

SECRET

3-2 PERIODIC REPORT



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Auth: 58th Inf Div

Init:

Date: 23 March 1945

58th Inf Div

251800 March 1945

NO. 240

Maps: Germany 1/50,000. Sheets 17 and 37.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

- Enemy front line - E bank of RINE RIVER within Corps zone.
- Defensive organization - Information obtained from ground and air observation and recent air photos indicate the enemy is frantically attempting to take full advantage of limited time available to improve his defenses. Particularly in the area between ESSEL A2341 and DITSLAREN A2929. Small towns and communities are being prepared for all around defense and must be considered as strongpoints by any attacking force. See defensive overprints 1/25,000, dated 16 March 1945, for detail study of defense installations.
- Units in contact - The enemy force occupying E bank of the RINE in the Corps sector is estimated at total combat strength of 4,000 men. Disposition and boundary between units see overlay.
- Artillery - Photo interpretation places 15 light batteries, 8 to 9 medium batteries and 2 to 3 batteries of heavy caliber weapons in the Corps sector. In addition to these there are 58 to 60 active batteries of heavy AA (dual purpose) batteries spread across the Corps front. Artillery concentration areas see overlay.
- Reserves and other forces capable of intervention - The 190 VG and 15 PG Divs still remain unlocated and may be available as immediate reserves in the Corps sector. These forces plus the local reserve of the divisions in line make available to the enemy, on the first day of our attack, a counter-attacking force with a combat strength of approximately 25 tanks and 8,000 men.

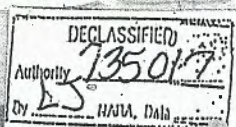
2. ENEMY OPERATIONS:

- General summary - Enemy continued to improve defensive positions on the E bank of the RINE RIVER employing scattered artillery fire on the Corps forward elements.
- Operations of component elements:
 - Artillery - 75th Inf Div reports an occasional round of artillery on their forward positions.
 - Infantry - Foot and bicycle movement was observed moving to the NE from vicinity DITSLAREN A2929 about 1400 this afternoon. Enemy was observed improving defensive positions on the E side of RINE RIVER as shown on overlay.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- Weather - Continued clear with early morning fog. Long range weather forecast indicates gradual increase of cloudiness with intermittent showers 27 March 1945.
- Miscellaneous - Any people coming through the line claiming connection with British SOE will be directed to Div G-2.

Information received from 78th Div indicates that the Colonel commanding remnants of the 3rd Para Div and his staff of 130 soldiers surrendered at I6331 18 March 1945.
- Defensive overprint maps dated 1 March 1945 have been superseded by defensive overprint dated 16 March. All defensive overprints which do not bear the date 16 March 1945 will not be used in future operations.
- Password - WHISTLE reply STOP from 241200 to 251200 March 1945.



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4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

- a. To continue to defend the RHINE RIVER with forces now available and vigorously oppose any attempt by our force to cross the river.
- b. To defend in successive positions:
 1. Along the WESEL - DINSLAKEN railroad.
 2. Along western edge of woods between BUCKHOLT A300385 and HIESFELD A326300.
- c. To counterattack any penetration E of the RHINE.
- d. To employ airforce and paratroopers against our bridgehead E of the RHINE RIVER.

HOYNE

G-2

DISTRIBUTION

75th Inf Div	1	G-3	1	134	4
CIC	1	G-4	1	137	5
IPW 60	1	MG	1	320	4
PI	1	CWO-Ord	1	QM Co	1
VII	1	Surg-Chap	1	Med Bn	1
Engr Off	1	Sig Off	1	Ord Co	2
Engr Bn	1	Hq Comdt	1	Sig Co	1
Div Arty	6	Hq Co	1	654 TD	1
Div AT Off	1	PRO (Forward)	1	448 AAA	1
C/S	1	War Room	1	AG	1
G-1	1	PRO (Rear)	1	PM	1
G-2	4	Ron Trp	1		
		784 Tk Bn	1		

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