

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 0001

Time:

(To : 0420

Date: 26 March 45

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
0001			JOURNAL OPENED		
0110	1	16th	Town of Blankenberg has a lot of half-tracks in there. Tp	J	
0150	2	104th Div	The 415th Regiment reported enemy action continued the same as on the previous period. Artillery and SP and rocket fire continued. Flak was reported throughout the entire regimental sector. Many prisoners taken. Vehicular movement was reported in the ASBACH area. 225 PWs taken up to 1800A. 413th Regiment reports some enemy resistance at strongpoint at 767286; this was cleared up and some 30 prisoners were taken from this area. One people buttoned up at 814293, 818290 and 822292. Resistance light, artillery fire exceedingly light for period. Took 230 prisoners representing the 9th Panzer Division.	Tp	J M
0335	3	16th Inf	The 2d Battalion captured the following prisoners: 1st Bn, 943d Regiment 9 Assault Bn, CT NOSE, GHO Troops 7 Battlegroup ZARGE, 353d Div 3 958th Regiment 3	Tp	J M Corps DivArty 78th Div
0445	4	78th Div	The town of BLANKENBERG is reported full of half-tracks and MTs from the 951st Panzer Gren Regiment. 25 Prisoners were taken by the 1st Battalion from ADSCHIED, no identification as yet. "I" Company cleared the town of SUCHTERSCHIED, reports no opposition. Have two Volksturm who were with the 353d Training Bn. No more details available as yet. Everything quiet.	Tp	J
0420	5	16th Div	Assault Bn NOSE directly under Fifth Panzer Army. Came from LIEVERKUSEN on 23 March by truck, crossed the EITORF River Bridge (799 420) in the morning of the 24th. Went to DONDORF with 150 men and some 8.1 cm mortars (2d and 4th Companies). 1st Company didn't come for lack of gas. 3d Company is at a weapons school AOK V in LUDENSCHIEG. Bn was attached to 943d Regiment commanded by Maj ZORN. Following identifications have been made: 5th Company, 901st Regiment 1 7th Company, 901st Regiment 4 8th Company, 901st Regiment 1 Hq, 2d Battalion, 901st Regiment 1	Tp	J M Corps

NOTE: "Rec'd Via", Tp=telephone; rad=radio; Tgp=telegraph; Tpe=teletype
#, M-map; J=journal; T=troops; CG, C/S, etc.

Revised 3 Jan 44.

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

~~SECRET~~

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 0445

Time:

(To : 0903

Date: 26 March 1945

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
0445	6	G-3	From the 26th Inf: "A" Company at 783395. "G" in the town right behind "A"; getting counter-attacked by tanks and infantry, unknown number. Putting artillery fire on it. No more details. Our tanks going up to help "A". "K" Company at 737394.	Tp	J M Corps Units
0550	7	18th Inf	All quiet.	Tp	J Corps
0555	8	16th Inf	All quiet. Only light enemy artillery all night. Have about 61 prisoners taken by "B" and "I" Companies.	Tp	J Corps
0600	9	Div Arty	Everything has been very quiet except in the 26th Infantry where we have been putting some artillery.	Tp	J Corps
0610	10	104	Nothing to report.	Tp	J
0620	11	26th Inf	"A" Company received counterattack by infantry and tanks coming from the town they were to take. Had one platoon surrounded, called for artillery fire on their position. Three tanks were reported in the area. Still in process of taking objective. "A" Company just getting to its objective. "G" on its objective south of "A" Company. 2d Bn is still receiving heavy SP and mortar fire, coming from the east; most fire on 1st Battalion is coming from the north. 3d Battalion reports some artillery.	Tp	J M Corps Units
0625	12	G-2 VII	Intelligence summary for period ending 0600A.	Tp	J Corps
0625	13	Corps	3d Armored elements at 8334, 851329, 879286 and 804273.	Tp	J M Units
0810	14	G-3	Periodic Report No. 282, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0815	15	G-2	Password and Reply 27-28 March 1945.	Rpt	J, Units
0817	16	VII Corps	(As of 0730A) Air reconnaissance reported at F-825 413 many vehicles, some heavy motor transports pulling guns heading northwest at 0700A.	Tp	J, DA
0830	17	79th Div	Periodic Report No. 211, 24 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0851	18	76th Div	Annex 1 to FO No. 5, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0855	19	DA	Latest advances of 3d Armored Division: F-915315, F-846365, F-863348, F-850330, F-831320.	Tp	J, M
0903	20	VII Corps	Periodic Report No. 84, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J

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//, M-map; J-journal; T-troops; CG, C/S, etc.
Revised 3 Jan 44.

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 0905
Time:
(To : 1035

CP: F-667347

Date: 26 March 1945

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
0905	21	7AD	Periodic Report No. 218, 24 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0910	22	VIII Corps	Periodic Report No. 279, 23 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0915	23	VII Corps	Interrogation of a French PW, 25 March.	Rpt	J
0920	24	104th Div	Interrogation Report, 24 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0925	25	IX Tac	Summary of Air Operations for 23 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0926	26	IX Tac	Summary of Air Operations for 22 March 1945.	Rpt	J
0935	27	VII Corps	Tac/R flown this morning at 0710A saw at F-825113 approximately 100 vehicles crossing the bridge in the area moving north along the main road just a little to the northwest of the bridge. 7th Army: All resistance ceased west of the river. 3d Army: Northern bridgehead expanded during the day, against moderate to heavy resistance from small arms, artillery and 20mm anti-aircraft fire. They received a counterattack by an undetermined number of infantry at L-9289, but it was repulsed by 1845A. The main bridgehead advanced continued against moderate resistance from AT, bazooka and small arms fire. They crossed 2 bridges over the river intact. They cleared Darnstadt, Russelsheim (M-4855), Hassloch (M-5154), Arbeilgen (M-6646), Wixhausen (M-6548), Erzhausen (M-6548), Sieheim (M-6530), Morselden (M-5953), M-430520, M-447469. Some resistance was reported in town of Babenhausen (M-8752), and in the outskirts of town at M-6056. 3d Army took 3,500 PWs yesterday. 9th Army: Stiff resistance reported all day. One bridge knocked out by artillery fire. 156 Panzer Grenadier Regt identified at A-3436 and 60th PGR identified at A-3535. The Volkssturmers are hurriedly throwing away their arms. There was a two kilometer gain along the Wesel Canal. The PWs from 116 Pz Div state food, gas and morale are awful low. British took 1,700 PWs and reported light resistance.	Tp	J, 16, 18, 26
1000	28	6th	We have 65 PWs from following units: 2d Co, 111 PGR - 11; 4th Co, 111 PGR - 4; Hq 1st Bn, 111 PGR - 1; 2d Co, 902 PGR - 5; 3d Co, 902 PGR - 5; 957th Regt - 4; 7th Co, 901st PGR - 3; 5th Co, 901 PGR - 1; 3d Co, 901 PGR - 2. As yet no identification on the rest.	Tp	J
1030	29	104th	Periodic Report No. 150, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
1035	30	18th	Report on Interrogation of 191 PWs, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J

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Revised 3 Jan 44.

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 1040
To: 1325)

Date: 26 March 1945

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
1040	31		Phantom Situation report, 26 March 1945.	Rpt	J
1045	32	3AD	Periodic Report No. 270, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
1047	33	26th	PWs from following units: 2 - Arty Regt, 1183d 1 - Army Motor Park 1 Bonn 6 - Pz Lehr Escort Co 9	Tp	J
1130	34	78th Div	Periodic Report No. 103, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
1145	35	VII Corps	Fighter-bomber operating in vicinity of F-8218 bombed and strafed 15-20 heavy tanks. Flight commander estimated about 50 tanks in the woods. Armored vehicles and motor transports all slowly moving east. At F-8214 bombed and strafed 75 plus parked motor transports.	Tp	J, 26
1150	36	G-3	16th Inf upon relief in present sector will move E on Div order to take objective Able. Effective immediately will maintain one battalion motorized, prepared to move east to Phase Line #2 on the axis Uckerath - Kirchelt - Hasselbach, with mission of protecting south flank of Div, and maintaining contact with the 3d Armored Division on right.	Msg	J
1205	37	16th	2d Battalion, 901st Regt had their CP in town of Leischeld (F-821390). There was about 200 men in left in the battalion, 20 half-tracks. 4th Company had four 88mm anti-tank guns, 2 howitzers mounted on half-tracks and four 88mm mortars.	Tp	J
1300	38	26th	Have 37 PWs: 111 Regt 2 Co-5, 3 Co-2, 4 Co-4, 8 Co-5, 10 Co-11, 1st Bn Hq-1, 901 Pz Lehr 7 Co-1, 3d AA Regt 10 Btry-2, 102 Pz Arty Regt 1st Btry, 162 Field Repl Bn 3 Co-1, 62 Div 2 Co-3, 363 Div 957 Regt 2 Co-1, 3 Co-1, 8 Co-1, 957 Regt 1 Co-1, 959 Regt Hq Co-8, 363 Div Trans Service 1st Squadron-1, 2 Squadron-2, 363 Ron Bn 1 Co-2, 3d Pz Div 3d Arty Regt 7 Btry-1, 3d Arty Regt 3d Bn Hq-2, 409 Peoples Arty Corps 11 Btry-1.	Tp	J
1300	39	TacR	At 821430 50 vehicles in woods along road 20 of which may be tanks. Trying to get fighter bombers on them.	Tp	J
1325	40	Maj Crocker	Long toms are firing at vehicles at F-821421. 8" trying to knock out bridge but traffic still going over going north at Halft.	Tp	J

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Revised 3 Jan 1944.

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 1430

Name:

(To :

DATE: 26 March 1945

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
1430	41	16th	Following PWs taken by 3d battalion: 2 - 5th Co, 901 PGR 1 - 7th Co, 901 PGR 1 - 8th Co, 901 PGR 4	Tp	J, 4
			Following PWs taken by 1st Battalion: 4 - Hq 2d Bn, 901 PGR 3 - 1st Co, 901 PGR 2 - 2d Co, 901 PGR 5 - 3d Co, 901 PGR 2 - Maint Co, 901 PGR 1 - 4th Co, 901 PGR 2 - 16th Regt 17 - 1st Co, 524 Engr Bridge Constr Bn 1 - 162d Engr Bn 11 - 1st Bn, 943d VG Regt 1 - 4th Btry, 162d Arty Regt 1 - 2d Co, 111 PGR 50		
			A 150mm howitzer with prime mover and plenty of ammunition at F-746396.		
	42	16th	Interrogation Report of 289 PWs, 25 March 1945.	Rpt	J
1500	43	16th	"I & R" Platoon was at F-827353 and reported it cleared; going to F-837363 and F-837357. Platoon stopped at 36th Armored Infantry CP and was informed that that unit was receiving SP fire from vicinity of F-843351 and F-857347 and that there was a lot of activity at F-854338.	Vbl	J
5	44	G-2	Am sending by special messenger radio code sheets of 901st Regt Pz Lehr Div captured by 16th Inf. Believe they should be of considerable value. Am	Vbl	Sig Off VII Corps
1600	45	16th	Total PWs 127. Just got 8 more. 1 from Hq 111 PGR, 1 from 959 Regt, 1 from 958 Regt, 1 from 2 Co 901 Regt, 2 from 7 Co 901 Regt, 2 from 10 Btry 409 Volks Arty Corps.	Tp	J
1620	46	AD(Br)	Intelligence Summary #264, 24 March.	Rpt	J
1620	47	75Div	G-2 Periodic Report #72.	MC	J
1640	48	CIC	Daily report 25-26 March.	Rpt	J
1645	49	DA	3d Armd Div-- at 853343, 857325, 962308, 965299.	Tp	J
1705	50	DA	Approximately at 1600 large explosion possibly ammunition dump at 818370. At 1620 large explosion at 820390. Being investigated by Tac R.	Tp	J

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Revised 3 Jan 44.

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G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 1710

Time:

(To :

Date: 26 March 45

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
1710	51	18th	B Co moving on to F-813392, A Co F-813387, K Co F-820370. PW report states that at 800h35 in woods is Russian Regt that withdrew across bridge before it was blown; trains and everything north of little town there.		
1740	52	16th	2d battalion moving at 1800A. 1st Battalion moving at 2000A. We have Hill 177 and Blankenberg. There was evidence of a motor park in the woods that had been bombed and strafed. All the main roads on trails out there are hard surfaced and one and a half traffic. We have 127 FWs. On the main road from Uckerath to Kirchheid there are a lot of knocked out tanks.	Tp J Tp J	
1800	53	PWCage	We have PW at cage who left town of Heide at 67h7 last night going by the main road to the northeast to a town of Much which is at 7h063. He arrived there at 1130 hours and was forced to wait 2 hours at that point while long column of tanks, vehicles, and horse drawn vehicles proceeded to the north. He doesn't know what unit it was. He stated there was nothing going south on the road that he could see. The town of Much was filled with MPs and apparently is main traffic center.	Tp	26th J, Corps
1803	54	VCORPS	G-2 Periodic Report #291, 25 March.	MC	J
1803	55	XIXCORPS	G-2 Periodic Report #283, 25 March.	MC	J
1815	56	99DIV	G-2 Periodic Report #136, 25 March.	MC	J
1815	57	78DIV	S-2 Periodic Report, 25 March.	MC	J
1830	58	9DIV	G-2 Periodic Report #247, 25 March.	MC	J
1830	59	DA	Shell report: 157 light artillery, 537 medium artillery, 60 rounds light mortar, 12 rounds of 120mm mortar. Returns incomplete from 18th Inf.	Tp	J
1855	60	26th	Interrogation report, 25 March.	MC	J
1910	61	DA	Objective 181 completely taken by 18th.	Tp	J
2020	62	16th	4 more PWs taken; total of 131 now. 3 from 7th Co 901 PGR, 1 from 1st Co 853 AT Bn.	Tp	J
2025	63	DA	We have cub flying over our front lines at this time.	Tp	J, G-3
2110	64	26th	All three bridges of the 4 in our area are blown. PW says remaining bridge is prepared for demolition. 1st Bn knocked out 5 tanks during last night and this morning. 2 Mark VIs knocked out by tanks,	Tp	J, Corps

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Revised 3 Jan 44.

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G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 2110

Time:
(To : _____

Date: 26 March 45

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	REC'D VIA	DISPOSITION
2110	64	26th	(cont'd) 2 Mark IV by bazookas and one tank by arty vicinity of 721018. 1st Bn fired at some tanks at 794388 during later part of this morning. Shell report: 532 rockets, 130 rounds SP fire, 100 rounds medium mortar, 12 rounds heavy mortar, 102 rounds medium artillery, 50 rounds light artillery. Town at 78203894 getting some SP fire from 798118 about 1915 hours. 2d Bn knocked out 1 50mm howitzer at 773350, one 75mm AT Gun at 783351, and one Mark VI tank vicinity of 792349. Two tanks observed at 799413. PW reports that 100 infantry and 4 tanks in the town of Eitof 797409.	Tp	J, Corps
2110	65	18th	There doesn't seem to be any organized resistance. 1 Co going into town of Rodder a little later. Have captured a few trucks and half trucks--more on this later. Found 150mm SP in the 1st Bn area.	Tp	J
2155	66	16th	Receiving a little artillery. Have total of 131 Pcs.	Tp	J
2156	67	DA	Maximum temperature for 26 March was 57, minimum was 50.	Tp	J
2235	68	26th	Breakdown on 107 Pcs: 11 Pz Div 110 Regt 2 Co-1, 111 Regt 1 Co-3, 2 Co-5, 3 Co-2, 4 Co-4, 6 Co-1, 8 Co-5, 10 Co-12, 1st Bn Regt 102 Arty Regt 1st Btry-1, 3d Pz Div 3d Arty Regt 7504, 3d Bn Hq-2, 363 Div 957 Regt 2 Co-1, 3 Co-1, 1 Co-1, 8 Co-1, 959 Regt Hq-8, Rm 1 Bn 1 Co-2, Motor Trans Co-3, 363 Arty Regt 1st Btry-1, 2 Btry-2, 1st Div Escort Co-10, 901 Regt 7 Co-2, 5 Co-1, 1st Pz Regt 1st Bn-3, 5 Co-1, 162 Fusilier Bn-11, (Taken at Eitof; strength 50-60 men per Co. 4 Co has 2 81mm mortars, 2 heavy MGs), 109 Volksgrenadier Arty Corps 5 Btry-1, 11 Btry-1, 1183 Army Arty Bn 3d Btry-3, 3d AA Arty Regt 10 Btry-2, 9 Btry-1, 651st Div Hq-2, 1 Co-2, 4 Co-2, 5th Para Repl Bn 4 Co-1 84 Div 1052 Regt 11 Co-1, Army Motor Pool at Bonn-1. Units moving towards Eitof. Have few tanks and lots of artillery. Some vehicles on the side of the road out of gas. new MLR was to be formed other side of the river. (all PW statements).	Tp	J
2255	69	26th	2 Cos in the town of Eitof. Some fighting taking place. G Co moving up with the heavy equipment.	Tp	J
2300	70	VII Corps	Weather forecast 261800A to 271800A March 1945: Clouds: broken middle clouds 8500 feet until dawn then scattered low clouds until 1400 27 March. Precipitation: scattered showers tonight and late tomorrow afternoon. Visibility: 5-7 miles until end of period. Surface winds: Southerly 2-7 miles per hour varying to northwest in morning and west at 5-10 miles per hour by noon, back to southwest by evening.	Tp	J

NOTE: "Rec'd Via", Tp-telephone; rad-radio; Tgp-telegaph; Tpe-teletype
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Revised 3 Jan 44.

HQ 1ST US INF DIV
APO 1, U.S. Army

G-2 JOURNAL

(From: 2300
Time:
(To : 2400

Date: 26 March 45

CP: F-667347

TIME	NO	FROM	SYNOPSIS	RECD VIA	DISPOSITION
2300	70	VII Corps	(cont'd) Temperature: maximum 62, minimum 43. Flying conditions: moderate tonight becoming good from dawn until 1400 then moderate with variable wind at 3,500 Feet.	TP	J
2340	71	VII Corps	3d Armored Division has taken prisoners from the following units: 4th and 9th Batteries, 388th Volks Arty Corps 13th Company, 8th Panzer Grenadier Regiment 9th and 10th Batteries, 64th Mtzd AA Battalion 1st Battalion, 3d Artillery Regiment 4th Btry, 102d Arty Regiment, 9th Pz Btry Hq Btry, 1183d Army artillery Battalion	TP	J
2400	72	G-2	G-2 Periodic Report No. 278, 26 March 1945.	MC	J Units
2400			JOURNAL CLOSED		

NOTE: "Rec'd Via", Tp-telephone; rad-radio; Tgp-telegraph; Tpe-teletype
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Revised 3 Jan '44.

FROM: 260001A March 1945
TO : 262400A March 1945

Hq 1st US Inf Div
F-667347
26 March 1945

FILE
: ~~RECEIVED~~ :
: Authority: CG :
: 1st US Inf Div :
: 26 March 1945 :
: Initials: *W* :

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

NO. 278

Maps: GSGS 4507, Scale 1:50,000, Sheets 59, 60, 79 and 80

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

See sketch map attached as Annex 1.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING THE PERIOD.

a. On 26 March, strong rearguard units of the 150th Panzer Lehr Division and of the 111th Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the 11th Panzer Division were driven from the PLANTENBERG - EITORF - STERZENBACH area. The large concentrations of tanks and vehicles noted on 25 March along the EULGENAUER EITORF road were reported by aerial reconnaissance in the early part of the day in the area east of EITORF. Further reports from the same source indicated that the enemy units were crossing the HALFT bridge and moving along the main road to the north. Our advance, particularly on the central portion of the Division front, was stubbornly contested by enemy rearguards in order to give these tanks and vehicles a chance to make their escape north of the river. Enemy artillery, mortar and rocket fire was less intense during the period than on any day since the Division began its operations in the bridgehead area; less than 2,000 rounds were received during the period. 309 prisoners were taken and six tanks were destroyed in the day's fighting. One self-propelled gun and two 150mm towed howitzers were captured.

b. On the Division left our units attacked shortly after the start of the period and by mid-day had seized the towns of ADSCHHEID, PLANKENBERG and SUCHTERSCHEID. Enemy resistance was of moderate intensity but was not in any great strength, and was rapidly overcome. The attack towards EITORF, which also began shortly after the start of the period, met greater resistance. At 0400A hours, shortly after our units succeeded in taking EITORF and were moving on towards JUCKENRAHE, they were counter-attacked by three tanks and an estimated 100 infantry. By 0600A hours, the enemy counterattack had been repulsed and our units pushed on to the high ground just to the southwest of EITORF. The enemy stubbornly held on to his positions in the EITORF area throughout the day, supplementing his direct fire by artillery and rocket fire from north of the SIEG. After dark, our units

continued the attack and at the close of the period were completing their mopping up of the town. The vigor of the enemy's defense in this area during the early part of the period is believed to have resulted from the necessity to give the major tank and vehicular elements of Panzer Lehr Division the necessary time to withdraw to the east and north. On the Division right, our units made gains of up to 6,000 yards. Enemy resistance was light to moderate until our units pushed into STERZENBACH. At this point they ran into a short but brisk fire fight. At the close of the period the enemy had been cleared from the high ground overlooking the flat ground of the valley of the SIEG, and it is not believed at this time that there is any organized enemy unit in this area, although a few scattered stragglers may still remain. Our units, pushing east through the STAATS FORST STEHEN-GEIERGE, seized Hill 588 and trail junctions to the south and southwest, without encountering any organized enemy units. Some enemy artillery fire, however, was received.

c. An estimated 1,700 rounds of artillery, mortar and rocket fire were received during the period. This total includes 800 rounds of rocket fire and 200 rounds of mortar fire. Enemy fire was heaviest on our units attacking EITFOR, although both our left and right flank units were also hit. Enemy artillery fire during the day was generally confined to forward areas coming from the north. No reports were received of any large scale interdiction and harassing fire in rear areas, as was received during 25 March.

d. No enemy aircraft were reported over the Division area during 26 March.

e. Reports received during the period indicate that the 130th Panzer Lehr Division and elements of the 11th Panzer Division on the Division front have largely been disengaged, the major bulk of Panzer Lehr Division withdrawing north of the SIEG River, and the elements of the 11th Panzer Division retiring to the area north and northwest of ALTENKIRCHEN. The future employment of Panzer Lehr Division is at present a matter only for conjecture. It is conceivable that this Division may cross the SIEG further east and once again encounter the Division.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. Three hundred and nine prisoners were taken during the period. For details of prisoners processed through the Division Capt to 261800A March, see attached Consolidated Interrogation Report.

b. Maximum temperature for 26 March was 57, minimum 50.

c. Weather forecast for period 261800A to 271800A March:
Precipitation: scattered showers late afternoon 27 March.
Visibility: 5 - 7 miles until end of period. Temperature:
minimum 43, maximum 62. Flying conditions: good from dawn 27
March until 1400A hours, then moderate.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

It is believed that there will be no enemy resistance encountered during 27 March strong enough to stop the movement of one of our reinforced battalions. It is possible that elements of Panzer Lehr Division and of the 11th Panzer Division with a strength somewhat less than that of a regimental combat team may be encountered in the Division's continuing attack to the north-east.

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 - Rits and Pieces.

CONSOLIDATED INTERROGATION REPORT

(Period 251800A March to 261800A March 1945)

111th Panzer Grenadier Regiment	-195
110th Panzer Grenadier Regiment	- 11
119th Panzer Artillery Regiment	- 2
11th Panzer Replacement Bn	- 3
902d Panzer Grenadier Regiment	- 59
901st Panzer Grenadier Regiment	- 60
130th Panzer Regiment	- 6
130th Artillery Regiment	- 1
130th Panzer Escort Guard	- 18
957th Infantry Regiment	- 19
958th Infantry Regiment	- 6
959th Infantry Regiment	- 5
363d Artillery Regiment	- 3
363d Signal Battalion	- 2
363d Service Company	- 3
363d Fusilier Battalion	- 2
164th Infantry Regiment	- 2
183d Infantry Regiment	- 2
162d Replacement Battalion	- 15
162d Fusilier Battalion	- 11
162d Engineer Battalion	- 2
162d Artillery Regiment	- 2
943d Infantry Regiment	-158
353d Anti-Tank Battalion	- 3
Battlegroup SCHMIDT (353d Repl Bn)	33
5th Army Weapons School	- 10
8th Panzer Grenadier Regiment	- 20
29th Panzer Grenadier Regiment	- 3
3d PG Artillery Regiment	- 3
524th Engineer Battalion	- 18
353d March Battalion	- 2
409th Volksartillery Corps	- 3
654th GHQ Anti-Tank Battalion	- 4
183d GHQ Mortar Battalion	- 3
312th Flak Battalion	- 1
5d Flak Assault Regiment	- 2
Deserters	- 2
TOTAL	710

1. Evidence that the Panzer LEHR Division has pulled out across the SIEG River came from a prisoner who was driving a one-man convoy down the road on his way to OBEREIP before he ran afoul of one of our tanks. He had been up to HEIDE, on the other side of the river and about four kilometers northeast of SIEGBURG, to pick up an 88mm gun. On his way back he was tooling down the road in his 6-ton truck, towing the 88mm and a trailer when he arrived

at MUCH on the main road about 2330 last night. There he was stopped by an MP until a high-priority convoy heading north could clear the road. The prisoner said he saw horse-drawn vehicles and guns, tracked vehicles, tanks and trucks in great numbers going past. It was not until nearly 0300 that he could get on his way again. He crossed the river at EITORF, and observed more big artillery pieces heading north. The MP at the bridge gave him directions for OBEREIP and the prisoner took off again. Just outside MUHLEIP his consternation was acute when suddenly an unobserved tank put a round smack into his motor. The prisoner and his assistant driver ducked behind their seat into an armored compartment, but with the second round they scampered out, considerably the worse for wear, and jumped into a ditch, where they were picked up. The assistant driver was suffering from concussion and unable to talk, but the driver said he had no idea our troops had moved into MUHLEIP and OBEREIP in his absence, and still less that the road into the town would be covered by a tank.

2. The large bag of prisoners from the 943d Infantry Regiment represented almost the entire personnel of Battlegroup ABEL, or the 1st Battalion, 943d. Major ABEL, CO of the outfit, was among the PWs captured and explained what had happened. He said the 941st and 943d Regiments were holding a sector along the north bank of the SIEG from slightly east of HENNEF to the bridge at BOURAUE (7842). The positions are backed up by the 353d Artillery Regiment, which is firing into the 1st Division sector. The night before last the major was ordered to take his battalion across the river and recapture DONDORF. He got to BLANKENBERG without incident and continued on to DONDORF, reaching the outskirts of the town without opposition except some casual artillery fire. Suddenly he began to suspect that he had been sucked into a trap. At the cage he said he felt sure that our troops had seen him and his battalion coming, allowing him to proceed down a draw until he was well surrounded. Then the bottom fell out of his operation, and of the 200 men who had started on the counter-attack, 158 were captured. If any got away, they were few; the rest were probably casualties of our artillery fire. The major, who was one of the survivors of the 942d Regiment's ill-advised "special mission" to relieve BASTOGNE, had just been promoted from captain a few days ago. At the cage he was still wearing captain's insignia on his overcoat, and he asked the interrogator if he could get some major's shoulder bars. He presumed the Division had captured many a major and probably had a supply of major's patches. He would be glad to pay any reasonable price... He went to the rear still a captain when he had his overcoat on.

3. The executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 111th Panzer Grenadier Regiment also showed up. Until three months ago he had been an SOS officer, but the urgent draft of able-bodied men cleaned him out and sent him to the 11th Panzer Division Combat School.

in the vicinity of ALTENKIRCHEN. While there several days ago he heard all sorts of rumors and gossip about the enemy's big plans for the bridgehead. He said that it was generally realized that the bridgehead could not be eliminated entirely with the forces on hand. What could be done, however, would be to attack with two armored divisions, criss-crossing the northern sector of the bridgehead (which the enemy considered the most dangerous) and sealing off the advance which the enemy expected in that area. The 11th Panzer Division would attack from the northeast to the northwest and the 130th Panzer LEHR Division would attack from the northeast to the southwest. This plan seemed about to come off when his battalion was pulled out of its area and moved up. His outfit managed to retake HOVE and SCHEUREN briefly, but was pushed out again almost immediately under intense artillery fire. That ended the major counter-offensive and the battalion was given holding missions and ordered to reorganize. The prisoner said the basic plan was to make UCKERATH the keystone of the action, with Panzer LEHR holding the north and 11th Panzer Division the south; both units were to garrison the town strongly.

4. That the 11th Panzer Division managed to move into its positions before the counter-offensive broke down was indicated by prisoners from the 110th Panzer Grenadier Regiment who were held more or less in reserve to the south of the 11th Regiment. They arrived in the sector from assembly points in NEUSTADT on 23 March in three companies. These companies comprised the 1st Battalion; they said there is no 2d Battalion unless one has been organized from stragglers and remnants since they left the regimental area.

5. Evidently the replacement system for enemy units in the north is still functioning. Today's arrival was the 373d March Battalion of 200 men which had come from WESTPHALIA as replacements for the 62d Volksgrenadier Division. The prisoners were all from Battlegroup FINKEMANN, of 60 men. Yesterday the 5th Army Weapons School was chewed up in the fighting in GEISBACH; with their failure to take and hold the town, Battlegroup FINKEMANN was ordered into action, with the same result but less determination than the weapons school men.

6. Another group identified in the north was the 553d Replacement Battalion, or Battlegroup SCHMIDT. At least it was presumed to be the 553d Replacement Battalion; the men were about the most confused, lost and flabbergasted EWs to arrive in the cage in several weeks. Many had no paybooks, others had never been sworn into the army and still others had been in the army only three days before commitment. Not one of the 33 men knew what his outfit was, where he had been going or what he had been doing.

7. The fourth artillery regiment to be identified in four days showed up with prisoners from the 119th Regiment, of the 11th Panzer Division. The regiment has three battalions, two of 105mm

(total of 20 guns) and one of 150mms (eight guns). The regiment was in position in the woods near KIRCHBIB and, being horse-drawn, the prisoners thought that most of it had managed to get away from our advance.

8. A second viewing of the 130th Panzer Regiment (this time from a battalion clerk) indicates that the 2d Battalion of the regiment arrived here with 14 tanks and 700 men divided into three combat teams. The prisoner's combat team was attached to the 901st Regiment. Yesterday afternoon the entire outfit was ordered to pull out. Gasoline was to be furnished by a truck at a rendezvous point at 800403. Whether the truck got there or not the prisoner did not know; he was captured before the truck was due to arrive at 0400 today.

9. Two drivers from the 654th GHQ Anti-Tank Battalion said that the outfit was also known as Battlegroup NOAK, which was encountered by the 1st Division previously in the airhead fighting. The battalion is, or was, entirely equipped with 88mm Jagdpanthers the latest wrinkle in enemy anti-tank weapons. During the battalion's engagement, 16 of the Jagdpanthers were laid up for one reason or another. Some were destroyed, but more were eliminated with motor trouble and sent back to the repair company (where there were a total of 15 TDs being worked on according to the prisoner) and can be expected back in action soon. As with all enemy vehicles at the moment, the most serious operational problem was lack of gasoline. Last night the battalion was ordered to pull north of HASSELBACH (8554), and at the same time the repair company was ordered to withdraw 80 kilometers into the dubious safety of the Greater German Reich.