

57 I RF DIV

NOT TO BE TAKEN FORWARD OF FRONT LINE BATTALION OP'S.
HEADQUARTERS BELOW REGIMENT AND DIVISION ARTILLERY HEADQUARTERS WILL DESTROY
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104 (TIMBERWOLF) Inf Div
APO 104, U. S. Army
From: 250001 March 1945
To : 252400 March 1945

O-2 PERIODIC REPORT NO. 150.

Maps: GSGS 441b; Sheets 5209, 5210, 5211, 5309, 5310, 5311.
GSGS 4507; Sheets 60, 80, 100.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

a. Enemy Front Lines: FLAMMERSFEID (8527) - ORFGEN (8529) - MEHREN (8431) - ERSFELD (8433) - RETTERSON (8334).

b. Defensive Organizations: Photo interpretation of sorties flown 24 March show but few trenches, prepared road blocks, or other defensive positions. Many medium and machine gun type anti-aircraft, dual purpose gun positions found to be occupied. (See Annex 2)

c. Units in Contact: In contact on the Division front are elements of 340th VG Div, 9th Pz Div, and 3rd PG Div. (See Annex No. 1)

d. Reserves: At the present time, all the enemy's armored and armor-type divisions are busily engaged on the various bridgeheads. This leaves only a few Tank and AG GHQ Bns as possible mobile reserves on the Western Front.

In the way of infantry, the most likely candidates for commitment on the Western Front are the 245th Inf Div, the 161st Inf Div, and the 169th Inf Div. However, because of the critical situation that prevails all along this front, it is difficult to estimate which sector is receiving the priority on available divisions in reserve.

e. Supply and Evacuation Establishments:

Location	Description	Source	Date
F-84042734			
F-84042711	Railhead area with boxes stacked on ground and a number of storage buildings	PI	24 March
F-86282856	Supply dump	PI	24 March
F-86532872	Supply dump	PI	24 March
F-86502895	Supply dump	PI	24 March

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

a. General Summary: 11 Inf advanced steadily throughout day encountering light resistance chiefly in the form of strongpoints. By-passed pockets were eliminated throughout the area. Arty fire consisted very light during period. At 2400A, Elms were buttoned up in NEIDERMUILEN (818290), KESHEID (822292), and Vic ALTENHOFEN (811293). Estimated 230 PWS taken for day representing the 340th VG Div and 9th Pz Div.

115 Inf reported a continuance of SP and rocket fire, Arty being heaviest during morning hours. Some flak fire received in 1st Bn Z. Vehicular movement active on the ASBACH - EITORF road. Chief resistance was again S/A fire, which was continuously reduced throughout regimental sector. 225 PWS taken during period.

Adjacent Units: 1st Inf Div encountered heavy resistance in EIERDH (77380) in morning, securing town at 1200A. At close of period, GRUELSTEDTEN (110), KRAECK (774370), and FERNEGGERSCHEID (787366) were taken. Resistance throughout period generally heavy in N, ranging to spotty in E. Five

tanks, two SPs, and two half-tracks reported knocked out. 802 PWs taken during period from 901st, 902nd, and 111th PG Regts.

9th Pz Div reports enemy employed mines and SPs to delay advances and determined resistance on small scale was encountered. Entire length of AUTOBAHM in Z cleared with BLms reaching (855198). Total of 323 PWs taken, composed of member of 1st Para Div, 340th VG Div and 326th VG Div.

3rd Armd Div reports twelve tanks, four SPs, thirty-nine M/Ts, eleven Arty pieces and eight 88mm guns knocked out. Total of 842 PWs taken up to 2400A.

b. Operations of Component Elements:

(1) Aircraft: None reported over Div Z.

(2) Armor: Numerous tanks were reported in adjacent unit zones and in contact with 3rd Armd Div. At 0755A, column of tanks observed at (F-753389). At 0930A, air OPs reported 3 tanks Vic GRIESENBACH (F-7833). One tank captured at HENNAU (F-759294) at 2000A by 104th Rcn Troop. At 1400A, 11 tanks observed at (F-81143254).

(3) Artillery: 140 gun or battery positions reported through sound and flash rangings, Air OPs, and photo interpretation. 10 Shallreps received indicating bulk of fire to be of light caliber, except for 12 rounds of medium fire, which fell at 1100A Vic (F-716287). Between 0420A and 0430A, one concentration of 15 rounds fell Vic (F-700300). 26 counterbattery missions fired during period. A general decrease in enemy Arty activity reported over preceding period.

(4) Engineers: Schu mine field was taped off E of EUDENBACH (7132). 329 Engr Bn also removed approximately 20 plastic Top mines Vic (716311). Enemy blew several road craters in ASBACH. One abatis road block reported SE of WALLRATH.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

a. PWs: Through Div cage as of 2400A - 360
Taken since 24 March - 651
Total to date - 8232 (Includes 411 evacuated
Enemy buried by GRS today - 9 through Medical channels)
Total enemy buried by GRS - 1186

b. Weather Forecast 251800A - 261800A March 1945:

Precipitation : None.
Visibility : 3-5 miles.
Surface Winds : Southerly, light to moderate.
Temperature : Maximum 70; minimum 43.
Flying Conditions: Moderate for fighter-bomber operations.

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Moon Phase
25 March	0624A	1804A	1627A	0605A	First Quarter
27 March	0622A	1852A	1734A	0625A	First Quarter

c. From the Div Cage (1) PWs from KG FALK, 340th VG Div, state that the Div consists entirely of KAMPGRUPPEN. During the ARDENNES battle, the Div's Arty Regiment was forced to destroy all of its guns because of the danger of capture. There have been no replacements of materiel since that time.

(2) PW from 5th Co, 29th PGR, 3rd Pz Gren Div, states that most of the Germans are tired of war and are ready to quit. They are convinced that the war is rapidly nearing its end and, therefore they are avoiding capture because they fear being kept in captivity for several years after hostilities cease.

(3) Deserter from 3rd Co, 110th Regt, 11th Pz Div, reveals that unit had 20 rocket guns attached. After each salvo fired, the guns were displaced.

(4) PWs state that German units are nearly out of gasoline and are unable to displace their Arty pieces.

d. They Fear Watching: A C & R car of 386th FA Bn, struck 2 mines today, believed to have been Riegel mines, Vic (714297). One of the occupants was killed and two others seriously injured.

386th FA Bn reported that a civilian, whose home they had occupied as a CP, informed them that civilians in the town laid mines at night in areas occupied by American troops.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES: No change.

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- ANNEXES: (1) Order of Battle Notes
(2) Towns in Division Zone
(3) Displaced Women
(4) PT Report (limited Distribution)

ANNEX NO. 1 TO G-2 PR NO. 150 - ORDER OF BATTLE NOTES

IDENTIFICATIONS DURING PERIOD

UNIT	PLACE	REMARKS
3rd Pz Gren Div		
8th PzB	HQ, 3, 9, 10, 11 15 Cos	Vic OBERSCHEID (F-7793)
3rd Engn Bn	1, 2, 3 Cos	Vic OBERSCHEID (S)
340th VG Div	KG DANEMARK	Vic GERMSCHEID (F-7427)
	KG FALK	Vic GERMSCHEID
11th Pz Div		
110th PGR	3 Co	Vic WASSERHEIDE (F-7136)
3 Co	Vic BUELLSBACH	Unit arrived in area 2 days ago, Co strength 50.
11th Rch Pz Div	3 Co	Vic BUELLSBACH
3 Co	Vic BUELLSBACH	Bn has 3 Cos, strength of 3 Co 90; 2 Co almost destroyed in action 24 March.
363rd VG Div		
363rd Arty Regt	2 Btry	Vic BULGENBERG (F-7350)
1189th GHQ Arty Bn	1 Btry	Vic HEIDEL (F-7314)
		Consists of 3 Btries with 9 210mm mortars each.

ANNEX NO. 2 TO G-2 PR NO. 150 - TOWNS IN DIVISION ZONE

ALTMARKKIRCHEN: Situated in the WESTERWALD FOREST on the River Wied, ALTMARKKIRCHEN is an industrial town of 2900 inhabitants. Its main resources are from the exploitation of iron and lead mines. It is a railroad center connecting HACHENBURG with LIMBURG on the Lahn River to the South. The WESTERWALD FOREST, surrounding ALTMARKKIRCHEN, is of volcanic nature, consisting of level, far stretched lava fields which give the landscape a rather monotonous look. As a whole, the WESTERWALD gets its mountainous appearance from its many streams which cut gorges through the terrain, although large pastures are frequent. Cold winds and heavy rains are weather features.

HACHENBURG (G-0529): Situated in WESTERWALD, HACHENBURG is a village of 2500 inhabitants and a province of HESSEN-NA-SAU. Some workers make earthenware jugs and stoneware.

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HERBORN: (G-4031) A busy town of 4800 population, HERBORN is situated on the banks of the DILL River. Its four ancient wall towers are visible from far. Many wooden houses date from the XVIth and XVIIth centuries. The city hall was built in 1590. A castle with many towers, built in the XIIIth century, is situated above the town. It was formerly owned and occupied by the Duke of Nassau but now serves as a priest seminary. The Southern outskirts of town is the site of a large State insane asylum. Opposite the town, on the other bank of the River, is HOMBERG HILL (375 meters in altitude) with small lookout tower.

DILLENBURG: (G-3938). Situated on River DILL, DILLENBURG is 230 meters above sea level. From the 16th to the 18th century, it was the seat of the House of Nassau. It is now the capital of the district, possessing 6100 inhabitants. Its industries consist of foodaries, tobacco, leather tanning, and a mining school. A landmark is the 40 meter high Wilhelms tower on the ruins of Dillenburg Castle. E of town is a 365 meter hill, providing observation over the country.

ANNEX NO. 3 TO G-2 PR NO. 150 - DISPLACED WOMEN

A security menace that calls for more than passing consideration at this time is the thousands of women behind our lines and throughout Germany, referred to as Displaced Persons. These women are of many nationalities, Russian, French, Belgian, Polish, Spanish, Dutch, etc., most of whom are nationals of a country with whom we are allied, and that is what makes the situation even more complicated.

It is known that German intelligence has long resorted to the use of women espionage agents with a marked degree of success. More frequently than not, these women agents are of a nationality other than German. It is therefore apparent that women behind our lines purporting to be our allies would be highly regarded for such missions by the Germans and their services brought into play either as the result of pay or through duress.

All of these Displaced Women are of course, not Mata Hari's, this is especially true since she was reputed to be a rather striking beauty, and most of these women fall far short of measuring up to the American standards of what beautiful women should be. Many a soldier, who is ordinarily security conscious, may forget himself as a result of the urge for feminine companionship, and the enemy agent, in the guise of a displaced person and silly, may in exchange for this companionship, obtain information of vital importance to the enemy.

As we go deeper into Germany and more of these Displaced Women are encountered, there is evidence of a marked increase of associations with them on intimate terms by our soldiers. It is believed that this association for the most part is due to ignorance on the part of the average soldier with the recent directive enlarging the policy on Non-Fraternization. The policy now not only includes German nationals, but all persons who dwell or reside permanently in Germany, regardless of their nationality, as well as Nazi collaborators and nationals of countries who have been allied with Germany in war against the Allies and who may temporarily be within the geographical limits of Germany.

Attention is called to the contents of Twelfth Army Gp Ltr, O91 (G-1) dated 5 March 1945, Subject: Non-Fraternization Policy, with a full explanation thereof.

Giving the average soldier a true picture of the situation will go far toward eliminating this menace at its source. (See: III Corps)