the Division Artillery supported the Division in the active defense of the sector. The Division front pivoted to the East where the Division held a line along its previous right boundary until the regiments, one by one, were pinched out according to plan. Locations were as follows:

Hq and Hq Btry - Juchen, Germany	
113th F.A. Bn.	(17108090)
118th F.A. Bn.	(17908770)
197th F.A. Bn.	(18378875)
230th F.A. Bn.	(14757655)

On 4th March 1945, the Division was finally "pinched out". Thus ended operation "Grenade", the assault crossing of the Roer, the establishment of a bridgehead, the breakthrough toward the Rhine. The mission of the Division was accomplished. The Commanding General of the Ninth United States Army commended the Division for its part in this operation. See commendation attached hereto.

In addition to the comments on the operation contained in the preceding After Battle report, the success of this operation was occasioned in no small part by excellent communications throughout. Telephone communication was used primarily. The laying and maintenance of lines were particularly difficult. Initially, the wire route lay along the one road over which the entire Division, reinforced, traveled to the bridge site, thence across the river and to a forward switch. The fact that this line stayed in through shelling, bombing and continuous traffic speaks for the thoroughness of the initial job in laying the wire. Following the crossing and establishment of a bridgehead

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the operation moved swiftly, the wire section moved a pace, keeping wire circuits in. At no time did wire communications fail.

The final exploitation of the breakthrough to the Rhine River was left to others while the 30th Infantry Division was being readied for the subsequent assault crossing of the Rhine.

On the 5th March 1945, the units of the Division Artillery made a motor march to an assembly area in the vicinity of Echt, Holland. Division Artillery units were located as follows:

Hq and Hq Btry	(639830)	Echt, Holland
113th F.A. Bn.	(834733)	
118th F.A. Bn.	(804780)	
127th F.A. Bn.	(725774)	
230th F.A. Bn.	(745074)	
AGP	(659613)	

From the 5th March to the 16th March, the Division Artillery and attached units refitted and made plans and preparations for the approaching assault crossing of the Rhine. Units received training in loading on LCM's and in laying wire across rivers by "alligator". A program of individual and section training and firing procedure and technique was conducted.

The 25th and 65th Field Artillery Battalions were attached to the Division Artillery on the 10th of March and closed into assembly areas at (886783) and (815783) in the order respectively. Both were relieved from attachment the following day to be replaced by the 691st (British 25 pounder) Field Artillery Battalion on the 11th March and the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion on the 14th March. Assembly areas in the order, respectively were (857783) (798788). The 89th Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved from attachment on the 10th March and was replaced the same day by the 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion (assembly area - 840796).

Organization for "Operation Flash-point" was completed with the attachment of the 751st Field Artillery Battalion (848748) on the 10th March, the 35th Infantry Division Artillery on the 15th March and the 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion on the 18th of March.

Units moved to and occupied positions from which to support the assault crossings of the Rhine as indicated below:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date Displaced</u>	<u>Position</u>
751st F.A. Bn.	16-17th March	(17853025)
275th F.A. Bn.	16-17th March	(18803520)
691st F.A. Bn.	16-17th March	(19283024)
113th F.A. Bn.	17-18th March	(18003327)
118th F.A. Bn.	17-18th March	(18633318)
127th F.A. Bn.	17-18th March	(17803575)
230th F.A. Bn.	17-18th March	(20833078)
Hq & Hq Btry	18th March	(180314) Alpen
35th Div arty	20-21st March	(197304)
127th F.A. Bn.	20-21st March	(20903790)
118th F.A. Bn.	20-21st March	(20903300)
113th F.A. Bn.	20-21st March	(20123974)
127th F.A. Bn.	20-21st March	(17853585)
807th Tank Destroyer Bn.	20-21st March	(1882) Lintfort

Position areas were occupied under cover of darkness, after prior reconnaissance and thorough organization, with emphasis on camouflage and security. Daylight movement around position areas was prohibited except for single vehicles having urgent missions. Firing was limited to controlled registrations.

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All units of the 30th Division were "under wraps" upon leaving the Eoht area. All identification markings, shoulder patches, etc. were removed prior to departure and the utmost caution at all times was exercised to prevent the enemy from identifying the 30th Infantry Division in the area of the pending operation.

Units were in position, registered and prepared to support the assault crossing - "Operation Flash-point" - on the 23rd March. Two and a half (2 1/2) units of fire was dumped in position areas in addition to basic loads. The 118th, 197th and 230th Field Artillery Battalions each had an additional 2400 rounds of M-48 in Quartermaster trucks. Special purpose ammunition, above basic load, was limited to:

- 500 rounds of HCB White Smoke per light battalion
- 100 rounds of Red Smoke per battalion
- 550 rounds of Posit W/Cavitized shell per light battalion
- 350 rounds of Posit W/Cavitized shell per medium battalion
- 200 rounds shell illuminating for the Tank Destroyers

2 1/2 units of fire (25% WP - 75% HE) was dumped by the 4.2 Chemical Mortar Battalion and 900 additional rounds were carried in Quartermaster trucks.

The artillery organization of this command for operation "Flash-point) was as follows:

- 118th F.A. Bn. direct support of 117th Inf.
- 197th F.A. Bn. " " " " 119th Inf.
- 230th F.A. Bn. " " " " 120th Inf.
- 113th F.A. Bn. General support
- 751st F.A. Bn. " " " "
- 92nd Cal Mort Bn. General support
- 38th Div Arty (minus one battalion) General support
- 807th TD Bn. " " " "
- 275th F.A. Bn. Reinforce fires of 118th F.A. Bn.
- 691st F.A. Bn. " " " " 230th F.A. Bn.
- 161st F.A. Bn. " " " " 197th F.A. Bn.

At 231800h March, word was received that "Operation Flash-point" was "on" and Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery's letter to the troops was read to the command by unit commanders.

On 24th March, the Division Artillery, reinforced as indicated, supported the Division's assault crossing of the Rhine River. See Fire Plan, Annex #8 to FO 64, 30th Infantry Division attached. The Division "jumped off" three Regiments abreast, the 119th Infantry on the left, the 117th Infantry in the center and the 120th Infantry on the right, the three making crossings between the Lippe Canal (A2138) on the North and Mollen, Germany on the South.

The Division Artillery, reinforced, fired a one hour preparation immediately prior to the jump-off, beginning at 240800 and expending approximately a unit of fire, i.e., approximately 2000 rounds of British 85 pounder, 10,500 rounds of 105mm Howitzer, 2,700 rounds of 155mm Howitzer, 2,880 rounds of 4.2 Mortar, and one U/T of 3" Tank Destroyer ammunition.

The initial infantry waves crossed in assault boats followed by "Alligators", LCM's, etc. By daylight, the fire plan called for the expenditure by the Division Artillery, reinforced, of approximately 5,000 rounds of British 85 pounder, 24,250 rounds of 105mm Howitzer, 6,750 rounds of 155mm Howitzer and 7,400 rounds of 4.2mm Mortar ammunition, plus approximately 2 1/2 U/T of 3" ammunition through 211 tubes of the Division Artillery, reinforced.

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The first bridge was in operation at 1600 D-Day and the 118th Field Artillery Battalion immediately crossed and went into position. The entire Division Artillery, less the 35th Infantry Division Artillery and Attached Tank Destroyer Battalion, would have crossed on D-Day had it not been for an unfortunate occurrence. At approximately 1600 a navy operated craft collided into the bridge and so severely damaged the bridge that it required approximately nine hours to place it back in operation. Traffic was resumed at 250300 and by 250800 all battalions except 197th Field Artillery Battalion, 35th Division Artillery and the 92nd Chemical Mortar Battalion were over. According to plan, these latter organizations were not to cross until later. At approximately 250200 the second bridge of the Division was in.

While the bridges were under Division control the same smoothness, coordination and absence of congestion prevailed. Traffic was handled expeditiously and in great volume. Units were not brought out of position areas until they could be processed through the road net. Communication with all vital points in the net was maintained and exact locations of units in the net noted at traffic control. Each major organization maintained a field officer at traffic control to coordinate traffic. Colonel Ellis handled traffic control for the artillery.

The Infantry crossed the River and made rapid advances without mishap. The 1300 tons of ammunition expended prior to daylight by the Division Artillery had a telling effect upon the enemy. This coupled with the element of surprise and the usual precision teamwork and superior fighting qualities of our infantry made the defense of the area appear spotty at best. The Division chalked up gains of up to five (5) miles the first day. Front lines, leading elements, at the conclusion of D-Day were: (242372)-(259362)-(260352)-(302342).

It appears that the 180th German Infantry Division plus an "Ker" and a "Stomach" Battalion and some Volksturm had the mission of defending the sector attacked. On the first day, approximately 1500 prisoners of war out of the 180th Division alone were taken, 1800 by 1800. Considering the killed and wounded, the Division cut the effective strength of the 180th German Infantry Division to a maximum total of from 1200 to 1500 men according to the Division G-2 estimate. The 566th Regiment Hamburg was also under the 180th German Infantry Division.

On the 25th March the Division Artillery, reinforced, continued to support the Division drive eastward. The 35th Infantry Division Artillery and the 807th Tank Destroyer Battalion were relieved from attachment on this day and the 407th Field Artillery Group (11th and 75th Field Artillery Battalions) was attached, otherwise the organization remained the same.

Units were located as follows:

Hq & Hq Btry (A250372) Friedrichsfeld
 118th F.A. Bn. (30633512)
 118th F.A. Bn. (26903470)
 197th F.A. Bn. (30203670)
 250th F.A. Bn. (30703890)
 275th F.A. Bn. (299371)
 761st F.A. Bn. (27533320)
 691st F.A. Bn. (30303460)
 92nd Cal Mort Bn. (259377)

The Division extended its bridgehead 10 miles eastward during the day, leading elements reaching (A250340)-(A358348)-(339365) (330370)-(A317380). The 79th Infantry Division was to our right rear and the 17th Airborne Division was on our left.

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On the following day the Division picked up approximately 8 1/2 miles in the drive to the East with leading elements from the Lippe Canal (4300418)-(4394405)-(397330)-(377355)-(383345). The Division Artillery, reinforced, supported this drive and displaced forward during the day as follows:

113th F.A. Bn.	(367380)
118th F.A. Bn.	(329371)
197th F.A. Bn.	(358375)
230th F.A. Bn.	(383369)
278th F.A. Bn.	(375375)
751st F.A. Bn.	(320339)
768th F.A. Bn.	(338374)
811th F.A. Bn.	(326375)
408th F.A. Cp.	(328373)

The 30th Infantry Division took over on our right.

On this day additional elements of the 116th Pz Division were identified on the Division front and it became apparent that the enemy had committed this Division in the sector in an attempt to stem the obvious "breakthrough" made by the Division. Several King Tiger tanks also were reported on the immediate front indicating the actual presence of a GHS Tiger Battalion. During the day a number of counter-attacks were beaten off by artillery.

On the 27th March the Division Artillery, reinforced, fired in support of the Division's drive eastward, firing numerous TOFs on enemy batteries, infantry, vehicles and tanks with excellent results. 18 registrations, 40 counter battery, 131 harassing, 9 strong points, 50 interdiction, 60 preparation, 4 neutralization and 33 close support missions were fired during the day. At 2300 the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion was relieved from attachment.

On the 28th March the 8th Armored Division passed through the 30th Division and the Division Artillery fired a half hour preparation preceding its attack. The Division Artillery also supported attacks by elements of this Division eastward. The 197th Field Artillery Battalion displaced to (400405).

On the 29th March the Division was placed in Corps Reserve. The artillery continued to fire for the 8th Armored Division during the day. The 751st and 291st Field Artillery Battalions were released from attachment to Division at 291300a. The 407th Field Artillery Group (811th and 258th Field Artillery Battalions) were released from attachment at 1800.

The remainder of the month was spent in refitting and preparing for the coming operations.

Communications were excellent throughout the operation. Enemy artillery generally was spotty and light. On two occasions heavy enemy artillery concentrations fell on the infantry front lines, however, counter battery measures were generally successful. Enemy resistance and defenses consisted primarily of organized strong points defended with machine guns and anti-aircraft guns and "flak wagons".

This operation was supported by sufficient artillery. In addition to the Division Artillery, reinforced, XIX Corps Artillery with three Artillery Groups and XVI Corps Artillery with four Artillery Groups supported the operation in part. Organic units of the Division Artillery fired 51,844 rounds for the period. 47,440 rounds were fired in support of the operation.

Particular attention is directed to the attached fire plan, as it constitutes a departure from the "goose egg" system commonly em-

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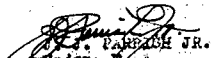
ployed. In this operation, grid squares were "fired", i.e., grid squares in the area to be attacked and in the area to be neutralized were divided into 25 equal parts each grid square being identified and each sub-division thereof given a concentration number. Under the present situation, this system worked well. The ground was thoroughly covered and quick and accurate identification of concentrations was easy.

The Division was under the XVI Corps, Ninth Army, 81st British Army Group for the operation. The Division passed from the XIX Corps to the XVI Corps upon the conclusion of the Roar River operation and reverted back to the XIX Corps at the conclusion of the Rhine River operation (300915 March).

Casualties and damage to materiel from enemy action were negligible during the period. On the 2nd March two L-4 liaison planes were destroyed during hours of darkness while on a field in Germany by explosives placed by saboteurs.

Casualties for the entire Division were extremely light considering the requirements of the operation. Casualties inflicted on the enemy are unknown, however, a considerable amount of equipment was captured including a number of large caliber artillery pieces. The Division captured 3500 prisoners during the operation.

For the Commanding General:


J. S. PARRISH JR.
Major, E. A.
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS
30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Maps: Central Europe
1/25,000, Sheets
5004, 5104, 5005
and 5105.

APO. 30
c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.
1 March 1945

319.1/401(c)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.
TO : The Adjutant General, Washington, D.C. (Thru Channels)

The 1st of February 1945, found the Division Artillery still in the Division Assembly Area in the vicinity of Liernaux, Belgium, with the Division Artillery CP located in the latter village (P815890) preparing for approaching operations when the Division would pass through the 82d Airborne Division and once again breach the Siegfried Line. Initial position areas for this assault had been selected by the units and plans completed for movement.

At 0600a on the 2d February a 24 hour postponement of movement was received and at 1100 plans for the operations were canceled. The 82d Airborne Division had entered the Siegfried Line and found it unmanned. The Division was then relieved from attachment to the XVIII Airborne Corps, First United States Army, and reverted to XIX Corps, Ninth United States Army. Company "C", 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion was relieved from attachment.

During the night and early morning hours of 2d-3d February, the Division made a 85 mile sector march from the vicinity of Liernaux through Stavelot, Francorchamps, Virviers and Dupon to Aachen, Germany.

This move, as well as later actions of the Division, were under a cloak of top secrecy. Vehicular organizational markings and shoulder patches were removed and the use of unit signs discontinued. Personnel were forbidden to leave the Division area, or to fraternize with civilians, German or otherwise. Complete radio silence was effected. Following the move the Division assembly area was in the immediate vicinity of Aachen, Germany, locations were as follows:

Div. Arty. (K839435) Aachen
113th FA Bn. (820473)
113th FA Bn. (800438)
197th FA Bn. (801508)
230th FA Bn. (849539)
AOP (883993)

The Division Artillery remained in assembly areas preparing for approaching operations until 6th February 1945. On the latter date, the 2d Armored Division Artillery (including the 65th and the 89th Armored Field Artillery Battalions) was attached to the Division Artillery. Company "A", 92d Chemical Mortar Battalion, the 731st and 25th Field Artillery Battalions were also attached to Division Artillery. On the latter date the battalions displaced forward to occupy initial positions for the Roer River crossing operations. On the following day the Division Artillery Command Post displaced forward to Inden.

On 8th February 1945, the positions of the units of the Division Artillery, including attachments, were:

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Div. Arty. (02900510) Inden
 113th FA Bn. (0303155190)
 118th FA Bn. (00156435)
 197th FA Bn. (03165382)
 230th FA Bn. (03505198)
 751st FA Bn. (99655285)
 25th FA Bn. (03205208)
 2d Armd Div Arty. (03505070)
 78th Armd FA Bn. (030520)
 92d Armd FA Bn. (03554)
 14th Armd FA Bn. (040505)
 65th Armd FA Bn. (03405060)
 696th Armd FA Bn. (025508)
 Co. "C", 92d Cml Mort Bn. (05605240) 3
 ACP (90904830)

These positions areas were of necessity largely exposed and subject to enemy observation in part. Extreme caution had to be exercised in concealment and camouflage. The Division had to literally "hole-up" to prevent discovery. The Division front extended along the west bank of the Roer River approximately two thousand (2,000) yards north and three thousand (3,000) yards south, respectively, of Schophoven.

By the 11th of February, all artillery plans were complete for the River crossing operation and the Division awaited orders to jump off; Army awaited the capture of the flood control dams on the Roer. Should the enemy blast these dams a wave of an estimated height of 17 feet would sweep down the course of the Roer River. Prior to the capture of these dams the enemy opened the control gates and damaged the latter in such a manner that upon capture they could not be closed, thus flooding the Roer valley necessitating further postponement of the operations until 23d February.

During this delay enemy artillery and air were active in the sector. On several occasions aerial bombs were dropped in close proximity to the command post and within battalion position areas. Approximately twenty casualties were caused by such enemy activity within the Division artillery during this period. On one occasion, the windows of the command post were blown out by the concussion of a bomb and on another occasion a number of men from the wire section of Headquarters Battery were injured by flying debris and concussion from two (2) 1,000 pound bombs which exploded approximately 100 yards from the battery position. The great bulk of the enemy night bombing fell on the 29th Infantry Division on the north and the 104th Infantry Division on the south where the enemy expected the principal river crossings to be effected. On one occasion a concentrated enemy air attack could be observed in progress to the immediate north on the 29th Infantry Division and in the back ground further to the north, simultaneously, a British air attack on the enemy. The effect was a pyrotechnical display the like of which had never previously been seen by even the veterans of the 50th Infantry Division. On the fringes, fires of night fighters could be observed occasionally.

During this period the area was harassed once or twice a day by enemy jet-propelled planes that would swoop in, bomb, jet and get. Efforts of American air cover to interfere were pathetic. The jet enemy planes would be gone before they were even observed by our air cover in most instances and completely out-distanced in others. Jet attacks were little more than nuisance raids however. Bombing by these planes was quite inaccurate.

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Firing by the units of the Division Artillery was limited to registration, primarily, for security reasons. On the 17th February, two (2) companies of the 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached to Division Artillery and were used for interdiction and harassing missions.

On the 23d February 1945, the Division struck across the Roer River as part of a general offensive of which XIX Corps, Ninth Army, was the main effort. Division Artillery organization for the operation was:

197th FA Bn. Direct support of 119th Inf.
230th FA Bn. " " of 120th Inf.
25th FA Bn. Reinforce fires of 230th FA Bn.
118th FA Bn. " " of 197th FA Bn.
751st FA Bn. General support
113th FA Bn. " "
"C" Co., 92d Cal Mort Bn. General support
Two (2) Companies Tank Destroyers
2d Armd Div. Arty. General support

Between 0001 and 0200 Company's "B" and "C", 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion fired on prearranged concentrations across the Roer River to cover the Engineers' preparation for the crossing. At 0245 the Division Artillery opened up with the artillery preparation for the attack. At 0245 the infantry began to move up to the river. By 0330 the 1st Battalion of the 119th Infantry was over. By 0600 the Division Artillery had expended in excess of a unit of fire in one of the heaviest preparations to date for the Division Artillery.

The Division Artillery continued prepared fires and fires on call, fired TOTs and marked targets for air strikes on Hambach and Niederzier and neutralized other areas with TOTs, firing during the day 24 registrations, 20 counter-battery missions, 46 harassing missions, 7 missions on strong points, 66 neutralizations, 56 preparations, 2 counter-mortar missions and 7 close support missions for an expenditure of 8168 rounds of 105mm How. and 2182 rounds of 155mm How. ammunition. At the close of the day a substantial bridgehead had been established east of Schophoven and the front lines were generally from (072561) to (074557), (088550) to (092539). Krauthausen had been taken and Hambach and Niederzier were next on the agenda for a continuing attack.

On the 24th February, the organization of the Artillery remained the same except that the 118th F. A. Battalion was placed in direct support of the 117th Infantry with the 25th F. A. Battalion reinforcing its fires. Companies "C" and "B", 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion were released from attachment. The Division Artillery, reinforced, supported the Division's attack East and North with prepared fires and fires on call and marked air support targets for supporting fighter bombers in Steinstrass (125598). During the day the following battalions crossed the river and went into position as indicated:

113th FA Bn. (08605260)
118th FA Bn. (07355395)
230th FA Bn. (07505400)
25th FA Bn. (07355405)

The following units displace forward short of the river:

751st FA Bn. (05755245) Vic Pier
85th FA Bn. (06055220) Vic Pier
14th Armd FA Bn. (05805430) Vic Schophoven

Units of the Division Artillery fired 16 registrations, 6 counter-battery missions, 43 harrassing fires, 29 missions on strong points, 21 neutralization, 42 preparations, 3 counter-mortar missions and 16 close support missions.

During the day, Hambach and Kiederzier were captured and the front lines pushed up to (093595), (094586), (119594), (110591), (116574) cutting the Julich-Cologne Highway west of Steinstrass and threatening the village of Steinstrass itself. Bridghead forces joined with the 29th Division on the left.

On the 25th February, the 2d Armored Division Artillery lost the 89th and 85th Armored Field Artillery Battalions, was relieved from attachment. The latter were attached directly to the 30th Division Artillery.

The following battalions displaced forward as indicated:

113th FA Bn. (070568)
 118th FA Bn. (092566)
 197th FA Bn. (09305331)
 230th FA Bn. (09355958)
 751st FA Bn. (07255620)
 89th and 85th FA Bn. (090540)
 "C" Co., 2d Cml Mort Bn. (09305535)
 85th Arm FA Bn. (067546)

Thus placing the 197th and 751st F. A. battalions and the 89th and 85th Armored F. A. Battalions across the river. The Division Artillery Command Post displaced to Hambach (091567).

During the day Rodgen, Hollen and Steinstrass were captured and the front lines pushed up to (104836), (106628), (122598). The Division Artillery, reinforced, supported this attack with prepared fires and fires on call, repulsing two strong infantry and armored counter-attacks with massed fires before they even reached our lines. The Division Artillery marked targets for air support in Lich and Oberon with excellent results. On this day the Division Artillery fired 21 registrations, 10 counter battery missions, 43 harrassing missions and 6 missions on strong points.

On the following day (26th) the Division Artillery, reinforced, supported the 117th and 118th Infantry's attacks on Lich (F1260) Oberembt (F1210), Kirehtraisdore (F1466), Soderagen (F1064) and Balrath (F1066). The 25th F. A. Battalion reinforced the fires of the 230th F. A. Battalion and the 197th F. A. Battalion reinforced the fires of the 118th F. A. Battalion.

The following units displaced as indicated:

118th FA Bn. (11156120)
 197th FA Bn. (08205960)
 751st FA Bn. (03506250)
 "C" Co., 2d Cml Mort Bn. (06505070)
 AOP (055562)

The front lines ran approximately (F1260) to (F1466) to (F1064) to (F1066). The Division Artillery fired 14 registrations, 34 preparations, 36 close support missions, 4 missions on counter-attacks, 18 neutralizations, 6 missions on strong points, 40 harrassing missions and 8 counter battery missions.

On the 27th February, the Division Artillery supported

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the Division's attack northward with 53 harrassing fires, 40 preparations, 44 close support missions, 13 missions on strong points, 18 neutralizations, 14 counter battery missions and 9 missions on counter-attacks. The Division pushed northward to a line (149635), (145698), (140711), (147718), (135752) and units displaced forward as follows:

Div. Arty. (102638) Rodgen
113th FA Bn. (11566290)
118th FA Bn. (14456570)
230th FA Bn. (12426718)
751st FA Bn. (12506718)
"C" Co., 92d Cml Mort Bn. (14686570)
25th FA Bn. (10456380)
AOP (098638)

The 65th and the 696th Armored F. A. Battalions were relieved from attachment at 270630a February 1945.


On the final day of the period elements of the Division fought their way up to Garzweiler (128752) and Reisdorf (160753) with the Division Artillery, reinforced, firing 11 registrations, 57 preparations, 95 harrassing fires, 6 missions on strong points, 7 neutralizations, and 36 close support missions. Only two battalions displaced on this day:

197th FA Bn. to (14306580)
230th FA Bn. to (11657090)

The tactics employed by the XIX Corps were excellent. The enemy apparently expected the crossing at Julich, however, it appears unlikely that he seriously expected an attack across the open flat marshy country east of Inden. The speed, power, coordination and timing of the Division's attack completely bowled the enemy over. Traffic control worked smoothly to handle this amount of traffic on one main road without incident in the time prescribed. By the end of the second day tank destroyers, tanks and the bulk of the artillery was across the river, the remainder crossing the following day. The rapid advance of the Division through Hambach, Niederzier, Steinstrass, and the severance of the Julich-Cologne Highway and the push northward by the 30th Infantry Division relieved the pressure on the 29th Infantry Division struggling in the vicinity of Julich and enabled the whole Corps to break out of the bridgehead and swing rapidly northward. For the first several days the Division was in a precarious position as both flanks were exposed. On the 3rd day as the Division swung completely to the east of Julich, the 29th Division began moving out and covered the Division's left flank. The Division's right flank was never covered as units on the right never quite succeeded in coming up.

Throughout the operation the Divisions' timing and coordination were perfect. In the operation the Division captured 3,189 prisoners of war, buried 112 enemy and destroyed 32 tanks. 42,084 rounds of artillery ammunition were fired by organic units of the Division Artillery in the operation. 43,013 rounds were fired during the month of February. 169 hours were flown by the Division Artillery liaison planes in 86 missions.

For the commanding General:


F. G. PARRISH JR.
Major, F. A.
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS
30TH INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY

Maps: Central Europe.
1/25,000, sheets
61s and 5502

APO 30
c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.
1 February 1945

319.1/401(c)

SUBJECT: Action against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

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

The first day of the New Year found the Division Artillery located in the Malmédy - Stavelot sector still playing a major role in the "Battle of the Ardennes", Belgium. The front lines were within 200 yards of the Nambeve River from Trois Ponts to (P691997), thence generally along the river to Stavelot (K717001), thence along the main highway to Malmédy (K785045), and thence eastward to (K8405). The Division Artillery Headquarters was located at Francorchamps, Belgium (K734977) with Division Headquarters.

The Division Artillery organization and position were as follows:

118th F. A. Bn. (749-084) General support.
118th F. A. Bn. (7468-0630) Direct support of 117th Inf.
197th F. A. Bn. (7499-0845) Direct support of 119th Inf.
230th F. A. Bn. (795-081) Direct support of 120th Inf.
400th Armd F. A. Bn. (6950-0530) General support, reinforce fires of 118th F. A. Bn.
401st F. A. Group (7010-0655) consisting of:
809th F. A. Bn. (7085-0645) and the
187th F. A. Bn. (6950-0650) General support.
Company "A", 86th Cal Mortar Bn. (675-058) General support.
2nd Platoon, 823rd Tank Destroyer Bn. (6940-0525) General support.
Company "A", 290th F. A. Obsn. Bn. (675-058) General support.

At 010001 January 1945, all guns of the First United States Army, including the pieces of the Division Artillery, roused into a three volley salute to the new year (on prearranged targets).

The enemy opened the new year with considerable air activity, sending some 50 planes over the Division sector during the day, strafing and bombing. The attacks were at a very low, tree top, altitude and our anti-aircraft defenses had a proverbial field day as they proceeded to enthusiastically cut a swath through the ranks of the attacking enemy planes. Our anti-aircraft gunners once again proved their superior marksmanship as they succeeded in making the enemy junket of extremely doubtful profit.

Throughout the day, the Division Artillery, reinforced,

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supported the Division in an active defense of the sector, fired heavy interdiction, harrassing and neutralization fires and among other fires, massed the Division Artillery fires on five platoons of enemy infantry, eight enemy vehicles and an enemy command post with excellent results.

During the following three days the Division Artillery continued to support the active defense of the sector, including the support of two successful reconnaissances in force.

On the 5th January, the 197th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7805-0610) in preparation for the next phase of the operations. On this date the 229th F. A. Bn. was attached to Division Artillery.

On the following day the Division Artillery supported the attack of the Division southward on Spinneaux (701-959), Wanne (K709-967) and Wannerval (K710-975), firing preparations, prearranged fires on call, interdiction, harrassing fires and neutralization missions. Advances were made of up to 3000 yards on this day. The front lines ran from (P690-963) to (704-973) to (P705-990) with no material changes otherwise.

Organization and positions for the support of this operation remained the same except:
229th F. A. Bn. Direct support of 112th Inf.
400th F. A. Bn. General support, reinforce fires of 229th F. A. Bn.
Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. (6800-0120) Mission no change.
Company "A", 290th Obsn Bn. (6740-0560) Mission no change.

During the day the 82nd Airborne Division continued the attack on the right while the 1st Infantry Division continued to maintain defensive positions on the left.

On the 7th January, the Division Artillery, reinforced, supported the Division in enlarging and securing bridgeheads at Trois Ponts (P675-986)-Stavelot (K710-000)-Spinneaux (P702-960) with preparations, neutralizations and fires on call. A ring of intense interdiction fires on all enemy avenues of approach to the bridgehead were fired during the hours of darkness.

On the following day the 591st F. A. Bn. (681-041) was attached to the Division Artillery and placed in direct support of the 424th Infantry. During the day plans were effected for continuing the drive on St. Vith. The unit was alerted for a possible strong counter-attack believed by higher headquarters to be forming; however, the latter did not materialize.

On the 10th January, Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. displaced to (831-033). On the 11th January, the 591st and 229th F. A. Bns. were relieved from attachment. On the latter date, the 400th Armd F. A. Bn. displaced to (7720-0560), the 401st F. A. Group to (7900-0530), the 809th F. A. Bn. to (7961-0584) and the 187th F. A. Bn. to (7830-0585).

On the 12th January, the Division and Division Artillery Headquarters moved to Malmedy, Belgium, (K738-075) in preparation for the drive on St. Vith. The Command Post was located in the former public utilities headquarters of Malmedy and considering everything, this building is probably the best Command Post building to be occupied by the Division Artillery. The building was steam heated, had electric lights, excellent blackouts, the rooms were ideally arranged, with the entire installations and quarters under one roof. This Command Post was centrally located and approximately 700 yards behind the Division front line outposts positions.

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From the 8th through the 12th January, Division Artillery supported the active defense of the sector and the vigorous patrol actions carried out by elements of the Division. Observation was extremely poor during this period. Snowfall was heavy and the weather hampered operations.

On the 13th January, the Division once more was on the move, "spearheading" the First U. S. Army drive, rolling southward on St. Vith, Belgium and the main supply lines of the enemy forces still in the "Ardennes bulge".

The Artillery organization for the operation was:

197th F. A. Bn. Direct support of 119th Inf.
230th F. A. Bn. Direct support of 120th Inf.
118th F. A. Bn. General support.
113th F. A. Bn. General support.
400th Armd. F. A. Bn. General support, reinforce fires of
197th F. A. Bn.
401st F. A. Group, General support.
Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. General support.

During the day our lines moved forward from (K745-010) to Chevorosse (K757-012) to (K770-012) to (K777-011) to (K785-021), (K797-022), (K808-010), (K805-005), (K814-005), (K830-017), (K835-010). The Division Artillery supported his drive with massed fires.

On the following day the 113th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7810-0410), the 118th F. A. Bn. (7805-0610) and the 400th Armd F. A. Bn. to (7680-0350). The following changes in organization was effected:

118th F. A. Bn. direct support of 117th Inf.
400th Armd F. A. Bn. General support.
Others, no change.

The Division Artillery once again supported the attack of the Division southward, the latter gaining approximately 3000 yards, placing forward elements along a line (P774-999)-(P827-997)-(K841-015) including a small bridgehead which was established south of Ligneville at (P808-950). This ground was gained against very stubborn determined enemy resistance and repeated counter-attacks. The enemy were first line troops, well equipped and determined, fighting to save their vital main supply lines. During the day the enemy unleashed several savage armored counter-attacks in the vicinity of Thirimont (K835-002) and southeast of Ligneville in the face of which the infantry stood its ground and slugged.

The Division Artillery lowered the proverbial "boom" on these attacks, lashing the attacking forces with the full massed fires of the Division Artillery, at times at maximum rate. The enemy eventually retired with heavy casualties, to attack another day. An interesting sidelight, lending a more personal touch to the impersonal impression of the word "counter-attack", is contained in an official narrative of the experiences of one of the members of an artillery forward observers' party on one small sector of the Division front:

" At 1200 on 14 January 1945, S/Sgt. Rondeau started a tour of duty as Radio Sergeant and Assistant Forward Observer with Lt. Lotes' forward observer party supporting "G" Company, 2nd Bn., 117th Infantry, whose mission was to cross the L'Ambleve River at Ligneville, secure the bridge, dig in for the night, and take the high ground ahead the next morning, with "F" Company 2nd Bn., 117th Infantry on their left, this force moved across an open field under heavy enemy mortar and nebelwerfer fire, crossed

the bridge over the L'Ambleve River, and dug in near the south bank. Sgt. Rondeau's party occupied an OP in a house approximately 50 yards south of the bridge. The infantry companies dug in for the night on a hill about 400 yards south of the river.

"That night the Germans counter-attacked, in the darkness, with four medium tanks and an estimated company of infantry. In the face of faulty communications, they swiftly recaptured the bridge and occupied the first floor of the house in which Sgt. Rondeau's party was operating. The tanks also took the house under direct fire, one tank shooting from a distance of less than ten yards. The Germans who had overrun the first floor of the house, covering it with machine gun and small arms fire, were firing and throwing concussion grenades down the stairs into the basement.

"In this very precarious situation, Sgt. Rondeau's party now in the basement acted quickly... whispering into the infantry radio, to avoid divulging to the enemy on the first floor the strength of their forces in the basement, the operator called for all available prearranged defensive fire surrounding the area, and for time fire on the bridge and their own location. With the time fire bursting approximately 12 yards overhead and the enemy tanks shooting direct fire on their house, Sgt. Rondeau... (and party)... crawled up from the basement and attacked the German infantry holding the 1st floor. Faintly perceiving through the darkness, the figure of a German on the tank, Rondeau fired on him with his pistol and saw the German fall to the ground. After assisting in driving the Germans from the house, he accompanied Lt. Motes, under fire of the tanks, machine guns and burp guns, to the 3rd floor of the house to secure their radio which had previously been abandoned.

"Meanwhile, a deadly screen of artillery surrounding the American troops was killing and driving off all Germans in the vicinity. Eleven dead were counted on the bridge alone and several around the OP..." etc.

On this day the 401st F. A. Group, including the 809th and 187th F. A. Bns., were relieved from attachment to the Division Artillery.

On the 15th January, the 118th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7900-0402), the 197th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7873-0392) and Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. to (7844-9954). The Division artillery again assisted elements of the Division in repelling strong local counter-attacks and in advancing some 2000 yards. The Division extended the bridgehead across the L'Ambleve River at Pont (P7997) and Ligneuville (P8095) and established the front on a line (P7720-9735), Pont (P793-973), (P802-969), (P810-967), (P810-967) (P825-994), Thirimont (P833-997), (K84009).

On the following day the leading elements reached a line (P847-994)-(P845-975)-(P834-965)-(P810-969)-(P797-965)-(P791-958)-(P773-963)-(P762-956).

On the evening of 17th January the leading elements were generally (P842-982)-(P830-962)-(P810-950)-(P803-953)-(P772-961)-(P767-957)-(P787-937)-(P770-933)-(P757-935)-(P750-930)-(P760-925)-(P745-917). The 113th F. A. Bn. was located at (7740-0045), the 118th F. A. Bn. at (7834-0045), the 197th F. A. Bn. at (7730-9760), the 230th F. A. Bn. (8060-9860), the 400th Armd F. A. Bn. at (7765-9835), Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. at (8030-9700), the AOP at (K769-036) and the 460th Pcht. F. A. Bn., attached this day, at (7410-9510).

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On the following day, the 86th Cml Mortar Bn. displaced to (807-966). The infantry pushed on to a line (P775-957)-(P795-955)-(P812-949)-(P818-955)-(P821-952)-(P825-935)-(P829-961)-(P848-985)-(P845-993)-(P855-991)-(P862-991)-(P872-995). Resistance was strong and the elements unabating.

On the 20th January, the 118th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7915-9480), the 197th F. A. Bn. to (7958-9413) and the 460th F. A. Bn. to (7478-9145). On the following day the 113th F. A. Bn. displaced to (7810-9530), the 230th to (802-946) and Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. to (8140-9290).

The Division Artillery supported the Division in a steady drive southward assisting the infantry in smearing counter-attacks after counter-attack, always pressing forward, until on the 22 January, the front lines ran from (781-871)-(793-869)-(802-875)-(805-887)-(815-888)-901-839 and finally on the 23rd January, from (813-852)-(823-854) to (861-610). The Battalions on the latter date displaced as follows:

118th F. A. Bn. (8370-9045)
197th F. A. Bn. (7710-9135)
230th F. A. Bn. (8325-9050)
400th Armd F. A. Bn. (7915-9025)
86th Cml Mortar Bn. (813-889)

On the 22nd January, the Division Artillery pieces commanded the main German supply routes out of the "Arennes Buldge" in the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium. On this day, in addition to supporting the Division advance, the Battalions of the Division Artillery once again took a terrific toll of enemy, massing the fires of the Battalions of the Division Artillery (and all Battalions in the vicinity) on some 25 TOT's on enemy batteries, rocket guns, enemy columns and infantry concentrations. At one period the fires were massed on an enemy column reported to be eight miles long, containing self-propelled guns, horse drawn artillery pieces, infantry in trucks and on foot, tanks and armored vehicles. On the following day, the fires were massed on a 100 or more enemy infantry. WOP observed the effects and reported that the fires were right on the target with gratifying results. A local counter-attack was also repulsed on this day.

The 460th Preht F. A. Bn. was relieved from attachment on this day. On the following day, Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. was relieved from attachment. The Division and Division Artillery displace approximately 300 yards in order for Corps to occupy the building for a few days.

From the 23rd January, through the 27th January, the Division Artillery fired on targets of opportunity, defensive fires and supported the efforts of the Division generally. The Division was pinched out on the 28th January and on the 29th, moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of Lierneux, Belgium, with the Command Post located at Lierneux (P815-890) where the remainder of the month was spent in preparation for extensive and intensive operations to come in the immediate future.

The month saw the Division once again on the offensive after the now famous defense of the Malmady - Stavelot sector against the best troops that the enemy could muster. The month saw the Division successfully "spearhead" the First Army drive to close the "Arennes buldge" and the month also saw the Division once again shunted around a prize and internationally famous goal as it drove

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to, around and past St. Vith, only to have the town excluded from the boundaries. Another unit actually captured by occupancy this prize. The month saw the infantry smash through snow waist deep, severe penetrating cold, sleet and once ice, vigorously opposed all of the way, to slam shut the vital supply routes of the enemy and drive to and past St. Vith, capture Thirumont, the high ground to the southwest thereof, Lingeuville, Pont, Bellevaux, the famous crossroads at roadblock #2, Recht, Obr. Emmels, Ndr. Emmels, Ndr. Emmelser Heide, Rodt, Hinderhausen, Neundorf, Krombach and Weister.

In this action the Division Artillery, besides the attachments mentioned herein, utilized the fire power of the 406th F. A. Group, the 211th F. A. Group, the 76th F. A. Bn., the infantry cannon Companies, the assault Guns of the 743rd Tank Destroyer Bn. and the 2nd Platoon of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Bn., massing the fires effectively throughout. The Division Artillery, reinforced, fired 287 registrations, 152 counter-battery and counter-mortar missions, 2151 harassing and interdiction missions, 466 preparations, 768 close support missions, 77 missions on strong points and 33 neutralizations. Organic Battalions, exclusive of attached battalions, fired 72,865 rounds of ammunition in the operations of the month.

Attachments for the period were:

400th Armd F. A. Bn. Relieved 25th January.
401st F. A. Group, attached 1 January 1945, released
(809th F. A. Bn.) 14 January 1945.
(187th F. A. Bn.)
229th F. A. Bn. attached 5th January 1945
released 9th January 1945
attached 10 January 1945
released 11 January 1945
591st F. A. Bn. attached 8th January 1945
released 11th January 1945
460th F. A. Bn. attached 17th January 1945
released 23rd January 1945
Company "A", 86th Cml Mortar Bn. released 24th January
Company "C", 87th Cml Mortar Bn. attached 26th January

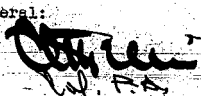
During the month the battalions occupied the following positions:

113th F. A. Bn. (749084), 14th Jan displaced to (78100410) on 17th Jan to (77400045) and on the 21st to (78109530).
118th F. A. Bn. (74680630), 14th Jan displaced to (7805-0610) on the 15th Jan to (79000402) on the 17th Jan to (78350045) on the 20th to (79159480) and on the 23rd to (83709045).
197th F. A. Bn. (74990845), 5th Jan displaced to (7805-0610) thence on the 15th to (78730392), 17th to (77309760) thence on the 20th to (79589413) and on the 23rd Jan to (77109185).
230th F. A. Bn. (795061), 17th Jan displaced to (80609860), on the 20th to (802946) on the 23rd Jan to (83259050).
400th Armd F. A. Bn. (69500530), 10th Jan displaced to (7720-0560) on the 14th to (78800350), on the 17th to (77659835) and on the 23rd Jan to (79159025).
401st F. A. Gp. (70100655), 10th Jan displaced to (7990-0530).
809th F. A. (70850645), 10th Jan displaced to (7961-Bn. 0585).

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187th F. A. Bn. (69500650) 10th Jan displaced to
(78300585)
Company "A", 86th
Cml Mortar Co. (675056) 6th Jan displaced to (6800-
0120), 10th Jan displaced to (831-
033), 15th Jan to (78449954), 17th
to (80309700), 18th to (807966),
20th to (81409290), 23rd to (813889).
Company "A" Obsn Bn. (675056), 6th Jan displaced to
(67400560)
591st F. A. Bn. (681041)
AOP (K769036)
460th F. A. Bn. (74109510), 20th Jan displaced to
(74789145).

For the commanding General:


J. J. PARRISH JR.
Major, F. A.
Adjutant

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**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



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ITEM NO:

3056

S E C R E T

**HEADQUARTERS 117TH INFANTRY
APO 30, U. S. ARMY**

3 May 1945

SUBJECT: Resume of Operations for Month of April 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D.C.

The Month of April 1945 was a period of fast and continuous movement with the 117th Infantry Regiment moving over 250 miles eastward from the vicinity of the Town of Besten, Germany to positions in the City of Magdeburg on the west banks of the Elbe river.

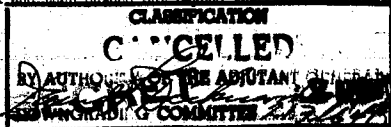
On 1 April 1945, the Regiment moved 56 miles north and east to an assembly area in the rear of the 2nd Armored Division in the vicinity of Brensteinfurt, Germany, in preparation to follow closely the 2nd Armored Division's advance to the east and clean up pockets of resistance by-passed. The following day approximately 46 miles were covered by the troops moving farther east to the vicinity of Kaunitz, Germany. The 1st and 3rd Battalions went into position in this sector placing roadblocks guarding the approaches to the MSR of the 2nd Armored Division. "K" Company was given the responsibility of guarding and supervising a Camp containing 8,500 Russian slave laborers. Two German hospitals were overrun in the Regimental sector complete with patients and staff and the 3rd Battalion placed guards on the hospitals.

The 2nd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion of the 119th Infantry at 1600 on 3 April 1945 and held the position, a mountain pass just southeast of Bielefeld, so the 2nd Armored Division could pass thru and continue their attack to the east. The same day the 1st Battalion moved to positions southeast of the 2nd Battalion and guarded additional passes thru the mountains, while the 3rd Battalion (less "K" Company) moved into an area in the rear of the 1st Battalion.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions maintained active defense in their sectors on 4 April 1945. "B" Company was given the mission to clean out a pocket of Germans which was behind the positions of "A" Company and "C" Company and completed its mission at 1130 picking up a number of stragglers. The 30th Recon Troops, Mecs. did extensive patrolling within the Regimental area.

5 April 1945, found the 1st Battalion moving at 0700 to establish roadblocks on Division's left flank relieving elements of the 125th Cav. Sqd. The 3rd Battalion (less "K" Co.) moved to the Town of Lemgo scouring the town and Division's left flank and protecting the MSR of the 2nd Armored Division, completing its mission at 1130. The 2nd Battalion moved from the vicinity of the Autobahn and established roadblocks and secured the right flank of the Regiment in the vicinity of the Town of Bentrah. The 30th Recon. Troops did extensive patrolling of the Division's left flank making contact with the 8th Infantry Division in Bielefeld and Schotmar, making a catch of 350 PW's and numerous supplies during the day. Plans were made to follow the 2nd Armored Division and maintain contact in zone and protect the left flank of the Division and XIX Corps.

At daylight 6 April 1945, the 30th Recon. Troops left Lemgo pushing east to screen the advance of the 2nd Battalion which followed motorized. The 2nd Battalion moved forward and occupied the west bank of the Weser river taking positions in the Town of Hameln. The 3rd Battalion crossed the Weser river at Ohr and relieved elements of the 119th Infantry and after meeting stiffening resistance dug in at the railroad tracks at the outskirts of Hameln and prepared for the attack the following day. The 1st Battalion crossed the Weser and occupied the Town of Hastenbeck and then pushed out beyond the town establishing roadblocks.



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The attack on the Town of Hameln was launched at 0630 on 7 April 1945 by the 1st and 3rd Battalions with "F" Company attached and captured the town taking over 3,000 PW's, 2,000 of which were in hospitals. The 2nd Battalion (less "F" Co.) guarded the west bank of the Weser in Hameln and ran patrols along the river. The 30th Recon. Troops maintained patrol activity in the area surrounding the town. "K" Company was relieved of its guard duty of the slave labor Camp and rejoined the 3rd Battalion.

Task force "Hoppe" consisting of one platoon of the 30th Recon, one platoon of medium tanks, one platoon of light tanks and two platoons of "E" Company, attacked northeast 080630 April 1945, to clear the Town of Hofingen. They captured 20 PW's and recovered all but two vehicles of the 3rd Platoon, 30th Recon which was ambushed the previous day. Mission was accomplished by 1230. The 3rd Battalion moved out at 0730 to establish roadblocks on the left flank of the Division in the Regimental sector as far as the Town of Dorpe and were in position by 1040. The 30th Recon. Troops screened the Regimental area north of the railroad tracks as far east as the 3rd Battalion's most forward elements. The I and R Platoon screened the area in Regimental zone south of railroad tracks. Task force "Ammons" at 1520 containing Companies "E", "G" and "H" plus one platoon light tanks, one platoon medium tanks, one platoon TD's and one platoon 30th Recon. Troops moved to Lemgo to clear an enemy pocket which had cut the MSR in vicinity of Lemgo. The 1st Battalion took over all outpost guards and roadblocks from the 3rd Battalion in the Town of Hameln by 0630, 8 April 1945.

Task force "Ammons" completed its mission on 9 April 1945 taking 42 PW's and overran a German motor pool. The 1st Battalion maintained guards on installations in Hameln and roadblocks surrounding the town. A small task force from the 1st Battalion moved into the Town of Unsen at 1100 and brought back 40 PW's.

10 April 1945, found the 1st and 3rd Battalions moving eastward again following a screening attack by the I and R Platoon, 125th Cav. and 30th Recon. units. The leading elements of the 117th Regiment's advance reached the Weser-Elbe Canal at 1800 where a civilian was met who stated the German General in command of that sector wished to surrender his troops. A group of German soldiers in that sector took a Sergeant of the 125th Cav. Group blindfolded into the City of Brunswick and the German Commanding Officer arranged to meet Maj. Gen. Hobbs, the 30th Division Commanding General at the Canal at 1900. This meeting did not bring the anticipated results, since the German General did not accept unconditional surrender, so fighting was resumed at 1850. The 3rd Battalion made two attempts to cross the Canal but were frustrated by anti-tank, mortar and small arms fires.

The attack toward the City of Brunswick started from the Weser-Elbe Canal which Canal was 8,000 yards west of the City. Brunswick, a city of over 250,000 population was a large manufacturing center producing optical instruments and numerous small mechanical parts which went into the final assembly of the weapons with which the Germans waged war. The City was also the site of a German Artillery School, a Replacement center and Aircraft Research Laboratory, which included research on the German's V-2 weapon. Brunswick also had its strategic value, and after its capture, the path was open for a rapid advance to the banks of the Elbe river.

On 11 April 1945, after three attempts to cross the Weser-Elbe Canal, the 3rd Battalion made a crossing and by 1115, the 3rd Battalion had most of its foot troops in the Towns of Wedtlenstedt and Denstorf and were still pushing forward. By 1200 the 3rd Battalion had moved down to the Town of Fleidingen and by 1230 had advanced another 2000 yards and cleared the Town of Lams without meeting opposition. The 1st Battalion crossed the Canal by 1230 and was pushing ahead on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion having the northern sector of Brunswick as its objective. The 105th Engineers, Co. "A", bridged the Canal and at 1630 the first vehicle crossed the Canal, bringing up tanks and TD's to reinforce the three battalions' attack. The 1st Battalion ran into small arms

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SUBJECT: Resume of Operations for Month of April, 1945, 3 May 1945, Page (3).

fire as they entered the northwestern edge of the city at 1730, but by 1800 the 1st Battalion had all their units in the built-up area in the northwestern section of the City meeting small arms fire and still pushing ahead. The 3rd Battalion was also meeting small arms fire in their advance toward the outskirts of the City but by 1918 had its leading elements in the outskirts of the City and were moving forward. The 2nd Battalion had crossed the Canal after the 1st Battalion and moved to the right flank of the 3rd Battalion with the southern part of the City as its objective and by 1925 was entering the outskirts of the City meeting mortar, artillery and small arms fires, most of the fire coming from the airport area on their right flank. The 2nd Battalion put containing troops on the airport area and the other units moved forward. Before buttoning up for the night the 1st Battalion had advanced approximately one-third of the way thru the northern part of the City; the 2nd Battalion by 2320 had neutralized resistance at the airport and was across the railroad tracks in the southern sector of the City. The 3rd Battalion cleared the center of the City by 2330. The following morning starting at 0600 the 1st and 2nd Battalions moved very fast meeting negligible opposition and cleared the northern, southern and eastern suburbs of the City by 1000. The 1st Battalion continued the advance on foot after clearing the City and by 1300 had reached a point eight miles east of the City. Here they were passed thru by the 2nd Battalion (now motorized). The 2nd Battalion continued rapidly preceded by the 30th Recon. Troops. The 1st Battalion was then motorized and followed the 2nd Battalion. By 2030 the 2nd Battalion had cleared all resistance along their route of advance and had secured intact bridges over the Wefer-Elbe Canal and Ohre river against moderate resistance in the Town of Calverbe. The 3rd Battalion remained in the City of Brunswick to defend and police the City.

The Regimental objective for 13 April 1945, was the banks of the Elbe river. The 2nd Battalion pushed east to a road junction west of Tangermunde where contact was made with the 5th Armored Division. Here orders were changed and the advance turned in a southern direction with the mission to secure a bridgehead over the Elbe river at Rogatz if a bridge site existed. Also, possible bridge sites were to be checked at Kehnert and Ferchland. Progress of the 2nd Battalion was halted temporarily in the Town of Angern where an enemy self-propelled gun and infantry was encountered. After clearing Angern, strong determined opposition halfway to the Town of Rogatz was met and after the enemy was taken care of, the 2nd Battalion proceeded to clear out the Town of Rogatz, with "B" Company encountering fanatical resistance from a group of enemy still in their teens. The town was in 2nd Battalion's hands by 2030 and no bridge was found to exist. The 1st Battalion moved from Angern at 1730 south and west and cleared the Town of Loitzsche, meeting medium opposition. Mission was completed by 2030.

The 1st Battalion on 14 April 1945, sent a strong combat patrol to the Town of Hedricksburg. The town was cleared by 0830 and "B" Company remained there to hold the town. A check on a bridge site revealed no bridge ever existed. The 1st Battalion in conjunction with the 120th Infantry made plans to establish an outpost and send patrols from main positions to outpost. Study of river and banks were made by both Battalions for possible crossing sites in the area. One platoon of "C" Company was moved to Colbitz at 1700 to enforce law and order which was disturbed by liberated Allied personnel.

On 15 April 1945, the Battalions remained in defensive positions. The 3rd Battalion was relieved of police and guard of the City of Brunswick and rejoined the Regiment in the Town of Angern at 0930.

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SUBJECT: Resume of Operations for Month of April, 1945, 3 May 1945, Page (4).

The Regiment was relieved by the 35th Infantry Division on 16 April 1945 and the Battalions moved into an assembly area to the northwest of the City of Magdeburg. Plans were made for the attack on Magdeburg the following day.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions attacked east at 1515 to clear the center portion of the City of Magdeburg. The 119th Infantry was on the right flank and the 120th Infantry was on the left flank, each having a portion of Magdeburg as their objective. The 1st Battalion ran into considerable resistance in the built-up housing project at the outskirts of the City, but cleared this resistance and moved along with the 2nd Battalion halfway through the City before buttoning up for the night. The 3rd Battalion was placed on the Regiment's left flank to establish roadblocks. The following morning the 1st and 2nd Battalions continued their attack. The 2nd Armored Division had now a position on the 1st Battalion's right flank, after having pinched out the 119th Infantry. Rapid progress was made by the Battalions against moderate resistance and at 1402 the Elbe river was reached by both the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

From 19 April 1945 through 30 April 1945, the Regiment had the responsibility of guarding all installations in the City, and seeing that local functions are again restored and civilian affairs administered through the American Military Government.


Gen. Hobbs was present 24 April 1945 and decorated personnel of the 117th Regiment with Silver and Bronze Star Medals.

25 April 1945, found Gen. Kurt Dittmar, German official army news commentator, together with Maj. Pluskat and party (consisting of Gen. Dittmar's son and two orderlies) cross the Elbe river in the 3rd Battalion's sector to surrender.

During the period the Regiment accumulated 15,361 PW's which included 7,133 inmates of the many German Military Hospitals overrun. In the Regiment's rapid advance eastward many, many thousands of Polish, Russian and French slave labor PW's were liberated. Also many, many hundreds of American and English PW's were liberated. It was practically impossible to keep an accurate record of the German Military equipment overrun but a few of the numerous items included 31 - 88mm guns, 4 Cabin Planes, 18 small Gliders, 1 large Glider, 1 Halftrack, 250 - 6 cylinder Airplane engines, 10 - 150mm guns, 15 Medium Bombers on flat cars, 100 Military vehicles of all types, 2 - 75mm Anti-tank guns, 20 tanks and self-propelled guns which included one Panther Pursuit tank.

30 April 1945, finds the 117th Infantry maintaining active defensive positions on the banks of the Elbe river preparing for a link up with the Russian Army.

For the Commanding Officer:


LESTER D. ROYALTY
Captain, 117th Inf.
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS 117TH INFANTRY
A. F. O. 30, U. S. ARMY

5 April 1945

SUBJECT: Resume of Operations for Month of March 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Knifing deeper into the pro-Rhine defenses of the enemy, the 117th Infantry progressively eliminated the foe from his Erft Canal stronghold, and towards the end of the period spearheaded the drive of the Ninth Army across the river South of Wesel.

It was disclosed that what was believed to have been a "Tiger" Tank, overrun by forces of the First Battalion assaulting the town of Oberembt, Germany, during the night of 26 February 1945, was in reality an enemy secret weapon. Closer observation, the following day, revealed that the "Tiger" Tank (Mark VI Tank) mounted the heaviest caliber weapon so far encountered in any of the fighting - a 380 millimeter howitzer, the seven foot barrel of which projected but two feet from its fixed turret. It fired projectiles apparently rocket propelled, five feet long and fifteen inches in diameter, weighing 800 pounds. A hoist was used to load the huge gun.

At the beginning of the month, the Regiment was engaged in protecting the Right flank of the XIXth Corps and Ninth Army boundary. The Third Battalion cleared the town of Kleintroidsdorf, at 0400, 1 March 1945, and continued to Blericher, Germany, where it relieved the 125th Cavalry Group. This objective was mopped up also despite heavy tank and small arms fire received from the opposite shore of the Erft Canal, from the vicinity of Bedburg, Germany. While the Second Battalion patrolled between the Regiment and the 119th Infantry, on its Left flank, Company "K" removed entrenched enemy elements in the village of Lippe, North of Blericher. Company "F" moved two miles East, the following day, and in a surprise night attack seized the town of Kaster.

930 LINE (117)

The Regimental Command Post was set up in Bedburdyok, Germany, 2 March 1945, and the troops placed on the alert. The First Battalion was scheduled to relieve units of the 119th Infantry in Eiften, Germany. However, plans for continuing the attack were altered when a strong German counter-attack pierced the line being held by the 83rd Division along the Corps boundary. The 117th Infantry was called upon to bolster the defense and to assist in regaining the ground that had been lost. By 2015, the disposition of the troops had been completed and all of the units were in position. The First Battalion had occupied the town of Kapellen; the Second Battalion was in Hemmerden; the Third Battalion, in Gilverath. All of the Third Battalion objectives had been taken by 2200; but, the foe had succeeded in destroying two foot viaducts spanning the Canal, and they were making repeated attempts to blow up the railroad bridge.

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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND THE RECORDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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On 3 March 1945, the three battalions consolidated their positions. Patrols sought out the strength of the enemy, determined fordable sites through the Canal, and maintained contact with the 120th Infantry on the Regimental Left. The Fourth Cavalry Group took over part of the First Battalion Sector, and the 99th Division relieved the Fourth Cavalry in Wevelinghoven, from which it was to jump off early the next morning along the opposite bank of the left Canal. This maneuver pinched off the 117th Infantry, and the Regiment was assembled for movement to Sittard, Holland, where river crossing operations were practiced over the Maas River, with amphibious training equipment. Cleaning of equipment, bathing, and basic training was also engaged in.

A historic event was commemorated, 11 March 1945, as the Second Battalion joined with the citizens of Maastricht, Holland, in celebrating the liberation of the city by the troops of the 117th Infantry in September 1944. Major General L. S. Hobbs, Division Commander, and Colonel Walter M. Johnson, Commanding Officer of the Regiment, participated in the ceremony. On 14 March 1945, General Hobbs awarded Silver and Bronze Stars to Colonel Johnson, Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Frankland, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin T. Ammons, and other officer and enlisted personnel of the Regiment.

The Regiment returned to Germany, 18 March 1945. It moved into its new assembly area at night under strict security controls. Foxholes were dug by the men. The Regimental Command Post was established in Hoffmunn, Germany. A parachutist was reported dropped in the Third Battalion area but it could not be ascertained whether he was friendly or hostile.

The next few days were spent getting ready for the impending assault across the Rhine River. On 23 March 1945, the Regimental Command Post moved up to Wallach, Germany. At 0200, the following day, all of the regimental units were in position and poised for the attack. The assault battalion was to cross in four waves, with two companies abreast and two platoons abreast in the two leading companies. The initial elements made the crossing in storm boats allowing two minute intervals between the first and second waves. The second two waves intersected the river in double M-2 assault boats within three minute intervals.

The foremost groups reached the East bank of the Rhine River at 0210. A Company "B" platoon cleared the first obstacle on the other side, a dike, and reorganized to proceed further. By 0238, 24 March 1945, the First Battalion had completed crossing of the river and was continuing according to plan. Only light resistance had been encountered, primarily on its Right flank. The town of Ork was captured quickly and cleared of the foe by 0500. Approximately 150 prisoners were taken in the precisely executed operation.

The Second Battalion was on its way through the waters of the Rhine River by 0420. It made the crossing in LVT's, as well as storm and assault craft returning from the early landings. One company was

over by 0450, along with a company of tanks. Company "G" had attained its objective Southeast of Spellen, Germany, by 0634, despite some delay that was occasioned by difficulty with the boats. By 0718, the Third Battalion had started across using LCV's and alligators. It advanced through ORK to the vicinity of Spellen. The 290th Infantry Regiment moved up to protect the bridge emplacements.

Colonel Johnson went over the river at 1033, 24 March 1945, and established a Forward Command Post. By 1100, 9, 57 millimeter guns; 58, one-quarter ton trucks and weasels; and, 17 "DD" tanks had been transported to the other side. Direct fire was being received from small arms and 20 millimeter Anti-Aircraft guns.

The railroad tracks and surrounding ground Northeast of Spellen proved to be a formidable obstacle. Tanks supporting the Second Battalion were frustrated. An air mission was scheduled but canceled later because closeness of the troops would prevent effective strafing of the area. Nevertheless, by 1340, the Second Battalion had practically secured the objective and the First Battalion was routing the enemy from the Southeast portion. In twelve hours time, the 117th Infantry had captured 450 prisoners. 523 Germans were taken altogether during the day's activity. This was the highest collection of prisoners in a twenty-four hour period since the Regiment was committed in Normandy.

The First and Second Battalions continued on to the town of Smuler and its environs, after which the First and Third Battalions proceeded to envelope the wooded area 1500 yards further East. The first Regimental Command post East of the Rhine River was opened at Spellen, Germany, 2000, 24 March 1945. During the night the bridge was out preventing conveyance of anti-tank guns. Division advised that the boats could not be used in the darkness.

After accomplishing all set objectives for the day, the First and Third Battalions jumped off at 0900, 25 March 1945, for the Autobahn and territory on either side of the highway in the regimental sector. An air attack on the town of Buchholt was called off because of the rapid progress that was being made. The Third Battalion reached the outskirts in short order while the First Battalion, mounted on "DD" tanks, was approaching the Autobahn. Both elements were receiving fire from the woods to their left flank. The First Battalion troops left the tanks to knock out some anti-tank guns at the edge of the field, remounted, and resumed its drive.

The Regimental Command post was removed to Buschnannahof, Germany, and about 1430, 25 March 1945, the First and Third Battalions had gained the Autobahn after overcoming moderate resistance. Flak guns seemed to be the enemy's predominate weapon. Some members of the Volkstrum who had resisted the Third Battalion with small arms were taken prisoner.

During the night, the 120th Infantry, on the Regimental Left flank, encountered elements of the 116th Panzer Division who were deployed with Tiger Tanks. Plans were changed again. The Task Force operations were called off; the troops instructed to button up for the night. Later, it

was decided to go ahead as originally planned but without troop carriers. The town of Meessenhof, Germany, and its surrounding area was ordered taken while it was still dark, with the troops on foot following the tanks. Company "B" was to defend the town that it was occupying while the 119th Infantry passed through and then it was to follow the tanks as an advance guard for the assault upon the Northern half of the objective. The Third Battalion remained in position while the Second Battalion jumped off for the Southern portion. The Third Battalion was to go through both of them the next day.

The advance of the Second Battalion was harried by small arms and direct fire from a single large gun. By 0650, 26 March 1945, two companies were in the objective. Contact was made with Company "A" of the 120th Infantry to the Right rear. The First Battalion reached its goal at 0435, overrunning two 150 millimeter guns, and one, 270 millimeter piece. Five prisoners from the 156th Regiment of the 116th Panzer Division were taken. A fourteen year old civilian who killed one and wounded another of the unit's personnel was liquidated. The Second Battalion resumed the attack at 0730, and the Third Battalion jumped off at 0805. Impassable roads slowed the Second Battalion's push but the Third Battalion made its way to the wooded area about a mile East of Meessenhof without too much difficulty, and continued onward to a similar tract of land 2000 yards further East. Stiffening opposition became manifest. A large concentration of enemy armor was attacked by aircraft as the 120th Infantry suffered a counter-attack of small arms and mortar fire. The 119th Infantry assumed responsibility for the Southern half of the Meessenhof area and the 75th RCT struck out for the North from the Autobahn. Pressure began to develop at the bridge site and it was blown by the enemy. A First Battalion patrol to the bridge was ambushed. The Third Battalion was enveloped by small arms and direct fire from the North, South, and East. Self-propelled guns, mortar fire, and Tiger Tanks were utilized by the foe to stem the tide that was overrunning them. Aided by Allied air power the force of the counter blow was abated and the drive forward continued.

The Command Post was moved South of Hunxe, Germany, and then to Waldeslust. Heavy fire began puring upon the Second Battalion from the airfield to the South. The Third Battalion jumped off at 2400, but ran into difficulty. Twenty-one prisoners were seized after a fire fight with a flak outfit. White phosphorous was fired in order to assist the Second Battalion in its pursuit. Both units reached their objective at about the same time, 0445, 27 March 1945. As soon as their positions were consolidated, Company "K" was to proceed to the Village of Besten. This attack was coordinated with that of the 119th Infantry, to the Left. A bridge on the main road was blown and another sizeable counter-attack had to be fought off. The assault of Besten was held up. A large volume of fire was being received from the town itself. The neighboring roads were found to be mined with Regal mines. The Germans had captured a medium tank and were using it against the troops. Poor visibility nullified air observation.

The 119th Infantry pushed the enemy from a strategic hill site in the rear of Besten and began throwing artillery into the objective. At 2200, 27 March 1945, Company "K" jumped off, and in a little more than an hour, took possession of the town. The remaining foe demonstrated little inclination to resist further. The road was cleared and the I & R

platoon flushed out the woods. A self-propelled gun firing into the Third Battalion positions was eliminated. All of the surrounding areas were actively patrolled by the respective battalions as the 8th Armored Division began passing through the Regimental Zone at 0600, 29 March 1945. A German airplane was shot down by a P-47 near the regimental command post.

The next day, 29 March 1945, contact was established with both the 119th and the 120th Infantry, on either side of the Regiment. The 75th Infantry Division was delegated to accompany the 8th Armored Division instead of the 30th Division as originally planned, and the 30th reverted to XIXth Corps reserve once more. 1091 prisoners of war were taken during the operation, which is the largest number captured by the Regiment in a single engagement. The German pilot shot down over the regimental sector was part of the bag. four, 150 millimeter guns; one, 270 millimeter; six, 40 millimeter flak guns; five, 20 millimeter flak guns; one, Mark V tank; five, 75 millimeter howitzers; three, searchlights; one, half track; and, numerous trucks and other vehicles were destroyed or overrun.

As the period ended the 117th Infantry remained upon a six hour alert for future action with the rapidly collapsing foe.

For the Commanding Officer:

William A. Buckley
WILLIAM A. BUCKLEY
Captain, 117th Infantry
Personnel Officer

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 117TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. 30, U. S. ARMY

7 March 1945

SUBJECT: Resume of operations for month of February 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

The long-awaited attack across the Roer River shot into high gear on the morning of 23 February 1945, as the First and Ninth Armies jumped off at dawn following a forty-five minute saturation barrage by nearly 2,000 artillery weapons. Assault troops of both commands swarmed through the still swollen rapids to consolidate beach heads and battled their way Eastward into the heart of Germany.

The 117th Infantry, having returned to its former positions, not far from the banks of the Roer River, after a hitch with the XVIII Corps, Airborne, of the First Army, during the battle of the Belgian Bulge, was relieved from that assignment on 2 February 1945, and reverted to Ninth Army control. The Regiment was placed in Ninth Army Reserve as it moved out of Belgium into the neighborhood of Aachen, Germany. On 4 February 1945, a Buzz Bomb fell near the Second Battalion Command Post but caused no casualties. On 9 February 1945, the Regimental Command Post was transferred to Fronhoven, Germany. Increased enemy air activity became manifest, and anti-aircraft batteries drove off several German planes probing the area. Searchlight demonstrations and other tactical maneuvers were engaged in by the troops.

On 16 February 1945, General L. S. Hobbs, Division Commander, awarded Silver and Bronze Stars to officers and enlisted men of the Regiment; and, on 19 February 1945, The Presidential Unit Citation was formally presented to members of the First Battalion for their heroic defense of the salient at St. Barthelmy, France, where the first of the mighty German counter thrusts was repulsed almost wholly by elements of the 30th Division. Colonel Walter M. Johnson, Regimental Commander, conferred the honor upon the First Platoon of the Anti-Tank Company, 117th Infantry, for its collaboration in the historic achievement. Additional awards and decorations were bestowed upon personnel of the Regiment, 22 February 1945, by General Hobbs.

At 0600, 24 February 1945, the units of the Regiment began moving to a forward Assembly Area, and a new Regimental Command Post was opened in Inden, Germany. Colonel Walter M. Johnson and Major Julius W. Singleton traversed the Roer River to set up an Observation Post across the River. However, H-Hour was delayed two hours because of difficulty encountered by the 119th Infantry, which was engaged with the 120th Infantry, in securing a bridgehead on the East side of the stream. A company of tanks, attached to the 117th Infantry, was deployed in support of the 119th Infantry.

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At 1630, 24 February 1945, the Second and Third Battalions of the 117th Infantry, jumped off and advanced rapidly through these forward elements of the Division. Progress of the Third Battalion was slowed somewhat by heavily mined roads and felled trees which particularly handicapped tank movement. Nevertheless, three enemy half tracks were knocked out; and, as these obstacles were by-passed a forty millimeter gun and a Tiger Tank were found to be harassing the approaches to the town of Steinstrass. Hostile aircraft, bombed and strafed the advancing columns. Despite this opposition and heavy mortar, tank, and ack ack fire elements of the Third Battalion succeeded in entering the objective at 1345 the following day. Two German tanks were still roaming the main streets of the town. Second Battalion units reached the Northern edge about an hour later, and, by 1610, Steinstrass, Germany, had been cleared of the foe.

In the meantime, the 120th Infantry, had assumed the responsibility for the sector held by the First Battalion of the 117th Infantry, which proceeded to protect the Right Flank of the Regiment. Company "G" tied in with Company "K", and assisted the Third Battalion in holding Steinstrass while the Second Battalion continued the attack toward its next objective, Lich, Germany. Supported by Company "A" of the 743rd Tank Battalion, the Second Battalion drove the enemy back and had no sooner cleared the village, except for a small pocket in the Northern outskirts, when the Germans began counter-attacking with large forces of infantry and tanks. Second Battalion troops destroyed two of the hostile tanks and the 743rd Tank Battalion demolished three of their half tracks. Artillery then contained the balance of the enemy threat.

The First Battalion moved in to seize a Line of Departure East of Steinstrass, and the Second Battalion continued onward. Oberembt was to be the next objective, with the First and Second Battalions concentrating upon it. The 118th Field Artillery laid down a voluminous barrage which enabled the tanks and infantry of the Regiment to enter the town by 0610, 26 February 1945. In less than an hour Oberembt was securely held.

The old Command Post in Niedertzier was closed and a new one established in Lich, Germany. In less than a day the 117th Infantry had taken three separate objectives, knocked out three Mark IV Tanks; one, Mark VI; thirteen, half tracks; five, twenty millimeter guns; one, seventy-five millimeter anti-tank gun; and, had captured more than 450 prisoners.

Kirchtroisdorf and Putz, Germany, were next in the line of attack, so the Regimental Command Post was moved once more, to Oberembt, as the First and Third Battalions resumed the drive. Within three hours the first of these objectives was attained along with 100 prisoners. During the operation five British flail tanks which had mistakenly wandered into the area were destroyed.

Entrenched German infantry, dug in around the town of Putz, provided a formidable obstacle to the Second Battalion's drive upon the key objective. At least five enemy tanks were cooperating with the defenses of the town. However, by 0420, one company of infantry and tanks had pierced the bulwarks of the citadel even though two direct hits had been scored upon the armored column and strong small arms and mortar fire was impaling the Right Flank of the drive. Friendly artillery was falling so close that it was impossible to clean out the houses. Nevertheless, by 0520, 27 February 1945, the advantage gained had been consolidated and Putz was freed of the adversary.

The patrol which had continued onward toward a farm, 2000 yards North of Putz, was recalled in order to permit the 119th Infantry to lay an artillery preparation for its assault. The patrol returned and reported that tanks and infantry had been observed in the area and that the Second Battalion Command Post had received a direct hit which severed all of its communications, but resulted in no other damage. All roads were then ordered kept clear for the Second Armored Division, which was to move through the Regimental positions at 2100, 27 February 1945, while the three battalions of the 117th Infantry safeguarded the route and solidified their fronts.

The following day, a Company "C" Platoon, with elements of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, set up an observation post in Etgendorf, Germany, and at 1500, elements of the 24th Cavalry Squadron entered the city of Bedburg, on the Regimental Right flank. Patrolling and active defense of the sector was maintained while plans for extending the campaign towards the Rhine were being formulated.

For the Commanding Officers:

William A. Buckley
WILLIAM A. BUCKLEY
Captain, 117th Infantry
Personnel Officer

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 117TH INFANTRY
A. P. O. 30, U. S. ARMY

5 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Resume of operations for month of January 1945.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

As the New Year, 1945, dawned bleak and cold in the mountainous terrain of the Ardennes, the 117th Infantry began whittling away the North-west prong of the German salient into Belgium. Unremitting pressure was applied against the foe down the L'Ambleve Valley and along the high ground dominating the approaches to St. Vith. One vantage point after another was seized from his grasp as the force of concentric blows paved the way to this key objective.

At the beginning of the period, the Regiment was holding down an active line of defense along a broad front stretching from Malmédy, Through Stavelot, to the vicinity of La Gleize, Belgium. The enemy was being harassed without let up at the same time. Artillery and mortar fire kept him well dispersed and prevented consolidation of the opposing forces. During the night of 3 January 1945, an enlarged forty man patrol of the Second Battalion, 117th Infantry, achieved a highly successful crossing of the L' Ambleve River in rubber boats. The detachment accomplished its mission by reaching the town of Aismont, drawing hostile fire, and returning safely. The following day, Major General L. S. Hobbs, Division Commander, awarded three Distinguished Service Crosses as well as a number of Silver and Bronze Stars to Officers and Enlisted Men of the Regiment.

For the next few days, the 117th Infantry correlated its planning with the operations of ROT 118, which was attached to the 30th Infantry Division, along with the 424th Infantry Regiment. Company "G", of the 117th Infantry, established two bridgeheads over the river through which the element of the 28th Division was enabled to cross, in a surprise attack upon Aismont. Energetic patrolling and defense was then continued until 10 January 1945, when the troops were withdrawn into a Reserve Area, near Malmédy, Belgium.

On 13 January 1945, the Third Battalion, 117th Infantry, took up a position on the high ground South of Malmédy, bridging a gap between the 119th and the 120th Infantry Regiments. The 119th Infantry had jumped off early in the morning but was able to make little progress. Anti-tank mines had slowed the attack of the 120th Infantry. The Third Battalion of the 117th Infantry was attached to the latter force and Division directed that its next objective, the Village of Linguéville, Belgium, had to be taken by noon of 14 January 1945, and the high ground further on by nightfall. By 1610, 14 January 1945, the Second Battalion had occupied Linguéville and was engaged in house to house clearance of the town. A bridgehead was then established, in quick order over the Amel River, despite heavy concentrations of hostile artillery. By 1825, two companies had crossed the river and were in possession of a 300 yard corridor. This action eliminated all obstacles in the sector which enabled the armored columns to roll forward.

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The enemy waged determined counter attacks against these newly won positions of the Second Battalion, with large forces of infantry and tanks. Some hostile troops managed to infiltrate to the bridge. "G" Company, 117th Infantry, which had made contact with elements of the Second Battalion in Ligneuville, engaged two companies of Germans that had succeeded in getting across the river, and had brought up in addition two or three self propelled guns. The foe was bent upon wiping out the penetration that had been made and destroying the bridge in order to impede the advancing columns. But, the stratagem was foiled by an artillery barrage directed upon its own positions by the Second Battalion. Released from the 120th Infantry, the Third Battalion, 117th Infantry, reverted to Regimental control at 2100; and, at 0750, the following morning, passed through the Second Battalion to seize the high ground South of Ligneuville. Resistance had by now been reduced to mines that were concealed by thick blankets of snow.

The Regimental Command Post was then transferred from Malmedy, to Geromont, Belgium, and the Third Battalion of the 119th Infantry was attached to cover the left flank of the Regiment. Together with this added support, the First and Second Battalions of the 117th Infantry jumped off at 0900, 16 January 1945, encountering but slight initial resistance. However, direct fire weapons held up tank support. As the first objectives were taken, the 120th Infantry moved up to occupy the ground permitting the attacking force to proceed with unslackened speed. Two enemy artillery pieces were overrun in the onslaught and destroyed. The 30th Division Reconnaissance Troop was attached and delegated the responsibility for making contact with the 23rd Infantry Regiment coming up on the left flank. An enemy pocket consisting of four tanks and 100 men, which had been holding up Company "G"'s advance, was outflanked and liquidated. Company "G" was then reinforced with platoons from Companies "E" and "F", and augmented its break through, clearing the remaining barriers by 1930.

The First Battalion resumed the attack on 17 January 1945, and advanced to within 300 yards of the road junction between Recht and St. Vith. The Third Battalion moved in against two strongly fortified hostile road blocks which were protecting the main highway. The Third Battalion of the 119th Infantry was relieved by the Second Battalion of the 120th Infantry and the 30th Division Reconnaissance Troop was transferred from Regimental control to the 120th Infantry. A Second Battalion patrol received small arms and tank fire from the vicinity of Recht. The First and Second Battalions consolidated their positions outside the town as the Third Battalion continued its assault upon the road blocks. The Regimental Command Post was moved to Font, Belgium.

On 19 January 1945, the Second Battalion attacked toward the South capturing the town of Recht while the Third Battalion gained possession of the vital road junctures which the Germans had been defending with seven self propelled guns in addition to large numbers of infantry. The First Battalion maintained a vigorous defense and patrolled the Southeast.

Additional objectives were given the Regiment the following day, to clean out the woods between Recht and Rodt, Belgium, and to open the path for a direct assault upon St. Vith. Company "I" overcame two Mark IV tanks supported by infantry, as Company "L" was proceeding around the Right Flank. A self propelled gun was knocked out with a bazooka and plenty of infantry courage. By 1630 both objectives were in friendly hands.

The Regimental Command Post was opened in Recht, Belgium, on 22 January 1945. The Third Battalion remained in active defense and ran patrols to the woods adjoining St. Vith, which was to be the next objective for the First Battalion. The Second Battalion attacked South and captured the town of Rodt. The I & R Platoon which was engaged in setting up an observation post for this operation encountered a five man enemy patrol. It killed three Germans and made one prisoner before the foe could fire a shot in return. The First Battalion was held up by enemy infantry and self-propelled guns. Artillery support could not be utilized because of the proximity of the Third Battalion troops. Permission was obtained from Division to remove the Third Battalion to Recht.

Although the enemy resisted fiercely with small arms, mortar, nebelwerfer, and artillery fire, all of the high ground dominating the town of St. Vith was favorably disposed. On 23 January 1945, the Second Battalion captured Naurndorf. Company "E" gained the objective only after a hard fight even though its attack was preceded by a strong artillery concentration. The ice was dug in on the top of a hill and all of the avenues to the town were well fortified. Mines were then laid by the Engineers; and, at this point, the 87th Division pinched off the 117th Infantry and the Regiment went into a reserve status.

On 27 January 1945, the 346th Infantry of the 87th Division passed in front of the Second Battalion while the First and Third Battalions remained in reserve. The next day, the Regiment moved to an Assembly Area near Petit Halleux, Belgium, where the elements were re-organized and orientation and training schedules were conducted.

About 400 prisoners were taken by the Regiment during the month of January 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William A. Buckley
WILLIAM A. BUCKLEY
Captain, 117th Infantry
Personnel Officer

S E C R E T

UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM:	010015 January 1945
IN	OUT	NUMBER	TO : 0810 January 1945

1 January 1945

0015		(1)	Info overlay disp of 117th Inf
0015		(2)	Overlay of gun pos 117th Inf
0015		(3)	Overlay of proposed atk to S
0020			1st Bn 2 to S-2 "B" Co was unable to locate en patrol they previously sighted to their front
0855			3rd Bn 2 to S-2 patrol sent out located en to their front at (711-922) and (710-992)
1100			Col Stephens (Div 4/S) in
	1120		Col Stephens out
1155			3rd Bn 2 reports mortar fire coming East his "A" Co hears S-2 called Bns and they report they were not firing
	1200		Above msg given to 3rd Bn 2 by S-2
	1200		
1300		(4)	Msg from Div
	1315		3rd Bn fwd line out
1530		(5)	Overlay, 2nd Bn raiding party route
1545			3rd Bn fwd line in
	2215		Col Johnson to 2nd Bn 2, a civilian apprehended today claims he crossed river today on a log at Petit de Oge into our lines. Destroy this bridge at once and be very cautious that no one crosses the river in the future
	2225		S-2 to 2nd Bn 2, Col Johnson wants the bridging over river to be destroyed immediately

2 January 1945

0630			2nd Bn 3 to S-2, patrol ran into fire fight with en and is returning now with 2 prisoners
	1330		Col Johnson out to Div
1520			Col Johnson in from Div
1530			Bn CO's in for meeting with Col Johnson
	1630		S-2 to 2nd and 3rd Bns. Have your OP's keep sharp lookout for signs of en trucks and if necessary send out patrols to investigate
	1630		Bn CO's out
	1715		S-2 to 2nd Bn 2 instructs 2nd Bn to be alert tonight for vehicular movement since air OP notified S-2 of 500 vehicles moving NW thru St Vith at 0950. S-2 notified 1st and 3rd Bn LMO to transmit above msg to their respective Bns
1720		(1)	Overlay of disp of troops on W front
	1800	(2)	Overlay of plan of advance
2020			3rd Bn 2 notified S-2 of en minefield at (7040-990)
2105			2nd Bn 2 reported to S-2 an en patrol approached "G" Co's position and was driven off by SA fire
	2110		S-2 notified G-2 of above msg

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM
IN	OUT	NUMBER
		090120 January 1945
		TO 041820 January 1945

2 January 1945

0120		1st Bn 2 to S-3, vehicular movement on Rt 4 to Bn's front moving W. Arty fired
	0128	S-2 informed G-2 of above msg
0815		1st Bn 2 reported to S-2 that an destroyed bridge (716-008) last night
	0840	S-2 notified G-2 of above msg
1330		82nd AB reports it is now at Aisement
	1332	Above info given to 2nd Bn 3
	1332	Col Johnson out to Div
1350		Col Johnson calls S-3 and tells him info about 82 AB entrance
	1352	S-3 notifies 2nd Bn of above msg
1410		Col Johnson in from Div
1435	(1)	Overlay showing positions of AF guns
1900	(2)	Info overlay
1900	(3)	Info overlay 82nd AB pos
1900	(4)	Overlay of pos. in Normandy as of 7/1/44

4 January 1945

	0845	2nd Bn line out
0854		2nd Bn line in
0900		G-3 tells S-3 to send out combat patrol across river
	0910	S-3 tells 2nd Bn 3 to send out combat patrol across river at 1100. 6 rubber boats will be available for crossing
1140	(1)	Unit on right, overlay
	1215	1st and 3rd Bns notified of 2nd Bn patrol to go across river
1410		2nd Bn reports patrol crossed river at 1200 and reached obj at 1400 (obj church in Aisement) withdrawing back across river at present time. Small arms fire received at obj. No arty or mortar fire encountered
	1415	Above info given to G-3 by Col Johnson
	1540	Col Johnson out to 3rd Bn
1850		2nd Bn reports 15 rounds of scattered air bursts fell in rear of their CP
1600		G-3 to S-3, Corps Cdr on his way down to inspect your front line units
1620		Col Johnson in from 3rd Bn
	1620	1st Bn line out
1630		1st Bn line in
1710		"Oak Lumber" password from 1200, 4 Jan 1945 to 1200, 5 Jan 1945
1830		Gen Hobbs arrived to present 3 DCO's, Silver and Bronze Stars to personnel of 117th Inf
	1615	Gen Hobbs out
	1830	Col Johnson warned 1st Bn 5 and 2nd Bn 6 to alert their Cos that we may send out raiding parties tonight in counteract of our recent patrol activities

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM	TO
		061920	January 1948
		07	NUMBER

4 January 1948 (Cont'd)

1930			2nd Bn S to S-3, 7 rounds of 210 cal arty fell at (876-018) at 160 degrees
2000	1935	(2)	S-3 notified Div counter battery of above
	2150		Info overlay disp troops
2235			1st Bn line out
			1st Bn line in

5 January 1948

0645			G-4 notified S-3 that an patrol of 15 in white suits hit 120th "C" Co at (826-015) all armed with buzz guns
0810	0820		Gen Harrison requested Col Johnson to report to Div Hqs
0905			Col Johnson out to Div
	0908		Col Johnson calls S-3 and tells him to summon Bn CO's for meeting at OP at 0930
0910			S-3 tells Bn CO's meeting will be held at 0930 at OP
0930			Col Johnson in from Div with info that 117th Inf will pass thru us and atk tomorrow. 424th Inf will relieve us tomorrow night and we will move to forward assembly area. 117th and 424th Inf Regiments are atnd to Div for next operation
1000		(1)	Bn CO's in for meeting with Col Johnson
1010		(2)	Route of patrol of 14/44
1010			Div AT defense overlay
			CO and Bn Cmdrs of 117th Inf in for meeting with Col Johnson and our Bn CO's
1210			1st Bn line in
	1300		Col Johnson out to Div
	1320		2d and 3rd Bn lines out
	1340		S-2 out to 2nd Bn
1400			Col Johnson in from Div with change in plans for tomorrow
	1400		S-3 tells Bn CO's to return to OP to confer with Col Johnson
1410		(3)	Established new wire
1420			Overlay of positions of unit on right
			Bn CO's in for meeting
			CO of 424th in for meeting
	1430		3rd Bn fwd line out
	1540		Bn CO's and CO of 424th Inf out
1630		(4)	Div letter of instruction No 1
	1725		Col Johnson out to Div
	1815		1st Bn and 3rd Bn fwd lines out
1825			Col Johnson to S-3, plans for tomorrow have been suspended in regards to being relieved by another unit
	1830		2nd Bn 6 and 3rd Bn 6 notified by S-3 of above msg.
			743d Tk Bn 6 also notified

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

DATE: FROM: 01 JAN 1945
IN: OUT: NUMBER: TO: 1 0800H January 1945

3 JANUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

1930		S-3 notified 1st Bn 3 that tomorrow's plans have been called off
2100	(5)	4th Div PG 59 and seam overlay
2100	(6)	1st Div overlay of 2nd and 3rd Armored units
2100	(7)	28th Div 1st Div overlay and PG 3
2130		3rd Bn fwd line out

4 JANUARY 1945

0640		British engineers' reports found considerable gun activity via of (608-990)
0645		2nd Bn reported to S-3 bridges were under construction at river crossing and no gun fires have been received
0650		S-3 relayed above info to G-3
0800		G-3 notified by S-3 that there is some fog on river and G-3 informed S-3 that XVIII Corps CdnG Com will not visit area unless further notified
0850		S-3 informed 112th Inf S-3 of present situation
0740		2nd Bn 2 informed S-3 that both bridges have been completed across river
0755		S-3 informed G-3 of same
0800		2nd Bn 2 notified S-3 that one Co has crossed bridge on right but there has been a slight delay and troops have just started the crossing
0808		S-3 notified G-3 of above and was informed by S-3 that XVIII Corps CdnG Com will be in our area to observe operations at 0830
0910		2nd Bn line out. 2nd Bn to Col Johnson, Left-hand bridge in at 0850. Troops across at 0730. Right-hand bridge in at 0730. Troops across at 0700. Troops have now returned
1110	1100	1st Bn out by wire
	1120	2nd Bn in by wire
		4th Bn out by wire
1140		3rd Bn in by wire
1510		2nd Bn in by wire
1510	(1)	1st Div positions
1710	(2)	Defense of 1st Bn overlay
1935		1st Bn line out
2020		2nd Bn 2 to S-2. "F" Co received two concentrations of 10 rounds each at 2000 of 1st Bn and
2025		S-2 notified G-2 of above

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL FROM 062145 January 1945
IN CRT NUMBER TO 062110 January 1945

6 January 1945 (Cont'd)

2145 2145 (3) 3rd Bn fwd line out
Info overlay of 112th Inf pos
2225 119th Inf notified S-3 that an 8-man patrol has infiltrated between 117 and 119th
2230 2230 (4) S-3 informed Cn Co 2 of above
Info overlay disp of trps W front

7 January 1945

0705 S-3 inquired of 2nd Bn 3 situation and everything has been quiet. 3rd Bn 3 stated same condition prevailed in 3d Bn sector
0845 3rd Bn 3 reported to S-3 that two of his men hit an AF minefield at (7060-9995) this morning. This is an enemy field
0930 (1) Overlay showing road and bridge data as of Sept 44
0930 (2) Map from 1st Army showing blowout bridges and overpasses
1230 (3) VII Corps units overlay
1330 (4) 30th Div AT positions
S-3 out to Div
1310 Cn "C", 303rd AB cut by wire
1500 1440 OP line in
S-3 in from Div
1910 S-3 to all Bns. Have your motor officers and trans sgts in
Spm tomorrow at 730th Ord at 1300
2100 S-2 notified 1st Bn 2, 2nd Bn 2 and 3rd Bn 2 that Army is expecting an en atk tomorrow to the S of our pos in vic of Velsalm and Joroone
2105 (5) Info overlay of XVIII Corps disp of trps
2225 2nd Bn 2 to S-3 that "I" Co heard heavy vehicular movement to their SE
2235 S-3 relayed above msg to S-2
2240 (6) Info overlay 112th Inf

8 January 1945

0900 Col Johnson out to Bns
0945 Sv and Cn Co lines out
1100 Cn Co line in
1130 Sv Co line in
1340 Col Johnson in from Bns
1400 (1) Div AT defence overlay
1600 (2) 30th Div letter of instruction No 2
1620 2nd Bn line out
1710 2nd Bn line in

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM:
IN	OUT	NUMBER
		081800 January 1945
		TO: 112330 January 1945

8 January 1945 (Cont'd)

1800		(3)	Overlay AT gun pos 2nd Bn line out
1900	1830	(4)	Overlay disp trps 1st Army
2320			120th Inf notified S-3 that 3rd Bn patrol returned to their CP

9 January 1945

1000			2nd Bn line in
1150		(1)	Overlay VII Corps pos
1150		(2)	Overlay, an penetration
1120		(3)	30th Div AT defense overlay

10 January 1945

0530			1st Bn to S-3, 1st Bn patrol returned and found no en route in vic and S-of Stavelot
	0535		S-3 notified G-2 of above info
	0930		Col Johnson out to Div
1100		(1)	Outline of objectives to be taken
1100		(2)	Plan for future operations, overlay
1225			G-3 to S-3, your relief will be effective tonight
	1310		S-3 out to Div
	1320		Cannon Co line out
1345			Col Johnson in from 120th Inf
1610		(3)	30th Div letter of instruction No 3
1730			Opened new CP at (706.-1460) near Arbaspine, Belgium. Relieved 112th Inf, 25th Div which took over our positions in Stavelot area
1920			2nd Bn reports closing into new area in Khoffraiv
2315			1st and 3rd Bn lines in
	2230		3rd Bn line out

11 January 1945

0010			Old CP in Francorchamps closed
0015			1st and 3rd Bns report they have been relieved by 112th Inf
0050			Col Johnson and S-3 in from old CP
0205			1st Bn 2 to S-3, 1st Bn closed into new area in Sapt
	0210		S-3 notified G-3 of above info
0240			3rd Bn reports closing into new area at Tiege
	0245		S-3 notified G-3 of above info
0815			2nd Bn line in thru Div
0830			Both Div lines in
0850			3rd Bn line in
1100			1st Bn reports CP at (723-147)
1130		(1)	30th Div info overlay
1200		(2)	30th Div AT defense overlay
1200		(3)	Overlay, 117th Inf pos
	1400		Col Johnson out to attend decoration ceremony at Spa. Gen Hobbs will award decorations to men of this Regt at 1500
	1415		S-3 out to 1st Bn
	1915		Div out by wire
2015			Div line in
2230			Col Johnson in from Div
	2330		Div line out

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM	TO
IN	OUT NUMBER	121015 January 1945	121120 January 1945

12 January 1945

1015		On Co in by wire
1130	(1)	Overlay to accomp FO 60 (2 sheets)
1130	(2)	Overlay to accomp annex 3 of FO 60
1130	(3)	30th Div FO No 60
1330		I and 8 platoon line in
1400	(4)	Friendly units in via Malmedy
1420		Div lines in
1424	(5)	Div AT defense overlay
1540		Col Johnson out to 1st and 3rd Bns
1710		Col Johnson in from Bns
2000		Div line out
2120		Div line in

13 January 1945

0530		S-3 to G-3 and G-2, no change in situation
0600		Div Arty to E-3, correct time given
1000		Col Johnson out to Malmedy
1020	(1)	117th Inf overlay to accomp FO No 1 and FO No 1
1100		G-3 tells S-2 that 119th Inf has made little progress since jump off this morning. 120th Inf slowed down by AT mines
1100	(2)	Enemy situation - Ardennes
1100	(3)	105th Engr Road Clearance and Barrier Rept No 62
1112		Div line out
1202		Div line in
1340		Col Johnson calls E-3 and tells him CP can be moved to Malmedy.
1340	(4)	105th Engrs FO No 2
1500		Old CP closed
1550		New CP opened in Malmedy at (7936-0404)
1750		3rd Bn 8 reports it has closed into new area in Malmedy
1800		S-3 notified G-3 of above info
1830		3rd Bn in by wire
1920		G-3 notified Col Johnson that 117th will attack tomorrow for obj "D" and "F" at 1100
1940		S-3 notified 3rd Bn 3 they are alerted to move tomorrow
1940		G-3 notified S-3 117th 3d Bn is attached to 120th and for Col Johnson to contact Col Purdue immediately
1945		S-3 notified 2nd Bn 6 and 2nd Bn 3 to rpt to Div immediately and alert his Bn they will move in the morning
1950		S-3 verbally informs 1st Bn LMO to notify 1st Bn 6 to rpt to Div and alert his Bn they will move tomorrow morning
2010		S-3 notified 1st Bn 3 to have 1st Bn 6 and 3 rpt to Div immediately and alert Bn they will move tomorrow morning
2010		Col Johnson told S-3 to notify 1st Bn 6 and 2nd Bn 6 to rpt to Regt'1 CP
2015		S-3 notified 1st Bn 2 to have 1st Bn 6 rpt to Regt'1 CP
2040		2nd Bn 6 en his way to Div CP
2120		2nd Bn 6 in CP for conf on tomorrow's operations
2130		1st Bn 6 in CP

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S E C R E T

UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM:	132125 January 1945
IN	OUT	NUMBER	TO:
<u>13 January 1945 (Cont'd)</u> 141700 January 1945			
2125			117th Inf FO No 1 is hereby rescinded. 1st Bn 6 and 2nd Bn 6 notified of same by S-3
2200	(5)		Div letter of instruc No 4
2215			1st Bn 6 and 2nd Bn 6 out
<u>14 January 1945</u>			
0820			G-3 notified S-3 to move one of our Bns into obj "Z" 1st Bn line out
0930			G-3 notified Col Johnson 117th has occupied obj "C" and moving on objs "D" and "F" 118th FA line in
1000			120th Reports it is on obj "G"
1000			S-3 to G-3, 1st Bn closed into new area at 0915
1040			G-3 to Col Johnson, you will take obj "F" with 2nd Bn and one Co of 120th Inf, necessary that you have "F" by noon Col Johnson out to 120th Inf
1050			1st Bn line in
1110			105th Engr road clearance and barrier Rpt No 63
1140	(1)		Overlay, 30th Div AT positions
1140	(2)		S-3 requests air mission of G-3. G-3 says it cannot be flown because of poor visibility but will try to get it if it clears
1230			G-3 calls SCS and tells him we will have to take obj "K" tonight 2nd Bn will jump off at 1400
1254			S-3 tells Col Johnson we will take objectives in following order, F, K, H, M, O and P
1335	1345	Radio	2nd Bn line in
1400			2nd Bn line out
1430			CF, 117th Inf overlay showing Regt's 1 boundaries
1500	(3)		G-3 calls S-3 for situation report. S-3 tells him 2nd Bn is now on edge of obj "F" and moving in with little resistance
1500			2nd Bn line in
1515			118th FA Bn 6 reports three en tanks at (805-967) moving N and he is firing at them
1515			S-3 to 2nd Bn 6, get word to your CO to move on to obj "K" when obj "F" is taken. Also to run patrol to river Amel as soon as possible as Gen Hobbs is anxious for report on a situation near river
1520			Col Johnson tells S-3 that our arty is falling on obj "F" and says to have no fire line on this side of river
1585			118th FA Bn notified of above by S-3
1610			2nd Bn reports they have cleaned out town of Ligneville and patrol has reconnoitered to bridge at river. Bridge is under heavy an arty fire
1612			Above info given to G-3 by S-3
1620			G-3 to Col Johnson at CP, cross river and proceed to obj "K" on other side
1700			Orange Crush password 1300, 14 Jan to 1200 15 Jan 45
1700			3rd Bn fwd in by wire

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S E C R E T

LOG JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL FROM: 141750 January 1945
 IN OUT NUMBER TO: 151000 January 1945

14 January 1945 (Cont'd)

1750 Col Johnson notified G-3 that part of the 2nd Bn is across Amel River
 1815 Col Johnson to S-3, "B" Co moving to Ligneuville met slight
 resistance and picked up 23 PW's
 1817 S-3 notified G-3 of above msg
 1825 Col Johnson notified G-3 that 2nd Bn has 2 Cos across Amel river
 with a 300 yd bridgehead.
 1827 S-3 relayed above msg to G-3
 1828 Col Johnson informed G-3 that obstacle on road to Ligneuville has
 been cleared and tanks are moving forward.
 1830 (4) Overlay of AT gun pos 117th Inf
 1900 Col Johnson in CP
 1910 Radio 1st Bn 3 to S-3, "B" Co has made contact with 2nd Bn in Ligneuville
 1935 S-3 alerted 2nd Bn 5 that Pont is still in en hands and en may push
 from Pont toward 2nd Bn pos
 1940 (5) Overlay units of XXXV Br and VIII Corps
 2015 1st Bn 5 to S-3, 2nd Bn is receiving a counterattack from S, SE and
 SW with tanks and inf
 2020 S-3 notified G-3 of above msg
 2040 2nd Bn 5 to S-3, en has infiltrated to bridge. "B" Co and 743d
 Tk Bn is now in fire fight with en that infiltrated 4 Cos across
 the river and still in their pos across river
 2045 Col Johnson out to 2nd Bn in Ligneuville
 2100 3rd Bn 6 in CP for conf on tomorrow's operations
 2100 G-3 notified G-3 that 3rd Bn is released from 130th and reverts back
 to 117th as of 2100
 2120 118th LAO to S-3, arty has been given cease fire order for 2nd Bn
 counterattack
 2215 2nd Bn 6 out
 2310 Col Johnson back in CP
 2325 "C" Co rpts W fire coming from vic of obj "G"
 2330 (6) Overlay 1st Bn pos
 2330 (7) Div better of instruc No 5
 2345 Col Johnson informed G-3 of situation in 2nd Bn area
 2350 (6) 117th Inf letter of instruc No 1 and accomp overlay

15 January 1945

0750 2nd Bn 3 to S-3, 3rd Bn is passing thru 2nd Bn pos, new
 0900 1st Bn 2 reported to S-3 that a tank hit an en mine on road No 1
 into Ligneuville. Engrs had swept this road but snow covered road
 and drifted shoulders impedes progress and success in detecting all
 the mines laid necessitating repeated sweepings of roads
 0800 Wreath Wrapper password from 151200 Jan to 161200 Jan 45
 0920 118th FA Ln line checks out
 0920 Col Johnson out to new CP
 1000 "A" Co in position on right flank of obj "F" with TD's in
 support of them as of 0945
 1020 (1) Div AT positions, overlay

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S E C R E T
OUT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME LOCAL FORMS 151000 January 1945
 IN OUT NUMBER TO 162000 January 1945

19 January 1945 (Cont'd)

1050			3rd Bn reports "K" Co 350 yards into obj. "K"
1058	1058		Above info given to G-3 by S-3
1150			Fwd GP in by wire
1230	1230		Old GP closed
1245			New GP opened in Garment at (808-028)
1300	1300		2nd and 3rd Bn lines in
1310			G-3 in from Div
1315			3rd Bn 6 reports "I" Co is encountering opposition from an tanks
1330	1330		G-3 out
1400			2nd and 3rd Bn lines in
1410	1410		3rd Bn fwd line out
1530	Radio		Col Johnson sent 1st Bn 6 and 3rd Bn 6 thru AT CO, "3rd Bn will button up in guard defensive pos at A seg at obj. "A". 1st Bn will send one Co to block two roads in defensive pos between obj. "G" and "K". 120th Inf is not moving on obj. "L" and returning to clean up obj. "G"
1550			Col Johnson sent 2nd Bn LMO to deliver above msg to 2nd Bn 6 and to tell 1st Bn 6 he suggests moving "A" Co to block roads between obj. "G" and "K"
1600			118th FA Bn LMO reports msg thru FO that "L" Co is going into obj. "Mac"
1610			Col Johnson sent 3rd Bn LMO to tell 1st Bn 6 to send "A" Co to def pos between obj. "G" and "K" and send Bn 8 to button up for night; also to tell both Bn CO's that if operations for tomorrow are for seizing of obj. "M" and "N" msg will be to execute plan "A" for obj. "M" and "N"
1630			Col Johnson notified by G-3 that 3rd Bn of 117th is stand to us to cover left flank of our 3rd Bn
1630	1630		Col Johnson out to 2nd Bn GP
1745			CO, 3rd Bn, 117th Inf is instructed to move his Bn from obj. "Q" and "D" to obj. "F". He is instructed to meet Col Johnson at 2nd Bn GP for further orders
1810	1810		3rd Bn line out
1820		(2)	Overlay, positions of AT guns of 117th Inf
1915		(3)	105th Engr Bn Barrier Rpt No. 55
1920			Col Johnson in from 2nd Bn
2000	2000		Col Johnson out to Div
2000		(4)	Overlay of road clearance of Engrs
2150			Col Johnson in from Div
2200			1st Bn line in thru 2nd Bn line
2200			2nd Bn line in
2215			Col Johnson to 2nd Bn 6, plan for atk on "M" and "N" will go ahead tomorrow as planned
2220			Col Johnson sent same msg to 1st Bn 6
2300		(5)	117th letter of instrus No 2 and accomp overlay
2300		(6)	30th Div letter of instrus No 6 and accomp overlay

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THE REGIMENTAL 11TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL FROM: 160118 January 1945
IN: OUT NUMBER TO: 161110 January 1945

16 JANUARY 1945

0118 S-3 notified G-3 that 1st Bn patrol passed thru "X" Co
pos and received MG fire

0400 3rd Bn, 119th Inf reported vehicular movement on hwy 2
of Ligonville

0500 S-3 informed 3rd Bn 119th Inf. 2nd Lt. Bn & agree it will be
suitable to have their "K" Co enter Ligonville on 0600

0600 119th 3rd Bn 2 rpt same veh movt as of 0400

0718 3rd Bn line out

0730 1st Bn line out
Gen Harrison in CP

0845 3rd Bn line in

0900

0905 S-3 was informed by 4th Bn 2 that 1st and 2nd Bn of 117th
and 3rd Bn of 119th Inf were out at 0800 and expected will
appearance first since they await meeting resistance

0920 Gen Harrison and Col Johnson out to 1st Bn CP
(1) 119th Inf 1st Bn of instruc No 2

0930 3rd Bn, 119th Inf reports advancing toward obj with
little opposition

0935 2nd Bn line out

0945 30th Div AF defense overley

0955 S-3 to Col, 3rd Bn 119th Inf 200 yards past PL "Fish"
moving towards next obj with no opposition, 2nd Bn now
past PL "dog" and is in small fire fight, 1st Bn past
PL "dog"

1040 2nd Bn line in

1020 S-3 calls 119th Inf and requests their air OP try and find
direct fire weapon holding up our tanks at (420-955)

1030 S-3 tells G-3 we are now on obj "How (prime)" and going
to obj "Love". G-3 tells S-3 long column of an inf moving
between (831-282) to (844-281) going NE

1040 G-3 calls for situation report, S-3 says we are now on
obj "How (prime)" and "Love", 1st Bn still in fire fight
on PL "Dog"

1050 S-3 to 119th Inf CO, we now have obj "How" and "Love" and
request you move your units to occupy these obj in
accordance with prior agreement

1052 S-3 to 3rd Bn 119th Inf, request you send patrol out to
roughly establish OP's and move defensive element
forward of PL "dog". CO tells S-3 they recover two arty pieces
at RA "H" and are destroying them

1054 G-3 to S-3, 30th Recon troops will relieve our unit at
obj "How" will be stand to you. Limiting point at
(844-278) will be established and held by 3rd Bn 119th Inf
S-3 info given to CO, 3rd Bn 119th Inf and to Col
Johnson at CP

1100 L&O of Recon units in for instructions for occupying and
patrolling at obj "How"

1105 1st and 2nd Bn reports receiving direct and small arms fire
from vis of obj "Mike"

1110 S-3 given above info to G-3

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JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL
IN OUT MESSAGES

From 141200 January 1945

To 150000 January 1945

14 January 1945 (Cont'd)

1240		G-3 asks G-2 for air mission on obj "Obce", also states that we are on PL "Dig" on right and "Dog" on left, having difficulty with one packet of inf and tanks. We are trying to flank them on right
1240		10th Recon Troops reports they have relieved 3rd Bn of 119th Inf at roadblock "H" and asked to 117th
1245		30th Recon tps report they have sent patrol out at 1215 to go W to corps border, in accordance with instructions
1245		118th FA air OP reports on tanks at (12R-150) and says it is putting fire on them
1250		Col Johnson calls G-2 for situation report. G-2 tells him "X", "Y" and "G" Cos held up by 2 tanks. "G" Co going to right to flank on defense
1400	(2)	1st Bn reports road clearance and barrier report no ob
1500	(3)	Over's y. Reg't 1 boundaries
1520		2nd and 3rd Bn lines out
1540		G-2 reports to G-3 that we are now on edge of obj "Mike" with "G" Co making penetration
1600		G-2 calls G-3 and reports "L" Co of 119th Inf a.w at limiting point. Also that 30th Recon patrol found road beyond (832-585) heavily mined and blocked with trees. No men seen. They did not see friendly troops advancing on left
1610		1st Bn line in
1700		3rd Bn reports PW taken states roadblock holding up our troops in front of obj "Mike" consists of 6 tanks and MG inf
1705		30th Recon tps report they have contacted 23rd Inf af. and Div on our left
1706		G-2 gives info contained in above two msgs to G-3 and tells him we are going to withdraw away from our roadblock and will put arty on it.
1730		"Caution-Soldier" password from 161200 Jan to 171200 Jan 45
1800		2nd Bn line in
1830		2nd Bn is notified G-2 that "G" Co and a platoon of "Z" and a platoon of "Y" are now at "Mike"
1835		G-3 relayed above msg to G-2
1845		"K" Co of 117th notified Col Johnson that a large column of armor and inf is moving N from roadblock "H"
1850		G-2 informed G-3 of above
1900		G-2 notified by 1st Bn 3 that Bn hittoned up W of obj "A"
1930		2nd Bn is notified G-2 that "X" and "G" Cos are now in obj "Mike"
1935		G-2 informed G-3 of above info
2100		2nd Bn line out
2105		G-2 was told by 119th 3rd Bn 3 that their "X" Co is regrouping
2120	(4)	Overlay disp of AF gun pos
2120		Caution Co pos (7832-0904)
2200	(5)	Div letter of instrum No 7
2200	(6)	Overlay of 106 Regts Road Clearance

SECRET

LOGS

1ST BATTALION 117TH AVIATION

TIME: 0000 TO: 0030 DATE: 18 JAN 1968
 IN: 001 TO: 002 DATE: 17 JAN 1968

18 January 1968 (Cont'd)

2345		30th Recon patrol void and heard tank movement this side of Amel River
2500	(7)	117th letter of instruce to 3rd and 4th company overlay
2318	(8)	3rd BN pos overlay
2318	(9)	117th inf pos overlay
2330	(10)	Overlay 7th armored tank plsn
2330	(11)	Overlay 3rd and 3rd Armored Cos
2330	(12)	Overlay 116th div pos
2330	(13)	Overlay - Airbase situation
2330	(14)	Overlay - 1st and 2nd BN pos

19 January 1968

0000		3rd notified 3rd tank unit as per plan will be in 3rd BN 117th area at 0600 instead of 0500 hours according
0040	0030	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	0040	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	0040	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1000		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1020	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1040		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1045	1040	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1100		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1115	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1140	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1200		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1205	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1405	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1530	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1600	(3)	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1630		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1700		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1705	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1850		3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1850	(4)	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
1850	(5)	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th
	1910	3rd notified 3rd BN pos to be in 3rd BN of 117th

S E C R E T
UNIT JOURNAL, 117TH INFANTRY

17 JANUARY 1948

17 JANUARY 1948 (cont'd)

1915		Col at phone was told by S-3 reports of 1st Lt in patrol toward Hecht
1920		S-2 notified S-3 of above msg
2010		S-3 was brought in pos of "A" and "B" Co N of rd No 2 and preparing to push S tonight on rd No 2
2015	(8)	Overly, 1st Bn div and 1st Bn, 117th
2010	(7)	Overly, 117th unit, 1st Bn
2100	(8)	Overly, 1st Bn div and 1st Bn, 117th
2100	(9)	1st Bn, 117th
2145		Col Johnson in G-1 from 117th S-3 advised 1st Bn, 117th that S-3 had not yet moved "A" Co if they have not moved yet. Also S-3 was ordered to take rd No 2 and to attack "A" Co if they are stopped if on roadhouse. S-3 was to get to contact of 117th
2240	(1)	117th report of 1st Bn, 117th
2320		S-3 reported situation from rd No 2, 1st Bn was jumped off for rd No 2
2355	(11)	117th report of 1st Bn, 117th and 1st Bn, 117th

18 JANUARY 1948

0645		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
0810		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
0815		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
0805		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
0830		Col Johnson
0900		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1020		S-3 reported 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1100	(1)	1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1110		1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1120	(2)	1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1130	(3)	1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1140		1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1245		S-3 called Col Johnson and told him that 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1200		S-3 called Col Johnson and told him that 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1230		1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1315		Gen Hobbs in
1342	1342	Gen Hobbs out to 1st Bn
1344	1344	1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1330		Air of reports 1st Bn, 117th was in "A" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "B" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "C" Co and moved on rd No 2 and 1st Bn, 117th was in "D" Co and moved on rd No 2
1415		120th Inf reports it is not on obj "C"

SECRET
UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM
IN	OUT	NUMBER
		190610 January 1945
		TO : 191340 January 1945
		<u>19 January 1945 (Cont'd)</u>
0810		S-2 was informed by 2nd Bn 3 that Bn jumped off for Recht at 0800
0820		2nd Bn 3 to S-3, "E" and "M" Cos are now on obj "Q" (Recht) S-3 instructs him to send some help up road to RB 1 to relieve that situation
0825		Col Johnson to Col Stephens, Recht has been occupied by 2nd Bn with SA, MG and mortar fire encountered
0830		Col Johnson to 1st Bn 3, be alert for 2nd Bn patrol on road toward RB No. 1, send pl't to ambush. In the near road between Recht and RB No. 1
0915		2nd Bn 6 to S-3, we are consolidating our positions to the S 200 or inf that were in front of us are reported to have moved out
0915		Both Div lines out
0920		3rd Bn 3 reports "L" Co has passed thru "M" Co and has met no opposition
0930		Both Div lines in
0945		S-3 to S-2, we have taken roadblock 3 with only light resistance and about 1000 yds. moving S on road
0948		2nd Bn line in
0950		Col Stephens to S-3, you may not have to send patrols to "Q" as 1st Bn 3 is in and sec's
1000		2nd Bn 3 reports all bridges in Recht intact
1010		S-3 to 1st Bn 3, have "C" Co clear out houses 5 of RB No 2
1030		3rd Bn reports "A" Co on RB No 2
1045		Col Johnson gives report on burr progress to 120th Inf 6
1105		3rd Bn reports there is still one on tank between Roadblock 2 and 3 and it holding them up
1110	(1)	S-3 to 1st Bn 3, tell your 6 to get his units ready to move thru obj "Q" 1st Bn
1120		30th Div AF defense overfly
1140		Col Johnson notifies S-3 that road up to and including roadblock 2 is clear
1200	(2)	S-3 notifies 3rd Bn 3 to leave defensive element at roadblock 2 as 120th Inf is not occupying it
1210		Arty fires of 1st Bn, overfly
1230		743rd Tank Bn reports it and pl't is now in town of Recht
1305		G-3 in front Div
1310		Gen Hobbs calls Col Johnson and tells him to push on to obj "R"
1315		G-3 out to Div
1320		MSG to 2nd Bn 6, keep patrol running to obj "R"
		Col Johnson calls 3rd Bn and asks him if he is receiving direct fire, 3rd Bn 6 says they are receiving only long range and nebelwerfer fire
1335		Col Johnson gives above info to Col Stephens
1340	Radio	S-2 to 2nd Bn 6, send another patrol with radio to obj "R" and report anything observed to this HQ

S E C R E T

UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>FROM:</u> 191545 January 1945
<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>	<u>TO:</u> 201030 January 1945

19 January 1945 (Cont'd)

			Col Johnson gives Col Stephens situation, receives instructions to send 3rd Bn to obj "S"; 1st Bn to obj "R" tomorrow. After these obj's are reached, 117th Inf will pass thru us.
1600			2nd Bn fwd line in
1610	Radio		2nd Bn patrols report observing no en along route into obj "A"
1612			Col Johnson reports above info to G-3
1630	(3)		2nd Bn AT defense overlay and unit pos
1645	Radio		S-3 to G-3 both inf, request that you send a patrol to obj "Sugar" for us
1710			S-3 to 2nd Bn G, outpost your positions with men equipped with Bangalore and grenades
1820	*		S-3 to G-3, 2nd Bn patrol made contact with 517 Rct at (737-934) and then withdrew because of arty falling in their sector, contact made at 1745
2000	(4)		Overlay, def pos of 117th Inf
2000	(5)		Overlay, proposed supply routes of 117th Inf
2200	(6)		Letter of instruc No 4, 117th and accomp overlay
2200	(7)		Div letter of ins No 10 and accomp overlay
2200	(8)		105 Sngr road clearance rpt No 63
2200	(9)		Overlay of arty concentrations to support atk

20 January 1945

			2nd Bn 3 reports to S-3 that his Bn passed LD at 0800
0810	0840		Col Johnson out to 2nd Bn
	0840		S-3 notified G-3 that 2nd Bn passed LD on time
0840			G-3 to S-3, it will necessary probably for you to take obj "X" in addition to "K" and "C"
0850			Col Stephens to S-3, it may be necessary for 117th to take obj "Y" later, so prepare for that atk
0900	0855		S-3 notified Col Johnson of above msg
			1 and R plat reported 2nd Bn receiving SA fire from S of obj "S"
0920			S-3 to G-3, 3rd Bn in fire fight S of obj "P", 2nd Bn crossed LD at 0800 and have heard nothing further
0940			1st Bn line out
0945			118th FA and from FO was told 1st Bn at (800-926) and 3rd Bn at (824-926)
0950			S-3 notified G-3 of same
0955			Arty FO reports "H" Co at (791-919), "A" Co at (801-929)
1000			3rd Bn S to S-3, "I" and "K" Cos plumed down by SA fire and one on tank at (814-928)
1080	(1)		117th FO 41 and accomp overlay
1030			Both Div lines in
1030			3rd Bn line out
1030	(2)		Div AT defense overlay

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL NUMBER	FROM
IN	OUT	TO
		201130 January 1945
		201905 January 1945

20 January 1945

1130		S-3 reported to G-3 that arty FO oldims "B" Co is in obj "K" and 3rd Bn is leaving "I" Co to clean up on tank which was holding up BN adv and sending "L" Co around right flank to adv on obj "S"
1140		3rd Bn to S-3, there are 2 Mark IV tanks and inf at (814-928) and "L" is now engaged in a fight there.
1155		Gen Hobbs in CP
1200		Gen Hobbs out
1235		1st Bn G reported to S-3 that "A" and "B" Cos are on obj "R" consolidating
1240		S-3 notified G-3 of above.
1255		1st Bn G to S-3, "L" Co is 600 yds N of obj "S" and advancing on obj
1300		S-3 notified G-3 of above
1315		Capt Nielsen to S-3, "I" Co is now in obj "S", "I" Co is adv to "A"
1320		S-3 notified G-3 of above msg. G-3 says 1st Bn of 120th i. in obj "A"
1350		3rd Bn S verifies "I" Co in obj "S"
1415		Col Stephens to S-3, ask for obj "Willie" and "Willie" at 1500 today
1420		S-3 notified Col Johnson of above
1430		S-3 informed S-3 that 120th will clean up on pocket "I" Co was fighting and "I" Co will move into obj "S"
1435		Col Johnson notified S-3 that 3rd Bn knocked out an tank with M73s and plenty of ammo
1445		S-3 informed G-3 that we are letting not to jump off for "Willie-Willie" at 1500, also 3rd Bn knocked out an tank, 117th jumped off Ft Hill, and met no resistance, from col "Gold"
1500		S-3 notified Col Frankland that 117th jumped off from obj "Willie" and they will be on his flight deck
1530		Ganna Co's key location (8043-9372)
1630		S-3 recd following msg from Col Johnson, 1st and 3rd Bns jumped off at 1530 for "Willie-Willie", 1st Bn now at (814-928) 3rd Bn now entering "Willie"
1635		S-3 relayed above info to G-3
1710		Capt Nielsen to S-3, 3rd Bn now has "A" and "L" Cos in obj "Willie"
1730		3rd Bn to G-3, 3rd Bn is in obj "Willie" and consolidating pos
1735		S-3 notified G-3 of above
1745		1st Bn to G-3, that they are advancing on obj "Willie" and "A" Co has entered obj at (600-908)
1800		S-3 notified G-3 of above
1815		1st Bn line out
1830		1st Bn to S-3, 1st Bn is now in obj "Willie" consolidating pos
1835		S-3 notified G-3 of above msg
1905		1st Bn line in

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM
IN	OUT NUMBER	TO

20 January 1945 (cont'd)

1955	Radio	1st Bn S to S-3, "A" Co is now in pos and has contacted "K" Co
1948		3rd Bn line in
1955		3rd Bn fwd line in
2220	(4)	117th Inf letter of insp No 11
2220	(5)	105 Engr Road Clearance and Barrier Rpt No 69
2220	(6)	Overlay, 117th Inf AT positions
2230	(7)	Overlay showing unit positions

21 January 1945

0150	S-3 to G-3	3rd Bn controlled to (817-906) and met SA
0915		3rd Bn line out
1000		One Div line in
1009	(1)	Overlay, disp type 30th Div and 7th Armd
1000	(2)	Overlay, 75th Div disp type
1030		G-3 notified S-3 that 3 tanks and 100 inf are counter-attacking 120th pos on our left flank
1100		G-3 to S-3, counterattack turned out to be an trying to get out of 120th pocket
1145		Col Johnson to Col Stephens, our 117th FA pos walked the shellings and fire weapons shooting into Reacht plots in obj "
1150		Col Johnson instructs 105 Engr L&O to have engs sweep road from Reacht thru obj "P" up to Regt boundary
1510		Col Johnson out to 3rd Bn OP
1250		G-3 notified S-3 that our "C" Co contacted "K" Co of 117th on our right flank
1450		I and H play in process of setting up OP this AM ran into S man on patrol. Took one PW and killed three
1480		and Bn I to S-3, 3rd Bn patrol met no ed on patrol up road from Reacht thru obj "P" to Regt boundary. Also located on same dump at (d13-900) and on digging in
1455		Gen Hobbs in OP
1505		Gen Hobbs out
1445		Col Johnson in OP
1650		G-3 notified Col Johnson that 117th tomorrow will have 4e their obj's "W" and "V"
1700		2nd Bn line in
1715		Col Johnson to 1st Bn S, your Bn's obj will be "W" tomorrow
1725		Col Johnson to 1st Bn S, your Bn's obj will be "V" tomorrow
1735		Col Johnson to 2nd Bn S, 1st Bn will follow 2nd Bn into "W"
1800		Col Johnson out to 1st Bn
1830	(3)	Overlay disp AT guns 117th
1830		Service Co line in
2110		Col Johnson back in OP
2230	(4)	Div letter of instrua No 12 and accomp overlay
2230	(5)	117th Inf letter of instrua No 5 and accomp overlay

S E C R E T

SECRET

UNIT JOURNAL 11701 BRAWTRY

TIME	CHARACTER	FROM	TO
IN	OUT	11701 BRAWTRY	11701 BRAWTRY

21 January 1945 (Continued)

2345 (6) 2345 - Overlay 3rd Bn. Target Area for Blank mortar fire. Col. Johnson to 3rd Bn. 2-3 gives instructions on combat patrols and tells 3rd Bn. 2 to be wary combat patrol as platoon strength shows out enemy in area on 1st Bn's left flank.

2350 (7) Routes Cleared by 105th Ingr. Bn.

2400 (8) 119th Inf. Letter of Instruction #4.

22 January 1945

0835 0820 Radio Col. Johnson out to O. G.

0840 0840 Radio 2nd Bn. 3 to 2-3-2nd Bn. jumped off at 0830. 2-3 notified 2-3 of above information. Gen. Hobbs in C. P.

0855 0855 Gen. Hobbs out. Closed all C. P. in nearby.

0900 2nd Bn. 3 to 2-3-2nd company of 2nd Bn. are now in obj. "A".

0920 0920 Opened new S. P. in night, Belgium (798-946) 3rd Bn. 3 to 2-3-3rd Bn. patrolled to obj. "A" and reported no change between 3rd Bn. positions and obj. "A".

0920 1000 (1) 10th Div. A. T. Reference Overlay. 2-3 to 2-3-2nd will probably jump off for obj. "A" at 1500. 120th Inf. will jump off for "A" at same time. 2-3 notified Col. Johnson of above message.

1015 1010 Radio 2-3 notified 1st Bn. of above message.

1020 1030 (2) Gen. Hobbs in C. P. Overlay-proposed fire plan for Obj. "A". Gen. Hobbs acknowledged, Johnson when 1st Bn. would be ready to jump off. Col. Johnson says at 1400 1st Bn. would be ready to jump off for obj. "A". Gen. Hobbs out.

1040 2nd Bn. 3 to 2-3-2nd enemy S. P. gun was knocked out with a bazooka in obj. "A". 2-3 are now consolidating positions. 2-3 asks 2-3 for situation report-2-3 tells 2-3 that 2nd Bn. is consolidating in obj. "A".

1130 2nd Bn. 3 to 2-3-2nd Bn. has completed clearing out of obj. "A" (town of Bort) and is consolidating.

1140 2-3 notifies 2-3 of above information.

1200 2-3 notifies 2-3 of above information. 2-3 notifies 2-3 of above information and tells 2-3 to be in contact with 2-3.

1325 1320 1st Bn. 3 to 2-3-2nd Bn. gun at (798-770) and request change position of artillery in target. 2-3 to Col. Johnson-2nd Bn. is firing, but a greater quantity cannot be placed unless our troops in 3rd Bn. units are pulled back. 2nd Bn. line in.

1350

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	REMARKS	FROM	DATE
14	000	TO	21000
			January 1945

22 January 1945 (Continued)

1345		Col. Fardus to G-3-120th will not be able to jump off at 1400 due to trouble with their trucks. 120th Inf. patrol into "W" found no enemy there.
1410	1400	G-3 notified Col. Johnson of above information. Col. Johnson to G-3-1st Bn. jump off for obj. "W" at 1400.
1430	1410	Div. lines out. Col. Johnson to G-3-1st Bn. on P. L. "Miller" moving S with no opposition.
1435		Div. lines in.
1450	1440	G-3 informs G-3 of 1st Bn.'s positions and tells him they are moving S beyond P. L. "Dinner".
1450	1440	Col. Johnson to G-3-1st Bn. and tell them that G-4's are flying over our positions and to check them to avoid hitting our positions.
1500	1455	G-3 notified G-3 of above information.
1500	(3)	Overlapping positions of 30th Div. and 7th Arm. Div.
	1505	Col. Johnson to G-3-1st Bn. is now below P. L. "Marter".
	1505	G-3 notified G-3 of above information about 1st Bn. being on E edge of obj. "W".
	1515	G-3 to Col. Johnson-G-4's have an air mission on St. With if any come near our positions let me know and I shall notify Div. at once.
	1525	G-3 notifies 3rd Bn. 3 that 120th Inf. on their left flank jump off at 1515 moving on obj. "D".
1530	1510	G-3 notified Capt. Nielson that 1st Bn. is at P. L. "Six Mile" and army is within near P. L. "Roller" and to have army lifted.
1545		G-3 to 110th P. A. Bn.-Arty. Co. (82377) is failing. Tell Div. Arty. to check their fire.
1555	1540	Col. Johnson to G-3-1st Bn. to fire one round of smoke and then adjust on enemy tank at (82005).
1555	1555	G-3 notified 110th P. A. Bn. of above message.
1555		1st Bn. 5 to G-3-1st Bn. is now on "Jackpot" on obj. "W".
	1557	G-3 notified G-3 of above information.
	1600	G-3 to Col. Johnson-Arty (smoke) is on the way for mission on enemy tank.
1610		1st Bn. 3 to G-3-1st Bn. has made contact with 2nd Bn. on their right.
1710		G-3 to G-3-117th Inf. will patrol to obj. "Steele" and 120th Inf. will patrol to "W".
1720		(Col. Johnson back in C. P.
1725		G-3 to 1st Bn. 5-1st Bn. will patrol to obj. "Steele" and 120th Inf. will patrol into "W".
1800		G-2 to G-2-Advance line for our positions is (82373) to (838-885).

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO
1945	07:00	20100	20110
		JANUARY 1945	JANUARY 1945

22 January 1945 (Continued)

1830		Col. Johnson to G-3--Contact point with 7th Arm Div. will be at H. 4. (B19677). Received permission to withdraw 3rd Bn. from their present positions. Also, one Bn. will attack tomorrow to Hamdorf.
1845		Col. Johnson to 3rd Bn. G--Start withdrawal of 3rd Bn. back to Nacht Now.
1860		Col. Johnson to 2nd Bn. G--You will attack with 2nd Bn. to Hamdorf tomorrow.
1830	Radio	Col. Johnson to 1st Bn. G--2nd Bn. will attack Hamdorf tomorrow and 1st Bn. will send patrols to that point tonight.
1820		B-3 to 1st Bn. G--Do not send out any patrols to (B19677) until further notice.
1900	(4)	Overlap-A.7 Our positions of Bdv.
2130		3rd Bn. reports closing into new area. You will contact 7th Arm Div. on our left between 2200 and 2400 and every two hours afterward.
2215	(5)	Division Letter of Instruction #13 and Accompanying Overlay.
2215		3rd Bn. reports closing into new area.
2230	(6)	Division Information Overlay.
2230	(7)	Overlap--Summaries of 30th Div., 79th Inf. Div., and 7th Arm. Div.
2230	(8)	119th Inf. Letter of Instruction and Accompanying Overlay.

23 January 1945

0415	0830	G-3 tells G-1 that 119th patrol has not yet contacted 7th Arm. Div. G-3 to G-1--7th Arm. Div. reports they contacted us at 0430. This information not confirmed by our patrol.
0530		G-3 to G-1--Reinforced company of 7th Arm Div. entered St. Vite at 0430 and found town unoccupied.
0730		G-3 notified G-1 that 7th Arm. Div. contacted 120th Inf. and met our Regiment at 0400.
0830		G-3 notifies G-1 jumpoff time is 1800.
0900	0845	Division lines set.
0900	0900	(1) 119th Inf. Letter of Instruction and Accompanying Overlay.
0930		Col. Johnson out to 2nd. Bn.
0930		Division lines set.
0930		1st Bn. G-3 to G-1--Our patrol contacted 7th Arm Div. at (B19677) about 0630.
1045	0935	G-3 notifies G-1 of above information.
		2nd Bn. G-3 to G-1--119th Inf. is using same road as our Bn. and causing some rump.
	1050	G-3 to 119th Inf. G-3--Above information given and G-3 of 119th Inf. says he will try to correct situation.
1130		2nd Bn. G-3 to G-1--Loading elements (patrols) of Bn. have reached R. E. tracks at P. L. "Feyro", and "P" and "C" companies have moved out.
	1130	G-3 to 2nd Bn. G--119th Inf. on your right report they are on P. L. "Hochhaus".

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UNIT JOURNAL 117th INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM	TO	DATE
				23 January 1945 (Continued)
1430 1410	(2)	Overlay-A. T. Gun positions of 3rd division.		
		2nd Bn. 3 to G-3—Our units are now between F. L. "Pappy" and "Yokum".		
1440	1215	2nd Bn. line out.		
		S-3 notified by 2nd Bn. 6 that they occupy Harnsdorf at 1225. S-3 informs and Dn. 6 that there are no friendly troops in C. 4th.		
	1245	S-3 tells G-3 that our 2nd Bn. is setting up on obj. "Abrax" now and had town of Harnsdorf at 1225.		
1335	Radio	Col. Johnson to G-3—2nd Bn. getting five fms (Su206524). Get arty. fire on it.		
	1340	S-3 requested 118t. P. A. fms on above coordinates.		
	1355	S-3 to 2nd Bn. 5—After positions are consolidated, set up strong G. P. at (043894).		
	1400	Radio		
	1440	Radio		
1455	Radio	S-3 gives above information to Col. Johnson.		
		S-3 to 2nd Bn. 5—After you get a roadblock at limiting point on left flank after your reg. is consolidated, Col. Johnson to "G-3"—We are receiving wire from 7th Armd Div. area.		
	1500	S-3 receiving copy of above information and G-3 says he will check on it.		
1500 1530	(3)	105th Regt. Home Circumstances and Summary Report #72. Two planes strafed around F. L. 1225; appeared to be F-51's or Spitfires.		
	1545	Radio		
		G-3 notified Col. Johnson that 7th Armd Div. has passed thru C. 4th.		
	1555	S-3 notified 2nd Bn. 5 of above information.		
1600 1610		Div. line out.		
	1615	Div. line in.		
	1715	118t. P. A. line cleared out.		
		S-3 notified 2nd Bn. 5 that as soon as C. 4th falls 7th Armd Div. will contact your Bn. at roadblock at limiting point.		
1820		2nd Bn. 7 to G-3—2nd Bn. in in "Western part of Harnsdorf and vicinity, withdrawing out of part here.		
	1825	S-3 notified 2nd Bn. 5 of above information and also that we would keep out of contact with them, at 2000 to contact them.		
1930		Col. Johnson to G-3—P. A.		
	2000	S-3 to 118t. P. A. 3—Inform the planes of G. P. to set up, which		
	2000	will be line out.		
2005 2030 2045	(4) (5)	Div. line out. Div. line in. Col. Johnson to G-3—7th Armd Div. Overlay—Disposition of A. T. Gun 117th Inf.		

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UNIT JOURNAL 117th INFANTRY

TIME	SIGNAL	FROM: 117th Inf. January 1945
BY	OFF NUMBER	TO: 117th Inf. January 1945

21 January 1945 (Continued)

2130	2130	B-3 tells 2nd Bn. 3 to send out patrol after they take hill.
	2300	2nd Bn. reports hearing contact with 119th Inf. at 2000. Col. Johnson to C-3--Enemy dug in on top of hill still holding up 2nd Bn. Hill put more arty. on hill tonight and will attack again in morning.
	2310	Col. Johnson to 2nd Bn. 3--Tell your C. O. to stay off hill until morning and I will have hill robed with arty. fire during the night.
	2320	Col. Johnson gives Div. Arty. following coordinates to adjust arty. concentrations on hill tonight: (8376-8648) (8392-8651) (8301-8654) (8390-8660) (8404-8670) (8425-8668) (8376-8637).
	2330	118th P. A. Bn. Lt. D gives above coordinates to his unit and asks for harassing fire on targets during night.

24 January 1945

	0850	Col. Johnson to 2nd Bn. 6--Advance on hill. Arty is at your command. Check with arty. before advancing to see if they have stopped firing concentrations.
	0855	1st Bn. line out.
	0920	Col. Johnson to 1st Bn. 6--Pull "B" Company back under cover. Keep C. P.'s and consolidate "A" Company as soon as 2nd Bn. takes hill pull back "C" Company.
0930		Company reports new position as (8271-0022).
0930		2nd Bn. 2 to 3-3--2nd Bn. sent out patrol to top of hill. Mortar fire is being received in Bn. area.
1030		2nd Bn. 5 to 3-3--Patrol has returned and "F" Company is jumping off at 1030 to take hill.
	1035	Col. Johnson informed Col. Stephens of above information and received permission to send units of 1st Bn. to take battle.
1040		2nd Bn. 5 to 3-3--"F" Company jumped off to take hill and as soon as 2nd Bn. has units on hill Bn. will establish a roadblock at Regimental boundary.
1040	(1)	Overlook 10th Div. 4. T. Gun Positions.
1120		2nd Bn. 3 to 3-3--Units are apparently on the hill since in plans establishing roadblock in twenty minutes.
	1125	B-3 notified C-3 of above message.
1200		2nd Bn. 3 to 3-3--"F" Co. is on the hill and we are sending out men to the roadblock. Took hill at 1030.
	1203	B-3 notified B-1 of above information.
	1340	Division line out.
1425		Division line in.
	1425	Col. Johnson to Col. Stephens--2nd Bn. has a Tiger tank with arty. and are now establishing roadblock at Regimental boundary.
1500		2nd Bn. 6 to Col. Johnson. There are 3 Mark VI tanks at (84055) and 3 S. P. gun at (83-853) holding us up from putting a roadblock.
	1505	Col. Johnson tells 2nd T. D. Lt. D to check his T. D. Bn. and find out if they can shoot at above targets.

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DAILY JOURNAL, 11TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FRONT PLATOON	January 1943
IN	OFF	MESSAGE	TO 1
			1943
			24 January 1943 (Cont'd)
	1510		Col. Johnson to 119th S-3—Gives above information and asks them to check to see if they can shoot on targets.
	1515		S-3 gives above targets to Division Arty. to shoot at.
	1520		S-3 notified G-3 of above information.
	1525		Col. Johnson explained to Col. Stephens that attempts were made to get around both sides of the hill toward roadblock position and three tanks and one S. P. gun are holding up progress.
	1535		Col. Johnson asked G-3 if 119th Inf. has an G. P. on hill in front of their positions and was told they have but not on the nose of the hill.
1550			119th S-3 to S-1—Our men cannot see the tanks and S. P. gun from their positions.
1550	(2)		105 Engr. Road Clearance and Barrier Report No. 73.
1550			119th Inf. 2 to S-2—One vehicle and infantry were picked up by "Abner" and they were given permission to shoot since we have no troops there.
1625			2nd Bn. 6 to S-3—Enemy infantry crossed R. R. tracks in front of "P" COMPANY into woods, and arty. is shooting at them.
	1710		S-3 to 1st Bn. 5—Have T. D.'s down around woods in front of "C" Company's position, covering road to your front.
	1715		S-3 asks G-3 where 7th Armd. Bn. is going; that is passing in front of 1st Bn.
1718			S-3 gives 2nd Bn. 6 instructions to patrol woods tonight on E side of hill next to R. R. tonight.
1720			G-3 to S-3—Only information on 7th Armd. Bn. move is that they have an objective to our front.
	1730		Col. Johnson gives 119th Inf. S-3 coordinates of haystacks (8289-8520) and (8320-8521) where S. P. gun fired at 2nd Bn. and to check them from his position.
1730	(3)		Overlay of A. T. Gun Positions of Division.
1815			2nd Bn. 5 to Col. Johnson—Plan mining R. J. and covering it with T. O. B. 7th Armd Div. has platoon of tanks at (833-876) to support attack at (855871).
1955			Col. Stephens to Col. Johnson—Bn. C. O.'s may go to Paris 28 January.
2010	2000		Col. Johnson gives above information to Bn. C. O.'s.
2050			Col. Johnson told by 2nd Bn. 6 that he is going to mine R. J. and if 7th Armd Div. must pass he will take up mine.
2200	(4)		2nd Bn. 2 to S-3—Party left at 2000 with mines to mine R. J.
2300	(2)		Overlay Showing Division Boundaries.
	(6)		Overlay Showing Disposition of 1st Div. and left Flank of XVIII AB Corps.

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SERIAL	FROM
IN	OUT	TO

FROM: 250200 January 1945
 TO: 250200 January 1945

25 January 1945

0830		S-3 tells 1st Bn 3 to withdraw "G" Co from present positions
0900		Col Johnson checks situation of 2nd Bn with 1st Bn 3
0935		Gen Harrison in CP
1000		2nd Bn line in
1020		Gen Harrison and Col Johnson out to 2nd Bn CP
1030	(1)	Overlay 40th Div AF def
1245		Gen Harrison and Col Johnson back in CP
1335		2nd Bn line out
1350		2nd Bn line in
1400		Gen Harrison out
1400		S-3 checked with G-2 pos of 7th Armd to see if plot of "A" Co on the hill could be withdrawn. They can't be withdrawn yet since 7th Armd has not moved far enough to 2nd Bn from G-2 inquired of S-2 situation and was told that everything is quiet except for scattered arty in 2nd Bn area
1530		S-3 inquired of 2nd Bn 3 situation report. Saw on this morning to their front and fired arty on them. Plat of "A" Co still out on top of hill
1745		S-3 inquired of "E" Co CO situation rpt. Friendly paratroop Bn is in woods to his left front and their is SA and rocket one in that woods. "E" Co pos are receiving no air fire
1855		2nd Bn 3 reported to S-2 that 2 or 3 on tks are in vic of contact point with 7th Armd and firing into 2nd Bn sector. Arty using planned now
1900		S-2 notified G-2 of above
1920		S-3 checked with 2nd Bn 3 concerning an tank at HJ and 2nd Bn could report nothing further
2040		Div com line out
2100		Div line in
2300	(2)	105th Engr Road Clearance and Barrier Rpt No 74
2300	(3)	Overlay, 7th Armd Div pos

26 January 1945

0015		H-3 to G-3, 2nd Bn patrol received fire from hill at (843-854) and returned at 252300
1503		Both Div lines out
1820		1st Bn line in
1830		Both Div lines in
1815		2nd Bn 3 informed S-3 that 2nd Bn patrolled A1, into it with sound it cleared of em
1700		G-3 to S-3, when Regt, moves from present pos to new area there will be strict radio silence
2100	(1)	Overlay and Arty pos
2245		Div lines out

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S E C R E T
UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL FROM 250330 January 1945
IN OUT NUMBER TO 252300 January 1945

25 January 1945

0830 S-3 tells 1st Bn 3 to withdraw "C" Co. from present positions
0900 Col Johnson checks situation of 2nd Bn with 2nd Bn &
0935 Gen Harrison in CP
1600 2nd Bn line in
1020 Gen Harrison and Col Johnson out to 2nd Bn CP
1030 (1) Overlay 30th Div AF def
1245 Gen Harrison and Col Johnson back in CP
1335 2nd Bn line out
1360 2nd Bn line in
1400 Gen Harrison out
1400 S-3 checked with G-3 pos of 7th Armd to see if plot of "M"
Go on the hill could be withdrawn. They can't be withdrawn
yet since 7th Armd has not moved far enough to 2nd Bn front
G-2 inquired of S-2 situation and was told that everything
is quiet except for scattered arty in 2nd Bn area
1530 S-2 inquired of 2nd Bn 3 situation report. Saw on this
morning to their front and fired arty on them. Plot of
"G" Co still out on top of hill
1745 S-3 inquired of "M" Co CO situation. Friendly paratroop
Bn is in woods to his left front and their 4s SA and rocket
come in that woods. "M" Co pos are receiving no air fire
2nd Bn 2 reported to S-2 that 2 or 3 tanks are in vic of
contact point with 7th Armd and firing into 2nd Bn sector.
Arty being placed now
S-2 modified G-3 of above
1900 S-3 checked with 2nd Bn 3 concerning on tanks at Rd and
1920 2nd Bn would report nothing further
2140 Div case files out
2100 Div line in
2300 (2) 105th Eng Reg Road Clearance and Barrier Rpt No 74
2300 (2) Overlay, 7th Armd Div pos

26 January 1945

0015 S-3 to G-3, 2nd Bn patrol received fire from hill at
(442-854) and returned at 252300
1505 Both Div lines out
1520 1st Bn line in
1530 Both Div lines in
1615 2nd Bn 3 informed S-3 that 2nd Bn patrolled at 1 into
St Vith and found it cleared of an
1700 G-3 to S-2, when Regt, moves from present pos to new area
there will be strict radio silence
2100 (1) Overlay 3rd Army pos
2245 Div lines out

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UNIT JOURNAL 11TH INFANTRY

TIME SERIAL FROM: 21000 20 JAN 1945
IN OUT NUMBER TO: 21000 20 JAN 1945

17 JANUARY 1945

1230 G-3 to S-3, need no less than one Co in contact with AB at (828-838) on Div order

1240 S-3 notifies 2nd Bn of above msg and tells them to make plans to send Co

1445 (1) Overlay from Div HQ showing contact points with VIII Corps
 1450 Col Johnson gives CO Co "G" 2nd Bn permission to move back to assembly area with the exception of one platoon

1520 G-3 to S-3, 119th Inf made contact with VIII Corps
 1600 2nd Bn line in
 1625 G-3 to S-3, the troops of VIII Corps are coming up from the SW toward Houbush on the main road. If they keep coming up road you may contact them in Houbush. If you don't stay on road you will have to make contact at point shown on overlay. They are not 100% sure of it. G-3 to S-3 to 2nd Bn, give him the above information and tell him to keep a sharp lookout

1630 S-3 to 2nd Bn, send patrol to try to contact troops of VIII Corps on main road. If patrol makes contact, send rest of Co to main contact. If there is no contact that is all we will have to do

1800 2nd Bn reports head of column of VIII Corps is at (827-838) we are sending platoon to meet them at Houbush

1805 S-3 to G-3, gives him above msg, G-3 says you do not have to send Co just leave platoon there with two tanks

1810 G-3 notifies 2nd Bn of above msg from G-3, S-3 of 2nd Bn says they have made contact and it is with 34th Regt. All non-officers make contact later

1840 2nd Bn to S-3, we made contact with Capt L. Napier of 1st Co 34th Regt of 97th Div and have one platoon and two tanks in Houbush. At other contact point we contacted "I" Co of 34th Regt. They have orders to dig in along road and are doing so

1845 G-3 notifies G-3 of above msg
 1850 S-3 tells 2nd Bn to bring in squad that was in position on Hill
 1940 Both Div lines est
 2000 Div lines in
 2100 (2) Overlay, see type 5 from

18 JANUARY 1945

0030 (1) Overlay revised and assembly areas
 0100 (2) Overly pos 1000 on H front
 0430 Col Johnson out on leave to Paris and all 2nd Bn CO's
 1030 3rd Bn checks out, moving to new area
 1415 Old CP closed
 1800 New CP opened in Petit-Halloux, Belgium at (8366-9294)

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UNIT JOURNAL 117TH INFANTRY

TIME	SIGNAL NUMBER	FROM	TO
		22110	22110
		20	211210

20 JANUARY 1945 (Cont'd)

1215		3rd Bn closed into new area at 1215
1245		1st Bn closed into their area 1245
1400		Gas school Wed 21 Jan 1945-1945, 1 off meat, 1 off per lb.
1615		2 ACU's per Co for 4th home at Regt's CP
	2010	Baths, Staveland, 0600-1700 Thurs 1 Feb 45
		4-2 to G-3, we closed into area at 2008

21 JANUARY 1945

1200		Regiment in assembly area (rest period) today, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns cleaned billets and gear and
1240	(1)	cleaned up, saw Capt. William H. ...

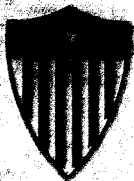
22 JANUARY 1945

1400	(1)	Training memo to ...
1100	(2)	Task and assignment memo from 117th Inf

23 JANUARY 1945

1230		Gen Harrison in ...
1210	1200	Gen Harrison on information ...
	(1)	

**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, 2-20
NATIONAL RECORDS SECTION
1000 ARMY BUILDING**

100 SERIALIZED
ITEM NO. <u>307</u>

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HEADQUARTERS 119TH INFANTRY
APO 30, U. S. ARMY

On May 1945

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

To : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division.

1 April:

At 0140 RCT 119, consisting of 119th Infantry, 197th Field Artillery Battalion, Co. A, 105th Medical Battalion, Co. B, 105th Engineer (C) Battalion, Co. C, 743rd Tank Battalion, and Co. A, 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and two Quartermaster Truck Companies, received orders to move by motor from assembly areas vicinity of CAHLEN, GERMANY to assembly areas vicinity DRENSTEINERT, GERMANY commencing at 0400. RCT closed into new assembly areas at 1300. RCT remained in this assembly area until 2015, at which time, minus Co. C, 743rd Tank Battalion, it was attached to the 2nd Armored Division and began moving to assembly areas in 2nd Armored Division sector at 2400.

2 April:

RCT 119 closed into assembly areas vicinity NEUENKIRCHEN, GERMANY at 0630.

3rd Bn., reinforced, was attached to GCR, 2nd Armored Division.

2nd Bn., reinforced, was attached to TFR, CCA, 2nd Armored Division.

Remainder of RCT, attached 2nd Bn., 60th Armored Regiment, formed TFR, CCA, 2nd Armored Division. At 1230 TFR relieved 377th Infantry vicinity of ORLINGHAUSEN, GERMANY and attacked east to seize and clear the pass and town. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain, which was ideal for defense and the determined resistance of the enemy very little progress was made during the remainder of the day.

2nd Bn., attached to TFR, attacked east through the pass in vicinity of AUGUSTDORF. This force was also stopped by very determined enemy defense of the terrain just east of the pass.

3 April:

TFR continued the attack, making very little progress until 1500 when GCR moved from the north to positions behind enemy defending the town. This move broke enemy defenses and the town was cleared by 1700. Approximately 350 prisoners were taken.

2nd Bn. continued attack east of AUGUSTDORF, making very little headway until 1600, at which time it broke through the enemy defenses and advanced approximately five kilometers to the town.

4 April:

TFR attacked east and southeast at 0800, seized objective in vicinity of FIBITZHEIDE, meeting no resistance and taking approximately 170 prisoners.

TFR attacked east at 0800, seized objective in vicinity of FIBITZHEIDE.

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BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
James Beckwith
COMMITTEE

master
8-1100-121

11 13

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meeting fairly light resistance. After objectives had been taken CCA continued attack east with TFB leading on one axis, followed by TFR. By 2100 leading elements had reached the WESER River in the vicinity of OHR, GERMANY.

TFR assembled in vicinity of ARZEN, GERMANY.

5 April:

Plans were made for TFB to cross Weser River, making use of any available equipment. These plans were later changed and the 119th Infantry, minus 3rd Bn., was given the mission of establishing the initial bridgehead over the Weser River, but before the 2nd Bn. had been notified of this change it had already crossed. "A" Co. and seized the town of TUNDERN. The remainder of the battalion crossed, followed by the 1st Bn. and then the tanks and extended the bridgehead as far as the high ground south and east of HAMELN. TFB then swung north and seized a highway bridge and a railway bridge intact across canal on southern edge of HAMELN. These positions were held during the night.

6 April:

TFR was relieved on road blocks south of Hameln by CCB. TFR then moved north and relieved TFB south of Hameln with the mission of seizing the town. This mission was later changed and the task force blocked in place until relieved by the 3rd Bn., 117th Infantry at 2000. The task force then moved east to an assembly area in the vicinity of BEHRENSSEN, GERMANY, closing at 2050.

7 April:

TFR began moving at 0630 following TFB on the "CLUB" route. At 0930 TFR was given the mission of defending and protecting bridges in the vicinity of SCHULENBERG.

TFB continued attack east in the vicinity of FORSTE where it took up defensive positions along SARSTEDT - HILDESHEIM highway.

8 - 9 April: TFB and TFR continued to maintain defensive positions and clear enemy from within the sector.

10 April:

CCA attacked east toward objectives in the vicinity of HERMANN GOERING WORKS and WOLFENBUTTEL. Little opposition was met until reaching the town of LEBSE when heavy fire from flak guns around factories slowed the attack. After artillery and tanks were moved into firing positions and counter-battery fire was placed on the flak guns troops were able to move forward and by 2000 had seized the town of LEBENSTEDT. Defensive positions for the night was organized.

11 - 13 April:

The attack was continued at 0700. Little opposition was met and by 1300 troops of TFR had assembled in the vicinity of TIKERSDORF.

TFB continued the attack east, seizing the town of WOLFENBUTTEL.

TFR remained at the HERMANN GOERING WORKS and WOLFENBUTTEL as occupation troops until relieved by CCB of the 8th Armored Division at 131920 April.

14 April:

TFR moved east beginning at 0530 with the mission of assembling in the vicinity of SCHNEEBECK, GERMANY. This mission was changed and the task force occupied a defensive line west of MAGDEBURG in the vicinity of HOHENDOLEBEN.

15 April:

3rd Bn. returned to regimental control and assembled in the vicinity of GR. BODENSLEBEN.

TFR continued to hold defensive positions.

16 April:

TFR continued to hold defensive positions.

2nd Bn. returned to regimental control and closed into assembly area in vicinity of SCHNARSLEBEN.

At 2100 RCT 119, minus 1st Bn., returned to 30th Division control.

17 April:

119th Infantry, minus 1st Bn., attached 2nd Bn. (-), 66th Armored Regiment, attacked east with the 3rd Bn. supported by tanks. Objectives in vicinity of DIESDORF and cemetery east of DIESDORF. Very light opposition was met until an enemy road block on the northwest corner of the cemetery opened fire from two 88-mm guns. These guns were knocked out by 82-mm mortar fire and the battalion consolidated positions for the night.

18 April:

119th Infantry continued the attack at 0630 and by 0730 had reached its objective and made contact with the 117th Infantry, advancing south through the western edge of MAGDEBURG.

Remainder of the day was spent in rounding up stragglers and rehabilitation of troops was begun.

19 April:

Regiment remained in position, minus 1st Bn., and conducted rehabilitation.

At 1825 2nd Bn., 66th Armored Regt., was relieved of attachment to 119th Infantry.

20 April:

119th Infantry relieved the 2nd Armored Division and occupied defensive positions as shown on overlay no. 62. Military government duties were begun in area.

1st Bn. reverted to regimental control at 0600.

21 - 30 April:

Regiment continued to hold defensive line along the west bank of the ELBE River waiting to make contact with the Russian forces advancing to the east bank of the river. Military government duties were continued in the sector.

During the month 2,611 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were: 33 killed, 207 wounded, 11 missing or captured, and 10 battle casualties.

During the month of March 20 Silver Stars, one cluster to the Silver Star, 42 Bronze Stars, 17 clusters to the Bronze Star were awarded and three battlefield appointments made. During the month of April two Distinguished Service Crosses, 37 Silver Stars, 4 clusters to the Silver Star, 67 Bronze Stars, 12 clusters to the Bronze Star were awarded and three battlefield appointments made.

Included with this report are patrol reports and the S-2 Unit Reports for the month.

Submitted herewith Unit Journal and supporting papers for period,

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold F. Seeger
HAROLD F. SEEGER,
Captain, Infantry,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS 119TH INFANTRY
APO 30, U. S. ARMY

E.T.O.
Regt 1

5 April 1945

SUBJECT : Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

TO : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division.

1 March:

Mar 45
119th Infantry, plus attachments, continued to hold their same positions (Overlay No. 56) except for two platoons from both Companies B and C which moved to positions shown on Overlay No. 57 and sent patrols forward to the Erfk Canal. Contact with the 3rd Bn., 120th Infantry on the left and the 117th Infantry on the right was maintained by scheduled patrols.

Regimental C.P. located at GROTTENHERTZEN, GERMANY.

2 March:

Regiment continued to hold positions and contact was established with elements of the 4th Cavalry at 1840 by Co. B.

Co. A, 823rd T.D.Bn., was relieved by Co. B, 801st T.D. Bn.

3 March:

Regiment continued to hold positions.

The 801st T.D. Bn. (minus 1 Company) and the 30th Reconnaissance Troop were relieved from attachment at 1200 hours.

4 - 5 March:

119th Infantry remained in assembly areas.

6 March:

Regiment moved by motor from assembly areas vicinity GROTTENHERTZEN, GERMANY to assembly areas vicinity SUSTEREN, HOLLAND, closing at 1845.

1st Bn. crossed IP at 1347 and closed into assembly area at 1710.

2nd Bn. crossed IP at 1405 and closed into assembly area at 1815.

3rd Bn. crossed IP at 1423 and closed into assembly area at 1825.

7 - 8 March:

Two days were spent in billeting, re-equipping and rehabilitation of troops of Regiment.

9 - 11 March:

119th Infantry remained in assembly areas and conducted training.

12 March:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and conducted training.
2nd Bn. conducted training in river crossing in accordance with Training Memorandum No. 1, 30th Infantry Division.

330-117-1111

master 5121

31 Oct JAN 31 1945

13 - 14 March:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and continued training.

15 March:

119th Infantry remained in assembly areas.

1st Bn. spent the morning training in the use of LCTs and LCVP's on the Meuse RIVER. From 2000 to 2300 the Bn conducted an attack problem with the use of CCL's.

Other units continued training in billet areas. Training in night landing of LCT's and LCVP's was practiced by selected drivers and A. T. gun squads.

16 - 17 March:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and conducted unit training.

18 March:

Regiment conducted river problem training.

19 March:

119th Infantry continued training and made preparations for movement to new assembly area vicinity ISSEM, GEMANT (091271). At 1814 a vehicular movement of troops began to new assembly area. Movement was completed and all units closed into their areas at 2400.

20 March:

Day was spent in improving camouflage, reconnaissance and briefing on coming operation.

20 March:

Day was spent in improving camouflage, reconnaissance and briefing on coming operation.

21 - 23 March:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and continued reconnaissance and planning for coming operation.

24 March:

119th Infantry, attached Co. B, 18th Tank Bn., Co. A, 9E3rd T. B. Bn., Co. C, 743rd Tank Bn., and Normal GT attachments, supported by Co. A, 754th T. B. Bn. (90mm) and 137th F. A. Bn., reinforced, beginning at 0200 forced a crossing of the Rhine River within the zone as directed in FO 64, 30th Infantry Division.

The 2nd Bn. crossed the river in storm and double assault boats beginning at 0200 and by 0240 the entire Battalion had crossed and was beginning to seize bridgehead as directed in Regimental order. The bridgehead had been completely taken by 0340.

The 3rd Bn. began crossing at 0340 and had completed crossing by 0430. Battalion then assembled and at 0530 launched a coordinated

attack in conjunction with the 117th Infantry on Objective "PATTY" (Overlay No. 31). Very little opposition was met and by 0711 the objective had been completely taken.

The 1st Bn. Completed crossing the river at 0650. At 0745 the battalion and Company E launched an attack on Objective "JOY" (Overlay No. 31). The attack progressed approximately 500 yards at which point it was held up by direct fire and automatic weapons. Artillery fire and air strikes were called but units still could not advance. At 1135 two platoons of M-24 light tanks had crossed and were attached to the 2nd Bn. With the aid of these tanks units of the 1st Bn. and Company E were able to advance to the railroad in Objective "JOY".

The battalions held up here until 1500, at which time the 3rd Bn. passed through the 2nd Bn. and launched a coordinated attack in conjunction with the 1st Bn. to seize Objective "HEDY" (Overlay No. 31). 3rd Bn. advanced with little opposition to the western edge of the objective but the 1st Bn. was held up by direct fire and automatic weapons at underpass of railroad just west of Objective "HEDY". After this opposition had been overcome both battalions were able to take the portion of the objective within their zone, meeting no further opposition.

At 1700 Company G was sent across the Lippe Canal to clear that portion of the island between the lock and the river as far north as the rifle range. At the end of the period the company was still clearing this area and had taken 24 prisoners.

At 2115 the 1st and 3rd Bns. launched a coordinated attack on Objective "PEG" (Overlay No. 31) and at the end of the period were advancing satisfactorily.

Approximately 500 prisoners were taken during the day.

25 March:

Regiment, plus attachments, continued the attack on Objective "PEG" at 2235 with the 3rd Bn., attached Co. B. The attack progressed satisfactorily until the objective was reached, at which point the left company began receiving heavy direct fire from a battery of 88mm AA guns in the woods East of the objective. The battalion held its position until daylight, and after the 117th Infantry on the right had bypassed the enemy battery a platoon of Company I was sent into the woods to clear it. An hour later the remainder of Company I was sent to assist the platoon in the woods. By 1515 the woods had been cleared, 125 prisoners taken, 7 88mm AA guns, 8 AA MG's, 2 Radar stations and one searchlight were over-run.

The 2nd Bn. continued clearing the island until 0200. At this time it had taken 25 prisoners and cleared that portion from north to south railroad west to the Rhine River.

At 1505 orders were received from Division to move one battalion east along the canal to Objective "HUBERT" (Overlay No. 42) and protect left flank of the 117th Infantry.

The 2nd Bn. was relieved by the 3rd Bn. at 1700 and then moved to Objective "MARSHA" to protect the Division right flank.

At 1700 the 1st Bn. attacked and advanced rapidly until it encountered heavy fire from AA weapons in woods vicinity of Phase Line "DOG" (Overlay No. 44). After this resistance was broken the battalion advanced rapidly to Phase Line "MIKE", reaching this point at 2130 and made contact with elements of the 117th Infantry.

At 2400 Co. C, 743d Tank Bn. and Co. A, 823rd T.D. Bn. were relieved from attachment to the regiment.

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26 March:

119th Infantry, attached Co. D, 18th Tank Bn. continued attack east with the 1st Bn. The attack moved slowly until 0300, at which time the battalion had taken Objective "DOT" (Overlay No 42) and the high ground to the east. The battalion held up here until daylight and then continued toward Objective "HUBERT".

At 0800 Co. D, 18th Tank Bn. was relieved of attachment and Co. A, 823rd T. D. Bn. and Co. C, 743rd Tank Bn. were attached to the regiment. Co. A, 823rd T. D. Bn. was attached to the 2nd Bn. and Co. C, 743rd Tank Bn. was attached to the 1st Bn.

The 2nd Bn. remained on objective "MARTIN" maintaining contact between the 35th Division on the right and the 120th Infantry to the front until 1800 when the battalion was ordered to move into Objective "GALLY" (Overlay No. 42), prepared to pass through the 1st and 3rd Bns. and continue to Objective "3000". The battalion closed into assembly area at 1930 and before the above plan could be put into effect orders were changed and the battalion was assigned the mission of establishing a bridgehead across the MILLS RIVER north of GAILLEN. This mission was still being worked on at the end of the day.

As the 1st Bn. entered the woods west of HILFENKAMP it encountered heavy small arms and direct fire which slowed it down until late in the afternoon. This resistance was overcome and the battalion pushed up to the edge of GAILLEN where it again received heavy fire from within the town. At the end of the day it had forced its way approximately half-way through the town.

The 3rd Bn. moved from the canal to Objective "GALLY", closing at 1300 and remained to assist the 1st Bn. in taking the town. At the end of the day it was in the southern edge of the town, encountering heavy resistance.

27 March:

Regiment, attached Co. C, 743rd Tank Bn., and Co A, 823rd T. D. Bn., continued attack on Objective "HUBERT".

At the beginning of the day the 1st and 3rd Bns. were in a heavy fire right on the western and southwestern edges of GAILLEN. At 0300 both battalions had forced their way about four blocks into the town and were still meeting extremely heavy automatic direct fire from tanks located in the center of the town. Two platoons of Company L were cut off when several buildings were set on fire by 20mm AA guns. The fight continued all through the morning with both battalions very slowly moving forward. At 1345 the 1st Bn. had succeeded in reaching the canal on the north and the 3rd Bn. had broken out of the town and advanced approximately 500 yards to the northeast and reached the canal. The 1st and 3rd Bns. organized these positions at the end of the day.

The 2nd Bn. was moved up to the right of the 3rd Bn. and took Objective "DAISY" at 1334 and continued attack to the east.

28 March:

119th Infantry, plus attachments continued to hold its positions until 1400, at which time the 2nd Bn., attached Co. C, 743rd Tank Bn., and one platoon, 823rd T. D. Bn., advanced to Objective "MAE"

(Overlay No. 47) without any opposition. Terrain not being suitable for defensive positions the battalion then advanced to and organized positions further forward. Contact was made with the 8th Armored Division at

29 - 31 March:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and conducted re-equipping and rehabilitation of troops.

During the month 1195 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were 23 killed, 111 wounded, 3 missing or captured, and 15 battle casualties. Two battlefield appointments were made.

Included with this report are patrol reports and the S-2 Unit reports for this month.

Submitted herewith Unit Journal and supporting papers for the period.

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold F. Seher

HAROLD F. SEEHER,
Captain, Infantry,
Adjutant.

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HEADQUARTERS 119TH INFANTRY
AFO 30, U.S. ARMY

3 March 1945

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

To : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division.

1 February:

CT 119 remained in assembly areas in and around VIELSAIN, BELGIUM, conducting training and rehabilitation. Route for movement back to Ninth Army sector was received at 1200 from Division Hq.

2 February:

Plans and preparations were made for motor movement to the north. Quarters batties were formed at the Regimental Hq. at 1530. Logistical instructions were issued to have all unit machine guns removed, and all shoulder patches removed from outer garments. At 1820 an Order of March for the regiment was issued to all units.

3 February:

Movement by motor from VIELSAIN, BELGIUM to KOHLSCHEID, GERMANY began at 0029. The closing of units into assembly areas at KOHLSCHEID was effected at 0855. A major portion of the day was devoted to billeting of troops and rehabilitation.

4 February:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and spent day in rehabilitation of troops.

5 February:

Supervised training of troops was begun. Lectures on Security, Camouflage, and Gas Hygiene were included in the program. Letter of instructions for coming move was received from Division Hq.

6 February:

Supervised training was continued. Articles of War were read to all troops.

7 February:

Regiment remained in assembly area in vicinity of KOHLSCHEID and continued small unit training and troop rehabilitation.

8 February:

Training program was continued during day and preparations were made for motor movement. At 1900 a vehicular movement of troops began, and at 2215 the battalions had closed into assigned areas. (Overlay No. 10)

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9 February:

Regiment spent day in making plans and preparations for attack to the east. Assault platoons of the 1st Bn. practiced river crossing in INDE.

At 0910 Regiment C.P. closed into ALTDORF, GERMANY.

10 February:

Regiment remained in assembly areas.

Training was continued in river crossing by assault units of the 1st Bn. at 1900 1st Bn. began movement by foot from SCHORHOVEN to vicinity of FRENZ, closing at 2145.

11 February:

119th Infantry remained in assembly areas as shown. (Overlay No. 10) Training in river crossing was continued by 1st Bn.

From 1900 to 2100 a demonstration on the use of searchlights for battlefield illumination ("artificial moonlight") was conducted at PUTZLOHN for the regiment.

12 February:

Regiment remained in assembly areas.

1st Bn. continued training in river crossing. Entire battalion crossed INDE RIVER in vicinity of INDEN between 2000 and 2050, using rubber assault boats.

13 February:

1st Bn. remained in assembly area.

2d Bn. continued training in river crossing. Entire battalion crossed INDE RIVER in vicinity of INDEN by use of rubber assault boats between 2000 and 2035. Experiments with artificial moonlight caused by searchlights were conducted during crossing.

3d Bn. moved from assembly area to rest center in KERKRADE, HOLLAND, closing at 2345.

14 February:

1st and 2d Bns. and Special Units remained in assembly areas and conducted training in security, sanitation and other conference subjects.

ROER RIVER to the east beginning to drop from flood level.

15 February:

1st Bn. spent day in indoor training and in test firing of new type 81-mm mortar ammunition. (HE with super-quick fuse).

2d Bn began moving by motor at 1900 to rest center in KERKRADE, HOLLAND, closing at 2300.

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3d Bn. moved from rest center in KERKRADE, HOLLAND to vicinity of KINZWEILER and HELLGATH, GERMANY, closing at 1850.

16 February:

Regiment remained in assembly areas.

1st Bn. completed training in small arms firing.

2d Bn. remained in rest center in KERKRADE, HOLLAND.

3d Bn. conducted briefing and training in Chemical Warfare.

RUCER RIVER still dropping but is still over its banks.

17 February:

19th Infantry remained in assembly areas and conducted training.

1st Bn. conducted training in river crossing in vicinity of LA BUDOLF, using engineer assault boats.

2d Bn. moved from rest center at KERKRADE, HOLLAND to ALTDORF, GERMANY, closing at 2025.

3d Bn. conducted training with the 74th Light Tank Bn. in "Attack on a Town" in the vicinity of ST. JOHIS.

18 February:

Regiment remained in assembly areas and conducted training.

19 February:

1st and 2d Bns. spent day in conducting small unit training within their areas.

3d Bn. conducted training in conjunction with Co. A, 74th Light Tank Bn. in attacking a town in the vicinity of ST. JOHIS.

20 February:

1st and 2d Bns. continued small unit training.

3d Bn. conducted training in river crossing on RUCER River south of super-highway.

21 February:

2d Bn. conducted training in the "Attack on a Town" during the morning. The afternoon was spent in firing practice in pit on super-highway and in river crossing practice at crossing site south of super-highway.

Remainder of regiment remained in areas and conducted small unit training.

22 February:

Day was spent making preparation for coming operations.

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1st Bn. moved by foot from assembly area in vicinity of LAESENDOFF at 1940 and closed into assembly area within SCHROFHOVEN at 2155.

2d Bn. remained in assembly area.

3d Bn. moved by motor from vicinity of KILZHEILEN beginning at 2015 and closed into LAESENDOFF at 2315.

Several enemy planes flew over the regimental area and dropped three medium bombs during the morning, causing the death of one man in 2d Bn.

23 February:

119th Infantry attacked at 0330 to seize objectives as shown on overlay and surrounding field under 41, 30th Infantry Division.

Prior to 0500 1st Bn. made initial crossing of the MOER RIVER in rubber assault boats at 0245 and continued to build up the battalion on the east bank of the river by the use of wooden assault boats. The battalion seized Objective #11 (Overlay No. 30) at 0620 and Objective #12 was seized at 0715.

2d Bn. moved from assembly area within AITDORF to SCHROFHOVEN beginning at 0330. The battalion crossed the MOER RIVER after 1st Bn. on foot bridge constructed by the 10th engineer (C) Co. The battalion attacked through 1st Bn. at 0730 and reached positions as shown on overlay No. 39.

3d Bn. moved from assembly area within LAESENDOFF beginning at 0330 and closed into SCHROFHOVEN at 0630. The battalion moved from this assembly area at 1945 and took its positions prior to attack which occurred at 2300 with the 1st Bn. as its objective (Objective #13 on overlay No. 30). The 2d Bn. leading elements of the battalion were in LAESENDOFF.

Regimental C.P. moved from AITDORF to SCHROFHOVEN closing at 2140.

24 February:

Regiment attacked at 1600.

1st Bn. attached 30, C, minus one platoon, 7th (P) Lt Tank Bn, and one platoon 323d TD Bn, attacked north at 1600 through positions held by the 3d Bn. to seize Objectives #14 and #15 and proceeded on to seize Objectives #16 and #17 (Overlay No. 30). Objective #10E was taken at 1900 and Objective #18E at 2130.

2d Bn. attacked northwest at 1720 from positions previously occupied to seize Objectives #18 and #19. Objective #19 was taken at 1940. Attack on #20E was still in progress at the end of the day.

3d Bn. attacked northwest at 1705 from positions previously held to seize Objective #21. Objective was taken at 1940. (Overlay No. 30)

25 February:

119th Infantry, attached 7th Lt Tank Bn, and Co. A, 323d TD Bn, attacked at 1200 as ordered in Field Order 02, 30th Infantry Division.

1st Bn. attached one platoon, Co. A, 323d TD Bn, maintained its positions and reverted to Regimental Reserve.

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2d Bn. cleared Objective "LOIS" by 0735 and at 1200 the battalion, attached Co. C, 7th Light Tank Bn and one platoon of Co. A, 823d TD Bn, attached. Leading elements entered Objective "LOUISE" (Overlay No. 42) at 1335, and at the end of the day the battalion was completing organization of the objective.

3d Bn, attached Co. A, 7th Light Tank Bn and one platoon, Co. A, 823d TD Bn, attached at 1200. Leading elements entered Objective "FRATY" (Overlay No. 42) at 1330 and at the end of the day the battalion was completing organization of the objective.

20 February

Regiment, attached 7th Light Tank Bn and Co. A, 823d TD Bn, completed organization of objectives previously taken and defended within its sector.

1st Bn, attached a platoon of TDG, maintained positions in Regimental Reserve.

21 February

1st Infantry, attached 7th Light Tank Bn, and Co. A, 823d TD Bn, attached at 1130.

7th Light Tank Bn, was attached effective 0900.

1st Bn, attached Co. B, 7th Light Tank Bn, and 3d platoon of Co. A, 823d TD Bn, attached at 1130 and were nearing completion of organization of objective at the end of the day.

2d Bn, attached Co. C, 7th Light Tank Bn, and 1st platoon of Co. A, 823d TD Bn, attached at 1130 and were nearing completion of organization of objective at the end of the day.

3d Bn, attached Co. A, 7th Light Tank Bn, remained in Regimental Reserve and moved from vicinity of HOLLAND to vicinity of GROTTENBERG.

Regimental C.F. closed into GROTTENBERG at 1115.

28 February

1st Infantry completed organization of objectives and maintained defensive positions as shown on overlay No. 67.

During the month 1013 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were: 26 killed, 188 wounded, 64 missing or captured, and 5 battle casualties. 30 Silver Stars, 1 Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star, 100 Bronze Stars, 19 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star were awarded and 4 battlefield appointments made.

Included with this report are patrol reports and the 842 Unit Reports for the month.

Submitted herewith Unit Journal and supporting papers for period.

For the Commanding Officer:

Harold F. Seiber
HAROLD F. SEIBER,
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

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HEADQUARTERS 119TH INFANTRY
APO 30, U. S. ARMY

APD
E20-1

2 February 1945

Subject: Action Against Enemy, Reports After/After Action Reports.

To: Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division.

1 January

The 119th Infantry, minus 3d Bn (in Division Reserve), attached 1st Platoon, Company D and Mortar Platoon, 7th Tank Battalion, began the new year holding a defensive line extending from 771030 along railroad to 750030, then southwest to WAVERMONT. Active patrolling of the sector was conducted by all front line companies.

The 3d Battalion, in Division Reserve, was assembled in STER (740085).

OP of the 119th Infantry was located at 750072.

2 January

The regiment continued to hold its defensive positions and patrol to the front. At 1515 the 3d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion, which then moved to STER and became part of Division Reserve.

3 January

There was no change during the day, except for the relief of the 1st Platoon, Company D, 7th Tank Battalion by a platoon of Company A at 2000.

4 January

The only action during the day was a platoon of Company I that went to LODOMEZ (743000) with the mission of harassing the enemy. The platoon made contact with the enemy at 1630. Seven men were captured while searching a building.

5 January

At 1500 the 1st Battalion was attached to the 120th Infantry and relieved the 99th Infantry Battalion (Sep) at 2110. The 20th Armored Infantry Battalion was attached to the regiment at 1500 and began relieving the 2nd Battalion, completing the relief at 0245. After relief the 2nd Battalion assembled in the vicinity of BELMISTER (741062), WELZ (755040) and BIRKENVILLE (760045).

6 January

The 99th Infantry Battalion (Sep) was attached to the regiment at 1600 and relieved the 3d Battalion at 2150. After relief, the 3d Battalion moved to KHOPFRAIX (847081) and became part of Division Reserve.

7 - 9 January

The only activity during the day was local patrolling by front line companies of the 99th and 520th Infantry Battalions.

10 January

At 1515 a patrol from Company A, 99th Infantry Battalion (Sep) went to CHEVROUSE (757011) and made contact with an enemy outpost and captured 10 prisoners.

The 3d Battalion moved from KHOPFRAIX to MAMMEDI, closing at 1745.

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11 January

The only activity during the day was local patrols by front line companies.

12 January

At 0100 the 99th and 526th Infantry Battalions were relieved of attachment to the regiment, but continued to hold their defensive positions. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions reverted to regimental control at 0100. Company A, 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion and Company A, 743d Tank Battalion were attached to regiment at the same time. Plans and reconnaissance were made for an attack south at 130000. Field Order #40 was issued at 1100. The regimental C.S. closed into KATZEDY at 1515.

13 January

The 2nd Battalion (Attached one platoon medium tanks and one platoon light tanks, a platoon of self-propelled tank destroyers and one section towed tank destroyers) attacked south at 0600 and by 0800 had taken Objective B-1 (see overleaf, attached Field Order #40, this headquarters). No resistance was met until southeast, small arms fire was received from woods in the vicinity of 785020. Attempts were being moved forward and was knocked out at 770037 and later it too was also knocked out here, completely blocking the road. The remaining tanks were moved up an alternate route to the east and finally joined the infantry at 1350. The battalion continued the attack south and at 1500 reached the edge of the high ground north of BELLEVAUX. Patrols were sent into HEDMONT and THION and contact made with the 99th Infantry Battalion at 708022.

The 3rd Battalion (attached two platoons medium tanks, one platoon self-propelled, and one section of towed tank destroyers) attacked south at 0600 and by 0730 had reached the north edge of HEDMONT (795021), where it was held up by intense automatic and small arms fire from the town. Company I attempted to flank the town from the right but was stopped just north of road from HEDMONT to QDALMONT by automatic and small arms fire south of the road. Company I was committed on the left flank but was stopped when it reached the edge of town. At 1800 no further progress had been made. Plans were being made to continue the attack at 2330 and take Objective A before morning.

At 0600 the 1st Battalion reverted to regimental control. Company G moved into positions vacated by the 120th Infantry earlier in the morning. An enemy patrol of six men had occupied some of the holes before Company G reached them. This patrol killed one man and captured two machine guns before it was forced to withdraw. The battalion moved to positions behind the 3rd Battalion at 0730, prepared to pass through the 3rd Battalion and continue the attack south after HEDMONT was taken. At 1545 one platoon, Company B and one platoon medium tanks began moving east from crossroads (781021) toward HEDMONT. Due to the poor trail, thick woods and light enemy resistance, these units could not reach the town and at 1800 withdrew to positions around the crossroads. The battalion occupied positions behind and between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions for the night.

14 January

After a heavy artillery preparation on the town of HEDMONT, the 3rd Battalion attacked at 2130 and by 0320 the town was taken and positions were being organized on the high ground south of the town. Resistance in the town was moderately light, only five prisoners were taken. Later in the day, Companies I and L moved to positions in Objective C and Company K went into BELLEVAUX.

At 0700 the 1st Battalion passed through the 3rd Battalion and continued the attack on Objectives C and D. By 0855 Objective C was taken, no contact being made with the enemy at this time. At 1000 the battalion continued the attack

and began receiving heavy mortar and artillery fire. By 1515 Companies A and B were on the objective and Company C was working through the woods in vicinity of 785994. The battalion held these positions for the night, outposting the north bank of the L'AMBLEVE RIVER. Fifty prisoners were taken in RECLAMONT (785994).

The 2nd Battalion held its positions until 0940, the only movement being Company E moving up abreast of the 3rd Battalion on Objective C. At 0910 Companies F and G attacked south and by 1022 Company G was in THOUX, receiving heavy automatic and small arms fire and Company F was in BELLEVAUX, receiving small arms fire from the left front. At 1055 both towns had been taken and one platoon of Company F was moving on the bridge at 775999. This bridge had been blown, leaving an eight foot gap. The platoon crossed the river at 1310 and Companies E and G were moving to the crossing site. At 1200 a flight of American medium bombers bombed the battalion but caused no casualties. By 2000 the town of VILLERS had been taken by Company E and a road block established at 756997. The 517th Parachute Infantry was contacted at this point. Company G entered BEAUMONT and met stiff enemy resistance. The town was taken by 2400.

15 January

The 1st Battalion continued the attack at 0745 with Companies A and C. Company A cleared the woods between Objective B and the river. Company C moved southeast to Objective C to the bridge at LIGNEVILLE and then west along No. 3 road into FOMT, entering the town at 1020. By 1245 the town had been cleared and 28 prisoners taken. The attack was continued and at 1530 Objective J was being organized by Companies B and C, Company A remaining in FOMT.

At 0200 Company F had reached a line 500 yards south of BEAUMONT. Company J began passing through Company F at 0745 and continued the attack on Objective H. At 1015 Company G was in Francheville, receiving automatic, small arms, heavy mortar and rocket fire. After heavy artillery preparation the company continued the attack toward Objective I at 1645. By 1840 it had reached the high ground north of the objective and set up a road block at 774999. Patrols were sent to the southern edge of the objective. Forty prisoners were taken during the day.

3rd Battalion continued to hold positions occupied the night before until 1630, when it was attached to the 117th Infantry.

16 January

At 0900 the 2nd Battalion, attached one platoon, Anti-Tank Company, one platoon light tanks, one platoon self-propelled tank destroyers, attacked south with Company E leading. The company advanced to the vicinity of 775958, where it began receiving direct fire from the southwest. It held up at this point, waiting for the units on the right and left to come abreast. Company F cleared the woods west of the river to the vicinity of 781962. Patrols were sent to Objective I to contact the 117th Infantry. Company H, 517th Parachute Infantry, was contacted at 765959 at 1600. Company G held high ground in vicinity of FRACHEVILLE.

1st Battalion continued to hold positions on Objective J and supporting engineers cleared the MSR to 785974.

The regimental C.P. closed into BELLEVAUX at 1020.

17 January

1st Battalion held its positions until 1530, at which time it began assembling in FOMT.

2nd Battalion remained in position and at 1030 sent a combat patrol to

road junction (782953). At 1130 the patrol had reached the road junction, meeting no resistance. A road block, consisting of one platoon, Company E, two heavy machine guns, two self-propelled tank destroyers, and three anti-tank guns, was established at this point. Contact was established with 117th Infantry at 789951.

3rd Battalion was relieved by the 120th Infantry at 1700 and closed into assembly area in MAMEDY at 1830.

16 January:

1st Battalion remained in assembly area in PONT and made plans and reconnaissance for relieving 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry on Objective L the following morning.

2nd Battalion continued to hold its positions and maintained contact with the 117th Infantry on the left and the 517th Infantry on the right.

3rd Battalion remained in MAMEDY. At 1520 Company I began moving to positions on high ground in Objective G, south of THIRDMONT, closing at 1630.

19 January:

1st Battalion relieved 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry on Objective L at 0815. Company I reverted to battalion control, and closed into MAMEDY at 1115.

Remainder of regiment - no change.

20 January:

1st Battalion was relieved from its positions in Objective L by the 30th Reconnaissance Troop at 1100. After relief battalion moved by foot to assembly area in Objective MICHEL, closing at 1330.

2nd Battalion moved to an assembly area north of Objective GOLD and at 1115 attacked south. By 1615 the battalion had seized and organized the western portion of Objective JOHN.

3rd Battalion moved by motor from MAMEDY to 782953 and from there by foot to an assembly area north of Objective GOLD. The battalion attacked south at 1115 and by 1615 had seized and organized eastern portion of Objective JOHN.

At 1800 the regimental C.P. closed into vicinity of 779924.

21 January:

The day was spent in organizing and straightening defensive line. Contact was made with Company A, 290th Infantry on the right and with 117th Infantry on the left.

22 January:

2nd Battalion attacked south at 0800 and by 0900 had reached woods in the vicinity of 780070, where it began receiving small arms fire. The advance was continued approximately 200 yards, where the battalion was stopped by direct fire from the high ground south of KAPELLE. After an artillery preparation and tanks had moved into supporting position, the battalion assaulted the town and by 1315 cleared it and moved into positions on high ground just south of town. Contact was made with the 290th Infantry on the right at 1210, but this contact was lost later in the day when the 290th Infantry entered the woods. The battalion took 83 prisoners during the day.

3rd Battalion attacked south at 0800 and by 0845 Company I was entering HINDESHAUSEN. At 1255 the town was taken and positions were being organized just south of town. Contact was established with the 117th Infantry at 1145.

1st Battalion, in Regimental Reserve, moved to positions on Objective JOHN, closing at 1400.

23 January:

1st Battalion attacked south at 1000 and reached Objectives LITTLE and MAE without opposition. Contact with the 117th Infantry was made at 2000 at 824865. Twenty-two prisoners were taken in KROMBACH.

2nd Battalion attacked south at 1000 and advanced to north edge of WEISTEN before meeting enemy resistance. At 1145 battalion assaulted the town and by 1230 had cleared it, taking 27 prisoners. The attack on Objective DAISY was held up by an enemy tank, supported by infantry. After supporting tanks and tank destroyers had been moved into position and artillery placed on enemy positions, the battalion advanced and the enemy withdrew. Positions were occupied in Objective DAISY at 1715. Contact was established with 289th Infantry by patrol.

3rd Battalion, in Regiment Reserve, occupied positions in vicinity of HINDESHAUSEN.

Regimental C.P. closed into vicinity 788884 at 1000.

24 January

The day was spent in adjusting defensive positions.

25 January

3rd Battalion relieved 289th Infantry in vicinity of BRAUNLAUF at 2100.

Other units - no change.

26 January

The regiment continued to hold its defensive positions.

27 January

Company K was sent to 822825 at 1400 to establish contact with 346th Infantry. This contact was made with Company L, 346th Infantry at 1515. The company returned to the battalion area at 2100.

Other units - No change.

28 January

Beginning at 0615 CT 119 moved to rest areas in vicinity of VIELSALM, NEUVILLAS, VILLE-DU-BORS, and RENCHUX, closing at 1730.

Regimental C.P. located in VIELSALM.

29 - 30 - 31 January

CT 119 remained in rest area, conducting training for new reinforcements and carried out reorganization and re-equipping for all units.

During the month 487 prisoners were taken. Our casualties were 21 killed, 251 wounded, 9 missing or captured and 6 battle casualties. 11 Silver Stars, 136 Bronze Stars, 11 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star were awarded and 9 battlefield appointments made.

Included with this report are patrol reports and the S-2 Unit Reports for the month.

Submitted herewith Unit Journal and supporting papers for period.

For the Commanding Officers

Harold F. Seebert
HAROLD F. SEEBERT,
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

**WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



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**WAR DEPARTMENT RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SECTION
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AGO MICROFILM

ITEM NO:

3058

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
APO 30, US Army

BPP:JMH:dr

11 February 1945

319.1/401 (o)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After / After Action Reports

TO : Commanding General, 50th Infantry Division, APO 30, US Army.

1. The following summary of operations covers the period 010001, January 1945 (Message) and including 312400 January 1945.

2. Summary of operations:

On 1 January 1945, the 120th Infantry Regiment¹ was actively defending its position on the north flank of the ridge which the Germans had created in the heavily timbered offensive. Our troops were in position in the vicinity of Wilver, Belgium, with our right flank 1500 yards southwest and our left flank 1000 yards southeast of the town. Elements of the 1st Infantry Division were on our left, and the 119th Infantry Regiment occupied positions on the right. The Regimental Command Post was located in Bevere.

Company "E" sent a raiding party of approximately 20 men with the double mission of reducing an enemy strong point in a house 200 yards southwest of the road junction at Bevere and capturing PW's. The men started on this mission at 0700 and reached a point about 75 yards from the house, where they were challenged and had to open fire. The enemy had set up two machine guns, one in the house and another approximately 200 yards west of it. In the ensuing five fight, a prisoner was captured and the patrol returned. At Five O'clock (Bevere), the raiding party discovered evidence of another strongly committed by the enemy. Approximately 50 dead American soldiers were found in groups of five or six, face down; some of the victims were shot through the head. Later examination of this area confirmed this information and a picture recording was made of the crime.

On 1 January 1945, the Regiment continued to hold and defend our sector actively. Patrols were sent out to reconnoiter the area to our right. A visual reconnaissance of the terrain to the front was also made. With the intention of giving the enemy to dislocate his defenses and further to disrupt his defenses, two raids were made on 3 January 1945. At 0830, Company "I", supported by platoons from the 3rd Battalion and by artillery, attacked south from Wilver with the mission of taking the strategic high ground 200 yards southeast of Bevere. During the attack, our drive was assisted by

- 1. Attached: 3rd Infantry Battalion (Separate),
- 1st Armored Infantry Battalion,
- 3rd Tank Battalion.

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a force of 30 men, who retreated hastily under small arms and artillery fire. Three prisoners were taken and at 1900, according to plan, Company "I" withdrew to its former position.

Attacking simultaneously with Company "I", Company "B", 226th Armored Infantry Battalion, supported by artillery and direct fire from the 1st Battalion, drove southeast, through Hedonmont and Baugnes, toward the high ground "Huyer", 1500 yards south and west of Baugnes. The attack was furiously contested with well placed enemy machine guns firing final protective lines; dead spaces were accurately covered by mortars and rifles. Artillery and mortar fire placed on our troops was relatively light until around 1400, when the enemy placed a heavy concentration, including rockets, on our forward platoons. As soon as this fire lifted, the Germans counterattacked with 60 to 70 men against the town of Hedonmont, and entered it with little difficulty, since our troops were in the process of withdrawing.

Our feints in this area were successful, and as a result, the enemy was forced to commit local reserves in counterattack. Our attack was hampered considerably by the fog which blocked vision and limited the observation of supporting fires.

The Regiment improved its defensive positions on 4 January 1945; foxholes were rotated from their posts to available houses for a few hours to warm up, to wash and massage feet, and to have haircuts.

On 5 January 1945, the 1st Battalion of the 119th Infantry Regiment was attached to our Regiment, effective at 1500 hours, for the purpose of relieving elements of the 97th Infantry Battalion. Separating the movement was completed at 2100. The 229th Armored Infantry Battalion was released from attachment of our Regiment, effective at 1500 hours of this same date. Its defensive position in the vicinity of Chocques was occupied by the 2nd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, which was reassigned to Regimental reserve, still being in Division reserve.

The Regiment continued its active defense on 6 - 7 January 1945, maintaining constant patrol activity.

On 8 January 1945, the 2nd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion, the relief being accomplished at 1500. The 3rd Battalion moved into Regimental reserve in the area formerly occupied by the 2nd Battalion.

The Regiment continued to defend its position on 8 - 9 January 1945. The Battalions further strengthened their positions, and reconnaissances were made for the selection of positions from which to fire weapons in support of future attacks, and also for routes through which to launch these attacks. Patrol activity was constant.

Final plans for an attack on the 15th were completed on 11 - 12 January 1945. Extensive patrolling produced information as to enemy strong points, as well as to the wooded, hilly terrain to the front. Snow necessitated the use of white coverings for the men, thereby increasing the difficulty of attack. By using any available material found in abandoned houses, snow suits were improvised. Skis and toboggans were secured or constructed, as aids to transportation of ammunition and evacuation of wounded.

At 0600, 13 January 1945, the 3rd Battalion opened the attack by striking for the high ground "Huyer", located 1500 yards south and west of Baugnez. The enemy resisted with heavy small arms, artillery and mortar fire. Steady advance was made and the Battalion was on the objective at 1100; by 1400, our position was consolidated. In the advance toward its objective, the Battalion also captured the town of Geromont and the five point road net at Baugnez. The deep snow slowed the attacking infantry and prevented effective use of tanks and tank destroyers; our casualties were very heavy as the result.

The mission of taking the town of Thirimont was assigned to the 2nd Battalion and it attacked southeast in coordination with the 3rd Battalion at 0600. The Battalion advanced under heavy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, and only Company "G" was able to reach the objective. Some pockets of resistance which were by-passed, fired on our rear elements, causing casualties and some disorganization. At 1145, striking from the south, 100 enemy infantry counterattacked Company "G" in Thirimont; but they were driven back and did not succeed in dislodging our troops. At about 1800, the Regimental Commander ordered Company "G" to withdraw. While plans were being made for the withdrawal, the enemy again counterattacked, this time with a company of infantry supported by a company of tanks. Approximately 100 men from Company "G" and the 1st Platoon, Company "H", were lost. Information obtained later indicates that most of these men were captured by the Germans.

The 1st Battalion supported by fire the attack of the other two Battalions and had planned to attack after the consolidation of our other two objectives to take the town of Ligneuville. Due, however, to the heavy resistance encountered by the other Battalions, elements of the 1st Battalion were used, instead, to deepen gains made by the 3rd Battalion. Company "B" was placed in Geromont and Company "A" was used to outpost the five point road junction at Baugnez. At 1200, the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, was ordered to prepare plans for a night attack on Thirimont.

The Regimental Command Post moved from Beyerode to Monbijou, Belgium, at 0730 on 13 January 1945.

Orders for operation on 14 January 1945 called for attacks on the town of Thirimont and the high ground "Hausart", 1000 yards southwest of Thirimont.

At 0030 on 14 January 1945, the 1st Battalion began its attack on Thirimont. Because of anticipatory planning, it was possible to prepare and disseminate complete and detailed orders for the attack. Leaving the initial Point at Baugnez, an advance party from Company "B" moved to establish a road block on the Ligneuville-Baugnez road at a point 1000 yards due east of the high ground "Huyer". After the road block was in position, the remainder of the Battalion moved south from Baugnez 1000 yards, then swung east toward Thirimont. At 0445, the first contact with the enemy was made. As the Battalion continued its advance toward Thirimont, resistance increased on a large scale; the Battalion continued, nevertheless, to push forward to the western outskirts of the town. Then, because of intense enemy artillery and small arms fire and because of difficulty in bringing up supporting weapons, the Battalion was unable to advance further. Snow, hampering any attempt at armored attack, and weather conditions in general hampered operations considerably. Patrols sent out by the Battalion in an effort to flank the

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enemy positions were unable to advance. At 1300, a light counterattack, consisting of one tank supported by 30 infantrymen, struck the Battalion, but this attack was successfully repulsed.

Elements of the 9th Parachute Regiment, 3rd Parachute Division, defended Thirumont tenaciously. At 1730, they counterattacked with one battalion of infantry advancing in waves and supported by one company of tanks. They were driven back by artillery and small arms fires with heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy infantry. The counterattack reached a point 50 yards from our lines before it was successfully stopped and two of the attacking tanks knocked out. The enemy then withdrew to the east, pounded by our artillery as it retreated.

The 3rd Battalion² was given the mission of seizing the high ground "Hausart" southwest of Thirumont. Attacking at 1150, the Battalion moved towards the objective encountering strong opposition. To add to the difficulty, the wooded terrain limited observation so that it was necessary to approach almost on top of enemy strong points before fire could be brought on them. Moving up the slope of the hill, the troops met heavy fire from enemy positions along the crest of the high ground. From points of excellent observation, the enemy was able to place accurate fire on our troops who were forced to dig in 500 yards short of the objective. Patrols were then sent out to reconnoiter the area to our flanks.

At 2030, Companies "E" and "F" were moved back into a housed area on the southwestern outskirts of Weismes to join the other units of the 2nd Battalion which had moved back to this area after the attack on Thirumont the day before.

At 0815 on 15 January 1945, the 1st Battalion continued the attack against Thirumont. Company "A" attacked on the left and Company "B" on the right, with Company "C" in reserve. Resistance was again composed of crack paratroopers who defended their positions stubbornly. Our advance was costly, but the town of Thirumont was captured by 1330. This operation consisted of reducing a number of exceptionally well fortified strong points, very sturdy farm houses and stables, which were mutually supporting. For this attack, attached tanks and tank destroyers were able to move up and assist the Battalion; they did an exceptional job of supporting the advance. Against the onslaught of enemy armor, or the thick-walled basement shelter of a machine gunner, the tanks and TD's concentrated a deadly volume of fire. Two hours before the attack, enemy infantry of a strength of two or more companies attacked through lines held by the 1st Battalion but were beaten back.

The 3rd Battalion continued its attack to seize the high ground south and west of Thirumont. It attacked at 0815 and encountered heavy fire in the woods. Foreseeing that it was going to be impossible to take the position with what was left of the Battalion, help was requested. The 2nd Battalion was called upon to attack on the right of the 3rd Battalion, and to seize and hold the western part of the objective.

The 2nd Battalion had made plans to take the high ground 3000 yards

2. Minus Company "I" which was attached to the 117th Infantry Regiment at 1630 reverting to Battalion control at 1600.

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directly south of Thirimont. To accomplish this mission, Company "E", at 1325, left Weismes by truck and detrucked at the road junction 800 yards south of Baugnez. At 1415, the remainder of the Battalion left Weismes by truck and detrucked at the same place. The Battalion then started to move on foot toward its objective, but at 1600, orders were received to return in order to attack another objective: the high ground southwest of Thirimont, where it could protect the right flank of the 3rd Battalion. The Battalion retraced its steps and returned to the road junction. Then, with Companies "E" and "F" leading, the Battalion attacked, taking the objective and consolidating its position with that of the 3rd Battalion. Company "G" was placed in reserve on the western outskirts of Thirimont.

Continuous efforts had been made during the day to move light tanks to the top of the hill. The snow covered slope, not enemy action, caused the attempt to be nearly impossible. The tanks finally reached the 3rd Battalion area at the same time the 2nd Battalion started its attack. The hill then was quickly taken.

A total of 87 PW's were captured by this Regiment during the day's fighting. In addition to this, a large number of casualties had been inflicted on the enemy. Since we had been attacking for three consecutive days against the most stubborn opposition the Regiment has yet encountered, our casualties were very heavy.

On 16 January 1945, the Regiment continued to consolidate its gains in the town of Thirimont and the high ground southwest of it. Patrols were sent out to clear the area between our positions and the Amel River to the south.

At 1630 on 17 January 1945, a new Regimental Command Post was opened at Ligneuille.

On this same date, our 2nd Battalion relieved the 3rd Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment, on its position on the high ground of "Wolfshusch", 2000 yards west of Montenaus; the relief being completed at 1700. The position vacated by the 2nd Battalion was occupied by our 3rd Battalion.

The 1st and 3rd Battalions remained in their positions in the town of Thirimont and on the high ground to the southwest. A combat patrol from the 1st Battalion was sent to determine if "Hill 522", 2500 yards east of Recht, was held by the enemy. It learned that the enemy held this hill in force.

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 120th Infantry Regiment at 1700 on 17 January 1945.

On 18 January 1945, our Regiment had the mission of seizing the high ground "Hill 522". Crossing a Line of Departure in the vicinity of the position of the 2nd Battalion, the 1st Battalion attacked south towards the objective. Throughout the wooded terrain, light opposition was encountered. Two enemy patrols were captured without revealing the presence of our attacking forces. The Battalion seized the objective and consolidated its position by 230. Three and a half hours later, the enemy launched a counterattack with 5 tanks and 100 infantry, but it was broken up; two tanks and one

American jeep with German occupants were destroyed. Later in the evening, two more tanks and an assault gun were knocked out by our block on the road running north into Kaiserbaracke. After consolidation of the area, patrols were sent out to reconnoiter ground over which we would continue the attack. Forty PW's were taken during the day's operation. One patrol found the enemy dug in around Feckelsborn and the high ground east of that town. Other patrols succeeded in getting information of the enemy positions to our front.

At 1100, the 3rd Battalion, following the attack of the 1st Battalion, moved to the same objective to strengthen our positions on this high ground. These positions were occupied on the objective at 1500. Company "K" contacted troops of the 117th Infantry Regiment at 1650 to assist in clearing our road blocks and succeeded in knocking out a Mark IV tank and an assault gun. At Kaiserbaracke, sufficient pressure was placed on an enemy road block to force four assault guns and a staff car to leave in an attempt to escape to the south. Elements of Company "O" and Antitank Platoon, 1st Battalion, which had the escape route blocked, destroyed all five vehicles.

Our 2nd Battalion remained in position on the high ground "Wolfsbusch." Elements of the Battalion protected the main supply route leading to the 1st and 3rd Battalions since this supply route was extremely vulnerable.

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop maintained contact between our Regiment and the 23rd Infantry Regiment on our left.

With both our flanks and rear exposed, supply was hampered and no vehicles could go without convoy. Wet weather, snow and shell fire out down efficiency of communication lines. Hilly terrain and thick woods made radio communication difficult.

During the action on this date, we succeeded in knocking out 5 Mark IV tanks mounting 75mm guns and two 105mm assault guns. The bazooka proved to be the most effective antitank weapon in the wooded terrain, with its short fields of fire.

The strongest defense of the Germans against our attack on this objective was the block commanding a vital road junction at Kaiserbaracke. Two more were located at 500 yard intervals on the main road running south from Kaiserbaracke. A third was to the right of this main road, 500 yards north of the main block at Kaiserbaracke.

Our mission on 19 January 1945 was to attack and seize objective "P" which included Feckelsborn and high ground northeast of the town. After being relieved by the 1st Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment, our 2nd Battalion moved to a line of departure in the position occupied by our 1st Battalion. At 1415, the attack started with our troops striking southwest along the ridge leading into the objective. Only light resistance was encountered and the Battalion moved steadily to its objective, consolidating its gains by 1705. Eighteen prisoners were captured in our attack. Indications were that the enemy had expected strongest attacks in this area from the west; we had overcome his weak right flank and disorganized his defense.

The 1st and 3rd Battalions continued to defend their positions and active patrolling to the south was carried on in order to keep in close contact with the enemy. Company "K" assisted the 117th Infantry Regiment in reducing

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the road block at Kaiserbaracks, which was destroyed at 1115.

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop maintained contact between our Regiment and the 18th Infantry Regiment on our left.

On 20 JANUARY, 1945, our Regiment had the mission of attacking and seizing objective "R", the village of Nieder Emmter Heide. At 0830, a patrol from our 1st Battalion started towards the objective and encountered enemy fire. The remainder of the Battalion attacked at 1000, against infantry and mobile assault guns. Using the main road running north from the town as the left boundary, our troops maneuvered to the west, hit the enemy from the rear, destroyed his positions and captured 15 PW's.

The 3rd Battalion crossed the Line of Departure at 1140 to take positions on the eastern portion of this same objective. Again assault guns and infantry were encountered, but the advance continued and the two Battalions consolidated an effective defense line by 1645.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion remained on objective "P". Company "Q" on the road block directly west of objective "Q" was relieved by Company "O" at 1730 to clean out the supply route and to rejoin the Battalion. Company "K" moved back on the main road to assist Company "O".

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop relieved the 1st Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment, at 0900 and assumed defensive position on the objective "L". In addition, they established contact with the 117th Infantry Regiment on our right. Enemy resistance was not organized in this area; installations were deserted hastily and prisoners indicated that they had been more than willing to surrender.

During the night, the enemy shelling was light, but between the hours of 0730 and 1400, it increased noticeably. An enemy patrol was driven off from the line at 0400, and 3 of its number were killed.

On 21 January 1945, an enemy counterattack consisting of 150 infantry supported by 3 assault guns attacked at 0915 from the west against the positions of the 1st and 3rd Battalions. The attack was preceded by an artillery barrage and the enemy came dangerously close to our lines before being observed, so close that it was impossible to bring artillery fire down on them. Our troops stopped the attack with small arms fire, separating the enemy infantry from the self-propelled guns. While frontal fire was directed against the attack, three tanks and some infantrymen from the 1st Battalion outflanked the enemy on their right and were able to bring effective fire on them. The first assault gun was knocked out and accurate small arms fire accounted for a good share of the enemy infantry. By 1100, the attack had been repulsed and the box score showed 24 PW's taken and an estimated 70 enemy killed.

A patrol from the 1st Battalion reconnoitered Nieder Emmels and contacted enemy infantry and assault guns before returning at 1440.

The 30th Reconnaissance Troop continued to occupy its defensive position at Wolfbusch. The 2nd Battalion remained in position sending out patrols to keep supply roads open and clear. Contact with the 117th Infantry Regiment was maintained.

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On 22 January 1945, our Regiment had as its mission the seizing of objective "U", the two villages Ober Emmels and Nieder Emmels. The 2nd Battalion moving from the vicinity of Peckelsborn attacked toward Ober Emmels which was the western part of objective "U". Attacking at 1430, Company "B" took the objective with little opposition. Company "E" then attacked from Company "B's" position and neutralized the northern part of the objective. Though enemy resistance was light, 187 prisoners were taken, and 5 tanks were knocked out.

PW statements attributed our success in this drive to the speed with which our advance surrounded them. It is more than likely, however, that our steady pressure and unrelenting progress leading up to this drive convinced them of the uselessness of continuing the fight.

After the 2nd Battalion had taken the objective, it was relieved by the 3rd Battalion. The relief was completed at 2230, when the 2nd Battalion returned to its former area at Peckelsborn.

The 50th Reconnaissance Troop was relieved from attachment to our Regiment and assigned to the 117th Infantry Regiment, effective at 1730, this date.

On 23 January 1945, the 5th Battalion moved from Nieder Emmels to Malsay and the position they vacated was occupied by the 1st Battalion. The 2nd Battalion remained in Peckelsborn.

During the period 24 - 26 January 1945, all Battalions remained in their respective areas. Reinforcements were received and some time was spent in rest and reorganization. Light training was conducted, consisting of battle orientation discussions, combat tips from veteran soldiers, first aid instruction and classes in winter combat hygiene. In addition to this, part of the time was devoted to care and cleaning of equipment with special emphasis being placed on the condition of all weapons.

The 120th Infantry Command Post moved from Ligneville to Sart, Belgium, on 27 January 1945, and was in operation at 1115. The 1st Battalion closed into its area in Verlemont, Belgium, at 1230, the 2nd Battalion into its area at Sart at 1615 and the 3rd Battalion into Hart by 2130.

On 28 January 1945, the 120th Infantry Regiment stressed in training the care and cleaning of equipment. Church services were held. Billed out were cleaned. The 250th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company moved into Salmshateau, Belgium, at 1100. Plans for a gas school to be held on 29 January 1945 were formulated.

Training on 29 January 1945 consisted mainly of firing of weapons; several periods were given to individual and group tactics. One noncommissioned officer from each platoon attended the Regimental Gas School. On 30 and 31 January 1945, training of all types was conducted. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were shown a film entitled "Germany - Non Fraternization." Part of the personnel of the 1st and 3rd Battalions were taken to Stavelot for baths. All Battalions of this Regiment were shown the new M-24 American light tank for familiarization. Improvised snow suits, woolen booties for feet, and other garments of warmth were fabricated and distributed.

The total number of prisoners taken during the month of January 1945 was 448. The prisoners belonged to the following units:

246 Volk Grenadier Division
 18 Volk Grenadier Division
 3 Parachute Division
 244 Assault Gun Brigade
 905 Assault Gun Brigade
 883 Marsch Battalion
 884 Marsch Battalion
 460 Artillery Battalion
 298 Construction Battalion
 434 Construction Battalion
 9 SS Panzer Division (stragglers)

CASUALTIES FROM 1 JANUARY 1945 TO 31 JANUARY 1945 INCLUSIVE

	Officers	EM	TOTAL
Killed in Action	9	117	126
Wounded & Injured	27	481	498
Missing in Action	7	160	167
Captured	0	0	0
Total -	43	758	801
From Wounded & Graduated to Returned	6	216	222
From MIA to other Battle Casualty status	1	71	72
or returned	0	11	11
Died of Wounds	0	11	11

CASUALTY SUMMARY TO DATE

Killed in Action	52	868	920
Wounded & Injured	175	2915	4090
Missing in Action	83	432	515
Captured	5	101	106
Total -	315	5316	5631
Died of Wounds	9	113	122

Thus January 1945 saw the 120th Infantry Regiment take the offensive in the campaign of the Belgian salient. It saw that Regiment take a decisive and important part in the reduction of "the bulge." It saw that Regiment pave the way on the hard road from Malmedy to St. Vith, one of the key cities of the salient. At times, as in Thirimont, the 120th Infantry Regiment played a spectacular role against the Germans; at others, as on "Wolfsbusch", the soldiers had only the dull, blinding snow and biting wind for their greatest foe. But spectacular or not, it was the toughest month of fighting the 120th Infantry Regiment has seen since entering combat. Throughout, the doughboys fought doggedly and yard by yard against a stubborn enemy, some of the best of Hitler's few remaining; they fought the cold and snow, in one of the bitterest winters of the area in many years; and they fought now, hilly, wooded terrain which would trouble the boldest of attackers. For the month of January, the 120th Infantry Regiment has again accomplished its mission.

R.P. Pluck

B. E. PLUCK
Colonel, 120th Infantry
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
APO 30, US Army

BPP:JCH:dr

4 March 1945

319.1/401 (o)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After / After Action Reports.

TO : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 30, US Army.

1. The following summary of operations covers the period 010001 February 1945 through and including 282400 February 1945.

2. Summary of Operations:

1 February

On 1 February 1945, the Command Post of the 120th Infantry REGIMENT was located in SART, Belgium. The REGIMENT was in a period of training and rest following the campaign of the Belgian salient, wherein it had pushed the German lines from MALMEDY to NIEBER EMBELS. The Antitank Company was in PROVEDROU, Cannon Company was with the 250th Field Artillery in SALMCHATEAU.

The 1ST BATTALION was billeted in houses at VERLEUMONT, the 2ND BATTALION at GRAND-SART, and the 3RD BATTALION at HALT. All Battalions were receiving reinforcements and extensive training was conducted, covering group combat and weapons technique.

2 February

On the following day, while training continued in the Battalion areas, final plans were laid for a movement from Belgium to Germany.

3 February

At 0545, the morning of the 3rd, the REGIMENTAL Command Post at SART closed, and the Command Group had crossed the REGIMENTAL Initial Point at SALMCHATEAU 15 minutes later, the Division Initial Point at GRAND HALLEAUX in another half hour. The Command Post was established at 0606 in BROICHWEIEN, Germany (894486).

Meanwhile, the 1ST BATTALION had moved from VERLEUMONT and by 0950, had opened its Command Post in BROICHWEIEN (900500), where the Companies were quartered in houses. The 2ND BATTALION had settled in its assembly area in the same town (890480) by 1100. It was 1130 when the 3RD BATTALION, having been last in the march column, completed the movement into its area 1000 yards north of ZOFF (873545).

Men worked to renovate their battle-scarred quarters and spent the afternoon cleaning equipment. Preparations were made for extensive training to begin the following day.

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4 February

For the next three days, the troops were busy reconditioning and training. Platoons took tactical walks over the ground where the REGIMENT once fought. Weapons were fired. The Antitank Company test-fired on Tiger tanks wrecked out near WUCHEN. Special periods were given to House-to-house fighting and to demolitions. The 2ND BATTALION had a practice night attack on ST. JORIS at 0630 on 5 February 1945.

The INTELLIGENCE and RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON dispatched six three-man patrols on the night of 5 February to the ROER River in the vicinity of PIER. They investigated the bare banks on the near side for possible crossings. One patrol effected a crossing just south of KRAUTHAUSEN, searched out the area to its front, but found no enemy and was not fired upon. The other patrols were not able to agree because of either the depth of the river, or the speed of the current, or the soft, engulfing, mud bottom.

Two more patrols from the platoon went out the following night again to find good crossing points for a battalion, but as with patrols from all units along the ROER, they found the river had risen to at least chest-height a third of the way across, and could not gain the opposite banks.

7 February

On 7 February, the troops continued training. The 1ST BATTALION had a practice night attack from 0400 to 0630 near KINZWEILER.

The 120th Infantry REGIMENT prepared to move under cover of darkness to a forward assembly area at INDEN on the ROER River. Plans were made for the 1ST BATTALION to move to PUTZLOHN (992516), and the 3RD to INDEN (027522), while the 2ND BATTALION remained in its present area. On schedule, at 1900, the REGIMENTAL Command Post left BROICHWEIDEN; by 2010, it had reached its new location (090225). The 3RD BATTALION had closed in by 2100, the 1ST by 2130. The men detucked and spruced up their areas for the night. Forward elements of both Battalions were stationed at PIER with weapons and equipment to be picked up on the attack.

8 February

Late in the afternoon of 8 February, the 2ND BATTALION was prepared to move. The BROICHWEIDEN Command Post closed at 1800, and the Battalion moved into a new assembly area at LAERSDORF (024508) on the INDE River. Forward elements, consisting of the mortar platoon and some elements of Headquarters Company were posted at PIER (057526).

Elements of the 1ST and 2ND BATTALIONS improved their living quarters, and cleaned weapons.

9-14 February

The 120th Infantry was now ready for the attack, although it lacked training in the crossing of rivers. While plans were being formulated, activity was divided between training and patrolling.

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Training included review subjects, but stressed two forms of fighting: assault team and river crossing tactics. In village, tank and night fighting, the assault team principle was put into practice.

With painstaking care, since it was to be of key importance, river crossing instruction was conducted on the banks of the INDE River. At four different sites between INDEN and LAMERSDORF, men began learning the way to haul, load, row and launch the assault boats which were to cross the ROER. Smooth functioning was vital so troops were rehearsed frequently on the sequence of duties and familiarized with the technique of working with rubber and wood boats. Day after day, the Battalions practiced. Night crossings, too, were scheduled; the 2ND BATTALION, which was scheduled to lead the attack, rehearsed on four different nights. The 1ST BATTALION crossed the INDE on the night of 14 February.

Patrol activity continued. The 2ND BATTALION sent patrols with Engineers on 7 February to find a crossing. The Engineers could not find a satisfactory spot, and no crossing was made. The following night, patrols from the 2ND BATTALION found the River much higher and again impossible to cross.

In the meantime, Observation Posts in MERKEN and SCHOPHOVEN kept a constant eye on daylight activity on the far banks of the ROER, on KRAUTHAUSEN, and on NISERZIER in the distance. Bicyclists and light vehicles were observed; men were seen to enter "haystacks" and dug-in positions, and to run to factories in the town and back among the houses. Wide trenches, too, could be discerned, along with wire obstacles damaged by artillery. Attached to the 230th Field Artillery in INDEN, Cannon Company brought fire on many of the enemy observed.

15-16 February

Training continued for the period 15-22 February. Small arms, bazookas and antitank guns were fired in a large mine excavation pit beside the Adolf Hitler Autobahn, north of ESHWEILER. Mortars were fired in an area between PUTZLOHN and LAMERSDORF.

17-21 February

The REGIMENTAL Command Post remained in INDEN till 25 February. For the four days following the 17th of February, two of the Battalions moved in turn to the Recreation Area near KERKRADE for two days' rest. The 3RD BATTALION left INDEN at 1800 on the 17th, and returned by 2140 on the 19th, when the 2ND BATTALION started at 1800 and was back in LAMERSDORF by 1915 on the 21st.

Training schedules for the Battalions not in rest included a problem, by the 1ST BATTALION with light tanks from the 744th Armored Battalion. Emphasis was placed during this period on Attack of Fortified Positions, and Street Combat.

At 2030 on the night of 18 February, the 2ND BATTALION dispatched a patrol, again headed toward the banks of the ROER. It went through PIER along the main road to the river. On the bank due east of PIER, the patrol picked up a boat, and crossed the ROER at a point southwest of SELHAUSEN (084523). They moved 100 yards inland, and noted a double apron fence and three communication trenches. From a spot about 100 yards south of SELHAUSEN,

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a machine gun pecked at them. In making their way 500 yards to the north, they crossed several small trenches which were waist deep in water. Though the ground was wet and noisy and though they heard rifle and mortar fire north of them, they saw no enemy and were not fired upon. The patrol was back in the Battalion area at 0200.

Patrols from the 2ND BATTALION and the 195th Engineers explored the river banks in our sector during the next three nights. On the 19th and 20th, crossings could not be made: the water was high and the current forced the boats back to the west bank. On the night of the 21st, four patrols were dispatched. Of them, three crossed, one in the area of BELHAUSEN, one along a line of telephone poles at (068539) and the third in the 119th Infantry area to our left (north). In an attempt to recross farther south at (072540), the latter patrol overturned a boat and one man was lost, believed to be drowned.

22 February

ALL BATTALIONS conducted training on 22 February in their respective areas, or fired weapons at the "Durwies Pit", as scheduled. Enemy jet-propelled planes dropped bombs at LAMERSDORF, INDEN and ALTDOEF.

At the REGIMENTAL Command Post, in the meantime, long awaited orders for the attack had arrived.

The order called for the 120th Infantry REGIMENT initially to take four objectives: "A", KRAUTHAUSEN (078537) and "C", BELHAUSEN (085526); "B", the high ground in the vicinity of BERG (090540) and "D", HIEDERZIER (095550). To the 2ND BATTALION fell the mission of taking "A" and "C" immediately after it had effected a river crossing. The 3RD BATTALION was to move through the 2ND BATTALION to take "B", and then to continue forward with the 1ST BATTALION to take "D".

For crossing the ROER, the plans were (1) to cross in small boats at a point due east of FIER (073532); (2) if (1) failed, to cross in engineer boats at a site opposite BELHAUSEN (083525); (3) if both (1) and (2) fail, to cross two companies in amphibious "alligators" at site (073532), and the remainder at a bridge near SOHPHOVEN in the 119th Infantry sector (066541); (3B) if all others failed, to cross the entire Battalion at the 119th Infantry bridge. The 3RD BATTALION was to follow the 2ND.

The 2ND BATTALION moved to FIER at 2050; the 1ST BATTALION was preparing to move from PUTZLOHN; and by 0150 the next day, had closed into INDEN. The 3RD BATTALION followed the 2ND into FIER at 0158.

23 February

According to previous plan, an hour before midnight previous to the attack, two parties of Engineers had made their way to the banks of the ROER River. One went to work at construction of a foot bridge north of the FIER road, but it was detected and shelled; after several fruitless attempts, the bridge was abandoned. The other party had the difficult project of fixing a pull-rope across the swollen river, which at that point (073529) was almost half a mile wide, and flooded the neighboring fields to ankle depth in canals.

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For two hours the group struggled with a rubber boat; it finally gained the opposite shore and secured the rope.

Shortly before 0100, Company "G" moved across the fields from PIER to the crossing site. The large rubber boats were slid into the shining waters and started across along the rope. The current was strong, however, and progress was slow. Just short of the opposite bank, the boat was overturned, and the men swam to shore. Another boat made its jerky way across. A third tipped over before it had made a good start. Other Company "G" men had, meanwhile, launched small rubber assault boats 200 yards south of the Engineer site and tried to paddle over the water in them. They succeeded with extreme difficulty in gaining the opposite bank. The Battalion S-3 sent word that the small assault boats could negotiate the crossing, and Company "Z" with diverse elements of the Battalion back at PIER began assembling the craft, of which 64 were obtainable, and carrying them to the site.

Company "P" started toward the river almost an hour after Company "G" and ~~took~~ took a different route approximately 300 yards south of and parallel to the PIER road. As it reached the banks of the river, "alligators" M-2 and M-4, driven from PIER at the same time, growled forward into the water and effected an easy crossing.

Meanwhile in the clear moonlight, the enemy across the river had heard and observed the movement at the Engineer boat site, and mortar fire began falling close to the ROER banks and the fields behind. Company "G" halted in entrenchments in the fields. At this point, only 30 men had crossed and were awaiting the remainder of the Company on the other side. It was time for the attack: 0330. Speedy action was necessary.

The successful crossing of the "alligators" made it expedient to change plans. In the dark and amidst fire, the Battalion was notified that Plan 3A would go into effect. Company "P", well-briefed, proceeded to mount the "alligators" and was shuttled across. On the opposite side, the platoons organized and moved forward to a Line of Departure (082528) just southeast of BELHAUSEN. When all but the Weapons Platoon of Company "P" had crossed, "alligators" began shuttling from the small assault boat site the remainder of Company "G".

Word reached the Battalion Commander that Company "P" men were stumbling upon antipersonnel mines cleverly planted on trees and bushes in the Pierer Wald, through which they were maneuvering to their Line of Departure. Determining to send only the necessary troops through the dangerous Pierer Wald, the Battalion Commander notified Company "E" to start across the river via the footbridge (067540) in the 119th Infantry sector. All but one squad and the mortar section of Company "G" worked through the Wald to a Line of Departure (079035) southeast of KRAUTHAUSEN.

The remainder of the Battalion had crossed the footbridge by 0445, and Company "E" was on a Line of Departure (075544), 100 yards north of KRAUTHAUSEN, ready to strike at 0500. Company "E" hit the enemy first. Following an artillery barrage on its objective "Able Easy" (north half of KRAUTHAUSEN), it attacked shortly after 0500. It was an hour and a half later when "Able Easy" taken, Company "G" crossed its Line of Departure for "Able George".

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(south half of KRAUTHAUSEN). Company "M" was ready and received the order to attack SKLHAUSEN at 0700.

In face of weather and enemy working against our forces, the river had finally been crossed. That vital plans could be changed in the extreme circumstances was possible only through thorough planning and well-oriented troops. Only because every possibility had been foreseen and allowed for, was the REGIMENT able to acquire its objective.

As daylight came, generator and chemical smoke veiled ideally the bridge construction and parts of the bridgehead. The 2ND BATTALION now faced machine gun and mortar fire, however, from an enemy who had had three months to prepare positions. In a railroad station at KRAUTHAUSEN, the Germans had set up a strong point and with gun emplacements all around them, kept our boys at bay for some time. When Company "O" was tried to help a wounded German who lay in an exposed position, they received machine fire from the station. Finally, while covered by five team companies, three different groups of the Company rushed the station from different sides, and captured with prisoners.

Company "P" had little trouble with SKLHAUSEN, although engineers constituted a real problem. By 1030, the two objectives had fallen "P" into the hands of Companies "M" and "O". "P" took into those of Company "M" and the Companies were consolidating their positions. Contact was established with the high infantry on the right. Among the 20 prisoners captured in these areas, some admitted they had been ordered to hold it at all costs.

Meanwhile, the 2ND BATTALION had moved from INDEL to PIER at 0640 and then to the vicinity of SCHORHOVEN at 0700, in order to cover the BCO behind Company "Z". They followed along on the heels of that Company as he moved into KRAUTHAUSEN, and searched in an area (074500) within the town awaiting the clearing out and consolidation of objectives "A" and "C". Last minute plans were made for the attack upon objective "A", the first high ground due east of KRAUTHAUSEN.

At 1145, with Companies "I" and "K" leading on either side of the main road, the Battalion moved out across the open terrain toward its objective under cover of the smoke concealing the bridgehead area. Company "M" was held up on the right flank by a self-propelled gun, light protective machine gun and light mortar fire was encountered. Within one hour and five minutes, however, Companies "I" and "K" were digging in along the crest of the high ground facing the once prosperous rural town of NIBERZIER. Across the fields back to the EPN walked 50 prisoners.

Back at PIER, where the 1ST BATTALION had moved from INDEL at 0600, word reached the Battalion Commander to execute prepared plans for a night attack on NIBERZIER. The Battalion was alerted, and at 1730, marched from PIER across the bridge near SCHORHOVEN and through KRAUTHAUSEN toward BERG. It was a cloudy night, but frequently anti-aircraft searchlights in the distance imparted a glow which made visibility good. Thus, at 1024, the 1ST BATTALION was prepared to attack from the area of Companies "I" and "K" toward the south half of Objective "D"; Companies "A" and "C" were to lead.

At 2300, the Battalion pushed forward. It followed a withering

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rolling barrage of High Explosive and White Phosphorus. Forward elements were prepared to cross the ELLE BACH, a small barrier on the western edge of town, in case the bridge had been destroyed. An hour and a half after the 1ST, the 3RD BATTALION attacked from the same area to take the northern half of NIEDERZIER. Southwest of the town extended a system of trenches, which might have been a strong point. Here, the 1ST BATTALION took 15 prisoners with little effort. A strong point north of NIEDERZIER proved to be a different story, however; Company "A" spent one hour and a half knocking it out. Inside the town, too, the enemy was stubborn, and used "burp" guns, bazookas, automatic fire and had planted antipersonnel mines. For some time, a self-propelled gun which had posted itself in the woods due east of the town was a chief difficulty.

Surprise, nevertheless, had caught most of the enemy off guard, and one prisoner stated that the infantry followed so close upon the artillery that there was no chance to put up a fire fight. By 0630, both Battalions had cleared out their objectives, and had sent to the rear 156 prisoners.

24 February

At midnight, the REGIMENT was in a height of activity. Although elements of the 120th Infantry were still using the bridges in the sector of the 119th Infantry, Engineers were at work at (C7302) a site opposite KRAUTHAUSEN. Here, "alligators" had been at work since noon of the day before, transporting supplies and ammunition, guns and tools, across the river.

Meanwhile, as dawn came, the 1ST and 3RD BATTALIONS were setting up defense lines around NIEDERZIER. As soon as possible after the attack was launched, the Engineers had cleared the road of mines, and Tank Destroyers had moved over the ELLE BACH bridge, which had not been damaged, into the town.

Meanwhile, the 2ND BATTALION was protecting the rear and flanks of the REGIMENT. At 0415, it sent a platoon of Company "F", reinforced, and one of Company "G", reinforced, to relieve Companies "I" and "K" on Objective "B". At 0700, Company "B", 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, became attached to the Battalion, and a platoon was assigned to the defense of each of the objectives, "A", "B" and "C". At 1030, the platoon on Objective "A" was relieved and attached to the 1ST BATTALION defending Objective "D".

Two chateaux, WEIDERHOF and PRETZERHOF, converted into strong points lying to the east just out of the town still harassed the troops. The former was in the 3RD, the latter in the 1ST BATTALION zones. At 1515, the 3RD BATTALION sent one platoon of Company "K" to knock out WEIDERHOF on the road to the north. The platoon encountered only small arms, and easily overcame the post, and without suffering any casualties took 15 prisoners. The platoon set up an outpost at the chateau. At the same time, a platoon of Company "A" from the 1ST BATTALION attacked PRETZERHOF. They were met with a volume of small arms, and noted a 75mm gun in the installation. They moved in fast enough to take prisoners, and the gun, and to kill an officer attempting to fire the gun. The platoon then withdrew to their lines.

Meanwhile, the 117th Infantry Regiment had been following close behind as the 120th moved from objective to objective; it was ready to push, and after the strong point at WEIDERHOF had been eliminated, it moved through

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at 1600 in the attack of NEU HAMBACH (116575) and STEINSTRASS (122598).

Company "O" sent a platoon patrol to search out the woods (110547) east and southeast of NIEDERZIER at 2100. They returned at 2340 with the report that although it had investigated up to 200 yards within the light woods, no enemy had been contacted.

25 February

By this time, it was believed that the enemy defenses had been broken, and while the other two Regiments of the Division were forging ahead, the 120th Infantry REGIMENT took up the defense of Division's rear and right flank, preparing meanwhile to move through the 117th Infantry as soon as the objectives "Höllen" and "Rödingen" were taken.

The REGIMENTAL Command Post moved at 1337, on 25 February, from INDEN to NIEDERZIER (109549). As of 0800, the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 30th Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 120th Combat Team. One Company of the Tank Destroyer Battalion was attached to each of our Battalions. The 825th was, therefore, relieved of attachment. The 30th Reconnaissance Troop took positions around NIEDERZIER; it and the 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion were relieved of attachment to the 120th Infantry the next day and attached to the 113th Cavalry Group.

Investigation of NIEDERZIER, which had once been a key point in the enemy defense, led to the discovery of many potentially effective installations. A steel pillbox with revolving turret, dug-in positions equipped with undamaged guns, a fake cannon emplacement, and an extensive minefield were reported. That the positions had not been mined effectively was indicative of poor morale among the enemy; their appearance was washed-out, too, and they showed satisfaction at being taken.

The 3RD BATTALION sent Company "K", at 1235, to establish four blocks along the NIEDERZIER-STEINSTRASS road in the Radinger Wald opposite NEU HAMBACH and WINTERSBACH in the vicinity of (122574). Company "K" was in position in an hour and a half; a platoon of Company "L" relieved them later in the day.

26 February

Company "I" moved out at 0200 the next day through the dark of the Radinger Wald to establish four more blocks along the STEINSTRASS road in a line extending northeast from the first four.

Meanwhile, the 117th and 119th Infantry Regiments were pushing no longer eastward, but instead to the north, and had taken STEINSTRASS, LICHT, HÖLLEN and ÖBERBERG. The taking of Objective "Eatery", RODINGEN (105638), by the 119th Infantry was the signal for the 120th Infantry to move through on the attack of "Berge" and "Jean", as the objectives KALRATH (105665) and GROTTENHERTEN (125675) were called.

When RODINGEN fell, the morning of 26 February, the REGIMENTAL Commander completed immediate plans for the attack and for displacement forward. At 1437, the Command Post had moved from NIEDERZIER to a lone farmhouse (098619),

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300 yards southwest of HOLLER. Here the Command Post opened at 1523. The 801st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the 30th Reconnaissance Troop were relieved of attachment to the 120th Combat Team at 1100. The 744th Tank Battalion and Company "B" of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion were attached at 1000.

During the morning, the REGIMENTAL Commander issued a verbal attack order to his Battalion Commanders. The 2ND BATTALION planned to move forward at once, and to make reconnaissance for an attack upon KALRATH. Less Company "F", which was attached to the 1ST BATTALION, the 2ND BATTALION moved to an assembly area in the woods south of STRINSTRASS (122599). By 1720, the Battalion Commander had made his reconnaissance; the Battalion was ready to take "Marge."

At 1630, the 1ST BATTALION, plus Company "F", marched northwest from HIEDERZIER and had closed into RODINGEN by 2030.

The 3RD BATTALION remained in its defensive positions around HIEDERZIER and on the eight roadblocks until 1100, when the 113th Cavalry Group had taken over the positions, and the Battalion withdrew to an assembly area within the town.

At 2030, in coordination with an attack on KIROHROISDORF (146633) by the 117th Infantry, the 2ND BATTALION moved out from RODINGEN toward KALRATH. Company "G" led. The troops met tank fire, as well as small arms and light mortar, but in 25 minutes had entered the town. The tanks were active for a short time, but all except one Mark IV withdrew to the northeast; a white phosphorous grenade set one of the tanks afire, forcing out the occupants, and rendering it incapable of joining its "comrades." The Battalion moved steadily from house to house, and an hour after entering town, were mopping up. After the Engineers had cleared the road, a platoon of Tank Destroyers moved in behind the doughboys; in the process, two were detracked by plastic mines. By 2300, the objective was consolidated.

Of key importance in the seizure of the next town, GROTTENHERTEN, was the neutralization of a probable strong point on a road just southwest of the town. One platoon of Company "E" attempted to clean out the point at (118658), but met such a volume of small arms and tank fire, that it was forced to withdraw, while the artillery concentrated on GROTTENHERTEN and the point.

27 February

Two hours after midnight, the 1ST BATTALION was on its way into KALRATH; the area from which the REGIMENTAL Commander had deemed an attack on GROTTENHERTEN would be most successful. Moving northeast, Company "F", attached, and Companies "A" and "B" were to take Objective "Helsen", the town of KIRCHHERTEN (123684), while Company "O" on the right flank was to capture Objective "Jean", GROTTENHERTEN, just south and almost contiguous with KIRCHHERTEN. Attached to the 1ST BATTALION was a Company of tanks from the 744th Armored Battalion (L) and a platoon of Tank Destroyers from the Company "B" of 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The open fields of the Cologne plain made long wide avenues of fire,

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and Companies "F" (on the left flank), "A", and "B" advancing toward KIRCHHERTEN soon knew that tanks in the town were taking advantage of those fields. Company "B" had to pass over higher ground than the others and several squads were pinned down and blasted by the enemy tanks. Machine gun fire was sprinkled frantically, if not accurately, over the flat ground. Parties from Companies "A" and "C" crawled steadily toward the towns, and after reaching them, harassed the enemy therein while the remainder of the Battalion came onto the objective. The enemy tanks withdrew northward when the pressure of the infantry became too great. Company "F" caught one Mark V with hexagons; the artillery knocked out two retreating Mark IV's. Apparently lacking only the personnel to man it, one tank was discovered intact in a courtyard in KIRCHHERTEN. By 0800 and with few casualties for the 120th Infantry, the two towns were secured, and soon rear elements were flowing into them. Among the 60 prisoners caught were several bald but dignified policemen who wore more colorful uniforms than the soldiers.

The 2ND BATTALION moved forward from KIRCHHERTEN; at 0800, it had established its Command Post at KIRCHHERTEN. Plans were underway to reduce two strong points north of the town; one was the high ground around KATSKORB (116708), known as Objective "Sarah"; the other was the cluster at HAHNERHOF about 500 yards east of "Sarah". Accordingly at 1230, Company "E", supported by a Company from the 744th Armored Battalion (L), moved from the northern edge of KIRCHHERTEN and against only small arms fire, closed in upon KATSKORB where 44 prisoners were taken within half an hour. At 1620, a platoon of Company "E" crossed the fields to HAHNERHOF, which fell into our hands in 20 minutes. At 1415, Company "F" reverted to 2ND BATTALION control.

When the 1ST BATTALION crossed the line of Departure at 0500, the 3RD BATTALION was moving out of KIRCHHERTEN in trucks which brought them by 0530 to RODINGEN. The men detrusked and rested there till 1000; at that time, they marched to KIRCHHERTEN where a temporary Command Post was established.

In the meantime, the REGIMENTAL Command Post moved from the farmhouse south of HOLLEN to KIRCHHERTEN (123684) at 1300.

Halting only momentarily, the 3RD BATTALION passed through the town to the north, and from a line of Departure in the vicinity of "Sarah", Company "K" started toward Objective "Mora", the large rural town of GARZEILER (130749). Mounted on M-10's from Company "B", of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and the M-24 light tanks of the 744th Armored Battalion, Company "I" followed close behind.

The town was apparently to be a key defense center. 100mm assault guns, antitank guns, and tanks were contained in it. Mines were planted around it. The 3RD BATTALION troops were aggressive, however, and the Tank Destroyers swept quickly across the soft muddy fields. Only one tank destroyer was derailed by a mine. There were an estimated 350 enemy in the town, but that their initially poor morale was altogether extinguished by the artillery and onrushing doughboys, tanks and Tank Destroyers is revealed by the fact that 216 of them surrendered. The men were well along in years and were radiant at being captured. They all had artillery-fired Passierschein, safe conduct certificates to the Allied PW cage. Of greater value to the Nazis, in all probability, was the equipment lost in GARZEILER: three 100mm assault guns,

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three antitank guns, with the cover still on the breech, all in excellent shape, and four tanks, one, a Mark V, completely intact.

The 1ST BATTALION had followed behind the 3RD as it moved toward the objective. It halted in a deflated area 300 yards southwest of "Sarah". In case help was needed, the 1ST BATTALION was prepared.

The 3RD BATTALION needed no help, and consolidated its gain by 1930. At 2000, the 1ST BATTALION was ordered to return to an assembly area in the town of GROTTENHERTZEN and KIRCHHERTZEN. This movement was completed at 2100.

28 February

Company "L" had been in reserve during the attack on GARZWELER. At 0700 on the morning of 28 February, it passed through Company "K" and moved toward Objective "Fanny", two small built-up areas, St. LEONARD (160745) and REISPORF (160755), 2500 yards east of GARZWELER. At 0738, the Battalion reported that "Fanny" and 56 prisoners had been taken, and that Company "L" was remaining on that objective, two platoons in each area.

For some time, the 2nd Armored Division had been moving behind our forward elements, ready to push through the lines. Early in the morning of the last day of the month, elements of that Division moved northward through the lines of the 30th Division.

Since the 25rd of February, the 120th Infantry REGIMENT had taken ten major objectives, had crossed the ROER River and reduced numerous strong points, and had taken 816 prisoners and few casualties. It had knocked out 7 tanks, and had captured five 88mm, five 75mm and four 20mm guns, along with three 100mm howitzers, 5 tanks, six mortars and 24 machine guns. But the enemy was giving way before the overwhelming power which had been so successful thus far, and it was time to press, not to slacken, the attack. On the last day of February, plans were being made for taking new objectives and for moving forward.

Units or elements thereof encountered in the month of February

1945:

- 363 Infantry Division
- 11 Panzer Division
- 1220 Infantry Regiment
- 1036 Infantry Regiment
- 9 Panzer Signal Battalion
- 1 Battalion, 159 Artillery Regiment
- 11 Battery, 409 Artillery Corps
- 388 Volk Artillery Corps
- 35 AAA Regiment
- 48 AAA Regiment
- 341 Assault Gun Brigade
- 668 Heavy GHQ AT Battalion
- 7 Battery 85 mortar (Werfer) Battalion
- Police Battalion BEHRENS
- VOLKSTURM OT SPIX (SPICKE)

Total count of prisoners received in the month of February 1945:

819.

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CASUALTIES FROM 1 FEBRUARY 1945 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1945 INCLUSIVE

	Officers	EM	Total
Killed in Action	2	41	43
Wounded & Injured	6	206	212
Missing in Action	0	7	7
Captured	0	0	0
- Total -	8	254	262
From Wounded & Evacuated to Returned	9	189	198
From MIA to Other BC status or Returned	1	24	25
Died of Wounds	0	3	3

CASUALTY SUMMARY TO DATE

Killed in Action	54	935	987
Wounded & Injured	181	4121	4302
Missing in Action	13	330	343
Captured	12	183	195
- Total -	260	5565	5827
Died of Wounds	9	118	127

From Belgium to Germany for intensive training; then across the ROER River in a front-wide sweep, and northward in a flanking, enemy-petrifying flow of power. So, in brief, reads the REGIMENTAL history for the shortest month of the year. It was the 120th Infantry's most rapid action in combat.

B. F. Purdue
B. F. PURDUE
Colonel - 120th Infantry
Commanding

1 Incl:
Journals and Supporting Documents

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HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
APO 30, US Army

Br:JMS:dr

12 April 1945

ETO

12 Dec 45

319.1/401 (e)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After / After Action Reports
TO : Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 30, US Army.

1. The following summary of operations covers the period 010001
March 1945 through and including 312400 March 1945.

2. Resums:

1 March

The first day of March found the Command Post of the 120th Infantry in a former restaurant in the center of KIRCHHERTEN (124684), a town which the 1ST BATTALION had taken two days before. During the advance following the crossing of the ROER RIVER, the REGIMENT had surged from KRAUTHAUSEN (015539) to GARZEWEILER (130749).

The 1ST and 2ND BATTALIONS were in assembly areas near the REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS in KIRCHHERTEN.

The 3RD BATTALION which had seized GARZEWEILER two days before was organized for a perimeter defense of that town; Company "L" had taken REISDORF (160753) and ST. LEONARD (160746) the day before, and its platoons were defending both hamlets about 500 yards apart. The night before Company "I" had established a roadblock 2000 yards northeast of REISDORF (175769), cutting the road to ELSEN from enemy-held GUSTORF (179732), and MORNEN (165718) along the ERPT RIVER, the only water barrier between the ROER and the RHINE. During the early morning of 1 March, the men defending the roadblock experienced a heavy shelling from the enemy.

At 0930, men of Company "L" in REISDORF and ST. LEONARD perceived numerous white flags across the flat fields hanging from houses in GUSTORF. When the Regimental Commander was notified, he ordered a four-man party to investigate the town, and in an hour and 15 minutes, the Battalion S-3 and two men with a white flag were walking from REISDORF toward GUSTORF. The party was met at GUSTORF by excited civilians who said most of the enemy soldiers had already left; as they were explaining, a group of ten men in German uniform approached and surrendered. The S-3 and his party returned with the prisoners to GARZEWEILER. Suddenly, they heard a deafening explosion when the Germans, retreating to the east, blew the bridges over the ERPT in GUSTORF.

At noon, the commanding officer of the 3RD BATTALION moved his headquarters to GUSTORF (Objective "Mary"). Reinforced by the 1ST and 2ND BATTALIONS, a company of light tanks from the 120th Light Tank Battalion, and a platoon from Company "G", 105th Engineer Battalion, the 3RD BATTALION moved into the town without opposition. Companies

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"X" on the north, and "I" on the south, defended the flanks of the village, while the engineers and elements of Company "I" endeavored to secure the bridges across the ERFT, but found them both blown. In the process of occupation, completed at 1600, 29 more prisoners were captured.

At 1745, a patrol was dispatched from Company "I" to investigate more thoroughly the blown bridges and attempt to cross the ERFT into a suburb of NEUENHAUSEN (196754) due east of GUSTORF. They received heavy small arms fire at the bridge and were unable to cross, even to the island formed by a split in the river where the main road crossed it. Company "I" also sent troops to outpost LAACH (195767), a small village northwest of GUSTORF known as Objective "Ida." By 1700, Objectives "Mary" and "Ida" were consolidated, and contact was made with the 19th Infantry to the right (south).

Meanwhile, the 1ST BATTALION had been alerted at 1625 and prepared to move to the town of WEITHAUSEN (196795), ORKEN (167905), and the western half of GRESSENBOICH (195777) to relieve the 3rd Battalion of the 221st Infantry, 87th Division, which was continuing its advance north. At 1745, after the companies had departed in trucks with an attached platoon of Company "B", 887th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the Battalion Command Post left KIRCHBERG, it had reached its new location at 1915. Company "A", with two TDS attached, moved into WEITHAUSEN, Company "B" into ORKEN, and Company "C", with two TDS attached, into GRESSENBOICH.

2 March

The morning of the following day a platoon of Company "C" was sent to investigate the eastern portion of GRESSENBOICH across the river. It received small arms fire from the island formed by a split in the river, and later, machine gun fire from across the ERFT, but the resistance seemed to retreat before the patrol, and later in the afternoon, the entire town was searched and found clear.

Meanwhile, the 87th Division in its northwest advance had met armored counterattack. The 221st Infantry Command Post was in HEMMERDEN (200513). Twelve hundred yards to the northeast, the Germans had organized a crossroads with seven tanks and infantry troops. Our REGIMENT was ordered to make sure the town was clear and defend it against an exploitation of the counterattack.

Company "A" was alerted and, at 1440, moved by truck 2000 yards over the ELSEN--HEMMERDEN road to the town where the 221st Infantry Headquarters was located. The town was found clear, and a semi-circular defense was hastily established against attack from the east and north.

Word reached our troops that Company "I", of the 221st Infantry, had been cut off in KAPPELEN (220515) to the northeast, by the enemy force which had crossed the ERFT RIVER apparently from NEVELINGHOVEN (219792), passed through the town, overwhelmed an outpost in a brewery northwest of town and driven through to the roadblock due north of HEMMERDEN. An airstrike had been requested to harass the enemy in that area; when Company "A" reached HEMMERDEN, the strike was in its final stages. Elements of the 87th Division were still held up by the roadblock, and Company "A" was given the mission of eliminating it, via KAPPELEN.

With a platoon of medium tanks from Company "B" of the 825rd Tank Battalion, Company "A" assembled at its line of departure (200810) along the southeastern edge of HEMMERDEN. It faced east towards a crossroads (207805) at the south tip of KAPELLEN where a nearby barn was reported to be an enemy strongpoint. At 1530, the Company moved forward parallel to the HEMMERDEN-KAPELLEN road. From the roadblock, the troops received small arms fire and suffered two casualties. After knocking out a machine gun with white phosphorous grenades, it overcame the strongpoint and took six prisoners from the 11th Reconnaissance Battalion of the 11th Panzer Division.

From the crossroads at the southwest tip of the town, heading up the main street, Company "A" swung to the northeast and began a systematic cleanup of the houses. Snipers from the woods to the east could not arrest the advance. Along this street, Company "A" contacted members of Company "I", 551st Infantry, who reported that two platoons, one in the north section of the town, the other at the brewery, had already been captured. The remaining rifle platoon and weapons sections protected the rear of Company "A"'s advance. Fire was being received from two Mark IVs west of the town near the brewery. The friendly tanks which had been following behind the doughboys came forward and attempted to outflank the enemy army; after one Mark IV had fled across the river, one of the M-4s covered the main intersection to prevent the other's escape there. The enemy tanker noted several bazooka teams making their way toward him, however, so he raced past the intersection so fast that the M-4, having no time to aim, had to let the Mark IV escape.

The enemy pounded the church near the main crossroads with heavy artillery. After the Company Commander posted two roadblocks, one of platoon strength facing the east, one of squad strength facing north, Company "A" turned west toward the large brewery reported to be an enemy stronghold. Advancing 700 yards uphill from the center of town, the company closed in upon the wrecked structure, which had been almost entirely deserted by the rapidly falling Germans. Nearby in a deep, many-passaged air-raid shelter, were huddled 250 civilians, and near them, six wounded enemy and a wounded American.

A Battalion of the 117th Infantry moved up behind Company "A" and replaced our troops on the roadblock assignments. With its mission completed, since the enemy had by that time been driven from the crossroads due north of HEMMERDEN, Company "A" followed the road to the crossroads. From there, elements of the 67rd Division mistook them for enemy and fired. After being notified, they stopped and permitted Company "A" to use the roads southward toward HEMMERDEN.

It reached HEMMERDEN at 1725, and with Company "E" which had been sent to the town as emergency reserve, entrusted to return to its former area. It had captured 15 prisoners, a half-track and a 57mm gun (taken originally from the 351st Infantry by the enemy). Although a Mark VI near the brewery, fired on before the attack by TDs, had escaped, it was discovered that the artillery had destroyed two Mark IVs along the road east of KAPELLEN.

The 2ND BATTALION had closed its Command Post in KIRCHERTEN at 0900 and had moved by foot to an assembly area near HELMEN (147765) and ELPOEN (160768) at 1200. After less than quarter of an hour, the Battalion moved again, this time to ELSEN (175774), where it had settled by 1330.

Still searching for a spot to cross the ESF, the 2ND BATTALION sent patrols with Engineers to the banks at the point where the main road crosses, and the river splits to form an island. No crossing was made, and one bridge was found to be completely blown. The span crossing the far half of the river was poorly demolished and still negotiable by vehicles. At designated contact points, patrols from the 2ND BATTALION met parties from 119th Infantry.

The REGIMENTAL Command Post closed at 1220 in KIRCHBERGEN and opened 35 minutes later at HILGEN (158767).

3 March

On the 3 March, the 120th Infantry was pinched off from the front lines.

At 1020, an Observation Post established in GUSTON by the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon reported friendly tanks near FRIMERSDORF (187725) and less than half an hour later, reported friendly troops moving northward. At 1230, Division Headquarters notified the 2-3 that friendly units had moved through and taken KEUENHAUSEN across the ESF. No longer in contact with the enemy, the 2ND BATTALION was then free to withdraw at 1730 from its main line of Resistance around the town to an assembly area within SUTTORF itself. During the hours of darkness, Company 21 patrols contacted patrols from the 119th Infantry on the south.

On the even hour, the 1ST BATTALION sent patrols to the right flank of the 117th Infantry to the north.

The 2ND BATTALION remained in ELSEN.

4 March

The following day found the REGIMENT in rest and training. Tank assault, night formation tactics and househaling demolition in house-to-house combat were stressed. Church services were held.

Apparently caught by surprise in the Americans' sudden swift advance, the civilians in GEMENSDORF and OREN were uneasy and full of questions which kept the C.I.C. busy. In accordance with a warning from Division which cited cases of civilian sabotage, guards in the communities were increased and ordered to be especially watchful.

The 2ND BATTALION fired 7mm guns captured at GARZEILER in a pit (177777) near FURTH close to ELSEN.

5 March

While training was conducted on the following day, plans were completed for the movement of the REGIMENT to the Dutch-German border area near SITTARD, Holland (690584).

6-7 March

The movement to the new area took two days. On the 6 March, the

organic vehicles and attached units of the REGIMENT left the vicinity of EISEN-ELFGEN-GUSTORF at 1109. Company "O", 105th Engineer Battalion, was followed in the convoy by Regimental Headquarters Company, all Battalion organic vehicles, Antitank Company, 250th Field Artillery Battalion, Cannon Company, Company "O", 105th Medical Battalion and Service Company. Through JULICH, ABOHEN and HERRLEN, the convoy moved and had cleared the Receiving Point in SITTARD by 1620.

On the next day starting at 1409, the foot elements of the three BATTALIONS in order, 3RD, 2ND, 1ST left their assembly areas on the same route, and reached SITTARD in trucks by 1805. From there, the units were dispersed: the REGIMENTAL COMMAND POST to BROEKSITTARD (707688), the 1ST BATTALION to the southeast section of WERR (727679), a village which it shared with the 3RD BATTALION in the northwest part (725685). The 2ND BATTALION was billeted at TUDDERN (714700), north of BROEKSITTARD; near it was the Antitank and Service Companies. Cannon Company was with the 250th Field Artillery Battalion in SUSTERSEEL (745674). All units, except REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, were in Germany.

9-15 March

For the next week, the REGIMENT engaged in a period of training and recreation. During the first days after arrival, reconnaissance was made for training areas. Billets were cleaned and troops were sent to nearby mines for showers and new clothes.

Recreation included dances at SITTARD for separate companies on different nights, organized baseball and volleyball games between companies, passes to the Dutch towns of HERRLEN, MAASTRICHT and SITTARD. Each company established a day room in the deserted German homes.

Training during this period included:

Attack of strongpoints under smoke, and Bangalore torpedoes (practical work) on 10 March, Demonstration of night tactics of individual soldier, on 12 March, Special long-range test-firing, up to 4500 yards, of 81mm mortar,

and

Booby trap, mine detection and disarmament, on 13 March.

Future operations were previewed first to Battalion Commanders, then to Company Commanders, platoon leaders and finally, individual soldiers through sandtable and contour map instruction.

On the 14 March, staff officers moved to the area of future operations, in the vicinity of RHEINBERG, Germany. In the following days, Observation Posts were established on the banks of the RHINE River, and all Battalion Commanders reconnoitered the terrain by ground and by air.

16 March

Along with regular training in the battalion areas, ALL BATTALIONS rehearsed river crossing with Landing Craft, Vehicles and Personnel, Landing Craft, Mechanized, and Engineer storm and assault boats at a site on the MAAS River near ECHT (690799).

The REGIMENT had been notified that the 30th Infantry Division was now in the XVI Corps.

17-19 March

For the next three days, plans were completed for movement north. While the Battalions were conducting final practice with LVPs and LOMs, a quartering party was dispatched on the 17th. The march table was published on the next day, and on the 19 March, all units had removed Division patches and painted out identification markings in preparation for a move to the RHEINBERG (213282) area, in the XVI Corps sector.

20 March

In the early morning of 20 March, a patrol from the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon crossed the RHINE River by boat in the vicinity of KETROIS (213302), landed 400 yards downstream on the opposite side (214314), crawled 400 yards inland over flat, grassy ground without encountering enemy and returned across the river to a built up area (209323), 1000 yards north-east of OSSENBERG.

During the daylight hours, the same platoon manned three Observation Posts in the sector of the 75th Division around RHEINBERG; one in a factory at OSSENBERG (200304), another in a tower (238305) between the river and the first levee on the west side 4000 yards east of OSSENBERG, and a third in a house at HASSELSHOF (231307).

Under cover of darkness, the units of the 120TH INFANTRY left their assembly areas and closed into the new areas as follows: REGIMENTAL Command Post from BROKESITTARD at 1900 to RHEINBERG at 0020; 2ND BATTALION from TUNGEN at 1806 to the area around HASSELSHOF (160260) at 0045; 1ST BATTALION from WEHR at 1937 to the area around KAMPER (144248) at 0057; 3RD BATTALION from WEHR at 2002 to HORETGEN (119248) at 0200.

21 March

Two patrols were active during the dark early hours of 21 March. One officer and four men crossed the RHINE at a point (231307) due south of MEHRUM, key town in the enemy defense, at 0240, landed 400 yards downstream (227307), moved among enemy sentries without being detected, and although once challenged, remained silent and continued unmolested. They observed a freedom of enemy movement which indicated no elaborate minefield or quantity of booby traps, then retraced their steps and recrossed at 0540.

A second patrol of the same composition left from the same site at 0410. The men were equipped with full field equipment and were to test-climb the walls of the levee to ascertain how easily the obstacle could be surpassed. The current carried the party too far downstream, however, to an area where no levee could be found (225307). The patrol recrossed and was unable to try another crossing since the sky was becoming light. Both patrols from the Intelligence Platoon used assault boats.

During the day, the REGIMENTAL Observation Posts and a 2ND BATTALION Observation Post in a dike dugout (222302) noted enemy activity in MEHRUM and

GOTTERSWICKERHAMM (258320) across the river. From HASSELSHOF was discerned an irregular pattern of waist-high stakes with entwined barbed wire in an area 400 yards southwest of MEHRUM between the river and the first levee on the far side.

22-23 March

The 22 and 23 March were given to final plans for the assault across the RHINE. Reconnaissance by unit commanders, and orders based on the messages of the ever active Observation Posts and Prisoner Interrogation findings were made. Attached units were coordinated into the big plan.

24 March

H-hour was announced to be 0200 on the 24 March.

As leading unit, the 2ND BATTALION left its assembly area the night before at 2305 by foot and moved past REINBERG northeast toward the river. At a point due south of MEHRUM, near ETTROIG, Company "F", followed by Company "E", prepared to cross by Engineer sternboat. After being landed they were to move at once into MEHRUM (Objective "Betty"). Company "G" had meanwhile organized at a different site (211510) 500 yards west of OSSENBERG, and was to make its crossing also by sternboat at the same time, and after organizing at a small bridge close to the beach, attack northeast to take another bridge (229333) (Objective "Bill") over the MOAM stream, which was the boundary between the 117th and 120th Regiments. Following the seizure of MEHRUM, Company "G" was to take, first, a key crossroad east of the bridge, then, another small built up area north of MEHRUM, WURM-GOTTERSWICK (237328) (Objective "Abner"), and, finally, SCHANZENBERG (243338) to the northeast. Company "E" was then to take LOHREN (250334) (Objective "West Lana").

Meanwhile, the 3RD BATTALION had left its assembly area at 2200 by foot, and over the same route as the 2ND BATTALION, moved to ready positions in the vicinity of ETTROIG, prepared to follow the lead Battalion across the river. Following the capture of MEHRUM, it was to take the towns of GOTTERSWICKERHAMM (256330), (Objective "Daisy"), and MOLLER (27323) (Objective "Ruth"), both along the river northeast of MEHRUM. Fire plan was to include firing by: the 1ST BATTALION machine guns and mortars from positions on and in rear of the first levee; 90mm guns of Company "O"; 624th Tank Destroyer Battalion, also on rear of the levee; and 57mm and machine guns of the 291st Infantry, 75th Division, from the levee.

At 0200 on schedule, while the artillery roared ceaselessly in a devastating concentration, the 2ND BATTALION started from the cover of the first levee west of the RHINE. Company "F" at the ETTROIG site and Company "G" at the OSSENBERG site lifted the sternboats with effort over the levee and rushed toward the beach. The boats were pushed into the water and Engineers started the motor as men scrambled inside. The first wave was across in less

1. Company "O", 100th Engineers
Company "O", 100th Medical Battalion
744th Light Tank Battalion
623rd Tank Destroyer Battalion
230th Field Artillery

than two minutes. The assaulters received initially light mortar fire, later machine gun and small arms of the Final Protective Line along the dikes on the German side. Meanwhile, on the friendly side, the 1ST BATTALION expended 1400 rounds of mortar, 45,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition.

Company "F" was soon organized and surged into the key town of MEHRUM against substantial opposition. Company "G" was misguided in the stormboats; in the cloudiness of the night, some elements were set ashore on tiny islands in the River and stranded; others were turned about and landed upon the friendly side. The remainder of the company struck the shore at irregular inlets, and met small arms resistance; delayed somewhat, therefore, and still understrength. Company "G" had to organize quickly, and past MEHRUM on the right followed its assigned route to seize the MOEM bridge by 0530. After two assault platoons had crossed the river, anti-aircraft searchlights flashed on to supply "artificial moonlight."

In a crucially and phenomenally brief amount of time, less than an hour from the time of the crossing, MEHRUM had fallen to Company "F" who had taken the right portion of town, and to Company "G", which had moved up on the left. Company "G" turned east to seize the crossroads (233330) and then WURMOTTERSWICK. After the tiny settlement had fallen by 0550, the Company pushed hastily to exploit the breakthrough of the exterior defense by striking SCHANZENBERG. The Germans put up stiff resistance, but it had ended by 0935.

At 0525, delayed because of misdelivery of a serial of Amtracs "Alligators", the 3RD BATTALION with Companies "K" and "L" leading had mounted both "Alligators" 500 yards from the river and stormboats on the edge and had pushed across. On the opposite side, it awaited the consolidation of MEHRUM; at 0425 with Company "K" in the lead, it headed for GOTTSWICHERHAMM along the east side of the first levee. The town commanded the river from the levee and all approaches to the high ground in the center. In addition, an SS officer in town forced an energetic resistance to the assault. By sunrise, however, GOTTSWICHERHAMM had fallen with only a pocket in the south corner where snipers were still taking a toll.

Assembled at the crossing site near ETTOIG since 0300, the 1ST BATTALION was transported over the RHINE at 0500 by Amtracks and stormboats. It established its Command Post in MEHRUM, while the companies remained in an assembly area in a field southwest of town.

Beginning at 0600, construction of a bridge was begun under cover of smoke at a site 500 yards east of the crossing site due north of REINBERG. A platoon of TDs assembled just south of the levee on the REINBERG side, prepared to cross the river on LOMs as soon as they arrived.

By 0655, after Company "I" had cleaned out a strong pocket, GOTTSWICHERHAMM had been consolidated, and Company "I" moved at once along the river line toward an intermediate objective, a key road junction (268321) 500 yards west of MOLLEN. When it was secured, Company "I" followed by Company "K" pushed forward toward the town, and had taken the north-south railroad tracks on the west side by noon.

After Company "E" had moved quickly from MEHRUM to lead the attack,

the 2ND BATTALION started from SOHANZENBERG against LOHNNEN at 1205; Company "F" moved up behind. From the orchards that surrounded the town, direct fire weapons blasted the attackers, and the town was not secured till 1330. Objective "East Lana" was the settlement of VORDE (266374) east of LOHNNEN; through the center ran a north-south railway. Two platoons from Company "E" pushed forward from the east side of LOHNNEN at 1500 and against small opposition reached a forward line along the railroad tracks by 1640. Small confusion resulted when, not far from the crossing site in the GOTTESWICKERHAM area, eight bombers dropped paratroop supplies during the afternoon.

In the middle of the morning, LOVPS had begun shuttling jeeps and personnel to the opposite side of the RHINE. LOMs launched in the 117th Infantry sector to the north were delayed by fire until shortly after 1400; as first priority they carried three TDe to support the 3RD BATTALION. Afterwards, tanks of the 744th Light Tank Battalion and then TDe of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion took precedence.

Before tanks and tank destroyers joined the 3RD BATTALION, MOLLEN had been taken. A patrol from Company "I" sent to reconnoiter a crossroads (281324) 300 yards east of MOLLEN found no enemy, investigated 500 yards farther to a railroad crossing (286328), and reported no opposition. Another patrol ascertained that the area dotted with farmhouses (300345) (Objective "Mae") in the west section of the BRUCKHAUSEN region was not strongly held. This area was not scheduled to be taken until after three objectives in the REGIMENTAL sector north of MOLLEN and east of VORDE. Plans were changed, however, to exploit what appeared to be a breakthrough of the enemy's outer defenses. The REGIMENTAL Commander ordered the 3RD BATTALION to make a long sweep on the right flank by-passing VORDE and the region immediately east to strike Objective "Mae"; in attacking toward the BRUCKHAUSEN area, the 3RD BATTALION would pocket three objectives; once out off, they could be mopped up later with ease. The change in plan was carried out without delay.

Company "K" mounted two platoons of TDe and a company of tanks and moved rapidly over the main road in the south portion of the REGIMENTAL sector to strike the objective. Although the tanks were initially fired on by friendly artillery of an adjacent unit, they caught the enemy at a disadvantage, and at some points were able to drive astride trenches and fire into them upon the terror stricken Germans. The objective was consolidated by 1750. Company "K" with its tanks had already moved beyond its objective farther east to the next high ground, when, because it was beyond friendly artillery range, it was ordered to return.

After the 2ND BATTALION had sent elements toward VORDE at 1600, the 1ST BATTALION moved from MEHRUM into an assembly area in LOHNNEN. At 1800, the latter Battalion, with Company "G" on the right, Company "B" on the left, moved through VORDE to clean up the pocket formed by the 3RD BATTALION in its right flank sweep. In the pocket were the railroad crossing on the eastern outskirts of VORDE (275355) (Objective "West Jean"), and an area of buildings (Objective "East Jean") (285359) near the DINSLAKEN-WESEL road. The first locality was taken by 1915, and in two hours and 15 minutes after Company "B" had secured the left flank, and Company "A" had pushed through in Company "B"'s sector, the second had also been seized. One hundred fourteen prisoners were gained in the clean-up, along with three antitank guns and a halftrack.

Meanwhile, supplies were being transported in Antracks, amphibious "Ducks", LOVPs and LOMs, which returned with prisoners and wounded. In charge of the beach was the 1153rd Engineer Group, which also labored to complete the bridge. Initially begun from the near side, it received heavy fire which impeded progress during the morning; later, the support barges were floated to the far shore, and the Engineers worked toward the RHEINBERG side.

As twilight began, and all through the night, enemy aircraft struck at the bridge and crossing site. Antiaircraft units responded with heavy volumes of fire.

25 March

Scheduled for 0900 on the 25 March was an attack by the 1ST BATTALION on the north portion (350350) of the area BRUCKHAUSEN (Objective "Helen"). When this was taken, the 3RD BATTALION was to move through and attack to flank BRUCKHAUSER HEIDE near SPICKERMANSBOP (350352) (Objective "Martha").

An incomplete autobahn outlined the east edge of both objectives. It was expected to be an enemy delaying defense line, but the 1ST BATTALION headed by Companies "O" on the right, and "B" on the left, would not be delayed. As the troops were entering woods which bordered the objective, an enemy counterattack appeared to move forward to meet them; it proved to be separate groups, marching files and stray individuals, all with their hands raised, surrendering. In an hour and a half, the objective had fallen and 200 prisoners were being carried back. At 1215, the 3RD BATTALION with Companies "K" on the left and "L" on the right, passed through the 1ST on BRUCKHAUSEN, plodded aggressively, firing without letup, and by 1300 had consolidated BRUCKHAUSER HEIDE.

With little delay, in order to keep close on the heels of the retreating enemy, Companies "K" and "I" led the 3RD BATTALION on an attack from BRUCKHAUSER HEIDE to the east toward high wooded ground, STADTSFORST WESSEL (350350) (Objective "Rose"), shortly after noon. The attack turned south at a road junction of the crest of the high ground in the woods (350352). Company "I" met heavy small arms, and late in the day, after the artillery had struck some enemy strongpoints there, Company "L" on the right and Company "K" on the left moved down the trail to the south (right) flank of the REGIMENTAL zone to continue the push. The Battalion was recalled at 1630 to a defensive area 1000 yards northwest of the road junction to hold for the night.

It appeared, meanwhile, that the enemy's defenses were by this time broken, that a rout was imminent, and a fast pursuit would be wise. Accordingly, a task force, composed of the 744th Light Tank Battalion, Companies "A" and "B", of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the 2ND BATTALION, of the 120TH INFANTRY, was formed under the Commanding Officer of the 744th Light Tank Battalion. It was to leave from STALLBERGSBOP (352345) in BRUCKHAUSEN at 1445 and to follow the principal route toward KIRCHHEIMEN (435345) to the east, passing through Objectives "Rose", and "Hulda" to "Sara", all being areas of high ground of regimental sector width, with "Sara" lying 300 yards short of KIRCHHEIMEN. The 2ND BATTALION mounted the lead tanks.

The Task Force moved to the 3RD BATTALION lines 400 yards east of the incomplete autobahn. Lead tanks without infantry helped the 3RD BATTALION, which had not yet started south, while the remainder of the tanks, with the

hammered.

Shortly after noon, the tanks had been repulsed by artillery. The 2ND BATTALION tried to move forward but shelling grew more severe. Meanwhile, working their way along the principal paths through the STAATSPORT, the tanks encountered Teller and woodbox mines.

The 2ND BATTALION sent Company "I" to move along the south flank of the REGIMENTAL sector to road junctions considered possible enemy defense points ((365744) and (372545)). Company "I" continued forward to the edge of the woods, encountering the heavy artillery barrages which were demoralizing the 2ND BATTALION. Further confusion was caused by Company "E", 15th Infantry, 35th Division, which was sifting through the woods south of the main road in the 120TH INFANTRY sector which the 2ND BATTALION was to occupy. Short of the woods' edge, Companies "K" and "L" were committed to push through to the edge, and set up defense lines, contacting Company "F", which the 2ND BATTALION had placed on its right flank, covering the main road and a lone house just in front of the woods.

An attack by the 1ST BATTALION, supported by two platoons of tanks and two platoons of tank destroyers, initially scheduled for 1745, then 1700, had to be postponed finally to 2050, while the Battalion moved at 1600 from its flank positions to a forward assembly area near the Line of Departure, the edge of the woods facing the SCHMAREN HEIDE. The objective was the wooded area east of the high, bald ground, 2500 yards ahead (north "June"). The artillery grew in intensity, and casualties mounted even before the attack began. The assault was of necessity frontal and over open ground; while a flanking drive from the 117th Infantry sector (north) would have been less dangerous and achieved more surprise, it would have demanded much more time. Before the attack, the boundaries of the zone of advance and the objective were sought.

Companies "B" and "C" occupied positions on the Line of Departure which had been under heavy and accurate enemy artillery fire. The reserve, Company "A", was in rear of the artillery impact area. Prior to the time for the attack, the enemy artillery was silent; however, it was realized that the enemy probably would place a heavy concentration on the Line of Departure immediately after our own preparatory fires started. Therefore, at 8-hour when our artillery opened fire, the men of Companies "B" and "C" ran some 400 yards forward. The enemy replied with fires as expected but these fire fell harmless in rear of the assault echelon. Meanwhile, Company "A" remained in place until the enemy ceased firing; the men of the company then walked through the woods to the open ground, where they ran to catch up with the rest of the formation. As a result, our troops suffered no casualties.

On the right flank supporting fires from 2ND BATTALION machine guns and mortars kept four 12mm and eight 22mm gun crews from engaging the 1ST BATTALION's advance; smoke on both flanks and on the objective also confused enemy lines to the extent that the attack was unimpeded. Companies "C" and "B" had breached the German defense in a cloud of smoke and overrun the enemy in the woods within an hour. One M-10 only lost its track. Twenty-seven prisoners were taken, and enemy was found infiltrating to the

2ND BATTALION lines to surrender. They wandered all the way to the REGIMENTAL Command Post to give themselves up. An airfield with camouflaged railroad tracking, two boxcars of bombs and ammunition, two 75mm guns with two halftracks, and much deserted equipment was also seized.

27 March

The 1ST BATTALION had taken the area from 800 yards north of the KIROHELLER to 200 yards south of it, establishing its frontlines on the east edge of the woods of the KIROHELLER HEIDE. From its positions of the night before with Companies "L" on the right and "I" leading, the 3RD BATTALION attacked at 0610 the next day to clear out the woods and bring its lines in the south of the REGIMENTAL sector up to those of the 1ST. Company "L" ran into artillery fire which continued throughout the morning, but moved into position at 1030 as planned; Company "I" had contacted 1ST BATTALION by 0725 and captured a block of elaborate installations with huge fixed antiaircraft artillery pieces still intact, except for firing pins removed. Besides the four 120mm guns, were seized 25 prisoners and five flak wagons.

Under small objective before "Sara" on the outskirts of KIROHELLER was HOLTHAUSEN (422340) (Objective "July"), a group of settlements 1000 yards east of the large town. A final night attack by the 2ND BATTALION was to secure this objective so that armored units could pass through to exploit our breakthrough. In preparation for the attack, two platoons of Company "A" seized the edge of the woods northwest of the objective (412357) by 1400, and late in the afternoon, a platoon of Company "I" along with Company "L" cleared out the thickets up to edge due east of HOLTHAUSEN as Line of Departure for Companies "E" and "F".

At 2100, after smothering both flanks and the objective itself, the artillery barraged the enemy. With a platoon of tank destroyers and one of tanks, Company "G" on the left flank pushed toward the north section of town (REAR) (422335). Each with a section of tank destroyers and a platoon of tanks, Companies "E" and "F" on the extreme right (south) aimed at sections of town known as JAMINHOFF (422347) and HALTHAUS (422343), respectively. Company "H", attached to the 2ND BATTALION, moved in the rear to a crossroads west of town (415349). The enemy resisted with heavy and light artillery and sprayed the assault with 20mm antiaircraft fire. Company "E" met the most resistance, but disabled one Mark IV and had secured its objective by 0200 the next morning. By 0200, the entire HOLTHAUSEN area was in friendly hands, with 35 prisoners and a minimum of casualties.

The REGIMENTAL Command Post moved at 1830 to a crossroad restaurant in the (422357).

The 5th Armored Division was by this time close behind the REGIMENT and ready to push through our lines. On 0600 of the 28 March, it moved forward toward KIROHELLER to roll the enemy back; in a few hours, the 120TH INFANTRY was no longer in contact. The Battalions remained in defensive positions.

22 March

The following day, troops were withdrawn from positions to billets in their area, which were cleaned up and converted to sanitary living quarters. Foot inspections were conducted.

The REGIMENT was notified that as part of the 50th Division it was now transferred to the XII Corps as reserve.

30-31 March

The REGIMENTAL Command Post moved from the STAUFSPORT at 1050 on the 30 March to a farmhouse at EKAMP (422556) in the HOLFHAUSEN area.

The last two days of the month were spent in rest and recreation, and in preparation for a "Sift" movement into Germany to exploit the expected collapse of the Wehrmacht. The 180th INFANTRY had pushed 175 miles from the RHINE; the last great natural barrier was crossed; time for the final drive was here.

3. Remarks:

a. Air Corps (Operation 24-27 March)

During the River crossing, officers from the Ninth Tactical Air Corps worked with the REGIMENT to coordinate the air with the ground effort. Though the REGIMENT called for few air strikes, heavy bombardment of the area the day before the attack served to weaken resistance substantially. A series of checkpoints were prearranged to be hit by the air on call. None were used.

b. Artillery (Operation 24-27 March)

The artillery was of immeasurable value, both as support with rolling barrages of High Explosive and White Phosphorous in the majority of attacks, and as an excellent means of repelling armored counterattack, as on 26 March.

c. Engineers (Operation 24 March)

The 1153rd Engineer Combat Group was in charge of the crossing site and the bridge. It handled the details with considerable speed in face of the enemy shelling which increased noticeably from dawn till noon. The stormboats functioned well, except for some at the Company "G" site which were piloted incorrectly and lost the troops. One serial of Amtracs, apparently not well enough briefed, was lost enroute to the site, and caused delay in shuttling units across. Coordination between the REGIMENTAL Assistant S-4 was accomplished with a liaison noncom, and priority list was strictly adhered to.

d. Equipment (Operation 24-27 March)

To the assault troops no special equipment was issued, except during the actual river-crossing, when they were given double-tube waist life

belts. One Amtrack carrying members of the 3RD BATTALION submerged in mid-stream, and although they lost individual equipment, the men were themselves saved. A stormboat, overturned but undamaged by mortar fire, was saved, as were all passengers. The men sealed the dike walls with normal field equipment. They did not carry gas masks.

e. Navy (Operation 24 March)

The United States Navy operated the LOPVs and LCMs which carried much of the 120th Combat Team across the RHINE. A delay in delivery of LCMs to transport the tanks and tank destroyers may have given the enemy a chance to organize a sounder defense. Maintenance of the craft was necessary occasionally on the beaches.

f. Opposition (Operation 24-28 March)

(1) During the initial assault, the enemy responded with only light artillery and small arms. The defense lines on the opposite banks of the RHINE were elaborate trenches and dugouts along the levee. Many installations had only been started; the turf was removed and stacked neatly nearby ready for the final camouflage. Two minefields were found in our crossing sector on the banks immediately opposite; prisoners claimed that more mines had been ready for use. One said the enemy did not expect an attack till 25 March. Another said ammunition for artillery pieces had been limited to five rounds a day until the attack; at midnight before H-hour, the lines to the Observation Post had been severed. On the REINERS side, the Germans threw some harassing fire on crossroads and along the beach. Aircraft tried unsuccessfully to knock out the bridges.

(2) There was indication that, according to instruction, the enemy had been trying to economize on mines by burying them in restricted areas: two long wooded mines caused two casualties on the shoulders of a principal route near the crest of hill (325544) on 25 March; mines were discovered on the roads through the STADTSFORST WESSEL on 26 March.

(3) A majority of the prisoners were slovenly and apathetic. One group taken in BRUCKHAUSEN area the 25 March had had no training and seen no previous combat. Many surrendered easily, and most were happy to be taken. One officer, typically stubborn, claimed he would not have surrendered if his gun had not jammed and claimed Germany would never give in. Others tried to maintain their dignity, but talked after small persuasion.

(4) The initial artillery and the depth of the defenses were not so great as expected. The defense appeared to have two phases: first, a line of automatic fire and mines along and near the river; then, heavy artillery interdiction fires from mobile pieces which moved back at night and had little infantry support.

g. Personnel (Operation 24-27 March)

(1) Previous to the river crossing, the 3RD BATTALION received a new Battalion Commander, Major Chris McCullough, formerly Executive Officer of the 1ST BATTALION, to replace Lieutenant Colonel Howard W. Greer, on rotation leave.

(2) Casualty rate was low.

h. Supply (Operation 24 March)

The bridgehead operation required efficient handling of supplies. In charge of sending across the RHINE necessities for the troops was the assistant S-4. An assembly area for each type of supply or command vehicle was designated, so that when the officer in charge of the beach (of the 1153rd Engineer Combat Group) procured the transportation, the vehicles were ready. A priority list, calling first for medical, then command and artillery observer vehicles, and later radio and wire trucks, was established and followed. The flow of vehicles, and later much desired armor, was steady.

i. Tactics (Operation 24-28 March)

(1) Smoke. Smoke pots used to screen the bridgehead hindered visibility and were not entirely effective because of the complete absence of wind.

(2) Night Attacks. Night attacks were found to be especially successful. The river crossing and attacks by the 1ST BATTALION on the 24th and 26th March, and by the 2ND BATTALION on the 27 March, were all at night. Few casualties were sustained during them.

The 1ST BATTALION attack on the 26 March involved fire plan to smoke the flanks with 61mm mortars, at the same time smoking the objective and firing successive concentrations by the artillery. (Some civilians later said enemy was convinced there would be no attack with smoke at night). It involved also armor plan to use a platoon of tank destroyers along each flank protecting the infantry in the center, with a section of tanks leading and a company following. It was, then, an extended armor box moving within an extended smoke box. The infantry used two companies to lead.

The 2ND BATTALION employed the "Smoke Box" fire plan in its attack the succeeding night to maximum effect.

(3) Tank Assault. In dealing with tanks of any description, white phosphorus grenades have proven successful. The rifle grenade is especially effective; also the rocket and hand grenade serve to smoke out the tankers and cause them to think the tank on fire. A Mark IV at HOLTHAUSEN (Company "E") on 27 March was knocked out in this manner after AP bazooka had failed.

(4) Assault Fire. To keep enemy pinned down in the assault, a rapid advance coupled with a steady volume of fire from the hip was employed successfully in the attack by the 3RD BATTALION on BRUCHHAUSER HEIDE on 25 March.

j. Tank Destroyers. (Operation 24-28 March)

Tank Destroyers were as ever effective; moving up close behind the attackers, they afforded a quick strong defense backing. Mines caused a few damaged tracks. As vital member of the Task Force, they were wired down only rarely, although in the wooded STADTSFORST, they were of necessity

canalized. They destroyed one enemy tank, played a vital role in the 1ST BATTALION night attack of 26 March.

k. Tanks (Operation 24-25 March) *add this note*

Same as Tank Destroyers.

1. Training and Pre-Planning

Success of the initial assault and bridgehead seizure was chiefly attributable to the immense amount of prior planning and detailed thinking which went into the final orders. Perhaps most important was the thorough training of each unit on the part it was scheduled to take in the operation. Beside the practice river-crossing on the MAAS in Holland, which familiarized troops with stormboats, LCVs and LCMs, and gave them practice in handling the craft, each Battalion also constructed sand tables of the exact area where it was to work. Tables of small and large scale were constructed; each house, each group of trees was represented; each man's function was explicit and had to be memorized. Previous to the attack, each man was oriented near the river, and saw the terrain where he would operate. General landmarks were chosen and pointed out as approximate locations for key installations, in case they had to be found during the battle. Because the troops were well-oriented when they crossed the RHINE, they went farther than orders called for, and established a better than substantial bridgehead.

The total number of prisoners taken during the month of March 1945 was 1200. The prisoners belonged to the following units:

180 Infantry Division
116 Panzer Division
6 Engineer Training Battalion
484 Searchlight Battery
625 AA Battalion
243 Heavy AA Battalion
881 AA Battalion
Construction Battalion WULF
-- Volksturm

CASUALTIES FROM 1 MARCH 1945 TO 31 MARCH 1945 INCLUSIVE

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed in Action	2	57	59
Wounded and Injured in Action	6	238	244
Missing in Action	1	57	58
Captured	0	0	0
- Total -	<u>9</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>361</u>

From Wounded & Evacuated to Returned	9	86	95
From MIA to other EO Status or Returned	1	41	42
Died of Wounds	0	4	4

CASUALTY SUMMARY TO DATE

Killed in Action	56	988	1044
Wounded & Injured	159	4380	4539
Missing in Action	12	296	308
Captured	12	198	210
Returned to Military Control *	1	16	17
- Total -	<u>270</u>	<u>5678</u>	<u>6149</u>

Died of Wounds	9	122	131
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* Reported to us by Higher Headquarters as returned to Military Control. In all cases, men were previously carried as either missing in action or as prisoners of war and it is assumed that in all instances these men were prisoners of war whom were liberated by either the Russian or American Armies.

BPP
B. P. FORDUS
Colonel - 1204th Infantry
Commanding

1 Incl:
Journals and Supporting Documents

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH INFANTRY
APO 30, US Army

BPP:JMH:dr

7 May 1945

319.1/401 (c)

SUBJECT: Action Against Enemy, Reports After / After Action Reports.

TO: Commanding General, 30th Infantry Division, APO 30, US Army

1. The following summary of operations covers the period 010001 April 1945 through and including 302400 April 1945.

2. **Resume:**

1 April

The last two days of March had seen rapid advances by the 8th and 2nd Armored Divisions from the area of KIRCHHELLEN (24245), where the 120th INFANTRY had taken its last objectives on 27 March. Plans were formulated for the 30th Division to move behind the 2nd Armored, eliminating pockets of resistance which the Armor had bypassed. The general sector of advance for the Division was to be contained in the southern boundary, extending approximately in a straight line from DORTMUND, south of SOEST, PAIRBRON, and finally BERLIN; and the northern boundary extending a few miles north of MUNSTER, HANNOVER, NEURUPH, and ... the Division was to be motorized.

On 1 April, the ... the HOLTHAUSEN-KIRCHHELLEN area; the Command Post was ... at EKAMP (422555). After morning preparations had been made ... In the wake of the armor, lead vehicles of the 120th ... Initial Point at 1820, entirely motorized, the remainder of the 120th Combat Team followed.

In order 1ST, 2ND, 3RD BATTALION, followed by Artillery Company, 250th Field Artillery Battalion, Cannon Company, Company "G" of the 105th Medical Battalion, Service Company, Company "B" of the 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, the Combat Team moved over the outskirts of the RUHR valley to the rolling terrain of central Germany. The convoy's route was through WULFEN (301672), HALTERN (621498), so close to the RUHR industrial pocket that it was in constant threat of shelling, HUBER (685992), and LUDINGHAUSEN (795525), to a dispersal point at ASCHENBURG (920045).

The REGIMENTAL Command Post was established with the 3RD BATTALION at DRENSTEINFURT (005555), and the 1ST and 2ND BATTALIONS in the vicinity of RINKERODE (967608), by 1820.

2 April

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO ... day, the Regimental advance was continued in order to keep close behind the fast-moving 2nd Armored Division. The Regimental convoy, ... 1ST, 2ND, 3RD BATTALION, crossed the Division Initial Point

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DOWNGRADING COMMITTEE

SECRET 8 AUG 1945

330-1NF-1207-0.3

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at 1200, moved over a route through SENDEHORST (064607), VORHELM (144567), over the modern autobahn past WIEDERBRUOK (400600), and reached a new assembly area in the region around the town of VERL (533653). All units were settled by 1640.

The rapid movement on both days was characterized by a total absence of opposition, a large number of stragglers and evacuees on the roads, and no indication of previous battle either in the towns or from the dugouts and trenches in fields. Ahead, the 2nd Armored reported only scattered opposition and for the most part, hasty enemy retreat. A mongrel group of stragglers flowed through the Regimental IFW, ranging from Home Guard and signal men to soldiers on sick-leave and medics in labor camps.

2 APRIL

At a ridge (730698) three miles east of AUGUSTDORF (693688) on the 2 April, the 2nd Armored Division met a pocket of resistance which it was unable to destroy. Where a steep wooded ridge was passable only at certain gaps, which could be held by small numbers of men against large forces, blocks in the Autobahner Wald out roads leading to HIEDESEN (763705) and DETMOLD (799709).

Consequently at noon, when the Regimental Commander had been notified of the situation, he alerted the 1ST BATTALION to move eastward to a defensive area three miles east of AUGUSTDORF. A forward Regimental Command Post was established west of the 1ST BATTALION Headquarters (LOPSHORN) (725678) located north of a tank range. Officer candidates at a tank school in Detmold.

The 1ST BATTALION used Company "B" on the left, Company "C" on the right, and Company "A" in rear, to organize a defense on a semi-circular section of the ridge half encompassing HIEDESEN. As Company "C" moved through thick underbrush to occupy ground which had been reported in friendly hands, near a nose southeast of the main road into the town, a line of enemy north of the road, with good observation on the troops moving across the slope, opened a sudden rain of fire upon them; Company "C" was trapped in heavy small arms fire, and in valleys of Panzerfauste, held in defilade and discharged, many like, at high angle and in battery, singly and simultaneously. Unable to reach the enemy through the foliage, the men of Company "C" were entirely helpless. A platoon from Company "A" was sent to engage the enemy from a flank, and permit the company thus pinned down by the enemy to withdraw and organize the right flank of the defense further south on the reverse slope.

The 1ST BATTALION companies had occupied the new defensive positions below the ridge by 1720. Meanwhile, the 830th Field Artillery, with Cannon Company attached, had dug emplacements and set its guns in rear of the infantry to support the Main Line of Resistance.

Late in the evening came a letter of instruction outlining plans for attack and objectives to be taken within the pocket of resistance; they included the Autobahner Wald ridge, HIEDESEN, and DETMOLD. While the 120th Regimental Combat Team cleaned out the pocket, the 2nd Armored was to organize it.

4 April

Accordingly, at 0730 the following morning, a platoon of Company "B", preceding the remainder of the Company and Company "A" to the right rear, moved from its defensive area down the main road toward AUGUSTDORF. It turned east at the chateau LOPSHORN where the REGIMENTAL forward Command Post was located, and headed over a wide trail toward an area due south of Monument Hill (750689) scheduled to be the Line of Departure. When the trail became impassible, the planned route was changed, and the platoon took a northerly path which led over a smaller hill ("Hill 393") (BIETSTEIN) (748085), 1000 yards southwest of the Monument. Leading elements noted enemy circulating on this hill, and another platoon of Company "B" was pulled up on line to attack. The two platoons made their assault at 0800. They swept over the crest in less than an hour against small opposition of estimated platoon strength. Company "A" moved up on the right flank for an attack upon Monument Hill across the draw. Initially, enemy seen along a road almost at the foot of the draw were stirring uneasily, eager (one officer said) to surrender, but withheld by an SS officer.

At 1100, both companies descended the hill in assault formation toward the road where the enemy was known to be; they met small resistance from spiritless and demoralized soldiers. From the road, they rushed forward up the hill toward the monument. From more fanatical troops which our mortar fire had once dislodged and forced to withdraw, Company "A" received persistent small arms from the draw on its right. Company "B" pushed almost to the crest without encountering any resistance. Close to the top, the enemy responded energetically with rifle fire; employing marching fire, Company "B" pushed to the top of the hill and had stilled all opposition by 1250. Having dispelled the enemy resistance in the draw on the right flank, Company "A" moved up alongside Company "B" and a line was established on the east side of the crest. More than 50 prisoners, besides the massive Hermann Monument on the hill, were captured.

Meanwhile, the 2ND and 3RD BATTALIONS moved at 0724 from the vicinity of VERL to assembly areas south and southwest of the chateau LOPSHORN. At the same time, the REGIMENTAL Command Post (Rear) moved to AUGUSTDORF. All movements were completed by 0915.

Following the 1ST BATTALION's seizure of Monument Hill, the 3RD BATTALION prepared to attack HIDESEN. It had assembled by 1132 at a forward area (7469) to the left (northwest) of the 1ST, and took up positions on a Line of Departure in the woods southwest of HIDESEN (750695). Companies "I" on the right, and "L" on the left, with "K" in the center, crossed the woodline at 1545, and met at first heavy opposition. The enemy who defended the outer edge of town tenaciously. At some points, enemy strength was great, and at others, miserably weak: some installations were manned by fanatics, others by the poorest trash the Wehrmacht could muster. Once the Battalion broke through the outer defenses, resistance diminished suddenly. The enemy was quickly dispersed, and by 1645, the town had been cleared and consolidated with a perimeter defense. The Battalion took 86 prisoners.

At 1800, the 2ND BATTALION moved through the 3RD to attack at 1845 from (704705) the northeast edge of HIDESEN, and to seize DETMOLD. Company "E" straddled the secondary, east-west road, while Company "F" on the left swung farther north through part of HEIDENGLANDENDORF (770724); both moved

down the east slope of the Teufelburger Wald ridge into the large city, which had perfect observation on the attackers. The 3RD BATTALION was prepared to follow the 2ND, and supply help where it was needed. It never became necessary to move the 3RD BATTALION, since the 2ND met no enemy, except on the eastern outskirts, where a few snipers harassed our troops. By 2000, the Battalion had organized a perimeter defense in the center of town, blocking the main streets through it.

The roadblock (738698) which had ambushed Company "C" the previous afternoon near the LOPSHORN-HIDDESEN road was estimated as held by 30 fanatical SS men. Still in defensive positions of the night before, Company "C" was prepared to destroy the block at 2030. Simultaneously with a heavy artillery preparation, two Tank Destroyers, attached to the 1ST BATTALION, were ordered to positions 200 yards south of the roadblock, where they blasted the enemy with 90mm High Explosive and .50 calibre machine gun fire for 15 minutes. Moving along the road on either side, Company "C" then rushed the installation, to find only three Germans killed by artillery, the remainder withdrawn.

Company "C" continued down the road into HIDDESEN, where the other companies of the 1ST BATTALION assembled by 2050.

Prisoners taken during the day were of varied assortment, some from Officer Candidate Schools, some without infantry training, some coordinated on the spur of the moment from one unit to his own by a forceful SS major, some from a training battalion activated only 14 days.

5 April

The Forward and Rear Command Posts of the REGIMENT joined at a new location (765704) in HIDDESEN at noon on the 5 April.

Investigation of DETMOLD revealed the following military installations therein:

- an airfield,
- several hospitals, with military staff and patients,
- a motor pool,
- an ordnance depot,
- a small arms supply point,
- and numerous items of supply, including liquor and clothing.

Civilians became a source of constant trouble to the troops; military government personnel was not numerous enough to cope with the situation.

6 April

On 6 April, since the 2nd Armored Division had already made crossings over the WESER River, the advance of the REGIMENT was continued, again without meeting organized resistance.

At 0800, with Company "C", 743rd Tank Battalion, one M-10 platoon and the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company "B", 827rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of Regimental Headquarters Company, attached, the 2ND BATTALION moved eastward from DETMOLD to clear the

area in the Regimental sector up to the resort town of BAD-PYRMONT (055775) (Phase line "Rat").

Each entrucked and with an attached platoon of tanks and section of Tds, Companies "E", "F", and "G" were formed into separate task forces. (Tfs. "H", "J", and "K"). Companies "E" and "G" were each preceded by a squad of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, while Company "F" used the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company "B", 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion as advance element. Each task force moved over a principal route in the zone of advance, Company "E" on the left (north) flank, Company "G" on the right, and Company "F" in the center.

The reconnaissance elements ran across scattered enemy either eager to surrender or making a feeble attempt at flight. One German soldier was seen running to the woods edge; then he turned and waved a large white flag. At this roadblock site, the reconnaissance troops dismounted and searched out the area on foot.

By 1132, BAD-PYRMONT had been reached safely; a hundred prisoners had been taken. PYRMONT was found to be a hospital town, filled with German sick, wounded, and medical personnel. In the early afternoon, a Division order instructed the REGIMENT to protect the bridgehead secured by the 2nd Armored Division in our sector; accordingly, the 2ND BATTALION, motorized, left PYRMONT, passed GROHNDE (157805) to reach the WEBER, crossed, and established nine roadblocks in the region around BORRY (186830) at LATERDE (155950), HAGEN (160905), FRENKE (177813), BROCKENBEN (190817), and other small communities. By 2100, the Battalion was organized in its bridgehead positions. The 250th Field Artillery Battalion was ordered into position near GROHNDE.

Not until 1350 did the remainder of the 120th Combat Team move from HIDDENEN over the route CAPPEL-GROSSENMARPE-HAGEN to assembly areas in the PYRMONT region: the 1ST BATTALION in the town, the 3RD BATTALION at GROHNDE, and the REGIMENTAL Command Post at the castle-village of HAMELSHENBURG (186825). The movement was completed at 2000.

7 April

The REGIMENT maintained its defensive positions in the BORRY (2ND BATTALION) area on the 7 April. One roadblock was moved into an adjacent sector until the attacking unit, Combat Command "B", had pushed through. At 1910, Company "G" of the 550th Infantry, 63rd Division, relieved the 2ND BATTALION on the roadblock assignments.

Numerous stray one surrendered, including soldiers in civilian clothes. In PYRMONT, prison told how a combat team had been formed of one officer and 35 men in the hospital ward; all were lung, kidney, or heart cases, and their total armament consisted of seven pistols and two Panzerfauste. Previously, at orders of the Nazi government and against the advice of doctors, 1000 men had been removed from the hospital for commitment in battle. Rumors of a Nazi uprising on the night of 7 April in PYRMONT, where the hospitals swarmed with Germans in uniform, caused special precautions to be taken by the 1ST BATTALION and other attached units assembled there.

8 April

The following morning, the 3RD BATTALION moved eastward from

GROHNDE to clear the area between BORRY and the region around SALZHEMENDORF (272872). With attachments¹, the Battalion started rolling at 0730 toward the high, wooded "Hill 433" (305855). Company "L", motorized, led on the north (BORRY-HESSINGHAUSEN-LAENSTEIN-HEMENDORF to AHRENFELD) route, followed by Company "I", both formed into task forces; the third force, made up of Company "K" and attachments, took the south (ESPERDE-SALZHEMENDORF to OCKENSEN) route. The task troops met no opposition, and reached their assigned areas by late morning. They organized outposts along the eastern edge of the woods on "Hill 433" facing DEINSEN (357835) in the towns of LEVENDAGSEN (292844), OCKENSEN (282850), AHRENFELD (314871), HEINSEN (325868), MARTENHAGEN (340837), and WEENZEN (329820).

At 1000, the remainder of the Combat Team moved from BAD-PYRMONT. The 2ND BATTALION walked the distance, and with attachments, closed into the town of HEMENDORF (280890) at 1105, prepared mine roadblocks and an outpost in defense of the north flank of the sector. The 1ST BATTALION, with attachments, (minus Company "A", still on guard duty in DETMOLD), reached its areas at 1230, Company "B" in WALLESEN (295817), Company "C" in THISTE (305826). The REGIMENTAL Command Post was established at SALZHEMENDORF.

9 April

On 9 April, the 3RD BATTALION maintained its defensive positions; the other two battalions remained in assembly areas. Plans were made for a training period. Stragglers were as usual in large numbers to be processed at the Regimental cage.

At 1700, orders from Division directed the dispatch of a quartering party, which left at 1900. Plans were made for movement to an assembly area near HASSELE (495022) in the region of the Zweiganal. In the new sector, further north, the 115th Cavalry Group was assigned to precede our advance.

10 April

According to plan, the REGIMENT sent lead vehicles over an Initial Point 200 yards west of HEMENDORF (282890) at 0700 on 10 April, with trucks carrying the 1ST BATTALION, followed by Regimental Headquarters Company, antitank and attached medical companies, Company "B", 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "B", 743rd Tank Battalion. The route was north through BENSTORF (889003), ELZE (375933), NORDSTEMEN (401928), and ROSSING (425044).

All vehicles assembled in an assembly area (490029) between HASSELE and GROSS FORSTE, where a temporary REGIMENTAL Command Post was established.

While the trucks which had carried the companies of the 1ST BATTALION returned to HEMENDORF to pick up the 2ND BATTALION, members of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon reached the Regimental Commander after an extended reconnaissance of the Zweiganal in the Regimental sector, and reported all four bridges blown. Plans were therefore made to cross the canal in the sector of the 117th Infantry to the north; the route was to include:

1. Company "B", 743rd Tank Battalion,
Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon,
Two M-10 Platoons,
Reconnaissance Platoon, Company "B", 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

AHRBERGEN (465048), BARTEDT (448061), GODRINGEN (479071), ALGERMISSEN (529066), and BORSUM (555054).

At approximately noon, as the 2ND BATTALION reached the assembly area, the 1ST BATTALION climbed the tanks of Company "B", 825rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "B", 745rd Tank Battalion, and started over the assigned route to clear out the area around BORSUM (555054) in the Regimental sector (to Phasseline "MN"). Behind it the Regimental Headquarters group, and the 2ND BATTALION on trucks followed the advance closely.

At 1245, the 1ST BATTALION had met no opposition and orders reached the Battalion Commander to continue along the main route eastward past the BORSUM area. On through HUESSUM (575052), ABSTEDT (622057), MELDBERGEN (6505), STEINBRUCK (695050), GROSS and KLEIN LAFFERDE (715062-748058), and BOLENSTEDT (775055), the Battalion came at last to ALVESSE (812052).

The Cavalry had kept a short distance lead on the Battalion. Immediately ahead of the Battalion, as reconnaissance element, was the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, which ran into the Cavalry men firing on the town of UFINGEN (830058), next on the route of advance from ALVESSE.

It was late afternoon when the 1ST BATTALION, notified of the stiff enemy resistance in UFINGEN, sent Company "D" on foot to reduce the town. Inside the little settlement, the Germans had mustered enough small arms and direct fire heavy weapons to hold the riflemen at bay for several hours. As the night advanced, some progress was made; it was after 2200 before the town had been cleared.

Close behind the 1ST BATTALION, the REGIMENTAL Command Post was established at 2200 in the town of VALSTEDT (796055) east of ALVESSE and southeast of the German industrial town of BRAUNSCHWEIG (9011). The 2ND BATTALION reached LENGEDE (764056) by 2200. The 3RD BATTALION was still without transportation and remained in the vicinity of LEVEDAGSEN.

11 April

At 0100, the following morning, a Regimental order directed the 1ST BATTALION to establish a bridgehead over a canal obstacle 100 yards east of NORTENHOF (835040), a suburb of UFINGEN. According to order, at 0430, Company "C" sent two platoons across the water at a point which had once been a road crossing. The platoons using rubber assault boats were not contested, and quickly positioned themselves to defend the area around the crossing site. Company "B" moved from ALVESSE to UFINGEN with the Tank and TD companies; there, they occupied defensive areas on the west bank of the water.

Original plans had called for an attack at 0700 by the 1ST BATTALION on the area around RAUHEIM (930087) (Objective "Me"). At the same time, Company "C", 105th Engineer Battalion, was to build a bridge at the crossing site. The 2ND and 3RD BATTALIONS were to be prepared to continue the attack east.

Originally planned for midday, the Regimental crossing was postponed till evening, since the enemy had had observation on the area. Due to the

enemy withdrawal, plans were changed in the morning and the Engineers began working on a bridge at once. While the Engineers were constructing a span, the 3RD BATTALION was moved forward by truck and grouped in the outskirts of VALLSTED.

Shortly after noon, the 3RD BATTALION was ordered to cross over lock installations near the crossing site on foot, and conduct an attack toward the town of STETERBURG (874033). By 1400, it had advanced 3000 yards without encountering any but isolated enemy; it was instructed to continue to the east, and seek to secure a bridge over the Oker River in the Regimental sector.

In the late afternoon, the Battalion Commander reported that all vehicle bridges had been blown, but that one railroad bridge remained intact in the vicinity of LEIFERDE (898045). After making use of this to get across the Oker, the Battalion assembled at KLEIN STOCKHEIM (905005). It was growing dark at 1800 when the 3RD BATTALION was ready to attack again, this time to execute a sneak assault on the area around RAUTHEIM. Company "L" led the Battalion on to the objective by 2100. A bridge in the area (955098) commanded an eastern approach to BRAUNSCHWEIG under attack by the 117th Infantry. A roadblock was established at this point by 2230. Still cleaning out the area an hour later, troops of Company "L" cornered and captured a Lieutenant General Karl Veith, second highest potential in the German antiaircraft corps, and his staff; after previously refusing to surrender the city in a secret conference with General Leland S. Hobbs, they were forced to join 80 other captives when the doughboys trapped them in vehicles as they attempted to flee the city.

Meanwhile, the 2ND BATTALION had been brought from LERBEDE on trucks to a forward area near AIVESSE, where mounted on the tanks and TDe attached to the REGIMENT, it awaited the completion of the Engineer bridge over the water obstacle. At 1827, the bridge was ready, and by 1920, the Battalion had started rolling over the crossing to the east, following the same route as the 3RD BATTALION up to STETERBURG, where because it could not cross the Oker on the railroad bridge, it headed southeast through THIEDE (881022) and WOLFENBUTTEL (925000). After passing the latter town and crossing a bridge in the sector of the 2nd Armored Division, it turned northeast and at 2030 was approaching SALZDAHLUM (9504). There, it was suddenly struck and the two lead jeeps disabled by a roadblock at the right on the east side of town (960043); four dug in tanks with infantry fired high explosive and automatic weapons into the troops; the friendly tanks became mired down when they tried to move off the road for a flanking assault, so that the lead Company "P" had to dismount on either side of the road to dislodge the strongpoint. Twenty minutes after midnight, Company "P" was still fighting. The Battalion remained on the defense in the same area during the remainder of the night. The next morning, the enemy tanks had fled.

Since the 2ND BATTALION could not continue to the Division objective area near RAUTHEIM, at 2300, the Regimental Commander ordered the 1ST BATTALION to entruck and proceed by motor to RAUTHEIM, and from there to set up roadblocks cutting all exits and approaches to BRAUNSCHWEIG.

During the day, 1027 prisoners surrendered to or were taken by the advancing units. Prisoners were as usual from outfits of casual makeup; artillery replacement battalions, antiaircraft battalions, an Hungarian labor regiment.

12 April

By 0225; the lead elements of the 1ST BATTALION had reached the rear Command Post of the 3RD. There; the Battalion Commanding Officer received the report that the railroad bridge over the Oker River which the 3RD BATTALION had used was impassible to troops on trucks. Engineers sent to improve the bridge for vehicular traffic said that it could be utilized at once, and at 0210, the 1ST BATTALION rolled northward toward RIDDAGSHEN (937119). One company, "B"; was sent to GUESMARODE (924127). In a short time, all roads in the network on the east side of BRAUNSCHWEIG were blocked.

At dawn came the order to continue the "blitz" sweep to the east. The 2ND BATTALION was alerted and headed out at 0615 from SALZDAHLUM to RAUTHEIM, and east to CREMLINGEN (995100). At 0630, the 1ST BATTALION on trucks joined the column.

Company "A" had, meanwhile, been brought forward from DETMOLD, and before joining the 1ST BATTALION column, had been assigned the mission of cleaning the Forst KONGESLUTTER (0709). This it did without mishap and, at KONGESLUTTER, became part of the 1ST BATTALION convoy.

Two platoons of the 30th Reconnaissance Troop were attached to the REGIMENT as of 0630; two jeeps and an M-8, followed by another jeep, from one of these units led; the remainder of the platoons with the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company "B", 823rd TDs, followed.

Division ordered the REGIMENT to drive toward UTHMÖDEN (466233) (Phaseline "John"). Accordingly, the column moved rapidly and unopposed through ABENRODE (042100), BORNUM (060110), KONGESLUTTER (105105). The column passed GROSS STEINMU (1412), where, acting on the word of civilians, who said there were no soldiers in the town, infantrymen started through on foot; when two were shot in the back, and over 100 prisoners were flushed from the houses, the TDs had the assignment of blasting the town. The force moved on to SUFFLINGENBURG (164107), and to MARLENTHAL (216 138).

When the assigned route led from the last mentioned town due east into a forest, reconnaissance noted an airfield not indicated on maps; one plane was seen. As the road dwindled, however, into a rutted path. To by-pass the road barrier, the column turned south, crossed the Autobahn almost into HUNSTEDT (238058), then headed northeast to WALLECK (273140), HODINGEN (279173), and finally FLECHTINGEN (389105). The movement had continued through the night; at 2345, the 2ND BATTALION halted at HASSELBURG (4125) while the 1ST BATTALION remained entrucked near FLECHTINGEN.

During the day, isolated resistance had been cleaned out without difficulty, and prisoners to the record number of 1530 had been taken by units of the Regiment. Of these 236 were turned over to the Division Cage near BRAUNSCHWEIG by the 3RD BATTALION, which had not yet been brought up with the remainder of the Regiment.

13 April

At 0500, the morning of the 13 April, the 2ND BATTALION again pushed forward, followed by the 1ST BATTALION, in the Combat Team column. The route originally planned, to the north, was found impassible; a new way eastward led through thick woods, through UTHMÖDEN near the Oker River, and through WÖRST (490265).

the outskirts of the Forst Planken (49809), the lead jeeps discovered a column of enemy trucks moving eastward along the woodline around a clearing; it was totally unaware that the American task force was upon its heels. Our lead vehicles, including two M-8 scout cars, swung into the open and swiftly clipped the enemy column with automatic fire. Tanks were brought up to destroy the enemy trucks. Fifty calibre bullets raked the dismayed, retreating Germans. One jeep followed them as they ran for safety into the woods, and caught them; two leading Nazi trucks were disabled by tanks as they fled over a road to the northeast. In all, Company "E", which had been mounted on the lead tanks, captured three cars and 12 trucks. Later an enemy mortar was seized in the advance.

from BORN (535265), which offered automatic fire resistance and had to be assaulted by the tanks, the troops continued northeast to DOLIE (646307); there, notice had reached REGIMENT that the WOLMIRSTEDT sector had been changed, and was now to be a region to the south around MAGDEBURG (6700). The task force headed due south to COLBITZ (640205), where 2000 prisoners of war, American, English, French, Polish, Serbs and Russian, from an enclosure in MAGDEBURG, were frenzied with joy at being liberated. At WOLMIRSTEDT (6619), the 2ND BATTALION trapped an enemy group attempting to take out of the city a captured three-man surrender party from the 2nd Armored; the Germans were shot when they deserted their halftrack and men. The column continued to the town of BARLEBEN (656078) on the outskirts of MAGDEBURG; as the vehicles reached the south edge of BARLEBEN, they were met with mortar and artillery barrages which forced a halt; it was learned that MAGDEBURG was still held in force by the enemy. Units of the Combat Team assembled then, in BARLEBEN. Lead elements had reached the new area by 1600; the 1ST BATTALION had moved into its section of the same town by 1915.

Company "A" was sent on the mission of establishing roadblocks on the roads east from WOLMIRSTEDT, where Division Headquarters had moved.

The REGIMENTAL Command Post remained on the road until 1130, was established at FLECHTINGEN, and left shortly after noon to arrive by 1630 at BARLEBEN.

In the advance on the 13 April, 850 prisoners surrendered or were forced one way or other to abandon their cause.

One platoon of Company "B" attacked the WOLMIRSTEDT-BARLEBEN road (652102) east through the woods between WOLMIRSTEDT and GLINDENBERG, the Stadtsforst Colbitz (697116) on a mission to move into GLINDENBERG and capture it.

April

The attack upon GLINDENBERG continued into the early morning hours of the 14 April. The platoon from Company "B" met delaying resistance in the Stadtsforst Colbitz. Shortly after midnight when it had reached the eastern edge of the woods, it pushed across the sloping fields toward GLINDENBERG (696120). Against a determined show of small arms, the troops were gaining a foothold in the south tip of the town when the Battalion Commander sent the remainder of the company with a platoon of TDs through WOLMIRSTEDT and east along the main road into GLINDENBERG.

The platoon in the southern tip was still meeting determined resistance until the tracks were heard rolling against the town. Most of the enemy then withdrew over the northeast road toward the river, before he could

be caught at a disadvantage. By 0200, the town was in our hands.

At 0900, a task force consisting of one squad of Company "C" and a platoon of TDs started from east to west on the mission of clearing a Main Supply Route from the canal crossing on the BARLEBEN-WOLLIRSTEDT road (652103) through MEITZENDORF (615033) to KEXLEBEN (395080). The force met no resistance and was ready to return at 1515.

At 1530, Company "C" endeavored to attack from GLINDENBERG to clean out the area southeast from the town to the Elbe River, but received so heavy initial fire from the area around the canal embankments that the project was abandoned until darkness would offer concealment for movement over the open ground. It was 2220 when two platoons of Company "C" pushed southeast from the edge of GLINDENBERG. From dug-in elevated positions in the vicinity of the canal, the enemy was able to harass and delay the platoons with machine gun and 20mm antiaircraft ground fire over four hours. By 0330, they had progressed 1000 yards to reach the west bank of the Elbe opposite HOHENWARTHE (715105). Fifty six prisoners were taken and only one casualty suffered.

A third platoon of Company "C" had started at 2030 from the BARLEBEN-WOLLIRSTEDT road at the south side of the canal crossing and moved eastward along the embankment. The troops moved without contest over the railroad tracks and skirted north of the Barleber-See. At a point (690105) where the canal branches and one arm turns southeast, a series of dug-in positions halted the advance, and the enemy was with difficulty driven back. The next day when the platoon pushed into the shipyard area on the east side of the southeast branch of the canal, all the Germans had fled. Meanwhile, the 3RD BATTALION was transported forward from the RAUTHEIM area near BRAUNSCHWEIG and moved into WOLLIRSTEDT by 1515. Its Company "K" immediately took over the roadblocks of Company "A", which upon relief assembled in BARLEBEN.

During the day, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon established one Observation Post in a mansion in BARLEBEN, a second in a church in GLINDENBERG.

15 April

On the following day, the 3RD BATTALION made further advance in cleaning out the area up to the Elbe River in our sector. At 1600, Company "F" pushed from the edge of BARLEBEN northeast across the fields without meeting opposition, and crossed over the railroad tracks toward the shipyards which elements of Company "C" had occupied that morning. At 2100, under cover of darkness, the Company "F" platoon moved out to the east, and established four outposts along the autobahn by 2215: two along the river opposite HOHENWARTHE, one at the canal crossing, and one on a side road.

In anticipation of crossing the Elbe, the 3RD BATTALION practiced amphibious operation on the Ohre River running through south WOLLIRSTEDT.

16 April

At 0600 on the 16 April, Company "E" was ordered to dispatch a patrol to investigate ROTHENSEE (685055), a community 1500 yards due north of MAGDEBURG. Where the eastward road into the town crosses a concentration of railroad tracks, the enemy had organized a block which pinned the patrol down with automatic fire.

At 0945, three patrols from Company "F" headed south to search out the northwest outskirts of MAGDEBURG, and one notified Company "E" of the roadblock holding up its patrol. Before Company "E" could send help, the Battalion was notified at 1125 to cease all activity during a negotiation for surrender of the town; later, at 1430, all patrols were drawn back to BARLEBEN.

From numerous outyard indications and a variety of G-2 sources, it was felt that the enemy was not eager to prolong the struggle against our forces in defense of the city, and, if given the proper encouragement, would surrender. Accordingly, in an M-8 scout car, followed by one jeep of the artillery and one of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, the Regimental S-2, accompanied by the assistant S-3 and a small group, left BARLEBEN and headed down the main road into MAGDEBURG. All vehicles flew white flags.

The party entered the besieged city without mishap, but were halted by a machine gun firing parallel to the road. A German noncommissioned officer stepped forward and introduced the party into his company command post, where after some explanation, the company commander made arrangements for the S-2 and one companion to go to the headquarters of the commander of the German troops in the town.

The two men were blindfolded and taken into a vehicle, which after numerous halts, arrived at the headquarters. Guided into the house through tortuous passages and finally into the cellar, the men had their blindfolds at last removed, and the S-2, with companion, found himself face-to-face with the Chief-of-Staff of the Nazi General, who upheld the Wehrmacht's honor in the MAGDEBURG area. The interpreter was a young woman. The conversation was brief; the Chief-of-Staff told our representative that the General was not empowered to discuss surrender of either the town or of his command.

The S-2 and his companion departed abruptly, again blindfolded, and returned to the company command post. They noted the presence of a few SS troops, apparently scattered as toughening among the poorer military staff in large majority. They sensed, however, a strong feeling in the enemy that he would like to accept the American proposal if orders from higher up did not make it impossible. The S-2 and his party reached the 120th REGIMENTAL Command Post at 1615. All activity of hostile nature had been suspended; it was now resumed.

The 1ST BATTALION's Companies "B" and "C" still on roadblocks around GLINDERBEG and the shipyard were relieved at 1732 by elements of the 30th Reconnaissance Troop, and both reassembled near Company "A" in BARLEBEN.

An attack on MAGDEBURG planned for 1700 was postponed.

17 April

While the 2nd Armored Division was to take the south half of the town, the 30th Division was scheduled to attack north MAGDEBURG on the 17 April. The 120th INFANTRY was given the extreme north sector; the 3RD BATTALION was to make the main strike along the principal BARLEBEN-MAGDEBURG road, and to seize initially an objective ("North Stinky") in the vicinity of NEUE KRUSSTADT (8703). The 1ST BATTALION was to follow, prepared to push through on order to the factory district south of the initial objective.

("South Stinky") (675020). In the early afternoon, MACDEBURG was subject to a strong airstrike by medium and fighter bombers.

The 2ND BATTALION was to protect the left flank of the attack. As planned, therefore, Company "G" executed a preliminary attack at 1510 from the autobahn south of HARLEBEN to the southeast and in a half hour had seized the railroad tracks (Objective "Teh") (697051) on the eastern fringe of ROTHENSEE.

One platoon of Company "K" had meanwhile seized a Line of Departure for the 3RD BATTALION, 1000 yards south of the Autobahn straddling the HARLEBEN road due north of the objective. At 1610, the Battalion pushed forward with Companies "L" on the right (west) and "I" on the left. Close behind the lead elements were a platoon of tanks and a platoon of TDs. Initially, the troops moved silently forward, but as they approached the builtup areas, the enemy became more and more in evidence with small arms, and panzerfaust, and later, direct fire weapons. The Battalion was initially delayed at two roadblocks west and south of a Sportsplatz, where the tanks maneuvering through the underbrush and sidestreets could not be counted on in a hurry to aid the advance. Far down the street, the attackers could see soldiers and civilians grouped and stirring around a 20mm antiaircraft gun, those with a long field of fire down the street sputtered projectiles and bullets close to a TD parked in cover beside a building. Before the day was done, one TD had been disabled, and a tank had lost its track.

The 1ST BATTALION followed the 3RD with Company "A" mounted on the tanks of Company "B", 743rd Tank Battalion, Company "E" of the 1ST BATTALION abreast to the left of the road, and Company "C" in rear. When the 3RD BATTALION was slowed by continued heavier resistance than expected, the 1ST was given the mission of moving up on the right (west) to help seize the objective. At 1635, Company "A" dismounted at the 3RD BATTALION Line of Departure and moved in two columns down roads leading right from the main highway (the Klein Kärnen Steig, and Lerchen Wahn); each was followed by a reinforced company: Company "C" with two platoons of tanks on the right, Company "E" with one platoon of tanks on the left route.

Up beside the 3RD BATTALION, the 1ST BATTALION pushed on through the lightly settled districts in its sector, and after the 3RD had eliminated two roadblocks, both surged after dark to the limits of the initial objective. At one road junction (663026), a strong block halted elements of Company "A"; a tank sent to knock it out was struck by Panzerfauste and disabled with resultant casualties. By 2115, an east-west line (Phase Line "Por") had been consolidated by both Battalions just north of the main factory district.

18 April

The enemy tried to sense our defenses during the night, but at 0200 when a ten-man patrol attempted to come through the 3RD BATTALION lines, troops along the main road quickly scattered it.

At 0630, the following morning, the attack was resumed. Since Division had broadened the Regimental sector to the west several hundred yards, it was determined that the 2ND BATTALION would be committed on the left flank east of the 3RD.

Accordingly, Companies "E" on the right (west) and "F" on the left were to attack from the region KOL EICHENWETTER (Phaseline "Ham") (678040), and to push southward to a railroad crossing (683022); there, the companies were to head east toward the river. Company "F" met a strongpoint north of its jumpoff line, which delayed the company attack a quarter of an hour. Company "E" moved forward at 0630 ahead of Company "F" but by 0922, the companies were abreast and had reached their half-way mark (Phaseline "Fork").

The 3RD BATTALION attacked at 0630 with Company "K" moving through the Company "L" positions on the right (west), and pushing abreast with Company "I". Initially the enemy defended certain selected houses strongly, and used automatic weapons from second story windows. Schmeisser "Burrp" guns were sprayed wildly down the street which marked the route of advance. Soon it became clear, however, that the enemy had withdrawn or been forced to move to defend another sector, for after passing the railroad tracks in the ALTE NEUSTADT section, the Battalion advanced rapidly, gathering momentum, and by 1130, after it had reached the river; Company "I" tied in with Company "K"; the two had moved almost simultaneously onto their respective objectives. The 3RD BATTALION reported 280 prisoners.

The 2ND BATTALION sent a patrol at once to cover a railroad bridge (692018) linking the north section of MAGDEBURG with BLEBERITZ (724030) across the Elbe, but the patrol returned at 1215 to report it already blown.

The 1ST BATTALION had meanwhile attacked at 0630 on the Regiment's right flank, with Company "A" on the right (west) and Company "B" on the left. Company "B" had to struggle to knock out the roadblock which had caused so much delay the night before. After a half hour's fire fight, three companies of enemy negotiated a mass surrender there. Company "A", meanwhile, moved in upon a motor pool (653021) on the extreme right flank, and therein captured 15 trucks and 74 prisoners. The companies continued the advance warily on guard for roadblocks; opposed only by scattered machine guns and Panzerfauste, they reached the railroad tracks by 1017. Here, a defense line was feebly attempted by a few enemy; after a brief exchange of fire, it was dispersed.

South of the railroad, the Battalion overran the once stylish Exerzierplatz (669003), where after one or two rounds were fired, 184 prisoners gave themselves up. From here to the river, the advance was rapid, and Company "B" took another large lump of prisoners, numbering 150, only a few streets from the river's edge. On the right flank, close to the Elbe, in an area where strong harassing sniper fire caused some delay to Company "A", air-raid shelters were discovered crammed with 1800 civilians huddled in terrified groups. By 1400, the Battalion had consolidated, with the entire area to the river cleared and had totalled 433 prisoners, including a regimental commander.

Civilians reported that the bridge (683003) in the NORDFRONT area in the Battalion sector was wired for demolition, and volunteered to take our troops there in an effort to save it. At a dead run, a squad from Company "B" followed the civilians, but had reached only to within some 100 yards of it, when it was blown.

The 2ND BATTALION had in the meantime assigned to Company "G" the task of mopping up the area in the triangle formed by ROTHENSEE, the river due east of that town, and the northernmost railroad bridge in MAGDEBURG. ROTHENSEE was itself cleared by the Battalion Antitank Platoon and one attached from the Regimental Antitank Company. Without hitting any resistance, both missions were completed by 1700.

The 1ST and 3RD BATTALIONS now defended along the river in town, and at 1800, the 2ND BATTALION was ordered to outpost the river line from the north edge of MAGDEBURG to the waterline east of GLINDENBERG. Company "G" outposted from GLINDENBERG south to a point where the Emm-Nasser-Elbe Canal forks (702074); the area from that point south to a railroad junction in MAGDEBURG (688020) was outposted by Company "G". Company "F" assembled in

BARLEBEN.

The total prisoner count for the day was 790, all from miscellaneous units. Storehouses seized in the day's advance contained foodstuffs, liquors, candy, airplane parts.

19 April

A Division order on the 18 April transferred the defenses of entire LAGDEBURG to the 117th Infantry; it gave to the 120TH REGIMENT a sector north of the city extending from (731145) the area south of HEINRICHSBERG to ROTHENSEE (695050).

At 0800 on the 19 April, the 117th Infantry took over the positions occupied by the 120TH's 1ST and 3RD BATTALIONS, which were in turn to relieve the 2ND BATTALION along the river front.

The 1ST BATTALION left LAGDEBURG to take defensive areas: Company "A" around ROTHENSEE and Company "C" from 200 yards north of ROTHENSEE to the Autobahn; both were in position by 1400. Company "B" assembled in BARLEBEN by 1815.

At 1040 when Company "I" was making final preparations for withdrawal from its LAGDEBURG area, the sentries along the river saw a boat rowing towards them. It contained a German officer and four enlisted men, carrying a white flag. After they landed, they told of the numerous enemy on the river-island, WERDER (680990), east of the town, who wanted to surrender; Company "I"'s commander told them to return and bring across the others. Shortly, the Germans had come back with their own commanding officer, and with him his family which he feared might have suffered a Nazi reprisal because of his desertion. The five-man group hastened back to the island again and brought in several boatloads, containing in all 56 prisoners of war. Thirty more were coming to surrender when Company "I", fully relieved by the 117th Infantry, left the area. By this time, the island was glistening with white flags.

Upon relief, the 3RD BATTALION, minus Company "L", moved into billets at WOLLERSTEDT. With its headquarters in GLINDENBERG, Company "L" established roadblocks and outposts from the Autobahn north along the Elbe to a point 1000 yards south of HEINRICHSBERG (731159). The HEINRICHSBERG area north to the Division boundary at a point on the river (746175) due east of ZIEHLITZ, was held by the 30th Reconnaissance Troop, which had become attached to the 120TH INFANTRY the night before.

By 1440, Company "L" had occupied its defenses. When the river positions had been taken by the other Battalions, the 2ND BATTALION withdrew to its former assembly area in BARLEBEN by 1600. It made preparations to throw back any attempted enemy attack, and to quell any disturbance in the rear areas.

20 April

At noon on the 20 April, staff members of the 3RD BATTALION made a reconnaissance of the HEINRICHSBERG area south from the Ohre River, that region occupied by the 30th Reconnaissance Troop. At 1900, Company "K" moved north from WOLMIRSTEDT to relieve the reconnaissance elements; by 1940, it had taken over an outpost defense of the area.

21 April

During the period following the rapid push across Germany, the civilians constituted an increasingly difficult problem. The destruction of homes, collapse of German authority, and liberation of Slavic, Polish and French laborers gave rise to a quantity of inconveniences and consequent complaints by all concerned. Combat units were called on to serve in a military government function.

On the 21 April as preparation for plans to alleviate the difficult situation, Division ordered the units of the 120th Combat Team to take charge of certain designated sub-areas, and to submit a survey of available housing facilities and food supplies in the towns of: ROHNWARSLEBEN (5704), ZENSDORF (6205), ROHLENSEE (6807) (by 1ST BATTALION); of GERSDORF (581061), REFSDORF (559052) (by Antitank Company); of HARLEBEN, DANLEWARSLEBEN (600065) (by 230th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company); of WOLMIRSTEDT (by 3RD BATTALION); of KLEIN ALLENLEBEN (588090) (by Company "B", 823rd Tank Destroyer Battalion); of GROSS ALLENLEBEN (537106) (by Company "B", 743rd Tank Battalion which later took over KLEIN ALLENLEBEN also); of MEIPESENDORF (615084) (by Company "C", 105th Engineer Battalion); and of GROSS SALTERSLEBEN (520067), SCHAACKENSLEBEN (520061), KORBELISLEBEN (505080), DENSDERT (471114), ACKENDORF (535092), and GATENSWEGERN (568102) (by the 2ND BATTALION).

When guards were needed for storehouses and other installations, details were drawn from the Battalions. Under Division control, Company "I" moved at 1445, and with the 30th Reconnaissance Troop, took responsibility for posts in the town of OSCHERSLEBEN (400870).

22 April

The next day, elements of the 35th Division moved into HEINRICHSBERG to take over the defenses of Company "K", and some of the northernmost outposts of Company "L". Company "K" withdrew into WOLMIRSTEDT. The relief was completed by 1950.

Church services were held.

During the day, units of the Combat Team were busy making exhaustive surveys of the facilities and stored foodstuffs in their assigned areas. Reports were completed by the following night.

23-30 April

Beginning on the 23 April, the Battalions began light training within their areas. Physical training, close order drill, athletics and care and cleaning of equipment were included on the schedules for the following week.

The Regimental Observation Post continued to function and report regularly throughout the period.

During this period, the units assigned to survey of certain areas on the 21 April continued to be in charge of those areas. Each area-commander maintained stationary guards at special installations or points of civilian unrest, and established a schedule of motor and foot patrols over the main routes and through all settlements. A list of "displaced person", that is, people of foreign nationality imported as cheap labor, and of liberated prisoners of war from all countries, was drawn up and submitted to higher headquarters. When, on the 29 April, Company "B" of the 743rd Tank Battalion was ordered to another vicinity, the 3RD BATTALION took over responsibility for the towns of KILBIN and GROSS ALLENSEVERN.

Within the areas of the 1ST and 3RD BATTALIONS, still in defensive organization, occurred some mild patrol clashes near the river. On the 23 April, Company "L" men fired on an enemy group; in an exchange of fire which caused the others to withdraw, one German was killed. On the 25 April, 29 Germans crossed the Elbe by boat, and surrendered to men of Company "A" north of HOTTENWASSER. Again on the night of the 28-29 April, the 3RD BATTALION received several boatloads of "displaced persons" who crossed the river into its area from HOTTENWASSER. On the 30 April, a group of enemy soldiers surrendered to Company "L". The previous day, some Company "L" men had crossed the Elbe and discussed surrender with the commander of a small German garrison close to the river banks. With Division approval, four officers and approximately a company of men were received as they landed from boats flying white flags at 1030 on the last day of the month; they were promptly escorted to the PW cage.

3. Remarks:

a. Military Government. The relations of the soldiers with civilians was easily one of the biggest problems of the month. In the billeting of troops, no civilians were permitted to be located in the same block, wherever moving them further away was at all feasible. A new emphasis was placed on rules against fraternization, looting, and drunkenness. The IPW personnel was utilized constantly in C.I.C. and Military Government capacity.

b. Opposition. The comparatively light opposition encountered during the month was characterized by the liberal use by the Germans of the Panzerfaust, as artillery, antitank and direct antipersonnel weapons. These were encountered profusely in HIDDENEN and LADDEBURG. In defending cities, the enemy employed mainly roadblocks, so that our fight became mainly one of hopping from one small fortified point to another. The entire

drive from KIRCHHELEN to MACDEBURG was met in the main with only scattered, harassing, and easily overcome resistance.

c. Personnel. During the absence of Colonel Branner P. Purdue, on leave to England from 22-30 April, the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Harry D. McHugh.

d. Tactics.

(1) In the seizure of Monument Hill in the Teutoburger Wald, Company "B" utilized "marching fire", to excellent effect. The men advanced rapidly, firing rifle grenades, smoke and fragmentation, thus giving themselves close-in, "artillery" support.

(2) In our first venture with large city fighting, the REGIMENT found in its own situation that a constant wariness for roadblocks had to be maintained. When one was felt out, a squad or appropriate group was sent to flank it. On no occasion were troops permitted to be caught advancing down a street frontally against a roadblock. Tanks had to be cautious in using main streets and where possible moved through alleyways and sidestreets.

STATISTICS

During the period covered by this report, the 120th Infantry Regiment captured 4314 prisoners from the following units or elements thereof:

5 Repl. AA Bn	19 Arty Repl and Res Bn
46 GHQ AA Bn	457 Arty Bn
438 Searchlight AA Bn	6 Arty Oban. Tng and Repl. Bn
521 Hvy AA Bn	V GAF Res Bn
986 Lt AA Bn	231 GAF Sig Regt
125 Railroad AAA Bn	GAF Ground personnel
144 AAA Bn	Civilian Test pilots
539 AAA Bn	
143 AA Sig Brigade	13 AT Repl and Res Bn
10309 AA Btry	4 Eng Tng and Repl. Bn
10310 AA Btry	19 Eng Res Bn
48 Fortress Bn	213 Eng Res Bn
49 Fortress Bn	74 Eng Co
348 Fortress Bn	

Home Guard Bn MUNSTER	12 Inf Tng and Repl Bn
Home Guard Bn G	18 Inf Repl and Res Bn
6 Home Guard Bn	17 Inf Res Bn
11 Home Guard Res Bn	167 Inf Res Bn
499 Home Guard Res Bn	193 Inf Repl and Res Bn
702 Home Guard Bn	588 Inf Res Bn
704 Home Guard Bn	590 Inf Tng and Repl Bn
	6 Inf Res OCS
	Inf OCS HANDELN
6 Pz Gren Repl and Res Bn	
64 Pz Gren Res Bn	CT BURG
Hospital Unit AMGELNDE	CT FOSSEN
83 Smoke Co	CT MULLER
Stomach Bn BIELEFELD	CT ULLENDORF
3 Co, Straggler Collecting Bn	

Police Dept : Braunschweig, Magdeburg, Rethensee, i.a.
 Volksturm : Braunschweig, Magdeburg, i.a.
 Hospitals : Detmold, Arnburg, Oldenburg, Bad Pyrmont, Bielefeld.

CASUALTIES FROM 1 APRIL 1945 to 30 APRIL 1945 INCLUSIVE

	Officers	EM	Total
Killed in Action	0	47	47
Wounded & Injured in Action	4	102	106
Missing in Action	2	13	15
Captured	0	0	0
- Total -	6	162	168
From Wounded & Evacuated to Returned	5	26	31
From MIA to other BC Status or Returned	1	45	46
Died of Wounds	0	3	3

CASUALTY SUMMARY TO DATE

Killed in Action	56	1034	1090
Wounded & Injured	193	4482	4675
Missing in Action	11	136	147
Captured	8	187	195
* Returned to Military control	7	85	92
** Returned to Military control and Hospitalized Non Battle Casualty	0	10	10
- Total -	275	5984	6259
Died of Wounds	9	125	134

* Reported to us by Higher Headquarters as returned to Military Control. In all cases men were previously carried as either missing in action or as prisoners of war

and it is assumed that in all instances these men were prisoners of war whom were liberated by the allied armies.

** Same as above except that these men had to be hospitalized is - malnutrition, etc.

B.P. Purdue

B. P. PURDUE
Colonel - 120th Infantry
Commanding

1 Incl:
Journals and Supporting Documents.

*Not Recd
on 31 Jul 45*