

FROM: 300001A March 1945
TO : 302400A March 1945

Hq 1st US Inf Div
G-315393
30 March 1945

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: Authority: CG:
: 1st US Inf Div:
: 30 March 1945 :
: Initials: JAL :

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

NO. 232

Maps: GSGS 4507, Scale 1:50,000, Sheets 79, 80, 99 and 100.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

See sketch map attached as Annex 1.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. During 30 March, elements of the 130th Panzer Lehr Division furnished the major resistance to the advance of the Division to the north. These forces were supplemented by numerous odds and ends from almost every enemy unit which had been engaged formerly about the REMAGEN bridgehead and also included the 57th Replacement Training Battalion, which is the replacement training battalion of the SIEGEN area. After the town of WILNSDORF was finally cleared by our forces in early morning, after a very sharp fight, our units pushed on to the north encountering a series of enemy strongpoints at each of the key road junctions in the Division zone of action. EISERN, OBERSDORF, OBERDIELFEN, RUDERSDORF, GERNSDORF, HAINSDORF and STRASSEBERSBACH were all used by the enemy as strongpoints in which he held out until outmaneuvered and forced to withdraw or surrender. In the EISERN - OBERSDORF area the 57th Training Battalion was captured almost intact, the commanding officer, his staff and nearly all of his command being taken prisoner. During the period gains of up to 6,000 yards were made against the enemy's stubborn but not fully organized defense.

b. Enemy artillery was again light in intensity and fell almost entirely on forward units. Considerable use was made of 20mm ack-ack guns mounted on vehicles.

c. No enemy aircraft were reported over the Division area during the period.

d. Prisoners taken during the period indicate that the 130th Panzer Lehr Division is still the main enemy unit involved in the defense of SIEGEN. At the close of the period, a civilian report was received to the effect that 20 tanks and infantry were in the village of DEUZ (G-2854), preparing for a counterattack in an unspecified direction. It is possible that this may be a part of the 9th Panzer Division, which is believed to be in the area

northeast of SIEGEN.

e. Reports received during the period indicate that the 3d U.S. Armored Division, which has advance elements just south of PADERBORN, has not as yet made contact with any fully organized enemy forces. The only enemy contact of any importance reported by the 3d Armored Division at the close of the period was an enemy road block vicinity B-895261. At the close of the period elements of the 4th Cavalry Group were reported as far north as G-445700. The only serious enemy contact reported was an engagement with the enemy vicinity G-4163 in which enemy self-propelled guns or anti-tank guns were engaged.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Six hundred and eighty-two prisoners were taken during the period. For details of prisoners processed through the Division Cage up to 301800A. March, see attached Consolidated Interrogation Report.

b. Two enemy dumps were taken during the period, one vicinity G-290450 and the other in vicinity G-420480. Two enemy tanks, one tank retriever, two multiple 20mm ack-ack guns and a few heavy-duty trucks were also captured.

c. Maximum temperature during 30 March was 65, minimum 40.

d. Weather forecast 31 March: Fair. Visibility: generally good throughout the period. Temperature: maximum 65, minimum 40. Flying conditions: good.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

The enemy is expected to defend key road junctions and towns, utilizing forces not exceeding 200 men and a few self-propelled guns at any one place. There is no indication as yet of any major grouping such as would be necessary in order to launch any sizeable counterattack.

John H. Lauten
JOHN H. LAUTEN,
Major, G.S.C.,
Acting A.C. of S., G-2.

ANNEXES:

- #1- Sketch Map.
- #2- Consolidated Interrogation Report.
- #3- Troubles in the Panzer Regiment.
- #4- Bits and Pieces.